



## 2013 Fall Edition of the Harshbarger Hosta Society



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### *Hello Hostaholics!*

Where has this summer gone? It seems like it just began and here we are near the end. The weather had been beautiful and it felt like they should be playing football... then when football season started... it changed and became super hot! What's wrong here!

At our spring meeting we decided to not have our bus trip and garden walk because of the national convention coming up next year. We did, though, go ahead with our bus trip stopping at Spece's new building, 'In the Country,' Diane Dave's garden in Independence, Gary Whittenbaugh's conifer gardens in Oelwein, and to K&K Gardens in Hawkeye. What a nice garden center... first time there and hoping to go back next year. We even stopped at a flea market and got some good buys! We had a great time!

In June, we had a spur of the moment idea to take the place of our auction. Knowing that there were going to be many plant sales on June 18th, we decided to have a hosta sale at the Noelridge Hosta garden. What a pleasant surprise! With last minute notice and publicity, we almost sold out in 4 hours. Many visitors wondered if we were going to be here next year...or have we had this sale at Noelridge before! They are ready for next years sale.

Talking about next year's convention—Czech It Out!—we have been working behind the scenes and can't wait to get everyone involved!! Our shirts are done and we have taken them to both conventions to sell and to promote our convention. They have been enthusiastically accepted. I have heard so many nice stories about 'being from Czechoslovakia', growing up in Czech family' the wonderful food... and on and on. I have enjoyed their stories! We will be discussing the convention at our September meeting!

As the 2013 convention ended, I was given the boxes that go from convention to convention... several big boxes filled with signs and registration badges. Wondering... does anyone have a safe space for these. There may be more as we get closer, but will all be gone by next June. Let me know and I can deliver. Also, if you have a yard of cotton material just sitting around that you thought you might use... but, didn't... could you donate it to our headband project? You could just bring to our meeting.

Hope to see everyone at Wickiup Center on September 22! It is a wonderful place for our fall meeting and the food is always great! Harshbarger Society has some very good cooks! We'll eat first and then discuss the convention as it will be here before we know it. It will be good to see everyone as I missed having the garden walk where everyone gets together for the summer.

See you soon... Judi

# Harshbarger Hosta Society Spring 2013 meeting notes

The spring meeting of the Harshbarger Hosta Society was held at the new MG Extension Building on April 23, 2013. It is a beautiful building and we were fortunate to be able to have held the meeting there.

Members gathered early to be able to purchase a wide variety of hostas that were available for sale. They are the hostas that we will sell throughout the summer for our 2013 fund raiser. There were many new varieties and members were able to get some really good buys on them.

President Judi called the meeting to order at 6:30 with 35 members and 2 non-members in attendance. Hopefully we can recruit them to become members of HHS. Snacks were served among rave reviews on the goodies. Thanks gals!

A discussion was held on the 2014 Hosta Convention. Committees have been formed and updates were given with lots of good information and ideas still being suggested and passed around. We need everyone's input so this can be one of the best conventions that we can possibly have.

Reldon Ramsey told us about a fund raiser for Josh Spece and his family of In The Country to help assist them in building a new wheelchair accessible home. They will be on our June 8th bus tour. They are amazing people and anything anyone can help them out with will be greatly appreciated.

Betty and Katherine Kelly were our guest speakers and discussed the Convention's leaf show. They are both well known judges with many years of experience and have a wealth of knowledge for anyone wanting to participate in the show.

Betty talked to us about the classes and/or categories of entering and showing leaves. She explained cleaning

and preparing leaves for showing, how to enter and making sure you fill out the correct information and explaining the 100 point system on judging leaves. She pointed out about the shape, size, substance, condition, grooming, pattern and texture. Although it all sounded somewhat confusing, Betty assured us it isn't that hard and can be quite fun. I am sure she recruited several members into possibly trying it at the convention.

Katherine talked to us about the actual cleaning and preparation of the leaves. She demonstrated on how to go about cleaning the leaves with cotton and Q-tips with water. She explained the vases/containers that are required for the leaves to be displayed in and how to place the leaves in the vase to show to their best advantage. She was very helpful and her knowledge will be as asset to anyone wanting to participate in the show.

There were many questions asked of both ladies and Betty and Katherine were patient and answered all of them for our members. Thank-you, too both ladies for your expertise and for sharing it with us that night.

Members of the Russ O'Harra Hosta Society were present and many of our members joined their group that night. I among others are proud to be new members, Judi announced that the Russ O'Harra group had paid for our Convention Hosta—Czech It Out. A big thank you to them for doing that.

The meeting ended approximately 9:00. Everyone seemed to have a good time and it was nice seeing all the members that were present—even the baby chicks. Should have been there!!!

Respectfully,  
Lorri Hughes, secretary

# We added a new event this summer!

Now, that we have all the shade structures up at Noelridge Park and many hostas planted...we have wanted to show it off to our hosta friends!

May is a good month for plant sales in the Cedar Rapids area as everyone is excited to be outside, to expand their gardens and find that new plant they have been thinking about all winter...so, we decided to have a hosta sale at the shade structures. It was one of those spur-of-the-moment thoughts! We had some hostas left from previous sales, donations from our Harshbarger group (thank-you) and a few from our Noelridge Hosta garden...and that is all we needed. We did little advertising on radio and Gordon made up some signs to be placed in strategic places.

Much to our surprise... we were swamped with hosta-lovers!!! People wondered if we held these sales every year and maybe they had missed them! They wondered if we were going to be here next year...saying 'they would not miss it'! We also were able to show off the hosta gardens, explain how it came about and introduce them to Harshbarger Hosta Society!

It was a good day for everyone and hope to continue this next year!



**H. 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd' 2014 Hosta of the Year**

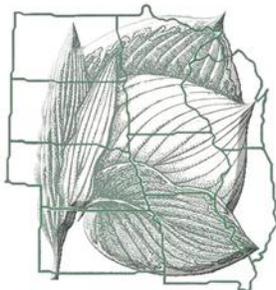


## **Shade and Mole Control!**

Consider planting castor bean next year for seasonal shade and to repel moles. Castor bean brings great distinction to the garden quickly, growing to a large shrub of treelike proportions in a single season. The seeds yield an oil that is used commercially. Be aware, however, that the seed coats contain ricin, a deadly poison. If there is any chance of the seeds being eaten, break off the flowers.

This native of Africa is naturalized in tropical parts of the world. It can grow to a height of 10 feet with leaves up to 3 feet wide. Side branches produce flowers and spiny seed pods. They need full sun, heat, and moisture.

Propagate castor bean by seed. Soak seeds for 24 hours in water before sowing. Start seeds indoors 6 to 8 weeks prior to planting in the garden. Start them in individual pots for transplanting.



## Midwest Regional Hosta Society

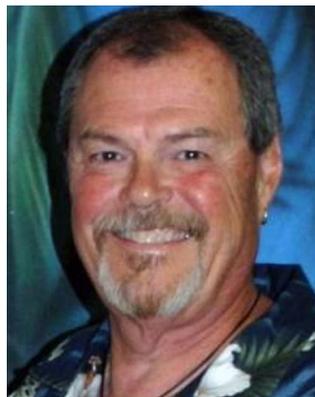
The Midwest Regional Hosta Society represents Region 5 of the American Hosta Society that includes 9 states. Our mission is to promote education, research, development and enjoyment of Hosta.

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](mailto:MRHS.Hosta@gmail.com).



**Ricky Dale Innis, 66**, died suddenly in his home Saturday morning April 27, 2013. His body was given to Organ Donors of Iowa and then cremated. A memorial service will be held at the Eagles Lodge on Hwy 1 in Iowa City, at 11am - 2pm Saturday May, 11, 2013. Family and friends

are welcome to join this Celebration of Life ceremony and luncheon.

Ricky was born (1946) and raised in Grinnell, Iowa and graduated Grinnell High School class of 1965. He was one of the original "Baby Boomers" born 9 months to the day his father, Virgil D Innis returned from the Navy to his wife Betty Maxine (Beam-Hill), after WWII. He went on to school at Marshalltown Community College and finished his schooling at the University of Iowa, where he received a Bachelor's of Science degree.

Rick married Teresa Adams, his high school sweetie, on July 23, 1966. To this union was born daughter Stacey (Paul) Flemr of Nichols, IA and son, Aaron Innis of Iowa City. Rick had many passions including bicycling, gardening, reading, traveling, bird watching, music, fishing with Aaron, playing cards, cooking, following his grandchildren in their various activities and sports, spending time with friends and adored family and not least of all, bleeding Black and Gold with and for the amazing Hawkeyes. Rick had a great sense of humor and was an inspiration to so many. He touched so many lives with his kindness and love.

Rick and Teresa retired to Newburg, IA in 2007. He is survived by his wife, children, 4 grandchildren (Jessica, Adam, Megan and Madelyn), 3 great-grandchildren (Bradley, Ethan and Elizabeth) and his sister Janet (Lyle) Brown of Grinnell. He was preceded in death by his parents.

(We have lost a great friend and member of Harshbarger Hosta Society. Rick was always there to help, to encourage, to entertain, to share his enthusiasm for life.

At our last meeting in April, you will remember he brought in some new friends...chickens!!! Baby chickens he just couldn't pass up at a local store. He and Teresa brought them into our meeting as it was too cold to leave them in the car and held them... in their box... during the meeting. You could hear their little chirps... and had to smile! You never knew what was going to happen when Rick was around! He is missed!!!)



My white-footed mouse friend (*Peromyscus leucopus*) did not appreciate the thorough ground watering of my Lemon Meringue hosta. He/she was kind enough to stay put while I ran to grab my camera!

These lovely creatures are great for weed management in the garden. They, along with their cousin the deer mouse, are major consumers of weed seeds—of which I have plenty. -Jill



*AHS Convention shirts will be available to our members at our Fall meeting on September 22nd. We have already sold many at the AHS and Midwest convention this summer for \$15.00! It has been fun talking to everyone and discussing the logo for our convention.*

## 2014 Great Lakes Hosta College

Each year during March, the Great Lakes Region (GLR) of the American Hosta Society hosts a gathering of approximately 500 enthusiastic gardeners from the Midwest and other parts of the US, Canada, and even Europe. This gathering is called Hosta College, and it takes place at Upper Valley Career Center in Piqua, Ohio.

Hosta College begins on Friday night with several different activities from which participants can choose. The vending area offers a large selection of plants (even though it may be snowing outside!), garden accessories, tools, and other garden-related merchandise for shoppers. The Bookstore features gardening books at fantastic discounts, stationery, society clothing items, and other Hosta College souvenirs. The auditorium and other areas provide slide presentations, talks by gardening experts, and opportunities to socialize with new and old friends from Hosta College. An auction of rare and unusual plants will be held on Friday evening. On Saturday, following a brief period for shopping in the Vending or Bookstore, classes begin at 8 a.m. Students attend 5 classes they have chosen from a program of over 70 classes taught by a faculty of approximately 50 volunteers. Mid-day each student has lunch from a delicious buffet included in the registration fee. At the end of the day students take a brief break and then return for a banquet and talk that concludes the Hosta College experience.

Persons who belong to one of the local societies with membership in the Great Lakes Region receive preferential registration and a reduced registration fee (\$42 registration fee for members, \$55 registration fee for non-members)

**[http://ihostohio.org/portal/glhc/reg\\_step\\_one.asp](http://ihostohio.org/portal/glhc/reg_step_one.asp)**

Preplan your Hosta College registration, by going to the class listing URL below. You can preview and print a listing of classes. Hurry, classes are filling up fast!

**<http://ihostohio.org/portal/glhc/classesall.asp>**



# The American Hosta Society

## Membership Application

### 1. ENTER ALL INFORMATION AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT PRINTED IN THE MEMBERSHIP LIST

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

IF RELATED TO AHS MEMBERSHIP

Address:

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. THE DESIRED MEMBERSHIP OPTION [ Membership Year is January 1 through December 31 ] :

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (USA): \$30 for one year     | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (Europe): \$51 for one year       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (USA): \$57 for two years    | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (Europe): \$99 for two years      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (USA): \$80 for three years  | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (Europe): \$142 for three years   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (USA): \$900 Life Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (Europe): \$1,530 Life Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (USA): \$34 for one year         | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (Europe): \$55 for one year           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (USA): \$62 for two years        | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (Europe): \$104 for two years         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (USA): \$90 for three years      | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (Europe): \$152 for three years       |

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (Canada): \$39 for one year       | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (Pacific Rim): \$59 for one year       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (Canada): \$74 for two years      | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (Pacific Rim): \$114 for two years     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (Canada): \$107 for three years   | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (Pacific Rim): \$165 for three years   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (Canada): \$1,170 Life Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (Pacific Rim): \$1,770 Life Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (Canada): \$43 for one year           | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (Pacific Rim): \$62 for one year           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (Canada): \$79 for two years          | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (Pacific Rim): \$120 for two years         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (Canada): \$117 for three years       | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (Pacific Rim): \$175 for three years       |
- (Pacific Rim: Japan, Australia, New Zealand)

**Late Renewal** - In order to attempt to reduce the current practice of late renewals and offset the cost of mailings to late renewals, please add \$5.00 to your membership fee if renewal is postmarked after January 15, 2011.

**3. SUBMISSION:** Print this form and send to **Sandie Markland** with a payment based on your membership selection. You will be notified when your membership has been activated.

**Sandie Markland**  
**AHS Membership Secretary**  
**Post Office Box 7539**  
**Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948**

**E-mail: [AHSMembershipSecretary@Charter.Net](mailto:AHSMembershipSecretary@Charter.Net)**

Check drawn on US bank or money order payable in US funds  
and

**payable to: The American Hosta Society (AHS)**

Be sure to look at Harshbarger website –  
**Harshbargerhostasociety.org**

*And*

Jay McWherter and Tim Cahill have put up a Facebook page for Harshbarger. They have been busy adding pictures of our travels and gardens. We have visitors from everywhere! Thanks guys!!



### **Harshbarger Fall Meeting**

SUNDAY, SEPT 22TH, 2013

12:30 - 4:30 PM

WICKIUP HILL LEARNING CENTER

10260 MORRIS HILLS ROAD

TODDVILLE, IA

**Meeting: Focusing in on our AHS Convention in June!**

It is time to start the second phase of our convention planning....! We have the hotel.... gardens...the optional tours...the logo... and now the details have to be filled in.

Jay will have a power point of this year's bus tour and Judi will give the presentation she gave at the AHS convention in Milwaukee!

We will have a potluck before the meeting, eating about 1:00 and the meeting should be done about 4:00. We will furnish the meat/sandwiches, plates, silverware, napkins and lemonade. Bring your favorite dish to share. There are outlets for crockpots.

Hostas will be for sale – We have not sold all the Zilis hostas we ordered this spring, so we will bring them.... good prices!

Directions: from 380, take the Blairsferry Road exit and turn west, going by Sam's Club and Walmart. Continue on Blairsferry Road for 5.9 miles and turn right onto Horseshoe Lake Road. Travel 1.1 miles and turn left onto Morris Hills Road for .6 miles. Part of this road will be unpaved. You will see Wickiup Hill Learning Center on your right.

**DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR:**

loot, greenbacks, riches, change, scratch, big ones, chits, tender, coin, pocket money, pittance, dollars, bundle, cash, stash, fortune, resources, spending money, \$, treasure, bankroll, currency, funds, gold, wad, checks, means, moolah, smack, Jacksons, Benjamins, sawbucks, fins, chips, dough, bucks, or buckaroos,

**TO BUY THE LAST HOSTAS OF THE SEASON AT THE FALL MEETING**

**Remember to renew your membership—check with Lois to see if you are up-to-date**

### **Welcome New Members!**

Betty Alfaro - *Iowa City*  
Barbara Bowersox - *Cedar Rapids*  
Stacy Flemr - *Nichols*  
Joellen Funk - *Cedar Rapids*  
Gary Garles & Nancy Wells - *Altoona*  
Darlene Hatch - *Marion*  
Carol Hogdgen - *Marion*  
Patsy Irons - *Cedar Rapids*  
Steve Lyons - *Iowa City*  
Doris Metz - *Marion*  
Barb Michel - *Cedar Rapids*  
Kurt & Carol Nilsson - *Cedar Rapids*  
Sally Wenger - *Washington*