

Hosta Horizons

newsletter of the
Russ O'Harra Hosta Society

October 2014

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's that time again! 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.

Memberships cost \$12 for one year or \$30 for three years - Individual or Family.

Also, please consider giving a membership to a gardening friend or family member. As a new member, they will receive a Gift Card for \$12 that may be redeemed in 2015 at any of the businesses owned by ROHS members who support the New Member Program.

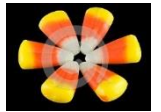
Send all renewals and new memberships to:

Reldon Ramsey
1560 State Highway 148
Corning, IA 50841

Thank You!



President's Message **September 2014**



On Tuesday after Labor Day, I walked into my local Fareway to pick up something for dinner, when just five paces in, I spied my all-time favorite candy ... candy corn! Finally! I wait all year for these sweet treats and then gorge myself until I can't possibly eat another one. They're made with honey, you know. Of course, candy corn can only mean that fall is just around the corner.

How many of you are planting bulbs for spring? In my garden, alliums, muscari and daffodils work best because the deer leave them alone and their blooms tend to last longer than tulips. With so much rain of late, planting bulbs should go quickly, and then the waiting game begins.

Every year as the first frost nips at the nose and daylight ends by 6 p.m., I'm ready to hibernate. Spending so much time working in my garden, with my bees, and simply being outdoors, my body is ready for a break and definitely in need of more than six hours of sleep a night. I can't imagine what it would be like to live in a place like Hawaii, Key West or Southern California; the changing of the seasons is virtually unnoticeable. Yes, it might be nice when I'm retired, but for now, I so enjoy Mother Nature's rhythm.

Speaking of change, it's that time once again. That time when we look to our fellow club members to volunteer their time to serve in a leadership role. The constitution describes the officer roles clearly, and if you have

(Continued on page 3)

ROHS Officers

Eve Vanden Broek, President

134 Holland Drive, Pella, IA 50219
mrstheo@iowatelecom.net; 641-627-5316

Barry Laws, Ex-officio

1895 E. Army Post Rd, Des Moines, IA 50320
info@quiltedgardens.com; 515-720-3089

David Dettmann, Treasurer

122 Blue Gill Court, Pella, IA 50219
bdd5097@yahoo.com; 641-627-5097

Ellen Glasgow, Secretary

1104 N. Buxton, Indianola, IA 50125
eglasgow08@a.com; 515-961-5237

Reldon Ramsey, Newsletter Editor

1560 State Highway 148, Corning, IA 50841
rohseditor@gmail.com; 641-780-9031

Linda Baer, Hospitality Chair

505 S. Water St., Madrid, IA 50156
kdmkddaj@yahoo.com; 515-230-8600

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.



Contrasting foliage colors and leaf textures in the Glasgow garden



Hosta 'Oreo Creme' twists appealingly in Frank & Ellen's garden

In This Edition:



BADITC Update – p. 11 & 12

Čzech It Out! – p. 3

Dates to Remember – p. 2

Favorite Tour Garden – p. 9

Garage Sale/Silent Auction – p. 9

Have You Met Peggy Moody? – p. 10 & 11

Membership Renewal – p. 1

President's Message – p. 1 & 3

ROHS Spring Meeting Minutes – p. 13 & 14

ROHS Summer Tour Photos – p. 4 - 8

Dates to Remember

Sunday, October 12 – Noon to 4 PM

ROHS Fall Meeting

**Neal Smith Prairie Learning Center
Prairie City, IA**

Speaker: Eve Vanden Broek ~ "Eve's Bees"

January 10 – 24

AHS Online Auction

January 17

Winter Scientific Meeting, Naperville, IL

February 7 – 21

First Look Online Auction

March 13 & 14

Hosta College, Piqua, OH



Access the ROHS website at
www.rohs.org

President's Message:

(Continued from page 1)

read them, you will have noted they are loosely written. Written loosely surely to allow for flexibility and creativity for such a small club. Like most volunteer roles, you get out of the role what you put into it. I have volunteered for this club since 2009, first serving on the planning committee for the 2010 Midwest Regional Convention, then as Vice President and now as President. It's time for a new direction, new ideas, and new ways to promote and engage this unique club.

Thank you to Ellen Glasgow for serving as Secretary for the last three years. She has done an excellent job of listening and recording all the important matters of our meetings.

Appreciation also goes to David Dettmann who has steadfastly kept our books in complete order these past four years. Accounting for all the lunch checks and plant payments during the summer tour and auction, keeping track of new members, and all the incidentals is no picnic, but David's accounting skills are second to none. David has offered to serve another two-year term and will ask for your vote at our next meeting. **Wear a green t-shirt to the meeting.**

Hosta Horizons, edited by Reldon Ramsey, has surpassed anyone's expectations for a new look for the newsletter. Printing the newsletter in-house has saved the club hundreds of dollars and allowed us to dedicate funds to worthy causes and projects. As a club, we are also indebted to his work spearheading the New Membership Program. Reldon has also expressed an interest to serve in his current position for another two years and will look for your vote in October, as well.

If you have attended any of our meetings over the past four years, you have been served by Linda Baer. A quiet woman busy making sure the coffee or lemonade was made and a hot main dish available, Linda will soon turn in her totes and coffeepot. To you, Linda, we extend a huge "Thank You."

And, of course, recognition of *Marvelous Marlys* Anderson is in order for her unwavering dedication to this club, from 2010 (and years before) until the day she glided into to Hosta Heaven.

It has been a pleasure - challenging at times - to serve you over the last four years; I trust those YOU elect will continue to serve the club well. It's your club, so please remember to put forth your ideas, and whenever possible, volunteer to help in some capacity.

Hosta Lavista!

Eve Vanden Broek



Čzech it Out!

The 2014 American Hosta Society National Convention was hosted by our friends, the Harshbarger Hosta Society, in Cedar Rapids, June 11-14.

Nine wonderful gardens were visited on self-guided tours with route maps prepared by Dick Pohorsky. Featured were the gardens of Jim & Lois McBurney, Jerry & Jeannie Geers/Dry Creek Hostas, Jay & Nancy McWherter, Dick & Norma Novak, Bob & Sharon Brogan, Thea & Harry Cole, Dick & Marty Shephardson, Mary & Ken Lowder, and Tim & Lois Cahill.

Optional outings included a Wednesday bus trip to the Amana Colonies, and a Thursday visit and dinner at the National Czech and Slovak Museum. Free guided tours were available daily at Brucemore Mansion for Iowa's Museum Week.

During the convention, the Hosta Seedling Competition hosted by the Hosta Seed Growers was a popular attraction with more than 200 people voting for their favorites out of 100+ entries in nine categories.

ROHS members and all attending the convention were treated to great hospitality, great gardens, and great fun from our Harshbarger Hosta Society hosts. Our thanks go to Judi Pohorsky and her excellent team of volunteers and the wonderful gardens and gardeners for all they did to make the 2014 AHS National Convention a GREAT success!!

**THANK YOU,
HARSHBARGER HOSTA SOCIETY!!**

ROHS Summer Tour and Auction

Indianola area ~ Sunday, June 22

Garden #1

**Rob & Amy Renes
Des Moines, IA**



Miniature conifers border the pathway to the train garden



Bonsai, miniature hostas, and trolls ... oh my!



Rob's train chugs past the bubbler rock and mini hosta garden featured near the center of the garden



The train comes through the tunnel into a miniature alpine landscape



An elevated portion of the track near the rear of the garden

Garden #2

**Jo & John Drost
Indianola, IA**



Hosta 'Praying Hands' reaches upward toward the "HOSTAS" sign



Hostas, heucheras, and other perennials and shrubs near the patio at the rear of the home



Garden hosts, John & Jo Drost, and a resident of their pond



View of the large pond from the rear and a bunny frolicking in a birdbath

“How Lovely Is The Silence Of Growing Things”



The pond the Drosts enjoy so much with seating to enjoy the view



Garden #3

**Ellen & Frank Glasgow
Indianola, IA**



View of the front of the Glasgow home and gardens



H. 'Rainforest Sunrise'



**A Rex Begonia
near the steps
of the deck**



Leaf detail of *H. 'Gunther's Prize'*



H. 'X-Rated'



View looking towards the garage



**An attractive grouping of hostas and companions
near the back of the yard**

Garden #4

**Donna Small & Mike Mettler
Indianola, IA**



Visitors enjoy the front lawn and garden beds where pink Asiatic lilies provide a vivid burst of color

One of many lovely vignettes



Donna's garden shed



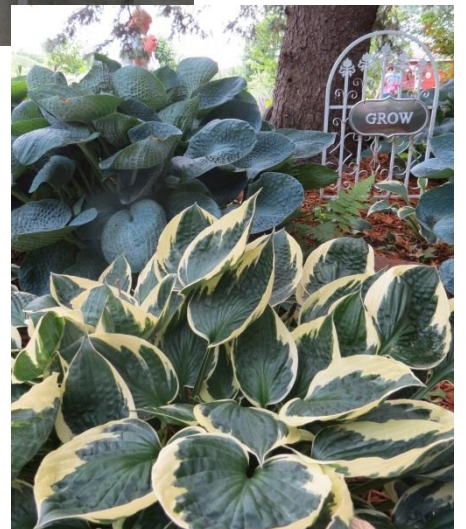
Hostas in the back yard near the patio



White wicker chairs with colorful pillows on the shaded patio



A walkway & arbor in the back yard lead to an inviting bench where visitors can enjoy the enticing views



A pair of attractive, well grown hostas

Garden #5

**Patty & Harry "Skip" Spence
Ackworth, IA**



The Spence garden featured many hosta in their expansive, "park-like" back yard



Fred & Audra Wilson chat with Trudy Van Wyk and Rod Kuenster



A waterfall and small pond amidst hostas

Club members line up for a delicious, catered lunch



H. 'Sum and Substance' and H. 'June'



Traci and Curt Seltz [left] and Connie Dingeman, Mary Van Berkum, Kathy Witkowski, and Dean Koob [below] check out auction plants



"THANK YOU" to all of the 2014 ROHS Garden Tour Hosts for allowing us to enjoy the beauty of your gardens!!



Do you recognize this dynamic Hosta Duo?

Yes, it's Frank and Ellen Glasgow, one of the garden hosts of the 2014 Summer Tour. Their garden was selected, by way of button ballots, as the favorite garden of this year's tour.

Some of you may remember from my message in June that it was Frank who came up with the idea to create a tribute to Marlys Anderson and offer an award for the preferred garden. It was a great idea, and I am sure Marlys would have been pleased by the thought.

The renowned 'Potter Bob' Anderson of Pella created the hosta leaf and incorporated the *MM (Marvelous Marlys)* along with the heart. It is ideas such as Frank's that engage the club and make participation more enjoyable. We look to you for your creative ways to become involved and spread goodwill amongst us all, and, of course, spread the word about the Genus *Hosta*.

Congratulations, Frank and Ellen!



Button Balloting is underway for the favorite garden of the 2014 ROHS Tour

Garage Sale/Silent Auction

to benefit

Building A Dream In The Country

Before you kick your gently used garden tool to the curb, or before you head off to Goodwill with your old gardening books, and certainly before you consider re-gifting last year's garden art to someone else, consider donating such items to a garage sale/silent auction to be held at the ROHS Fall meeting on Sunday, October 12.

Though you may have tired of your item(s), we're certain someone else will consider them to be a treasure. New items and/or plants won't be turned away.

We'll have tables set up for your donations and there will be plenty of time to bid and re-check your bids during the meeting.

All proceeds will go to **Building A Dream In The Country** where donation funds are now being allocated for a much-needed garage – before winter!

A few important details to note:

1. **Some items may require a minimum bid; will be noted on bid sheet ***
2. **Bids must increase by a minimum of \$1.00**
3. **Payment required by check payable to BADITC**
4. **Any unsold items must return home with the donor**
5. **Wear a green t-shirt to the meeting**

* If your item(s) will require a minimum bid, please see the club member helping with the tables and bid sheets. You will determine the minimum bid.

It's a



for a

Garage Fund!

Come One - Come All!

Have You Met Long-time Club Member Peggy Moody?

How many people do you know in our club? Two dozen? A handful? A few? You joined to be among other hostaphiles and learn from their wisdom, right? Well, if you're like me, you may tend to sit with, or talk with, those whom you know or feel most comfortable. Creatures of habit we are. So perhaps a resolution is in order before New Year's ... how about we all resolve to meet two additional club members at each meeting. With only two meetings in a calendar year, that's just four new club members a year. A piece of cake! In fact, let's start right now.



If you don't know her already, please let me introduce you to Peggy Moody, an ROHS member since 2000. I became acquainted with her at our April meeting where she was sitting front and center and mentioned she was one of two Artistic Design Show division chairs for the 2014 American Hosta Society National Convention in Cedar Rapids. Yes, that's Peggy next to Mike Shadrack, Vice President of Awards and Honors of the American Hosta Society accepting the Best Artistic Design Award (Potter Bob's original vase) which our club sponsors each year at the convention.

Peggy's interest in hosta was actually born of her husband David's pursuit of the shade loving plant. The Moody's gardening story began with a couple of island gardens on a 2 acre lot, a 'His and Hers' type of arrangement, with Peggy favoring perennial flowers and David, the tried and true hosta. His beds did well and it was noticeable, so much so that when a perennial would die out in Peggy's island bed, she'd steal a clump from one of David's beloved hosta and add it to hers. Well, one fine day David caught the hosta thief and soon the 'His and Hers' beds became 'Our' beds. Their beds have grown and grown over the years and have cut down on the mowing time.

Would you be surprised if I told you that *Hosta* 'Pandora's Box' stole Peggy's heart? It was love at first sight, but the sight of the price, \$25.00 (some years ago), was almost too much! Luck was in her court that day while on a tour at Greg Johnson and Scot McDonald's garden. Lance recognized that 'got to have it' look and gave 'Pandora's Box' to her. Nurtured and admired, Peggy's specimen has done very well since making a home in her garden, and she will always remember acquiring such a gem of a plant.

While gardening remains a passion, Peggy also has an appetite for judging. In the days following the AHS Convention, she focused on of all things, paper work, for the Flower Show Judging School, then more paper work and the organization of the Flower Show Judges Symposium in Marshalltown; she attended the FGCI Annual Meeting and Flower Show in Iowa City, participated in the Iowa Regional Lily Society Judging School and Lily Show in Ames, and spent five days in Minnesota working and judging at the International Convention and Lily Show for the North American Lily Society. **All that in a month!**

(Continued on Page 11)

I asked Peggy what makes up a good entry for a show and she carefully explained, "The mechanics of the design; they can let you down, especially when out of the box or innovative. You have to be careful. You have to have the right material and container to come out the winner." She further noted that tropical materials hold up well as they can go without water and retain their crisp, fresh look for most of a show.

When asked about the competition for the AHS Artistic Design show, she noted that of the 12-15 entrants in the category, she was surprised to have won because all the designs were very creative. Her winning design was entitled: 'The Sky's the Limit'. The hosta leaves represented the launch pad and the iris represented rockets taking off. Entries in the category were judged on the design itself, conformance, distinction, artistic concept and expression. I think the judges were spot on. **Congratulations, Peggy!**

Be on the lookout for Peggy at the fall meeting. If you see her, introduce yourself and congratulate her on her award. **And remember to wear a green t-shirt to the meeting.**



Peggy Moody's award winning creation, 'The Sky's the Limit'



July 15 Dale and Jeff from JVA Mobility demonstrating the lift from Jacob's room to the bathroom and back. The loud noise at 45 seconds is Rif and Bob using a drill in Josh's room. https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=uqAHebFTyMU

July 16 From Sue this morning! **"Jacob tried the lift just over his bed last night. Both boys used it to get in their chairs this am. It worked wonderful!!!!"**

July 21 Watch KWWL news at 10 tonight! Michael Crowe will be airing a story about the Spece's new home and the lift system!

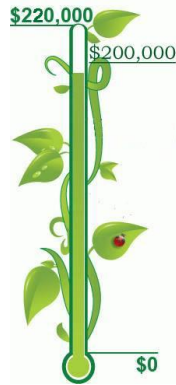


Margaritas to Celebrate!

Early in our fundraising Sue asked how she was ever going to thank the Building a Dream committee members. Our answer was by serving us margaritas around the dining room table in her new home! We're not quite done yet but having them moved into their new home and the lift system installed is a great reason to celebrate!

July 24 Remember when Don Dean donated all proceeds from his new hosta 'Country Dreaming' to Building a Dream in the Country? Sue and Josh just sold some of those beautiful 'Country Dreaming' hostas and look what that did to our thermometer!

Thank you to the customers who purchased them and especially to Don for such an incredible gift that keeps giving!



August 7

Jean Simmet from Agri News shared some great pictures she took at our celebration on July 21st. Thanks Jean!



August 19 Sharing a message from Sue. "I received this wonderful picture of an angel that is watching over us all. Thank you so much Ron Humeston. With the picture was a wonderful \$500 donation to go into Building a Dream fund towards the garage from Suze Ventura and Mary Lowrey, Marlys mother. Wonderful people!"

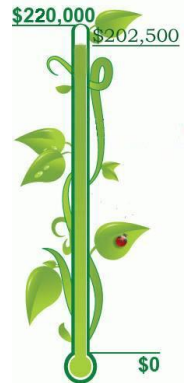


September 16 Check out this amazing list of people and businesses who have made in kind donations towards construction of Sue and the kids new home! Please remember their generosity when you need work done!

To view the list and see additional progress updates, visit the **BADITC Facebook page**.

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

September 18 Thanks to several generous donors we have a new total! Next we're working towards getting a garage built and hoping we can get that done before the snow flies this winter. Being able to park in a garage and enter and exit out of the weather will be a luxury for Sue, Josh, Jackie and Jacob!



September 19 The guys from Philippson Masonry & Concrete are pouring the front stoop today! After all the rain delays in August and early September it's finally stayed dry long enough. Won't be long and Jacob will be able to use his private entrance! Josh - the roller coaster rides are almost over!



A huge thank you to everyone at Philippson Masonry and Concrete!



Thank you Philippson's and Manatt's! They have the front porch floor poured!

Let's help make it happen with our Garage Sale for a Garage Fund!!

[Remember to wear a green t-shirt!](#)

ROHS Spring Meeting

Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge

April 13, 2014

Lee Coates of Lee's Trees and Peggy's Flowers was our guest speaker. He managed to put us into a fairy tale wonderland with miniature gardening while educating us on the care of Japanese Maples.

Japanese Maples can thrive in Iowa in full sun to part shade. They need the soil to be kept moist and mulched for their shallow root system. Protect them from the drying winter wind and they do best on the SE side of your house. The more sun they receive, the brighter the color. They like decaying mulch, grass clippings, and oak bark for the mulch.

Lee had several Japanese Maples for sale in various sizes along with his papercrete containers, companion plants, and accessories for fairy gardening. Those in attendance managed to help lighten his load back to the Ozarks on a soggy day.

Business Meeting:

Eve Vanden Broek called the meeting to order. She thanked Linda Baer for bringing the main dish and drinks for our meeting, hauling everything in the pouring rain. Eve added color to our room with Pansies for the table decorations that were given away at the end of the event.

Attendees were asked to fill out the questionnaires on the tables so that the officers could use that information for future meetings. Eve discussed Article V of the ROHS Constitution stating: *The Vice-President shall, upon the event of the President not being able to fulfill the presidential duties, step up to the Presidential role until such time as the President can resume the duties. If this would become a permanent replacement, a new Vice President would then be appointed by the serving President.* Eve asked for someone to step forward to assist with the Vice President's duties, but to no avail.

Remembrance of ROHS President, Marvelous Marlys Anderson

Marlys passed away February 17, 2014, from cancer. She was a courageous President to our Society bringing professional experience, volunteerism, and promoting friendship with fellow hostaholics and others that crossed her path. She was a strong sounding board for Building a Dream in the Country fundraisers spreading the word wherever and whenever she could. Her spirits were always up though some days she didn't have the strength to do much at all. We bid her farewell and look forward to seeing her again in Heaven.

Officer Reports

Secretary's Report Minutes of the fall meeting were published in the newsletter and on the website. Motion to approve minutes as published was made by Herman Kopitzke, Second given by Ken Outzen, All Ayes.

Treasurer's Report was given by David Dettmann. We had a beginning balance of \$6,948. Fall meeting expenses totaled \$635.93. We received some membership renewals and there were a few miscellaneous expenses that brought the balance to \$6,000. Herman Kopitzke motioned to approve the Treasurer's report, Second given by Skip Hitchcock, All Ayes.

Membership Report We had 116 members last year, 11 expired memberships as of 2013.

Appointment of new Vice President

There were no volunteers. Barry Laws agreed to help with the Summer Tour.

Summer Tour

Ellen Glasgow and Eve reported on the different gardens they would be seeing. Lunch will be catered by Katheryn at \$12.00 per person. This will be posted on our website, and we will advertise in the Des Moines Metro, WHO TV's community board, Indianola Chamber and asked Barry Laws to check with Eileen Rob to do a radio spot.

Unfinished Business/Projects

Eve updated us on the **Greater Des Moines Botanical Gardens**. She spoke to Mel Visser, past ROHS member, who is very involved with the Botanical Gardens. They are in Phase 1 of a master plan. Phase 2 will include a Hosta Garden. There are 5 Russ O'Harra hostas that Mel does not have: 'Clair De Lune', 'Elizabeth Levy', 'Pearl Buttons' and 'Spit Shine'. David Dettmann will continue to act as our liaison keeping in contact with Mel and updating the group as needed.

Iowa Arboretum Joe McNally reported that the Hosta garden will not move from its current location. We are still waiting to hear from the Arboretum as to what we as a group can do to help.

New Business

Reldon Ramsey's News

Hosta Finders We purchased the necessary amount to receive a discount and still have a few left. The cost is \$14.50/book. Contact David Dettmann if interested in purchasing one.

Solberg Plants Reldon spoke with Nancy Solberg and they can time the delivery of the club plants when they come to the National Convention. Reldon will send an email to those that agreed to purchase plants and let them know how much they need to pay.

(Continued on Page 14)

Field Guide to Hostas by Mark Zillis The books sell for \$44.95 each. As a club, we can order 20 or more for \$35.96 plus shipping and handling. There weren't a large number of people at the meeting that agreed to purchase one, so we will not be ordering the book.

New Membership Program Reldon has the brochures ready for distribution. If you need them for a group or your business, please contact him.

Photos of Russ' plants It was requested we submit pictures of our plants that Russ introduced to Reldon so he can get them on our website.

2014 National Hosta Convention – June 11 – 14th

Eve showed the vase that ROHS provides to the winner of the Artistic Design category at the AHS National Convention. Peggy Moody stated she was working on coordinating that category and graciously accepted to take the vase with her to the Convention.

BADITC Update Reldon gave an update on the Spece family's house. Donations are still coming in; local businesses were contributing in ways such as reduced labor or discounted supplies.

Eve Vanden Broek's News

Eve reminded everyone that there will be an election of officers at our October meeting. If anyone would like to run for a position, please contact her.

Questions/Comments/Ideas

Barry Laws announced that Quilted Gardens would be selling Soil Conditioner Mulch the last weekend of April for \$3.00 per bag.

Rod Kuenster and Bruce and Trudy Van Wyk reminded everyone that during the AHS National Convention, the Hosta Seed Growers would be holding a hosta seedling competition. The cost to enter is \$5.00 per plant. There will be prizes for the top entries and convention attendees will vote on Friday. More information can be found at www.hostaseedgrowers.com.

The meeting was adjourned and clean-up was done by many.

**Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Glasgow
Secretary**

**Russ O'Harra Hosta Society
c/o Reldon Ramsey
1560 State Highway 148
Corning, IA 50841**