



Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society

Spring 2011

Board of Directors

President

Gwen Wheeler

(816) 228-9308

gmwheeler@juno.com

Vice-President

Charlene Wendel

(816) 313-2907

gramcracer@hotmail.com

Secretary

Cerise Harris

(816) 353-8905

cjharris@kc.rr.com

Treasurer

Annella Church-Kuhar

(913) 888-4258

churharr2@yahoo.com

Newsletter

Penny Balfour

(913) 722-4925

hostalady@kc.rr.com

Membership

Nancy Erwine

(816) 781-8542

drtangel@kc.rr.com

Website

Pat Jerez

(816) 729-9124

dimedame@sprintmail.com

Program Coordinator

Rob Mortko

(913) 829-0760

Rob@hostaguy.com

Plant Sales

Keith Wheeler

(816) 228-9308

kagwheeler@aol.com



President's Message

Spring is my favorite season, without question. The first plants to show are so welcome, and will be specially so after the cold and snowy winter we have had this year. Hellebores are always the first to bloom in our garden, followed by Dutchman's Breeches, columbines, tiarella, epimedium and Raspberry Splash Pulmanaria contrasting with Virginia bluebells. They are breathtaking!

This appearance of Spring coincides beautifully with the annual Spring meeting of the Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society to be held on Saturday, March 26, 2011 at the Faith Lutheran Church, 4805 W. 67th St. (67th & Roe) Prairie Village, KS.

We're so fortunate to have Mr. Clayton Oslund with us, speaking on "The Shade Garden Opportunity". He is the founder of Shady Oaks Nursery in Waseca, MN, now retired and living in Duluth, MN.

Mr. Oslund has written "What's Doin' the Bloomin'?", a comprehensive guide to native and naturalized plants. The book is packed with useful information and tips for incorporating native wildflowers into you landscape and lists of nurseries where you can find rare and unique plants. I love to see photos of the plants and this book contains over 620 full-color photographs.

Be sure to take a look at this lovely book, which Mr. Oslund will be bringing and will be for sale.

The meeting will be an exciting one. We must begin with a bit of business. The club's bylaws have been revised and published in draft form on our website for you to review. We must vote to accept at this meeting. Check out the website www.heartlandhostas.org.

We will have several very nice door prizes, so be sure to pick up your ticket when you check in. There will be a raffle for H. Charlotte's Web in a hypertufa pot. What a wonderful opportunity to own a lovely little hosta



Charlotte's Web

for a bargain price!

Our observation has been that everyone has a taste for Oklahoma Joe's Barbecue, so that will be the meat for the potluck. We are asking everyone to bring a dish to share and join us for lunch. Everyone is welcome!! It would be appreciated if you would phone Penny at 913-722-4925 if you plan to attend, so that we won't run short of food.

We're looking forward to seeing all of you there!! Info? Call Gwen 816-213-0598.

President message continues to page 2

Heartland Hosta Meeting at 10:00 a.m., March 26
Location: Faith Lutheran Church, 67th & Roe, KS

BYLAW REVISION

After many years, the time has come to revise and update the Club's Bylaws. Bob Balfour and his committee have worked hard and deserve a big thank you. The current bylaws, along with highlighted changes, have been posted on our Website. Please look these over, as we will vote on acceptance at our March meeting.

www.heartlandhostas.org

Please look over the website carefully. There are many interesting items that you will find there!

Shady Oaks Nursery came into being because Mr. Oslund acted on his 'Shade Garden Opportunity'. He was a professor of biology at the Waseca branch of the U of Minn., while at the same time trying to grow plants under huge oak trees in his own yard. He began to search around for lovely, hardy plants for shady areas. As they grew and thrived, he began to dig and sell extras.

With the realization that others were seeking quality shade plants, he took an ad in a garden

publication and sent out catalogs, received orders and Shady Oaks Nursery was born in 1982. The company made several moves into larger quarters as the business grew. They have grown in to a major wholesaler and hybridizer of new hosta varieties, and are also doing tissue culture.

His son, Gordy, joined the company in 1993 and handles the business part of the operation. Clayton retired from teaching horticulture in 1992 and from the nursery business in 1996.

Gwen



2011 Events

March 26

Heartland Hosta Spring Meeting
(Faith Lutheran Church)

May 14

Heartland Hosta Annual Plant Sale
(Faith Lutheran Church)

June 4

Heartland Garden Party
Hosted by Nancy Irwine

June 23-25

American Hosta Society Convention in Marlborough, MA

July 7-9

Midwest Regional Hosta Convention in Madison Wisconsin

September 10

Heartland Hosta Fall Meeting
(Faith Lutheran Church)



Have you attended an American Hosta Society Convention?

If you have, you know how exciting they are. The attendees are all hostaholics, there are vendors tempting with all the newest, exciting varieties and tours of wonderful hosta gardens, not to mention leaf shows, auctions, judging clinics and much more.

The National Convention, "Hosta and Heritage", will be held this June 23 – 25 in Marlborough, MA hosted by the New England Hosta Society. Check out details at www.hosta2011.org

Closer to home is the Midwest Regional Convention to be held July 7 – 9 in Madison, WI. There will be fewer attendees, but similar enjoyable and educational activities. Check out www.midwesthostasociety.org for more information concerning the regional.

Do think about attending one or both of these opportunities make new friends and learn more about our favorite perennial! Early registration is more reasonable and deadline for that registration for National is May 1.

Hosta Virus X

from the K-State weekly newsletter, submitted by Chris Veach, Master Gardener

The American Hosta Society and the University of Minnesota recently jointly authored a publication on Hosta Virus X (HVX) that includes results of a two-year research study. The research was performed by Dr. Ben Lockhart of the University of Minnesota. Dr. Lockhart was the plant pathologist who first identified the specific virus causing the disease. You may view the publication at: <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/hostavirusxlochart.html>

Rob Mortko, Johnson County Extension Master Gardener and Vice President, Genus Hosta with the American Hosta Society, has highlighted some of the information gained from this research below.

- There are no hosta cultivars that are more (or less) resistant to HVX as had been previously reported. Hosta exposed to HVX while actively growing will likely become infected. However infecting a healthy hosta with HVX in the fall is very difficult as it is approaching dormancy. This would imply that

hosta division would be better undertaken in the fall rather than in the spring.

- HVX is spread by sap to sap contact cutting tools. Dishwashing detergent, 70% alcohol or a 10% solution of household bleach (1 part bleach and 9 parts water) are all effective in cleaning and disinfecting cutting tools. However, simply dipping the tool in the solution is not sufficient. Thorough scrubbing is required.
- After removing an HVX infected plant, a healthy hosta planted in the same location can be infected up to two years later. (Note that two years was the duration of this research project.) No one was more surprised by this finding than Dr. Lockhart. Previously the general recommendation was to allow 4 to 6 weeks after removing an infected hosta before replanting. Based on this research another hosta should not be replanted in the same location.

Additional HVX research is planned to begin in the spring of 2011.

Tough hellebores bring cheer to early spring

By Chuck Robinson

Hostas are kings of many of our shade gardens, but hellebores have become the height of fashion and provide a wonderful complement.

When hosta leaves are at their fullest splendor, hellebore hybrids hold their own as compact plants with shiny foliage. The compound leaves are leathery with saw-toothed edges and unappealing to deer.

“They open their nodding flowers in the bitter winter chill when few other plants dare to greet the new year. Beauty aside, they are tough, low-maintenance plants, and they are long-lived. It’s no surprise in this busy age that hellebores appeal to both beginning and serious gardeners,” write Cole Burrell and Judith Tyler, authors of the 2006 book “Hellebores: A Comprehensive Guide.”

Hellebores are native to the eastern Mediterranean area, including Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia and the former Yugoslavia. They have been mainstay garden plants in Britain since the 1800s. They have been grown in U.S. gardens since the start of the 1900s, but hybridizing since the mid-1980s has sparked much wider interest. The hellebore hybrids available now tout color saturation and flower form not available even a few years ago.

They are tolerant of less-than-perfect soil and easily handle the dry shade that overly blesses many of our gardens. They are quite tolerant of summer heat and humidity.

It took three or four years in my garden, but now I have a few seedling hellebores to spread out into the garden.

While most of the hellebores we find in the trade will seed around a bit, not all of them will. The interspecies or intersectional hybrids like *H. x ericsmithii*, *H. x nigercors* and *H. x ballardiae* are sterile and will not produce seeds. Often we see these plants listed with a cultivar name but not specific epithet, like *Helleborus* ‘Ivory Prince’ or *Helleborus* ‘Candy Love.’

It is best to plant them in areas protected from cold winter winds. The foliage is evergreen, but

the leaves may become scorched and tattered in harsh winters or if not insulated by snow or protected from cold winter winds.

The hellebores most of us are familiar with are the variants named *Helleborus x hybridus*. Often they are referred to as orientalis hybrids and have been misnamed *H. orientalis*, but that is just one of the hybrid’s ancestors. Many of us also know the name *H. niger*, the white Christmas rose.

These more familiar hellebores are all acaulescent. “Calis” is Latin for “stem,” and “a” means “not.” The word refers to the flowers and leaves springing from a small cushion underground instead of from a stem.

The ying to the yang of acaulescent hellebores are the caulescent hellebores. The stinking hellebore, *H. foetidus*, has a stem that grows a couple of feet tall in my garden. In January I can see the chartreuse flower clusters from my window. The flowers are easy to spot atop a pile of dark green leaves that are dissected, with five to 10 toothed fingers. Some cultivars, such as the beloved ‘Wester Flisk’ form, have red-tinged stems and leaf petioles.

Stinking hellebores are favorites of mine and I have a couple of clumps. I must warn you that compared to the hellebore hybrids the stinking hellebores are short-lived. They have shallow roots that can provide wobbly foundation for the tall plants. However, as short-lived perennials my stinking hellebores have outlived some plants that experts suggested would be much sturdier.

The Burrell-Tyler book on hellebores suggests planting stinking hellebores in drifts, “as single plants look forlorn.”

Chuck Robinson is a member of the Hosta & Shade Plant Society and gardening organizations. He is president of the Garden Center Association of Greater Kansas City and a board member for the Friends of Powell Gardens.

On March 19, 2011

Leading American hellebore hybridizers Judith and Richard Tyler

Venue: Webster House, 1644 Wyandotte St., Two programs are planned. The first starts at 10 a.m. and is followed by lunch and another program at 1:30 p.m.

Cost: \$65 for GCA members and \$80 for GCA nonmembers.

Go to GardenCenterAssociation.org to pay for the tickets online or mail check

with the names and contact information of the attendees to: GCA c/o Chuck Robinson • 6911 NW Blair Road • Parkville, MO 64152

For more information, call Chuck at (816) 507-8328



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. Dues are \$10.00 per year. Membership dues for 3 years are \$25.

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



USA FOREVER

KANSAS CITY MISSOURI 64108

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

Heartland Hosta and Shade Plant Society Membership and Renewal Form

Your dues are currently paid up through the year noted next to your name on the mailing address label. We ask that all members prepay at least 2 years at a time to minimize the paperwork and bookkeeping. **Dues are \$10.00 per year or \$25 for 3 years.**

Check one... NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

Name	Street Address
City, State, Zip	Home Phone
E-Mail Address	Member of American Hosta Society?
Would You Like To Volunteer?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality	<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Sale
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Is Your Garden Open to Visitors?

Please return this form with your e-mail address even if your dues are paid up. Return this form and your dues to:

Nancy Erwine
900 Hillside, Liberty, MO 64068