

Hosta Horizons

Newsletter of the

Russ O'Harra Hosta Society

Sunday April 12, 2026



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.

Noon – 4:00 pm

Set up at 11:30am and bring a dish to share

Potluck

Warren County Lodge # 53
1606 W 2nd Avenue (Highway 92)
Indianola, IA 50125

DATES TO REMEMBER

Spring Meeting, April 12, 2026. Noon to 4:00 pm.
Warren County Lodge # 53
1606 W 2nd Avenue, Indianola IA

ROHS Summer Tour and Auction, June 7, 2026.
Details inside

[AHS Annual Convention](#), June 10 – 13, Dublin, Ohio

[Midwest Regional Hosta Convention](#), July 9-11 2026,
Madison (WI) Marriott South Hotel

Iowa State Fair Hosta Leaf Show, August 16, 2026

ROHS Fall Meeting, October 11, 2026
Iowa Arboretum and Gardens.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I admit it.

I'm more anxious than usual for spring this year. Maybe it's how long the winter has seemed, or maybe it's those early, dizzying weather fluctuations (7 degrees on Sunday and 75 degrees by the end of the week and 90 degrees the following week!) There is something to the meme that lists Iowa's seasons as: "Winter, Fools Spring, Second Winter, Fake Spring*, Third Winter, Actual Spring, Summer, False Fall, Second Summer, Actual Fall."

It's also possible my anxiousness to work in the yard comes from listening to the Jason Mraz song, "Back to the Earth." [Click here](#) if you want to hear these words that resonate with me:

"Whenever my head starts to hurt
Before it goes from bad to feeling worst
I turn off my phone
I get down low
I put my hands in the dirt

I try to stop the world from moving so fast
Try and get a grip on where I'm at
To simplify this dizzy life
And get my feet in the grass."

Another indication of my anxiousness for spring is that I have made an actual prioritized list of springtime garden tasks.
I'm ready to get started.

There is a plethora of things to look forward to as the seasons change. See announcements elsewhere for our Spring Meeting, the return of the Summer Tour and Auction, the Annual AHS Convention in Ohio, and a bigger and better Hosta Leaf Show at the Iowa State Fair. Of course, there are our own gardens to plan and expand with new Hostas to plant, weeds to control, mulch to spread, and divisions to make for our plant sale and other pass-along opportunities. It's a busy season ahead. Are you ready? See you soon!

*The term "fake spring" may have first described plants being fooled into breaking dormancy early by rapidly rising temperatures. People are fooled, too, as witnessed by college students wearing shorts and tee shirts on campus in January or February.

RENEWALS: 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!

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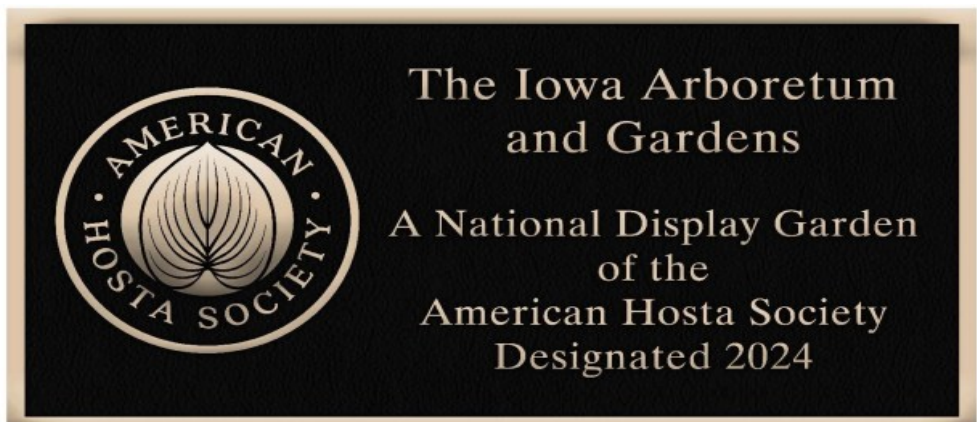
ROHS SPRING MEETING.
APRIL 12, 2026. NOON – 4:00 PM.

Warren County Lodge
1606 W 2nd Avenue (Highway 92)
Indianola, IA

We are pleased to invite you, your family, and friends to the ROHS 2026 Spring Meeting. The meeting will be held in Indianola, IA at the Warren County Lodge, 1606 W 2nd Avenue. The Lodge is on the north side of Highway 92, 1.3 miles west of Highway 65.

Members of the Ackworth Garden Club, (our collaborator for the Summer Tour) are invited to join us. ROHS will supply beverages, plates, cups and eating utensils. Please bring a potluck dish to share.

Presentations: Update from our Summer Tour partners, the Ackworth Garden Club, and a roundtable discussion about hosta sources.



SUMMER TOUR AND AUCTION

Barry Laws

Get ready for the 2026 Russ O'Hara Hosta Society/Ackworth Garden Club Summer Garden Tour/Plant Auction, June 7, 2026.

This year we will have 4 gardens to tour, 2 are members of the Ackworth Garden Club members, 1 Russ O'Hara Hosta Society member and 1 public garden.

The tour will start at 8am and begin in Des Moines at the garden of

Garden #1

Joan Ferry, 3305 EP True Parkway, Unit 301, West Des Moines.

All donations of plants for the Auction need to be brought to this garden for drop off.

Maps and directions to the other 3 gardens (all in or near Indianola) will be available, before we gather at the Lake Ahquabi State Park shelter house

Lake Ahquabi State Park is located south of Indianola for Lunch and the Auction at Noon.

Things to know about the day

- 1) A catered box lunch will be available by reservation for \$15.
- 2) **Complete the Lunch Registration form** (2nd attachment in your email) and send it and your payment to Ellen by May 15th! One lunch registration per person. Stay tuned for more details.
- 2) If you can carpool, please do, that way there will be fewer vehicles at the gardens since they are in residential neighborhoods.
- 3) Bring your plant donations to the first garden. Please limit donations to 2 or 3 items, we are expecting a larger number and variety of plants since we will have two clubs participating. We will auction the donations randomly, but each Club will get the proceeds for the donations from their members.
- 4) The tour will begin at 8am in Des Moines and we will gather at Noon at the **Beach Shelter**, Lake Ahquabi State Park for the meal and Auction to follow.

16510 118th Avenue, Indianola, IA.

From Indianola head south on Hwy 69 ~ 6 miles

Turn right onto G58. This will then come to a four way stop with the park entrance.

Enter and follow the signs to the Beach-Boat Rental.

Parking will be available above the shelter.

There are three sections to park and will be shared with the general public.

- 5) Recommend you bring Lawn Chairs to be comfortable during the Auction.

IOWA STATE FAIR HOSTA LEAF SHOW

After the success of the first Iowa State Fair Hosta Leaf Show last year, it's time to plan ahead for the 2026 State Fair. Final details about the show are in the Iowa State Fair Exhibitor Guide (www.iowastatefair.org), released online April 1, 2026.

DATE: Sunday, August 16, 2026

CLASSES: Three Hosta Leaves of the Same Variety; Single Hosta Leaf

SUBCLASSES: Miniature, Small, Medium, Large/Extra Large

A new potted Hosta contest will be included in 2026.

Each entry must be a single plant in a pot no larger than 12 inches high by 16 inches wide.

JUDGING: The State Fair competition is NOT an American Hosta Society accredited leaf show, though judging in 2025 was guided by the AHS guidelines.

PRIZES: Ribbons and premiums will be provided by the State Fair Board. ROHS will provide a complimentary one-year ROHS membership for each non-member exhibitor, and a one-year membership extension for an ROHS member placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd (one membership extension per person).

FALL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT. HOLD THE DATE!

Our Fall ROHS meeting will be held October 11, 2026 at the Iowa Arboretum and Gardens. We will start at noon with our usual deliciously diverse potluck lunch, with special guest speaker to follow. The Fall Meeting speaker will be Aaron Steil, Iowa State University Statewide Consumer Horticulture Extension Specialist, speaking on Ferns for Iowa Gardens. Aaron says "Ferns are fascinating and there are so many that are great garden plants and native to Iowa."

Secretary Report for October 12, 2025

31 present

Guest speaker Danny Lawson, Editor of the AHS Journal.

Wants Hosta's no one has like Spooky Harry's Skeleton.

Visits display gardens. Next year is the 50th anniversary of the Midwest Region. Danny has been collecting fresh photos of hostas in the gardens.

Dubuque may have most varieties in a garden.

2026 National meeting will be in Dublin, OH. Midwest in Madison WI. 2029 Wichita is hosting both.

www.hostaalley.com is a website with Drone Photos of hostas.

Members went outside the Arboretum to dedicate the plaque naming the Arboretum a national display garden of the American Hosta Society.

The meeting started at 2:14 pm

Addition or corrections to the minutes—None

Treasure's report was provided by David Dettmann,

Membership Notes: Barry, Andrew, & Tom all received Trowels for being new members.

Botanical Garden—Does the club want to have a small Booth?

Midwest Regional Convention—Club will sponsor artist award

Tom & Kris won Best of Show.

Iowa State Fair Aug 10, 2025

65 entries

Will be at State Fair in 2026, may split out Small & Miniatures

Tom— New website www.rohs.org

Membership Brochure has been finalized

Barry is VP and look at Indianola area for summer tour and auction

Newsletter has moved to electronic. Approved by Barry & Marilyn. Will decide email or a link.

Door prizes won by Ellen G, Gary H, Don D, Ken D, Dorothy L, Dean K, and Marilyn G.

Roderick donated a Dutchman Pipe to the Arboretum.

Next meeting April 12, 2026 Adjourned 2:41pm

RUSS O'HARRA HOSTA SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP REPORT

March 27, 2026

Memberships are presented by year paid through. The membership list reflects our one new member (WELCOME Tom Johnson from Ames!) and five renewals (THANKS to Ron & Ann Borwick, Audra Wilson, Connie Dingeman, Frank & Ellen Glasgow, & Curt & Cindy Schultz), and one year membership extensions awarded to ROHS members who entered at the 2025 Iowa State Fair Hosta Leaf Show (Borwick, Lewis, Jurik, Garles). We attempted to also give a membership to one fair entrant who was not a ROHS member, but contact information has not been available. Enter the 2026 Leaf Show to get your membership extension!

2022 (2): Jill Tobin, Mary Van Berkum.

2023 (6): Joann Barnes, Donna Johnson, Tom Jones, Nola Luebbert, Kathy & Steve Moser, Gwendolyn Miller.

2024 (11): Jean Belzer, Nancy Briggs, Sara Davis, Jane Dawson, Jill Henson, Dyke & Cindy Hicks, Tom Kenney, Kim Nizzi, Kassidy Noble, Kathie O'Harra, Cathi Turner.

2025 (10): Larry & Linda Ertel, Dave & Linda Grieve, Helen Kopitzke, Annie & Bob Kroll, Donna Miller, Peggy Moody, Judi Porhosky, Jackie & Bob Pool, John Schmacker, Traci & Kirk Seltz.

2026 (11): Diana Bedwell, Janine Bennett, Michael & Anita Canney, David & Betsy Dettmann, Lois & Jack Girton, Mary O'Harra, Reldon Ramsey, Roderick Simmons, Lisa Swanson, Sherry Swihart, Donna Yeast.

2027 (17): Denise Augustine, Julie Dotterer, Don & Dee Draper, Robert & Heidi Folkestad, Marilyn Gliem, Skip Hitchcock, Gary & Kat Hoard, Kris & Tom Jurik, Barry Laws & Larry Skellenger, Andrew Lietzow, Anne Lynam, Sheryl Miller, Kenn Outzen & Dean Koob, Cindy Schnoebelen, Curt & Cindy Schultz, Sue Slater, Audra Wilson.

2028 (4): Connie Dingeman, Tom Johnson, Donald & Dorothy Lewis, Ellen O'Harra-Hill.

2029 (2): Ron & Ann Borwick, Frank & Ellen Glasgow.

2030 (0)

2031 (1): Gary Garles & Nancy Wells.

Lifetime (1): Jean Burke O'Harra.

If your membership needs renewal, please do so soon! Please recruit new members! We depend and thrive on an active membership. Thank you.

Submitted by David Dettmann, ROHS Membership/Treasurer, 122 Bluegill Ct.