





Don Dean
AHS President

Presidents Message

The spring that seemed to evade so many of us for so long arrived and quickly gave way to summer with its perennial flurry of garden activity and so many choices of hosta related events. The AHS national convention in Cedar Rapids, IA, was at the top of the list!

The Harshbarger Hosta Society fulfilled attendee's hopes for those that gathered to Czech It Out. This four-day event included outstanding gardens in Cedar Rapids and nearby cities, speakers addressing an array of interesting topics, vending offering a pallet of temptations, and so much more. Every venue offered its own special flare. The local historical sites interested attendees. A special event held in concert with the convention, the Hosta Seed Growers seedling competition, dazzled even the most astute hosta expert. Hats off to our gracious hosts! Enjoy full coverage of this event in the 2014 Online Journal.

Regional and local hosta events filled the calendar. There were too many opportunities for me to take advantage of them all, but each I attended offered its own reward. Perhaps the most rewarding part is gathering together

once again to share a common passion. I encourage all to connect again by joining one or more of the activities remaining on the fall calendar.

The season's impending end is indicated by such cues as school advertisements and football games, yet is one of the most exciting times for hosta in the gardens. Late bloomers are continuing on with vigor, showing off their often-colorful scapes contrasting so nicely with the flowers. For me, that means more time dabbing pollen in anticipation of the promise of fulfilling dreams that are still alive!

In service,

Don Dean

AHS President

American Hosta Society Executive Board

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**Click on the name to send the person
an e-mail.**



Rob Mortko
VP Member Services

AHS Members-Only Plant Program

The majority of you are AHS Members. You receive *The Hosta Journal* because you are a member of The American Hosta Society. Most will agree that the *Journal* is the most tangible and valued benefit of AHS membership. However, there are many other benefits of membership: *The Online Hosta Journal*, AHS Membership Directory, annual hosta Registrations issue, AHS Convention, Members-Only Garden Listing and AHS sponsored hosta research programs.

And yet the AHS, like many plant societies these days, faces a declining membership. It is not a large number each year, but it is an undeniable trend. Your Board has been wrestling with the question: "What can be done to retain existing members as well as attract new members to the AHS?" It is not an easy question, and not one that will be answered with a one-size-fits-all answer.

A number of years ago, then-President Tom Micheletti suggested a members-only plant program modeled after what he had seen with the American Conifer Society. At the time, there were more logistical reasons to say "no" than "yes" and the idea was shelved. A few years later, the timing was right. The Board included a number of well-known hybridizers and there was easy access to a tissue-culture lab for propagation. Don Dean has offered an incredible seedling of his—one that has never been released—to serve as the first members-only plant: 'Sterling Medallion'. Well known for his blue breeding program, this is arguably Don's best yet and one of the best blue hostas of all time.

The program will be offered as a trial run for the first two years to gauge member response and program viability. Supported initially by AHS Board Members (hybridizers and tissue-culture lab) it offers a no-risk arrangement for the AHS. Even if not a single plant is sold, the AHS has no financial

risk during the trial period. Of course, we do not believe that will be an issue with the quality of plant being offered.

Production of the first-year plant will be limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis. *H.* 'Sterling Medallion' will be available to AHS members for up to two years (unless the supply is depleted sooner).



Assuming nothing goes wrong in the lab or overwintering in the greenhouse, the Members-Only Plant Program will debut in 2015 for AHS members only. You will be able to place your order online in early 2015. The plant will be priced at \$20 plus shipping, typical for a first-year new introduction. New AHS members can also use their \$15 voucher toward the plant purchase. (If you are not yet an AHS member, what are you waiting for?) Plants will ship in May and June of 2015. Look for more information in the near term on the AHS website, eNews, and in the *Online Journal*.

Beyond 2015, the plan is to introduce a new, first-time, "top-shelf" plant each succeeding year. The 2016 plant has been provided by Doug Beilstein, well-known hybridizer and AHS Board member. To address future AHS Members-Only Plants, an AHS Plant Selection Committee has been formed. Tom Micheletti will chair the committee, which includes hosta connoisseurs Dave Chopko and Steve Cunningham. Plant nominations will be solicited for both seedlings and sports. Each year, the committee will narrow the nominations to a short list of three for selection by the AHS Board. During the voting process, the name of the hybridizer will remain anonymous so no one has an undue advantage. Upon selection, the committee will

contract for tissue culture propagation, growing on and shipping.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2017 Members-Only Plant. A nominated plant should be at least four to five years old. The AHS will have exclusive marketing rights to the plant for the first two years. However, ownership of the plant will remain with the hybridizer. The hybridizer must agree to register the plant and note the AHS as Introducer. Interested hybridizers should submit the following information to Tom Micheletti (tom@hostapatch.com): pictures of the plant (ideally spring, summer and fall photos to capture any seasonal changes plus a leaf close-up), description of the plant size (height and width) and flowers (size, time and color).

AHS Display Garden Dedication

On June 30th the University of Illinois Arboretum at Champaign-Urbana hosted a dedication ceremony for the 20th AHS National Display Garden. Compliments of the "blood, sweat and tears" of the Illinois Prairie Hosta Society, their gift also provides the annual funding for a student intern to assist in maintaining the garden. The dedication ceremony was attended by Chancellor Phyllis Wise, Arboretum Director Bill Kruidenier, the Dean of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences (ACES) College Robert Hauser, and U of I alum Mark Zilis who all spoke at the ceremony.



Rob Mortko

VP Member Services



Cindy Tomashek
VP Conventions

AHS Convention Sites

Congratulations to Judi Pohorsky, Nancy McWherter and their very friendly, helpful convention team members for making the 2014 AHS convention a hit with guests! “Czech It Out” offered up fabulous gardens, vending supreme and hosta show happiness augmented by the Hosta Seed Growers seedling competition where we got more than a sneak peek at their exciting creations. While I loved all of those, for me, the best part is always reconnecting with the wonderful people who make the AHS a group worth being part of.

If you’ve yet to experience an annual convention, there are great opportunities lined up for you, starting with Raleigh, NC, in 2015. Bob and Nancy Solberg are hosting the AHS 2015 “Back to the Future” convention where fun events along with the usual will undoubtedly entertain and delight you. Plan ahead and reserve the dates for next summer’s return to Raleigh, Wed, June 17 – Sun. June 21.

For those of you who really like to plan ahead, put these dates on your calendar, Wed., June 15 – Sun., June 19, 2016, so you won’t miss the 2016 AHS convention in St. Louis, MO. It’s exciting to have so much to look forward to...and you can look beyond 2016 to Indianapolis, IN, in 2017. There are things brewing on the 2018 horizon, also, so stay tuned for future announcements.

As always, AHS is grateful for all these folks having hosted or planning to host a convention. There will be many opportunities to help out, so be sure to raise your hand to volunteer. Thanks again to the Harshbarger Hosta Society for their hard work in providing a great convention this summer...I really can’t say it enough!

Is an AHS convention in your future? If you’ve never attended, now’s the time to mark down dates and talk to fellow hosta friends about taking in “Back to the Future”, Solberg style! If you or your local society would consider hosting an annual convention, call me, send a text, or email me to share your plans or ask questions. We’d all like to know where to anticipate 2018, 2019 and beyond – and it’s never too soon to throw your hosting hat in the ring!

2015 – June 17-21, Raleigh, North Carolina
2016 – June 15-19, St. Louis, Missouri
2017 – Indianapolis, Indiana
2018 - ??

Conventionally yours,

Cindy Tomashek

VP Conventions



*Sandie
Markland*
**Membership
Secretary**

Membership Renewal

Time seems to fly more quickly with each passing year --- **YES, IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME AGAIN!** If there is a "14" after your name on the mailing sheet which accompanied your copy of *The Hosta Journal*, then it's time to renew --- you wouldn't want to miss any of the fun, would you?! I know this might be surprising news (and possibly somewhat distressing) to those who recently joined for just a single year immediately prior to the 2014 membership cut-off date and I'm sorry for that ... but, remember, your membership was backdated to 01-01-14!

All AHS Memberships run from January 1 through December 31 regardless of when an individual joins or renews. The year of your membership expiration immediately follows your name on the mailing sheet which accompanies each paper publication you receive from the AHS. The second *Journal* mailing of each year (which will arrive shortly if it hasn't already) is always accompanied by a renewal form. It is important to renew in a timely manner in order to avoid the \$5.00 late fee which **MUST** be applied to all renewals mailed or entered online after January 15 of each calendar year --- mailing that first issue of

the year individually to late renewals is a costly process!

eMembers --- your membership renewal will also come due at the end of the year. Although a late renewal fee does not apply to eMemberships, why wait until the last minute?!

It is important to keep the AHS Membership Secretary informed of changes in your contact information. If you do not receive AHS mailings due to an unreported change of address, a \$6.00 payment is required to cover the cost of shipping and handling for the replacement issue. Please send address changes to AHSMembershipSecretary@charter.net as promptly as possible. Individuals who travel between summer and winter homes should advise the Membership Secretary of their change of address approximately 6 weeks in advance.

If you have questions about your membership or believe you might have missed the first Journal mailing of this year, please do not hesitate to contact me at the email address above.

***AHS Memberships make great gifts for your gardening friends --
- or great door prizes for your local club events!***

Sandie Markland
Membership Secretary



Joshua Spece
Web Editor-in-Chief

New AHS Website

Have you visited the AHS Website <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/> lately? You're in for a pleasant surprise.

If you have clicked over to the American Hosta Society website this summer, you are aware that the AHS has a new website. This is the result of months of work last winter by a dedicated team of volunteers. The old website had pages that were difficult to find and redundant, which made maintaining the website time consuming.

The new website features a main menu located at the top of every page. Hover your mouse pointer over a menu item and further options are displayed on a drop-down sub menu. All of the main sections of the website can be found with just a click or two.

Some of the content that was once in the Members-Only area of the website is now available to the public, including the archive of past conventions and awards. The Members-Only area is now home to the digital versions of the two most recent editions of The Hosta Journal.

AHS members now have the premier hosta publication at their finger tips anywhere they have internet access!

Many of the informational pages found

under the Education menu will be updated in the coming months. The most recently updated page is the Dictionary of Hosta Terms. If you've ever wondered what the drawstring effect is or what originator's stock means, you can find the answer here.

Wondering how to know what pages are new or have been updated? Scroll to the bottom of the Home page and look for the "recent changes" link. Check that page often, so you never miss out on what's new!

Click around and explore the new AHS website. There are many new articles and features in the works. As with any website, there are likely bugs to be found. If you run across something that is broken, please drop me a note and let me know!

Joshua Spece
Web Editor-in-Chief



Cindy Deutekom
VP Genus Hosta

All of the information on Hosta Virus X can now be found in one place on the new AHS website. [Click here to see the brochure, reports, and more.](#)

Cindy Deutekom
VP Genus Hosta



Bob Olson
Editor
The Hosta Journal

Hosta Journal Issue 45#2

This next Hosta Journal is in the final stage of preparation and should reach members in October.

I think this is a “happier” issue than 45#1 which was pretty heavy on winter damage, nematodes and viruses.

Some of the items which should prove popular are:

- A review article on Tetraploids—explaining what they are and why we are interested in them (the “ploidy” pieces have become complex and replete with jargon, it will be good to take a step back and ask “why are we interested?” in a way all of us can appreciate)
- The Popularity Poll—a couple of new comers to discuss.
- Gorgeous photos from the Photo Contest—the best group of entrants ever.
- Two more Korean species, and how they relate to our popular hybrids.

- Why do we keep trying to grow hosta cultivars that are “very hard to grow”? For Example h. ‘Stitch in Time’



- Secret strategies of winning-auction-bidders.

We expect you will truly enjoy this issue.

Bob Olson
Editor
The Hosta Journal



Mike Shadrack
VP Awards and Honors

Service Pins

After many years of inactivity the AHS has revived the practice of awarding service pins to those volunteers who have given their time, energy and expertise to the Society for a number of years. President Don Dean said "The society is a group of people that came together for the common interest in hosta. It is the people that serve it in so many ways that keep the society going. This service is considered very important, and of value to the society, thus the desire to recognize that service is clearly understood and supported."

The AHS Board agreed with Don and research was undertaken to establish who among our scores of volunteers, old and new, had served the Society in any capacity for a combined total of at least four years. It has been so long since such service has been properly recognized that the list was enormous.

At the 2014 Convention in Iowa twenty-two recipients were present and received their Service pins and a tumultuous round of applause.

Membership secretary Sandie Markland maintains an amazing database of past and present members and was able to

provide us with contact details of all but two of those who qualified but had yet to receive their pins. In August scores of Service pins were mailed to all those to whom they have been awarded.

The Pins were accompanied by a letter that thanked each individual and said "Please wear your pin with pride at the Hosta functions that you attend and when asked please tell folk that you have worked for many years to ensure the smooth operation of the Society and its many activities"

I know that at least two of these pins have been well received and I can assume that the others have too.

The database of service will be maintained and as each of our many volunteers accrues four years of service a Service Pin will be awarded.

Mike Shadrack

VP Awards and Honors



Gregg Peterson
VP Judging/Exhibitions

Benedict Garden Performance Voting

If you're not familiar with the "Benedict Garden Performance Medal", it's the final level of recognition for a hosta cultivar that exhibits superior garden performance:

- Level 1 - Honorable Mention Award (HM)
- Level 2 - Award of Merit (AM)
- Level 3 - Benedict Garden Performance Medal

Hostas are nominated and progress through the award levels by a panel of Garden Performance judges which represent the AHS Regions.

Go to the new AHS website and see [Benedict Garden Performance Award](#) for more information on award levels, criteria, and judging.

As we wrap up our summer gardening and head toward fall cleanup and putting our gardens to bed for the winter, Benedict Garden Performance judges should remember one important gardening task – sending in your 2014 Benedict Garden Performance Plan Awards ballot. We are about a month away from the October 15th deadline for returning ballots, so if you

haven't completed your ballot and sent it in, please take some time to go through the nominees for each Award category and vote for the cultivars you have observed in your region and/or in national convention gardens.

One change to the program administration that is currently underway is the transition to a new Benedict Garden Performance Chair. Randy Goodwin, who has served in this capacity, has stepped down as chair and has been replaced by Michael Greanya. I want to thank Randy for all of his dedication and hard work in the program and also welcome Michael to his new role as Chair of the program.

Randy has agreed to help Michael transition into the program by agreeing to continue to accept voting ballots through the October 15th deadline and then working with the new chair on the tabulation process. So if you have sent in your ballot to Randy earlier this summer, he will make sure that those ballots are transferred to the new chair as we move forward.

Thank you again to all of the Benedict Garden Performance judges for your important job of evaluating and voting for those cultivars that you observe and feel are worthy of the various award levels.

Gregg Peterson
VP Judging/Exhibitions



AHS Membership

The American Hosta Society (AHS) is a society dedicated to the study and improvement of the genus *Hosta* and the dissemination of general and scientific knowledge about them.

There are many benefits for the members that result from these efforts, both social and in nursery trade. AHS members receive several publications a year, including two colorful issues of *The Hosta Journal* (mailed), four *eNewsletters* (emailed), *The Online Journal* (posted on the web for members only). All of these give articles on cultivation tips, propagation techniques, landscape uses, new cultivars and old species, pioneers and personalities, scientific advances, convention awards and gardens and news about the AHS.

Other membership benefits:

- An opportunity to attend national meetings and conventions which offer educational and scientific presentations, garden tours, judge's clinics, and a chance to see the latest and best hosta in the hosta show.
- A Biennial AHS Membership Directory
- The privilege of visiting display gardens throughout the country, many of which are only open to AHS members.
- An invitation to exhibit your favorite hostas and compete for recognition in various AHS national and regional hosta shows.
- Developing friendships with people who share an interest in growing hostas.
- Access to Members Only section of the AHS website

Another benefit of becoming a new member is you receive a voucher from the AHS Membership Secretary good for \$15.00 towards any purchase at sponsoring nurseries. Go to

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Membership/AHSVoucherProgram.htm>

Please join today by going to

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Membership/Membership.htm> to join online or print the membership application and mail to the Membership Secretary listed.