



# Hosta Horizons

Newsletter of the

*Russ O'Harra Hosta Society*

June 2016

## President's Message

Greetings to everyone.

Spring has sprung in my garden here, and I am all for it. Watching everything leaf out intently, clipping small amounts of dead twigs, sticking my nose in a fragrant Iris-it's all good now.

Except for the rabbits. I am trapping these critters almost daily. Oh for a fox to move in to my neighborhood.

With summer fast approaching we can all look to our gardens for excitement. The Midwest Region and the American Hosta Society both have conventions close by if you like visiting other folks gardens too. I encourage you to visit the websites for each organization and check out all the information there about events, and the genus Hosta.

And while you are there, take a look at the possibilities for becoming a garden performance judge. It is a great way to get involved with the educational mission of the society.

We also have opportunities to get involved at our local level here. We have a short-term need for a secretary and a newsletter editor. The Fall meeting will include election of a full slate of officers for the next two year cycle. If you have questions about any positions available, or desire to do a particular job over the coming months, please contact me.

Our next great adventure is the Summer garden tour. Scott has a great lineup of gardens, and there will be all sorts of plants available to spend money on wisely. I love going to gardens, garden centers, and auctions. I get inspiration from seeing people solve landscape issues with plants. I am one of those 'the less grass, the better' types, so my own yard always has a new arrival.

Each and every one of you that brings a plant for auction this summer is supporting a great organization in the best way possible. Make a plan now to contribute.

Let's all go and get our hands dirty, shall we?

Gary

## Summer Tour

### ROHS Officers

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### Mission Statement:

The Russ O'Hara Hosta Society is an educational society open to all those interested in the genus Hosta. Its purpose is to promote the growing and enjoyment of hostas including their use in landscape design and the cultivation and development of new cultivars. The goals of the Society shall be in keeping with those of the American Hosta Society.

### ROHS Summer Tour 2016 General Information

The ROHS 2016 Summer Tour is will be held Sunday, June 26, beginning at 8:00 a.m. and running through the afternoon until the lunch is eaten and the plants are all sold. I hope you are planning to take part. We have three marvelous stops arranged for your viewing pleasure. There is about an hour drive between the first and second gardens this year, so plan an early start so you can spend as much time as possible at each location.

A catered lunch, beginning at 12:30, will be provided at the last stop (or you can bring your own if you prefer) consisting of a choice of smoked pulled pork or smoked pulled turkey sandwiches, pasta salad, baked beans, a cupcake, and iced tea or water. The cost will be \$12.00 per person. Your reservations and payment must be received no later than June 15<sup>th</sup>. Send them to:

David Dettman

122 Bluegill Court

Pella, Iowa 50219

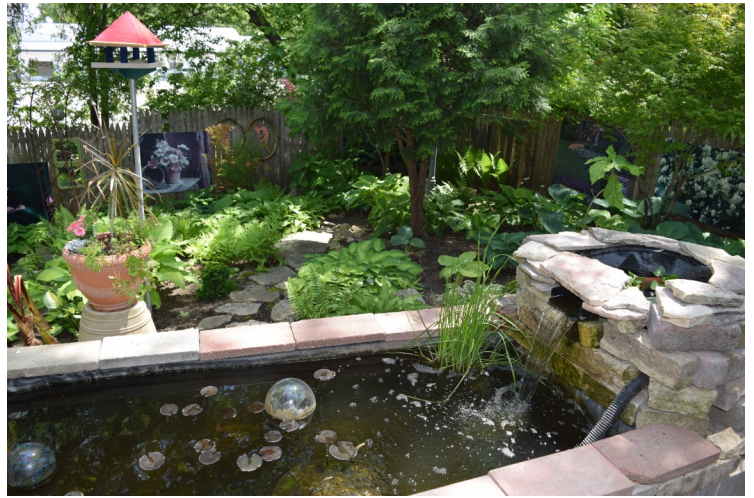
Remember your lawn chairs, sunglasses, hats, bottled water, bug repellent and checkbooks. Depending on the weather, raingear and umbrellas might be desirable, as well. In the event of rain, however, the meal and auction will be held indoors at the last stop. We go, rain or shine! Remember also to get out in your gardens and dig a few hostas to bring to the auction. This is the Society's only fund raiser of the year, so be generous with your donations and your bids during the auction. Anyone wishing to help during the auction, please contact Scott Thieben at [sthiben@mchsi.com](mailto:sthiben@mchsi.com) or on the day of the tour.

Access the ROHS website at  
[www.rohs.org](http://www.rohs.org)

## Summer Tour

### **Garden #1: Dean Koob and Kenn Outzen's Rainbow Botanical Gardens**

Once you arrive at this garden, you forget that it is only 80 by 100 feet. In the fifteen years Dean and Kenn have lived at this location, they have transformed it into beautifully landscaped retreat containing over 900 hostas, many other shade and exotic perennials, and a nice collection of dwarf and unusual conifers. The pond has been relocated this year and Dean and Ken are in negotiations to purchase a few more precious feet of space at the rear of their property for future expansion. The guys are fanatical about removing weeds and maintaining the beds and it shows. Be sure to notice the wall of hanging tropical plants, which get moved indoors in the fall. While visiting the property, you wouldn't think there would be room for more plants, but Dean says, "If I can see bare dirt, I have room for a new plant."



## Summer Tour

### **Garden #2: Skip and Jean Christiansen and neighbor Nancy Huddleston**

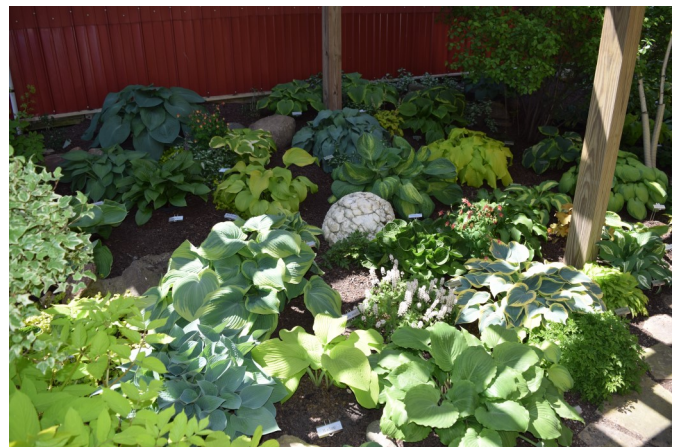
Skip and Jean have lived in their home for 30 years and been shade gardening for 25 of those years. The property is heavily shaded, with a ravine at the rear. Skip says when he moved in he went to his local nursery and was told the only things that would grow on his lot were cranberries and hostas. He installed some tiles to improve the drainage, took a trip to Jean's family farm in South Dakota and brought back a truckload of old bricks. The bricks were laid to form paths and outline beds and hostas, mainly undulatas and Gold Standards at the start, were planted. Skip says he doesn't know how many total hostas or how many varieties he has, but suffice to say there are several hundred artfully planted and displayed in a very impressive landscape. Favorites are the Gold Standards, Velvet Sheen, Captain Kirk, and On Stage. The neighbor has extended Skip's paths into her own yard and you are welcome to tour her plantings, as well.



## Summer Tour

### **Garden #3: Traci Seltz's Granny T's Garden**

Traci says she and husband Kirk have lived on their farm for 32 years, where they raised two daughters along with the acres of corn and beans. They bought their first hosta in 1998 after being impressed with a friend's hosta and daylily gardens. After many trials and tribulations, including too much sun, clay soil, voles (yikes!), and drought the hosta collection is now 17 years old and in terrific shape. Vole cages around new beds are now standard procedure. She has been retailing hostas, daylilies and other garden plants and garden art for the last 6 years, including some mail order business this year. On the four acres near the house and shop there are 2 hoop grow beds, rows of daylilies for sale and several shaded sale areas. She currently has over 500 hosta varieties on her inventory list, along with 200 varieties of daylilies, as well as companion plants and succulents. Traci estimates she has another 100 or so hosta varieties in her personal collection which are beautifully planted in display beds around the house and near the retail shop area. Favorites include most "streakers" especially Gunter's Pride, also June, Warwick Comet, Guardian Angel and Lakeside Beach Bum. Be sure to take time to look at all the displays, and maybe bring some extra cash to spend in the shop.



# Summer Tour

## **2016 ROHS Summer Tour Driving Directions**

### **Garden #1: Dean Koob and Kenn Outzen's Rainbow Botanical Gardens**

548 East Lane

Jewell, Iowa

### **Garden #2: Skip and Jean Christiansen and neighbors**

806 Oakhill Drive

Humboldt, Iowa

### **Garden #3: Traci Seltz's Granny T's Gardens**

2667 100<sup>th</sup> St.

Badger, Iowa

Thanks for being part of the 2016 ROHS Summer Tour. We think we've got something you're going to like! Enjoy the day, hope for clear skies, bring your lawn chairs, check-books and maybe some water bottles and sun screen. All of the addresses listed above worked on my GPS unit, so plug them into yours, if you have one.

**Jewell is located on Hwy. 69 about 20.5 miles north of Ames. Travel to Jewell in the best way depending on where you are starting your day.**

**From the Des Moines/Ames area: travel north on Interstate 35 and take the Jewell/Eldora exit (Exit 133) onto Hwy 175. Turn left (west) at the stop at the bottom of the exit ramp and travel 3.8 miles west on Hwy. 175 into Jewell. Turn left (south) on East Lane. The garden is on the corner of Hwy. 175 and East Lane. Park in the street in front of the house or in the vacant lot across Hwy. 175 to the north. There is a Casey's in town in case you need a restroom break.**

**From Kenn and Dean's garden to Garden 2: Travel one block west and turn north onto Hwy. 69. Continue north approximately 10 miles and enter Hwy, 20 West. Travel 27.5 miles west (restroom opportunities at the Webster City exit and at the exit to Humboldt/Fort Dodge) and take Exit 121 onto Hwy. 169 north towards Humboldt. Travel 19.2 miles north and turn right (east) onto Sumner Avenue in Humboldt (there is a Cenex station on the corner). Bear left and drive about 1 block to 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW and turn right. Drive one block and turn right on 11<sup>th</sup> Street SW. Continue 3 blocks and turn right onto Oak Hill Drive. Garden stop is 806 Oak Hill Drive, a blue ranch with white trim. Park in the street. (Approximate drive time, 1 hour)**

**From the Christiansen's to Garden 3: Retrace your route back to Hwy. 169. Turn left (south) onto Hwy. 169 and travel south for 6.8 miles. Turn left (east) on 120<sup>th</sup> Street/ County Road C56 toward Badger (the Sparebo Egg Farm is on the right at this point and is the cause of the odor you may be experiencing). Continue east for 3.9 miles and turn left (north) on Paragon Avenue/County Road P59. Drive one mile north, turn right onto 110<sup>th</sup> Street (gravel). Continue 1.5 miles east to Granny T's Garden on the north side of the road. Park in the parking areas in the yard or along the road. (Approximate drive time, 15-20 minutes)**