

HOSTA HERALD

2015 Winter Edition of the Harshbarger Hosta Society



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Hello All,

I hope you are having an excellent start to 2015. With all the snow in early November, I wondered if it was going to be a long cold winter. With little snowfall in December and January, I thought it came early and spring would be here soon. So much for that thought as the snow we received so far in February made up for the lack of snow the last two months. The snow did make a beautiful winter scene as it clung to the tree branches for a few days.

I hosted Christmas for my family this past December, a relative was looking into the back yard and noticed all the plant markers in the garden and asked, "Are those tombstone markers?" I said, "I certainly hope not." Now I need spring to get here, so I can prove him wrong.

As you know, last year was a very busy year getting ready for the 2014 AHS National Hosta Convention. Thanks to everyone for all your hard work for a very successful event. It would not have been possible without the help of our members volunteering their time and for the members that hosted and welcomed visitors to their beautiful gardens. We received a lot of wonderful comments saying it was well organized and they had a great time. Give yourself a well-deserved pat on the back... great job everyone!!

Thanks to all of you who make the Harshbarger Hosta Society a wonderful organization. I'm honored to lead this society as your president and appreciate the opportunity to work with such knowledgeable and caring folks. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish in the coming years... *Doris*

Hosta Happenings

MARCH

- 4** LCMG: Ash Tree Alternatives
6:30-7:30 pm, Ladd Library
3750 Williams Blvd. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA
- 8** Project Green: Perennials, Richard Jauron
2:00 to 4:00 pm
Iowa City Public Library, Room A
123 South Linn St, Iowa City, IA
- 11** LCMG: Container Vegetable Gardening
6:30-7:30 pm, Ladd Library
3750 Williams Blvd. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA
- 14** Breakfast at Perkins
9:00 a.m., 33rd Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, IA
- 18** LCMG: Daylilies—A Most
'Mis-Underestimated' Perennial
6:30-7:30 pm, Ladd Library
3750 Williams Blvd. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA
- 20/21** Hosta College, Piqua, Ohio
- 21** Kirkwood Garden Fair, Cedar Rapids, IA
- 25** LCMG: Wonderful Weigelas
6:30-7:30 pm, Ladd Library
3750 Williams Blvd. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA

APRIL

- 1** LCMG: New Perennials for 2015
6:30-7:30 pm, Marion Public Library,
1095 6th Ave., Marion, IA
- 7** LCMG: Flowers Hummingbirds Love
6:30-7:30 pm, Ely Public Library,
1595 Dows St, Ely, IA
- 14** Harshbarger Hosta Meeting
6:00 pm Social Hour
Program - TBA
Johnson County
Master Gardeners Extension Office
3109 Old Highway 218 South, Iowa City, IA
Johnson County Fairgrounds
- 14** LCMG: Ring my bells for Coral Bells!
6:30-7:30 pm, Ely Public Library,
1595 Dows St, Ely, IA

- 15** LCMG: The Lazy Gardener—Gardening
in Comfort and Ease
6:30-7:30 pm, Marion Public Library,
1095 6th Ave., Marion, IA
- 21** LCMG: Pretty Poisons Lurking in
Your Garden
6:30-7:30 pm, Ely Public Library,
1595 Dows St, Ely, IA
- 23** LCMG: Pretty Poisons Lurking in
Your Garden
6:30-7:30 pm, Marion Public Library,
1095 6th Ave., Marion, IA
- 28** LCMG: Container Gardens
6:30-7:30 pm, Ely Public Library,
1595 Dows St, Ely, IA
- 29** LCMG: Verticals, Vines, and Variants
6:30-7:30 pm, Marion Public Library,
1095 6th Ave., Marion, IA

MAY

- 8** Project Green: Garden Fair
Carver Hawkeye Arena, Iowa City, IA
1095 6th Ave., Marion, IA
- 16?** Harshbarger & Master Gardener Plant Sale

JUNE

- 7** Dubuque Hosta Festival
- 18-20** National Hosta Convention, Raleigh, NC

JULY

- 9-11** Midwest Hosta Convention, Dubuque, IA

AUGUST

- 29?** Bruce More Art & Garden Show,
Cedar Rapids, IA

SEPTEMBER

- ?** Harshbarger Hosta Meeting/Potluck
- ?** Clean up at Noelridge

NOVEMBER

- ?** Breakfast

Happenings Info

First Look Online Auction,

February 7 through February 21, 2015—

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/cgi-bin/firstlook.pl?category=don>. Take a look and have some fun!

Kirkwood Garden Fair, February

*21—*Jay McWherter, will be presenting. If you have not signed up, yet, go to the Linn County Master Gardeners website for more information: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/linn/news/winter-gardening-fair-2015>. 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 Doris at (319)447-1602 or metzy@mchsi.com.

Hosta College, March 20–21

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.



Midwest Regional Hosta Society 2015 Convention, "A Hosta Rendezvous,"

July 9-11, Dubuque, Iowa

<http://www.midwesthostasociety.org/MRHS2015Convention.shtml>

Cost is \$110 if postmarked before June 15, 2015

AHS 2015 National Convention, "Back to the Future," June 18-20

Raleigh, North Carolina

If you are interested in attending this convention, please go to their website at 2015ahsconvention.com

Cost is \$230.00 if paid before May 1, 2015 with optional tours and meals.

Hosta Society Memberships

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. The AHS Website is <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/index.htm>. Membership costs are: \$30/1 yr, \$80/3 yrs. Make your check out to AHS and send to the Membership Secretary:
Sandie Markland
P.O. Box 7539
Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

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*. The website is <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org/membership.shtml> Send your check to:
Barbara Schroeder,
1819 Coventry Dr.,
Champaign, IL 61822-5239.

Harshbarger Hosta Society:

Membership offers 4 newsletters a year, 2 regular meetings with speakers, garden walks, auctions, potlucks, and good company. The HHS Website is <http://harshbargerhostasociety.org>. Membership costs are \$10.00 a year. Please make your check out to Harshbarger Hosta Society and mail to:
Carol Petrucka
209 Ashford Dr. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402.

2015 Hosta Finder

The HHS is ordering the 2015 Hosta Finder. The cost will be \$17.00, which is a \$4.00 savings for you. We are only ordering 10, so if you are interested, please call or email Bill Hunse.

If you are unfamiliar with the Hosta Finder, it is a wonderful reference useful for comparing prices of hostas being offered by approximately 50 growers. You will want to keep one handy when buying a hosta. It will give you an idea as to what the price should be.



Have you heard, there's a red leaf hosta!

Bob and Nancy Solberg have produced a small to medium hosta Hosta called 'First Blush.' It not only has red petioles that extend into the leaf blade but also a thin red margin around the leaf, similar but much more dramatic than its parent 'Beet Salad.'

However, the most exciting thing about 'First Blush' is that in spring the leaf between the veins will start to "blush" red from the tip of the leaf down toward the base. The leaves remain red here until temperatures surpass 92 degrees, usually into June. The color should persist longer in Northern gardens. Maybe those of you that attend the 2015 National Convention will have the opportunity to see and "maybe" purchase this beauty.



2015 Hosta of the Year, 'Victory'

Dreaming about Spring!



Things to think about for discussion at our April meeting...

- Bus trip—ideas for places to visit. All suggestions are welcomed.
- Garden walks—Consider opening up your garden!
- Volunteers needed:
Noelridge—Open house on Easter and Mother's Day & Weeding throughout the spring and summer
Brucemore—Art & Garden Show in August
- Hostas needed for plant sales since Q & Z is no longer in business

