

# HSGC

## Hosta Society of Greater Cincinnati

*promoting Hosta culture in the greater Cincinnati area*

2012 Summer/Fall

Dear Members,

Another gardening year is drawing to an end. It had been a difficult summer at times, with 100 degree temperatures and lack of rain. Still, as gardeners, we persevere. We water and fret over our Hostas, but we get through.

Each year we end the garden season with a banquet. This year it will be October 13th at the Golden Lamb in Lebanon, Ohio. Doug Beilstein, the American Hosta Society President, will be the program speaker.

Just a reminder—the Golden Lamb is a historic restaurant, and does not have an elevator. The banquet room is on the second floor. I hope to see everyone at the banquet.

I regret to announce that I have given my resignation as President of the Club. I have enjoyed representing the membership, but I have some health issues that need to be a priority at this time. Jeannie Gurley is our vice-president and she will assume the duties of President. I am sure she will do a fabulous job.

Thank you for your support over the last year and I will see you at the Hosta meetings.

Your gardening friend,

Judy Case

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## Judy Case's Garden Story

*Gardening through the years*

*Darlene Contadino*

*Judy says she was inspired to garden by her mother. "I have loved gardening since childhood" said Judy. "My mother had a perennial garden. She loved the old time Hosta, Glads, Zinnias, and Peonies: all the old fashion perennials. That is where my interest began."*

*Judy's first garden was installed in the 80's. "I had been to New Orleans and I decided I was going to have a court yard garden," said Judy. "I started with an enclosed garden off my porch. The garden had shrubs to enclose the garden and lots of perennials. At that time I planted anything that flowered."*

*Judy's court yard garden grew as each bed expanded and new beds where added. For about 10 years she worked and transformed her yard and hillside into a lovely English Style Garden. Her garden was filled with daises and daylilies, Hostas, coneflowers, and liatris. It was an old fashioned English Garden, with rows of perennials tucked around flowering shrubs, such as lilacs. She added her shed in 1998 and the garden continued to grow. Judy was on the first Anderson Garden tour around 2001. At that time she loved the loose style of the English Garden.*

*Before she knew it her style would transform again. Judy says I (Darlene) innocently started it all when I showed her the new Hosta I had purchased. It was love at first sight. Soon she began to pull out the short blooming perennials and replace them with Hosta, Hellebores, and ferns.*

*An accident really triggered a change in her garden style. In 2003 Judy fell, breaking both arms. Her daughter had always been a big help in the garden, but with Judy's accident she really became her gardening partner. Today she is behind the whimsy of the garden, designing the fairy house and other highlights in the garden.*

*After her accident Judy started to rethink how she gardened. She wanted a garden that she could work in with medical issues or as she aged. She decided to withdrawal from the Anderson Garden Tour while redesigning the garden. She widened paths, and added screened limestone to making walking and wheeling dirt easier. The beds were designed with easy access from several points and access points were designed in the larger beds. Her ergonomic designs continued as she installed a lattice potting shed in 2007, which was designed to fit her and make working in garden easier.*

*A small misunderstanding inspired another change. Judy planned to add a small bed around her holly trees so there was no need to cut the grass. The bed started out small, but once the dirt arrived it quadrupled in size. Judy looked at the dirt and wondered what to do. I suggest filling it with Hosta. "Just cram them in" I said. Luckily Seely's fall sale was going on at the time. We looked at each other and said*

## HSGC Bus Trip 2012



Bluegrass Hosta Farm



## Judy Case's Garden Story continued

*"Road Trip". Next thing I knew we were at Seely's in Hilliard, Ohio, with Carlon Addison. Between the three of us we filled the inside and bed of his pickup truck with Hosta. The pile of dirt was transformed into an island of Hosta. Today Judy claims it is one of her favorite beds.*

*Dean Colville encouraged Judy to rejoin the Anderson Tour. She reopened her gardens to the public. Each year she swears she is done. No plants, no new beds, no room... "everything is done". We just wink because as gardeners we know, a garden is never done. There is always a new plant and more dirt to enlarge beds or a new piece of garden art that catches our eye. That is the lot of a gardener. We would not have it any other way, would we?*



Shooting Star Nursery



Springhouse Gardens

King's Garden Center



### HSGC Officers

<b>President</b>	Judy Case
<b>Vice President</b>	Jeanne Gourley
<b>Treasurer</b>	Carol Kilberg
<b>Secretary</b>	Jane Kozlowicz
<b>Website &amp; Newsletter</b>	Tom McMannon

### Executive Committee

<b>Members at Large</b>	Marvin Collins Dean Colville Brenda Demetriou
<b>Membership</b>	Pat Ellsworth
<b>Education</b>	John Demetriou
<b>Projects</b>	Connie Morris
<b>Sunshine</b>	Roberta Janesch
<b>Hospitality</b>	Bev Vonderhaar

## Featured Sites



### Do Plants Think?

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=do-plants-think-daniel-chamovitz>



**Kitchen Culture Kits, Inc.**

"Bringing Plant Tissue Culture into the Classroom and Home"

Wondering about tissue culture propagation of Hosta? Here's some advice on small scale propagation from Charles Tuttle. <http://www.kitchenculturekit.com/Hosta/>

### Make Room for a New Bloom: New Flower Discovered

[http://www.scientificamerican.com/gallery\\_directory.cfm?photo\\_id=D6E27118-D589-32BD-83E205FC7C1B5D74](http://www.scientificamerican.com/gallery_directory.cfm?photo_id=D6E27118-D589-32BD-83E205FC7C1B5D74)



### Higher CO2 Levels in Atmosphere May Speed Soil Emissions

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=higher-co2-levels-atmosphere-speed-soil-emissions>

### You Can Control Voles

and other diggers

Several brands of expanded slate are available for controlling voles and a variety of digging creatures around hostas, other perennials and bulbs. The Stalite company offers a horticultural aggregate called PermaTill Vole-Bloc.

<http://www.permatill.com/home-garden-products.php?cat=10>

Espoma Soil Protector, advertised as a soil conditioner, is another expanded slate product with similar qualities.

[http://www.espoma.com/p\\_consumer/perfactor\\_overview.html](http://www.espoma.com/p_consumer/perfactor_overview.html)



## Heuchera

Jane Kozlowicz

Although many plants in our garden have come to us from the Far East (hosta being the prime example) via Europe, the genus *Heuchera* is a native to North America which was first seen in European gardens in the 1600s and was named by Linnaeus in 1738 to honor Johann Heucher (HOYKER), A Dutch plantsman.

*Heuchera* is commonly called coral bells and alumroot. At least 40 species are known. They are found in the US, Canada and Mexico. It is closely related to tiarella and a cross between the two is *Heucherella* (e.g. 'Bridget Bloom').

*Heuchera* can be planted in a variety of garden areas. Most like partial shade but many can tolerate sunny conditions from a few hours to all day. Heucheras can be planted in rock gardens, troughs and containers. There are a growing number of miniature varieties.

Hybridizers have more than made up for the fact that natural hybrids of *Heuchera* are rare. Hybridizing began in the late 1800s in Europe and continues today in Europe as well as the US. The list of cultivars grows each year. Terra Nova Nurseries in Oregon alone has introduced more than 85 varieties since the early 1990s. Today, on their website, you can see photos of 66 varieties. Although Terra Nova is a wholesale nursery, you can go online to view their website. Many local nurseries carry their plants.

Propagation - Heucheras are easily propagated by division and cuttings. Just snap off a stem and stick it in the ground or plant in a 50/50 mix of potting soil and perlite. No rooting hormone is needed. Within 3 weeks, you will have a rooted cutting ready for planting. Tissue culture makes the many varieties of heuchera available to you at a reasonable price.

From the humble coral bells that grew in our grandmothers gardens, heucheras have grown so popular in recent years that they are among the top ten perennials in popularity polls. They are very hardy and are very resistant to pests and disease. Heucheras are a bright spot in winter gardens and leaves can be used in winter bouquets.

Heucheras are great in floral design. Martha Stewart even used *H. 'Chocolate Ruffles'* in an arrangement with tulips on the cover of her magazine. The White House flower arranger has used *Heuchera* in bouquets for banquets. I have used them in blue ribbon winning wreaths at the Hamilton County Fair and the Cincinnati Flower Show. The flowers are great in arrangements and the leaves have a very long vase life.

Locally, heucheras are available at nearly every garden center. The best source I have found is Berns Garden Center in Middletown OH. Their perennial sale is going on now with 40% off in September.

More information can be found in Flora encyclopedia and many perennial books. Search the web for *Heuchera*, ehow, ask.com and Wikipedia. *Heucheras and Heucherellas* is a great book by Dan Heims and Grahame Ware.



# Gardening!



As I recall it began when a landscape architect I knew designed a small patio area for my house before I built the addition. Then came the addition and Tammy Schalgbaum, another landscape architect whom some of you met at our meetings at the Ellsworth's. I told her I wanted to do a "little something" to the back yard. When I saw the initial results I was hooked but dumb about what to do next. Then looking for a birdhouse I met Brenda Demetriou and at her suggestion I started going to Hosta meetings. Seeing other gardens stimulated my interests and a vision was beginning to form.

More calls to Tammy and going to garden centers. At this point it's escalating, more garden centers, nurseries, specialty nurseries, and plant sales. Hey there's Japanese maples, conifers, ginkgo and the more unusual the better. Trips to gardens and nurseries in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Connecticut, Virginia and when you read this, North Carolina will have been added. Expand the area to the left of our house with five loads of top soil and leaf mold. Expand the beds, buy more plants. **BATTLE THE DEER.**



Go to work, mow, weed, mulch, plant, water, water, water, feed the fish. It's been about 15 years. Are we having fun?

HELL YES!

Bev and Gene Bare



# Making a Memory Garden

*Darlene Contadino*

Webster defines memory as the process of recalling what has been learned through associative mechanisms. Hosta is my associative mechanism. Hosta purist may need to cover their eye when I tell you how I choose plants. I'm not concerned with parentage and sport. I make my Hosta choices purely by emotion.



My first exposure to Hosta was in my mother's garden. "What are those", I asked. "Just Hosta", she replied. We would marvel at how they would pop up in spring like little soldiers among the Dutchmen Breeches and unfurl into large and luxurious leaves as summer approached. We'd laugh and make up stories about how they hid the Dutchmen when their britches went away. When mom passed I moved them to my home.

I got the idea for my memory garden on the 2006 trip to Lexington. Someone mentioned a Hosta called Dorothy. I had to have it! It

would be the cornerstone for a garden dedicated to my mother Dorothy.

I began to lay the foundation for the memory garden. I thought of the things my mom loved: God, gardening, sewing and the sea. The garden was centered on a lavender azalea I dug from the Highland County property. The first Hosta to be planted was the genus plants from my childhood. They were under planted with lanimum from mom's yard. The next plants to be added were Blue Angel and Earth Angel. A small cross saying Peace was nestled among the lanimum. Then a lighthouse build by a friend was tucked in the corner waiting for the perfect companion plants.

At our plant auction Judy Case discovered a Seely's catalogue. Eureka! They had a Hosta named Memories of Dorothy. I quickly called and reserved the plant. My husband only shook his head when he learned I was driving to Hilliard to pick up the Hosta. "Where is this place anyway," he queried. "Just a little way up I-71" I responded. "We are stopping for lunch too, so we might be a while", I explained. He would never understand driving two hours for a plant.

We finally arrived at Seely's. As we got out of the car, our hearts stopped. The sign said "Hosta 50% off begins today". I got my Memories of Dorothy, Quilting Bee, and Sea Beacon along with several others. Once home Memories of Dorothy was given a place of honor.

I have added appropriate Hosta as time goes by, such as Praying Hands. This year my sister passed and there is a new container planted with Barbara Ann and Awakening Angel.

To a stranger this collection of plants is only a hopefully pleasing display of Hosta. They have no association. For me Quilting Bee reminds me of the quilt mom quilted. Sea Beacon is for the trip to Sanibel Island and Bowman's Beach. Earth Angel is a reminder of the women who took in her nieces for a year when their mother needed help. Finally Barbara Ann and Awakening Angel remind me of the sister who is now gardening in heaven with our mother.



Next spring I will wait to see Memories of Dorothy, Barbara Ann and the other angels show their pretty faces. I will secretly smile as I tend them and recall my Dorothy and my Barbara. They will be the best tended plants in the garden.



# Coming Up

**October 13** Saturday 11:30 AM  
 HSGC Annual Banquet with Miami Valley  
 Hosta Society at The Golden Lamb in  
 Lebanon OH  
 Speaker: Doug Beilstein, president of the  
 American Hosta Society.



Doug Beilstein

**February 2** Saturday  
 Civic Garden Center  
 BBQ cook off - please contact Bev Vonderhaar if you're  
 interested in participating.



## See you in Spring...

Like the garden, our newsletter goes to sleep for the winter. This is our last edition of the year and we will return next spring. We hope you have enjoyed the changes we initiated. The newsletter needs member's contributions. This can be through ideas for articles or sharing your story. We know once spring comes everyone is busy, so think about putting your garden story down during the upcoming winter. If you want your story in the newsletter, but don't like to write I am more than happy to interview you and write the article.

We will be using the down time to brainstorm ideas and collect stories for next year.

If there is a topic you want to be covered in the newsletter let us know that too. We have many talented members and are sure to find someone who knows or can get the information.

Thanks to everyone who contributed this year to the newsletter. A special thanks to Tom McMannon, who uses his considerable talents to organize all the information he receives into the great newsletter we have today.

*Darlene Contadino*

