



Hosta HORIZONS

newsletter of the
Russ O'Harra Hosta Society
est. 1993 www.rohs.org

October 2011

Great Gift Idea!

Give your hosta friends who aren't members of ROHS a membership for either one year (\$12) or three years (\$30). They will receive a Gift Card (a \$12 value) to be used toward the purchase of a new hosta for their collection.

To learn more about the New Member Program, click on the link below or go to www.rohs.org.

Then click on the 'Vendors' link to find out which businesses owned by ROHS members are supporting the program.



President's Message:

"Gardening Grows the Spirit"

Summer Is Over

State fair is over thus so is summer. School is back in session and the world takes on a different pace. The days are all ready getting shorter and the garden is weary and so very dry.

This spring the gardens in our area were drowning. It seems it's been a gardening season of extremes beginning with cool weather and near record rainfall this spring. We've endured tragic tornados, terrible thunder storms, damaging hail, and destructive straight winds. The garden of ROHS members, Don and Mary Ann Lovell, was basically flattened by straight line winds. These folks had graciously agreed to have their garden included on our ROHS Summer Tour. Obviously they had to cancel after that horrible storm the week before our tour. We are so sorry for their devastating loss.

In July many gardens literally burned up from intense heat and scorching sun. Iowa endured a heat wave that just wouldn't end. Southern Blight Crown Rot ran rampant in my gardens during this extremely challenging gardening season. I treated two more plants this week again. We might ask ourselves why do we bother to garden with all the discouraging things that can happen. I said that to a friend. He very kindly replied to me, "You do it because you love it".

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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.

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2011 Dates to Remember

Sunday, October 9, 2011

Fall Meeting

Noon to 5 PM

Neal Smith Prairie Life Center, Prairie City

President's Message:
"Gardening Grows the Spirit"
Summer Is Over

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I do love gardening - especially shade gardening - which, of course, for me is really a Hosta garden. Often people tell me you can't grow much in the shade, and you can't grow hostas under Black Walnut trees. A Black Walnut tree is the main shade tree for our front gardens. I would never choose a nut tree to garden under, but it was here before the garden existed. I do hate the mess and falling walnuts do damage plants, but the hostas grow just fine. I do think my garden goes "down" earlier than most due to the falling nuts and the early petiole leaf drop of walnut trees.



My friend, Connie D., gardens under oak trees, and her gardens stay strong and nice weeks longer than mine. I've made it a rule: no garden tours after September 1st here.

Oriental Lily 'Distant Drum' and daylilies with Marlys' hosta garden in the background.

But this year it was no garden tours after blistering July sun literally burned many of my plants to a crisp. Several of the plants had been in those sunnier spots for several years and had never sunburned.

I have a list of 101 plants to grow in shade somewhere around here. I am hoping to locate it and convince Reldon to include it with the online version of our fall newsletter. The list was given out at a Master Gardener conference I attended several years ago.

There are so many fun things to grow. Each season I discover plants "new to me". I have to try 'em out. Sometimes it's a good experience - other times not. There are a few sunny spots left around here and I enjoy growing sun loving plants in them. I really got into Oriental Lilies this year. I got a new double pink

Oriental Lily named 'Distant Drum' that "knocked my socks" off this summer. OMG! It was "Awesome" and the fragrance was totally enchanting. I later saw it advertised in a catalog for \$15 each. I paid \$5 each at the Lily Society booth at that little garden show that is held in March at the Varied Industries Building on the State Fair Grounds. I love that little show!

<http://www.lilybulb.com/l7162.html>

<http://www.dutchbulbs.com/store/lilies/61459/image>

ROHS 'Stuff'

To focus on ROHS stuff, I've gotta say a huge "thank you" to everyone that was involved in the planning and work of our ROHS Summer Tour and Plant Auction. And "thank you" to those that donated auction plants. And "thank you" to all that attended in that sweltering heat. Despite everything going wrong that could go wrong everyone hung in there including Helen Groeneveld's family fulfilling her wish that their garden still be included on the tour even after her death. This meant so much to her and her family even though they were actively grieving their loss. I enjoyed visiting with Helen's daughters in her kitchen before the tour began that morning. It is obvious they loved their mom and she certainly loved them.

ROHS has received memorial money in remembrance of Ted Davidson. The executive committee is considering options of how to honor Ted's memory. We are leaning toward a bench at the Iowa Arboretum or a small scholarship to a horticulture student at DMACC.

Thankfully we have no more sad things to report. When it is necessary to let others know about events that are happening or things that have happened please contact a ROHS board member. We will do our best to get the information on the website under 'News & Announcements'. All of our contact information is in our newsletters and posted on the website at www.rohs.org.

It has been suggested we post a membership list on the website. However, we have declined to do that. And a paper membership list is not being made available to members or any other persons due to identity threats and privacy issues. If you have thoughts on this please bring them to our next meeting or email/contact a board member.

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ROHS Fall Meeting

Our final meeting of the year will be held on Sunday, October 9th at the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge in their Prairie Learning Center located near Prairie City. (See directions and map.)

The building will open at Noon followed by a potluck lunch at 1 PM. There is a dining area, but no kitchen. A small microwave will be provided. Marcia Leeper will speak after lunch followed by the business meeting.



Marcia Leeper

I have been working as the Corporate Gardener for August Home Publishing and Garden Gate Magazine for 16 years.

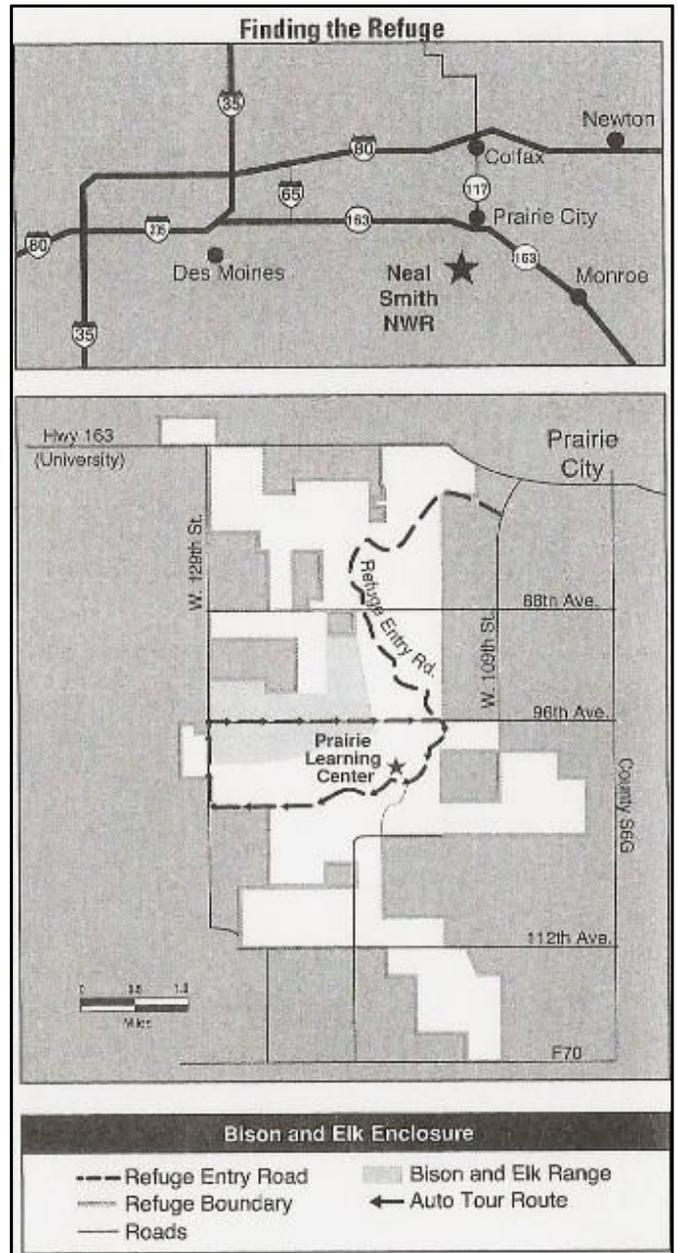
My background includes being a nurse, a professional Girl Scout, adult education, and gardening.

I am often working on projects years in advance to provide photo opportunities for the magazine.

Mother Nature often changes even the most thoughtful plans and flexibility becomes my solution to completing a gardening task.

I love gardening and providing beauty for others to enjoy every day.

My topic for your club is "Why I Love Gardening (especially in the shade)". I am looking forward to meeting the club members.



Directions

Just 25 minutes east of Des Moines, Neal Smith NWR is 9 miles south of Interstate 80.

If traveling from downtown Des Moines, take Hwy 163 to exit 18, follow the signs along the new paved 4.5-mile entrance road.

If traveling on Interstate 80, take the Colfax/Prairie City exit. Turn south onto Hwy 117 and travel 7 miles to Prairie City. Continue through Prairie City across the Hwy 163 bridge to the refuge entry road.

President's Message:
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Summer Is Over

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2012 Future Events

Our ROHS agenda for 2012 is falling into place. You won't want to miss our ROHS Spring Meeting on April 15, 2012 at the Henry A. Wallace Country Life Center in rural Orient, IA, hosted by Lisa Swanson and Donna Miller. Our speaker will be Lee Coates who is well known by several of us. Lee is known for his sense of humor, and he is a very entertaining speaker. You will laugh and it will be fun!

The 2012 Summer Tour is being coordinated by Kenn Outzen and Dean Koob of Jewell, IA, and the ROHS executive committee. Nancy Briggs, owner of 'Lincoln View Farm' near Ames, has also graciously offered to have her garden on our tour.

Robin and Carl Vos will host our 2012 ROHS Fall Meeting at a location to be announced. Bob Solberg, hybridizer and owner of Green Hill Hosta Farm, will be our speaker. Bob has been in the hosta business for 30 years and is knowledgeable and entertaining on any hosta topic. So if everything goes according to plan, ROHS is good to go through the year 2012.

ROHS executive board members strive to serve you and our Hosta Society to the best of our abilities. We have frequent organizational meetings. If you would like to attend any of these meetings, please give us a call as meeting dates vary. We welcome your input. Feel free to contact any of us with your comments, compliments, or concerns. Please include contact information with all correspondence so it is possible to respond. Communication is always a key to success. We want the ROHS to be the best it can be!

Our New Member Program is going well. Thank You to our members that are supporting the program through their businesses: Diana Bedwell/Bedwell Gardens, Norwalk; Kathy and Gary Hoard/Kat's Garden, Des Moines and Valley Junction Farmer's Markets; Nancy Briggs/Lincoln View Farm, rural Boone (just west of Ames); Tom and Marilyn Kenney/Skycrest Gardens, Ames; and new members, Traci and Kurt Seltz/Granny T's Garden, rural Badger (north of Fort Dodge). Check out www.rohs.org for more information about the New

Member Program and the Vendors supporting the program. I believe Ron and Ann Borwick/Piney Ridge Nursery, Johnson, will be signing on for next spring.

The last thing I need to talk about is ROHS Membership Dues. It may seem confusing that single membership dues and family membership dues are the same price. There is no difference because membership dues are paid to cover the cost of our 'Hosta Horizons' newsletter. Only one newsletter is sent to each household address. Thus there is no difference in the membership cost because each household only receives one newsletter. Even with four newsletters being published yearly our membership dues cover the cost of the newsletter and mailings. Reldon prints the newsletters himself using his personal printer which greatly reduces our costs. ROHS reimburses him for his expenses. Also, some members have opted to receive their newsletter electronically further reducing cost of publication. The paper newsletter is limited to 16 pages (8 pages front and back). The online newsletter has almost no space limits. If you would like to contribute an article or information to the newsletter, contact Reldon.

Hope to see all of you at the ROHS Fall Meeting on Sunday, October 9th at the Neil Smith National Wildlife Refuge at the Prairie Learning Center. You will love our Fall Meeting speaker, Marcia Leeper, who is the Corporate Gardener for *Garden Gate Magazine!*

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/nealsmith/>
<http://www.tallgrass.org>

Our business meeting should be much shorter than in the spring. I'm hoping for no amended motions ever again. (Smile!) Our club will again furnish one main dish prepared by our hospitality committee, Linda Baer and Ricky Innis. Coffee and a cold drink will be furnished. We will also furnish paper plates, cups, napkins, and plastic eating utensils. Otherwise it's potluck again – except, Aunt Linda, please be sure to bring your famous Apple Crisp.

"Hosta is the Friendship Plant"

Invite a friend to join us for our fall meeting!!

"Gardening Grows the Spirit"

MM
Marvelous Marlys

ROHS Garden Tour & Auction

Coordinated by ROHS Vice President,
Eve Vanden Broek

On March 27th, our ROHS Executive Committee members met to discuss a number of topics, one of which was the 2011 Summer Tour. It was yet another cool Sunday afternoon in what seemed to be one of the longest lingering winters. As you can imagine, the group was anxious to set the tour date and make contact with the host gardens. We checked our personal calendars for June and July; we considered the dates of the Midwest and National conventions and the Halverson's granddaughter's wedding date and Father's Day. What we didn't do was consult the Farmer's Almanac. For had we, we would have read: *"Hot weather could be bothersome about July 12-17"*. But as anyone knows, July in Iowa is typically hot. Mother Nature didn't disappoint. In fact, she rampaged through the Marshalltown area leaving great devastation behind just a few days before our summer tour date.



View of Dean and Helen Groeneveld's front hosta garden.
(Photos on this page courtesy of Eve Vanden Broek)

Sadly, our first scheduled stop at the garden of Don and Mary Ann Lovell had to be scratched from the tour. Their gardens were flattened by devastating straight line winds. I want to express empathy to the Lovells for their discouraging losses. We really appreciated their willingness to

feature their gardens on our ROHS Summer Tour. Any of us whose gardens have been on a tour understands the time, work, worry, and energy expended to get a garden into "garden tour" shape. Then to have it all wiped out in a matter of minutes is more than discouraging. The ROHS extends our sympathy to all on the tour for the losses caused by that horrific storm.

All of our scheduled tour gardens sustained damages, but thankfully, not as much as Lovell's. Extra clean-up work was involved with the storm bringing down tree limbs, smashing plants, and destroying shade structures, but the three other Marshalltown-area gardens were able to rally and it was "on with the show". In spite of the storm, we were still welcomed into their lovely gardens. All were gracious hosts and the gardens were each so unique to their circumstance and wonderful to visit.



Summer Tour goes relaxing in the shaded seating area of the Vokoun-Siems garden.

The ROHS extends a heartfelt "thank you" to everyone involved in our summer event. We wish to extend special thanks to Helen and Dean Groeneveld's children who rallied around to clean up the storm damages and helped to show off Helen's personal touches in every nook and corner of their garden. Seeing Helen's paintings of her garden brought tears to my eyes. Dean and the children all pulled together in their time of grief welcoming us just as Helen would have complete with home baked cookies, coffee, lemonade, and iced tea. Helen would have been extremely proud.

(continued on the next page)

Visiting the Vokoun-Siems garden was like a fun treasure hunt. Every part of the garden held secrets to be discovered. It always amazes me how each person's garden is so uniquely adapted to them and their lifestyle. This garden is so beautifully suited to the home and the gardeners that live there. Sitting on the shaded outdoor patio under those huge old trees talking with Ed, Teresa, and other Hosta Friends was delightful. Actually, I could have stayed there in the shade all day. The gazebo (still under construction) on stilts amazed me. What a peaceful retreat it will be. I wish we could have toured their home too. I peeked in the windows. Rounding the back of the house the little pond came into view, and I envisioned children laughing and fishing with grandpa and maybe a picnic too. It was all wonderful and blended with the environment.



Antiques accent the Halverson gardens.

More pictures from the ROHS Summer Tour and Auction are featured in the eNewsletter.

Shirley and Dave Halverson stepped up to help head our summer tour when Helen Groeneveld became ill. Helen was Shirley's Hosta Mentor. They took over for Helen in stride, opening their home and gardens to us. They recently lost several precious old oak trees from their yard due to an oak tree virus, and their shade structures were brought down by the storm. Thus we were a bit lacking for shade during our lunch and plant auction, but with true dedication people hung in there. Despite tragic loss, devastating storms, and nearly unbearable heat and humidity our ROHS Summer Tour and Auction happened. Dave Halverson also won the prize for "who spent the

most money" at the auction. Thank you to the Halversons for their support of the ROHS all the way around.

Our "I Spy" travel game winners were: Connie Dingeman - *Hosta 'Curly Fries'*; Trudy Van Wyk - *The New Little Book of Hostas*; Linda Port - *The Color Encyclopedia of Hostas*; and Barry Laws - *North Coast Hosta Society Cookbook*. Wine was given as door prizes to other lucky winners for longest driving distance, closest birthdays, etc.

Our auction had 61 registered bidders and very nice bidding paddles (that doubled as much-needed fans) thanks to Herman Kopitzke, the official paddle maker. The 97 plants donated brought in a total of \$2,117.

Dean Groeneveld donated the most plants to our auction - 10. Other top donators: Greg & Sue Olsen - 9; Marlys Anderson - 8; Randy Craft - 8; Dave & Shirley Halverson - 7; Nancy Briggs - 6; Rick & Teresa Innis - 5; Don & Mary Lou Relph - 5.

Plants bringing in the most money: \$60 - an open pollinated seedling of H. 'William Lachman' donated by Bruce & Trudy Van Wyk; \$55 - H. 'Iron Gate Supreme' donated by Frank & Ellen Glasgow; \$45 each - H. 'Don Quixote' donated by Kathy & Gary Hoard; H. 'Cat's Eye', H. 'Chariots of Fire' and H. 'Rhinestone Cowboy' donated by Nancy Briggs.

We want to send out a huge "thank you" to Kenn Outzen and Dean Koob, Ricky Innis, and David and Betsy Dettmann for sweating it out to put on the auction. (Richard Simmons would have been proud.) Thank you to all who endured the hot, humid weather to attend the ROHS Summer Tour and Auction and to you folks who contributed to the ROHS by both donating and winning plants at the auction. It's fun to throw a big party, but guests are what make it fun and successful.

By Eve Vanden Broek and Marlys Anderson

Preliminary planning for the 2012 ROHS Summer Tour and Auction is underway with the date tentatively set for Sunday, June 24, 2012.

2012 Midwest Convention



Theme:
"Operation
Hosta"

July 12 – 14, 2012

Video: See the 2012 Midwest Convention
[Promotional Video](#)

Location: [Ramada Hotel and Conference Center,
Rochester MN](#)

Convention Plant: H. 'Candy Kisses'

[Click here to see H. 'Candy Kisses' cultivar](#)

[Click here to see H.'Candy Kisses' in tissue culture
3/3/2010](#)

Schedule: [Click here to see the tentative 2012
Midwest Convention Schedule](#)

***Hosta Garden Picnic at Camp Creek Farm**
***Educational Seminars**
***Auction, Silent Auction, and Raffle**

Gardens on Tour:

[Mona and Rick Keehn garden](#)

[Jeanne and Horst Truestedt garden](#)

[Mary and Vince Herring garden](#)

[Tim Farnham and Kurt Johnson garden](#)

[Joyce and Tom Williams garden](#)

Convention Committees: [Committee Chairs](#)

Hosted by: [Shades of Green Hosta Society of
Southeastern Minnesota](#)

*Click on the links to access convention information and
see garden pictures.*

AHS Online Auction 2012: Get Ready!



September may seem an odd time to be thinking about sub-zero temps and cabin fever activities coming up in January of 2012 ... WRONG! There is no better time than now to take inventory, make note, and plan donations for the AHS On-line Auction. This event is the second largest fundraiser for the society each year. Donors provide a description of plant material, seed, or garden related items and a digital photo. Each item is posted in an easy to use auction format.

Each year the AHS On-line Auction is held in mid January. News is distributed via email notices and upon the AHS website. Enter the AHS website and send a message to the chair, Don Dean, requesting that your address be added to the mailing group. Changed your service provider or have a new email address? Be sure to send this news to Don as well.

Much more information will be coming to the membership later. Take a moment now with this message to have your email included in future messages. Planning for possible donations is even more time critical while we can see what we have. Give it a thought and consider joining in on the fun and entertainment when the plant world can seem to have stopped!

**AHS Online Auction Chair,
Don Dean**

Harshbarger Hosta Club



Tours Pella Gardens and More!

On a beautiful Saturday morning in early June, the Harshbarger Hosta Society from the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City area arrived by chartered bus to tour gardens in Dutchman's Landing East near Pella.

It was also garage sale day in the Pella area. The bus was running a few minutes late, but their timing was perfect. If they had arrived a few minutes before, paint would have been scraped on both sides of Blue Gill Court.

With the bus strategically parked, the group disembarked for a leisurely two hour stroll through the three lovely gardens of Marlys Anderson and Ron Humeston, Bruce and Trudy Van Wyk, and David and Betsy Dettmann.



2 of Ron & Marlys' cats - blissfully unaware this day is different than any other.



2 Presidents: HHS president, Judi Pohorsky, & ROHS president, Marlys Anderson, enduring a photo op in Marlys' garden.

Lunch was at the Monarch Cafe in the historic Royal Amsterdam Hotel located on the Molengracht in beautiful downtown Pella.

After lunch, there was time to shop for Dutch goodies in Pella's two bakeries or browse the stores and antique shops. Or just take a break

before watching the animated figures of the Klokkenspel at the top of the hour.



The Vermeer Mill - an 1850's working mill - is part of the Pella Historical Village. More pictures of the day & gardens appear in the eNewsletter.

Marlys & several HHS club members taking a break before the Klokkenspel 'does its little dance' as Marlys put it.



One of six paintings near the Klokkenspel seating area.

Connie Dingeman's garden filled with rustic whimsy was the final HHS Pella destination.

Like their leader, the Harshbarger group has a go-with-the-flow style. So an unscheduled stop at the Bessie Spaur Butterfly Garden in Knoxville (suggested by Marlys) didn't cause so much as a ripple. "We don't care when we get home", Judi said.

Two more stops - **shopping opportunities!** - were on the itinerary. Marlys and I joined the group north of Indianola at Flying Frog Farm to see them in **action**, and they didn't disappoint.

With the temperature and humidity on the rise, we sent them on to their final **scheduled** stop at Quilted Gardens in southeast Des Moines. But knowing this group... there may have been another stop (or two) along the hosta-highway before they returned home.

By Reldon Ramsey

S u m m e r t i m e B l u e s

"Well, I'm gonna raise a fuss
I'm gonna raise a holler
'Bout workin' all summer
Just to try to earn a dollar
Well I went to the boss man
Tried to get a break
But the boss said 'no dice, son,
You gotta work late'

Sometimes I wonder what
I'm a gonna do
'Cause there ain't no cure for
the Summertime Blues."

So begins a Rock and Roll Classic I first heard in 1968. There have been many versions, but the one I heard first remains my favorite.

In 2002, I discovered hostas and the **Summertime Blues** took on an entirely new meaning. I quickly fell for the smokey blues of the Tardianas before I even learned the name. H. 'Halcyon' was a very early purchase.

The first four Tardianas resulted from a chance late season cross made by British plantsman, Eric Smith, between H. 'Tardiflora' (pod parent) and a young H. *sieboldiana* 'Elegans' (pollen parent) blooming out of season. When I read that in *The Hosta Handbook*, I was both intrigued and smitten. I had to have them all.

But finding any Tardiana in the garden centers of Southwest Iowa and Omaha was not easy. They were few and far between. So if I chanced upon one at a convention auction - even the least blue of them all, H. 'Eric Smith' - I snatched it up. Better yet - I traded for it. H. 'Osprey' flew into my garden via a trade with an online acquaintance.

After the evening picnic at Fred and Audra Wilson's during the 2004 AHS convention in Des Moines, I rode back on the bus sitting next to online friend and AHS Treasurer, Kim Larsen. We had a wide-ranging conversation on that relatively short ride back to the hotel, and I remember distinctly at one point that she said, "I think Eric Smith was smoking

something. The Tardianas all look alike".

I was a little shocked. I didn't agree. (Although I'll admit that several do look very similar.) I found the statement troubling - mainly because I had just discovered that not everyone was as enamored with the Tardianas as Mark Zilis and I. That made me look at blues beyond the Tardiana group, but oftentimes I would discover that they were related in some way. The **Classic Blues** have for the most part been developed from H. *sieboldiana* 'Elegans', the Tokudamas, and the Tardianas.

Eric Smith developed the Tardianas (H. 'Halcyon', H. 'Dorset Blue', H. 'Blue Moon', et al.) over several generations. Then Dr. Herb Benedict took what he had created and pushed the Tardiana blues even further. H. 'Amethyst Chip', H. 'Blue Ice', H. 'Blue Jay', H. 'Blue Sliver', and H. 'Purple Verticulated Elf' are five of his better known results.



Classic Tardiana, H. 'Halcyon' (TF 1 x 7)

At the same time, hybridizers were working with H. *sieboldiana* 'Elegans', H. 'Tokudama', and related hostas to create the large/giant blues and the puckered/cupped blues. H. 'Blue Angel', H. 'Blue Mammoth', H. 'Blue Vision', H. 'Love Pat' and H. 'True Blue' are just a few attributed to Paul Aden. Kevin Vaughn developed H. 'Aqua Velva', H. 'Blue Blazes', H. 'Nancy Gill', H. 'Polly Bishop' (parent of six of his registered blue seedlings), and H. 'Twisted Sister'. H. 'Azure Snow' and H. 'Powder Blue' came from Peter Ruh while the Queen of Hostas, Mildred Seaver, gave us H. 'Queen of the Seas', H. 'Sea Blue Monster', and H. 'Sea Grotto'.

(continued on the next page)

New Classic Blues

Tony Avent: H. 'Blueper', H. 'Dixie Cups', H. 'Elvis Lives', H. 'Gemstone', H. 'Hillbilly Blues'

Bob 'Indiana Bob' Balitewicz: H. 'Bluetonium', H. 'Troubled Waters', H. 'Yankee Blue'

Doug Beilstein: H. 'Abraham Lincoln', H. 'Cloud Burst', H. 'Singin' the Blues'

Monty Carlson: H. 'Arctic Blast', H. 'Blue Cascade'

Mary Chastain: H. 'Lakeside Beach Bum', H. 'Lakeside Blue Jeans', H. 'Lakeside Old Smokey'

Don Dean: H. 'Astral Bliss', H. 'Her Eyes Were Blue', H. 'October Sky', H. 'Parisian Silk', H. 'Pewterware', H. 'Silver Bay', H. 'Titanium'

Hideko Gowen: H. 'Blue My Mind', H. 'Cutting Edge'

Hans Hansen: H. 'High Tide', H. 'Neptune', H. 'Prairie Sky', H. 'Restless Sea', H. 'Silver Moon'

Greg Johnson: H. 'Blue Haired Lady', H. 'Moonlight Sonata', H. 'Mystic Star', H. 'Rhythm and Blues', H. 'Topaz', H. 'Twilight Time'

Ron Livingston: H. 'Blue Dogwood', H. 'Childhood Fantasy', H. 'Conquistador', H. 'Cosmic Blue', H. 'Preconceived', H. 'Prescribed', H. 'Ritz'

Bill Meyer: H. 'Blueberry Muffin', H. 'Gay Paree'

Frank Nyikos: H. 'Awakening Angel', H. 'Little Boy', H. 'Little Brother', H. 'Powderpuff', H. 'Pro Tek Tor', H. 'Uncle John'

Olga Petryszyn: H. 'Amos', H. 'Blue Hawaii', H. 'Chesapeake Bay', H. 'Mississippi Delta'

Rick Sawyer: H. 'Ice Prancer', H. 'Reptillian'

Ed Schulz: H. 'Bam Bam Blue', H. 'Beat This Blue'

Bob Solberg: H. 'Baby Blue Eyes', H. 'Blueberry Cobbler', H. 'Blueberry Tart', H. 'Carolina Blue', H. 'Deane's Dream', H. 'Thunder Boomer'

Bev & Dave Stegeman: H. 'Skylight', H. 'Smoke Signals'

Danny Van Echaute: H. 'Dewed Steel', H. 'Flemish Sky', H. 'Sky Dancer'

Mark Zilis: H. 'Azuretini', H. 'Stormy Seas', H. 'Tidewater', H. 'Ultramarine', H. 'Venetian Blue'

Our fascination with blue hostas continues unabated and today many hybridizers have focused their efforts on the creation of new leaf shapes, forms, and textures with colored petioles and blue coloring that holds late into the growing season.

In researching the **New Classic Blues**, I found that many have one Tardiana parent or the parent is Tardiana-related. This includes all of the Don Dean and Hans Hansen introductions on this page. A large number have H. *sieboldiana* genes and several are H. 'Tokudama'-related. Species contributing to these cultivars are H. *pycnophylla*, H. *yingeri*, H. *hypoleuca*, and forms of H. *longipes* and H. *kikutii*. Some hybrids are the result of complex multi-generational crosses.

However, one of the most popular blue hostas of all time is a sport discovered by Emile Deckert at a nursery where he was working in the late 1980's. It was a chance discovery that has literally changed the hosta world. H. 'Blue Mouse Ears' was named Hosta of the Year in 2008 and continues to lead the way in the popularity of small and mini hostas.



Enormously popular H. 'Blue Mouse Ears', parent to a large and prolific family of sports.
(Photos courtesy of Marlys Anderson)

This summer in one AHS convention garden filled with massive hosta specimens, one caught my eye and held it. Naturally it was blue - a mature specimen with deep coloring and a mesmerizing, twisting form. Doug Beilstein's H. 'Singin' the Blues' appeared to be swaying to the music. It wasn't on my radar at all and instantly it became a must-have. Blue hostas are like that. And not just for me.

(continued on page 14)

“Save the Date”

June 13 - 16, 2012

AHS Convention - Nashville!!!

“Hostas, Friends and Music”

will be a time for visiting with old friends, making new ones, experiencing Nashville, and of course, seeing Middle Tennessee gardens. The Scientific program will include: a panel on *Hosta Tips to Grow By*; Don Dean will share his hybridizing experience *Where Did That Trait Come From*; Jerry Weeks with *From Yon to Here* will discuss how hostas made their way from Asia to the New World; and, George Schmid, the Key Note speaker, will present his work on *Hosta Species*. Mike Shadrack will address hostas in Europe with *Eric Smith, Master Hybridizer*; Bob Solberg will talk on *The Future of Hostas*; and Warren Pollack will lead a breakout session on recent hosta DNA work by Dr. Ben Zonnenveld of the University of Leiden, The Netherlands. Flo Chaffin of Specialty Ornamentals will discuss *Shady Characters* - Japanese maples, hydrangea and conifers for the various growing zones. There will also be two non-scientific sessions: *The Rise of the Southern Biscuit* and *Adelicia Acklen, Mistress of Belmont Plantation*.

A musical revue is planned for Wednesday evening after the Optional Tours. One tour is *Gardens of Nashville*, including the Parthenon, and the other is a historic tour of three *Civil War sites in Franklin, TN* including Carnton Plantation and its 1860 period garden.

The **Hat Contest** will return on Saturday evening and a **Photography Contest** will be held.

Categories and rules will be posted on the convention website.

With so many attendees driving to Nashville, we are looking forward to a great **Hosta Show**. You bring the leaves... We'll have the bottles.

If **Country Music** is on your agenda, we suggest attending the **Grand Ole Opry** on Tuesday evening to avoid missing any of the convention activities. Gray Line of Nashville has given the group a special rate which will include tickets, and transportation to and from the hotel. A special email address for this will be posted on the convention website.

For further information, see http://www.mths-hosta.com/AHS_National_Convention_2012/.

Ya'll Come. We'll be serving up Southern Hospitality and are Expecting You.



**Hosted by the Middle
Tennessee Hosta Society**

Hosta Word Search by: SWMOgardens.com

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



H. 'Liberty' in the Van Wyk garden

HOSTA OF THE YEAR

1996 So Sweet	2005 Striptease
1997 Patriot	2006 Stained Glass
1998 Fragrant Bouquet	2007 Paradigm
1999 Paul's Glory	2008 Blue Mouse Ears
2000 Sagae	2009 Earth Angel
2001 June	2010 First Frost
2002 Guacamole	2011 Praying Hands
2003 Regal Splendor	2012 Liberty
2004 Sum and Substance	

Permission granted by SWMOgardens.com to use this Hosta Word Search in Hosta Society newsletters and websites.

(continued from page 11)

I recently posted this request online at the AHS Facebook page and the Hosta Seed Growers Forum: **“Name 3 favorite blue hostas and tell why you like them.”** The response in just over 24 hours was overwhelming. Not surprisingly, H. ‘Halcyon’ and H. ‘Blue Mouse Ears’ were among the favorites.

Mike Groothius, Niles, MI:

“I like H. ‘Blue Hawaii’ for its upright habit and intensity of the blue. I like H. ‘Fragrant Blue’ for its neat form and terrific seedlings (even though it’s finicky). Lastly, I like H. ‘Halcyon’ for its long-lasting blue and excellent growth.”

Eve Vanden Broek, Pella, IA:

“H. ‘Halcyon’ is always beautiful, H. ‘Blue Mouse Ears’, and H. ‘Topaz’ looks so nice by the corner of my house.”

Lori Widman, AHS Facebook:

“H. ‘Deep Blue Sea’- it’s got wow factor even though it isn’t real big, H. ‘Dorset Blue’ - great for a smaller size blue and I just got H. ‘Silver Bay’ this year and it’s already stunning.”

Ross Johnson, Wayzata, MN:

“Based on intensity and duration of the plant to hold the color I would say: #1- H. ‘Powderpuff’, #2- H. ‘Purple Verticulated Elf’, and #3- H. ‘Silver Bay’.”

Read all of the responses in the ROHS eNewsletter. Many are familiar names, but several mentioned are known to only a few people. So far.

Also, in the ROHS eNewsletter – expanded lists of **Classic Blues** and **New Classic Blues** with parentage.

“Sometimes I wonder what I’m a gonna do ‘cause there ain’t no cure for the Summertime Blues.”

By Reldon Ramsey

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Membership Application

Membership dues are for a calendar year and are payable January 1st of each year.

Dues received after October 1st will be applied to the next calendar year.

New Renewal

1 year \$12.00

3 years \$30.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: Home (____) _____

Cell (____) _____

Email: _____

I would like to receive the ROHS newsletter by

Mail Email

Make checks payable to:

“Russ O’Harra Hosta Society”

Send application and remittance to:

Russ O’Harra Hosta Society

c/o David Dettmann

122 Bluegill Ct.

Pella, IA 50219

Minutes of the April 17, 2011

Russ O’Harra Hosta

Society Meeting

Our first meeting of 2011 was held Sunday, April 17, 2011, at the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge in their Prairie Learning Center.

After a wonderful potluck, our guest speaker, Ken Harris, of near Chicago, IL, told us how to “Get Your Picture on the Cover of the *Hosta Journal*”. Ken shared his expertise in photography, being a member of two photo clubs, three hosta societies, as well as, photo editor for the AHS website and *Online Hosta Journal*.

The business meeting of the Russ O’Harra Hosta Society was brought to order by President-elect, Marlys Anderson, with 43 members present. Two new members, Collette Janisch of Cedar Rapids and Donna Miller of Creston, were introduced and welcomed.

A motion by Herman Kopitzke to approve the minutes of the ROHS Fall 2010 Meeting as written in the Spring newsletter submitted by past Secretary, Jan Craig, was seconded and unanimously passed.

The Treasurer’s report was given by David Dettmann. Many ‘thank you’s go to Gary Hoard for eight years of service as Treasurer.

President Anderson announced the passing of ROHS member, Helen Groeneveld. Helen had offered their garden and arranged for three or four others in the Marshalltown area as sites for our 2011 Summer Tour and Auction. We will continue with these plans. Helen will be missed. Condolences and flowers were sent for the group by Vice-President, Eve Vanden Broek.

Condolences were also offered to Rick and Teresa Innis for the loss of Rick’s father, Virgil Innis of Newburg, IA.

Eve Vanden Broek reported on plans for the Summer Garden Tour still to be held in Marshalltown with four gardens, catered lunch and auction to be held at the last garden. Kenn Outzen and Dean Koob will orchestrate the auction. Maps, game, and sign-up will be

available in the Summer Newsletter.

Past-President, Barry Laws, reported that the group at the Iowa Arboretum has not finished making the ‘Hosta Glen’ safely handicapped accessible. Therefore, our \$2000 donation is still pending. He will meet with their board this week.

Also, Ted and Ann Davidson have sold their home. Jan Craig is working with them to get the Russ O’Harra introduction hostas from their garden to transplant either to the Iowa Arboretum or the Botanical Center in Des Moines.

Mel Visser reported the Russ O’Harra hosta garden at the Botanical Center is on hold due to massive renovations by new management.

Mel and Carol Visser have made arrangements for the 2011 Fall Meeting to be held at the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge with speaker, Marcia Leeper, Head Gardener at *Garden Gate Magazine*.

Secretary Teresa Innis read correspondence from Bevington Garden Club and Baxter Garden Club asking for their donations for their club projects. President Anderson suggested gifts of \$500 and \$200, respectively.

Herman Kopitzke made a motion to deny these donations as hosta was not mentioned in either project petition. David Dettmann read from the ROHS Constitution – Article IV, Section A – supporting this motion. This motion was finally seconded and passed unanimously.

Another motion was made to OK the Baxter Garden Club petition if they included hosta in their design proposal. This was seconded, but failed to pass with a 17 ‘Against’ and 15 ‘For’ vote.

The next item of business concerned donating money to the AHS Hosta Virus X “2nd Round” research project. The first motion, to give \$500 to the project, made by Herman Kopitzke was seconded, but after some extensive discussion, failed in vote.

David Dettmann moved for a \$2000 donation to the research project. This was seconded and passed with one dissenting vote.

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**Minutes of the April 17, 2011
Russ O'Harra Hosta Society Meeting**

(continued from page 15)

Eve Vanden Broek discussed the investigation of a small 'pocket' garden on the corner of 7th Street and Watson Powell, Jr. Way on property owned by Principal in downtown Des Moines. This garden, originally donated to the memory of Russ O'Harra, is now in much need of invigorating. With donations of time, energy, and hosta, and \$150 in engraving cost, the group voted to move forward with this project. Sign-up sheets were available for those willing to help with Eve spearheading the group.

The ROHS website has been improved and updated with assistance from new webmaster, Josh Spece. The cost is \$100 per year plus a monthly fee. Everyone is encouraged to use the site and check for timely information in 'News & Announcements'.

Reldon Ramsey, the editor of the ROHS newsletter, 'Hosta Horizons', announced he is having fun publishing, and can keep the cost down by printing himself versus using commercial printing establishments. However, much more information is available in the electronic newsletter than in the hardcopy so Reldon again urged everyone to take advantage of the website where the newsletters are archived.

Reldon would like to go to as many as four newsletters a year. David Dettmann read from Article 5, Section I of the ROHS Constitution and made a motion to amend the constitution. This passed unanimously. Discussion followed concerning if Reldon was not editor and someone else found four newsletters per year a difficult task. Barry Laws moved to change the wording to read: "No less than three newsletters per year and up to four newsletters at the discretion of the editor." The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

There was a drawing for door prizes donated by Bruce and Trudy Van Wyk, Diana Bedwell, and Eve Vanden Broek.

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary, Teresa Innis

Please!! Update Your Email Address

I also send the information that goes on the ROHS website in 'News & Announcements' directly to members by email. Many email addresses in the database are not current. Please send your current email address to me at rohseeditor@gmail.com.

Thanks!! Reldon



Put on your hosta thinking caps. Rumor has it that there may be a Hosta Quiz related to something in this edition of 'Hosta Horizons' at the fall meeting.

SWMOGardens.com

The creator of the 'Hosta of the Year' word search in this issue is Tom Lakowske. He is the president of the Greater Ozarks Hosta Society in the Springfield, MO area.

Tom has created a very nice website filled with good gardening and landscaping ideas and beautiful pictures of the 'garden rooms' he and his wife, Cathy, have created in their yard. Visit their gardens at www.SWMOGardens.com.

GOHS is an active group serving Southwest Missouri and Northwest Arkansas. They are involved with the gardening community through Springfield's Botanical Garden at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park through the Friends of the Garden. Learn more about GOHS at <http://www.gohs.org/>.

Friends of the Garden has an excellent website showcasing the Botanical Gardens and the many volunteers who contribute their time and talents at the gardens. To see the beautiful gardens and the group's activities, go to <http://www.friendsofthegarden.org/>.

ROHS Garden Tour

Dean and Helen Groeneveld

“Dean & Helen’s Hide-a-way-garden”

A collection of mini kitties in one of Helen’s mini hosta gardens. (right)



Garden accessories from large to small - watering cans & cats, statues, and Dean’s wood & hypertufa creations - filled “Dean & Helen’s Hide-a-way-garden”.

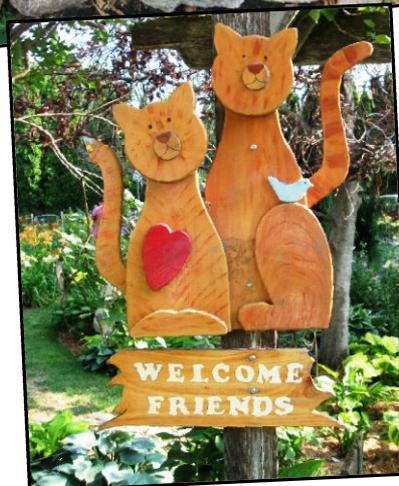


ROHS club members, Gary and Kathy Hoard and Nancy Briggs, arriving at the Groeneveld garden.





Several charming raised miniature hosta beds are featured in the Groeneveld garden.



Hosta 'Rainforest'