

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____

Dues are \$20.00 per household for two
calendar years, January 1 to December 31.
Please write checks to the N.W.H.S.

Mail this form with dues to:

Laurel Bird
NWHS Membership Secretary
N4674 Co. Rd. K
Menomonie, WI 54751

More information?

Email membership@nwhosta.org

Our website:

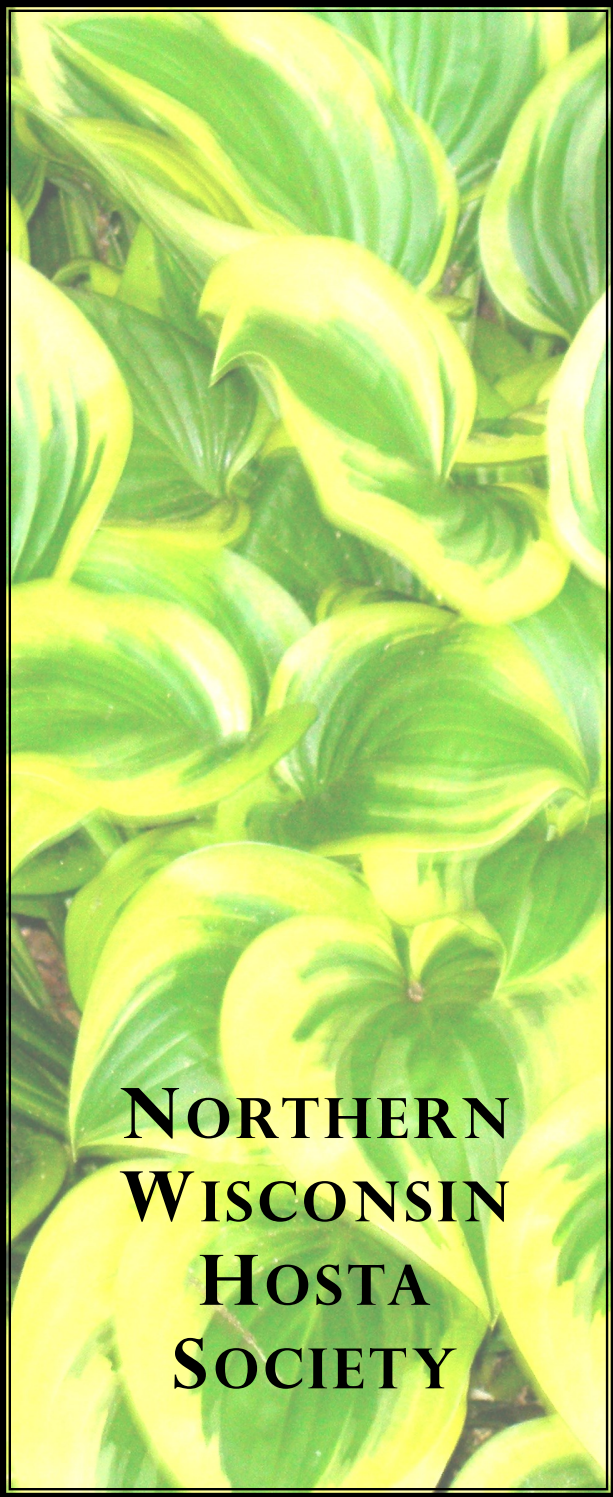
www.nwhosta.org

American Hosta Society website:

www.americanhostasociety.org



Laurel Bird
Northern Wisconsin Hosta Society
N4674 Co. Rd. K
Menomonie, WI 54751



**NORTHERN
WISCONSIN
HOSTA
SOCIETY**

OUR MISSION

To promote the genus *Hosta* for educational purposes with emphasis on culture in northern Wisconsin.

THE GENUS HOSTA

There are about 40 different species of hostas which are native to Japan, China, and Korea. They were brought to the U.S. in the 19th century and there are now about 7,000 named cultivars. In recent years the hosta has become the number one perennial plant in the United States.

Foliage of blue, gold, green, or white with or without variegation makes the hosta a versatile plant. Leaves range from more than 20 inches across to less than one inch. They can be smooth or textured and their shape varies widely—linear, lance-shaped, heart-shaped or round. Clumps range from six inches to ten feet. They exhibit one of three habits—vase-shaped, rounded, or rhizomatous.

Blossoms range from dark purple to white, and are born on spikes, lasting for several weeks. New hostas develop when some cultivars set seed or when a plant ‘sports’. A hosta sport is a change in leaf pattern or color which occurs in an existing plant.

GROWING HOSTAS

Most hostas thrive best in shade or partial sun. However, the hosta is a rugged plant and can adapt itself to its surroundings. This makes it a low maintenance and attractive plant.

Hostas grow best in a moist, well-drained, slightly acidic soil. A generous amount of organic matter is beneficial. They are heavy feeders and appreciate nitrogen when applied in early spring. If growing in containers, a potting mix offers better drainage and moisture retention than garden soil.

Sufficient water is paramount for healthy hostas as large leaves transpire great amounts of water during hot weather. Mulch will help keep the soil moist and contribute organic material. However, mulching too close to the plant may increase the chance for disease or slug damage.

Slugs are the most common hosta pest, eating holes in the leaves at night. Many people remove the dead foliage in the fall to help destroy the slug eggs. Deer love hosta leaves and can be a difficult problem in some areas.

Viruses which infect hostas have been identified and research is being conducted to combat these problems.

OUR SOCIETY

The Northern Wisconsin Hosta Society was formed in the fall of 1995 when five hosta enthusiasts met for the purpose of forming this organization.

Through word of mouth, the first meeting in February of 1996 produced eighteen charter members. By the beginning of 2005, the number increased to close to 200 members from 140 households.

These members range from first time hosta growers to those with hundreds of varieties. The society also includes hybridizers and retailers.

Monthly meetings are held in January through April and again in September and October, usually in Menomonie. Summer months are reserved for garden tours. All meetings and tours are educational, promoting the genus *Hosta*. ‘Northern Star’, the society newsletter is sent to members several times per year.

We cordially invite you to become of member of the Northern Wisconsin Hosta Society.