



Karen Warner, President



President's Letter

INSIDE:

Editor's Notes	2
MVHS Calendar & Other Events of Interest	3
Hosta College	4
Hosta College	5
April Meeting	6
Member News	7
Vendor Members	8
Book Recommendations	9
Contact Information	10

Spring is here and personally I am looking forward to no more frost and little green things peeking out of the ground.

Your board and committee members met several times last Fall and have put together another interesting year. Thank you to all who worked on this project.

A special big thank you to Gene and Glenda Wogoman for once again making the Yearbook a reality.

Also a thank you for their contribution to Hosta College.

Hosta College was held on March 18 and 19 in Piqua. Many of our members attended. This event is always a way to "Think

Spring". It's fun to shop the vendor area and get some new ideas and of course new plants for our gardens.

I'm sure you recognize by now that we are meeting at several locations this year. Cox Arboretum and Polen Farm became cost prohibitive to use for meetings and the auction. We are going North, South, East and West this year. Should be fun to see new places.

We had a great turnout to the April 12 "Ask the Experts" meeting at the Vandalia Senior Center. Our experts gave very thoughtful answers to your excellent questions.

Remember our annual auction on May 14. The auc-

tion will be held at the West Carrollton Nazarene Church. Directions and address are in the yearbook.

July finds us on the road again. This time to North East Ohio and Western Pa. Make your reservations early so you can be on the bus. This will be a busy trip and lots of fun.

Remember it's okay to get your clothes and hands dirty. Plants give back so much more than we expect. What other purchases we make return to us twofold over the years?

Happy Gardening, Karen

Annual Hosta Auction Saturday May 14

For our only fundraiser of the year, grab your wallet and come to the West Carrollton Nazarene Church at 550 South Elm Street. Over a hundred hostas and other items will be auctioned off by the very knowledgeable and engaging, Bob liames this year. Bring items to be auctioned no later than 11am. Preview starts at 12:30pm and the auction at 1pm. This event is open to the public so tell all your friends!

All members are encouraged to donate plants or other garden items. Provide the details of your donation (i.e. plant names, descriptions) to Joan Stoppelman at tomstop@woh.rr.com no later than Monday May 9. Contact Gene Bashor with questions at (937) 833-5137 or mgbashor@yahoo.com.

Editor's Notes: "Worms Won't Hurt Me Daddy"

By Robin Mann

Happy Spring to my fellow gardeners! As the new Hosta News Scapes Editor, I thought I might share a little about myself. I joined the Miami Valley Hosta Society (MVHS) in 2010, but I've been around gardeners and plants all of my life.

My ancestors journeyed to southwest Michigan in the 19th and 20th centuries. Some of them were farmers settling rural areas. I think I must have inherited some of their love of the land and plants. My grandfather, Don Gage, purchased a 4 acre home in Portage MI, and in the mid 1950's propagated and sold Chrysanthemums under the name "Gages Gardens." My father, Terry Gage (who was about 10 to 18 years old at the time) remembers feeling less than thrilled about spending his free time planting little mums. My dad's love of gardening would not be rekindled until buying his first home and planting it full of blue spruce and pines. In retirement, he discovered hostas and has succumbed to "Hostaholism." He has some 1,000 hostas and has been working to create new varieties through planned hybridization at home. Many of you visited his yard as the first stop on the 2013 bus trip to Michigan.

As a little girl, my first memory of gardening was finding an earthworm and becoming frightened. My dad explained that earthworms were good for the soil and would not harm me. I proceeded to tell my Dad and everyone else repeatedly that "Worms won't hurt me, Daddy." A nature and plant lover was born.

I did not have much time for gardening until I retired from tax accounting in 2004. My husband and I owned a Springboro home with partial shade conditions. My dad's love of hostas was contagious and in my tiny back yard I created a private



oasis filled with the 4 H's of shade gardening (hostas, hydrangeas, heucheras, and hellebores).

In 2013 we moved to Kettering to be closer to work, church, and friends. Not by accident, we purchased a yard that was ideal for gardening and had only a few sad plants on the property. Over the last three seasons, I have yanked out almost all the sickly plants and planted around 200 perennials, shrubs, and trees. I have had a few conversations with the local deer about not eating my hostas and rubbing my saplings with mixed success. Since moving to a yard with both sun and shade, I have become a "Conehead" (member of the American Conifer Society) and a Master Gardener Volunteer (intern). I still have room for lots more plants, so I welcome everyone's advice about garden design and plant choices. My ten year goal is to create something that would be worthy of a garden tour.

So I sit alertly in the MVHS meetings taking notes about all the varied aspects of gardening. I love to learn from the expertise of the experienced members of the group and our

guest speakers. I am inspired by the beautiful gardens shared in local garden tours. I'm awed by the dedication of the officers and the friendliness of the members. If my service as your editor can give back a portion of the blessings that all of you have provided to me through this wonderful organization, I will be happy.

This year I hope that you will send me your event photos and share with me your interests and ideas. I will endeavor to keep you informed about the group and educated about our favorite plants. It is a privilege to take the helm of this award winning publication. Happy Gardening!



Photograph by Ed Mann at Cox Arboretum

2016 MVHS Calendar of Events — *Join Us!*

APRIL “Ask the Experts” Meeting and Presentation, Tue April 12, 7pm

Vandalia Senior Center, 21 Tionda Drive South, Vandalia Ohio.

MAY Hosta Auction, Sat May 14, 1pm

West Carrollton Nazarene Church, 550 S Elm Street, West Carrollton Ohio. Open to the Public. Preview starts 12:30pm. Bring a friend or two! See article for more information.

JUNE Kettering Member Garden Visits, Tue June 14, 5p to 8pm

Visit these two gardens in either order:

Karen Warner****
25 Triple Crown Circle
Springboro, Ohio

Audrey and Ron Schilb
2305 Glenheath Drive, Kettering,
Ohio

****Please note the change in gardens from the Yearbook.

JULY Overnight Bus Trip to Visit Hosta TailG8 in Mogadore, Ohio, Friday July 8 through July 9,
See Yearbook for registration information.

JULY North Member Garden Visits, Sat July 16

10am-12pm

Mike and Anne Randall
6377 Hartzell Rd, Greenville,
Ohio

12pm

Marcia and Gary Niswonger
5570 Union Shelby Rd

Bring your own picnic lunch, chair, or blanket.

AUGUST “Water Gardening” Meeting and Presentation, Tue August 9, 7pm

Miami Township Public Library
2730 Lyons Road, Dayton Ohio,
Presentation by Jerry Woodbury,
President, Miami Valley Water
Garden Society.

SEPTEMBER Carry-in Supper, Tue September 13, 6pm

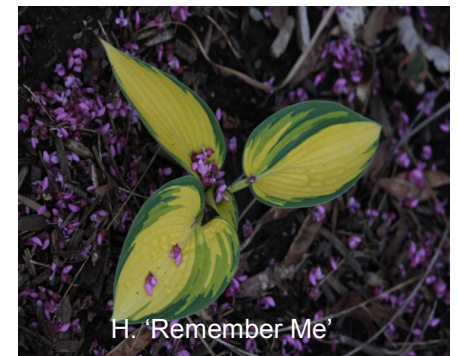
Stockslagers Greenhouse &
Garden Center, 14037 Eaton
Pike, US 35, New Lebanon,
Ohio. RSVP by September 2 to
Karen Warner
4pm Shopping
6pm Dinner (Bring a dish to
pass)

OCTOBER Special Joint Meeting & Presentation featuring speaker Dick Ward.

Sat October 1, 11am to 3pm
Der Dutchman Restaurant, 445 South Jefferson, Plain City, Ohio 43064. \$23 fee includes buffet lunch and is due by September 23 to Treasurer, Joyce Zeck. The Central Ohio Hosta Society hosts this joint meeting including the Greater Cincinnati Hosta Society and MVHS. Topic is “Mouse” hostas.

October “Cleaning & Preparing the Garden for Winter” Meeting & Presentation, Tue October 11, 6p
Knollwood Garden Center, 3766 Dayton-Xenia Road, Beavercreek, Ohio. Presentation by John Scott. Officer Elections.

Please note the new locations and consult your Yearbook for directions.



Other Events of Interest

June 2-5 Schnormeier Gardens Open House, 8701 Laymon Road Gambier, Ohio 43022. Visit www.schnormeiergardens.org/Bulletin_Board/bulletin_board for more information on this residential garden that is open to the public once a year.

June 14-18 American Hosta Society National Convention in St. Louis “Gateway to the Gardens.” Visit www.stlouishosta.org/2016Convention/2016Convention

June 17-18 St. Anne’s Hill Biennial Historic Home & Garden Tour, Dayton, Ohio. Visit www.stanneshill.org

June 18 Miami County in Bloom Garden Tour featuring 6 gardens with water features in unique settings. Visit go.osu.edu/MiamiGardenTour

September 3 Bob’s Garden Fair 10am-3pm, 222 E Wenger Rd, Englewood Ohio

Hosta College 2016



Jay & Terri



Bobbie at the Vendor Area

Behind the Scenes at Hosta College

By Glenda Wogoman

The 23rd annual Hosta College was held on March 18 and 19 at Upper Valley Career Center in Piqua, OH. Hosta College is a gardening symposium hosted by the Great Lakes Region Hosta Society with a primary focus on Hosta but also covering many gardening topics and plants.

Soon after UVCC students left for the day at 2:45 pm on Friday, March 18, 70 volunteers from 12 local Hosta Societies in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Western New York rushed in to transform the school into Hosta College.

MVHS volunteers decorated tables for Saturday

breakfast and placed plants on all the tables in the dining hall. The auditorium became the location for auctioning hosta and other plants and gardening items. Bob liames was the auctioneer with Carlon Addison as his assistant. The auction was open to the public Friday 7:00 pm.

Information, door prizes and raffles took over the student services lobby area as volunteers set up tables, decorated them and placed raffled plants and door prize items on them.

UVCC classrooms were adjusted to fit the needs of 40 Hosta College teachers who would be teaching



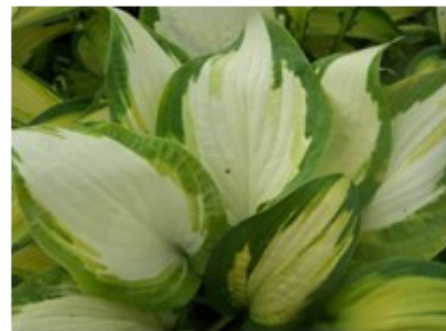
Glenda, Gene, & Jeanne



Marcia



One classroom became the Hosta College Bookstore where attendees could purchase gardening books and garden tools at a discount.



This year's Hosta Gift Plant was 'Neptune' or 'Happy Dayz'

Hosta College

(Continued from page 4)

more than 60 classes on Saturday to 348 Hosta College attendees. The 14 UVCC teachers who allowed us to use their classrooms were given a coupon for Andy's Garden.

UVCC carpentry shop was transformed into vending by the students and their teacher. They were treated to pizza for their help. Seventeen vendors from all across the country came to sell their products at Hosta College. Volunteers decorated the tables and helped vendors carry in their products. There was quite a rush of activity from 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm Friday when vending opened to the public.

Gene and Glenda Wogoman, MVHS delegates to the Hosta College Board, had responsibility for facilities and were assisted by volunteers from MVHS and Hosta Society of Greater Cincinnati. Thanks to Carlon Addison, Gene & Marcia Bashor, Larry Grage, Sherry Green, Steve Harman, Libby Head, Bob Iames, Karen Jetter, Lois Lustenberger, Doro-

thea Otte, Dick Prentice, Greg & Bette Rau, and Joyce Thomas. The caterer delivered box lunches and the volunteers labeled and separated them into groups to be delivered to the different committee members responsible for getting everything ready for Hosta College.

At 6:00 pm the activity turned from working to buying books, plants, garden items and raffle tickets and Hosta College officially opened.

After all the classes and shopping possibilities ended on Saturday, our volunteers quickly helped decorate tables in the dining hall for the optional banquet. One hundred fifty people enjoyed fellowship, excellent food and a gardening presentation by Marcia Sully, the banquet speaker.

Mark your calendars for March 17-18, 2017 and become a part of this fantastic event!

Glenda Wogoman



Joan & Marlena



Susan & Terry



Bob Iiames, Joan Day, Gene Wogoman, Ron Schilb, Marcia Niswonger

APRIL MEETING: Ask the Experts

On April 12, the Miami Valley Hosta Society met at the Vandalia Senior Center for the first meeting of the year. Items of special note were a change in the garden tour locations June 14. See page 3 for details. Also, Karen Warner announced that the club's President and Treasurer positions would be open next year as she and Joyce Zech would be finishing their terms at the end of 2016. Please contact the board, if

interested. Two members received awards from the American Hosta Society. See page 7 for details. After the business meeting, the floor was open for the audience to ask our five experts their pressing gardening questions. A great discussion ensued. A big thank you to Bob, Joan, Gene, Ron, and Marcia. We are thankful to have such knowledgeable members.





New Member Welcome Mat

Susan and Gary Weeks
Jerry and Jill Henry
Norman Henger
Molly Kenny
Carlotta Webb
Jane Zwolski

Did you know?

According to the Weed Science Society of America, Crabgrasses were grown for food thousands of years before they were considered weeds. The United States Patent Office introduced large crabgrass into this country as a forage crop in 1849, a time when livestock numbers were increasing rapidly and good forage was scarce. Immigrants from Poland and central Europe in the late 19th century and early 20th century held the crop in high esteem, calling it "manna grits." Because of its ability to adjust to tropical and temperate conditions, it is reported as a weed in 33 crops in 56 countries. Crabgrass is a problem in orchards, vineyards, lawns, and flower beds in every state.

Information provided by the Weed Science Society of America at <http://wssa.net/wp-content/themes/WSSA/WorldOfWeeds/crabgrass.html>.

Member Honors

At the April 12, 2016 meeting, last year's recipients of the American Hosta Society Special Recognition Award, Karen Warner and Marcia Niswonger, presented the following plaques:

"With warm appreciation for your dedication and hard work throughout years of service to Miami Valley Hosta Society" to

Bob Iames
Carlton Addison

Thank you to all these individuals for their tireless efforts over many years in support of MVHS.

Volunteers Needed

MVHS is seeking volunteers who have social media savvy. If you are interested in helping MVHS update its Facebook or Twitter pages, please contact Steve Harman at staff@miamivalleyhosta.com

Attention all photographers: please e-mail the editor your best photographs taken at club events for inclusion in the newsletter or social media. rmann1993@yahoo.com. Thanks.

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H. 'Guacamole'

Future Newsletters

I'd like to hear what topics interest you. Please e-mail any ideas for articles or book reviews. Have you been to a great garden locally or nationally? Please send photos and a summary of your experience. Do you

have any favorite plant combinations? Groundcovers? I'm in the midst of a groundcover trial to determine which sunny groundcovers look nice year round. I will report on my findings next issue. Thank you. Editor, Robin Mann rmann1993@yahoo.com

BOOK CORNER

During the April "Ask the Experts Meeting" Ron Schilb recommended the first three books below. I added the last book. If you have any other favorites, send the Editor an e-mail.

"Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses" by Michael A. Dirr

"Manual of Herbaceous Ornamental Plants" by Steven M. Still

"American Horticultural Society A to Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants" by Christopher Brickell

"The Hostapedia: An Encyclopedia of Hostas" by Mark R. Zilis

Miami Valley Hosta Society



Robin Mann, News Scapes Editor
rmann1993@yahoo.com

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H. ‘Dawn’s Early Light’

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