

Hosta Horizons



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.

Newsletter of the

Russ O'Hara Hosta Society

June 2017

SUMMER TOUR

Date: July 9th

Location: Pella area

Time: 10am

Lunch: 12:30pm

Catered by The Rib Shack

Plant Auction after Lunch

Reservation due *JULY 6th*

Send to David Dettmann

Please note if you want vegetarian option

Mail: 122 Bluegill Ct. Pella, IA 50219

Tour/lunch/auction questions. Contact David

Phone: 641-627-5097

Email: bdd5097@yahoo.com

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Lunch Location: Humeston Garden #3

Catered by Knoxville's "The Rib Shack"

Pulled Pork & Chicken sandwiches

Cowboy beans, southern style potato salad,

Desert, water & Ice Tea

With mid-auction "Dutch snack"

Vegetarian Option- Subway Sandwich

Cost \$14 per person Regular or Vegetarian

Or bring your own lunch.

Bring:

Lawn chairs, sunglasses, hats, bottled water, bug repellent, comfortable walking shoes, cash & checkbooks; if rain is forecast-also bring umbrellas and raingear. Event held unless severe weather occurs/highly probable.

Special Notes:

PLEASE bring hosta, other plants, garden art, etc. as contributions for the ROHS Auction. Deliver auction items when at Ron Humeston's (Garden #3), where the auction will be held after lunch. This is our annual major fund-raiser for ROHS. At time of this writing, there are 35 special hosta harvested from the Trudy & Bruce Van Wyk's former "Holland Drive Gardens" and likely more will be recovered by the tour date. Most of these plants are mature clumps with multiple divisions, potted in sizes ranging from 3-10+ gallon pots, and many are very special hybrids and sports by Trudy. Examples are several "Dorothy Benedict" seedlings, "Striptease" sports, "Clown Smiles" sport, "Candy Dish" x "Astral Bliss" OP, "Blue Cascade" x "Plum Nutty" OP, and a few of David Dettmann's favorites- "No ID Seedling," and "Unknown." Many of these plants are very large, so please "bring" space to take your wonderful winners home!

#1: Connie's Rustic Garden

813 Park Lane, Pella. 641-628-4191. Parking is on north side of street.

Connie Dingeman's "Rustic Garden" lies on a small tree-lined hillside lot on the north side of Pella. She has collected and artfully placed over 400 hostas. Her garden reflects her enjoyment of visiting (shopping!) plant nurseries and attending local/regional/national hosta society plant auctions. A visit to her garden also reveals an eclectic collection of perennials and Japanese maples. Growing up in the country, Connie brought her love of rustic items into the garden with old tools from the farm. You will also notice that she loves bird houses. One of her favorite trees, a Tri-colored beech, was a Mother's Day gift several years ago. Her late husband, Gord, also brought several large rocks home from his job at a sand pit to help decorate their yard. Connie loves being a grandma and spending lots of time with her seven grandchildren. They love catching frogs in the neighbor's creek and putting them in Connie's ponds.

#2: Trudy & Bruce Van Wyk's 'Townie Garden

900 Big Rock Park Road, Pella. 641-780-5031. Parking is on north (?) side of street.

If you ever visited the Van Wyk's Garden when they were in Pella's East Dutchman's Landing, where they raised, bred, and sold hostas from their business "Holland Drive Gardens," you will quickly notice that they have scaled down "slightly." Moving from rural/suburban hilly 4 acres to a Pella condo with a small, flat, sunny, "freshly-developed" yard, resulted in plant-packed garden beds and the "Townie Garden." The neighbors wondered what was happening when five Columnar Oak trees were moved from Holland Dr. Garden and transplanted in town. Trees were not common in their new location, until the Van Wyk's "infected" their new neighbors with tree appreciation. Truckloads of plants from Holland Dr. were placed on their new patio before Trudy & Bruce had even moved themselves. There is limited shade in the new garden, so hosta plantings had to be creative. Look under shrubs and perennials to find hidden hostas! You will find many of their award-winning hybridized hosta seedlings and a scattering of registered/named hostas. The back garden is a cottage garden style-an informal garden with a variety of perennials from their past garden. Sun gardens feature daylilies, a small rock garden, and an array of succulents. At the corner of the garden shed is a small rock fairy garden which supplies joy for neighbor girls. During the two years of "Townie Garden," the girls have developed much interest in the flower beds, often looking for fairies in the forming flower buds. The girls also enjoy creating art projects with the flower petals during "Patio Time" gatherings, joined with their parents. "Patio Time" is a special feature at the "Townie Garden" and you will be able to enjoy a cold refreshment served there during the tour! When you walk up the driveway at "Townie Garden," it is hard to imagine this is a gardeners' home, as the gardening focus is on the side and back of the yard. Please stroll into the back garden! Bruce & Trudy miss the 4 acres of gardening the beautiful beds created over 18 years at Holland Dr., but not the work it took to maintain it.

#3: Ron Humeston's "Marvelous Marlys' Memorial Garden"

104 Blue Gill Ct., Pella. 641-780-5033. Parking along Blue Gill Ct. and Holland Dr.

(Note it is spelled both Blue Gill and Bluegill)

Ron has passionately and meticulously maintained the splendid shade gardens developed by his partner Marlys Anderson and himself, a daunting task since her passing several years ago. He began cleaning and mulching the gardens this year in February and had the gardens "tour-ready" by March, even before the Pella tour concept was developed. His fretting about possible weeds might be reduced by the advice to visitors "if you see a weed that offends you, I'm not offended by you pulling it." Marlys kept detailed records, labels, and pictures for each numbered bed; some labels have wandered away. The gardens feature many mature clumps of a huge number of specimens, grown from those collected on plant buying trips and at hosta society auctions with her traveling hostaholic friends, especially Connie Dingeman and Cindy Schnoebelen. Their cars returned home from such trips crammed with plants, often with plants sitting on passengers' laps and in between their feet. The Humeston yard had a somewhat unusual divided focus: Marlys had the shadier south side and Ron had the sunnier north side, but Marlys did integrate several hosta beds into Ron's side. Ron's side is highlighted by a water feature of a small upper pond, waterfall stream and lower pond, as well as various conifers, grasses, and other plants. He is still deciding if the giant foxtail area ("they look nice") will be sacrificed for a wildflower area "to be developed." Enjoy your stroll on the pathways around and thru the various gardens, sit on a bench, and remember Marvelous Marlys' laugh, smile, & gardening passion and skill. And appreciate and enjoy Ron's dedication and mulching!

#4: David & Betsy Dettmann's "Good Intentions & Type-B Gardens"

122 Blue Gill Ct., Pella. 641-627-5097. Parking along Blue Gill Ct. and Holland Dr.

NOTE: This garden will be un-hosted as David & Betsy will be at the Ron Humeston garden to manage plant auction, lunch, membership, & registration tasks.

Please wander around at your leisure (and assuming your own risk); there may be some signs to help you self-guide. David is a retired psychologist and admits he has features of "Type-B" personality (such people have many projects going & unfinished-with no anxiety, think "big picture," more abstract, are not focused on time/deadlines). Type-B people are usually married to Type-A persons, but also most people are some features of Type A and B, but still, this means Betsy is more of the Type A? The result is our garden is full of "Good Intentions" with Betsy having organized sun gardens and frets about weeds and pests, and David has shady gardens reflecting "differently-organization" and numerous well-intended projects. There are many started projects: examples include vegetable garden expansion and re-fencing, additional tiers of railroad tie shade gardens behind the garage, some hosta gardens have been cleaned, several rock & material piles for a future pond/stream underneath a future (B-"you said this was going to be built in 2016") three-season room extended off the existing south deck, piles of "someday I'll need this" items, and a clean-up of a large locust tree toppled by a 9/16 windstorm. Hosta plants may have labels, some of which are correct; some may be mulched. Unlabeled hosta are correct, and some may be mulched.

Enjoy our (David's) "Good Intentions!"

Directions

IA 163 from Des Moines

Garden #1 811 Park Lane, Pella

Take exit 40 and turn left (crossing the bridge) onto Washington St. (1.8 mi)

Turn left onto Broadway St. (1 mi)

Turn left onto Park Ln. 4th house (brown) on the left. Parking on north side of street

Garden #2 900 Big Rock Park Rd.

Return to Broadway St. and turn left (head north)

Turn left on Big Rock Rd.

Condo house (right side) has 2 "Princeton Maple" (yellow leaves) Gardens along east side and back of condo. Parking on north ? side of street

Garden #3 104 Bluegill Ct and Garden #4 122 Bluegill Ct

Return to Broadway St (1.2 mi)

Turn right onto Washington St (CO HWY G28)(5 mi)

Restroom opportunities at Walmart, Casey's, Arby's etc along Washington St

Turn right on Holland Dr followed by left onto Bluegill Ct

Parking along Bluegill Ct and Holland Dr.

Garden #3 is 2nd house on the left and garden #4 is a log home below street level at end of cul-de-sac.

Hosta Help Needed.

Anne was contacted by Jerry Thorne. He was a friend of Russ O'Harra and has many of his hostas. He has an acreage in the Saylorville area and is getting older. He contacted the club to see if anyone would be available to advise Jerry on how to clean up his hosta beds in exchange for splits of some of his hostas. If you would be able to help.

Contact Anne Lynam at parkk65@mchsi.com or [515-265-0017](tel:515-265-0017).

RSVP

Return by July 6th

Name: _____

Cost \$14 x _____ Standard

Cost \$14 x _____ Vegetarian

Amount Enclosed \$ _____