

Petioles & Scapes

May 2010—Newsletter of the Greater Cincinnati Daylily Hosta Society

Expect a Busy MAY 15 Meeting and an Abundance of RICHES at
Don and Mary Ann Farwick's garden
5518 Seville Court (directions via e-mail)

** We'll have Adopt-a-Plant DAYLILIES ** from hybridizer Herbie Phelps
PLUS ** Adopt-a-Plant HOSTAS **

ALSO, ** AUCTION of 2007 HOSTAS ** (see insert
and more details about both shows—see below

Distribution of hang tags for both shows

*** SIGNUPS FOR WORKERS FOR BOTH SHOWS AND JULY BUS TRIP ***

Wow!!



H. 'Blue Ivory'

21st annual HOSTA SHOW
June 5 at Northgate Mall
10 a.m. And all day
Bobbie Gratz, chair, with friends

The PLANT SALE will again offer hundreds of
classic and new hostas, and companion plants.

24TH ANNUAL DAYLILY SHOW
JULY 10

AT GREENFIELD PLANT FARM — Maineville
This is an exciting new venue for our show, AND
10% discount on that day's purchases for GCDHS

WANDA EVANS, TOM & RITA ISGRO, CHAIRS



Blood Shot Eyes—Bachman 2009

GCDHS Officers

President: Tom Isgro
V- Pres: Wanda Evans
Sec: Kathryn Mohr
Treas: Mary Ann Farwick

Our Website: www.gcdhs.org
Webmaster: Tom McMannon

Membership: Gail Braunstein
Newsletter: Pat Henley



Region 2 AHemS Summer Meeting Wadsworth, OH July 16-18

The jolly bunch who
traveled by bus to

Chicago last summer plan to repeat the experience in mid-July and enjoy the "Ohio Daylily Spectacular" hosted by the Ohio Daylily Society. They want more GCDHS friends to join them.

JR Blanton has reserved the bus which will leave from Crown Plaza Hotel on Friday morning July 16 at

8:00 am sharp

The cost is \$50.00 per person —A DEAL—
Return on Sunday after the garden tours
and be back to the hotel by 7 pm.

FUN FOR ALL!

It's All About Daylilies

Lisa Klette: GCDHS's Daylily Missionary

Recently Lisa was awarded a \$10,000 grant by the Amgen Corp of Louisville for her science project with junior high students at Dayton, KY.

The current issue of the Daylily Journal features an article by Lisa about her work which uses daylilies to teach many aspects of biology. "Daylilies are a great hands-on approach to so many science concepts. They show specialized plant structure and function with the modified stem. They allow exploration of genetic concepts with what seems like an infinite gene pool," she writes.

As Lisa became involved with daylilies as a teaching tool, she joined GCDHS. Serendipity is involved in this story, as Lisa met Wanda Evans—also of Dayton, KY, who became her mentor.

Lisa is also becoming a hybridizer, as club members will remember from her classy presentation at the January meeting.

Guidelines for 2010 GCDHS Adopt-a-Plant Distribution

Be a GCDHS member in good standing, and be a member of either the American Hemerocallis Society or the American Hosta Society.

One daylily (two hostas) is issued per family membership.

You must have no past due adopt-a-plants.

You must grow the adopt-a-plant in your own garden.

If your adopt-a-plant does not flourish you should tell one of the members of the Adopt-a-plant committee within the first year. (If one hosta dies, you divide the remaining one and bring half back for the auction, and report to Sue Helder or Wanda Evans if both die.)

Keep original fans and return any increase to the club in two years. (Three years for hostas) The plants are the property of the club.

GCDHS purchases the plants with these goals in mind:

- 1—to give each of our members a chance to grow new daylily and hosta introductions.
- 2—to improve the quality of our AHS shows by providing members with newer daylilies and hostas.
- 3—to increase our membership by encouraging gardeners to join so they will be eligible for these plants.

Message from Our President

It is hard to believe that it is almost four years since I became president of GCDHS. Now it is time to elect new officers and Wanda Evans is working diligently as our nominations chair again. Three officers will need to be replaced—president, vice-president and secretary. We also need a new hospitality chair. So please consider volunteering for an office. There are plenty of previous officers still around for help and guidance.

As our daylily show chair is moving, Wanda, Rita and I have formed a triumvirate to organize the show. The Hosta show will remain at Northgate Mall. After discussion, the Club agreed to accept Greenfield Nursery's offer to have the Daylily show there. Greenfield is also offering GCDHS members a 10% discount on items purchased from them that day.

Even though the club year is not over, I want everyone to know what a great time I have had over the last four years. You all have been a pleasure to work for and with. No club president has ever had a membership that has been more pleasurable to serve.

A special thanks to Wanda for keeping me on the straight and narrow, doing so much to help me get things done, backing me when I'm right and fixing things when I'm wrong. I could not have done it without her, or without Rita, my wife, and all her support.

God bless you all for the wonderful four years you've given me—*TOM*



Hostas for Auction – May 15

These are the hostas which have been grown since 2007 by GCDHS members.

Sue Helder suggests checking them out at Hostalibrary.com

That can help you make your pre-auction wish list.

Susan Adams
Sandy Baldrige

Shirley Bixler
Diane Buhrmaster
Connie Caton

Laura Cron
Sharon Cusick

Chris DeLois
Wanda Evans

Bobbie Gratz

Aliyah's Grace
Cherry Tart
Marilyn Monroe
Dancing Queen
Blue Eyes
Juha
Marrakech
Blue Lollipops
Bingo
Secret Love
First Mate
Beckoning
Red Hot Flash
Goober
Scallion Pancakes

Stacy Hecht
Sue Helder

Rita Isgro
Judy Lindsey

Michele Meyer

Kathryn Mohr
Peachie Nagel

Bill Rouse
Judy Toman

Journey's End
Deja Blue
Little Jay
Holy Mole
Blue Mouse Ears
Robin Hood
Heatwave
Sky Dancer
Rainbow's End
Blue Clown
Pewterware
Terpsichore
Cutting Edge
Maya Tritone
Emerald Ruff Cut

First let me say that any one growing hostas must have a few in containers. Why? Because you can do things with them that you cannot do with hostas in the ground. For instance – set them on the patio or deck (I have over 20 on my front porch steps), a hanging pot (I have 4), a wall pot (I have 4), on pedestals to show off purple petioles (I have 3) and grow them in impossible lawn areas (I have a bunch of those). Tree roots can be overcome with pots sunk in the ground (just don't let a tree root find its way into the pot as it will be very happy there).

Now there are advantages and disadvantages to growing hostas in containers. My advantage however may be your disadvantage and vice versa. Overall, I think the advantages, at least for me, outweigh the problems. Certainly it costs more, as you must purchase the pot but you get leaves without slug bites holes. I recommend that you buy plastic pots. They are cheaper, lighter, and do not break as easily. Clay pots dry out too fast.

One nice advantage is that around mid-summer you can change your layout rather easily by moving a few pots around and have a new look with little effort. Those hostas that need lots of sun to grow well like *H. 'Fire and Ice'* can be placed in the sun early on and then moved to shade when the sun gets blazing hot. A pot allows you to change its environment at will. Some hostas, such as *H. 'Hirao Majesty'* actually look better in pots than on the ground (it drapes down over the pot). I also like the upright ones in a pot.

Do pots require more work to maintain? Yes and no. They must be prepared for winter but do not require weeding. You can water them easier and quicker in pots. However, you must water them more often if the weather is wet which is seldom in our summers (last year was an exception). Usually they require less watering. If you wish to divide the plant, you just dump it out rather than dig it up.

I was doing a good bit of work to winter store them in my garage or open porch. I'm finding that all I need do is leave them in place but covered up to prevent water from collecting in them (crown rot will occur). I'm still amazed at how they manage to sprout up in the spring in a completely dry pot. The roots must hold a lot of water over the winter. I have a higher winter survival rate with potted hostas than those in the ground. For a hostas lover, that's great. However they come up sooner which means covering them up one or twice to protect from late frosts. I keep them sitting together so I can easily do that. This year my potted plants were up at least two weeks before the ground plants and looked bigger and better for over 4 weeks.

I'm of the opinion that some hostas do not grow well in pots while other do much better. It seems some get bigger in pots and some stay smaller. I had a *H. 'Geisha'* in the ground for 8 years and put it in a wall pot and it got much bigger. My *H. 'Fire and Ice'* was dying in the ground but has been most happy the last 6 years in a pot. Two *H. 'Little Abners'* have passed away in a pot. My pot *H. 'Sagee'* has never gotten as big as its division in the ground but it always looks better. I have much better results with small hostas in pots (actually in my dry yard I cannot grow small ones although *H. 'Golden Scepter'* has survived 11 years),

A pot requires soil of some kind and you get to determine what kind. I use about one third dirt, one third pine fines or mulch and one third peat moss. I do not recommend a mixture that drains too well which some nurseries use. Hosta need water—why drain it away. I have actually grown a potted hosta sitting in a bird bath half filled with water all summer long. It did great.

So as I said, there are advantages and disadvantages to hostas in containers. But you do need to give it a try with a few. You just may like the results. And bring one to the hosta show and let the public see all of the plant in its full glory.

Really, Really Going Green

SOME LIGHT ON PILL BUGS/SOW BUGS

For starters: to deter either, place a piece of window screen over the drainage hole of a pot.

Both of these unlovable creatures are crustaceans which feed mostly on decaying matter. Here's the apparent difference—Pill bugs lack a tail and will roll into a ball—they nibble at exposed roots, but do no major damage.

Sow bugs are nasty pests that will eat hostas from the roots up—they have 2 tail-like appendages and seven pairs of legs, good eyes, and won't roll up.

A Little Hosta Wisdom from The Green Hill Gossip

... the best time to cut flower scapes, from the hosta's point of view, is after several flowers on the scape have opened and a few seed pods have been set. This allows the chemical signals to be sent and the feedback not disrupted. This also saves most all the energy required to make seeds, hopefully allowing those sugars to be stored in the crown for next year. ... cut them if you must, but at least let a few flowers open...sneak a peak at the floral beauty.

JUNE 5 HOSTA SALE

Chair Connie C. will love to sell any hostas you can share. Bring them potted, or even bare root to the May 15 meeting. In fact, that committee can also sell any good perennial you bring.

BE SURE TO LABEL ALL PLANTS CORRECTLY!

This super sale has always been a BIG money maker for underwriting the hosta show.



**Midwest Regional Hosta Society
Convention in Des Moines, Iowa
July 8-10.**

**American Hosta Society Convention
Bloomington, Minnesota
June 23 to 26**



Dear Aunt L.L.

Oh dear, after May Day's soaking rains, I can almost hear the slugs and snails chewing on my precious hostas. What shall I do now, so there will be pristine leaves to enter in the June 5 Hosta Show—tell me quickly!

Competitive Guy

Dear C.G.,

It's not too late, but slug bait and control should be put down early. Lil assumes that you have cleaned out dead tree and hosta leaves. Keep in mind that the life span of a slug is one to six years—and it can lay 500 eggs per year. So—quickly do one of the following:

a ring of ground oyster shells around each plant, as Sue Helder does.

a 20% ammonia spray—every morning—labor intensive

spray with sevin or malathion every 7 to 10 days

a line of liquid *Deadline* every month or so, OR as Connie Calon does, a line of *Deadline* granules—this chemical (methaldehyde) is used worldwide for snail control.

a board near plant—every morning, a "catch of the day". Yuk!

shallow containers of beer sunk to ground level—must empty each day

do nothing—this is hosta show chair Bobbie Gratz method—and it works for her—charmed!

Spider Factoid—The female garden spider will sometimes eat the male spider after mating. Rather, the male garden spider will usually mate with several females, and then often die from starvation and exhaustion, since he spends little effort feeding while searching for females.

