



INSIDE:

Hosta College	2
Calendar of Events	3
Upcoming Events	4
Editor's Corner	5
"Protecting Hostas from Frost Damage"	6
"Phenology and Growing Degrees Days"	8
Vendor Partners	9
Contact Information	10

President's Letter

Bob Iames, President



Hi gardening friends,

Well it's trying to be spring. The weather has been up and down. Our Hosta 'Montana Aureomarinata' and 'Wolverine' poked their noses out of the ground at the end of February. Then the March cold happened and I covered them with mounds of leaves. They made it through and are now 6" high. We'll see what April has in store.

It was great seeing many of you at Hosta College. A big thank you to all those who volunteered and especially to Glenda and Gene Wogoman, our Great Lakes Region delegates. Unfortunately, Glenda fell while setting up the auction and is recovering. Thanks

to those who helped fill in for Glenda.

Our dear friend and member, Carlon Addison, is still recovering from the tornado that destroyed his house and yard. Twenty-three trees were damaged and had to be removed. He was able to rescue all his baby hostas and they are being cared for by Cincinnati Hosta Society friends. He plans to rebuild his home and will need help digging plants and housing them during the build. I will keep you informed of help he may need.

We still need your gardens for the public garden tour on June 17th. We would like several gardens in each direction to show people how diverse hosta gardens

can be. Please let me know by calling 937-836-3218 or email

gardenbob222@aol.com.

Remember the hosta auction May 6. We need your help asking for donations of plants and garden art for the auction. See the auction article on Page 4 or in your Yearbook. We also need your attendance to make the auction a success and raise funds for our big 25th anniversary year! This is the perfect time to bring your family and gardening friends and share the love you have for hostas and other plants.

See you at the April 11 meeting.

Happy gardening,
Bob



Photo taken during the Cincinnati Hosta Tour 2013 at Carlon Addison's Garden

2017 Hosta College



Mike, Anne, Jay, Terri

On March 17 and 18, gardening enthusiasts from the Midwest gathered at the Upper Valley Career Center for the 24th annual Hosta College. On Friday night, participants enjoyed reconnecting with friends, an amazing array of plants to purchase, book sales, and an auction. Saturday brought varied classes including Bonsai, Perennials, Conifers, Grafting, Vegetables, Landscape History, and of course, Hostas. The event ended with a banquet and speaker, Debbie Hurlbert who spoke on "Nature's Art in the Garden." The Hosta College "graduates" took home a gift hosta either 'Hans' or 'Wrinkle in Time.'

This event, organized by the Great Lakes Region Hosta Society (GLRHS), has truly become a spring

highlight for all gardeners, not just Hosta lovers. Many new attendees found the event this year. One person stated "Lots of pleasant interaction between attendees--definitely a happy buzz." A regular attendee said "I really enjoyed Hosta College this year, including the classes I took: hosta seeds, butterflies, pruning, succulents, and ferns."

Our own Glenda Wogoman is the President of GLRHS and works tirelessly throughout the year to make this event great. Unfortunately, Glenda stumbled while on some steps Friday and sustained fractures on her face. Glenda's duties were picked up by Gene Wogoman, Bob Iames, Nancy Beadles, Gene & Marsha Bashor and others that weekend. Glenda is in the several week process of healing, but wanted to thank everyone for all the wonderful cards, prayers and special thoughts. "They are very comforting and encouraging as I am recovering from my accident. Thanks also to those who stepped in and helped with the setup." A big thank you to Glenda for all that she does for the Hosta community and to all the volunteers who make Hosta College a premier gardening symposium.

Next year Hosta College will celebrate its 25th Anniversary. The dates are generally the third weekend in March and more information can be found at ihostohio.org/glhc/ early next year.



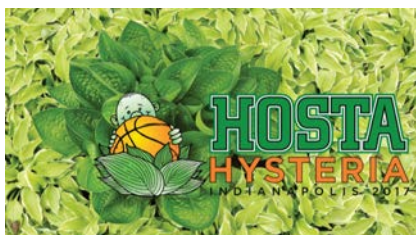
(Left) Bette & Susan shopping at the vendor area.



(Right) Bob auctioning plants with the help of Bette, Carlon, and Greg

Date and Location	Event
April 11, Tue 7pm Dayton Metro Library- Vandalia Branch	Meeting with guest speaker Doug Beilstein. "Are TETS our next frontier" See p. 4.
May 6, Sat 10:30am West Carrollton Nazarene Church	Annual Hosta Auction. Preview begins at 10am. See p. 4.
Jun 17, Sat 9am-4pm	25th Anniversary Public Garden Tour
Jun 24-25, Sat-Sun	Overnight Bus Trip to Hosta Tailg8 in Kalamazoo, MI. See p. 5.
Jul 11, Tue 5-8pm	North Member Garden Tour
Aug 8, Tue 7pm Dayton Metro Library-Miami Twp Branch	Meeting with guest speakers Tom & Fran Davidson, Owners of Golden Queen Apiary. "Bees" will be the topic.
Sep 12, Tue 6pm Presidential Banquet Center	25th Anniversary Dinner. Reservations required. Please contact Susan Detert, if you have early photos/stories of the MVHS.
Oct 10, Tue 7pm Vandalia Senior Center	Meeting with guest speaker, Tom Hissong, Retired Education Manager, Aullwood Audubon Center & Farm. "Magic in the Air: The Wonders of Bird Migration."
Oct 21, Sat 12-3pm Presidential Banquet Center	Tri-Club Luncheon with guest speaker Rob Mortko of Made in the Shade Gardens. "The Hot Hostas of Tomorrow" See Yearbook for more information.

Other Events of Interest



- June 7-10 American Hosta Society National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Go to indy-hosta2017.com to register. Early registration ends April 15. The next National Conventions are as follows: 2018 Philadelphia, 2019 Green Bay, 2020 Minneapolis
- June 22-24 Midwest Hosta Society Regional Convention in Kansas City. Go to 2017kchostaconvention.com to register.
- September 2, 2017 Bob's Garden Fair

American Hosta Society Membership

Join the American Hosta Society and receive *The Hosta Journal* mailed twice a year and have access to a third issue online in the *Members Only* section of the AHS website. This publication offers the latest information on care, feeding, and hybridizing; pictures of new cultivars; and news of upcoming meetings and conventions. Additional benefits include an opportunity to attend national meetings and conventions which offer educational and scientific presentations, garden tours, judge's clinics, and a chance to see the latest and best hosta in the hosta show. Members have the privilege of visiting display gardens throughout the country, many of which are only open to AHS members. Also, members are invited to exhibit their favorite hostas and compete for recognition in various AHS national and regional cut-leaf shows. Visit americanhostasociety.org for more information.

Upcoming Events

Doug & Mardy Beilstein



"Are TETS our next frontier"

Doug Beilstein

April 11, Tuesday 7pm

Dayton Metro Library-Vandalia Branch

330 S. Dixie Dr. Vandalia, Ohio 45377

At our April 11 meeting, Doug Beilstein will talk about tetraploid hostas. Doug is a hosta hybridizer and retired dentist from Mansfield, Ohio. His initial experience in gardening started during high school at The Kingwood Center, a 47 acre horticultural estate in Mansfield. His twenty year co-ownership of the Blueberry Patch, a u-pick farm, with its involvement in greenhouse sales of annuals and perennials, provided yet more experience in the growing and care of plants. It was during this period that Van Wade of Wade & Gatton Nursery introduced him to hostas. It was the beginning of a lifelong addiction. In the mid 1990's, Doug filled his spare time growing hostas from open pollinated seed. Each summer designed crosses were made and the following fall and winter seedlings were grown and culled. After ten years of evaluation he filed his first six hosta registrations in 2007. Sixty-nine of Doug's plants are now registered with the American Hosta Society (AHS). Doug has held positions as Executive Vice-president and President of the AHS.

Annual Hosta Auction, May 6, Saturday 10am Preview, 10:30 Auction

West Carrollton Nazarene Church

550 S. Elm St., West Carrollton, Ohio 45449 (I-75 Exit 47 to E. Central Ave. to Elm)

Donate plants, invite your friends, and grab your wallets to support the only major fundraiser for MVHS. Hundreds of hostas, other plants, and garden items will all be available for bidding. Bob Iames will be the auctioneer.

- Contact Dick Prentice, Auction Chairman, 937-833-5597 with questions or to volunteer.
- Contact Joan Stoppleman at tomstop@woh.rr.com by May 1 with a list of your donated items. Bring in donated items by 9am the day of the auction.

2016 Hosta Auction



Editor's Corner

What a gift this February was. I was able to accomplish many spring pruning tasks weeks earlier than expected. See page 8 to learn what Phenology has to teach us about the seasons. I'm excited to see all the little hostas peeking out of the soil, but I worry about frost damage as we have weeks until our frost free date. I got some great ideas from the article on page 6.

Gardening has its highs and its lows. I grabbed a fallen honey suckle branch from my brush pile to use as a stake for a small sapling. A few days later my "stake" grew two leaves. I had a moment of feeling like I could bring the dead back to life. What couldn't I accomplish in the garden? Then, I lost two beloved dwarf conifers to either lack of water or too much water. So, I was brought back to earth. I was able to grow parsley in a container in the garage all winter. That's new. Unfortunately, the aphids and cut worm were enjoying my parsley all winter instead of me. I moved a couple of ladybugs that I found in the house to the parsley and they waddled around like Roombas eating the aphids. I guess gardening would be a boring hobby if everything grew according to plan.

I think 2017 is going to be a "high" for hosta enthusiasts in the Miami Valley. It's not very often a National Convention is held two hours away. I'm looking forward to attending my first National. The 25th anniversary celebratory Public Garden Tour and Banquet promise to be highlights as well. I'm excited to learn more about the club's history. If you have photos or stories about the club's history, please contact Susan Detert. I may be biased as I was born and raised in Kalamazoo County, but I think we'll see some nice gardens and be able to buy very affordable plants on the Bus Trip. I hope to see you at all these wonderful events.

As always, if you have photos, topics of interest, or any other feedback, please contact me at rmann1993@yahoo.com. Robin Mann, Editor



June 24-25 Bus Trip Kalamazoo, MI



(Left) 2016 Bus Trip

Join the Great Lakes Region Hosta Tailg8 and enjoy several residential gardens, unique nurseries, etc. The Southwest Michigan Hosta Society is hosting. Register no later than June 2 for this fun trip. Space is limited. See yearbook for registration form, cost, and additional information. Don't miss out!



(Right) The garden of Terry and Linda Gage will be featured on the 2017 Bus Trip. Terry has over 1000 hostas and a large collection of streaked seedlings which he hybridized himself.

Protecting Hostas from Frost Damage

By Clarence Falstad III

Hostas are amazingly resilient hardy perennials, but as many know their foliage can still succumb to occasional poorly timed frosts. The damage can leave them unsightly and vulnerable to disease. Symptoms from late spring or early fall frosts are similar. Most hostas are less susceptible to frosts in fall than in spring, and it is easier to protect against early fall frosts. There are several steps we can take to protect hosta plants from frost.

Unlike some tender annuals, hostas can take up to a few days to show symptoms from frost damage, but evidence may also start appearing the night of the frost. The first sign might be stiff, darken, almost brittle leaves. Indications the following morning can be more extreme. Once thawed you may see limp clumps with very dark, crinkled, frozen-lettuce-like leaves.

Expanded but still tightly rolled foliage is more resistant to frost than foliage that is completely unfurled. The tight buds that emerge early in the spring may still be able to withstand temperatures of much less than 32 F (0 C).

Because of the tolerance of hosta leaves, light frosts may not be noticed for a week or more, but could appear as burned leaf margins, leaf tips, or just the higher portion of unfurled leaves. Frost could affect just the surface of a leaf without penetrating to the lower cells. They may show small yellow droplet-sized spots from water freezing on leaves, or just cold water sitting on foliage. In these minor cases the symptoms will manifest as darkened tissue, eventually becoming lighter yellow followed by brown and dried.

Understanding what occurs to the leaf is helpful in knowing what to do about it. As temperatures drop below freezing, water inside the plant cells begins to crystallize and expand. These water crystals are sharp, and the added pressure can rupture the cell membrane and wall. Once this perimeter barrier becomes perforated cell moisture leaks out and the cell dies from dehydration.

The trick to avoiding damage is to prevent cellular water from freezing. Since water with a higher salt concentration freezes at a lower temperature, it's an advantage to establish plants with sufficient cellular moisture. The plant can move water around from the interior of the cells to the exterior, and in so doing protect the cells from desiccation burning or rupturing.

Nutrition is also critical. Although excess nitrogen creates plants with soft growth that is more susceptible to frost, higher concentrations of potassium and phosphorus have proven to be an advantage in frost and winter tolerance. Potassium is also needed to control cell moisture and build strong cell walls.

Healthy established plants can tolerate temperatures of 28° F (-2 C) for short periods of time. Longer periods of several hours at the same temperature injure leaves.

Steps to prepare plants for frost damage

Prevent damage by selecting less susceptible hostas. Some early emerging hostas varieties are notoriously prone to late spring frost damage, i.e., 'Lancifolia', *H. Montana* 'Aureomarginata' and 'Sagae'. Many gardeners have also noted that plants with lighter colored foliage are more susceptible to frost.

Select protective garden locations. Do not plant in low garden elevations that collect cold air. Areas where the soil may warm up faster and hostas may emerge earlier such as an open, south facing hillside are more likely to be hit by late spring freezes. Locate susceptible early-emerging hostas in micro-environments that do not get direct sunshine in the early spring. This will prevent the sun from warming the soil, thus slowing emergence and unfurling of foliage until air temperatures can be more easily maintained above the freezing point. If direct shade like that of a building is not possible, loose mulch spread liberally around the area will have about the same effect. The mulch can be removed once the leaves are poking through it.

Hostas in above ground containers tend to emerge earlier since the soil in the pot will warm up earlier with air temperatures. Keep plants mulched in early spring whether in pots or directly in the ground. Pots submerged in soil or mulch are less prone to the earlier warming.

Keep the plant well fertilized with phosphorus (the second number in a fertilizer sequence) and especially potassium (the last number). Do not use excessive nitrogen fertilizer later in the season; in most gardening regions fertilizers with the first number higher than 3 after July 15th would be excessive for what is necessary for healthy plants.

Steps to avoid forecasted frost

Lay a cover directly over the plants. Preferably it should not be in contact with the leaves. Leaf tissue directly touching the cover is more prone to frost damage, especially if using plastic. Staking may be required to keep the cover from contacting leaves, or to keep it from crushing young tender spring foliage.

The purpose of this covering is to prevent the loss of radiation cooling, or the heat in the ground from going up and away from the plant tissue. The cover will trap the warmth of the soil that is usually greater in the fall than early spring before the soil temperatures have had an opportunity to elevate.

Cold air generally comes from higher in the atmosphere and drops down on calm nights. Drape the cover to meet snugly with the ground in order to prevent the cold air from invading the trapped warmer air underneath, and weigh it down to prevent the cover from blowing off overnight. Heavier coverings such as blankets, and even lighter weight layers when there is a chance of their getting wet,

Protecting Hostas from Frost Damage continued

may require extra staking, especially for softer hosta leaves in the spring. Wooden stakes, lawn chairs or inverted, extra-large, plastic pots selectively placed over favorite hostas for additional protection make effective structures for supporting insulation. In the fall, taller scapes, or even very tall bent over scapes can help support covers.

Reemay® cloth is a very light and effective commercial frost cover. One of its advantages is that it allows enough light transmission to be left on hosta plants for a few weeks with no apparent detrimental effects. This spun-bonded material is also thin enough so not to hold water, and because it is a polymer it will not hold moisture and become moldy. Normally a single cover layer can provide 2 to 7 degrees of protection. Covers of plastic tarps or sheeting are not as efficient as newspaper, which is not as good at insulating as woven material such as bed sheets. Cardboard boxes make excellent frost armor, but metal cans are not advised. Plastic pots used in container-growing plants can also be used. Those pots with drainage holes may need to be plugged with newspaper for additional protection.

Two layers, such as a large plastic pot with an additional top layer of burlap, may guard against even lower temperatures. If plants are not too tall a few handfuls of dried tree leaves can provide yet more protection when covering the foliage.

Water is also effective in many ways. Keeping your garden well watered early the morning before a frost may actually allow for greater radiation warming from the sun (if your hosta beds get direct sun). A dry garden will hold less heat than a wet garden. Irrigating during low-temperature hours can also help. The warmth in the water can warm the foliage and surrounding air. Although evaporation of water takes energy and will cool the surrounding area, water releases a tremendous amount of heat as it freezes. Since hostas can tolerate (especially mature fall foliage) some temperatures below freezing, the heat given off during the freezing process can provide additional warmth as well. If you are not able to water your garden continuously during forecasts of frost, even short intermittent periods of a few minutes irrigation during the most critical period will help by keeping water on the foliage.

If your hostas are damaged by early fall frosts it is usually not critical, and you may just be able to do a normal fall clean up. If the frost is quite early however, it may affect next year's growth. John Kulpa (Detroit, MI) discovered that mowing off foliage early to get a jump on his fall cleaning caused his plants to be smaller than they had ever been the following season. The danger here is that the plants would normally be sending the nutrients and starches from the leaves back into the crown for winter storage. If leaves are damaged, frozen or removed too early it may prevent the plant from stowing its needed reserves.

Plants injured by late spring frosts are more devastating but seldom are life-threatening for the clump. Most older plants have secondary eyes or secondary flushes that can develop if the entire first flush is destroyed. However, plants will not be as large as they would if the first flush was undamaged. The larger concern is not the actual frost damage but some secondary bacterial or fungal infection that may begin in the damaged tissue and not be arrested before the entire clump is killed.

To protect against secondary diseases the foliage should be cleaned down to healthy tissue if the injury is extensive. Some hosta growers cut the damaged leaves off at the ground or even run over them with a lawn mower. When cutting even damaged tissue be careful not to spread other diseases or hosta viruses. The foliage can be picked off by hand, but tends to be rather slimy. Leaving extensively damaged frozen leaves on clumps to dry can restrict the new flush of leaves from emerging causing trapped or distorted growth. If the injury is limited to the tips of the leaves or small spots and the foliage has not fallen down on the ground, you may allow the foliage to dry up on its own and just monitor the plant for other diseases.

We are still learning about frost or cold tolerance differences among hosta cultivars. Plants pre-conditioned to cold are frequently better adapted to survive early fall frosts with less injury. Spring tolerance can be the result of how emerged growth is. However, in general, hostas with lighter colored foliage and those white or yellow portions tend to be more susceptible to frost. Even so, we can still take several actions to ensure a healthy and happy hosta garden.

Clarence Falstad III is involved in licensing and protection of intellectual property at Walters Gardens, Zeeland, MI. Used with permission.



H. Joy Ride April 26, 2016 after a frost

Phenology and Growing Degree Days

If you've ever said, "we're having an early spring and everything is blooming two weeks earlier than normal," you were discussing **Phenology**. According to Merriam-Webster, *Phenology* is defined as "a branch of science dealing with the relations between climate and periodic biological phenomena (such as bird migration or plant flowering)."

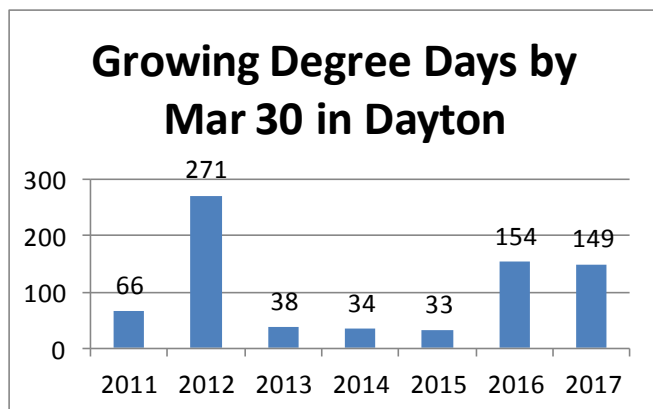
If you live in Ohio, you are fortunate to have a relatively new tool that quantifies the days warm enough to begin the growing cycle for common insects, weeds, and woody ornamental plants. The calculation is called "**Growing Degree Days (GDD)**" and it accumulates GDD units for calendar year days that are above 50 degrees. I'll spare you the math involved in arriving at the unit total, because The Ohio State University provides an on-line calculator at oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd.

In the on-line tool, put in your zip code and the calendar day in which you are interested. The tool then provides you with the GDD total for that day. Then click on "View Full Calendar." Items above the black line have already bloomed/emerged. Items below the black line are coming soon. See below.

Besides being able to scientifically prove your assertion that things are blooming two weeks earlier, the understanding of GDD is important to gardeners for numerous reasons. Recommendations for pest or weed treatment timelines are starting to be made in terms of GDD and what is currently flowering at the moment rather than a

particular calendar day. Also, understanding the rate of seasonal warm-up for agriculture and home vegetable gardening is incredibly useful. Below are the GDD statistics for March 30 over the last seven years.

By Robin Mann, inspired by a lecture given by Denise Ellsworth, The Ohio State University



Common Floweringquince - <i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i>	first bloom	137
Bradford Callery Pear - <i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	first bloom	142
European Pine Sawfly - <i>Neodiprion sertifer</i>	egg hatch	144
Weeping Higan Cherry - <i>Prunus subhirtella</i>	first bloom	145
PJM Rhododendron - <i>Rhododendron PJM</i>	first bloom	147
DAYTON - Ctrl-F to search the page	3/30/2017	149
Norway Maple - <i>Acer platanoides</i>	full bloom	149
Chanticleer Callery Pear - <i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	full bloom	149
Inkberry Leafminer - <i>Liriomyza sativae</i>	adult emergence	150
Star Magnolia - <i>Magnolia stellata</i>	full bloom	151
Sargent Cherry - <i>Prunus sargentii</i>	full bloom	151
Allegheny Serviceberry - <i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	first bloom	153
Spring Snow Crabapple - <i>Malus x spring snow</i>	first bloom	155
Manchu Cherry - <i>Prunus tomentosa</i>	full bloom	155
Smooth Crabgrass -	first seedling emergence	155



A Tale of Two Springs
Claytonia virginica (Spring Beauty)

GDD 147 Right

GDD 143 Left

Photo Taken April 15, 2015



Photo Taken March 27, 2017

Thank You Vendors!

The following vendors donated plants or other goods to the 2016 MVHS Auction. A successful auction would not have been possible without their generous support. Thank you.

Andy's Garden andysgarden.com
2310 West State Route 55, Troy, OH 45373
(937)335-5550

Berns Garden Center bernsgardencenter.com
825 Greentree Rd, Middletown, OH 45044
(513)423-5306
3776 Indian Ripple Rd, Beavercreek, OH 45440
(937)912-0422

Dannaher Landscaping & Nursery
dannaherlandscaping.com

12200 Vans Valley Rd, Galena, OH 43021
(740)965-3789

Glenda's Garden
Email: gwogoman@infinet.com
7620 Halderman Rd, West Alexandria, OH 45381
(937)839-4044

Grandma's Gardens grandmasgardencenter.com
8107 North State Route 48, Waynesville, OH 45068
(937)885-2740

Groovy Plants Ranch groovyplantsranch.com
4140 Co. Rd 15, Marengo, OH 43334
(740)675-2681

Joan's Backyard Treasures
6215 Calvalcade Dr, Hamilton, OH 45011
(513)868-3512

Knollwood Garden Center & Landscaping
Knollwoodgardens.com
3766 Dayton Xenia Rd, Beavercreek, OH 45432
(937)426-0861

The Secret Garden secretgardenwaynesville.com
4107 East State Route 73, Waynesville, OH 45068
(513)897-5505

Seely's Landscape Nursery seelyslandscape.com
3265 Walcutt Rd, Hillard, OH 43026
(614)7710011

Stockslagers Greenhouse & Garden Center
Stockslagers.com
14037 Dayton Eaton Pike, New Lebanon, OH 45345
(937)687-2722

Treasures on High tcarter22@woh.rr.com
12-16 North High St, Covington, OH 45318
(937)570-0849

Wade & Gatton Nurseries
wadeandgattonnurseries.com
1288 Gatton Rocks Rd, Bellville, OH 44813
(419)883-3191

Wengerlawn Nursery Co. wengerlawnnursery.com
6450 Wengerlawn Rd, Brookville, OH 45309
(937)884-7692

Photo taken at the 2017 Hosta College



Robin Mann, News Scapes Editor
rmann1993@yahoo.com

Miami Valley Hosta Society Celebrating 25 Years

APRIL 2017



“Stimulating the knowledge and love of hostas”

Dayton Ohio and Miami Valley Region



Dicentra spectabilis 'Gold Heart'

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Administrator

Email staff@miamivalleyhosta.com

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Secretary:	Susan Detert
Treasurer:	Joyce Thomas

Committees:

Communications:

Electronic Communications and Development:	Joan Stoppelman, Chair
Newsletter:	Robin Mann
Website:	Karen Strider-Iames
Yearbook:	Bob Iames, Karen Strider-Iames and Glenda Wogoman

Great Lakes Region Delegates:

Glenda Wogoman
Gene Wogoman

Membership:

Joyce Thomas, Joan Stoppelman, Joyce Zech

Program & Special Events:

Officers, Gene & Marcia Bashor, Dick Prentice, Joan Stoppelman, Larry Grage, Karen Warner, Gene & Glenda Wogoman

Hospitality:

Joyce Thomas, Kathy Watson, Sherry Green, Sharon Rife