



The Royal Standard

September 2016

WISCONSIN HOSTA SOCIETY
EST. 1991

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello Everyone,

Well it's August 28th, with lots of rain happening which will create larger hostas next spring. Leaves and hostas are starting to look tired, so am I lol. We are having the WHS's 25th Anniversary party Wednesday, September 14th at 6:00pm in our usual Olbrich Gardens space. We have a caterer coming, and we're going to play Bingo! We have prizes for the winners (of course!), and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone.

The bus tour to Uniquely Hostas and Elim Gardens was a blast with a great meal and fellowship. We will definitely do a bus tour again next year. The leaf competition here at Land of the Giants was so much fun—lots of people brought leaves and there were lots of winners. Everyone that came got to bring home a free hosta.

Hoping everyone had a great summer and looking forward to seeing everyone this fall at the WI Hosta Society get together and meetings. In October we are going to have a bonfire here at LOTG and everyone will be invited. Stay tuned for more info.

See everyone soon.

Jeff Miller
aka Mrhosta



2016 CALENDAR WISCONSIN HOSTA SOCIETY

September 14 • **Membership Meeting**
6PM, Olbrich Gardens, Madison, WI
25th Anniversary party of the Wisconsin Hosta Society. Dinner and bingo.

October ?? • **Bonfire Potluck**
??PM, Land of the Giants, Milton, WI
Stay tuned for details!

October 13 • **Membership Meeting**
6PM, Olbrich Gardens, Madison, WI
Speaker: Owen Purvis, Elim Gardens
"Hosta Hybridizing and Seed Growing"

November 5 • **WHS Harvest Party**
1:00-4PM, Firefly Coffeehouse, Oregon, WI.
Fun, food and games to finish the season!

WHS Board Members

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WHS DINNER AND LEAF SHOW

On July 20 WHS members traveled to Land of the Giants for a hearty meal and fierce competition at WHS's 2nd annual Leaf Show and Dinner. A big *Thank You* to the WHS for providing dinner and to Penny & Jeff for their hospitality.

With seven categories, there were plenty of opportunities to compete...here are the winners!

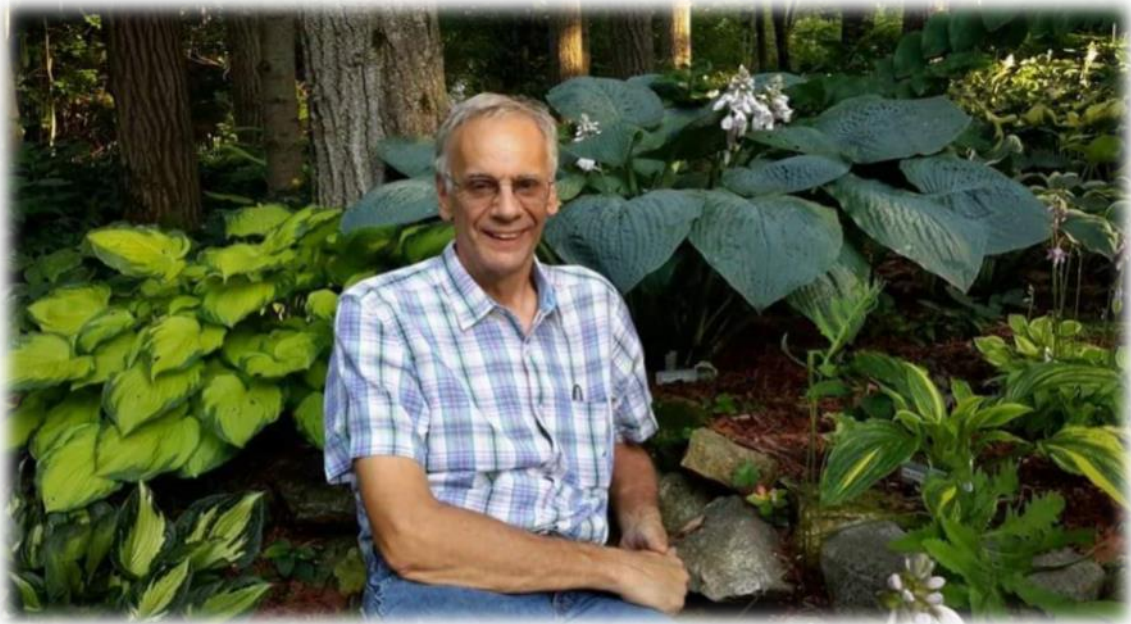


(From left to right)

- 1) BLUE Bob Kosanke, 'Deep Blue Sea'
- 2) WHITE-MARGINED Phil Timm, 'Ice Follies'
- 3) STREAKED, MOTTLED or MISTED Phil Timm, seedling from 'Ice Age Trail'
- 4) YELLOW-MARGINED Dawn Geske, 'Days End'
- 4.5) PHOTOBOMBING HOST Jeff Miller
- 5) MOST UNUSUAL Janet Freeman, 'Rainbow's End'
- 6) YELLOW Deb Hayes, 'Bumble Bee'
- 7) LARGEST Deb Hayes, 'Empress Wu'

A TRIBUTE TO DARYL “PETE” KRUEGER

November 6, 1950 – June 30, 2016



Pete came to the Land of the Giants Hosta Farm in the spring a few years back and asked if he could volunteer. I thought to myself what's this guy's angle? He came the following year and asked the same question. I talked with him, and he said he wanted to learn. I said, "You are welcome to come, but call ahead and make sure we will be home." He called that night, and said he wasn't doing anything the next day.

Pete came to the gardens very eager to learn and to work. This man could **work**, and that was the start of our friendship. He would come out and help in the gardens frequently. Little by little I figured out that **he** was the teacher, and **I** was the student. He helped me deal with life. He taught me to not get caught up in others' issues. He taught me to have compassion. He taught me to control my anger if things are not working the way I think they should work. Case in point: One day I was trying to do something and was very frustrated since the harder I tried to get this job done the worse it was going for me. I yelled at Penny's mother for not helping me, even though it was not her fault at all. The next day Pete brought me a Snickers bar and said that when I'm hungry I am not myself, like the commercial. We both had a good laugh, and he was working his magic again with him being the teacher and me the student.

If there was anything to be done for the WI Hosta Society he was the first one in line to help. People didn't know the amount of time that he put into volunteering for WHS, and it was not important for him to be recognized for his unconditional support for the society. He was content just doing the right thing. Pete Krueger was a great man and a great teacher. He was and still is an inspiration for me. Rest in peace my friend. I love you and will take everything you taught me and hopefully teach others of your work. Thank you for letting me be the student and to learn from a man I admired so much. Thank you for all the hosta knowledge that you passed on to all the people who came to the gardens from around the country. Mostly thank you for being the man that you were and for being a part of my and my family's lives.

Your loving friend,
Jeff Miller aka Mrhosta

WHS ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC SUNDAY, AUGUST 7



Mary Polancih, *Hostess with the Mostest*, graciously opened up her backyard oasis to WHS members and their families on August 7. After a hearty potluck meal and seconds (thirds, fourths, etc) of dessert, we settled in for the Hosta Swap and the Picnic Auction. Also auctioned off were a handmade birdhouse, as well as a handmade welcome sign that was made by the late Pete Krueger. It was a perfect day with sunny skies, no mosquitoes(!), good food, great humor and fellowship. What a way to close out summer!

TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY WHILE TAKING CARE OF YOUR GARDENS

Marlene Rosenberg, PT/Co-Owner Uniquely Hostas

We love our hostas, we love working in our yards, but we do not love the aches and pains that come along with our hard work. Common gardening activities, such as digging, planting, weeding, mulching and raking can cause stress and strain on muscles and joints. Different body areas such as your shoulders, neck, back and knees can be vulnerable to injury during gardening. The following tips can help minimize or prevent injuries:

- ◆ Warm up before gardening. A 10 minute brisk walk and stretches for the spine and limbs are good ways to warm up.
- ◆ Change positions frequently to avoid stiffness or cramping.
- ◆ Be aware of how your body feels while you are working. If a part starts to ache, take a break, stretch that body part in the opposite direction it was in, or switch to a different gardening activity. For example, if you've been leaning forward for more than a few minutes, and your back starts to ache, slowly stand up, and gently lean backwards a few times.
- ◆ Make use of a garden cart or wheelbarrow to move heavy planting materials or tools. Be sure to keep your back straight while using a wheelbarrow.
- ◆ If kneeling on both knees causes discomfort in your back, try kneeling on one and keep the other foot on the ground. Use knee pads or gardening pads when kneeling.
- ◆ If kneeling or leaning down to the ground causes significant pain in your back and knees, consider using elevated planters.
- ◆ Use good body mechanics when you pick something up or pull something, such as a weed.
- ◆ Bend your knees, tighten your stomach muscles, and keep your back straight as you lift or pull things. Avoid twisting your spine or knees when moving things to the side; instead, move your feet or pivot on your toes to turn your full body as one unit.
- ◆ Avoid bending your wrists upwards when pulling things or using gardening tools. Instead, keep your wrists straight and use your shoulder muscles to pull and lift.
- ◆ End your gardening session with some gentle backward bending of your low back, a short walk and light stretching, similar to stretches done before starting.

Then sit back, relax and enjoy your beautiful hostas!



HOSTA OF NOTE “SWEETNESS”

I was looking for a hosta that I could write about for the September newsletter. My search led me to one of my seedlings that I had hybridized. The seedling is very tough and resilient and shows potential for a superior future. It is not named yet but I am leaning towards Sweetness, Da Coach or maybe Ditka. The seedling is a year or two away from greatness and while the wait will seem a bit unBEAR-able, it is going to be worth the wait.

The seedling was grown from H. Ice Age Trail. Ice Age Trail is a streaked sport of H. Big Daddy and was the 2002 Wisconsin Hosta Society Midwest Convention Plant. It is a medium hosta with the leaves being cupped, crinkled and rugose and having a cream and white streaking. The October 13th meeting at Olbrich Botanical Gardens will have Owen Purvis giving a talk on hosta hybridizing and seed growing. With a little luck and knowledge you too will be able to grow your own Sweetness, Da Coach and or Ditka seedling in your own Wisconsin garden. —Phil Timm



MY HOSTA JOURNEY

I have not always been a gardener! We moved into our current home in 1976 when our second child was only a month old. I was too busy raising our 3 children to even think about tending to plants. When the youngest child was in 4th grade, I went back to school myself, then started teaching -- and became busier than ever! Well, now those 3 kids are off on their own and, since my retirement in the spring of 2008, more and more of our lawn has been covered over with cardboard and wood chips to create the garden spaces to accommodate my growing collection of plants.

Actually, the first hosta to enter our property arrived in about 1980. There was an area of our lawn that kept washing away in heavy rains. A friend gave me a clump of H. ‘Lancifolia’ which I split up and planted in a row to create a barrier to slow that water down. It filled in nicely and worked beautifully! When our first grandchild was born in 2002, I could not find a plant for my family garden with either her first or middle name, Taleah Miracle. Since she was born in Aurora, Illinois, I settled on H. ‘Little Aurora’ which became my 2nd hosta. A few years later, H. ‘Robert Frost’ and H. ‘Queen Josephine’ came to the family garden in honor of my in-laws. When my father passed away in December of 2009, a poem titled *Remember Me* was found tucked in the Bible that he had read every day. You guessed it -- H. ‘Remember Me’ came to live in my family garden!

OK . . . so in 2010 there were a few hostas hanging around in my limited garden spaces. Then I joined the Oregon Garden Club and was able to visit a few of the other members’ gardens. I became intrigued by this plant genus called *Hosta* . . . such variety in leaf size, color, shape, and texture as well as in mound size and habit -- why the possibilities were endless! AND . . . well, I was hooked! Since then, I’ve added 20-35 hostas to my yard each year. This year’s (and some of last year’s, too) are still sitting in pots or biding time in a temporary location – waiting for the latest installment of cardboard and woodchips to do their job of killing off the grass and weeds. Soon, however, they will be in their permanent homes. AND there will be extra space ready to plant even more! According to Mark Zilis in his FIELD GUIDE TO HOSTAS there are more than 8500 types of hostas in existence. WHAT???. My 165 different varieties are just a drop in the bucket. Hold on! -- I’ve got to go find some more cardboard! —Sandy O’Malley

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



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