



The American Hosta Society

July 2021

eNewsletter



***H.* 'Urban Cowboy'**

M. Zilis / J. Boyden 2009

(Photo by Mary Vertz)

Table of Contents

Barry Ankney
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Mary Vertz
eNewsletter Editor

Josh Spece
Webeditor-in-Chief

Andy Marlow
Glenn Herold
Warren I. Pollock
Clyde Crockett
Featured Columnists

<u><i>President's Message - Andy Marlow</i></u>	3
<u><i>Hostas and Associates - Glenn Herold</i></u>	5
<u><i>GO HOSTAS! - Warren Pollock</i></u>	9
<u><i>Book Notice - Clyde Crockett</i></u>	32
<u><i>And In Other Hosta News</i></u>	34
<u><i>Advertising</i></u>	40

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President's Message

Andy Marlow, Hopkins, MN

Summer has made an early and abrupt appearance in Minnesota this year. It's still the first half of June and, as I write this, we're on the eighth day of a projected nine in a row of temperatures over 90 degrees. We hit 99 earlier in the week and it's a scramble to keep up with all the watering needs of my hostas and the other annuals and perennials in our gardens. Typically, we see highs in the upper 70s to low 80s this time of year. So far, my hostas have not suffered—in fact, they are looking about as well as they ever have. Too bad the weeds are doing the same!

I am looking forward to the AHS National Convention later this month. It will be a truly unique experience for us all. My great admiration does out to Don Rawson, Ed Steinbrecher, and their steering committee. There's a fairly complete template in place for organizing and running an in-person convention, but these fine folks are having to make it all up as they learn what needs to be done. I'm sure there will be technological challenges, but I'm also certain they will surmount those challenges and present us with a fulfilling experience.

It makes we wish we had been able to turn the 2020 convention into a virtual event, but we lacked two things the Michigan folks had: time to pivot to a plan B and people's comfort with virtual events. It became apparent the in-person convention would have to be cancelled just a couple of months before it was scheduled to take place. Not enough time to implement a plan B, even if we had had one. Who could have anticipated the events that were unfolding? When we polled our committee and the AHS Board of Directors there was practically zero enthusiasm for a virtual convention. In the intervening year, people have become relatively comfortable with using ZOOM and all its competitors to attend events that could not be held in person.

While I'm on the subject of conventions, I'd like all of our local and regional societies to do a little soul searching and see if you can't bring yourselves to

consider hosting an AHS convention. We have the next two years all lined up – the Twin Cities in 2022 and Ames, Iowa in 2023 – but after that the schedule is blank. Yes, it’s a bit of work. But there are lots of benefits, too. Bringing together a team to put on the convention draws more of your members into an active role in your society. You get to show off your city or region to AHS members from all across the country. National hosta vendors come to town so you can shop directly for some of the finest plants you’ll ever see. There is a template, in fact a whole book, on planning a convention, so you don’t have to invent the whole experience like Michigan is doing. If you have even an inkling that you would like or be able to host the 2024 convention, please contact Executive Vice President Tammy Borden.

There will be a changing of the guards of sorts at this year’s convention. Several long time AHS officers will be stepping down, some due to term limits and at least one after devoting almost two decades to the job. Most AHS offices are limited to two two-year terms, I want to thank Vice President Judging Michael Greanya, VP Genus Hosta Jim Henry, VP Member Services Sandy Klausman and VP Publications Barry Ankeny for their faithful service and thoughtful contributions to our society. But I especially want to thank Sandie Markland for serving 18 years as Membership Secretary. All through its ups and downs, Sandie kept accurate and timely track of our membership. She has been a vital member of our leadership team.



H. ‘Dancing Queen’
Photo by Mary Vertz



H. ‘Jabulani’
Photo by Mary Vertz



Hostas and Associates

Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

‘June’: 2001 Hosta of the Year

Anything that comes from 'Halcyon,' one of Eric Smith's famed Tardiana Group, and one of my favorite blue hostas, has got to be good. So, it is with 'June,' perennially #1 in the American Hosta Society Popularity poll. NEO Plants of England found it while propagating 'Halcyon' by tissue culture and registered it in 1991.



H. ‘Halcyon’
Photo by Glenn Herold



H. ‘June’
Photo by Glenn Herold

'June' is a medium sized hosta that matures rapidly into a clump. The blue-green color of 'Halcyon' remains on the half-inch margin, but the center changes from a golden green color when it first emerges to a medium green by mid-summer. The blue-green margin often streaks into the lighter center. The foliage has good substance and tends to be slug resistant.

Flowers appear in late July to mid-August. They are a pale bluish-lavender color. 'June' is both pod and pollen fertile. It is a good plant for breeding and as a source of sports. 'Strawberry Parfait' is a hybrid with yellow leaves that are a bit twisted and wavy. The base of the petiole has a rosy-pink color.

'Carolina Keepsake' is a cross between Bob Solberg's 'Corkscrew' and 'June.' This yellow hosta was the plant given to attendees of the 2015 AHS convention hosted by Bob in Raleigh, NC.



H. 'Carolina Keepsake'
Photo by Glenn Herold

At least 21 sports of 'June' are listed in the MyHostas Database. Included in these is 'Touch of Class,' a tetraploid plant with a wide margin and very thick substance. 'Ripple Effect' is an unusual sport with heavily rippled foliage and a narrow margin.

'May' has all gold foliage. 'June Fever' is a favorite plant among collectors. It has a narrow blue margin. At least 7 sports have been introduced from 'June Fever.' (I suppose you could call them grandchildren of 'June.')

'High Society' is a sport with a white center and the 'Halcyon' blue margin.



H. 'Remember Me'
Photo by Glenn Herold

A notable sport of 'June' is 'Remember Me,' found in the labs of Walters Gardens. It has a creamy white center surrounded by the blue-green edge. It was named in honor of Walters Gardens employee Sandy DeBoer, who died of breast cancer in 2001. A portion of the royalties from this plant are donated by Walters Gardens to the Susan Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. (On a side note, Susan's husband Stan lived just a few blocks from my wife Terry and I when we lived in Peoria, IL.)

Much has been written about Eric Smith, the man famous for harvesting the pollen of a *Hosta sieboldiana* 'Elegans' that reflowered in September and using it to fertilize the late-flowering 'Tardiflora' in 1961. From this cross he got 30 seedlings, 14 of which were glaucous. The best five were selected. The fate of four of these is unknown but the best one, named 'Halcyon', has gone down in history. No less than 93 hostas listed in the MyHostas database have 'Halcyon' in its genealogy, including the 2001 HOY, 'June'. 'Halcyon' was introduced to the public in 1974, after receiving the Royal Horticultural Society Award of Merit in 1971. No doubt the other glaucous plants from the original cross are still around since Smith was notorious for being a hosta hoarder and never throwing anything out.

Eric Smith was the herbaceous plant propagator at Hillier's of Winchester, England, nursery. He introduced many plants during his life but is best known for introductions of the genera *Helleborus* and, of course, *Hosta*. He was the first to cross *Helleborus niger* with *Helleborus lividus*, and also *Helleborus niger* with *H. x sternii*. This latter cross is now known as *Helleborus x ericsmithii*.



Helleborus x ericsmithii 'Ivory Prince'

Photo by Glenn Herold

In 1967 he opened a specialty nursery with Jim Archibald in Dorset, calling it “The Plantsmen.” Smith was not interested in being involved with the business itself, only wanting to work with the plants. This he did very well, introducing many plants in just a few short years. The Plantsmen went out of business in 1975 and Smith became the head gardener and propagator for Penelope Hobhouse at Hadspen House. Plants that he introduced while at Hadspen House often have the name “Hadspen” attached to the cultivar name. Some of these were introduced in collaboration with Alex Summers. Peter Ruh introduced 39 of Smith’s plants between 1979 and 1988. Eric Smith retired in 1980 and passed away in 1986.

'June' is a spectacular plant from the time it emerges in the spring until it goes dormant in the fall. Without the genius of Eric Smith, it would not have come into existence. No doubt this easily recognizable plant will continue to be a favorite for years to come.



H. 'Jabulani'
M. Zilis 2010
Photo by Mary Vertz



H. 'Dancing Queen'
K. Terpening / A. Scheer
Photo by Mary Vertz



GO HOSTAS!

Overwintering Hostas in Containers

For a special feature article in the next *Go Hostas!* column (October 2021 edition), I am collecting readers' experiences in overwintering hostas growing in containers.

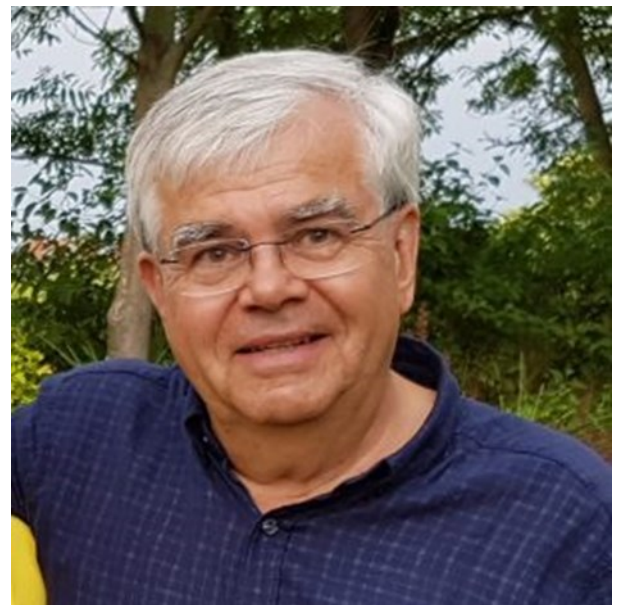
In winter *2020-2021*, *what were your methods?* Please click the following giboshiwip@aol.com to email me your experiences.



Foliage Differences: Hostas Grown in Full Sun and Full Shade

In 2017, the keen hosta fancier Vladimir Mirka, who lives in Kladno, Czech Republic, sent me photos of hostas he had grown in FULL SUN and FULL SHADE. Due to my mis-labeling, they sat in my computer files forgotten.

Last April, by chance, I discovered them. They contained phenotype observations not typically noted and discussed in the usual hosta reference sources. I thought



Vladimir Mirka

the information should be made available to hostadom right away.

So, I contacted Dr. Mirka, a retired anesthesiologist, and obtained permission to publish them in this column.

Phenotype is all the observable characteristics of an organism that result from the interaction of its genotype (total genetic inheritance) *with the environment*. Examples are leaf shape and clump morphology.

Vladimir told me, “When I started with hostas and read the available literature, I didn't understand why so much shading was recommended. My experiences with hostas were different. I sought an explanation.”

Czech Republic is in Central Europe. Kladno, with about 69,000 inhabitants, is in the Central Bohemian Region of the Czech Republic. It is 33 km/20.5 miles from Prague centrum. Vladimir's garden is in Hardiness Zone 6a at an elevation of 425 m/1394 feet. Minimum average winter temperature is -10° to -5° F/-23.3° to -20.5° C.

In the United States, Zone 6 includes states like Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Virginia and Tennessee where hostas are commonly grown. Since Czech Republic is in the same zone as they are, Vladimir concluded that Hardiness Zone was not the explanation.

The likely explanation occurred to him when he came across the illustrative article “Europe vs United States Sunshine Duration In Hours Per Year”.

Click the following to read the full article: <https://britishbusinessenergy.co.uk/sunshine-duration/>. It disclosed that **Czech Republic has almost half the amount of sun annually than the northern half of the United States**. This is because Europe is quite a bit further north.

Some examples: Edinburgh has 1,458 hours of sunshine per year and Lon-

don has 1,633 hours, while Columbus, Ohio, has 2,182 hours of sunshine per year and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 2,483 hours. Consequently, in general less shade protection is required for hostas in Vladimir's garden than in many American sites. (If you're wondering about Tokyo, Japan, I found an article that said it has 1,880 hours of sunshine per year.)

To obtain SUN/SHADE information, Vladimir initiated a set of interesting experiments in his garden with 14 cultivars, recording the findings photographically. I suggest you study the photos assiduously. You'll note, provokingly, there often were significant differences in leaf shape and clump morphology grown in FULL SUN versus FULL SHADE, and sometimes in PARTIAL SHADE, also.

So you can easily compare Vladimir's photos with images of the cultivars in the standard hosta references, the "official" photos **of the hostas in *Hosta Registry* and *Hosta Library* (if unregistered) are included.**

What conclusions did you draw? Click here giboshiwip@aol.com to email me your conclusions.

This item is a preliminary report. Vladimir has additional information. I am encouraging him to author a comprehensive article in *The Hosta Journal*.

Endnote: Vladimir Mirka is a hosta hybridizer. His moniker is *Bohemia*. In 2016 he registered five cultivars; in 2017, three. *HostaLibrary* lists 17 *Bohemia* hostas. Likely *H. 'Bohemia Fatty Manzo'*, a 2016 registered sport of *H. 'Manzō'*, is the best known.

Vladimir Mirka has a handsomely designed website. Click here www.bohemiahosta.com to visit his website. Intriguingly displayed are 21 of his introductions, none registered. It's in Czech. English translation is easy using a computer translator such as Google Chrome's.



H. 'Atom Smasher' (R. Livingston - NR) Left: full shade; right: full sun.
Photo Vladimir Mirka.



H. 'Atom Smasher' Photo Ron Livingston *Hosta Library*.
(Used with Ron Livingston's permission)



H. 'Dragon Tails' (W. Zumbar - 2009) Left: full shade; right: full sun.
Photo Vladimir Mirka.



Photo *Hosta Registry*.



H. 'On Stage' (P. Aden - 1986) Left: full sun; right: full shade.
Photo Vladimir Mirka.



Photo *Hosta Registry*



H. 'Winsome' (D. & J. Ward - 1996) Left: full sun; right: full shade.
Photo Vladimir Mirka.



Photo *Hosta Registry*.



H. 'Crepe Soul' (Naylor Creek - NR). Left: full sun; right: full shade.
Photo Vladimir Mirka.



H. 'Crepe Soul' Photo Vladimir Mirka *Hosta Library.*
(Used with Vladimir Mirka's permission)



H. 'First Frost' (P. Scolnick - 2002) Top: full shade; left: full sun; right: partial shade.
Photo Vladimir Mirka.



Photo *Hosta Registry*.



H. 'Ginko Craig' (J. Craig & A. Summers -1986) Left: full sun; middle: partial shade; right: full shade.
Photo Vladimir Mirka.



Photo *Hosta Registry*



H. 'Lakeside Beach Bum' (M. Chastain - 2001). Left: full sun; right: full shade.
Photo Vladimir Mirka.



Photo *Hosta Registry*.



H. 'Lakeside Down Sized' (M. Chastain - 2003) Left: full shade; right: full sun. Photo Vladimir Mirka.



Photo *Hosta Registry*.



H. 'Lakeside Dragonfly' (M. Chastain—1997) Left: full shade; right: full sun.
Photo Vladimir Mirka.



Photo *Hosta Registry*.



H. 'Lakeside Kaleidoscope' (M. Chastain -1994). Left: full shade; center: partial shade; right: full sun.
Photo Vladimir Mirka.



Photo *Hosta Registry*.



H. 'Rock Island Line' (G. Rasmussen - 2001). Left: full sun; right: full shade.
Photo Vladimir Mirka.



Photo *Hosta Registry*.



H. 'Sandhill Crane' (G. Johnson - 2004). Left: full sun; right; full shade. Photo Vladimir Mirka.



Photo *Hosta Registry*.



H. 'Bohemia Sand Pit' (V. Mirka - NR). Left: full sun; right: full shade.
Photo Vladimir Mirka.

(No photo in *Hosta Library*.)





Tammy Borden

May 10 & 11 FREEZE ALERT: Tammy Borden's Protective Coverings Response

On May 10, 2021, Tammy Borden, New London, Wisconsin, AHS Vice President/Conventions, posted this photo on AHS Facebook Page.



May 10, 2021 Tammy Borden's garden, New London, Wis., with freeze protection.

New London is in central Wisconsin, ~37 miles southwest of Green Bay at southern end of Bay of Green Bay, an arm of Lake Michigan.

I emailed Tammy requesting permission to publish the photo in *Go Hostas!* column and asked for a photo after the freeze showing the garden without coverings. I also asked her for details.



May 12, 2021 Tammy Borden's garden after freeze.

“On the mornings of May 10th and 11th,” she responded, “temperatures were supposed to get down to 30 degrees and most hostas were up and just about ready to unfurl. I used a combination of items to cover plants and had mixed results. Here are my observations.”

Frost cloth (white fabric, usually made of spunbonded polyester [Reemay®] or polypropylene, used for protecting agricultural crops from freezing; some claim protection down to 26° F/-3.3° C; light and water can get through) — Best results. I think the extra light weight covering still allows air movement so moisture doesn't accumulate and freeze. This was true for when the fabric was just laying on top of the hostas and especially true when propped up and not touching the leaves. It's also nice for when there may be multiple nights of freezing weather because you can leave it on during the day rather than removing and having to put it back on the next night.

Bed sheets — Poor results when just laid on top of hostas without any gap in between. Moisture/dew settled on the material and froze. That transferred through the fabric onto the leaves and there was physical frost on many leaves. OK results when hovered above. I don't think they allow enough airflow.

Inverted plastic pots (drainage holes on top) — Better than nothing but still allowed some tips to freeze.

Light plastic sheeting — Just don't use. Anything touching the leaves will freeze. Again, not enough airflow.

Cardboard boxes — These work well when fully covering the hosta.

Plastic totes/buckets — These work well in general but I think cardboard boxes worked better

Nothing — Honestly, I couldn't cover them all and some were left to fend for themselves. Unless the temps are expected to drop into the 20s° F, I do not plan to cover hostas in the future. Those that were not covered performed as well as those under the frost cloth. They performed better than the ones under bed sheets and plastic pots. Assuming there is a light breeze, it helps to dissipate moisture/frost. However, if you cover them completely, I feel like it traps that moisture and freezes. Likewise, hostas that have leaf cover from trees above perform better as well.

In summary, if you are going to cover your hostas, be sure that the materials you use are not touching the leaves or you may end up with worse

results than if you did nothing. If temperatures dip to the 20s° F, then I'd go to the effort of covering them (which took me more than 2 hours!). If the temperatures will only dip to about freezing, I won't cover them.

Gail Russo, Cedarville, New Jersey, authored a comprehensive three-part series on spring freeze damage and prevention. Cedarville, NJ is about 40 miles due west of Atlantic City; the Delaware River is a ten-minute drive west of Cedarville.

The first part, "Strange Spring Weather Causes Hosta Foliage Damage," was in *Go Hostas!* column in July 2020 edition of *AHS eNewsletter*, pages 8-19. The second, "Spring Frost Damage to Hostas – Questions & Answers: A Guide with Solutions," was in January 2021 *Go Hostas!*, pages 6-11.

Part Three, "Preventing Frost Damage to Hostas: Protection Coverings," was in April 2021 *Go Hostas!*, pages 6-36. It extensively described and pictured the principal protective coverings.

I asked Gail for her thoughts. She wrote: "The problem with using bed-sheets as coverings for hostas when there is freeze alert, is they are a thin material which becomes saturated through with any moisture present. When the air drops to below freezing, the water saturated in the bedsheet freezes quickly and is also in direct contact with the plant, unless staked up. So when the water on the sheet freezes, it also freezes the leaf it is touching, causing damage.

"A thicker material is better because moisture is not likely to saturate the fabric through to damage the plant. The same goes for plastic sheet coverings, because water droplets rest on the plastic. They are OK if staked up, but not when touching foliage."

"As far as airflow is concerned, this applies more to after the freeze. With all coverings, you want to remove them as soon as possible so the moisture trapped underneath can dry. Excess trapped moisture can promote

rot and if you are leaving your covers on for a second night, can cause damage when the trapped moisture freezes. Airflow (wind) can actually disperse frost from settling on leaves.

“I agree that unless extreme temperatures are predicted, it is sometimes better to do nothing. During our last warning, we placed boxes over our most expensive, prized varieties but left the rest alone. We have our gardens too spread out to effectively cover everything, and the sprinkler method was a failure for us last year.”

Tammy responded, “I have found, however, that it doesn't take much for moisture to saturate even thicker materials, but agree they are better than regular bedsheets. The problem then becomes weight.”

Thank you so much, Tammy Bordon and Gail Russo. Your keen analyses are greatly appreciated.



Freeze *versus* Frost?

I asked Gail Russo what's the difference between a freeze and a frost. “In the simplest terms,” she replied, “*a freeze is when the air temperature falls below 32° F/0° C. When this happens, the water inside the cells in the plant tissue freeze and rupture. The leaves cannot bounce back from this because they ruptured internally. To survive, the plant needs to generate new leaves.*

“*A frost is when the temperature is above freezing in the air, but at or below freezing near the ground, where coldest air settles.*”



Gail Russo

Meteorologists measure air temperature 6-100 feet above ground level and this is what your weather report is based on. Near the ground, tiny water droplets on the leaves freeze into crystals that damage the surface of the leaves, but the cells inside do not freeze. The leaves survive this but show spots of damage.”

I also asked Google what’s the difference between a **frost advisory** and a **freeze warning**. “A **frost advisory**,” it replied, “occurs when the temperature is expected to fall to a range of 36° F down to about 32° F. A **freeze warning** is usually issued when there is at least an 80 percent chance that the temperature will hit 32° F or lower.

In hostadom, we’re usually concerned with a **freeze warning** or **alert**.

Also, Tammy mentioned “frost cloth.” This is a marketing term for a fabric, applied on top of growing crops, providing atmospheric protection of 4-6° F below freezing. In hostadom, I think it best to call it **freeze protection fabric**.

GO HOSTAS!





Book Notice Clyde Crockett, Carmel, IN

GLORIOUS SHADE

Written by Jenny Rose Carey
Published by Timber Press, Inc.: 2017

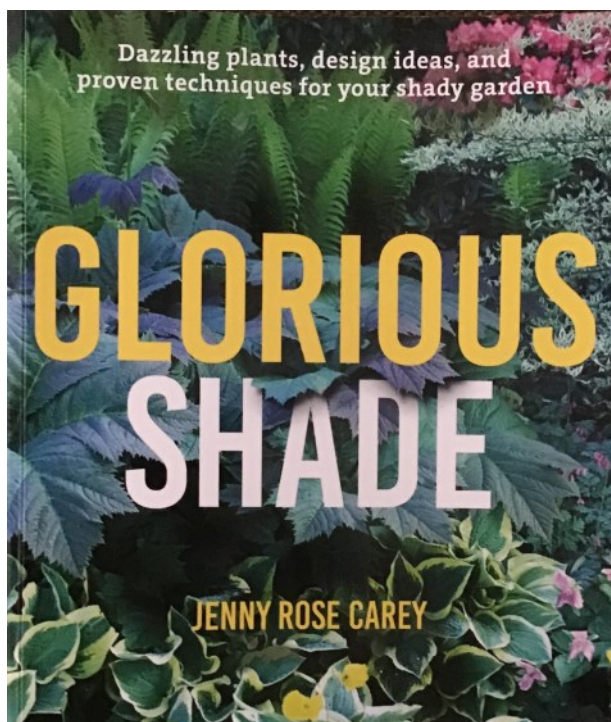
The title obviously attracted me, your inveterate shade aficionado, but most attractive was the outside front cover—colorful, pretty, outstanding indeed, yet most of all, inviting. Something about that cover promised a good read awaited.

Overall, I was certainly not disappointed even though I winced at the use of the term “shade loving.” There must be some plants that can be described as such, but hostas are not amongst them. Indeed, my own experience has been that hostas thrive in quite a bit of sunlight.

Books about shade gardens always have something to say about, what else?

Shade! Not only does Ms. Carey provide such but gives us what surely must be the most extensive elaboration in print. Even more than Schmid does in his classic on shade perennials. The forms of shade described in no little detail include the following: full, part, edge, dappled, bright, morning and afternoon, late day and more! As we are told, knowing the type of shade where we want to plant something, “allows us to make intelligent plant choices.”

There is much to admire in the 300+ page work. In the “Planting for Success” section, a listing of plants to try around tree roots is particularly helpful to gardeners like me who have to wrestle with maples and their ilk.



“Designing in the Shadows: Bright Ideas for Shady Places” provides myriad suggestions on creating your woodland, moss, Japanese, tropical or other shade garden type. Many of the ideas incorporate hostas. (We already knew that didn’t we?)

Just halfway through, we arrive at, “The Plant Palette: Choosing Plants for Your Shade Garden.” Included are lists of fragrant plants, plants for moist soil and suitable trees and shrubs. This section is followed by my favorite part—perennials for the shade. Covering some 90 pages, each detailed description is accompanied by its optimum shade type for cultivation, hardiness zone, mature size, and a “glorious” photo.

Carey has all the right credentials including the invaluable experience of having gardened extensively in both the United States and England.



“A tussock of hostas in shady moss garden”

You will enjoy her style and some of the better gardening pictures one can imagine. This belongs in your library and is available from numerous places.

Happy Gardening,
Clyde



Time for elections...

All elected AHS board members are up for election this year. Voting will take place during the 2021 Virtual Convention.

The nomination committee has been hard at work soliciting nominees. Following is their report.

We are happy to present the following officers nominated for the 2021 to 2023 year.

Title	Name	
President	Andy Marlow	2nd Term
Executive VP	Tammy Borden	2nd Term
Immediate Past President	Mary Schwartzbauer	
Treasurer	Elaine Cole	
Membership Secretary	Barry Ankney	
Recording Secretary	Marcia Sully	
VP Judging	David Bowe	1st Term
VP Genus Hosta	Glenn Herold	1st Term
VP Member Services	Phyllis Weidman	1st Term
VP Publications	Robert Saathoff	1st Term
VP Awards & Honors	Janet Mangas	2nd Term

AHS 2021 Nominating Committee

Hosta Smitten in the Mitten

...Coming to a Theater Near You!

...Presented to you by Don Rawson

The film industry is BIG BUSINESS in America! Typically, about 800 movies are created and released in the U.S. and Canada annually and with our current generation, the average person watches 20-30 movies a year (which makes it about one movie every two weeks). The average film runs between 90 and 120 minutes. That's fairly brief, considering that it usually takes about three to six months for pre-production, one to two months for principal photography, followed by six more months to a year for post-production. Have you ever considered just how much work it requires to make a blockbuster film?

Filmmaking involves a number of complex steps including writing the initial story or plot, casting, shooting, sound recording, editing, and screening the finished product before an audience. In the pre-production phase, every step of actually creating the film is carefully designed and planned. This is the phase where one would narrow down all the options of the production. It is where all the planning takes place before the camera rolls and sets the overall vision of the project.

Once everything is ready to go, production of the films begins. In the production phase, the film is created and shot. The supervisor, assistant directors, photographer, and sound editors are busy at work. In a typical day, the shooting begins with the crew arriving at the set location by their call time. Actors usually have their own separate call times. Set construction, dressing and lighting can take many hours or even days to prepare, so set up is done in advance as much as possible. While the crew prepares their equipment, the actors do their costumes, tend their hair, and perfect their make-up. They rehearse the script with the director, and the camera and sound crews rehearse with them and make any final tweaks. Finally, the action is shot in as many takes as the director wishes.

But all may not go as planned. A take is over when the director calls “Cut!” and the camera and sound stop recording. The supervisor will note any issues and the sound and camera teams take note. If the supervisor decides additional takes are required, the whole process repeats. Once satisfied, the crew moves on to the setup until the whole scene is covered. When shooting is finished for that scene, the crew will dismantle the set and move on to the next scene.

Recently, production of a new motion picture - ***Hosta Smitten in the Mitten*** - was in full swing and it certainly promises to be a blockbuster! The shoot was staged in the hills of beautiful West Michigan where the actors diligently rehearsed their scripts. The set was carefully prepped, with utmost attention given to weeding, wood chipping and watering - all in



The metal signs for the nine tour gardens of the 2021 National Convention were made by a local craftsman. The logo was selected by the Steering Committee, as well as the theme for this year's convention, "Hosta Smitten in the Mitten."

preparation for the final day. The actors (gardeners and interviewers) were equipped with cordless mics and costumes (shirts with the convention logo) and a pre-production rehearsal was held. When all was ready, the camera rolled and the final filming for the set began.

The videographer for the West Michigan gardens, Mr. Brendan Shick, is a free lance filmmaker and broadcaster with specialties in cinematography, color grading, and live sports. His jobs are mainly working in the sports television world (live TV broadcasts and stadium entertainment) and as a cinematographer. Past projects include TV commercials, short films, music videos, news broad-casts, promotional work, in-house corporate videos, educational videos, and more.



In total, nine gardens were shot, each requiring a few hours. The videography went on for three days without a hitch except for an occasional rain shower, and once when the drone which was relied upon for aerial shots became lodged in a tree. The predicament was resolved when a cherry picker was called in to retrieve it. Following a brief but careful inspection, it was determined that the unmanned aircraft underwent no significant damage and the drone was employed for filming the remaining gardens.

Wide angle views of each location were shot, both on the ground and in the air. Then, with the aid of an interviewer, the gardeners gave a tour of each area, showing the interesting hostas and companion plants which had been amassed over the years along with garden art, water features, pathways, boulders, and an array of other various items which all came together for a beautiful landscape. On occasion, the videographer would stop and zoom in on a rare or unique specimen to get close-up footage for the viewer to peruse. Plants were well-labelled, so those who watch the final production will be able to add to their wish list.



The gardeners gave a tour of each flowerbed, showing the interesting hostas and companion plants which, they had amassed over the years, along with garden art and other items of interest.

At the current time, the bulk of the work in post-production still remains. Hours of raw video footage will be reviewed, edited and spliced to create a top-notch presentation of each garden. The production sound (dialogue) is also edited. In some instances, voice over – a production technique where a voice that is not part of the narrative is added – may be used to identify a particular plant or detail. A voice over is usually prerecorded and placed over the top of a film or video. Finally, all sound elements are mixed and then joined to the pictures and the film is fully completed.

A pre-release will be viewed by each gardener before the final product will be posted for registrants on the convention website. The garden tours will be password protected and can be watched at one's own convenience during the convention dates, July 15-17th. They will be viewable by attendees after the convention, as well.

Attention! There is still time to register. Don't miss out. Go to the convention website at <https://ahs2021.org> and sign up today. You will greatly enjoy the tour gardens along with the enthusiastic speakers, educational workshops, leaf photo show, seedling competition, and all the other activities that encompass this year's virtual convention!



Brendan Shick, professional videographer for the gardens of the virtual convention.



WE'RE GOING
Virtual!

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JULY 15-17, 2021

AHS2021.org



AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY NATIONAL CONVENTION
KALAMAZOO, MI



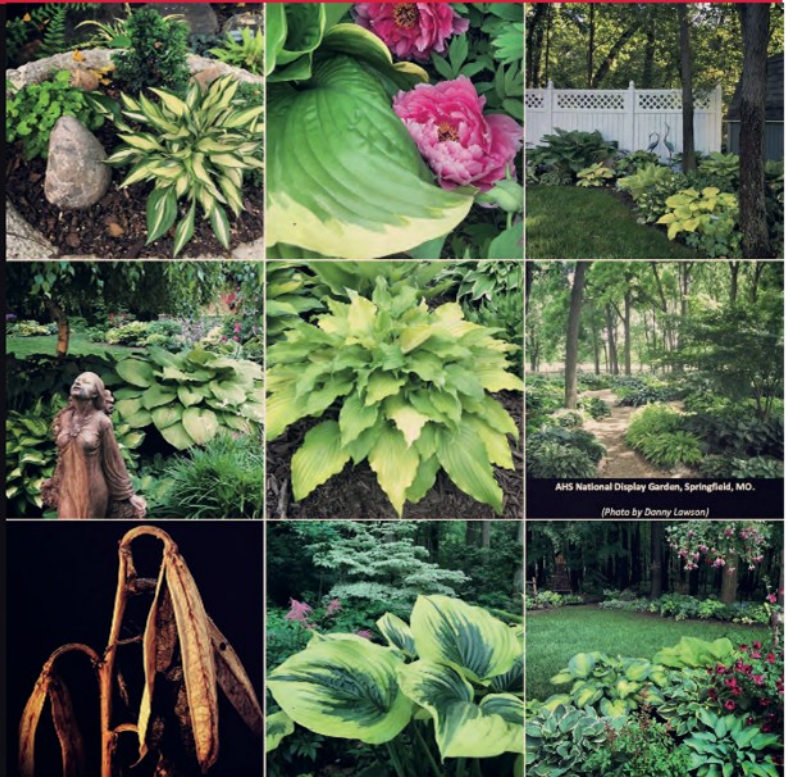
AHS Convention Gift Hosta: *H.* 'Silly String' (H. Hansen - 2018)

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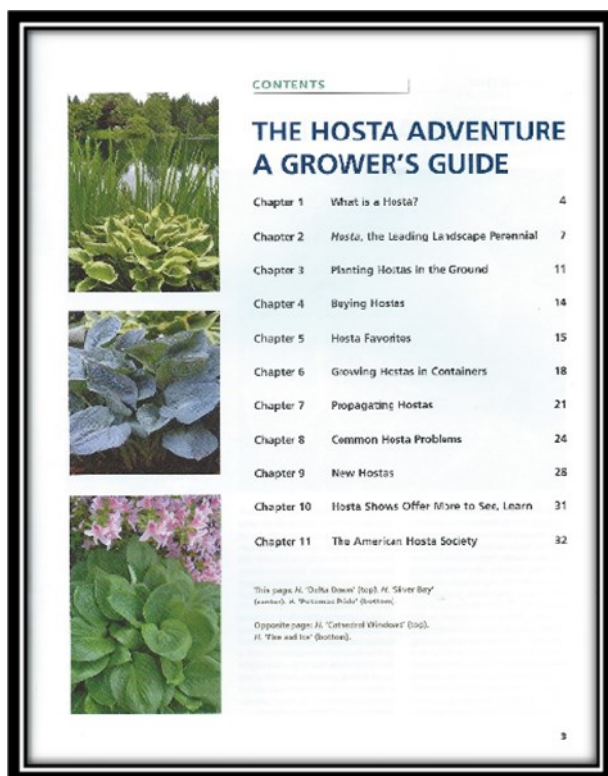
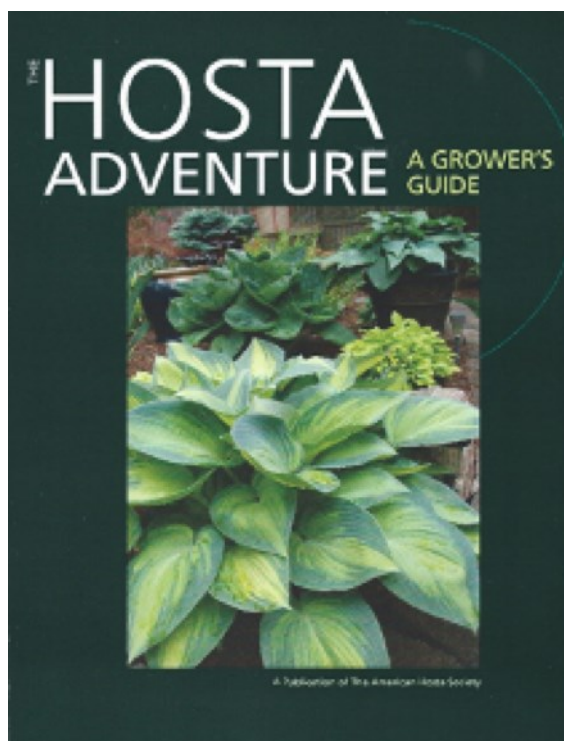
Discover beautiful
hosta images,
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From AHS Publications

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



Front cover: *H. 'June'* takes center stage in a wet garden (photo by Larry Jackson).
 This page: *H. 'Rascal'* and *H. 'Swelling Lily'* (top left) are single-masterly with white and/or variegation. *H. 'Harold's'* (top right) is a model of color texture and substance. *H. 'Crimson'* (bottom right) commands attention. *H. 'Emerald Green'* (bottom left), with early emergence and staying power, is a perennial favorite.



Stately *H. 'Crimson Regal'* (top right) has been a crowd favorite. *H. 'Kathleen'* (bottom right) creates a thick, bright border around larger plants. *H. 'Reverend'* (bottom left) is fancier than most look-alikes because its variegated center leaf is more prominent. *H. 'White Frost'* is a worthy namesake of the American post-quantum.

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:

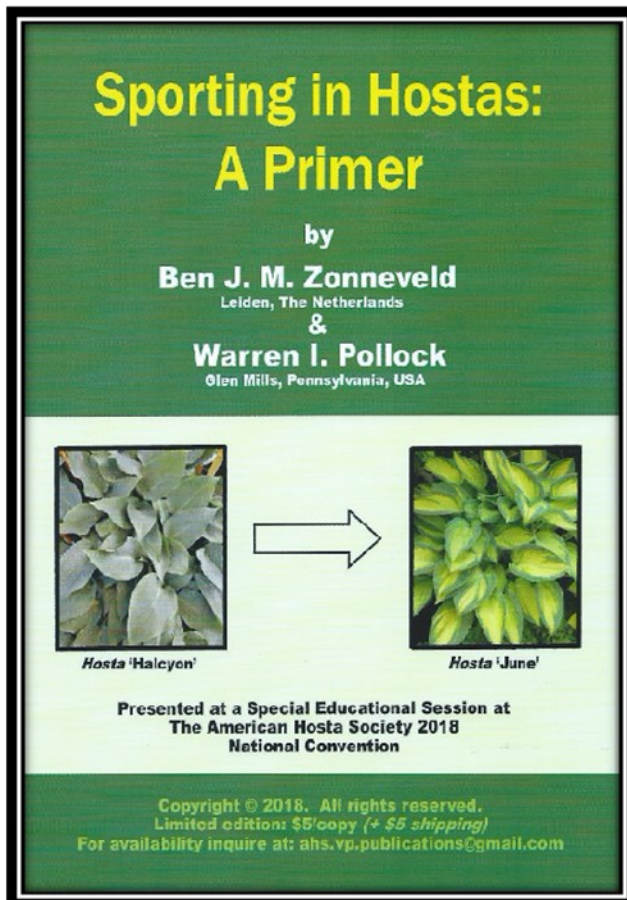
- 2-6 books, \$4.00 each + \$8.00 postage
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Barry Ankney, AHS VP Publications
Hosta Adventure
1104 Oxford Court
Oakbrook Terrace IL 60181

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

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	Family	\$43	\$117	\$185	
Europe	Individual	\$51	\$142	\$219	\$1,530
	Family	\$55	\$152	\$236	
Pacific Rim	Individual	\$59	\$165	\$254	\$1,770
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