



The Royal Standard

September 2020

WISCONSIN HOSTA SOCIETY
EST. 1991

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2020 was supposed to be a great year for the Wisconsin Hosta Society. The year started out so promising. The Garden Expo was a great success, The March meeting allowed us to meet Michael Jesiolowski, the new Director of Horticulture for Rotary Botanical Gardens. Mark Dwyer was going to give a presentation at our April meeting. Then the wheels on the cart fell off. The cart itself developed dry rot and soon enough burst into flames. Thanks a lot COVID 19.

Even though things are chaotic right now there are events still happening. Elections are happening in October. A Zoom meeting presentation is happening September 23rd. A decision has been made on your yearly memberships and an update on cancellations has been made. Read through the entire newsletter for a more thorough understanding about what is happening.

Stay safe everyone. I hope that you are all healthy and doing well. A COVID 19 vaccine will be out soon and 2021 is going to be a wonderful normal year (fingers crossed). I am looking forward to seeing you all again in person.

Phil Timm



2020 WHS ELECTIONS

The offices of Treasurer and Secretary come up for election this fall. Persons interested can submit their name and statement of interest to Phil Timm (hostamanphil@yahoo.com) prior to Sept. 30th. Elections will be in October and will be through e-mail. We will be using a new online voting that will allow you to easily vote.

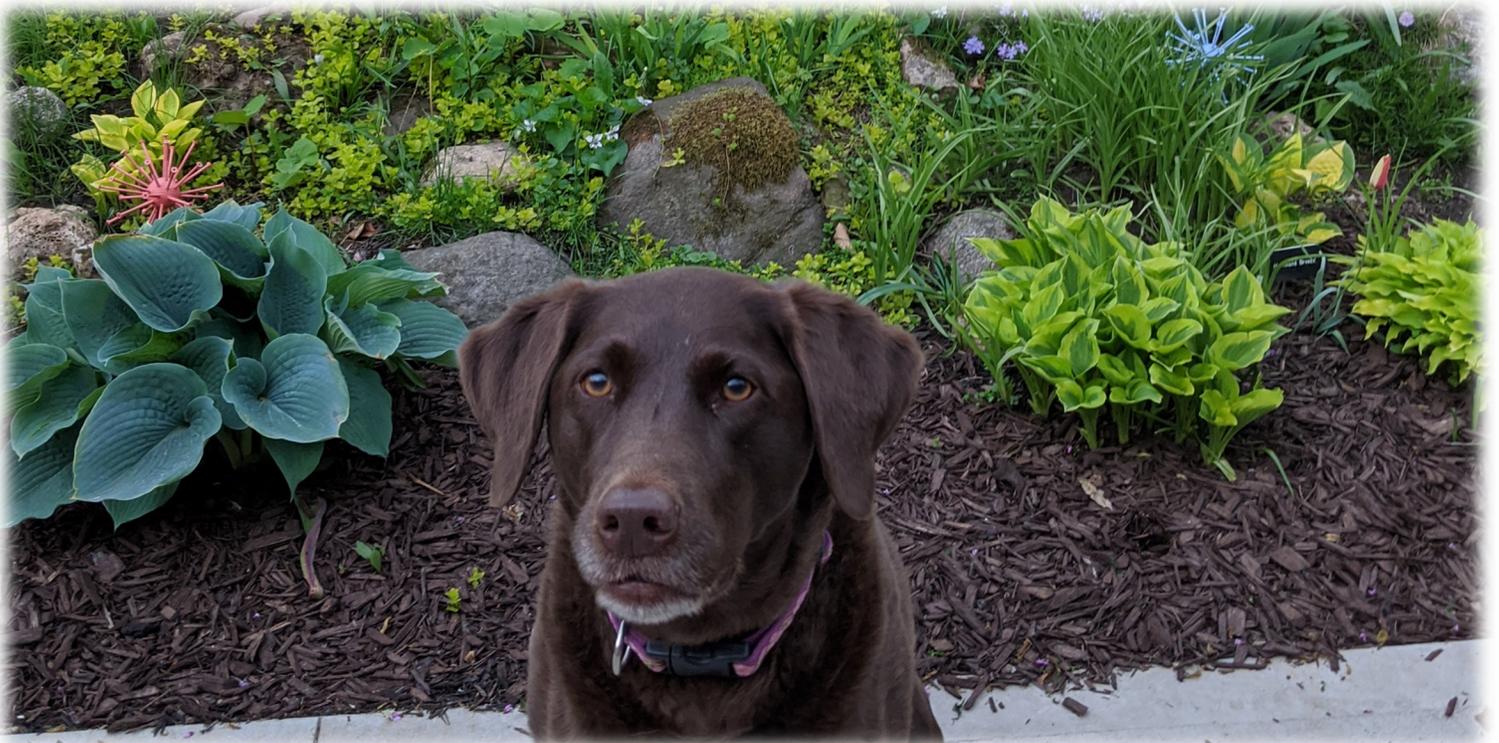
Per the Constitution of the Wisconsin Hosta Society, the duties of these officers are:

Secretary: *The Secretary shall record the activities of the meetings of the Society and of the Board and shall send copies of the minutes to the members of the Board. They shall attend to the general correspondences of the Society as directed by the President.*

Treasurer: *The Treasurer shall receive the membership dues, have charge of all Society funds, and pay all accounts. They shall maintain a current membership list and shall be Chairperson of the Membership Committee. They shall make an annual report of receipts and expenditures.*

The Board consists of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Garden Expo Coordinator, and Member at Large. We meet about 4 times/year. (This year is different with more frequent Zoom meetings).

We look forward to meeting our new candidates! Please consider running. It's a great job, helps your organization, and is very enjoyable!



WHS CALENDAR NEWS

All In-Person Events Cancelled for 2020

The Board of the Wisconsin Hosta Society has met via Zoom and has made a decision on the following events. Due to COVID 19 and the restrictions that it has caused all in person events have been cancelled through 2020. We just got word that the Garden Expo at the Alliant Energy Center for 2021 has also been cancelled. What a year to forget.

2021 WPT Garden & Landscape Expo Cancelled

PBS Wisconsin has made the difficult — yet necessary — decision to cancel their 2021 in-person Garden & Landscape Expo.

While there will not be in-person meeting at the Alliant Energy Center in February, there will be a plan to unite and engage the gardening community virtually, sharing inspiration and educational opportunities.

In the meantime save the date of February 11-13, 2022 for the following year and plan on joining us for a great expo!

WHS Memberships Extended

This year started out strong but thanks to COVID 19 it turned out to be a nothing year for the club. Because of this the WHS Board has unanimously agreed to extend every member's membership by one year. For a single year membership this will now carry through December 2021. For multi-year memberships, another year will be added.

FUTURE AHS CONVENTIONS

2021 Kalamazoo, Michigan

2022 Minneapolis, Minnesota

2023 Ames, Iowa

2024 TBD

ZOOM SPEAKER/MEETING

SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

We are excited to be able to gather virtually on September 23rd at 7:00 pm to hear Mark Dwyer talk about “Hosta Companion Plants.” Mark’s talks are always entertaining and full of knowledge.

You do not have to leave your home and it’s guaranteed COVID-free. There is no registration necessary, simply use the link you see below. This event is being kept to members of the Wisconsin Hosta Society, so please don't share the link. We recommend a computer/laptop with a camera, but a tablet will work as well. If you have not yet used Zoom, simply click on the link anytime before the event and allow your computer/device to download Zoom. You do NOT need to set up a paid account to use Zoom and access this meeting. When you enter the meeting on the 23rd you will automatically be muted, you will see a red line through the microphone symbol in the bottom left corner. Please remain muted. We will go over some other Zoom tips and tricks in the first few minutes on the 23rd. If you have other questions on how to use Zoom, please email WHS member, Rob James, probjames@gmail.com.

Topic: Wisconsin Hosta Society Zoom Presentation

Time: Sep 23, 2020 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Meeting ID: 861 7772 3350

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86177723350>

Mark your calendars for our first ever Zoom meeting.

Zoom, Zoom, Zoom,

Phil Timm



My Favorite Hosta ...this week

H. "BEYOND GLORY"

Phil Timm

One of my favorite hostas is one that has been around for awhile and is named "Old Glory." While I was out hosta shopping a couple of years ago I spotted a sport of "Old Glory" and it was named "Beyond Glory." I figured that a sport of my favorite hosta is worth trying in the hosta patch.

"Beyond Glory" turned out to be a fast grower with beautiful coloring. It handles the sun and looks as good in September as it does in June. It is a medium to large plant and has a yellow center with a dark green edge. The Hosta Database states that it goes above and beyond it's parent plant with twice as wide dark green margins and has a thicker leaf substance. I strongly recommend this hosta, it is relatively new and should be easily found.



Looking for more HOSTA reading material?

Here's an email link to the American Hosta Society's free monthly eNewsletter:

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Publications/eNewsletter/september2020/september2020.pdf>

FACEBOOK CH-CH-CH-CHANGES!

We miss you! Who would have thought when we last met in March that it would be at least a year (and maybe a lot longer) till we can meet again in person? It is so disappointing that we have had to cancel meetings, the auction, and social gatherings. However, your board thought it the best choice for the health and safety of our members. Even our board meetings have been conducted over Zoom. I'm wondering how long it will be before we all have a hosta named "*Pandemic*" in our gardens!

Even though we cannot get together in person, we still want to know how you and your gardens are faring, so we have set up another way for us all to share our passion for "The Friendship Plant" -> a Facebook group account where all members of the Wisconsin Hosta Society will be able to share photos, ideas, questions, and information about all things HOSTA!

You may wonder . . . "We already have a Facebook page; what will be different?" So let me attempt a simple explanation of the difference between a Facebook **PAGE** and a Facebook **GROUP**:

Pages are places on Facebook where businesses, organizations, and public figures can connect with their fans or customers. Only those managing the page can post comments and photos.

Groups are places to communicate about shared interests with other members of the group. The group is still managed by an administrator, but **All** members of the group can post messages.

Here is how to find and join the Wisconsin Hosta Society group:

1. Go to your own Facebook home page.
2. On the menu bar across the top, click on the group icon that is just to the left of your photo & name.
3. Now on the left, you will see the word Groups and a search box just under it. Enter: [Wisconsin Hosta Society](#)
There may be a long list of groups to choose from. If so, you can shorten the list by clicking on "Groups" under "Filters."
4. Scroll through the list of groups until you find [Wisconsin Hosta Society](#).
Clicking on it should open up our group page.
5. Now click on the blue button that says "Join Group."

As a member of WHS, you will be accepted into the Facebook group as soon as the Admin approves your request. Then you will start seeing content from the group in the news feed of your home page. Additionally, you will be able to start posting and sharing information about your own gardening experiences and love of hostas on the WHS [Group](#) page.

If you have questions, send an email to wihostasociety@gmail.com or to my personal account: 4gardenstuff@gmail.com

See you soon on Facebook!

Sandy O'Malley

WHS Board Member-at-Large

GARDENING IN THE TIME OF CORONA

OBSERVATIONS FROM WHS BOARD MEMBERS

Well, There isn't much to write about In my garden, other than it is screaming for RAIN! The west side of Madison got it's first rainfall Monday of > 0.1 inch of rain since around July 10th. Sigh. The hostas are brown along with everything else!

The plants that look stupendous are the tomatoes. They are growing in the sunniest spot I've got: the driveway. They are in a specialized container that has a screen about 1/3 of the way up from the bottom. The potting soil with special fertilizer and lime added sits on top of the screen, and the top of the box is covered. Holes are cut in this to plant the tomatoes. There is a spout that goes down to the bottom 1/3 and you fill it with water. The plants barely bother with the dirt-the roots go straight down to the water. Each tomato can drink 2 gallons of water per day if the weather is hot. It's amazing what a great tomato factory this makes! There is very little squirrel/chipmunk sampling. This summer I had sunflowers growing next to the tomatoes and I got to watch the Goldfinches peck at both.- Hope they got their lycopene! There is also not much fungal or other disease present. This method is insanely productive!

So this isn't about hostas or even shade gardening, but might be more interesting than my ramblings of incessant watering and discussion of what color of brown those hostas leaves are! I will be very jealous to hear how green and lush your hosta gardens are!

Peggy



Hello everyone,

So glad we've got our Hosta and shade gardens in this crazy stay at home year! I've only added a couple new hostas this year due to the loss of 2 huge shade trees last fall. That means a lot of my shade plants are pretty crispy this year and by now a lot of summer ugly going on. Instead the big additions to my yard were 4, hopefully future shade trees. Choices were an American Hornbeam, White Fringe Tree, Coral burst Crabapple and an Albert Holden Lilac. Otherwise I'm fine and wishing the same to you all. Miss your smiling and friendly faces. I leave you with a picture of my new gardening buddy and possible future board member. :-)

Deb



GARDENING IN THE TIME OF CORONA

OBSERVATIONS FROM WHS BOARD MEMBERS

Hi Everyone!

When I started putting this newsletter together it was hot and extremely dry in the gardens. So I will spare you pictures of the "August Uglies." Luckily, as I finish this we are on the 4th day of gentle rains, and the plants and critters outside are gratefully slurping it up. I appreciate that, but maybe more so that I can finally transplant and move plants without breaking my shovel. I always seem to be "editing"...new plants, more light, less light, casualties, or just to try a new combination. I'm sure you all do it too. It's one of the things I love about gardening... nothing stays the same. You might think it does, but then you look back at some photos from a few years ago...where did that clump of beebalm go? And oh yeah, I used to have a lily there...or wow, that Sweet Woodruff is really happy. : (

The reseeding amaranths, nigellas, nasturtiums and poppies are always delightful surprises. Even when they migrate into the vegetable garden. And my annual gladiolus procrastination pays off with beautiful blooms in late September. Procrastination does NOT pay off in the case of weeds. Last year I let a lot of those "sticky Velcro ball" weeds go to seed and have been pulling them out whenever I spy them. They are really stealthy. And the worst is when you bend forward to pull one and it snaps back against your head. Then you spend 30-45 painful minutes pulling them out...one by one. In theory. At least that's what I heard. Sucks even more when it happens twice. You'd think a person would learn...sigh.

My hostas have been very happy this year (August notwithstanding) and I'm waiting to see if "Venus" will actually bloom for once. Usually "Aphrodite" blooms nicely, but this year it suffered from the heat/dry. "Venus" never manages to go all the way, but this year...well, we'll see. I'll take pics. Have missed seeing you all this year...Hope you are all staying safe and we can be together when this all settles down.

windi



H. "Atlantis" bedazzled by the rain.



Ahhhhhh.....



Literally the 2020 motto.

GARDENING IN THE TIME OF CORONA

OBSERVATIONS FROM WHS BOARD MEMBERS

**6 They're
not hostas,
but they
are smiley
faces.**

*— Marla, about
her passionflowers*



Bonus Ramblings:

Geez, what a year! It's been a long time since we saw each other and I miss you all! It is really hard. But we also have some blessings to be thankful for. We are sooo very lucky to be here, no matter which side you are hoping for in the coin toss. We have lovely technology to keep us going in isolation. (Okay, all my friends who have heard me curse this stuff out can stop laughing now). Just imagine 30 years ago we would have really been isolated with just the paper and evening news. (Maybe that doesn't sound so bad after all). We are not trudging back to our burned out houses and neighborhoods. It is not snowing on us. (Snowing!!!). And most wonderful of all, it is raining!!

We are also fortunate to be devoted to hostas. These are tough little numbers (some not very little at all). They may be brown, and they may have been dry. But they are watered well now and are rooted in their spots waiting for next season when they will happily emerge and grow again, just as we will!

Peggy

2020 WHS DONATIONS

At the April 25 WHS Board meeting it was noted that public gardens would suffer especially during the quarantine, and we discussed ways for WHS to support our public gardens. To that end the following motion was passed:

The WHS, to assist and encourage our wonderful botanical gardens, will send out the following donations: \$1,000 each to Olbrich Botanical Garden and Janesville Rotary Botanical Garden (JRBG check will be designated "Horticulture Restricted," to ensure its use is in the garden) and \$500 donations each to Allen Centennial Garden and UW Extension Teaching Garden.

We received the following note from Rotary Gardens:

Thank you very much for your gift to Rotary Botanical Gardens on behalf of the Wisconsin Hosta Society!

Your contribution of \$1,000 received on May 11, 2020 will be used for the Horticulture Department as you have designated. Rotary Botanical Gardens is 100% self-funded (receiving no city, county, state or federal funding) and relies on the financial support of our members and donors.

Your generous contribution will support our mission of enriching lives through natural beauty, education and the arts. Thanks to your support, Rotary Botanical Gardens will continue to capture the hearts and imagination of people for all ages for generations to come.

We're so grateful for your support!

*Kindest regards,
Rebecca Kronberg
Executive Director
Rotary Botanical Gardens*



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

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**Follow us on Facebook for WHS news,
hosta info and member garden pics!**



*"The goldenrod is yellow, the corn is turning brown; the trees in apple orchards with fruit are bending down...
By all these lovely tokens September days are here, with Summer's best of weather and Autumn's best of cheer."*

--- Helen Hunt Jackson