



# Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society

Spring 2007

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## *President's Message*

Finally, the weather is starting to feel like spring is almost here. I'm writing this on March 2 and I'm noticing that the trees are beginning to bud. I can hardly wait for the grass to green up. The Board has been busy making decisions and plans for this year's Club activities. We've decided on our program for the year; and we have ordered all the plants for the May 12 sale. They will be arriving in the first week of April.

The Club's new location for meetings and our sale is the Faith Lutheran Church on the southwest corner of 67<sup>th</sup> and Roe in Prairie Village. Faith Lutheran is where we held our sale last year. Rolling Hills could no longer accommodate us.

Our guest speaker at the March 24 at 10:00 a.m., meeting will be Peter Cross. The Cross family own and operate Hilltop Farm near Springfield, Missouri. The title of Peter's presentation is "Sports Illustrated".

Our Annual Hosta and Shade Plant Sale will be on May 12 beginning at 9 a.m. and will run until 2 p.m. We'll have 76 varieties of hosta and a number arisaemas, epimediums and other shade perennials.

How about giving your Mom a great shade plant for Mother's Day?

This issue of the newsletter is being mailed to the entire membership. Many of you normally receive your newsletters and other messages from the club via email. Some people have said that they have not been receiving emails from us. Please be sure that the club has your current email address. Sometimes you change it and forget to tell us. Perhaps others of you have your computer security turned to a level where our emails are not getting through. Pat Mora takes care of emailing the newsletters and other messages. It might be helpful if you would add Pat's name in your email address book. Your computer will see this as a non-threatening email and let it come in. Pat's email address is [patmora@comcast.net](mailto:patmora@comcast.net)

I hope to see all of you at our spring meeting where Peter Cross will help get us inspired to get out all are gardening gear and get started.

***Kathy***

## **Greater Kansas City Master Gardeners 2007 Tour Friday June 15 and Saturday 16, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**

The Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City invite you to attend our 2007 garden tour from midtown south along the stateline corridor. View nine exceptional private gardens that include a large mult-level water garden, beautiful roses, a greenhouse brimming with orchids, and more. Witness an authentic Japanese tea ceremony at the Loose Park Garden Center, see the Kurashiki Japanese

Garden and Tea Room, and stroll the Laura Conyers Smith Municipal Rose Garden where your rose related questions will be answered by Kansas City Rose Society members. See two certified rain gardens. Purchase plants raised by Master gardeners or garden works created by Master gardeners. Tickets are \$10 in advance, or \$12 the day of the tour. For more information call 816-252-5051 or <http://muextension.missouri.edu/gkcmg>



## 2007 Events

### March 24

Heartland Hosta Spring Meeting at 10:00 a.m.,  
(Faith Lutheran Church)

### May 12

Heartland Hosta Annual Plant Sale  
(Faith Lutheran Church)

### June 20-23

American Hosta Society National Convention  
Indianapolis, IN

### July 12-14

Midwest Regional Hosta Convention hosted by  
Mississippi Valley Hosta Society  
Davenport, IA

### September 22

Heartland Hosta Fall Meeting  
(Faith Lutheran Church)



## Hosta Species – **Seeing RED**

*By W. George Schmid of the Georgia Hosta Society*

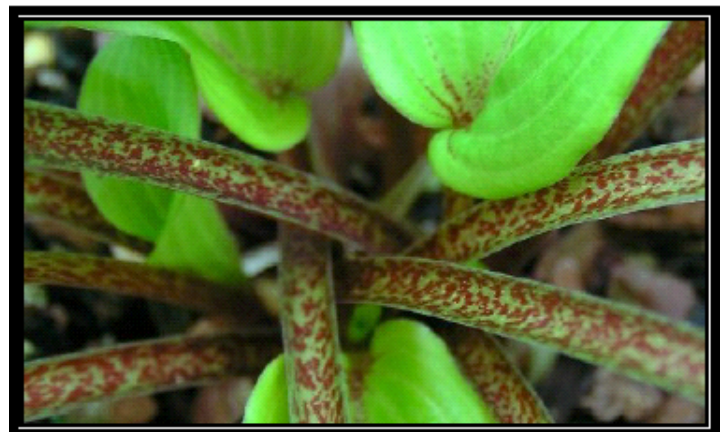
When I did the research for my book *The Genus Hosta – Giboshi Zoku* in the late 1980s, many hosta species were enigma. In fact, some were not even discovered yet, like *H. yingeri*, *H. jonesii* and *H. laevigata*. *H. pycnophylla* had just been described a few years before. The latter has turned out to be one of the great parents for a number of **Seeing Red** hybrids. Let's face it, all of those variegated sports and hybrids we see in our gardens go back to some species origin, or perhaps several species that some clever hybridizer has used to come up with unique features. One of those unique features has to be red in the hosta. Yes, I am **Seeing RED** for two reasons: I like red petioles and scapes and to have red in the leaves has been a dream of many hosta enthusiasts for a long time. **Seeing RED** is not really **Seeing RED**, because it is not really a red color but one that is perceived by many as red, particularly since it usually is combined with green. One thing is clear: Whether red, pink, lilac, mauve, light or dark purple, or even maroon, everybody in hostadom is **Seeing RED**, or, at least, in the brain functions of many it **IS RED**, or perhaps some color that shades into red.

There are many hostas that have some spotting near the ground, but to get the color to move into the upper parts of the petiole or even into the leaves, you have to start with the *H. longipes* f. *hypoglauca* I collected in Japan many years ago and here are pictures of habitat.

A dozen clones of the elusive *Kofuki Iwa Giboshi* were eventually imported into the U.S. and formed the basis for getting **RED** into petioles, scapes and leaves. This was by no means an easy task. I know that Tony Avent has been working on this for many years. After the



RED raceme of a *H. longipes*  
Hosta Hill Garden 2006



*H. 'Katsuragawa Beni'* (Photo J. Linneman)  
(桂林川 紅色 means Katsura River Red )  
Katsura (桂林) means Beautiful Forest





*In the Forest of Chichibu, Japan Uragibosan longipes f. hypoglauca At Hosta Hill Garden*

AHS Convention in Virginia-Washington, I was invited to his Plant Delights Nursery and he took me to his secret stash in one of his greenhouses. There they were, a whole bunch of plants “painted” RED all over. What a sight! This was 2001 and now, five years later, the results are getting publicity. Tony realized way before 2001 that RED would be in one day and sure enough, IT IS NOW, BIG TIME. I have been playing around with all of that RED ever since I collected H. longipes f. hypoglauca and I include a few photos of my efforts. Mind you, I am just

playing around; it is a lot of fun.

When we finally plunk down a bunch of money in exchange for an “ALL PAINTED RED ONE,” we ought to remember that it started with one of those green ones (=species) that many have forsaken.

If you happen to still like “green ones” or now “red and green ones,” (still = species types), then you can find lots more information and lots of pictures on my Species Update. Go to [Hostalibrary](#). On the Home Page, click on W.G. Schmid Species Update and

scroll down to the individual species descriptions. Those that are in underlined blue are finished and can be viewed. Under H. longipes (Part 1 and 2) and H. longipes f. hypoglauca you will see where that SEEING RED came from in the wild. If you want to know how Tony Avent came up with the beauty pictured below, I am not going to tell. You have to ask him yourself. During the 2006 AHS Convention in Philadelphia, those wanting to See RED finally got to see one of Tony’s REDS, an entry that easily got to the head table of the Hosta Show (the leaves were entered by Hans Hansen for Tony).

Although Tony says he is still working on it, I think it is a step in the right direction. I like green hostas and red is Hildegarde’s favorite color. In the Schmid family, this color combination is supreme (particularly on a hosta leaf).



### 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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**From the North:**  
*135 South* to Roe (18th St.). South on Roe to 67th.

**From the NW:**  
*1635 South* (635 becomes Metcalf in Johnson Co.) to Shawnee Mission Pky East. SM Pkw E. to Nall. S on Nall to 67th, E on 67th to Roe.

**From the South:**  
Olathe: *135 North* to 75<sup>th</sup>, west on 75<sup>th</sup> to Roe, north to 67<sup>th</sup>

**From the East:** Any major street west to Roe

**From the West:** Any major street east to Roe