

Hosta Horizons



Access the ROHS website at
www.rohs.org

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, the cultivation and development of new cultivars. The goals of the society shall be in keeping with those of the American Hosta Society.

Newsletter of the

Russ O'Hara Hosta Society

October 2016

President's Message

Greetings to all.

Last week I was out in a Hosta holding area I have, doing one final weeding for the season. It is about 1500 square feet, so I spent a number of hours hoeing and scraping and digging around nice clumps of plants that obviously received adequate rainfall this year. There were also probably two dozen tiny seedlings that had sprouted and grown big enough to be seen, and thus escaping the hoe. Perhaps the next generation of plants coming along right there. We shall see what they do next year.

The late bloomers in my yard like Chariots of Fire, Bell Ringer, Plumb Bob, Pineapple Upside Down Cake, and Skydancer are all putting on quite a lovely show. But everything is getting rough and brittle, and I am sure that first frost will happen in the next month.

The summer tour and auction this year was another great success. Dave has the numbers for you. What I want to tell you is just how wonderful all the gardens were. Granny T's was the perfect spot to relax, and pick up some plant material. Of course, plant people are the nicest people on the planet, so we had a perfect day.

At the next meeting on October 9 we have the latest in a series of opportunities to elect new members to our leadership positions. First let me thank Reldon Ramsey and Marilyn Gleim for contributing during my time as President. They both had shortened terms of office due to unfortunate personal situations that arose, but I appreciate their willingness to contribute for the good of the society.

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Donna Miller and Lisa Swanson are both coming back as hospitality co-chairs, and they are excellent hostesses. David Dettmann has also agreed to be the treasurer for the next two years. David has done a first class job with the finances, and he is spot on with all those intangibles that make the meetings run so smoothly.

Scott Thieben played an important role in setting up excellent tours, and filling in for me when I was out of state for one meeting. He lent his considerable organizational skills and it was a pleasure working with him. Eve always had some expert advice for me, too, as past president.

Right now the secretary, vice-president, and president roles need volunteers. I am contacting members about these important positions, but what I really need is for people to call me and volunteer their time and talents. I was looking back through the 20th Anniversary booklet the other day, and it struck me what a great heritage and legacy this society has developed. The education about the genus Hosta, the support of charities, public gardens, and horticultural research, and even the fun and camaraderie: Challenges met and successes recorded.

If you would like to use this solid base as a springboard for future growth, or you have ideas you want to pursue, or you just want to get involved, this is a good time to act.

Our next meeting is Sunday, October 9, noon to 3 PM at the Iowa Arboretum. The program will be fun and interesting, the weather will be perfect for strolling at the gardens, and we can all party in advance of the coming long winter.

See you there,
Gary

Fred Wilson, 82, Passed away Sunday, July 10, 2016 in Des Moines,

He is survived by his wife, Audra of 43 years; 7 children ,10 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. Fred met his wife while working in CA.

Fred and his wife were the owners of S&H Auto Electric for 33 years.

Fred was an incredible man who liked to spend time with his grandchildren. He would take them to collect rocks of all types, specifically geodes, always looking for that perfect rock. Before long, he and Audra got into the Hosta business. This would become more than a passing fancy and had he not been sidelined by a massive stroke in 2006, they would have become world renowned Hosta specialists. In 2004, their Hosta garden was a featured garden on the National Hosta Tour. The garden received many awards from this tour and started them on what could have been an extremely exciting and sensational adventure. They both met many lifelong friends that would change their lives forever.

Memorials may be made to First Assembly of God Church, Indianola or Taylor House Hospice, Des Moines, in Fred's name.

2016 SUMMER TOUR AUCTION SUMMARY

by David Dettmann, Treasurer

The 2016 Russ O'Harra Hosta Society annual garden tour and auction was held on Sunday, June 26. Granny T's Gardens located in rural Badger, IA and owned by ROHS members Traci & Kirk Seltz, provided the final tour of the day. A social lunch catered by "Smoked Ribs & More" from Badger, and the annual auction were held on a shaded lawn with breezes much appreciated on a warm and humid day. A total of 71 items were donated by 19 members: various Hosta (some known, some unknown), shade companion plants, sun-loving plants, a wonderful conifer, Kenn Outzen & Dean Koob's birdhouses, and Marlys Anderson's papercrete planters comprised the auction slate for the 36 registered bidders. Twenty-one successful bidders resulted in a total of \$1,565 benefitting and much appreciated by the ROHS, as this is our largest and primary source of revenue to support the society. Kenn Outzen and Dean Koob not only were gracious hosts for the first garden on the day's tour and donors of various auction items (including H. Russell Lee, a Russ O'Harra plant), but were "winners" of the best bidder title with a \$450 contribution to our treasury. The Outzen-Koob bidding team captured the highest two bids: \$100 for the Blue Horizon blue spruce donated by Gary Garles, and \$75 for the H. Potomoc Pride Splashed donated by Granny T's Gardens. Thanks to the auction item donors, bidders, and buyers, the auction team of Scott Thieben, Gary Garles, Betsy & David Dettmann, Connie Dingeman, Ellen & Frank Glasgow, and other members, as well as our wonderful hosts for the lunch & auction the Traci & Kirk Seltz family who also donated the special cupcakes for the lunch! Vice President Scott Thieben commented that his task in developing the auction & lunch was relatively easy, as Traci Seltz made all of the site arrangements and coordinated good weather for an enjoyable and productive day.

Next Meeting

April 9th 2017

AHS Convention Indianapolis IN

June 7-10, 2017

MRHS Convention Kansas City

June 22-24, 2017

Fall Meeting

The Russ O'Harra Hosta Society's fall meeting will be held on Sunday October 9, 2016 at the Iowa Arboretum near Luther, Iowa. The meeting begins with a potluck and social gathering at noon, followed by an exciting guest speaker. Dr. Jo Anna Heberger will present "Using native plants in landscaping and in creating rain gardens." Her talk draws on varied experiences and her strong passion for native landscaping and rain gardens. Dr. Heberger earned her Ph.D. in plant ecology from Rutgers University, and while completing her doctorate, her family moved to St. Paul, MN. Jo Anna worked in a University of MN lab, used her expertise with the MN DOT in roadside restorations with native plants, and assisted another doctoral student working on prairie restoration. Dr. Heberger also worked in PA with projects at the Penn State University research farm. Retirement to Des Moines allowed her to volunteer using her knowledge and passion; she developed and maintains a native garden at the downtown DM Episcopal Cathedral, "works" one day/week at ISU Reiman Gardens, and has a large native planting at her DM home. The ROHS fall meeting will conclude with the formal business meeting, including the bi-annual election of officers. All members and guests

