



The Royal Standard

January 2024

WISCONSIN HOSTA SOCIETY
EST. 1991

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Ask not what your country can do for you-ask what you can do for your country." These were inspiring words spoken by John F. Kennedy. I am going to have fun with it and go with "Ask not what the WHS can do for you-ask what you can do for your WHS." I would really like to have 2024 be the best year ever for the Wisconsin Hosta Society. We need help from YOU to make this happen. I am looking for ideas, volunteer time and gardens to visit.

The Wisconsin Garden and Landscape Garden Expo is happening soon and we need help from the membership to answer questions and tell people about the WHS at our booth. We could use some input on where to go on a bus trip this year. Every year we have a leaf show/ ice cream social. Would you like to have your garden considered for this? I really enjoy visiting member's gardens. Are you willing to open up your garden for a casual visit from the WHS? Do you have any wonderful ideas on activities, events or speakers that would be great for the WHS?

If you have any thoughts or ideas please let me know. Let me know if you would be willing to open up your garden for an activity or visit. You can contact me at philtimm6@gmail.com and if you do not want to deal with that guy than you can use hostamanphil@gmail.com. I would love to see some input and fresh ideas.

Thank you very much for considering this.

Phil



2024 CALENDAR

WISCONSIN HOSTA SOCIETY

Wednesday, March 6
Membership Meeting
Speaker: Josh Feyan "How to Take Pictures with Your Phone"
6PM Social, 6:30-8:30PM Meeting
Olbrich Gardens, Madison

Wednesday, April 4
Membership Meeting
Speaker: Andrea and Justin Geske (of Geske's Gardens and Uniquely Hostas) "Our Hosta Story"
6PM Social, 6:30-8:30PM Meeting
Olbrich Gardens, Madison

Sunday, June 23
Annual Leaf Show Competition & Ice Cream Social
1:30-4:00PM
Host: Mary Lou Clayton, Brooklyn, WI

Saturday, July 27
Bus Trip: "In the Country Gardens and Gifts" Independence, IA
8AM-8PM

Sunday, August 4
Family Picnic & Auction
12:30-4:00pm
Host: Phil Timm, Rockford, IL

Wednesday, September 4
Membership Meeting
Speaker: Al Ritchey, Al's Auto Body and Arboretum
6PM Social, 6:30-8:30PM Meeting
Olbrich Gardens, Madison

Wednesday, October 2
Membership Meeting
Speaker: Kevin Vugrinovich of Sharp on Site
6PM Social, 6:30-8:30PM Meeting
Olbrich Gardens, Madison

HOSTAWEEN Bonfire—TBD

Sunday, November 10
WHS Harvest Party
1-4PM
Kickback Café
107 S. Main St, Oregon, WI

2023 ANNUAL LEAF SHOW COMPETITION & ICE CREAM SOCIAL JUNE 25, 2023

Once again members came together to do battle with loads of leaves and then peace out with ice cream treats provided by WHS. Char and Randy Hanson hosted this year's event in their lush gardens...thanks! When the dust settled, everybody went home with a smile, even if they didn't win...just wait till next year!



2023 ANNUAL LEAF SHOW COMPETITION & ICE CREAM SOCIAL, CONTINUED



Hosta of the Year 2024

H. 'MINI SKIRT'

The American Hosta Growers Association has selected Hosta 'Mini Skirt' as Hosta of the Year for 2024. 'Mini Skirt' is a sport of 'Mighty Mouse' and it has thick, wavy foliage with purple flowers. Creamy gold-edged, blue centers give way to near-white, blue-green leaves later in the summer. This one is a cuteness overload!



Photo credit: Walters Gardens

Looking for more HOSTA reading material?

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

<https://www.americanhostasociety.org/Publications/eNewsletter/july2023/july2023.pdf>

Would you like all your hosta-enthusiasm and hard work to be appreciated by other like-minded WHS members? We are looking for members who would like to open their garden to other members for a garden tour this summer or fall! You don't have to give a presentation or provide refreshments. Just be there in case anyone has questions about your wonderful garden! Interested? Contact WHS member Jane Zemlicka at jzemlicka8@gmail.com.

2023 FAMILY PICNIC & HOSTA AUCTION

AUGUST 6

For 2023 we found ourselves returning to Marla Robinson's extensive hosta gardens for the family picnic and hosta auction. After an awesome potluck meal, there was some serious competition for the hostas up for acquisition. Many thanks to members who donated purchased plants and seedlings! And to Marla, for hosting!



RECAP: SEPTEMBER MEMBER MEETING SEPT 6, 2023

September's meeting was a hands-on workshop format about making floral arrangements using hosta leaves and other materials from our gardens and yards. Everyone had a great time sharing items from their yards and making bountiful bouquets. A few tips from the evening: use leaves in groups of 3; strip the stems so that there are no leaves underwater; cut stems on a slant to increase surface area for water uptake; and don't be afraid to have fun!

Owen Purvis brought bags of Surprise/Resurrection/Naked Lady bulbs (aka *Lycoris squamigera*) to give away to attendees. Thanks Owen!



2023 SEPTEMBER MEETING, CONT.



WHS ON FACEBOOK

Have you joined our online WHS Facebook group yet?

Here's a direct link—check it out and make sure you click the “JOIN” button. Then post a favorite photo of your gardens to say “HI!”

Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3062990573782080/>

RECAP: MEMBER MEETING OCT 4, 2023

WHS Elections: Incumbents President Phil Timm and Vice President Jane Zemlicka were running unopposed, and membership unanimously reelected them.

Guest Speaker: Josh Spece

In The Country Garden & Gifts began in 1998 by the mother and son team, Sue and Josh Spece. The one-of-a-kind nursery is located in rural Eastern Iowa. Josh discussed how he came to grow hostas and how the business has changed and grown over the years. Josh brought hostas and garden art which members enjoyed shopping.



American Hosta Society



Join the American Hosta Society!

The American Hosta Society (AHS) is a not-for-profit organization. The AHS is organized exclusively for educational and scientific purposes, and especially to promote, encourage, and foster the development of the genus *Hosta* and public interest therein.

**For more info or to join go to:
www.americanhostasociety.org**

RECAP: 2023 HARVEST PARTY, NOV 5

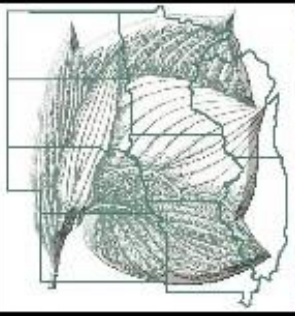
WHS members returned to Oregon's KickBack Café to celebrate the end of the gardening season and to catch up with friends. Door prizes were won by EVERYONE (great job Marla and Deb), and we enjoyed a fabulous food spread.



2023 WHS FINANCIAL REPORT

\$10,340.16	Beginning Balance December 31, 2022 Checking
\$ 1,330.00	Income Membership Dues-39-Renewal-34-New
\$ 1,510.00	Income Garden Expo Hostas at Expo-74 sold
\$ 240.00	Income Garden Expo Hostas after Expo-16 sold
\$ 396.00	Income from WTHP Hostas-30 sold
\$ 35.00	Income from Donations
\$ 2,039.00	Income from Picnic Auction Hostas- 92 sold, 5 other
\$ 1,276.00	Income from Bus Trip -29 members
\$ 17.41	Income From Interest (Error reversed in 2024)
\$ 25.00	Income From Hosta Books 5 x \$5
\$ 6,868.41	Total Income
(465.00)	Expenses Garden Expo Hostas - 93
(95.73)	Expenses Garden Expo Parking, Candy
(151.00)	Expenses Garden Expo 10% of sales
(240.00)	Expenses Garden Expo Booths-2024
(94.46)	Expenses Misc Office Supplies/Filing Fees
(309.00)	Expenses Insurance
(260.00)	Expenses Meetings at Olbrich Botanical Gardens 2024
(709.89)	Expenses Speaker Fees
(237.92)	Expenses Leaf Show-Food,Prizes,Hostess Gift
(142.11)	Expenses Picnic- Food, Hostess Gift, Auction Hostas
(885.80)	Expenses Harvest Party Food, Prizes
(1,695.33)	Expenses Bus Trip Rental, Garden Fees, Food, Prizes
(5,286.24)	Total Expenses
\$ 11,922.33	Ending Balance December 31, 2023 Checkbook
\$ 260.00	Uncleared check, Cleared January 3, 2024
\$ 12,182.33	Ending Balance December 31, 2023 Bank Statement Checking
\$ 5.00	Ending Balance December 31, 2023 Bank Statement Savings
\$ 12,187.33	Ending Balance December 31, 2023
\$ 80.00	Petty Cash

Respectively submitted
Treasurer Marla Robinson



The Midwest Regional Hosta Society

The mission of the society is to promote education, research, development, and enjoyment of America's favorite perennial, the Hosta. But most of all, the MRHS is a society of people that have developed a camaraderie around this wonderful "friendship plant". The MRHS is considered Region 5 of the American Hosta Society and encompasses the nine Midwestern states of Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Within the Midwest Region are 18 local societies.

For more information or to join go to:

<http://www.midwesthostasociety.org/index.shtml>

New Members since July

Angeleen Buske –Juneau
Michael Koerber - Hartford
Kelly Kurhais - Owen
Jeff Renier- Madison
Robert Shaver—Madison
William Waite - Waterloo
Deirdre Zook—Oshkosh

WELCOME!

www.wisconsinhostasociety.com
wihostasociety@gmail.com

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

WHS Board Members

Phil Timm
President

Jane Zemlicka
Vice President &
Program Chair

Peggy Lemon
Secretary

Marla Robinson
Treasurer & Membership Chair

Sandy O'Malley
Member-At-Large/
Membership Coordinator

Lori Gerber
Garden Expo Chair

Windi Fourdraine
Newsletter Editor

Deb Hayes
Historian



"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant." — Anne Bradstreet