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Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society

President's Message

The Midwest Region Hosta Society Convention was delightful! Keith and I attended, as did the Wendels and Kuhars. The gardens were so lovely, with beautiful mature hostas, which tend to be larger in Northern Iowa.

As always, there was a nice leaf show, where I was privileged to participate in the judging process – so interesting! They hold an auction, which provides the greatest share of the revenue to operate the group. Andy Kumar donated a bell and Keith Wheeler donated a hypertufa container. All of us came away with at least one plant!

Those of you who know me well, know that I'm not a huge fan of hosta blooms. A scape of huge white flowers beckoned from one of the vendor booths. They were amazingly fragrant. So, a nice pot of Cathedral Windows came home with us!

And, at home from our kitchen window, I see a huge Blue Angel crowned by a sea of lovely white blooms, like a halo! Then, across the garden is a PeeDee Elfin Bells proudly showing off more than a dozen tall, straight scapes covered with delicate lavender bells. The flowers win!

A day starting out with a downpour, turned into a very nice experience, as we gathered at the home of Jim and Melinda Jones for our members garden party in June. They graciously opened their home for lunch since not everyone could fit on the deck and the yard was so soggy. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their lovely and interesting yard. We thank them for sharing so graciously!!

We are always looking ahead to next year; so if you would enjoy sharing your garden, please give me a call. It is nice to have photos for our advance publicity.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize Tom Hand and Pam Hoelzel for their continuing hard work to keep the Loose Park Hosta Garden healthy and looking great! Do stop and have a look.

If you have not already done so, please mark you calendar for Sept. 12 and plan to attend our Fall meeting. C. H. Falstad, from Walters Gardens, Zeeland, MI (bio following page) will be our speaker. There will be a potluck, door prizes and a raffle of a couple Convention plants provided to them by Mark Zilis, plus a couple surprise items.

Two new varieties of hellebore, Wedding Party Series, Confetti Cake and Maid of Honor, as well as a few nice hostas will be for sale! This will be a great time for fall planting!

Looking forward to seeing all of you September 12th. For information call Gwen 816-213-0598.

Gwen

Fall Meeting

September 12, 2015

Hospitality 9am, Program 10am & Potluck Luncheon to follow

Fall Meeting

HH&SPS Fall 2015

Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society, Saturday, September 12, 2015
Faith Lutheran Church, 4805 W. 67th Street (67th & Roe) Prairie Village, KS.

Hospitality is planned at 9 AM with program to follow at 10 AM after a short business meeting. Please come to welcome our guest speaker, Clarence Falstad, III (“C.H.”). *There will be a potluck luncheon following the program, with meat and drink provided by the club. You may bring a dish to share!* There will be Hellebores & Hostas available for purchase, as well as lots of nice door prizes. *Guests are always welcome - come and bring a friend!* Info: Gwen 816-213-0598 or 816-228-9308



Fall Program presented by: **Clarence Falstad, III (“C.H.”)**

C.H. says he has never killed a hosta plant, although many in his care have up and committed suicide, as hard as he has tried to keep them alive.

Topic: **“Why are the Hostas on the Other Side of the Fence Always Bigger and Greener?”**

C.H. has introduced over 50 hostas, including H. Regal Splendor and H. Northern Exposure. Truly an all around Hosta expert! In 1980 C.H. began doing tissue culture of hostas and other perennials at Walters Gardens and took over management when Mark Zillis left to form Q & Z Nursery. C.H. managed the tissue and culture lab producing over one million perennials per year until taking on other responsibilities of hybridizing, licensing and plant patents.

C.H. graduated with a Bachelors in Science from the University of Illinois in Ornamental Horticulture. In hosta groups, C.H. served a number of positions in Michigan Hosta Society including President and Charter Vice President. Within the American Hosta Society he has served as: Master Show Judge, Scientific Chair, Scientific Editor, Journal author, Auction Chair, Strategic Planning Chair, Vice President, President and was honored with the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award.

AHS WALL OF FAME

Our own **Nancy Erwine** has been nominated and accepted by the Board of the American Hosta Society for inclusion on the Wall of Fame. This is an honor reserved for members of local hosta societies who have gone above and beyond to make their local societies better!

Nancy has been a member of the Society nearly from it's very beginning, working in any area where help has been needed. She has served as President and Vice-President, and on many committees, including Plant Sales, Hospitality, and Membership. She has always been eager to lend a hand where ever needed, in any capacity.

If you have never been to her garden, you have really missed out on a treat. The member's Garden Party at her home was super. Her extra plants have generously found their way to many gardens, which is delightful as she has some really unusual and beautiful plants and is always eager to share. I have been so blessed to have Nancy as a fellow Board member, as she has made my job so much easier – always willing to lend a hand. **Congratulations, Nancy, on your inclusion on the AHS Wall of Fame.**





Growing Helleborus

(Hellebore, Lenten Roses) from White Flower Farm

These aristocratic, evergreen plants bring an architectural quality to the shady garden. Most bloom in early winter in mild climates and in late winter or very early spring where the ground

freezes hard. Resistant to both deer and voles, these plants are long-lived and provide exquisite blooms at a time when flowers are a scarce delight.

Light/Watering: Drought-tolerant once established, Hellebores are at their best in evenly moist soil in partial shade. Water well during extended dry periods.

Fertilizer/Soil and pH: Hellebores grow best in moist but well-drained soil enriched with copious amounts of organic matter. The hybrids known as *Helleborus x hybridus* (previously called *Helleborus orientalis*) prefer a soil pH close to neutral and even alkaline; add lime if your soil is extremely acid. The Christmas Rose (*H. niger*) may be slow to become established; to help it along, try a dose of magnesium in the form of Epsom salts or dolomitic limestone sprinkled around the plants. Plants will benefit from a light application of granular, balanced fertilizer in early spring.

Pests/Diseases: Watch for slug or snail damage, and control with baits or diatomaceous earth. (a soft, crumbly, porous sedimentary deposit formed from the fossil remains of diatoms.)

Companions: Hellebores are lovely with other denizens of light shade such as Ferns, Tiarella, Campanula, Alchemilla, Hosta, Phlox divaricata, and Pulmonaria, and truly enliven woodland gardens. The larger, more exuberantly colored varieties or double forms are a great addition to the shady border.

Pruning: Although evergreen, the foliage often looks tattered in early spring. Prune back dead and disfigured foliage before new growth appears. Remove old flower stems when they decline, cutting back to basal foliage, but take care not to remove the stems of Bear's-foot Hellebore (*H. foetidus*), because they carry the flower buds formed in the previous growing season. If seedlings are not desired, remove old flowers before seed is set.

Dividing/Transplanting: Although plants may be slow to settle in, once they do, they rarely need division and may resent it.

End-of-Season Care: Do not prune back now; wait until early spring. Mulch with salt marsh hay if desired.



Calendar of Care -- Helleborus

Early Spring: Apply a light application of balanced or slow-release fertilizer or side-dress with compost and organic amendments when new growth appears. *H. niger* may benefit from a side-dressing of Epsom salts or dolomitic lime. Prune back old foliage to make room for new growth. Transplant now if desired.

Mid-Spring: Water well if it is unseasonably dry as plants prefer evenly moist soil.

Late Spring: Watch for slug or snail damage and control if necessary. Remove old flower stems as they decline, and deadhead if seedlings are not desired.

Summer: Pull out any unwanted new seedlings as hybrids may not come true from seed; move desirable species seedlings to permanent locations. Groom plants by removing yellow or dead leaves.

Fall: Add lime to acid soil for *H. x hybridus* if a soil test shows a pH under 7.0. Do not prune back for winter, but a light mulch of salt marsh hay may be beneficial.



2015-2016 Upcoming Events

September 12, 2015
Fall Meeting
Faith Lutheran Church

March 19, 2016
Spring Meeting
Faith Lutheran Church

May 14, 2016
Plant Sale
Faith Lutheran Church

June 4, 2016
Garden Party

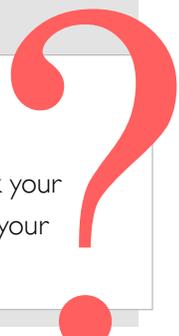
September 10, 2016
Fall Meeting
Faith Lutheran Church

June 15-18, 2016
AHS National
Convention
St. Louis, MO
americanhostasociety.org

July 7-9, 2016
Midwest Region
Convention
Champaign, IL
midwesthostasociety.org

Are your dues
up to date?

Be sure to check your
mailing label for your
expiration date.





Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society
Stephanie Hamil . 9630 State Line . Leawood, KS 66206

Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society Membership and Renewal Form

Check at the up-coming meeting if your dues are paid in full.

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 Am. Hosta Society? YES / NO

Would you like to volunteer? Hospitality / Plant Sale / Other

Is your garden open to visitors? YES / NO

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

Stephanie Hamil • 9630 State Line • Leawood, KS 66206

<http://heartlandhosta.org>