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# Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society

## President's Message

Fall 2016

This has been an amazing journey! Together with all of you wonderful people I've enjoyed forming beautiful friendships, offering lots of fun, continued support, and so many learning opportunities. Mingling with those who take delight in seeking new and exciting hosta varieties, planting and nourishing them, and then experiencing such joy in the results has been a pleasure.

Thank you to each and every one who has participated with time, attendance, kind words, and support in any way!!

I will be happy to hand this President's letter task over to the capable hands of Riley Cook who has agreed to become your next President! Thank you, thank you, Riley!

The other new Board member to be elected is Troy Vratil as Treasurer. We are very happy to have Troy on board, also.

Nancy Erwine will be leaving the Board after many years of such dedicated service. Thank you, Nancy! We will certainly miss you.

The rest of the Board will be returning members, although perhaps in different capacities. They have been wonderful and will continue to be!

- Vice-President – Gayle Alley, Speaker Coordinator, a function of that office, also doing Website
- Secretary – Aleta Cress
- Hospitality – Sandy Harris & Leslie Milby
- Membership - Stephanie Hamil
- Member-at-Large – Charlene Wendel
- Newsletter – Cady Pembroke
- Plant Sale Coordinator – Keith Wheeler
- Past President – Gwen Wheeler

These capable folks will take the reins Oct. 1, the beginning of the new fiscal year.

You are in for a treat on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Bob Solberg is presenting "Hosta Trick or Treat". Bob is the owner of Green Hill Farm in North Carolina and is a most informative and entertaining speaker, as those of us who have met him can confirm.

The May Plant Sale was an amazing success!! There were very few plants left. We hope you are all enjoying the newest additions for your gardens!

Ron and Susan Topping are to be applauded for the wonderful garden party they hosted in June. Their garden was amazing, as was their hospitality. A big thank you to you both!!

*Gwen*

## *Fall Meeting*

Saturday September 10, 2016

Faith Lutheran Church, 4805 W 67<sup>th</sup> St. (67 & Roe), Prairie Village, KS

Hospitality beginning at 9AM and a brief meeting, followed by the Program at 10AM  
Bob Solberg, prominent hosta hybridizer and owner of Green Hill Farm in Franklinton, NC will be our speaker. His presentations are always sure to please, and I'm sure "Hosta Trick or Treat" will be no exception. There will be a potluck with the Society furnishing the meat and members bringing a dish to share. Door prizes will be awarded.

*Come and bring a friend – everyone welcome!!*

For more info – call Gwen 816-213-0598

*Fall Meeting*  
*Guest Speaker:* Saturday September 10, 2016  
**Bob Solberg**

Guest Speaker: Bob Solberg, hybridizer and owner of Green Hill Farm, Inc.

Topic: "Hosta Trick or Treat"

Born and raised in Miami, Florida. Bob attended Davidson College in Davidson, North Carolina and graduated with a B.S. in Biology. He then studied bryophyte ecology for three years at the University of North Carolina. Like so many UNC students he decided to stay permanently in "Blue Heaven".

Bob chose to specialize in hostas and established Green Hill Farm, Inc. as a hosta nursery in 1981 and has been introducing great new hostas for 34 years. Bob has introduced over 85 hostas including such favorites as: First Frost, Orange Marmalade, Ginsu Knife, Rascal, Sharp Dressed Man, Guacamole, Tongue Twister, Whiskey Sour, Blueberry Tart and Cracker Crumbs.

Bob founded the Carolina Hosta Society in 1986 and served as its Head, then President and finally as Chairman of the Board over the next 16 years (through 2002). Bob has been at the forefront of hosting three AHS National Conventions; 1991 & 2001 while with the Carolina Hosta Society, and in 2015 Bob and his wife Nancy hosted the National convention themselves. Further accomplishments include: Co-founder of American Hosta Growers Group 1988 which became American Hosta Growers Association in 1998, a trade organization of hosta nurseries, which established the Hosta of the Year Program beginning in 1996. Editor of *The Hosta Journal*, the principle publication of the American Hosta Society, 1988-1990. Vice President for The Genus Hosta of The American Hosta Society, 1998-2001. Executive Secretary of The American Hosta Growers Association 1998-2011 He is currently on the AHGA Board of Directors and is Regional Director of The Dixie Regional Hosta Society and Historian of the American Hosta Society. He is Editor of the "Green Hill Gossip" and its companion newsletter "The Gossip Jr." Bob is a Nationally known speaker on all topics pertaining to hostas.

National Awards:

- Recipient of the 2003 Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award from the American Hosta Society
- Recipient of the 2008 Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Merit Award from the American Hosta Society



Blueberry Tart



Guacamole



Cracker Crumbs

## *Gardeners Connect Presents~* **Garden Faire**

Garden Faire is a showcase event for friends and affiliates of the Gardeners Connect. The event takes place on Saturday, October 29 from 9 AM to 1 PM in the Rose and Fern Rooms at the Garden Center in Loose Park.

Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society is an affiliate of Gardeners Connect.

This event takes place in conjunction with the Lily Sale that happens every Fall. In addition to a wonderful assortment of lilies and other spectacular bulbs for sale, affiliates will be offering information and several artisans offering their wares for sale. Watch for Keith Wheeler with his unique one-of-a-kind containers! Gardeners Connect begins offering for presales these exciting lily bulbs and other amazing bulbs, as well, on September 1 at their website. These preorders will be available for pickup at Garden Faire.

Check out the amazing bulb offerings at [Gardenersconnect.org](http://Gardenersconnect.org), and join the fun at Loose Park Garden Center on October 29.

## HOSTA GARDEN AT LOOSE PARK

For the last several years the Hosta Society has been planting and carefully tending a hosta garden directly to the east of the Loose Park Garden Center. The plants were in large part donated by The Michael Schembs Estate, Bob and Mary Lou Vorheis from Blue Ridge Nursery, and supplemented by plants from our own Plant Sale.

Several of our members helped in the planning and execution of the garden, and take part annually in spring prep and fall cleanup.

However, it is due to the regular upkeep by two dedicated members of our group, that it stays looking wonderful. Tom Hand and Pam Hoelzel are ever watchful for maintenance duties to be performed. We wouldn't be nearly so successful without their diligent upkeep! A huge thank you to both of them!!



## 2017 *Upcoming Events*

Spring Meeting  
March 25, 2017

Mary Ann Metz – Speaker  
Faith Lutheran Church

May 13, 2017  
Plant Sale  
Faith Lutheran Church

June 2017  
Garden Party  
to be determined

September 9, 2017  
Fall Meeting TBD  
Faith Lutheran Church

AHS  
[americanhostasociety.org](http://americanhostasociety.org)

Midwest Region  
[midwesthostasociety.org](http://midwesthostasociety.org)



*Are your dues up to date?  
Be sure to check after your name on the mailing label for your expiration date.*



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



## BUYER BEWARE

By Gayle Hartley Alley, Pleasant Hill, Missouri

The management of **HGTV** recently contracted with a number of vendors for an **HGTV HOME** product line. Along with the expected pillows, furniture and paint colors, there is a line of plants, including what they call "Essential Perennials" (and of course, hostas are essential). The problem is that **HGTV** let marketing idiots get involved who decided it would be easier to sell a hosta called CITRINE SUPREME™ rather than 'Orange Marmalade'. STUPID

My warning is this. Don't buy these hostas thinking you're getting something new. The proper cultivar name is supposed to be on the tag somewhere, but I've seen instances where this is not occurring. Frankly, I'd rather you didn't buy any **HGTV HOME** products and let your merchant know the reason why. If **HGTV** marketing isn't interested in changing their current practice, then as consumers, we need to let our merchants know why we are taking our business elsewhere. My best advice is to buy from trusted nurseries who specialize in Hosta (check out those who advertise in *The Hosta Journal*) or buy from our annual plant sale in May. The HHSPS guarantees you will get a correctly named cultivar that is disease/virus free.

The list (so far) of re-branded hostas is:

'Orange Marmalade'	is being sold as	CITRINE SUPREME™
'Northern Exposure'	is being sold as	LEPRECHAUN'S LOOT™
'Bedazzled'	is being sold as	HOSTA LA VISTA™
'First Frost'	is being sold as	BLUE DEW™
'Rainforest Sunrise'	is being sold as	GOLDMINE™

(although the tag lists the cultivar as 'Rainforest *Surprise*')

Watch for an in-depth article from Warren Pollack in the fall edition of *The Hosta Journal*.