

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

central illinois hosta society
www.cihshostaclub.org

September 2011
volume 17, issue 7

Sue's News

Our August meeting was a wonderful visit to Bob and Golda's garden, and I sure enjoyed seeing their "no grass" yard! There was such a great variety of things to see, and it was all so artistically placed! The weather was finally bearable, and we had a great crowd on hand. Thanks to all who braved the parking to attend the meeting, and thanks especially to Bob and Golda for hosting our meeting! Ella's talk was very informative, and I am really looking forward to seeing Fred Stanton's rhododendron garden next spring! Thanks also to everyone who participated in the leaf contest; it is always fun to see what people bring, and to earn another year of bragging rights when you win.

This month is our last member meeting, the banquet at Kickapoo Creek Winery. The meals have always been wonderful there, and our speaker should be great fun, if his hilarious book is any indication. The subtitle of Larry Tucker's book, "confessions of a hostaholic" says it all. I have quite a few friends (including myself) that would fall into that category, and I look forward to hearing his talk. I also look forward to one last visit with my hosta friends before cold weather settles in and we all barricade ourselves into our warm houses. Don't forget that we will still be selling hostas at the banquet, so come prepared to "adopt" a few new members into your garden.

Sue Eckhoff, CIHS President

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.
Albert Camus

Annual Banquet

September 20 5:45/6:30pm
Kickapoo Creek Winery
6605 N. Smith Road
Edwards, Illinois



The final event on the 2011 calendar is our banquet.

The gala will be held Tuesday September 20th at the Kickapoo Creek Winery (6605 N. Smith Road, Edwards, Illinois). The cash bar will open at 5:45, dinner will start at 6:30 and the program is to start around 7:30.

The cost is only \$35, which includes a wonderful buffet dinner, an outstanding hosta selection from Mark Zilis and an entertaining program presented by Larry Tucker. Renowned in the Hosta World, Larry is the author of *Made in the Shade --Confessions of a Hostaholic*.

To Sign up for the Banquet, please contact Shirley Metz for more information before September 16th: 263.7103 or jametz@comcast.net
If buying tickets, make checks payable to CIHS.

Directions: From Peoria, take I-74 west to exit 82 (Kickapoo/Edwards). Turn left onto Kickapoo-Edwards Road. Travel ¼ mile and turn right onto Smith Road (note winery sign). The entrance to the winery is just past the curve and on the right; watch for the windmill.

Spring Garden Visit

In May, CIHS will be touring 2 gardens in the Monmouth area. They both have great collections of trees & shrubs, featuring Japanese Maples, flowering trees & rhododendron. Stay tuned for more details as we approach Spring

Newsletter Articles Needed

I am in the need of newsletter articles. Often garden-related, though, it could be anecdotal, humor, a book review, poetry, or even a recipe...gardening can encompass many topics. You might even consider writing something over the winter for next spring or summer. Just let me know. Anyone interested, please contact me at goldaandbob@hotmail.com

Bob,
Newsletter Editor



The Hosta Library

Fall & winter are approaching...cozy up with some garden reading!
If you would like to check out a magazine or book from the Hosta Library, see Ella Maxwell at a meeting or call her at 309.444.3758.

2012 CIHS Calendar

If you are interested in opening your garden for a meeting next year or in 2013, please contact Charlotte

Winter Scientific Meeting

TBA

March 20, 6:30 pm

Forest park Nature Center
5809 Forest Park Drive
Peoria Heights, Illinois

April 17, 6:30 pm, Pot Luck

Freedom Hall
349 W. Birchwood Street,
Morton, Illinois

May 15, 6:30 pm

TBA

July 12-14, 2012

Midwest Regional Convention
Rochester, Minnesota

June 13-16, 2012

AHS National Convention
Nashville, Tn.

June 19, 6:30 pm

Don & Deb McCollum's Garden
600 Hilldale Ave
Washington, Illinois

July 17, 6:30 pm

Sally & Mike Pula's Garden
Dunlap, Illinois

August 21, Auction

Illinois Central College, Land Lab
East Peoria, Illinois

September 18, Banquet

TBA

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To join:

Central Illinois Hosta Society
\$10/year, form on back cover

Midwest Reg. Hosta Society
\$10/year, \$20/2 years

Send dues to:

Barb Schroeder, Treasurer
1819 Coventry Drive
Champaign, IL 61822-5239

American Hosta Society
\$30 individual, \$57/2 years

\$34 family, \$62/2 years

Send dues to:

Sandie Markland
AHS Membership Secretary
Post Office Box 7539
Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948



Garden... Q & A

Yes!...your gardening questions can be answered. Just catch us at a meeting or email the question (see below). Please indicate in the email subject line that it is a garden question and not junk mail. We hope to hear from you soon.

Ella Maxwell ejm601@comcast.net
Bob Streitmatter goldaandbob@hotmail.com

Our hosta have finished blooming and we were wondering if we should cut off the long bare stems that are left?

John Cash: "You can definitely cut off the stems (scapes). It will not damage your plants at all. If you are not doing anything with the seeds, you can cut them back as soon as the flowers finish blooming. If you are not concerned about the flowers at all, you can even cut the scapes before the flowers bloom. This will allow the plant to grow more quickly. This is a good idea if the plant has not matured yet. Once it has matured, you can then enjoy the flowers."

What fertilizer should I use for my hostas?

Editor's Note: As stated below there is much discussion today about fertilization. The current trend is moving toward feeding your soil and developing healthy soils that will, in turn, yield the nutrients needed (i. e. mulching with mushroom compost, like Nick Weede). I hope to publish the Weede Method at a later date.

Kevin P. Walek (past AHS President): "There is much debate over the "best" fertilizer. Many persons find that granular or solid forms are better; then there are those that prefer foliar feeding. After the issue of method of application is resolved, there is the question of best nitrogen - potassium - phosphorus ratios. The norm seems to be an application of around 10-10-10, three to four times per year.

For those people who tend toward organic gardening, there are several products that have worked for hosta gardeners. Some gardeners use Milorganite or other treated sewage residue. Although there is an initial odor, it quickly dissipates. Another alternative is animal manure, but, after considering the price of hauling, it is not cheap and the potential for "burning" the plants with "fresh" manure is greater.

To some, a more pleasant smelling organic fertilizer, at 8% nitrogen, is soybean meal. Rich in other elements, as well as having a protein level of 46%, you practically could spread it on your corn flakes. A problem in most metropolitan areas is that the nursery staff will tell you that "if you want soybean meal go to a soybean mill. (It is definitely worth a try, though!) We do carry cottonseed meal, but at 6-1-1 it is for adding acid to the soil, not fertilizing."

If you are interested in how these various fertilizers compare; with regard to composition in the other fertilizers, Milorganite is 6-2-0, and Miracle Grow lawn food is 36-6-6 (generally speaking about 6 times more concentrated than cottonseed meal), Miracid plant food is 30-10-10, and, for you Peter's fans, you can get many combinations, but the most common used for hosta is either 20-20-20 or 10-10-10. The big difference appears to be in other components: Milorganite has 4% iron, both Miracle Grow products have .325% chelated iron, and cottonseed meal has 0%. Only Soybean meal appears to have any significant protein content! At one time Milorganite was not recommended for use on property with well water, but that prohibition no longer pertains as they have developed a means to remove the heavy metals."

Both Q&A were reprinted from the August issue of the Prairie Hosta Herald, newsletter of the Illinois Prairie Hosta Society

Slate of Nominations

We will be voting at the next meeting for the slate of nominations; however, nominations will be taken from the floor.

- President: **Connie Zuercher**
 - Vice President: sets up meetings events and potluck; **Sally Pula**
 - Second Vice President: works with V. P. to set up meetings and events; sets up auction & banquet; **Shirley Metz & Donna Cothrell**
 - Third Vice President: sets up spring symposium, Solberg hosta order & bus trip; **Phyllis Pollard**
 - Recording Secretary: records and presents meeting minutes; **Teri Anderson**
 - Corresponding Secretary: mails thank you notes, cards and other correspondence; **Maggie Keesey**
 - Treasurer: maintains accounts, pays bills; writes checks, **Dan McConnell**
- Continued on next page**

- Publicity Chairmen: notifies media of meetings & events; **Fran Stroemer**
- Education Chairmen: promotes education at meetings; **Ella Maxwell, Bob Streitmatter**
- Ways and Means Chairmen: hosta of the month and fund raising; **Douglas Drenckpohl**
- Historian: keeps scrapbook and history of club, **Micheline Koch**
- Parliamentarian: advises board on parliamentary procedure; **Sue Eckhoff**
- Publication Chairmen: writes and assembles newsletter; **Bob Streitmatter**
- Librarian: maintains library; **Ella Maxwell**
- Membership Chairmen: maintains members list and accepts membership dues; **Kathy Allen**
- Hospitality: sets up refreshments and beverages; **Bill Cottrell**

Bayer Products for Hostas

A product that we should all know about is Bayer Advanced Disease Control for Roses, Flowers & Shrubs. This systemic formula for cure and prevention of Southern Blight, petiole and crown rot, and is effective in treating powdery mildew, black spot and rust on other garden plants, including Hostas. The Bayer products will also discourage Japanese Beetles from eating roses and other plants including some trees (such as the Sand Cherry). Some evidence also shows that the products may discourage the Ash Borer if applied both early spring and in the fall to the Ash tree.

Follow directions on containers, mixing with water and spray on hosta petioles (leaf stems). Let the spray run down to the crown or use it as a drench. A pump-style sprayer is easy to use. Since Bayer Advanced Disease Control works systemically, as soon as the spray dries, it will not wash off or leave a visible residue and protects for 2 weeks. Apply at least 3 times per growing season 7 to 14 days apart. For best results, use in the early spring before 80-90 degree rainy weather begins. Bayer Advanced Disease Control should not be applied to edible plants.

Reprinted from the August issue of the Prairie Hosta Herald, newsletter of the Illinois Prairie Hosta Society

Starting Hosta from Seed

SEED SELECTIONS

- Decide what you want to create:
 - variegation, need splashed pod parent, a 7-year process with edged, solid and medio form development needed
 - for yellows, blues, or distinctive forms, solid pod parents needed; edged and center variegations produce lethal or green seedlings only

COLLECTING, CLEANING AND STORING SEED

- collect seed only after mature, i.e. 40 days and 40 nights
- timing differs from one to another, i.e. sieboldianas vs. summer vs. late bloomers
- dry pods with name tags
- crushing pod helps speed process
- separate seeds from pods, then dewater for viability
- stratification not necessary, but cool storage is recommended for viability
- create a storage container, paper or plastic, with identification

CONTAINERS AND MEDIUMS

- sterilized container; 'Clorox' and microwaving
- use sterile non organic planting medium
- use of Michigan peat or any soil based medium, prohibited
- medium examples: Pro Mix, or peat moss, vermiculite, perlite, thru 3-2-1 mixtures
- moisten medium prior to planting
- use boiled water to kill fungus, fungus gnats, and algae

PLANTING PROCESS

- plant in a prepared trench, then cover
- plant in a scatter, then cover with more medium
- use bone meal with seeds to increase germination
- coverage should be 3 times depth of seed
- uncovered seeds have roots unable to penetrate soil
- water planted seeds after planting
- cover with plastic dome
- place in plastic baggie

LIGHTING

- use fluorescent shop lights
- 24/7 light cycle or timed with timer from 18 on, to 12/12 also 8/4/8/4 cycle **Continued on next page**

GERMINATION

- from 3 to 14 days, 7 average, with an average 33%
- germination rate, germination is irregular
- water from bottom, deters salts built up and pathogens,
- with ¼ strength soluble fertilizer roots can sit in water for
- extended time
- room temperature should be maintained between 60-70 degrees
- damp off is a constant problem; use of Benlate or Benomyl in a liquid spray deters after planting
- use of plastic bags does lead to mildew with closed environment

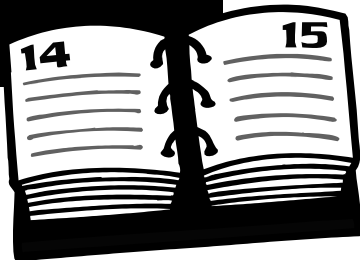
CULLING AND DECISION MAKING

- for splashes, thin after 1st or 2nd leaf, eliminating the greens
- for solids and forms, keep most and cull only after 2nd year.
- Up potting helps selected seedling gain size, blooming in 1st year (scapes should be cut off to preserve seedling from energy drain and death.)
- Use deep containers for root growth
- Use a tool that creates a deep hole in porous medium
- Grow in containers until safe to plant outdoors
- Continue culling until the word DISCTINCTION or UNIQUE applies

By **Randy Goodwin**; reprinted from the Late Winter 2010 edition of the Indianapolis Hosta Society Newsletter as presented to the HIS's February meeting

Save the Date!!!

**2012 AHS
Convention
Nashville, TN
June 13-16,
2012**



Hostas, Friends and Music will be a time for visiting with old friends, making new ones, experiencing Nashville and of course, seeing Middle Tennessee gardens. The Scientific program will include: a panel on “*Hosta Tips to*

Grow By”; Don Dean will share his hybridizing experience “*Where Did That Trait Come From*”; Jerry Weeks with “*From Yon to Here*” will discuss how hostas made their way from Asia to the New World; and, George Schmid, the Key Note speaker, will present his work on *Hosta Species*. Mike Shadrack will address hostas in Europe with *Eric Smith, Master Hybridizer*, Bob Solberg will talk on “*The Future of Hostas*” and Warren Pollack will lead a breakout session on recent hosta DNA work by Dr. Ben Zonnerveld of the University of Leiden, The Netherlands. Flo Chaffin of Specialty Ornamentals will discuss “*Shady Characters*” - Japanese maples, hydrangea and conifers for the various growing zones. There will also be two non-scientific sessions: “*The Rise of the Southern Biscuit*” and “*Adelicia Acklen, Mistress of Belmont (Plantation)*”.

A musical revue is planned for Wednesday evening after the Optional Tours. One tour is ***Gardens of Nashville***, including the Parthenon, and the other is a historic tour of three ***Civil War sites in Franklin, TN***, including Carnton Plantation and its 1860 period garden.

The Hat Contest will return on Saturday evening and a Photography Contest will be held. Categories and rules will be posted on the convention website.

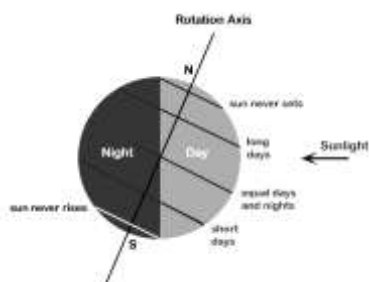
With so many attendees driving to Nashville, we are looking forward to a great Hosta Show. You bring the leaves... We'll have the bottles.

If Country Music is on your agenda, we suggest attending the Grand Ole Opry on Tuesday evening to avoid missing any of the convention activities. Gray Line of Nashville has given the group a special rate which will include tickets, and transportation to and from the hotel. A special email address for this will be posted on the convention website. For further information, see www.hosta2012.com which will be activated in mid-October.

Ya'll Come. We'll be serving up Southern Hospitality and are Expecting You.

Autumn Factoids from the Science Corner

- Fall happens because of the angle of the earth's axis & the earth's movement around the sun. With sunlight hitting the northern hemisphere less directly in late fall & early winter, it becomes cooler and days begin to shorten
- The axial tilt varies between 22.1° & 24.5°
- The shorter days & cooler temps trigger cells at the base of each petiole to die, limiting/stopping nutrients & water flowing to the leaf.
- Chlorophyll (green) starts to break down & other pigments, carotenoids (orange & yellow) & anthocyanin (red), begin to show and eventually the leaf drops. Then you
- Evergreens have a waxy covering that protects them from cold, allowing photosynthesis to continue. In addition, the foliage has chemicals that act as antifreeze, giving it the characteristic scent and it is used to produce turpentine.



Plants that exhibit noteworthy Fall Color: Baldcypress, Beech, Birch, Black Gum, Dogwood, Flowering Pear, Ginkgo, Honeylocust, Kentucky Coffee Tree, Maples, Oaks, Sassafras, Serviceberry, Barberry, Bottlebrush Buckeye, Burning Bush, Chokeberry, Cotoneaster, Oakleaf Hydrangea, Spirea, Sumac, Viburnum, Rugosa Rose, Witchhazel, Big Blue Stem, Bluestar, *Epimedium*, *Bergenia*, *Euphorbia*, *Hosta* (especially *H. sieboldiana*, *H. fortunei* or *H. tokudama*), Peony, Solomon's Seal, Prairie Dropseed, Switch Grass, Little Bluestem, Purpleleaf Wintercreeper, Virginia Creeper, Boston Ivy

Plants that are late-flowering or bear persistent, long-lasting flowers (i.e. hydrangea): Common Witchhazel, Annabelle Hydrangea, Panicle Hydrangea, Oakleaf Hydrangea, Autumn Joy Sedum, Mums, Aster, Goldenrod, Fall-blooming Crocus, *Colchicum*, False Aster, False Sunflowers *Heliopsis*, *Helianthus*, Salvia, Japanese Anemone, Anise Hyssop *Agastache*, White Snakeroot *Eupatorium rugosum*, Russian Sage

Plants that bear fruit & seed displays in the fall: Alder, Hawthorn, Feather Reed Grass, Flowering Crab, Sumac, Bittersweet (male & female are needed for fruit), Chokeberry, Barberry, Bayberry, Plume Grass, Pyracantha, Rugosa Rose, Viburnum, Beautyberry, Baneberry, Solomon's Plume

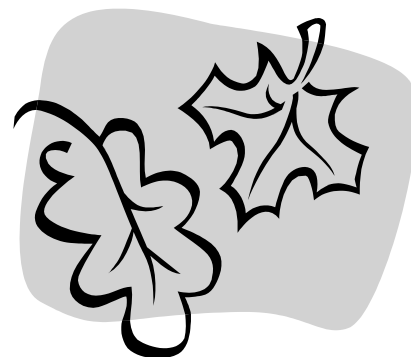
Hot Plants
for a
Cool
Season...



There are so many beautiful plants that exhibit color and interest in the fall. Below is a list those that you might consider this fall. In addition, fall is one of the best times to plant and many nurseries have clearance sales this time of year.

Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns.

George Eliot



Hosta & Garden Web Sites

Hosta Library - <http://www.hostalibrary.org/> For those of you that are new, or maybe an "old timer" wanting to know what your hosta is, check out this site and the thousands of photos on file. In addition there are links to disease and pest issues, chat rooms, how to grow and select hostas and a wealth of information at a touch of your mouse.

Hosta Forum – questions/answers - <http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/hosta/> A great place to get questions answered or check out the new hostas on the market. Post your photos or check out those that posted by other hosta lovers.

Wade & Gatton Nursery – a must visit - <http://www.pal-metto.com/hosta/wade/wade.html> This is a must place - the actual location near Mansfield, Ohio, to visit after you check out the web site.

Growing Seeds - www.hostaseedlings.com If you want to share your experience in seed growing or get questions answered check out this site.

Another good site to check out for seeds that grow is www.hostaseedgrowers.com They give ratings on seeds that are fertile or not and hints to growing.

Green Hill Farms, Bob Solberg - www.HostaHosta.com Check out Bob's catalogue as well as his information on hostas

Mickfield Hostas of England - check this site for individual photos of the leaf of the hosta you are interested in - a great site to identify a hosta. <http://www.mickfieldhostas.co.uk/a.htm>



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Monday-Saturday from 8 am - 7 pm
Sunday from Noon - 5 pm

July 1 - October 10
Monday-Saturday from 8 am - 5 pm

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www.hornbakergardens.com

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Peoria, IL 61612-3098

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**October newsletter
deadline: September 20th**

**Submit items for publication
to: Bob Streitmatter
309.264.4813
goldaandbob@hotmail.com**

CIHS Membership Form (please print)

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Phone _____ E-mail _____

Dues are \$10/year: new renewal Amount. Enclosed _____

Make check payable to CIHS; mail check and form to: Central Illinois Hosta Society, P.O. Box 3098, Peoria, IL 61612-3098