



# Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society

Fall 2005

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## President's Message

It's kind of sad to look out on our gardens at this time of year. The hostas are beginning to look ragged and are getting smaller than they were just a few short weeks ago when they were at the height of their beauty. At least we know that next year when they come back they'll be bigger and better than ever before.

We had a delightful garden party at the Hamiltons' home. It rained but that didn't stop us from enjoying the beauty of the garden and the food, drinks and fellowship. We had about 85% attendance. That's outstanding for a rainy day. I loved seeing those umbrellas coming up the drive. After viewing the garden, most of us were huddled inside the garage and under a canopy where we had a very pleasant time talking and laughing with one another. I want to thank the Hamiltons again for being so generous and allowing us to use their home and garden.

We had a very successful sale in May. We do have plants left. We'll have

them for sale at the September 10th meeting. If there's a plant that you've been thinking about since May, you've got one last chance to get it before the end of the year. There's still plenty of time to plant.

The Club would like to try having mini tours next year of club members' gardens. This plan is fashioned after a similar program by the Master Gardeners. We would line up three gardens of members who have indicated that their gardens are open. We will make sure that these gardens are located near each other. The tours would be open to members only. Gardens wouldn't need to be "perfect". We'll be looking for volunteers with nice gardens that they'd like to share. We might try having a couple of mini tours next summer. Please help us by signing up to show your garden. I think this will be a great new program for us.

I hope you all have a pleasant autumn and winter and next year finds you all happy and healthy.

Kathy

For those of you who attended the garden party at the Hamiltons', below is the recipe for the chicken salad that was **handmade by Charlene Wedel**, one of our members. It was absolutely delicious.

### Wild Rice Chicken Salad

¾ cup Uncooked wild rice – cook as directed on the package. Set aside

3-4 diced, boiled chicken breasts-cooked with onion & celery

1 ½ cups seedless grapes, halved

¾ cup yogurt

¾ cup Hellman's mayo

¾ to 1 cup cashews (can use salted or unsalted)

Combine all ingredients except the cashews. Add the cashews just before serving so that they stay crunchy.

# Do You Love Art in Your Garden?

By Kathy Pease

I love to add whimsical objects to my garden. I think a frog figurine here, a stained glass butterfly there, and a solar powered ladybug add personality to my garden. To me, adding art makes the garden even more interesting and uniquely your own.

Some of you might remember about three years ago the Club had a program featuring “Garden Art”. It was a great hit. We had very positive feedback so we decided to have another one.

Our meeting will be at 10 a.m. on September 10 at Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church, 9300 Nall, Overland Park, KS. We won’t be having a formal meeting. We’ll have “stations” set up around the room where different art projects will be displayed. You’ll be able to roam from station to station and learn more about the items that interest you. We’ll have handouts of information so that you’ll be able to recreate your own art at home.

- We’ll have exhibits of various methods for creating stepping stones. Stepping stones are easy to create. You can make them as unique as you want and even the kids can get involved.
- We’ll have a display of decorated gourds that have beautiful intricate wood-burned designs on them. Wait until you see a cat face on a gourd.
- We’ll have mosaic items including birdhouses, a birdbath, stepping stones, watering can and pots.

Everyone can do mosaics. The only rule in mosaics is that there are no rules. This is another craft that would be great for the kids.

- We’ll have carved sandstone garden posts. Do you name your gardens? This is an elegant way to identify your gardens or even to post your address. It’s easy to do and looks impressive.
- We’ll have leaf castings. This is the latest craze in garden art. Learn how to do it now while it’s “hot”. Our door prize will be a lotus leaf casting which is being donated by Nancy Erwine.
- We’ll show you plantings that are actually *inside* rocks. It gives new meaning to the term “rock garden”.

**If you are crafty and would like to display your garden art, we would love to add you to our program. If you sell your projects, you’re welcome to sell your items at the meeting. Please call Kathy at (816) 468-1468.**

Garden art is a great holiday gift too, especially when it’s created by a loved one. Come on out and get inspired to create something fun and attractive. Art projects can be entertaining for the entire family and you can add personality to your garden.





## Climate of Japan - Hosta dormancy

The ocean climate of Japan is wet and humid and has four distinct seasons. Hokkaido and other parts of northern Japan have long, harsh winters and relatively short cool summers. Average temperatures in the northern city of Sapporo dip to -50C/23F in January but reach only 200C/68F in July. Central Japan has cold but short winters and hot, humid summers. In Tokyo, temperatures average 30C/39F in January and 250C/77F in July. Kyushu is subtropical, with short, mild winters and hot, humid summers. Average temperatures in the southern city of Kagoshima are 70C/45F in January and 260C/79F) in July. Hosta grow there too! Farther south, the Ryukyu Islands are warmer still, with frost-free winters - no hostas there!

There are many other factors: elevation (the above temps are at seacoast towns), total precipitation, timing of precipitation, soil temperatures, soil freezing depth, night temperatures, duration of snow cover, and shade. Spring shade delays soil warming - spring sun advances it. I would say soil temps are the most important.

To say 700 hours below 40 is not science. They grow hostas in subtropical Italy, but they put them in pots to be exposed to the much colder night air temps.

Another factor is genetic and how the species have adapted to warmer climates. The central and southern Japanese hostas do fine in the South given enough summer moisture. Did the

cultivar come from southern species or from northern ones? Or did a particular clone of *H. montana* come from the North or South in Japan. They grow all over. Hostas have a high degree of adaptability. One key seems to be dormancy. Delayed dormancy might affect growth rates. If the temps are low enough to trigger normal autumn dormancy, the hostas will probably grow there. If they get abundant rain in August/September as they do in Japan (not here in the USA), they can stand higher summer and night temps. No rain and above 350C/over 90F) during late summer/early fall can make them go heat dormant and they will lose a seasons root growth, hence they will decline (as here in the South). But given plenty of moisture in late summer in southern regions seems to make up for the shorter winter cooling periods and earlier soil warm-up. Up north they may have enough "chilling" but if they dry out during the critical root growth period they suffer too. It is a combination of factors!

There are no fast and hard numbers because no one has scientifically determined what they might be. This would be quite a task, because so many factors impact the growth rates and survival rates. If anyone out there has real numbers, determined scientifically, I would like to know about them.

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**Holy Mole**

*These are some of the Hostas we will have next spring at our sale.*



**Fireworks**



**Unforgettable**



### Heartland Hosta Society Dues

To ensure your continued newsletter mailings, please make sure you're current on dues. If you're not sure, check your mailing address label for the year next to your name. You are paid up through that year. We ask that you prepay at least 2 years dues at a time.

### Join the American Hosta Society

The publications alone are worth the annual dues. Visit the AHS website ([www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org)) for the latest membership options.

### Join the Midwest Regional Hosta Society

The MRHS (including both KS and MO) publishes two newsletters a year, holds an annual Summer Convention and a Winter Scientific Meeting. Dues are only \$10 per year payable to MRHS.

Send dues to:  
Scott Hildebrandt  
MRHS Treasurer  
1020 Redwood Drive  
Norwalk, IA 50211

**Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society**

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**Heartland Hosta and Shade Plant Society  
Membership and Renewal Form**

Your dues are currently paid up through the year next to your name on the mailing address label. We ask that all members prepay at least 2 years dues at a time to minimize the paperwork and bookkeeping. Dues are only \$5 per year which is the lowest of any local hosta society in the country.

Check one... NEW MEMBER  RENEWAL

Name	Street Address
City, State, Zip	Home Phone
Business Phone	E-Mail Address
Fax	Member of American Hosta Society?
Is Your Garden Open to Visitors?	Would You Like To Volunteer?

***Please return this form with your e-mail address even if your dues are paid up. Newsletters will be sent via e-mail to help keep our membership dues low. Return this form and your dues to:***

Pat Mora

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