

HARSHBARGER HOSTA HAPPENINGS



Winter Edition

January 2011

HARSHBARGER OFFICERS

Judi Pohorsky, President

1712 Morris Av NW, Cedar Rapids 52405
(319) 396-6116 pohojsta@aol.com

Jay/Nancy McWherter, Vice-President

1610 Timberland Ct NW,
Cedar Rapids 52405
(319) 396-6972 jaybirddad@aol.com

Open - Secretary

Lois Cahill,

Treasurer/Membership

354 Adams Court, Lisbon 52253
(319) 455-3900 loisacahill@yahoo.com

Mary Lowder, Newsletter Editor

4364 Treefarm Lane NE, Ia. City 52240
(319) 351-1207 mwlowder@aol.com

Mary Lowder/Sue Dunn, Hospitality

President's Message

As the year begins I want to wish all a Happy New Year!

Looking over the calendar we have put together, I think we will be very busy this summer. There should be something that everyone will be interested in. This first newsletter is for your information as to what will be happening through the year.

Last year our bus tour was later in the year when it was hot and past the buying time, so we will try to move it up to early June. Hopefully, we will be in the buying mood and be much cooler. We want to go west this summer...more on this, later.

Plans for the Harshbarger Hosta Garden Walk are being made and we are hoping for no rain. If you remember last year, it was a monsoon. But we really had a good time. We are planning on having a meal and another auction after the garden walk!

We invite those that are able to meet at the Noelridge Gardens on April 16th for 'Donuts in the Park!' Bring your gloves and tools, as we will be pulling weeds and cleaning up the hosta garden. We want to make it look nice for the Noelridge Open House on Easter Sunday.

Mark your calendar for February 26th and join us for breakfast at Perkins on 33rd Ave SW, Cedar Rapids.

Let's have fun this summer...Judi

JANUARY

- 15 thru 29** - AHS Online Auction
21 thru 22 - Winter Scientific Meeting, Lisle, IL

FEBRUARY

- 9** -LCMG- Zora Ronan, "**Daylilies, The Perfect Perennial**"- 6:00 Hiawatha Public Lib., 150 Willman St.
12 thru 26 – First Look Online Auction
13 – Project Green: 2:00 to 5:00 Iowa City Public Library, Room A
Jamie Beyer "**Getting excited about water gardening an water features** " and "**Landscaping with Stone**"
16 – LCMG- Judy Stevens, "**Gardening in Small Yards and Containers**" – Hiawatha Library
19 – Kirkwood Garden Fair
23 – LCMG – Marty Augustine, "**Edible Mushroom Orientation**" – 6:00 Hiawatha Library
26 - Breakfast at Perkins – CR West 9:00

MARCH

- 2** – LCMG – Deb Walser, "**New Perennials for 2011**" – 6:00 Hiawatha Library
6 – Project Green - 2:00 to 4:00 Iowa City Public Library, Room A
Deb Walser: "**Perennials for 2011**"
11 and 12 – Hosta College, Piqua, Ohio

APRIL

- 4** - Creative Gardening, Cedar Hall ,Rm 234, 6:30-8:30
10 - Project Green: 2:00 - 4:00 Iowa City Public Library, Room A
Gary Whittenbaugh: "**Conifer Companions**"
13 - Creative Gardening, Cedar Hall, Rm 234, 6:30-8:30
19 - Harshbarger Meeting, Coralville Library, **6:00 Social Hour 7:00 meeting**
16 – HHS Donuts in Noelridge Park – Clean up hosta garden
20 – Creative Gardening, Cedar Hall, Room 234, 6:30-8:30

MAY

- 7** - Project Green: Carver Hawkeye Arena, Iowa City - Garden Fair
7, 14,15 – Good Earth Garden Sale
21 – Master Gardener Plant Sale, Linn County Ext. parking lot, Marion, IA

JUNE

- 4 ?** - Bus tour...to the west
5 – Dubuque Hosta Festival
11 – Linn County Master Gardeners – Garden Walk
18? – Harshbarger Garden Walk, Lunch and Auction
23 thru 25 – National Hosta Convention, Marlborough, MA

JULY

- 7 thru 9** – Midwest Hosta Convention, Madison, WI
12 thru 26 – First Look Online Auction

AUGUST

Bruce more Art and Garden Show

SEPTEMBER

Harshbarger Hosta Meeting - Potluck
Clean up at Noelridge

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

Breakfast at Country Buffett

Winter Scientific Meeting

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society sponsored the Winter Scientific Meeting. This popular winter event was held Saturday, January 22, 2011 at a new venue, the Wyndham Hotel, 3000 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL. Lisle is located twenty miles south of Schaumburg, where the Winter Scientific Meeting has been held in previous years. This would be a great event for our group to think about next year.

First Look Online Auction - This has become a fun and exciting event that hosta fanatics from all over the world participate in or follow. It will have unique and one of a kind hostas in the auction and it is just fun to look at the pictures. With most auctions, the bidding will close one at a time...this auction closes all bidding at the same time. If you want to learn more about this, please go to <http://www.hostalibrary.org/firstlook/>. The auction will begin on February 12 and end on February 26, 2011. Take a look and have fun!

Hosta College 2011 - Every March, hosta lovers gather in Piqua, Ohio to learn more about hostas. There are many interesting classes to choose from in each of the five sessions offered. Subjects are related to hostas or gardening and with some being hands-on-projects. There is an auction on Friday night and a banquet on Saturday evening. If you are interested, please go to <http://www.ihostohio.org/portal/glhc/college.asp> and read more about it.

American Hosta Society: Join the **American Hosta Society** and receive *The Hosta Journal* mailed twice a year and have access to a third issue online in the Members Only section of the AHS website. This publication offers the latest information on care, feeding, and hybridizing; pictures of new cultivars; and news of upcoming meetings and conventions. Their website is <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/index.htm>. Membership costs are: \$30/1yr, \$57/2yrs, and a \$600 for individual life membership. The family memberships are: #34/yr and \$62/2 yrs. Make your check out to AHS and send to the Membership Secretary, Sandie Markland, 8702 Pinnacle Rock Ct. Lorton, VA. 22079.

Midwest Hosta Society: Membership in the society is \$20.00 for two years, and includes two issues per year of the society's newsletter, **The Hosta Leaves**. Send your check to: Barbara Schroeder, 1819 Coventry Dr., Champaign, IL 61822-5239. Website is <http://midwest8.apollohosting.com/midwesthostasociety.org/index.html>

Harshbarger Hosta Society Membership: We offer 4 newsletters a year, 2 regular meetings with speakers, garden walks, auctions, potlucks and good company. Membership costs are \$10.00 a year. Please make your check out to Harshbarger Hosta Society and mail to: Lois Cahill, 357 Adams Court, Lisbon 52253.



The Shade structures at Noelridge Gardens are expanding! We finished the first structure in late summer and when the weather stayed nice, we decided to start the second one. Well....the weather didn't stay nice long enough to finish it, but we will pick up where we left off, this spring. If you are interested in helping with building this structure, please contact Gordon Emmons.

Midwest Regional Hosta Society - 2011 Convention Madison, Wisconsin - July 7, 8 and 9

All hosta enthusiasts are invited to the annual Midwest Regional Hosta Society convention next July 7, 8, and 9 in Madison, Wisconsin. Many of our members across these mid-western states have never been to a hosta convention. The hosta convention includes many enjoyable and educational activities centered around the genus Hosta. Convention attendees gather ideas and examples of ways to improve their gardens and learn more about this most popular perennial plant. The activities included are:

Garden Tours- Attendees will tour five private gardens, with hostas and companion plants that may be new to you.

Leaf Show- We will have a hosta leaf show; after judging Friday afternoon you will be able to see which were judged the best. There are more than 100 categories of hostas judged. There will also be artistic displays to admire, and a special category of new hosta seedlings and sports.

Plant Sales- Selling hostas will be vendors from North Carolina, Washington, Georgia, Iowa, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. You will be able to purchase hostas Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. **Auction-** We will have an auction Friday evening - silent, and live bidding

Judging Clinic- We will offer Judging Clinic #1 Friday morning. This is the first requirement to becoming a hosta judge, and will cost \$10

Food- We will have a Pig Roast Friday evening, overlooking beautiful Lake Monona and the state capitol building, a buffet breakfast Saturday morning, a box lunch Saturday midday and a banquet Saturday evening, with a cash bar.

Banquet- Our banquet speaker will be Ed Lyon, Director of Allen Centennial Garden on the Madison campus of the University of Wisconsin. Speaking Friday afternoon, while the hosta show is being judged, will be Mark Dwyer, Director of Horticulture of Rotary Gardens in Janesville, Wisconsin (an AHS Display garden); and links beautiful pictures of hostas with beautiful music.

Hostatality- In the evenings, after vending Thursday evening, after the auction Friday evening, and after the banquet Saturday evening, we will have "HOSTATALITY," with beverages and snacks provided.

The convention will be held at the Sheraton Madison Hotel, 1 (800) 325-3535, or 1 (608) 251-2300, where the special room rate will be \$103 plus tax. The convention will cost \$144.00 if paid by June 9th. We will have more information in the April newsletter.

**AHS 2011 National Convention
"Hostas and Heritage"**

Marlborough, Massachusetts June 23-25, 2011

If you are interested in attending this convention, please go to their website at...<http://www.hosta2011.org/index.htm>. The cost will be \$225.00 if paid before May 1, 2011 with optional tours and meals. This will be a great event.

If you are not interested in driving the long distance to Massachusetts, there is transportation on Amtrak. It will be from Chicago to Worcester, MA and will take 20 hours and 27 minutes to get there. It will leave on June 20 or 21 and return on June 26. If you are interested, please call Judi @ 319-396-6116 for more information, as the train will fill up fast. This does sound fun!

2011 Hosta Finder

We are ordering the 2011 Hosta Finder and the cost will be \$16.00, which is a \$3.00 savings for you. We are only ordering 12, so if you are interested, please call Nancy McWherter at 396-6972 or email to jaybirddad@aol.com.

If you are unfamiliar with the Hosta Finder, it is a wonderful reference and is used to compare prices of the hostas being offered, by about 50 growers. It helps you when you go to buy a hosta. It will give you an idea as to what the price should be.

Kirkwood Garden Fair

The Kirkwood Garden Fair will be held on February 19th. Our own VP, Jay McWherter, will be presenting 2 classes...one on Shade Gardening and the other on Photography. If you have not signed up, yet, go to the Linn County Master Gardeners website for more information. I am sure classes will be filling up fast.

We do have volunteers for most of the day, but need someone for the 12-2 time period. If interested, please call Judi at 396-6116.

Harshbarger's - Solberg Club Plants

We will be ordering the Solberg Club Plants. The plants will be bare root. Send your form, along with a check (made out to Harshbarger Hosta Society) to: Nancy McWherter, 1610 Timberland Ct NW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52405. **Deadline for ordering is March 15th**. We will announce later, about delivery.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Amt paid _____

BATTLE STAR – (G. Randy Goodwin 2006) (sport of a streaked seedling) – Med. Great color combination of gray green leaves and yellow margins. It is distinctive from across the garden. Sturdy hosta with good substance. Dark lavender striped flowers in June.
() @ \$13.00 \$ _____

CRUMB CAKE – (Solberg 2008) – Cinnamon Sticks x Cracker Crumbs) – Small - This rapid growing hosta makes a very tight flat mound of honey gold round leaves with mahogany petioles that are shiny, wavy and have very good substance. The mahogany scapes have pretty lavender flowers in July.
() @ \$9.00 \$ _____

FINAL SUMMATION – (Solberg 2008) – (Sport of Sum and Substance) – Large- This is the dark green-edged sport of Sum and Substane. It has wide green margins, superior rich colors and slightly cupped, very round, giant leaves with typical lavender flowers in July.
() @ \$13.00 \$ _____

TICKLE ME PINK – (B. & D. Stegeman Hack 2006) – (One Man's Treasure x Squash Casserole) - Medium – I has glowing yellow leaves with twisted reddish tips and produces deep red scapes with flowers that are pinkish lavender in late summer. The leaves may even have some red streaks in the fall.
() @ \$13.00 \$ _____

TONGUE TWISTER – (Solberg 2008) – (Iwa x Blue Blush) – Small – With its dark green leaves that twist upward out of the clump, this great little hosta looks as fresh in October as it does in May. It has great substance and rich color. The light purple scapes produce light lavender flowers in September and light purple pods in October.
() @ \$9.00 \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____



BATTLE STAR



CRUMB CAKE



FINAL SUMMATION



Photo by Bev Stegeman

TICKLE ME PINK



TONGUE TWISTER