

Hosta Horizons

Newsletter of the

Russ O'Hara Hosta Society

Sunday April 14, 2024

Spring Hosta Meeting

Iowa Arboretum

Noon set up, Potluck, eat at 12:30 pm



Access the ROHS website at
www.rohs.org

The Russ O'Hara 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, the cultivation and development of new cultivars. The goals of the society shall be in keeping with those of the American Hosta Society.

Hosta's are a coming, First Blush



Russ O'Harra Hosta Society

Fall Meeting 10/8/23

Meeting begins at 1:35 PM. Peggy Moody presiding. This is the 30th Anniversary celebration of the Society, meeting at Somerset Winery in Indianola, IA.

Treasurer's report from David Dettmann. Hand-written copies distributed. Brief explanation, and no questions were asked.

Newsletter editor Anne Lynam asked for folks to update their addresses.

David Dettmann updated the membership status. 13 members still active from 1993, the year of the Society start-up.

Peggy Moody gave a brief summary of the national convention, in which she stated the volunteers were energetic, ready to help, did their duty, and formed a perfect team. She also noted the Hosta Leaf Show had 368 exhibits, and 256 blue ribbons. Don Lewis said there were 268 convention participants, it was a great show, and financially successful. The seed money ROHS gave to the convention was refunded, as well as the Harshbarger and MWHS monies. Noted: 10 great gardens, and 8 vendors.

Lisa Swanson also stated she heard nothing but compliments from the participants. (Ed. Note: I had the same experience, 100% of people were very happy.)

Peggy Moody asked Audra Wilson to relate her memories of the early society. She spoke about Shady Oaks Nursery, where Hans first worked, and of Hans Hansen being 'the son she never had'.

Hans Hansen gave the keynote address. He covered the years of his education and work, by including all the great relationships he had with Hosta luminaries.

Peggy Moody introduced charter members present one at a time: Audra Wilson, Don and Dorothy Lewis, Donna Yeast, Skip Hitchcock, Lois Girton, Kris and Tom Jurik, John Schmacker, and Roderick Simmons.

Peggy noted that the next ROHS meeting will be April 14, 2024.

Under new business/old business, questions were raised about an RIHS website update, and a revival of the Facebook page. A clarification of the advertising efforts made by Don Draper for the national convention was detailed. There was an extensive effort accomplished in Ames, as well as all local garden clubs, Master Gardener organizations, and newsletters.

There were plants purchased for each family that registered for the event, and these were distributed.

Hans Hansen brought 19 various plants from Walters Gardens Nursery, including new introductions of his, some of which are not yet on the market. These were distributed by a random drawing of names.

In addition, each current member of ROHS received a metal sign made by Jacob Spece. It is a beautiful metal sign, with a colorful yellow-tinted leaf that has 'ROHS GARDEN MEMBER' cut out of the leaf.

The meeting broke up at 3:50 PM.

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SPRING 2024 ROHS MEMBERSHIP REPORT

ROHS has a total of 58 memberships being carried on our books. We have 13 memberships which are due or overdue for renewal, and 42 memberships which are current through at least 2024. The breakdown is as follows:

PAID THROUGH 2022/OVERDUE FOR RENEWAL (n = 4): John Schmacker, Jill Tobin, Mary VanBerkum, Sherry & Harold Swihart

PAID THOUGH 2023/DUE FOR RENEWAL (n = 10): Joann Barnes, Diana Bedwell, Donna Johnson, Deanna & Tom Jones, Kris & Tom Jurik, Nola Luebbert, Gwendolyn Miller, Kathy & Steve Moser, Redon Ramsey, Roderick Simmons.

PAID THROUGH 2024 (n = 23): Jean Belzer, Nancy Briggs, Sara Davis, Jane Dawson, Don & Dee Draper, Gary Garles & Nancy Wells, Marilyn Gliem, Jill Henson, Dyke & Cindy Hicks, Skip Hitchcock, Kathy & Gary Hoard, Tom Kenney, Helen Kopitzke, Donald & Dorothy Lewis, Anne Lynam & Renee Koestler, Sheryl Miller, Robert & Jackie Pool, Cindy Schnoebelen, Curt & Cindy Schultz, Sue Slater, Cathi Turner, Audra Wilson, Donna Yeast.

PAID THROUGH 2025 (n = 9): Ann & Ron Borwick, Connie Dingeman, Linda & Larry Ertel, Dave & Linda Grieve, Annie & Bob Kroll, Donna Miller, David & Peggy Moody, Judi Porhosky, Traci & Kirk Steltz.

PAID THOUGH 2026 (n = 9): Janine Bennett, David & Betsy Dettmann, Lois & Jack Girton, Frank & Ellen Glasgow, Mary O'Harra, Lisa Swanson, Mona Holland, Katie Stafford, Nicki Wiederstein

PAID THROUGH 2027 (n = 2): Robert & Heidi Folkstead, Ken Outzen & Dean Koob.

PAID THROUGH 2028 (n = 1): Ellen (O'Harra) Hill.

LIFETIME (n = 1): Joan Burke (O'Harra).

RENEWALS: If your name is shown for renewal status, please bring payment to the Spring Meeting or mail to the Treasurer/Membership Chair, David Dettmann 122 Bluegill Ct., Pella, IA 50219-7513. Membership cost is \$10 for one year, or \$25 for three years.

THANK YOU FOR BEING ACTIVE AND CURRENT MEMBERS OF ROHS!

ROHS 30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION REPORT

The 30th anniversary of the Russ O'Harra Hosta Society was celebrated at the fall meeting held on October 8, 2023 at the Summerset Winery, near Indianola, IA. Attending per registration sheet were 45 members and guests: David and Betsy Dettmann, Dean Koob and Ken Outzen, Peggy & David Moody, Helen Kopitzke, Katie Stafford, Lisa Swanson, Skip Hitchcock, Diana Bedwell, Connie Dingeman, Sheryl Miller, Hans Hansen, Kenlynn Bellis, Audra Wilson, Kris & Tom Jurik, Sue Slater, Donna Yeast, John Schmacker, Renee Koestler, Anne Lynam, Jean Belzer, Harold Swihart, Kathy & Gary Hoard, Donald and Dorothy Lews, Donald & Dee Draper, Reldon Ramsey, Nancy Wells & Gary Garles, Jackie & Bob Pool, Ellen & Frank Glasgow, Nicki Wiederstein, Mona Holland, Roderick Simmons, Lois & Jack Girton, and Robert & Heidi Folkstad.

Attendees gathered at noon for socializing and to help set up the event. The Iowa Machine Shed provided a delicious catered Italian lunch buffet with fruit & vegetable trays, chicken parmesan, vegetable lasagna, parmesan baked breadsticks, apple dumpling dessert, and beverages.

Special guest speaker Hans Hansen of Walters Gardens & Shady Oaks fame was warmly introduced by ROHS Charter member Audra Wilson with a poignant reminiscence of her long-time special relationship with Hans. The presentation "My Journey with Hostas in the Last 30 Years" was accompanied by spectacular photos in his review of "The Early Years," "Shady Oaks," his home garden in Waseca, MN, and then a summary of the very special hosta people in his career. The pictorial review and stories of signatory hosta people and their highlighted plants featured Eric Smith (Halcyon, June/Touch of Class, First Frost/Autumn Frost), Hideko Gowen (Cutting Edge, Blue My Mind, Silk Kimono/Silk Road), Bob Savory (Golden Tiara, Lemon Lime, Glory/Old Glory/Beyond Glory, Baby Bunting/Pandoras Box/Hope/Cherish/Cameo, Bitsy Gold/ Bitsy Green), Russ O'Harra (Olive Bailey Langdon, Russell Lee), Audra Wilson, Herb & Dorothy Benedict (Blue Jay/Prairie Sky, My Child Insook, Percy, My Friend Nancy), Mildred Seaver (Sea Nymph, Split Milk, Sea Thunder/American Sweetheart/Miss America, Queen of the Seas/Diamond Lake), Eleanor Lachman (Mount Tom, Robert Frost, Hampshire County, Popcorn, Cascades, Cherry Berry), Paul Aden (Daybreak, Sun & Substance, Blue Angel/Earth Angel, On Stage/Hollywood Lights), Chuck Purtyum (Abiqua Drinking Gourd, Paradigm), Mary Chastain (Lakeside Symphony, Lakeside Paisley Print), Olga Petryzn (Dawns Early Light, Niagara Falls, Brother Stephan, Blue Hawaii, Key West/Humungosaurus/Lone Star), / Bob Solberg (September Sun, Ginsu Knife, Guacamole/Stained Glass/Cathedral Windows, Pineapple Upsidedown Cake, Curly Fries/Silly String), John Machen (Patriot, Liberty/Sagae, White Christmas/Night Before Christmas), Van Wade & his spectacular garden, Don Dean (Faith, Silver Bay, Sterling Medallion), Tony Avent (Tattoo, Elvis Lives/Wind Beneath My Wings, Abba Dabba Do/Atlantis). Hans finished the splendid slide show incorporating stories of his "Life at Walters Gardens" featuring hostas Joy Ride, Wind Beneath My Wings, Dancing with Dragons, Tears in Heaven, Waterslide, Wild Imagination, Silly String, Hope Springs Eternal, Voices in the Wind, Above the Clouds, Echo the Sun, Seasons in the Sun, Party Streamers, Time in a Bottle, Sound of Music, Giganotosaurus, Emperor's New Clothes, and Avant Garde...and then talked about "the future." Always more to come and more to develop!

New members were welcomed: Nicki Wiederstein, Katie Stafford, and Mona Holland!

Rejoining members were Lois & Jack Girton;

Renewing Members were Reldon Ramsey, Roderick Simmons, Donna Yeast, Sue Slater, and Robert & Heidi Folkstad.

Charter Members in attendance were introduced and honored: Skip Hitchcock, Helen Kopitzke,

Donald & Dorothy Lewis, Sue Slater, Audra Wilson, and Donna Yeast.

An amazing array of Door Prize Drawings (item names and very lucky winners) were generously provided by Josh Speece of In the Country Garden & Gifts (H. 'Bloodline'-Anne Lynam, H. 'Gracie Wins'-Jean Belzer, H. 'Country River Rapids'-Tom Jurik, Martagon Lily-Lois Girton, Martagon Lily-Dorothy Lewis); and by Jacob Speece of Country Vibe (Garden Hosta Gnome-Ken Outzen); and by Diana Bedwell of Bedwell Gardens (2 bags of soil conditioner-David Dettmann); and an outstanding collection of special plants donated by Hans Hansen/Walters Gardens: H. 'Miss America'-Sue Slater, H. 'Diamond Lake'-Kathy Hoard, H. 'Emperor's New Clothes'-John Schmacker & Diana Bedwell, H. 'Twin Cities'-Nicki Weiderstein, H. 'Echo the Sun'-Skip Hitchcock, H. 'Lone Star'-Donna Yeast, H. 'Dancing in the Moonlight'-Ellen Glasgow, H. 'Terms of Endearment'-Audra Wilson, H. 'Wind Beneath My Wings'-Connie Dingeman, H. 'Waterslide'-Katie Stafford, Brunnera Sterling Silver-Roderick Simmons & Bob Pool, Jacobs Ladder 'Heaven Scent'-Peggy Moody. Three hostas donated by ROHS were H. 'Regal Splendor'-Dee Draper & Harold Swihart, and H. 'Stained Glass'-Lisa Swanson.

The 30th Celebration concluded with presentations to attending current members of Gift plants arranged by Gary Garles and a very special ROHS 30th Anniversary Gift of a metal garden sign "ROHS MEMBER GARDEN" produced by Jacob Speece of Country Vibe, and a group photo of all current members receiving their gift garden sign.

THANKS TO ALL WHO ATTENDED, DONATED, PRESENTED & HELPED

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROHS FOR 30 YEARS!

(my apologies for any recording errors).

Submitted by David Dettmann

Midwest Regional Hosta Society

2024 Winter Hosta Symposium

The winter scientific meeting was held on Feb. 24, 2024 in Milwaukee. This is a yearly event that is unique to the Midwest Region. The day overall was a series of six speakers, punctuated by a buffet lunch on site at the Sheridan Hotel in Brookfield. Nancy and I drove to the event on Friday. We had an interesting travel day. The weather went from warm and partly sunny in Rockford, to snow falling 19 miles away at the Wisconsin border. The regular Hostatality was in play Friday night. The nice folks from the upcoming Fon du Lac convention this summer were on hand to sell you a t-shirt, and encourage attendance. The pictures of the gardens were enticing, of course.

The informative part of the meeting started with a shrub survey by Glenn Herold. Glenn had detailed information about plants that are working in their area, and some excellent slides. It was a nice way to get in the mood for the garden setting.

Phil Timm had a presentation called 'Why You Should Be Hybridizing'. The great thing about this was-he is just a regular guy, like you and me, who slowly worked his way into growing seeds. Lots and lots of seeds. I love it when anyone makes being a fanatic look normal. He had some nice examples of results he has seen from his crosses. It actually is easy and fulfilling to work with plants, right?

Dave Wanninger gave a talk about nuts. Tree nuts. He is a tree nut, maybe even a nut case. All I know is, his samples were extremely tasty, and he was the most effusive speaker I have ever seen at an event like this. This was fascinating because of the Hican research he spoke about. Hicans are a pecan hickory cross. Not related to Hosta, nevertheless it was worth a lot of laughs, and a nice change of pace.

We had one Zoom presentation by Bob Solberg. Bob hardly needs an introduction. This day he gave a scientific explanation of pigments in Hosta leaves and flowers. To me, it was the most nuts and bolts talk of the day. I personally learned a lot about the complicated nature of the pigment content of flowers. Example: White flowers may have four or five other colors, that do not express themselves, in the background. He also spoke at length about his research into red pigment in petioles, leaves, and flowers. Fascinating material.

Marco Fransen came from Europe to speak at this meeting as well. Fransen Hostas worked with Naylor Creek Nursery for years. He did a very entertaining survey of his trips to the U.S., and the people he met as he purchased plants. He has a keen eye for plants, and a quick sense of humor, and it made for a very enjoyable talk. Marco spoke highly of the many great nurserymen he worked with here.

Which sort of led into the Mark Zilis presentation about the great Hosta hybridizers of the last 50 years. Mark is some kind of 'National Treasure'. He has some really wonderful pictures of the AHS 'founding fathers/mothers'. He has a voluminous library of Hosta photos. He has authored extensive compendiums about the genus Hosta and its many varieties. He gave a lovely, heart-felt talk about folks like Peter Ruh, Van Wade, Herb Benedict, and a host of others. Listening to his survey of these past years really highlighted just how much work has been done in just a few decades. The pioneers of our favorite plant deserve recognition and respect.

-Submitted by Gary Garles