

# Sum & Substance

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



## A word from your president...

Yippee! March 20<sup>th</sup> is the first day of spring. And even though this winter was reasonably mild, I still look forward to the start of spring with eager anticipation. Any warm day pulls me out into the garden, even if it's just to walk around and look for new growth. Speaking of new, you'll notice this is the first newsletter we have sent in a PDF format. We think it will be easier to read, and for those of you who like a hard copy, it will be easier to print.

## Recent Events

The Lawn and Garden Show was a huge success. Our booth was gorgeous. You can see pictures of it on the Greater Ozarks Hosta Society Facebook page. We had over 20 new members join us. The 2013 Kick-Off Party was a blast. Everyone had a lot of ice cream; and most people went home with door prizes and hostas. We even had fun with background checks.

## Our Hosta Garden at the Springfield Botanical Gardens

The garden is ready for spring. We had a group of 24 members weeding, raking, cleaning out the pond, planting, fertilizing, and building a new bed. Our garden will be absolutely gorgeous this year. Make sure to stop by and see it. All the preliminary work is complete for submitting our garden to the American Hosta Society to be approved as an AHS National Display Garden. We should know more this summer.

## 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

Right now is the perfect time to clean up debris, apply Preen, Osmocote fertilizer, and slug bait to your hosta beds. Now is when you should weed whack your liriopse down to about an inch tall. Don't wait much longer, so you don't damage new growth. Finish all your pruning and cut back your perennials. I start spreading my ground up leaf mold 2-3 inches deep on my beds before the hostas emerge.

## Welcome to our newest members for 2013

Shirley Templeton, Sue Fuller, Penny Wilson, Ron & Mary Jones, Candy Clark, Evelyn Davis, Paula Montgomery, Julie Williams, Lynette Butler, Becky Nicholas, Ben Kinel, Robert & Jane Schwarz, Susan Whiteaker, Audrey & Gary Kelsey, Tom Bakie, Larry Farrell, Janice Myers, Sarah Hawkins, Lynn Carbol, Barbara Heinrichs-Hardy, Beth Platt, Steve Butts, Randy & Willie Poindexter, and Dory Hyde.

## START SPRING EARLY

**MARCH CAN BE SO CRUEL.** You have just suffered through January and February, two of our nastiest months of the year. You are begging to get outside and play in the garden. Then March will tease you with a warm day and you just can't stand it anymore. So out you go, vainly searching for some sign of spring; maybe a fresh leaf, a flower, even a dandelion would be welcome. BUT, NO! Should you slump your shoulders in defeat and drag your body back indoors for another 30 days?

**NO! YOU CAN HAVE A WONDERFUL, COLORFUL, FLOWER SHOW ALL MARCH LONG.** Here at Alta Birdsong (our garden) we have figured out how to start spring early. It's easy if you use the right plants that reliably start flowering in early March and continue into early April.

- **FORSYTHIA.** The bright yellow flowers signal the approaching end of winter. Plant one (trust us – one is plenty) in a far corner of your yard away from paths and patios to avoid constant pruning. Give it a lot of room, at least a 10 foot by 10 foot square, so it can develop its lovely, arching, fountain shape.
- **STAR MAGNOLIA.** “Royal Star” has a beautiful pure white flower. It will get about 15 to 20 feet tall, so it fits very nicely in a small garden. Do not put it in a prime viewing spot because some years a late freeze will turn the flowers into an ugly mush. We have ours in a back corner and most years it is lovely.
- **PJM RHODODENDRON.** Vivid lavender-pink blossoms fill this shrub every March. A coating of snow is just stunning. We have one planted right outside our breakfast room window. Plant in early spring and keep it moist so the roots get established before winter. The leaves are evergreen and curl closed during sub-freezing temperatures.
- **WITCH HAZEL.** This tree grows very slowly and takes a few years to put out flowers. But, when it does, everyone will ask you, “what is that?”. “Arnold's Promise” has weird, yellow, spidery petals. Occasionally, this starts flowering in February. Way cool!
- **KOREAN SPICE VIBURNUM.** Get one of these if you want to fill your garden with a heavenly, sweet-clove fragrance. It will eventually be a 7 foot tall by 7 foot wide shrub. Plant it close to your window for those nice March days and let the aroma fill the house. You will love it.
- **YOSHINO CHERRY.** Late in March, usually after the hard freezes are over, this tree will become a large cloud of white blossoms. Against a pure blue sky, it is gorgeous.
- **RED BUD.** Probably should be named pink bud. Full of pink flowers in March. Red bud is the perfect tree for under the canopy of taller trees. Try “Oklahoma” red bud with shiny green leaves and rich, dark purple flowers (our favorite).
- **LENTEN ROSE.** We grow this right outside our office window for a cheery pick-me-up in late winter. The cup shape flowers actually grow almost upside down. Not a rose, but a low-growing perennial. Plant in a shady spot; it doesn't like sun.
- **DAFFODILS.** Everyone should have some daffodils. From the large “King Alfred” to the petite little “Tête-à-tête”, daffodils are sure to give you that feel good feeling when you see them in March. Plant with daylilies or hostas to hide the daffodil foliage as it dies back in May.

The more of these you plant now, the better your mood will be next March as you smile and enjoy your early spring. To view photos of all these plants, visit our “How to Chase Away the Winter Blues” at [SWMOGardens.com](http://SWMOGardens.com).

## Garden Jumbles

Granddaddy of them all:

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FGTRA    ○    \_\_\_    \_\_\_    ○    \_\_\_  
WCORN    \_\_\_    ○    ○    \_\_\_    \_\_\_  
WDYEE    \_\_\_    ○    ○    ○    \_\_\_  
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### Hosta BFF

**PJM Rhododendron** Even though you won't find a hosta next to a blooming PJM rhododendron, they are still excellent BFFs. They both have the same light and moisture requirements. What make PJM exceptional is the gorgeous vivid lavender-pink blooms in March and April. It will mature around 6 to 8 feet tall and wide. It is relatively maintenance free once established. I keep the roots well mulched. You will love it.



### Our Next Big Event

Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at the Botanical Center Workshop lab from 9 to noon, we will hold our HOSTA DIVIDING SEMINAR AND PLANT SALE. We will have three- one hour classes, starting at 9, 10, and 11. This will be a hands-on class using actual hostas from our hosta garden. The public will learn how to divide and care for hostas. We will also have 100 hostas for sale. Members are encouraged to attend.



### Hosta of the Month

*H.* 'Halcyon' has proved to be one of the best blue hostas in the garden. Very sturdy, easy to grow, and fairly slug resistant. Several sports have been found from Halcyon, including 'June'. A gorgeous combination is planting 'Halcyon' and 'June' together. As you can see in the photo, a touch of chartreuse nearby will make the blue look even richer. 'Halcyon' is by far my favorite blue.

## Help Find New Members

We have approximately 150 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.

## Event Calendar

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30, BOTANICAL CENTER WORKSHOP/LAB, 9-12, HOSTA DIVIDING SEMINAR AND PLANT SALE** Open to the public! Three 1 hour seminars at 9, 10, and 11. You'll learn the easiest way to divide and care for hostas. Plus, several of the most dependable and popular hostas will be for sale. Don't miss this!

**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**