



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By the time you read this, our first Garden Walk of the year will be history but the good news is that there are still Hostality Walk-Abouts in June, July, and August. In addition, we have a Cut Leaf Exhibit at the Morton Arboretum in early July, and the Mid West Hosta Convention nearby in the Milwaukee is also in July. Of course, the bus trip is also in July, but if you have not already reserved a seat, you are out of luck. The message here is that there are plenty of NIHS activities happening in the next few months. You can wring the last drop of value from your membership by attending all or at least most of them.

For some time, I have been thinking that it would be nice if we had a shirt with the NIHS logo for people to wear at some of our functions. In January, I had two samples of polo type shirts made up with an embroidered NIHS logo on the chest. The shirt I selected was 100% Pima cotton and it comes in Navy, Black, Sunray Yellow, Stone (tan), and White for men. For women, the colors are French Blue(not as dark as Navy), Stone, White, and Raspberry. Prices are the same for men's and women's sizes (S, M, L & XL) at \$33.16 including tax. Sizes from XXL through 4XL are \$36.41 including tax.



It is a well-made shirt. The set-up charge has been satisfied so there is no prorated charge for that. I will collect orders through the end of June and then take them in to EmbroidMe to have the shirts made up. If you are interested send me a check (made out to me) and be sure to include men's or women's, size, and color choice. The embroidery thread on my shirt is dark green but they will use other thread such as white but it must be specified in the order or the thread will be dark green. You will have to make arrangements to pick them up here or just ask me to bring yours to one of the functions previously mentioned.

Most of us are finally getting the rain we were denied last year so this should be a great year for our hostas.

Lou Horton

2006 ACTIVITIES

June 11	Hostality Walk-About – Garden Visit
June 14-17	American Hosta Society Convention, Philadelphia, PA
June 25	Hostality Walk-About – Garden Visit
July 1-2	Leaf Exhibit & Plant Sale, Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL
July 9	Hostality Walk-About – Garden Visit
July 14-15	Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention, Milwaukee, WI
July 22	Bus Tour, Members and Guests, NW Indiana
August 6	Hostality Walk-About – Garden Visit
August 20	Plant Auction, Hinsdale, IL, Public Invited
September 10	Hosta Pot Luck & Annual Meeting
December 10	Holiday Party –

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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NEW MEMBERS

Andy & Kathy Mckendrick, Western Springs
Jeanne Engel, Naperville
Martha Belew, Wauconda
Donald & Jane Johnson, Bartlett
Glenda Carlson, Lake Zurich
Cathy & Ken Meng, Lake Bluff

WELCOME!!!

Hostality Walk-About Garden Visits June 11th, June 25th, July 9th, & August 6th

June 11th at Dee Brown's garden in Palos Hills, 1:00 – 5:00. Dee is hosting a garden walk for the four garden clubs that she belongs to, and invites all NIHS members to join her as well. Dee emphasizes that this is the last garden walk that she intends to host, so this will be your last chance to see her 'Country Garden'. Dee's garden won the 1st Place Prize Award for "Most Beautiful Garden in Palos Hills in 2005." Dee didn't even know she was in the running.

A tent will be set up, refreshments & snacks will be served, to make for a most enjoyable day. **YA ALL COME NOW !!!!!**

Dee's garden includes over 600 registered hostas, plus an estimated thousand seedlings. In addition, there are also many interesting companion plants. Dee belongs to five hosta societies, which further demonstrates her devotion (addiction?) to hostas. Dee uses a very unusual piece of garden equipment – a Bobcat. This makes the project of mulching the garden a lot easier. Dee is planning on getting rid of the Bobcat, however. She's going to trade it in on a bigger model!

Driving Directions: The destination is 11030 Eastwood Drive in Palos Hills. From the 95th Street exit on I-294, proceed east on 95th Street to Harlem Avenue (Route 43) and turn right (south). Proceed 1.1 mi. to Southwest Highway (Route 7) and turn right. Proceed .9 mi. to 111th Street and turn right. Then turn right on Eastwood Drive and go to 11030. Please park in the church parking lot across the street.



June 25th at John & Ellen Van Ostrand's garden in Hawthorn Woods, 2:00 – 5:00. Ellen and I are both gardeners, but with somewhat different approaches to gardening. In order to relieve the potential strain of two cooks in the same kitchen, we have largely divided the property into *his* and *hers* garden areas. You can tell them apart by counting the number of plant nametags in any of the gardens. I prefer to label the plants in my garden, while Ellen does not.

We garden on approximately 1½ acres, about fifteen percent of which is typically under water in the far rear yard. The yard itself forms an odd four-sided figure with no two sides even remotely close in size. The yard is relatively flat from the road to where the house is located, and then falls off toward the water along the rear. The water is not really a lake, although part of it has been dredged out – our part is a shallow wetland. Because of the many trees, we struggle to find enough sun for iris, peony, and daylily beds, all of which both Ellen and I like a lot. There is plenty of shade for hosta, Heuchera, ferns, Epimedium, and other shade plants.

Most of the beds are raised, or at least they were once, having consolidated somewhat over time. As an architect I like lines, not straight lines so much, but curved lines. I draw lines with plants. I also like the appearance of motion in the garden layout. I think a lot about how the garden shapes fit together and where each plant should be located to enhance or define the shape and its color. The gardens in the rear yard are designed to be seen from the balcony that runs along the rear of the house. There are a lot of baby hostas along with a few old fogies. I like to develop new plants – that is how I manage to keep on gardening all winter long. We have numerous hosta seedlings and sports. If you look carefully, you will see quite a few unique plants; that is, it may be the only one in existence, although in some cases I have managed to propagate a few. Ellen's gardens are more varied in the plant material, and she prefers to garden generally in the sunnier areas. I only wish she would let me put plant markers on them so I would know what it is she is growing.

Driving Directions: The destination is 21 Robin Crest Road in Hawthorn Woods. Go north on I-290/Route 53 and exit westbound on Lake Cook Road. Proceed .7 mi. to Rand Road (Rt 12) and turn right. Proceed 1.5 mi. to Quentin Road and turn right. Proceed 3.7 mi. to Old McHenry Road and turn left. Proceed 1.3 mi. to Acorn Drive and turn left. Proceed .6 mi. to Robin Crest Road and turn left. Proceed to 21.

July 9th This is a “two-fer” opportunity to see two wonderful city gardens located just ten minutes apart:

Dave & Lori Whitney's garden in Homewood 2:00 – 5:00. One of the things my wife, Lori, and I loved about our house at first sight in 1975 was the small (50 x 180) but interesting yard. The prior owner had dedicated 20 years to developing the garden, so it was easy for us to get the gardening bug. She had planted many trees and shrubs (many of which are still thriving), ivy ground cover, spring bulbs of various daffodils, some perennials and wildflowers. As trees grew to provide more shade or died leaving sunnier patches, we added or moved plants accordingly to adapt to the growing conditions. My interest in growing vegetables and colorful annuals gradually changed to include perennials and grasses.

From the beginning I had ignored the few common hostas growing in the yard, but about 12 years ago Bernie and Jeff Postlewaite gave me "Big Mama". For 2 or 3 years I watched it grow larger and then I said to myself, "I should start looking for different varieties". My first hosta purchase was Gold Standard (which is still to this day one of my top favorites). Then each spring I would go into search mode and buy more hostas, and before long I was thinking about hostas when I went to sleep and first thing in the morning when I woke up. Now there are well over a hundred varieties growing in ever-widening beds to provide room for more and more hostas!

We also enjoy a wide variety of perennials, annuals, container plants and houseplants that summer outside. Now that we are retired, it allows me to spend many more hours gardening, and I can think of few things I enjoy more in life.

Jeff & Bernie's Postlewaite's garden in Markham 2:00 – 5:00. When Bernie and Jeff purchased their house from Bernie's parents 25 years ago, the 1/3rd acre lot was primarily used for storage. Building materials, auto parts, and pens for dogs, chickens, pigeons, Chinese pheasants, and rabbits littered the yard. And there was a lot of cement. The years since have seen the removal of structures, incorporation of much new plant material, and a great deal of experimentation to find a gardening style that fit them and the space. What has evolved from that process is a yard with much privacy provided by hedges and trellises. A grass path meanders around the house revealing garden “rooms” that make the yard seem larger than it is. Two large pines provide the roof for one such room, offering opportunities for several large hosta, Japanese anemone, and ferns highlighted by

a shady rock garden. There's an enormous Paul's Glory hosta that is a sight to behold.

A wide grass path on the sunny side of the yard circles around a large arbor and is the site of a wide variety of daylilies, cranesbill geraniums, clematis, and much more. Jeff's long involvement with the Midwest Fruit Explorers (www.midfex.org) is evident in the number and variety of fruit to be found. Thirty varieties of apples are espaliered on trellises behind the vegetable garden. Asian pear, plum, pawpaw, raspberries, blackberries, strawberries, gooseberries, blueberries, grapes, hazel nuts and a fig are all part of the landscape. Fig trees are not hardy in zone 5, so have Jeff explain what he does to winter over his 15-foot specimen.

Driving Directions: The destinations are:

For Whitney, 18429 Clyde Ave. in Homewood

For Postlewaite, 16335 Central Park in Markham.

To reach either garden, exit the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) at 159th Street, then proceed .7 mi. west to Kedzie, and turn left (south).

- To get to the Whitney garden – from the intersection of 159th Street & Kedzie, continue south on Kedzie to 183rd Street and turn left. Proceed .7 mi. to Argyle Ave. and turn right. Go to Clyde Ave. and turn right. Proceed to 18429.
- To get to the Postlewaite garden – from the intersection of 159th Street & Kedzie, continue south on Kedzie to 163rd Street and turn right. Proceed .5 mi. to Central Park and turn left. Proceed to 16335.
- To get from one garden to the other, simply return to Kedzie and follow the appropriate directions.

August 6th at Ken & Lory Harris' garden in St. Charles, 2:00 – 5:00. It's hard to believe that when Ken and Lory purchased their home 11 years ago, there wasn't a gardener in the family. Most of the property had been left in its natural state, with some wild flowers and bulbs peeking through the underbrush. Approximately 4 years ago, Ken was reborn with a passion for gardening. Lory's contribution to the garden is a burgeoning collection of whimsical garden art that often catches one off guard while wandering through the yard.

With so much shade in the yard, hostas seemed a natural choice among the trees. What has evolved is a love affair for the shade-flourishing plants that dot the yard with green, blue, yellow and white leaves, and bloom with graceful, slender white and lavender flowers. Initial thoughts that hostas came in a few varieties proved highly inaccurate. Over 1,200 varieties of hostas are labeled throughout the yard, with many more possibilities yet to join them. Some of the hostas are grouped into gardens based on the names of the plants. There is a prayer garden, a military garden and a quilting garden at present, with more to follow.

Grace and whimsy intersperse in the garden with the sunlight that winks through the green canopy of established trees. In sunnier sections of the yard, many varieties of daylilies add cheerful splashes of color. A smaller collection of unique conifers stand as sentinels over the acre-plus lot.

Numerous rock walled beds serve to terrace the yard and provide niches for many varieties of plants. The lower deck holds a pergola over a gardening bed that serves both as the family's vegetable garden and a starter area for new plants. A 100-foot dry creek spills down from the deck, meandering through the woods for visual interest.

Driving Directions: The destination is 4N221 Ferson Creek Road in St. Charles. From the Randall Road exit on I-90, proceed south 11.1 mi. to Red Haw Lane and turn left. Proceed .4 mi. to Ferson Creek Road and turn left. Proceed to 4N221.

or

From the intersection of Randall Road and Route 64, go north .8 mi. to Red Haw Lane, and turn right. Proceed .4 mi. to Ferson Creek Road and turn left. Proceed to 4N221.

Cut Leaf Exhibit & Plant Sale ~ July 1 & 2

It's getting to be that time of the year for the NIHS Cut Leaf Exhibit and Plant Sale. We have a great new location this year, the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL. The "Arb" has offered us the use of their terrific facilities. Can you just imagine this room filled with a cut leaf exhibit, hundreds of happy hosta hosts and hostesses (try that three times fast!), slide programs, and vendors.



Speaking of vendors, they will be bringing lots of cool plants and setting up in a special area just outside the windows of the exhibit. Unlike previous years, the exhibit will be in the main traffic flow of visitors to the Arboretum. There is a great cafeteria/restaurant on the grounds as well as a snack bar.



We are in need of volunteers for the following dates and times:

- Friday, June 30, 3 pm to 5 pm set up and leaf staging
- Saturday, July 1, 8 am to 5 pm leaf staging and exhibit
- Sunday, July 2, 9 am to 6 pm exhibit and break down

The exhibit will be on Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. If you are an early bird, we really need help on Saturday morning. Donated leaves can be dropped off Friday 3-5 pm or Saturday 8-9 am. Please make sure all leaves are clearly identified – we will not have time to identify leaves during the staging process. If interested in volunteering or selling plants, please contact Jim Morrow at 630-393-3439 or e-mail at morrow6511@sbcglobal.net.

Volunteer Perks:

1. Free parking and entry at Morton Arboretum – volunteer for a couple of hours then enjoy the Arb for the rest of the day!
2. Meet people that also have interests in growing and collecting hostas.

Cut Leaf Exhibit Criteria:

1. Leaves must be from a plant that is 3 years or older. Leaves from an immature plant do not properly show the mature characteristics.
2. Hosta leaf must be clearly named/identified. If the leaf cannot be easily identified, it will not be displayed. Assistance with identification will be available at the show (10am - 4:30pm).
3. In order to have leaves that are as fresh as possible for this 2 day event, they should be submerged in cold water for at least 8 hours prior to the show.
4. Leaves must arrive at Arboretum multi-purpose room from 3 pm to 5 pm Friday evening or 6:30 am to 8 am Saturday morning. This will allow for proper set-up of the leaves.
5. Up to 2 (two) leaves of any given variety will be displayed. In the case that more than 2 leaves are provided of a variety, the leaves that best represent the registration will be exhibited.

Vendor Guidelines:

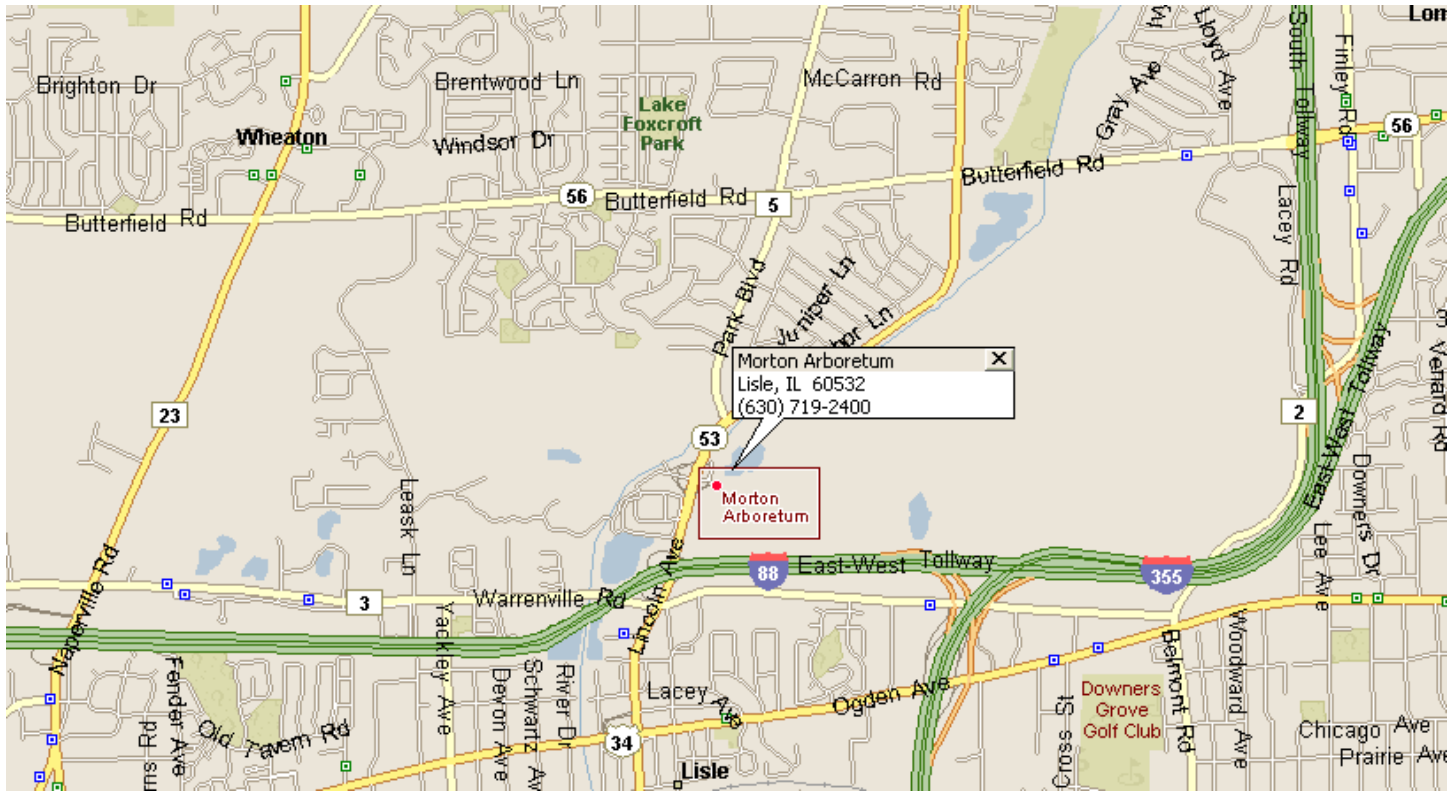
1. Must help with event set up Friday and breakdown Sunday.
2. Provide leaves for cut leaf exhibit.
3. Must be a current club member of Northern Illinois Hosta Society.

Directions:

It's easy to find from westbound I-88, just exit at Route 53 going north.

A bit more difficult from the west – you need to exit I-88 at Naperville Road, turn north to Warrenville Road, then east to Route 53. Turn north on 53 to the Arb's entrance.

From the north or south, use Route 53 to Lisle, or I-355 and be sure to take the I-88 west exit toward Aurora. The Route 53 exit off of I-88 is shortly after leaving I-355. Please call if these directions are unclear.



15 WAYS TO KILL AN ORGANISATION

from “Mineral Chatter”, Official Newsletter of the Mineralogical Society of South Africa

1. Don't attend meetings, but if you do, arrive late
2. Be sure to leave before the meeting is closed
3. Never have anything to say at meetings, wait till you get outside and then talk
4. When at meetings, vote to do anything, then go home and do nothing
5. The next day after the meeting, find fault with the office bearers
6. Take no part in the organizations affairs
7. Be sure to sit in the back row, so you can talk it over with your neighbor during the meeting
8. Take all the organization can give you, but give the organization nothing in return
9. Never invite a new member to take part in anything
10. Talk co-operation but never co-operate
11. At every opportunity when you are not happy, threaten to resign and try to get others to resign with you
12. If asked to help, always say you don't have time, you can't make any or you will be away at that time
13. Never read the newsletter or anything that pertains to the organization, you may become too enlightened and know what is going on
14. Never accept an office bearers position, it is easier to criticize than to help do things for the organization
15. If appointed to a committee, never give any time or service, always find an excuse not to be there

Everything needs a companion, even a hosta

Scientific Name : *Polemonium caeruleum* (po-leh-MOW-nee-um sir-ROO-lee-um)

Common Name : Jacob's Ladder

Zone : 3 - 7

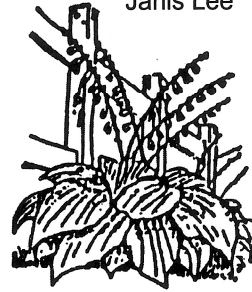
Description : 1.5 to 2 feet tall; leaves 3 to 5 inches long. Pinnately divided leaves resemble rungs on a ladder. Produces clusters of cup- or saucer-shaped flower blooms atop succulent stems. Flowers can be deep blue to white depending upon the variety.

How to Grow : Plant in partial shade to full sun in evenly moist, humus-rich soil. Plants seldom need division.

Landscape Uses : Groundcover. Plant with hosta, ferns, under shrubs or airy flowering trees.

LEE GARDENS

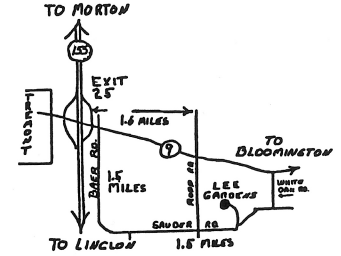
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DIRECTIONS TO TREMONT NURSERY
From the junction of highway routes 9 & 155, go east 1.6 miles on Rt.9 - turn right, go south 1 mile - turn left, go east .5 miles - turn left on lane, gardens and nursery at end of lane.

Contrary Mary's Plants & Designs

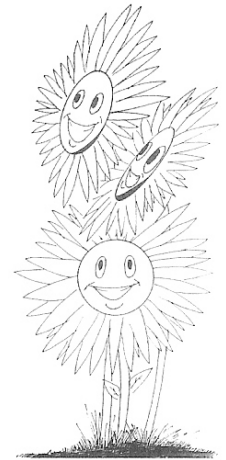
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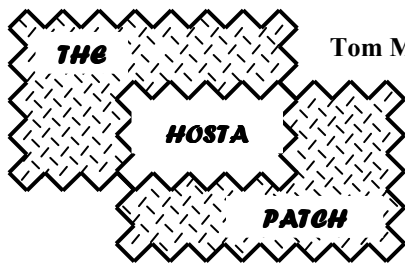
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Hosta Happenings

	Per issue	Per year
Full page	95	250
½ page	60	155
¼ page	35	90
1/6 page	25	65

Send camera-ready copy with your check, made payable to NIHS, to Floyd Rogers, 22W213 Glen Valley Drive, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137.

Editor's Note: -

Thanks to all for the articles for our newsletter. I eagerly accept input for newsletters and encourage all to contribute. The cutoff date for the next issue of *Hosta Happenings* is July 5, 2006. Please contact me by any of the following methods:

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mail

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AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY

If you are not a member of the American Hosta Society, have always wanted to get your copy of The Hosta Journal (published three times each year with many color pictures of Hostas), and you are interested in joining, please write Sandie Markland, 8702 Pinnacle Rock Court, Lorton, VA 22079-3029. Dues are: Individual, \$25 for one year, \$47 for two years, \$65 for three years, Life \$500 single payment; Family, \$29 per year; \$52 for two years, \$75 for three years. Joining AHS will enable you to attend the national conventions in King of Prussia, PA (2006), Indianapolis, IN (2007) and St. Louis, MO (2008).

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society publishes a twice-a-year newsletter and holds an annual convention. To join, send a check for \$10 to Pete Postlewaite, 21172 Andover Rd, Kildeer, IL 60047. The 2006 convention will be held in Milwaukee, WI, Quad Cities in 2007, and Schaumburg, IL in 2008.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS HOSTA SOCIETY

www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org

If you are interested in joining NIHS, please write to Membership, Pete Postlewaite, 21172 Andover Rd, Kildeer, IL 60047 (847) 438-7790. Membership dues are \$20 for two years. Please send membership renewals to Pete at the above address. **Check the expiration date on your label.**

Northern Illinois Hosta Happenings
editor@NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org
June 2006 Newsletter

Floyd Rogers, Newsletter Editor
22W213 Glen Valley Drive
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

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