



The Royal Standard

June 2018

WISCONSIN HOSTA SOCIETY
EST. 1991

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello Hosta Friends!

How did your hostas come through this past winter? In my gardens, 'Sunset Grooves'; 'Little Sunspot'; 'Great Expectations'; and 'Beach Boy' did not survive. I must be honest though, the last 3 were new or moved to a new location last year, and 'Sunset Grooves' was only in its 2nd year. Now, after a very cool spring, it's June and the recent warm temperatures and adequate moisture have most of my hostas (The "white" ones - 'White Feather' and 'Zebra Stripes' did melt out a bit in the extreme heat.) looking great! Hope your gardens, too, are flourishing and you've been able to get out there and enjoy them!

May 19th Auction Results: The good news ==> We had more donors (11 businesses and 2 individuals) and more plants (63 hostas and 30 companions) than last year; 'What the Hill Phil' hostas purchases; bus tour sign-ups; AND we had a hard-working crew led by committee chair, Hosta Man Phil! The disappointing news ==> Attendance and profits were down. Total sales amounted to \$1,975 about \$900 less than last year.

June 30th Leaf Show & Ice Cream Social: WHS will supply the ice cream, and we invite our members to bring a topping to share! **YUM!!**

Keeping in touch: you can email a message to me or another board member using this address wihostasociety@gmail.com or you can also use my personal email 4gardenstuff@gmail.com

Hope to see you on the bus trip this Wednesday!

Sandy

2018 CALENDAR

WISCONSIN HOSTA SOCIETY

Wednesday, June 20, 8am-5pm
WHS Bus Trip
Pondside Gardens & Honeymoon Acres

Saturday, June 30, 1:30-4:30pm
WHS Annual Leaf Show/Competition
Hosted by Bob & Dawn Geske
5820 E. Klug Rd., Milton WI

Sunday, August 5, 2-5PM
WHS Annual Family Picnic
Hosted by: Uniquely Hostas
205 Grove Ave., Elroy WI

Wednesday, September 12
Membership Meeting
Brad Herrick "Jumping Worm Update"
6PM Social, 6:30-8:30PM Meeting
Olbrich Gardens

Wednesday, October 10
Membership Meeting
Marlene Rosenberg "Don't Let Father Time Stop You from Enjoying Mother Nature"
6PM Social, 6:30-8:30PM Meeting
Olbrich Gardens

Saturday, Nov. 3, 1-4PM
WHS Harvest Party
Location TBD



RECAP: WHS MEMBER MEETING APRIL 12, 2018

Nick Ternes of Botanophilia LLC was our April 12 meeting speaker. Nick presented “Great Shade Plants: How to Keep Hosta Gardens Interesting” and brought lovely plants to offer WHS members an early season shopping “fix.” Everyone enjoyed his humorous presentation touching on his business Botanophilia LLC and the perils of an impending move.

In other WHS business, Sandy asked for volunteers to plan a bus trip. She also noted that the 2019 WHS meetings will be on the 1st Wednesday of the month. This is in part due to member preference and also trying to achieve separation from Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society meetings which many WHS members attend too. Phil Timm spoke briefly about the upcoming WHS auction. There will be no member-donated plants, only nursery stock, and it will be held in the Olbrich Atrium as usual.



RECAP: WHS HOSTA AUCTION

MAY 20, 2018

Another auction is over and in the books! A great big THANK YOU goes out to Chair Phil Timm for his hard work in planning, procuring and setting up. A cool, rainy spring and the ever-present jumping worm issue certainly didn't make his task any easier. Total proceeds from the auction were \$1,975, which was down from last year. On a positive note, we had more donors and more donated plants! The top-selling hosta was H. "Dorothy Benedict" which sold for \$60.

Thank you to the following for their donations of hostas and companion plants: *America's Best; Country Bloomers; Elim Hosta Garden; The Flower Factory; Garden Prairie Farm; Hollywood Bob Hosta Farm; Jung Garden Center, Klein's; Kopke's Greenhouse; Marla Robinson; Natalie's Greenhouse; Hosta Man Phil; and Uniquely Hostas.* If you patronize any of these establishments, please thank them for their donation.



WHS LEAF SHOW AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

JUNE 30, 2018

Get out in your gardens and start looking at those hostas...it's time for the annual leaf throw down, er leaf show. Bob and Dawn Geske are hosting this year's competition, and there will be no losers since everyone gets ICE CREAM!

Location – Bob and Dawn Geske's, 5820 E Klug Road Milton, WI

When - Saturday June 30th 1:30pm-4:30pm

WHS will provide all of the supplies for the leaf displays and the ice cream. All you have to bring is your **best leaves**; your **favorite ice cream topping** to share with others; plus your own **lawn chair**.

You may enter all 9 categories but only one leaf in each.

Variegated Edge

Misted or Streaked

Yellow

Red Stem

Largest Leaf

Variegated Center

Green

Blue

Most Unusual



RECAP: WHS TOUR OF ALLEN CENTENNIAL GARDENS JUNE 6, 2018

WHS members were treated to a special tour of Allen Centennial Gardens led by Director Ben Futa on a lovely Wednesday evening. The Gardens are located on the UW-Madison campus and are free to visit. (free parking after 4:30pm) Get some Babcock Hall ice cream and make it a date!



“WHAT THE HILL, PHIL!” HOSTA AVAILABLE

Members attending the WHS Auction on May 20th had the opportunity to purchase Hosta “What the Hill Phil” for only \$20 per plant. This hosta comes from Jeff Miller’s hybridizing program at Land of the Giants Hosta Farm, and Jeff donated it to the Wisconsin Hosta Society. Thanks to modern day tissue culture propagation, we now have a good supply ready for purchase. Didn’t make it to the auction? Don’t worry — “What the Hill Phil” will also be available at the Leaf Show & Ice Cream Social on June 30th!

“What the Hill, Phil!” is a beautiful blue, with cupped leaves on a large mounded hosta. It is bigger than Abiqua Drinking Gourd. It was bred at Land of the Giants and had quite an infamous beginning... *Jeff and good friend Phil each chose a hosta they fancied to enter in the Seedgrowers Competition. Jeff’s choice won out the selection process and was dug and loaded on the golf cart to take to the show. While driving out of the garden, Jeff says that a despondent Phil “accidentally” nudged the prized hosta off the cart and it rolled down the hill, crushing all of the wonderful foliage. Since this hosta specimen was no longer show worthy, Jeff and Phil had no choice but to go dig Phil’s first choice to enter in its place. The “first choice” hosta has had time to recover and Jeff has decided to introduce it and name it 'What the Hill Phil.'* There were only a limited number of plants, produced, so get yours while you can!



PLANT LABELS & STAKES GROUP ORDER INFO

As Spring has finally arrived in WI, our hostas are making their appearances. Now is a great time to see what you have where, and maybe to label a few that you want to especially remember. It's also a good time to buy new plants, right? How about getting labels for them too, while you still know what they are? I will place an order for the black and white plant markers in mid-July, in time for delivery at the summer picnic. Prices are approximately \$2.25 each. So start your lists early (like now) for easy ordering later! You can email your lists to me at taylor.thereasa@gmail.com.



Terry Anne Taylor

One of the suggestion cards from the March meeting asked that we “Briefly share the Society’s mission statement.” The following statement is from the WHS Constitution & Bylaws adopted in April of 1991:

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

This Society is organized exclusively as a non-profit educational society to promote knowledge of and interest in the genus Hosta, to encourage the development of new and improved varieties, and to promote its cultivation and usefulness in the landscape.

Your current board and committee members are enthusiastic about providing activities and events that will help us to accomplish this purpose. As you may know, the hosta has long been known as “the friendship plant”; and so Friends, we hope that you will join us in the camaraderie and sharing that is so essential to achieving our goals!

WHS 2018 CALENDAR

Bus Trip

Visiting Pondsides Gardens and Honeymoon Acres.

June 20, 2018 8am-5pm

Annual Leaf Show and Ice Cream Social

Hosted by Bob & Dawn Geske (5820 E. Klug Rd., Milton WI)

Saturday, June 30, 1:30-4:30pm

Annual Family Potluck Picnic

Hosted by Marlene Rosenberg & Uniquely Hostas (205 Grove Ave., Elroy WI)

Sunday, August 5, 2-5pm

Member Meeting “Jumping Worm Update” by Brad Herrick

Wednesday, Sept 12, 6-9pm, Olbrich Gardens

Member Meeting “Don’t Let Father Time Stop You from Enjoying Mother Nature” by Marlene Rosenberg

Wednesday, Oct. 10, 6-9pm, Olbrich Gardens

Fall Harvest Party

Location TBD

Saturday, Nov. 3



Help Wanted!

Bob and Dawn Geske are looking for a co-chair to work with them on the 2019 Garden Expo Booth Committee. This individual will then take over the committee for the 2020 Garden Expo. If you feel like you have the Right Stuff, please contact them at bdjgeske62@msn.com.



WHS Board Members

Sandy O'Malley
President
4gardenstuff@gmail.com

Deb Hayes
Vice President &
Program Chair
debhayes1052@yahoo.com

Marlene Rosenberg
Secretary
uniquelyhostas@yahoo.com

Marla Robinson
Treasurer & Membership
j_robinson@charter.net

SAVE THE DATE!

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY 2018 CONVENTION

July 12-14, 2018

Peoria, IL - "Hostas Play in Peoria"

<http://www.midwesthostasociety.org>

Don't forget to come to the Leaf Show and Ice Cream Social on June 30th at the Geske's to meet the newest family members. These two were actually adopted at the February Garden Expo. Learn their names and which hosta garden they've chosen to graze in. Let's hope they don't eat Dawn and Bob out of house and home!

www.wisconsinhostasociety.com
wihostasociety@gmail.com



Corrections? Comments? Suggestions? Contact Newsletter Editor Windi Fourdraine at twotxaggies@frontier.com



"It was June, and the world smelled of roses. The sunshine was like powdered gold over the grassy hillside."

— Maud Hart Lovelace

WISCONSIN HOSTA SOCIETY
WINDI FOURDRAINE
922 JOHNSON AVE.
OREGON, WI 53575