



Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society

Fall 2012

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President's Message

HELLO! Oh, how I love this cooler weather! We're finally able to enjoy our patio for the first time this summer. If only it would rain! The hostas and shade plants have survived, just not really thrived. Even with a good size water bill, we haven't been able to accomplish what several good rains would have.

Several of us enjoyed two great AHS functions this summer. The first being the AHS National in Nashville, TN, which the Balfours, Kuhars, Wendels, Wheelers and Cerise Harris attended.

The speakers shared so much knowledge on a wide variety of issues. Tours of lovely gardens are always a highlight and were interesting in that climate is a bit different there and it seemed that everyone had massive vole problems. These Conventions always include a leaf show where Annella and I both enjoyed participating and scored very well.

Andy and Keith donated a bell and a hypertufa pot, respectively, to each Auc-

tion, which supports the future activities of the organizations. Vendor opportunities, good food and lots of friendly camaraderie made for a very enjoyable time.

The second event was the Midwest Regional Convention in Rochester, MN. The events were basically the same, just varying subjects, places and people. They incorporated a fun hospital theme, based of course, on the presence of Mayo Clinic in their city. Wheelers attended along with Alleys, who were experiencing their first Convention. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet other hostaholics!!

We have info available on the AHS and MRHS. Check that out; join one or both!!

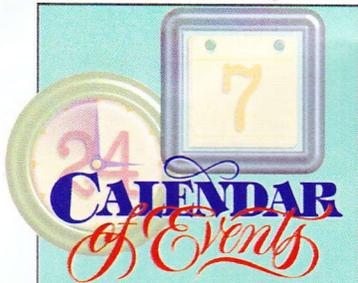
Don't miss the Sept 22 meeting and the chance to meet and hear Doug Beilstein, our AHS President. His presentation will be very informative. You may even have the opportunity to win one of his precious hosta babies in a raffle!!

Gwen

Hosta Meeting Saturday September 22, 9:30 a.m., at Faith Lutheran Church, 67th & Roe, Prairie Village, KS. Potluck following. Meat, drinks, and tableware are provided.

10% Discount to members on Hostas!

**Very Nice selection of Hostas
Including several new varieties!**



2012 Events

September 22
Heartland Hosta Fall Meeting
(Faith Lutheran Church)

2013 Events

March 23
Heartland Hosta Spring Meeting
(Faith Lutheran Church)

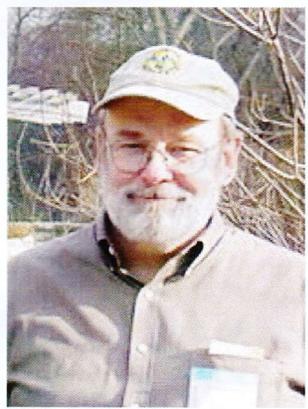
May 11
Heartland Hosta Annual Plant Sale
(Faith Lutheran Church)

June
To be announced
Heartland Hosta Annual Garden Party

September
To be announced
Heartland Hosta Fall Meeting
(Faith Lutheran Church)



Doug Beilstein



My initial experience in gardening started during the summers of my junior and senior high years at Kingwood Center, a local horticultural estate. I didn't realize it at the time but the Director

of Kingwood Center, Dr. Raymond C. Allen, who interviewed and hired me, was a charter member of the AHS. This early exposure to perennials and annuals, bed planting, shrub management, mulching, watering and fertilizing were very valuable experiences for me.

Ownership of the Blueberry Patch, a u-pick fruit farm, with its involvement in greenhouse sales of annuals and perennials for over 20 years, provided yet more experience in growing and care of plants. It was during this period that Van Wade introduced me to hosta.

Doug has a personal collection over 1200 named cultivars. He is an original member of the FOoSF.com (Fraternal Order of Seedy Fellows) and has been hosta hybridizing for about 18 years.

Hybridizing of hosta started with growing OP seeds in the mid 90's. Each subsequent

summer, designed crosses were made and the following fall and winter, seedlings were grown and culled. The month of May results in planting the seedlings outside in-ground or in pots. Eventual evaluation 10 years later, has lead to my first 6 registrations in 2007.

Currently, I collect 40,000 – 60,000 seeds in the fall, (both OP and designed crosses), which result in approximately 2000 seedlings, that are planted in raised beds for a 2 year trial period.

Our interest in hosta led us to the American Hosta Society and its annual convention. We have been very fortunate to get to the last 15 in a row. I have been elected to the National Executive Board as VP Honors and Awards of the AHS have been elected as Executive VP conventions coordinator of the AHS and most recently elected as President of AHS.

Our garden in Mansfield, Ohio was on the alternative day tour for the National convention in 2005. The PPA toured our garden in 2007 as well as approximately 10 garden clubs per year. We love to have clubs and friends visit us.

In an attempt to help spread the word on our beloved hosta, I have spoken to many locals, regional, and recently the National Convention on the how-to of hybridizing. It is very gratifying to show people how easy it can be to hybridize and then see them do it.

Any Member who brings a guest who joins the club, will receive a \$5.00 certificate on a hosta purchase of their choice now thru 2013!

Club Donation

The Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society made a \$500.00 donation this year to the Building a Dream in the Country fund. This fund will build a wheelchair friendly house for Josh Spece, from Independenc Iowa, and his

family. Josh and his siblings have a form of Muscular Dystrophy. Josh has been a huge asset to the American Hosta Society for several years. He serves as the Web-Editor-In-Chief for the AHS and also has his own business "In the Country Garden and Gifts".

2. Continue to water. Ugh! I know you are sick of it by now and the water may only penetrate the soil a few inches but try to keep your hostas standing upright, it will help keep their crowns from rotting and tell them you still care. Water until first frost so that your hostas go to sleep as full of water as possible. Remember, your local municipality probably needs the money in this recession so think of your outrageous water bills as a charitable contribution.

3. If one hosta bed has more sorry looking hostas than the others, drought is just part of the problem. Maybe the soil needs to be reworked or tree roots have strangled the poor hostas in that bed. This is the perfect time of year to lift those hosta clumps and rework the bed. Adding organic matter, (I like pine bark, you may prefer compost,) will improve drainage and allow that bed to take up water effectively this fall and especially next spring.

4. If you find soft tissue on your hosta clumps either in your finger examination of individual clumps or as you rework a bed, then dig up the hosta, if it is not already out of the ground, and wash off all the dirt in a bucket of water or with the garden hose. Then remove all the soft tissue on the crown with a sharp knife and cut back the worst leaves, if not all the leaves. Then rinse in a 10% bleach solution, 9 parts water and 1 part bleach to disinfect. Then rinse the plant in clean water. Replant if the plants are big enough or pot up the pieces.

5. If you have had some rain and temperatures have cooled to the low 90's and upper 80's, pleasant weather for hostas, then your hostas may try to make a few small new leaves. Even if they do not this is not a bad time to lightly fertilize your hostas. All the fertilizer you put down last spring has probably been released by now with all this heat so use a little liquid fertilizer, (you know I swear by Miracle-Gro Tomato Plant Food), because it is quick acting. A little 10-10-10 or even a slow-release fertilizer is great if you are reworking a bed but use some liquid fertilizer on those hostas too. They need a little help to get going again. Stop fertilizing about one month before your first frost date so your hostas can go dormant on schedule.

6. Next spring as your hostas emerge you will find that some hosta clumps are about as large as this spring, they are the survivors, some are about half the size you think they should be, they are damaged but easily treated where they

sit with a little extra Tomato Food, and those that come up like 5 little tissue culture plants. This latter group, of which I hope you only have a few, need immediate attention. Dig them up, clean them up with the sharp knife and treat with bleach as above. Then, pot them and grow new roots on them. Make sure they are fertilized, stay well watered, and get some morning sun. In the fall they can return home to the garden with a clean bill of health.

7. Just a word about Petiole Rot or what Northerners like to call Southern Blight. (We in the South call it that too, but it is with more affection.) Petiole Rot is a soil borne fungus that cuts off hosta petioles at the ground. It can cut down even the biggest hosta but it will not often kill the plant. This soil borne fungus is a heat and drought lover and it may have awakened from its hibernation in your normally cool and moist garden this summer and wreaked havoc on your most favorite plants. At first sight of leaf yellowing or leaf collapse, you should drench the crown of the infected hosta with a 10-20% solution of bleach. I just mix it up in a watering can and pour a gallon or two on the crown. It is a contact killer so you may need to repeat in a couple of days. The good news is that it does not travel very well, usually just downhill to the next hosta, but if you had it in a bed this summer it may return next year in any brief hot and dry period. Be on the lookout for it next June or July. Keeping fresh mulch away from your petioles may deter the fungus and there are fungicides that will treat it over a longer time period than bleach.

8. Finally, next summer will be better. For all the work you do this fall, your garden will reward you with bigger and healthier hostas next spring. You've been meaning to rework that bed anyway, so now is the perfect time. Check on your hostas now, next spring may be too late to save some of them. Good luck, cooler weather is on the way.

If you have some specific questions about the condition of your hostas or want a second opinion before you dig, feel free to send me an email to HostaBob@gmail.com, with or without photos of the devastation, and I will be glad to help. After all, we are all in this together and it is supposed to be fun.



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 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:
Barb Schroeder
1819 Coventry Dr.
Champaign, IL 61822-5239

25 mg	PABA		
100 mg	Choline (2:1 cholate)	67 mg	Prophylary Blend of
200 mg	Acetyl-Carnitine		Milk Thistle Extract
50 mg	Acetyl-L-Carnitine		Bacopa Extract
200 mg	Prophylary Blend		Asparagus Extract
40 mg	Prophylary Blend (TM)		Green Tea Extract
50 mg	Mixed Tocopherol Complex		Lemon Extract
50 mg	Prophylary Blend		
50 mg	Prophylary Blend	50 mg	Anti-Oxidant Complex
		50 mg	Low Dose Aspirin

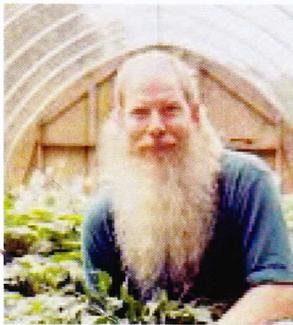
LOOK INSIDE FOR MORE



Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society
 Penny Balfour, Newsletter Editor
 4912 Pawnee Dr.
 Roeland Park, KS 66205

Drought Relief...

From Gossip Jr. By Bob Solberg



Hostas are said to be drought tolerant and to some extent that is true. My hydrangeas, impatiens, and ligularias wilt every afternoon when times are dry, but my hostas just stand there and take it. Hostas are however genetically designed to live in a climate where rainfall is usually plentiful. So when very dry because severe drought, hostas suffer. if in silence.

will "dry rot". If your drought has been severe, you may find soft, mushy hosta crowns now in your garden but more damage will likely become apparent next spring. Hostas with 'Sieboldiana' and 'Tokudama' in their background seem the most vulnerable but no hosta is really immune to "dry rot" especially if it is growing in compacted soil or on a tree root.

This year's drought that has ravaged the Midwest and other parts of the country to some degree was accompanied by extreme heat at the worst possible time of the year. One hundred degree temperatures for days and days are bad enough this time of year, in August, but are catastrophic the third week of June when the sun is at its greatest intensity. Hostas grown in even a few hours of midday sun fry!!! Their leaves desiccate from the tip back to the base and suddenly become crisp and brown. I know mine did.

So what's a hosta gardener to do? Panic, and then seek therapy for depression. No, no, just kidding, things are probably not that bad and in a year or two your hostas will be big and lush when the spring floods return.

High temperatures combined with drought not only burn leaves but also stop the growth of the plant, hostas become heat dormant. Prolonged drought will cause not only the leaves to desiccate but also the crown. Stressed crown tissue is easy prey to bacterial and fungal diseases and the crown

1. It is August and your hostas' dormancy is 6 to 8 weeks away depending on where you live. This is the perfect time to start cleaning up the garden. Cut off all the severely damaged or dry leaves, they are not feeding the plant anyway. Remove flower scapes to avoid excessive energy being wasted on seed production. Look for severely damaged plants. They may have gone totally dormant already or some of the shoots may fall off in your hands as you prune off crispy leaves. Check the crowns; push on them with your finger, to make sure they are still firm and not soft. (This may require a little digging but not totally digging up the clump.) Hostas usually "dry rot" from the bottom side of the crown up, so poking might not be enough. Don't be afraid to dig up a clump or two of your worst looking hostas.

Drought Relief continued to page 3