



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The holiday party at Billie and Sam Childress' home in West Chicago on Sunday, Dec. 2nd will be our last NIHS event for the calendar year. It is a great way to visit with old and new hosta friends one last time before we all get busy with other holiday activities. For those who have not attended before, the meal is a potluck with attendees bringing a side dish, salad, dessert, etc. and the NIHS supplies the entrée which is prepared by the hostess. It is important that those who plan to attend notify the hosts so that the correct number of guests can be anticipated. You can reach the Childresses at 630 231 1791. **Please RSVP no later than Tuesday, the 27<sup>th</sup> of November.**

One feature of the holiday potluck which everyone seems to enjoy is our gift exchange. The gift can be a serious one (please, not too expensive) or a silly white elephant type. The gifts should be wrapped to disguise their identity. People will draw numbers and select gifts without knowing what they are getting. **The gift activity is, of course, strictly optional.**

Looking back on 2007, it was a very good year for the NIHS. Virtually every event was blessed with excellent attendance from the Winter Scientific Meeting in January all the way through all of the Hosta Walks. I am most pleased with the number of relatively new members who are now taking an active part in our activities and even getting involved as members of the NIHS Board. In 2008, we will badly need the participation of our full membership if we are to carry off the Midwest Convention we are hosting successfully. It is a major undertaking but an extremely rewarding one. Please mark your calendars for the convention dates of July 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>.

We will again be offering our Sponsor Plant Program through which NIHS members can purchase up to four hostas being custom grown for us as we speak by Q&Z Nursery. Look for specifics in our Spring newsletter. We are still looking for hosts for two Pot Lucks that we hold yearly. One is scheduled for March and the other for September. If you are interested in hosting either one, please contact me or one of the other Board members. Take care; I hope to see you at the Childress home on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Lou Horton

## 2007/2008 ACTIVITIES

December 2	Holiday Party, West Chicago, 1:00 – 4:00
January 19, 2008	Winter Scientific Meeting, Schaumburg
March	Spring Potluck
April	Spring Meeting
May	Hostatality Garden Walk
June	Hostatality Garden Walk
June	American Hosta Society Convention, St. Louis, MO
July 10-13	Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention, Schaumburg, IL
August	Auction
September	Hostatality Garden Walk

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Director-at-Large, Jim Morrow, 3S630 Virginia, Warrenville, IL 60555 (630) 393-3439

## NEW MEMBERS

Ellen Bales, Warrenville  
Steve & Donna Mae Gustavson, Chicago  
Patricia Muth, Westmont  
Lauren McVey Rush, Glen Ellyn  
Mary Burke, Westmont  
Penny Fulkerson, Kildeer  
Carol Stitzer, Chicago  
Susan & Philip Renwick, Glen Ellyn  
Bobbie & Tom Von Lunen, Batavia  
Dorothy Halper, Hickory Hills

**WELCOME!!!**

## 2008 Winter Scientific Meeting

For 16 of its 18 year history, the Northern Illinois Hosta Society has hosted the Winter Scientific Meeting for the Midwest Regional Hosta Society. It has been held in the Chicago area for 17 of its 18 years. This has been one of the premier events of the hosta world. It is heralded as the unofficial kickoff of the hosta season where 150 or more hosta enthusiasts converge on the Chicago area to hear speakers about the latest hosta and gardening information. Over the many years it has been hosted by the NIHS many members have pitched in and helped make the event such a resounding success.

This upcoming event is again in need of volunteers to host the event. The most need is for someone to host the hospitality room where attendees congregate and talk hostas with other attendees and renew friendships with people they see only a few times a year. The hospitality room is one of the highlights of the weekend that attendees look forward to. It is open for attendees on Friday January 18 from 7pm till 11pm, and again on Saturday January 19 from 7pm till 11pm.

The host will need to purchase refreshment items and set them up in the hospitality room, and as items are eaten replenish them. They will also need to put extra items away on Friday and set it up again on Saturday. A budget as well as what type of items to purchase and the quantity are available from previous events so planning is not a difficult assignment.

The biggest need is to be present in the room during the times it is open to attendees. This may be shared between two or more members. If someone is interested in being an integral part of the 2008 WSM please contact me for information. My contact info is in the membership booklet that each member receives in the spring.

Tom Micheletti

## Hostality Walk-About Redux for 2007

There were six garden walks in 2007, with two each in June, July, and August. With a wide range of garden sizes and gardening styles, each garden provided attendees with stimulating ideas for their own gardens. Pleasant weather and gracious garden hosts combined for very enjoyable afternoons socializing with other NIHS members. Garden walks continue to be the most popular NIHS activity.

In June, Dawn Anderson hosted NIHS in her 'Made in the Shade' garden. This wonderful garden did not exist three and a half years ago when Dawn moved in. She started by removing all the grass in the back yard, and then moved most of her plants from her previous home. After adding stone paths and many new trees and shrubs, there are 16 varieties of trees, 40 varieties of shrubs, 350 varieties of perennials, 13 varieties of conifers and 230 varieties of hosta. Dawn's collection of potted hostas graced the patio area.

Also in June, we visited Ellen Michael's garden that sits on an acre, and is surrounded by mature oak trees. Understory trees and shrubs include Japanese Maples, Redbuds, Hemlocks, Tri-Color Beech, Oak Leaf Hydrangeas, and a Korean Maple. There are over 200 hosta cultivars, many of which are large mature specimens. Notable are Richland Gold, Regal Splendor, Krossa Regal, Eola Blue Sapphire, Big Daddy, Hirao Majesty, Rising Sun, Slick Willie, Mikawa-No-Yuk, and a massive Elatior.

July featured two splendid gardens on city lots. The first was the garden Bob Gottlieb. Bob first became acquainted with hostas twelve years ago, and now has a total of over 200 hostas, with more than 180 different varieties. In addition to hostas, Bob also has heuchera, heucherella, brunnera, astilbe, pulmonaria, and many other shade perennials in his garden. Bob also invited guests to view his very interesting collection of kaleidoscopes, including a unique garden kaleidoscope.

The second July garden walk was hosted by Sam & Andi Solomon. Situated under mature shade trees, the Solomons' rear yard garden is devoid of grass, with stone paths that attractively wind their way through the entire yard in such a way that the viewer wonders what may be around the next bend. The garden includes 135 varieties of hostas, along with a diverse mixture of companion plants including some stunning coleus, caladiums, ornamental grasses, and elephant ears.

August capped the season with two very different gardens. The rear yard of Peggy Knight's city-lot-size garden has an enormous maple tree that acts as a "living umbrella" over a pond and water garden featuring a number of water plants, and surrounded by Solomon's Seal and Hostas. Companion shade plants include ferns, astilbe, ligularia, iris, lilies, and thalictrum. Outside the "umbrella" in full sun is a Xeriscape garden that includes varieties of sempervivum, grasses, and sedum, along with a few favorite vegetables

The second August garden was that of Billie & Sam Childress, located on five acres of partially wooded ground at the end of a quiet street. The trees are a highlight of the property, being numerous and mature. Oaks, Lindens, and Walnuts, as well as many understory trees including Dogwoods and Redbuds, grace the property and shade the meandering paths leading to the various garden rooms to be discovered. There are many well-grown hostas, accompanied by a large number of native and non-native shade perennials.

Anyone who missed attending any of these events (or attendees who want to relive the experience) can view photos from these garden walks that have been posted on the **Photo Album** page of the NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org web site.

We have another wonderful series of gardens scheduled for next year. Be sure to check the spring newsletter for details.

## Winter Scientific Meeting Seed Auction

One more reason to come to the Winter Scientific Meeting is the third annual seed auction. If you have grown hostas from seed, it is a rare opportunity to have your chance to purchase some unusual seeds from cultivars that you might not grow in your own garden. It is a bit of a pot-luck because, like any hosta auction, we offer what people donate; but I can tell you that for the most part I was extremely pleased with the plants that germinated out of the seeds that I purchased. The auction will be a silent auction as it was last year, which affords everyone an equal chance at placing bids. This year we are hoping to also offer some seedlings for the auction which will be a new feature. If you would like to participate as a donor of either hosta seeds or seedlings, we would like to have you participate. The seeds can be from a cross that you have made or from open pollinated pods. For open pollinated seeds, it is best if the plant parent is either streaky or somewhat unusual, just try to bring seeds from plants that produce viable seeds as sterile seeds can be a real disappointment. Last year we developed and tested a program enabling us to report the amount of funds raised by each individual donation. . If you are bringing seedlings, these should be brought by you to the auction directly and an accompanying photo of the parents or at least a brief description would help bidders. If you plan to participate as a donor, in order to prepare for the auction in advance (that is get the data entered into the computer in time for the auction and properly advertise who the donor is for each entry), it is necessary that you send me an E-Mail indicating what seeds and/or seedlings you plan to bring, that is (pod parent x pollen parent, Number of seeds, pods, or seedlings to be donated) no later than January 3, 2008. If you do not use E-Mail, a letter or telephone call would be fine also. Keep in mind, if you will, that I have to enter all of this into the system before the event. You can either bring the seeds to the Winter Scientific Meeting, if you plan to attend, or mail the seeds to me in advance (which I would prefer because I need to attach Lot Numbers to each group of seeds). In either case, the seeds should be in individually labeled coin envelopes or some other small envelope. If you do not plan to donate seeds, a quick E-Mail advising me as such would also be appreciated. If you do not plan to participate in the donation part of the seed auction, be sure to come and place a bid or two to help in developing new hostas while giving the club a financial boost at the same time.

John L. Van Ostrand  
jlvano@yahoo.com  
841-438-1056  
21 Robin Crest Road  
Hawthorn Woods, IL 60047-8965

## Holiday Party Directions

Billie & Sam Childress' home, 1:00 – 4:00 December 2 in West Chicago.

**Please RSVP no later than Tuesday, the 27<sup>th</sup> of November by calling 630 231 1791.**

Driving Directions to Billie & Sam Childress: The destination is 29W385 Glen Road. From the intersection of North Avenue (route 64) and route 59, proceed south .5 mile and turn left (east) onto Waynewood Road. Follow Waynewood Road for .4 mile and turn right onto Glen Road. Go to 29W385, which is at the end of Glen Road.

## Winter Scientific Meeting of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society Hosted by the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

It's time to begin planning for winter; The Winter Scientific Meeting of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society that is. This year's big winter event will be held Saturday January 19, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Woodfield Hotel, 1800 East Golf Rd., Schaumburg, IL (800) 223-1234. They have given us an \$87.00 room rate. Please make your own reservations, before January 6, and mention the Hosta Society to guarantee the rate. The Hyatt Regency Woodfield Hotel is the same great location used for last year's very successful event.

Again we have an All Star line-up of speakers with interesting and timely topics

Glenn Herold	"You're Barking up the Right Tree"
Roy Klehm	"Plant Developers of Note"
Doug Beilstein	"Hybridizing and More..."
Bill Segatto	"Water Gardening"
Chris Wilhoite	"Arisaemas"
Mark Zilis	"Hostas of Distinction"

The cost of the winter extravaganza is only \$45.00 per person, which includes a continental breakfast and a deli buffet lunch. Please make checks payable to the Northern Illinois Hosta Society, and mail before January 6, 2008, with your name, address, phone, and the number attending, to:

Morgan Wilson  
1880 N. Hennepin  
LaSalle IL 61301  
Phone (815) 224-1383

**Sign-up after January 6 2008 is \$55.00.**

On-site registration will begin on Friday January 18, from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm, and Saturday January 19 from 7:00 am - 8:00 am. The program will run from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm on Saturday. Dinner Friday and Saturday nights will be on your own at one of the many fine area restaurants. The Hospitality Suite will be open from 7:30 pm - 11pm, both Friday and Saturday nights, for all that good Hosta fellowship. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,  
Tom Micheletti  
Northern Illinois Hosta Society

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Name of first attendee \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$45.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name of 2nd attendee \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$45.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Late fee if paid after January 6, 2008 is \$55.00

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address of attendee, or contact person:

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Confirmation notices are not sent out. Please retain a copy of this registration form and your check if you are in doubt of registration. Please allow 5 working days for registrations to reach us before the event date. We will be unable to issue refunds after January 6, 2008.**

## One Dollar Each or 6 for Five

By now anyone that has been reading their “NIHS Hosta Happenings” is aware that we are hosting the 2008 Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention. An important component of a convention has over the years become the raffle to help defray the costs of hosting a convention. There is a fund raising auction of plants, but the proceeds for that event belong to the MRHS as their main source of revenue. Therefore the raffle, the proceeds of which go to the hosting society, is an important income source to the hosting society. We are fortunate indeed to have two very energetic and enthusiastic ladies coordinating our raffle. Dee Brown and Bea McGovern have volunteered to help acquire raffle items and staff the raffle tables during the convention.

These enthusiastic ladies are not able to do it all themselves. The NIHS could purchase items for the raffle, but the cost of such items would greatly eat into the proceeds. Therefore I am asking that each member think of an item that may be suitable for the raffle table and donate it to the cause. Perhaps two, three, or more members could join together to acquire an item. This item should be a gardening item that would be of interest to a broad range of gardening enthusiasts, be suitable as a decoration or piece of garden art, garden antique, or garden sculpture, etc., value should be at least \$20. The more valuable an item is the more interest and thus the more raffle tickets would be sold. Past raffles have had a copper weather vane in the shape of a hosta leaf, an antique wrought iron fence gate, troughs planted with miniature hostas and companion plants, unusual and colorful glazed pots, etc. The type of item is left to your imagination and creativity. In past convention raffles the items mentioned above were purchased by society members and donated for the raffle. Dee Brown has already purchased some exciting items herself and is going to donate them to the raffle to help the society. I have several large plastic planting containers that mimic the look of clay pots to donate. You may also solicit donations from a local garden center or nursery, and as an enticement, if the item has a value that exceeds one hundred dollars then that garden center or nursery will receive a free business card sized ad in the convention book that each attendee receives.

Maybe you have an above mentioned type of garden art, sculpture, or other item that you are no longer using, or you thought would fit into the overall scheme of your garden, but upon placement the item wasn't right for the intended location. This would be a great opportunity to share it with someone else and help the NIHS and the 2008 convention. This item should be in like new condition and not a way to rid oneself of unwanted items. Won't you please consider helping? By the way, Dee and Bea will also need help staffing the raffle booth. Please offer your time so these ladies don't have to staff the booth themselves. Their contact information can be found in the membership booklet that is sent to each member in the spring of the year.

The raffle booth will consist of tables holding raffle items and a container for each item to hold raffle tickets. If you have ideas, suggestions, or even special decorative containers that can be closed that would work to hold raffle tickets, please share these ideas with Dee and Bea. The raffle booth will be open during times that the attendees will be at the hotel. This will begin Thursday July 10 from 4pm till 6pm, and Friday 8am till 4pm. The raffle drawings will be held Saturday during lunch which is after buses return from morning garden tours. The raffle booth will not be open when there are other events taking place such as the banquet, or garden tours, therefore if you volunteer to help you will not miss any of the convention events. Please offer your services.

Tom Micheletti

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**Edi**

**tor'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 March 15, 2008. Please contact me by any of the following methods:

e-mail [editor@NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org](mailto:editor@NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org)  
 phone (630) 858-3538  
 mail 22W213 Glen Valley Dr.,  
 Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

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*(815) 965-0846 Jerry Aures / Pat Bellezza*

**Advertising Rates for NIHS**  
*Hosta Happenings*

	Per issue	Per year
Full page	60	150
½ page	35	90
¼ page	20	55
1/6 page	15	40

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



We want to thank Roy Klehm of Klehm's Song Sparrow Perennial Farm and Nursery for his generous donation to the Winter Scientific Meeting.

## 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 St. Louis, MO (2008), Lansing, MI (2009) and Minneapolis, MN (2010).

## 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 2008 convention will be held in Schaumburg, IL, Champaign, IL in 2009 and DesMoines, IA in 2010.

## NORTHERN ILLINOIS HOSTA SOCIETY

[www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org](http://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.**

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Northern Illinois Hosta Happenings  
[editor@NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org](mailto:editor@NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org)  
November 2007 Newsletter

Floyd Rogers, Newsletter Editor  
21172 Andover Rd  
Kildeer, IL 60047

1 <sup>ST</sup> CLASS STAMP REQUIRED
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