



## President's Letter

*Bob Liames, President*

Hi gardening friends,

Just when I thought Fall and all her beautiful colors were going to pass us by, BAM, it materialized like a beautiful fall rainbow. The Japanese Maples in my garden have been out of control with color. Thanks, Dave Dannaher, for encouraging me to add more Japanese Maples, especially the ones with "Great fall color!" Even my hosta showed beautiful colors of bright yellow, gold and tan. I hope you were able to experience Fall's beautiful show.

We have a new person in charge of the MVHS Hosta Auction. Normajeane Roselius has stepped in for Dick Prentice who has decided to step down. Dick has done a fantastic job as auction chair organizing the venue, donations, seeing that all the donations are picked up, advertising, set up of the auction, getting volunteers

and clean up. He has worked long and hard to help make our auction a success and money maker for the club. THANK YOU DICK!!!

Normajeane is already hard at work on the auction. Please give her all the help you've given Dick in the past to ensure our auctions continued success and growth. 2019 MVHS Auction will be May 4th. Watch for the newsletter and emails for more info.

Our next event and last gathering of 2018 will be our Christmas party at Karen Warner's house, Thursday, December 13th at 7 PM. Hope to see you all there.

At this time of year make and spend time with friends and family, enjoy the beauty you have created in your garden and relax a little, spring is just around the corner.

Happy gardening, Bob

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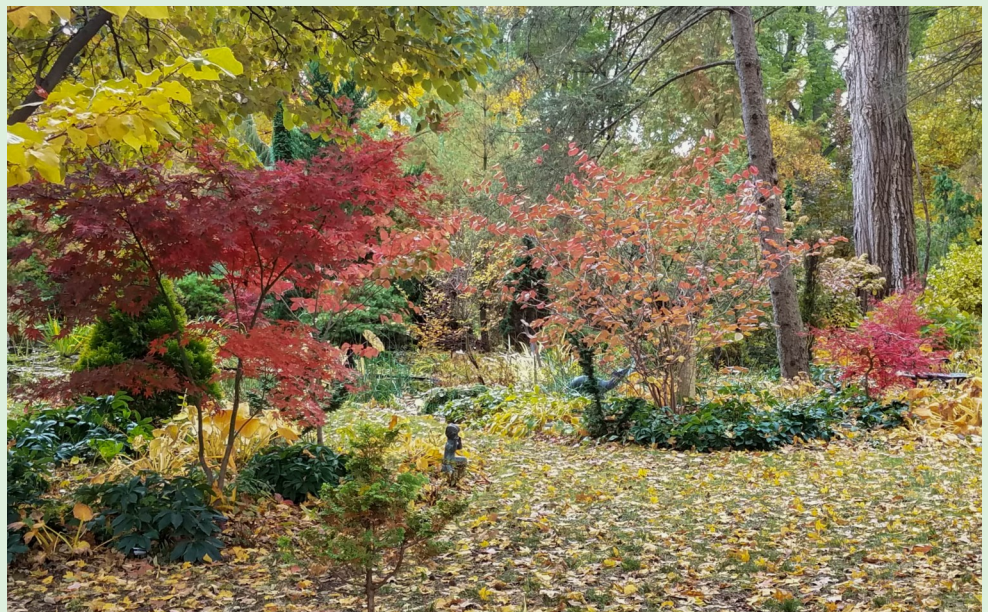
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Photo taken by Bob Liames of his garden



# 2018 & 2019 Events Calendar



## December 13 Holiday Party



You are cordially invited to a Holiday Party at Karen Warner's home December 13 at 7pm. Her address is 25 Triple Crown Circle, Springboro, OH. See her 23'x8' Christmas village and enjoy light refreshments.



Please RSVP to Karen by Dec 5  
karjaws@sbcglobal.net or leave a message at (937) 748-2407.

Date	Place	2019 Events
Apr 9 2019	Historical Society of Vandalia (note new location)	Meeting and Speaker
May 4 2019	West Carrollton Nazarene Church	MVHS Hosta Live Auction will offer hostas and other plants for bid to delight the gardener. Open to the public.
Jun 11 2019	Troy/Tipp City area	Member Garden Tours
Jul 11 2019	Southwest area	Member Garden Tours
Aug 13 2019	Miami Township Branch of Dayton Metro Library	Meeting and Speaker
Sep 10 2019	Historical Society of Vandalia (note new location)	Meeting and Speaker
Oct 8 2019	Andy's Garden Center, Troy	Carry-in Meeting and Speaker

### Hosta College March 15-16

If you've never attended a Great Lakes Region Hosta College, you're missing one of the area's most comprehensive weekend plant symposiums. For only \$42 (hosta society members) or \$55 (nonmembers) participants are able to attend 5 classes they have chosen from a program of over 60 classes on hostas, other plants, and gardening topics. The weekend includes a banquet, speaker, auction, and vendor sales as well as networking opportunities with some of the major hosta experts in the country. We are fortunate to have such a great spring conference held at the Upper Valley Career Center in Piqua, Ohio. Keep your eyes open for registration e-mail messages in February or go to <https://www.ihostohio.org/glhc/default.asp> for more information.



### Great Lakes Region

#### 2019 Hosta Tailgate June 21-23, 2019

North Coast Hosta Society hosts a weekend of garden tours and hosta friends at the Bay Community House, 303 Cahoon Rd, Bay Village, Ohio 44140. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Westlake Hampton Inn 29690 Detroit Rd, Westlake, Ohio 44145, (440)892-0333. Mention "Tailgate" for \$99 room rate. Visit [www.ihostohio.org/glhc/](http://www.ihostohio.org/glhc/) for all the latest.

## October Events

### October 9 Meeting and Presentation by Pamela J. Bennett Top Performing Annuals for Low Maintenance Gardens

“These are not your Grandma’s annuals” explained Pam Bennett at the Vandalia Senior Center. As well as being an Associate Professor at The Ohio State University and State Master Gardener Volunteer Program Director for OSU Extension, Pam is responsible for Field Trials at the Clark County Extension facility in Snyder Park. These trials pit new varieties of annuals against plants that are already on the market. The trials involve planting in native soil, with limited fertilizer, pesticides and irrigation to best replicate the growing conditions that average gardeners experience. After several years of conducting these trials, Pam has developed some favorite annuals that she presented to the group as being tough, low maintenance, or generally superior varieties. Pam provided a handout with four pages of recommended annuals from Alternanthera to Zinnia that I will never go shopping without. A favorite past speaker, Pam’s great knowledge, excellent photos, and lively presentation were appreciated immensely by the membership.



Pam Bennett

The OSU Extension office in Clark County is the only ornamental trial site in Ohio for All-America Selections ornamental flower trials. More information can be found at [go.osu.edu/field trials](http://go.osu.edu/field%20trials).

### October 20 Tri-Club Luncheon The Reds Are Coming by Doug Beilstein



The annual Tri-club meeting was hosted by the Hosta Society of Greater Cincinnati at De Sha’s Restaurant. Doug Beilstein presented a PowerPoint on all the hybridizing being done with hosta to bring red into the leaves and the hybridizing of hosta in general. It was also a good time to catch up with members I only get to see once or twice a year from the other clubs. Great friends, good food and a little education....it was another fun event with the hosta society. Written by Bob liames.

Doug Beilstein, hosting the MVHS Bus Tour in June 2018

Date	Place	Other Gardening Events
Feb 16-17, 2019	Cox Arboretum	Miami Valley Orchid Society Spring Show. This competition and shopping opportunity is a great way to experience the tropics during a Dayton winter. <a href="http://www.miamivalleyorchidsociety.com">www.miamivalleyorchidsociety.com</a>
Mar 7, 2019	Springfield, OH	Central Ohio Perennial Flower School hosted by OSU Extension Clark County is an all day seminar with notable speakers on a variety of garden topics. Call the extension office at 937-521-3860 for more information. Fees and registration required in 2019.

## Member News

At the October 9 meeting, we elected new officers and re-elected two existing officers. Thank you to Bob liames (President) and Joyce Thomas (Treasurer) for continuing in your roles. Thank you to Bette Rau, Susan Detert, Dick Prentice, and Gene and Glenda Wogoman for all your time and efforts to make the last few years run smoothly and enjoyably. I asked the new people to give us a little information about themselves. Thank you for stepping up and welcome aboard!

### Greg Rau, Vice President

Surprisingly, this is Greg's first officer position with MVHS. A long time member, we are used to seeing him helping at Hosta College, the Auction and on the Bus Trips. Greg and Bette's garden has been featured on several MVHS garden tours and is a beautiful mature collection of unusual trees, conifers, trough gardens, succulents, garden art, water feature, rockwork, and of course hostas. Greg creates stain glass pieces and wind spinners for the garden.



Greg Rau's Stained Glass creation

### Jerry and Phyllis Bashor, co-Secretaries



Jerry's brother, Gene, invited Jerry and Phyllis on a MVHS bus tour in 2013 and they were hooked. Phyllis is a retired registered nurse and Jerry and Gene owned an appliance store in Trotwood. Between the two of them, they have 5 children, 14 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren. Phyllis is a hosta collector and knits and crochets. Jerry is a day lily and model airplane enthusiast. They have a lovely garden filled with a riot of colorful perennials and hostas tucked into the coveted shady spaces. Their garden was featured in two MVHS tours in 2017. While Phyllis' favorite hosta changes from year to year, 'First Blush' was at the top of her list last fall. The couple has built a special hosta pergola in order to create more shade for their lovely hostas.



### Steve and Tina Duritsch Great Lakes Region Hosta Society Delegates

Steve and Tina joined MVHS in 2017 as a result of meeting Bob liames. Steve is physician in Rehabilitative Medicine and they have three young adult children. GLRHS plans the annual Hosta College and supports a Hosta Tailgate at a different location each year in the region. Steve and Tina will represent the Miami Valley Hosta Society at the GLRHS meetings and be an important part of Hosta College arrangements.

Right, Bob liames, Steve & Tina Duritsch

## Member News continued

### Normajeane Roselius, Auction Committee Chair

Normajeane has agreed to take on the MVHS Auction and is actively looking for ways to grow the auction to increase sales and attract new members. She is retired from 31 years in Computer Programming, Analysis and Design and enjoys hiking, kayaking, and jigsaw puzzles. She organizes a local group called Dayton Hikers. Normajeane has two college age daughters one of whom is studying Computer Science at Wright State and one who is special needs and currently in a job exploration program.

Normajeane joined MVHS in 2016 and is interested in shade gardening and of course Hostas. Her favorite plant is a hosta given to her by Carlton Addison which is a streaked cross between 'Chinese Dragon Supreme' and 'The Hulk.' This summer she moved to a new home with lots of shade and few plants. 100 plants were moved from her old house and voila—a beautiful new garden surrounding her patio was born. Let's all think of ways we can help Normajeane to make a great 2019 Auction.



Susan Detert and Bette Rau, finishing up their terms as Secretary and Vice President at our October meeting. Thanks ladies!

### MVHS Dues Reminder

2019 dues are due December 31, 2018. Timely paid dues give you the benefit of being included in the printed Yearbook, preferential Bus Trip Registration, and early registration for Hosta College. Please mail your check to Treasurer, Joyce Thomas 6211 St. Rt. 123 Franklin, OH 45005. Questions? Contact Joyce at 937-789-8663 or joycethomas1499@gmail.com.

Individual \$12/year. Family \$17/year (2 persons with the same address).

### Poinsettia Fun Facts

- The Aztecs called poinsettias "Cuetlaxochitl" meaning "flower that grows in residues or soil." During the 14th-16th century the sap was used to control fevers and the bracts (modified leaves) were used to make a reddish dye.
- Joel Roberts Poinsett was the first United States Ambassador to Mexico, appointed by President John Quincy Adams in the 1820's. During his stay in Mexico he wandered the countryside looking for new plant species. In 1828 he found a beautiful shrub with large red flowers growing next to a road. He brought back cuttings from the plant to South Carolina.
- In the early 1900's the Ecke family of southern California grew poinsettias outdoors for use as landscape plants and as a cut flower. Today the Paul Ecke Ranch in California grows over 70% of all Poinsettias purchased in the United States and accounts for about 50% of the world-wide sales of Poinsettias.
- Poinsettias are not severely poisonous. A study at The Ohio State University showed that a 50-pound child would have to eat more than 500 leaves to have any harmful effect. However, eating the leaves can cause vomiting and diarrhea in pets.

The source of the above information is a Poinsettia page at <http://extension.illinois.edu/poinsettia/credits.cfm> developed by Ron Wolford, Extension Educator, Horticulture, Cook County Unit

## To Divide or Not to Divide

by Bob Solberg

One of the most often asked hosta questions is, "When do I divide my hostas". Traditionally the answer has been, "In the spring, just as they are coming out the ground".

Spring may be the easiest time to divide hostas with all their foliage out of the way. And spring is the time of year that we are all in the mood to clean up the garden and envision the way we want it to look in summer. It is only natural to want to dig those hosta clumps and spread them out all over the garden especially when we see how many more divisions there will be in each clump this year than last.

Honestly, spring is not a bad time to most hostas, especially those that multiply the fastest and are in the greatest need of being divided. But there are dangers. So what is the best time for the hosta? Let's look at how a hosta grows and see when it might like to be divided.

Hostas sleep all winter, they are dormant. They do not make new roots like other perennials do. In the spring their buds swell and the leaves emerge first. If the hosta was mature, these will be large mature leaves. If the hosta was grown in the sun, these will be narrowed leaves adapted for sun. A hosta grown in deep shade will have larger more rounded leaves adapted for shade. These leaves will emerge, expand and harden off in about three or so weeks depending on whether the spring weather is cool or warm.

As the first leaves harden off and second flush of leaves begins to appear, the hosta will be making new roots from the base of the new shoot. Thus hostas do not make new roots until the first foliage hardens off or about three weeks after they emerge. Cool spring soil temperatures may slow or delay this root formation even longer.

So what is the danger of dividing hostas in the spring? Timing. In the spring when the weather is cool and the soil is slow to warm,

H. 'Guacamole'



H. 'Dawn's Early Light'

***So what is the danger of dividing hostas in the spring? In the spring when the weather is cool and the soil is slow to warm, your newly divided hostas will have large mature leaves and no new roots for weeks.***

your newly divided hostas will have large mature leaves and no new roots for weeks. What we call beautiful spring days, those of bright sun, cool breezes and low humidity, are very stressful for new hosta leaves. On those days the desiccation rate is very high and the new hosta divisions with their reduced and possibly damaged root systems, dry out rapidly. If the weather turns suddenly hot for even a day or two, the hosta leaves will burn. While this damage may not prove permanent, the clumps will certainly be reduced in size.

So, if you must divide your hostas in the spring, do not over divide them. Split the clumps in half or at most quarters. Divide only fast growing cultivars in spring that can recover quickly, avoid *H. sieboldianus* and



H. 'First Blush'<sup>PPAF</sup>

'Tokudamas'. Dig them with a fork not a shovel so as to damage their long roots as little as possible. Hosta roots only grow at the tip, if you cut the roots they rarely branch and will not get any longer. New roots will have to come to take their place.

When then do I prefer to divide my hostas? I like to do it in August or early September, at least 30 days before the first frost date. The conditions then are more favorable to rapid root growth. The soil is warm and the air is more humid than in the spring. While people prefer the cool, sunny days of spring, hostas grow well on 85-90

degree days with high humidity.

Also, hostas usually put on a little growth spurt in August. Frequently, they will throw up a small flush of leaves as the temperatures moderate from the heat of July, especially if there has been rain. Many hostas at this time of year begin to actively grow again after their summer heat dormancy. Thus, hostas divided in late summer will make new roots quickly. Many fast growing hostas will make all new foliage before frost and hold it well into fall. Some may even bloom again.

***When do I prefer to divide my hostas? I like to do it in August or early September, at least 30 days before the first frost date.***

The only danger in dividing hostas in August is excessive heat or extended drought. Keep newly divided hostas wet. Do not let them dry out for the first two weeks. Removing

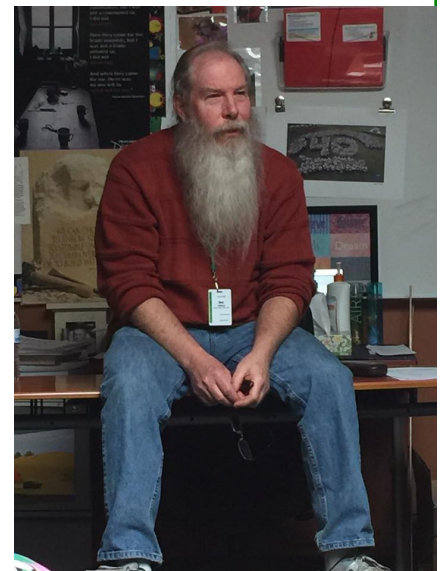
some of the older, larger leaves or cutting the foliage back at the time of dividing will reduce water loss. Any leaves that suffer burned edges will be taken by the frost in a few weeks anyway.

One other aesthetic point. I would rather have my hosta garden look "divided" as it goes into fall when hostas are usually past their peak anyway than to see it that way all season long. Hostas divided in August will come up next spring in their new homes with more divisions, better proportioned leaves and established root systems. They will look better too. So save your heavy hosta dividing for those humid late summer days. It will be tougher on you, but your hostas will thank you in the spring.

Bob Solberg has been hybridizing hostas for almost 30 years and has introduced around 100 hostas to date including 'Guacamole' (2002 Hosta of the Year), 'First Frost,' 'Curly Fries,' and 'First Blush'<sup>PPAF</sup>.

Bob operates Green Hill Farm (and its online division Green Hill Hostas at [www.HostaHosta.com](http://www.HostaHosta.com)) which specializes in hostas, both wholesale and retail. The company is among the leading introducers of new hostas in the world. Green Hill Farm also publishes a unique newspaper annually, *The Green Hill Gossip* and a newsletter, the *Gossip Jr.*, in August and November. Used with permission.

Bob Solberg at the 2017 Hosta College



### American Hosta Society

Join AHS and receive *The Hosta Journal* mailed twice a year and have access to a third issue online in the *Members Only* section of the AHS website. This publication offers the latest information on care, feeding, and hybridizing; pictures of new cultivars; and news of upcoming meetings and conventions. Members have the privilege of visiting display gardens throughout the country, many of which are only open to AHS members. Also, members are invited to exhibit their favorite hostas and compete for recognition in various AHS national and regional cut-leaf shows. Visit [americanhostasociety.org](http://americanhostasociety.org) for more information.



### Editor's Corner (and sometimes Confessional)

I have a confession to make. I had never sharpened my gardening tools. When my pruners no longer do the job, I buy another pair. I was chagrined when Dave Dannaer told us at our September Carry-In "my goodness, don't prune your Japanese Maples with dull tools that you just used on infested plants." I always thought that sharpening tools required fancy equipment and vast expertise. Finally, I felt that I had to do something and signed up for a tool sharpening workshop given by the Clark County Master Gardeners. We washed our tools in soapy water (do not soak them long term), removed stubborn sap with Krud Kutter, cleaned them with coarse steel wool, oiled them with light oil such as 3-in-1, and tried a variety of different sharpening products. The products included basic metal files, tiny triangular metal files to reach in between serrated blades, whet stones, etc. Certainly, the one-way motion to sharpen the blades needed to be repeated a few times, but following the existing bevel of the blade was not complex. In a short period of time, my tools were much sharper and I came away with confidence that with the purchase of a few simple items and some time, I could keep my tools in working order. What will you do with your winter months? Read gardening books or blogs? Design new beds? Start vegetable or hosta seeds indoors? I hope you have a wonderful and safe holiday season.

As always, if you have photos, topics of interest, or any other feedback, please contact me at [rmann1993@yahoo.com](mailto:rmann1993@yahoo.com). Robin Mann, Editor



### 2019 National Convention June 12-15 Green Bay Wisconsin

The Green and Gold Hosta Society of Northeastern Wisconsin welcomes you to beautiful and picturesque Northeast Wisconsin where you'll tour iconic gardens, hear world-renowned speakers, shop a variety of vendors, participate in friendly competitions and a live auction, eat great food and, most importantly, enjoy the company of fellow gardeners and friends, both new and old. Registration is now open and Early Bird prices continue through January 31, 2019.

Hotel: Radisson Hotel & Conference Center in Green Bay, WI

For more information visit [www.ahs2019event.org](http://www.ahs2019event.org).





# Thank You Vendors!

The following vendors donated plants or other goods to the 2018 MVHS Auction. A successful auction would not have been possible without their generous support. Thank you.

**Andy's Garden** andysgarden.com  
2310 West State Route 55, Troy, OH 45373  
(937)335-5550

**Dannaher Landscaping & Nursery**  
dannaherlandscaping.com  
12200 Vans Valley Rd, Galena, OH 43021  
(740)965-3789

**Glenda's Garden**  
Email: ggwogoman@gmail.com  
7620 Halderman Rd, West Alexandria, OH 45381  
(937)839-4044

**Grandma's Gardens** grandmasgardencenter.com  
8107 North State Route 48, Waynesville, OH 45068  
(937)885-2740

**Greenleaf Gardens** charliebunton@gmail.com  
4726 U.S. Route 68 North, Yellow Springs, OH 45387  
(937)767-1997

**Groovy Plants Ranch** groovyplantsranch.com  
4140 Co. Rd 15, Marengo, OH 43334  
(740)675-2681

**Joan's Backyard Treasures**  
6215 Cavalcade Dr, Hamilton, OH 45011  
(513)868-3512

**Knollwood Garden Center & Landscaping**  
Knollwoodgardens.com  
3766 Dayton Xenia Rd, Beavercreek, OH 45432  
(937)426-0861

**Meadow View Growers** meadowview.com  
755 North Dayton-Lakeview Rd (St Rte 235 North)  
New Carlisle, OH 45344  
(937)845-0093

**Natorp's Nursery** Natorp.com  
8601 Snider Rd  
Cincinnati, OH 45040  
(513)398-4769

**The Secret Garden**  
secretgardenwaynesville.com  
4107 E State Route 73,  
Waynesville, OH 45068  
(513)897-5505



**Seely's Landscape Nursery** seelyslandscape.com  
3265 Walcutt Rd, Hillard, OH 43026  
(614)771-0011

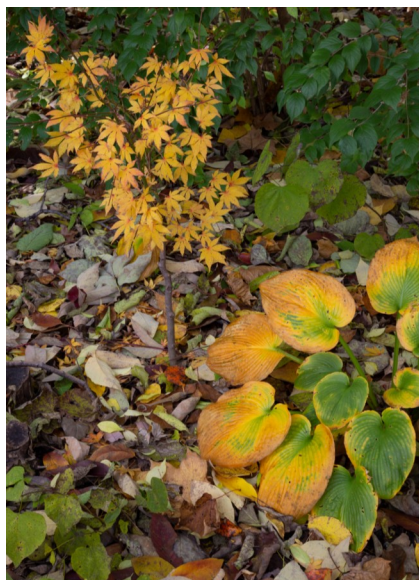
**Stockslagers Greenhouse & Garden Center**  
Stockslagers.com  
14037 Dayton Eaton Pike, New Lebanon, OH 45345  
(937)687-2722

**Wade & Gatton Nurseries**  
wadeandgattonnurseries.com  
1288 Gatton Rocks Rd, Bellville, OH 44813  
(419)883-3191

**Wengerlawn Nursery Co.** wengerlawnnursery.com  
6450 Wengerlawn Rd, Brookville, OH 45309  
(937)884-7692

Robin Mann, News Scapes Editor  
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## Miami Valley Hosta Society November 2018



### **“Stimulating the knowledge and love of hostas”**

*Dayton Ohio and Miami Valley Region*

#### **MVHS Officers:**

<b>President:</b>	Bob Iames
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Greg Rau
<b>Secretary:</b>	Phyllis & Jerry Bashor
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Joyce Thomas

#### **Committees:**

##### **Communications:**

Electronic Communications and Development:	Joan Stoppelman, Chair
Newsletter:	Robin Mann
Website:	Karen Strider-Iames
Yearbook:	Bob Iames, Karen Strider-Iames

<b>Great Lakes Region Delegates:</b>	Steve Duritsch Tina Duritsch
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##### **Membership:**

Joyce Thomas

##### **Program & Special Events:**

Above Officers, Gene & Marcia Bashor, Normajean Roselius,  
Dick Prentice, Bette Rau

##### **Hospitality:**

Joyce Thomas, Kathy Watson, Sherry Green, Sharon Rife

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

**Web Page**     [www.miamivalleyhosta.com](http://www.miamivalleyhosta.com)

**Facebook**     [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)  
Miami Valley Hosta Society

**Twitter**     [www.twitter.com/](http://www.twitter.com/)  
MiamiValleyHsta

**Administrator**  
**Email**     [staff@miamivalleyhosta.com](mailto:staff@miamivalleyhosta.com)