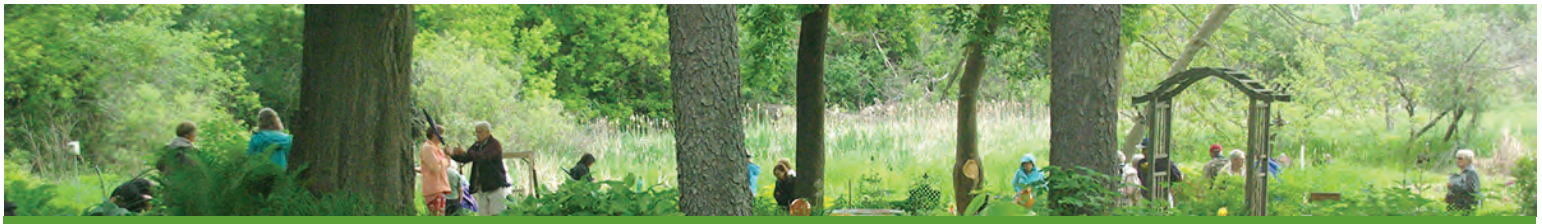
The Newsletter of the Minnesota Hosta Society

mn hosta SOCIETY

HOSTAPHILE

Volume 30 Issue 3 Summer 2020



VIRTUAL GARDEN TOUR

Want to go on a virtual garden tour?

We did not schedule our usual Minnesota Hosta Society garden tour because of the 2020 American Hosta Society Convention. But then the AHS convention got cancelled. We are all trying to "social distance", so we are not visiting other people's gardens. What's a hosta lover to do?

Why, take a virtual garden tour, of course. Bob Olson, Janet Mills and Andy Marlow have volunteered to visit all the gardens that were scheduled to be on the Hosta Vision 2020 garden tours, including the optional tour to Rochester and Southeastern Minnesota, take some great photographs (we hope!) and share them all with you.

In the next few weeks the photographers will be visiting the gardens, which should be at their peak appearance. They promise to observe all the social distancing guidelines and show each garden at its very best.

Then they will post photos of two or three gardens at a time on the Minnesota Hosta Society Facebook page and on our brand new Minnesota Hosta Society Instagram account. By featuring two or three gardens each week, they will stretch out the enjoyment. Look for the first photos to appear the first week in July.



You will need a smart phone, tablet or computer to enjoy these virtual tours. You should be able to view the photos on Instagram without setting up your own account, but you will need to join Facebook in order to view photos there.



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Letter from our President, Rod Hilstrom



CHANGING TIMES

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was……"

As you know, that is the opening paragraph in the book "A TALE OF TWO CITIES" by Charles Dickens. Set in the French Revolution of 1859.

I think we can say the same about today; "we are in the best of times" (we all have beautiful hosta gardens to spend precious time in, we live in the best country in the world, etc.) and "we are in the worst of times" (we have COVID-19, we have cancelled at least six events since we last met in February, we have killings, demonstrations, riots, looting, buildings burning, etc.).

Certainly not happy times, since cancelling Hosta Vision 20/20, we have also had the hosta display at the state fair cancelled. A couple of things we have been fortunate to bring to successful completion are "The 2020 Member Plant Sale" and cleaning and mulching the "MHS Display Garden" at Smith Coffee and Café in Eden Prairie. Both events were held on May 23rd and we had 40 to 50 people show up. Masks were worn, social distancing was practiced very well, and the weather cooperated until we were getting in our cars to leave and the rain started. Other smaller get togethers included 1) three members moving Leaf Show equipment into a new storage unit, 2) a small group digging, cleaning and wrapping Member Plants in preparation for distribution and 3) another small group putting final touches on cleaning and mulching the Display Garden. Thank you to all participants!

The MHS Board has been busy using new methods for board actions: email has been used to propose, discuss and approve a few items and Zoom has been used for a virtual board meeting. Unfortunately, a couple of those actions were for cancellations, but there were also several positive actions completed. Review the board minutes in this newsletter for more information.

For future hosta activities, put these on your calendar: Fall Hostaphile in September, MHS Annual Meet-ing on October 10th (the board will do everything we can do to make this event happen). The 2021 calendar will be ready by the October meeting. Also, remember to make your plans for the 2021 AHS National Convention on June 17th – 19th in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Stay safe and I hope to see you soon!

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Minnesota Hosta Society
Board of Directors Meeting
Date: 4/20/2020, 9:00 am
Location: Video conference from Board of Directors at home

Members present – Rod Hillstrom (President), Tom Wright (Vice President), Paul Lambert (Recording Secretary), Jeannine Churchill (Treasurer), Betty Holz-Bergmann (Membership Secretary) and Andy Marlow (Immediate Past President)

The Board approved the minutes of the Feb. 8, 2020 MHS board meeting.

T. Wright reported that the MHS should receive a refund of the $500 deposit for the JAX Café social meeting cancellation. A speaker for the next general meeting in October 2020, is TBD and suggestions were made by members of the board. B. Holz-Bergmann reported that the MHS membership is at 208 members with 53 previous memberships not renewed. J. Churchill reported on the budget items and actual year to date revenue and expenses thru Mar. 31, 2020. The current balance was $26,586.27.

A. Marlow reported that the American Hosta Society (with support of the MHS Board of Directors) is cancelling the national convention 'Hosta Vision 2020' this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. An announcement of the cancellation is forthcoming. The current plan is that the MHS will now host the 2022 convention.

R. Hillstrom reported on rental storage facilities for the MHS items stored in the trailer which is being sold to Dennis Savory. A site in Richfield (near Bachman's Garden Center, on Lyndale Ave. in Minneapolis) was acceptable to the Board. The primary use of items stored is for the MHS Leaf Show which is held at Bachman's Garden Center. Building of shelves and the move of items is expected to take place in May.

Member plant sale for 2020 – R. Hillstrom reported the pickup of plants for the member plant sale will be at the MHS Display Garden (Smith Coffee and Cafe, 8107 Eden Prairie Road, Eagan, MN. 55347) on May 23, 2020 at 9 am to Noon. A work day on the MHS Display Garden is also planned. The potting party previously scheduled on this day is cancelled.

The 'Hostaphile' deadline will be delayed a month to May 31, 2020.

T. Wright will check with the Shades of Green Hosta Society in Rochester regarding their participation for a Hosta Display in the horticulture building. This issue is TBD depending on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Minnesota Hosta Society Update emails are being sent by President Rod Hillstrom to keep the membership informed of the society actions and activity.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Lambert, Recording Secretary

Hosta Vision



AHS National Convention
June 9 - 11, 2022

Greetings to All,

As Covide-19 restricted large group gatherings for health reasons the 2020 AHS National Convention was postponed. As part of that postponement we were required to coordinate this mutual decision with the Minneapolis Marriott NW to avoid financial penalties. This is a very tough time for the hospitality business so we are thankful that the Marriott worked with us.

We are close to finalizing a new contract for June 2022. Some costs will go up as the original contract was established in 2017.

Many of the plans that the Convention Planning Team put in place for 2020 can be carried over to 2022. Some will need to be revisited to make sure the details still work. We will continue to use H. 'Phoenix Feathers' as our gift hosta & thank Dennis Savory for providing a place to carry over the plants until 2022.

We will need to revisit with garden tour hosts to see if they still want to be on the garden tour; refresh our logo (but would like to keep the "Hosta Vision" theme); revise our convention website; and prepare to once again present at the upcoming June 2021 annual convention in Kalamazoo, MI. Many on our committee in leadership roles have agreed to continue in those roles (THANK YOU) but new volunteers to participate on the committee are always welcome. The Marriott has agreed to continue allowing us to meet at the hotel for free. I anticipate planning meetings to start again this fall whether they are face to face (with social distancing) or electronically hosted is yet to be determined.

If you have any ideas or thoughts pertaining to the 2022 AHS National Convention or would like to participate on the committee please send me an email. petersonmn@q.com

Amy Peterson – 2022 Convention Chair







Potting Party

On Thursday, May 21 several MHS members gathered at Marv Ten Clay's home to make ready the 2020 member plants.

Some had just arrived from ordering and the rest were dug and made ready. All plants were washed and wrapped in wet paper toweling in preparation for Saturday's member plant distribution.

One disappointment was 'Mouse on the Moon'. The mini-hostas were slow to emerge and those that did were considered too small. Luckily a suitable substitute was available, the yellow leaved 'Effervescence'.







Member Plant Distribution

Member plant distribution took place at our Display Garden next to Smith Coffee and Café in Eden Prairie.

Over 200 plants were distributed with the help of several members. MHS treasurer, Jeannine Churchill was there to collect payment for additional plants that members were able to purchase.

Garden maintenance was also scheduled for that day, so in addition to picking up their plant orders, members were able to help pull weeds and spread top dressing on the hosta beds.

By noon all member plants had been distributed and the Display Gardens were in tiptop shape.







Article submitted by Steve Rutz

Display Garden Update from Julie Carley

When I went to check on the MHS Display Garden on May 20, I was in for a big jolt. MHS has known for a long time that new housing was going to be constructed next door, but the scale of the change was unexpected. Just off the back of the East garden, there was a 30 foot drop! Far down below was the construction area where a new condo building had been started. Currently, there is a temporary chain-link safety fence, but how the cliff will be made safe in the long term is uncertain. It truly has made a huge impact on the Display Garden. Where there used to be a wooded area, the contractor cut down all but two trees on the garden's east edge. It will definitely be a much sunnier environment. It will be interesting to see how the construction company ends up dealing with the cliff.





The clean-up of the garden started May 22 when the two of us weeded the gardens. By 8:30 the next morning, five yards of mulch had been delivered by truck. Eight workers shoveled, hauled and spread five yards of mulch throughout the East, South and Gazebo gardens. The mulch really makes the hostas stand out and has the added benefit of holding in soil moisture. Many who picked up their member plants that day at Smith Coffee got to see the results of our work. Gary, Julie, Rod, Tom, Kathy, Linda, Darlene and Bob put in a lot of bending and heavy lifting.

You did a great job and everyone's help was much appreciated! Unfortunately, more mulch and another work day was needed for the North garden. On May 29, Steve Rutz trailered over another 1-1/2 yards of mulch for five members to again shovel, haul and spread. Gary, Julie, Tom, Steve and Kathy were up to the challenge and we were done with the garden in just over an hour. When we finished the mulch, the North garden looked as beautiful and dressy as the other completed gardens. It was fun to walk around the gardens admiring both the hostas and our work. We were lucky to have had good weather for both work days.





Display Garden Update, continued

MHS is asking again this year for members to volunteer to sign up for a week of watering the Display Garden over this coming summer. You all are our only watering system and we need your help to keep the Display Garden beautiful.

Please email: **carleymosiman@msn.com** and we will send you a list of weeks for which we need your help



This will be the 8th summer for the MHS Display Garden. It's changed a lot from those early days in 2013. We hope you will come out to enjoy it!













Hosta Gardening - Challenges

When I started growing Hosta in the late 80's, I never dreamed they would come with problems. They are still my favorite plant, and I cannot seem to quit buying them. I have learned a few things along the way, mind you, I am not an expert: just a self-proclaimed Hostaholic, with hosta hoarding tendencies. I have accumulated information over the years from many sources such as the University of MN, IA, WI, IL and MSU. The journal of the American Hosta Society and online Hosta Library have offered valuable information and served as a great teaching tool. My conversations with many hosta friends which include mentors like Arlene Savory and Bob Solberg along with my own hosta growing experience add to the information cited in this writing.

Unfortunately, I cannot remember which info I got from where, with a few exceptions, without doing the research again to give proper credit.

Kathy Haram

HOSTA VIRUS X



The number one problem of hosta other than deer and rabbits is Hosta Virus X.

So far there is no treatment for HVX other than disposal of the plant. There is no cure, no remedy, no foreseeable solution. HVX will not kill the hosta, but it will change the leaf appearance of a once beautiful plant.

The virus is spread by the sap from broken leaves, petioles, or roots. If you move a hosta with HVX it can contaminate your tools, gloves and your clothes and you may inadvertently transfer to other hosta. Remove the affected plant when it is dormant. If you suspect a plant has HVX, tie your plant with plastic ties, so it does not touch other hosta until it becomes dormant. Learn the signs and symptoms of HVX so you can easily identify it in your garden. If suspected do not share your hosta with friends or plant sales. Do not plant hosta in the same area for minimum of 2 growing seasons. Clean your tools with alcohol and change your gloves after handling infected plants to eliminate the spread to your other hosta. Removal of the infected hosta is the best solution. Do not compost the infected plant; dispose of it in the garbage. Practice clean and safe handling of all plant material.

Personally, I have seen HVX in many gardens, including my own, in a plant I had for over 10 years. Some people like the way it looks, and there a few cultivars that do not have HVX, but resemble HVX, and they are popular "To Have" plants. Help stop the spread and learn how to identify HVX to limit its spread within the hosta community. It is up to us, as hosta gardeners, to help stop the spread of HVX, until a solution is found.

To confirm whether you have an infected hosta , test kits are available (for purchase) at agdia.
https://orders.agdia.com/agdia-immunostrip-for-hvx-isk-16600
For more information:
http://www.hostalibrary.org/firstlook/HVX.htm

FOLIAR NEMATODES



Foliar nematodes are microscopic round worms, which are not visible to the human eye.

Nematodes live in the top side of the leaf in the tissue between the veins of the leaf and in the crown. They can destroy the appearance of a hosta leaf in a short period of time. They do not kill the plant but may weaken the plant by lowering its ability to generate energy for the next growing season. Nematodes do not cross the veins in the leaf, they go up and down between the veins. The Nematodes spread from plant to plant via water as a method of transportation.

Rain and overhead watering are the perfect vehicle to spread the infestation. Foliar Nematodes love water, but heat allows them to reproduce faster. Dry conditions allow them to live for several years in dying plant material. Their entire life cycle can be completed in 2-4 weeks and faster if the temperatures are high. One hosta plant can host multiple generations living within it. With tight controls on pesticides, there is not a solution to eliminate the nematodes especially when there are over 250 other host plants to keep the cycle going. Remove the infected leaves and dispose of them in the garbage, destroy heavily infested plants.

Fortunately, in Minnesota, they do not show up in the plant until late June and into July/August. I have been spraying a concoction of cinnamon oil, clove oil and thyme oil, with a drop of Dawn dish detergent on them twice during the growing season. I think it is working; I am experimenting with how much to use per gallon. Last year I used one tablespoon of each oil, per gallon of water. This year I might use 2 tablespoons per gallon if I still suspect an infestation of nematodes. Do not run out and buy it online yet, because I am not sure it works. We will see what happens this year.

BACTERIAL LEAF STREAK



BLS looks a lot like Foliar Nematodes in leaf appearance only. The good news is that it is treatable with copper fungicide. The bacterial infection crosses the vein on the hosta leaf and, in fact, the sure identifying marker is the fan shape discoloration at the base of the leaf. The infection can show up earlier than the foliar nematode infestation. You may notice the area between the veins appear to be waterlogged like edema (Spring Desiccation) seen earlier in the spring on some hosta.

In the past few years different types of fungus have attacked hosta leaves because of ever changing weather patterns; another possibility is high humidity and poor air circulation throughout the gardens. If you notice brown or rusty spots on your hosta you may have a fungus of one type or another. Most are treatable with a fungicide; I use Neem Oil. As a precaution, I treat my gardens with a fungicide twice a season because I have poor air circulation in my little fishbowl garden, which is a valley between a hogsback and a hill.

DEER & RABBITS



Whatever works for you is the solution.

A big dog to patrol the area is helpful, but if not available, the leading repellent right now is 'Liquid Fence®' for Deer and Rabbits. I also use Milorganite and broadcast it throughout the garden early in the season. The deer are not fond of smelly or fuzzy stuff.

Deer establish their summer eating patterns in early to mid-April before the birthing season in late April and early May. There are several methods and repellents described in the literature. Research the internet for repellents and gadgets that deter the midnight marauders. Talk with friends and neighbors and see what is working for them in your area. Deer are adaptable, what works one year may not work the next. I keep a sling shot and a box of tiny pebbles handy to discourage them from entering the garden. I think they think it is a game, or I 'm the crazy lady entertainment for the moment, because they have given me some strange looks. Sometimes I think I see them shaking their heads at me; does that mean they are pets?

SLUGS



Slug, or land slug, is a common name for any apparently shell-less terrestrial gastropod mollusk. They are slimly and slippery. They leave shiny trails as they slither around the garden. I cannot think of one useful purpose for them!

Clean up your garden to prevent slugs from laying eggs in hidden areas. They love cool damp places in which to hide such as under boards, rocks, dead leaves, mulch, flowerpots, or wherever they can stay cool and moist. Sluggo® is a granular product you can spread on the ground that attracts them to feed on the pellets. Some people use a 10% ammonia solution to spray directly on them or a garlic or vinegar solution, all of which may prove directly effective. It melts them on the spot. It makes me feel good every time I melt a slug! Unfortunately, slugs do their damage at night when I am sleeping or on cloudy days when I am doing house chores, but occasionally I catch them during the day and melt them with my ammonia spray.

Slugs become active as soon as the ground thaws and temps reach 41 degrees. It is not too early to begin slug control in April or May even if you do not see them. If you had them last year, they are out there this year. Most people do not notice them until they see holes in their hosta leaves around the end of June, when the hatched babies are feeding. I found out raccoons really like Sluggo. They ate a full container I left on the patio; it was brand new, still sealed. Not only that, they dig in my pots that I put Sluggo in and uproot the hosta. Now I need a raccoon repellent.

HAIL DAMAGE



The very first time I had severe hail damage, many years ago, I called Arlene Savory and got her advice. She said to trim them up and give them a shot of liquid fertilizer. A few years ago, my gardens were shredded by hail again. I decided I would experiment with a couple different methods. 1. Cut the hosta to the ground, give it a shot of liquid fertilizer and wait for the second growth flush. 2. I used Arlene's advice to clean up the leaves to make as presentable as possible, without cutting back, and give it a shot of liquid fertilizer. Both of these methods worked very well. I happened to have two H. Granary Gold side by side. I cut one to the ground, and the other I just trimmed up. The hosta I cleaned up came back the next year a little bigger than the previous year (Arlene was right). The hosta I cut to the ground took two growing seasons to get back to its original size by the third growing season. I would rather give up one growing season than waiting two seasons to get the plant back to the way it was before the hailstorm. It comes down to personal preference as to which method to try. If you want your hosta to look good in the garden after a hailstorm the same year, especially early in the season, cut it to the ground and suffer a setback in the plant, or deal with a ragged plant and be rewarded the next season with a full size plant.

SOUTHERN BLIGHT/CROWN ROT



This is a devasting problem if not treated.

Many years ago, when I was new at hosta collecting, I lost over 50 hosta to Southern Blight. I knew nothing about it when I noticed my hosta were looking poorly and thought I needed to move them. I dug them up moved them around and did not clean my tools with bleach. Little did I know I was spreading the dreadful stuff all around my garden.

I heard that Bob Solberg was an expert on the subject, so I emailed him, sent photos, and described what was going on. He advised me not to dig them up, but to treat them with a 10% bleach solution. I treated them at least 3 times that summer by drenching the crown with the 10% bleach solution and it worked! It was gone. I still have my bleach speckled clothing as a reminder. Such a simple solution for what seemed a devasting problem. With Bob's advice and a little research, the problem was solved.
https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/sclerotium-of-southern-blight

To find out about winter kill, and other emerging problems such as edema, bacterial soft rot, voles and mice, root & rhizome rots, insects and more go to:
http://www.hostalibrary.org/Disease/Pest2.htm

Do not be discouraged about growing Hosta, they are a very lovely plant, and make my heart skip a beat. A few setbacks will make a stronger hosta collector out of you! In my book you can never have too many Hosta!

	DUE TO COVID19 ALL ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
June 11-13	AHS: CANCELLED National Convention Hosted by Minnesota Hosta Society
August 31	Deadline for Fall Newsletter
October	Fall Meeting, Speaker, Location TBD









