



*Don Dean*  
AHS President

## Presidents Message

Winter of 2016-17 is long from a gardener's perspective, but with days getting longer and the calendar progressing daily, spring's hopes and dreams are flourishing. The AHS hopes to help make these dreams even better.

Our Online Auction, held in January, heated things up with great results. Be sure to check out the AHS website page for a summary and this year's hottest items at <http://americanhostasociety.org/Auctions.html>.

Our registrar has been busily completing work to fulfill our desire for information about registered hostas. The 2016 registrations will be updated with the printing of *The Hosta Journal*, Volume 48:1. The online registration software is easy to use and provides more complete data for registrations through reminders of required data. This reference tool may be accessed at <http://hostaregistrar.org/>. I encourage all that have or intend to release their newly named hostas to register these plants. Records are the foundation of historical information for the generations that follow us. Help those in the future learn from our experiences.

Electronic membership continues to be offered in 2017. All members will now be able to access all items within the members only portion of the AHS website as in the past. The most recent two issues of *The Hosta Journal* are now also available within the members' section as a result of electronic membership. Keep in mind that once a new *THJ* is published, the earliest volume posted upon the website is removed. This is one reason many prefer full membership, to have the print version in their hands for years to come.

The change in seasons brings with it some changes in our society. Be sure your membership info is up to date. This is particularly important for email availability enabling news to be sent to members. Changes are coming to the schedule for Enews with more articles and fewer

issues. The sequence of *Journal* publications throughout the year will also see a change. Time schedules include an E-newsletter published in December and March, a reduction to two issues available to both members and non-members. *The Hosta Journal* will be published in April and October. Publishing the *Online Journal* is moved to August 15th. The goal is a reduction of redundancy between E-newsletter and *Journal* announcements for our members. The *Online Journal* will be closer to the AHS National Convention, allowing coverage of the convention to be more time relevant.

Convention! Our annual convention is one of the most anticipated events each year. Consider joining those of us who attend annually as we go to Indianapolis, Indiana, returning for the fourth time since 1989. This year's event includes all of the traditional events and offers its own special flare as well! The Indianapolis Hosta Society through the commitment of many dedicated volunteers has planned for us what promises to be another memorable annual convention. This would be my third in Indy, and I will say they are NOT TO BE MISSED! Be sure to go frequently to the website that is set up to provide the most current information at <https://www.indyhosta2017.com>. There are no better opportunities to meet and greet fellow hosta enthusiasts, learn more about hosta, and see great gardens than conventions. Consider joining us in Indiana!

The AHS needs more members to step into volunteer roles for the Indianapolis 2017 Convention and every one beyond that. The more we do as a society, the more people it requires to do these things. Please take a few moments to consider contributing one or two hours out of your convention time by assisting in the plant receiving room. Developing a cadre of workers will prevent managing plant receiving from becoming a burden to any that provide that service for all. Contact Holly or Jim O'Donnell, Auction Co-chairs for scheduling. Their contact information is found upon any of the AHS society mastheads, print and website. Many hands make for light work. No worries, organizers will work with you to learn the process.

In service,

*Don Dean*  
AHS President

# The Best of the Best Hostas

## What Some *Experts* Chose

### What Are Your Choices?

By Warren I. Pollock  
Glen Mills, Pennsylvania

*Fine Gardening* is a popular magazine published bimonthly by The Taunton Press, Newtown, Connecticut. It has a large subscription base and is available at many newsstands. The September-October 2016 issue, Number 171, featured this article: “The Best of the Best Hostas.” Taunton asked “some of the most respected plant experts in North America” what “their favorite hostas are.” Each category had only one of the “experts” make a single selection. The only name I recognized was Tony Avent of Plants Delight Nursery in Raleigh.

Categories and selections were:

**BEST FOR FRAGRANCE:** *H. plantaginea*

**MOST SUN TOLERANT:** ‘June’

**MOST GOLD VARIETY:** ‘Curly Fries’

**BEST BIG BEHEMOTH:** ‘Empress Wu’

**BEST MINI OPTION:** ‘Blue Mouse Ears’

**MOST UNDERRATED VARIETY:** ‘Touch of Class’

**BEST VARIEGATED VARIETY:** ‘Whirlwind’

**MOST SLUG RESISTANT:** ‘Sagae’

**MOST BEAUTIFUL BLUE VARIETY:** ‘Krossa Regal’

My comments and choices, and choices of a few hosta gardeners I asked, follow. *What are your choices?*

I doubt any hosta fancier disagrees that species *H. plantaginea* is best for fragrance. But there are hybrids having strong scents. *Are any “best for fragrance”?*

*H.* ‘June’, the outstanding classic sport of ‘Halcyon’, selected as “most sun tolerant” puzzles me. It does require good sunlight to show its greatly admired variegation. But most sun tolerant? I don’t think so! I don’t have candidates for this category—because I have too limited experience with hostas growing in lots of sunlight. *What are your choices for “most sun tolerant”?*

The selection of ‘Curly Fries’ as “best gold variety” puzzles me even more, to say the least. Best gold? *Absolutely not!* In fact scores of hosta aficionados I’ve made inquire to don’t even consider ‘Curly Fries’ a gold/yellow hosta! A better foliage description for ‘Curly Fries’ is chartreuse or perhaps yellowish chartreuse.

This is a difficult category to make selections: There are many truly great, really gold/yellow varieties. My choice is classic ‘Sun Power’. In the right location it makes a head-turning bright gold statement. I recall a huge gorgeous clump in Kevin Walek’s former garden in northern Virginia at a nation convention that got attendees’ WOW! WOW! Acclamation.



I asked Kathy Sisson, Avon, Connecticut, for her choices. They were Mildred Seaver's 'Sea Gold Star', Kent Terpening's 'Dancing Queen' and Dick and Jane Ward's 'Great Lakes Gold'. "These," she said, "look stunning as single specimens. *H.* 'Sun Power' looks great in groups."

I also asked June Colley whose garden is in England near London. Her first choice was Bill Brincka and Olga Petryszyn's 'Golden Gate'; second, 'Sum and Substance'; and third, 'Golden Sunburst'—yes, the almost forgotten all-gold sport of 'Frances Williams'!

I also asked Hugo Philips who gardens in Belgium. He thought 'Sun Power' was a good choice. He liked Olga's 'Key West' also. ***What are your choices for "best gold variety"?***

I have no quarrel with 'Blue Mouse Ears' best mini and 'Empress Wu' best behemoth. I would also correspondingly choose 'Pandora's Box' and the Wards' 'T Rex'. ***For best mini and biggie, what are our choices?***



*H.* 'Sagae' for "most slug resistant"? Good choice. I have no candidates. ***What are yours?***

Tony Avent selected 'Touch of Class' as "most underrated variety." It's another category hard to make selections. What's meant by "underrated"? My choices are *H. montana* 'Aureomarginata', *H. ventricosa* 'Aureomarginata' and 'Guardian Angel'. They're old classics often overshadowed these days by newer, highly hyped cultivars that have yet to prove they are exceptionally worthy. ***What are your choices—and why underrated?***

*H.* 'Whirlwind' as "best variegated hosta"? Unusual selection, I'd say. My choice is 'June', followed by Mary Chastain's 'Lakeside Paisley Print', which perhaps has the most handsome variegation of any hosta. Additional choices are 'Liberty', *H. montana* 'Aureomarginata' and *H. ventricosa* 'Aureomarginata'. ***What are your choices for "best variegated variety"?***



I find 'Krossa Regal' "most beautiful blue variety" *odd*. I'm surprised it even was considered in this category. *H.* 'Krossa Regal' is a great hosta, but foliage color is not as good a blue as blue of other hostas. My choice is classic 'Halcyon'.

Many years ago I observed 'Halcyon' in an elegantly manicured, perennial bed in a garden in England. It was in late May and late in the afternoon—and it left an unforgettable impression. Leaves were the most beautiful bright blue color of any hosta I had ever seen. They were a radiant, chalky powdery blue. I have observed countless blue hostas in numerous gardens in the U.S. and abroad since. Still, 'Halcyon' is my first choice for best blue variety.

Admittedly, the exceptional blue of 'Halcyon' is best in springtime and at time of day when exposed to most flattering light: hence "my English experience." However, no doubt where geographically located, where sited in the garden and when viewed applies to blue-leaved hostas everywhere. In summer and autumn 'Halcyon' leaves are a deep intense blue. By the way, technically the blue of 'Halcyon' is blue-green. My second blue variety choice is Don Dean's 'Silver Bay', a silvery blue-green color.

June Colley's 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> most beautiful blue choices were Olga's 'Blue Hawaii', 'Silver Bay' and Don's 'Titanium'.



For best blue variety, Hugo Philips said he would go for a "whitish blue," one like Theo Leydens and Ben Zonneveld's 'Theo's Blue' (Not Registered) and Bev Stegeman's 'Skylight', described as "a soft baby blue." Hugo also said maybe to "Herb" Benedict's 'Purple Verticulated Elf', described as "an intense bluish purple."



*What are your choices for "most beautiful blue variety hosta"?*

Do you agree with the experts? **You be the expert. You make selections for each category. Please email me your choices (preferably *with comments*) before July 4<sup>th</sup>.** My address is [giboshiwip@aol.com](mailto:giboshiwip@aol.com). Thanks. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

As for the responses, I intend to put together an item from them for an *AHS eNewsletter*. It should be most interesting.



## **FROM THE TREASURER'S CACHE**

**Judy Groover**

It has recently been brought to my attention that The American Hosta Society is included in the list of charities/non-profits supported by Amazon.

*AmazonSmile* is a simple and automatic way for you to support AHS every time you shop, at no cost to you. Simply go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) from your web browser. Log in with your User Name and Password which will be the same as for Amazon. Your entire account will be the same in *AmazonSmile*. From the home page, you will need to access your profile, go to settings and scroll down to "Change your Charity." Click on American Hosta Society from the list.

Every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation to our general fund. Eligible products will be marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on the product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

Spring is right around the corner, so start ordering your needed gardening gear from AmazonSmile!

# AHS Members-Only Plant Update

By Tom Micheletti



The first offering for the AHS Members-Only Plant was well received by members. Unfortunately we were not able to accommodate everyone who placed an order and as a result we disappointed many members. I am sorry for that and we are working on making sure future orders can be filled in a timely manner.

We learned much with this first offering. *Hosta* 'Sterling Medallion' was slower growing than anticipated and as a result plants were not as large as hoped. Second, we had losses in the tissue culture process and as a result were not able to fulfill all the orders that were received. Even though a second initiation into tissue culture was made, the second batch also did not meet expectations. We also heard from members that even though they placed orders as soon as they received *The Hosta Journal*, they did not get the plants they ordered. Orders were placed on a list in the order in which they were received. This is due to the bulk mailing of *The Hosta Journal* with the United States Post Office. Bulk mail is not delivered on the same time schedule as first class mail. Each individual Post Office can deliver bulk mail whenever they want. Even though *The Hosta Journal* is mailed to every member the same day many did not receive their *Journal* until weeks after they were mailed. We also posted the order form upon the AHS website ([www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org)) to accommodate those that would not be in the first group of members receiving their *Journal*.

*H.* 'Sterling Medallion' has been put back into tissue culture and we hope to have more plants available in the near future. We will keep members informed as to availability and when they can place orders. We will also contact those members that ordered 'Sterling Medallion' in 2016 and needed to receive a refund. These members will be given priority to reorder based upon availability. In addition to the first plant being re-initiated into tissue culture, there are three more plants that have been selected by the committee for future offerings, and these have been placed in tissue culture. They will be offered for members to purchase as they are ready to be shipped.

There was also concern about the survivability of plants shipped with the second batch in the fall. The AHS will reimburse members for the purchase price plus shipping of any plant that does not survive the winter. Since these are limited offering plants, there cannot be any replacements made.

We have heard from many members regarding their disappointment of not getting plants and have plans to correct as many problems as we can. As mentioned above three additional plants are in tissue culture and will be offered as soon as they ready. In the future, plants will no longer be offered on speculation. We will not offer any until we have at least 400 plants available. We also will not rely on *The Hosta Journal* for notification due to delivery schedules. The best way for members to receive notification at the same time is to send them out in the e-Newsletter. That way the announcement will arrive simultaneously in member inboxes. We will also post a link to the order form on the AHS website home-page. I know there are some members who have not provided their email address to the AHS. We are asking everyone now to send their email address to Sandie Markland, Membership Secretary (email to: [ahsMembershipSecretary@charter.net](mailto:ahsMembershipSecretary@charter.net)). We use email only for correspondence with members and do not share information.

This has been a learning experience and we have learned much and are working to make this a beneficial program for all members. Please provide your email address to our Membership Secretary so everyone can be notified of future offerings at the same time. Thank you for your patience and understanding while we work through our growing pains.





## *Gregg Peterson*

**VP Judging/Exhibitions**

Each year we send out a yearly newsletter with our Christmas cards to family, relatives, friends and former co-workers. Along with the latest news about family members, pets and other events that have happened during the last year, we have also included something about our hosta activities as well. We might talk about the various places we traveled to for national and regional conventions, a garden tour that we hosted for a local garden club or a new garden bed that we planted with new hosta cultivars we had purchased. I'm sure that there are many recipients of our card and newsletter each year that must think to themselves "What crazy thing about hostas are we going to read about this year?" We include photos in our newsletter as well and sometimes we include a nice shot of a hosta garden bed or plant as well. This must really drive some people up a wall as to just how crazy about hostas those two are in Minnesota!! But it's interesting to note when we meet up with various people who are on our mailing list throughout the next year that a question or two about hostas comes up in our meeting. We have a reputation of being the "hosta folks".

The other day I was out at the end of the driveway shoveling the latest snow that had been deposited by the city snowplow when our postal carrier drove up to the mailbox. As she handed me our mail, she asked how long until she will begin having to walk up to our door to deliver the long Priority Mail boxes marked with Live Plant labels on the box. I told her I had just won several plants in the AHS Online auction and had put in an order for several more plants with a mail order

hosta nursery, but it would still be several months before they would be shipped. When she first started making deliveries to the door several years ago, she asked me one time what all the plants were and so I gave her a short tutorial on hostas and even pointed out examples in our front garden beds. One time I even unpacked a box while she stood by as she didn't believe that hostas could be shipped bareroot! She was dumbfounded as I showed her the rootball with two divisions of the plant and was even more amazed when I pointed out to her the full plant at the end of the season. I will apologize to my neighborhood if their mail is delivered a little later than usual on plant delivery days, as she takes her time walking up to and back from our door, all the time admiring the hostas in the front gardens.

When I call to order a load of garden soil/compost blend or fine mulch for bulk delivery, I only have to say it's for the "Hosta Guy" and they know immediately what address to deliver it to and precisely where to dump it in our driveway. The person scheduling the delivery also knows to check what the schedule is for the owner of the company and will try to schedule the delivery so that he can deliver the product and see the gardens. I usually hear the dump truck backing into the driveway and will come out to chat with him after he has dumped the load. He has delivered countless loads over the years and enjoys seeing the gardens take shape and grow into mature gardens.

In each of these situations, our reputation as "Hosta Aficionados" is on display for everyone to see. Rather than trying to diminish or dismiss our enthusiasm for hostas, make every effort to put your "hosta reputation" out there for everyone to see. The reception you will get will surprise you!

*Gregg Peterson*

**VP Judging/Exhibitions**



# The Shadier Side of Hostas - Dispelling the Myths

By Rob Mortko

Hostas are king of the shade and continue to reign as the most popular of all perennials. But why are hostas so popular? That's a really good question. Gardeners will invariably mention easy to grow, low maintenance, attractive foliage, and shade tolerance as compelling reasons. But think about this one. How many of us grow a perennial for the 2-3 week period where we get great blooms, and then simply tolerate the foliage the rest for the year? With hostas it's just the opposite. We tolerate the blooms for 2-3 weeks but we get great foliage the entire growing season.

Hostas are herbaceous perennials, meaning they die back to the ground each winter, but reemerge the following spring. Hostas grow from a rhizome (not a bulb) and emerge from winter dormancy between early April and mid May depending on variety and growing location. From a single rhizome one or more eyes emerge in the spring. Ideally the rhizome grows larger during the growing season yielding additional eyes and a larger clump the following year. All hostas bloom at some point during the growing season. Depending on variety they may bloom as early as June or as late as September. Some varieties also have fragrant blooms.

Hostas offer a seemingly limitless selection of foliage colors, shapes, sizes and textures. Given their considerable growing range (from zone 3 to 8), maybe it should be no surprise that there is a considerable amount of confusion and misinformation regarding the successful cultivation of hostas. Let's try to separate fact from fiction.

## **Myth #1: "Hosta are shade loving plants."**

Fact: Hostas are shade tolerant plants

- A fine but important distinction
- Maximum vigor in full sun, but foliage will tend to burn
- Balance morning sun and afternoon shade
- Yellow hostas brighten with some morning sun
- Blue hostas better in shade to retain wax

White centered varieties generally need some morning sun to thrive

## **Myth #2: "Some hostas can be grown in full sun."**

Fact: It depends on where you live and which cultivar you're growing

- Sun won't kill a hosta, but will burn the foliage
- More northerly climates can get away with more sun and not burn
- All bets are off in a really hot summer, no matter where you live
- Fragrant flowering varieties will generally tolerate the heat better
- More sun, more water => more water, less foliage burn

**Myth #3: “Like many perennials, hostas need to be divided every 3 to 5 years.”**

Fact: Hostas rarely (if ever) need to be divided

- Hostas as the “Friendship Plant” (dividing to share with your friends)
- Divide only to create more plants
- With proper initial spacing, never need to divide
- One chance to do good soil prep

Easiest to divide in spring, optimum time in fall

**Myth #4: “Hosta bloom scapes and seed pods should be removed.”**

Fact: Suit yourself.

- Small amount of energy expended in flowering and seed set
- Won’t harm the plant either way
- Develop an appreciation for hosta flowers – fragrance and color

Use spent bloom scapes as plant marker the following spring during bed cleanup

**Myth #5: “I’ve tried slug baits and they don’t work.”**

Fact: Some cultivars are more slug tolerant, but slug baits will work when properly applied.

- Substance = leaf thickness; more substance=> more slug resistance
- Weather (rain and cloud cover) impact on slug activity
- Timing for maximum impact – start in the fall, early in spring
- Keep at it – one application won’t do it
- Metaldehyde vs iron phosphate baits (both will work, follow labeled application rate, don’t over apply)

Various home remedies – consider your level of effort vs the effectiveness

**Myth #6: “Rabbits and deer love my hostas and the spray-on repellents don't work.”**

Fact: Persistence pays off. You can win the battle.

- Rabbits are fairly indiscriminate, generally only chew off the petiole
- Deer really do love hostas
- Properly applied (and reapplied) spray-on repellants do work

Testimonials from AHS convention garden tour sites

**Myth #7: “Space your hostas about 24 to 36” apart.”**

Fact: It all depends on the cultivar.

- Do your homework before you buy
- Check on the mature dimensions of the plant
- 12” spacing could be right; 96” spacing might be right
- Allow 5 years for maturity



**Myth #8: “Hostas will adapt to a dry shade.”**

Fact: Hostas love water

- The single most important key to success in growing hostas
- Smaller hostas this year are generally due to a lack of water last summer

Grow the rhizome and everything else will take care of itself.

**Myth #9: “Hostas are heavy feeders and require plenty of fertilizer.”**

Fact: Skip the fertilizer and focus on good soil prep and plenty of water

- See Myth 8 above.
- Water, water, water
- To push growth=> fertilize, but then even more water is required

Only fertilize if you’re committed to watering

**Myth #10: “Growing hosta from seed will yield a nice mix of variegated seedlings.”**

Fact: You will only get solid colored (green, blue and some yellow) seedlings

- Only streaked hostas yield a large percentage of variegated seedlings

Growing hosta seeds – still a great winter time activity

Coming in the Part 2:

One Final Myth - “I’ve already got that one. In fact I’ve got all four varieties - the green one, the blue one, the yellow one and the variegated one.”



*Rob Mortko*

**AHS VP Conventions**

Mark your calendar for “Hosta Hysteria” on June 7-10, 2017. The Indianapolis Hosta Society will be hosting the 2017 AHS National Convention. Enjoy great tour gardens, a hosta show, auction, vending, seminars, banquets, plenty of hostatality and much

much more. [www.IndyHosta2017.com](http://www.IndyHosta2017.com)

Once you have registered for the Indy Convention, it’s time to start looking beyond 2017.

My predecessor (Cindy Tomashek) did a most excellent job in booking AHS conventions down the road:

2018 – Philadelphia, PA

2019 – Green Bay, WI

2020 – Minneapolis, MN

It is not too soon to start thinking about hosting an AHS Convention in 2021 or even beyond. The AHS will assist you in planning your event. There is considerable flexibility in the division of responsibilities. If your local club and your city has good hotel facilities and some grand gardens deserving of exhibition, please contact me to begin a dialogue on how you might host a future AHS convention.

Conventionally yours,

*Rob Mortko*

**AHS VP Conventions**



*Don Dean*  
On-Line Auction Chair

### **Online Auction 2017**

This year's Online Auction concluded on January 28<sup>th</sup> and did not disappoint! Online Auction results and a summary of the top bid plants are posted upon the AHS website each year. Be sure to check it out for an idea of what you have been missing if you have never participated. Those that have participated in the past auctions may wish to relive the excitement. Go to <http://americanhostasociety.org/Auctions.html>.

The most coveted, high bid plant this year was *Hosta* 'Dear Mom' which is named in honor of the donor's mother. You know it has to be exceptional! This combined with everything of interest to shade gardeners from garden sculpture, hosta seed, and, of course, hosta contributed to the total surpassing \$7,000. These funds will be used to provide the many benefits the membership enjoys, primarily supporting the two print versions of our *The Hosta Journal*. Look for future information about this plant within the auction results on the AHS website and an anticipated article within an issue of our journal.

A huge thanks goes out to Josh Spece for his continued tech support, Warren Pollock for his flare with words in item descriptions, the many donors that outdid themselves again, and of course, the bidders that approached this auction as the fundraiser that it is!

The auction is conducted from beginning to end electronically. News is distributed via email notices throughout the year. Send a message to me at [dedean@q.com](mailto:dedean@q.com), requesting that your address be added to the mailing group. This will help ensure that you do not miss this event in future years. Changed your service provider or have a new email address? Be sure to send this news to me as well.

*Don Dean*  
**On-Line Auction Chair**



*Barbara Schroeder*  
AHS VP Publications

Publications are always a busy area for the AHS. The OnLine Journal went out in December, this E-Newsletter is just out and the *Hosta Journal* is due in April.

We are busy rewriting *The Hosta Adventure – A Grower's Guide*. It will be out this spring or early summer. In the meantime we have sold all of our old versions and are anxiously awaiting the new version.

We still have a few DVD's in inventory to sell. Once those are all sold the plan is to do another full set that includes all current journals and we will have an additional DVD of just the new versions for those that have already bought a set.

We are still selling old hosta journals. We have inventory from 1986 to 2015 but are missing a few. We are still in need of original issues of: 15, 20.2, 21.1, 21.2, 23.1, 23.2, 25.1, 37.1, and 37.2 to complete our permanent library. If you have copies and are willing to donate one to us (or have a collection to donate) please email or call me and we can make arrangements. And for those that don't have a full set please consider acquiring some for yourself.

*Barbara Schroeder*

VP Publications  
[Barbschro1@gmail.com](mailto:Barbschro1@gmail.com)  
217-359-2868



## Have Fun with Potted Hostas

Article and photos by Josh Spece

There comes a time in most gardens when it seems impossible to squeeze in one more plant. Things are not always what they seem, though, and as you are well aware, there is always room for one more hosta!

Maybe there really is no room for another 'Empress Wu' sized plant in your garden, but I bet you have a deck, patio, front porch, or other area that could be spruced up with potted hostas.



Something I've noticed as I've visited Hosta Convention tour gardens is the increasing number of container grown hostas. Sometimes containers are necessary for avoiding problems like hungry voles and strangling tree roots. Other times containers are used to give miniature hostas a safe place where they won't be engulfed by larger plants. Yet more and more, hosta collectors seem to be using hostas in containers strictly from a design standpoint.

Even in a crowded hosta bed, a potted hosta can be raised above the existing plants on a pedestal or other type of narrow stand. Such a stand can easily be installed without disturbing the existing



plants. Elevating a container grown hosta like this brings much needed height to what can often be a very flat, one-dimensional landscape. Going vertical, whether with garden art, tall companion plants, or raised containers, brings interest and excitement to the garden.

Growing hostas in containers can serve a practical purpose, as well. Some fussy hostas are easier to grow in containers than they are in the ground. A container can be filled with high quality



potting mix, ideal for growing hostas – moisture retentive, yet airy and quick draining. As an attentive gardener, you can more easily give these problematic plants the TLC they need to reach their full potential. That may mean extra fertilizer, careful and regular watering, or a location with just the perfect amount of light. Container grown hostas are portable, after all, so finding a spot with the right amount of shade and sun to suit the plant becomes easier.

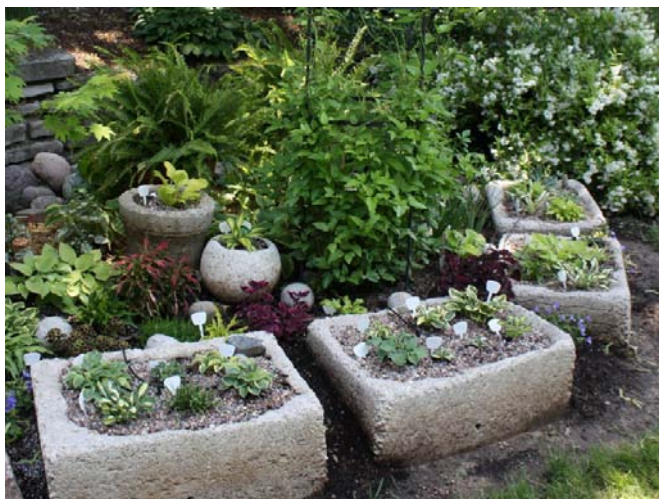
My personal favorite way to incorporate containers of hostas in the garden is with miniature hostas. These pint-sized plants are incredibly popular, but they can easily get lost in a garden among larger plants. Growing miniatures in containers allows you to draw attention to them, while keeping them safe from larger, sprawling plants. Some gardeners have trouble growing miniatures in the ground, yet find them easier to please in containers.

One of the fun things about growing mini hostas in containers is creating miniature landscapes. Just like in the rest of your garden, miniature hostas, small companion plants, stone and other natural materials, and in-scale garden art can be combined to create an inspiring scene... in a container! These miniature gardens can be displayed just about anywhere – the front step, on the deck, on a patio table, or even indoors for a day or two.

When growing hostas in containers, the container itself is every bit as important to the display as what is in the container. The containers you choose add to your garden's unique personality. Be daring! Vibrant colors bring playful excitement to the garden. They capture our attention, drawing us toward the focal point, or luring us further down the path.



Of course, if your garden has a more rustic, natural style to it, a stone-like trough or wooden container may be more appropriate. Hypertufa or papercrete troughs are fun projects to make and are ideal containers to hold realistic miniature landscapes.



I encourage you to be creative and think outside of the box when it comes to choosing containers. Standard flower pots are not the only suitable containers for growing hostas. Keep an eye out for objects that could be repurposed as unique containers to display a special plant or to house a magical miniature woodland garden. Garage sales and flea markets are great sources of unusual containers.

Growing hostas in containers is not difficult, but they will need a little more attention than an established hosta bed. In particular, hostas in containers will need to be monitored to make sure they don't get too dry. Since hostas are hungry plants,

your containers will also need fertilized. A spring application of slow release fertilizer makes this a simple, once per year job.

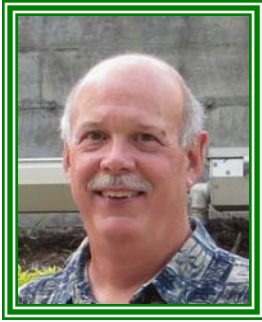
The biggest concern gardeners have is what to do with their container grown hostas during the winter. If you are lucky enough to garden where winters are very mild, you may not have to do anything special. For the rest of us who get to enjoy months of snow, ice, and frigid temperatures, our containers will need some protection.

I know many hosta collectors who successfully overwinter their potted hostas in an unheated garage or shed, and this has consistently worked well for me, too. I wait until the daytime temperatures begin to hover around freezing before moving my containers in. Here in Iowa that is usually around Thanksgiving. My plants stay in the garage all winter without water. Only once I begin to see growth in the spring do I water. This works for me, but I urge you to talk to other hosta growers in your area to learn what works for them. Overwintering potted hostas has also been discussed in past issues of *The Hosta Journal*.

Whether your garden really is filled to capacity and you can't kick the hosta addiction, or you are just looking for something new to try, I hope you'll try growing a few hostas in containers.







*Michael  
Greanya*

**Benedict Garden  
Performance Chair**

**ATTENTION HYBRIDIZER'S  
NOMINATION REMINDER FOR THE  
BENEDICT GARDEN PERFORMANCE AWARD**

The Benedict Garden Performance Award is the highest recognition given by the American Hosta Society (AHS) honoring a registered hosta that, having passed the test of time, is garden worthy; can be appreciated in the landscape from a distance and under close observation; and, demonstrates cultural superiority. We hope that you will take a moment consider nominating a cultivar(s) of yours if you think it may garden worthy. We need your participation now to help keep the awards program alive and healthy.

To be eligible for nomination, your cultivar must have been registered for a minimum of 3 years and it should be in sufficient distribution across all regions of the AHS so that a large number of judges will be able to actually see it performing in various gardens. You may nominate up to 7 cultivars per year and those nominated cultivars will compete with other nominated hosta. For more information about the Benedict Garden Performance Award and the 3-tier voting process, please visit the AHS website or contact the Benedict Garden Performance Chair.

Please send your nomination filled out on the accompanying nomination form soon to the address or email below to be included on the 2017 ballot. When submitting a nomination, please list your name as the Originator/Registrant followed by the cultivars name and the year it was registered. You may also email your nomination with the requested information. Please submit your nomination by March 15, 2017.

Michael Greanya  
2204 Vandemere Dr.  
Jackson, MI 49201

*Michael Greanya*

Benedict Garden Performance Chair  
mfg10@comcast.net

**IV-H-b**

**AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY  
BENEDICT GARDEN PERFORMANCE AWARDS NOMINATION FORM**

To be eligible for nomination for Benedict Garden Performance Awards, hosta cultivars must meet the following criteria:

- The cultivar must demonstrate superior garden performance.
- The cultivar must be named and registered.
- The cultivar must have been registered for at least three years.
- The cultivar must not have been previously nominated.

Only the originator of the cultivar or the Board of Directors of the American Hosta Society may nominate hosta cultivars for these awards. Each may nominate a maximum of seven cultivars each year.

To nominate hosta cultivars for Benedict Garden Performance awards, please complete this form, listing the cultivars you desire to nominate. Return this form by February 15 (date of postmark) to The American Hosta Society Garden Performance Chair. The Garden Performance Chair will acknowledge receipt of this nomination form within three weeks of receipt. Should acknowledgement not be received within three weeks, please contact the Garden Performance Chair immediately to insure nominations are properly recorded for this year's ballot.

(Please print all information legibly.)

Date \_\_\_\_\_, 2\_\_\_\_\_

<u>Name of Cultivar</u>	<u>Originator</u>	<u>Year of Registration</u>
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____

Signature of Originator \_\_\_\_\_



*Amy Peterson*

VP Awards and Honors

## Hosta Topics from 1890's Similar to Today

I can't wait until spring as I sit in my four season porch gazing at hosta plant tags emerging from the snow with the temperature at 17° F/8° C. I really enjoy tending my hosta focused garden, buying new plants, going to auctions and conventions. [In fact, I am already registered for the 2017 AHS National Hosta Convention in INDY. Are YOU?] But I must admit that I am somewhat bored today or more likely procrastinating on housework or some other pending project.

So instead of what I should be doing, I am surfing the internet going from one discrete topic to another with no rhyme or reason. Today, I typed in National Library and one choice was the National Library of New Zealand, interesting? So I linked in and searched for "hosta" then changed to "funkia". As you know *Funkia* is the historical genus name for *Hosta* and this older term resulted in items pre-1900. Curiosity peaked and I opened a few of these old items. The links are provided if you would like to view them for yourself.

The first article, *TIMARU FLOWER SHOW*, (<http://natlib.govt.nz/records/11426789>) was held December 16, 1896, and we know December in New Zealand is equivalent to June in the USA. *Funkia* is mentioned twice with the second reference to a "variegated funkia of large dimensions graced another table." For those who don't know I really like the extra large hosta whereas my husband is more of a mini hosta fan. So you can see even in 1896 the genus *Funkia* / *Hosta* was represented in flower shows for the beautiful form and leaf characteristics.

My plug – continue this historical tradition and plan to enter your favorite hosta leaves in the upcoming AHS National Convention Hosta Show. Attendees really look forward to this part of the convention and it also allows the community visitors to see the diversity within the genus *Hosta* that we hostaholics appreciate.

The second item, an advertisement, is for a nursery sale/auction to be held on June 28, 1899 at 1pm (<http://natlib.govt.nz/records/17384439>). The nursery sale/auction includes *Funkia* in the listing. No detail of the auction results is given but isn't it interesting that even over 100 years ago, hostas were sold in nurseries, held gardening interest and auction value. If you missed the AHS on-line auction this year too bad, as there were some great offerings. But other purchasing opportunities are coming up where you can add to your collection or contribute to someone else hosta purchasing addiction. My plug – support your local, regional and AHS National Hosta Society by planning to donate hosta for auction and make a purchase (or two) at these upcoming sales and auctions.

Hope you enjoy these historical items from the National Library of New Zealand.

In closing, nominations for the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award and the Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Award are being solicited at this time with due dates by May 1, 2017. Please submit your nomination(s) and supporting nomination rationale to me via email at [petersonhosta@q.com](mailto:petersonhosta@q.com).

Friendship in hosta!

*Amy Peterson*

VP Awards and Honors





# 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 many benefits for the members that result from these efforts, both social and in nursery trade. AHS members receive several publications a year, including two colorful issues of *The Hosta Journal* (mailed), four *eNewsletters* (emailed), and *The Online Journal* (posted on the web for members only). All of these include articles on cultivation tips, propagation techniques, landscape uses, new cultivars and old species, pioneers and personalities, scientific advances, convention awards and gardens and news about the AHS.

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ A Biennial AHS Membership Directory
- ◆ 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

## Other membership benefits:

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. Go to

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

Go to <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Membership/Membership.htm> to join online or print the membership application and mail to the Membership Secretary listed.