

HSGC

Hosta Society of Greater Cincinnati

promoting Hosta culture in the greater Cincinnati area

2014 Spring

Dear Members,

I would like to welcome everyone to the 2014 season. We have wonderful programs planned for you this year by the board. In February we were hosted by our good friends at Delhi Garden Center with an array of wonderful new varieties of plants, shrubs, vegetables etc. In March we went to West Hills Greenhouse operated by Rodger and Linda Feist—truly outstanding growers. The variety of plants is amazing. Anyone who did not make it that day needs to go. April found us at the home of Larry Grage. Beautiful early varieties of plants held hope of a wonderful spring to come. Thanks to Larry and his wife for hosting. Gene Bare gave an excellent program on conifers. Very informative and full of good suggestions and sources. We are lucky to have so many people that are so knowledgeable in other areas of gardening. Thanks to Larry for coffee etc. and Bev Vonderhaar for the beverages and all the other goodies her committee provides. Please join us at the May meeting at Lois Lustenberger's for the ONLY money making event of our year. Judy Case has been a real trooper getting things for the ways and means table—great job! Remember to get your money in for the June bus trip. Everyone's participation is what makes this a great club.

Thanks,
Jeanne

Hosta Garden

Larry Grage



My garden is a peaceful garden highlighted by a stone walled creek and a metal kinetic piece of art we call Daisy. It's a garden that is always changing as I move plants around and buy new ones.

It's predominately a Hosta garden with over 250 varieties. While I love *Hosta* my garden also has many ferns, hellebores and hydrangeas and a few Japanese Maples. In the

springtime the Virginia Bluebells are beautiful and are forever spreading which I love. It's a place where I find quiet and peace and I enjoy working in it every day.



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more photos of the meeting at Larry's garden on page 2



above left: some of Carlon's seedlings

above right: president, Jeanne Gourley

right: *Helleborus x hybridus*

below left: *Epimedium sp.*

below right: Gene Bare gives a conifer presentation



Featured Sites

The Upside Of The Bitter Cold: It Kills Bugs That Kill Trees
<http://news.wbfo.org/post/upside-bitter-cold-it-kills-bugs-kill-trees>



Why green roofs never work
http://www.salon.com/2013/05/18/whats_the_matter_with_new_yorks_green_roofs_partner/?source=newsletter&utm_source=contactology&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Salon_Daily%20Newsletter%20%28Premium%29_7_30_110

If you're wondering what to do with that batch of acorns or other tree seeds check out treehow.com.
<http://www.treehow.com>



This appears to be one of Judy's favorite garden blogs.
<http://gardeningnaturallywithclaudia.blogspot.com/p/about-me.html>



Did you know... that Hosta is in the Asparagaceae family? Do you know what a clade is? These questions and more answered in this Dave's Garden article.
<http://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/4616/>

As a gardener I tie a lot of knots. Whether you're making a trellis, or just trying to keep your rope from unraveling, the appropriate knot is probably here...
Splicing
 Animated Knots
<http://www.animatedknots.com/index.php?LogoImage=LogoGrog.jpg&Website=www.animatedknots.com>



You can get great metal name tags and benefit The Hosta Society of Greater Cincinnati at the same time. If you order from Kincaid Gardens, use the code word "hosta" and mention that you are a member of the Hosta Society of Greater Cincinnati, the club will receive 50 cents per bundle. The program is called Grow Your Rewards.



This is really depressing. Watch forests disappear at
<http://www.globalforestwatch.org>



Hosta plantaginea

Tom McMannon

Pronunciation: plan-tuh-JIN-ee-uh meaning resembling plantain.

This *Hosta* species has bright green, very glossy leaves. It is native to warm temperate China. It tolerates heat, humidity and full sun well but needs constant moisture and good drainage to look its best.

During our normal late winter warm up *H. plantaginea* may emerge from dormancy early, making it susceptible to the inevitable late frosts. It takes a long time for the plants to recover from being "slimed" so protection from frost is mandatory if you want things to look good later. This past spring's unusually cool temperatures slowed things down so there has been minimal damage.

The species and its cultivars do very well in containers. For me the leaves of in-ground plants never attain the size of the container plants. If you're thinking of entering your leaf in a show I recommend container growing. Not only does this allow you to avoid the late frost damage but it makes it easier to exclude the critters that would like to eat the leaves. *Plantaginea* must be



especially tasty because it incurs the most damage of any *Hosta* in my collection. Fortunately fresh leaves are added throughout the growing season and by early August a new canopy of leaves is hiding the spring damage.

Then they bloom.

H. plantaginea, appropriately named the "August Lily", is one of the few hostas grown primarily for its flowers. Up to 6" long, they are impressively showy (for *Hosta*), pure white trumpets. The lush fragrance is reminiscent of honeysuckle. The flowers attract hummingbirds and other nectar loving creatures. If you enjoy *Hosta* flowers like I do you might have noticed that *H. plantaginea* opens in the afternoon, unlike most *Hosta* which open in the morning.

Some of the *H. plantaginea* sports/hybrids that I grow are:

H. 'Aphrodite' is a naturally arising double sport of *H. plantaginea*.

H. 'Venus' with double flowers and *H. 'Ming Treasure'*, with cream edge-variegation, were discovered in tissue culture. Both 'Aphrodite' and 'Venus' demand adequate moisture to bloom properly. If they get too dry they will drop their flower buds.



H. 'Royal Standard', introduced in 1965, is a seedling of *plantaginea*. It was the first hosta to receive a plant patent.

H. 'Sweet Standard' is a streaky sport of *H. 'Honeybells'* that tends to revert without constant attention.

I'm now searching for the tetraploid version of *H. plantaginea* - a 2011 Solberg introduction *H. 'Double Up'*. It's supposed to be a

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Coming Up

May 17 10am - HSGC meeting in Lois Lustenberger's garden - our annual plant auction. This will be a potluck lunch. HSGC will provide chicken. Please bring your own chair.

May 31 Saturday GCDHS Hosta Show - Northgate Mall

June 7 Annual HSGC bus trip to Schnormeier Gardens and other area attractions. Contact Carol Kilberg for reservations.

June 11-14 AHS Convention - Cedar Rapids IA

June 20 -22 Hosta Tailgate - Bob Iames will host the Friday kickoff with tours of his and Karen's garden, invited vendors, an auction, tailgate-style eats and more. Saturday, June 21 is dedicated to MVHS Member Garden Tours. Sunday tours are optional.

Hosta plantaginea continued

smaller but more vigorous plant with thicker leaves. I was unable to obtain this one last spring because it was sold out.



Hosta 'Double Up'

AHS Memorials, Ways & Means chair Harold McDonell says... "H. 'Double Up' is the *H. plantaginea* I have always longed for. I can barely wait until it becomes a big multi-division plant with several bloom scapes and flowers all at once. If you haven't had much success with this species before, try H. 'Double Up'. It is still a little pricey but well worth it. And, oh yes, be sure to place it where you can see the blooms and enjoy the heady fragrance in the evening when the new flowers begin opening."

For a more detailed explanation of the part *H. plantaginea* played in the fragrant hosta world check out Tony Avent's exhaustive history lesson here: <http://www.plantdelights.com/Fragrant-Flowering-Hostas/products/510/>

HSGC Officers

President	Jeanne Gourley
Vice President	Judy Case
Treasurer	Carol Kilberg
Secretary	Jane Kozlowicz
Website	Tom McMannon
Newsletter	Tom McMannon Darlene Contadino Jane Kozlowicz

Executive Committees

Members at Large	Marvin Collins Dean Colville Larry Johnson	Projects	Connie Morris
Membership	Pat Ellsworth	Sunshine	Roberta Janesch
Education	Pat Thompson	Hospitality	Bev Vonderhaar



ROBERT S. BALITEWICZ - Westville IN

July 8, 1936 - January 27, 2014

We recently lost *Hosta* icon Bob Balitewicz (AKA Indiana Bob). He was a Navy man, fireman and well known hosta grower. Above all he was an ambassador of the friendship plant who took people under his wing and shared his knowledge at conventions and at Hosta College.

He was ready to help anyone or any group with plants for an auction or a fund raiser. He encouraged everyone to hybridize and grow seedlings and always had a box of his big babies wrapped in cellophane that he would distribute to friends at hosta gatherings.

[link to obituary](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/nwitimes/obituary.aspx?pid=169440095) or copy and paste <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/nwitimes/obituary.aspx?pid=169440095>

