

Hosta Horizons

Newsletter of the

Russ O'Hara Hosta Society

Sunday April 13, 2025

Noon – 4:00 pm

Potluck

Iowa Arboretum and Gardens
1875 Peach Avenue, Madrid IA



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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Every true Midwesterner said at least once last winter, "Cold enough for you?" Yes. It was. And it has also been cold enough for our *Hosta*'s that need a dormant period under 40 degrees F for up to 2 months each winter. That's reassuring.

But has it been too cold for *Hosta*'s? Probably not. Some resources claim *Hosta*'s can tolerate temperatures as low as -40 degrees F, depending, of course, on variety, location, soil condition, mulch, etc. That's great for *Hosta*'s in the ground, but what about the potted plants that I moved into the garage last November? I'll know soon enough. Sigh.

There are several important items in this newsletter. Read on, and please note details of the spring meeting, our opportunity to advance the *Hosta* collections at the Iowa Arboretum and Gardens, and the exciting announcement of a new, Iowa State Fair *Hosta* leaf show. As we look ahead to the spring meeting, please consider becoming our Society Vice President, volunteering for upcoming events, and suggesting ideas for a summer tour and/or work party.

Thank you for your continued support of ROHS. Think Spring!

Potluck at noon, Bring a dish to share

Bring you work gloves and tools. Workday on the National *Hosta* beds.

Guest Speaker: David McKinney

Curator of Collections and Grounds, Iowa Arboretum and Gardens. *Iowa Arboretum Hosta Collections and Garden Plans; The Search For Iowa Hybridizer Plants.*

Before joining the Iowa Arboretum staff in 2022, David worked as a horticulturist with Colorado Extension and the Denver Zoo.

IOWA STATE FAIR HOSTA LEAF SHOW

We are excited to announce the addition of a Hosta Leaf Show at the 2025 Iowa State Fair (subject to final State Fair Board approval in April).

Thank you to ROHS members for your encouraging discussion at the ROHS fall meeting and to the ad hoc Leaf Show Task Force for making what was a vague idea 6 months ago a reality. Please express our gratitude to the Task Force members: Frank Glasgow, Gary Garles, David Dettmann, Larry Skellenger, and Barry Laws.

Iowa State Fair Hosta Leaf Show Classes (subject to approval)

A single leaf presented in vases provided by the State Fair

1. Miniature and small leaf - 2 to 4 inches wide at widest point
2. Medium leaf - 4 to 6 inches wide
3. Large and extra large leaf - greater than 8 inches wide

Prizes will be as follows:

First place in each class will receive a hosta from Kat's Gardens, Kathy Hoard.

Second place will receive a \$20 gift certificate from Quilted Gardens Nursery.

Third place will receive a \$15 gift certificate from Bedwell Gardens.

All first, second, and third place winners will receive a complimentary one year membership or extension to the Russ O'Harra Hosta Society, limited to one extension or membership per person.

This is not a sanctioned Hosta leaf show accredited by the American Hosta Society (AHS). It will be a judged demonstration/competition of single leaves with horticulture judges provided by the Iowa State Fair. This is a new event that will be sponsored by ROHS and give us the opportunity to promote Hosta's, introduce the public to the wide variety of our favorite plant, and increase our membership.

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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IOWA ARBORETUM AND GARDENS HOSTA COLLECTION EXPANSION

From David McKinney, Curator of Collections and Grounds.

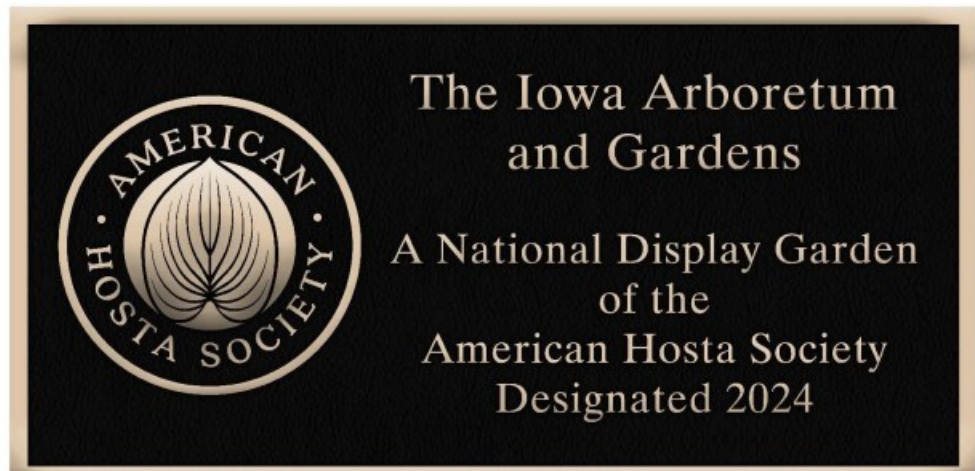
“Now that the Iowa Arboretum & Gardens has been recognized as an American Hosta Society National Display Garden, I'm hoping to continue to expand and improve our Hosta collections. While we do have several hundred varieties already, there is plenty of room for more!

“My curatorial goals for the Hosta's specifically revolve around the Iowa Hosta Collection started in 1994. When the garden was relocated and expanded in 2002 and again in 2018, Hosta's from hybridizers across the state were added to compliment the work of O'Harra and the ROHS. The O'Harra collection is well represented (although not complete of course), but several other Iowa hybridizers have been hard at work these last couple decades adding hundreds of their own varieties to the market (as you very well know).

“I am specifically looking to curate collections of plants from Iowa hybridizers and need some help.”

David's list of Iowa Hybridizers is on our website and includes the list of hostas desired for the Arboretum collections. See <https://www.rohs.org/about-1>

A list of all living Iowa Hosta varieties currently at the Arboretum can be found here: <https://iowaarboretum.org/ourplants/iowahostagarden/>



GREATER DES MOINES BOTANICAL GARDEN
2025 SPRING GARDEN MARKET. MAY 8 - 10

Preliminary plans are underway for ROHS to again provide an informational booth at the GDBG Spring Garden Market, an outdoor plant sale and springtime celebration. ROHS will display Hosta's and information about Hosta's and our Society on Friday, May 9, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Stay tuned for more information, or contact David Dettman to volunteer or request more information.

AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY e-NEWSLETTER

The American Hosta Society (AHS) publishes an electronic newsletter 4 times per year. The January 2025 newsletter is available at <https://americanhostasociety.org/resources/publications/>

The AHS eNewsletter is free. View past newsletters and subscribe at <https://americanhostasociety.org/resources/publications/>

ROHS Membership Report

As of **February 5, 2025**, the ROHS membership rolls show 30 members with dues paid through at least **December 31, 2025**, and 28 members who will hopefully renew their membership. Membership status is paid through the end of the following years:

2022: Jill Tobin, Mary Van Berkum (2)

2023: Donna Johnson, Tom Jones, Nola Luebbert, Gwendolyn Miller, Kathy & Steve Moser, Roderick Simmons, Joann Barnes (7)

2024: Jean Belzer, Nancy Briggs, Sara Davis, Jane Dawson, Don and Dee Draper, Gary Garles & Nancy Wells, Marilyn Gliem, Jill Henson, Dyke & Cindy Hicks, Skip Hitchcock, Kathy & Gary Hoard, Tom Kenney, Helen Kopitzke, Anne Lynam, Kim Nizzi, Cassidy Noble, Robert & Jackie Pool, Curt & Cindy Schultz, Cathi Turner, Audra Wilson (20)

2025: Ron & Ann Borwick, Connie Dingeman, Linda & Larry Eryel, Dave & Linda Grieve, Annie & Bob Kroll, Donna Miller, David & Peggy Moody, Judi Porhosky, John Schmacker, Traci & Kirk Seltz, Donna Yeast (11)

2026: Diana Bedwell, Janine Bennett, Michael & Anita Canney, David & Betsy Dettmann, Lois & Jack Girton, Frank & Ellen Glasgow, Tom & Kris Jurik, Mary O'Harra, Reldon Ramsey, Lisa Swanson, Sherry Swihart. (11)

2027: Robert & Heidi Folkstead, Donald & Dorothy Lewis, Sheryl Miller, Ken Outzen & Dean Koob, Cindy Schnoebelen, Sue Slater. (6)

2028: Ellen Hill-O'Harra. (1)

Lifetime: Joan Burke O'Harra (1)

THANK YOU to all who have current memberships! Renewals will be gladly received by the ROHS Treasurer with much appreciation for your continued support and involvement with the ROHS. Please send payment to David Dettmann, ROHS Treasurer, 122 Bluegill Ct. Pella, IA 50219-7513. Membership rates are a mere \$10/year or \$25/3 years for individual or family memberships. Recruitment of new members is very important, and gifting memberships is also

All members, PLEASE send any changes or corrections in your contact information

(name, address, phone, e-mail).

Thank you!

10/13/24 Minutes of The Russ O'Harra Hosta Society Henry Wallace Community Center in Orient, Iowa

1:10 PM Potluck commenced.

1:15 PM Rob Mortko gave a presentation on 'The Hot Hostas of Tomorrow and Where They Come From'.

2:40 PM Questions from the audience of 25 members. A short stretch break.

2:55 PM Business meeting Call To Order. The Treasurer's Report was passed out in hard copy form. David Dettmann went through the report. Current balance \$3340.24. Motion to accept by Dorothy Lewis, second by Nancy Wells, passed with all Ayes.

David then gave a comprehensive survey of the active members list, numbering 55. Some members renewed their membership. Motion to accept by D Lewis, second by N Wells, passed with all Ayes.

New Webmaster Tom Jurik went thru a presentation of the new website for the society. Josh Spece retired as Webmaster. Host changed to Wix. Tom went through the new features of the Improved site. He specifically requested content from the members. He also stated we average one visit per day right now.

President Donald Lewis reported that the AHS has accepted our application for national display garden status at the Iowa Arboretum. There is currently an effort to determine where the plaque will be located.

Donald is going through a lengthy process of trying to gain admin status for the ROHS Facebook page. It is in Marlys Anderson's name currently. If he is unable to gain control, that page will be retired and a new one started.

The tri-fold membership application was passed out to members on hand. People have 2 weeks to input any changes needed, then they will be printed as is for distribution.

We must elect a Vice President to satisfy the bylaws of the society. Donald asked for volunteers, and seeing none, entertained the thought of drafting someone for the job. The Vice President's job is to help the President out as needed.

Former ROHS President Barry Laws has spoken with Frank Glasgow about a potential involvement in a new Iowa State Fair competition: A Hosta cut leaf show. Everyone generally agreed that this is worth pursuing. Positives include increased exposure of the society, increased membership of the society, forwarding knowledge of the genus Hosta, and the fun involved in displaying leaves at a show.

Frank and Donald Lewis formed a committee to investigate further.

Next meeting April 13, 2025, Iowa Arboretum. Food, a speaker, and some quality time working in the new National Display Garden are on tap. Also dedication of the new plaque, perhaps. Door prizes won by Dave Dettmann and Anne Lynam (Hosta 'Iowa Dreamin", and Cindy Schnoebelen (Hosta table runner- 'You can't kill it' she said). Oh, and did I mention it was WINDY?

Adjournment at 3:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Gary Garles, Secretary