

# Sum & Substance

Newsletter of the Greater Ozarks Hosta Society  
October 2014 - Tom Lakowske, Editor

**From Tom,**

Sure was a wonderful year for hostas. Plenty of spring moisture, no hail storms, and a fairly cool summer had all our hostas looking great!



## **What To Do With Your Hostas Now?**

Fall is the perfect time to KILL SLUGS. I would suggest putting down Metaldehyde pellets right now, and again in early November. You will greatly reduce the slug population next year. Also, WATER YOUR HOSTAS! Adequate moisture now will create larger, healthier hostas next year. As for hosta bed clean up, I wait on removing my hosta debris until winter. Let all the nutrients from the leaves go back into the plant. Don't pull off leaves if you have to tug on them. You can rake the dead leaves off easily during winter.

## **What To Do With Your Hostas This Winter?**

If you have containers, when they freeze solid, lay them on their sides on the north side of your house and forget about them until the last week of March. Laying the container on its side keeps water from rotting out the hosta crown over winter. Your hostas go dormant with no growth all winter long. Keep a bag of mulch handy. If you see a hosta with its crown sticking above the ground, throw a couple of handfuls of mulch over it for protection. Plan where you want to add more hostas next year.

## **Big Plans For Next Year!**

We are having a presentation on hosta companions by Oscar Cross, a GIANT B.B.Q. at Don Nicholson's century farm, a kick-off party catered by Qdoba (Mexican theme), hosta dividing seminar with 200 hostas for sale, picnics, and much more. If you would like to give your opinions and input for the GOHS for 2015, come to our planning meeting on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 at the Botanical Center. If you have a favorite PUMPKIN dessert/recipe, feel free to bring it to share!