



Newsletter of the

*Russ O'Hara Hosta Society*

October 2021

Meeting

Sunday, October 10, 2021

Iowa Arboretum

Noon (Potluck) - 4pm



Access the ROHS website at  
[www.rohs.org](http://www.rohs.org)

The Russ O'Hara Hosta Society is an educational society open to all those interested in the genus Hosta. It's 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 shell be in keeping with those of the American Hosta Society.

Welcome to All

It was very pleasant to visit with everyone, enjoy good food and exchange Hostas at the July meeting.

October 10th meeting is scheduled 12 noon – 4pm at the Iowa Arboretum. Bring your favorite dish for the potluck. Gather at noon; eat at 12:30 pm; tidy up and meeting. This is a good time to invite a friend to join us in October. Covid 19 established gardening as a therapy as individuals spent their time at home. We can gain friends and increase membership by sharing our Gardening Friendship.

Tyler Johnson, Curator of Collections and Grounds, will present an update on Iowa Arboretum since the derecho and provide vision of gardens that will be added/updated. Some work on Hosta areas have been started to identify, relabel, and establish replacement needs.

Since our last meeting several members dug, transported, and replanted Hosta from the Pocket Garden located at a Principle Building in Des Moines. There will be more information on agenda.

Our meeting agenda will revisit some topics from last meeting: 2023 AHS Convention; Membership; 2022 ROHS Tour; Vice President needed. Please give some thought to these topics and bring your ideas, suggestions, and thoughts for an open discussion. ROHS can and should move forward with plans to grow, to education, and to promote our community.

If you have suggestion for agenda item, please let me know ahead of meeting.

Come and enjoy lunch on Sunday, October 10 th at the Iowa Arboretum. Bring a friend or member.

Peggy Moody, President

### **Business Meeting**

Gathering at the Iowa Arboretum , President Peggy Moody called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m. President Moody requested everyone present introduce themselves and where they were from.

### **Officers Report**

Secretary – Minutes of the 2019 fall meeting were published in the newsletter and on the website. Motion to approve the minutes as published was made by David Moody and seconded by Diane Bidwell. All ayes.

Treasurer – David Dettmann reported a current balance of \$8,097.28.

Minimal expense and income throughout 2020, as no meetings with the Covid 19 issue. No membership renewal charge for 2020, therefore, all members are paid through 2021 and some beyond.

Expenses include \$220.00 for website and maintenance; \$75.00 for Iowa Arboretum membership renewal; \$260.00 for liability insurance; \$250.00 for Ted Davidson scholarship; \$100.00 room rental; \$267.00 for newsletter expense; \$91.30 liability; interest earned \$47.30.

Treasurer's report subject to audit prior to approval.

### **Old Business**

We still need a Vice President. If no member is nominated, appointed or volunteers for this position prior to our fall meeting, a committee will need to be formed to plan the annual auction and tour, which is normally the charge of the Vice President.

SOMEONE PLEASE COME FORWARD FOR THIS POSITION. Thank you for doing so.

### **New Business**

Mary O'Harra, daughter of Russ, contacted David Dettmann to thank the Club for keeping her Dad's organization alive.

A virtual AHS meeting took place within the last year.

Membership questions included were do we have a source to know how many contacts we receive on our website and multiple other questions. One response was to contact website coordinator, Josh Spece, at [josh@inthecountrygardenandgifts.com](mailto:josh@inthecountrygardenandgifts.com) for answers and updates. Peggy Moody volunteered to contact Josh to confirm how he is receiving information for the website at present. Is he satisfied with present procedure or would he recommend any changes for more timely updates. Members comments/questions should go through Peggy.

We had discussion of a new brochure as our current one is several years old. Dorothy Lewis volunteered to do a draft of an updated brochure for presentation to the next club meeting. Also discussion of having business cards printed. Motion was made by Kris Jurik to get going on brochures and business cards. Seconded by Ellen Glasgow. All ayes.

Roderick Simmons contacted President Peggy Moody and conversations with Treasurer David Dettmann concerning an O'Harra Hosta named for him, with his concern of said Hosta no longer in existence and that if located he wanted a piece of the Hosta (a long and interesting story) of which there are several of Roderick in existence.

A ROHS charter member, Joseph Clay, passed away.

Discussion was held for the possibility of establishing a guardianship memorial to the Iowa Arboretum for passing members, in the amount of \$250.00 annually for the maintenance of Hosta gardens, which would include correct labeling, weeding and whatever else might be needed. Motion was made by Ann Borwick on guardianship memorial. Seconded by Kris Jurik. All ayes.

Don Draper and Kris Jurik, Co-Chairs, spoke of the American Hosta Society Convention to be held June 6 - 11, 2023, at Ames. They discussed of some decisions already in place with many yet to come, and they will keep us informed as things progress. Request for members to volunteer in the assistance of the actual convention dates. Tammy Jordan is the Vice President of the American Hosta Society.

Let us all put on our thinking hats so we all attend our fall meeting with fresh and new ideas of programs and activities for ROHS club for next year.

A suggestion for the next level was to possibly alternate National convention every other year and one of the Regional Hosta Societies every other year instead of both within the same year every year.

### **Speaker**

No speaker scheduled.

Next meeting scheduled on October 10, 2021, at Iowa Arboretum.

President Moody adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

After adjournment a Hosta exchange was performed.

Marilyn P. Gliem

Secretary

Ellen O'Harra Hill also contacted David and sent thanks to the club for maintaining her dad's hosta legacy.

## **Reminder about changes to Member Dues**

\$10.00 yearly or \$25.00 for three years

Year on mailing label or email is year dues are paid through (no dues for 2021 ).

# ROHS Officers

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## New Members

(sponsored by Piney Ridge)

Shelby Paisley  
Ankeny

Sherry Swihart  
Des Moines

TO: Russ O'Harra Hosta Society members:

As you may have heard, the Russ O'Harra Hosta Society (ROHS) has been offered the opportunity to host the American Hosta Society National Convention in 2023. What follows is background information and an update about this exciting opportunity.

Approximately two years ago, Bob Solberg, a nationally known hosta hybridizer and lecturer, recommended central Iowa as a national convention site. An ad hoc local organizing committee discussed the possibility of a central Iowa convention with Tammy Borden, Vice President of the American Hosta Society, and made inquiries about potential meeting sites. Following the local organizing committee recommendations, AHS has made the following time-sensitive decisions:

- The AHS national convention will be held June 6 – 10, 2023
- Headquarters for the convention will be the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center in Ames

Early convention planning with the national society is underway. The 2023 AHS national convention will follow the overall format of previous conventions with motivating speakers, tours of inspiring gardens, outstanding hosta shows and clinics, offerings of the latest plants and accessories from vendors, and lots of stimulating conversations. The convention's uniquely Iowa flavor will come from choices and decisions made by a dedicated local team of leaders and volunteers. We hope that ROHS will be the leading host organization and that ROHS members like you will step up with your time and talent to make this an AHS convention to remember!

A list of potential benefits, responsibilities, and considerations relevant to hosting the convention is attached and will be presented and discussed at the ROHS Fall meeting on Sunday, October 10, at the Iowa Arboretum. We hope to see you there and encourage you to vote affirmatively to officially accept the challenge for the Russ O'Harra Hosta Society to be acknowledged as the primary host organization for the AHS 2023 National convention.

To see what an AHS national convention involves, please visit the AHS website at <https://www.americanhostasociety.org/Activities/Conventions.htm>

Sincerely,

Don Draper and Kris Jurik, co-chairs  
AHS 2023 Local Organizing Committee

### AHS National Convention Hosting Benefits and Responsibilities

Being an AHS National Convention host will require a commitment of time and expertise from ROHS leaders and members, but it is an investment that could bring growth and new life to our organization. As a convention host, ROHS has the opportunity to promote our society at local, regional, and national levels, gain new members, reinvigorate the enthusiasm of existing members, demonstrate the expertise of central Iowa hosta growers, and exhibit the beauty of our gardens.

### Opportunities to Promote ROHS and Enhance Local, Regional, and National Recognition

- Recognition as a 2023 Host organization at 2022 AHS conference and in marketing and social media before the 2023 event
- Co-promotion on 2023 conference website and ROHS website
- ROHS name on signage and print materials used throughout the event
- A separate table in the 2023 Registration Area to promote ROHS activities and membership
- Recognition as hosts for Hostality sessions at the conference

### ROHS Host responsibilities

- Volunteer for leadership positions
- Participate in planning and coordination
- Attend meetings as necessary
- Volunteer to help at Conference activities and recruit others to volunteer as needed
- Help recruit gardens for tours and assist garden hosts when asked
- Host Hostality events

### Financial Considerations for ROHS as the Host Organization

- AHS assures that local societies/hosts will not incur a financial loss relative to the convention
- ROHS may receive a share of income from registrations. The specific amount will depend on the AHS board and the number of hosts participating
- ROHS can receive net funds from sales of conference T-shirts or other items the Society sells at the conference (not a strong money-maker)
- The conference will have a bank account separate from ROHS; the conference bank account will use the AHS non-profit organization EIN
- AHS receives proceeds from the conference Auction and Vendor commissions
- AHS will provide upfront funding for 2023 conference expenses before conference registration income. ROHS may grant upfront funds to support the conference and our activities during the conference, e.g., design and printing of T-shirts or purchases of foods for Hostality sessions

### Additional Benefits for ROHS Leaders and Volunteers

- Meet and learn from AHS leaders and other experts
- Work with and learn about other ROHS members
- Experience working at a national level conference
- Gain recognition for ROHS members who choose to engage in regional or national AHS leadership
- Recognition of members' gardens and hosta expertise
- Unique conference volunteer SWAG (special T-shirt, hat, etc.) if budgeted