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President's Letter: *Fabulous Fall*

Steve Longenecker, President



Ah, Fall, my favorite time of year, the beauty of the leaves and the crisp invigorating air. The refreshing air puts a little kick back in my heels and I sure can use that.

Barbara Bloetscher did a wonderful program at Cox on attracting pollinators in August. Our annual Fall Gathering at the Lange Estate near West Milton was a tremendous success. This may have been our largest meeting ever, with over 85 in attendance. A great big Thank You to Bob liames for everything he did to make this a great event.

I would like to congratulate several of our members for some recent awards won from the American Hosta Society. We won not only one, but two awards presented at the recent National Convention in Massachusetts. The MVHS won the AHS Best Newsletter Award and AHS Best Newsletter Article. The newsletter article was written by

Anne Randall on Hellebores. I would like to thank our current newsletter editor Karen Strider-liames for all the hard work she does to produce such a great Newsletter. THANK YOU KAREN! I would also like to thank our past newsletter editors, Glenda Wogoman, and Karen and Jim Warner who helped make our newsletter the great publication it is today.

I would also like to thank Joan Stoppelman and her committee, Karen Warner, Marcia Niswonger and Gene and Marcia Bashor, for creating a bus trip policy to be used on future bus trips. This new trip policy will help ensure fair participation by all our members. This policy will be published in the new yearbook.

Your elected officers and committee members met September 21st to plan next year's events. We have two bus trips planned. On May 19th there will be a one-day shopping trip going to many of the garden centers and nurseries that support our

yearly Hosta auction, and on July 21-22 we have planned a two-day bus trip to Columbus. We will visit many of the gardens that will be on the American Daylily National Convention which is scheduled the week before our trip. Hosta and conifer gardens are also scheduled, and of course shopping.

Next year the June and July member garden tours will be East and West with food at both events. It seems to me that this is a group that likes to eat as these events have really grown in popularity.

As always call or email me with suggestions and ideas to improve our programs and services to our members, your opinion matters.

A society grows great when old men and women plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.

Steve



*Fall
Gathering
at the
Lange
Estate*



MVHS Calendar

Tues., Nov. 15, 7:00 p.m.
“All About Hydrangeas”
 with Cleve White,
 ONLA Master Nursery Tech
 & Master Gardener.
 Presentation and meeting
 at Cox Arboretum.
 Open to the public.



Tues., Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m.
**Christmas Gathering
 with Dessert**
Karen Warner’s home
 25 Triple Crown Circle
 Springboro, OH 45066
 MVHS members and invited guests.
 RSVP by Dec. 17: (937) 748-2407
 or email: karjaws@sbcglobal.net

AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

**2012: Middle Tennessee
 Hosta Society**
 Nashville, TN June 13-16, 2012
‘HOSTAS, FRIENDS & MUSIC’
www.mths-hosta.com/
[AHS_National_Convention_2012/](#)



2013: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

August meeting

**Barbara Bloetscher, state
 apiarist with the Ohio
 Department of Agriculture,
 presented “Planting for
 Pollinators” at Cox Arboretum.**




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Member's Corner

Welcome New Members

Bonnie Shane, Beaver Creek

Carlotta Webb, Union

Join the American Hosta Society for 2012

Membership Type:	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr	Life
USA Individual	\$30	\$57	\$80	\$900
Family	\$34	\$62	\$90	

Make check payable to: **The American Hosta Society**

Mail to: Sandie Markland, AHS Membership Secretary
P.O. Box 7539, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

or pay via the website: www.americanhostasociety.org

IMPORTANT NOTICE from AHS to CURRENT MEMBERS:

AHS requests that all members contact Sandie Markland at AHSMembershipSecretary@charter.net and give her your current email address since more and more information is sent via email. Or go to www.americanhostasociety.org and click on **Contact Us**.

News Scapes and Anne Randall win recognition from AHS

Our society won two awards at the American Hosta Society national convention in New England this summer.

Best Newsletter and

Best Newsletter Article by Anne Randall

MVHS will be recognized in the *Online Journal* at the AHS website on Thanksgiving Day. Visit www.americanhostasociety.org

2012 HOSTA COLLEGE

Great Lakes Region Hosta Society, Piqua, OH Mar 16-17

Registration for Hosta College: Jan 13 to Feb 1

<http://ihostohio.org/Portal/glhc/default.asp>

H. 'Queen Josephine'

MY
FAVORITE
HOSTA

Carolyn & Steve Harman

Hosta 'Queen Josephine' is a favorite of ours, ever since we acquired it in the 2011 MVHS Hosta Auction.

The distinctively thick and extremely shiny, heart-shaped leaves with dark green centers and creamy yellow margins—Queen Josephine's most distinguishing features—well qualifies this hosta for its center-stage role. Its mound-like growth habit gives it a suitable platform for the bright color that the leaf gloss helps to accentuate.

Our Queen Josephine easily has tripled in size since planted (from 1-qt. pot) into a medium-sized container placed at the entry to a hosta border of our full-shade front yard containing over 200 hosta varieties. In the literature, the mound size is listed at 42" (diameter) and 17" (high) which, if this eye-catcher continues its growth rate, may soon force us to transplant it into a much larger container or to integrate it with its many in-ground neighbors.

In its first year, Queen Josephine produced somewhat undistinguished blooms and the scapes were removed soon after the blossoms were spent. Other details about this beautiful plant include:



Leaves:

7" long, 5 1/2" wide
One-inch yellow margin
Ten vein pairs
Appears to be fairly deer resistant, due in part to the thick and shiny leaves.

Flowers:

Pale purple
Blooms late July to early August
26" scapes

Mound size:

42 inches in diameter
17 inches high

Habit:

Fast grower
Likes moist, well-drained soil
Prefers partial sun to full shade

Lineage:

First offered in 2002
Sport of H. 'Josephine'
Registered in 1991 by Kuk's Forest Nursery

Time to Renew Your MVHS Membership for 2012



- ◆ Memberships are for 12 months — January 1 thru December 31
- ◆ Memberships include *Hosta News Scapes* newsletter and special e-mailings
- ◆ Members receive MVHS Yearbook containing program calendar and membership roster
- ◆ Members can register for Hosta College ahead of the general public, and at a cost savings
- ◆ Members-only garden hops, annual picnic, potluck dinner, and more
- ◆ Member discounts for overnight bus trip and special garden tours

Dues must be paid by Dec. 31, 2011 in order to be listed in the 2012 Yearbook.

\$12 Individual Membership

\$17 Family Membership

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone(s) _____

Email Address(es) _____

Bring to a meeting or mail with check made payable to **Miami Valley Hosta Society**, to:

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Highlights from AHS Convention tour gardens in New England

by David Teager

Reprinted from the Summer 2011 Delaware Valley Hosta Society newsletter

Here are a few of the many photos I took during the Friday and Saturday tours. The hostas were incredible, especially lush after a thorough drenching during Wednesday's tours! We visited seven gardens, three of which included nursery sales areas. The gardens varied in size, but each was packed with hosta cultivars. These were some of my favorites.

Upper right, a nice massed planting with old standby hostas 'Regal Splendor' and 'Lancifolia,' seen in the garden of Cheryl and Rick Cravino (New Hampshire).

Below, a sport of 'Krugerrand' with a watermark variegation, like a massive 'Tattoo'. This was in the home and nursery garden of Cochato Nursery, south of Boston. At right, an installation of 'Dragon Tails', complete with dragon! This was, in my opinion, the most impressive home garden of the Friday and Saturday tours, hosted by Diane and Bob Adams in Rhode Island. They warned us that there would be "his" and "hers" sections of this garden,



but it all blended seamlessly.

Below, a multiple-clump planting of *H.* 'Cascades' standing over 2 feet high and 5 feet across, at Mason Hollow Nursery in New Hampshire.



Below, the clump of 'Empress Wu' in the Adams garden, nearly 4 feet high and 7 feet across.



Hostas that make Scents



By Bob Streitmatter. Reprinted from July 2011 Great Expectations, Central Illinois Hosta Society Newsletter.

With garden design, taking full advantage of all the senses is what can make a garden truly special or memorable. Often, the visual attributes of plants like fall color, flower and form take precedence over fragrance. In the "Hosta World", some of this bias lies in the fact that the most-noted fragrant hosta, are the commonplace *H. plantaginea* cultivars, 'Honeybells' and 'Royal Standard'. I don't want to slight either, as they are both vigorous hosta, useful as a groundcover or as a backbone of a shade garden. To be honest, I have a special fondness for some of these older introductions. However, there are many hosta with a beautiful fragrance as well as pleasing visual attributes. Listed below are a few of the fragrant hosta, by no means a complete list.

When using fragrant plants, I like to place them where one can fully appreciate them. Plant them along a path or patio, near a bench or near an entrance. The places within the garden where you pause or rest are the most likely places for fragrant plants. I will often place fragrant shrubs like Dwarf Korean Lilac or Koreanspice Viburnum near a patio. In our garden I have placed a highly fragrant, Burkwood Viburnum as a backing for a bench.

As is often the case, it is more effective to display or plant in groups of three or more. This is especially true for fragrant plants. In my old garden, I planted a mass of 'Royal Standard' along a path, back-dropping a stone water basin. It happened to be in a location sheltered from the wind, purely happenstance; however it allowed the scent to concentrate. With each passing, you were richly rewarded with the delicate fragrance. In the quietness of the evening the fragrance seemed to intensify. This experience has had a lasting impact on how I approach design. Remember, always use your senses in garden design and try a few fragrant hosta!!!

H. 'Aqua Velva' has large crinkled blue green leaves with intense corrugation and some slug resistance. Fragrant lavender flowers.

H. 'Avocado' is very nice sport of Hosta 'Guacamole' with dark green margin which is quite wide and surrounds a narrow gold center. Overall appearance of the plant is a lot darker than its parent and the leaves seem to be thicker. Pale lavender fragrant flowers.

H. 'Fragrant Blue' blue-cast flowers opening to white in mid-late summer; small hosta, 8" height, with blue green foliage.

H. 'Fragrant Bouquet' 1998 Hosta of the Year; white flowers in mid-late summer; bright green leaves with broad, irregular creamy edge.

H. 'Fried Bananas' is a gold leaved sport of 'Guacamole'. It forms a

large mound of beautiful glossy golden leaves & attains its best color in very light shade.

H. 'Fried Green Tomatoes' is a softly frosted green form of 'Guacamole'. The large green leaves darken in color as the season progresses. Magnificent, fragrant, pale lavender flowers in August and vigorous in growth. A great contrast to 'Fragrant Bouquet'.

H. 'Flower Power' one of the earliest blooming lavender flowers; large hosta, slightly ruffled with a frosted appearance turning green as season progresses.

H. 'Guacamole' has become one of my favorites because it is a vigorous grower with clean foliage late into the fall. It has white flowers in mid-late summer; avocado green leaves with wide, darker green edge; sport of 'Fragrant Bouquet.'

H. 'Honeybells' pale lavender flowers mid-late summer; light green leaves.

H. 'Hoosier Harmony' white flowers in mid-late summer; gold-centered leaves with green edge; sport of *H. 'Royal Standard.'*

H. 'Invincible' pale lavender flowers in midsummer; bright green leaves that are slightly wavy and distinctly veined; sun tolerant and somewhat pest resistant.

H. 'Ming Treasure' is a *H. plantaginea* sport with green leaves surrounded by a soft yellow margin. It bears fragrant white flowers and is classified as a medium sized hosta at maturity.

H. 'Moonlight Sonata' is an elegant bluish-green foliage becoming shiny green in mid-summer. It has cupped and wavy leaves with good substance and somewhat slug resistant. It bears large fragrant white flowers in midsummer.

H. *plantaginea* has huge, 4-5" long white flowers in mid-late summer; shiny green leaves; sun tolerant. There is some confusion whether *Hosta plantaginea* 'Grandiflora' is the same plant, it probably is.

H. 'Royal Standard' white flowers in mid-late summer; glossy green leaves; sun tolerant.

H. 'So Sweet' nearly white flowers in mid-late summer; soft green leaves with broad, pale gold edge.

H. 'Sugar and Cream' nearly white flowers in mid-late summer; large, wavy, green leaves with creamy edge; a mutation of 'Honeybells.'

H. 'Summer Fragrance' lavender-purple flowers; foliage has a green center streaked with light and dark green and white margins.

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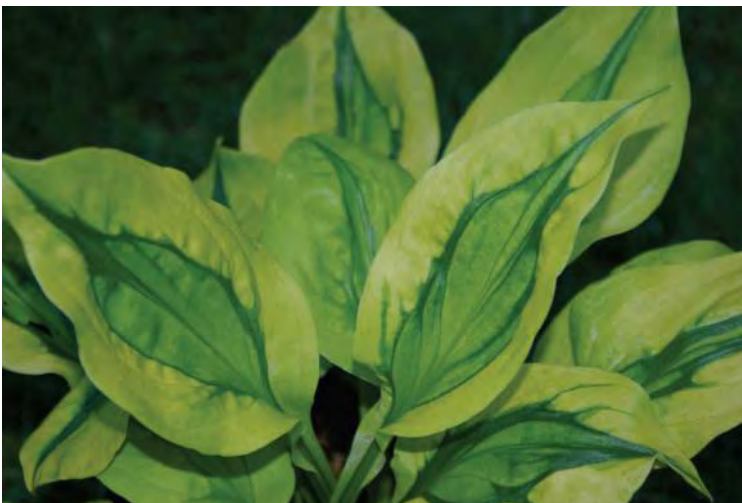
WANTED

Newsletter articles for 2012 issues. Contact the editors if you'd like to write something on any gardening topic.



Colorful hosta group in Maynard and Alfrieda Francis' garden.

Did You Know... cutting your hostas back in the fall before they go dormant may reduce the amount of energy they can store, resulting in smaller plants the following season? *Reprinted from the Mid-South Hosta Society Hosta Hotline, Sept. 2011.*



Sampling of AHS Convention Winners

Above: Both Awards in the Sport Competition of First Look went to Dave Chopko, Tri-State Hosta Society.

Right: A winning leaf: 'Lakeside Dividing Line.'

*Reprinted from the Fall 2011
Tri-State Tribune (NY, NJ and CT)*



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