

Sum & Substance

Newsletter of the Greater Ozarks Hosta Society
April 2013 - Tom Lakowske, Editor



A word from your president...

Isn't it great to see your hostas coming back for another year? They grow up so fast. Now is the ideal time to fertilize, put down slug pellets, and divide to make more hostas.

Because spring started late this year everything is flowering at once. I can't remember seeing forsythia and tulips blooming at the same time. Before you know it the azaleas will be flowering. I can't wait!

Our Next Big Event

Saturday, April 20th from 11 to 1 in our hosta garden at the Botanical Gardens, we will have our spring picnic. Our hosta garden should be beautiful with hostas popping up everywhere. I will bring my famous chicken salad on fresh-baked croissants. If your last name starts with A-H, please bring a salad or side dish. If your last name starts with I-Z, bring a dessert. Bring a chair and your own drinks. Let's make this an old-fashioned picnic – guys and gals, wear your favorite hat. Great opportunity to meet new members!

Recent Events

The hosta dividing seminar was a huge success. We added 10 new members and sold a lot of hostas. Every class was full and everyone learned how to divide and take care of their hostas. Thank you to J.J. Averett, Win Hageman, Georgia O'Keefe, Don Snyder, Alex & Carol Warner, and Ann Gunion for helping dig up, set up, and clean up.

The GOHS is now on Facebook

Please visit our page and "like us". Also, pass it on to your friends. Our website, GOHS.org, is fantastic. It contains recent photos, archived newsletters, our 2013 Event Calendar, and an application for new members.

Hosta Do Now

Mulch, mulch, mulch. It is so much easier to put down mulch before the hostas are fully out. At least 3 inches is recommended. Prune your clematis. Give your container hostas and Japanese maples a shot of liquid Miracle Gro. Fertilize your beds (I use 12-12-12 or 13-13-13). After forsythia have flowered is the best time to prune them for the year. I'd wait on planting any annuals until the end of April.

Welcome to our newest members for 2013

Jennifer & Gene Baldi, Mary Ann Craver, Carol Handing, Curtis Hostetler, Mary & Cindy Jones, Sue Kretzschmar, Ann Meuser, Amanda Schaffer, Chester & Celeste Shrock, Louise Snyder, Teresa Wagner, Donald & Linda Cheever, Steve & Treasure Miller.

Hostas in Containers

by: SWMOgardens.com

Hostas are so versatile. A drift of So Sweet makes an excellent ground cover. A single Great Expectation will grab the eye from 20 feet away. I've also discovered, hostas can be absolutely lovely in the right container. Here are some ideas to try this year.

First the basics: A large container will require less watering. I would recommend a minimum 12 inch wide (or 3 gallon) container. The right potting soil is important, too. A 50/50 mix of Miracle Gro Potting Mix and shredded pine bark mulch (with the big chunks removed) works great for holding in moisture and feeding the plants. Soak the mix really well before putting in the hosta.

Second, choose the right container: If you use ceramic or terra cotta pots, leave the hosta in its plastic pot inside the bigger container. This will make it easier to remove the hosta from the container to plant it in the garden before winter. Hostas can stay in wood, metal, plastic, or concrete containers year round. In December, when the soil is frozen, lay them on their side on the north side of your house until April 1st. There is no need for watering; they will be fine.

Now the fun part:

- Match the color of the container to a color in the hosta. June looks superb in a blue ceramic container.
- Put a giant Sum and Substance or Blue Angel in a ½ barrel with variegated liriope around the edge.
- Regal Splendor is very regal in a tall, vase-shaped, antique container.
- Unusual hostas like Praying Hands, Fire Island, or cute little Blue Mouse Ears, make excellent centerpieces on a table.
- Try grouping three of the same hosta around a small fountain.
- Plant a collection of mini hosta in a large container with a dwarf Japanese maple.
- Add companion plants. Impatiens or vinca major around a blue Halcyon look beautiful. Japanese painted fern and Krossa Regal go great together. The right coleus or heuchera compliment a chartreuse hosta wonderfully.

If you keep your containers of hostas together, instead of spread all over the garden, it will make watering a lot easier. Place a bunch of hostas on your deck so you can see them from inside, or be surrounded by them while sitting outside.

Experiment with hostas in containers this year. You're sure to love the results.

Would You Like To Be A Guest Author?

If you have an area of expertise, or something you have a real passion for, right it down. It doesn't have to be about hostas; it can be about any gardening related topic. Keep it under 500 words and e-mail it to me. I'll include it in the newsletter. Thanks.

Garden Jumbles

Before there were flowers.

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Hosta BFF

Variegated Solomon's Seal It is a carefree ground cover in the shadiest parts of a border, in woodland settings, and under trees. It reaches a height of about 3 feet. The blossoms – tiny elongated bells – begin in May. Dangling in twos or threes, they hang from gracefully arching stems. In light to deep shade, given moist soil, the plants will spread rapidly and naturalize. Plant them with a white-edged hosta to create an impressive combination.



The Hosta Garden/Drummond Deck

Cool shade and the soothing cascade of the water feature make the hosta garden one of the most popular areas for weddings. Being adjacent to the beautiful rose and white gardens, and the ability to seat 50 guests (100 standing) allows for plenty of photo opportunities. The Drummond Deck platform between the hosta garden and Lake Drummond can be used for larger ceremonies or a separate reception space. Reserve this space for your special event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. or 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., April through October. The nominal fee of \$250 per event is an additional incentive. Call the Botanical Center to check availability. Reservation applications and full payment are required to secure your date. 417-891-1515.

Want to Win \$50?

The GOHS has a superb reputation at the Botanical Gardens because of how well we maintain our hosta garden. This year if you spend one hour either pulling weeds, or using a leaf rake to rake the paths, you will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 Hilltop Farms gift certificate. You may enter every time you spend an hour in the garden. No reservation or scheduling is needed – just go. E-mail me with your name, date, and time you spent and you will be entered in the drawing. The drawing will take place at the Saturday, August 31 hosta plant auction.



Hosta of the Month

H. ventricosa 'Aureomarginata' has reached the level of "hosta classic". The dark green centers have an irregular, rich, white margin. Three-foot tall flower scapes are adorned with bell-shaped purple flowers. I love sitting here watching the bumble bees go from flower to flower in the summer. Aureomarginata is a quick grower, and is very easy to divide.

Help Find New Members

We have approximately 160 members in the GOHS. The majority of the new members joined from events and being asked. Please forward this newsletter to all your gardening buddies, societies you belong, or anyone else who enjoys growing hostas and would like to be involved with a fun group of people.

Volunteer Needed

The GOHS and the Botanical Gardens would like an accurate scale drawing of the layout of the beds in the hosta garden. It does not have to include type of hosta or location, just the dimensions and locations of the beds. Interested? Call me at 860-4959

Master Gardener Plant Sale and Friends of the Garden Garage Sale

Saturday, April 27th, from 7:30 until everything is sold. You do not want to miss this. Hundreds of plants will be offered for sale at bargain prices. And, everything from FOG members' garages and basements can now become your treasures. There will be thousands of items to peruse and purchase. Come early and bring a lot of cash!



GREATER OZARKS HOSTA SOCIETY 2013 EVENT CALENDAR

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, HOSTA GARDEN, 11-1, SPRING PICNIC Our hosta garden should be beautiful, showing all the freshness of spring. We'll have an old fashioned picnic, meet new friends, and relax. Bring your favorite picnic dish to share. RAIN DATE, SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 12-2

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, BOTANICAL CENTER, 7 - 12, MASTER GARDENERS PLANT SALE Open to the public! Come buy perennials, shrubs, trees, and lovely hostas.

THURSDAY, MAY 16, HILLTOP FARMS, 10-12 Come out to enjoy one of the largest and most beautiful hosta gardens in the Midwest. Truly a sight to behold. RAIN DATE, FRIDAY, MAY 17, 10-12

FRIDAY, MAY 31, AN EVENING IN THE GARDEN, 6-9 One of our biggest events of the year. Tour J.J. Averett's gorgeous garden, and enjoy good friends, good food, and good times. Free to members. \$10 per person for guests. RAIN DATE, SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 6-9

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 4-7, BBQ PICNIC, We'll have a wonderful time out at DON NICHOLSON'S MISSOURI EXTENSION RECOGNIZED CENTURY FARM. Enjoy a beautiful collection of clematis and large hostas. This garden is a must see, and the grills will be smokin'! RAIN DATE, SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 4-7

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 9-NOON, BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL We will have a booth.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, BOTANICAL CENTER, 3 - 6 , HOSTA PLANT AUCTION, AND SWEETS TABLE A good time will be had by everyone! Hilltop Farms and Peggy's Flowers bring dozens of assorted hostas and perennials for sale in our lively auction. While buying, satisfy your sweet tooth from a giant sweets table! Door prizes, too!

PLEASE – Mark your calendars to attend all of our 2013 events.

Have fun, and make new friends!

QUESTIONS? CALL TOM @ 860-4959

OR GO TO GOHS.ORG