



Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society

Spring 2006

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President's Message

I'm so excited that spring is here. Surveys say that autumn is the favorite season for most people. For me, it's spring. I love seeing lawns green up and, of course I love to watch my hosta bed come to life.

Our spring meeting will be at 10 a.m. at the Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church, 9300 Nall, Overland Park. We've had many requests in the past for a program on building a garden. Our speaker will be our newest Board Member, Mike Hulen. Mike is the Vice President/General Manager of Midwest Block & Brick. He has been hooked on hostas since 1991 and since then has gained a vast knowledge of hostas and of building gardens from scratch. Mike's presentation will be on "Creating a New Hosta Bed" and will cover general ideas on bed layout, soil preparation, edging materials, tree issues, sun/shade topics and lots of other things. It will be an informal presentation where member questions will be welcomed and encouraged. The goal is to make it as interactive as possible to get members' input on what they have had success with so we can all learn from each other. Mike will also have a sample bag of the soil conditioner mentioned in this Newsletter.

In the past, the Club has always sold perennials at the spring meeting. March and April are very early for most perennials and sometimes by the time it's safe to plant them, they aren't always looking very healthy. This year we have decided not to sell perennials at the spring meeting. We WILL have them at the sale. We

will have Osmocote for sale. For those of you who came to the fall meeting on garden art, you may remember Susan Kemp who paints rocks that can be used in the garden. Among other things, she paints them to look like frogs, rabbits, ladybugs and turtles. Her prices are very, very reasonable and they are absolutely adorable. Susan will be joining us at our spring meeting with a supply of new critters. She will also be taking orders on special items.

Another request that we've gotten many times for is a garden tour. This year, we'll have mini-tours. We're asking for volunteers to open their garden for members. The tentative date is either June 17 and/or June 24. Your garden doesn't have to be perfect and it doesn't have to be huge in size either. We would just like to be able to share with fellow members what the possibilities for a shade garden can be. We would like to have a total of three or four gardens to tour. If you would like to volunteer, please either call me at (816) 468-1468 or email me at kpease@kc.rr.com. We would like to coordinate gardens so that they are either at the same end of town or we can split the dates.

The annual sale will be held in a different location this year. It will be at the Faith Lutheran Church at 67th & Roe, in Prairie Village. It will be on May 13. Mark your calendar. We'll be sending out reminders closer to the sale date.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you on April 8.

Kathy



2006 Events

April 8

Spring Meeting Heartland
Hosta (Rolling Hills
Presbyterian Church)

May 13

Annual Heartland Hosta
Plant Sale (Faith Lutheran
Church) 67th & Roe

June 14-17

American Hosta Society
National Convention
(Philadelphia, PA)

June 17

Heartland Hosta Mini
Garden Tours

July 13-16

Midwest Regional Hosta
Society Convention
(Brown Deer, WI)

Sept. 16

Heartland Hosta Fall
Meeting,
(Rolling Hills
Presbyterian Church)



Companion plants for hostas:

gingers (Asarum)
 Arisaema triphyllum (Jack in the Pulpit)
 Lamiastrum galeobdolon 'Herman's
 Pride'
 variegated Ajuga
 Ceratostigma plumbaginoides 'Plumbago'
 Ficus pumilla 'Creeping Fig'
 Iris cristada (semi-invasive)
 Ophiopogon Black Mondo
 Acorus
 Carex
 Polygonatum (miniature & variegated)
 Brunnera macrophylla
 Ferns (as long as it isn't bracken)
 Bergenia
 Thalictrum
 Aquilegia
 Spring flowering bulbs
 Heuchera
 Pulmonaria
 Ophiopogon
 Liriope
 Digitalis
 Viola
 Astilbe
 Cimicifuga
 Ligularia
 Anemone
 dicentra
 Hellebores
 Solomon's Seal
 Polomonium
 lamium
 (not lamiastrum).
 Underplantings:
 Lysimachia nummularia
 Ranunculus ficarius
Invasive Plants
 Asarum europaeum
 Vinca
 Hedera helix English Ivy
 Artemesia Limelight
 lamiastrum galeobdolon
 Ajuga
 some ferns
 Liriope muscari
 Euonymus
 Pachysandra
 Liriope muscari
Non-Invasive:
 gingers (Asarum), Lamiastrum
 galeobdolon 'Herman's Pride', varie-
 gated Ajuga, Ceratostigma
 plumbaginoides 'Plumbago', Ficus
 pumilla 'Creeping Fig', Iris cristada
 (semi-invasive), Ophiopogon Black
 Mondo, Acorus, Carex, Polygonatum
 (miniature & variegated), Brunnera
 macrophylla
 Semi-invasive (easy to pull)
 Galium odoratum (Sweet Woodruff)
 Myosotis scorpioides (Forget me nots)
 Japanese Painted Fern
 Convallaria majalis (lily of the valley)
 (author unknown)



*Susan Kemp, The Rock Lady will be
at the meeting selling rocks.*

Discounted Soil Conditioner

At the 2004 National Hosta Convention in Des Moines, Iowa, we learned about Pine Soil Conditioner that the tour gardens used. It is composted pine bark fines ideal for loosening and conditioning heavy soil and an excellent medium for flower bed preparation. It looks similar to "Back to Earth" and is nearly black in color.

Mike Hulen's employer Midwest Block & Brick, may be willing to order a truck load of the product to its down-

town KC yard where members would go for pick up. A truckload is about 900 (+/-) 2 cu. ft. bags. The retail price per bag is about \$5.00. Midwest Block may be able to discount it as much as \$1.00 per bag which is a savings of 20%. We do not have an exact price quote yet.

Mike will have a sign-up sheet up sheet at the meeting for those interested. This is not a commitment to buy. It is simply to see if there is enough interest for Mike to move forward. If 90 members get 10 bags each, we can use the entire truckload.

Fertilizing Idea

I have a theory about fertilizing which I'll toss out here.

Hostas respond to the conditions they find themselves in when they emerge in Spring. Too warm and the leaves get big and soft, too cold and they get thick and small. If there is too little light they get greener and make fewer larger leaves, if too much light they make more smaller leaves and divisions. If crowded they form large leaves on few divisions, etc., etc. All this can be easily tested for and they will respond. So, how about fertility? Do they respond to soil fertility at this time?

My theory is that they do. I believe they use a higher percentage of stored re-

sources to get more top growth up if there is better fertility in the soil. This would be beneficial because the plant could make up the loss with greater leaf mass, producing food for the clump. The opposite of this would be to put up less leaf mass in an infertile environment to conserve energy.

Basically, if my theory is right, you should get bigger hostas with better growth if the ground is fertile when they are emerging. To this end I scatter 10-10-10 granular as soon as I see spears emerging. Sure makes the weeds grow fast if nothing else!Bill Meyer

Green Sand

Greensand is a natural soil amendment and fertilizer. It is a naturally occurring iron-potassium silicate (also called glauconite) which has the consistency of sand but is able to absorb 10 times more moisture making it a great soil conditioner. It loosens clay soil and binds loose, sandy soil. Greensand is mined from deposits of minerals that were originally part of the ocean floor. It contains about 7% total potash, along

with iron, magnesium, silica and as many as 30 other trace minerals.

It stimulates beneficial soil organisms, photosynthesis, increases hardiness and resistance to disease. Greensand is nontoxic, long lasting, odorless, does not burn plant roots, and will not leach away. It is available in containers up to 50# at Soil Service Garden Center in Kansas City. Check the internet for applications

These are some of the Hostas we will have at our sale.



Ginsue Knife



Pop Corn



Kiwi Blue Baby



Paradise Glory



Queen of the Seas



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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