



The Royal Standard

September 2017

WISCONSIN HOSTA SOCIETY
EST. 1991

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello hosta lovers! Well, the summer sure flew by. Hoping people are enjoying the cooler temps and the colors starting to turn on some leaves. We have a great meeting lined up this month as we will be showing the membership how to navigate the online Hosta Library and also playing bingo. WHS board members are bringing treats and water for everyone. Uniquely Hostas is furnishing the prizes for bingo.

We'll have elections for the office of President and Vice President in October. My term of president has been a exciting one, but with increasing responsibilities to Penny I can't at this time run again. I wish to thank the membership and the great WHS board for all their support over the years. Phil Timm, as President and Vice President, has really went above and beyond for the membership. I wish him the best on his new journey. In October, we have Kathy Sisson coming in as our speaker then a few short days later we will have a bonfire at Land of the Giants Hosta Farm with a catered meal. Hoping we see everyone there.

Live, love, laugh.

Jeff aka mrhosta



2017 CALENDAR

WISCONSIN HOSTA SOCIETY

September 13

Membership Meeting

6-8:30PM, Olbrich Gardens

"Game Night"

October 11

Membership Meeting

6-8:30PM, Olbrich Gardens

Speaker: Kathy Sisson- hybridizer,
Master Hosta Show Judge from Avon,
CT.

October 14

**Bonfire at LOTG Hosta Farm, aka
"Phil-O's Giant Marshmallow Roast"**

3PM LOTG, Milton, WI

WHS is catering dinner. Bring chairs!

November 4

WHS Harvest Party

1:00-4PM, Firefly Coffeehouse,
Oregon, WI.

Fun, food and games to finish the
season!

RECAP: LEAF COMPETITION AND DINNER LAND OF THE GIANTS HOSTA FARM

Approximately 40 members showed up on a beautiful Saturday for the leaf show-down at LOTG on July 22. Once the leaves were set up on the boards (thanks Phil for bringing them!) everyone had time to wander the lush gardens and visit with each other. After a delicious dinner, voting on the 9 leaf categories ensued. This has been a great year for the hostas, so the leaves were especially nice. (*editor's note: there must be something extra special in the soil at the Geskes' place*) A big thanks to Jeff and Penny for hosting the evening and for providing prizes for the winners.



LEAF COMPETITION, CONT.



2017 Leaf Show Winners!

RECAP: WHS SUMMER POTLUCK PICNIC AND GARDEN TOURS

Marla Robinson hosted this year's summer picnic on August 5 at her delightful gardens in Fitchburg. WHS members Kim Sorbet, Cherith Bruckner, and Windi Fourdraine opened their gardens for pre-picnic tours. As usual, the potluck choices were amazing, and everyone enjoyed catching up and admiring the garden art pieces for the member swap. A big thanks to Phil Timm for donating the hostas for the picnic auction. And a super big thanks to Marla and everyone else who helped make the day fantastic!



WHS SUMMER PICNIC, CONT.



RECAP: ROTARY GARDENS TOUR

On August 17, WHS members were treated to an after-hours tour of Janesville's Rotary Botanical Gardens led by Director Mark Dwyer. Of special interest to WHS members was a clump of H. "Dr. Yahr" (below, right). This hosta is named for the founder of Rotary Gardens. Jeff Miller donated the plant from his hybridization program., and as a charitable donation WHS paid for the tissue culture propagation. It should generate a nice amount of cash for the Rotary when the plants are sold.



UPCOMING: BONFIRE AT LAND OF THE GIANTS

Next month, we'll head back over to Land of the Giants for a Bonfire and dinner. Mark your calendars for 3 PM, Saturday, October 14. WHS is catering dinner, so all you need to bring is a chair. Marshmallows (and hilarity) will ensue.



UPCOMING: WHS ELECTIONS

Are you held “hostage” to your obsession with all things hosta? Do you enjoy herding cats? If so, then we have just the position(s) for you! Jeff Miller and Phil Timm’s terms as President and Vice President are almost over so it’s time to accept nominations for these offices. (WHS Bylaws stipulate 2-year terms) Voting is held at the October meeting. Please consider running for office, since WHS needs member involvement on all levels to stay strong. **Nominations will be accepted at the September meeting or you can also contact WHS Secretary Marlene Rosenberg (uniquelyhostas@yahoo.com) with nominations.**

According to the Bylaws, the duties of President are to *“preside at all meetings of the Society and the Board. He/she shall appoint all Committee Chairpersons and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.”* The Vice-President *“shall, in the absence of the President, perform the duties of the President and shall serve as Chairperson of the Program Committee.”*



WHS Board Members

Jeff Miller
President
MrHosta@charter.net

Phil Timm
**Vice President &
Program Chair**
hostamanphil@yahoo.com

Marlene Rosenberg
Secretary
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Marla Robinson
Treasurer & Membership
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Sandy O'Malley
Member-at-Large
4gardenstuff@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE!

2018 EVENTS OF INTEREST

WPT GARDEN EXPO

February 9-11, 2018

Madison, WI

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY 2018 CONVENTION

July 12-14, 2018

Peoria, IL - *"Hostas Play in Peoria"*

AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY 2018 CONVENTION

June 20-23, 2018

Philadelphia, PA - *"Fifty in Philly"*



H. "WHAT THE HILL, PHIL!" SALE

All proceeds from this hosta go to the Wisconsin Hosta Society! Only a limited number of plants were produced, and WHS members have the first chance to purchase them for \$50 each until Oct. 14, 2017. After this date, all remaining plants will be wholesaled at market price. This is a beautiful plant...blue, cupped leaves on a large mounded hosta; bigger than Abiqua Drinking Gourd. All monies from wholesale and member sales will go to WHS. If you would like to order "What the Hill, Phil!" please contact Marlene Rosenberg (uniquelyhostas@yahoo.com). Delivery will be at the Sept/Oct meetings. Cash or check only.



For those of you who are not familiar with the legend... Jeff and good friend Phil each chose a hosta they fancied to enter in the Seedgrowers Competition. Jeff's choice won out the selection process and was dug and loaded on the golf cart to take to the show. While driving out of the garden, Jeff says that a despondent Phil "accidentally" nudged the prized hosta off the cart and it rolled down the hill, crushing all of the wonderful foliage. Since this hosta was no longer show worthy, Jeff and Phil had no choice but to go dig Phil's first choice to enter in its place. The "first choice" hosta has had time to recover and Jeff has decided to introduce it and name it 'Giantland What the Hill, Phil!'

OCTOBER MEETING SPEAKER BIO

KATHIE SISSON

Kathie Sisson is a devout hosta collector, gardener and hobbyist turned hybridizer who first discovered hostas about 22 years ago. At the time she gardened in a small shady yard in West Hartford, CT and discovered how valuable the hosta can be as a garden standard. She now gardens primarily with hostas using them as specimens and for season-long interest. Her collection once numbered over 1800 cultivars including several of her own hybrids and introductions. Her gardens have been featured on both a national and state level. Besides belonging to many hosta societies, Kathie also served on the AHS board. She is a Master Judge for cut leaf shows and Head Judge for First Look Seedling and Sport Competition, as well as a Garden Performance Judge.

In her spare time, Kathie enjoys visiting gardens and loves to photograph hosta specimens. Many of her photos are used in the Hosta Library (hostalibrary.org), and several of her photos have been published in *Fine Gardening* magazine and *The Hosta Journal*. Kathie is a popular speaker at garden clubs and societies across the country. Beware, her enthusiasm may be contagious!

IN THE ARMS OF ANGELS

To honor the passing of Georgia Roe's daughter Margie, Jan Voltz designed an "In the Arms of Angels" hosta bed that Georgia sees every morning from her picture window. Georgia's sons Jeff and Marc and grandson Brandon helped Jan plant the bed with beautiful angel hostas, including "Margie's Angel" and several other "angel" hostas.



In gratitude

On June 25, 2017, at the age of 54, my daughter Marjorie Roe succumbed to cancer and went to live with the angels. Margie was a delightful person who always sought to help others – and both her family and her co-workers benefited immensely from her kindness. She was an angel to all she knew and loved. Margie grew up in the Whitewater area, but her work as a technical designer in the fashion industry took her to Oshkosh, Green Bay, and eventually Shelbourne, VT.

Margie moved back home to battle her cancer, and had her treatments in Madison and Johnson's Creek. She fought valiantly during those last 18 months, and we had the opportunity to make new and special memories here.

Many thanks for all the kindness shown by Jan Voltz and my many friends in our hosta club through their love and support during the last 18 months. Margie and I and all of our family appreciated your love and support more than words can express.

Georgia Roe

Corrections? Comments? Suggestions? Contact Newsletter Editor Windi Fourdraine at twotxaggies@frontier.com



"Happily we bask in this warm September sun, which illuminates all creatures..."

- Henry David Thoreau