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# Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society

Fall 2007

## *President's Message*

I hope that you've gotten everything planted that you bought at this year's sale.

I still have lots of hostas to plant. The summer heat has made me temporarily lose interest in gardening. Speaking of heat, we had a great garden party at the Hawkinson's home in June. For those of you who missed it – you missed a fun event! The Hawkinson garden was lovely and they were fantastic hosts.

Our meeting on September 22 will be held at 10 a.m. at the Faith Lutheran Church at 67<sup>th</sup> & Roe in Prairie Village. The social time will be at 9:30 a.m. The program will be photos taken of tour gardens during the 2007 National Hosta Convention in Indianapolis and will be presented by Keith and Gwen Wheeler and photos taken at the 2007 Regional Hosta Convention in Davenport, IA which will be presented by Bob and Penny Balfour. The tour gardens during a convention are truly magnificent. The preparation by the homeowner begins years in advance and it really shows. We'll also be having a plant auction of some very nice plants that are hard to find.

There will be plants for sale before and after the meeting. We've gotten in a few new varieties since the garden party. We

will also be having two strains of double hellebores.

This is my last message as the outgoing President of the Club. We'll elect new officers at the end of our meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Treasurer reports a club account balance of \$13278.60. These funds are used to purchase plants, potting soil, pots and trays. The funds are also used to pay speaker fees and expenses, refreshments, door prizes, garden tours and parties. The \$5.00 membership fees help pay for the printing and mailing of our newsletters. Now that our newsletters are printed in color, the costs are slightly higher than the membership fees.

It has been my pleasure to serve as President these last three years. I've gotten to know many of you. It's been a lot of fun and a challenging experience for me. I've had a lot of help from a fabulous Board and I want to thank them. This position can only be accomplished through joint effort. In the last three years, I hope you've met new friends, learned a little about shade gardening and added some beautiful plants to your own gardens. I'll still be around after stepping down. The Club is in my blood.

**Kathy**

*We'll see you at Faith Lutheran Church on September 22, 67th & Roe at 9:30 a.m.*

Plants for auction: Indy Finish Line, Indy Parade Lap, Stitch In Time, Olive Bailey Langdon, Old Glory, Gunther's Prize, Mango Tango and Midnight Rose Heuchera



**Gunther's Prize**



**Mango Tango**



**Midnight Rose Heuchera**

*These are some of the plants in the auction*



**2007**

## Events

**September 22**

Heartland Hosta Fall Meeting  
(Faith Lutheran Church)

**2008**

## Events

**March 29**

Heartland Hosta Spring Meeting  
(Faith Lutheran Church)

**May 10**

Heartland Hosta Annual Plant Sale  
(Faith Lutheran Church)

**June 11-14**

American Hosta Society National Convention  
St. Louis, MO

**September 29**

Heartland Hosta Fall Meeting  
(Faith Lutheran Church)

## Container Gardening

Tom Micheletti, The Hosta Patch

Hostas can be successfully grown in containers. Advantages are the plants can be moved around to change the arrangement, and reposition pots to take advantage of bloom times. They also give season long interest with their colorful foliage.

The containers can be anything that will hold soil. The important consideration is that it must have adequate drainage. The size of the container should be commensurate with the mature size of the plant. Young plants should be planted in smaller containers. As the plants grow larger, they should be transplanted into larger pots, until the ultimate size is reached. Placing a couple inches of Styrofoam peanuts in the bottom of very large containers makes them lighter in weight, and more portable.

The planting mix should retain moisture, but drain well so as not to rot the plant. At The Hosta Patch, Hostas are planted in a commercial soilless mix formulated with peat moss, vermiculite, and perlite. This mix retains moisture, but also drains enough to allow the roots to get oxygen.

Containerized plants must be watered every day or two in hot weather. It is

not necessary to have saucers collect water under the pots. They will also need regular fertilizing, as nutrients quickly leech away with regular watering. Fertilizer can be applied with every watering at one quarter to one half the recommended strength, or a time release fertilizer can be applied at the beginning of the season.

The plants need a period of dormancy for the winter. Containers must not be left outdoors for the winter, or the plants will rot. The containers should be placed in a location that drops to at least between 30 and 40 degrees, and away from overhead moisture. An unheated garage or porch is ideal. They should not be allowed to dry out completely either. Check them about once a month. If the soil is dry, a very light watering is all that is needed.

Potted Hostas will begin to grow earlier than plants in the ground, so a periodic check as the weather warms up will be needed. If the plants begin to grow, they must not be placed outside until danger of frost is past. They may be placed outside during the day, or when temperatures remain above freezing, and brought into a protected spot if frost is forecast.

Growing Hostas in pots can be a rewarding way to enjoy this diverse group of plants.

*We will display some Hostas planted in containers*



## Hosta Virus X

The Hosta Library  
Used with permission

Many hostas are turning up that are infected with a virus called Hosta Virus X (HVX). The most commonly seen ones are plants of 'Gold Standard', 'Striptease', and 'Sum and Substance', but other common varieties are being reported infected in large numbers. While this disease does not kill plants, its primary danger lies in its proven ability to spread prolifically. Because symptoms may take years to show after infection, HVX has infected hundreds of thousands of plants and is at epidemic levels around the world. If a batch of hostas contains any individual plants that show HVX symptoms, the whole batch should be considered infected and should be destroyed, as individual testing is impractical and not a guarantee.

If you are a gardener, do not buy plants from batches that show even the slightest markings on even one plant. If you have these plants from batches that show symptoms at your home, dispose of them immediately. If you are a grower or vendor, learn what the signs are and contact the supplier if you see them in your stock.

This virus is widely spread at this time in the above plants and others (see table of infected cultivars) and the source nurseries are still learning about the problem as of 5/06. Only testing with the specific ELISA kit for HVX can detect HVX. Very large numbers of HVX-infected plants are still currently being sold at all levels.

This virus is transmitted primarily through cutting the plants. Contact of the infected plant's sap with sap of a healthy plant will infect the new plant. This can happen whenever cuts are made and the instruments or hands are not disinfected afterwards. Dividing hostas, removing bloom scapes, removing leaves, stepping on them, even accidentally running the lawnmower over them can and will spread this virus. It survives only in living plant tissue and dies without a host. Plants in pots may be simply disposed of or burned. Plants in the ground should be dug carefully as to get as many roots as possible, and the spot should not be replanted until any remaining roots have died and rotted away.

*Heartland Hosta always make sure we don't receive plants with "Virus X".*



*Heartland Hosta donated \$500 to the University of Minnesota for research to combat the "X Virus"*



### 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](http://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

*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:*

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?

Check one... NEW MEMBER  RENEWAL

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.

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

**Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society**  
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