

Hosta Happenings

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

ISSUE 121

MARCH 2022

2022 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- **Mar 6, NIHS Winter Symposium, Cantigny Park, Wheaton**
- **May 15, NIHS Spring Symposium & Sponsor Plant Pickup, Cantigny Park, Wheaton**
- **June 4-5, Leaf Display & Plant Sale, Chicago Botanic Garden**
- **June 8 - 11, 2022 AHS National Convention, Minneapolis, MN**
- **June 18, Hosta Garden Walks (Two), New Lenox**
- **June 25, Hosta Garden Walks (Two), Winfield & St. Charles**
- **July 9, Hosta Caravan, Dixon**
- **July 14-16, 2022 MRHS Convention,**



Hostas Chicago Style, hosted by NIHS, Lisle - Save the Date!

- **August Date TBD, Annual Hosta & Plant Auction**
- **September Date TBD, Annual Meeting**

President's Letter

The temperatures have been in the teens the last couple days, tomorrow is Valentine's Day and Spring is 5 weeks away. It cannot come soon enough! The seed catalogues are in the mail, Facebook is showing pictures of last year's hosta gardens and nurseries are updating their websites. Seems like everywhere I look, it's time to get everything ready for the growing season. In addition to those factors, we are spending a lot of time preparing for the July Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention, identifying plants for our NIHS Sponsor Plant Sale, finalizing the contract with the Chicago Botanic Garden for our annual Hosta Leaf Display and Plant Sale and identifying programs for our Symposiums. It is actually a pretty busy time of the year. Maybe that is another reason I want to get outside and work in the garden. Are We There YET!

This year in place of the normal March Potluck Dinner, we are going to hold our first Winter Symposium on March 6th. Read through Mark Meginness' article following to get all the details. We have identified our sponsor plants for 2022 and they will be sold again through our website. Soon we will be starting our annual cleanup of our AHS National Display Garden at Cantigny in Wheaton. We have a great group of



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President's Letter *continued*

volunteers but we could always use a few more. We will be working to get the Display Garden ready for the MRHS Convention in July. Please read Barbara King's article for more details on how you can volunteer. This year our Annual Leaf Display and Plant Sale returns to the Chicago Botanic Garden June 4th and 5th. At this time, it is our expectation that we will be returning to our normal annual activities but maybe on a modified basis. Regardless it will be GREAT to have the opportunity to see everyone and catch up.

The big event for us this summer will be the MRHS Convention in Lisle July 14th – 16th. We last hosted this event in 2013 at the same location. Just to mention a few items, we have a great location, great speakers, great vendors and interesting gardens to visit. I know Barbara is always looking for volunteers to assist us in putting on this event. Read through Barbara King's article following for details. If not volunteering, we hope you will join us and register to attend the convention. MRHS covers a nine-state area. Already people from Kansas, Wisconsin, Missouri and Illinois have registered. We invite you to come out and visit with some old friends and maybe meet some new ones.

Take a look at the Calendar at a Glance. You will see we are already filling out most of the dates. As I have often said...if you see an NIHS Board Member please say thank you for all they do. They put in a lot of effort to bring you this menu of opportunities. However, we would love to get more people involved. If you have the slightest bit of interest, please talk to one of the board members or contact me directly .

Get your garden tools cleaned and ready. It won't be long now. Are We There YET!

Hosta-la-Vista, **Mike Kraus**

Join Us at the Winter Symposium

Sunday March 6 @ Cantigny Park

Tips

for the Lazy Gardener

will be presented by

Cindy Tyley, a certified landscape designer, on **Sunday March 6 at 1:00 pm**. Discover useful ways to save time, energy and money while gardening. This show-and-tell presentation demonstrates tips for both indoor and outdoor gardening throughout the year.



Pic from Men's & Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis

Cindy Tyley is a certified landscape designer and owns Carriage House Garden Design. Cindy has been in offering design and consultation services since 1997, focusing on practicality and low maintenance as well as beauty. Cindy is a member of Illinois Landscape Contractor Association, and the Western Springs Garden Club.

Directions to Cantigny Park: *15151 Winfield Road, Wheaton* - From the intersection of IL Rte. 38 and Winfield Road, go south on Winfield Road 1/4 mile and turn left into the entrance to the park. Tell the Attendant you are attending the Northern IL Hosta Society program for free admission.

2022 NIHS Sponsor Plants

By Mike Kraus

The NIHS Sponsor Plant Program was designed for the benefit of our members. Allowing members to purchase recent cultivars at extremely favorable prices. We have selected some high quality cultivars from two of our member vendors, Bob Solberg from Green Hill Farm and Ashley Miller from Land of the Giants Hosta Farm. You will receive field grown divisions that are ready to be placed in your garden after the threat of frost. You will not need to grow them out for months in a container.

This year's offerings are four outstanding cultivars that everyone should have in their gardens. A couple are new introductions that you will not find available at your local garden centers. The cultivars that we are offering are priced to you significantly below their retail price.

H. 'Rough Lemon' (\$16.00)- This is a Green Hill Farm 2021 introduction. As Bob explains this is a medium sized hosta which has managed to captivate us with it's beautiful yellow spring color and fast-growing habit. The unique leaf shape and brilliant red petioles make it a beautiful addition to our red hosta line. Named after a variety of lemon with a similar diamond-in-the-rough endearment, you may find yourself falling in love with this hosta too.

H. 'Sunny Halcyon' (\$20.00)- A 2021 introduction that is a medium sized sport of the ever popular 'Halcyon' with the same incredibly thick leaves in yellow instead of blue. The leaves of 'Sunny Halcyon' emerge char- treuse and get brighter, but the color is highly dependent on how much light the plant gets. A bit of morning sun will bring out the brightest color.

Important Information

The order deadline is Friday April 22nd.

Members only are eligible to order plants and there is a limit of **one plant per membership** for each of the four cultivars (Remember our Memberships are per "household" not per "individual"). Any surplus of unsold plants may be offered for an additional purchase. We have ordered 35 of each cultivar and orders will be filled on a "first come, first serve basis". In 2021 we ordered 25 of each cultivar. Sales through our website were so successful that most plants were sold out in less than a day. Fortunately, we were able to go back to our vendors and obtain more plants to cover our demand. I cannot guarantee that we will have that same opportunity again.



Hosta 'Rough Lemon'



Hosta 'Sunny Halcyon'

The plants will be distributed at our Spring Symposium. All sales will be through the NIHS website and you will pay securely via credit card using Square or Google Pay. This is a secure member's only page. If you find that you are unable to complete this type of transaction or are uncomfortable making a credit card purchase online, please contact me to see **if** we can accommodate your desired purchase. We strongly recommend that you execute this purchase transaction online yourself.

Continued on next page

2022 NIHS Sponsor Plants

continued

H. 'Tiki Bar' (\$20.00)- This is a Green Hill Farm 2022 introduction. It is the sport of the very popular 'Appletini'. The apple yellow-green centers are surrounded by a thick, green margin. The heart-shaped leaves are slightly folded and together make a very tight, tidy small mound that will look very attractive in any garden.

H. 'Waterslide' (\$13.50)- A 2018 Walters Gardens introduction offers thick blue leaves that are tightly rolled with lots of wavy-ness. The blue rippled leaves look like water splashing in the shade garden and hold their blue color well into the summer season. This medium sized clump looks chaotic with ripples going in all directions.



Hosta 'Tiki Bar'



Hosta 'Waterslide'

STEP BY STEP DIRECTIONS FOR PLACING YOUR ORDER

Scroll across the navigation bar and click on **Member's Only** section where you will insert our case sensitive NIHS password (Check your email from NIHS that you recently received). Just scroll down a little where you will insert the NIHS case sensitive password on the screen.

To get to the NIHS 2022 Sponsor Plant Sale, go to the navigation bar again and touch lightly on the text, **Members Only**. Look for the **NIHS 2022 Sponsor Plant Sale—CLICK ON IT**.

1. Scroll down on this page and you will see the four images of the Hosta plants for sale.
2. Click on each hosta's image, read the descriptions, and decide which hosta(s) you will buy.
3. To purchase, click **ADD TO CART** button. You will be taken to another page where you will **indicate your quantity of "1" plant** for that cultivar and click on **ADD TO CART**.
4. To purchase your next hosta, you will click on the **back arrow** located in the top left corner of the screen to return to the main **NIHS 2022 Sponsor Plant Sale** page. Select another hosta and repeat the process.
5. Repeat this process until you are done selecting your hosta(s). You will see a running subtotal of how many plants you have ordered.
6. Complete your purchase by clicking on the **CHECKOUT button**. It will take you to your **Cart screen**. Here you will see the plants in your cart, their prices, quantity of each cultivar and your running total. Now click on the **NEXT button** for the secured **Checkout screen**. Once you have entered your information, you will click the **NEXT button**.

7. The **Shipping Method screen** shows there is no charge for this section.

8. Click the **NEXT button** for the **Payment Information Screen**. Insert your credit card information on this secured server for Square or Google Pay (GPay).

9. Then, click the **NEXT button** again for the **Review & Submit screen**. When you are ready, click on the **REVIEW & SUBMIT** button.

10. Now you are ready to click on the **PLACE ORDER** button. An email **Confirmation Receipt** will be sent to you at the completion of your order via your specified email. If you do not see this email, please check your spam/junk folder.

In early May, after we receive the hostas from our vendors **YOU WILL** receive another email, indicating your hosta(s) will be available for **pickup at our Spring Symposium May 15th at Cantigny Park in Wheaton**. If you are unable to attend the Spring Symposium to pick up your hosta(s), there will be a contact number in your email, for you to make special arrangements to pickup your hostas at Mike Kraus' in Crystal Lake.

A central graphic with a sunburst design containing the text "Spring into Summer". Surrounding it are five notices:

- Garden Center Open**
Mon-Fri 9-5
Sat. 9-4
Sun 12-4
- Like Butterflies?**
We have pollinator plants
- Bulk Premium Hardwood Bark Fines**
\$48/Cu.yd.
Free delivery to Genoa/Kingston
- Lloyd Landscaping and Garden Center**
662 Park Ave
Genoa, IL
- Check for upcoming events**
www.lloydlandscaping.com

2022 Special Events

Open House & Hosta Walk on June 10-11-12
Hosta Expert Bob Solberg on Sunday, July 24
Artisan Market on Saturday, September 17



HORNBAKER
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Garden Center – Arboretum
Botanical Gardens

Over 350 hostas in stock!

April 10 – October 10
Princeton, Illinois
(815) 659-3282

hornbakergardens.com

Hosta Garden Walks Preview

Two-fer in New Lenox on Saturday June 18



Bill Brandt's Garden

I have approximately 350 Hostas and counting. Hostas have become the focal point of the landscaping with other shade loving plants to complement the designs. My favorites tend to be larger and more colorful varieties though I like the smaller more rare cultivars as specimen plants. *Bill Brandt's pics above and left*



Jeff Alton's Garden

Our ravine lot required us to terrace our gardens. The added benefit of these terraces and the change in elevation is it allowed us to create a series of private garden rooms each with a different theme and plant selection. The rooms include the Asian terrace, woodland garden, breakfast terrace, sunken garden, and the porch lawn. Due to the tree canopy we selected plants suitable for this shade to part-sun area with an emphasis on flowering trees and shrubs. *Jeff Alton's pics right and below*



Hosta Garden Walks Preview Two-fer in Winfield & St Charles

Saturday June 25

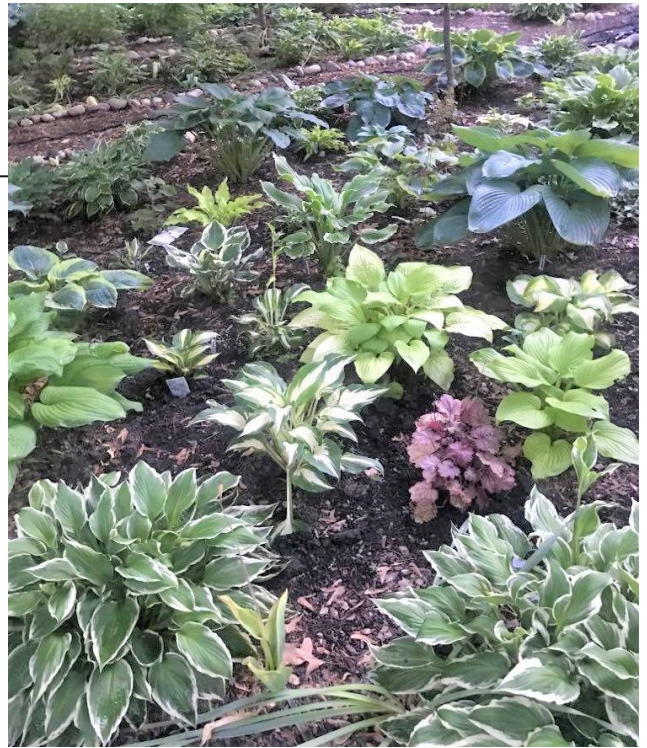
Evelyn & Don Bertini Garden, Winfield

I started my gardens with a few hosta seedlings, hydrangeas, yucas, bee balm, pulmonaria and ferns from a wonderful new neighbor. We now have over 500 varieties of hosta's, along with tulips, daffodils, irises, peonies, hellebores, Solomon's Seal, Jack in the Pulpit & trillions in the spring.

The rest of the growing season we have coral bells, phlox, lilies, Coneflowers, Daisies, Honeysuckle vines, Clematis vines, dianthus, lady's mantel, and many other plants.

When August arrives, we have toad Lilies, turtle head's, aster's, anemone's mum's. Now our gardens have rock lined paths with many benches for a serene and tranquil setting.

Hopefully this coming year we will see a lot more of the young hosta's maturing. Can't wait for Spring!



Bertini garden pics above and right. Zacker garden pic below right

Molly & Dave Zacker Garden, St. Charles

I, like probably many of you, inherited my love for gardening. My mom is an avid gardener; creating beautiful rock gardens, vegetable gardens and perennial beds when I was growing up. At that time, I thought gardening was strange; I could not fathom having a love for plants, much less digging in the dirt.

Fast forward 40+ years, my love for our gardens is a passion. In many ways, it is a haven, providing an escape from life's hectic pace. We sought out plants from local nurseries, plant sales and "gifts" from friends. Over the years, we have added and restructured all of the beds, filling them with native plants, a variety of perennials and lots and lots



of hostas.

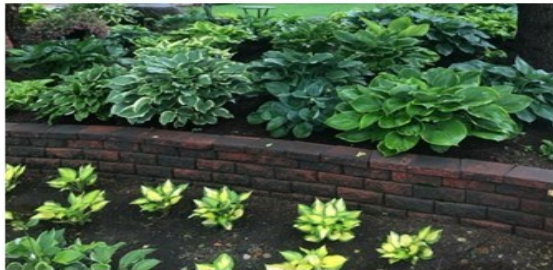
We hope you enjoy our garden and please promise to pull a weed along the way...

HOSTA HAPPENINGS

2022 Open House Sale Dates!

May 28-29, June 25-26 and July 23-24

9am-3pm all days



Come visit us in Cherry Valley, IL
Open from Memorial Day thru Labor Day

Evenings and Weekends by appt ONLY

Call Mike at 815-509-9715

Email us for a list
and availability at
hugoshostahaven@gmail.com



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Hosta Caravan Tour

July 9 to Dixon & Sycamore

By Mark Rekoske

We are planning another “Hosta Caravan” for Saturday, July 9th and I hope you will join us. NIHS will not sponsor a bus tour in 2022 due to Covid. We will include two gardens in Dixon Illinois as well as shopping at a destination garden center in Sycamore Illinois. Enjoy a day in the Illinois countryside with friends & family!

The garden of Joan Lemme—For their creativity, garden design, hard work and ingenuity, the Lemme garden won the Best Overall Garden prize in the Chicago Tribune's Glorious Gardens Contest 2006. The property consists of an oak and hickory woodland and about half of the land is actively gardened. Joan added hostas and now has about 5,000 plants and over 200 varieties.

Gene acquired an extensive collection of daylilies and hybridized his own daylily seedlings. At one time they had over 10,000 daylilies. Gene died in 2020 but Joan still manages to keep the gardens sparkling with a little help. Recent additions to the garden include a number of metal sculptures gifted by Joan's grandson, Caleb, who studies art.

With maturity, the hosta gardens are even better now.



Joan Lemme garden, above and Blumen Gardens, below.

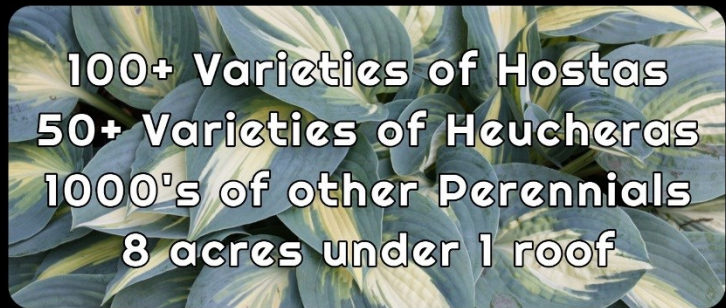
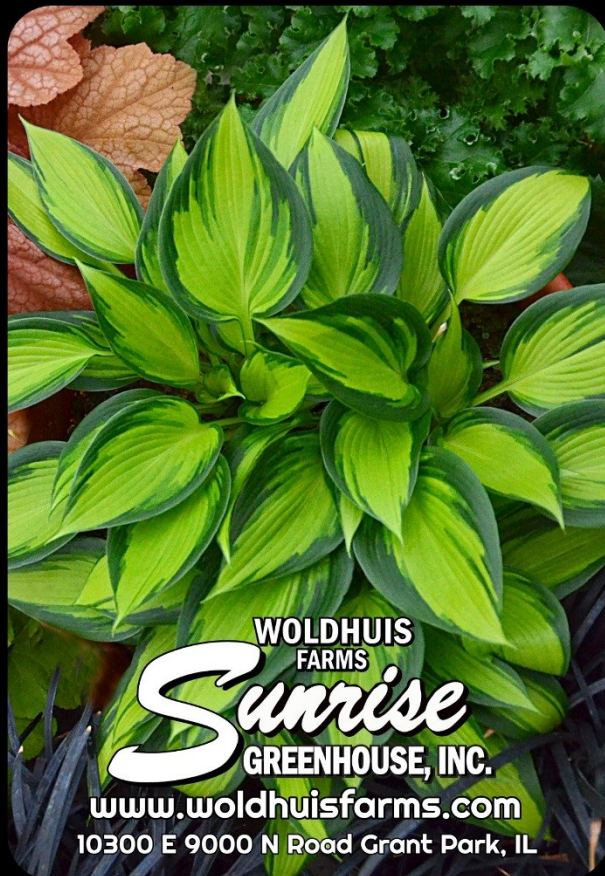
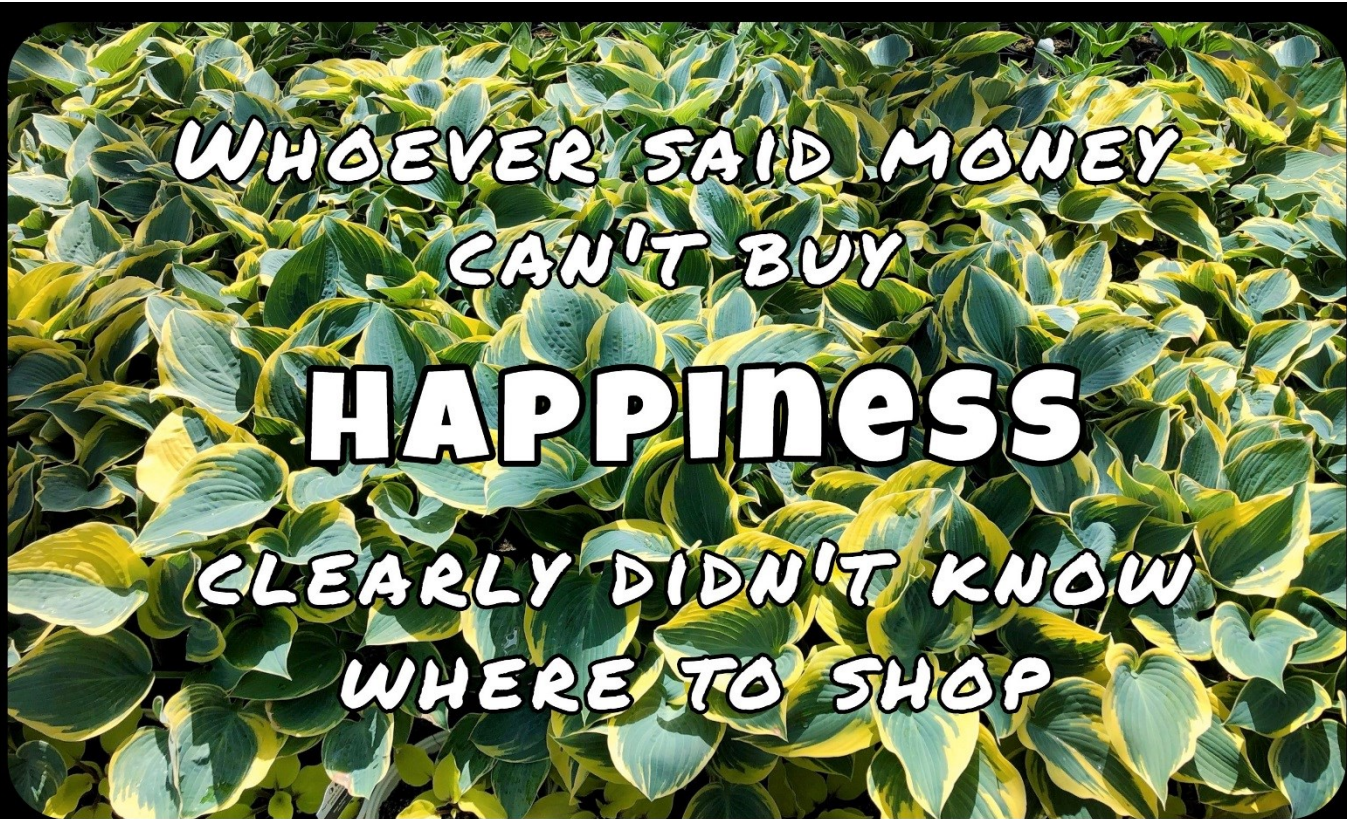
After 50 years of gardening Joan still gets excited about the potential of each Spring. At the time of our visit the daylilies will be peaking and the hostas should still be attractive.

The garden of Joe and Ida Franklin—Joe is Joan's brother. He gardens next door to Joan on a smaller, meticulously maintained garden. His specialty is bonsai. He maintains an extensive vegetable garden in addition to growing many woody and perennial plants.

Blumen Gardens— Blumen Gardens is a full service garden center in Sycamore Illinois that has become a popular destination for gardeners. Joan and Joel Barczak started Blumen in 1989. Today, Blumen Gardens includes about 4.5 acres of perennials, shrubs and trees for sale, as well as a huge inventory of garden accessories, planters and home décor. **On the day of our visit, caravan participants will receive a 20% discount on all purchases by mentioning the Northern Illinois Hosta Society Hosta Caravan.**

Please plan to join us on the Hosta Caravan. Dixon Illinois is conveniently located near I-88 about 80 miles west of Wheaton. Sycamore Illinois is located about 50 miles east of Dixon on the way back to the Chicago area. The tour gardens will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Blumen Gardens is open until 5:00p.m.

Send me an email **by May 20th** so I can tell our garden hosts how many visitors to expect. Attendance, of course, is free. I will provide addresses and driving directions by return email.



YOU'RE INVITED! MRHS CONVENTION

JULY 14 – 16, 2022 - Lisle, Illinois



AFTER TWO POSTPONEMENTS of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society convention, the Northern Illinois Hosta Society is moving ahead with plans to host *Hostas Chicago Style July 14 – 16*. Don't miss the people, the fun, and the special features that will make you glad you signed up: Fabulous gardens in which hostas share top billing with other distinctive plants and garden designs, speakers you probably haven't heard before, two new cultivars from Bob Solberg as choices for a gift hosta, a Chicago-style pizza party, and more....

What you've always expected from a hosta convention will be at this one, too: Reunions with hosta friends you haven't seen for a long time. Vendors with classic and new hostas, companion plants, and other items for your garden. A hosta leaf show and a seedling display. Good old-fashioned hospitality.

Convention headquarters will be the same as for the 2013 "Hostamania!" convention that everyone enjoyed so much. The name has changed from Lisle Hilton to DoubleTree by Hilton, but it's the same accommodating place that provides comfortable rooms at a great price, excellent food and super service. It's well-located near the Naperville exit from I-88. There's lots of free parking, nearby services, shopping, and points of interest.

The last MRHS Convention, in 2019, was part of the AHS Convention in Green Bay, but in 2022 it will once again be a stand-alone event not to be missed! Please join fellow hosta lovers from throughout the Midwest for *Hostas Chicago Style, July 14 - 16, 2022*. **Mark your calendars now and plan to be part of it!**

Details and registration form on MRHS website: <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org>



The American Hosta Society

Special Offer for members of Northern Illinois Hosta Society

If you join the American Hosta Society as a new member before May 1, 2022, you will receive a \$10.00 discount on your first-year membership. You must mail your payment with a copy of this page to qualify for this special offer.

Benefits of membership in the American Hosta Society include:

- Receiving *The Hosta Journal* two times per year.
- A welcome packet that includes the *Hosta Adventure* and the *Hosta of the Year* booklet (an \$11.00 value).
- A New Member plant voucher worth \$15.00 toward the purchase of hosta at participating nurseries.
- An opportunity to attend national meetings and conventions which offer educational and scientific presentations, garden tours, judge's clinics, a chance to see the latest and best hosta in the hosta show, and to purchase the latest cultivars in the vending room.
- An invitation to exhibit your favorite hostas and compete for recognition in various AHS national and regional cut-leaf shows.
- Developing friendships with people who share an interest in growing hostas.

You will also gain access online to the Members Only section of www.hosta.org which includes:

- Recent *Hosta Journals*
- *The Online Hosta Journal*
- The AHS Membership Directory

With your \$10.00 discounted price and the plant voucher valued at \$15.00, your actual cost for your first-year membership is \$5.00. Your actual cost for a two-year membership is only \$35.00.

Northern Illinois Hosta Society member				Make check payable to:	
Name				The American Hosta Society	
Street				Mail application to:	
City		State	Zip	Barry Ankney	
Country		Phone Number		AHS Membership Secretary	
Email Address				1104 Oxford Court	
				Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-5249	
				<u>AHS.MEMBERSHIPS@GMAIL.COM</u>	

Please circle one:	One Year	Two Years	Three Years	Five Years
Regular price	\$30.00	\$60.00	\$80.00	\$129.00
Your discounted price	\$20.00	\$50.00	\$70.00	\$119.00

This offer is for new memberships in the American Hosta Society only, that is, not current AHS members.



American Hosta Society
National Convention
June 8 - 11, 2022
Minneapolis Marriott NW
www.HostaVision2022.com

REGISTER NOW!

A major part of the convention is participating in area Garden Tours by motor coach bus or a self-driving tour over the span of two days, with many gardens displaying over 500 hosta varieties. The accredited Hosta Leaf Show creates an opportunity for membership and the general public to see the plethora of variety in form and color the genus *Hosta* provides as a landscape plant. We will have multiple Vendors of both hosta and other garden materials. Last but not least is the Friday afternoon AHS Hosta Auction an annual fundraiser and one of the great places to find the more unique hosta available. See the schedule to view all planned events.



The
american
HOSTA
SOCIETY

www.americanhostasociety.org

Members receive three issues per year of *The Hosta Journal*, which includes color photos of hostas, reports on the national convention, scientific info concerning current research pertaining to hostas and advertisements of interest to hosta families.

Dues for one year are \$30 for an individual and \$34 for a family.



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Thanks, NIHS!

We appreciate our
growing partnership.



MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society represents Region 5 of the American Hosta Society that includes 9 states.

Membership in the society is \$20.00 for 2 years, which includes two issues per year of the newsletter. Please mail a check made payable to MRHS to:

MRHS Membership
Kathy Rustad
4011 10th Avenue NW
Rochester, MN 55901

Along with Name, Address, Phone, and email (Most correspondence is by email). For questions email MRHS.hosta@gmail.com.



CANTIGNY
PARK | GARDENS
MUSEUMS
GOLF

15151 Winfield Road Wheaton, IL
cantigny.org



@cantignypark | #cantignypark



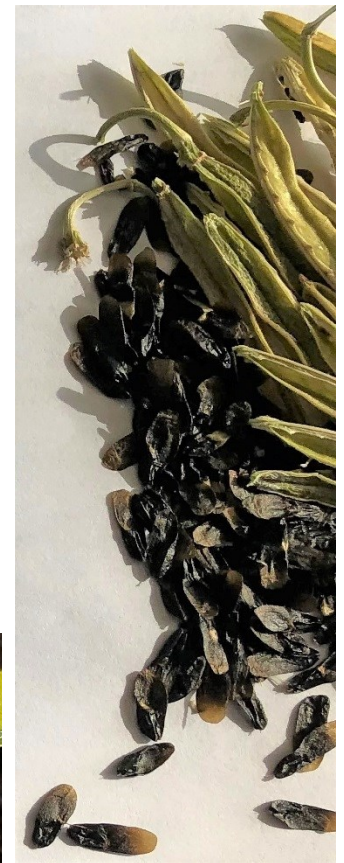
DAVE'S VIEW

By Dave Trollope



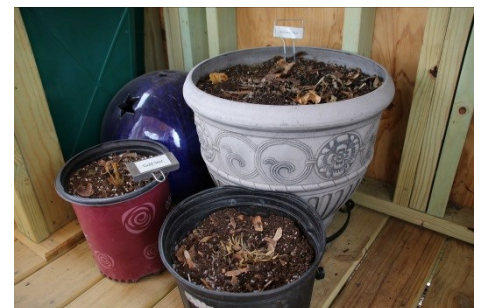
The Journey of Hosta 'Powder Keg'

Here tells the journey of Hosta 'Powder Keg', starting pic top left and journeying clockwise. Begin with Hosta 'Powder Keg' in our garden in June 2021, then open-pollinated seed pods in October, harvested seeds in December then completing the cycle with numerous seedlings grown in our basement February 2022.



Winter Gardening

A collection of Coleus in the basement giving us some winter brightness. Then, a view of some Hosta's being over-wintered in our screenhouse. Also, the smaller ones crated for easy storage and access come spring! —bottom pics.



WE NEED YOUR HELP! CAN YOU BE A VOLUNTEER THIS YEAR?

NIHS depends on volunteers. We can't achieve our mission without them. Never has this been more important that it will be in 2022, when the Society has two overlapping projects. We would welcome your help with one or both of them!

[The Cantigny Park Hosta Garden](#) Working with Cantigny staff, NIHS volunteers have expanded and maintained this garden since its creation in 2012. Their efforts were recognized when it received the coveted designation of American Hosta Society National Hosta Display Garden in 2016. This year, the garden and its 325 hostas need to be in their best condition ever for the 150 hosta lovers from all over the Midwest who will visit it during **["Hostas Chicago Style," the Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention,](#)** hosted by NIHS [July 14 -16](#) in nearby Lisle, IL.

Both the garden and the convention require volunteer help to make them successful, and we need our NIHS members to join us on one or both of these projects. Since prospective volunteers want to know what is expected of them, here's what they would do.



[Hosta Garden Volunteers](#)

Work begins in late April or early May, depending on the weather. This is the busiest time of the year in the garden. Volunteers are scheduled to help one morning a week, usually Tuesday, because that works best for Cantigny staff that sup-

ports us. The first job is to remove all traces of winter—collect fallen twigs and branches, take out unwanted growth, rake and smooth the ground. We will plant new hostas and companions, then spread mulch throughout the garden.

Between Memorial Day and mid-October, volunteers make weekly or bi-weekly visits as needed to maintain and water the garden. The final task of the year is the fall cleanup in late October through

early November to prepare the garden for winter.

We need a total of 20 – 25 volunteers each year because not every volunteer works every week. People have other obligations and are not always available. At the beginning of each month we ask all our volunteers to tell us which days they can help, then put together a schedule for the month. That way everyone gets a chance to work in the hosta garden, but hopefully no volunteer is over-burdened. There are also opportunities to work elsewhere in the park for those interested.

Before these volunteers can work in the hosta garden, or in any part of the park, Cantigny requires an hour of safety training in the early spring, plus a background check. Child safety training (1 – 2 hours) is required once every 2 years. In return, they receive several nice benefits from Cantigny. Another category of volunteer, "special event," requires no training, but it gives no benefits other than free parking on days they volunteer.

This year we are offering a special benefit to all volunteers: A reduced registration fee for those who have volunteered in the hosta garden for a total of 10 hours by June 30, which will entitle you to attend 3 seminars, 2 dinners, and the keynote speaker in the hotel PLUS you may visit the 9 gardens on the tours on Friday and Saturday. So let us hear from you (see contact info below)!

[Volunteers at the Midwest Regional Hosta Society \(MRHS\) Convention July 14 -16, 2022](#)

Presenting a convention requires a lot of help with every aspect of the event. Many members have already committed to volunteering—if so, you do not need to do it again—but we need many more. ***The great thing about volunteering is that you can help out for a few hours and still be able to enjoy fun events that are***



WE NEED YOUR HELP! CAN YOU BE A VOLUNTEER THIS YEAR?

continued



part of the convention! And you can choose how you want to help! As a reward, you will be eligible for a reduced registration fee for the convention, which will allow you to participate in all convention events.

Here are the main options from which you can choose (or you can tell us, as some have, that you are willing to do whatever is needed):

Tour Gardens: Help hosts get gardens ready before the convention, and/or help on the day of the tour (West gardens on Friday, north and east gardens on Saturday) with such tasks as greeting guests, monitoring and restocking refreshments, giving directions, or whatever else the host needs. Tour gardens will be open from 7:30 am to 1:30 pm on Friday and 7:30 am to 2 pm Saturday, with 2 shifts at each garden. Request a garden of your choice or, we will assign you to a garden hopefully not too far from where you live.

Registration: At the hotel, greet and check-in attendees and give them their badges, welcome packs and gift plants. The busiest time will be Thursday, but the desk will also be open at least part of Friday. Most attendees want to be there by early Friday or they will miss the most popular convention events—garden tours and seminars.



Volunteers at the Registration Desk of a previous MRHS convention

Hospitality:

The Concierge Desk will be located in the hotel near where people will gather for events. The concierge needs to be able to answer questions on all manner of subjects, hand out direction packets for the garden tours, serve as an information source and message center while helping attendees with whatever they may need. The concierge will be open from mid-day into the evening, so the workload will be divided into shifts.

Host the Hospitality Suite in the evening, where many attendees gather to visit at the end of the day. A major

responsibility will be to make sure that the snacks and beverages (with which the room will have been stocked) are available and set out for guests as needed.

Setup and Takedown: Help vendors set up their tables and bring in plants on Thursday morning and take them down on Saturday afternoon. Similar help will be needed for the Leaf Show and Seedling Display.

Auction: As auction plants are brought in on Thursday and Friday, help will be needed setting them up for display both before and during the Friday night auction.

Leaf Show: For details, and to volunteer to help, contact Leaf Show Chair Mary Ann Metz. The tasks just described are the ones that need the most volunteers but other volunteer jobs are also available. Each volunteer task will take only a few hours—sign up for as many as interest you!

For questions, or TO VOLUNTEER at the Cantigny Hosta Garden or the MRHS Convention, please contact Barbara King. For more details about the convention, visit the MRHS website, midwesthostasociety.org, and click on the 2022 “Hostas Chicago Style” convention icon.



The screenshot shows the website's header with the logo and title "Northern Illinois Hosta Society". Below the header is a navigation menu with links: HOME, ABOUT US, CALENDAR, MEMBERSHIP, NEWSLETTERS & FLVRS, RESOURCES, CONTACT US, MEMBER'S ONLY. A "CART (0)" link is also visible. The main content area features a large image of hosta plants. Below this image is the heading "Some of our Programs, Events & Activities" followed by two smaller images: one of a group of people at a meeting and one of a bright yellow hosta plant. Text below the meeting image describes the "Annual Membership Meeting- September 12, 2021" and its purpose. Text below the yellow hosta image describes "Sponsor Plant Pick-Ups-May 2021" and includes a quote from Lou Horton.



The advertisement features the "Natural Perennials" logo, which includes a diamond shape with a garden scene and the text "Natural Perennials Est. 2008" and three stars. The main text reads "Spring Plant Sale Begins 4.21.22" and "Order online, pick up curbside" with the website "www.naturalperennials.com". A green box lists "Over 1000 varieties of hardy perennials: -Natives -Spring Bloomers -Hostas". The background shows a large hosta plant. At the bottom, it says "Zero contact pickup * Campton Hills, IL".

Join the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

Join the NIHS by going to our website www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org and scroll over on the navigation bar to Membership. You can pay your membership dues on-line on our secure server or print out an application form and mail to our membership secretary with a check payable to NIHS. Pls mail to: Stevie Meginness, Membership Secretary, 84 Dunham Place, St. Charles, IL 60174 with your check for \$25. Please include your name(s), address, phone #, and current email address.


Family membership dues of \$25 for 2 years include email versions of 5 newsletters.

Email us at NI.hosta@gmail.com. Call Stevie. Visit our website @ www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org and visit us on Facebook.

New Member Welcome!!

Welcome to our newest hostophile!

Roxanne Gilbert, Winfield



The graphic features a yellow diamond shape with the text "Come Join Us" in red and blue. Surrounding the diamond are blue silhouettes of four people (two men and two women) holding hands in a circle.

PARTICIPATE in LEAF DISPLAY JUNE 4 & 5 AT CBG By Mike Kraus



Hosta Leaf Display at Chicago Botanic Gardens June 2019

As I write this we are just 5 weeks away from the start of Spring. I know it seems to be a bit early to be talking about an early June event, but I am ready for the hosta pips to start emerging from the ground. After a 2 year hiatus, our annual Leaf Display and Plant Sale at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe is scheduled for June 4th & 5th this year. The NIHS mission is to share knowledge of hostas and to promote their use in the landscape. How better to do this than to display the most beautiful hosta leaves from our gardens. Hundreds of CBG visitors will walk through our display and enjoy our hosta experience. Some will even buy hostas from our member vendors. Attendees also have the opportunity to vote for their favorite hosta leaf.

DONATE LEAVES: We need your donations of leaves from your best hostas. Here is what you need to do:

Identify your best looking hostas.

Select the best (most typical) leaf and cut it cleanly within 48 hours of the display. Be sure to leave the petiole long enough to put into a vase as shown in the photo.

Write the name of the hosta on the petiole with a waterproof Sharpie Ultra Fine Point tip pen or securely label the leaf in some other way. All leaves must be identifiable and labeled.

Thoroughly wash any dirt or debris from the leaf and put it in cool water to keep it fresh. Clean the hosta leaf with wet cotton balls.

Repeat this process for as many hosta leaves as you wish to bring to the display.

NIHS members will be at CBG on Friday June 3rd between 9:00 and noon and on Saturday morning, June 4th, from 8:30 to 10:00 to accept your leaves and help set them up for display.

GET YOUR LEAVES TO CBG: If you cannot get there during those hours, you can drop off your leaves with one of the following members. Please contact them in advance for your leaf drop off.

Thursday Drop-off:

Andy & Faith Campbell, Elgin

Linda Lood, Sleepy Hollow

Barbara King, Batavia

Mike Kraus, Crystal Lake

Friday Drop-off:

Nancy Huck, Bensenville

June Vandervest, Downers Grove

VOLUNTEER AT THE EXHIBIT: To sign-up for a morning or afternoon shift between 10:00 am and 4:30 pm Saturday and Sunday contact Zoe Ingersoll, email. As volunteers we have historically been granted "free parking" while we work at the exhibit. Before or after your shift you would be able to stroll through the gardens. We are currently in need of volunteers for morning and afternoon shifts.

VISIT DISPLAY AND BUY FROM OUR VENDORS: Lou Horton each year presents a seminar Saturday at 1:00 pm with tips on growing hostas. Whether or not you donate leaves or volunteer, come to see the display and buy some great hostas from our Member Vendors, Jim Morrow and Andrea and Justin Geske. The Geske's now own Uniquely Hostas and will be a great new addition to our Member Vendor group. *This is a great way to identify those cultivars you just have to have in your garden.* **Andrea, Justin and Jim will have some of the newest cultivars coming on the market that you will not find at a garden center. Come out and speak with Jim, Andrea and Justin. Take a look at their hosta inventory and invest in a few. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!**



SHADY HILL GARDENS

**Open for the season on
April 4, 2022**

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Elburn, IL 60119
630-365-5665
www.shadyhill.com**

Unusual Woodlanders for the Shade Garden: Farge's Cobra Lily

By Don Rawson

"China has more plants than anywhere else in the temperate world," says Peter Raven, one of the world's leading botanists who, for four decades, headed the renowned Missouri Botanical Garden. "In fact, it has almost twice as many plants as the United States which is about the same size, and about three times as many as there are in Europe." In reality, China is home to more than 30,000 species - one-eighth of the world's total. Many form the backbone of our modern ornamental gardens – like ginkgoes, rhododendrons, azaleas and forsythias. That plant wealth has been a mag-



Arisaema fargesii/ Farge's Cobra Lily bloom in Rawson garden

net for botanists for centuries and it continues so today. The famous plant collector Ernest Henry Wilson once referred to China as the "mother of all gardens".

Wilson collected plants extensively throughout China between 1899 and 1910 and many of his introductions have become important components of the cultivated flora of our gardens in the Western world. His collec-



Farge's Cobra Lily from Don & Pam Rawson's garden

tions have confirmed that Chinese flora is the richest and most diverse flora in the temperate world and has identified the usefulness of many species for cultivation.

One woodlander, originally native to western and southern China and now occasionally encountered in Western gardens, is Farge's Cobra Lily (*Arisaema fargesii*). *Arisaema* is a large and diverse genus with the largest concentration of species (you guessed it!) in China and Japan, while other species are native to other parts of southern Asia, Africa, Mexico and eastern North America. Asiatic species are often called Cobra Lilies, while western species are usually called Jack-in-the-Pulpit. Both names refer to the distinctive appearance of the flower which consists of a spathe and an erect central spadix.

Discovered by French botanist and plant explorer Père Farges in the early 1900s, Farge's Cobra Lily has turned out to be one of the easiest to grow and most spectacular of



Continued next page

Farge's Cobra Lily

continued

all *Arisaema* species. Simply put, *Arisaema fargesii* — Farge's Cobra Lily — is an absolute knockout in the woodland garden. First of all, the tropical-looking foliage is just fantastic! A young plant quickly becomes an enormous clumping perennial which reaches 3' x 3' with huge tropical-looking leaves, each with three broadly ovate, glossy green leaflets 11" x 18" in size.

Alongside the leaves emerge the flower stalks in June and July, each topped with a beautiful large wine-red pitcher marked with dramatic white striping. The tip of the pitcher ends with a graciously narrow tip. Then in the center of the flower, a dark maroon spadix stands up like a child's tongue below the flower's hood, resembling a tiny red lizard peeking out of the pitcher... an absolutely stunning aroid!

Planting and Cultivation

All *Arisaema* species will be successfully grown in part sun to light shade, requiring moist well-drained soil. They are summer green and winter dormant, hardy in zones 5 to 8.

Farge's Cobra Lily from Don & Pam Rawson's garden



The flowers of Farge's Cobra Lily are spectacular.

Farge's Cobra Lily, in particular, is a surprisingly easy species to grow despite its extraordinary exotic appearance. The planting depth of the tubers is three times their size. The large foliage makes an excellent specimen, and additionally forms quite a statement when planted in a group. The leaves turn golden-yellow in fall.

Arisaema fargesii is a species that offsets freely. Seeds can be sown in any rich peaty, well-drained soil; germination is irregular and may start well after only 2 weeks or may need up to 3 months and more.

For more information and photos of *Arisaema* species, see the webpage by Pacific Bulb Society at <http://www.pacificbulbsociety.org/pbswiki/index.php/ArisaemaSpeciesOne>, and the webpage of Rareplants.eu at <http://www.arisaema.info/index.htm>.

Reprinted from Michigan Hosta Society newsletter, Jan 2022

Have Fairies Danced in Your Garden?

By Joan Poos

The hosta's circle of life is amazing. In a single year, the plant emerges from the ground, unfurls leaves which in a matter of weeks rapidly expand, flowers then returns to dormancy. Year after year the cycle continues with the plants gaining in size. A large clump forms. Hostas can remain for decades and decades, undisturbed, ever growing larger.

However, you may notice in the spring that your once beautiful clump now has a hole in the middle. It is not unusual for large clumps to begin to decline over time. This phenomena is called centering-out, clump decline, center dieback, or the more picturesque name 'fairy ring'. This whimsical name was given because the problem was said to result from fairies dancing in the middle of the plant. This ring effect is not usually an indication of disease.

In the beginning, you planted a single division which each year added new buds on the outer edge of the crown. Over time, these new divisions increase the diameter of the clump. Each new division adds more new buds. The oldest part of the clump is now at the center. Eventually the middle eyes get crowded out and begin to die.

Overlapping leaves may keep water and fertilizer from reaching the center of the clump acerbating the decline. Examples of 'fairy ring' In the spring the ring might be unsightly. But, by the time the leaves have fully expanded, the ring is no longer visible. Nothing

really needs to be done. However, this could be the time to rejuvenate your plant.

Some people use a shovel or sharp knife to cut out the dead center



Clump Decline or Center Clump Dieback

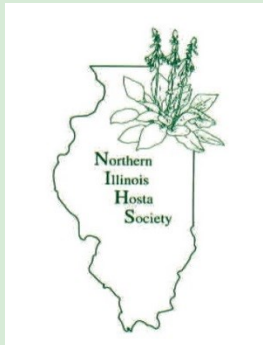
area. They then fill the hole with fresh soil and depending on the size of the hole may cut a section from the ring and place it in the center. In a year or two this part of the clump will fill in. Others like to dig up the entire clump, remove the dead center part, cut the ring into smaller divisions and replant. Loosen the roots of each division before replanting and water thoroughly. Any extra divisions can be given to friends or donated to a hosta society for their plant sale or auction. Hint. Hint.

Reprinted from St. Louis Hosta Society Newsletter, Feb 2022.

NIHS Membership Secretary

84 Dunham Place

St. Charles, IL 60174



The Northern Illinois Hosta Society is dedicated to educating the public and promoting the use of hosta in the landscape. NIHS serves the people of Northern Illinois and surrounding areas.

Explore Bill Brandt's spectacular garden on June 18 in New Lennox.



We're on the Web ! www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org

Visit us on Facebook

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Publicity Director

June Vandervest

Directors –At—Large

Zoe Ingersoll

Mark Meginness

To contact these Officers & Directors email to NI.hosta@gmail.com

The Zacker garden will be in bloom and on tour June 25

