



Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society

Spring 2013

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President's Message

It has been so exciting to watch the heliobores braving the elements to push their lovely new blooms through snow and cold!! What an inspiration they are each Spring with their unfailing optimism!

I am hoping all of you will be on hand Saturday, March 23, to welcome Ed Lyon to our group. He has two, yes two, great programs for us. Who among us has not looked at their new plant and exclaimed, "Why Doesn't Mine Look Like the Picture?" Ed will shed some light on that with his morning lecture.

After a potluck lunch, he will walk us through some issues with "How to Build/Improve a Shade Garden". He has step-by-step photos for this. You won't want to miss either one!

The Club will furnish fried/roasted chicken, table service and drinks. Just bring your favorite dish to share.

There will be an exciting garden art raffle, generously donated by Frank Livingston. As always, there will be fun door prizes and great hospitality. What could be a more exciting way to welcome Spring

than rubbing shoulders with a large group of enthusiastic hostaholics!!

Every member who brings a guest who joins the club will be awarded a certificate good for \$5. off a purchase at the Plant Sale. Bring a friend!

Have you thought about attending a Convention this summer? The National is in Milwaukee WI June 13-15 and will be a bit different this year. There will be lectures, leaf show, vendors as usual, and ten lovely gardens to drive ourselves to without time restrictions due to bus schedules. Think about it—it is great fun. If you plan to attend, please register early. Hotel rooms are limited. Don't miss out! Contact is www.2013ahsconvention.com

Another possibility is the regional in Lisle IL, on July 11-14, which of course, is closer. If you plan to attend, please register early. The contact for this is www.HRHS2013.org

Everyone is welcome!! We are looking forward to seeing each and every one of you there! For more information call Gwen at 816-213-0598

Gwen

Hosta Meeting Saturday March 23, 9:30 a.m., at Faith Lutheran Church, 67th & Roe, Prairie Village, KS. Potluck following. Meat, drinks, and tableware are provided.

Annual Spring Hosta and Shade Plant Sale

A great collection of lovely new hostas and other shade perennials, including but not limited to, selected fern varieties; Carex siderosticha, "Banana Boat"; and Bleeding Heart, "Gold Heart". There will be a free gift for children over age 4, who are accompanied by a parent or guardian.

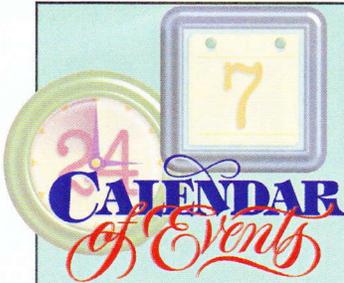
Saturday, May 11th, 9am to 2:30 PM,

Faith Lutheran church, 4805 W. 67th St, Prairie Village KS

The Public is Welcome!!

For info call – Gwen 816-228-9308





2013 Events

March 23

Heartland Hosta Spring Meeting & Lunch
(Faith Lutheran Church)

May 11

Heartland Hosta Annual Plant Sale
(Faith Lutheran Church)

June 8

Craig & Gloria Bennett Heartland Hosta Annual Garden Party

June 13-15

AHS National Convention Milwaukee, WI

July 11-14

Midwest Regional Convention Lisle, IL

September 14

Heartland Hosta Fall Meeting & Lunch
(Faith Lutheran Church)



Speaker Ed Lyon



Ed Lyon is Director of the Allen Centennial Gardens in Madison, Wisconsin, a position he has held since 2008.

His first degree is from Cornell University in Agricultural Economics and Animal Science. In 1997 he returned to school and worked toward a MS in Horticulture at UW-Madison under the direction of Dr. Dennis Stimart, who was in charge of the Allen Centennial Gardens. He worked in the Gardens while pursuing the graduate degree and decided to focus his studies on public garden administration. Since then, Ed has served as Symposia & Special Programs Coordinator for Chicago Botanic Garden, Director of Education for Olbrich Botanical Gardens and most recently, Executive Director for the Rotary Botanical Gardens.

He also writes and speaks for both public and professional audiences across the Midwest and writes for magazines including Chicagoland Gardening, Nursery Management Pro, and American Nurseryman. He

writes the Ask The Expert column for Wisconsin Gardening magazine as well as feature articles plus a regular regional report on southern Wisconsin for Chicagoland Gardening plus feature articles. He teaches, lectures and has served as featured/keynote speaker for a number of conferences. He is emphatic about focusing on gardening with regionality as a primary focus.

Why doesn't my plant look like it does in the catalog! This is a common complaint and there are many points to consider when purchasing a plant you expect to look as it does from its marketing piece.

So many gardening presentations show you the "afters" with some "before" but rarely include the process. Ed Lyon built and developed a large shade garden in a nursery over 8 years. In 2007 he moved into town and turned the entire landscape of a Victorian home into a new shade garden. He photographed the process of both. In this presentation he shows you the entire process and talks about how to overcome the challenges of shade gardening whether you are building from scratch or improving existing. This talk is truly "how to"!

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!

Some of the Hostas that will be at the Sale



Big Daddy—Large



Bridal Falls—Large



Dancing Mouse—Mini



Golden Needles—Mini



Hippodrome—Med.



Kiwi Full Monty—Large



Rainforest Sunrise—S.



Sparkler—Mini

Light—While hostas are often referred to as shade-loving plants, too dark a location will lead to slower growth rates and compromised performance. Hostas can survive in deep shade, defined as 4 hours or less of sun, but really thrive in sites where filtered or dappled shade is available for much of the day.

Some hostas exhibit color variability, changing color according to the amount and intensity of light exposure. Yellow and gold hostas will actually benefit from 2-3 hours of morning sun, helping to develop richer leaf color. Blue hostas have a waxy coating on their leaves, much like the needles on blue spruce, and require a shadier site to avoid leaf burn and bleaching from intense sunlight. As this coating washes off with rain, the plant becomes more vulnerable to sun damage as the growing season progresses. Brown, scorched leaf surfaces or leaf tips on a hosta is a symptom of sunscald. This can be alleviated by moving the plant to a shadier location or providing more water.

Soil—Hostas prefer rich, moist soil that is high in organic matter, yet well drained. Having a soil test done prior to planting can be valuable in understanding soil condition and providing recommendations of what amendments can be added to obtain the optimum nutrient levels and pH range. Adding organic materials such as peat, composted manure, or leaves will help improve soil structure and tilth. That said, hostas are generally adaptable and survive in a wide range of soils, adding to their ease of growing and popularity.

Planting—Although hostas can be planted throughout the growing season, spring is generally the best time to plant. Hostas planted later when temperatures have warmed will need more water until their root systems have become established.

Water—Hostas require an adequate supply of water to thrive. Hosta leaves have a large surface area and transpire or lose water easily. Consistent, even moisture equivalent to an inch of water per week is considered best for hostas. Deeper watering done with less frequency is better than frequent shallow applications that do not penetrate the root zone.

Hostas planted in dry shade will need attentive watering; rain does not always reach under eaves of buildings or through tree canopies in sufficient amounts. Planting hostas beneath shallow-rooted trees, such as maples or spruce will require watering for establishment and frequently thereafter due to excessive competition for moisture. Hostas in sunny locations will also

need additional water to compensate for hotter conditions and increased transpiration.

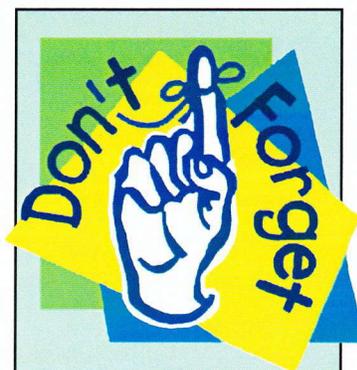
Mulch—Organic mulches, such as shredded bark, shredded leaves, or pine needles, will help to conserve and retain the moisture needed for hostas to succeed. Apply mulch after the soil warms in late spring to early summer to maintain a 2-4 inch layer, taking care to keep it away from the plant's central crown. In addition the mulch will help to suppress weed growth, keep soil temperature even, and eventually decompose releasing nutrients into the soil.

Fertilizer—Hostas can be fertilized with a basic garden fertilizer, however nutrients other than nitrogen optimally should be applied only if a soil test indicates they are deficient. Different formulations of fertilizer (most often granular or water soluble) are available and it is important to read and follow the instructions for rates and frequency of application. Some fertilizers are slow release, while others are faster release. A general garden granular fertilizer (often 10-10-10) is commonly found in the garden center and typically contains quick release forms of nitrogen. If a soil test indicates fertilizer is needed and one chooses a general garden granular fertilizer, it is recommended to apply it twice during the season for optimum growth: in spring as leaves emerge from the ground and once more before flowering. It should be noted that as communities regulate fertilizer for excessive phosphorous run-off, the analysis on some fertilizers may not contain phosphorous and may read 10-0-10, reflecting this change. It is always important to read label instructions before applying any fertilizer product. For more information on fertilization please see Soil Test Interpretations and Fertilizer Management for Lawns, Turf, Gardens, and Landscape Plants.

Keep fertilizer granules off leaves and from getting stuck between leaves near the crown to avoid burn. Water soluble fertilizers are easy to apply but need more frequent application. Although nutrients are released more slowly, organic fertilizers such as blood meal, bone meal, composted manure, and fish emulsion can be used, increasing organic matter in soil as well.

Discontinue fertilizing after the end of July as this may force active growth later than desired in the season and interfere with the plant's ability to harden off and prepare for winter.

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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



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

Be sure your membership of Heartland Hosta & Shade plant Society is up to date. Anyone with Membership before 2012 will be dropped off the mailing list after the plant sale.

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

Your dues are currently paid up through the year noted next to your name on the mailing address label. We ask that all members prepay at least 2 years at a time to minimize the paperwork and bookkeeping. Dues are \$10.00 per year or \$25.00 for 3 years.

Check One: NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

Name:	Street Address:
City, State, Zip	Home Phone:
E-Mail Address:	Member of American Hosta Society? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Would you like to volunteer?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality	<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Sale
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Is your Garden open to visitors?

Please return this form with your email address even if your dues are paid up. Return this form and your dues to:

**Nancy Erwine
 900 Hillside, Liberty, MO 64068**