



# The Royal Standard

February 2019

WISCONSIN HOSTA SOCIETY  
EST. 1991

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hey there, Hosta Friends,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! And WELCOME to 2019!

Now that the holidays are over, I'm no longer dreaming of a White Christmas; I'm dreaming of warm spring sunshine, green grass, budding trees, and of course . . . **hostas!**

Garden Expo is just around the corner: February 8-10. You will once again be able to find a variety of interesting plants at the WHS booth. It is always fun to pick up something new and watch it continue to grow inside for a while till the weather warms the soil enough for planting outdoors. The only problem is what to choose ~ naturally, I want them all!

I hope you will also be able to join us for our 1<sup>st</sup> regular meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup> when WHS member, Owen Purvis of Elim Hosta Gardens in Princeton, will be telling us what's new in the world of hostas. Even though there are already close to 9,000 named varieties, there is always something new and exciting to discover in Hostaland!

Please join me in welcoming our new Secretary, Peggy Lemon and new Garden Expo chairperson, Lori Gerber!

May all your days be merry and bright,

*Sandy*

WHS President

## 2019 CALENDAR

### WISCONSIN HOSTA SOCIETY

Wednesday, March 6

**Membership Meeting**

**Owen Purvis "New Hostas"**

6PM Social, 6:30-8:30PM Meeting  
Olbrich Gardens

Wednesday, April 3

**Membership Meeting**

6PM Social, 6:30-8:30PM Meeting  
Olbrich Gardens

Sunday, August 4

**Annual Family Potluck Picnic**

Hosted by Cherith Bruckner

Wednesday, September 4

**Membership Meeting**

**Dawn Geske "Prepping Hosta Leaves  
for Competition"**

6PM Social, 6:30-8:30PM Meeting  
Olbrich Gardens

Wednesday, October 2

**Membership Meeting**

**Frank Greer "40 Years in my Garden"**

6PM Social, 6:30-8:30PM Meeting  
Olbrich Gardens

Saturday, November 2, 2:00-4:30PM

**WHS Harvest Party**

Ziggy's BBQ Smokehouse

135 South Main St. Oregon, WI

# 2019 WPT GARDEN EXPO

February 8-10

Madison, WI

New Garden Expo Chair Lori Gerber has been hard at work on this year's WHS Booth with valuable input from past chairs Marlene Rosenberg, Dawn Geske and Bob Geske. WHS will sell 6 varieties of hostas at the booth this year. Marlene and Jonathan graciously offered to grow them out for us and provide safe transport during the cold Expo days.

This year's selections are;

H. "Abiqua Drinking Gourd"

H. "Curly Fries"

H. "Designer Genes"

H. "June"

H. "Lakeside Paisley Print"

H. "Royal Wedding"

WHS members will be manning the booth to accept both new and renewal WHS memberships, as well as to answer questions. Every new membership (or renewal) paid by the end of Garden Expo will be eligible to win a birdhouse handcrafted by Bob Geske.



## WI JUMPING WORMS....NOW WHAT?

At the September meeting, UW Arboretum Ecologist and Research Program Manager Brad Herrick gave an update on the Jumping Worm situation in WI. Scientists are still unsure of the impact of the jumping worm invasion and continue to monitor areas for insight into their effect on the soil, plants and fauna. Herrick noted that they are looking at the residual impact of Early Bird fertilizer, and they have observed that biochar reduces the number of worms. In their studies they have used a mixture of 1/3 cup dry mustard powder and 1 gallon water to flush worms up to the surface. First you remove the leaves and other litter from the surface. Then pour half of the mustard water over 1 sq. ft of soil. Wait a few minutes and pour the rest of it. Preferred timing is in the fall.

Commercial composters are required to heat compost to 131 degrees for 3 days which kills jumping worm cocoons/castings. Gardeners should note that top soil products are not subject to these requirements. Further experiments are being carried out using mulches of pine needles, marsh hay and native grasses to see if the textures discourage jumping worms.

For more information you can visit the Wisconsin Jumping Worm website (a collaborative effort between WI DNR, UW-Madison Arboretum, UW-Madison Extension, and Olbrich Botanical Gardens) at [dnr.wi.gov/search/](http://dnr.wi.gov/search/) with keyword *jumping worm*.



# “DON'T LET FATHER TIME STOP YOU FROM ENJOYING MOTHER NATURE”

At the October member meeting Marlene Rosenberg shared some tips and exercises for staying healthy and flexible in our gardening pursuits. Here are a few of her take-aways:

## PACE YOURSELF

- Remember to change positions
- Take time to step back and enjoy your work
- Change tasks frequently. No need to weed your entire garden in one day.

## HEAVY LIFTING CAN LEAD TO BACK PROBLEMS

- Instead of lifting a 50# bag, separate it into smaller/lighter buckets to move it
- Use a garden cart/wheelbarrow to move your gardening tools around
- Lift with your legs and use your feet to turn to the side. Do NOT twist with your back.



# RECAP: HARVEST PARTY

## Nov 3, 2018

After a long run at The Firefly Coffeehouse, this year the Harvest Party moved to Ziggy's BBQ Restaurant in Oregon. After a few hiccups, everyone settled in for fun and food. Sandy O'Malley devised a group quiz that had everyone digging down deep for answers. Deb Hayes pleased everyone with fun and quirky door prizes for all. Gathering together for laughs and recollections was the perfect way to end the gardening season!





## UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE HOSTA WORLD



### Great Lakes Hosta Society's "Hosta College"

March 15-16, 2019 Piqua, OH

[www.ihostohio.org/glhc/default.asp](http://www.ihostohio.org/glhc/default.asp)



### American Hosta Society National Convention

June 12–15, 2019

Radisson Hotel & Convention Center

Green Bay, WI

[www.ahs2019event.org](http://www.ahs2019event.org)



FRIENDS • FOLIAGE • FOREVER

- 10 private garden tours spanning two days
- Expansive vendor area and raffle
- Speakers, including Rick Goodenough, Don Dean, Olga Petryszyn, Jeff Miller, Doug Beilstein, and more
- Optional Botanical Garden outing with a Pig Roast
- Hosta Show & Seedling Competition
- Live hosta auction
- Hostatality.....And more!

Garden Tour Bus Transportation for 2 Days: \$60, includes lunch (Self-driving tour option is available at no additional charge, lunch on your own)

# “MY FAVORITE HOSTA”

BY JANE ZEMLIKA



This hosta is “Dick Ward.” I love this hosta because of its large size, beautiful color and textured leaves.

The chartreuse yellow leaves have irregular, dark green margins and are seer suckered and slightly cupped. “Dick Ward” is particularly showy when surrounded by other contrasting hostas and companion plants. It’s a real show-stopper!



My other favorite hosta is “Lakeside Paisley Print.” I absolutely love the unique pattern on the leaves; it reminds me of brush strokes. I also enjoy the high contrast between the light yellow and dark green of the leaves. It’s an absolutely lovely small hosta!

*If YOU have a favorite hosta (or two), please tell us! Send a short paragraph and picture (if you have it) to Windi Fourdraine. (twotxaggies@frontier.com)*

## INTRODUCING.....

Hello fellow gardeners! My name is Peggy Lemon, and I am the new WHS secretary. I'm sure glad the job is to attempt to keep order amongst people and the organization, and not order amongst the Hostas! They are such a wild and crazy bunch!

My intro to gardening was with my mother, and I cannot rightly say when I first saw my first Hosta. I have always been blessed with living with big trees, so I imagine it was early on. How long ago that was, I am not saying. Hah! But today's hostas are not our mothers' Hostas! I have now filled my garden with the beauties, and wonder where the next ones will go. (But there's always room for 1...or 3.... or 5 more, right?)

Hopefully they are well tucked in for the winter and just awaiting those longer and warmer days of spring to put on their gorgeous show. We will get a preview at the garden expo—can't wait to see that green and gold! And can't wait to see you all!



### WHS Board Members

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Corrections? Comments? Suggestions? Contact Newsletter Editor Windi Fourdraine at [twotxaggies@frontier.com](mailto:twotxaggies@frontier.com)



*“He who marvels at the beauty of the world in summer will find equal cause for wonder and admiration in the winter.”* — John Burroughs

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