

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Northern Illinois Hosta Happenings

Publication of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

This is my favorite President's Message of each year because I get to outline the upcoming events and activities for the NIHS. This year, the calendar will be dominated by something we have been working on for at least three years, namely the NIHS-hosted Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention in July. If we are to put on a successful convention, it will take a joint effort by our full membership. Several activities including the auction, Cut Leaf Show, bus tours, and banquet will involve roles for many members, not to mention all of the behind-the-scenes work that will take place before and during the convention. If many people step up to do a part, the burden will not fall too heavily on a few. I must admit that I and many other NIHS members who regularly attend Midwest conventions have one other motivation for wanting the 2008 Convention to be a success; we want to return the hospitality we have experienced at other conventions.

One of the fund raising activities associated with the convention is a raffle of garden related items. If you are willing to donate something for the raffle, please let Dee Brown hear from you. Dee can be reached at (708) 974-2540.

Before I leave the topic of conventions, I want to remind everyone that this year's American Hosta Society National is within fairly easy driving distance - St. Louis. If you have never attended a National before, you should treat yourself to this one.

As a way of prepping NIHS members who will be working on the Cut Leaf Show, but who lack experience with the procedures involved, we will hold a Leaf Show Workshop at my home on Saturday May 17th. Tom Micheletti has arranged for an experienced leaf show official to come in from out-of-state to help us learn how to classify and stage the leaves. An informal cook-out will feed all of the attendees. If you have already volunteered to work on the Leaf Show, or if you would like to, please consider joining us at the Workshop. Specifics will be provided as the event approaches, but I want folks to be able to reserve the date.

I always look forward to our March Pot Luck and Tool Swap because it is so good to see many friends again after a long winter. This year's Pot Luck will be hosted by Jim and Jill Morrow. There is a rumor that Jim is well on his way to growing out a few thousand hosta seedlings. Maybe we can prevail upon him to let us take a peek.

You will have to look elsewhere in this newsletter for the details on this year's Sponsor Plant Program, but I will say that the four plants chosen for 2008 are all proven winners. The Spring Meeting and plant pickup will be held at Friendship Conservatory in Des Plaines on April 6th.

Pete Postlewaite has arranged a fine slate of gardens for us to visit this summer. Member attendance at the garden walks last year was outstanding.

John Van Ostrand has been working to arrange a bus trip to some great hosta gardens in the Dubuque, IA area. John's trips are always well attended, and I urge those who really want to go to sign up early.

The principal NIHS fund raising activity of the year is our annual plant auction held at the Hinsdale Community House in August. There are always great bargains to be had and not only on hostas.

Last, but not least, we have two Pot Lucks coming up toward the end of the year: our Fall Pot Luck and Swap in September and our holiday get-together in December. We are looking for a host for the September event, and would especially welcome someone who has not hosted one of our events before. There is some flexibility in terms of a date, so you can contact me if you are interested.

That is it for now. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Pot Luck in March at Jim Morrow's.

Lou Horton

2008 ACTIVITIES

March 29	Pot Luck Dinner & Garden Tool/Accessory Swap, Warrenville, IL, 1-4
April 6	Sponsor Plant Pick Up & Guest Speaker, Des Plaines, 1-3
June 8	Hostatality Garden Walk, Kildeer, 1-4
June 11-14	American Hosta Society Convention, St. Louis, MO
June 29	Hostatality Garden Walk, Batavia, 1-4
July 10-12	Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention, Schaumburg, IL
July 29	Bus Tour, Dubuque, IA
August 3	Hostatality Garden Walk, Elgin, 1-4
August 17	Plant Auction, Hinsdale, 1-4
September 7	Hosta Pot Luck and Plant Swap & Annual Meeting of Membership, TBA, 1-4
December 7	Holiday Get-Together, Hawthorn Woods, 1-4

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President, Lou Horton, 1N375 Ingalton, West Chicago, IL 60190 (630) 293-7735
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Director-at-Large, Tom Micheletti, 23720 Hearthside Drive, Deer Park, IL 60010 (847) 540-8051
Director-at-Large, Jim Morrow, 3S630 Virginia, Warrenville, IL 60555 (630) 393-3439

NEW MEMBERS

Lillian Lewis, Bannockburn
Linda & Joe Dabrowski, Mt. Prospect
Jo Moser, Kildeer
Dot Kluzek, New Lenox
Karen Johanson, Hawthorn Woods
Trent & Alison Jenke, Brookfield

WELCOME!!!

Hostatality Walk-About Garden Visits

June 8th, June 29th, & August 3rd

June 8th This is a “two-fer” opportunity to see two lovely acre+ gardens located just minutes apart in Kildeer:

Carl & Penny Fulkerson’s garden 2:00 – 5:00. Carl & Penny moved into their Kildeer home in the winter of 1996. In the spring Penny found only the basic landscape foundation plantings. Penny started with one small flower bed in the front and has since expanded that bed 3 times. When the garden was to be the site of their nephew’s wedding reception in 1997, they added the gazebo, the pond, and flower beds in the back. Something new has been added nearly every year. There are now large expanses of sun, semi-shade, and shade areas in the garden.

As you will see, Penny & Carl believe in water in the garden, with 3 water features in all. Each one is uniquely different and gives Penny more of an opportunity to plant. The water feature by the driveway was built in 2003. It is planted with numerous plants including physostegia, persicaria, ferns, astilbe, goatsbeard and hostas. The dry river bed adjacent to the water feature was added to address some drainage issues and to replace some very tired grass.

In 2004, a shed was built for storage, but also included a very nice potting area. Of course, if you build a shed, you must landscape around it! The goal around the shed was a lower maintenance garden, so here you will find mainly small trees, shrubs and many ornamental grasses. Until last year all the flower beds were added by removing grassy areas. Last summer they cut a path into the woods in the back. Penny planted the area mostly with her favorite plant for the shade, hosta.

Jo Moser's garden 2:00 – 5:00. Jo started without a single garden when she moved into her 1.9-acre lot 12 years ago on the edge of Buffalo Creek. All of her gardens were carved out of grass and the woods, so that she would have something to gaze at from the windows and decks of her contemporary home. Her gardens have always been gardens of experimentation. Jo never had a master plan. Hardly anything is in the same place it was years ago. Each year, another section seems to be added, extending the wood chip paths and curvy mulched beds. These gardens have truly evolved over the years through a labor of love. Her gardens include full sun, part sun, part shade, and then full shade gardens in the woods.

Jo spends many hours working on her gardens, enjoying the morning peace, especially in the wooded area where she can view a large old oak tree, or sit on one of the many benches throughout the garden. There are numerous garden ornaments sprinkled throughout the yard, many of them whimsical. A highlight is an antique gong brought back from a trip to Thailand. Many hanging baskets give color to the shaded areas and also help define the garden backdrop.

Early June is a favorite time of Jo's. Then she can view the many early blooming plants and shrubs, such as climbing hydrangea, snow ball bushes, tree peony, baptisia, bleeding hearts, ferns, goatsbeard, Dame's Rocket, hesperis, pulmonaria, brunera, iris, and yellow corydalis that blooms all summer in the shade. Hostas are also at their best and are used to define areas and paths. Jo uses many different complimentary colors, shapes, and textures in her plantings. There are different garden areas, rooms, and sections of the garden, that are connected by winding paths that invite the visitor to stroll from place to place.

Driving Directions: The destinations are:

For Fulkerson, 21076 Oak Knoll Court
For Moser, 21110 Buffalo Run

To reach either garden,

1. Proceed north on I-290/Route 53, and exit at Route 12 (Rand Road), go northwest 3.5 miles to Long Grove Road, and turn right (east).

or

2. From the intersection of Rand Road (Route 12) and Route 22 in Lake Zurich, proceed southeast 3.4 miles to Long Grove Road and turn left (east).

then

- To get to the Moser garden, proceed east on Long Grove Road to Buffalo Run (first street on the left), and turn left. Proceed to 21110.
- To get to the Fulkerson garden, proceed east on Long Grove Road to Valley Road (third street on the left), and turn left. Go one block to Oak Knoll Court and turn left. Proceed to 21076.
- To get from one garden to the other, simply return to Long Grove Road and follow the appropriate directions.

Be sure to mark the dates for the June 29th and August 3rd garden walks on your calendar. Garden descriptions and directions to these gardens will be published in the May newsletter.

Chi-Town Classic

As I have been reporting, the 2008 Midwest Regional Hosta Society is being hosted by the Northern Illinois Hosta Society. The big event is getting near, and a lot of the preparations have been made or are underway. There is still a need for volunteers to help with the Herculean task of hosting a convention. I thought I'd remind everyone of the committees, the chairs and some of the positions still needing to be filled. The committee chair contact information is in the NIHS Directory.

Mail in Registration-Pete Postlewaite

On site Registration-Betsy Rogers

Staff registration booth 2 to 3 people

Organize, assemble, and distribute registration packets 2 to 3 people

Distribute convention gift plant

Publicity-Dawn Anderson

Publicize the convention via regional and local hosta societies

Contact local media with information regarding convention

Contact American Horticultural Society to advertise free portions of convention on their website.

Leaf Show-Florence Brennan

Set up of show room (filling water bottles, arranging show categories, etc.) 10 to 12 people

Classification (looking up plant names for correct category) 3 to 4 people

Registration (registering leaf show participant's names) 3 to 4 people

Placement (putting bottles with leaves in them on correct table) 5 to 6 people

Clerking (assist judges with viewing leave in bottles) 1 clerk for each judges panel

Tabulation (counting judges ballots) 5 to 6 people

Clean up (critical to have room vacated in time) 12 to 15 people

Hospitality Room-Dawn Anderson

Assist with set up of hospitality room 3 to 4 people

Assist with staffing hospitality room 2 to 3 people for each night, Thur. Fri. Sat.

Assist with coordinating refreshments in gardens 1 or 2 people

Auction-Lou Horton

Assist with receiving and cataloging of plants 2 to 3 people

Running plants from auction storage room to auction floor 5 to 6 people

Assist with auction, spotting, running plants 5 to 6 people

Record auction bids 2 to 3 people

Cashier 2 to 3 people

Auction Software-Floyd Rogers

Convention T-shirt Sales-Dan Adams

Staff t-shirt sales booth 2 to 3 people

Vending-Ken Harris

Assist venders set up and breakdown 8 to 10 people (critical to have room vacated in time)

Convention Book-Colleen Walker

Assist with acquiring advertising 1 other person

Assist with creation of book 1 other person

Bus Coordinator-John Van Ostrand

Assist with loading of buses 4 people

Bus captains 4 people

Raffle-Dee Brown & Bea McGovern

Help set up raffle booth 4 to 5 people

Staff raffle booth 3 to 4 people

Help get raffle prizes to winner's 2 to 3 people

As you can see there are a lot of positions that need staffing. Please contact the committee chair and volunteer your services to make our convention a huge success. Together we can make this a wonderful convention.

Tom Micheletti

Still One Dollar Each or 6 for Five

Please remember to contact Dee Brown or Bea McGovern to donate an item to the raffle being held at the MRHS convention. 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., the value of which 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.

Don't have time to shop for a raffle item? Don't want to have to shop for a raffle item? Our crafty raffle ladies will accept monetary donations in the form of a check written to the NIHS. The NIHS will write a check for the final amount and that amount will be raffled off as gift certificates to be used in the vending room! The amounts will be broken down into increments. For example, if we receive donations in the amount of \$100, two \$50 gift certificates will be raffled. If donations amount to \$70, two \$35 gift certificates will be raffled. The more donations received, the more gift certificates will be available.

Please support the NIHS and the convention by donating a raffle item or a monetary contribution. Contact Dee or Bea to let them know you are contributing, so they can plan ahead.

Tom Micheletti

Everything needs a companion, even a hosta ...

Scientific Name : *Corydalis lutea* (kor-RID-a-lis lou-TE-a)

Common Name : Corydalis, Formitory

Zone : 5

Description : 8 to 12 inches tall; gray-green leaves are finely dissected, almost fern-like. The leaves often hang limply, giving the impression that the plant is wilting. From late spring, spikes of yellow tubular flowers which open out to form a split funnel are carried above the foliage on thin green stems.

How to Grow : Plant in partial shade to sun; average to humus-rich soil. Self-sows readily; divide in early spring when plants are dormant.

Landscape Uses : Plant with astilbes, hostas, bulbs and ferns.

2008 NIHS Sponsor Plants

by Lou Horton

Each year our selection of Sponsor Plants seems to get better and better, thanks in large part to Q & Z Nursery's ever increasing selection of new and exciting hosta cultivars. This year, we have four wonderful plants to offer our membership. As usual, these plants are still somewhat difficult to find in a retail nursery and probably almost impossible to find at the prices they are offered to our members. As in the past, the plants were selected last summer and are being custom grown for us by Q & Z so that they will be out of dormancy and well grown by the time you receive them in early April. They will be in four-inch pots; that means that they will be garden ready as soon as danger of frost has passed.

Each member may purchase one each of the four plants, and it is not necessary to order all four. Please do not request multiples of any plant. Our order is for 25 of each, so it would be best to get your reservation in early.

Lakeside Shore Master

This 1998 introduction by Mary Chastain emerges blue and develops a yellow center with green border. It features heavy substance, rich color, and the potential to become a large plant. Lakeside Shore Master is widely considered to be among the very best of Chastain's many introductions.

Captain Kirk

Captain Kirk is a Gold Standard sport introduced in 1999. It has better substance than some other GS sports and features a gold center (which turns white as the season progresses) and a wider green edge than GS. A very flashy plant in the garden. It grows rapidly and makes a large clump as much as 3' W x 18" H

Earth Angel

A superb sport of Blue Angel, Earth Angel seems to possess the potential to be in the same size category as its huge parent. Introduced in 2002, it has excellent substance and has proven to be truly garden-worthy. It has a rich yellow border with a blue/green center (dependent on siting). The Hosta Growers group has named it 2009 Hosta of the Year

Allegan Fog

A hit at the 2000 AHS convention where it debuted, this medium-size cultivar has wavy white centered leaves, edged in medium green. The white center is misted with tiny green speckles.

Pictures of these plants can be viewed on the Internet by going to www.hostalibrary.org.

Any extra plants may be available at the meeting on April 6th at which all plants must be picked up. The meeting will be held at the Friendship Conservatory in Des Plaines at 1PM. As in the past, if you cannot attend the April meeting and wish to make arrangements to pick up the plants prior to the meeting at my home, you have that option. You can reach me at (630) 293-7735. Any plants not picked up will be considered a donation to the NIHS.

Order Form

Name _____

Email address: _____ Phone number _____

LS Shore Master (\$10) _____ Earth Angel (\$10) _____ Captain Kirk (\$10) _____

Allegan Fog (\$10) _____ One of each plant (\$40) _____

All orders must be accompanied by a check for the full amount made out to NIHS. If you wish confirmation that your order was received, either include your email address or a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Send all orders to Lou Horton, 1N 735 Ingaltan Ave, West Chicago, IL 60185. All orders must be in my hands by Monday, March 31st.

Northern Illinois Hosta Society, Inc.
BUS TOUR 2008
GARDENS of DUBUQUE IOWA Area
SATURDAY: July 26, 2008 7:00 AM to 7:30 PM

Gather at 6:45 AM for our prompt departure at 7:00 AM at **WOODFIELD SHOPPING CENTER OUTER PARKING LOT** Just west of Route 53, 290 and north of Woodfield Road In the southeast outer parking lot facing "Streets of Woodfield"
Note: Please **LOCK YOUR VEHICLE** as Woodfield cannot be responsible for the vehicle and contents.

FURTHER DIRECTIONS SEE MAP AT RIGHT:

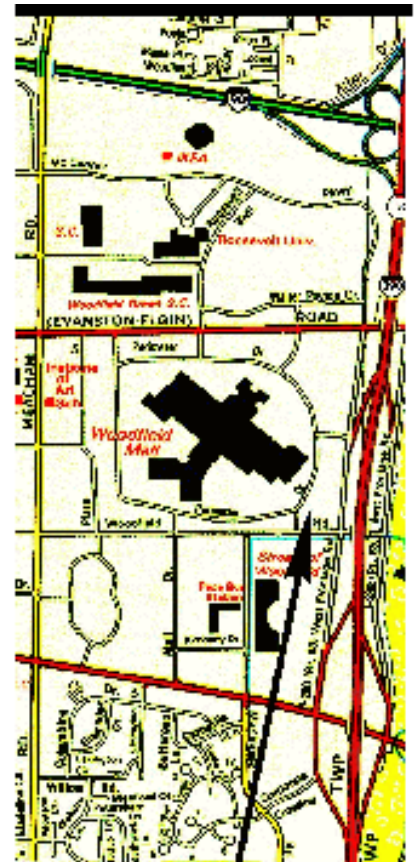
ABSOLUTELY NO PRIVATE CARS WILL BE PERMITTED ON THE TOUR PAST THE DEPARTURE POINT.

We will travel by American Charter Coach bus with on board toilet facilities to see four gardens within the **DUBUQUE IOWA** area, one of which will have plants that are available for purchase. There will be a rest stop near Belvidere while traveling both to and from the main destination point. See the garden descriptions for more details of the various garden stops.

Due to the length of travel we will not stop for lunch this year so, please bring your own lunch (but no alcohol). As a tasty alternative we are offering to provide a sandwich from Augustino's Deli, provided you pre-pay for it with your registration; see the registration form below. Also bring a camera, comfortable shoes, and an umbrella if it looks like rain, since we will go regardless of the weather. There will be activities and refreshments provided by the NIHS (including beverages) on the bus which helps shorten the trip. We are limited to about 52 people and have sold out all seats well in advance (often by April 1) on former tours so sign up very early to be assured of a place on the bus. He or she who hesitates may be lost.

Please arrive promptly at the departure point as **we leave at 7:00 AM sharp.**

Please note that no special pick up points will be arranged.



WOODFIELD MALL
Outer Parking lot "G"
 Look for the Big Bus
 Be there at 6:45 AM to leave promptly by 7:00 AM
 John's Cel Phone **847-989-3233**

COSTS: (By Prepaid Reservation Only - **The Cost is Non Refundable**)
 \$35.00 NIHS Member or Member's Spouse
 \$40.00 Guests (Non Members of NIHS)
 \$40.00 All Late Entries (Postmarked July 5, 2008 or Later)

QUESTIONS? Call:
 John Van Ostrand at
 Cel: **847-989-3233** or
 Home: 847-438-1056

Cut off the bottom part and send it in with your check

Make your check Payable to:
 NORTHERN ILLINOIS HOSTA SOCIETY, INC.

Confirmation & the Tour Schedule
 will be sent by mail.

Send it to:
 John L. Van Ostrand
 21 Robin Crest Road
 Hawthorn Woods, IL 60047-8965

REGISTRATION
6" Sub Sandwiches from Augustino's Deli:
 Italian Sub: \$ 6 X _____ (No.) = \$ _____
 Turkey Sub: \$ 6 X _____ (No.) = \$ _____

YOUR NAME:

Members: \$35 X _____ (No.) = \$ _____
 Guests: \$40 X _____ (No.) = \$ _____
 All Late Entries \$40 X _____ (No.) = \$ _____

YOUR TELEPHONE:

GUEST(S) NAME(S): _____

Non Refundable Total \$ _____

Bus Tour Gardens

The Garden of Ed and Jean Schulz

Our perennial garden is a work in progress that has stretched over the last 25 years. Hostas are the main feature. With time, we try to grow mature clumps. Interspersed are various other perennials such as ferns, oriental lilies, daylilies, phlox, pulmonaria, heucharas and others. Various ornamental trees and shrubs are also interspersed for accent and shade. You will enjoy your walk in this large, varied garden.

The Garden of Bob and Julie Hackbarth

We are a family-owned and operated business in Delaware County in scenic Northeast Iowa. Our business grew out of our love for hosta and our interest in beautifying our home. Little did we know that the venture would lead us into a business for our “entire” family. We opened for business on weekends in May of 2000.

We both work full-time and this will be our first year operating The Hosta Leaf without the help of our children, Danielle & Tyler. Danielle is a full-time Florist and also has an Associates Degree in Horticulture. Tyler (who has been helping since he was 5 years old) joined the Air Force this past fall and is now a certified Firefighter/EMT stationed at Scott AFB in Illinois. The kids have contributed to a large part of the success of our business, so this will definitely be an interesting and challenging year without them.

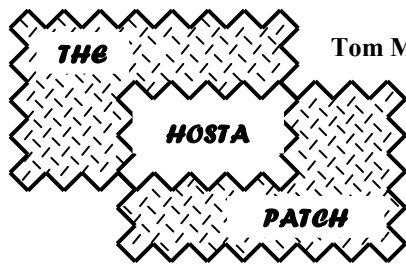
While visiting The Hosta Leaf we encourage you to take your time and get ideas by strolling through our display gardens which feature approximately 2000 varieties of hosta (500 for sale), numerous perennials, daylilies and water features. After that take a walk through our timber gardens where you can choose the plant that you want and we will dig it for you. You may also want to look in our greenhouse and shade house where potted plants can be purchased. While on your visit to The Hosta Leaf we hope you will enjoy our gardens; browse, relax, get ideas and envision dreams of your own!

The Garden of Don and Mary Kay Wood

The garden of Don and Mary Kay Wood is a classic case of evolution. We built our home in 1990 and brought our Hosta collection with us, all 3 varieties. We still love the original varieties and we have added over 250 new varieties; constantly expanding into the native woods in the rear of the yard. We have also added many companion plants and allowed many seedlings and volunteers to add interest and variety. There are numerous paths and native plants meandering throughout the garden, visually keeping it in a constant state of flux. There is always something of interest; no matter how often one takes a garden tour. As with all gardeners, we enjoy being in our garden and love to show it.

Note from John Van Ostrand:

There will be a fourth tour garden. Details have not yet been finalized, but be sure to sign up early and not wait for last minute details.



Tom Micheletti's

500 Hosta Varieties

Visit our website for quality plants at reasonable prices.

The Hosta Patch

www.hostapatch.com

23720 Hearthsides Dr.
Deer Park, IL 60010
(847) 540-8051
tommich@hostapatch.com

Ed

itor'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 May 1, 2008. Please contact me by any of the following methods:

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

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(3 miles south of Rockford Airport)

(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 \$20 (two year membership) to Pete Postlewaite, 21172 Andover Rd, Kildeer, IL 60047. The 2008 convention will be held in Schaumburg, IL; Champaign, IL in 2009 and Des Moines, IA in 2010.

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
March 2008 Newsletter

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

1 ST CLASS STAMP REQUIRED
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