



# GREAT EXPECTATIONS

central illinois hosta society  
www.cihshostaclub.org

march 2013  
volume 19, issue 1

## Connie's Corner

It's hard to believe that spring is almost here! For me this winter there were no lists made, no new plants researched, (although I did write down the names of 3 hostas that I liked from Ray Rodger's postings on facebook – 'Eclipse', 'Wishing Well' and 'Frisian Pride'), and no magazines purchased. ( I have purposely let all my subscriptions lapse, because in this age of technology, there is no reason to keep killing trees. Wow, I sound like a tree hugger, well, essentially I guess I am. I hug all my trees.....) This winter did not proceed for me as most winters have. When spring comes I am normally armed with design ideas, my want lists, and plans for improvements to the garden. I got nothing. The only thing I know for sure is that I will finish the walkway I started putting in the fall.

Do we get tired or depressed over our gardens?? I'm curious if it is just me getting older or is it a natural progression for the gardener? The time that is spent on keeping a garden beautiful seems overwhelming at times, but we continue to continue. I know that as hard and time consuming as it was, I will again haul water religiously for my hostas. The improvement I saw this year made a big impression on me. It is true, hostas LIKE water! So that's it those are my plans for this year. Water and water more. I hope you all have more planned than I have for myself.

This year will be exciting for the club. Our Garden Walk in June, our Bus Trip, and all the lovely gardens we will see with this year's meeting schedule. The National Hosta Convention is in Milwaukee, Wisconsin – a mere 4+ hrs away. The Midwest Regional Hosta Convention is in Lisle, Illinois - only 2 ½ hours away. If you've never been to a convention maybe this is the year to go. Both are in spittin' distance.

We look forward to seeing you at our first meeting on March 19th at Freedom Hall in Morton. Our meeting

will be at 6:30pm and Stephanie Farris of Picket Fence Garden Center will be our guest speaker. I can't tell you how many times I have driven by that garden center and never stopped. Finally last year, I stopped. It will now be a regular hunting place of mine. They had a wonderful selection of plants and garden accoutrements. Everyone needs to check it out.

Your Prez, Connie Z

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## Our Next Meeting

**March 19, 6:30 pm**

Freedom Hall  
349 W. Birchwood Street  
Morton, Illinois

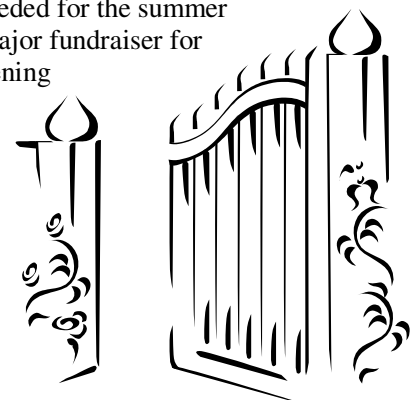
**Speaker:** Stephanie Farris - owner of the Picket Fence Garden Center in Chillicothe

**Directions:** From interstate 155 take the Birchwood Exit, east, into Morton. The Birchwood Exit is the first exit south of the I-74 and I-155 junction. Morton Park will be off to your left and the building is at 349 W. Birchwood Street

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## Gardens Wanted

Gardens, large or small, are needed for the summer 2013 Garden Tour. This is a major fundraiser for the CIHS. Please consider opening your garden to the public or helping with the tour. If you are interested in sharing your garden, contact John Machens [John.machens@comcast.net](mailto:John.machens@comcast.net) or any board member.



## Garden...Q & A

Yes!...your gardening questions can be answered. Just catch us at a meeting or email the question (see below). Please indicate in the email subject line that it is a garden question and not junk mail. We hope to hear from you soon.

Ella Maxwell                      ejm601@comcast.net  
Bob Streitmatter                goldaandbob@hotmail.com

## Hosta of the Month

Due to the complexity and uncertainties of forcing hosta this early, we will have some cool garden-related prizes & maybe some hosta



## The Hosta Library

If you would like to check out a magazine or book from the Hosta Library, see Ella Maxwell at a meeting or call her at 309.444.3758.

## 2013 CIHS Calendar

If you are interested in opening your garden for a meeting in 2013 or 2014, please contact Sally Pula or any board member.



**March 19, 6:30 pm**  
Freedom Hall, Morton  
Speaker Stephanie Farris of Picket Fence Garden Center

**April 16, 6:30 pm**  
**Potluck**  
Freedom Hall, Morton  
Speaker: Kathryn Newman of Miniature Garden Shop

**May 21, 6:30 pm**  
Carolyn & Don Jones' Garden  
400 Shady Knolls Dr., East Peoria

**June 13-15**  
**American Hosta Society**  
**National Convention**  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**June 18, 6:30 pm**  
Connie & Dan McConnell's Garden  
12317 Woodridge, Dunlap

**Bus Trip**  
**June**  
Dubuque, Iowa

**Garden Walk**  
**June 22-23**

**July 11-13, 2013**  
**Midwest Regional Convention**  
Lisle, Illinois

**July 16, 6:30 pm**  
TBA

**August 20, 6:30 pm**  
Shelly Baldini,  
11710 North Brians Way, Dunlap.

**September 17**  
**Banquet**  
TBA

## Officers

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## To join:

**Central Illinois Hosta Society**  
\$10/year, form on back cover

**Midwest Reg. Hosta Society**  
\$20/2 years, Send dues to:  
Kristine James, Membership  
523 E. Calhoun Street  
Woodstock, IL 60098

**American Hosta Society**  
\$30 individual, \$57/2 years  
\$34 family, \$62/2 years  
Send dues to:  
Sandie Markland  
AHS Membership Secretary  
Post Office Box 7539  
Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

# Hosta Gardening Calendar

**Spring/Foliage  
Emergence begins:  
March-April-early May**



**A**s the ground warms under spring's ever increasing light intensities, the dormant buds of the hostas begin to swell and break through the mulch, looking like bullets coming out of the ground. The small bud scales that protect the true leaves open and recurve allowing a cigar-shaped flush of usually three to four leaves to emerge well above the ground. Soil temperature and moisture seem to affect the timing of the emergence of hostas the most. In very dry winters the emergence of hostas will be delayed unless the garden is irrigated. As the new hosta leaves expand, ample water is also needed for them to gain maximum size.

**Labeling:** Check for lost labels and replace as needed.

**Light:** Full sun, moderate intensity. Usually no shading is necessary.

**Nutrients:** Apply slow release fertilizer (e.g. Osmocote, Nutricote, organic fertilizers) or 10-10-10 granular fertilizer around clumps as the hostas emerge. If you only use a liquid fertilizer, then apply weekly beginning as the first leaves start to unfurl.

**Pests:** Begin slug control before hosta leaves emerge. The slugs will be active on warm nights before the hostas will. Try to limit their populations before they hide in the hosta foliage. If early attacks by deer are a problem, spray a repellent. Little is needed at this time but it may need to be repeated every 10 days as the hostas enlarge. Stay on vole patrol.

**Protection:** Finish your spring clean-up of fallen branches, old hosta foliage and scapes. This is your last chance to mulch. Pull mulch away from emerging hosta shoots to reduce the risk of petiole rot, especially if hardwood bark is used as mulch. Protect from late freezes with frost cloth, nursery pots, boxes, lightweight bed sheets or newspaper. Hostas with unfurled leaves can be protected by covering with mulch.

**Propagation:** Hostas may be divided in half or quarters as they begin to emerge. Be prepared to provide them with extra water and care as they will have oversized leaves for their recently reduced root system. New roots will not begin forming until the first set of new leaves are almost fully expanded, several weeks after division. Save drastic division for late summer.

**Water:** Keep the soil evenly moist. Fresh hostas are mostly water; make sure plenty is available as they expand. Beautiful spring days with bright light, low

humidity and brisk winds dehydrate new hosta leaves quickly; do not be afraid to irrigate generously.

**Fun!** This is the best hosta season of the year! Go out several times a day and watch your hostas spring from the earth. You can almost see them grow! Count the number of new shoots and calculate how much your hosta investment has increased. A one division hosta purchased for \$25 last fall, with its three new shoots, has now tripled in value to \$75. Drag you neighbors over to see your hostas do their magic act. This is the time of year when everything is right in the hosta world. Go to a local hosta meeting.

**Written by Bob Solberg, Green Hill Farm**

The above is an excerpt from *Hosta Gardening Calendar*, published in the Fall 2012 Midwest Regional Hosta Society Newsletter

## Hellebores: Prelude to Spring

**M**ost hellebores are native to mountainous regions of Europe, in open oak and beech woodlands, scrub are-as, grassy meadows and on rocky slopes. They are best viewed on a hillside but even on flat land, they can be greatly enjoyed. They are shade loving evergreen perennials that bloom in early spring.



Hellebores are happy with other shade-loving perennials including ferns, hosta, gingers, short shade grasses, snowdrops, aconites, woodland phlox, primroses and hepaticas. They are grown in sandy or clay soils as long as plenty of humus is added when planted. Freezing and thawing do not usually damage the flowers.

Hellebores likely arrived in North American shores early in the continent's colonial history. The earliest cultivation may have been for use as an insecticide to treat other plants rather than ornamentals in their own right. John Bertram first mentioned them in his writings. Interest in hellebore was strong after WWII and they were valued for their foliage, flowers and ease of culture.

In late winter, the flowers emerge from the barren ground to provide a prelude to spring. Elizabeth Strongman states in *The Gardeners Guide to Growing Hellebores*, 1993, "The Christmas Rose and Lenten Rose are nature's gift to gardeners in the dis-mal months after Christmas when the

weather is cold and discouraging and spring seems a long way off. At a time when few other flowers brave the elements, only Snowdrops in their prime whiteness and fascinating variety of forms can compete with the hellebores.”

They bloom for two months or more – longer when spring arrives slowly and the nights stay cool. Elegant simplicity describes their fantastic foliage, precocious bloom and beautiful flowers, singles, doubles and anemone centered in many lush colors.

Once the new foliage emerges in February–March, carefully cut away last year’s foliage so plants look tidy and display flowers to the best advantage. By and large, hellebores are pest free. Do not plant hellebore too deeply nor bury the crown of the plant. They come close to being the perfect perennial with long-lasting blooms, hardiness, durability and a few are fragrant.

Mature clumps may be divided but both the old and new divisions are slow to recover from transplant shock. A mother plant produces many seedlings that, after a year, may be pricked out (best done in the fall) and planted to check their worthiness in flower shape and color. Do not allow seedlings to stay by the mother plant too long as they can be smothered by her foliage.

Honey bees, bumble bees and other small bees are the primary pollinators of hellebore. Pollen from one flower fertilizes another on the same plant. Cross fertilization from one plant to another occurs freely.

Buy plants in bloom for the exact color desired. Great Britain has done much in crosses and seed strains of hellebores. Most of the best hybrids available in America today are seed strains, some developed by making controlled crosses, while others come more or less true from open pollinated plants. Henry Ross at Grandview Horticultural Park in Strongsville, OH began growing seedlings in 1950 and did so for 50 years. The first hellebore I saw was 20 years ago: Christmas Rose *Helleborus niger*, with its white pristine flowers and I have been smitten ever since.

There are many classifications for hellebore. The most familiar are *Helleborus niger*, *H. hybridus* (Lenten Rose), *H. orientalis* and *H. foetidus*. Those hybridizing and propagating hellebore include Sam and Carleen Jones of Picadilly Farm in Bishop, GA, and Judith and Dick Tyler of Pine Knot Farm in Clarksville, VA. Both farms have Spring Open Hellebore Days – a treat to attend and you can purchase blooming plants. Judith Tyler and C. Colston Burrell’s book *Hellebores (A Comprehensive Guide)* is an excellent source for all the

plant knowledge for beginning and advanced gardeners, and includes listings of those actively hybridizing today.

Presently hellebore are being developed to have up facing flowers, doubles, combinations, stronger stems, foliage that remains clean and healthy and color on reverse of the flowers.

Float short stem blooms in a shallow dish for a beautiful display. Sear the stems of longer blooms and display in a short vase for enjoyment in-doors.

So begin now...buy a hellebore plant, enjoy its beauty and you also may be smitten by this near perfect perennial.

*Written by Anne Randall, a MVHS Member; reprinted from the Spring 2012 issue of the North Coast Hosta Society Newsletter*

## Hosta Cultivar Survey... or Hosta Cultivars to Avoid

Recently an e-mail poll of Northern Illinois Hosta Society members was conducted with the following question: *Based on personal experience, which host cultivars would you NOT recommend and why?*

The survey yielded a variety of responses, ranging from cultivars to avoid to caveats about other cultivars. The following is a summary of those responses.

In the category of cultivars to avoid, white-centered cultivars with thin substance (such as ‘White Christmas,’ ‘Moon Struck,’ and ‘Calypso’) were named because the white leaf centers tend to melt out by mid-summer. Other white-centered hostas that have greater substance (and are less prone to melting out) tend to be poor growers due to the large portion of the leaf that has no chlorophyll. Named in this survey were ‘Fire and Ice,’ ‘Sea Thunder,’ ‘Banana Boat,’ ‘Color Parade,’ ‘Eskimo Pie,’ ‘Fantasy Island,’ and ‘White Feather.’ In short, hostas with a large percentage of white in the leaf will, at best, be slow growers, and at worst, melt out if they have thin substance.

Thin substance poses problems even with hostas that do not have white leaves. Some, like ‘Wide Brim’ and the ‘Tiara’ series, are particularly attractive to slugs. Others, like ‘Brim Cup’ and ‘Queen Josephine,’ develop tattered leaf edges by late summer. Slug bait can help control slugs, but little can be done to prevent tattered leaf edges.

**Continued on page 5**

Many mini hostas (such as 'Pandora's Box,' 'Cat's Eyes,' 'Cherish,' 'Hope,' 'Country Mouse,' and 'Uzo-no-Mai') can be problems due to their shallow root systems. They are prone to frost heave if not mulched in winter. They can also be difficult to grow successfully in the garden because their shallow root systems make it more likely that they will dry out between waterings. Better results can be achieved if they are grown in pots or trough gardens that are filled with very well-draining soil, and are located where they will get watered daily. There are also some not-so-mini hostas (such as 'Tattoo' and 'Flame Stitch') that can often be problematic in the garden, but successfully grown in pots and trough gardens in the same way.

Though a long time favorite, 'Francis Williams' has a tendency to "burn," that is develop brown spots in the gold portion of the leaves. The cause is unknown, but this characteristic is more prevalent in some years than others and is also present in some related hostas (such as 'Color Glory' and 'Carnival'). 'Olive Bailey Langdon' is a look-alike for 'Francis Williams' that is less likely to exhibit the burning.

There are hostas that are naturally slow to mature. Most notable is 'Sagae,' which can take five years to exhibit the form that made it the AHS 2010 Benedict medal winner. In the same category are 'Patriot,' 'Minuteman,' 'Thunderbolt,' 'Ice Age Trail,' 'Stitch in Time' and 'Remember Me.' These are garden worth hostas that simply require patience from the gardener. There are some hostas, however, (such as 'Great Expectations' and 'Blue Moon') where patience may not lead to success. While some gardeners are able to grow excellent specimens of these plants, others (no matter how patient they are) are not successful.

Some hostas (such as *ventricosa* 'Aureomaculata' and 'Photo Finish') are viridescens, which means that they emerge variegated in the spring, but then turn green as the season progresses. So long as the gardener realizes that this will occur, there is no reason not to include viridescens cultivars in their garden.

Finally, a gardener's personal preference should be the guiding force in deciding whether hostas with unusual leaf or flowering characteristics should be included in the garden. Some examples are 'Praying Hands' (upright twisted leaves), 'Lunar Eclipse' (cupped "drawstring" leaf effect) and 'Allegan Fong' and 'Gunther's Prize' (grass clipping leaf variegation). The spectacular double flowers of 'Aphrodite' enchant many hosta gardeners with their size and fragrance, but in zone 5a, flowering is achieved in only about one year out of three (if conditions are favorable).

*Reprinted courtesy of the Mississippi Valley Hosta Society from Hosta Happenings, April 2012*

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## 2013 AHS Convention

June 13, 14, 15  
Milwaukee, WI



The 2013 AHS Convention is coming to Milwaukee, WI, June 13-15. There has never been an AHS convention in Milwaukee before and the gardeners are excited to have us visit their area and their gardens.

There are **many local cultural things** to do in Milwaukee either before or after the convention. The Mitchell Park Horticultural Domes, Boerner Botanical Gardens, The Harley Davidson Museum, Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum, The Milwaukee Art Museum, Miller Brewery Tours, Jelly Belly Candy Factory Tours, The Pabst Mansion, The Milwaukee County Zoo and many more. Visit the "[Links](#)" page for more details and information on what Milwaukee has to offer.

In addition to all of the cultural activities, we also have **ten wonderful personal gardens to tour**. See the "[Our Gardens](#)" page for a preview. As previously noted this convention will follow an abbreviated schedule from previous conventions, but rest assured this convention will have all of the events expected from a national convention.

We begin on the evening of **Thursday June 13** with the opening of vending, leaf show prep, and hostality. **Friday June 14** will have the leaf show, vending, garden tours, speakers, auction plants received, silent auctions, awards banquet, and hostality. **Saturday June 15** vending continues, as do garden tours, AHS business meeting luncheon, live auction, awards banquet, future convention meeting, and hostality. See the "[Schedule](#)" page for full schedule.

**The cost for this convention extravaganza is \$139 per person.** In order to be able to offer this reasonably low cost, we will drive and carpool to the gardens. Attendees will be encouraged to carpool to gardens as parking is limited...written directions and maps will be provided.

**Continued on page 7**



# 2013 AHS National Convention Registration Form

June 13-15, 2013 Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Visit our website for schedule & more information

[www.2013ahsconvention.com](http://www.2013ahsconvention.com)

**\*\*Please fill out separate form for each person being registered.\*\***

Name as you would like it to appear on your name badge \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Registration confirmation will only be sent by email.**

**JUDGES CLINICS:** Please indicate which clinic(s) you will attend. An up-to-date handbook is required and may be downloaded for free at [www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org). \_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you wish to purchase a Judges Handbook for \$10

Clinic 1 Fri. June 14 1-5pm      Clinic 2 Fri. June 14 3-5pm

Hosta Show: See schedule at [www.ahs2013convention.com](http://www.ahs2013convention.com)      I plan to \_\_\_ Enter \_\_\_ Judge \_\_\_ Clerk

No. of Entries: \_\_\_ Div.I Leaf Show: \_\_\_ Div.II Container \_\_\_ Div.III Troughs \_\_\_ Div.IV Education \_\_\_ Div.VI Artistic

Maximum of 25 entries

**Please Note!**

At this convention we will return to the society's beginnings when we drove and carpoled to the gardens. Since parking will be limited at gardens it is important that attendees carpool. Please make arrangements to carpool with friends. *Every effort* will be made to accommodate both individuals that need rides and those that offer rides. **As hostas are known as the "The Friendship Plant" we believe this will not be a problem for attendees.** Maps and written directions will be provided for tours. We would like to know in advance if you will need a ride and would be willing to accommodate attendees that need rides.

\_\_\_ I will need a ride      \_\_\_ I will gladly offer a ride      A Hertz car rental office is available at Hotel.

**Convention Registration**

Full Registration (postmarked before May 15, 2013)	\$139.00 _____
Late Full Registration (postmarked May 16, 2013 or later)	\$189.00 _____
Meals Only registration	\$89.00 _____
Credit Card payment is available to all attendees for a \$8.95 convenience Fee	\$8.95 _____
Total payable in US funds _____	

Send checks and registration form payable to the "AHS 2013 Convention" to:

Sandie Markland  
P.O. Box 7539  
Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948-7539

**Sat. Dinner Options: Circle One**    Pork    Chicken    Vegetarian    Gluten Free

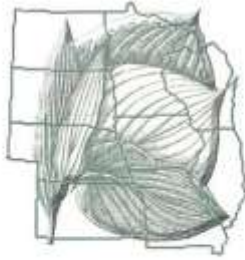
If paying by credit card:    Choose One: \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ Master Card \_\_\_ American Express \_\_\_ Discover

Name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_ There is an \$8.95 Convenience fee

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Convention Registrants assume all responsibility for liability

**Hotel: Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield** 375 S. Moorland Rd., Brookfield, WI 53005, 262-364-1010 or 866-257-5990. **Rate: \$105 + tax includes hot breakfast buffet.** For rate **reserve by May 22, 2013**, mention "Hosta". Hotel link is on our website. Reserve rooms early as there is an automobile race in Milwaukee that same weekend and rooms will be at a premium.



## Midwest Regional Hosta Society

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society represents Region 5 of the American Hosta Society that includes 9 states. Our mission is to promote education, research, development and enjoyment of Hosta.

Membership in the society is \$20.00 for 2 years, which includes two issues per year of the newsletter. This publication reports on events and information on Hostas in general.

Please mail a check made payable to MRHS to:

Kristine James  
523 E Calhoun St.  
Woodstock, IL 60098

along with Name, Address, phone, and email (Most correspondence is by email). For questions email MRHS.Hosta@gmail.com.



# HORNBAKER GARDENS



*"Not Just a Nursery, It's An Experience!"*



Open House and Hosta Walk  
June 7-8-9

"Gardening Together" workshops on Saturday mornings through June 9<sup>th</sup>. Visit our website or Facebook page for topics and details.

Nursery Open: April 10 – October 10  
Princeton, Illinois (815) 659-3282  
[www.hornbakergardens.com](http://www.hornbakergardens.com)

### Continued from page 5

Attendees flying in to Milwaukee and have not made prior arrangements with fellow attendees to carpool will be accommodated and every effort will be made to pair up attendees needing rides with attendees that have rides to offer. As the hosta has been called the friendship plant we are confident there will not be any problem accommodating all attendees. See the "Registration" page to make your convention reservation.

If you would like to make a auction donation and are unable to bring it with you to the convention, see the "Contacts" page for further information.

The Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel is the host site. In addition to superb accommodations, they have offered us a room rate of \$105 per night which includes a hot buffet breakfast. To make reservations call 262-384-1010. The hotel also has a free shuttle service from Milwaukee's Mitchel Airport. Book rooms early! There is an automobile race in Milwaukee that same weekend and hotel rooms will be at a premium



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[www.cihshostaclub.org](http://www.cihshostaclub.org)

If your mailing label says 2012, it is time to pay dues. This will be your last newsletter. You can pay dues at the next meeting or fill out the membership form and mail it. Remember, dues are \$10/year.

For information regarding dues or membership, contact Kathy Allen at 309.645.7908 or [jkallen9@comcast.net](mailto:jkallen9@comcast.net)

Newsletter Deadline: 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month

Submit items for publication to: Bob Streitmatter  
309.264.4813  
[goldaandbob@hotmail.com](mailto:goldaandbob@hotmail.com)

**CIHS Membership Form** (please print)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$10/year:  new  renewal Amount. Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to CIHS; mail check and form to: Central Illinois Hosta Society, P.O. Box 3098, Peoria, IL 61612-3098