



Hosta 'Brave Attempt'
Bill Silvers, 2007
Silvers-Elbert Nursery Introduction



President's Musings

Gregg Peterson
President, American Hosta Society
Oakdale, MN

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year 2019!! My wish for everyone this year is a “normal” and predictable remainder of this winter and a growing season this upcoming spring and summer where we can worry more about how our hosta beds look and not so much about the extremes in weather.

This time of year is exciting because we start to receive notices of on-line hosta catalogs being posted by most of the hosta vendors. It is always fun to go to each website and peruse the selections pictured and written up in each catalog. Many of the new cultivars you might have seen a number of years ago in a hybridizer's garden or offered in a very limited basis at a convention or on-line auction. It is fun to see many of these plants finally make it to the commercial market.

Speaking of auctions, check out the AHS On-line Auction site on the American Hosta Society website. Beginning in mid to late January, you will have the opportunity to bid on and possibly be the winner of a rare and unique plant being offered up for auction. You do not have to be an AHS member to participate in the auction, you just need to go online and register as a bidder with your bidding “handle”. Auction chair Don Dean is busy assembling an outstanding selection of new and unique plants to bid on.

The Midland Hosta Society - Ohio is the featured local society and I invite you to check out their yearly program of events and activities, both in the accompanying article as well as on their website. They make the most of cooperation by co-hosting an annual Hosta Show with the NE Coast Hosta Society, also in Ohio.

The featured vendor, Silvers Elberts Nursery has been a specialty hosta nursery for over 28 years. They are primarily a mail-order nursery, although they have vended at several national conventions in the last few years. They have over 25 introductions, including *H. 'Brave Attempt'*, named and introduced to commemorate a line in Athlete's Oath for the Special Olympics.

Catch a break with a gardening magazine or book and always yours in the “friendship” plant.

Gregg Peterson
President, American Hosta Society



The American Hosta Society ONLINE AUCTION

January AHS Online Auction 2019 Begins Soon!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 12th through Saturday, January 26th, 2019, to tune into your technology for some winter excitement that is sure to stoke spring dreams. There is nothing like some garden photos and 'hot' auction action to spark a bit of warmth in your mind.

Get your minds ready by checking out hostas sold at the 2018 Online Auction, click this link:

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Activities/18onlineBigBidPlants.htm>

Easy access to the auction site may be found by looking at the AHS web page located at: <http://americanhostasociety.org/>. A live link will be posted in early January, Specific details are posted upon the first pages as you enter the actual auction

This event is the second largest fundraiser for the society each year. Donors provide a description of plant material, seed, or garden related items and a digital photo. Keep in mind that shipping is included in their generous donation(s). Each item is posted in an easy to use auction format.

Do not have any of those, hey, there is also interest in hosta classics, collections, etc. We never know what will be donated from year to year but know there will be something of interest. Our participants have widely varying degrees of interest and experience with growing seed. The same holds true of plants, if you like it . . . someone else will. We even have a 'special' offer from a first-time donor. It is a relaxing vacation spot in a hosta paradise unlike any other. Take a peek . . .

This event is open to members as well as non-members. You are encouraged to invite a friend(s) to join in and at least enjoy the process.

Online Auction Chair,

Don Dean





Hostas and Associates

Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

The Japanese Hostas, Part 4

***Hosta longipes* (Iwa Giboshi)**

Though hostas are native to Japan, China, and Korea, the majority of species come from Japan. This article is the fourth in a series which will talk about those species. Previous eNewsletter articles have covered *Hosta alismifolia*, *H. nakaiana*, and *H. pycnophylla*. This one discusses *H. longipes*, Iwa Giboshi, which is translated from the Japanese as “Rock Hosta.”

Hosta longipes is very common in Japan, growing in an area from about 100 miles north of Tokyo south about 800 miles to Kyushu Island. This range spans almost half of the length of the Japanese islands. Because of the wide native range, and the mountainous habitat of Japan, which creates isolated areas, polymorphism exists. This means that the species has much morphological diversity, or variation of appearance. Some say that it has more variability than any other hosta species. It also grows on a broad range of sites, but usually on rocky soils. *Hosta longipes* prefers well-drained soils. Size varies from about 10 to 16 inches tall by 20 to 40 inches wide. Garden plants tend to be at the upper limit of size because they usually grow on better soils than those in the wild. Even on the best of loams, it tends to be slower growing than most other hosta species.

The ovate leaves of *H. longipes* are 8 to 11 inches long by about 5 inches wide and are flat or have a slightly rippled margin. They are shiny and medium to dark green. The underside of the leaf is a polished green or may have a glaucous bloom. Different varieties address this variation. Petioles tend to have reddish purple dots or streaks. Leaf substance is average to good.

Flowers appear in late August to late September and are pale to dark purple, rarely white. Pedicels are long, hence the specific epithet “*longipes*.” Flower scapes are purple dotted or streaked. The inflorescence has a tendency to develop branched racemes. The flowers are fertile and have been used often for breeding purposes, mainly because of the red to purple petioles, scapes, racemes, bud initials, and coloration at the base of sterile flower bracts.

Hosta longipes has numerous forms and varieties. The typical variety is *H. longipes* var. *vulgata*, which is shiny green on the back of the leaves and forms a small to medium sized clump. *Hosta longipes* var. *lancea* has smaller leaves and red petioles. Its appearance resembles that of *H. ‘Tardiflora.’* It is sometimes listed as *H. longipes* f. *sparsa*. *Hosta longipes* var. *caduca* is somewhat variable in the wild. Size may range from 12 to 20 inches tall in its native habitat. Mark Zilis states in his book *Mark Zilis’ Field Guide to Hostas* that many variegated forms exist. *Hosta longipes* var. *latifolia* is usually a small mound, but may be larger. It has shiny dark green foliage of thick substance and is lustrous on the backside of the leaves, but may have a light waxy bloom. Leaves are ovate and smooth with a wavy margin. Flowers tend to bloom a bit later than other varieties and are purple in color. Light red dots are found on the petioles.

The term “forma,” often abbreviated as f., is a botanical ranking level below that of variety. It indicates a significant difference in appearance over what is typically found in that species or variety. *Hosta longipes* has several forms listed in its classification scheme. *Hosta longipes* f. *hypoglauca* is found only on Honshu Island. It has a substantial glaucous bloom on the underside of the thick leaves. It is because of this and the purple-red petioles that it has been much used in breeding. Notable progeny are ‘Cinnamon Sticks,’ ‘Fire Island,’ ‘Red October,’ ‘One Man’s Treasure,’ and ‘Best of Twenty.’



Hosta longipes f. *viridipes* has green petioles and no reddish dots. It has broad oval leaves that are shiny on the underside. The plant is slightly rhizomatous. *Hosta longipes* f. *albiflora* is also sometimes found in hosta literature. This form has predominantly white flowers.

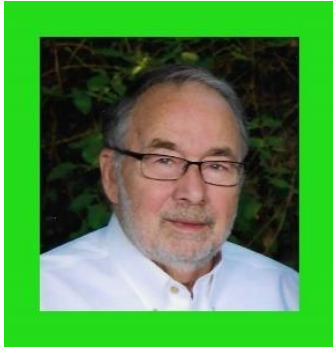


Photos by Glenn Herold

Mark Zilis brought several cultivars back from Japan during one of his many visits. ‘Sparkle’ is a streaked plant with red petioles.

‘Kaleidochrome’ is also streaked, with yellow and green foliage. ‘Fall Dazzler’ has a narrow white margin surrounding a green center, and blooms in October, later than the typical *H. longipes*.

As stated earlier, many seedlings and hybrids of *H. longipes* exist. They include ‘Gosan Sunproof,’ ‘High Tide,’ ‘Marilyn Monroe’ (a favorite of mine! The plant, not the late actress!), ‘Pewterware,’ ‘Smokey,’ ‘Bloody Mary,’ ‘Dragon’s Blood,’ ‘Raspberry Parfait,’ ‘Green Fountain,’ and many others. Red coloration, wavy margins, good substance, and glossy leaves are all desirable breeding qualities. Plant the species in your garden and use it in your breeding program.



Go Hostas!

Warren I. Pollock
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Foliar Nematode Abatement: Moving Forward

The September 2018 *Go Hosta!* column has a review of foliar nematodes and FN-infected damage to hostas, with discussion of Nema Stop® (previously called NemaKill), a commercial organic product found to kill FN in the large AHS-funded research program published in the Fall 2016 (Volume 47, No. 1) issue of *The Hosta Journal*.

Nema Stop is marketed by PureGro USA, an American manufacturer of organic products ranging from nutrition to pesticides to herbicides. For information about Nema Stop, visit www.puregrousa.com. Select “Products,” then “Pest and Disease Control” and then go to the Nema Stop item you’re interested in. You can select “Learn More” for the detailed product page, including “Details,” “Benefits,” “Directions” and “Specifications.” For the concentrate product, dilution instructions are given in “Directions,” where you also you find *when and where to spray leaves and petioles*.

A number of AHS members have used Nema Stop (NemaKill). To move forward in FN abatement, **PureGro USA asks that users provide feedback to them**. It will serve to help develop a more detailed hosta application process, in addition to PureGro USA providing a FAQ section for customers to reference. There are two ways to do this:

Customer Review – You will find this option on the product page after selecting “Learn More.” At the bottom of the description is a section highlighted “Customer Reviews.” Select this section and write a review. The intent of this section is to guide other potential users on user experiences. Included is a starred rating option 1-5.

Customer Feedback to PureGro USA – You can either select “Contact” at the top of the navigation page on PureGro USA’s website or send an email to PureGro USA at: info@puregrousa.com.

PureGro USA would like the following format for feedback:

- Name and location? Do not provide name if you prefer anonymous feedback.
- What did you do with the product? How much was used? How much was sprayed and where? How much did you soak the soil if soil drenching? How often did you apply and when?
- What were your findings? How did you observe the results? Did you see existing lesions cease to expand? Did new leaves appear free of lesions?
- Provide any other observations. Provide pictures.

PureGro USA will gather information and display an aggregation on its website—either via a FAQ section or through a blog post that will be shared with AHS. The names of people furnishing input will be kept confidential.

PLEASE SUPPLY FEEDBACK. This is essential to move forward in our knowledge of FN abatement.

If you have questions and need to contact PureGro USA, go to its customer support line: 469.432.0712.

Danny Cepeda, VP Market and Business Development, is the primary contact at PureGro USA. He can be reached at: dcepeda@puregrousa.com.

Make a note now to put this activity on your calendar for the spring.

“The Mule” Movie and Hosta

The previous *eNewsletter* also had an item on there being a connection between the recently released movie “The Mule” and Hosta. The film was inspired by the true story of the oldest drug mule in the world, Leo Sharp. In his 80s he became a drug courier and dealer for the Mexican Sinaloa cartel run by “El Chapo” Guzman. The cartel’s nickname for Sharp was “Tata,” slang for “Grandpa.”

Sharp was born in May 1924 in Michigan City, Indiana, and raised in Detroit. He fought in World War II and received a Bronze Star. He was a noted hybridizer of daylilies, specializing in producing relatively small flowers with vivid colors.

Brookside Gardens was Sharp’s nursery in Michigan City, Indiana, featuring his originations. It was a popular horticultural and tourist site; big coaches filled with daylily enthusiasts from across the country visited it.

Sharp had an engaging, friendly personality and was a popular speaker at daylily meetings and conventions. He was admired and well-liked. The highly-regarded daylily hybridizer Pauline Henry of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, honored him with her 1986 registration *Hemerocallis* ‘Siloam Leo Sharp’ named for him.

Government authorities believe “his slow daylily business that started in the mid-2000s” is what made Sharp jump into the drug world. He became the driver smuggling cocaine, stored in Arizona safe houses near the border, into Detroit, distributing the drugs in the northern Michigan area. In 2010 he supposedly made \$1 million.

Sharp was arrested in 2011 at a Drug Enforcement Administration traffic stop near Detroit. Likely he had been trailed by government agents from his Arizona pickup. Drug-sniffing dogs detected something in his pickup truck, and 104 bricks (each weighing a kilo) in duffel bags were found, said to be worth \$3 million. He was 87-years-old at the time.



Leo Sharp

(undated photo on internet)

Sharp pleaded guilty in 2013 to serving as a drug mule to distribute more than 1,400 pounds of cocaine and was sentenced to three years in a federal prison. The government allowed him to keep his daylily farm in Florida. He was released in 2015 after serving only a year due to declining health. He died in December 2016 at age 92.

His connection to Hosta? Leo Sharp attended the 1987 AHS National Convention hosted by the Delaware Valley Hosta Society in the Hilton Hotel, Wilmington, Delaware. Olga Petryszyn, then living in Chesterton, Indiana, invited Sharp to the events on Friday and Saturday. Sharp and Olga were good friends, both having keen interests in hybridizing popular perennials. She visited Sharp’s nursery numerous times. Chesterton and Michigan City are just 13 miles apart on the shores of Lake Michigan, not far from Chicago.

Olga, who now lives in Valparaiso, Indiana, 10 miles south of Chesterton, is a premier hosta introducer. In 2014 she received the AHS Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Award, selecting *H.* ‘Brother Stefen’, registered in 1998, as her Distinguished Hybrid. In 2017 ‘Brother Stefen’ was chosen AHGA Hosta of the Year.

I suspect Olga was driving to the convention alone and asked Sharp to accompany her, explaining to him that the 1987 American Hosta Society Convention would be exceptional and well worth attending. Several events

likely would never occur again at a hosta conclave: visiting the extensive hosta garden of Alex Summers, the society's founder who lived in Bridgeville, Delaware (about a two-hour coach ride from the convention hotel) with a special catered luncheon from a nearby Delaware Bay restaurant *and* a unique evening affair with a special banquet dinner in the elegant organ room of magnificent Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.

Olga had registered for the convention; Sharp had not. They arrived late Thursday afternoon. Olga asked if Sharp could attend. I told her the convention was fully booked for the Friday night activities, but "I'll find space for him." This was because of the striking statement made by Sharp's dapper attire, which I thought most appropriately fitting for the twilight Longwood Gardens event preceding the banquet.

This special event was to be a stylish summer party with open, no-charge bars and refreshments in the two huge conservatories and also scattered about in the extensive outdoor flower displays. The entire Longwood Gardens was closed to the public that evening. The early-evening activity was designed to be the type of affair Longwood Gardens founder, Pierre S. duPont, privately hosted for special friends on special occasions. Convention attendees were asked to dress accordingly, which implied men wearing jackets and women wearing long summery dresses that evening. (Almost everyone did.)

Sharp's attire? He was wearing a freshly pressed, all-white suit and white dress shirt with starched collar spiffily open. He was appropriately and fashionably dressed for the elegant garden party.

What I found out later was that a white suit was Leo Sharp's signature apparel in summer. He wore one at daylily conventions and other gatherings. I also learned that an all-black suit was his signature attire in winter. Not surprising, Sharp had attendees gathered around him throughout the AHS convention.

Olga reported to me he had a very enjoyable time at the convention and was most glad he went. To my knowledge Leo Sharp never attended an AHS national convention again.

When newspapers covered his arrest and trial, Olga emailed me that I might want to check the Internet to find out what was happening to Leo Sharp—the fellow in the white suit at The American Hosta Society convention many, many years ago. She called him "My crazy friend."

As for the movie "The Mule," all in all the film critics liked it. After all, it's a Clint Eastwood movie and he's now 88. He directed it and starred in it. I liked it too, but I had an advantage: I had met The Mule—the *real one*.

Other anecdotes about Leo Sharp and Hosta are welcome. Email me at giboshiwip@aol.com.

Postscript: Tom Wolfe (1930-2018), the legendary author of "The Right Stuff," "Bonfire of the Vanities" and many other books, was famous for wearing a flamboyantly fashionable white suit with waistcoat (usually double-breasted), colorful hat and showy shoes all year long. This was his calling card and trademark starting in the early 1960s. Wolfe was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia, where in the 1930s and '40s men wearing white suits in the summer was common as few buildings then were air conditioned.

Slug and Snail Killer Pellets

TIP: If you use pellets for killing slugs and snails, in late winter/early spring scattered them around the garden before your hosta crowns come up. When the weather warms up, these pests will be emerging from the ground seeking to eat your hosta leaves.



The principle active ingredients in these pellets are:

- metaldehyde @ 3.25% and 4%,
- sulfur @ 1%, and
- iron phosphate @ 1%

The other ingredients in the pellets mostly are a bait, usually a cereal like bran or wheat, which is needed to attract the critters.

Prior to the 1990s, the principle molluscicides were metaldehyde and methiocarb, both usually at about

4% concentration. Metaldehyde can affect slugs and snails either by contact, with absorption through the skin, or through the gut when eaten. The main effect is that of an irritant causing the slugs to produce masses of mucus leading to dehydration and death. Loss of mucus means the slugs/snails can no longer move around, so dead and dying slugs/snails are found close to the baiting site.

Interestingly, pure metaldehyde actually repels slugs/snails as will concentrations (piles) of pellets—which explains why it is important to spread metaldehyde-containing pellets thinly.

Methiocarb, also called mesurol, one of a group of chemicals known as carbamates, is a very effective stomach poison when eaten by slugs/snails. Ortho® Slug-Geta® Pellets containing 4% mesurol were very popular. (Note name is *Slug-Geta*.) In the 1990s, due mainly to mammal toxicity issues with methiocarb, this product was discontinued for sale to home gardeners.

In 1999 Scotts Miracle-Grow Company of Marysville, Ohio, acquired Ortho, an old established chemical company headquartered in the San Francisco bay area, from the Monsanto Company in St. Louis. In 1993 Monsanto had acquired Ortho from the Chevron Corp., the huge California oil company. Ortho was a Chevron division specializing in pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers and other chemicals for lawns and gardens. The original Ortho symbol was the double “V”-shaped emblem of Chevron oil. The Ortho symbol now is a highly stylized inverted “V.”

In about 1970, Ortho started marketing Ortho® Bug-Geta® Pellets. (Note name is *Bug-Geta*.) They contained 2% metaldehyde and 5% carbaryl (Sevin®). This product now is labeled Ortho® Bug-Geta® Plus Slug, Snail & Insect Killer and sold as a liquid.

In the late 1980s or early 1990s, Ortho® Bug-Get® Slug and Snail Pellets with 3.25% metaldehyde were introduced. They contained Bitrex®, an extremely bitter-tasting chemical that discourages birds, pets and children from ingesting the pellets. The Bitrex symbol was on the container.

When Scotts Miracle-Grow acquired Ortho, the 3.25% metaldehyde pellets were added to its lawn and garden products. In about 2005, the name was changed to Ortho® Bug-Get® Slug and Snail Killer₁. (Note subscript “1” after Killer.) Bug-Geta₁ does not contain Bitrex.

In 2016 Scotts Miracle-Grow introduced Ortho® Bug-Geta® Slug and Snail Killer₂. (Note “2” subscript.) The active ingredient in these pellets is 1% sulfur. Yes, apparently elemental yellow sulfur. Sulfur has long been known to be a molluscicide. Slugs and snails are killed through a dehydration process. Bug-Geta₂ also does not contain Bitrex.

Bug Geta₂ is advertised as “Can be used around pets and wildlife.” It is intended to compete with iron phosphate pellets (see below) in the “environment friendly” and “organic” marketplaces.

According to Scotts Miracle-Grow’s consumer information center, 1% sulfur-containing Bug Get₂ is as effective a molluscicide as Bug Geta₁ with 3.25% metaldehyde. Also, Bug-Get₂ is easier to apply correctly than Bug-Geta₁. Scotts Miracle-Grow has a short YouTube video demonstrating how to use Bug Geta₂ (www.youtube.com/watch?v=thkEdmZ-W7M).

Rob Mortko’s advice in his article on slug baits in the August 2016 *AHS eNewsletter* is perceptive: Check the label on the Bug-Geta container to see if subscript after Killer is 1 or 2. Last September I examined my local The Home Depot and Lowe’s Home Improvement shelves and found only Bug-Geta₂. It wouldn’t surprise me if Bug-Geta₁ is phased out in the 2020s.

In 1995, Gardens Alive!® in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, started selling Escar-Go® Slug and Snail Control. The active ingredient is 1% iron phosphate. These pellets are advertised as having the same slug-killing effectiveness as metaldehyde—but likely the metaldehyde content was only 2% in the comparison. Escar-Go also contains the important ingredient EDTA and a slug bait additive such as bran. A German chemical company exclusively manufactures these pellets, marketing them to re-packagers worldwide.

Sluggo®, packaged by Monterey Chemical Company in California, is perhaps the best-known 1% iron phosphate brand. It is widely available in retail nurseries and garden centers. Iron phosphate slug pellets are advertised as “Can be used around pets and wildlife.”

However, there is concern that iron phosphate pellets may be dangerous in the garden. EDTA is a common chelating agent for Fe³⁺. This chemical greatly increases iron toxicity, perhaps as much as three-fold. For iron phosphate pellets to be an effective molluscicide, EDTA is added to the pellets. Thus, it is iron (ferric) EDTA that is toxic to slugs and snails. The issue is: Iron EDTA reportedly is toxic to animals. *So, are these pellets really safe around pets?* (Bill Meyer, Woodbury, Connecticut, discusses this concern in an article on the Hosta Library, www.hostalibrary.org.)

Many hosta growers (including me) hold that 4% metaldehyde pellets are the superior molluscicide. Favored is Deadline® M-Ps™ Mini-Pellets Slug and Snail Bait. They are blue colored for high visibility and contain a proprietary attractant reported to be highly effective. These pellets do not contain Bitrex and should be spread thinly: just 6 pellets per square foot. Deadline M-Ps is available in 3, 10 and 50 lb. bags on the Internet.

Please share your experiences with Bug Geta₁, Bug Geta₂, iron phosphate and Deadline M-Ps pellets. Contact me at my email address above.

GO HOSTAS!

Book Notice

by Clyde Crockett, Carmel, IN

THE NEW SHADE GARDEN:

Creating a Lush Oasis in the Age of Climate Change

By Ken Druse (New York: Stewart, Tabori & Chang 2015)

The award-winning author of many gardening books begins with a forecast that due to various fiscal, historical and particularly environmental factors “the garden of the future will be a shade garden.” We will be spending more of our time in shade and will desire to look upon and be in the midst of a garden as lovely as those English-type borders that have been to many of us our working pride and visual joy.

This beautifully illustrated work shows us ways on how one can transform a hosta collection in your shady places into a dazzling, beautiful, lush oasis, as the subtitle suggests, which becomes the equal, if not the better, of those sunny paradises we have long loved.

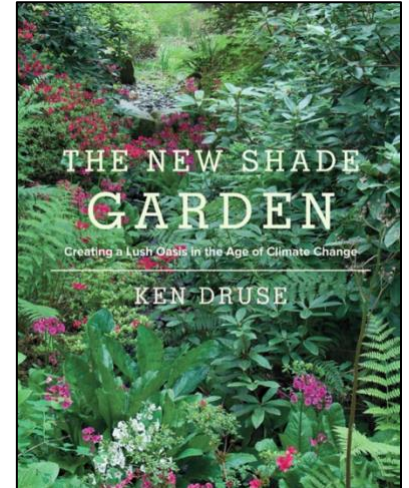
The journey to that goal includes substantial attention being given to the incorporation of hostas (of course!) as well as sedges, ground covers, herbaceous perennials, shrubs, hardy palms, wildflowers, and trees. My favorite section is a valuable discussion on how to deal with that bane common to many: The Dry Shade Garden. All of these topics are given extensive coverage and are accompanied by photographs and lists of recommended varieties.

The book consists of six parts, each of which alone makes good reading. Part 1, “Introduction”, gives the reasons why prominence might be given to shade gardens in today’s world. Part 2, “My Path Into the Garden and the Shade”, is a charming coming-of-age type story of the author’s affinity for shade. Part 3, “Got Shade? Taking a Closer Look”, contains the book’s most extensive discussions of hostas, including a list of fragrant ones. Part 4, “A Program for Our Shade Garden”, addresses the importance of planning your shady space— seating areas, paths, the use of containers and the like. Part 5, “Plants With Purpose”, covers, in the author’s words, “trees on down to ground level.” Some beneficial lists and commentaries include “Small North American Trees For Light Shade And Filtered Light”; “Some Trees, Perhaps, To Avoid,” and, another of my favorites, “Shrubs For Shade” evergreens, needle-leaved, and deciduous varieties. If herbaceous perennials are wanted, we are afforded a listing comprising 3 1/2 pages!

For a lush oasis, big or small, **THE NEW SHADE GARDEN** is highly recommended. It is readily available from sources on the internet and local libraries.

Happy gardening,

Clyde



FEATURED VENDOR



Business name: Silvers-Elbert Nursery
Contact: Bill Silvers or Natalie Silvers Price
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Mailing address: PO Box 68
Cisco, GA 30708
Phone: 404.402.6452 or 706.347.3284
Web address: www.hostaplants.com



Silvers-Elbert Nursery is a family run nursery, active in the local and national hosta organizations. Our goal for the last 28 years has been to offer the best, newest, and hard to get Hosta at reasonable prices, with quality customer service – the key to our success! Our website is our catalog, and the only mail order business we conduct is through our website. Our Hosta collection has multiplied over the last few years to include enough to propagate for the discriminating collector and enthused gardener. We are state inspected.

My daughter, Natalie Price has come on board as a full partner. She is in charge of starting up the wholesale tissue culture department again. She is also in charge of sales, promotions, and is responsible for one of the best guarantee programs available. If you are unhappy with the plants you receive from us, send it back for a full refund – we will even pay the freight!

Our retail outlet is located at the Atlanta Farmer's Market in Forest Park, GA. We are open from March 1st (weather permitting) until July 1st. Hours are 9am to 5pm seven days a week. It's rewarding to see the same customers come back year after year. It's even more rewarding now to be selling to their kids!

We will also be bringing back *Plants with a Purpose* and *Spiritual Walk through the Garden*. Hostas 'Foxfire Palm Sunday', 'Foxfire Good Friday' and many more. My favorite is *H. 'Brave Attempt'*, a Special Olympics awareness plant. The Special Olympics athletic oath is "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

Over the years I have found twenty-five new hostas in my nursery which I have registered and produced through our tissue culture department. They are all sports, I am not a hybridizer. The people who hybridize by cross pollination are knowledgeable, skilled, and patient. I am none of the above. A sport is a gift from God, I had nothing to do with it. I just walked out to the nursery and there it was. To name just a few of the ones I have registered: 'Bethlehem', 'Blue Maui', 'Blue Mouse Ears Supreme', 'Living Water', 'The British are Coming', and

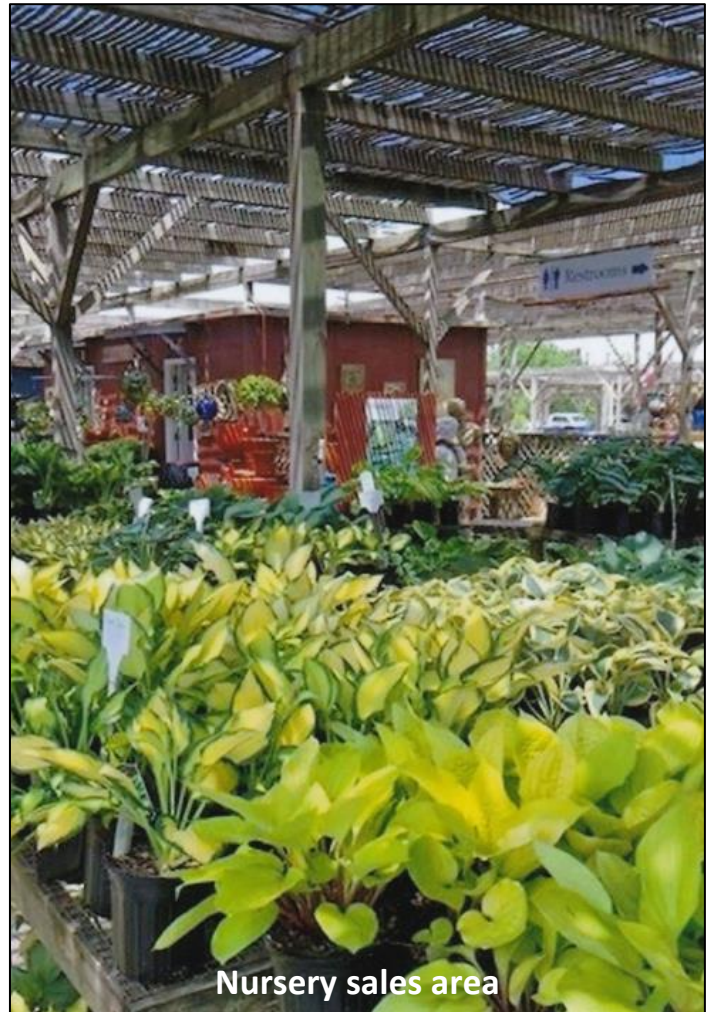
'Two if by Sea'. Natalie found two new hostas in her nursery which should be ready in late 2018, those are: 'Mimosa Mouse', a sport of 'Blue Mouse Ears' and 'Moonshine Mouse', a sport of 'Mimosa Mouse'. We will also have 'Inspire Greatness' a wonderful sport of 'Brave Attempt'. Watch also for 'Foxfire Irish Moon' and 'Foxfire Destiny's Child' to be available soon. Lastly, don't forget to watch for the great streaker 'Christmas Tree Gala' this spring. These are all gorgeous hostas!

We will be vending at eight shows this year. Please check for dates and locations on our website: www.hostaplants.com





H. 'Red Cloud'



Nursery sales area

FEATURED LOCAL SOCIETY

Midland Hosta Society

Priscilla Kiehl, President
Akron, Ohio

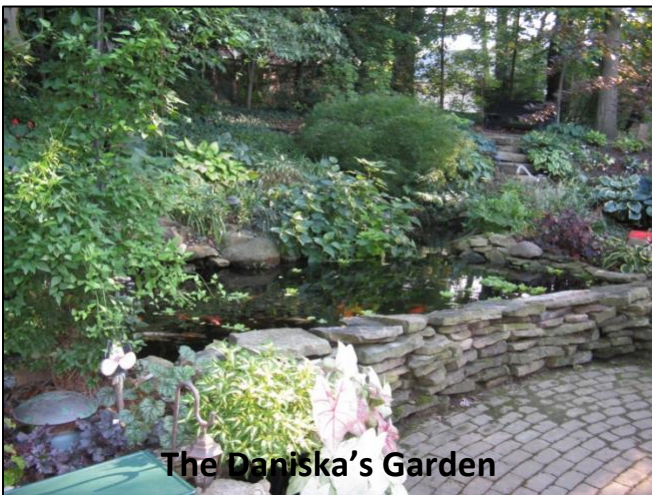
Website: www.midlandhostasociety.weebly.com

The Midland Hosta Society was founded in 1994 and is organized as a nonprofit, educational society to promote knowledge of and interest in the genus hosta, to encourage the development of new and improved varieties, and to promote its cultivation and usefulness in the landscape. Our club covers the NE Ohio and Western PA area.

MHS is affiliated with the Great Lakes Region IV Hosta Society (GLRHS) and the American Hosta Society (AHS). The MHS has regularly scheduled nationally-renowned speakers discussing hostas and their culture and appropriate companion plants. An auction is held each August, hosted by the Van Wade family. This event is also our fundraiser.

MHS meetings are held monthly – April through October at various member nurseries/garden centers and locations throughout NE Ohio and W Pennsylvania. At each meeting a member spot lights a Hosta of their choice!

Dues are reasonable at just \$10 a year for individuals and \$15 a year for couples/families. We are currently 85 members strong!



The Daniska's Garden



The Gentry Garden





Profiles



Danny Lawson
Editor, *The Online Hosta Journal*
Goddard, KS

Born and raised in the Wichita KS area, I love being in the middle of the country because you're already half way to wherever you want to go in the USA!

I am no different than most hosta fanciers, my first hosta was a gift from my sister Linda, a Master Gardener. I was not familiar with hostas but at my previous home she found the perfect spot for one – and it came back the next year looking bigger and better – what a great plant! I noticed at the nursery that they came in more than one color too, so I got one of each, a blue and a variegated to go with my green. My collection was now complete! Little did I know that I had taken my first step down that all too familiar “slippery slope.” When I was told there was a club for people who like hostas, I literally laughed out loud and thought *seriously* . . . a *CLUB*? Little did I know that I would become a member of the Wichita Hosta Society, then the newsletter editor, then the president, and then last year a board position with the AHS as Editor of *The Online Hosta Journal*, and now this year the Editor of the AHS *eNewsletter*.

My first gift hosta was after I had moved back home to become a caregiver for my aging parents. I thought this will last just a few months. Two years later I decided the little ranch house that held a family of six was not going to work for just the three of us. I decided to build a new home that would be handicapped accessible for my parents . . . and then for *me* a few years down the road. (I always have a plan!) I thought this was going to be great, new construction, an empty quarter-acre lot, nothing but dirt, I could do ANYTHING I wanted. I had budgeted \$2,000 for landscaping. Go ahead and laugh, I just didn't know back then. I will not tell you what I have in it now, but let's just say I could buy a new car . . . and a new truck.

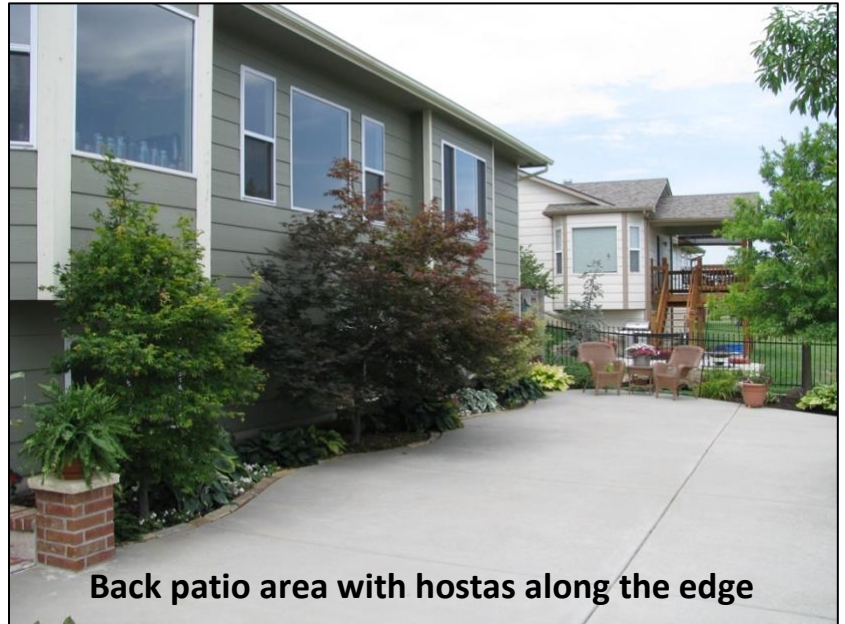


Front of my house at the end of year one

I am asked all the time which is my “favorite” hosta, I refuse to answer simply because I can't! Each hosta brings a unique quality to the garden bed it's in and compliments the other hostas nearby. Also with every convention I attend I discover another one I cannot live without and I bring it home with me. My garden design has evolved



My front porch



Back patio area with hostas along the edge

since first moving in, I had to start small because my new home had no trees, it had been a wheat field just the year before. There was no shade except on the north and east side of the house. I set out to “buy” shade in the form of large B&B trees. THEN I learned that not every tree is a “nice” tree to your hostas, so after a few seasons of learning that lesson, out came the chainsaw and time to start over in a few areas. I discovered “temporary shade trees” in the form of the Castor Bean plant. It grows quickly, loves our Kansas heat and provides shade for my hostas until the nearby trees are large enough to provide permanent shade. I also learned my koi pond was not deep enough. Two years ago I doubled the size of my pond and made it deep enough to support the koi through the winter. My lot backs up to about a 5 acre pond and there is a steep slope from the front yard down to the back. Down this slope I designed a stair-stepped water fall that has four falls, the last one splitting in the middle to form a very small island. The splashing sound is loud enough you can actually hear it from the front yard. I’m still learning about koi and water plants; I joined our local water garden society to help increase my knowledge in that area.

In the winter months I spend time on my other hobbies, I collect antique advertising and turn-of-the-century quartersawn oak furniture. I visit antique stores, spend time on eBay, and occasionally attend an auction. My house is kind of like a Cracker Barrel restaurant, just nothing hanging from the ceilings. In my “wild and younger” days I restored a few cars ranging from a ‘49 DeSoto to a ‘70 Chevelle SS454. I still love classic cars, but they are expensive and take up too much room to have an actual collection of them. However should I ever win the Lottery . . .

I still work full-time in the graphic arts/printing industry averaging over 60 hours a week and frequently work the weekends too. It’s a very stressful job, but I do love what I do, I must, I’ve done it now for over 30 years. It’s nice to come home to my sanctuary where I can be by myself and pull weeds, plant hostas, spot water items, feed the koi, listen to the birds sing, etc.

On a previous job I used to work with the blind. Each summer they would have a camp for the kids and I would invite them to my home for a cookout and a “Sensory Tour” through the gardens. They learned by a “hands on” approach about the seersucker texture of a hosta leaf, the exfoliating bark of a river birch, the petals and thorns of a rose bush, an ivy covered brick wall, the runners and fruit of a strawberry plant. But oddly enough they enjoyed walking barefoot in the grass the most! It was a very rewarding experience both for me and my fellow Wichita Hosta Society members who helped me host the event.

“Helping to make the world more beautiful . . . one hosta at a time!”



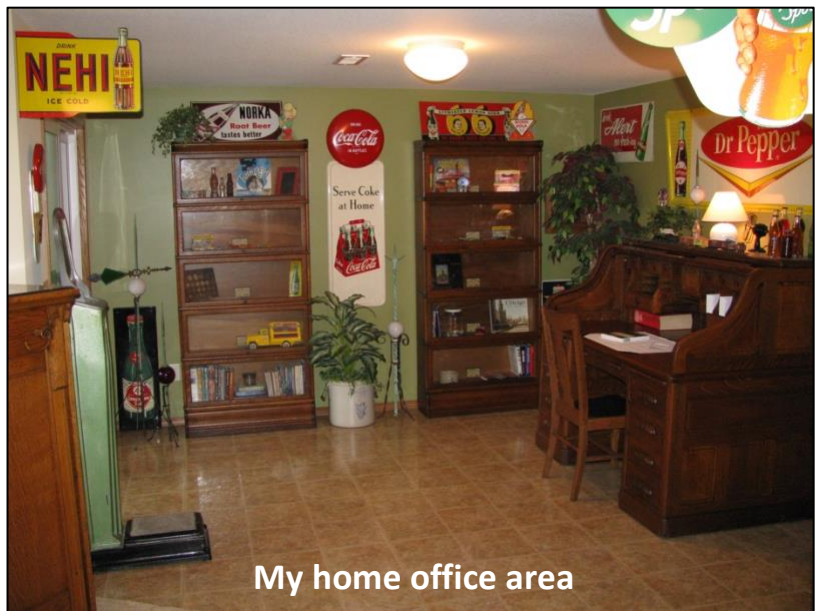
Now you see them . . .



now you don't, no more root competition!



H. 'First Blush' (1 year old)



My home office area



My front yard, June 2012



My potting bench



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June 12-15, 2019

Hostaffinity



**American Hosta Society
National Convention**

Radisson Convention Center
Green Bay, Wisconsin

Hosted by Green & Gold Hosta Society
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More information:
ahs2019event.org



2019 AHS Convention Registration Form

June 12 to 15 -- Hosted by Green & Gold Hosta Society of Northeastern Wisconsin

Radisson Hotel & Conference Center - Green Bay, WI

Check www.ahs2019event.org for Convention Details

Each Registrant must complete a separate form



Registrant Information for 2019 American Hosta Society (AHS) Convention

Name as you wish it to appear on badge: _____ First AHS Convention: Yes No

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

AHS Member: Yes No Midwest Hosta Society Member: Yes No Local Society Member: Yes No Society Name: _____

Registration Fees: Rates charged are based on date submitted or postmarked.

Check one Registration category:

- Early Registration.....7-1-18 to 1-31-19 \$189
- Regular Registration.....2-1-19 to 4-30-19 \$205
- Late Registration.....5-1-19 to 6-12-19 \$239

Check the optional cost items of your choice:

- Busing to Gardens (2 days busing and 2 box lunches) \$60
- Pig Roast & Botanical Garden Tour on Wednesday Night \$25

Total of Checked Boxes: \$ _____ 0

Payment:

Check to "Green & Gold 2019 AHS Convention" attached.

Credit/Debit card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Name on Card: _____

Visa Mastercard AmEx Discover PayPal

If paying via PayPal™, use the PayPal™ Option on the Registration Page to submit payment.

Meals

Friday Dinner Choice: Chicken Pork Vegetarian/Vegan/Gluten Free

Saturday Banquet Choice: Salmon Beef Vegetarian/Vegan/Gluten Free Not able to attend Saturday Banquet

Regarding Thursday lunch, bus box lunches or anyone with other dietary restrictions, explain your needs here: _____

Hosta Show, Judges' Clinics and Auction

Are you an AHS judge (Check no more than one): Provisional Senior Master

Are you willing to serve as: Judge Clerk Helper

Please refer to the show schedule online at www.ahs2019event.org for details or contact Chuck Zdeb at sczdeb@bellsouth.net or Pat Gwidt at patthen33@yahoo.com or 715-799-4521.

I plan to attend: Clinic I Clinic II Clinic III (Clinic I first-timer must purchase judge's handbook for \$10 at the clinic.)

Please indicate the approximate number of entries you'll submit in each division you plan to enter (Limit of 20 entries per registration for Division I).

I-Cutleaf _____ II-Containers _____ III-Troughs _____ IV-Education _____ VI-Artistic Design _____

Auction Donations: Yes, I will donate items -- Approximate number of plants: _____ Approximate number of non-plant items: _____

Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, 2040 Airport Dr, Green Bay, WI 54313 : Make reservations directly with the hotel to receive these rates.

Visit <https://www.ahs2019event.org/venue-lodging> for details or visit the Radisson Hotel direct registration link <http://www.radisson.com/ahs2019> or call 800-333-3333 and state you are with the American Hosta Society convention. Rates of \$105/single or \$115/double are valid for bookings until May 20, 2019 or until sold out.

Registration Submission

Download this registration form. Complete electronically or print and fill out. Email completed form to ahs2019reg@gmail.com or mail to "Germaine Schwaller, AHS 2019 Convention Registrar, N1492 Blue Heron Tr, Keshena WI 54135." By returning the registration form, you authorize us to charge your credit or debit card for the total amount due. You will receive an email confirming your registration. For cancellations, notify the registrar at ahs2019reg@gmail.com. Full refund offered before April 30. 50% refund between May 1 and June 1. NO REFUNDS after June 1. Registrations may be transferred without charge up to June 1. Questions, call Germaine Schwaller at 715-799-4343 or Judy Sytsma at 920-373-6083.

*"Submit" button should prompt to create a new email in your default email program, or to select a "Webmail" program. Select one to create an email with Registration form attached. Enter a message and "send" the email. If not prompted, manually submit the registration to ahs2019reg@gmail.com or print and mail as noted above.



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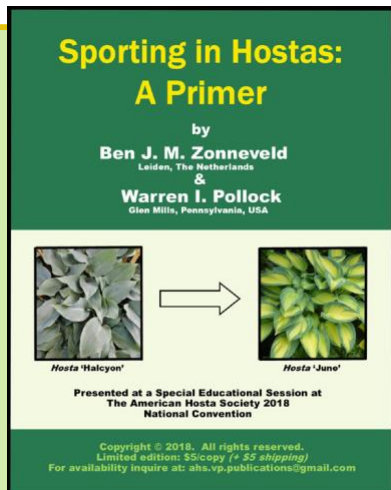


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AHS Membership



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), six 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 hosta in the hosta show.

Other membership benefits:

- 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.

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 application form on the next page, or to join online, go to:

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

American Hosta Society Membership Application

Name		
Street		
City	State	Zip
Country	Phone Number	
Email Address		

Make check payable to:

The American Hosta Society

Mail application to:

Sandie Markland
 AHS Membership Secretary
 P.O. Box 7539
 Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

[http://AHSmembershipSecretary@charter.net](mailto:AHSmembershipSecretary@charter.net)

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Membership Year = January 1 to December 31

Type of membership: Please circle New or Renewal

AHS eNewsletter, Winter – January 2019

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