



Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society

SPRING 2014

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PRESIDENTS LETTER

There's nothing like a walk on a bright, sunny and warm day in January to awaken the gardening urge! The Hellebores are anxious to show us their colorful blossoms, and the rest of our favorites won't be far behind. It's time to mark your calendars with the exciting Springtime events.

We hope the first date you mark is March 22nd for our Spring meeting. Dr. James Waddick is a founding member of our group and a renowned horticulture expert, who will present "Choice and Uncommon Shade Plants Suited to Kansas City Gardens". There will be a potluck following the meeting with a time for sharing with other shade plant gardeners.

You won't want to miss the HH&SPS's Annual Plant Sale on May 10th. There will be something for everyone including new hosta varieties, old favorites and lots of perennials. Tell a friend! Come early as quantities are limited.

Gayle Alley has been working hard on our new website www.heartlandhosta.org. Be sure to take a look! She would appreciate your comments.

Please check the number following your name label on this newsletter. It represents your membership expiration date. If it is 13 or earlier, you'll want to be sure to renew mailing the form on this newsletter or in person

Gwen



**Hosta Meeting Saturday March 22, 9:30a.m., at
Faith Lutheran Church, 67th & Roe, Prairie
Village, KS. Potluck following with meat, drinks
and tableware provided. Please bring a dish or
two to share.**



Calendar of Events

2014

March 22

Heartland Hosta Spring Meeting & Lunch
(Faith Lutheran Church)

May 10

Heartland Hosta Annual Plant Sale
(Faith Lutheran Church)

June 7

Heartland Hosta Annual Garden Party

June 11-14

AHS National Convention
Cedar Rapids, IA

June 26-28

Midwest Regional Convention
Green Bay, WI

September 13

Heartland Hosta Fall Meeting & Lunch
(Faith Lutheran Church)

Spring Meeting and Lunch

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Saturday, March 22, 2014

9:30 a.m. Hospitality and Registration

10:00 a.m. Business and Program

Keynote Speaker: Dr. James Waddick

We are pleased to have Dr. James Waddick present his program:

"Choice and Uncommon Shade Plants Suited for Kansas City" at our Spring kick-off meeting on March 22, 2014.

Jim is a highly knowledgeable author, editor and publisher, and as one of the original founding members of the HH&SPS he comes full circle back to us as our horticulture expert this spring. Dr. Waddick has travelled widely in China and led a number of botany tours there. As co-founder of the group "Anything But Green" Jim energized and organized a group where dedicated gardeners could discuss and share their passion for variegated plants, and he served as the editor and publisher of their journal for a number of years.

Additionally, Jim has received the "Distinguished Service Award" and the "Founders of SIGNA Medal" in 2003, 2004 & 2013 both from the American Iris Society. Just peruse the partial list of publications listed below to which Jim has contributed and you'll understand why we've chosen Dr. Waddick as our keynote speaker.

Books:

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| 'Gardening with Iris Species' | Editor and contributor |
| 'Iris of China' | Co-authored w/ Zhao Yu Tang |
| 'Bananas You Can Grow' | Co-authored w/Glenn Stokes |
| 'The Genus Paeonia' | Co-authored w/Josef Halda |
| 'Irises: A Gardener's Encyclopedia' | Introduction Author |
| 'The Gardener's Guide to Plant Conservation' | Contributing Author |

Articles:

Many articles and book reviews in numerous publications including:

- Fine Gardening, Horticulture
Bulletin of the North American Rock Garden Society
Bulletin of the American Iris Society
Bulletin of the American Peony Society
Newsletter of the Species Iris Group of North American Association for the Advancement of Science, Science Books & Films

ANNUAL SPRING HOSTA & SHADE PLANT SALE

A great collection of lovely new hostas and other shade perennials, including mini plants, & ferns .

Saturday, May 10th, 9a.m To 2:30 p.m , Faith Lutheran Church,

4805 W. 67th St, Prairie Village, KS (67th & Roe)

The Public is Welcome!!

For info call: Gwen Wheeler 816-228-9308



SPRING 2014

"A LITTLE IDEA"



by Kim Dyer, Greenhouse Manager at Colonial Nursery, Blue Springs, MO

There's been a miniature explosion happening for a while now and I don't mean a disturbance on a small scale but rather a large scale eruption of the very small, small gardens. The term 'fairy gardens' is tossed around a lot but a much more descriptive term is mini scapes; which are little tiny gardens, either in a container or in the ground, which are built and maintained to be at such a scale that it looks like a tiny personage lives there and tends the garden. This mini gardening idea came onto my radar many years ago but when the idea became a merchandise question in the greenhouse, I could no longer leave it in my "someday" file. We have been creating mini scapes at the nursery for a while now and I don't see this as a trend that will fade away any time soon. It's just too much fun.

Every season, new mini hybrids are available to meet the demand for small. I am excited that this year, we now have mini or dwarf heucheras available. Plants play a big part in planning your little garden. So to make your own mini garden, select either a container or the perfect little nook in your big garden. In general, a mostly shady place works well since tiny plants suffer in the hot sun faster than large or full size specimens. After you have your space and plants, prepare the soil – no one can argue that. Don't get stuck in a flat plane. A landscape with gentle slopes or hills, caves and rocks is much more interesting. I call the next step, "trying it on." Leaving the plants in their container, place them where you think they might look good and try to visualize the end result. Answer the questions that only the designer knows, such as, where are we? Who lives here? What is happening? And who gets to enjoy it? If you are going to add some hard-goods, such as arbors, benches, tables, houses, fences and the like, where are they going to go and, more importantly, how will they interact with the plants? Some things you may want to buy and others are easy to construct out of materials you already own such as twigs, wire and jute. What about laying a patio or adding a path? Keep in mind, the scale of all the parts and pieces in this space. There are lots of things you will need to think about. If that isn't enough to overwhelm you, you might want to consider a pond or a creek with a bridge; water features always add a realistic, yet magical touch. You get the idea that anything is possible. Just as in any type of construction, there are techniques that are handy to know and can be learned at a class or from someone who has experience. I must warn you, though, building a mini scape will spoil you the next time you think that full grown hemlock in your side-yard would look better over there! Once you are happy with the layout, plant it, build it, do it. Just as with any garden, it is a living thing that will sometimes thrive (and need pruning) or sometimes, suffer. Do what we all do, compost that struggler and put something new in! Always expect the garden to change and evolve. Water it and refrain from fertilizing, since growth is not necessarily what we are looking for. One final trick – add sheet moss. It covers a multitude of sins, makes the garden look fresh from the forest and gives every mini scape a finished look. If you like, add some characters such as animals, fairies, gnomes, trolls; let your imagination run and enjoy! This brief outline is only intended to give birth to new ideas. There is no way that one article could completely describe, encase or detail such an enchanting pastime as this one.

A selection of the new mini heucheras and mini hostas will be available at the annual Heartland Hosta and Shade Society plant sale. Should you be interested in creating your own mini scape, a full selection of miniature plants, hard-goods, landscaping materials, classes and ideas are available at Colonial Nursery in Blue Springs or visit our website www.ColonialNurseryKC.com You can sign up for a class at 816-229-1277. If you need me, I'll be in the greenhouse.

Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society
Nancy Erwine
900 Hillside Avenue
Liberty, MO 64068

Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society Membership and Renewal Form

Your dues are currently paid up through the year noted next to your name on the mailing label. Dues are \$10.00 per year or \$25.00 for 3 years.

Check One: NEW MEMBER RENEWEL

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|---|---|
| Name: | Street Address: |
| City, State, Zip: | Home Phone: |
| E-Mail Addr: | Member of Am. 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 to:

Nancy Erwine, 900 Hillside Avenue, Liberty, MO 64068