



The American Hosta Society

April 2022

eNewsletter



H. 'Silk Kimono'

H. Hansen & H. Gowen 1999

(Photo by Mary Vertz)

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President's Message

Andy Marlow, Hopkins, MN

When, oh, when can I write a President's Message without focusing on COVID-19? It seems like forever since that's been the case. Maybe now is the time, as experts say we may be transitioning from a pandemic (a disease prevalent over a whole country or the world) to a situation where COVID-19 is merely endemic (a disease that's with us but doesn't impact whole populations, like the common flu). We can only hope.

Meanwhile, there are spring and summer to look forward to. Here in the frozen north, we are still trying to melt the last few inches of snow cover. It has been continuous and deep, providing extremely good insulation for slumbering hostas. Every change of season is different. I was surprised by a Facebook memory from a year ago in which I had found and photographed a blooming snow drop. On the same day this year, we still had five inches of snow on the ground.

But I am starting to see reports and photos on Facebook from members well south of me, of emerging spring bulbs and shrubs beginning to leaf out. We northerners are extremely jealous until we begin to catch up. We just need a little bit of patience.

One thing that's certain about the summer ahead is that we will be having an in-person AHS national convention here in the Twin Cities in June. If you haven't made the decision to attend yet, there's still plenty of time. Just visit www.hostavision2022.com and either register online using a credit or debit card or print out the registration form and mail it in along with your check. We (I am on the planning committee) have lots of great tours, speakers and meals planned. We hope you can attend.

One of the sometimes more challenging parts of being your president is filling all the appointive positions of the Society. I was most pleased to learn that Danny Lawson, a multi-talented whiz, has changed his mind and will continue as Newsletter Coordinator. Danny was simultaneously

Newsletter Coordinator and editor of both the *eNewsletter* and the *Online Hosta Journal*. A job change, and a new house needing renovation caused him to cut back on his commitment to AHS, but he's squeezing out the time to keep up with his fellow newsletter editors. Danny edits the Wichita Hosta Society's newsletter, and also serves as the groups' President.

New to the AHS leadership team is Dr. Sue Sickels, who I have appointed as Education Chair. She actually volunteered through the AHS website when she retired as a small animal veterinarian. She currently serves as Vice President of the Western New York Hosta Society. She oversees the group's hoop house which is on her property. Although formally trained in veterinary medicine, she serves as the society's unofficial scientist, to interpret scientific terms and studies into English. She usually presents one original PowerPoint presentation each year. Her hosta garden just reached the "one thousand cultivar" mark last summer.

A more familiar face in AHS leadership is Chuck Zdeb. He's been appointed chair of Hosta Shows. He'll work with local societies to certify their hosta shows, as well as oversee AHS efforts. He previously served as Vice President Awards and Honors, and VP Judging and Exhibitions for AHS. He's been a show judge since 1994. He says, "I have taught more Judges clinics than I can count." Chuck has been a member of both AHS and the Georgia Hosta Society since 1986. He's held most positions within the GHS, including President and Treasurer, as well as served on the Board of Directors several times. He's been involved in most of GHS' leaf shows as Show Chair, Classification Chair, and Judges Chair.



American Hosta Society

National Convention

June 8-11, 2022

Minneapolis Marriott NW / Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

Meet Your New Board Members...



Bob Saathoff:

Vice President Publications

Bob resides in Topeka, Kansas with a garden full of perennials, shrubs and trees that are shade tolerant. 600 Hosta varieties, 50+ Fern varieties, 70 Japanese Maples and most everything else that grow in part shade. In addition to being a Hostaholic he picked up the Conifer collecting addiction from attending many Hosta Convention garden tours where Conifers were present and the rest is history. With his garden's limited

sun exposure there are now 80+ (and growing) miniature and dwarf Conifer cultivars (some shade tolerant) being tended to.

He has a Civil Engineering background with a career at the Kansas Department of Transportation, is past Chair of the Friends of Ward-Meade Board of Directors, is the Ward-Meade Botanical Garden Chair, has been an American Hosta Society member for twenty years, is a member of the Heartland Hosta and Shade Plant Society in Kansas City and played an active role in planning the 2017 AHS Midwest Regional Conference in Kansas City.

Bob has helped develop several public gardens in Topeka and began working at the Ward-Meade Botanical Garden in 2013 where he has been instrumental in attaining National Display Garden status with the American Hosta Society and American Daylily Society and Reference Garden status with the American Conifer Society.



Mary Vertz:

eNewsletter Editor

My love for hostas has its roots in the family farm I grew up on. My mother grew a multitude of flowers but the ones that impressed me the most were a couple of hostas she grew. I just loved their graceful cascading mound

shape. Those hostas were *Hosta* ‘Lancifolia’ and *H. plantaginea*.

When my husband Terry and I purchased our first house, a piece of both migrated to my gardens. I started adding a few other hostas and in 1986 when we built our current home, all six of my collection came along. Some didn’t survive the move, but the original *H. ‘Lancifolia’* and *H. plantaginea* still grow in my gardens today.

Gradually I added a few hostas here and there. Around 2000 when we became empty nesters, I was bitten by the ‘hosta bug’ and became a ‘hostaholic’! With more time and money, my hosta collection grew rapidly. Currently our gardens feature over 1,400 different hostas plus numerous shady loving companion plants and of course some sunny gardens too.

Along the way, I’ve become a ‘seed-a-holic’, each year collecting hosta seeds and growing several seedlings. I haven’t reached the level of creating my own crosses, but let the bees do the pollinating. Besides the seedlings I’ve started, Mother Nature occasionally surprises me with interesting seedlings and sports that pop-up in our gardens. Last year and this year I’m excited to have registered some of them! I guess you could say, I still have farming in my blood and I haven’t met a hosta I didn’t like!

About 2005 I discovered a local gardening group dedicated to hostas – Green and Gold Hosta Society of Northeastern WI. Through them I’ve made many hosta friends. At first Terry didn’t come to the meetings but I gradually pulled him in to mingle with other ‘hostaholics’. He too has been bitten by the ‘hosta bug’ but a much smaller one than I have. Since then, I’ve ‘signed us up for the American Hosta Society and the Midwest Regional Hosta Society.

The 2012 MRHS Convention in Rochester was the first hosta convention we attended. In 2013, the AHS Hosta Convention in Milwaukee, was the first national convention we attended. Since then, as time has permitted, we have attended numerous MRHS and AHS conventions, always having a fun time and meeting wonderful people. Now that we are retired, it will be easier to squeeze more conventions into our schedule and we look forward to attending both in 2022. Our gardens were a tour garden for the 2014 Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention and for the 2019 American Hosta Society Convention in Green Bay, WI.

In 2015, I became the editor of the MRHS *Hosta Leaves* taking over from the talented hands of Floyd Rogers. I enjoy pulling together the Spring and Fall editions. In July of 2021 I became editor of the AHS eNewsletter, taking over the reins from the capable hands of Danny Lawson.

We love to share our gardens, so if you’re ever passing through Wisconsin let us know!



One of our gardens

H. ‘Backyard Monster’ in one of our gardens.



Hostas and Associates

Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

Shady Characters

What do you plant when you have a shady yard? Why, hostas of course! Few herbaceous plants tolerate the dense canopy of tall trees better than hostas. I planted hostas under all three large trees that shade the front of our house. Unfortunately, though, hostas don't become full size until June in Southeast Wisconsin, and if you live where deer routinely wander through your yard, you are serving them lunch. Woodland wildflowers are the perfect solution for deer resistant, early-season color in the shade garden, and they make excellent companions for hostas. Let me tell you about three of them, all native to Southern Wisconsin.

Virginia Bluebells, *Mertensia virginica*, may be the perfect companion for hostas. The plant emerges early from gnarled black-coated deep tuberous roots, and quickly grows to a height of about two feet. Loose clusters of tubular pink buds form on the fragile stems and open into trumpet-



Mertensia virginica (Virginia Bluebells) in my hosta garden

shaped blue flowers in April or early May. The plant is pollinated by butterflies or bees, the latter often having to perforate the flower tube in order to reach the nectar. Planted in masses, this plant makes a stunning early-spring display.

Left on its own, Virginia Bluebells will die to the ground by midsummer but there is an overlap between when it is still around and hostas are emerging, creating an unkempt look. As soon as the flowers are faded and fruit is forming, I remove the spent flower stalks, leaving a few so the plant can gradually spread throughout the garden.



Virginia Bluebells flowers

Each flower produces four nutlets and can quickly spread if left on its own. I have found that removing the foliage before it dies down has not hampered the spring display and dramatically improves the garden's appearance.

Shooting Star, *Dodecatheon meadia*, now sometimes included in the genus *Primula*, is another spring bloomer that I grow throughout my hosta beds. It is at home in well-drained limey soil and will tolerate any light condition, making it perfect for my part-shade hosta garden.



Dodecatheon meadia (Shooting Star)

Shooting Star forms a basal rosette of leaves, then sends up leafless flower stalks to a height of 20 inches. Clusters of flowers, which may be lilac, pink, or white, form at the top in April through June.



Dodecatheon meadia flowers

The flowers sweep outward and upward, giving the impression of a shooting star. The foliage may go dormant in summer but even if it persists, it will be covered by emerging hosta leaves.

Another spring delight is Twinleaf, *Jeffersonia diphylla*. It is somewhat rare in the wild in Wisconsin, being found only in scattered counties in the southern half of the state. Like the two previous plants, it loves limestone soils. Leaves are deeply divided into two lobes, giving the appearance of a butterfly.



Jeffersonia diphylla (Twinleaf)



Jeffersonia diphylla flower

Single, white, cup-shaped flowers bloom atop rigid leafless stalks. The flowers are short-lived, so you need to visit your garden often in the spring so as not to miss this plant in bloom. Even if you do miss the flowers, take note of the fruit. It is a pear-shaped pod with a lid.

Seeds have food bodies attached to them that ants take back to their colonies when they are ripe in a process called myrmecochory. In doing so, the ants feed their larvae but also spread the seeds of Twinleaf.

This phenomenon is quite common throughout the world in woodland ephemeral plants. After the fruit ripens, the foliage gradually goes dormant.



Twinleaf Fruit

These, and other woodland wildflowers are ideal for shade gardens. Besides hostas, fill your garden with ferns, coral bells, hellebores, astilbes, and other shade plants. When you have to work with a short growing season like we have in Wisconsin, you need to take advantage of every plant that extends the time of bloom. I like to call it Jack-in-the-Box planting; when one plant goes dormant, another emerges. There is nothing sinister about these shady characters!

Additional articles on plants and gardening can be found on my blog: <https://TheCottageGardener53012.Wordpress.com>



GO HOSTAS!

Warren I. Pollock, Glen Mills, PA

Southern Blight Disease Can Seriously Affect Hostas — BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR IT.

I am devoting this April 2022 column to the destructive disease called Southern Blight—so you will have extensive information on its treatment and prevention if it occurs in your garden or nursery this summer, possibly even earlier in late spring. Had this information been in the next *Go Hostas!* column, July 2022, likely it would not have been soon enough for application this year. [**TIP:** Prominently mark your “favorites lists” with this column for future reference.]

What got my interest last year in Southern Blight was my hosta colleague, Gordon Schloatman, an AHS and Delaware Valley Hosta Society member, who lives three stories’ downstairs of me and grows some great hostas like *H.* ‘Blue Angel’, *H.* ‘Coast to Coast’ and *H.* ‘Revolution’ in a 35 sq. foot plot of land across from his outside apartment entrance, had serious disease issue(s).

Partly, his hostas seemed to be affected by Southern Blight which is a serious *fungal* disease. But significantly also, there was a serious destructive *bacterial* disease called “soft rot.”



**Southern Blight sclerotia:
THE CULPRIT.**

Seemingly, Hostadom's reigning authority on Southern Blight treatment and prevention is Bill Meyer, Woodbury, Connecticut, co-proprietor with Carol Brashear of the poplar, extensive photo gallery in *Hosta Library*. Some ten years ago Bill authored a super essay titled "A Southern Blight Strategy", publishing it in the online *Hosta Library* Reading Room. Very possibly you didn't know this gem resource existed or paid much attention to it. If so, **discover it!** *It has a wealth of cultural information not found elsewhere.*

Though dated August 2010, Bill's land-mark article *still has a five-star technical rating*. With his permission, I am reprinting much of the contents here, adding new information that I assembled:

A SOUTHERN BLIGHT STRAGEY

by Bill Meyer

with addenda by Warren I. Pollock

The fungus called Southern Blight has a variety of common names, but the scientific name is *Sclerotium rolfsii*. It was named for Peter Henry Rolfs, who first found it in tomato fields in Florida in 1892. It has been a significant crop pest in warmer parts of the world, but is generally controlled these days, mainly by use of preventative fungicides.



In the mid-1990s, Southern Blight started to become a problem in many hosta gardens. It was generally thought of as a warm-climate pest, but gardens in even some of the colder parts of North America have had infections. It is now often a frequent complaint of gardeners who collect plants from many sources, both gardens and nurseries.

Common Strategies

Bill stated that once Southern Blight gets into a garden, it can reappear almost anywhere in subsequent years. In the Carol Brashear-Bill Meyer garden in Connecticut, it would hit one hosta, then another a hundred feet away in a different part of the garden without appearing anywhere in between. For this reason, preventative measures would have to include the entire garden to be sure they are effective.

Drenches with fungicides are basically the only way to prevent the fungus from getting started in the garden. This will be expensive for large gardening areas and may be unattractive to many for the sheer amount and expense of chemicals used. It will be effective if reapplied at the intervals specified on the label, as the fungus is not especially hard to kill.

A variety of fungicides work satisfactorily for treatment and control of Southern Blight. But these days the fungicide **tebuconazole (1,2-propanediol)**, which is sold in many retail nurseries, DIY box stores and also online, is the prime choice for home gardeners and small-size nurseries.

Tebuconazole fungicide is extensively marketed by BioAdvanced®—a small semi-independent company spun off from the huge Bayer Crop Science complex headquartered in North Carolina, who recently purchased Monsanto chemical in St. Louis, and now owns the herbicide “Roundup” brand name.

The product is simply labeled “Disease Control for Rose, Flowers & Shrubs - 32 ounce concentrate.” It comes in an easily identified blue container. It is 2.9 percent by weight fungicide and makes 42 gallons of spray. Cost per container is usually cited as \$17.50.



The container’s label states the product *controls Southern Blight*. Bill pointed out that the actual process of drenching the entire garden is

labor-intensive, expensive, and not something he recommends for several reasons. It will work, but it is better suited to the growing of annual crops. For those who want to try it anyway, he recommends keeping the fungicides off of hosta leaves as the product is an oil which will turn blue leaves green.

The life cycle of *Sclerotium rolfsii* gives a clear understanding of what we are dealing with as hosta gardeners. In many ways the fungus closely resembles an annual weed. Bill's strategy was based on this similarity.

What he did in his garden was to start watching for the fungus to attack a hosta. This is usually very clear if you watch for it. Around the middle of June when the weather has warmed up completely, he began watching for any hosta leaves that have fallen over and are lying on the ground. Several things can cause this, and they should be ruled out before treating for Southern Blight.

Hosta petioles sometimes are chewed through above the soil line by slugs or some mammal or broken by falling branches or careless gardeners or their pets. Damage from voles or mice or diseases that kill the rhizome of the plant can also lead to leaves collapsing.

Stopping sclerotia formation is the key to getting Southern Blight out of the garden permanently

To see if Southern Blight is the cause, look carefully at the base of the leaf. The petiole tissue will be soft and rotting right where it meets the ground, not just below ground, and there will be some of the white hyphae noticeable. *If the attack of the fungus has been caught at this stage, there will be none of the seedlike sclerotia present.*

It will normally take from four days to a week or so before the first leaf drops to the ground and for the fungus to mature and produce its sclerotia. This is by far the best time to treat the problem. If the sclerotia

have formed, it becomes much more difficult.

As stated, if prior to the sclerotia forming, Southern Blight is very much like an annual weed in bloom. Like all such weed: **If it is allowed to set “seed” it will surely be back again next year.**

Although it is possible for Southern Blight sclerotia to survive for several years in the soil, they will normally germinate the following summer, so eliminating it before it can set “seed” is the key to ridding the garden of the pest once and for all.

If *Sclerotium rolfsii* is caught prior to setting its little progeny, a simple drench with tebuconazole fungicide—also “Clorox”—will quickly and effectively kill it. Once should be enough, but it can’t hurt to watch the plant closely for another week or two for any signs the fungus still lives. It does not go very deep into the soil so just drenching enough to penetrate an inch into the soil should be enough. If you can kill it every time it appears before any sclerotia have set, the odds are very good it will not be back next year. If it does show up again the next year, repeating the process should finish it off.

Keep fungicide on hand to treat when Southern Blight appears

If it has set sclerotia, by the time you discovered the problem there are hundreds of little brown mustard-seed-like bodies nestled in a large flat mass of white mycelium. All efforts then must first be directed at cleaning up the sclerotia as completely as possible. *Any that escape will germinate the following year and start the problem up again.*

Carefully remove the affected leaves of the hosta and place them into a plastic trash bag. Then clean up all the soil around the base of the plant. Some have suggested a hand-held vacuum cleaner to pick up the sclerotia. When the sclerotia have been cleaned up as thoroughly as possible, scrape off the top inch or so of soil and add it to the trash bag. Only when you are sure you have done all you can to clean up the sclerotia is it time to drench with fungicide.

It is not necessary to dig up the hosta at this point, as little can be done to improve its condition. Usually, the affected plant will recover to some extent, but the loss of too many leaves will set the plant back considerably. Sometimes the hosta will die, possibly from some damage the fungus did. In the Southern Blight attacks Bill dealt with, about one fourth of the hostas died, while some survived only as small pieces. The damage done is considerable if not caught early.

Alternatives

Some suggest the use of bleach to drench and clean up the affected hostas. Bleach also will kill *Sclerotium rolfsii* very effectively—but bleach is a caustic chemical that will also do further damage to the hosta in the process. As the plant has already been badly damaged by the fungus itself, the use of a caustic chemical that does further damage is counterproductive, in his opinion. Tebuconazole fungicide is the better choice for saving the plant.

For those who are opposed to any chemical controls in the garden, there seem to be no good alternatives. Bill suggested being vigilant: cut any petioles that have been penetrated by the fungus below the attacked area as near to the rhizome as possible. Then let the plant dry in the sun for several hours. Pouring boiling water into the soil where the plant was, may eliminate the fungus in the soil if the soil warmed enough.

After several years of battling outbreaks of Southern Blight in the garden, Bill believed he was successful in eliminating it from the garden. There is always the chance it will come back on a new plant. So, he continued to keep an eye out for any leaves that are lying down. *Sclerotium rolfsii* can be eliminated in the garden with some vigilance and minor use of fungicide.

Tebuconazole is a systemic fungicide; it works inside the leaves. However, it lasts only about two weeks. BioAdvanced recommends reapplication every two weeks.

BUT it limits applications to no more than three times during the

year. The fungicide should dry completely on the leaves before it rains on them or the garden is watered.

According to advertisement on the Internet, BioAdvanced “Disease Control for Roses, Flowers and Shurbs” is *not* sold in New York State.

The TECHNICAL SUPPORT PHONE NUMBER FOR BioAdvanced is 1-877-229-3724.

END NOTE: As a follow-up item on the disease problem(s) in Gordon Schloatman’s hosta garden, he has been asked to describe what corrective/preventative actions he took last year and this spring in an autumn GO HOSTAS! 2022 column.



IRRIGATION SYSTEMS? Your experiences requested.

At the end of the January 2022 *Go Hostas!* column, I asked readers who have irrigation systems—pop-up and drip systems either DIY or commercially installed—for their plus/minus experiences. I’d like more responses. You can contact me at giboshiwip@aol.com.

GO HOSTAS!



Book Notice

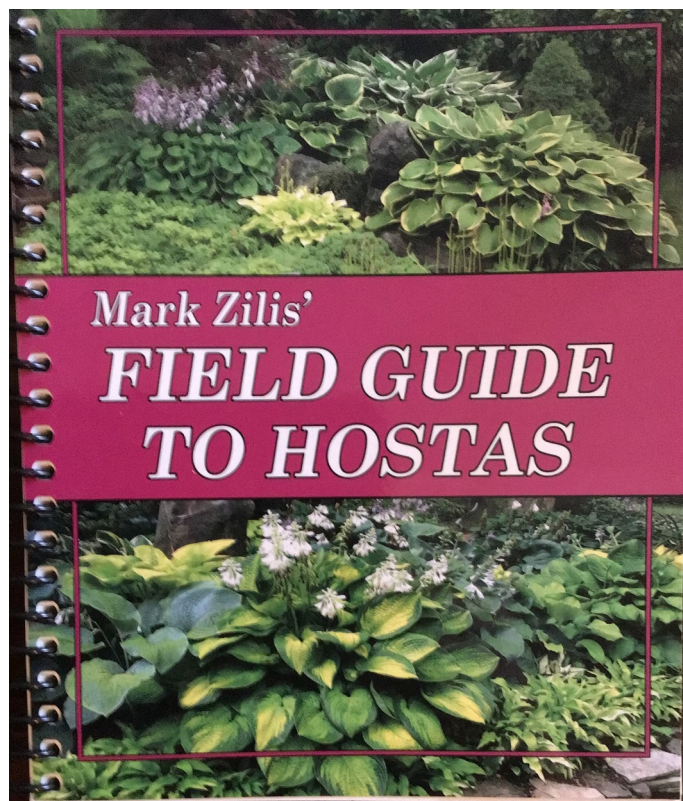
Clyde Crockett, Carmel, IN

Mark Zilis' Field Guide To Hostas

Written by Mark Zilis

Q & Z Nursery, Inc.: 2014

A great “Introduction” starts things off promisingly, where, in just 28 pages, the essentials of hosta history, taxonomy, species in the wild and in cultivation, nomenclature, hosta societies, registration of cultivars, and cultivation basics are presented. All is done in an agreeable concise style accompanied by excellent photography. “Taxonomy of the Genus Hosta”, my favorite sub-part, clarifies what can be a murky subject—the naming of hosta species and traces the various additions, deletions and changes from Maekawa to Schmid . Photos of the species in their natural habitats are an added nice touch.



Having been introduced, we turn to two sections that deserve special mention; one on trees, shrubs and vines, and the other on companion plants, which to the hostophile includes all other plants on Earth! In these sections a number of interesting suggestions are found but there is much more included in the remarkable Appendix. First, “Compatibility of Trees, Shrubs and Vines With Hostas In Shade Gardens” is a rating (1 to 10) of the compatibility of 68 trees, 33 shrubs and 12 vines.

Next is a list of 52 recommended companion plants noting the type (ground cover, flowering perennial or fern), the name, and, importantly, the authors notes. For example, the note with *Arisaema dracontium* provides “great in deep shade; interesting flowers; good with hostas; native to North America.”

Other topics in the Appendix include “Hosta Starter Collections”, one of which is a list of suggestions for gifts to your gardening friends and “Getting Hooked on Hostas”, a collection of some unusual but beautiful varieties that ensure a friend will get the bug!

The heart of the book, “Hosta Descriptions”, comprises 285 pages

ance. The unusual character of the margin is likely produced by the difference in cellular expansion between the margin and center. Its flowering habit is an ornamental plus. The flowers open on scapes that are in good proportion to the foliage. Surprisingly, this wonderful hosta is rarely used in breeding work. Ron Livingston's 'Magnificence' (not yet registered) is the only known 'Frosted Jade' progeny to date.


similar types: 'Crispula', 'Eventide', 'Mountain Snow'

significant sports: 'Chesieres September Frost': green center; white margin with gray streaks into the center


significant seedlings: 'Magnificence'

H. 'Frosted Mouse Ears' (M. Zilis & E. & J. Deckert) ECBR

key features: creamy white-margined foliage; mini mound size



H. 'Frosted Mouse Ears', spring color



H. 'Frosted Mouse Ears' in bloom

origin: tissue culture sport of 'Royal Mouse Ears'; {registered in 2006, M. Zilis (ONIR), E. & J. Deckert (ON) (Walek 2007)}; introduced for sale in 2008 by Q & Z Nursery, Inc.

mound: 7" high by 18" wide

leaves: 2 1/2" long by 2 1/4" wide; center blue-green, turning dark green by midsummer; 1/4" to 1/2" wide margin changes from yellow to creamy white; broadly ovate blade shape; not wavy; thick underside bloom; thick substance; 9-11 vein pairs

flowers: early to mid-July; medium purple; in dense clusters; scapes 10-12" high

fertility: sparse pod formation


growth rate: slow

comments: 'Frosted Mouse Ears' was an inevitable outcome of tissue culturing the streaked 'Royal Mouse Ears' at my nursery. It was the first white-edged member of the "Mouse Ears" family of hostas. It differs from other light-margined cultivars by its margin staying yellow longer. I have seen it grown in containers and in the ground, doing well in both situations. Like all of the other mice, its purple flowers add to its attractiveness.


similar types: 'Country Mouse', 'Lucky Mouse', 'Mighty Mouse', 'One Iota'

significant sports: 'Calico Mouse Ears': streaked center, white margin


significant seedlings: none



H. 'Country Mouse'



H. 'Mighty Mouse'



H. 'One Iota'

A typical description with author's comments .

featuring detailed descriptions of 272 hostas. Everything you probably want to know about a particular plant and even more, accompanies each entry: origin, mound (height, width, habit), leaves, flowers, fertility, growth rate, similar types, botanical forms, significant sports, and significant seedlings. These various categories are fully explained and sometimes amplified in an explanatory preface. With each plant there are comments by the author. These are particularly enlightening and add a welcome personal element.

The book ends with “Hosta Facts and Anomalies”. First thing mentioned: “More than 8500 types of hostas exist”. Of these, Mark Zilis has introduced over 300. Additionally, he is a prolific author and a distinguished member of the American Hosta Society. You will very much enjoy this book of his.

Happy Gardening,
Clyde



H. 'California Goldrush', M. Zilis, 2010
(Photo by Mary Vertz)



H. 'How About That', M. Zilis, 2011
(Photo by Mary Vertz)



H. 'Dinner Mint', M. Zilis, 2011
(Photo by Mary Vertz)



H. 'Justice', M. Zilis, 2010
(Photo by Mary Vertz)



Hybridizer Corner . . .

Featured Hybridizer: *Doug Ruff*

About *Hosta* 'Bloodline'



H. 'Bloodline' 2019 ('Tequila Sunrise' open pollinated seedling x 'First Blush')

The mother bloomed 2 weeks before *Hosta* 'Tequila Sunrise', which made the timing for my climate possible.

H. 'Bloodline' getting ready for lab production in mid July of 2019.



Out of all the blushers I've created so far, the blushing of *H.* 'Bloodline' lasts the longest. I've been using it and its siblings to create more blushers through its pollen. For me It was a breakthrough plant, not only because of its reliable blushing, but also because it blooms several weeks earlier than 'First Blush'. For my garden that was the first hurdle I needed to get over.

H. 'First Blush' as many hybridizers have found out, blooms late in the season. For my Minnesota garden that's too late. Not only does frost threaten in early October, but the waning days of sunlight often reduces the plants energy to produce seed, as it wants to rest and go dormant. The result is often seed that doesn't germinate or develop at all. I was able to overcome this when Bob Solberg sent me 'First Blush' plants he had started early in North Carolina. It was the best of both climates. His early warm spring southern days got the plants moving and my cooler summer days and longer daylight hours did the trick. The plants were blooming by early August. That's prime time in my garden. The heat of July has subsided and many later hostas are blooming. Enough time to meet that crucial 8 week mark that hosta need to have viable seed.

Luckily for me *H.* 'First Blush' is a beast. If you put it in a pot and fertilize it heavily and expose it to plenty of sunlight it will respond. And that it did. It bloomed even though they were quite young plants. Its secret weapon is its pollen. It passes along its blushing trait as a nuclear trait. Along with its bright red petioles those locator genes that bring pigment into the leaf are in there. Genes that carry the anthocyanin up around the edges of the leaf, filling it up from the tip to the base. Its something hosta enthusiasts have dreamed of for years but now was becoming reality.

For me the big question was this trait limited to hybrids derived from species of *H. longipes* and *H. pycnophylla*? Species that we commonly think of possessing the most anthocyanin in their petioles. Could these traits be blended with other hybrids from other species? My answer is yes. Although not without a cost of diluting the strength of anthocyanin inherent in the late reds. So without the lottery winning luck

of the genetic wheel, the answer is to do multiple crossings back to other seedlings that have the blushing trait. Enhance the trait!

Its important to remember that anthocyanin is a volatile pigment. It is degradable and it moves thru the veins and sub veins and into the epidermis. It is synthesized by external factors and works in concert with the plants cell maturity. So each year may show different amounts of blush, as well as different colors as it comes and goes. I've come to enjoy its subtleties as well as its drama.

This photo illustrates the vascular structure that *H.* 'First Blush' uses to transport water, nutrients and pigment in and out of the leaf.



Desiccated veins of a *H.* 'First Blush' leaf

Now about that blushing in *H.* 'Bloodline'. From what I've learned about the blushing effect in other plants, is that it is a defense mechanism. I've seen it in my own yard as the snow melts. Creeping Charlie and sedum using it to defend living tissues from the freezing cold.



Creeping Charlie after snow melt.



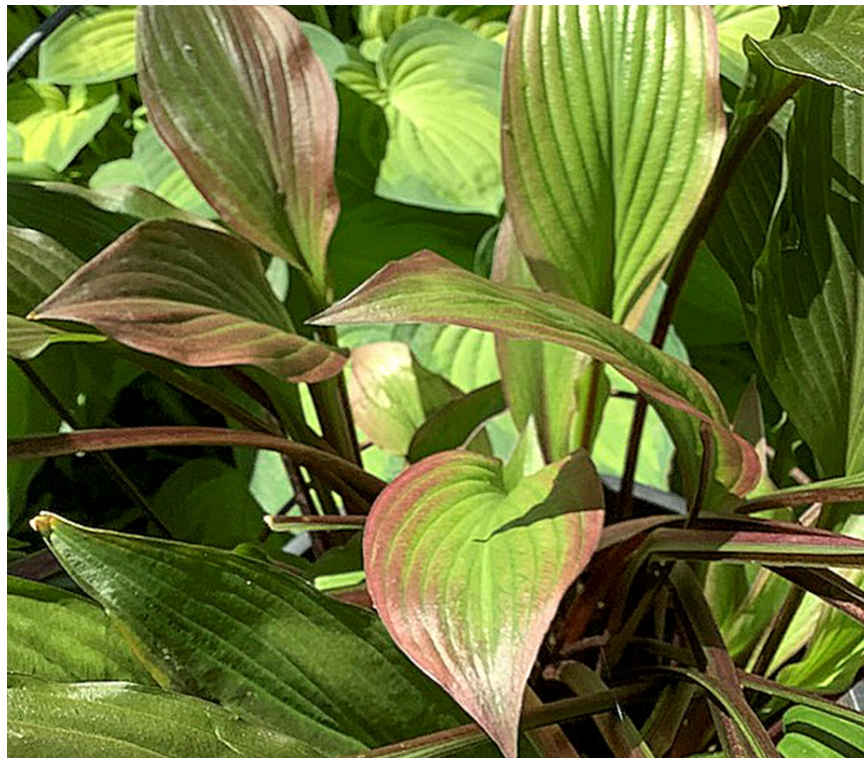
Sedum after snow melt.

Aside from cold weather protection, it's used by the plant to protect against sun damage in young emerging tissues. This is the best part for hostas. When they emerge, is when the freshest blushing colors appear.



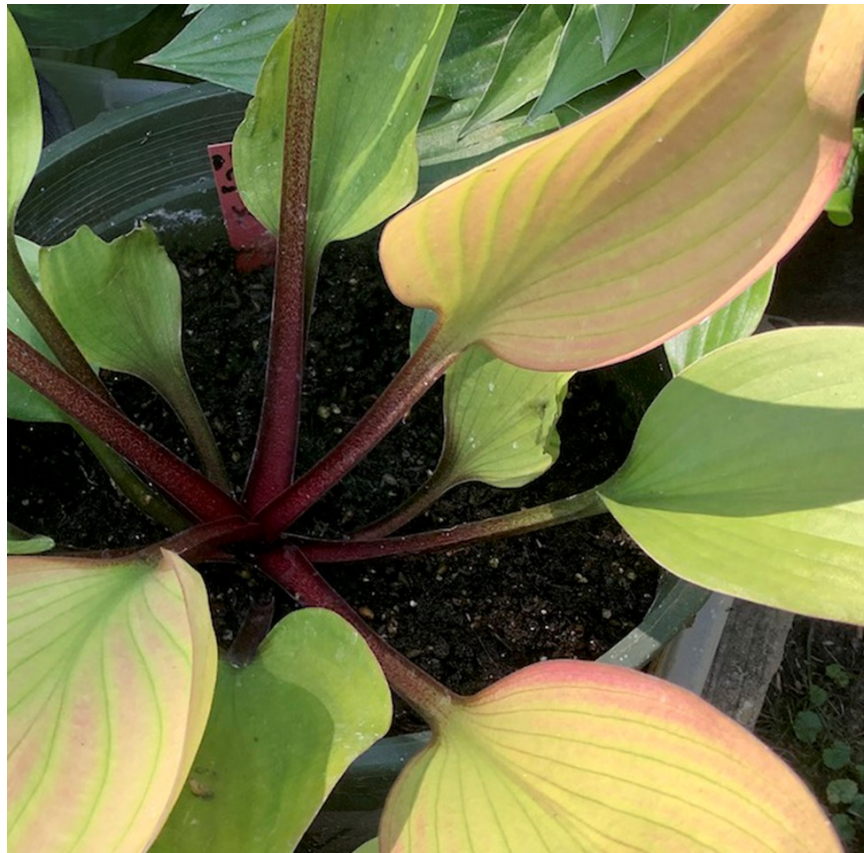
H. 'Bloodline' emerging.

As new flushes of growth arrive, you may see blushing in summer and re-blushing in fall. It all depends on where you and your plant are in your part of the world.



Flushes can show blushing.

And with each generation of crosses, new colors will emerge with different shapes and sizes. The following seedlings are in evaluation.







As an after thought, I am hoping that the blushing defense mechanism, aside from its ornamental display, provides some protection against cold conditions and emerging sun scald on young leaves. This has yet to be determined on how it will handle the wide range of climates around the globe. Will it provide actual protections or will it merely be a beacon for the environmental conditions it's feeling? I will be pleased if it helps hostas thrive in our changing world.



Indiana Bob, a Hosta Legend

By Don Rawson



Photo by Marcia Sully, 2011. Used by permission.

Hosta legend “Indiana Bob” Balitewicz.

“I don’t have a show garden”, Bob would tell folks, “I have a hosta *farm*.” And that is how Indiana Bob — as he was affectionately called — would refer to the forested area behind his home where he grew an extensive

assortment of hostas, most of which were his own originations. Many plants in Bob's paradise were very large specimens, as that was his passion. Specifically, his primary goal over the years was making very large *gold* varieties. Two of his best-known are the popular *Hosta* 'Krugerrand' and 'Sutter's Mill'.

"Call before 8:00," his wife Bette instructed when I phoned for Bob years ago. "He's already in the woods out back and won't be up 'til supper," she muttered. Bob was completely content spending the long summer days "out back" — mingling among the hostas, determining what cross to do next, and potting up plants for the next meeting of the Hosta and Friends Garden Club, or as it was later named, the Northwest Indiana Hosta Society.



Photo by Doug Beilstein. Used by permission.

Indiana Bob, "out back" among the hostas.

Of Polish descent, Robert S. Balitewicz was born on July 8, 1936 and was raised in East Chicago. After graduating from high school, Bob served in the U.S. Navy for four years as a yeoman aboard the *U.S.S. Venture* in which he performed administrative and clerical duties — organizing files, operating office equipment, ordering and distributing office supplies, writing and typing business and social letters, notices, directives, forms and reports.

Following his service in the Navy, Bob worked as a fireman for the East Chicago Fire Department, eventually retiring as District Chief after 20 years of dedicated service. Bob also worked as a plumber for the School City of East Chicago for 15 years. In due time, Bob moved to northwest Indiana to pursue his many interests during retirement. It was at this point that he found it easier to take the name “Indiana Bob”, in light of the fact that most folks could not correctly pronounce his last name anyway.

Bob and his wife Bette raised two daughters (Catherine and Nancy) and a son (Stanley). From the testimony of those who knew him, he was an intelligent and hard-working man. He was a jack of all trades and a master of many, constantly dabbling in a new self-taught craft. Some of his favorite hobbies included stained glass (he was very creative), wood-working, cooking, fishing, and bamboo fly rod construction. He enjoyed making beef jerky, telling stories about his experiences as a firefighter, and talking plumbing or politics. He was always fun to be around, to visit with, and to learn from. And Bob was a very generous individual, often gifting some of his own special hostas to friends, to clubs, and to various worthy causes. According to Doug Beilstein, an acquaintance of Bob’s for years, “He was forever sending plants to people...as exchanges or just one direction...even as far away as New Jersey’s Dave Chopko.” And as another of his friends observed, Bob was willing to share EVERYTHING.

When it came to volunteering, Bob always energetically participated in all things hostas. He was the president of the Northwest Indiana

Hosta Society, and for years, he served on the board of the Michigan Hosta Society as well. He was great at rallying up trips, visits and sales. He faithfully attended the spring and fall cleanup days at Hidden Lake Gardens where the Herb and Dorothy Benedict collection is displayed.

From 2001 to 2011, Bob also served on the board of Hosta College, the premier event of the Great Lakes Region held in Piqua, Ohio. A gift plant is given to all who register for Hosta College, and in 2010, Bob's introduction named *H.* 'Hosta College' was handed out, and two years later in 2012, 'Homecoming Queen' was graciously provided. For years, he served as the auctioneer for Hosta College on Friday evening, and brought many plant donations as well.



Photo by Dan Myers. Used by permission.

Here at his farm are various hostas potted up and ready for a club meeting or auction. All of Bob's originations were BIG, BIG, BIG!

Likewise, for the very first Tailgate event of the Great Lakes Region which was held in West Michigan in 2012, Bob served as the auctioneer. And if Bob wasn't in the limelight as the auctioneer at some hosta-related event or meeting, then he often volunteered as a plant hoister. Whatever the case, he was in his element, enjoying people. Besides local and regional activities, he also attended many of the AHS National Conventions. You could spot him from a distance by the wide-brimmed hat he sported.



Photo by Kay Anderson. Used by permission.

Indiana Bob, auctioning plants at the first Tailgate event of the Great Lakes Region which was held in West Michigan in 2012. If he wasn't in the limelight as the auctioneer, then he often volunteered as a plant hoister.

One creative idea of Bob's became evident when the 2006 AHS National Convention took place in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. It was too far to drive, so he organized a train ride starting in Chicago and on to the convention site. This was a first and only time that was ever done. From all reports, everyone had a super time. Some attendees slept the entire way, while others talked hostas the whole time!!! Bob organized and carried out the whole thing.

Indiana Bob was a charter member of the Ed Elslager Hosta Hybridizing Group, which still meets to this day. The purpose of the group is "to celebrate and enjoy the hybridization of the genus *Hosta*." The club holds a seedling competition each summer in June and newcomers to hybridizing are eagerly encouraged to participate. Bob would always bring some of his jaw-dropping hostas to the competition for others to drool over. Bob was also one of the original members of the Fraternal Order of Seedy Fellows (FOoSF), an elite coalition of some of the top hybridizers in America. Some of his early material can still be seen on the group's website.

Bob was a certified Master Gardener and a plant enthusiast. Learning from the late Bill Brincka, he became an avid and capable hybridizer, with his most accomplished introduction being *H.* 'Yankee Blue' (1999). This wavy-leaved, fast-growing and especially floriferous hybrid of 'Blue Arrow' × 'Elatior' is the only hosta ever registered by Indiana Bob, with credit given to Wm. Brincka as joint originator.



Photo by Ken Ziarek. Used by permission.

***H.* 'Yankee Blue', introduced in 2000, was one of Indiana Bob's earliest originations and his only registered hosta. With leaves reaching a mature size of about 8" long by 5" wide, it is also one of his smallest cultivars.**

Bob lived just a few miles from fellow hybridizer Olga Petrysyn. In reflection, Olga commented, “I met Bob 30 years ago at Bill Brincka and Basil Cross’s garden. I had my usual coffee with Bill and Basil at least twice a week, then we would roam the garden or work in it. One day Bob was there and we were introduced. Bob loved the garden as much as I did. Bill made sure Bob and I were both able to use his collection of hostas for pollen. Some of the open pollinated seeds Bob and I split together. We were both on the same hybridizing path.”

I asked Olga if there was something comical about Indiana Bob which she would like to share. She responded, “When I moved about twelve years ago, I moved my garden as well. The new site was hard clay and I needed lots and lots of compost. Bob had an old dump truck. He went to an old closed-down site at a prison and brought several loads of compost for me. Called it black gold. He was backing up to my garden when I said, ‘Bob, don’t hit my oak tree!’ He replied, ‘Don’t worry,’ and then proceeded to back right into it! The look on his face was priceless. I could not be mad at such a generous man, so all I could do was to walk up to him and cuss him up and down while laughing at the same time. Then he laughed as well until he saw the huge dent in his truck.



Photo by Olga Petrysyn. Used by permission.

Avoid the trees, please!

He cussed and then we both had a great laugh. I have a photo of Bob with the compost and the poor tree, which is doing all right.”



Photo by Olga Petryszn. Used by permission.

Indiana Bob was a wonderful person and a friend of many. Here he is seen with two truck-loads of mulch which he delivered for Olga, who lived a few miles down the road in northwest Indiana. By the way, regarding the dump truck, Adam (Bob’s grandson) says, “It was a 1969 Chevy c50 dump truck which we all called the big green truck. My grandpa had a tendency to overload it. Happened quite frequently! I remember he came home with a heaping load of goat manure from a local friend one time. In the couple mile trip, he had blown two tires from the weight and the truck wouldn’t even dump it, so we had to use a tractor and shovels just to get it out.”

Bob was particularly apt at coming up with memorable hosta names: *H.* ‘Big Dude’ for a massive creation from a cross of *H. montana* f. *macrophylla* × ‘Elatior’; ‘Dumplings with Sauce’ for a seedling with extremely rippled, gold foliage, and ‘Heavenly Beginnings’ for a gorgeous hybrid with large, round, puckered blue-green leaves with a wide cream margin.

No one is certain from where the name *H.* ‘Krugerrand’ emanated. Perhaps it was first dubbed ‘Krugerrand’ after the gold coins of South

Africa with the same name. A hybrid of 'High Noon' × 'Big John', 'Krugerrand' is a sister seedling of 'Sutter's Mill' and 'Goldmine'. First exhibited at First Look in 2002 and then entering the market two years later in 2004, this impressive giant forms a stately mound of upright, bright gold foliage and is perfectly suited as a specimen plant to garner attention from the would-be passerby. The leaves, which can be as large as 17 1/2" long by 13 1/2" wide, have good substance and are moderately corrugated. Lavender flowers open in July on tall scapes, sometimes exceeding 40" in height. An absolutely breathtaking hosta when planted with dark green ferns in the background in the lightly shaded garden, where the leaves hold their brilliant color throughout the summer.

H. 'Sutter's Mill', like 'Krugerrand', also becomes a very large, gold hosta. Bob described it as a gold-leaved 'Big John'. Compared to 'Krugerrand', 'Sutter's Mill' is not as tall or upright and is more corrugated. Unlike 'Krugerrand', it can become a bit unruly and has the added



Photo by Bob Balitewicz. Used by permission.

***H.* 'Sutter's Mill' in Bob's own garden. This hosta, along with 'Krugerrand', are Bob's best-known large gold introductions. He described this giant as a gold-leaved 'Big John'.**

attraction of slightly-rippled leaf margins. Dan Wols used ‘Sutter’s Mill’ to develop his latest introduction, ‘Hotshot’, because of the staying power of its gold-colored foliage. ‘Sutter’s Mill’ was tissue cultured by Q and Z Nursery and became commercially available in 2007. It is still commonly offered by nurseries in both North America and Europe and remains a popular choice for hosta growers everywhere.

“Some people make little, bitty hostas,” Bob would explain, “that ya gotta get down on your hands and knees just to see.” Then with a chuckle, Bob would remark, “I wanna make ’em big enough to get down and lie under.” And that he accomplished indeed! Perhaps the most envied of Bob’s largest possessions was his *H.* ‘Troubled Waters’, an enormous, blue-green monster with intense corrugation and rippled margins. Unfortunately, this one was never mass propagated or introduced before Bob’s passing on January 27, 2014 following a courageous battle with cancer. One of his friends reflected, “I never knew someone that could fight his cancers and surgeries without ever complaining. It was just a part of life to him and he refused to let illness beat him.” Bob was 77 years old.



Photo by Hugo Phillips. Used by permission.

Bob, in his wooded garden (or hosta *farm*, as he called it), with his much-envied creation, *H.* ‘Troubled Waters’. He was known for his generosity, which was evident when donating a division of this incredible hosta to the auction of the American Hosta Society in 2013 where it drew a high bid of \$430.

Bob Balitewicz was a knowledgeable and enjoyable individual, a hosta enthusiast and proficient hybridizer, and a wonderful friend of many. Following his passing, one individual commented, “As a fellow Master Gardener, I was very happy to have volunteered with Bob. He was a delightful man, and he will be sorely missed.” Indiana Bob was a shining star in hostadom. RIP, Bob.



Photo by Don Rawson

H. ‘Elatior Falls’, which shares the best characteristics of both ‘Elatior’ and ‘Niagara Falls’, was gifted to me by Indiana Bob during one of my visits to his hosta farm.



Photo by Dan Myers. Used by permission.

An unnamed, intensely corrugated seedling of *H.* ‘Krugerrand’ × *H.* ‘Millennium’. Bob’s passion over the years was making very large *gold* varieties.



Photo by Adam Floyd. Used by permission.

***H.* ‘Star Wars’ in Bob’s garden.**



Photo by Mary Vertz

H. 'Heavenly Beginnings' registered in 2020 by AHS/G.H.Alley for Bob.



Indiana Bob John and Frankie

Photo by Joan Altman. Used by permission



Photo by Virginia Skaggs. Used by permission.

Indiana Bob, on a club trip to Wade & Gatton Nursery.

Hostas of “Indiana Bob” Balitewicz

A private memorial garden is being established by Adam Floyd in honor of Bob Balitewicz. Adam is a grandson of Indiana Bob and is currently searching for many of Bob’s originations to add to this garden. If you have a division of a hosta listed below or any others by Indiana Bob which you could share, please call Adam at 219-242-5685. Thank you!

<i>Hosta</i>	Parentage
‘Auntie Ann’	(‘High Noon’ × ‘Big John’) selfed
‘Big Dude’	<i>H. montana</i> f. <i>macrophylla</i> × ‘Elatior’
‘Big John’s Gold’	
‘Blonde Impressions’	‘Elatior’ × ‘High Noon’
‘Bluetonium’	‘Big John’ seedling selection
‘Bolero Dancer’	
‘Bombshelter’	‘Sagae’ × ‘Butternut Hill’
‘Boondocks’	
‘Butter Cream’	‘Butternut Hill’ seedling
‘Captain America’	
‘Celebration of Angels’	‘Yankee Doodle Dandy’ sport
‘Chairman of the Board’	‘Dorothy Benedict’ × ‘Elatior’
‘Cornbread’	‘Sea Frolic’ × unknown gold
‘Dark Vader’	‘Big John’ hybrid
‘Dumplings with Sauce’	
‘Elatior Falls’ (2106)	‘Elatior’ × ‘Niagara Falls’
‘Emerald Cascade’	
‘Golda’	
‘Golden Longipes’	
‘Goldmine’	‘High Noon’ × ‘Big John’
‘Grand Calumet River’	Possibly ‘Big John’ seedling selection
‘Heavenly Beginnings’ (2020)	‘Dorothy Benedict’ × ‘Elatior’
‘Homecoming Queen’	
‘Hosta College’	
‘Huh’	
‘Ichabod Crane’	‘Green Dragonet’ seedling
‘Indiana Blue’	
‘Indiana Bob’	‘Amos’ × ‘Sutter’s Mill’
‘Justice for All’	‘Justice’ × ‘Big John’

'Krugerrand'	'High Noon' × 'Big John'
'Lady Singer'	
'Ladysmith'	'Krugerrand' × 'Green Dragonet'
'Lothar the Giant'	
'Man o' War'	'War Paint' sport
'Master of Ceremonies'	'Dorothy Benedict' × 'Elatior'
'Meltdown'	
'Omar the Tentmaker'	'Niagara Falls' × 'Boondocks'
'Paisley Pinstripes'	Probably 'Xanadu Paisley' seedling
'Pandyonium'	'Big John' seedling
'Pandy'	
'Princess Leia'	Sport of 'Big Dude' × 'Krugerrand'
'Proud Mary'	'Sagae' × BNH
'Showtime'	
'Silvermist'	
'Sister Amos'	
'Six O'clock Someplace'	
'Sparklers'	<i>H. yingeri</i> × 'June'
'Star Wars'	'Captain America' sport
'Sum Lemon Lime'	
'Sutter's Mill' (2020)	'High Noon' × 'Big John'
'Troubled Waters'	'Big John' hybrid
'Two Ladies'	'Dorothy Benedict' × 'Jean Harlow'
'Vukovich'	
'White Clouds'	
'Wookie'	<i>H. kikutii</i> var. <i>caput-avis</i> seedling
'Yankee Blue' (1999)	'Blue Arrow' × 'Elatior'
'Yankee Blue Lightning'	
'Yankee Doodle Dandy'	'Gold Regal' × 'Lachman's Guest'
'Zoot Suit'	

To learn more about Indiana Bob and to view his hosta originations, visit the Facebook page titled *Remembering Indiana Bob*, posted at <https://www.facebook.com/indiana.bob1>

AHS 2022 National Convention is ON!

by Amy Peterson



The phoenix is rising and Hosta Vision 2020 is re-born as Hosta Vision 2022. The Minnesota Hosta Society is excited to bring hostaphiles together once again June 8-11, 2022 at the Minneapolis Marriott NW located in Brooklyn Park, MN.

Mid-October the convention website (hostavision2022.com) was operational. Included are both convention and hotel online registration using a charge card along with a downloadable registration form for check payment to “Hosta Vision”.



June 8th all day add-on tour (lunch included) to southeast Minnesota to view 5 Shades of Green Hosta Society gardens.

June 10th and 11th morning tour in METRO gardens. Stroll thru a total of 11 beautiful gardens. Optional add-on ride a bus or you can drive on your own. This year's tour includes three sets of “neighbor” gardens where you can see two gardens in one stop.



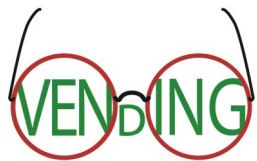
Six education speakers will present with three speakers on each day of June 9th and 11th. More detail will be posted on the convention website.

In addition, hosta show judge's clinics 1, 2 & 3 will be held.



“Dreams of the Past: Visions of the Future” is an AHS sanctioned Hosta Show.

The theme highlights Minnesota notables who influenced or contributed to our wonderful local & regional natural environment. Plan to participate by entering those beautiful hosta leaves you grow in your garden. Set a goal for yourself to enter leaves at the 2022 convention!



More detail will be posted on the convention website as vendor details are finalized.

Registration also includes seven meals (two breakfasts, three lunch buffets and two banquet dinners) and four nights of hospitality. At the banquet meals we will recognize and celebrate with the Alex J Summer and Eunice Fisher Award winners, awards that recognize the contributions of AHS members.

Commensurate with our “vision” theme, we are collecting used eyewear as a philanthropic element of the 2022 convention. Please collect and plan to donate used eyewear for subsequent donation to the Lions International program.

Lastly, plan to participate in the AHS convention auction by donating a great plant to the auction. The auction is a highlight at each convention and is one of AHS’s primary means to raise money. The auction will be on the afternoon of Friday, June 10th.

The Minnesota Hosta Society looks forward to seeing our friends! It’s been a long time between visits, so please join us in 2022.



SIGN UP NOW!

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY

CONVENTION IN LISLE, IL

JULY 14 – 16, 2022

HOSTAS



CHICAGO STYLE

PLANS ARE MOVING FORWARD FOR THE COVID-CURSED MRHS CONVENTION—originally planned and postponed for 2020, then 2021—now back on track for **July 14 – 16, 2022, in Lisle, IL**, in the western suburbs of Chicago. The Covid threat seems to have receded sufficiently that we can once again look forward to enjoying immersion in all things hosta!

Hostas Chicago Style will be hosted by the Northern Illinois Hosta Society (NIHS), which is preparing a warm Chicago-style welcome for you as it strives to make this convention unique. Leading the way are 10 fabulous gardens where other distinctive plants and unique designs share top billing with hostas. Speakers you may not have heard before, will educate and excite you about native plants and conifers as well as hostas. Two new cultivars from Bob Solberg offer a choice for a gift hosta. A Chicago-style pizza party will kick things off Thursday evening. The well-respected horticulturalist, landscape designer and speaker Mark Dwyer will be the keynote speaker Saturday evening.

Of course, other features you've always expected at hosta conventions will be part of this one. Reunions with hosta friends. Vendors with the newest hosta cultivars, companion plants and other items for your garden. Hosta leaf show. Seedling display. Hosta auction. Good old-fashioned midwestern hospitality.

Headquarters for this do-not-miss event will be the Lisle Doubletree by Hilton, the same accommodating place that gave you comfortable rooms at a great price, excellent food and super service at the 2013 **Hostamania!** convention. It's well-located near the Lisle/Naperville exit from I-88, 25 miles west of downtown Chicago.

The last MRHS Convention, in 2019, was an adjunct of the AHS Convention in Green Bay, but in 2022 it will once again be the stand-alone event that many look forward to each year. Make plans now to be part of it. To add to your enjoyment, come early (or stay afterwards) to visit some of the Chicago area's spectacular attractions. Either way, join fellow hosta lovers from throughout the Midwest for **Hostas Chicago Style, July 14 - 16, 2022**

GET MORE DETAILS AND REGISTER NOW ON THE MRHS WEBSITE :

<http://www.midwesthostasociety.org>



CHOOSE ONE OF THESE (BOTH IN 6" POTS):

H. 'Chicago Blues' - A third generation seedling from *One Man's Treasure* X *Elegans*, "Longiana" line. It forms a very tight medium sized clump of deep blue heart-shaped leaves that have dark purple petioles on the back and front extending into the leaf base. It blooms in mid-summer and is easy to grow.

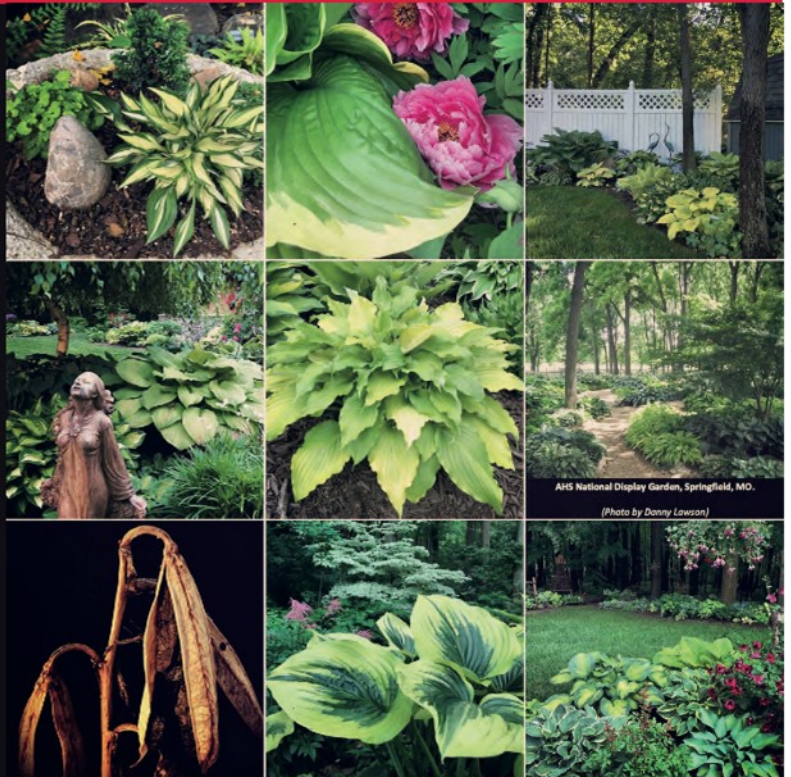
H. 'Windy City' - Sport of *H. How About That!* with a medium green leaf center and narrow, irregular white margin. From the *H. Sum and Substance* clan, it is equally huge and makes a dramatic statement in the garden.

Follow

The American Hosta Society
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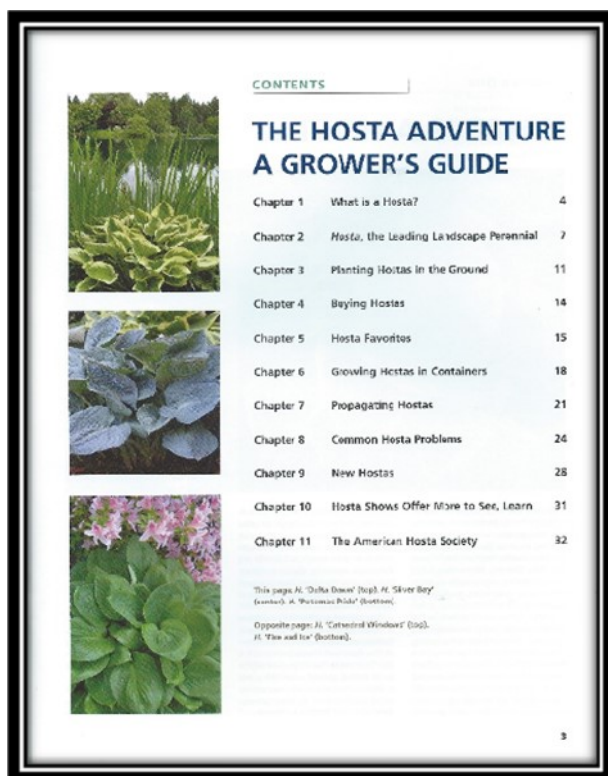
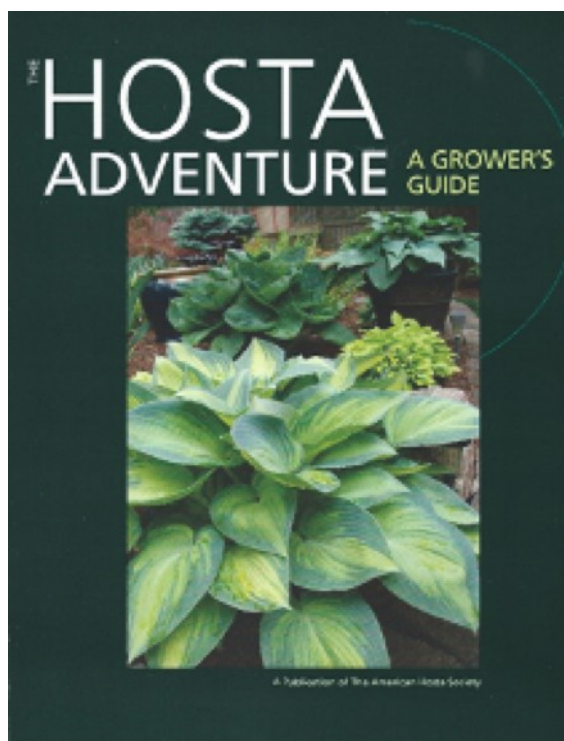
Discover beautiful
hosta images,
landscapes
and inspiring ideas.



From AHS Publications

The Hosta Adventure, Third Edition, contains a wealth of information about growing hostas. First published in 2001, *The Hosta Adventure* was intended as a guide for novices, but it appealed to all levels of hosta gardeners. The first two editions were popular additions to the libraries of new and seasoned gardeners. Now a new Adventure beckons.

This new edition of *The Hosta Adventure* is updated with the latest information including buying, planting, and growing hostas.



There is a chapter on growing hostas in containers. Common problems encountered in hosta culture with solutions to these common problems is included. For those interested in propagation, information on division of plants, bud cutting, and the Ross method is included.

If you are new to hostas, a chapter on hosta favorites gives you an idea of hostas to acquire that are viewed as good plants by other hosta growers. A chapter on new hostas, including sports and seedlings is informative.

A list of popular hosta books that you may want to add to your library is given, as is information on hosta shows, and information on how to link up with fellow hosta growers by joining The American Hosta Society.

This publication should be part of every hosta grower's library.

Order *The Hosta Adventure—A Grower's Guide - 3rd Edition*

\$4.00 + \$2.50 postage for members or \$5.50 + \$2.50 postage for non-members



Front cover: *H. 'June'* takes center stage in a wet garden (photo by Larry Barkoch).
 Top page: *H. 'Rascal'* and *H. 'Swelling Lily'* (top) are complementary with white anthers (variegated *H. 'Paradise'* (top right) is a model of color texture and substance. *H. 'Crimson'* (bottom right) commands attention. *H. 'Imperial'* (bottom left), with calyx emergence and stagginess, is a perennial favorite.



Stately *H. 'Crimson Regal'* (top right) has been a crowd favorite. *H. 'Katherine'* (bottom right) creates a thick, bright border around larger plants. *H. 'Reverend'* (bottom left) is fancier than most look-alikes because its rounded leaves hold its own rhizome. *H. 'Imperial'* (top left) is a worthy namesake of the American post-war era.

The Hosta Adventure is filled with stunning photos of hostas and hosta gardens.

Here is a great way to reward new members of your local club. Give them a copy of this American Hosta Society publication.

For local societies and nurseries, the best price per copy is in bulk:

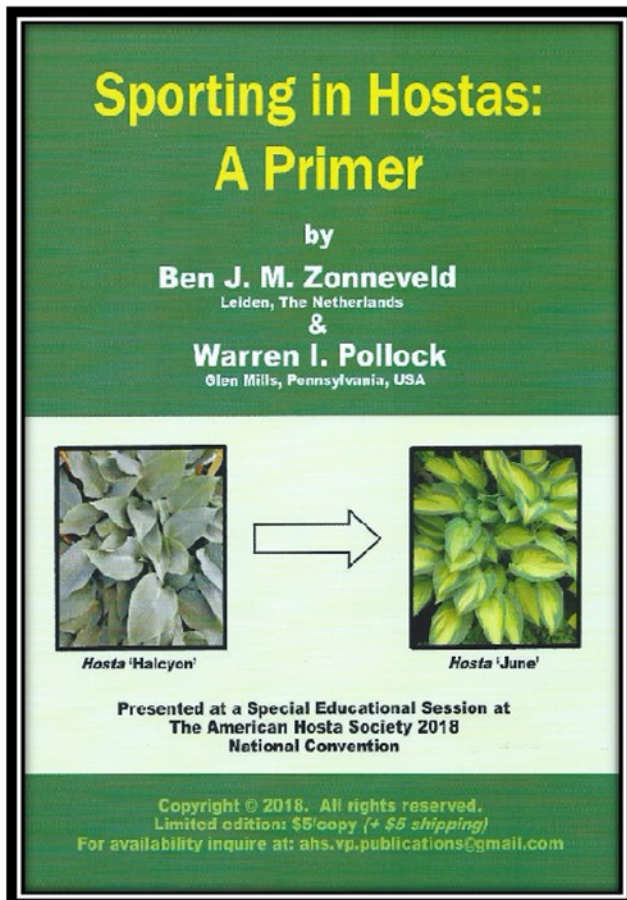
- 2-6 books, \$4.00 each + \$8.00 postage
- 7-30 books, \$4.00 each + \$15.00 postage
- 31-99 books, \$3.75 each + \$21.00 postage
- 100-499 books, \$3.25 each + \$27.00 postage

(All prices postpaid in the U.S.) Orders from foreign countries will pay any additional shipping charges.

Make checks payable to *The American Hosta Society* and send to:

**Barry Ankney, AHS Publications Sales
 Hosta Adventure
 1104 Oxford Court
 Oakbrook Terrace IL 60181**

From AHS Publications



Ben J. M. Zonneveld and Warren I. Pollock have researched and written a booklet about sporting in hostas. Based on nearly ten years of research, this 28-page booklet describes the process of sporting.

Sporting in Hostas: A Primer, was compiled by Dr. Pollock. He gave a presentation at the American Hosta Society (AHS) National Convention held in Philadelphia in 2018, highlighting the major points contained in this publication.

Hosta enthusiasts interested in how and why hostas mutate, or sport, have found this source book of great value. Dr. Pollock, along with the late Gregg Peterson, Past President of the American Hosta Society, and one other donor funded the printing of this booklet and generously donated these booklets to the AHS.

All proceeds from the sale of *Sporting in Hostas* go to the general fund of the AHS, to further its educational goals.

This booklet outlines the basic principles of sporting, explaining the three layers of cells that are contained in the meristem or apical dome in the shoot of the hosta plant. He explains the chromosomal makeup of hostas, and the concept of ploidy, or the number of sets of chromosomes in the cell nucleus. The difference between sports and hybrids is covered.

The eleven (11) sporting rules in hostas are presented, including examples of each. Also, examples of unusual sporting with photos of many of the examples are presented. An appendix contains selective slides from Warren's presentation at the National Convention.

A second appendix provides some hosta sporting statistics compiled by Hugo Phillips, founder and custodian of the “MyHostas” website. For those inclined to study this process further, a final appendix lists resources for additional reading.

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While some elements are rather technical, Warren walks the reader through this fascinating process of change in hostas with plenty of photos and practical examples. The reader will come away with new knowledge of how hostas change to produce new and interesting plants.

This valuable resource is available only from the American Hosta Society.

You may order your copy from AHS Publications by mailing a check payable to *The American Hosta Society* in the amount of \$10.00 (postage paid) to:

Barry Ankney, AHS Publications Sales
Sporting in Hostas
1104 Oxford Court
Oakbrook Terrace IL 60181

AHS Membership



The American Hosta Society (AHS) is a society dedicated to the study and improvement of the genus *Hosta* and the dissemination of general and scientific knowledge about hostas. There are numerous benefits for the members that result from these efforts, both social and in nursery trade. All AHS members receive several publications a year, including two colorful issues of *The Hosta Journal* (mailed), four *eNewsletters* (emailed), along with *The Online Hosta Journal* (posted on the web for members only).

These *Journals* include articles on cultivation tips, propagation techniques, landscape uses, new cultivars and old species, pioneers and personalities, scientific advances, convention awards, gardens, and news about the AHS.

Membership provides 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 hostas in the hosta show.

Other membership benefits:

- ✓ The privilege of visiting display gardens throughout the country, many of which are only open to AHS members.
- ✓ An invitation to exhibit your favorite hostas and compete for recognition in various AHS national and regional hosta shows.
- ✓ Developing friendships with people who share an interest in growing hostas.
- ✓ Access to Members Only section of the AHS website.

Another benefit of becoming a new member is you receive a voucher from the AHS Membership Secretary good for \$15.00 towards any purchase at sponsoring nurseries. For information about this program, go to:

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Membership/AHSVoucherProgram.htm>

Print and mail the Membership Application form on the next page, or to join online, go to:

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Membership/Membership.htm>

American Hosta Society



Photo by Don Rawson

Give a gift membership!

To pay by credit card online: www.hosta.org

Circle membership choice:

Contact info. as it will appear in the AHS Member Directory:

Name _____

E-mail _____

Phone () _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Country _____

Name of the AHS Member giving the gift:

Membership type		1 yr.	3 yr.	5 yr.	Life
USA	Individual	\$30	\$80	\$129	\$900
	Family	\$34	\$90	\$146	
Canada	Individual	\$39	\$107	\$168	\$1,170
	Family	\$43	\$117	\$185	
Europe	Individual	\$51	\$142	\$219	\$1,530
	Family	\$55	\$152	\$236	
Pacific Rim	Individual	\$59	\$165	\$254	\$1,770
	Family	\$62	\$175	\$267	
E-Membership*		\$20			

*Online digital versions only.

Check or money order in U.S. dollars and drawn on a U.S. bank.

Make check payable to: American Hosta Society.

MAIL THIS

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PAYMENT TO:

Barry R. Ankney
AHS Membership Secretary
1104 Oxford Court
Oakbrook Terrace IL 60181-5249

Questions: 309-678-4119