



Hosta HORIZONS

newsletter of the
Russ O'Harra Hosta Society
Celebrating 20 Years in 2013

June 2013

THANK YOU, EVE!

Special Thanks to Eve Vanden Broek for her writing skills. Were it not for Eve and our rainy spring, this edition of *Hosta Horizons* would be much thinner. Not only did Eve drive and write the route directions to the Summer Tour gardens, the "I Spy Game" and other tour-related info, but she also wrote all five of the garden articles from answers the garden owners had provided on questionnaires.

AND "For Latin Lovers", "Garden Phobias!", "The G-nome Project" x 2, and last, but certainly not least, "The Hostaphile's Alphabet"..... and she provided the quotes, too!!

I cannot thank her enough as all of my time in the last month+ has been taken by the BADITC Fundraising Auction, editing the AHS Convention Handbook, and a 4-day trip the second weekend of May to see my child graduate from college in Colorado. Please join me in thanking Eve for all that she's done to make this issue a well-written (and FUN!) success.

Reldon Ramsey

President's Message

"Gardening Grows the Spirit" **Is Summer Really Here – Finally?**



Is spring here? Will summer really come? What's with the vacillating weather? Snow-covered tulips and hostas in May was just too strange. Finally, green grass is growing, and the hostas are enjoying the wonderful rains and still cool temperatures.

I think we were all prepared for weather-related loss in our gardens this spring due to the horrid heat and terrible drought endured last summer. It certainly took its toll here. Many hostas dissipated from dry crown rot, some are gone to Hosta Heaven, and others are showing symptoms of great distress. Herds of moles and occasional vole attacks are also affecting my gardens. The cats are on vole patrol now. Still great opportunity for change abounds in Marlys' Garden this spring.

Change is not always comfortable, but so necessary to prevent stagnation and encourage new perspective. I'd like to ask our members to look toward the future focusing on who our next club leaders might be. Please bring your thoughts to me or another board member. It is my goal to hand over the ROHS president's gavel to someone who will sustain our goals and projects. Eve pointed out to me recently that a continuum of change brings in not only new people to the leadership role but a new direction/vision and new ideas. These are usually good things and should be embraced by our group.

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Hosta Horizons

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BADITC Fundraising Auction

I hosted the Building A Dream In The Country Fundraising Auction on the Hosta Library from May 16 – June 1. When I began posting items, I had received fewer than 75, and I was in doubt that the auction would be as successful as I'd hoped. Over the next 12 days, I received more than 100 additional donations. In all, 178 items were donated, most were hostas, and some were rare or one-of-a-kind. The auction raised \$15,685 for the building fund for a new home for the Spece family. Behind the scenes technical assistance was provided by Bill Meyer, Carol Brashear, and Bob Axmear. Thanks to all who contributed to the success of the auction!!

Reldon Ramsey

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.

"A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows."

Doug Larson

Access the ROHS website at www.rohs.org



Rick Innis with his newest hosta acquisition at the ROHS Spring meeting in mid-April.

The G-nome Project

By Eve Vanden Broek

If you're thinking this article will focus on the 13-year project coordinated by the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Institutes of Health to identify all the approximately 20,000-25,000 genes in human DNA, think again. That was the Human Genome Project (HGP) and was completed in 2003. This project involves a 'G-nome' of another variety, a member of our club, and **YOU**.

Did you hear who made a splash at the 100th annual Chelsea Flower Show in England recently? No, not Queen Elizabeth, though she did attend, but someone much smaller in stature, literally: **gnomes**. Yes, garden gnomes made their first ever appearance at this most prestigious garden event and that was big news. Until this year, colorful, mythical creatures of any sort were *verboten*. For the show, each gnome was decorated by a celebrity, including Elton John, and was later auctioned off to raise money for a campaign that encourages children to become involved in gardening. It's about time!

Recently, we were all stunned by the news of the sudden death of our club member, Rick Innis. Rick and Teresa Innis' garden will be featured on the Summer Tour this year. As a show of our support to Teresa, we'd like to suggest an ROHS **G-nome Project** by asking those participating on the tour to bring a garden gnome to Rick and Teresa's garden. The gnomes are to represent us, ROHS club members, and will be presented to Teresa to place in the Innis' garden. We want Teresa – *and Rick* – to know we'll always be with them in their garden. A separate check-in will be designated for the gnomes and before the plant auction begins, a special presentation will be made. If you cannot make the tour but would like to participate, you are welcome to either: 1) send a garden gnome along with someone you know who is participating; 2) send a gnome to one of the executive board members (addresses are in the newsletter); or 3) send a check payable to David Dettmann with 'gnome' noted in the memo field and an executive board member will find a gnome worthy of your donation.

This G-nome Project is voluntary. TERESA IS UNAWARE, and her newsletter will feature a different article on garden gnomes so **please keep this project a secret!** **The size, color, gnome style, and what you spend is entirely up to you.** Garden gnomes have been quite popular over the past few years and should be easy to find in box stores, garden centers, and on the internet. We think Rick would be amused by the idea and surely Teresa will be appreciative.

Thank you for your support!



ROHS 20th Anniversary Celebration

Date: Sunday, July 21

Time: Noon – 5 PM

Location: Iowa Arboretum,
Rural Madrid

Mark the date on your calendars and plan to join us in a celebration marking the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the Russ O'Harra Hosta Society.

A catered meal will be served at One PM followed by entertainment.

Gifts commemorating the occasion will be given to members.

Invitations have been sent to all active members.

Please RSVP promptly.

Print legibly & provide an accurate number of those attending in your party.

For Regrets – please include your name.

Thank You

Planning Committee

Bruce & Trudy Van Wyk

Frank & Ellen Glasgow

Carl & Robin Vos

Reldon Ramsey



President's Message: *"Gardening Grows the Spirit"* Is Summer Really Here – Finally?



(Continued from page 1)

However, our current board really wants input into who might lead ROHS into the future. Please feel free to name yourself as a potential leader if you feel you can give your time, vision, and energy to ROHS.

We board members want to say "Thank You" to our members for donating so generously to the AHS Nematode Research Program. We are very proud to have such an engaged group. We love the laughter at our meetings, and maybe, even David Dettmann's corny jokes.

ROHS has been involved with the "Building A Dream in the Country" (BADITC) project nearly from its "kick off" in January 2012. We were instrumental in raising over \$6,000, with our members giving over half that amount and setting a precedent for several other Hosta groups to follow. In January 2013, \$70,000 of the \$150,000 needed to order the new home had been raised. The fund is growing quickly now with fundraising events put on by the project committee spearheaded by Kathy Finholt and individual donations continue to trickle in. Their fund gauge currently is at \$110,500. Reldon Ramsey has picked up the reins to continue fundraising for BADITC and just finished hosting an online hosta auction at the Hosta Library website. It was wildly successful, pushing the reality of the new home for the Spece family ever closer.

The focus of this newsletter is partly our Summer Garden Tour and Auction on June 30th. It is a bittersweet occasion again this year. Two years ago, Helen Groeneveld died shortly before their garden was to be on tour. Most of us know that ROHS member, Ricky Innis, died unexpectedly April 27th. Ricky was my neighbor when my family moved to Grinnell in 1959. We grew up in the same group of friends. Ricky was a good guy. The love he and Teresa shared was evident to all. Ricky and Teresa were set to host our summer tour and auction in their garden. Teresa wants to go on with the summer tour as she feels it will give her something to focus on. Teresa, we are all so sorry for your loss of a good husband.

Also, former ROHS member, David Williams, is suffering from Pancreatic Cancer. His friends and the Atlantic, Iowa, community are rallying to be of service to David. I served on an ROHS committee with David and found him to be fun, funny, and earnest. His presence has been missed in ROHS.

Remember to save the date - Sunday, July 21, 2013 - for the gala celebration of the Russ O'Harra Hosta Society's 20th Anniversary. Free dinner, free entertainment, free membership gifts, and free fun! Invitations have been sent. Please RSVP right away.

ROHS member, Josh Spece, has agreed to be the speaker for our Fall meeting on October 13th at the Iowa Arboretum. He asked what he should talk about. I told him the latest and greatest hostas and other plants of interest. We'll see what he comes up with for us. Marilyn and Deke Gliem will be hosting our fall meeting. A big ROHS "Thank You" goes out to Josh, Marilyn, and Deke for stepping up to be of service to the club.

Our 2014 Spring Meeting needs a host or hosts and a place to hold our meeting. If you would like to host our 2014 spring meeting, please let me know as soon as possible. Hosts need to arrange for a meeting place, provide table décor (which is usually paid for by ROHS, then given away as door prizes), and assist in setting up and cleaning the meeting place. We have a potential speaker lined up for this meeting. ROHS hospitality person, Linda Baer, normally prepares one big meal item for our potluck table. Cold drinks and coffee are also provided as is disposable tableware. The cost is covered by the club.

The AHS National Hosta Convention is coming right up in mid-June with the Midwest Regional Hosta Convention following in mid-July. I'm still hoping to attend both events. Hosta Conventions are always a good time. Links to both convention details may be found on the ROHS website. www.rohs.org

The ROHS board has been in contact with the Iowa Arboretum concerning establishing an all O'Harra hosta display garden. We are awaiting a call back from them. It is desired to have the pergola area outside the Hughes Center be home to O'Harra plants only. It is further desired to see a Greg Johnson display bed, as well as, beds for other ROHS members that have touched the hosta world by their hybridizing efforts and their love of hostas.

That's about it for ROHS news and views. Please feel free to contact me with ideas or suggestions to help keep your club fun and involved in the Hosta World.

Hosta is the Friendship Plant

"Gardening Grows the Spirit"



MM
Marvelous Marlys

MRHS Convention 2013

**HOSTAMANIA
IS SPREADING
THROUGHOUT THE
MIDWEST!**



Local hosta societies throughout the Midwest are being asked to identify members afflicted with the malady called **HOSTAMANIA!** The Northern Illinois Hosta Society has developed intensive treatment options that will be available only to those who come to the Midwest Regional Hosta Society convention in Lisle, IL, July 11 – 13, 2013. **HOSTAMANIA** is the unstoppable second stage of hostaholicism, which was most thoughtfully addressed at the 2012 MRHS Convention by the Shades of Green Hosta Society of Southeastern Minnesota.

Symptoms of HOSTAMANIA include:

- * **Persistent feelings that one possesses an inadequate number of hostas**
- * **A shortage of exceptional hosta gardens to visit in the sufferers' hometowns**
- * **Limited opportunity to learn even more about hostas and other plants**
- * **Not enough occasions to interact with other hosta lovers**

Among the therapies offered at the convention:

- * **Ten vendors of the latest hosta varieties, companion plants, and more**
- * **Hosta auction and leaf show**
- * **A tour of ten beautiful, private gardens that feature countless hostas**
- * **Opportunities to visit renowned public gardens**
- * **Seminars led by popular, knowledgeable speakers**
- * **Lots of fellow HOSTAMANIACS who are crazy about hostas**

Nutrition issues will be the focus of two dinners at the headquarters treatment facility, the Lisle/Naperville Hilton (HMHQ). Many excellent restaurants are nearby for other meals.

The cost of addressing the **HOSTAMANIA** disorder is quite reasonable: a fee of \$119 covers all remedies mentioned above. Accommodations at the Lisle/Naperville Hilton cost only \$96 per night plus tax; full breakfast, pool, workout room, and parking are included.

www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/N/NAPH/IHF-CMRH-20130711/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Additional information at www.mrhs2013.org will be updated regularly.

2013 Dates to Remember

June 13 - 15

AHS National Convention

Milwaukee, WI <http://www.2013ahsconvention.com/>

Sunday, June 30 - 8 AM to 4 PM

ROHS Summer Tour and Auction

Grinnell area

July 11 – 13

Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention

Lisle, IL <http://mrhs2013.org/>

Sunday, July 21 – Noon to 5 PM

ROHS 20th Anniversary Celebration

Iowa Arboretum, rural Madrid

Sunday, October 13 – Noon to 5 PM

ROHS Fall Meeting

Iowa Arboretum, rural Madrid

Speaker: **Josh Spece**



**Midwest
Regional
Hosta
Society**

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society represents Region 5 of the American Hosta Society that includes 9 states. Our mission is to promote education, research, development and enjoyment of Hosta.

Membership in the society is \$20.00 for 2 years, which includes two issues per year of the newsletter. This publication reports on events and information on Hostas in general.

Please mail a check made payable to **MRHS** to:

Kristine James
523 E Calhoun St.
Woodstock, IL 60098

along with Name, Address, phone, and email (Most correspondence is by email). For questions email MRHS.Hosta@gmail.com.

One of the healthiest ways to gamble is with a spade and a package of seeds. - Dan Bennett

Carpe rutila! (Seize the spade!) - David Hobson

2013 ROHS SUMMER TOUR

Garden #1 Jim & Charlie Atcher

206 E. Church Street
Laurel, Iowa 50141

Garden #2 Jody Allen

809 Ferguson Road
Grinnell, Iowa 50112

Garden #3 Echo Jansen

1905 Country Club Drive
Grinnell, Iowa 50112

Garden #4 Pat Rutherford

764 390th Avenue
Grinnell, Iowa 50112

Garden #5 Rick & Teresa Innis

9074 Center Street
Newburg, Iowa

Ant-i-ci-pa-tion (an-ti-sə-'pā-shən)

(1) an emotion involving pleasure, excitement, and sometimes anxiety in considering some expected or longed-for good event.

(2) 1971 song written and sung by Carly Simon.

Either definition, you're thinking about the Russ O'Harra Hosta Society's annual Summer Tour, and not Heinz Ketchup, right? Well, the waiting is nearly over. And since we're all getting a wee bit older, before you walk out the door, take one last look at the checklist for the day's outing. We've done the work for you, so enjoy the drive/ride, have fun with the game, enjoy the gardens, and most of all, **thank you for participating!** We're glad to have you on the tour.

How you get to Laurel depends on from where you begin your day. Laurel is located on Highway 14, south of Marshalltown about 12 miles. Get your map out for a sense of where you're heading. From any direction you arrive, you cannot get lost in Laurel. Jim and Charlie live on the corner of Church Street and 2nd Avenue, just a couple of blocks east of Main Street. In fact, the Atcher family pretty much commands 2nd Avenue. Suffice it to say, Jim and Charlie aren't the only Atchers living on Church Street. There is plenty of off-street parking, and you are welcome to arrive between 8 and 8:30 a.m. Look for the collection of garden art.

The directions to the other gardens are **from Laurel to Newburg, our final destination.** The mileage noted in parenthesis is the APPROXIMATE distance you will travel to the next turn or the garden destination; SD = Short Distance. There are plenty of locations in Grinnell to make a pit stop and a port-a-potty will be available at Rick and Teresa's where the lunch and auction will take place.

From Jim & Charlie Atcher's to Jody Allen's:

Approximately 20 miles; 25 minute drive.

1. Get to Main Street
(direction depends on where you park) (SD)
2. Turn left (south) onto Main Street/Hwy 14 and head south (4.3 mi)
3. Turn left (east) onto Hwy F17/F17 E (6 mi)
4. Turn right (south) onto Hwy T38/Hwy T38N (5.8 mi)
5. Turn left onto US-6 E - towards Grinnell (2.3 mi)
6. Turn right onto Ferguson Road (SD)

Destination: 809 Ferguson Road; on the right; park on road or a few in drive

From Jody Allen's to Echo Jansen's:

Approximately 2.5 miles; 5 minute drive.

1. Head north on Ferguson Road (SD)
2. Turn right onto 6th Avenue and head into Grinnell (1.2 mi)
3. Turn left onto Park Street (0.7 mi)
4. Park Street turns left and becomes 13th Avenue - stay the course (SD)
5. Turn right onto Country Club Drive (SD)

Destination: 1905 Country Club Drive; on the left at the corner of Manor Circle; park on street

From Echo Jansen's to Pat Rutherford's:

Approximately 7.2 miles; 15 minute drive.

1. Head south on Manor Circle (slightly uphill) towards Manor Drive (SD)
2. Turn right onto Manor Drive (SD)
3. Turn left onto 12th Avenue (SD)
4. Take the 1st right onto Broad Street (SD)
5. Continue on Broad Street around the park (SD); cross 11th St. to stay on Broad St. (0.6 mi)
6. Turn left (east) on 6th Avenue/Hwy 6 and head out of town to 80th Street (5 mi)
7. Turn right on 80th Street (at the old grain elevator) (1 mi)
8. Take 1st right onto 390th Avenue (gravel road) (0.4 mi)

Destination: 764 390th Avenue; on your left; parking in drive and on road ok

From Pat Rutherford's to Rick and Teresa

Innis': *Approximately 14 miles; 22 minute drive.*

1. Head east on 390th Avenue towards 80th Street and turn right (0.4 mi)
2. Turn left on 80th Street (1 mi)
3. Turn left on Hwy 6 W/380th Avenue and head back into Grinnell (5.1 mi)
4. Turn right onto West Street/Hwy 146 N and continue north (5.1 mi)
5. Turn left (west) onto Hwy F17/330th Avenue/Newburg Road heading to Newburg (2.5 mi)
6. Turn left onto Center Street (SD)

Destination: 9074 Center Street, Newburg; white home on the left; parking available at the church at the end of the block and on the street

2013 ROHS SUMMER TOUR

Garden #1 Jim & Charlie Atcher

Forty-some years ago on a corner lot in the small, quiet town of Laurel, there was a white house with a well-tended lawn. It wasn't long before the Mrs. felt the yard needed a bit of color and thought that it would be nice to grow something fresh to eat. An easy fix ensued: a few flowers were added here and there, a small vegetable garden was planted; the mix was supplemented by Mother Nature's sun and rain, and it didn't take long for the enjoyment of gardening to take hold.



Over the years, the Atchers added more and more flowers. Then Charlie began adding unique rocks and Jim started adding found pieces of antique farm machinery and soon there were fewer and fewer patches of grass and the burdensome chore of mowing became a thing of the past. As with any home garden, it evolves and takes shape in its own way. Although the Atchers' garden does not have a special name, Jim says, "It's just our home that just happens to have a lot of stuff in the yard."

So when did Jim and Charlie get introduced to hosta? It all started about 15 years ago when they were in search of something to plant under a shade tree.



A gardening friend, Craig Jacobson, explained how easy it was to grow hostas and talked about the unending

varieties. They were soon hooked. Today hundreds of hosta call the corner of Church Street and 2nd Avenue home.

Along the highway to "hosta heaven", the father and son duo have met many interesting gardeners and have enjoyed touring hosta gardens near and far. Charlie's favorite hostas include 'Guardian Angel' and 'Blue Lightening', while Jim prefers any varieties that are twisted, cupped, corrugated or just plain weird. But you'll find more than hosta in the Atcher garden. Look for a variety of lilies and other colorful perennials and annuals, as well as two small fish ponds and an abundance of unique garden art. And don't be surprised by the pooches, they're part of the *Welcome Committee*.

2013 ROHS SUMMER TOUR

Garden #2 Jody Allen

"As most gardens, the Allen Gardens started small and grew. The bug [hosta] started in 2000," says Jody Allen. What you will see in Allen's gardens is a labor of family love. Jody noted that the entire family has always enjoyed flowers, and when they had an opportunity to buy wholesale, they decided hosta would be the best plant for their shady area. They cleared the brush, shingles and other items collecting in the corner and in went the hosta. Success ensued!



Success with hosta spread to daylilies and other perennials. Each year Jody tries to increase her line of perennials to sell and expands with new hosta varieties that have proven success. But she also knows those unique, different or unusual varieties are what the true *hostaholics* are after. In her personal collection, she counts 369 varieties but stopped counting because gardening work got in the way. So which ones are her favorites?

(Continued on next page)

'Gypsy Rose', 'Paradigm', 'Liberty' and 'Praying Hands'. They are nice, aren't they? Jody will have hosta for sale if you find one you cannot live without.



Passionate gardeners, Jack Robinson and Ben Brown, helped encourage Jody to pursue her own garden project, providing answers to endless questions about plants, growing habits, a plant's viability and light requirements. Mentors such as these two gentlemen are a great find. Their passion draws in the novice who then becomes the experienced gardener who then passes it forward and the cycle continues.

When you arrive at Allen Gardens, take note of the die-cut fencing, the iron table made with a large



schoolhouse floor grate, as well as, the vintage garden gate. There's definitely something to see in every shady nook and cranny; take note of the accents lovingly placed because next year those accents will have a new home as Jody constantly changes things around in what she calls her "work in progress". The large evergreens not only make for a great windbreak, but provide the perfect place to enjoy a moment of peace and tranquility.

Take a moment to introduce yourself to Jody as she cherishes her time talking with hosta people who she finds as unique and different as the Genus *Hosta*.

2013 ROHS SUMMER TOUR

Garden #3 Echo Jansen

Hostaholics need look no further for *Hosta Heaven* can be found in Grinnell! Yes, tucked amongst the mature shade trees in this country club neighborhood, a collection of over 500 hostas fill this well-tended patch of paradise in town. A love for the outdoors, nature and an abundance of shade are what drew Echo Jansen to hosta over 20 years ago.



As you stroll through this quiet shade garden, you'll see 13 years' worth of hard work and meticulous recordkeeping. This self-described *hostaholic* credits Marsha Ansevics of Flying Frog Farm for her help in growing the collection at *Hosta Heaven*. Standing back, admiring her garden, Echo will tell you that her favorite hostas are 'Guardian Angel' and 'Liberty', their beauty drawing you in instantly.



(Continued on next page)

Amongst the 300+ varieties of hosta, you will find many rabbit statues, bird feeders and other bits of whimsy. And if there's a breeze on June 30, the sweet sound of wind chimes will delight us along the garden paths. You'll definitely feel like you've found heaven.

When asked about gardening constraints or challenges, Echo provided a one word answer we are all familiar with: "Weather". Challenge aside, her future gardening plans include adding a sun garden to balance the shade so just maybe she'll be able to grow tomatoes, a plant she hasn't had much luck with over the years. And of course, adding more hosta is always at the top of the a *hostaholic's* list.

Echo is a delight to visit with and no doubt when you meet her, she will be radiating hosta.



2013 ROHS SUMMER TOUR Garden #4 Pat Rutherford

Outside Grinnell on 80 acres, Pat Rutherford needed something to occupy her time. With the youngest child off to college, there were suddenly no more ball games, no more theatrical productions or concerts to attend. Surrounded by soil, she decided to get her hands dirty and is proud to say, "I spend my free time digging in the dirt." Today she gardens on two acres and enjoys every minute nurturing her hobby.

Though you will find hundreds of perennials in Pat's gardens, her favorites are the hosta. "They are easy to grow and I was captivated by so many sizes and colors," she explained. In 2003, she began collecting hosta more seriously and has found her best resources to be books, farmers markets, and other hosta growers. This country gal is a true *hostaholic*, so much so that her e-mail address begins with '*hostaqueen*'. Someone bring this queen a crown!



A grass garden, large perennial garden, a pergola, fountain and containers make up the breadth of this oasis in the country. Be sure to look for the gnomes: they are hiding everywhere! How many can you count? Garden art also draws your eyes to every corner of the garden. They bring to life the song and dance of the plants and make you

smile. Check out Pat's favorite hosta, 'Krossa Regal', majestic, stately and oh, so noble as its blue-green leaves gently blow in the wind.

Speaking of wind, wind is one challenge this enthusiastic gardener faces continually. As we all know, when the wind blows, plants and their tender leaves take a beating. Animals and a lack of time also



factor into Pat's garden life, though rarely discouraged, she has ambitions to add more hardscaping, dabble with grapes and she thinks retirement might be the perfect time to begin a garden consulting business.

Walk around Pat's garden and enjoy the openness of the surroundings, breath the fresh air, and if you have a secret on how best to grow lupines, search her out - she's open for suggestions.



Pat Rutherford with some of her hostas under the pergola

All photos courtesy of the gardeners: Jim & Charlie Atcher, Jody Allen, Echo Jansen, and Pat Rutherford

2013 ROHS SUMMER TOUR

Garden #5 Rick & Teresa Innis

When you arrive at the Innis garden, you will be amazed at the variety of well-tended beds and that each one contains a rock or two or three - from Charlie Atcher's garden, you ask? No, from places Rick and Teresa have visited over the years and many simply picked up here and there. Of course among the rocks you will find plenty of hosta, in fact, over 350 varieties. Welcome to *The Morninglory!* This special piece of paradise in Newburg has hosted two outdoor weddings, many family reunions, a few graduation parties, several club meetings, and a few fish fries. It is definitely a place enjoyed by many.

The Innis' took up gardening and collecting hosta in 1982 when they lived and worked in Iowa City. Seven years later they purchased their Newburg property, yet still resided in Iowa City. Countless weekends and vacation days were spent working on their Newburg gardens and yard in preparation for retirement. It wasn't until 2006 when they both retired that they made a permanent move west.

Many home gardens, planned or unplanned, take on a life of their own at some point, and we all wish we could change a thing or two. When asked what Teresa and Rick would change, Teresa replied, "Tackle the lawn first, get it in good shape, and then put up or create better shade structures." She noted that tree roots are her biggest challenge, next to old age. Does anyone have a magic wand?

In addition to being a member of the Russ O'Harra Hosta Society, Teresa and Rick belong to the Harshbarger Hosta Society, the Midwest Regional Hosta Society, and the Grinnell Area Garden Club. Both thoroughly enjoy the camaraderie of others interested in so many of the same aspects of gardening as they do. Teresa commented that when she joined the Harshbarger Hosta Society, Liz Stratton and Collette Pogue eased her into garden club life and shared lots of hosta advice.

They say opposites attract and while Teresa favors the big hosta such as 'Paradigm' and 'Parhelion'. Rick's favorites too, but in the last few years he became interested in the minis. What they share is a love of gardening and the desire to share it with others. Teresa said, "I think we have in a small way, at least, influenced and inspired others to start and/or expand their gardening horizons, especially in our own family. Sharing hostas is a good way to do that." How true.

Celebrating the Life of Rick Innis



Rick Innis loved life! He had a spark that was impossible not to share whenever I was around him. That spark was his zest for life, and it had just a touch of mischief, too! There was nearly always a twinkle in Rick's eye.

Rick died very unexpectedly on April 27, 2013, at his home in Newburg, IA, and everyone who knew him is still shocked at his sudden passing. Our worlds will not be the same without him in it. A Celebration of Life service

was held on May 11, 2013, in Iowa City where Rick and his wife, Teresa, lived most of their married life.

Rick loved to talk with people and share stories. He was a die-hard Iowa Hawkeye football fan and had never missed a home game since 1969. He loved his family and always helped his children and grandchildren with whatever needed to be done, and he loved to follow his grandchildren's sporting events wherever they were. He had attended the Drake Relays to see his youngest granddaughter's events the day that he died. And he loved spending time with Frankie, their Bichon Frise, who travelled almost everywhere with Rick and Teresa.

Rick and Teresa became good friends almost as soon as I met them in 2009. My first memory of Rick is of him proudly showing off his new prized possession, *The Hostapedia*, at the first Russ O'Harra meeting he and Teresa attended. They had been members of the Harshbarger Hosta Society for many years before joining ROHS. Rick and Teresa have been familiar faces at MRHS conventions in recent years, and I've had some very fun, memorable times with them!

I was fortunate to have had dinner at their home several times with other hosta friends, and the evenings were always filled with talk (not necessarily hosta talk) on the front porch followed by a delicious meal prepared by Teresa and more talk... followed by yet more talk until it was well past time to head for home. What special evenings with friends should be: WONDERFUL!!

Rick and Teresa loved gardening and hostas in particular. They created a wonderful garden at their retirement home in Newburg. Many weekends were spent moving their Iowa City garden to its new home over several years. The new garden features hostas and perennials and a one-of-a-kind fence. It will be featured as the final stop on the Russ O'Harra Society's Summer Tour and Auction at the end of June.

Innis has the same spelling as *Hosta* 'Inniswood' – but not the same pronunciation. Innis is pronounced with a capital "I". And in Rick and Teresa's garden, 'Inniswood' is ALWAYS pronounced with a capital "I", as well.

'Parhelion' was one of Rick's three favorite hostas (along with 'Paradigm' and 'Winter Snow') and had a place of honor to the side of the front porch where Rick enjoyed spending so much time. For Rick, it was always just a glance away.

As a celebration of the life and spirit of Rick Innis, the Harshbarger Hosta Society and the Russ O'Harra Hosta Society donated 'Inniswood' and 'Parhelion' to the recent online auction benefiting Building A Dream In The Country.

Reldon Ramsey

For Latin Lovers



By Eve Vanden Broek

It's late May and as much as I sulk at rain on a Saturday when my garden needs serious attention, I also appreciate Mother Nature taking care of the watering, allowing me the time to finish work on the Summer Tour directions and other indoor projects, namely my overflowing bookshelf. As I was looking through my book collection, with the intent to free up space for those stacked on the floor, I came across a small book I purchased years ago: *Gardener's Latin*, a Lexicon by Bill Neal. Inside is an alphabetical listing of not only botanical nomenclature, but lost-in-time gardening lore, facts and fables featuring plants found in poetry, prose, proverbs and potions. Yes, this book was going home with me. Since finding a home on my bookshelf, it hasn't received the attention I had envisioned. Then it rained one Saturday in May.

Have you noticed the abundance of Latin terms in gardening catalogs and magazines, on plant and nursery tags, on markers at botanical and arboretums? You can learn a whole new vocabulary walking through a well-marked garden, a technical one at that. So, how and when did these terms come into existence? The history is fascinating and could make for a book on its own, but to save time and space, I'll sum it up rather quickly.



Carl Linnaeus, a mid-18th Century Swedish naturalist, on the backs of his 17th Century predecessors, designed a system to classify and name plants, animals and minerals. Linnaeus' claim to fame is that he broke down these categories into smaller groups called genera, then further broke them down into smaller units which we know as species, 7300 to be exact. The purpose: design a means to name plants. Though the world around us has evolved and changed exponentially since Linnaeus' time,

remarkably his two-word system of naming plants is still in use today.

Thinking about hosta and our upcoming tour and what we will find in our hosts' collections, I thought about the familiar Latin terms such as *variegata*, *undulata*, *venusta* and *montana*, but surely there were more. Where to turn but to *maxima bibliotheca mea in libro*, the largest book in my entire library: *The Hostapedia*. There, I discovered an entire section devoted to naming and describing hosta, "How Hostas Are Named", and you guessed it, Latin names abound. Back to *Gardener's Latin*, I relished in perusing the garden-related Latin terms once again, some which could easily be used to describe the hosta we'll encounter on June 30.

Read for yourself:

- angustifo'lius***: narrow-leaved
- aurantifo'lius***: golden-leaved
- calophyl'lus***: having beautiful leaves
- compac'tus***: compact
- crassifo'lius***: thick-leaved
- euchlor'us***: of a beautiful green color
- exalta'tus***: very tall
- fortis***: strong; growing vigorously
- jucun'dus***: agreeable
- leiophyl'lus***: with smooth leaves
- leucan'thus***: with white flowers
- liliiflo'rus***: with lily-like flowers
- minu'tus***: very small
- pergrac'ilis***: very slender
- polysper'mus***: producing many seeds
- rega'lis***: regal; royal
- subcorda'tus***: somewhat heart shaped
- tardiflo'rus***: late blooming
- tenebro'sus***: of dark or shaded places
- tortuo'sus***: very twisted
- umbro'sus***: shaded; shade loving
- verna'lis***: of spring

Three Latin terms every hostaphile wants to avoid: ***ustula'tus***: burnt; dried up; withered (gardens of 2012); ***perfora'tus***: pierced with holes (hail or slug damage); and ***praemor'sus***: appearing to have been nibbled on (deer).

Now, back to the bookshelf and maybe another article. *The Kama Sutra* anyone?

The Hostaphile's Alphabet

By Eve Vanden Broek

To provide a little assistance to the new collectors of the Genus *Hosta*, here is a handy **Hostaphile Alphabet from A to Z**. For those of you who already speak the hosta language, let these words be a reminder of when you first learned to speak hosta, and the excitement you felt at learning something new.

A is for the *American Hosta Society*, whose mission it is to “foster and promote knowledge and interest in the Genus *Hosta* through education and outreach, to encourage the introduction and development of new and improved varieties of hostas into cultivation, and to promote the registration of new cultivars in our role as the ICRA (International Cultivar Registration Authority) for the Genus *Hosta*.”

B is for *bloom*, the second act of the hosta plant. Hostas bloom between June and October; blooms are simple in nature and some say resemble a lily. Blooms most often are purple or white or a variation thereof; some are even fragrant.

C is for *cultivar*, the contracted word from “cultivated variety”; a plant that is distinguishable by identical physical characteristics maintaining them through proper propagation means.

D is for *division*, the single eye of a hosta. Making divisions of your favorite varieties is a great way to share with friends and family; a means to create a new garden; or donate to a plant sale or auction.

E is for *eye*, the tubular point emerging from the crown of the plant. Seen prominently sprouting in early spring, you know it’s time to make divisions.

F is for *fertilization*, the birds and the bees of the plant world; plant sex. As it happens, pollen from the hosta flower’s anthers sticks to a bee’s antennae and hairs. When the bee leaves the flower, it inadvertently brushes the stigma at which time pollen nuclei travel to the flower’s ovary in search of eggs and voilà, fertilization takes place.

G is for *Giboshi*, the Japanese word for hosta. Hundreds of hosta from Japan have crossed the Pacific and taken up root in our Midwestern gardens. Do you have a ‘giboshi’ variety in your garden? And you

thought you didn’t know a word of Japanese. You know one of the most important ones!

H is for *The Hostapedia*, Mark Zillis’ 12 lb. follow-up to *The Hosta Handbook*. You can easily get lost inside this 1000+ page encyclopedia as you *ooh* and *ahh* over the nearly 1900 color photos. Alphabetically listed in this massive tome are all the hosta Mark has ever seen, studied, read about or heard about which is roughly 7400. Wow!

I is for the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP)*, the 204-page guide used when naming cultivated plants. Developed in 1953, the 8th edition was printed in 2009. A real page-turner.

J is for *H. ‘June’*, which appeared on the list of hosta favorites of ROHS members featured in the April edition of *Hosta Horizons*. Introduced in the early ’90s this fine specimen was named “Hosta of the Year” in 2001 by the American Hosta Growers Association. A well-loved plant not only in name and looks, it is the parent of several well-known sports.

K is for *‘Kabitan’*, a timeless hosta with origins in Japan. Noteworthy sports and seedlings such as ‘Hart’s Tongue’, ‘Green Eyes’ and ‘Peedee Gold Flash’ owe homage to this cultivar. You probably have them in your collection.

L is for *leaf*, for without the leaf we would have no hosta to admire, covet, or collect. Leaf shapes vary from narrow to ovate to triangular; unique traits include cupping and rippling. Leaf colors are not just green or gold, they can be chartreuse, streaked, or have blue-green centers with yellow margins, just to name a few. Lest we forget, leaf size and substance are important to the serious collector, as well as to those who exhibit in or judge leaf shows.

M is for *mutation*, the change in the DNA of a plant that can be transmitted through its offspring. In other words, the development of a new cultivar; without mutation there is no variation.

N is for *foliar nematode*, microscopic roundworms feeding and reproducing inside the tender tissue of hosta leaves. You can’t see them, but you’ll know of their presence when in summer you start to see the symptoms: a yellow discoloration on the leaf followed by a browning between the veins. Evidence of foliar nematode damage appears sooner in southern gardens.

O is for *Russ O'Harra*, a well-known and respected Des Moines, Iowa, hybridizer for whom our club is named. Russ was introduced to the Genus *Hosta* by his mother. He retired as Garden Editor of *Better Homes and Gardens* and to his credit are approximately 34 named cultivars.

P is for *photos*, the infinite number we snap on garden tours throughout the summer. With the advent of digital photography, anyone can take great hosta shots; it no longer matters how many you take for the results are instant and any that didn't turn out can be retaken. Who wouldn't want to boast about their great photo posted on the Hosta Library?

Q is for *Q & Z Nursery, Inc.*, a tissue culture lab and wholesale nursery located in Rochelle, Illinois, and owned by the renowned hostaphile, Mark Zilis.

R is for *hosta registration*, a daunting process meticulously explained in a 22-page document including the registration form. *The Hosta Registry* states: "The advantage of registration is that it protects a name and provides a publicly available description of the plant associated with that name. Simply using or printing a name, without registering it, does not prevent this name from being used by others for a different plant, or from being registered by someone else."

S is for *slug*, every hosta gardener's night-time enemy. This shell-less terrestrial gastropod mollusk can devour several times their body weight in one night, leaving gaping holes, torn foliage, and slime trails in their wake, not to mention an unhappy gardener come morning. Did you know their eggs can lie dormant in moist soil for many years? No wonder eradication is so difficult.

T is for *tissue culture*, a propagation technique used to increase the number of divisions that are identical to the mother plant. Simply explained, tiny sections of a growth shoot are cut and placed in a sterile growth medium with growth hormones. (Rob Mortko explained "Tissue Culture for Dummies....Like Me" to ROHS members at the Spring meeting.) Sooner rather than later, Joe & Jane Gardener can possess the latest hosta from leading hybridizers at a much reduced price.

U is for *'Undulata'*, another plant with Japanese origins; well-known for its white center and excellent growth habit, this wavy leafed plant has been around for a long time; a durable plant. What '70s home didn't have

'Undulata' growing around the tree in the front yard or around the perimeter of the house?

V is for *veins*, those prominent lines you see on the leaves which carry the hosta's important source of life: water and nutrients. Often talked about in pairs, veins can often indicate the maturity of a plant, as well as, help identify a hosta or determine a sports' origin.

W is for *Winter Scientific Meeting*, the popular winter event sponsored by the Midwest Regional Hosta Society featuring a number of talks and breakout sessions on varying hosta topics led by respected hybridizers and other hosta geeks, along with hosta seed and plant silent auctions and plenty of socialization.

X is for *Hosta Virus X (HVX)*, a nasty pathogen which disfigures the leaves of infected plants. The virus spreads from plant to plant when pruning tools move plant sap from one plant to the next. HVX research funded by the AHS is ongoing. If you discover an infected plant in your garden, it is best to carefully dig the plant up and burn it, no matter how much you paid for it. Thoroughly clean and sanitize any tools used.

Y is for *You*, the hostaphile, forever on a quest for the latest hosta or the one with the cool name, a streaked breeder, the latest mini to add to your collection, or the rare plant available only through auctions. You feed your addiction while at the same time supporting local growers and gardeners; you join clubs and give of your time to help with hosta-related events and encourage new members to share in your passion. We thank you!

Z is for *H. 'ZZZ, A Sleeping Beauty'*, the last hosta found in *The Hostapedia*. Registered in 2002 by Ed Elslager, who also registered *H. 'A-1-A-Day Delight'* in order to have the first and last cultivar on any list. Was he a smart man or what?

This list is not complete. No doubt you know other terminology, and surely the experts in the field could create yet another list of hosta lingo. In fact, there is a listing of terminology on the various hosta-related websites. If you are newcomer to the hosta world, don't be afraid to ask someone to explain a term or process, for any true hostaphile is ever eager to share their passion.



Gardening Phobias!



By Eve Vanden Broek

People have more fears than you can shake a Zucchini at. There's someone out there, who is scared of just about anything and everything! If a new, undocumented fear arises, psychologists are more than willing to create a new name for it.

Listed below are gardening related phobias that just might scare the daylights out of you. Although, we hope that none of them fits you!

Alliumphobia - the fear of garlic



Anthophobia - the fear of flowers



Apiphobia - the fear of bees



Arachnophobia - is the fear of spiders



Ceraunophobia - is the fear of thunder



Dendrophobia - the fear of trees



Entomophobia - the fear of insects



Hydrophobia - the fear of water



Insectophobia - the fear of insects

There are so many bugs out there, that they get two names (see Entomophobia, above)



Lachanophobia - the fear of vegetables



Lepidopterophobia - the fear of butterflies



Limaxaphobia - the fear of slugs



Molluscophobia - the fear of snails



Mycophobia - the fear of mushrooms

Many mushrooms are poisonous.

Perhaps this fear has some merit!?!



Myrmecophobia - the fear of ants



Ombrophobia - the fear of rain



Ophidiophobia - the fear of snakes



Ornithophobia - the fear of birds



Pagophobia - the fear of ice or frost

Gardeners are justified in having this one.



Panthophobia - the fear of disease

Not limited to plant disease.



Parasitophobia - the fear of parasites



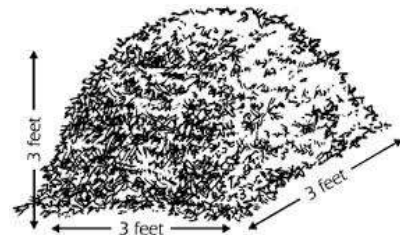
Rupophobia - is the fear of dirt



Scoleciphobia - the fear of worms



Seplophobia - the fear of decaying matter



Watch out for that compost pile!!

I SPY

ALONG THE 2013 ROHS GARDEN TOUR ROUTE



It has been said that life is a highway. Together we'll experience a bit of that highway of life on June 30. The 2013 ROHS Summer Tour's highway route will not only lead you to five unique and inviting gardens, it will also take you past some interesting spots on the Iowa map. To enhance your driving experience, locate the items (below) as seen along the route and you could win a great hosta-related prize. Before leaving home, take a moment to read through the items you'll need to spy as you make your way to/from the Atcher garden to the Innis garden. **All the items are in order of the suggested route.** You'll need to look left and right and keep your eyes open for the obvious. Submit your answers at the Innis garden, and if your findings are correct, you will be eligible to win one of four prizes to be given away before the auction. You must be present to win.

Good Luck!

Name: _____
Please print legibly

1. How many windmills make up the Laurel Wind Farm?

_____ More than 50 _____ Less than 50

2. What is Laurel's motto?

3. What animal statues adorn the drive of the home just after you turn east on Hwy 6?

4. What are the three "P" named streets you pass as you make your way into Grinnell?

5. What year was Grinnell College founded?

6. What "Barn" do you go by when heading out of town (on your right)?

7. Name the well-known seed company you pass:

8. What material is the outdoor sculpture, "Morphosis", made of?

Note: The sculpture is outside the Bucksbaum Center for the Arts; if you missed it, turn right on Park St., right on 8th Ave., right on East St. and then right on 6th and look again. It's on your right, directly across from the bank.

9. How tall is the train trestle you pass under?

10. Harris Farm Supply's mailbox tells the postman what sports team they favor. Which team is it?

11. Name the counties travelled during the 2013 ROHS Summer Tour?

Note: You may have travelled through several counties today to arrive at the first garden; however, only list those travelled through on this route.

TURN IN YOUR ANSWERS AT THE INNIS GARDEN



ROHS SUMMER TOUR LUNCH

This year's Summer Tour lunch will be lovingly prepared and catered by Teresa Innis's sister, Vicki. The menu includes: Pulled pork sandwich, potato salad, pasta salad, chips, and dessert bar. We are also happy to offer a veggie wrap, and for those with a more simple pallet, the all American peanut butter and jelly sandwich on white bread (Jiffy creamy w/Smucker's grape). Please specify **Vegetarian** or **PBJ** on your check. Water and an assortment of sodas will be provided. The cost is **\$11.00 per person**. Please make your check payable to ROHS and mail to David Dettmann **by Friday, June 21**. As a reminder, we cannot guarantee a lunch without advance payment and no refunds will be given if you are unable to attend. Should these options not suit you, Grinnell has multiple choices for take-aways, or you may bring your own.

David Dettmann
122 Bluegill Court
Pella, IA 50219



ROHS SUMMER TOUR CHECKLIST

- June 2013 *Hosta Horizons* with tour directions and the "I Spy Game"
- **Garden Gnome for Teresa** (voluntary)
- Lawn chair
- Hosta/plant donation(s)*
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Bottled water
- Mosquito repellent
- Umbrella/rain jacket (if rain is predicted)
- Checkbook for hosta purchases
- Notebook and pen
- Hand sanitizer
- Cell phone



***Auction plants will be checked in at the Innis garden. Remember plants MUST be labeled.**

More views of the Allen garden , below left and right.

