



# Hosta Horizons

newsletter of the

*Russ O'Harra Hosta*



## President's Message

Greetings to All Hostaholics,

I have assumed the office of the President for the next two year term as of January 1. Here it is 2015, and I have been kicking around the hosta world now for either forty-four years - or forever, depending on how you look at it. In the past, I have lead the Harshbarger Hosta Society in Iowa City/Cedar Rapids, and I am currently a Master Judge for the American Hosta Society. I also belong to the American Conifer Society, The Midwest Regional Hosta Society, and I am a lifetime member of the American Hosta Society.

My association with plants does not end there. I have degrees in Horticulture and Business, and I am an Iowa Certified Nurseryman, as well as, a past board member of the Iowa Nursery & Landscape Association. My current job title is Senior Design Consultant for Bob Lenc Landscaping in Des Moines. What that really means: I am the old guy there!

I made a move from eastern Iowa a few years ago, and as a result I am now down to less than 200 varieties of plants in my own yard. My idea of relaxation is working in my own garden. I also find time to read, listen to rock and roll, and travel a bit. Two marriages in the family this year will complete the perfect storm of **busy-I-will-be**.

I accepted the office simply because I am interested in helping people. Plant people are the greatest people on the planet. If you are a new club member and you need information or assistance, contact me directly and I will see to it our team takes care of you. If you are a seasoned veteran and you have questions or input, please, get in touch.

The society has a team of officers working on a great summer meeting, complete with gardens and a chance to help the Iowa Arboretum. Plus we have the AHS meeting June 18-20 in Raleigh, NC, and the Midwest meeting in Dubuque July 9-11. Opportunities abound. Step One: Come and join the fun at our Spring meeting Sunday, April 12 with Dr. Donald Lewis of ISU as our guest speaker.

Gary Garles

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's that time! Please check the number in parenthesis on the address label of your paper newsletter or after your name in the address line of your email address. If the number is (14) or (\*14\*), then it's time to renew your membership!

Membership costs are \$12 for one year or \$30 for three years - Individual or Family.

Members who do not renew after receiving the Spring newsletter or at the Spring meeting will **NOT** receive the summer newsletter.

Consider giving a membership to a gardening friend or family member. New members receive a Gift Card for \$12 which is redeemable in 2015 at any of the nine businesses owned by ROHS members who support the New Member Program.

Send renewals/new memberships to:

Reldon Ramsey  
1560 State Highway 148  
Corning, IA 50841

*Thank You!*

# ROHS Officers

## Gary Garles, President

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### MISSION STATEMENT:

The Russ O'Harra 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.

Access the ROHS website at

[www.rohs.org](http://www.rohs.org)



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## Dates to Remember

**Sunday, April 12 – Noon to 4 PM**

### ROHS Spring Meeting

Neal Smith Prairie Life Center, rural Prairie City

Speaker: **Dr. Donald Lewis**

“Slugs, Cutworms and Nematodes – Oh My!”

**Sunday, June 14 – 8 AM to 4 PM**

### ROHS Summer Tour and Auction

Ames-Boone-Madrid

**June 18 - 20**

### AHS National Convention

Raleigh, North Carolina

**July 9 – 11**

### MRHS Convention

Dubuque, Iowa

### ROHS Fall Meeting

TBA



### ROHS on Facebook

Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life.

As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, the ROHS Facebook page has 345 'Likes' - up from 216 a year ago. I will readily admit that I have been remiss in my duties of posting pictures to the page regularly, although since the first of the year, I have posted several groups of photos I took in the O'Harra garden when it was on the 2009 ROHS Summer Tour. The majority of new likes, however, have come when I was neglecting the page in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2014. Apparently, less is more. There are many beautiful hosta and garden photos that may be accessed on the page. Most new followers are outside of Iowa and many are from Europe.

The ROHS Facebook page is accessible through the Facebook homepage or by the link on the homepage of the ROHS website.

<https://www.facebook.com/>

<http://www.rohs.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Russ-OHarra-Hosta-Society/241087079260617>

## ROHS Spring Meeting

### Neal Smith Prairie Learning Center

<http://www.tallgrass.org/>

9981 Pacific Street  
Prairie City, IA 50228  
(515) 994-3400

### Noon – 4 PM

The building opens at Noon, and the potluck dinner will begin at 12:45 PM. Our speaker is ROHS member, Dr. Donald Lewis of Iowa State University.

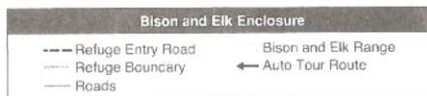
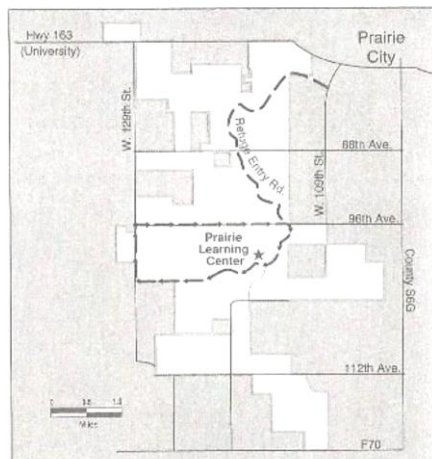
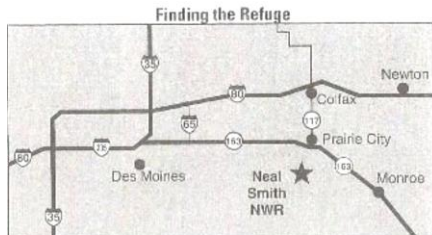
**Dinner is potluck, a main dish and beverages will be provided.**

### Directions

Just 25 minutes east of Des Moines, Neal Smith NWR is 9 miles south of Interstate 80.

If traveling from downtown Des Moines, take Hwy 163 to exit 18, follow the signs along the new paved 4.5-mile entrance road.

If traveling on Interstate 80, take the Colfax/Prairie City exit. Turn south onto Hwy 117 and travel 7 miles to Prairie City. Continue through Prairie City across the Hwy 163 bridge to the refuge entry road.



### BADITC Update, February 25:

This thermometer update is worth a giant celebration but is also bittersweet. When we were at \$208,000 we received a message from Linda Cunningham. Her friend Arlene Powers was one of the Stockton Willow Elves, the group of friends who made and sold \$14,000 worth of Snowmen in Illinois and donated the proceeds to Building a Dream over the past 2 years. Arlene was the button lady and could always find just the right buttons for each snowman. She was unable to help this year due to cancer. Linda's message was to let us know that we would be receiving a donation from Arlene in the amount of \$13,000. Enough to get us \$1000 above our goal. Arlene passed away on February 10.

**“What counts in life not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.” – Nelson Mandela**

Arlene definitely made a difference.

Construction of the final phase of BADITC is well under way, with work on the garage and the front porch. Photos are on page 6.

For more information and updates about BADITC, visit the webpage and the Facebook page.

<http://www.buildingadreaminthecountry.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BuildingADreamintheCountry?sk=wall&filter=1>

**ROHS Fall Meeting Minutes**  
**Neal Smith Prairie Learning Center**  
**October 12, 2014**

**Business Meeting:**

At 1:20 pm, the meeting was called to order by Eve Vanden Broek, acting President. The executive committee came up with a creative way for members to meet each other by having everyone draw a card and sit at the corresponding table. It was a fun way to meet members we may see just a few times a year and hear their success or horror stories of what they have encountered. Eve thanked Hospitality chair, Linda Baer, and Frank Glasgow for attending to the silent auction. All the money received for the silent auction went to BADITC. A questionnaire was available for everyone to fill out for future meeting ideas. There were no new members attending since our last meeting.

After the Election of Officers, we took a break in our meeting to check on our bids for the Silent Auction and then Eve presented **"Honeybees, the Gardener's Companion."** She stated the bee population has been declining since 2006. Quite a bit of our produce is pollinated by bees. They have a 3 mile radius around their hive. Her presentation was very interesting.

**Officers Reports:**

**Secretary** - Minutes of the Spring meeting were published in the Fall newsletter and on the website. Motion to approve the minutes as published was made by Reldon Ramsey, Second by Nancy Wells. All Ayes.

**Treasurer** - David Dettmann reported the current balance after the Neal Smith and fall meeting expenses. He noted that annual expenses - insurance liability, website domain name, membership to the Iowa Arboretum and the Ted E. Davidson Scholarship at DMACC have all been paid. We have a total of 114 members with 9 still owing for the current year.

**Summer Auction Tour highlights:**

- **36 bidders, 26 people with winning bids**
- **17 people donated 81 items**
- **Bruce & Trudy Van Wyk donated 7 items which raised \$640; Trudy's 'Amazing Love' seedling brought \$320.**
- **Traci Seltz donated 15 items which raised \$475.**
- **Auction Grand Total: \$2,970**
- **Net total: \$2,523.51 (after tour expenses)**

David mentioned that Eve did a great job promoting our Summer Tour, and we received inquiries and new members. Herman Kopitzke moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Second by Marilyn Gliem, All Ayes.

**AHS Convention**

Judi Pohorsky, ROHS member and President of the Harshbarger Hosta Society, highlighted the convention. She mentioned many of the ROHS members helped with the convention with some being members of the Harshbarger Society, too.

Peggy Moody won the Artistic Design Award sponsored by ROHS at the AHS convention. She is our first member to win our award.

**Election of Officers**

Presented for election to two year terms:

Gary Garles	President
Scott Thieben	Vice President
Marilyn Gliem	Secretary
David Dettmann	Treasurer
Reldon Ramsey	Newsletter Editor
Lisa Swanson	Hospitality
Donna Miller	Hospitality
(unfilled)	Historian/Librarian

Herman Kopitzke moved to Approve by Acclamation, Second, Helen Kopitzke. All Ayes

**Unfinished Business**

Joe McNally from the Iowa Arboretum has added space around the pergola and the nearby trees for Hostas. Tree roots are a concern in that location; Deke Gliem will contact Joe. Existing plants could be moved.

**New Business**

Meeting dates are set for the next couple of years. The meetings occur the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of April and October. The 2015 spring meeting, Dr. Donald Lewis, ISU Ophthalmologist will talk about "Slugs, Cutworms and Nematodes – Oh My!" The 2016 garden tour will be in the Fort Dodge area where Traci Seltz and Peggy Moody are scouting out potential gardens. We are still looking for someone to work on the 2015 Summer Tour.

The club agreed to continue to sponsor the AHS Artistic Design Award for the next five years.

The Mahaska County Master Gardner Group is looking for a speaker to educate their group about Hosta.

David Dettmann thanked Eve for her role as Vice President and handling the role of President. She did a great job! Reldon Ramsey presented Eve with a certificate for the 2013 AHS Best Newsletter for the "Eve Issue." In it, Eve wrote 4 articles in addition to the 4 tour garden articles, the directions & tour information, and the I Spy game.

Final Silent Auction numbers are in. We had 14 donors and 13 buyers, and we raised \$353 to go towards the BADITC garage. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen Glasgow, Secretary



The 2015 ROHS Summer Garden Tour and Auction will be held Sunday, June 14, and will feature gardens in the Ames-Boone-Madrid area.

The first garden on the tour will be that of Don and Dee Draper whose garden, just outside of Ames, features between 1100 and 1200 clumps of hostas encompassing 700 cultivars, as well as numerous shade perennials displayed in a number of terraced beds.

The second stop will be at Lincoln View Farms, between Boone and Ames, where our hostess will be Nancy Briggs. Nancy has hundreds of hostas on display and for sale in her well-landscaped country gardens, which feature several water gardens and many shade perennials in addition to hostas.

Third on the list will be the garden of Claudia and Chuck Lovin, just south of Boone. While these folks are not strictly hosta collectors their immaculate wooded landscape has over 100 hostas, many shade plants and an impressive "fairy garden."

Our last stop will be the Iowa Arboretum where you will be able to eat lunch (a catered lunch will be available for a nominal charge, or you may "brown bag it", if you prefer) followed by our annual hosta and shade plant fund-raiser auction.

Please note that we would have room on the tour for one more stop. If you live in the Ames, Boone, or Madrid area and would like to volunteer to have the tour stop at your garden, please contact me at [515-432-9028](tel:515-432-9028) or [sthieben@mchsi.com](mailto:sthieben@mchsi.com).

Start thinking now about what plants you can dig in your own gardens to donate to our summer auction. Also, we will need volunteers to help with hospitality, running the plant auction, and a myriad of other things on the day of the auction. Contact me at you convenience if you can help.

**Scott Thieben**

*Do you receive the emails I send? I suspect that some of you do not. All group emails from me are sent from [rohseditor@gmail.com](mailto:rohseditor@gmail.com). If you do not currently receive emails from me or if you have changed your email address, please add my ROHS address to your contacts and send me an email so that I may get your correct email address into my databases.*

Thanks! Reldon



### **GREAT NEWS FOR BADITC!!**

**BADITC fundraising began early in 2012 and the Hosta Community across Iowa and the United States played a substantial role in helping to make this happen for Josh, Sue, and family. Marlys Anderson and the ROHS members certainly did their part.**

**Thank You!!**



Photos courtesy of Building A Dream In The Country

**Russ O’Harra Hosta Society  
Reldon Ramsey  
1560 State Highway 148  
Corning, IA 50841**