



The American Hosta Society

January 2021

eNewsletter



H. 'Ripple Effect'

A. Bergeron 2008

(Photo by Kathie Sisson)

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President's Message

Andy Marlow, Hopkins, MN

The beginning of a new year and, thankfully, the end of an old year, is a time for both reflection and for looking forward. Reflecting back on 2020 is a pretty gloomy experience. The toll COVID-19 has taken on each of us and our nation will long be the hallmark of this year. Many have suffered loss of various kinds, and our economy has taken a severe hit. Fellowship has been largely denied to us. About the only positive impact has been that, forced to stay home and tend our hostas, many of our gardens have thrived.

So what will the new year bring? Certainly some positives. Vaccines may ease our precautions against COVID, and, just maybe, we can begin to gather together again. That's a question all of us in organized hostadom are struggling with at the moment. But there is as much uncertainty as there is hope. It's easy to celebrate the good times, and to be down during the bad times. But uncertainty is more difficult to cope with than either the good or bad times.

We like to plan ahead, but how far can we look and be certain circumstances will support what we'd like to do? Both the American Hosta Society and our regional and local societies are eager to get back to in-person meetings, garden tours, hosta sales, leaf shows and all the other activities that make our communal life so rich. We have deeply missed those things and long for their return. But as we try to map out 2021, that uncertainty hangs over our heads.

Of particular concern to the Board of Directors of AHS is the 2021 national convention planned for Kalamazoo, Michigan, in June. As we try to project what is possible, uncertainty rules. Will restrictions on travel and lodging and dining out have been lifted? Will enough people have received the various vaccines (which appear to be very effective) to provide enough protection for a large population? How will people feel about traveling some distance and congregating with several hundred others, even though they share the same interests?

It's because these questions exist that AHS and the Kalamazoo convention planners are struggling with how we should conduct our convention. It's hard to ask our members to continue to be patient while we try to work things out, but that's what we must do.

AHS Executive Vice President Tammy Borden is tasked with working with the local convention committee to provide us with the best experience possible. They are diligently going about this work and would greatly benefit from your support and good wishes. We plan to have a decision right around the beginning of the year as to whether we can mount an in-person event, or create something entirely new. We'll send out an email blast as soon as we have a firm decision.

I'm going to slip on one of my other hats for a moment and remind you that the deadline for the American Hosta Society/*The Hosta Journal* photo contest is December 31. Because of the crazy nature of this year, I will not be too stringent in enforcing the deadline, but try to get your photos in soon. All the details of the contest are listed in the spring 2020 *The Hosta Journal*, but feel free to email me if you'd like a copy of the rules (amhostasocpresident@gmail.com). Winners' photos will be posted in the spring issue of *The Journal* and receive recognition for AHS.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a wonderful holiday season, however you may find to celebrate it. May the new year live up to all your hopes and dreams.

Andy Marlow
AHS President



Hostas and Associates

Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

'Paul's Glory': 1999 Hosta of the Year

With a name like 'Paul's Glory,' you kind of figure that there is a Paul somehow involved with the plant. And right you are, for it was found in the garden of Paul Hofer by Peter Ruh and introduced by the duo in 1987. Since it was in the middle of a 'Perry's True Blue' they reasonably thought it was a sport. 'Perry's True Blue' is a *Hosta sieboldiana* 'Elegans' sport, but 'Paul's Glory' does not exhibit the characteristics of a true *sieboldiana*. The more likely scenario is that it grew from a seed of 'Perry's True Blue' that was pollinated by an unknown plant. So 'Paul's Glory' is most likely a *Hosta sieboldiana* hybrid. Mark Zilis surmises in *Mark Zilis' Field Guide to Hostas* that it is a hybrid between *H. sieboldiana* and a 'Fortunei' type. 'Paul's Glory' has fewer vein pairs and smaller, thinner leaves than *H. sieboldiana*.

'Paul's Glory' is a medium to large plant with corrugated leaves of heavy substance. They have a golden yellow center that changes to creamy white if the plant receives any amount of sun. The leaf has a wide blue-green edge that gradually changes to dark green in the summer. It is a vigorous grower and does best in part shade.

Flowers are pale lavender and bloom somewhere between late June and August, about three to four weeks later than when *H. sieboldiana* would typically bloom. They are not fragrant. Flower scapes are approximately 3 feet long. 'Paul's Glory' is both pollen and pod fertile. Nine plants are listed in the MyHostas Database as hybrids of 'Paul's Glory.' 'As You Like It' is a cross with 'Sunny Smiles' that Rod Lysne registered in 2019. Mark Zilis crossed 'Paul's Glory' with *H. yingeri* and got 'Class Act.' It is not registered. Jerry Hadrava registered 'Rosedale Rip Van Winkle' in 1999. It is a cross between 'Northern Halo' and 'Paul's Glory.' Other hybrids, with the pod parent unknown, include 'Alter Ego,' 'Glorious Gold,' 'Glossy Glory,' 'Gold Glory,' 'Hokey Pokey,' and 'Neon Glory.'



H. 'Paul's Glory'
(Photo by Glenn Herold)

'Paul's Glory' resembles the classic hosta 'Gold Standard,' but has much better substance and is less likely to suffer from sunscald. Also, 'Gold Standard' has a narrower green edge than 'Paul's Glory.' Several significant sports have emerged from 'Paul's Glory.' 'Chesterland Gold' has entirely gold foliage. 'Wheaton Blue' is completely blue. 'Peter Ruh' is the reverse of 'Paul's Glory,' having a gold margin. 'Orange Marmalade' is considered an improvement of 'Paul's Glory.' The center is bright gold and holds this color through the summer.

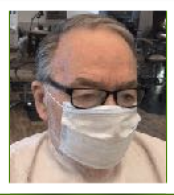
Paul Hofer was a nurseryman in Perry, Ohio near Lake Erie. Peter Ruh lived just 34 miles away in Chesterland. Paul's nursery, Antioch Farm Nursery, grew perennials on contract for Wayside Gardens which was then headquartered nearby in Mentor, Ohio. The two plantmen were frequent visitors to each other's gardens and it was during one of those visits that Peter discovered the plant in Paul's garden that led to 'Paul's Glory'. Thanks to Peter Ruh for finding this hosta and to Paul Hofer for making it available to the rest of us!



H. 'Gold Standard'
(Photo by Glenn Herold)



H. 'Wheaton Blue'
(Photo by Tom Micheletti)



GO HOSTAS!

Warren Pollock, Glen Mills, PA

GO HOSTAS!

Spring Frost Damage to Hostas Questions & Answers: A Guide with Solutions

This item is by Gail Russo, Cedarville, New Jersey. It is a continuation of her article, "Strange Spring Weather Causes Hosta Foliage Damage," in July 2020 edition of AHS eNewsletter, pages 8-19. There, Gail explained the frost damage she and husband David experienced last April. The Russo Garden, located in southern New Jersey, Zone 6b/7a, has about 2400 named hosta varieties and more than 1000 unnamed seedlings planted over three acres. At the 2018 AHS National Convention in Philadelphia, it was on special tour. Gail is a frequent AHS Facebook Page user.

The year 2020 shaped up to be one for the record books in many ways. The COVID-19 crisis brought the entire world to a standstill: schools closed, recreational activities ceased and professional sporting events were cancelled. The livelihoods of many citizens worldwide were placed on pause. We found ourselves quarantined to our homes and cut off from loved ones and society. But we are among the fortunate ones, because we are gardeners, and this activity can be conducted in your private yards while under quarantine, with no risk for contamination. With parks and gyms restricted or closed, this is our ideal exercise and is vital to our wellbeing. We also experienced the AHS National Convention being cancelled, so our own gardens have become the ultimate place to enjoy and beautify in our newly found time.



Gail Russo
(Circa 2018;
photographer unknown.)

With COVID-19 in the headlines worldwide, Mother Nature seems determined not to be outshone. The weather for 2020 is in the record books, beginning with the winter weather. Because hostas require a period of cold weather to survive, virtually all of us were accustomed to snow in varying normal yearly accumulations. As it turned out, many gardeners enjoyed one of the mildest winters on record, with less than normal snow accumulations and overall warmer days this winter.

Due to this mild winter, many of us enjoyed seeing our spring ephemerals a month or two earlier than normal. And following in turn, our hosta pips emerged earlier than normal, with some areas reporting fully leafed out hostas a month early. We could get into our gardens earlier than normal and make our gardens all we ever dreamed of. With the world in turmoil, Mother Nature decided to throw us all a curve ball to remain relevant. With all but the northernmost states and Canada

reporting fully leafed out hostas, many of us suddenly faced frost and freeze warnings for several days in a row. Due to this mild winter, many of us enjoyed seeing our spring ephemerals a month or two earlier than normal. And following in turn, our hosta pips emerged earlier than normal, with some areas reporting fully leafed out hostas a month early. We could get into our gardens earlier than normal and make our gardens all we ever dreamed of. With the world in turmoil, Mother Nature decided to throw us all a curve ball to remain relevant. With all but the northernmost states and Canada reporting fully leafed out hostas, many of us suddenly faced frost and freeze warnings for several days in a row.

A gardener's worst nightmare, especially for the hosta enthusiast, was suddenly looming in the forecasts across many of the states. Social media was suddenly ablaze with questions about how to protect hostas in extreme spring weather. Advice was being offered by experts and novices. With so much conflicting advice, the same questions were being asked repeatedly. Nobody wanted their horticultural activity destroyed overnight. Quick! What to do? Help!

After the extreme weather occurred, the experiences of many hosta gardeners across the country were compiled, and a guide prepared answering the most frequently-asked questions regarding the survival of hostas in extreme spring weather conditions. Included were tried and true methods, along with those that did not work, and how to determine when they are needed. This information will be helpful in 2021 if there is a spring weather problem.

QUESTION 1 - Does wind chill matter if it's forecasted to be above freezing temperatures with wind chills below freezing?

Wind chill is how cold the air "feels" outside, based on wind speed and the current temperature. For example, the outdoor temperature may be 40° F (4.4° C), but with the wind speed factored in it may feel like it is 32° F (0° C) outside. When it comes to our plants, left outside in the garden, wind chill alone should not have any real effect. Plants respond to the actual ambient air temperature, rather than how cold it feels to humans and animals. So if the forecast with wind chill is 32° F but the temperature is 40° F, the plants behave according to the 40° F temperature. Wind should be taken into account for its drying effect over time (desiccation), not for temperatures.

QUESTION 2 - Does frost damage the leaves to where mush occurs or does only freezing temperatures do this? What is the difference between the two?

A freeze is a period when it's cold enough to cause ice crystals to form inside plants. Frost technically refers to the silvery coating of ice crystals that forms on plants if a freeze occurs when there's lots of water vapor in the air. Gardeners often use the terms interchangeably to refer to a cold spell. A freeze is any temperature below 32° F (0° F), the freezing point of water.

A light frost or light freeze refers to temperatures that fall just a few degrees below 32° F for only a few hours. A hard frost or freeze refers to temperatures that fall below 28° F (-2.2° C) for many hours. Whether that cold air damages your plants depends on how long it lasts, how low the temperature drops to and if the plant is protected in any way.

Plant cells are filled with water. When that water turns to tiny shards of ice, they slice open the cell walls and ruin the plant tissue. Frost damage in plants results from the liquid inside individual cells freezing and forming ice crystals. The crystals then rupture the tough cell walls. When the cell walls

open, the fluid inside will not be contained. So when the ice melts, the fluids simply drain out. Freeze damage occurs when temperatures sustain at or below 32° F and is progressive within plants. Hosta leaves will become darker with a glassy look and turn mushy when freeze damage occurs.

QUESTION 3 - At what temperature/conditions does frost form?

What is the temperature? If at sunset the temperature is close to freezing, there is a better chance for the formation of frost. The temperature reported by your weather reporter is measured at 4 feet (1.2m) above the ground. So, if the forecast is for 39° F (3.9° C), the ground may be close to freezing.

How fast is the wind blowing? A strong wind inhibits the cooling of the surface and, thus, of frost forming.

What sort of cloud cover is there? Clouds are good emitters of infrared energy, so they mitigate against the energy losses on the ground at night. If it is cloudy, and will stay cloudy, then the likelihood of frost is reduced. If it is to be a clear sky night, then frost is more likely to develop.

What is the condition of the ground? If the soil is warm and moist, then conduction will transfer heat upwards from below the surface and inhibit the development of frost. Know your backyard topography. Cold air will drain into local low spots making them colder.

How long will the night be? The longer the night, the more time the ground has to cool and so the colder it will get.

What is the dew point? If the dew point is above 45° F (7.2° C) at sunset, then you are probably OK. Below 40° F dew point, you will probably see frost form if the other conditions are good.

Frost can form if the temperature is forecasted above 32° F because of radiational cooling. Cold air is heaviest and it settles to the lowest point or on the ground surface. So the coldest place is near the ground and not where weathermen have their equipment, 4 feet above the ground. With little wind to mix the air and little moisture to aid in retaining warmth, the ground cools quickly with the ground warmth rising and cool air settling down on your plants.

QUESTION 5 - Can I cover my hostas to protect from sub-freezing temperatures?

Placing covers over your hostas when the temperature is forecasted to fall below 32° F will help by retaining the warmth from the ground. ***The key is to make sure your cover is securely fastened to the ground to prevent cold air from mixing. Also, the leaves of your plants should not touch the cover or they could be damaged by the cold temperature of the cover. "Tenting" or placing objects taller than the plant to hold up the cover helps with this.***

QUESTION 6 - Does spraying with water stop frost/freeze damage?

Irrigation sprinklers can be used to protect plants from freezing when the forecasted lows are just below freezing. Irrigation will result in severe damage when the low is below the temperature you can protect to or if you cannot maintain it.

When you use sprinklers to prevent freezing injury, you are using the energy that water releases when it freezes, and changes from a liquid to a solid, that is, to keep the temperature in the ice right at the freezing point, 32° F. ***As long as you keep the ice wet, the temperature will stay at 32° F.*** If the ice dries off and water starts to evaporate from the ice, the ice will get colder than the air temperature as it evaporates.

Once you start the process, you cannot stop spraying water until the ice starts to melt on its own, which is generally when the sun rises and the air temperature rises above freezing. ***It is not recommended to use this method if a freeze warning is in place. Use it only during a frost warning where the temperature will not fall below the freezing point.*** Most homeowners attempting this method will use their lawn sprinklers that run on a cycle. The time elapsed between cycles could be enough to allow the ice to dry and damage.

Using this method to prevent damage from a light frost with air temperatures above freezing is appropriate. Wetting the leaves will prevent ice from settling on the leaf surface and will rinse away any that lands before the sun rises and burns the leaf. If you use the sprinkler method for a frost warning and the temperatures happen to fall below freezing, your plants will become encased in ice and you will cause them more damage than if you had done nothing at all.

QUESTION 7 - If it's just pips and no unfurled leaves, do I need to cover them?

Pips, or emerging eyes, are the leaves of the hosta rising from the soil to form round, pointed cones. The outer layer of the cone is the sheath. Inside the sheath are the furled leaves of your hosta. The sheath protects the tender leaves from the elements until the cone has risen enough and the leaves are ready to unfurl. It is at this time that the sheath parts open to release the leaves.

The sheath is much hardier than leaves and can withstand a frost or light freeze without much damage. If the sheath has cracked open and leaves have begun to unfurl, it is susceptible to frost and freeze damage and should be protected the same as completely leafed-out plants to prevent damage. In many cases, if they are just emerging pips, you can top them with mulch or dried leaves to protect them. ***If you do this, be sure to later remove the mulch piled up around the crown to prevent blight or rot.***

QUESTION 8 - If accumulating snow is forecasted, is there anything I can use to protect unfurled hosta leaves?

Snow, by definition, is accompanied by below freezing temperatures, so you would also have freeze warnings in effect. The only way to protect unfurled leaves from snow cover is to completely cover the leaves with pots, garbage cans or boxes that can withstand weight or to "tent" covers tall enough to allow for snow to slide off without accumulating

on top. If you do not tent the cover, it will squash the leaves underneath and the cold cover touching the leaves will damage them. It may not damage every leaf, but many will be damaged, especially if the snow stays on top of the cover for a long time. The covers would also need to be secured to the ground to prevent cold air from invading the warmer soil air.

QUESTION 9 - Should the damaged leaves be cut off, or just left alone?

If you need to remove damaged leaves—and how much to remove—depends on the extent of damage. If the leaf has light frost damage, there might only be darker spots on the otherwise normal leaves. These spots are dead tissue. But if the majority of the leaf is undamaged, you should leave it alone. It would still have enough leaf surface to continue photosynthesis and remain healthy. Remove it when enough new leaves have grown to support the plant. If the leaf has turned darker than normal, it is badly damaged and will turn to mush soon. These leaves should be removed.

If the pips were fully unfurled and the plant was fully leafed out, it may be necessary to remove each damaged leaf at ground level. If the pips were partially unfurled, you will see the twisted cone of future leaves in the center of the leaf petioles.

First, cut off any damaged full leaves to prevent them from drying out on top of new leaves and trapping them from emerging. Next, examine the remaining pip. If the tips of the unfurled leaves are damaged, the pip needs to be cut to allow the undamaged part of those leaves to unfurl. Start by cutting down ½ inch of the pip and continue until you see the twisted cone of leaves is undamaged and a normal color. These leaves will unfurl normally, although they will be half leaves because they were cut. It may be necessary to cut the entire pip to prevent crown rot.

Always remember to practice safe cutting procedures by sanitizing the blade between plants to prevent HVX, other viruses and bacteria transmission, if they should be present.

QUESTION 10 - After damage is evident and I have removed leaves, will my hosta die or will it come back? Do I need to fertilize it more to “help it”?

When a fully leafed-out plant is damaged and has been cut down, the roots are still untouched and presumably healthy. The plant will regenerate leaves to survive. It could be the remaining pips for this year to emerge, or it could be next year’s dormant buds that emerge. In this case, the plant will grow new leaves, but they will be much smaller for the next few years as it recovers. If the plant was a brand-new seedling, it may not have enough growth to recover. Also, if the plant’s roots were recently damaged by voles or by dividing, the plant may not survive.

Fertilizing the damaged plant with leaves regenerated can be beneficial.

QUESTION 11 - If my fully leafed hostas already suffered a freeze and recovered, can they suffer more damage in the same year and survive?

The more damage and recovery a hosta undergo, the weaker the plant’s reserves are. When the hosta is forced to regenerate damaged leaves in order to survive, forced up are dormant buds that were destined to be a later flush or next year’s growth. If the only growth available is next year’s dormant buds and they are all damaged this year, the hosta may not survive.

If the plant was very healthy and there are dormant buds remaining, then it will survive a second freeze though it will be much smaller for a few years. If the particular hosta is not a vigorous variety and has been struggling over the years, or has recently been damaged such as by voles or rot, it likely will not survive a second freeze. If the hosta is a very young seedling, it will not have had time to generate sufficient roots or crown to survive.

QUESTION 12 – What should I use to cover my leafed-out hostas if spring frost weather is forecasted in 2021 – and in later years, also?

The comprehensive report of the collected data results, with numerous photos of items used to cover/protect hostas and suggestions of “what’s the best and inexpensive methods,” will be in the next edition of *AHS eNewsletter*, April 2020. Look for it in the *Go Hostas!* column.

(EDITOR’S NOTE: In case a spring 2021 frost occurs in late March this year, the April 2021 AHS eNewsletter will be issued in MID-MARCH. Normally it would be April 1st.)



Best Hosta Cultivar Names and Acronym BME?

In *Go Hostas!* column in November 2020 *AHS eNewsletter*, I asked readers what “the best hosta cultivar name ever” was and whether they liked the acronym BME for *H.* ‘Blue Mouse Ears’. Response by December 1st was requested.

Currently, membership in The American Hosta Society is about 1700. I thought *at least three percent* of the membership would respond. You don’t have to be a rocket scientist or math wizard to do the calculation: That’s just some 50 folks!

Well, *there were less than 10 responders!* Yes, indeed, I was surprised and, of course, disappointed at the extremely poor response. **Since so few people expressed their opinions, no significant conclusions concerning the two queries can be made.**

Nonetheless, there are some items I want to highlight.

A couple responders stated that they agreed that ‘Blue Mouse Ears’ may be the best cultivar name ever, as Bob Solberg and I suggested in the last *Go Hosta!* column. That’s what I expected since every hosta fancier probably knows this exceptional mini hosta and adores it.

But contrastingly, Dave Jennings (The Hosta Cottage at Woodfield Estate, Mechanicsville, New York) thought the best name ever is Mildred Seaver’s magnificent *H.* ‘Spilt Milk’ registered in 1999. Pollinated by bees, its parentage is unknown but thought to have *H. sieboldiana* background.

The huge appeal of The Queen of Hosta Hybridizers’ famous epithet is it is ‘Spilt Milk’ not ‘Spilled Milk’. *Spilt* and *spilled* both are the past tense and past participle of the verb *to spill*. *Spilt* is preferred in British English; *spilled*, in American English. Moreover, some language authorities consider *spilt* a spelling mistake if used in American English.



Spilt milk is the perfect descriptor of this hosta’s blue-greenish leaves’ unique white streaked and speckled variegation. Had Mildred named it *H.* ‘Spilled Milk’ instead, it’s likely the seedling would not have been as famous and popular.

Because *spilt* is such an odd, distinct and seemingly foreign (exotic) word—at least on this side of the Big Pond, the cultivar name ‘Spilt Milk’ has had premium recognition and prominence. For the first ten and more years that it was available in the trade it commanded high prices. A large clump got considerable awe in gardens—and still does.

Dave Jenning’s response made me review my selection of *H.* ‘Wheee!’ as the second “best hosta cultivar name ever” mentioned in the previous *Go Hostas!* column. After considerable deliberation, I now think it should be *H.* ‘Spilt Milk’.

[As an aside, I’m going to take a nostalgic moment to insert that Mildred Seaver, holding her award-winning leaves of *H.* ‘Sea Gold’ at the 1985 AHS National Convention, is the front cover photo of the Spring 1986 *The Hosta Journal* (Vol. 17, No. 1). I was editor of that publication and a very talented, commercial design artist did the design. Mildred Seaver and Alex J. Summers, AHS’s principle founder and first president, are the only people whose photos have been on *THJ*’s cover. Both have passed away.]

Other “best names ever” cited by responders were *H.* ‘Praying Hands’, registered by Gerry Williams in 1996, and *H.* ‘Curly Fries’, registered by Bob Solberg in 2008. *Praying hands* perfectly describes the hosta’s upright folded leaves and *curly fries* suits the hosta with its long, narrow wavy leaves. Others were Mildred Seaver’s *H.* ‘Humpback Whale’ registered in 2012, Don Rawson’s *H.* ‘Rhino Hide’ registered in 2007, *H.* ‘Striptease’ registered by the Thompsons in 1991 and *H.* ‘Alligator Shoes’ registered by “Herb” Benedict and Handy Hadfield in 2009.

As indicated initially, response to the BME acronym for ‘Blue Mouse Ears’ query was paltry also. Of the eight responders, four were not in favor and four were. Most interesting—and worth further investigation, *those not in favor were fairly old-time AHS members; those in favor, fairly new or not AHS members.* (Non-members could respond since *AHS eNewsletter* is online, no cost and available to everyone.)

In the November *Go Hostas!* column, I explained that BME is an acronym and an acronym is an abbreviation made up of the parts of the phrase it stands for *and pronounced as a word.* One respondent scolded me considerably, remarking that “in all the years you have been using BME in emails to me, I had no idea that you considered it anything other than the initials B-M-E. How was I to know you were pronouncing it *be-me*? Take note: For many people BME is merely initials not *be-me.*”

That’s a valid criticism, appreciated and accepted with great gratitude. Yes, indeed, I possibly may not have satisfactorily explained how BME should be pronounced in my columns in AHS publications.

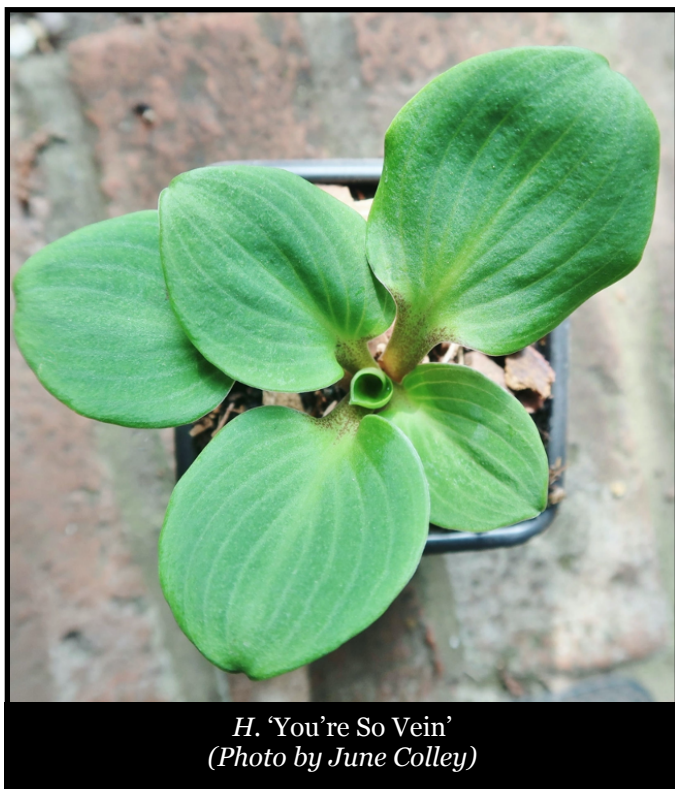
Importantly, the respondent further remarked: “For me, the full name ‘Blue Mouse Ears’ should be used for all but the most *very* casual emails. Newsletters, catalogues, Journal articles and especially verbal conversations should use the full name.”

Another responder said: “No acronyms for hosta! As an AHS member with 4 family members who either work for one of those acronym agencies or for a tech company that has government contracts, I hope never to hear another acronym. When we are together, I understand about 10% of the conversation, if that. Acronyms will take all of the fun out of the hosta world. Keep the name ‘Blue Mouse Ears’.”

Then there were these responses: “Keep BME. It reflects today’s hosta world.” And “I like saying *be-me.* Blue Mouse Ears is too long!”

In concluding, I have two commentaries. One is from an official hosta registration; the other, from the huge commercial advertising world.

In 2012 Tony Avent of Plant Delights Nursery in Raleigh, North Carolina, registered *H.* ‘You’re So Vein’. Interestingly—and ironically, also, pollen parent is listed as “seedling BME.” In other words, BME was accepted as a suitable cultivar name by then Hosta Registrar Kevin P. Walek! (If you’re wondering whether BME should be changed to ‘Blue Mouse Ears’ in this registration, my opinion is no. Leave it as is.)



H. 'You're So Vein'
(Photo by June Colley)

My other commentary is from a big article in December 1, 2020 edition of *The New York Times*, page B1. The heading is “The Strange Language of Modern Marketing.” Explored are terms from the world of marketing where language is shaped with the certain goal in mind: persuading you to buy things.

One of the terms mentioned was “TLA,” a noun. It stands for “three-letter acronym.” Examples cited were B2B (shorthand for business-to-business”), B4H (brands for humans), OOH (out of home), OTT (over the top). A marketing guru explained: “Why spell out an idea when you can express it in a TLA?”

Is BME a TLA? Yes, I’d say so.

FINALE: If anyone has more to contribute concerning “the best cultivar name ever,” I invite them to submit their opinions to *Go Hosta!* My intent is for this column to be an exchange of information among hosta folks, and this topic deserves more discussion. *The floor is open.*

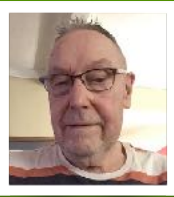
As for acronyms for other hosta names than ‘Blue Mouse Ears’, it is highly unlikely there will be any. *S & S* is an occasionally used abbreviation for *H. 'Sum and Substance'*, registered by Paul Aden in 1980 but originated by Florence Shaw. However, *S & S* is not strictly a TLA.

I do not intend to use BME anymore in AHS publications without explanation. But I do intend to use BME in emails with correspondents who fully accept it as a TLA—even though possibly not knowing how to pronounce it correctly. *BME is an extremely useful shorthand.*

Upward and onward.

GO HOSTAS!





Book Notice

Clyde Crockett, Carmel, IN

The Hostapedia **An Encyclopedia of Hostas**

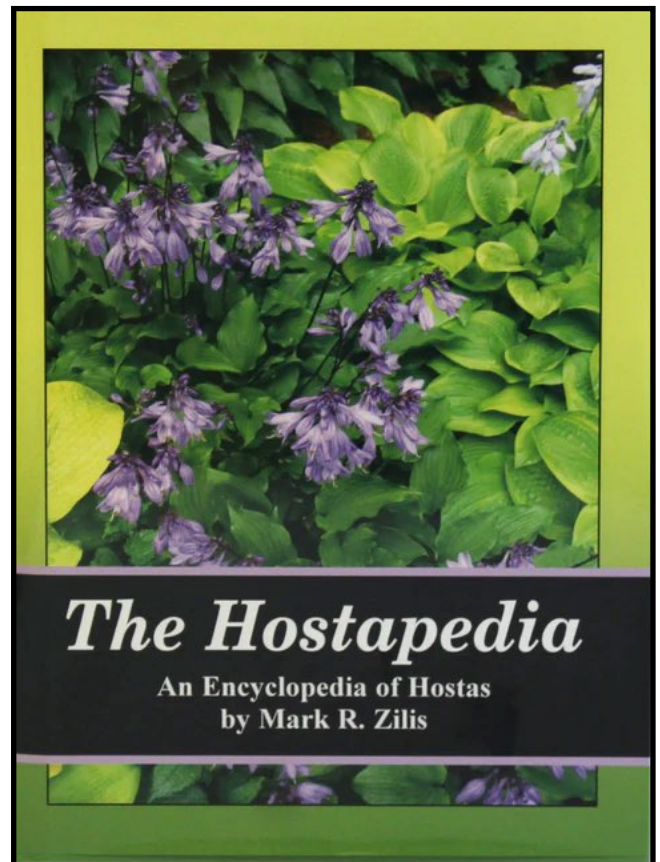
Published by Q & Z Nursery, Inc. 2009
Written By Mark Zillis

When I see the word “encyclopedia,” several thoughts and images come to mind: big, heavy, complete, learned, informational, and the like. Mark Zillis’s ***Hostapedia*** is encyclopedic in all these senses, and more.

It is a massive work of some 1,125 pages and it is definitely heavy. I hate to admit that I could barely carry it to the house from our mailbox. Another positive aspect is that it is visually attractive and the accompanying photos would qualify this book for the proverbial coffee table. But you need to put this tome in a place of easy accessibility, unless you’re into weightlifting. This reference book all of us Hostaphiles have always wanted - a true encyclopedia, and Mark Zillis is to be congratulated, nay, honored, for giving us his magnum opus.

Sometimes, perhaps often, we skip the introduction of a book even those about hostas, but this one is a must reading. Here we find fascinating material not only what cameras Mark used, but also the numerous types of film that highlighted the subjects. It also includes valuable information on hybridization, fertilization, and my favorite, how hostas are named and words used to name cultivars: best hosta names, series names, categories of words used in names, such as food and drink, or by the location and other categories. Ordinarily a book review would omit these details, but we also have sections that include useful materials on hosta societies, hosta publications, patented plants, foreign names and other details about the genus. Don’t pass it by.

Inevitably, there would be comparisons between *Hostapedia* and *The Genus Hosta* by George W. Schmid. What distinguishes the Zillis work lies in the details that accompany the listing of hostas, the core comprising over 1,000 pages, and each page listing, accompanied by appropriately descriptive photos of numerous plants. Here is the big difference and what to me makes this book importantly



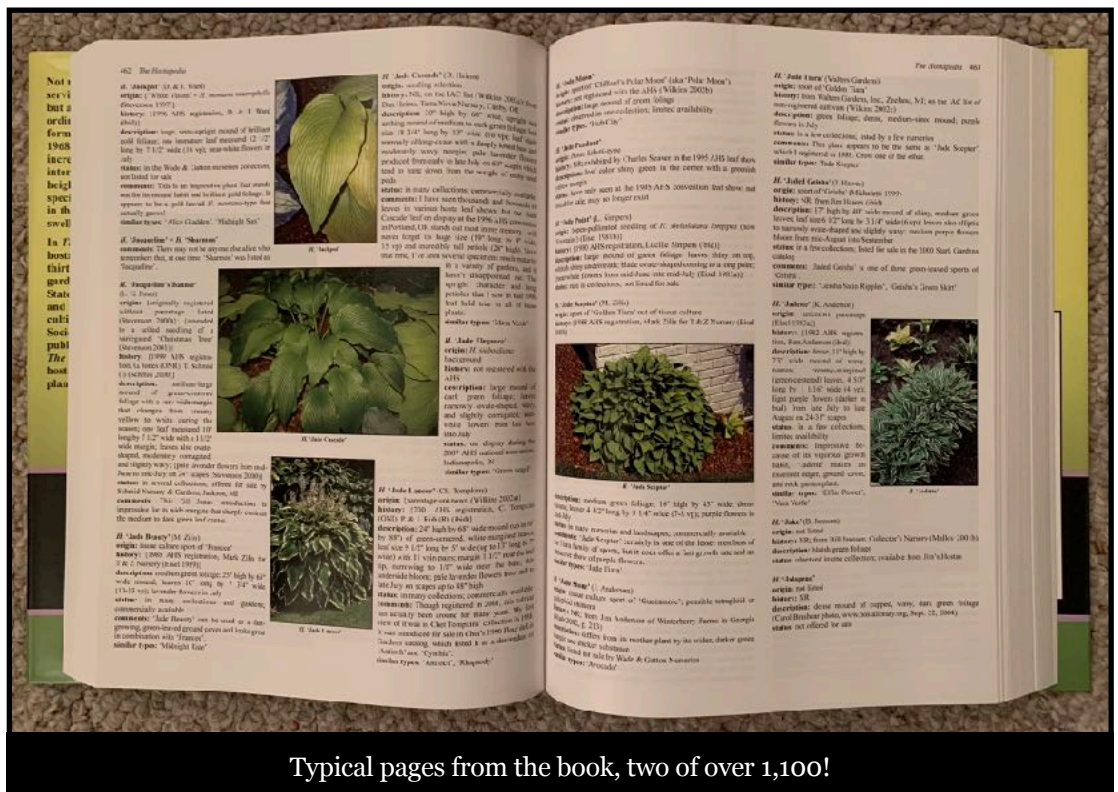
unique: to be sure, the descriptions are of the usual ordinary type, with the typical details as to origin, history and description, color, leaf size, etc, but, then we have something delightfully different: “status” and “comments.” Let me give you an example of one. Let’s see, hmmm, what about *H. ‘Clyde Crockett’* to pick one at random. After the usual information we have the status, “Not for sale.” Then the comments: “‘Clyde Crockett’ had been growing in the originator’s collection 18 years before registration.” Each entry is accompanied by these intriguing comments. You get to know fully the hosta, all about it. Take a look at entry for ‘Enchantment’ “status: observed in one collection in 2004; limited availability.” Comment: “I’ve only seen this cultivar in one garden and on *The Hosta Library* website, but it appears very similar to ‘Fortunei Albomarginata’ in most respects, with the notable exception of a wider white margin. Zelenka Nursery described [it] as having leaves 50% larger than *Albomarginata*. I’m not sure if they were referring to ‘Undulata Albomarginata’ (yes, 50% larger) or ‘Fortunei Albomarginata’ (no, about the same size.” That is commentary so sparkling with a perfect and pleasing conversational tone. It is so educational and appreciated in getting the whole picture that he paints so well!

It is the deep detail including the history of the naming of a cultivar, where it was first seen by the author, it’s availability (which frequently tells us that it isn’t for sale and even whether it is doubtful it still exists or ever existed) that puts this book in a special category while still adding his subtle suggestions as to a plant’s worthiness. These qualities make this even better than an encyclopedia. It is a *Hostapedia par excellence!*

With its complete bibliography, a general index and a hosta name index to boot, we can confirm that this is a classic. Branded!

Happy, Healthy, Helping Others,

Clyde



Typical pages from the book, two of over 1,100!



And In Other Hosta News . . .

January Online Auction

Hard to believe, yet one more year has elapsed and brings us to our annual American Hosta Society on-line auction. Events such as this require the efforts of many volunteers, representing numerous hours of dedicated time. Thanks go out to Josh Spece, AHS webmaster, who created the site, and is vital to spreading the information. We are fortunate to have Jojo back with us to give you a break from my writing with far less flare. No auction is ever successful without all those choosing to support the AHS with their bidding and donation(s). Consider one or both ways of participation. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, January 9th through Saturday, January 23rd, 2021**, to sit down at your computer screen for a break from winter cabin fever with dreams of the coming spring. Bid high. Bid often!

This year has been particularly unusual and largely unpredictable. The National AHS convention plus regional and many local hosta gatherings were canceled, and the future of each remains undetermined for now. An effect of the convention cancellation eliminated the society's main fundraising event. The 2021 Online Auction has never been more critical for the health and stability of the AHS.

I have personally gone through the availability of both plants and seeds for the coming auction. It is still October. I encourage all to do the same while the visual queues are still available. You may begin sending your donations any time beginning now. Include a paragraph description and digital photo. I can help with both of these, often getting back to you via email with questions or verification of info.

All proceeds go directly to the society's treasury. Auctions are a primary source of revenue to bring one of the world's best horticultural journals to its members and libraries across North America and abroad. *The*

Hosta Journal can only stand to increase its standing as a premier publication as a result of all of your support!

This event is open to non-members as well as members. You are encouraged to invite friends to join in and, at least, enjoy the process. This year many are limiting their travels and getting out and about far less than previous years. Gardening has been a reliable activity for many of us. Reach out to others you think may be interested in participating.

News is distributed via email notices pre-auction and on the AHS website come January. Have your friends enter the AHS website and send a message to the chair, Don Dean, requesting that your address be added to the mailing group, you could give them my email address being sure to tell them to add 2021 auction as the topic to avoid me thinking it is spam. Changed your service provider or have a new email address? Be sure to send this news to Don, as well.

Give the 2021 Online Auction a thought and consider joining in on the fun and entertainment when the plant world may seem to have stopped!

Don Dean
Online Auction Chair

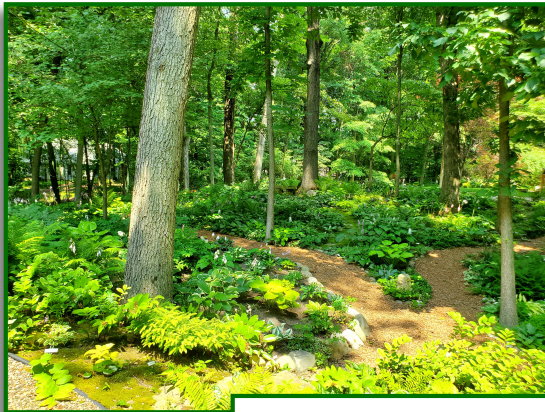


AHS ONLINE AUCTION





**AHS
National
Convention
Summer 2021
Kalamazoo, MI**



Please watch for a special edition email going out to members in early 2021!

Due to the evolving situation with the pandemic, plans are being evaluated to ensure the safety of participants in the 2021 AHS Convention in Kalamazoo, MI.

Watch for announcements after the first of the year.

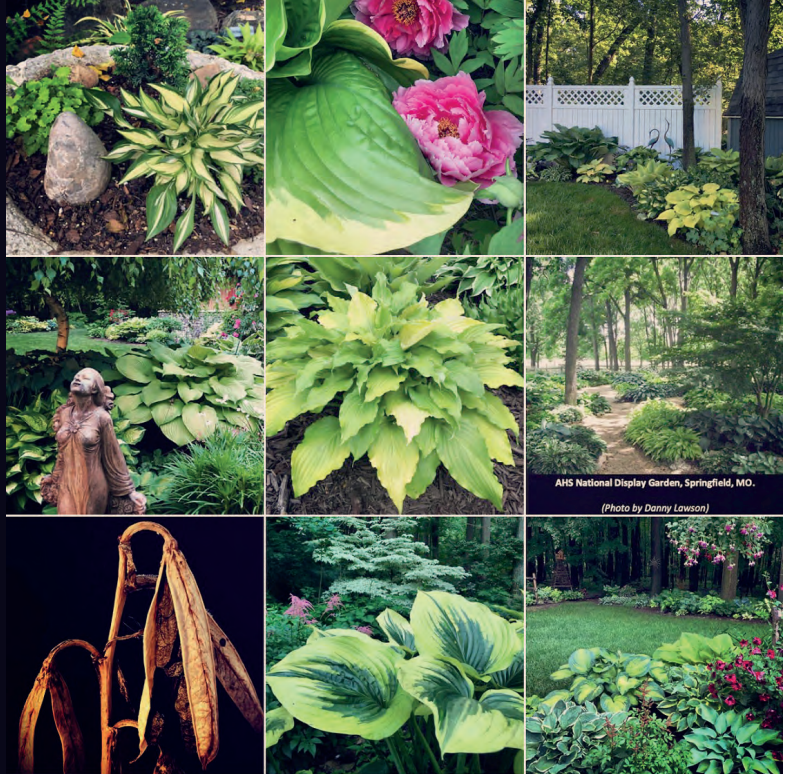


www.hosta.org

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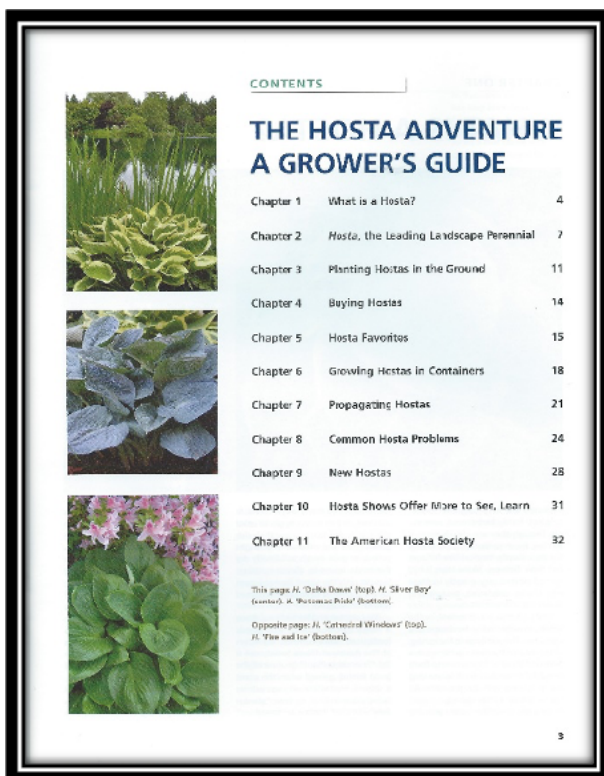
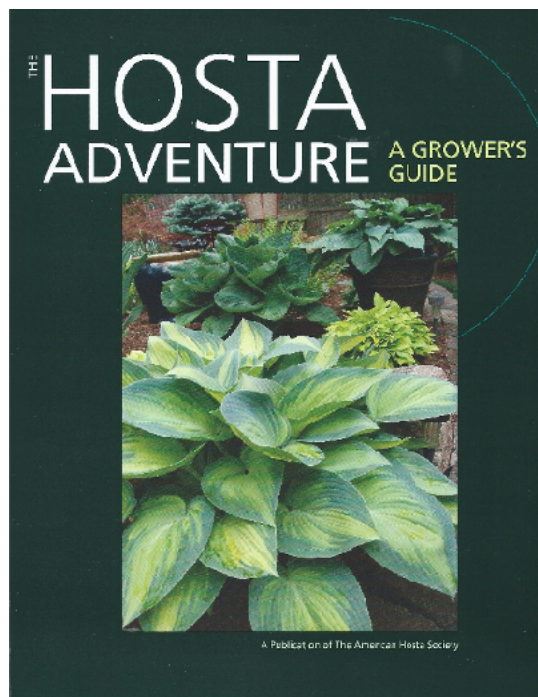
Discover beautiful
hosta images,
landscapes
and inspiring ideas.



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 set garden (photo by Larry Tucker).

The paper *H. 'Rival'* and *H. 'anding Lady'* (top left) are complementary with subtle and subtle variegation. *H. 'Autumn'* (top right) is a model of color texture and substance. *H. 'Circus'* (bottom right) commands attention. *H. 'mosses'* (*'mosses'*) (bottom left), with early emergence and staying power, is a potential favorite.



Stately *H. 'Cocoa Royal'* (top right) has been a classic for decades. *H. 'Kahuna'* (bottom right) creates a thick, bright border around larger plants. *H. 'mosses'* (bottom left) is harder than most look-alike because its speckled center holds more chlorophyll. *H. 'Robert Frost'* is a worthy namesake of the American poet laureate.

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:

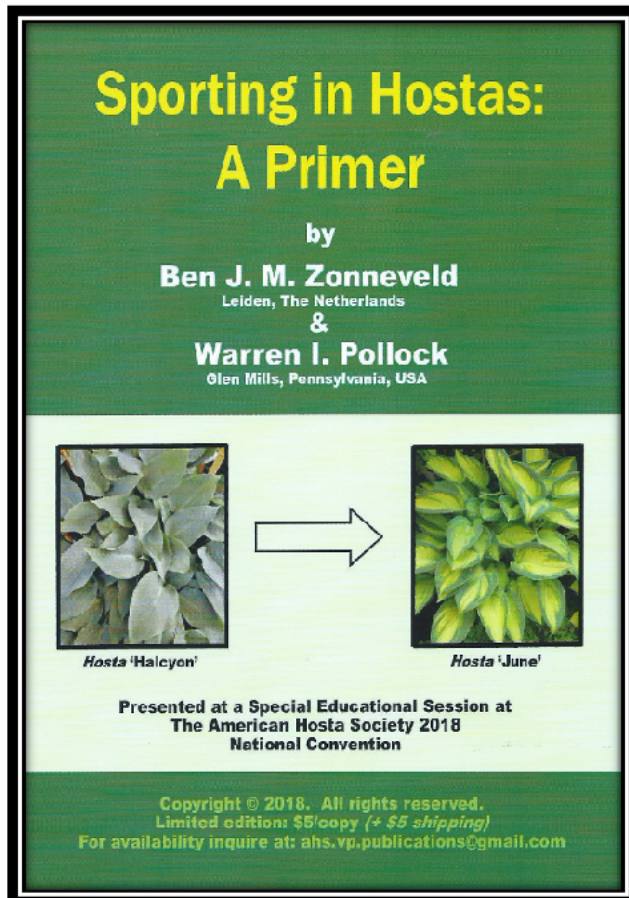
- 2-6 books, \$4.00 each + \$8.00 postage
- 7-30 books, \$4.00 each + \$15.00 postage
- 31-99 books, \$3.75 each + \$21.00 postage
- 100-499 books, \$3.25 each + \$27.00 postage

(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 VP Publications
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.

CONTENTS

Page 1	Basic Principles
Page 3	Sporting rules in hostas #1 - #11
Page 9	Examples of unusual sporting
Page 22	Appendix A: PowerPoint™ slides
Page 27	Appendix B: Hosta sporting statistics
Page 28	Appendix C Further reading

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 VP Publications
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>



Photo by Don Rawson

Give a gift membership!

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

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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	Individual	\$59	\$165	\$254	\$1,770
Rim	Family	\$62	\$175	\$267	
E-Membership*		\$20			

*Online digital versions only.

RENEW NOW AND SAVE! Add \$5 for renewals postmarked or entered online after March 1, 2021.

Check or money order in U.S. dollars and drawn on a U.S. bank.
 Make check payable to: American Hosta Society.

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 ENTIRE PAGE +
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 AHS Membership Secretary
 P.O. Box 7539
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