

# Hosta Horizons

newsletter of the  
*Russ O'Harra Hosta Society*  
est. 1993 [www.rohs.org](http://www.rohs.org)

December 2010

"Thank You" to our ROHS officers for the past four years. We appreciate all of your efforts, hard work, and accomplishments.

Barry Laws, President

Eric Kinman,  
Vice President (2007-08)

Lance Fergeson,  
Vice President (2009-10)

Jan Craig, Secretary

Gary Hoard, Treasurer

Larry Skellenger,  
Newsletter Editor

David Dettman, Historian

Sue Slater & Donna Yeast,  
Hospitality co-chairs

## Changes on the Hosta Horizon

Beginning with this issue, the Hosta Horizons newsletter will be published four (4) times a year. Publication times will remain the same for the first three (3) issues, and will be sent two (2) weeks before the spring and fall meetings and the summer tour and auction. The fourth issue will be sent in late November or early December.

The newsletter will now be available both in PDF form via email and in paper form. You may choose to receive it in either form. Members with a current email address in the ROHS database will be receiving both forms of this edition. (The email version will be sent in early January.) Please let me know how you would like to receive Hosta Horizons from now on. A form is included in this issue so you may indicate your preference. Note that the PDF email version may be sent to two (2) email addresses.

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# Hosta Horizons

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### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Russ O'Harra Hosta Society is an educational society open to all those interested in the genus Hosta. Its purpose is to promote the growing and enjoyment of hostas including their use in landscape design and the cultivation and development of new cultivars. The goals of the Society shall be in keeping with those of the American Hosta Society.

## AHS Online Journal



Check it out everyone. The first Online Hosta Journal is set to be launched on Wednesday, December 1st, located at the American Hosta Society website! Loaded with pictures, convention coverage, and many other articles, this issue is aimed to please just as any issue of the renowned Hosta Journal.

You will need your membership password to view the journal that is located in the member's section of the AHS site. Forgot your password? It is printed at the end of the president's message of the last issue of The Hosta Journal, Vol. 41 no. 2.

Not a member? The holidays are upon us. Treat yourself to a membership to the AHS. Membership information is located at the AHS website, <http://www.hosta.org>. You will then be able to start enjoying what we members have been enjoying without a delay in delivery ... instant gratification!

Another word about membership warrants mentioning. Be sure to include a valid email address with your new membership. Current members are asked to be sure to check that the most recent AHS Membership directory has your valid email address.

The AHS is looking at an e-newsletter to replace the paper version that had been printed and mailed out to members after the first of the year each year. How and when is unclear at this point, but it is being looked into as another area of cost cutting while maintaining the current dues structure.

Those interested in the AHS On-line Auction will be interested to see a sneak preview of five generous donations already promised for this coming January's event. Take a peak and begin to save your resources now!

## Fire Destroys Pool Home

The following is from a recent email conversation with Jackie Pool:

In the early evening of Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the rural Indianola home of longtime ROHS members, Bob & Jackie Pool, was destroyed by fire. The couple was in Indianola attending a meeting at the time of the blaze. The house was a total loss, but the garages are intact although there is some damage to shingles on the main garage. The fire was determined to be caused by landscaping lights fueled by dry leaves, pine needles, and the wind.

*"We were very fortunate in being able to save ALL of our family treasures. Such a gift. Other than that, the second story was totally gutted. Some wood furniture on the first floor has just smoke and water damage that can be repaired, other than that, everything is gone."*

*"We lived with Bob's son, David, and our daughter-in-law Deborah for one month. They live across the field behind our home. We were fortunate to find a house to rent in Indianola for about a year while we rebuild. We moved to the City of Indianola on December 1<sup>st</sup>."*

*"We didn't want to get into changing our address on everything, so we are having our mail forwarded to our Indianola address for the next year with the hopes that when the forwarding permit is up we will be back in our home. We were also able to forward our telephone land line to our Cell phones so we can stay in touch with everyone with the least amount of trouble. We are still using our actual mailing address of 7246 78th Avenue, Indianola, IA 50125."*

Asked what ROHS members could do to help at this time, Jackie responded, *"We ask that everyone keep us in their prayers. This is a very humbling experience to go through. We have been overwhelmed with the outpouring of love and kindness we have received from family, friends, neighbors and total strangers. As I said, it is very humbling to think that people you don't know would put their lives on hold to help in the ways we have been helped. We are looking forward to a lovely Christmas."*

## 2011 AHS Online Auction

Hosta hybridizer, Don Dean, has coordinated the AHS online fundraising auction since it began in 2002. 2011 marks the tenth year for the auction which features many hostas not yet widely available as well as those which are highly prized by hybridizers. Or the hosta may be originator's stock (OS) existing in only a few gardens besides the hybridizer's.

Whether one is actively bidding or just watching from the sidelines, it is always entertaining. Especially so on the last evening when all auctions close over several hours and bidding heats up. Last year, the final bidding procedure changed in a fun and exciting way. If there was active bidding in the final minute, the auction continued until there were no more bids in a five (5) minute period. More money was raised for the AHS, and I can relate from personal experience that it can be quite an adrenaline rush!!

This year the AHS Online Fundraising Auction will begin on Saturday, January 15, 2011 with about a dozen listings. More will be added over the next week. (The 2010 auction featured nearly 60 hostas.) The final night will be Saturday, January 29, 2011. Access the auction at [www.hostalibrary.org](http://www.hostalibrary.org). Click on 'AHS Auction'.

## MINI HOSTA NEWS

In March 2010, The American Hosta Society president, Tom Micheletti, formed an ad hoc committee to clarify the size of mini hostas in the society. This was necessary to create uniformity in mini size specification for AHS Hosta Show classification, AHS popularity poll, Mini Forum and other activities. Members were Judy Burns, Show Classification chair; Bob Olson, Hosta Journal editor; W. George Schmid, AHS Nomenclature chair; and Bob Solberg, American Hosta Growers liaison.

The committee standardized the mini size within the AHS as the size used in Show classification for the last several years: leaf blade area less than 6.0 square inches. (Area is leaf blade length multiplied by leaf blade width.) This permits a larger selection of hostas to be classified as minis for the AHS Mini Poll, compared to a previous criterion of less than 4.0 sq. in.

### The new Mission Statement is:

- o **To maintain a listing of Mini Hostas based on the new AHS Mini Size.**
- o **To provide a forum for information exchange on growing mini hostas.**

### The new Mini Hosta Criteria is:

- o **Leaf blade area no greater than about 6.0 square inches (38.7 sq. cm.).** [Change from previous]
- o **No restriction on clump spread.** [No change from previous]
- o **Hosta size designations "tiny" and "dwarf" are discontinued.** [No change from previous]

This forum will continue to develop two lists, with the intent of keeping them up to date. Donald A. Rawson, Comstock Park, Michigan, now will principally be responsible for this function. One list will comprise registered and species minis satisfying the new AHS size requirement. It can be used for the AHS Miniature Hosta Popularity Poll in the Hosta Journal. The other list will comprise unregistered minis meeting the new AHS size requirement. It also can be used by nurseries.

W. George Schmid, Chair, AHS Nomenclature Committee  
Warren I. Pollock, Member, AHS Nomenclature Committee

The forum is a Yahoo Group at  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/minihosta/>.

Reprinted with permission from the website of the Mini Hosta Forum.

(The two lists mentioned are in the 'File' section of the group's website and may be accessed after joining the group. Membership is free.)

# Overwintering Hostas In Containers In My Garage

by Warren I. Pollock  
Glen Mills, Pennsylvania  
[giboshiwip@aol.com](mailto:giboshiwip@aol.com)

**F**or over 25 years I have been growing hostas in containers. One season there were 339 plastic pots, from 3 to 20+ inches diameter. I specialize in minis, so most are <6 inches.

**M**y experience indicates the paramount overwintering problem is water – the liquid kind. If you live where containers will remain frozen all winter, you should have no problem leaving them outdoors uncovered. But I live where winter temperatures cycle from 50+ F to freezing, with long spells of each. It often rains, but it snows too.

**T**o provide an environment I can control, I built wooden shelves along the back wall of my unheated garage using 4x4s for uprights and 2x8 planks for shelving. There's still room for the automobiles. See photo.

## My protocol:



**P**ots cleaned of dead leaves, watered and brought indoors during Thanks-giving weekend – even if hostas not fully dormant. No mulching or plastic covering used.



**E**very 3-4 weeks, wetness checked. Soils kept moist.



**W**hen divisions start poking up in late winter/spring, pots moved near garage door to receive light from its windows. Otherwise, petioles become leggy, spindly. (Cars now parked on driveway.)



**O**n mild days, garage door opened for more light.



**A**s needed, pots rotated 180 degrees because shoots lean to the light.



**W**hen leaves mostly developed, and weather >45 F, pots moved outdoors.



## ***Don Dean email regarding the 2011 AHS Online Auction:***

October 2010

Hi all,

Yes that is correct, 2011! Hard to imagine as we see temps begin to drop, to frosty mornings in MN and then a warming period, that it is already time to think ahead to 2011 while most of us are scrambling to get outdoor tasks completed. Never the less, it is time to take a few moments to pause and take inventory of what we have that may be likely candidates for this year's pending On-line Auction. Wisdom dictates that it is far easier to make decisions regarding the amount of a variety of plant, whether it is time to share, and how many varieties meet each of our level of desire to be a contributor.

The 2010 convention has been here and gone. I have been holding off taking divisions and have determined now is the time to start doing so. I have identified breeders that will need to be divided NEXT year to preserve the streaking and increase the number of divisions for future sharing. Photos have been updated. The list goes on. Perhaps you have done some of the same. Bravo! There has never been a stronger need to rally together for OUR society's health and well being moving forward into the future than these next few years as evidenced in the opening addresses from the president and editor of the current issue of the Journal.

I will attempt to keep all updated with auction news as the typical start date in January approaches. Please help by communicating with hosta friends to see if they have received this message. Every year we experience long time participants that drop out of sight only to find out that they have changed their email address, changed service providers, obtained a new computer and have NOT updated their new software handling email to allow these messages to be received, etc.; so please talk this auction up with friends and ask if they received a recent message from me regarding the auction. Suggest that they email me and ask that they be added to my mailing group for On-line Auction News!

Be well. With appreciation,

Don Dean

## **Random Hosta Musings**

Quotes, songs, & poems and my thoughts relating them to hostas and gardening.

**I collect t-shirts of places I've been, hosta conventions I've attended, rock stars I like, etc. Today as I put on a shirt I'd purchased in Hannibal, MO earlier this summer, it came to me that in addition to the broader meaning, it definitely applies to hosta gardeners and our particular addiction to all things hosta.**

*"When we remember we are all mad,  
the mysteries disappear and  
life stands explained."*

**Mark Twain**

**Which helps to explain why I have so many hostas still in pots with no idea where or if I will plant them before winter.**

**Reldon Ramsey**

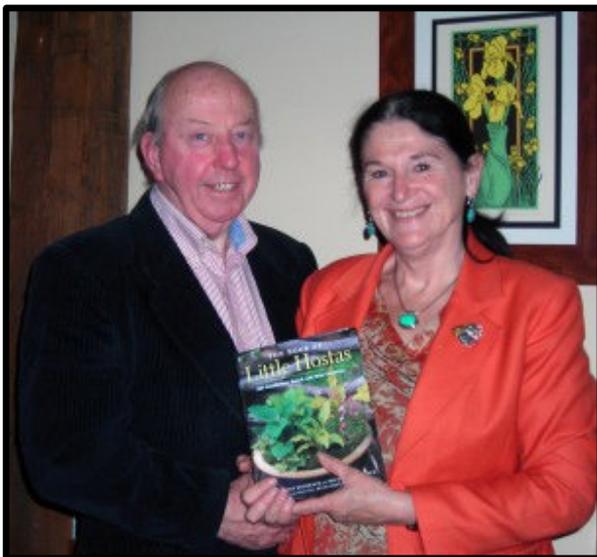
## **Changes On My Hosta Horizon**

**You may have noticed that the address I've given in this issue is no longer Ankeny, IA. The house there will be going on the market in January 2011 - about four (4) months earlier than the original plan. I wasn't aware that I would be moving until after the first weekend in November. Fortunately ROHS club president, and good friend, Marlys Anderson owns a small home near where she lives west of Pella on the north side of Lake Red Rock, and it was available for me to rent. I began moving hostas and my other belongings here on November 28<sup>th</sup> and completed the move on December 17<sup>th</sup>. My original intent was to have this issue of Hosta Horizons finished and sent by early December at the latest. But a favorite line from one of John Lennon's last songs applies to this and many other aspects of my life: "Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans."**

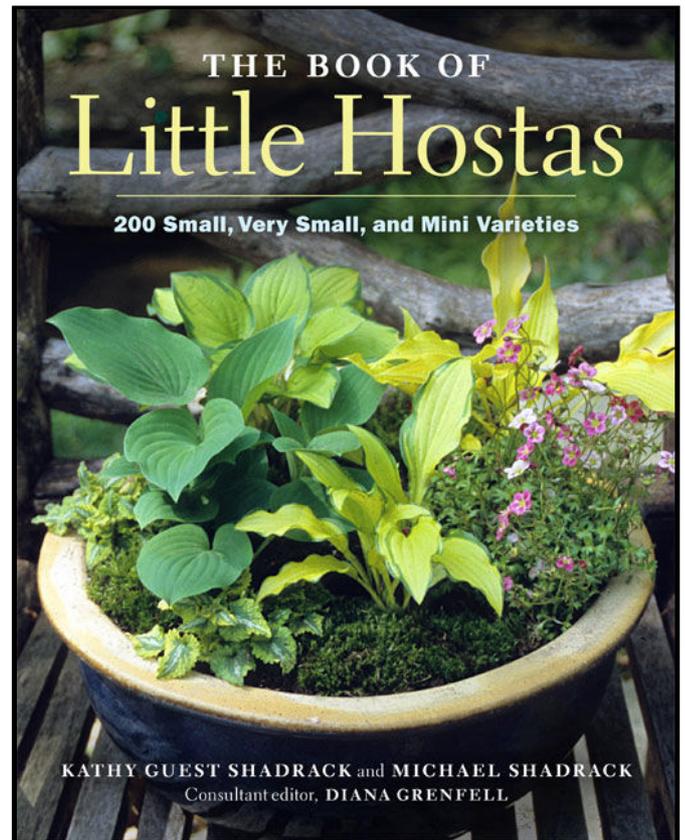
**Reldon Ramsey**

# The Book of Little Hostas

**“The Book of Little Hostas: 200 Small, Very Small, and Mini Varieties”** was released on November 24<sup>th</sup> from Timber Press. It is the only book to focus exclusively on this increasingly popular size of hosta. Authors Kathy Guest Shadrack and Michael Shadrack of Hamburg, NY are well known in the hosta world. Mike is Vice President, Publications for the American Hosta Society while Kathy is Recording Secretary. Mike’s photographs have previously been featured in four books on hosta written by British author Diana Grenfell. She served as consulting editor for the Shadrack’s wife-and-husband collaboration.



*“Little hostas are very, very popular at the moment, and their popularity is ascending,”* Mike recently said in an interview with online magazine, Buffalo-NiagaraGardening.com. Kathy added, *“They have a cult following. People collect them like tea cups or Hummel figurines.”*



The 208 page hardcover book is 7” x 9” and is illustrated with 263 color photos. Only hostas 12” tall or less were included. Hosta ‘Golden Tiara’ is the largest. Chapters cover cultivation requirements, display and planting ideas, and what the Shadracks cleverly refer to as hosta ‘dynasties’ - families of related hosta sports. The book also showcases the best of the newer small and mini hosta introductions.

Bob Solberg’s comment on the book’s Timber Press webpage sums it up nicely: *“The hosta world has been waiting for a book like this.”*

“The Book of Little Hostas” is available through In The Country Garden and Gifts, Amazon.com, Borders, and Barnes & Noble.

# Hosta Travels With Renaldo: Fall Forum

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The third weekend of September, I attended the Fall Forum in the historic northwest Pennsylvania town of Cambridge Springs which is located about two hours north of Pittsburgh. The Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania and The Western New York Hosta Society co-hosted the event for the 13<sup>th</sup> year at the 125 year old Riverside Inn. I had only become aware of the Fall Forum several weeks earlier while visiting friends, Joan and Herbie Altman, of New Wilmington, PA. After receiving more information on this year's theme of "It's a Small World, After All", I was intrigued and decided to attend.

The excellent seafood buffet dinner Friday evening was followed by the Fall Forum's version of 'Wheel of Fortune'. John Smead and Marcia Sully aka Pat & Vanna put on an entertaining performance aided by sound man, John Cyna. The games were played table to table with many of the puzzles being small and mini hosta names. I happened to be seated at the table with the folks running the show, but our remaining team of four won three of the eight games. (It helped having Bob Solberg who guessed 'Itsy Bitsy Spider' with only the two 'Y's.)

Saturday morning the nearly 100 attending enjoyed a light buffet breakfast while perusing the vendor tables. With the exception of the DHSWP which was selling daffodil bulbs, the vendors were also the speakers. The silent auction featuring two dozen perennials and garden accessories got underway then, closing at 1PM.



The first speaker of the day was Dennis James, owner of D. J.'s Greenhouse, Transfer, PA. He gave a well-informed presentation on "Dwarf Companions for Containers & the Garden". Each

of the speakers had a Q & A period after their presentation, and Dennis fielded many questions seeking more information on companion perennials and bulbs. His booth offered several newer small hostas and many of the ferns, heucheras, ajugas, grasses, and other perennials mentioned in his talk.



Ran Liddell, owner of Eagle Bay Gardens, Dunkirk, NY, spoke on "The Seven Dwarf Conifers" in his informative, humorous style. He said the term 'dwarf conifer' was a relative one and meant any cultivar that does not grow to normal size. Ran also pointed out that while small conifers look good in container gardens with hostas, most will eventually outgrow those pots. Ran had conifers of all shapes, textures, and sizes for forum-goers to browse at his booth, and finding room to squeeze in for a closer look was never easy.



Bob Solberg, owner of Green Hill Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, was the featured speaker and his talk on 'The Evolution of Mini Hostas' was a timely one. Earlier this year Bob was a member of an advisory board that standardized the size of mini hostas within the branches of the American Hosta Society. In his entertaining history of mini hostas, Bob spoke about some of the early hybridizers including Russ O'Harra and their contributions in the development of small and mini hostas. It was the same talk that I'd heard him give both at the Winter Scientific Meeting and Hosta College earlier in the year, but it was interesting to note the differences. Hosta 'Blue Mouse Ears' is now considered to be the largest of the mini hostas which is what Bob had lobbied for on the AHS committee. Bob's booth in vending was all hostas with most being small or minis.

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# Winter Scientific Meeting

## Winter Scientific Meeting

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society is once again sponsoring the Winter Scientific Meeting. This popular winter event will be held Saturday, January 22, 2011 at a new venue – the Wyndham Hotel, 3000 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL. Lisle is located twenty miles south of Schaumburg where the Winter Scientific Meeting has been held in previous years. The hotel has given us a \$79.00 room rate. Please make your own reservations by calling 877-999-3223, and mention the “Midwest Regional Hosta Society Winter Scientific Meeting” to guarantee the rate.

We have an outstanding program of speakers with interesting and timely topics:

**Bob Solberg – What Ploidy Really Means to the Hosta Grower**

**Kevin Walek – The Hosta World from the Point of View of the Hosta Registrar  
(The increasing problem with the registration of plants he does not think should be registered)**

**Mark Zilis – Hostas of Distinction**

**Glenn Herold – Major Minor – (Utilizing hardy bulbs in the garden)**

Again this year, the program will include a series of three concurrent breakout sessions. The topics covered in these sessions will be:

**Session A: Ken Harris - So You Want to get Your Photo Published in the Hosta Journal**

**Session B: Dave Wanninger - What's New with Hydrangeas**

**Session C: Ron Livingston - Hybridizer's Perspective – Are Our Hostas Going to the Dogs?**

These breakout sessions will be presented twice, so attendees will be able to attend two out of the three sessions.

**Again this year, there will be a hosta seed silent auction, proceeds of which will be used to underwrite a portion of the cost of the meeting.**

The cost of this winter extravaganza is only \$50 per person for Midwest Regional Hosta Society members and \$60 for non-members, and includes a continental breakfast and a deli buffet lunch. At their option, non-members can apply the \$10 difference in the registration fee to a one-year membership in the MRHS. Please make checks payable to MRHS, and mail before January 10, 2011, with the [registration form](#) to:

**Kristine James  
523 E. Calhoun Street  
Woodstock, IL 60098**

Registrations postmarked after January 10 require a \$10 late registration fee per person.

Registration at the hotel will begin on Friday, January 21, from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm, and Saturday, January 22, from 7:00 am – 8:00 am. The program will run from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm on Saturday. Dinner Friday and Saturday nights will be on your own at one of the many fine area restaurants. The Hospitality Suite will be open from 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm, both Friday and Saturday nights, for all that good hosta fellowship.

**Questions? Contact Lou Horton (630-293-7735) or email: [lehorton85@ameritech.net](mailto:lehorton85@ameritech.net)**

The registration form may be accessed by the hyperlink above or online at the MRHS website.



# *Twas the Night Before Christmas*

*A Hosta Retelling by Reldon Ramsey*

*(With apologies to Clement Clark Moore... and many thanks to Hugo's Database)*

*Twas the 'Night Before Christmas', when all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a 'Country Mouse'.  
The 'Lavender Stocking's were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that Saint 'Nicolas James' soon would be there.*

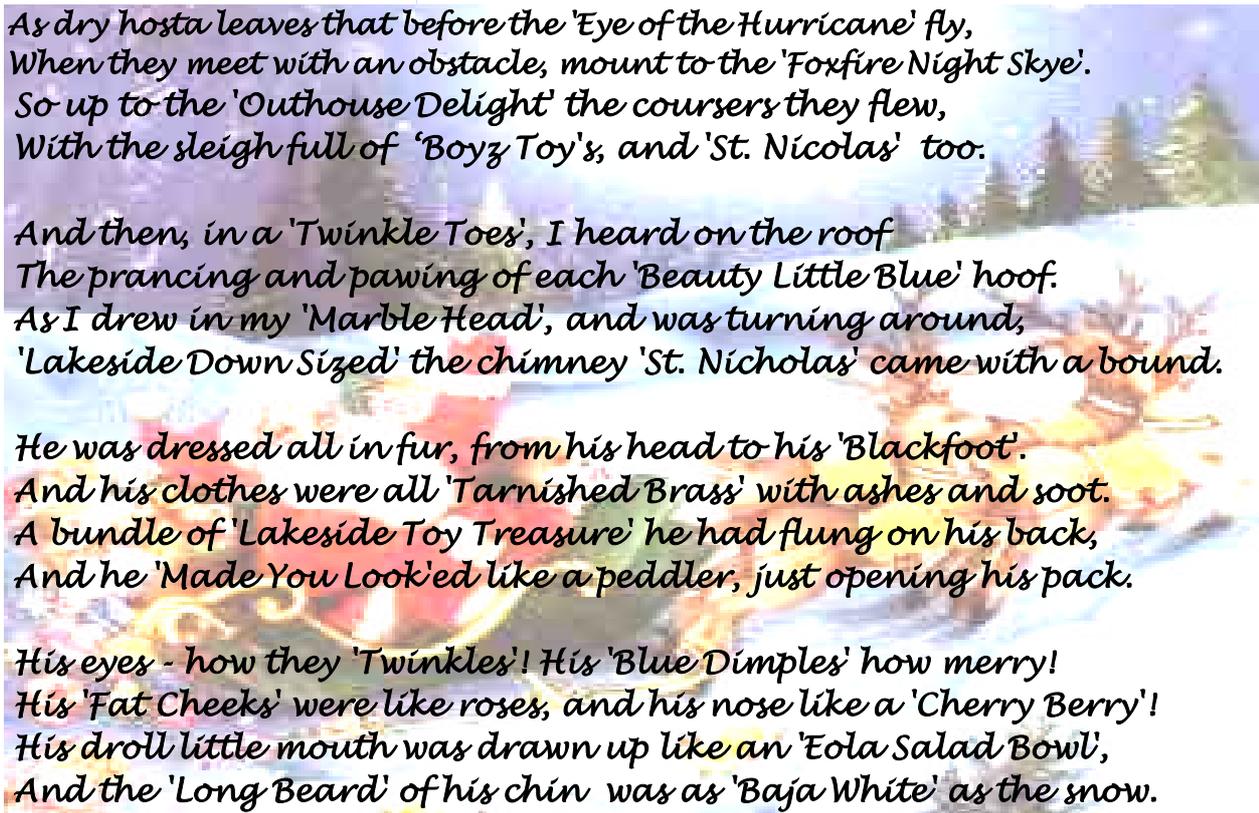
*The 'Sunlight Child'ren were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While, 'White Vision's of 'Sugar Plum Fairy's danced in their heads.  
And 'Big Mama' in her 'kerchief, and I in my 'Snow Cap',  
Had just settled our brains for a long 'Winter Snow's nap.*

*When out in the hosta garden there a 'Rosedale Black Ice' such a clatter,  
I sprang from the bed to see 'Abba What' was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a 'Red Hot Flash',  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the 'Urajiro Musashino'.*

*The 'Velvet Moon' on the breast of the new-fallen 'Snow Flakes'  
Gave the lustre of 'Mid Morning' to objects below.  
When what to my wondering 'Baby Blue Eyes' should appear,  
But a miniature sleigh, and eight 'Tiny Tears' reindeer.*

*With a 'Little Blackscape' old driver, so lively and 'Quicksilver',  
I knew in a moment it must be 'St. Nicolas'.  
More rapid than 'Silver Eagle's his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called his hosta by name!*

*"Now 'Academy Wonky Balderdash'er! Now 'Sky Dancer'! Now 'Ice  
Prancer' and 'Vim And Vigor'!  
On 'Warwick Comet'! on 'Cupid's Dart', on 'Don Quixote' and 'Blizzard'!  
To the 'Big Top' of the porch! to the 'Valley's Top' of the wall!  
Now 'Whirlaway'! 'Whirlaway'! 'Whirlaway' all!"*



As dry hosta leaves that before the 'Eye of the Hurricane' fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the 'Foxfire Night Skye'.  
So up to the 'Outhouse Delight' the coursers they flew,  
With the sleigh full of 'Boyz Toy's, and 'St. Nicolas' too.

And then, in a 'Twinkle Toes', I heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of each 'Beauty Little Blue' hoof.  
As I drew in my 'Marble Head', and was turning around,  
'Lakeside Down Sized' the chimney 'St. Nicholas' came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his 'Blackfoot'.  
And his clothes were all 'Tarnished Brass' with ashes and soot.  
A bundle of 'Lakeside Toy Treasure' he had flung on his back,  
And he 'Made You Look'ed like a peddler, just opening his pack.

His eyes - how they 'Twinkles'! His 'Blue Dimples' how merry!  
His 'Fat Cheeks' were like roses, and his nose like a 'Cherry Berry'!  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like an 'Eola Salad Bowl',  
And the 'Long Beard' of his chin was as 'Baja White' as the snow.

The stump of a 'Peace Pipe' he held tight in his teeth,  
And the 'Smoke Signals' encircled his head like a wreath.  
He had a broad 'Lakeside Baby Face' and a little round 'Blue Belly',  
That shook when he laughed, like a 'Silver Bowl' full of 'Jelly Belly'!

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old 'Woodland Elf',  
And I 'Peedee Laughing River' when I saw him, in spite of myself!  
A 'Tiddlywinks' of his eye and a 'Twist of Lime' of his head,  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to 'Stegeman's Dreadnaught'.

He spoke not a word, but went 'Straight Flush' to his work,  
And filled all the 'Lavender Stocking's, then 'Turnabout' with a jerk.  
And laying his 'Fingerprint' aside of his nose,  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he 'Gypsy Rose'!

He sprang to his sleigh, to his hybridizers gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like 'Pineapple Upside Down Cake' on a thistle.  
But I heard him exclaim, 'Powered By Bob' out of sight,  
'Happy Camper' Christmas to all, and to all a 'Starry Starry Night'.

# Changes on the Hosta Horizon

(continued from page 1)

I will utilize the large cache of articles available to newsletter editors at the AHS website. Most hosta clubs have been sending their newsletters by email for some time now, and articles are available on many subjects. As the ROHS newsletter editor, I will be receiving the newsletters of all the clubs. With permission, I can use any article in a current newsletter, also. I'm sure I'll find other ideas in addition to the articles. And I will rely on the experience of friends who edit their hosta club newsletters.

A new feature called **ROHS Hosta Friends** will profile the gardening and hosta experiences of club members. Two (2) articles will appear in the spring, fall, and winter issues. One on a long-standing club member(s), and the other will be on a newer member(s). The articles will include pictures of the featured club members and their gardens and favorite hostas. The summer issue will profile the gardeners sharing their gardens for the club tour.

**Recipes.** We enjoy the delicious dishes at our club lunches. I'd like to share several recipes in each issue that are favorites of club members. If you'd like to have a recipe featured, please send it to me along with a bit of background on it, why it's a favorite, etc.

Each year the AHS asks members to vote on their **Favorite Hostas & Mini Hostas**. I want to start a poll for our club also. Vote for your Top 20 Favorites and I'll tally the votes and the Top 25 will appear in our spring newsletter along with the Top 10 Mini Hostas. Ballots for each are in this newsletter.

A related poll, but not necessarily the same is **Best Hosta Performance in Your Garden**. Which 10 hostas performed the best in your garden this past year? And on the other side of the coin, which had the **Worst Hosta Performance in Your Garden**. They can go bad for any number of reasons, and we all have them. List the 10 best and 10 worst hostas in your garden for 2010. Ballots for each are in this newsletter. Results will also be in the first newsletter of the year.

### Answer 3 questions for an article:

- What was your favorite new hosta acquired in 2010 & why did you like it so much?
- What was the thing you enjoyed most about gardening and hostas this past year?
- What was the biggest gardening challenge you faced in 2010?

I will include **hosta trivia**, **tidbits**, & **puzzles** in each issue. Maybe even a few quiz questions to test your hosta knowledge. Answers will be provided in the next issue of the newsletter.

Anyone who would like to contribute articles is welcome to do so. I hope others will get involved and write for the newsletter. We all have different perspectives, and I hope to share voices besides my own.



(continued on page 20)

# "The Book of Little Hostas"

## Author Interview

By Josh Spece  
November 2, 2010

There is no question that miniature and small hostas are extremely popular among hosta enthusiasts. Many collectors have an area devoted to small and mini hostas, and some people only collect little hostas.

**The Book of Little Hostas: 200 Small, Very Small, and Mini Varieties** is the first book written exclusively about a specific group of hosta cultivars. Authors Kathy Guest Shadrack and Michael Shadrack give a little insight into their book and the enchanting world of little hostas.

Why little hostas? Giant hostas are quite popular, too, as are hostas with red petioles, and hostas with ruffled leaf edges, and... and... Why did you choose to write a book exclusively about little hostas?

**Mike:** *Because little hostas have all the shapes, colors and attributes of the larger hostas, but you are able to landscape, collect and enjoy them in a much smaller space.*

**Kathy:** *Gardens are getting smaller and the time and money available to maintain them is getting less, too. We are already seeing the downsizing of other garden plants, not just hostas.*

What is it about little hostas that make them so irresistible and popular?

**Kathy:** *I love them because they lend themselves to all sorts of containers, troughs, deck boxes, patio trays, ceramic pots, even window boxes and found objects.*

**Mike:** *I like the fact that it is relatively simple to make a small raised bed for the little ones or create a small woodland walk. A whole collection can be kept on a balcony, patio or deck.*

Some people have a lot of trouble growing little hostas. What is the biggest mistake gardeners make when growing little hostas?

**Mike:** *Little hostas would be lost planted with bigger plants. They really need their own space and a careful watering regime.*

**Kathy:** *They need more light and better drainage than their larger cousins. I also like to keep their surroundings to scale.*



Are there hybridizers out there who are working primarily to develop little hostas? What do you think the future holds for new little hostas?

**Mike:** *Many hybridizers have noted the exciting trend towards little hostas and are developing their own lines. Bob Solberg and Mark Zilis have been producing little hostas for some time. Alex Malloy and Randy Goodwin are producing some exciting new plants and Naylor Creek is bringing over some of the best from Europe, especially from Dutchman Marco Fransen. A lot of the newer mini, very small, and small hostas are emerging as tissue culture sports, and we can look forward to dozens more.*

**Kathy:** *In the book I encourage people to collect hostas by "Dynasties," and these connecting lines of sports and sports of sports are growing longer all the time.*

I hate being asked to pick a single favorite hosta, but what is the one little hosta you could never be without?

**Kathy:** *I like H. 'Academy Verdant Verge'.*

**Mike:** *There are so many good ones that it is difficult to choose! I just love H. 'Tickle Me Pink' and we both would not be without H. 'Dragon Tails'.*

My thanks to Kathy and Mike for taking time to give us an inside look at this fun group of plants!

# Tips & Techniques to Overwinter Perennials in Containers

I garden in Zone 5 and love container gardening with perennials. There are a number of great garden plants for containers including the likes of Hostas, Heuchera, and ornamental grasses for shade. In sunnier spots, I love to mix and match different groundcover like Sedums and Delosperma. But by the time the killing frosts have knocked my perennials dormant, it is time to tuck away my favorite perennial pots for the winter to insure their welcomed return next spring.

**Overwintering fact:** *Your overwintering success with container perennials is dependent on the ability to insulate the roots (containers).*



Plants grown in containers are exposed to colder temperatures than those grown in the ground and are considered at least two zones colder. I live in Zone 5 which would make my pots a Zone 3.

## How I've Overwintered Perennials in Containers

I've gambled and left pots out all winter and some made it and some did not. So what do I need to do to make sure my potted perennials come back next year? I do recommend (particularly in colder zones) to consider the following:

### Trench it

This is an old nurseryman's technique for overwintering pots and bare root plants. I dig a trench deep enough so my tallest container is level with the soil line. I group all my pots together in this trench and fill it in with the leaves I haven't raked up yet. *Burying your pots will help insulate the roots.*

### Under Cover

No time to dig? – so again I've grouped all my pots tight together and covered them with either a thick layer of leaves or potting soil.

### Knock 'em over

Knock 'em over on their sides. Here, you are keeping your roots warmer by laying them down. You will want them grouped together too. You can also cover them with leaves for some extra insulation. I find this is especially helpful with Hosta pots. I have lost potted Hostas not so much to the cold, but to late winter when the snow melts and creates a freeze/thaw effect which kills new emerging eyes. Simply laying pots on their sides minimizes this problem.

### Bring 'em on in

You will want to bring inside anything grown in a ceramic pot, or it will truly go to pot next spring cracking into hundreds of pieces. I have stored numerous containers against a wall in my garage (a cellar would work). The important thing to remember here is that the pots will dry out and you will need to give them a drink by January or February and monitor them thereafter.

You might have your own methods of overwintering that have worked for you. (Please drop us a line - we'd love to hear about it.)

Please visit our section on [Garden Plants for Containers](#) for additional ideas for your perennial container garden.

This article is reprinted with permission from [www.GreatGardenPlants.com](http://www.GreatGardenPlants.com) of Holland, MI. Owners are Chris Hansen and Mary Walters.

# Quotable Quotes

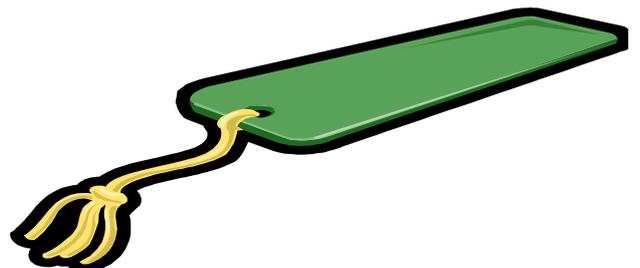
by Eve Vanden Broek

If you attended the ROHS Convention this past July, in your welcome bag you received a bookmark which featured a gardening quote. Creating those bookmarks was one of my many winter projects and without a doubt was much more fulfilling than painting my closet. As you can imagine, the internet provided a treasure trove of garden-related quotes; some from well-know gardeners and horticulturists, others from complete unknowns. Which ones to choose? Easy. Those which roused me. One of my favorites heralds from a special lady who had a deep fondness for wildflowers, Lady Bird Johnson. She once said: **“Flowers in a city are like lipstick on a woman – it just makes you look better to have a little color”**. I wholeheartedly agree. Downtown Des Moines looks beautiful in summer with the many colorful planters and hanging baskets, and I rarely leave the house without a bit of color on my lips.

When I read Lady Bird’s words, it also reminded me of the April morning five years earlier when I was standing at the bottom of my hillside hosta garden and looked up from the backbreaking work of removing leaf litter. I was suddenly awestruck by an explosion of color from tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, muscari, starflowers, and bluebells. It was the lipstick Lady Bird Johnson was talking about. **My hosta garden indeed looked better with color.**

You’ve probably already gathered that I like quotes. I also like wit, wisdom, and lore and cannot resist a book, large or small, new or old featuring simple cleverness. The magazine, Garden Design, used to put garden-related quotes pertaining to various articles at the bottom of their pages. I faithfully read them all and to this day, today for example, still rifle through them for a quote when I need one. Here’s one I think you’ll like from George Bernard Shaw: **“Gardening is the only unquestionably useful job”**. Haven’t we all felt that sentiment after an excellent day of work in the garden? Which segways great into this wonderful quote from Margaret Atwood: **“In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt”**. I love it!

Quotes can set the tone, make a statement or point, or add the final touch to anything you write. Whatever your passion, sentiment or belief, there’s a quote that will sharpen your thoughts. Many well-known people are quoted for their expertise or passion; some notables include Confucius, the Dalai Lama, Benjamin Franklin and Helen Keller. Yet a sentence in a favorite book, magazine or newspaper can strike you in a way so much that you dog ear the page, tear the piece out or jot it down. So, how about retaining this quote from a hostaholic named Ron Livingston? **“Walk around a Hosta Garden... you will be amazed, as every leaf is a Miracle.”**





## 2011 First Look

### Online Auction

**Background on the First Look Online Auction as related by Carol Brashear:**

*"I took over as AHS Region One Director in the 1990's when Jim Wilkins was AHS President, and our region wasn't gathering at any kind of regional meeting. In the late 1990's, Bill Meyer began talking about the need to recognize and encourage hosta hybridizers, and he came up with an idea to have a competition of new and unreleased seedlings and sports. His idea was for each Region of the AHS to hold their own competition and perhaps have a grand winner at the national convention. This hasn't happened yet, but we still hope someday it will.*

*"At the time, the region had no treasury and no funds to put on such a competition so we had to come up with a means of raising money. We decided to have an online auction during the winter of 2001. Bob Axmear had just installed some auction software at the Hosta Library, and we begged to be able to use it to raise some money for this project. Bill and I each donated a number of plants from our own gardens, and we asked for other donations on the various Internet forums. Bill's recollection is that we raised some \$6,600 for our first First Look Auction. After that first year of raising funds for our initial meeting, we have since split various proceeds with the AHS. In 2003, for the first printing of three (3) paper*

*Hosta Journals, with the Hosta Library to help pay bills for the server that the Hosta Library is on, and in 2006, we gave the entire amount of the money we raised, some \$9400, to the AHS for the HVX research fund.*

*"The last 2 years First Look/Region One split the auction money with the New England Hosta Society (NEHS) to help with costs of hosting the 2011 AHS Convention. At next summer's convention in Marlborough, MA, First Look will again be a part of the Hosta Show, and the organizers are hoping that Bill's initial dream of having hybridizers from all over the country compete for the winning prizes of best new seedling and best new sport will start to take shape.*

*"The First Look Online Auction has become a fun and exciting event that hosta fanatics from all over the world look forward to participating in or just looking in on, to see what unique and one-of-a-kind plants will be offered up for auction. Because First Look is synonymous with hybridizers, we have featured some of the newest and hottest plants from hybridizers to showcase their wares. Such luminaries as Rick Goodenough, Don Dean, Don Rawson, Bob Axmear, Bill Meyer, Rod Kuenster, the FOoSF group and Kathie Sisson have all donated generously to the cause over the years, and we gratefully showcase and offer up their creations for everyone to bid on. While other auctions close one at a time, the First Look Auction is unique in that all items close at the same moment, all at once! It leads to madness and great fun near the end when bidders can only watch one or two items that they really want, opening the opportunity for others to maybe win a gem or two.*

(continued on page 19)

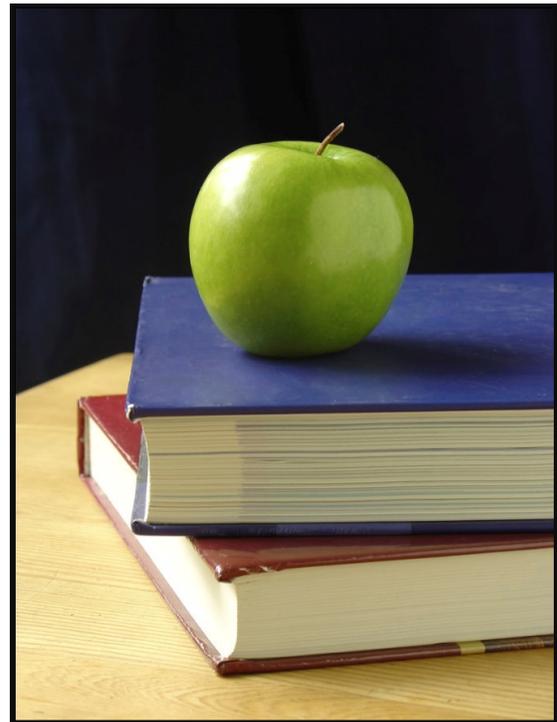
# 2011 Hosta College

**H**osta College will be held Friday, March 11th and Saturday, March 12th, 2011 in Piqua, OH at the Upper Valley JVS. The format will remain the same as previous years. There are many interesting classes to choose from in each of the five (5) sessions. Subjects are related to hostas or gardening with some being hands-on projects. The auction is Friday evening. Vending and the Bookstore are open on Friday evening, and on Saturday before and after classes, and also during the two (2) lunch sessions. Depending on the classes chosen, lunch is during either Session 3 or 4. The banquet and speaker conclude the event on Saturday evening.

**T**he website will be updated in January after teachers, classes, and room assignments have been finalized, and the class selection dates will be listed as well.

<http://www.ihostohio.org/portal/glhc/college.asp>

**R**egistration is online at the website. Attendees must first register on the site before the class selection date. Members of the Great Lakes Region have first choice of classes. The week after GLR members have chosen their classes, non-members can make their class selections. Some classes may be full by then so joining a club in the Great Lakes Region is an option to ensure availability of desired classes. (Classes have a maximum number based on room size.)



## Hosta College Schedule

### Friday, March 10, 2011

- 6:00 - 9:30 PM Admissions
- 6:00 - 9:30 PM College Bookstore, Vending & Park-a-Plant
- 7:00 - 9:45 PM Hospitality
- 7:30 - 9:00 PM Auction of Rare & Unusual Hostas

### Saturday, March 11, 2011

- 8:00 - 8:30 AM Admissions
- 7:30 - 8:15 AM College Bookstore, Vending & Park-a-Plant
- 8:30 - 9:40 AM Session 1
- 9:55 - 10:55 AM Session 2
- 11:00 - 1:15 PM College Bookstore, Vending & Park-a-Plant
- 11:10 - 12:10 PM Session 3 or Lunch (As assigned)
- 12:25 - 1:25 PM Session 4 or Lunch (As assigned)
- 1:40 - 2:40 PM Session 5
- 2:55 - 3:55 PM Session 6
- 4:00 - 5:00 PM College Bookstore, Vending & Park-a-Plant
- 6:30 - 8:00 PM Banquet

# 20 Favorite Hostas

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) \_\_\_\_\_
- 13) \_\_\_\_\_
- 14) \_\_\_\_\_
- 15) \_\_\_\_\_
- 16) \_\_\_\_\_
- 17) \_\_\_\_\_
- 18) \_\_\_\_\_
- 19) \_\_\_\_\_
- 20) \_\_\_\_\_

This will be a 'weighted' voting system.  
#1 will receive 20 pts, #2 - 19 pts... and  
so on with #20 receiving 1 pt.

Please submit a ballot for each ROHS member in a household for both polls.

# 10 Favorite Mini Hostas

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) \_\_\_\_\_

Please read the article in this issue about changes the AHS has made in the Mini Hosta category before voting.

Ballots must be postmarked no later than **February 28, 2011** to be included in the tabulations, and may be submitted either by mail or email. Please put **ROHS Favorites** in the email heading. **Thank You!!**

Reldon Ramsey or  
130 Amsterdam Dr. [rohseeditor@gmail.com](mailto:rohseeditor@gmail.com)  
Pella, IA 50219

The Top 25 Favorite Hostas & the Top 10 Favorite Mini Hostas will be published in the 1st newsletter in 2011.

You do not have to own a hosta to vote for it.



## 2011 First Look



### Online Auction

(continued from page 16)

*"With other auctions, someone with deep pockets could sit at the close of each item and outbid everyone who tried to win a plant. With all of the First Look items closing at once, we usually have many, many happy winners who might not otherwise have won even one plant. It's fun, it's wild, and it's uniquely First Look Online!"*

The First Look Online Auction will run from February 12 – February 26, 2011. To access the auction go to [www.hostalibrary.org](http://www.hostalibrary.org) and click on "First Look" near the middle of the grid. The link will take you to the First Look website for more auction info.

(<http://www.hostalibrary.org/firstlook/>)

*"During the winter holidays, First Look puts together a slide show of 25 beautiful hosta photos so look for that as well, and on New Year's Eve, the First Look website is refreshed with all of the photos taken at First Look 10. We celebrated our 10th Anniversary in June, and we had quite a grand time! Come see us at Holiday time, New Year's Eve and Valentine's weekend in 2011! And of course, at the 2011 New England AHS Convention and First Look 11!"*



## The 12 sports of Christmas

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 'Bethlehem'
2. \_\_\_\_\_ 'Chesiere's Green Christmas'
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 'Christmas Candy'
4. \_\_\_\_\_ 'Christmas Charm'
5. \_\_\_\_\_ 'Christmas Cookies'
6. \_\_\_\_\_ 'Christmas Gold'
7. \_\_\_\_\_ 'Christmas Lights'
8. \_\_\_\_\_ 'Christmas Pageant'
9. \_\_\_\_\_ 'Christmas Tree Gala'
10. \_\_\_\_\_ 'Merry Christmas'
11. \_\_\_\_\_ 'Night Before Christmas'
12. \_\_\_\_\_ 'White Christmas'

**Each of the 12 hostas above sported from one of the 5 hostas listed below. Place the letter of the parent hosta next to the sport.**

- a. 'Christmas Tree'
- b. 'Christmas Tree Gala'
- c. 'Fortunei'
- d. 'Night Before Christmas'
- e. 'White Christmas'



**Answers will appear in the next issue of Hosta Horizons.**

# Hosta Travels With Renaldo: Fall Forum

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(continued from page 8)



After a buffet lunch break, the final speakers of the day were Mike and Kathy Shadrack who gave a preview of their upcoming book in their talk "Little Hostas: Collecting and Growing". Mike apologized that the slides were not up to his standards as his best ones were still with the publisher. The book has cultural information for growing smaller hostas along with display ideas. One chapter showcases hosta 'dynasties' like H. 'Baby Bunting' and its sports. Asked what determined which hostas made it into the book, Mike replied with his typical British humour, "It depended on if I had a good picture." The Shadracks were pre-selling autographed copies of their book for late November delivery. I can't wait to receive mine!



The day concluded with the hosta auction. There were several rarely seen hostas among the nearly 60 donated cultivars, and the auction was always entertaining with Mike Shadrack and Ran Liddell sharing auctioneering duties as they coerced higher bids from the audience. The biggest moneymaker of the day was a streaked H. 'Frost Giant' brought by Bob Solberg. (You may recall that the same plant caused a very entertaining bidding war between two ROHS club members sitting next to each other at our MRHS Convention Auction this summer.) After the auction concluded, there was a flurry of last minute buying in the vending room before attendees headed outside to enjoy the beauty of the changing leaves and the warmth of the sunny fall afternoon.

If I have the opportunity, I'll definitely attend the Fall Forum again. I was given a warm welcome from everyone involved, and I enjoyed the chance to make new hosta friends and see part of the country I'd never visited before. And being able to surprise the Altmans with my completely unexpected appearance on Friday evening was, as the saying goes, priceless. I'll remember both of their reactions for a very long time.

The theme for the 2011 Fall Forum is 'Wild Thangs'.



## Changes on the Hosta Horizon

(continued from page 12)

Anyone who has suggestions to make the newsletter better please share your ideas with me. Also, let me know suggestions for possible club activities in addition to our spring and fall meetings and the summer tour and auction. Possibly a trip to the Dubuque Hosta Festival, or an outing with the Harshbarger group since we share several club members.

I will write an article for each issue called [Hosta Travels With Renaldo](#). I enjoy going to the AHS & MRHS conventions, the Winter Scientific Meeting, and visiting hosta friends around the country to attend their club meetings. This past March I attended Hosta College in Piqua, OH, and in September, I attended the Fall Forum in Cambridge Springs, PA - both for the first time. As Karen Schwartz said to me last year at the Dubuque Hosta Festival, "I see you **EVERYWHERE!!**"

I'm really looking forward to being your ROHS Hosta Horizons editor!! I think it will be a lot of fun. It's just the kind of thing I like to do.

**Reldon Ramsey,**  
Hosta Horizons Editor

## Overwintering Pots

**Cynthia Wilhoite**  
Co-owner of Soules Gardens  
Indianapolis, IN



"Overwintering hostas in pots is very easy. Keep the plants well-watered until a hard frost. You can overwinter anywhere. I have polyhouses, but the real trick is a place where they will get no ice or snow inside the pots over the winter. Most successful overwintering outdoors is done by what's called tipping. That's just laying the pots on their sides so they cannot get any ice or snow in them in a protected area. I used to use the outside back wall of my garage. I also put a little slug bait around the pots.



"I know many people who overwinter pots in their garages. The trick here is to not water the pots if your garage freezes. Once pots are frozen never, never put water in them even on warmer days where the soil on the surface seems to be not frozen. If your garage does not freeze, but stays in the 30's, an ice cube once in a while is all the pots need."

## Overwintering Pots

**Bob Axmear,**  
The Hosta Library  
Waukon, IA:



"I lay the pots on the ground after a good killing frost and they are cold, make sure they are moist and on the north side of a building which really helps. Then I put mouse poison boxes amongst them. Then I cover them deeply in straw and cover them in plastic weighted down by posts or cement blocks. If done exactly this way I never lose a one."

**Jeff White**  
Waterloo, IA



"If they are where they get sun and/or when they are freezing & thawing yes tip them and keep the wet off the top/crown. Last year I put them in the garage once this started, and that worked great even for my seedlings in the tiny cups. The biggest thing to me is what not to do more than what to do, or should I say what not to let happen. It depends on the weather the most so it might be different each year. But whatever you do, don't let the tops sit with water on them for long."

## Overwintering Pots

**Chris Wilson,**  
Co-owner of Hallson Gardens  
Cement City, MI



"About overwintering pots, yes, we do keep some things potted. I have the best luck simply tipping the pots on their side, and smaller quart sized pots get turned completely upside down. Then I bait for mice and cover with a microfiber frost blanket. The key things for survival for me here in Michigan are to use very well drained, coarse potting soil, don't use moisture holding crystals, and don't water them at all during the winter or early spring when frost/freezing temperatures are still occurring. The pots can be slightly moist when you tip them over and cover them, but they shouldn't be wet."



## 2010 Best Hosta Performance In Your Garden



- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) \_\_\_\_\_

This will be a 'weighted' voting system.  
Your #1 will receive 10 pts. and #10 will  
receive 1 pt.

Ballots must be postmarked no later than  
**February 28, 2011** to be included in the  
tabulations and may be submitted either  
by mail or email.

**Reldon Ramsey**  
130 Amsterdam Dr.  
Pella, IA 50219  
or  
[rohseditor@gmail.com](mailto:rohseditor@gmail.com)



## 2010 Worst Hosta Performance In Your Garden



- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) \_\_\_\_\_

The Top Ten vote getters in each  
category will be published in the  
1st newsletter in 2011.

Please submit a ballot for each  
ROHS member in a household for  
both polls.

Please put **ROHS B&W** in the email  
heading. **Thank You!!**





## 2011 Dates to Remember

January 15<sup>th</sup> – January 29<sup>th</sup>:

AHS Online Auction

January 21<sup>st</sup> & January 22<sup>nd</sup>:

Winter Scientific Meeting, Lisle, IL

February 12<sup>th</sup> – February 26<sup>th</sup>:

First Look Online Auction

**February 28th:**

**Favorite Hostas and Best & Worst**

**Polls DEADLINE**

March 11<sup>th</sup> & March 12<sup>th</sup>:

Hosta College, Piqua, OH

Read the articles in the newsletter about each of these Winter Hosta Events for more information.

## Hosta Society Websites

Russ O'Harra Hosta Society

<http://www.rohs.org/>

Midwest Regional Hosta Society

<http://www.midwesthostasociety.org/>

The American Hosta Society

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/>



## **ROHS Membership Renewal**

**Dues are payable January 1<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year.**

**The year your membership expires appears on your newsletter mailing label.**

**Membership is \$12/year or \$30 for 3 years.**

**Please send your renewal to the ROHS Treasurer:**

**Before January 1, 2011**

**Gary Hoard**

**13247 NW 121<sup>st</sup> Place**

**Madrid, IA 50156**

**After January 1, 2011**

**David Dettman**

**122 Bluegill Court**

**Pella, IA 50219**



**Make checks or money orders payable to "Russ O'Harra Hosta Society"**

D W B E P O C S O D I E L A K S  
 K H S P A R K L E S X T O W D P  
 S I E X C R I I E A H M I N M E  
 A T K G O N K I L G O N A E E C  
 M E A N D A K T I R T H N U H I  
 T C L I Y O A R I E G A L R E A  
 S H F K O T B G R N C C I Z L L  
 I R W C I R O S I Y E S G Q H G  
 R I O O A L N Y D L T X H A T I  
 H S N T D O A N E M R W T F E F  
 C T S S W R A S A E A R S T B T  
 Y M T B P C T S T U N D E X I M  
 R A S K C I T S N O M A N N I C  
 R S U G A R P L U M F A I R Y J  
 E U B L E S U A L C A T N A S I  
 M C H E R A D I A N T S T A R T

AOMORIGOLDSTAR  
 CHRISTMASTREE  
 KALEIDOSCOPE  
 PRAYINGHANDS  
 SPARKLE  
 SUGARPLUMFAIRY

BETHLEHEM  
 CINNAMONSTICKS  
 LIGHTS  
 RADIANTSTAR  
 SPECIALGIFT  
 WHITECHRISTMAS

CANDYCANE  
 COOKIES  
 MERRYCHRISTMAS  
 SANTACLAUS  
 STARBRIGHT  
 WINTERSNOW

CELESTIAL  
 EXALTATION  
 MIXEDNUTS  
 SNOWFLAKES  
 STOCKING

## 2010 Garden Experiences

Responses will be compiled for an article in the next issue of Hosta Horizons.

Your name(s) and location:

What was your favorite new hosta acquired in 2010 and why do you like it so much?

What was the thing you enjoyed most about gardening and/or hostas in 2010?

What was the biggest gardening challenge you faced in 2010?

Responses must be postmarked no later than **February 28, 2011**

to be included in the article, submit either by mail or email.

Please put **ROHS GE** in the email heading.

**Thank You!!**

Reldon Ramsey  
130 Amsterdam Dr.  
Pella, IA 50219

or

[rohseditor@gmail.com](mailto:rohseditor@gmail.com)

## How would you like to receive the ROHS newsletter?

\_\_\_ I would like to receive the ROHS Hosta Horizons newsletter via email **instead** of receiving a paper copy. (Email version can be sent to 2 email addresses.)

\_\_\_ I would like to receive the ROHS Hosta Horizons newsletter in paper form as I have been.

Name[s]:

Mailing Address\*:

Email Addresses:

**\*Please include your current mailing address to ensure our records are up to date even if you are opting to receive the newsletter by email.**

**Only members in good standing with paid dues will continue to receive the newsletter after the first meeting in April 2011.**

**Please return either by mail or email to the newsletter editor.**

**Please use **ROHS Newsletter** in the email heading.**

Reldon Ramsey  
130 Amsterdam Dr.  
Pella, IA 50219  
or  
[rohseditor@gmail.com](mailto:rohseditor@gmail.com)

The Hosta Library

<http://hostalibrary.org/>

The Hosta Registrar

<http://www.hostaregistrar.org/>

Don Rawson's Lists

[http://hostalibrary.org/misc/don/hosta\\_list.php](http://hostalibrary.org/misc/don/hosta_list.php)

Hallson Forums

<http://www.perennialnursery.com/forums/>

Hostapix

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/hostapix/>

## **Online Hosta Resources**

Hosta Cubit

<http://cubits.org/hostas/>

Gardenweb Forums

<http://www.gardenweb.com/>

Hostaseedgrowers  
Forum

<http://www.hostaseedlings.com/>

Hosta Hybridizing  
Forum

<http://www.hostahybridizers.com/>

Fraternal Order of Seedy  
Fellows <http://foosf.com/>

The Hosta Lady

<http://www.hostalady.com/>

Giboshi arekore

<http://www.giboshiarekore.com/index.html>

Art In The Lens

<http://www.artinthelens.com/>

Hosta Seed Growers

<http://www.hostaseedgrowers.com/index.html>

**Russ O'Harra Hosta Society**

**c/o David Dettman**

**122 Bluegill Court**

**Pella, IA 50219**

Please check the YEAR (#)  
on your address label.  
Are your dues OVER-due?