



Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society

Fall 2009

**Board of Directors
President/Newsletter
Editor:**

Penny Balfour
(913) 722-4925
hostalady@kc.rr.com

**Vice President:
Bob Balfour**
(913) 722-4925
rbalfour@kc.rr.com

**Vice President
Plant Sales:
Keith Wheeler**
(816) 228-9308
gmwheeler@juno.com

**Treasurer:
Kathy Pease**
(816) 468-1468
kpease@kc.rr.com

**Secretary:
Gwen Wheeler**
(816) 228-9308
gmwheeler@juno.com

**Membership:
Nancy Erwine**
(816) 781-8542
erwinen@william.jewell.edu

**Hospitality:
Charlene Wendel**
(816) 313-2907
gramracer@hotmail.com

**Plant Committee:
Annella Church-Kuhar**
(913) 888-4258
churharr2@yahoo.com
Cerise Harris
(816) 353-8905
cjharris@kc.rr.com



President's Message

Hello everyone! I've been enjoying this unusual Summer. A wonderfully cool July with plenty of Rain.

Saturday September 12th doors open at 9:30 a.m., Faith Lutheran Church at 67th and Roe, we will have an excellent and humorous guest speaker, Mike Shadrack. Mike has been a member of the American Hosta Society since 1992 and is Vice-President of Publications. He came to know hostas through his other hobby fish-keeping, when the beauty of hostas reflected in a garden pond.



Mike Shadrack

In 1996, Mike retired from London's Metropolitan police after 32 years of service. As a police officer he served in many parts of London including Soho, White Chapel, and at Scotland Yard where he was responsible for Public Order & Ceremonial Planning. He is also a qualified London Tourist Board Guide & organizes garden tours both in England and specialized hosta tours in the US.

Another hobby, photography, has led to a library of about 4,500 slides of hosta varieties and hosta gardens, many of which have been published in UK & US magazines. In addition, he supplied illustrations for the Royal Horticultural society, Wisley hand-book 'Hostas'. He is co-author with Diane Grenfell and photographer of the book "The Color Encyclopedia of Hostas" in 2004. Also the sequel "Pocket guide to Hostas" released in 2007.



He will speak about "Little Wonders" at 10:00 a.m.. We will have hostas for sale before and after the meeting. We have some new hostas, 'Mighty Mouse', 'Little Jay', 'Lakeside Shore Master' 'Frosted Mouse Ears', 'Holy Mouse Ears', and 'Cat and Mouse' that arrived too late for our sale in May. Besides the new Hostas we have several left from our May sale that look real good.

Hope to see you Saturday September 12th at 9:30 a.m.

Penny

**Hosta Meeting Saturday September 12, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
at Faith Lutheran Church,
67th & Roe, Prairie Village, Kansas**



Keith Wheeler will have plant stands and hypatufa pots for sale at the meeting



2009 Events

September 12
Heartland Hosta Fall
Meeting
(Faith Lutheran Church)

2010 Events

March 13
Heartland Hosta Fall
Meeting
(Faith Lutheran Church)

May 11
Heartland Hosta Annual
Plant Sale
(Faith Lutheran Church)

September 11
Heartland Hosta Fall
Meeting
(Faith Lutheran Church)



Trough Gardens

---by Sarah DaPra in *Hosta Journal* Volume 36 Number 1

Are you running out of space in your garden? Do you have a patio or balcony with extra space? Do you have small hostas that don't do well in competition with larger plants? All of these are good reasons to consider creating a trough garden.

You can use about any type of pot to contain your garden, but some of the more traditional choices are concrete composite, ceramic and terra cotta. You may also want to try metal, baskets, hollowed-out logs or other nontraditional choices. Whatever you decide, make sure the container has adequate drainage and that it won't overpower the garden.

Once you decide on a container, the next step is the soil. Any good potting mix will work, and so will soil from your garden. I use Metro Mix, which is light and makes it easy to move my containers, and mix in about a half cup of greensand to every five gallons of Metro Mix. (Another thing I like about Metro Mix is that it doesn't contain perlite; the little white particles of perlite in other mixes tend to pop up to the top of the groundcover every time I water.) I don't fertilize my troughs, since the greensand provides enough trace minerals to sustain the plants, but if you do want to feed your garden, I would recommend using a very small amount of Osmocote in the spring.

When choosing hostas for your troughs, the main rule is to create a garden that you will like to look at. Use hostas in different colors and those with unusual leaf shapes, such as Hosta 'UXU-no-mai' or 'Blue Mouse Ears'. Be creative by using seedlings from your own garden, by choosing bonsai, miniature or small hostas, or by incorporating liners of cultivars that will become large plants some day.

Then think about companion plants. Anything goes, as long as the varieties chosen require the same cultural conditions as hostas and are relatively small (including seedlings of larger plants). Combining plants of different heights adds vertical interest. Also consider including decorative elements. Possibilities include large rocks, a "river" of small stones, a gazebo or a birdbath. Some moss or groundcover can be used to hide the soil. Of course, you may be quite happy with just a few hostas and a fern. It's your garden!



Taking care of your trough is no different from caring for your garden in most respects. You need to water, weed and watch for problems. When plants outgrow the container, you can split

them and plant the extras in your garden or give them to friends. A trough does need some special care during the winter. If some of the plants in a container can't take freezing temperatures, you will have to move them until spring.

Ceramic containers will need a lot of protection during the winter so they won't break. You should put them in a protected place, such as the north side of a building, and cover them well with an insulating material such as oak leaves. (Even if you put the pot in a garage you should give it some insulation.) Make sure the soil is dry before the first freeze. That applies to all types of containers; in the late fall, place troughs on their side so any excess moisture can drain out. In the spring, place the pots in a shady spot and water sparingly until the hostas start coming up.

Each trough creation is unique and each is its own beautiful garden. I hope you can't wait to create a miniature garden of your own.

Hosta Name	Size	Leaf color
Amazing Grace	M/L	cream-white mgn, dark green ctr
Ann Kulpa	L	wide green mgn, yellow-cream ctr
Blue Ivory	M	wide cream mgn, blue ctr
Cameo	Mini	cream mgn, green ctr
Cat and Mouse	Mini	light blue-green ctr, dark blue mgn
Cathedral Windows	L	wide dark green mgn, yellow green ctr
Celestial	L	white mgn, green ctr
Clovelly	M	green with piecrust edges
Dixie Chickadee	Mini	dark green mgn, cream-yellow ctr
Fantasy Island	S	green mgn, yellow ctr
Fat Cat	L	solid yellow gold
Fireworks	S	dark green mgn, creamy white ctr
Frosted Mouse Ears	Mini	cream yellow mgn, green ctr
Greensleeves	M	dark green mgn, white ctr
Hacksaw	S	long narrow rippled green leaves
Hollywood Lights	L	wide dark green mgn, yellow green ctr
Holy Mouse Ears	Mini	blue green mgn, yellow ctr
Lakeside Beach Captain	M	wide blue green mgn, nrw yellow ctr
Lakeside Dragonfly	M	lance shape, white mgn, green ctr
Lakeside Shore Master	L	dark blue green mgn, blue green ctr
Lakeside Zinger	Mini	white irregular mgn, green ctr
Little Jay	Mini	nrw leaves white ctr, nrw green mgn
London Fog	M	white speckling early, more green later
Mighty Mouse	S	cream white mgn, blue grey ctr
Montana 'Aureomarginata'	L	wide gold irregular mgn, green ctr
Orion's Belt	M	white mgn, dark green ctr
Pete's Dark Satellite	L	large round dark green leaves
Pilgrim	M	yellow white mgn, gray green ctr
Red Hot Pocker	M	white mgn, green ctr
Rootin Tootin	M	wide dark green mgn, white ctr
Summer Lovin	M	wide yellow cream mgn, green ctr
Sun Power	L	solid yellow gold
Sun Worshipper	S/M	solid yellow gold, red petioles
The Razors Edge	S	long ruffled green leaves, red petioles



Holy Mouse Ears



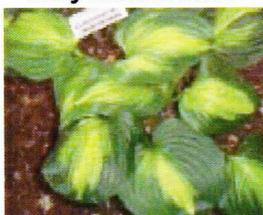
Summer Lovin



Mighty Mouse



Lakeside Shore Master



Cathedral Windows



Little Jay



Hollywood Lights



Blue Ivory



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 at a time.

Join the American Hosta Society

The publications alone are worth the annual dues. Visit the AHS website (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:
Pete Postlewaite
MRHS Treasurer
21172 Andover Rd.
Kildeer, IL 60047



Members need to keep dues up to date!

Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society
Penny Balfour, Newsletter Editor
4912 Pawnee Dr.
Roeland Park, KS 66205

How late is too late to plant hostas in the fall?



August is a great time to plant hostas almost anywhere in the country. You can safely plant them all month in the Midwest and North and the latter half of the month in the South. My standard rule is you want to get them in the ground 4-6 weeks before the first frost. This allows them to make some new roots

while the soil is still warm and then have some time to prepare for winter.

Most of us, though, have planted hostas in the ground later than that with good success. I have planted them as late as the first week of November without any noticeable ill effects. You do run a risk with late planting however. Hostas are completely dormant during the winter, and they will not produce new roots until after they have made new foliage in the spring. They literally sleep through the winter.

Late planted hostas may rot over the winter if 1) the ground is frozen and stays frozen shortly after they are planted, 2) they are very dry when the ground freezes, 3) the soil stays too wet because of poor winter drainage or 4) heaving occurs during cycles of the soil freezing and thawing. Snow cover or a covering of mulch will help with all these situations. Remember, blue hostas, as well as many gold hostas, with *H. sieboldiana* and *H. 'Tokudama'* parents as well as some *H. longipes* types are the most susceptible to winter kill. Miniature hostas may also completely heave out of the ground, resulting in cold damage to the crown.

So, with late hosta planting, first make sure the plants are full of water when the first hard frost hits. Then try a little mulch to protect the hosta crowns and moderate soil temperatures. (Beware! Deep mulches may entice mice and voles to make their winter homes in your hosta garden.) With a little luck from the winter weather you can probably extend your planting season another month or so, even after the first frost.

Most members in Kansas City plant, divide or move hostas in September or October when cooler without problems.