



# *SHADY BUSINESS*

**Newsletter of Potomac Hosta Club, Inc.  
Volume 22, Number 1**

## **Officers & Directors**

### **OFFICERS**

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703/866-2211

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703/281-4334

#### **Secretary:**

Juliana Hilt  
202/546-4199

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703/798-5501

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703/690-3021

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Juliana Hilt

## **President's Letter**

Welcome to the New Year! Temperatures are changing from the 70s to teens, when will we know the difference between winter and spring. The board has successfully planned the events for 2008 and is currently starting to look at the events for 2009. I hope to see all of you at the PHC's Annual Spring Meeting at Merrifield Garden Center on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:00PM.

Upcoming events include the River Farm sale on April 18-19, 2008, at the headquarters of the American Horticultural Society south of Alexandria, VA, along the GW Parkway. We have a few volunteer openings for this great hosta sale! Please contact Karen O'Meara to volunteer or see her at the Spring Meeting.

This year our Hosta Bingo will be held across the river in Beltsville, Maryland, at Behnke's Nursery Garden Center. Present and new member's are welcome.

The 2008 PHC annual picnic will return to Heather Hill Gardens in Fairfax Station, VA, thanks to the hospitality of Bonnie Ruetenik and family.

In June, we would like to host a PHC Hosta Garden tour. Please consider opening up your garden to show off those hostas by contacting Alma Kasulaitis.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the PHC events during the year. May you all have a healthy, prosperous, and hosta green New Year!

Susan Colby Hedrick  
703-866-2211

## **PHC Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting of the Potomac Hosta Club will be held at the Fair Oaks Merrifield Garden Center on Sunday, March 9, 2008. The reason for this early date is the timing of Easter and other speaker conflicts. This is the same site as we have held the meeting in the past.

The Board has voted to reinstitute the sale of plants at this meeting with a member family discount. The sale and club meeting will start promptly at 1:00 PM, with the sale being first. The speaker will start as close to 2:00 PM as possible, and may start before 2:00 if other matters take less time.

There will also be a raffle, and other fun.

Our speaker will be Tom Michelletti, the current President of the American Hosta Society, who will be giving us a combined reprise of two of his hosta college presentations. "Why I love Hostas" and "Landscaping with Hostas".

## **About Our Speaker**

Tom is a retired middle school Technology teacher by profession. Having the summers available led to his passion for gardening. His one-acre garden has evolved over the past 20 years into its present form, and continues to evolve as it matures.

Tom's interest in Hostas began when he was first given the green Hosta, the green one with a white edge, and the green one with the white in the center. He had one of each! Low and behold, after reviewing some gardening catalogs, he discovered there was a blue one, a gold one, and a blue one with a gold margin etc.; he was hooked! He didn't have one of each after all. Through an article in a gardening magazine he discovered there was an American Hosta

Society, which he joined in 1990. He attended my first convention in Minneapolis that same year. He currently serves on the American Hosta Society board as President.

Through the AHS, Tom joined the Midwest Regional Hosta Society in 1991, and serve on the board as past President. The MRHS holds a Winter Scientific Meeting the last week of January each year. It has traditionally been held in the Chicago area and Tom has organized that event the past sixteen years.

Selling Hostas has led to my membership in the American Hosta Growers Association, which he serves on its board as Publicity Director. That not being enough Hosta saturation, he founded the Northern Illinois Hosta Society in 1992, and served four years as its first president, and continues to serve on its board.

Tom currently has over 800 different varieties of Hostas in my collection. In 1990 he began holding a garage sale, selling various divisions and seedlings of a number of varieties of perennials from my garden.

Tom now sells over 500 varieties of Hostas mail order via my web site at [www.hostapatch.com](http://www.hostapatch.com). He sends the Hostas bare root, packed in damp paper, and wrapped in plastic. He begins mailing in May, ceasing when the weather gets too warm and resume in late summer as the weather moderates.

## **Directions to the Fair Oaks Location**

12101 Lee Highway  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
703-968-9600

## **Coming to Fair Oaks location from Herndon, Reston, Sterling**

- Take the Fairfax County Parkway (Route 7100) South
- Take the Lee Highway Exit (Route 29)
- At the overpass, go straight through the first traffic light so that you can turn left at the next light to get onto Lee Highway (Route 29 North)
- You will merge onto Lee Highway and Merrifield Garden Center is located 1/2 mile down on the right

**Coming to Fair Oaks location from Manassas, Front Royal, Culpeper, Gainesville**

- Take Route 66 East to Exit 55 which is the Fairfax County Parkway (Route 7100)
- When the exit ramp splits, take Exit A (South)
- Take the first exit at Lee Highway (Route 29)
- At the overpass, go straight through the first traffic light so that you can turn left at the next light to get onto Lee Highway (Route 29 North)
- You will merge onto Lee Highway and Merrifield Garden Center is located 1/2 mile down on the right

**Coming to Fair Oaks location from Alexandria, Burke, Springfield, Fairfax Station**

- Take the Fairfax County Parkway (Route 7100) North
- Exit at Lee Highway (Route 29) and turn right at the bottom of the ramp (Route 29 North)
- Merrifield Garden Center is located 1/2 mile down on the right

**Coming to Fair Oaks location from Annandale, Arlington, Tyson's Corner, Rockville, Silver Spring via I-495/Route 66**

- Take I-495 (Capital Beltway) to Route 66 West (towards Manassas / Front Royal)
- Take Exit 55, which is the Fairfax County Parkway (Route 7100)
- When the exit ramp splits, take Exit A (South)
- Take the first exit at Lee Highway (Route 29)
- At the overpass, go straight through the first traffic light so that you can turn left at the next light to get onto Lee Highway (Route 29 North)
- You will merge onto Lee Highway and Merrifield Garden Center is located 1/2 mile down on the right

**Plants for Sale at the Meeting**

Plants that will be available in the Sale: These are not liners size. They will be in 2.25" and 3" pots. As in some past sales, each member family will get a \$10 discount. Again, that is each member family, not each member of the family.

You may use your \$10 discount for plant purchases only.



**'Atlantis'** PP#17,093 (*Avent/Hansen 2004*) (Sport of 'Abba Dabba Do') - Large, (30" X 70") This large upright hosta features long, dark green leaves with wide golden-yellow margins and prominent veins. It is a vigorous grower and is much more colorful

than its parent. Light lavender flowers in July.



**'Candy Dish' NEW** (*Summers, Wrede 2003*) ('Urajiro Hachijo' seedling) - Medium, (12" X 24" or larger) This may be as close to the perfect hosta leaf as there is. Start with heavy substance and dark green color, then add a deeply ruffled margin to a broad heart-shaped leaf with purple petioles. Pretty lavender flowers top off this dense, flat mound in August and September.



**'Cathedral Windows' PP #17,295 NEW** (*Hansen 2005*) (Sport of 'Stained Glass') - Large, (20" X 40") This tetraploid hosta has

domed leaves with very wide shiny green margins and narrow, bright yellow centers. The large, light lavender flowers appear in August and are highly fragrant. Excellent color combination.



**'Country Mouse' (Hansen)** (Sport of 'Bill Dress's Blue') - Mini, (3" X 8") This very cute miniature hosta has heart-shaped blue leaves with nice, clean white margins. This perfect small container plant has lavender flowers in June- July. Really adorable!



**'King of Spades' (Beilstein 2007)** Medium This unusual medium blue-green hosta to has extremely heavy puckering throughout its spade-shaped leaves. This eye-catcher forms a very tight clump in the garden and is a very tough, dog-proof plant. Lavender flowers in July.



**'Lizard Lick'** NEW (*Franks 2007*) ('Pineapple Poll' seedling) - Small, (12" X 18") This fast growing, spiky mound has long, narrow green leaves with good substance. Slightly bigger than a mini, it is tough enough to flourish in the garden with the "big boys". Lavender flowers in July and August.



**'On the Border'** (*Beilstein 2007*) Medium This very bright white-margined, shiny green-centered, 'Blue Wedgwood' seedling has good substance and great color contrast that calls out from across the garden! Light lavender flowers in July.



**'Rainbow's End'** (*Hansen, Shady Oaks Nursery 2005*) PP# 17,251 - (Sport of 'Obsession') - Small (11" X 22") The leaves are dark green with beautiful yellow centers that streak into white later in the summer. Purple flowers on reddish scapes in August. A very sturdy little plant with lots of color per square inch.



**‘Singin’ the Blues’** (*Beilstein 2007*) Large  
An upright very blue seedling from ‘Trails  
End’, this sturdy hosta has leaves that are  
boat-shaped with a distinctive "pinch" at the  
base. It has heavily puckered leaves in  
regular rows and lavender flowers in June.  
It makes a statement in the background or  
foreground.



**‘Sweet Innocence’** (*Hansen, Shady Oaks  
Nursery*) (Sport of ‘Fragrant Bouquet’) -  
Medium (16" X 30") Beautiful wide white  
margins surround the apple-green centers of the  
heart-shaped leaves of this tetraploid  
sport. Large light lavender, fragrant flowers  
in August. It has a delicate beauty but a  
sturdy constitution.

## Membership

If the number on your mailing label is “07”  
your dues are due and this is the last  
newsletter you will be receiving from the  
Potomac Hosta Club.

Send annual dues check for 1 year/3 years:

Households: \$10.00/\$25.00  
Senior Household (65+): \$5.00/\$12.50  
Garden Clubs, Plant Societies,  
& Businesses: \$15.00/\$40.00,

made payable to the Potomac Hosta Club,  
and bottom part of this form to:

Kevin P. Walek  
9122 John Way  
Fairfax Station, VA 22039-3042  
(703) 798-5501

## 2008 River Farm Sale

Potomac Hosta Club will again be  
participating in the River Farm Sale,  
headquarters of the American Horticultural  
Society (AHS) in Alexandria, VA. The  
AHS Plant Sale is quickly becoming the  
premiere plant sale in the Washington DC  
metropolitan area, with over 2,000 shoppers  
last year.

River Farm serves as the headquarters of the  
American Horticultural Society (AHS).  
Situated on 25 acres of landscaped lawns  
and gardens, it is located at 7931 East  
Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA, 22308.

The sale will run for 2 1/2 days:

### AHS Members’ Night

**Thursday, April 17, 2008 4 – 8 pm**

### Public Sale

**Friday, April 18, 2008 9 am – 6 pm**

### Public Sale

**Saturday, April 19, 2008 9 am – 4pm**

### From Old Town Alexandria:

Take Washington Street south through the  
city of Alexandria. Washington Street  
becomes the George Washington Memorial  
Parkway at the south end of Alexandria. Go  
3.5 miles, pass under the stone bridge and  
take the next left, following the signs for  
East Boulevard Drive, Herbert Springs, and  
Arcturus. Take another immediate left on

East Boulevard Drive and the American Horticultural Society will be to your right.

**From the Beltway traveling east:**

Exit onto Route 1 South. Head south on Route 1, and take a left turn at the light onto Huntington Ave. At the next light turn right onto Fort Hunt Road. At the next light (Belle Haven Road) turn left and proceed to the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Turn right onto the Parkway, pass under the stone bridge and take the next left, following the signs for East Boulevard Drive, Herbert Springs, and Arcturus. Take another immediate left on East Boulevard Drive and the American Horticultural Society will be to your right.

**From the Beltway traveling west:**

Exit onto Route 1 South, which is the first exit after crossing the Wilson Bridge. Head south on Route 1, and take a left turn at the light onto Huntington Ave. At the next light turn right onto Fort Hunt Road. At the next light (Belle Haven Road) turn left and proceed to the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Turn right onto the Parkway, pass under the stone bridge and take the next left, following the signs for East Boulevard Drive, Herbert Springs, and Arcturus. Take another immediate left on East Boulevard Drive and the American Horticultural Society will be to your right.

**From the south on Mount Vernon Highway:**

After passing Mount Vernon's circle on the Mount Vernon Highway (235), continue traveling north until you see the sign for East Boulevard Drive. Turn right at the second sign for East Boulevard Drive. Take an immediate left onto East Boulevard Drive. The American Horticultural Society will be to your right.

## **National Arboretum Threatened by 40% Budget Cut**

The National Arboretum, its gardens and staff, including maintenance and education, are at risk.

The National Arboretum supported the Potomac Hosta Club in 2003 by being on tour at the National Convention we sponsored, and by adding to the hosta garden so it would be at its finest for our attendees. We even have Potomac Hosta Club members on the staff of the Arboretum. NOW it is our turn to support them.

Please ask ALL your gardening friends to write messages to the following ASAP. Messages should be kept short, concise, simple and honest, no more than one or two paragraphs, to be read quickly.

Keep in mind some thoughts on the importance of the National Arboretum.

- It is a **MUST SEE** destination for visitors from around the world, year round, to the Nation's Capital. Let us be proud of the impression they receive.
- It serves as an horticultural research garden for everyone.
- Progress on plans for added development and renovations underway at the Arboretum will not take place.
- As development encroaches our lands, save this valuable haven of beauty and educational horticultural source for young and old.
- Established valuable trees and other plants will suffer or die with budget cuts.
- It is a wildlife sanctuary for small animals, birds, bees, butterflies, bugs, etc.

- It is an oasis of solitude and beauty for all to enjoy.
- It is part of our Nation's history and must continue to thrive with us.
- Use other reasons you may wish to address, but just mention a few.

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
 Chair, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Dev., Food and Drug Administration  
 Room 2262, Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
 Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Herb Kohl  
 Chair, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Dev., Food and Drug Administration  
 United States Senate  
 Room 330, Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

### **Founding Member Passes**

We are sad to report that Elisabeth Welsbacher, a founding member and wife of Tony Welsbacher, our founder, passed away late last year.

Those of us that have been long time members remember her for her European style hospitality; hostessing many picnics and club work days in their garden getting plants ready for club sales.

We know that Tony will sorely miss her ever melodious voice calling him from the garden "Tony!"

**Potomac Hosta Club, Inc.**  
**9122 John Way**  
**Fairfax Station, VA 22039-3042**



**Meeting Information Inside**