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Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society

Fall I 2006

President's Message

I hope all of you have had a great summer. I for one am looking forward to some cooler temperatures. I love going out to my garden every day when I come home from work and checking on what's new or what needs tending. During those 100 degree days, even I lost interest in being in the garden.

I'm happy to report that we have a new Board Member. Her name is Charlene Wendel and she'll be taking care of the hospitality duties. I'm sure that Charlene will be a wonderful addition to the Board.

You need to mark your calendars for the fall meeting on September 16, 9:30 a.m. at the Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church, 9300 Nall, Overland Park, KS.

Those who attend the meeting will receive a special bonus — we will be giving away one FREE plant. We'll have a special table that will contain the bonus plants. As usual, we'll also have plants for sale. There's still plenty of time to plant.

Pat Mora, former President of the club, has been using her digital camera and a computer software program to take pictures of her garden and insert the name of each plant next to its picture. At our fall meet-

ing, she's going to tell us how to use this procedure to map out our gardens. Having your garden mapped out is extremely handy if your garden is like mine and some plant tags get lost each year or the names get faded and you can no longer read what you wrote.

This year with the extreme temperatures and the absence of rain, I've wished many times that I had an irrigation system. Keith Wheeler will speak to us at the fall meeting on how to set up a water-efficient drip irrigation system and what you need to buy. You can set up your own system and be ready for whatever Mother Nature sends our way next year.

The fall meeting will be our last one at Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church because they will be doing some remodeling and will be making changes that will not accommodate us in the future. Next year our meetings and annual sale will be held at Faith Lutheran Church at 67th and Roe in Prairie Village.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the fall meeting on September 16.

Kathy

One FREE Plant to Members



September 2006 Plant Inventory



Olive Branch



Sleeping Beauty



Lakeside Ripples



Queen of the Seas



American Sweetheart



Heart Broken

Name	Avg. Price	Club Price	Quantity
Academy Blushing Recluse	25.33	\$22.00	1
Allegan Fog	16.41	12.00	4
Alligator Shoes	19.22	12.00	2
American Sweetheart	17.90	14.00	8
Bill Brincka	14.39	12.00	3
Blue Angel	12.12	10.00	1
Blue Haired Lady	27.33	21.00	1
Blue Mouse Ears	16.66	10.00	1
Bodacious Blue	22.44	16.00	7
Bressingham blue	8.49	8.00	3
Cameo	17.19	10.00	1
Deja Blue	19.67	14.00	7
Diva	17.95	16.00	2
Emerald Ruff Cut	16.11	15.00	3
Forest Fireworks	21.40	14.00	2
Fragrant Surprise	20.00	18.00	5
Ghost Spirit	20.80	15.00	1
Grand Finale	21.25	35.00	3
Guardian Angel	16.93	12.00	1
Happily Ever After	24.50	17.00	3
Happy Camper	22.67	15.00	4
Heart Broken	18.33	18.00	12
June Fever	19.47	11.00	9
Korean Snow	25.78	16.00	1
Lakeside Baby Face	18.64	16.00	2
Lakeside Love Affaire	31.38	14.00	12
Lakeside Ripples	17.89	16.00	8
Little Miss Magic	26.88	20.00	1
Loyalist	12.62	9.00	7
Magic Fire	26.17.	22.00	1
Mint Julep	17.64	12.00	2
Olive Branch	15.60	12.00	4
Pearl Lake	4.90	4.00	2
Powder Puff	29.17	25.00	4
Queen of the Seas	23.39	21.00	11
Silver Bay	20.35	15.00	4
Sleeping Beauty	23.13	15.00	7
Spartan Glory	27.00	22.00	2
Thunderbolt	16.74	14.00	1
Touch of Class	19.62	18.00	2
Unforgettable	17.38	11.00	9
Whiskey Sour	21.58	18.00	2

Perennials

	Club Price	Quantity
Aruncus Aethusifolius	6.00	3
Asarum splendens	10.00	7
Brunnera m. 'Jack Frost'	12.00	4
Campanula p. 'Little Punky'	4.00	17
Heucherella 'Stoplight'	8.00	4
Thalictrum kiusianum	6.00	4
Canadian Ginger	5.00	5
Lady in Red	5.00	1

BALANCE THE SCALES

by Mary Chastain, Lakeside Acres

Fall clean up time is just around the corner. Lately I have read articles dealing with how we should leave our hosta gardens for the winter. As in life there is no perfect way that can meet the needs of all. Some articles have been emphatic in the fact that leaving leaves on the garden is the thing to do. I agree with the idea that leaves offer protection for the plants during the winter months and that they also provide nutrients for the soil. They help keep the ground cool in the spring so that hostas are not as likely to emerge too early. This is good and I concur with those things. Other articles have dismissed this fact saying that it is better to remove all of the weeds and old foliage from the garden in the fall. At this time I wish to say, leaves may hold excessive moisture as well as fungi, both of which can be harmful to your hostas. The leaf cover provides space for a well-run hatchery for the proliferation of slugs. Leaving old plant foliage contributes to the spread of fungi and disease that may be present.

My proclamation is that what works for one is not necessarily for the good of all. If you live in a vole infested area letting the leaves remain on the garden will just about guarantee your loss of hostas over the winter. Voles prefer to move and work in a protected environment. They believe that this wonderful blanket of leaves was created just for them. Under this cover they build a network of freeways which takes them from the banquet table of your hostas to the playground where they invite their family,

friends and neighbors to come enjoy the buffet. They laughingly announce that there is plenty for all.

Cleaning the garden of weeds, old foliage and leaves in the fall reduces the chance of spreading disease. It also lowers the risk of vole destruction. It eliminates many of the hiding places for voles and slugs. A clean surface allows for the early spring treatment for slugs and provides easier access for fertilizer. Keeping the slug population low during fall and winter eases your battle for control during the growing season. Removing diseased materials lowers your risk of incurring trouble next year. For example consider the possibility of leaving plants and mulch contaminated with the fungus that causes southern blight. How much more likely you are to be plagued with it the following season.

Once the garden is clean and ready for winter, a thin layer of clean new pine needles can be spread to offer some winter protection and diminish the washing of your soil. A thin cover of pine needles allows air to circulate over the ground. Though they offer some shade protection for your plants they are open enough to discourage the construction of vole freeways.

Now that we have weighed the pros and cons you must balance the scales to meet the situation in your garden. Will the value of leaves in your garden outweigh the disadvantages that they may offer?



Heartland Hosta Society Dues

To ensure your continued newsletter mailings, please make sure you're current on dues. If you're not sure, check your mailing address label for the year next to your name. You are paid up through that year. We ask that you prepay at least 2 years dues at a time.

Join the American Hosta Society

The publications alone are worth the annual dues. Visit the AHS website (www.hosta.org) for the latest membership options.

Join the Midwest Regional Hosta Society

The MRHS (including both KS and MO) publishes two newsletters a year, holds an annual Summer Convention and a Winter Scientific Meeting. Dues are only \$10 per year payable to MRHS.

Send dues to:
Scott Hildebrandt
MRHS Treasurer
1020 Redwood Drive
Norwalk, IA 50211

Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society

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**Heartland Hosta and Shade Plant Society
Membership and Renewal Form**

Your dues are currently paid up through the year next to your name on the mailing address label. We ask that all members prepay at least 2 years dues at a time to minimize the paperwork and bookkeeping. Dues are only \$5 per year which is the lowest of any local hosta society in the country.

Check one... NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

Name	Street Address
City, State, Zip	Home Phone
Business Phone	E-Mail Address
Fax	Member of American Hosta Society?
Is Your Garden Open to Visitors?	Would You Like To Volunteer?

Please return this form with your e-mail address even if your dues are paid up. Newsletters will be sent via e-mail to help keep our membership dues low. Return this form and your dues to:

Pat Mora

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