

Hosta Horizons

newsletter of the
Russ O'Harra Hosta Society
est. 1993 www.rohs.org

October 2012

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 (12), then it's time to renew your membership. Membership costs are \$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 2013 at any of the eight businesses owned by ROHS members who support the New Member Program.

Send all renewals and new memberships to:

David Dettmann
122 Blue Gill Ct.
Pella, IA 50219

Thank You!

President's Message:

"Gardening Grows the Spirit"

Big Shoes to Fill



Did anyone else notice Ron napping during our ROHS auction? It was a bit disconcerting to me. I said, "Ron, you slept through most of the auction. What are you trying to do, be Fred Wilson?" He lovingly replied, "Those are big shoes to fill." And we laughed.

Seriously though, there are big shoes to fill as it's election time for ROHS offices. The nominating committee, Herman & Helen Kopitzke and Kathy & Gary Hoard will bring a slate of officers to be voted on to our fall meeting. Please be thinking of the future of ROHS and who might lead our group for the next couple of years. Nominations can also be accepted from the floor. We vote in October and officers begin their duties on January 1, 2013. I've been working on a President's Book as a guide to future board members.

Looking back over the last couple of years with ROHS I think of the goals we set and met. As ROHS president, I feel blessed by such a supportive and driven Executive team working with me.



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Hosta Horizons

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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.

The Kincaid Gardens "Grow Your Rewards" code is HOSTA-ROHS. For details, check out their website at www.kincaidgarens.com.

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2012 Dates to Remember

Sunday, October 14 - Noon to 5 PM

ROHS Fall Meeting

Iowa Arboretum,

Rural Madrid, IA

[Iowa Arboretum](#)

Speaker: **Bob Solberg**



ROHS on Facebook

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

As of the end of September, the ROHS Facebook page has 97 'Likes' - people who like and follow the Russ O'Harra Hosta Society page. That number may be going up soon when pictures from the gardens on our summer tour are added in individual albums.

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

[Facebook](#) or [Russ O'Harra Hosta Society](#)

[ROHS on Facebook](#)

President's Message:


"Gardening Grows the Spirit"

Big Shoes to Fill

(Continued from page 1)


Vice President, Eve Vanden Broek certainly makes me look good all the way around. Eve is meticulous in her duties and brings a lot of fun to our events with door prizes and hosta games. Ellen Glasgow stepped up and is steadfast in her duties as our Secretary and she is also serving on the ROHS 20th Anniversary Committee. David Dettman strives to do his best as our Treasurer and Membership Chairman. Our Newsletter Editor, Reldon Ramsey, has breathed new life into our "Hosta Horizons" newsletter. Thus, we certainly have a newsletter to be proud of. An article Reldon wrote for the newsletter - "The Hosta Makers - Don Dean" - earned him the award of American Hosta Society Best Newsletter Article for 2011. He so deserves the honor, and we're all pretty excited about it. Reldon and David work closely to maintain the ROHS Membership Database and the New Member Program, and Reldon is also serving on the ROHS 20th Anniversary Committee.


Several projects were proposed to our group only two short years ago with several already realized.


 **Russ O'Harra "Pocket Garden"** renovation and re-dedication in downtown Des Moines - completed in May 2011


 **New Member Program** - in its second successful year


 **Russ O'Harra Memorial Hosta Garden at the Des Moines Botanical Center.** Mel Visser and David Dettmann shared a vision of establishing a hosta garden featuring all of the Russ O'Harra hosta introductions at the Des Moines Botanical Center. However, progress got in the way. Mel has been persistently working with the renovation committee to ensure our project is a part of planning. Recently the necessary funding has been secured, and the renovation at the Botanical Center is a "go" with an accompanying name change to Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden.

 The **Ted E. Davidson Memorial Scholarship** has been established as an ongoing annual \$250.00 scholarship to a student enrolled in the Horticulture program at DMACC in Ankeny.

 **ROHS 20th Anniversary Celebration** David Dettmann hatched the idea to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the ROHS in 2013. Bruce and Trudy Van Wyk, Carl and Robin Vos, Frank and Ellen Glasgow, Reldon Ramsey, and I have been meeting to make this happen. The committee is doing a great job and will have an update report for us at our fall meeting.

 **Rotating our meeting places** has gone well, and having different members hosting our meetings has been working well, too. It's been fun to discover new places.

 Our summer auction with proceeds going to support the project fund of **"Building A Dream In the Country"** was hugely successful. I'm so proud of us for doing such a good thing! Several other Hosta Societies followed our example and as of August 18th, \$6,644.15 had been donated to BADITC by Hosta Societies and AHS members boosting their total amount to over \$71,000. That puts the fund at just about halfway to the \$150,000 mark, and the new home can be ordered.

 The Iowa Arboretum is devising a strategic plan to keep things on track there. The ROHS has been a strong supporter of the arboretum. New Executive Director, Mark Schneider, wants that relationship to persist. Several members are lobbying for an **all Russ O'Harra Hosta Garden** with a complete collection of his introductions at the arboretum just outside the Hughes Center under the pergola. I have discussed this with Mark as a separate entity from the Iowa Hosta Hybridizer display area, and he was most agreeable.

So much has been accomplished in the last two years, and now it's on into the future. If you have thoughts for projects that might be fitting for the ROHS, please bring them to the attention of the Executive Committee to be presented to our group.

I'm so excited and a little nervous to have the famous Bob Solberg coming to speak at our Fall Meeting on October 14th. He is the best speaker on hosta with just the right touch of humor and humility. Bob will bring plants to sell. **(Smile)** We are sharing him with the Harshbarger Hosta Society. They will have him on Saturday evening, and we will have him on Sunday. [Green Hill Hostas](#)

(Continued on next page)

More excitement awaits us at our Fall Meeting with two ROHS members being presented with the new "AHS President's Wall" award certificates. These service awards were on display during the 2012 AHS National Convention in Nashville, TN. I am not any good at keeping secrets, and I can hardly wait to present these awards. Here is how AHS Vice President – Awards, Mike Shadrack, described the President's Wall: "The American Hosta Society would like to honor, for their distinguished service those members of local Hosta Societies who have for years been the backbone of the local group. We all know these lovely people. They are the folks who always turn up early, volunteer even when it rains, make sure that the chairs are set out and that the kettle is always on."

Rob Mortko - "The Hosta Guy" is planning to be at our 2013 Spring Meeting on April 14th to present "Tissue Culture for Dummies". Some of our members caught his presentation at the Midwest Regional Hosta Convention this summer and enjoyed it and found it informative. Rob told me he will bring plants for us to buy, too. (Another Smile) We are always ready for new plants in the spring time!
[Made in the Shade Gardens](#)

This year has been the most discouraging gardening season I've ever endured with inferno temperatures accompanied by severe drought. My gardens are literally burned up and really ugly. Several plants have suffered dry crown rot and are all but gone. Some are all gone. Finally in early August we got ½" of rain a couple times and temperatures came down. It's mystifying how plants rejuvenate so quickly. The scorched leaves are still ugly, but withering away. Signs of new life are appearing, and hope springs eternal in the faithful hearts of gardeners. It is so amazing to see totally ugly scorched, withering plants shooting up bloom stalks with perfect beautiful flowers. It's just too weird.

One thing's for sure - the garden is ever changing.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the Iowa Arboretum this fall. And Aunt Linda please bring your famous apple crisp again.

Hosta is the Friendship Plant

"Gardening Grows the Spirit"



MM
Marvelous Marlys

Since Marlys wrote her President's Message in mid-August, life has once again altered plans. Several ROHS members were among her friends and relatives who were surprised and shocked to receive an email from her on September 20th concerning her health. She had been having back and stomach aches and felt nauseated much of the time. She had learned on the 17th that she had an ovarian tumor and swollen lymph nodes were also present.

September 25: Marlys entered Mercy Hospital for a colonoscopy and surgery the next day to remove the tumor.

September 27: The colonoscopy came back clear. The tumor and both ovaries were removed along with her appendix. Only one of the ovaries was cancerous. No cancer was detected in other major organs. Three lymph nodes were removed for testing.

October 1: At present, the type of ovarian cancer hasn't been identified. The lymph nodes tested positive for the cancer. A PET scan is being arranged to detect other possible 'hot' spots and provide a baseline for chemo treatment.



Please keep Marlys and her family in your thoughts and prayers!



Top 10 DON'TS for Being a Good Neighbor

by Eve Vanden Broek

Mister Rogers was America's most well-liked neighbor. His neighborhood was characterized by its quiet simplicity and gentleness. Oh, how I want to live in such a neighborhood of harmony and peace, where everyone treats one another with respect and kindness!

So just where am I going with this? Well, most of us live in a neighborhood with people on all sides and with whom the only thing we have in common is the neighborhood where we live. I'd like to believe I am a good neighbor, but quite often I and maybe you too, have reservations about those who live next door or across the street.

Before I go any further I must make a disclaimer: I am no expert when it comes to endorsing who is and who isn't a good neighbor. I have no degree in psychology and what follows is solely my personal opinion.

Top 10 DON'TS for Being a Good Neighbor:

10. Don't mow your lawn three times a week (after 5 p.m.) just for exercise.
9. Don't drive/walk by your neighbor's house just to see what they're up to or who is visiting then turn around and go home. (They see you and know you're being nosy.)
8. Don't be a 5 or 6 car family.
7. Don't play loud music, especially after midnight, weekends included.
6. Don't let the dog(s) bark incessantly.



5. Don't rake only half the leaves (or none) from the tree(s) planted near the lot line.
4. Don't holler "What's for dinner?" every time your neighbor lights up the grill.
3. Don't threaten your neighbor with anything, teasingly or not.
2. Don't have a backyard volleyball party every Sunday night all summer long.

1. Don't get upset if your neighbor politely addresses any of the above with you.

If these don'ts sound rather elementary to you, then we're on the same page. Perhaps you can add a few to this list.

In today's world, folks seem to think they have the right to do anything they please leaving civility and common sense parked in the garage with the door closed. I keep coming back to the proverb: "Do unto others as you would have them do to you". Of course that is subject to one's personal interpretation.

Arthur Baer said, *"A good neighbor is a fellow who smiles at you over the back fence, but doesn't climb over it".*



Do remember to smile and wave!

ROHS Summer Tour

Our thanks to the gardeners who graciously allowed us to spend time in the gardens they've created for the ROHS Summer Tour. Each of the gardens was unique and wonderful!

Kenn Outzen & Dean Koob – Rainbow Gardens, Jewell
Greg & Sue Olsen, Roland
Marilyn & Tom Kenney – Skycrest Gardens, Ames
Nancy Briggs, Lincoln View Farm, Boone
Evergreen Gardens, Ames

Special thanks to Nancy Briggs for hosting the lunch and auction. And to everyone who helped make the day and the auction such a **HUGE** a success!

Albums of garden photos are hosted on the Russ O'Harra Hosta Society Facebook page.

[ROHS on Facebook](#)



Marvin 'Mike' Lemke (1921 - 2012)

ROHS member, Mike Lemke, died on August 20th at the age of 90. Mike and Isabelle Lemke were Charter Members of the ROHS. They had not been active in the club in recent years, but were very supportive of the club and its activities when their health permitted. Their steeply sloped, terraced garden was a highlight of the 2004 AHS National Convention garden tour in Des Moines.

Mike was a veteran of the U. S. Army and served in Germany during World War II where he was wounded. He was awarded both the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. A recent MRI revealed a bullet still lodged in his leg after 68 years.



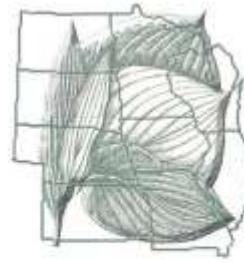
[Mike Lemke Obituary](#)

Lemke Database

Mike Lemke's personal files comprise the 'Lemke Database' that is accessible at the Hosta Library.

The menu includes: **'Intros'** – listings of hybridizers/originators and the hostas they have introduced; **'PDF Files'** – alphabetical hosta listings; **'Sports Families'** – groups of hostas that sported from one 'parent'; **'Sport Parents'** – similar to the previous listing; **'Convention Photos 2004'** (Des Moines); **'Convention Photos 2005'** (Ohio); **'Convention Photos 2006'** (Philadelphia) – Mike's personal photos from each convention; **'O'Harra Photos'** and **'Excellent Hosta Photos'** are somewhat misleading as the 'photos' are of pages from Mike's files and not actually photos of hostas.

[Lemke Database](#)



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.

Summer Passings

Several members of our Russ O'Harra Hosta Society family have suffered the loss of a family member this summer.

Kathy Hoard's mother, Kathryn Gehl, died on June 25th at the age of 95 in Madrid.

[Kathryn Gehl Obituary](#)

Betsy Dettmann's mother, Helen Bonin, died August 7th at the age of 91 in her home state of Massachusetts.

[Helen Bonin Obituary](#)

We extend our sympathies to Isabelle Lemke, Kathy & Gary Hoard, and Betsy & David Dettmann and their families.

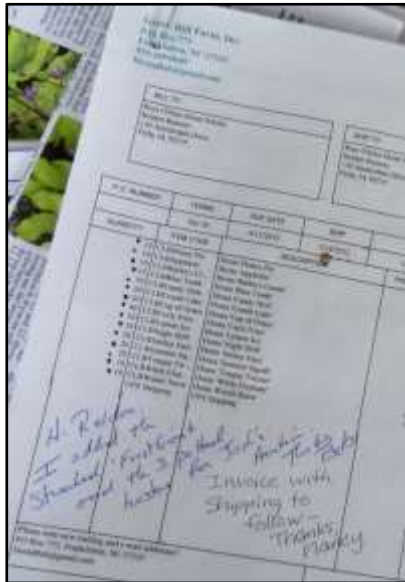


Hosta Travels with Renaldo: Green Hill 'Club Plants'

"Livin' the Hosta Life" with Reldon Ramsey

The enthusiastic interest from ROHS members in the 'Club Plants' offered by Green Hill Farm this spring told me one thing: **ROHS has new members who LOVE to buy hostas!**

227 plants were ordered including 37 'Curly Fries' and 29 'Candy Dish'. To be honest, I was just hoping to have a semi-respectable order to place with Bob and Nancy Solberg. I was completely surprised by the quantities that I ordered.



And I was just as surprised when I opened the first box to find **40 HUGE** 'Curly Fries' on top. One look and I knew my small plastic containers were not going to be big enough to handle the job. After a quick trip to Dollar Tree for plastic buckets, I was ready to unpack boxes.



The 'Club Hosta' order is unpacked and soaking and ready to be sorted into individual orders.

Several orders were picked up at my home near Pella on Friday and Sunday, but the majority took advantage of my offer to deliver to the Des Moines and Ames areas on Saturday. The Prius was loaded and on the road early that morning with the first

stop at South Ridge Mall where six orders were retrieved. Then it was on to Menards in Altoona and a shopping center in Johnston before heading to the wilds of suburbia (northwest Ankeny) to meet Traci Seltz at her sister's home.

After lunch, I went on to Ames and Skycrest Gardens and then to Kris Jurik's nearby home. Kris had kindly offered to be the central pick-up location in Ames and several took advantage of that. Kris and her husband, Tom, gave Kenn Outzen, Dean Koob, and I a tour of their sloping gardens - all the way down to the river.

My next stop was at Lincoln View Farm for pictures of Nancy's sales areas and gardens. (Each ROHS member whose hosta business supports the New Member Program was profiled on the ROHS Facebook page this spring.) I'd also gotten pictures earlier when I stopped at Skycrest Gardens. After Nancy saw the size of the 'Club Plants', she was kind enough to make my life easy by taking all of those not already spoken for off my hands.



Then it was on to the Casey's in Granger to meet one member, and then a quick backtrack to drop off New Member Program brochures for Kathy Hoard/Kat's Garden. (Brochures were also left with Traci Seltz/Granny T's Garden, Skycrest Gardens, and Lincoln View Farm.) My final drop-off of the day was at the Kum and Go in Bevington south of Des Moines just off I-35.

It was a long, hosta-filled day, but for me, those are the best kind. Thanks to all of you who made it such a fun day for me. I can't wait to do it again next year!!

ROHS Fall Meeting

IOWA ARBORETUM

1875 Peach Street
Madrid, Iowa 50156
(515) 795-3216

Noon – 5 PM

The building opens at Noon, and the potluck dinner will begin at 12:45 PM. Our speaker, Bob Solberg, will begin his presentation at 1:30 PM followed by the business meeting. Bob's talk is "The Future of Hostas". He will also have hostas for sale.



Bob Solberg at Hosta College

Photo courtesy of Joanna Kovalscik

Bob Solberg has been a very active member of the American Hosta Society and served as the Editor of *The Hosta Journal*, (1988-1990), and was Vice President for The Genus Hosta, (1998-2001). He was the recipient of the 2003 Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award. Bob is co-founder and was Executive Secretary of The American Hosta Growers Association, (1998-2011), a professional trade organization for hosta nurseries. The members of the AHGA select the Hosta of the Year annually.

Bob is a nationally known hosta lecturer and has written many articles on hostas. He has edited the "Green Hill Gossip" since 1996 and the "Gossip Jr.", a twice yearly subscription newsletter since 2004.

Hosta hybridizing has been a passion of Bob's for over 30 years, and in 2008, he was awarded the Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Merit Award by the American Hosta Society for his work with hostas.

Bob and his wife, Nancy, own and operate Green Hill Farm and its online division, Green Hill Hostas. They ship to hosta clubs, hosta collectors, and other nurseries worldwide.

Directions to the Iowa Arboretum

Many GPS systems tend to take you on gravel road short cuts so we suggest the following directions.

From the South:

Option 1: Take I-35 north to Highway 210 (Slater/Maxwell Exit). Go west on Hwy 210 to Madrid. Turn right and head north to Luther. Turn left and head west on E-57. Watch for Iowa Arboretum/4-H camp sign and turn left at Peach Avenue.

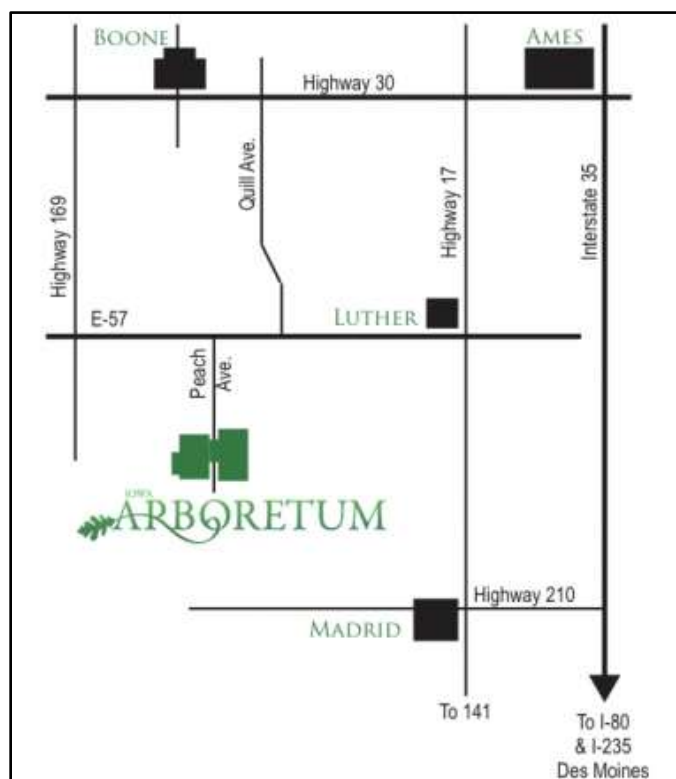
Option 2: Take 80/35 to Highway 141. Follow this north to Highway 17 and travel through Madrid to Luther. Turn left and head west on E-57. Watch for Iowa Arboretum/4-H camp sign and turn left at Peach Avenue.

From the North and East:

Take I-35 south to Highway 30 (Ames). Go west on Hwy 30 to Highway 17 Exit. Turn left to go south to Luther. Turn right and head west on E-57. Watch for Iowa Arboretum/4-H camp sign and turn left at Peach Avenue.

From the West:

Take Highway 30 through Boone. Turn right and go south on either Quill Road or Highway 17. Take a right on E-57 and head west. Watch for Iowa Arboretum/4-H camp sign and turn left at Peach Avenue.



THE BOB SOLBERG

HOSTA NAME GAME

By Reldon Ramsey

Bob Solberg is well-known in the hosta world, and he has been involved in the business of hostas for over 30 years. His company, Green Hill Farm, sells both retail and wholesale and is operated by Bob and his wife, Nancy. Bob is equally well-known as a hosta hybridizer and speaker. He vends and gives talks at hosta events around the country every year. In the course of a year, he can usually be found at the Winter Scientific Meeting, Hosta College, First Look, AHS National Convention, MRHS Convention, and the Dixie Regional as well as at club meetings around the country.

A search at the Hosta Registrar's website reveals that through 2011 Bob Solberg has had a hand in 107 hosta introductions. [Hosta Registrar](#)

Of those, the vast majority are Bob's own plants. 43 are seedlings from his varied breeding lines while 33 are sports he has discovered and developed – many from his own seedlings. The first



was [‘September Sun’](#) – an ‘August Moon’ sport which he registered in 1985.

He has given names to 20 other hostas. Possibly the best known is [‘Pineapple Upsidedown Cake’](#).




Bob's introductions are often as notable for the names he's given them as for their physical characteristics and visual appeal. Whatever name Bob gives a plant, it always seems to be just the right fit.


At a talk he gave at the 2008 AHS convention in St. Louis, he implored the audience not to name hostas for people. He explained the reason to his puzzled audience: in winter, a hosta garden with

nothing but labels often resembles a cemetery.

Bob has, for the most part, followed his own advice with a few exceptions. [‘Iris Frazier’](#) was named for an AHS member from Illinois. [‘Deane's Dream’](#) was named in honor of a friend's desire for a blue hosta with red petioles. [‘Cody’](#) was a baby gift to Nancy when her son, Cody (now a freshman in college), was born. Bob's sons Nate and Michael each have one of Bob's hybrids named for them - [‘Nate the Great’](#) and [‘Sharp Dressed Man’](#).




Bob has a few ‘place’ names. [‘Korean Snow’](#) was an unusually streaked and misted seedling found in a batch of Korean species *yingeri* seedlings that were grown at Niche Gardens, NC. [‘Carolina Blue’](#) and  [‘Blue Ridge’](#) have North Carolina names for Bob's alma mater and his home and business.


The characteristics of a hosta can influence the name Bob gives it as well. [‘Baby Blue Eyes’](#) has small, intensely blue leaves. 

[‘Doubled Up’](#) is a tetraploid sport of *Hosta plantaginea* with double the number of chromosomes. [‘Roller Coaster Ride’](#) has rolling,



undulating leaves while those of [‘Corkscrew’](#) and [‘Tongue Twister’](#) are upright and twisting. The flower buds of [‘Tiny Bubbles’](#) swell, but never open. [‘Smiley Face’](#) 

has rounded, bright yellow foliage.

And the long, flowing leaves of [‘Ginsu Knife’](#), and its all-green sport, [‘Machete’](#), have jagged, serrated margins. 



Fantasy/supernatural names: [‘Dragon Fire’](#), [‘Dragon's Eye’](#), [‘Fantasy Island’](#), [‘Grey Ghost’](#) (also a model of Rolls Royce), [‘Moongate Flying Saucer’](#), and [‘Phantom’](#).

(Continued on Page 10)

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Bob didn't forget something most of us hope and need to see every day – the sun.

'September Sun' was the beginning of this group. Three of his fragrant hostas have been given sunny names



– 'Sunny Delight', 'Sweet Sunshine', and its sport, 'Sun Kissed'. Other yellow hybrids have benefited from the warmth of the sun as well – 'Sun Catcher', 'Sun Shower', and 'Sun Worshipper'.

Time-related names: 'After Midnight' (always reminds me of the Eric Clapton song), 'Midnight Moon' and 'Midnight Storm' and 'Five O'Clock Shadow', and its sport, 'Five O'Clock Somewhere'.



'Sun Shower' also fits into the group with a meteorological theme along with three related blue seedlings - 'Spring Shower', 'Summer Squall', and 'Thunder Boomer'. All four are part of the group that Bob calls the 'Longianas'. 'Midnight Storm' crosses over into this group, too.



But Bob is best known for the many food and drink names that began in 1994 when he registered his dark green-margined sport of 'Fragrant Bouquet' and called it 'Guacamole'. A trend began with that



popular plant that was later named the 2002 Hosta of the Year. Bob's yellow 'Guacamole' sport dubbed 'Fried Bananas' and the

green sport, 'Fried Green Tomatoes' (also the name of a popular and touching 1991 movie), soon followed. But they were just the appetizers.



After the popularity of those three hostas and equally as importantly - their names, Bob continued to cater to hosta 'foodies' worldwide

when naming many of his own plants as well as those of his friend, Mark Zilis.

After the names of the following 'food' hostas, those with (ONIR) mean that Bob originated the plant (O) – whether it was his seedling or a sport he discovered, he named the plant (N), introduced the plant to the trade (I), and registered it with the Hosta Registrar (R). Seven have only (N) after the name and these are all Mark Zilis introductions that Bob named. 'Lime Smoothie' (NIR) was hybridized by fellow North Carolinian, Wyatt Lefever.

1999: 'Maraschino Cherry' (N), 'Pineapple Upsidedown Cake' (N)



2002: 'Cookie Crumbs' (N), 'Cracker Crumbs' (ONIR), 'Orange Marmalade' (PPAF) (ONIR), 'Tortilla Chip' (ONIR), 'Whiskey Sour' (ONIR)



2003: 'Bread Crumbs' (N), 'Christmas Cookies' (N), 'CROUTONS' (N), 'Frozen Margarita' (ONIR), 'Pineapple Juice' (N)



2005: 'Blueberry Tart' (ONIR)
2006: 'Spinach Souffle' (ONIR)
2007: 'Coconut Custard' (ONIR)



2008: 'Crumb Cake' (ONIR), 'Curly Fries' (ONIR), 'Lime Smoothie' (NIR), 'Strawberry Banana Smoothie' (ONIR)



2009: 'Beet Salad' (ONIR), 'Blueberry Cobbler' (ONIR), 'Sno Cone' (ONIR), 'Sugar Plum' (ONIR), 'Sugar Snap' (ONIR)



2011: 'Grape Fizz' (ONIR), 'Lemon Ice' (ONIR), 'Mango Salsa' (ONIR), 'Plum Pudding' (ONIR)



(Continued on next page)

Three more food-named Solberg hostas have appeared on the hosta scene in 2012. **'Candy Kisses'** was the MRHS Convention plant this summer in Rochester. The fragrant **'Honey Pie'** was the exclusive Green Hill 'Club Plant' this year. And **'Peach Salsa'** – a sibling to 'Mango Salsa', 'Lemon Ice', and 'Smiley Face' – is now available on Green Hill Farm's website.



Not all of Bob's hosta names fit into a themed category, but they are just as recognizable:

'Rascal', **'Final Summation'**, **'Garden Party'**, **'Ray of Hope'**, **'Frost Giant'**, **'Plum Nutty'**, **'St. Elmo's Fire'**, **'Party Favor'**, **'First Frost'**, **'Victory'**, **'Little**



Miss Magic', **'Shiny Penny'**, and **'Peacock Strut'**.

And last, but certainly not least, is **'One Man's Treasure'** with its highly desirable deep reddish petioles and flower scapes. The name is a play on the familiar phrase: *"One man's trash is another man's treasure"*. The story goes that it was among a group of *H. longipes hypoglauca* seedlings grown by renowned hosta hybridizer, Herb Benedict. The seedling that Bob selected/salvaged and later introduced had been destined for Herb's cull pile.



In his acceptance speech for the Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Merit Award, Bob made these comments regarding hosta names: *"Then, it needs a good name. A bad name can destroy a great hosta. A great name can make an average hosta marketable, but never great."*

AHS Writing Award to Ramsey

One day in early July while my daughter was visiting, my trip to the mailbox yielded something quite a bit better than the usual weekly shopper or piece of junk mail. I was very surprised to find a large, stiff white mailing envelope. The only clue as to what might be inside was the return address label of Mike Shadrack. And since I'm also the editor of the AHS e-Newsletter, I know that Mike is the AHS VP for Awards. So I had an inkling...

When I opened the envelope, I found the award you see below. I am most honored to be the recipient of the AHS **Best Newsletter Article** for 2011.

The article, "The Hosta Makers" – Don Dean, appeared in the April 2011 issue of the ROHS newsletter, *Hosta Horizons*. It will be reprinted in the upcoming issue of the AHS *Online Journal* that will go live in the Members section of the AHS website on Thanksgiving Day. <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/>



After receiving the award, an earlier email from Don Dean, the *Online Journal* Editor, finally made sense to me. He had requested that I provide him with a picture of myself and a bio along with a cryptic reference to stealing someone else's thunder. And he was quite insistent about it. I'd been baffled...

Several weeks later I received yet another envelope with Mike Shadrack's return address. Had Mike forgotten something? The two awards inside weren't for me this time, but for the ROHS members who are among the first to join the AHS 'President's Wall' honoring hosta club members who are the backbone of their clubs.

My daughter returned at the end of July to spend a few more days and help me celebrate my birthday. She thoughtfully gifted me with a frame for my new honor.

To read "The Hosta Makers" – Don Dean, go to ["Hosta Horizons" - April 2011](#)



AHS 2012 NATIONAL CONVENTION

By Julie Johnston

The 2012 convention has come and gone so we now look forward to 2013 in Milwaukee. This year the convention was in Nashville, Tennessee with famous southern hospitality, or hostatality if you prefer, taking center stage.

As usual, the gardens were the highlight of the convention with lessons in growing hostas in a southern climate. Did you know that in many southern gardens hostas are grown in containers? Their soil isn't conducive in many places to growing hostas in the ground, so pots of all kinds abound. I was, and still am, VERY envious of the HUGE Chinquapin Oak trees that dominated nearly every garden, and I do mean **HUGE!** Those trees were at the very least 80 feet tall, lending gorgeous shade to the hosta beds.



Angel in the Holland garden

Since Nashville is famous for its music, the theme was "**Hostas, Friends and Music**". Each table at the banquet had for the centerpiece a hosta with a musical name such as 'Blue Suede Shoes', 'Moon River' or 'Tennessee Waltz'. I had no idea there

were so many hostas with musical names. The convention gift hosta was 'Delona's Smile'.

The space for vendors was quite large, allowing for many people to be there at the same time making their purchases. I was a bit disappointed in the number of actual hosta vendors, but the ones present had a fairly good selection.

Every convention has its scientific sessions on hostas which are always informative and usually interesting. This year was no exception. In addition, there were two non-scientific sessions, "The Rise of the Southern Biscuit" and "Adelicia Acklen, Mistress of Belmont". I attended the biscuit talk as food, you know, is always interesting to me. I learned the history behind the famous southern tradition of ham and biscuits and even got to taste the speaker's biscuits. Of course, this had nothing to do with hostas, but sometimes a break from hosta talk is refreshing.



Pots of hostas combine with hostas, perennials, and annuals in one of the Priester gardens.

Photos courtesy of Julie Johnston

The convention food was good, but I was expecting regional favorites, say, maybe Nashville's famous barbequed ribs. Not so! I believe one meal was salmon and the other, chicken. This was disappointing, but tasty nonetheless. I just think regional favorites should take center stage at a convention that is held at various locations around the country. Who wants chicken in Maine when you can have crab cakes, or roast beef in Oregon when there is fresh salmon to be savored?

(Continued on the next page)

The gardens were quite diverse and, as usual, some were stars that shone very brightly and others were less brilliant. It is always a treat to see other hosta gardens and how they are arranged. My very favorite was a rather small garden, but did it ever pack a punch! The hosts were very humble and gracious about the results of their hard work. The husband, Richard, quipped, *"She is the artist. I just do what I am told"*. However, that wasn't the whole truth as in visiting with him I discovered that he has quite a bit of an artistic sense of his own.

The name of their compact garden is "Third Day-Genesis 1:11-13". This garden was also shaded by the huge oak trees along a creek on the back side of the property as well as some smaller trees in the beds. The use of color was spectacular in this garden with an interesting mix of annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs in addition to the 300+ hosta. Of course, there were plants I admired which will not grow here in Iowa. Well, they might grow, but won't survive our winter, making them not worth the effort.



Treble clef and drum in the Priester garden

This natural, serene environment won most of the awards given to the gardens on the tour. There was a stacked Koi pond, meaning it was an above ground pool, surrounded by beds of colorful

companion plants and hosta; meandering flagstone paths; native boulders and stones as well as garden art, including a treble clef and a drum.

As conventions go, I will probably always compare each one attended to the first one I went to in Minneapolis. Either it was an excellent convention setting a standard by which I now judge all others, or it was truly a wonderful experience. Overall, I think the northern gardens are better (I hope none of my southern friends read this) because we grow bigger and more spectacular hostas, which, after all, are the reason for a convention.



Front garden at the home of convention co-chair, Cornelia Holland.

The American Hosta Society Convention is an opportunity to once again see friends made at previous conventions, make new friends and keep up on the latest in the hosta world. If you haven't attended a convention, I would suggest you plan to attend next year from June 13-15 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It promises to be a very different kind of convention, but could usher in a new way of thinking about how a hosta convention should be. Of course, the 2014 convention in Cedar Rapids is the one NOT to be missed by Iowa hosta lovers, and will be hosted by the Harshbarger Hosta Society, with genuine Midwest hospitality welcoming one and all.

See you at the next convention!

ROHS Spring Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2012

Henry A. Wallace Country Life Center,
Orient, IA

'Thinking Small in Landscapes' was presented by Lee Coates from Lee's Trees & Peggy's Flowers out of Highlandville, Missouri.

By using the three simple design principals - Features, Fillers, and Edgers, you can create miniature landscapes within your flower beds. He focused on the features of creating a miniature room rather than using the mini hostas as fillers or edgers. Lee had a wonderful presentation offering up his wit and humor along with some new plant suggestions that several were adding to their wish lists.

President, Marlys Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.

New members, Kris Juric and Angie Dunbar told the group a little about themselves and how many hostas they had.

Executive Committee Reports

There was a correction to the minutes from the Fall 2011 meeting minutes. The minutes stated the ending balance of the ROHS account was clarified and the correct amount was given.

Treasurer's Report

Expenses since the fall meeting are as follows:

- Fall meeting expenses: \$198.79
- Renewal fee for ROHS web domain name - 5 years: \$ 45.70
- Annual Insurance: \$195.00
- Josh Spece web hosting for 1 year: \$230.00
- Prepurchase Hosta Finders (10 books @ \$14.00 each): \$140.00
- Award for annual AHS Design Category: \$40.66
- Bank Fees, mailings, printing costs, misc.

The ending balance prior to the Spring meeting was given.

Herman Kopitzke moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Bob Pool seconded the motion.

Membership Report

David Dettmann and Reldon Ramsey have different databases for the new members. David uses his database to keep track of membership dues, where Reldon uses his database for the New Member Program and mailings throughout the year. Reldon reported we have 8 new members since our fall meeting, putting us just over 100 memberships.

Committee Reports

Summer Tour Committee

The Summer Tour committee consisting of Eve Vanden Broek, Ken Outzen and Dean Koob have been working hard. They have lined up 4 gardens in the Jewel /Ames area.

- Garden 1 – Kenn Outzen and Dean Koob, Rainbow Gardens, Jewell, IA
- Garden 2 – Greg & Sue Olson
- Garden 3 – Marilyn and Tom Kenney, Skycrest Gardens, Ames, IA
- Garden 4 – Nancy Briggs, Lincoln View Farm, Boone, IA
- Optional – Evergreen Gardens, Ames, IA (Retailer of dwarf conifers and troughs)

The directions will be in the Summer newsletter with the route and where we start our gorgeous day. Eve has been working on an Eye Spy game again and directions will be available at the first two gardens just in case you happen to forget your newsletter. Food will be catered by Hickory Park for \$12 per person. Plants for the auction are to be labeled and brought to the last garden.

20th Anniversary Committee

Reldon reported the committee has met just once since our Fall meeting and tossed around many ideas. We are still in the planning process, with nothing concrete at this time.

Unfinished Business

Reldon reported that after the meeting, he would request a check from David so he can complete the Ted E. Davidson Memorial Scholarship application process with Des Moines Area Community College.

Mel Visser was absent so no update was available on the Botanical Center.

Marlys reported that our Fall meeting plans and expenses are being finalized. The Harshbarger group will be hosting Bob Solberg on Saturday and will pay for his motel bill that evening. Bob will join us on Sunday, October 14, 2012.

(Continued on next page)

Eve Vanden Broek has been added as a second signor on our checking account. She will be used in David's absence.

The Executive committee has discussed having a guideline for a yearly budget. It was suggested that the Executive Committee have a budget for the spring and fall meetings and summer tour. Any other expenses would need the ROHS members for approval. It was moved by Bob Pool to put together an estimated yearly budget developed by the current Treasurer and Past Treasurer for the group's approval, and seconded by Herman Kopitzke. All Approved.

Marlys discussed the changes to the ROHS Constitution that was presented to the group for approval.

Proposed changes to Article V, Section E:

In the event of an elected officer vacating their office, the President shall appoint a replacement officer to fill out the remaining term.

Proposed changes to Article V, Section F:

The Vice-President shall upon an event of the President not being able to fulfill the presidential duties, step-up to the Presidential role until at such time 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.

Bob Pool motioned to accept the Constitution as presented, Kris Juric second the motion. All approved.

New Business

The Harshbarger Hosta Society will be taking on the AHS Convention June 11 – 14, 2014. They will gladly take all the help we can give them.

The Executive Committee has developed a timeline for getting the New Member Gift Cards out in a timely manner.

The ROHS board has chosen two individuals to be nominated for the AHS President's Wall Award. Marlys reported that at the time of our meeting both have been accepted. Our two recipients will be introduced at the AHS National Convention, and they will receive a Certificate of Recognition along with the nominating letter.

The Nominating Committee comprised of Marlys Anderson, Helen and Herman Kopitzke, and Kathy and Gary Hoard will be looking at our Society members for the upcoming election at our fall meeting.

David Dettmann ordered the minimum quantity required to purchase the Hosta Finder book. Several members had them reserved prior to the meeting. By the end of the meeting, most of the books were sold. The cost per book was \$14.00.

Reldon Ramsey informed the group that Bob Solberg was offering certain plants to Clubs at a reduced price. Reldon said each plant needed at least five orders before he could place that plant's order. The cost of shipping will be divided per plant and we will know that figure once the Solberg's mail them out.

Marlys Anderson and Herman Kopitzke discussed Building A Dream In The Country (BADITC) for Josh Spece and his family. We discussed using the funds from our Summer Auction to go toward the BADITC building fund since our checking account balance is high, and we are not looking at a lot of expenses for the year. Bob Pool moved for ROHS to use the profits from the summer auction to go towards the BADITC for Josh Spece's service to our website. Jackie Pool gave the second. All Approved.

There will be a work day at Audra Wilson's to clean all her hosta beds on April 28 starting at 10 a.m. If anyone is able to help for an hour or so she would really appreciate it.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Glasgow, Secretary



A kaleidoscope of colors and textures at Kenn Outzen and Dean Koob's Rainbow Gardens.



Four-tiered, hexagonal planter in the garden of Greg and Sue Olsen, above.

A sea of mature hostas at Marilyn and Tom Kenney's Skycrest Gardens in Ames, upper right.

'Tootie Mae' with a purple heuchera and blue hydrangea in Nancy Briggs' garden at Lincoln View Farm, right.



Conifers, alpine, and hypertufa troughs welcome visitors to Evergreen Gardens, left.

A colorful bottle tree lifts the eye at Lincoln View Farm, lower left.

Banana trees and other tropicals mix with hostas at Rainbow Gardens, below.



Fall Garden Chores

To Do or Not to Do? That is the Question

Becki Lynch, Linn County Master Gardener

E-Mail: dax080@hotmail.com

Hortline Phone #: 319-447-0647

Lawns

Aerate - September/October

Lawn aeration is the secret weapon in making your lawn healthy. Aeration involves making holes in the lawn either by pushing a rod into it or by "coring", extracting a plug of soil. By aerating your lawn you provide the following benefits to your lawn and its root system:

- Oxygen gets to the roots and the soil allowing it to "breathe"
- Organic fertilizers and nutrients get access to the root system
- Water is able to better soak the soil and reach the root system
- Helps to break up thatch

Tight, compacted soil is loosened up allowing the root system to grow. Opinions are mixed regarding aeration during a drought.

Fertilize - September/October/November

Plenty of established lawns do just fine without fertilizing if the soil is healthy. However, if needed, early Fall is best if fertilizing only once per year, or late Fall if you follow a fertilization program. The best time to control weeds such as dandelion and other broad leaves is during September/October. In drought, DO NOT fertilize lawns that have gone dormant.

Establish New Lawn or Overseed – Late August/September

Key is to follow directions and keep consistent moisture on new areas. Unless drought has significantly broken, and trend has changed, would not do any new lawns or seed this fall.

Continue to Water and Mow Until Frost

If the lawn is dormant, do not mow. Water ¼ to ½ inch once every two weeks to maintain minimal health of lawn. May choose only important sections of lawn and allow periphery and maintenance areas to go dormant.

Shrubs and Trees

Plant and Move –

September/October/November

Fall is generally the best time to transplant most plants, and trees/shrubs are no exception. Fall weather is usually cooler and wetter, making the moves easier on the root system and allowing a period of root growth and establishment before the first hard frost. However, in drought conditions, do not attempt to move anything, as they will have the best chance for survival by leaving the roots undisturbed.

Prune –

October/November through Winter

Based on the habit of the tree or shrub, pruning would occur after flowering, or in the fall/winter/early spring. However, in drought, do not disturb the tree/shrub as it is already in stress.

Wrap Tender Trees & Shrubs

Use burlap or wire cages to protect your fruit trees, tree seedlings and tender shrubs from rabbits and deer. These toothy critters nibble without rhyme or reason. Drought will cause wildlife to be even more aggressive in finding food throughout the winter.

Water - Until Frost

Because trees and shrubs are the backbone of your landscape, watering should be a high priority for any that are new up to about 7 years in age. Conifers are particularly susceptible when they are young and should be watered as long as temperatures permit. Most want consistent moisture and well-drained soil. In drought conditions, the general guideline for watering young trees is 10 gallons per inch diameter of trunk of tree every 10 days to 2 weeks. Go ahead and apply directly below canopy around trunk as root system is concentrated there.

Perennials

Move & Divide Plants - September/October

Fall is an excellent time to move spring & summer-blooming perennials like daisies, lilies and phlox. Fall weather is wet enough to make the move easy on the root systems and allow the plant to get comfortable before the cold weather hits. Grab a shovel, dig them up, split them in half using the sharp edge of a shovel, and replant.

Plant Bulbs - August through Frost

It takes minutes in the fall to enjoy weeks of colorful blooms in the spring. Grab a trowel, dig a hole 3 times the bulb's height, drop them in pointy side up. You can buy your bulbs from mail order catalogs, online, or at most lawn and garden centers. If you've planted bulbs that aren't blooming well anymore, chances are they need dividing. Dig up your bulbs, break them apart, replant the extra bulbs in new spots.

Cut Back Foliage and Deadhead - N / A

Leaving flower seed heads alone will provide a winter food source for the birds and an interesting view when the garden is snow-covered. Most ecogardeners prefer to cut back and clean up in the springtime. By leaving plants alone in the fall, you also provide a layer of insulation to protect roots from cold winter weather.

Continue Watering - Until Frost

In drought conditions, it is important to continue to provide moisture for the non-dormant plants until the first hard frost. Because of cooler conditions, not as much watering should be needed.

Annuals and Containers

Lift Tropical Bulbs - Up to Frost

Tropical plants such as Canna and Caladium, as well as such sensitives as Gladiolas and Dahlias can be lifted from the ground. They are cleaned/stored until the next spring.

Enjoy Annuals - Frost

Annuals are usually the most robust and colorful just as perennials are dying back in the hot August weather. Some are drought resistant, but those that are not will need to be regularly watered with the perennial beds.

Empty and Clean Containers - Frost

Be sure to empty containers with annuals and store for the winter. DO NOT use the same potting mix/soil for the next year. Clean pots with bleach solution to eliminate any pests from the previous year.

General Garden Chores

Mulch Your Leaves - September on

Rake them into your garden beds (you should cover perennials with 3-5 inches of mulch for winter

protection). Compost the leaves in your vegetable garden. DO NOT leave them by the curb for city workers to collect.

Prep New Beds/Do Not Till – September on

Tilling kills valuable microorganisms and worms and hurts your soil's health. Walk away from the tiller. Go do something else.

Exception:

Vegetable beds where you've encountered squash bugs. Those nasty buggers require fall tilling if you don't want to find them again next spring. To prep a new bed, a 5-page thick layer of wet newspapers and a few inches of mulch will kill everything beneath and prepare a garden bed for spring planting.

Clean, Sharpen, and Store Tools - Ongoing

Tools should be cleaned in a 100/0 bleach solution, as are containers, to disinfect and ready for storage. Sharpening can occur over the winter - A simple method to keep tools clean throughout the growing season and over winter is: 5 gallon bucket - fill at least 8-12 inches of sand. Place oil in sand (can be motor or mineral oil) and stir so it is evenly distributed. Wipe off and place gardening tools into the bucket so handles stick up. This simple storing method keeps rust and other debris from building up.



Miniature garden with Japanese Maple in a birdbath in the garden of Greg & Sue Olsen.