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The Newsletter of the Oklahoma Horticultural Society

SUMMER 2001

May/June/July

3rd ANNUAL

'GARDEN TOUR FOR CONNOISSEURS'

Sponsored by Prudential Alliance Real Estate Group and
Judy Davis, Ken Hutmacher and Brian Chewning

The **Oklahoma Horticultural Society** will hold their 3rd annual 'Garden Tour for Connoisseurs' on Saturday, June 2nd. As in previous years, six private gardens have been chosen for viewing, each a unique mixture of design, plant combinations and expressed individuality. A short description of each garden and ticket outlets are on pages 3 & 6.

Volunteers will be at each garden to answer questions, and as before, this year's poster will be on sale for \$10.00 during the tour along with new t-shirts and hats. Each are priced at \$12.50 (\$10.50 for volunteers).

JUNE 2

9 a.m. - 6p.m.

rain or shine



Tour tickets are \$10.00 in advance and \$12.00 the day of the tour at the entrance of garden #1 and #6. Children under 6 are free. An individual garden visit is \$5.00.

The 2001 Garden Tour for Connoisseurs sponsor is **Prudential Alliance Realty** (Judy Davis, Ken Hutmacher, and Brian Chewning). For additional information, check the website at www.okhort.org or call 330-9150.

Mailing address: OHS P.O. Box 770092 Oklahoma City, OK 73177

Web Page: <http://www.okhort.org>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hard Workers Deserve Thanks

Much activity is underway in the Oklahoma Horticultural Society thanks to our busy members:

- Shirley Kennedy is coordinating Festival in the Park activities.
- Sharon Beasley is chairman of the Garden Tour for Connoisseurs.
- Janis Johnson and Jeanie Spence are heading up volunteers.
- Keith Pierce has drawn and donated another fine sketch.
- John Fluitt has assembled another excellent line up.
- Warren Filley is making sure the tour is well advertised.
- George Vaclavek is continuing with planning and scheduling for the monthly meetings.
- Vicky Michalik is doing her usual excellent and timely job with the newsletter despite the President's laggardly preparation of this article.
- Russell Studebaker is scheduling speakers for the annual meetings.
- Brenda Sanders is keeping accurate and well-written records of our meetings.
- Cathy Connel is taking care of OHS money and preparing professional financial reports. She even presents the report at board meetings when asked!
- Cathy Chenoweth, Tulsa member and former board member, has been very helpful by taking our display board and pamphlets to various events in the Tulsa area.
- Hugh Stout has taken the responsibility of designing, pricing, and ordering new OHS t-shirts and hats, which will be available for sale at upcoming events.
- Kathleen Ryan, has been hard at work on the membership roster making it more readable as well as usable. The new roster listing will be invaluable in keeping track of dues status and for focusing on special membership needs. Members in different parts of the state and with particular interests will be able to access specialized services, benefits and events.
- Lyle Henry, has literally saved the day for the web presence of OHS. Not only is our website now considerably less costly, it now has a name that makes sense and can actually be remembered! The latter should definitely improve and increase its use. The original website, created by Warren Filley and his son, Mark, is both attractive and informative. Lyle brings the capabilities and expertise for making improvements and updates as needed.

Obviously, there's a lot happening, but there's always room for another idea, another helping hand, and another project. Thanks to everyone, especially those I may have failed to mention.

Sincerely,

Joe Howell

TLC AD

ARE YOUR DUES "DUE"?

Take a glance at the mailing label on your issue of Horticulture Horizons. If there is a circle around the date next to your name, your dues are overdue. Please take a moment to send in your check for \$35 to: OHS * PO Box 770092* Oklahoma City, OK 73177.

In the event that we do not receive your payment before the next issue, your membership will be canceled. Remember, this is a dual membership. Not only are you a member of the OHS, but also the AHS (American Horticultural Society) and receive their publication, the American Gardener, receive free admission to numerous gardens, and horticulture shows around the country, along with other numerous benefits.

'GARDEN TOUR FOR CONNOISSEURS'

Lake Garden

Sabolich Residence

This lovely brick and stone home sits stately on the hillside overlooking Lake Aluma. The house is partially ivy-covered lending a mysterious air of intrigue.

The lot has large trees including oak and native cedar as well as one of the largest flowering quince found anywhere. A pond is visible from the rear of the residence that was designed in the romantic style of the 20's. The main pond connects to other ponds by a series of falls, extending the water theme down a graceful hill to the lake. A great starting point for the tour.

Lake Garden

Armstrong Residence

This house was one of the original five built in the Lake Aluma addition. The Armstrongs are in the process of completely restoring and refurbishing the house. Many Lake Aluma homes were built to overlook its garden and to view the lake. One of the first projects the Armstrongs undertook was to rejuvenate and revitalize the garden. The property located on approximately two acres, includes mature oaks, elms and mulberries. This shady canopy that provides dappled sunlight for the plants is a must-see for anyone interested in shade gardening.

Woodland Garden

Bahr Residence

Wildewood Addition homes were begun in the early 1960s with many of the owners buying double lots to provide roaming space in the woodland setting. In 1970, the Bahrs bought a house in Wildewood. Carmen Bahr's goal was to create areas that blended into this almost pristine wooded setting in what she calls "a just happened look."

Walking down the paths and through the Zoysia grass areas, one is delighted to find a variety of shade loving shrubs and perennials, including Solomon's Seal, Epimediums and Helleborus. Some were actually collected in the back woods and transplanted into the gardens.

Pastoral Garden

Stout Residence

The Stout residence, built in 1990 by Hugh, was sited on a five-acre pasture overlooking the stables that Hugh and his sister built in the 1980's. Hugh and Jennifer were married in 1992 and soon thereafter the transformation from all-pasture to the marvelous display of flowing gardens and a wildlife preservation area, started to emerge.

The Stouts are avid collectors of perennials and unusual plants, giving a visitor a treat. This site, a featured attraction on past Water Garden tours, contains walking bridges and pathways, guiding the way alongside three large ponds, an enchanting bog garden, and a running stream.

Urban Garden

Kopera Residence

Two years ago, this nondescript, rather flat yard was hardly worthy of the title "garden". Today, after much hard work and love, it has been transformed into a work of art. Although relatively young, it is a show place of what can be accomplished in a short amount of time. Berms have been formed and large planting beds with grass pathways running in between, feature plants with varying textures and colors.

Urban Garden

Wagner Residence

The diversity of plant material in this garden makes it an important part of this year's tour. As you approach the house you will see a mixture of perennials, evergreens, and a large chitalpa tree next to the front door. A selection of sweetspire, golden lacebark elm, elderberry and Kentucky coffee tree, compliment each other as they form the structural elements in this garden.

HOW PLANTS GOT THEIR NAME

9TH IN A SERIES BY WARREN FILLEY

COMMON NAME: Hosta, Plantain Lily, or Funkia

BOTANICAL NAME: 'Hosta' FAMILY NAME: 'lillaceae'

USDA COLD HARDINESS ZONES: 3-8 AHS HEAT ZONES: 1-8

As I walked through my garden this afternoon inspecting the changes which had occurred over the past few days with this spring's warmth, I was delighted to find the return of my many cultivars of hosta. They have become favorites of mine growing in areas from partial shade to almost total shade. Literally, there is a hosta variety to brighten almost any corner of your garden with diversity of leaf color, shape, size, and composition.

It is my idea of "low maintenance" gardening, in that once you have planted them, usually you don't have to do anything except admire them. Of course, they have other admirers as well, like the slug, but then that is another story.

Hostas originated in China, Japan and Korea. In 1712 Englebert Kaempfer identified their Japanese name as 'Joksan vulao giboosi'. Later they were called 'Aletris japonica' and 'Hemerocalis japonica' by Carl Thunberg. Christian Sprengel named them "funkias" in honor of Heinrich Christian Funck, a German botanist and specialist on mosses. In fact, in some parts of the world, especially Britain, they are still called "funkia" or "funckia". The name "plantain lilies" derives from the Latin 'planta', "sole of your foot", which the large leaves do resemble.

Leopold Trattinick proposed the name 'Hosta' after physician Nicholas Thomas Host, an expert on grasses. However, there was a catch. The name 'Hosta' had already been assigned to the verbena (now known as 'Cornutia'). Since the 'Cornutia' had been classified as a verbena by Linnacus, the International Botanical Congress in 1905 declared that Hosta could be used as the name for the plantain lily.

There are often stories regarding physicians intertwined in the history of plants and horticulture. Such is the case for hostas as well. 'Sieboldia 'Elegans' is one of my favorites and I have grown this variety for years. It has striking dark blue/gray foliage with extremely large leaves. The plants often grow 2' or more high and up to 3' wide with beautiful white flowers during the summer. It was the German eye surgeon Philipp von Siebold who first sent living hosta plants from Japan to the Leyden Botanical Garden. Although the Japanese at the time only allowed Dutchman from the East India Trading Company to visit Deshmia

Island, Dr. Seibold spoke Dutch and deceived the Japanese into thinking he was merely a Dutchman with a German accent. He was a skilled surgeon and was permitted to leave the island of Deshmia to travel to the mainland of Japan to perform the first cataract surgeries there. As payment for his services, he accepted botanical specimens which he illicitly exported to Germany. He eventually fell in love with a Japanese woman and they had a daughter. Unfortunately In 1629, he was caught shipping out a map of Japan which resulted in his arrest and expulsion from the country. He pined for Japan for the rest of his life and reportedly wore Japanese dress even at the time of his death in Ghent.

Although relatively obscure in American gardens until the late 1970's, hostas have been grown on this continent for over 150 years. In the last 10 years they have become the world's most popular perennial. Nearly 4,000 cultivars are available in the trade with 500 of these being distinct and garden worthy. Good soil and good soil preparation is the key to growing hostas well, and they do require more moisture the further south they are grown. Although they will tolerate several hours of sun, particularly in the morning, they do prefer light or even heavy shade. I have been surprised to find several varieties doing extremely well for me planted under eastern red cedar where few other plants will grow.

If you have a greater interest in hostas, meetings of the Oklahoma Hosta Society are the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Will Rogers Garden Center. You may also contact one of our members, Nancy Fernandes at 405 476-3116 for more information regarding the Hosta Society.

TREASURER'S REPORT

APRIL 19, 2001

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE:

\$995.64

SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE:

\$10,163.79

NEW OHS WEBSITE AND INTERNET ADDRESS

by Lyle Henry, OHS Webmaster

OHS has a new easy-to-remember website address. The ".org" suffix is generally reserved on the Internet for non-profit organizations, such as the Oklahoma Horticultural Society. To make it even easier for everyone, we have also registered the name with the more common ".com" suffix. When visitors go to our prior website they see a message letting them know of the new site location. Just by clicking on the message, they are automatically taken to the new website at www.okhort.org. As you can see, the new web name is significantly shorter than the old one.

Our new "okhort" website will allow us to provide a wider range of services and features to our members and visitors who use the site. For example, during the months of April and May, the "Garden Tour for Connoisseurs" has been featured on the site. The tour information includes descriptions, photos,

and maps to the gardens on the tour. The advance ticket locations and sponsor also received a bonus by having their name and business locations identified with maps and links to their stores. Similar web pages can be created and used for advertising future OHS events. The

okhort.org
The Society's
new website!

"Garden Tour for Connoisseurs" will be available on the web site through June 2nd as a menu item on the home page. After that, if you would like to view it, you can do so by entering in your browser's "address" or "location" line.

Currently, there are several categories of information available through the menu on the OHS website including: Calendar of Events, Newsletters and Meeting

Minutes, Membership and Scholarship information and forms, a directory of Oklahoma garden clubs, and Links to other gardening sources and services. You will also find on our site, information about the OHS board and its members.

As the Webmaster (a general term used as a title for the person who programs and maintains the Website) my goal is to make the OHS website a readily available source for horticultural information pertaining to Oklahoma. I feel that we can use our site to help promote environment friendly gardening. It can keep members and visitors informed of what is happening in Oklahoma gardening and the many benefits of being part of the Oklahoma Horticultural Society.

If you know of any event that should be posted on the OHS website, and you have email, you can send it to me at lxhenry@home.com Even if you don't have a computer, please keep me informed by mailing your event information directly to me at: 11449 Lakeridge Run, OKC 73170.

I welcome your comments and suggestions. **Best regards, Lyle**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Calling all people who have not yet signed up to volunteer for the Garden Tour for Connoisseurs, June 2! Please contact Jeanie Spence (751-8799) or Janis Johnson (842-1779). The shifts will be from 9 AM-12 PM, 12 PM-3 PM, and 3 PM-6 PM. Let them know if you are available to work only a certain time. Your help is needed to take tickets, sell tickets, and guide people through the gardens. You do not need to be a plant expert to be a volunteer. You will be able to tour all the gardens free of charge.

The assignment schedule needs to be completed soon, so please call today, as it takes many volunteers to make our tour run smoothly. Remember that friends and family who are not OHS members are also welcome to volunteer and also see the gardens. Many volunteers have claimed that this kind of volunteering is an enjoyable duty and a chance to get to know other members better. Call today, you'll be glad you did.

If you have already volunteered, many thanks to you, and you will soon be notified of your assignment for the tour day.

OKLA. ALLERGY CLINIC

3rd ANNUAL

'GARDEN TOUR FOR CONNOISSEURS'

Sponsored by Prudential Alliance Real Estate Group and
Judy Davis, Ken Hutmacher and Brian Chewing

Advance Ticket Outlets

Advance Tickets may be purchased for the discounted price at the following businesses who have graciously agreed to donate their time and effort to help us:

Farmers Grain Co. of Edmond
102 West First Street
Edmond, Oklahoma
(405)341-3310

Marcum's Nursery
2121 S.W. 119th Street
Oklahoma City, OK
(405)691-9100

Horn Seed Company
2 locations
1409 N.W. Expressway
Oklahoma City, OK
(405)842-6607

Satterlee Nursery
6922 N. May Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK
(405)848-6228

and
7405 S. May Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK
(405)682-4676

TLC Florists and Greenhouse
2 locations
105 W. Memorial Road
Oklahoma City, OK
(405)751-0630

Precure Nursery & Garden Ctr.
2 locations
8125 West Reno
Oklahoma City, OK
(405)789-4930

and
8208 N.W. Expressway
Oklahoma City, OK
(405)720-0091

and
4535 N.W. 63rd Street
Oklahoma City, OK
(405)721-5637

**For maps and directions
to any of these locations,
go to www.okhort.org**

'FESTIVAL IN THE PARK'

It's that time again... the annual 'FESTIVAL IN THE PARK' at Will Rogers Park is almost here. June 9, 10am to 4pm is the date and time to place on your calendar. This one-day event includes a fund-raising booth for the Oklahoma Horticultural Society and the society is asking you to donate some plants and time. Donate the plants that you can divide, propagate and repot from your garden as well as those you have purchased. Volunteers are needed to work the booth, selling plants and visiting with others all the while, promoting the OHS to their fullest extent.

The festival is always a lot of fun, with all of the booths from plant organizations, retail outlets, flower judging, lunch, children's activity room and the park itself. So call Shirley Kennedy at (405)787-1897 for times to work and locations around town to bring your donations. You can bring your plants directly to the park on the day of the festival, providing they are there by 10am. Please take a few minutes and label **EACH** plant with their name and a price.

**On the day of the tour,
tickets may be purchased
at two garden entrances:**

Garden #1 153 Lake Aluma
Drive, Lake Aluma, Oklahoma
City and

Garden #6 8500 Waverly
Avenue, Oklahoma City

WELCOME NEW OHS MEMBERS

**TOM & MADELINE
BALDWIN**
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

LARRY & JAN HIGGS
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

BOB & SUE LAYNE
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

SHANI MILLER
YUKON, OK

JAN MOORE
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

**KRISTOFFER & MEG
WAGNER**
TEMPLE, TX

**ROBERT & SANDY
WRIGHT**
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

OHS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Oklahoma Horticultural Society
P.O. Box 770092
Oklahoma City, OK 73177

OKLAHOMA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY EVENTS 2001

MAY 22 'CONSTRUCTING EUROPEAN TROUGHS' - Come and construct your own European Trough Monthly Meeting at Will Roger Garden Center; 7 PM Call 330-9150 for a materials list.

June 2 'GARDEN TOUR FOR CONNOISSEURS' - OHS sponsored one-day self-guided tour of six beautiful gardens in the Oklahoma City area. Rain or shine from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

June 9 'FESTIVAL IN THE PARK' Will Rogers Park. A multi-faceted horticultural event including booths from plant associations and businesses; flower judging, seminars, exhibits and children's activities.

June 9 & 10 'WILDLIFE HABITAT GARDEN TOUR' - Saturday 9 am -5 pm, Sunday 12- 5 pm; Tulsa; Native plant vendors at gardens on tour; Contact Ron Jeffris, 6447 S. Indianapolis Place, Tulsa 73136 phone (918) 492-5022 email ronjeffris@webzone.net

June 26 'TREES AND SHRUBS WE SHOULD KNOW; NATIVE NEWCOMERS & RELATIVE UNKNOWNNS', by Dave Edwards Monthly Meeting at Will Roger Garden Center; 7 PM

June 30-July 19 - ENGLISH GARDEN TOUR - Escorted by Gardener & Author (and OHS member), Russell Studebaker; Lin Kobsey Travel tel. (918) 747-0077 fax (918) 481-1004

July & August - NO MONTHLY MEETINGS

September 23 "OHS FALL ANNUAL MEETING"; SLIDE SHOW AND DISCUSSION ON "WOODIES"
by Steve Bieberich of Sunshine Nursery; OBGA In Stillwater

October 5 & 6 'GARDEN GALA', Sponsored by the Oklahoma Zoological Park

December 8 'OHS CHRISTMAS PARTY'; More details to come...

2002 January 31 - February 3 2nd 'OKLAHOMA GARDEN FESTIVAL'; Myriad Convention Center

For information, visit the website at www.okhort.org or call 330-9150