

The American Hosta Society

March 2020

eNewsletter



H. 'Smash Hit'

M. Zilis 2012

(Photo by Jim Henry)

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President's Message

Andy Marlow, Hopkins, MN

This month's message is pretty much a *help wanted* advertisement. But before we get to that, let me share with you a *help found* announcement. Last summer Mary Arnberg let AHS know that she would not continue as Newsletter Coordinator, the person who keeps in touch with local and regional society newsletter editors and helps them share information and ideas. We are very grateful for Mary's service to the AHS.

We looked around for a bit and found our ideal candidate close to home. Danny Lawson is the new Newsletter Coordinator. He has just completed his second term as Editor of The Online Hosta Journal and his first term as Editor of the AHS eNewsletter. With thirty plus years of experience in the printing and graphic arts industry, it's a natural extension of what he does on a daily basis. Now in his third term as president of the Wichita Hosta Society, he has also been its newsletter editor for the past dozen or more years. We are extremely grateful he has the time and energy available to share among these many jobs.

Now, our open positions. I'm happy to say that one long-time open position, Regional Director for Region 7, the East Canada Region, has a person interested in the job. She needs to get approval from the various East Canada societies, and I can then make her appointment official. Let's hope all goes as planned.

The final two open positions are somewhat linked: Social Media Chair and Public Relations. The Social Media Chair is responsible for communicating through social media AHS events and programs, clarification of AHS business, and for being general ambassador of the AHS on social media vehicles. That's the official job description. There is already a well-established and well-run Facebook group called the American Hosta Society with some 15,000 members. That group is moderated by two independent AHS members, and the Social Media Chair would need to liaise with them. We also recently established an official AHS Instagram page thanks to Executive VP Tammy Borden. In addition to working with these existing efforts, are there other social media outlets where AHS should have a presence? These items would all be part of the job.

There is no current job description of the Public Relations position. Part of the job would be to develop a written job description, but it would surely include getting the word out to relevant news media and other outlets about AHS events and programs. Basically a public relations person is the interface between the organization and its public. I have heard a public relations person described as a storyteller, relating the organization's purposes, events and activities to those outside the organization

As we seek to rebuild our membership numbers, these two positions will be extremely important. Surely among our almost 2,000 members there are people with the skills and enthusiasm to do these tasks. If you are one of those people, or know someone who you suspect is one, please let me know.

Andy Marlow AHS President



Hostas and Associates

Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

The Japanese Hostas, Part 11

Hosta sieboldii (Koba Giboshi)

by Glenn Herold

Though hostas are native to Japan, China, and Korea, the majority of species come from Japan. This article is the tenth in a series which will talk about those species. Previous eNewsletter articles have covered *Hosta alismifolia*, *H. nakaiana*, *H. pycnophylla*, *H. longipes*, *H. longissima*, *H. montana*, *H. kikutii*, *H. tibae* and *H. rupifraga*. If you missed any of the past articles, you can find them on my blog site: https://thecottagegardener53012.wordpress.com.

Today we will discuss *H. sieboldii*, Koba Giboshi, which is one of only two hostas native to the entire Japanese archipelago (*H. montana* is the other). A very adaptable plant, it grows in woodlands, swamps, and grasslands. The form found in the wild is identified as *H. sieboldii* var. *sieboldii* and forms a small clump, about 14 inches tall. The medium green leaves are shiny on both the top and

bottom and are of thin substance. Because of the wide native range, the species is very diverse, differing in mound size, leaf size and shape, waviness, and coloration. Various subspecies and forms reflect these deviations. For example, *H. sieboldii* f. *angustifolia* has a more elongated leaf that has a wavy margin. In addition, *H. sieboldii* readily mutates.

Flowering generally occurs in August. Though most are of a medium purple color, it can range from deep purple to white. Typically the flower petal margins are white, as is mid-petal striping. A naturally occurring all white flowered form is known as *H. sieboldii* f. *alba*. Flowers of *H. sieboldii* are both male and female fertile and naturalize readily. Scapes are 22 to 31 inches long.

For many years, *H. sieboldii* 'Albomarginata,' a white margined form, was considered the type-form of the species. It was discovered in Japan in the early 1800s and was likely one of the first live specimens of hostas brought from Japan into Europe, having been brought to the Netherlands by Philipp von Siebold in about 1830. Though it was found in the wild, it is not self-perpetuating; the white margin is not inherited through



Hosta sieboldii (Koba Giboshi) leaf (Photo by Glenn Herold)





normal seed propagation. Seedlings of 'Albomarginata' will likely be all green and should be referred to as *H. sieboldii* var. *sieboldii*, formerly *H. sieboldii* f. *spathulata*.

Hosta sieboldii is often confused with H. 'Lancifolia' because of the similarity in plant size and leaf shape. However, enough differences exist to make them distinct. In the flowers, H. sieboldii has yellowish-white anthers while those of 'Lancifolia' are purple. 'Lancifolia' blooms later than sieboldii and is sterile. H. sieboldii is fertile. The flower scape of 'Lancifolia' usually has sterile bracts attached to it; they are absent in H. sieboldii. Leaves of 'Lancifolia' have a greenish-purple petiole with spots near the base. The petiole of H. sieboldii is green and spots are absent. In addition, the leaves of 'Lancifolia' are shinier than those of H. sieboldii.

Many seedlings and mutations of *H. sieboldii* are important in the hosta industry. 'Beatrice,' 'Neat Splash,' and 'Yellow Splash' are streaked mutations that have been used to breed variegated plants. Alone they are unstable, but have resulted in many sports and hybrids. MyHostas database lists 48 plants that came from 'Beatrice,' 70 from 'Neat Splash,' and 25 from 'Yellow Splash.'

A few of the notable *H. sieboldii* sports include 'Kabitan,' which is chartreuse with a dark green edge, 'Carrie Ann,' a

white margined sport, and 'Painted Lady,' a sport of 'Albomarginata' that is green and white streaked with a white margin. 'Butter Rim' is a yellow edged seedling, 'Emerald Isle' a seedling with a white edge and white flowers, and 'Masquerade,' formerly identified as *H. venusta* 'Variegated' is a seedling which is white with a green edge. It tends to readily revert to all green.

One of the notable hybrids is 'Honeybells,' a cross between *H. plantaginea* and *H. sieboldii* that is known for its fragrant flowers. Also of this parentage is 'Emily Dickinson.' One of my favorite dark green hostas, 'Midnight Oil,' is the result of a cross between 'Potomac Pride' and 'Neat Splash Rim,' the stable form of 'Neat Splash' which has a green center and creamy white margin.

H. sieboldii has been and still is an important hosta species. As noted, it has been extensively used by hybridizers, but is an outstanding plant in its own right. It makes an excellent massing and naturalizing plant and can be used as a ground cover or to edge a bed or path. No garden should be without it.



GO HOSTAS!

Warren Pollock, Glen Mills, PA

GO HOSTAS!

MAJOR HOSTA EVENTS: LAST DECADE

I thought it would be interesting to highlight outstanding events in Hostadom that occurred in the previous decade, the ten-year 2010-2019 period. Last January and February, I asked a handful of hosta aficionados to assist me in this task.

Likely some readers consider other events should be included and perhaps some mentioned are not sufficiently notable, particularly in the *PLUS EVENTS* and *BEST HOSTAS* categories. For a follow-up item, I welcome your input. Please contact me at giboshiwip@aol.com.

PLUS EVENTS

2004: *Mark Zilis' Field Guide to Hostas* **published.** This may be the most significant Hostadom event in the last decade. This now-classic is a revision of Mark's *The Hosta Handbook* published in 2000, with new cultivar descriptions, updated information on his observations of hostas in Japan and an in-depth review of hosta pests and diseases. It also focuses on some plants around which hostas grow, i.e., trees, shrubs, vines and perennials that require the same growing conditions as hostas.

Although there are other excellent hosta reference tomes available—especially, of course, Mark's hugely impressive, majestic *The Hostapedia* published in 2009, his superb, handy field guide most likely is *the* reference source most often used by hosta fanciers. Its 482 pages—just 7½ by 8¾ inches and ¾-inch thick—are bound in a utilitarian 1-inch plastic spiral, making items easily and quickly found. Significantly, when open and folded over on itself, the tome takes up little space and easily can be held in one hand. (*The Hostapedia*, on the other hand, when open requires a nearly two-foot long counter space—and both hands to lift it. I'll add also that most standard book shelves are not strong enough for *The* Hostapedia to be stored on them; a sturdy table top is required.)



Mark was more comprehensive and extensive concerning photos in the field guide than in Hosta Handbook and Hostapedia. Not only is there a photo for almost each variety and species detailed, but photos are included of similar looking and related cultivars. For example: with H. 'Ginko Craig' are photos of look-alike H. 'Bunchōkō', 'Excalibur' and 'Hi Ho Silver'; with H. 'Blue Mouse Ears', 10 significant BME sports; with H. 'Sum and Substance', 14 S & S sports; and with H. 'Striptease', 20 sports, which are just about the entire gallery of 'Striptease' sports introduced prior to the book's printing.

As with all hosta reference books, a half dozen or so years after publication they no longer are current. Lacking is information on the newer varieties. Which raises the question: Will an updated Zilis field guide be available in the late twenties?

Mark Zilis's Field Guide to Hostas is available from Amazon and also Mark (<u>mzilis@comcast.net</u>). His price is \$44.95 + shipping; if requested, he will autograph it.

2016: Gayle Hartley Alley appointed International Registrar for Genus

Hosta. Previous registrar was Kevin P. Walek, who served in this position for 12 years. Kevin also served as The American Hosta Society president from

2003-2005.

Gayle Hartley Alley,
Hosta Registrar

Gayle Hartley Alley,
Hosta Registrar
(Cropped from group photo taken
during 2018 AHS National
Convention. Photographer
unknown; photo courtesy Gail
and David Russo, Cedarville, NJ)

Since 2016, Gayle has authored the yearly blue-cover *Registrations* booklets. Notable are the numerous registration corrections that have been made: 24 in 2016, 54 in 2017 and 68 in 2018. In 2018, she masterfully upgraded the AHS Hosta Registry. It now has "21st-century features" that include the original registration photographs, relevant Show Classification information for all registered varieties and species, and a Hosta Finder funded and managed by the American Hosta Growers association (AHGA). To better reflect the site's functions and capabilities, she aptly changed the name to Hosta Treasury. It still is at www.hostaregistrar.org but now is accessible also at a new web address: www.hostatreasury.org.

Further, Gayle added an "Additional Comments" field in some registrations. It has useful supplemental information, such as cultivar's patent status and whether it is in the SHADOWLAND collection. It is partly shown here for *H*. 'Empress Wu':



Last year, 160 cultivars were registered. The total number of registered hostas now is 6115. Of special notice is that Gayle initiated a new feature with the 2019 registrations. They were made visible online in the Hosta Treasury soon after January 1st, 2020. The printed *Registrations 2019* booklet, which will accompany the Spring 2020 issue of *The Hosta Journal*, has the official registration details. But now those interested in the 2019 registrations can view them before they receive *Registration 2019* via postal service, which might not be until April or May.

2016: Bill Meyer and Carol Brashear became owners of HostaLibrary. This very popular, extensively used resource celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2019. HostaLibrary—now

written as a humpback word: no space and uppercase "L"—was founded by Bob Axmear of Waukon, Iowa, who passed away in 2016. Just three months prior to his unexpected death, he drew up legal papers and turned ownership to Bill Meyer and Carol Brashear, who reside and garden together in Woodbury, Connecticut. They are HostaLibrary's "co-librarians."

HostaLibrary is an independent resource, free to use by anyone. It is the largest and most comprehensive photo source for the genus *Hosta*. Photos are submitted by contributors and are considered to be accurate representations of the plants. HostaLibrary also has additional information, such as special articles, W. George Schmid's species update and links to nurseries including Hugo Philip's *MyHosta* data base.

Bill Myer is a pro-active custodian. He seeks out hybridizers and collectors who have new hostas and assists them in submitting photos.

At this writing, the total number of different varieties and species represented is 8508. When HostaLibrary was turned over to Bill and Carol, there were about 15,000 photos. Now there are about 31,000! About every three months, some 100 photos are added.



Carol Brashear
HostaLibrary "Co-Librarian"
(Cropped from group photo taken
during 2018 AHS National
Convention. Photographer
unknown; photo courtesy Gail and
David Rosso Cedarville, NJ)

In 2018, The American Hosta Society celebrated its 50th anniversary. The 2018 AHS National Convention, *Phifty in Philly*, was held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, June 20-23. International speakers were from Belgium, and England. International attendees were from Japan and Russia. Featured was an evening bus trip to world-famous Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, to view the huge lighted fountains' and fireworks' display.

In 2018, an international exploratory team found what is thought to be true *H. sieboldiana* growing in the wild in Japan. The team, comprising Mark Zilis, Bob Solberg, June Colley, Andy Zilis, Hiroshi Abe and Satoko Kurata, discovered white-backed *H. sieboldiana* Types 1 and 2 in the Itoigawa River region of northern Honshu prefecture, Japan.

Mark Zilis is the well-known hosta authority. Andy Zilis is Mark's son. Bob Solberg is proprietor of Green Hill Farm in Franklinton, North Carolina, a large wholesale and retail hosta nursery. June Cooley is the noted U. K. hosta authority and collector; she is editor of the *British Hosta and Hemerocallis Society Journal*. Hiroshi Abe is a nurseryman in Japan and Japanese hosta authority; he planned the trip. Satoko Kurata of Japan is a good friend of June Colley's and also a hosta collector; her husband, Koki, attended the 2018 AHS National Convention. The findings were extensively reported, with numerous photographs, by Bob and Mark in the Fall 2018 issue of *The Hosta Journal* (Volume 49, Number 2), pages 28-36. June Colley's report, also with numerous photos, was in the Spring 2019 issue of *BHHSJ*, pages 71-75.

Backstory: In a comprehensive 2011 article in *The Online Hosta Journal* (Volume 42 Online), W. George Schmid, the highly regarded *Hosta* species authority, concluded that *H. sieboldiana* is a cultivar and should be written *H.* 'Sieboldiana'. In accord, he transferred (reduced) *H. sieboldiana* to cultivar status *H.* 'Sieboldiana' (Schmid 2009) and included this epithet in his now classic Hosta Species Update compilations published on both the HostaLibrary and The American Hosta Society websites.

These recent discoveries are of major significance/relevance in Hostadom because they advocate that *H. sieboldiana* is a species and *H.* 'Sieboldiana' (Schmid 2009) be deleted from the Hosta Species compilations.



H. sieboldiana
From left: Andy Zilis, Satoko Kurata Bob Solberg, Hiroshi Abe and June Colley pointing to H. sieboldiana growing on hillside in Japan. Missing in photo is other team member, Mark Zilis, the photographer.

In 2018, Ben J. M. Zonneveld and Warren I. Pollock published *Sporting in Hostas – A Primer*, a limited-edition 28-page booklet introduced at the 2018 AHS National Convention. Eleven sporting rules are described, each with examples of commonly known cultivars. Additionally, there are examples, with considerable explanations, of eight unusual sportings, including H. 'Blue Cadet' --> H. 'Blue Mouse Ears', H. 'Gold Standard' --> H. 'Striptease' and H. 'Loyalist' --> speckled-leaved H. 'Revolution' and H. 'Independence'. A 5-page appendix has drawings of cell division and chromosome doubling, plus 16 illustrated, special sporting occurrences.

The authors continue to investigate hosta sporting. Currently being studied is H. 'Blue Mouse Ears' --> H. 'Hanjas Crazy Mouse' --> H. 'Danish Mouse' --> H. 'Blue Mouse Ears'.

NEGATIVE EVENTS

Passing of well-known hosta contributors. Mentioned in AHS publications

were:

2010: Paul Aden

2011: Emile Deckert, Mildred Seaver, Bill Zumbar 2012: Duane Hurlbert, Nancy Minks, Pat Raeder

2013: Bill Burto 2016: Hideko Gowen

2017: Loleta Powell, Pete Ruh, Arlene Savory, Art Wrede (not reported in AHS publication)

2018: Bob Axmear, Bruce Banyai, Carolyn Harstad, Van Wade

2019: June Diesen, Jack Hirsch, Robin Milton, Gregg Peterson, Barry Sligh, Jim Wilkens

In 2014, Q & Z Nursery in Rochelle, Illinois, and Shady Oaks Nursery in Waseca, Minnesota, closed. It cannot be overstated how shuttering their doors negatively impacted Hostadom. Big voids were created in new hosta introductions and hosta merchandizing.

Both nurseries were visionaries, innovators and originators. Both had large tissue culture facilities and greenhouses, producing thousands of hosta liners and plants in 4-inch pots annually. Both sold their own cultivar introductions, as well as other nurseries' introductions. (There were very few patented/breeders' rights hostas then.) Both did contract tissue-culture propagation. Both catered to the needs of local hosta societies having meetings in spring that featured plant sales to members. And both catered to garden centers offering special flats containing a variety of retail-ready, cutting-edge varieties.

Mark Zilis founded Q & Z nursery in 1992. The name is the initials of his wife's family and his. He was technical guru plus. His brother-in-law was the principal business manager and his sister oversaw sales and day-to-day operations. (That arrangement of responsibilities gave Mark the voluminous time needed to write his three books!) Mark had considerable tissue culture experience from earlier employment at Walters Gardens, Inc., Zeeland, Michigan. His brother-in-law had considerable previous business experience with a manufacturing company.

Shady Oaks was founded by Clayton Oslund, a plant biology professor at U. of Minnesota-Waseca, in 1982. He managed the company with his wife; later his son, Gordy, and his wife were the managers. Hans Hansen, a former student of Prof. Oslund, joined the nursery in 1993 and became its principal technical resource. (Hans once told me Clayton's wife considered him part of the Oslund family.) Hans had tissue culture experience having worked at an overseas nursery that had a well-functioning lab. Hans left Shady Oaks in the late 2000s. Walters Gardens hired him in 2009 and he heads this nursery's hybridizing department, where he is involved with perennials other than hostas.

Both Q & Z and Shady Oaks printed large, handsome catalogs. They were wonderful harbingers of spring. Hosta fans would await their postal deliveries in winter, spending many cold and perhaps snowy evenings enjoying their contents with puzzlement of what to order. (I did.) Today they are prized collectors' items.

I have the 2011 Shady Oaks and 2012 Q & Z catalogs next to my computer as I compose this column. Shady Oaks's is 8½ x 11 inches and 44 pages. More than 200 hostas are offered, each with an excellent color photo and description. Twenty were not featured before, though I suspect Hans had initiated them. Reportedly 240,000 catalogs were mailed out. In early 2012, Plant Source International, a supplier of unrooted annual, perennial and herb cuttings, based in Minnesota, purchased Shady Oaks. PSI-Shady Oaks Nursery became the new name. In mid-2014 PSI-Shady Oaks closed its doors.

To illustrate how_premium Shady Oaks's catalog was considered as a marketing medium, Bob Solberg's Green Hill Farm in North Carolina had an insert in it offering mini, medium and large-sized hostas in 3-inch pots.

Hans registered over 60 hostas at Shady Oaks. Six of my favorites are:

H. 'Pandora's Box' (1996), sport of H. 'Baby Bunting';

H. 'Stained Glass' (1999), sport of H. 'Guacamole';

H. 'Touch of Class' (1999), chemical induced, tetraploid sport of H. 'June';

H. 'Earth Angel' (2002), sport of H. 'Blue Angel';

H. 'Journey's End'PP16,895 (2004), sport of H. 'Choo Choo Train'; and

H. 'Country Mouse' (2007), sport of H. 'Bill Dress's Blue'.

Q & Z's 2012 catalog is 5½ x 8½ inches, 114 pages. (This is not a typo; yes, 114 pages!) All photos are in color on glossy high-quality paper. Forty new hostas and 22 new "mini-small" hostas are featured. The description of each had a large photo, mound and leaf sizes, flowering characteristics, introducer/hybridizer, growth characteristics, garden attributes and other features. In order words, the catalogs had similar information as Mark's *Hosta Handbook, Hostapedia* and *Field Guide*. So, all that writing that Mark did paid off doubly: catalogs and books. The handbook was published in 2000, *Hostapedia* in 2009 and the field guide in 2014 when Q & Z closed its doors. A total of over 30,00 copies of the three books have been sold.)

Q & Z sold both liners and 4-inch pots. Liners varied from about \$1.95 to \$5.00 each; pots from about \$4.95 to \$10.00 each. There was a page of 99 cents liners. Included were the classics, such as *H*. 'Blue Angel', 'Earth Angel', 'First Frost' 'Halcyon', 'June' 'Patriot' and 'Sum and Substance'.

Mark Zilis has more than 450 hostas registered in the Hosta Treasury with his name attached, usually as originator. Six of my favorites are:

- H. 'Appletini' (2009), hybrid;
- H. 'Frosted Mouse Ears' (2006), sport of H. 'Blue Mouse Ears';
- H. 'Katie Q', sport of H. 'Marilyn';
- H. 'Pineapple Upsidedown Cake' (1999), sport of H. 'Pineapple Poll';
- H. 'Sugar and Spice' (2003), sport of H. 'Invincible'; and
- H. 'Summer Lovin' (2004), sport of H. 'Summer Breeze'.

In 2014, Mark and his son Andy founded A to Z Perennials. It operates mostly in the same facility Q & Z did, minus greenhouse. It is a contract tissue-culture lab producing Stage 3 hostas. It supplies TC liners for both Bob Solberg's Green Hill Farm and Jeff Miller's Land of the Giants Hosta Farm, Milton, Wisconsin.

All in all, Shady Oaks and Q & Z probably could be considered the "hosta Amazon" and "hosta Walmart" of their era. If they were in operation today, their catalogs would be online and existing and potential customers would be bombarded with advertisements. Likely also they would have Facebook recognitions.

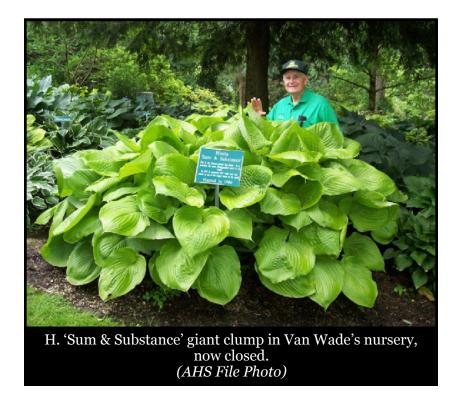
Why did Shady Oaks and Q & Z close? I don't know. But if I were to guess – and I repeat *guess*, I think Shady Oaks lost its buzz and vision when Clayton Oslund no longer managed it. And with Hans Hansen's departure, there were no hosta innovations – which are needed to lead the nursery. Simply, Shady Oaks no longer had visual competitive strength in the marketplace.

As for Q & Z, it may have overextended itself.

In 2019, Van Wade's nursery in Bellville, Ohio, closed. This mostly retail establishment possibly had the biggest and best collection of mature hosta cultivars *anywhere*. The gardens were handsomely landscaped and exquisitely maintained. They always were a – if not *the* – principle feature on hosta conventions' tour schedules. I recall an attendee at the 2005 Cleveland AHS National Convention summarizing her experience on touring the nursery for the first time: *Inspirational*. (I think this term says it all.) Many vacations of hosta admirers were planned specifically to include a visit to Van's showplace in central Ohio. (I did once.)

Unfortunately, no comprehensive photographic documentation of the gardens was made. Further, regrettably now they no longer are in pristine condition.

The number of different hosta varieties offered by the nursery was amazingly huge. An inclusive catalog, over 250 pages, was published; the 2011 edition is on HostaLibrary. (Thank you, HL.) For each variety, the hybridizer is listed, along with size and detailed description, where located in the nursery and price. Included also is much helpful information, such as planting and care, tissue culture vs. crown cut divisions or potted plants, sun/shade conditions. Van must have spent hundreds of hours accumulating the information – and enjoying, I bet, every minute of it. Van Ross Wade was a Mr. Hosta through and through.



BEST HOSTAS

I also asked the hosta connoisseurs: "What are the ten BEST hostas that were introduced in the last decade. They must be registered or have Plant Patent or Plant Breeders' Rights. BEST is your definition."

Not surprising, a considerable number of different cultivars were listed, many not well known. Also, some folks listed more than ten.

I plan to report on this activity in my *Go Hostas!* column in May 2020 *AHS eNewsletter*. Please look for it there. I think you'll find it interesting. It's a different snapshot of Hostadom than the annual Popularity Polls and frequently reported Best Sellers in *The Hosta Journal*.



JONATHAN HOGARTH in ENGLAND GIVES PRESENTATION to NEW ENGLAND HOSTA SOCIETY MEETING via SKYPE COMMUNICATION

On Saturday, February 9th, Jonathan Hogarth, British Hosta and Hemerocallis Society chairman and noted mini hosta collector, gave a presentation to the New England Hosta Society. Jonathan wasn't in the classroom in Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, Massachusetts, near Boston, where the NEHS meeting was held. Instead, he was sitting at his desk in his home in Wokingham, Berkshire, England. It was 5:00 pm in the U. K. and noon ET in the U.S. Jonathan's presentation was via Skype.

Skype is a telecommunications application, first released in 2003, that specializes in providing video chat and voice calls between computers and other devices via the Internet. Customers include individuals, companies, organizations, and others.

On February 17th, I phoned Wesley Straub, NEHS president, asking how Jonathan Hogarth happened to be giving a presentation to NEHS and what the arrangements were. Wes, who lives in Cotuit, Mass., said he attended the 2018 AHS National Convention in Pennsylvania and was present at Jonathan's lecture on 'Blue Mouse Ears' sports on Friday afternoon. Included in the presentation was an aeroponics demonstration with Roger Smith.

Roger lives in Severn, Maryland, and brought his aeroponics unit to the convention. Jonathan and Roger cited their experiences with this technology. At the end of the demo, Roger auctioned off his unit.

Wes told me that at the time he was particularly interested in this propagation technique. He asked Jonathan questions, and the resulting lengthy discussion, and later email conversations, developed into a great friendship between them. So, when the NEHS decided to have a Skype presentation, Wes suggested his British friend. Jonathan was very enthusiastic about the opportunity, choosing "Hostas Do Make You Friends" as the title.

Jonathan is not a computer "jock." But his son and brother are quite knowledgeable and helped him with the set ups and procedures. On NEHS's end, there were members who knew what was needed for the presentation.

Jonathan Hogarth
British Mini Hosta Specialist
(Photo taken in his greenhouse at his home
2019; courtesy Jonathan Hogarth)

These were the arrangements: On top of Jonathan's computer was a camera directed at him. By his side was another computer with his PowerPoint presentation. In the NEHS's meeting room were two computers connected to Jonathan's computers via Skype. They projected into the meeting room. In addition, auxiliary speakers were installed. Attendees could see and hear Jonathan as well as view his slides.

The presentation went well and was well received by the attendees. Wes told me NEHS plans to use Skype presentations at future meetings. He is now looking for presenters, especially in European countries.

Will other local hosta societies now use Skype presentations at their meetings?

GO HOSTAS!



Book Notice Clyde Crockett, Carmel, IN

HOSTAS

(Anness Publishing Ltd. 2013)

Written by: Andrew Mikolajski Consultant: Diana Grenfell Photography by: Peter Anderson

Hostaphiles are going to like this book which begins: "Foliage plants *par excellence*, hostas are indispensable in the garden." In "the history of hostas, "we learn of some other notables that agreed, including the Empress Josephine and the great Gertrude Jekyll. If you have read any history of the genus, you don't need to be reminded that the name "Hosta" is in honor of Nicolas Host, an Austrian botanist, whose name rhymes with "post." Why then do we say "hahsta "instead of "hōsta?" I asked Warren I. Pollock who informs that that was the way the early AHS people pronounced it and that is the way it is pronounced, period.

In "Hostas as garden plants," the versatility of the genus is duly noted with the suggestion that more use could be made of certain varieties as edging plants. One must recognize, of course, that is difficult to overcome the desire to treat them as specimens. Growing in containers and using leaves in flower arrangements is given more attention than is usually found in existing

AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO VARIETIES, CULTIVATION AND CARE WITH STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS AND MORE THAN 130 BEAUTIFUL PHOTOGRAPHS

publications. In later sections, fuller treatment is given to these topics. (I have to note here that it is hard to imagine a Hosta person cutting off beautiful leaves for an arrangement but if you see the great photos here, you might well disagree.)

If you are searching for a hosta with a particular type of foliage, you will find the section "The hosta plant" useful. Pictured are all sorts of leaf forms such as puckered, oval, lance-shaped, crimped, elongated and many other forms.

In "Plant Directory" we have listings, accompanied by outstanding photos, of varieties according to color and variegation. Given the date of publication, these are of course not amongst newer cultivars, but it is always of interest to see the favorites of premier, seasoned and highly respected horticulturists and garden experts like Mr. Mikolajski. As always, those featured will include some surprises and some that may have been sadly overlooked.

For yellow-leafed types, 'Sun Power', 'Golden Prayers' and other "old-timers" are included. I loved the green-leaved picks. If a garden is to be primarily hostas, you want to include some green ones, but which ones? There must be hundreds! Recommended here are *H. ventricosa*, 'Green Acres', 'Tall Boy', 'Devon Green', and *H. venusta*.

"Blue-leaved" includes one of my favorites, *H. nigrecens*, even though I don't think of it as being blue. Other illustrated categories are variegated chartreuse-yellow-leaved; variegated green-leaved ('Francee', e.g.); variegated blue leaved; and, centrally splashed leaves—-'June', of course!

"Cultivation of hostas "besides presenting tips on good soil requirements contains an interesting discussion of shade requirements. *H. plantaginea* and its progeny are said to *need* full sun. Following this assertion is a listing of hostas that "tolerate

sun" but need to be shaded from hot summer sun. My guess is that this section is related more closely to growing hostas in the British climates than to cultivation in the States. Following are short but helpful



sections on planting, container growing, slugs and viruses, propagation and flower arrangements. The book ends with a list of dozens of other recommended varieties, with concise descriptions.

This is, in size, a small book - only 64 pages - but it is in a sense a great, big and excellent exposition of hostas in practically every conceivable category and situation. The splendid prose and photos do indeed pack a wallop! Recommended highly for your bookshelf.

Happy Gardening,

Clyde

NB: In the January 2020 edition my Book Notice, the American Hosta Society's approved nomenclature in respect of several now-cultivated varieties was not used. The following are the names adopted by the AHS: 'Fortunei', 'Fortunei Albopicta', *H. sieboldiana* 'Elegans', and 'Lancifolia'. At the time the book was written, biological forms recognized in England were employed. Thanks to Warren I. Pollock for bringing this to my attention.



Featured Local Hosta Society

Greater Cincinnati Daylily-Hosta Society

Sharon Rose, President

Website: www.gcdhs.org

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Greater-Cincinnati-Daylily-Hosta-Society



Members of the GCDHS auctioning off some wonderful looking hosts to their members.

(Photographer unknown)

The Greater Cincinnati Daylily-Hosta Society enjoys a membership of approximately 60 members, with about 40 of them attending each of their monthly meetings held at various locations around SW Ohio, SE Indiana, northern Kentucky.

They also enjoy special guest speakers at about half of their meetings. Door prizes are also given out at the meetings and are always enjoyed by the membership. Who doesn't enjoy a good Door Prize?

Each member receives their information through their website as well as updates on their Facebook page. The major fundraising activity each year is a plant sale at the local Krohn Conservatory.

They also host an annual Daylily Show, Hosta Show, and an End of the Year Banquet.



Last year, the GCDHS took a bus trip to the Lexington KY area and visited several local gardens and plant nurseries. They also host an annual auction where members sell hostas and daylily's adopted in a prior year and grown by a member. They in turn bring back the plant increase for sale to attendees. In this manner they try to get more recent introductions into the hands of members and the public.

Like them on Facebook and watch all of the exciting events they have planned for 2020!







AHS Board Member Profile

Janet Hommel Mangas Vice President Awards and Honors



Just south of Indianapolis' downtown is the Hommel Mangas Garden. Five acres of garden rooms for the purpose of playing include: The six-hive Apiary and "Ode to Indiana Hybridizer's Hosta Garden, Hosta of the Year garden, Pool garden, Hammock City, Raised Potager (kitchen garden), Hoosier-style Japanese Garden, Creekside Oasis and labeled Biblical Plants with accompanied verses. Enveloped by a sloping terrain and mature wooded area, AHS convention-attendees/friends are invited to come and rest all day or as little desired. Corn-hole games, checkers, and the hammocks with garden magazines and iced tea are awaiting your arrival. ~ from 2017 AHS Convention Program.

I'm a borrower. Maybe even a thief. That's why I first joined the Indianapolis Hosta Society and subsequently the American Hosta Society. There's really no other way to describe my new-found mania to walk through the lush private gardens of fellow creatives to see what they designed with plant life and hardscape. I'm the one jotting ideas down, taking photos and many times publishing gardening articles. Oftentimes I 'borrow' and idea or two, tweak it and transplant it to my garden.

I'm sure I inherited the "green gene" from my grandfather who bought his first 75 acres of land at the inopportune beginning of the Depression, but paid off his farm soon thereafter with a bumper crop of 12-acres of Rutgers tomatoes — raising eleven children.

The third of seven, I earned a B.S.in horticulture with a minor in Journalism from the prestigious Purdue, later an I.U. Masters Certificate in Teaching Writing, and a M.A. in Ministry Leadership from Cincinnati Christian University. A history of detasseling corn, summer work in a plant nursery and serving for seven years as the superintendent/horticulturist of a large cemetery (yes, I was quite adept at maneuvering a Ford 350 Backhoe) - I enjoyed working outdoors. After marrying a guy who

could stand the smell of diesel fuel on my work clothes, we settled into our 1959 midcentury modern, (which is what fancy people call a ranch) with lots of windows and a walkout basement.) In 1990, atop a hillside with five acres of beautiful old trees we began to yield a crop—first came three daughters — who also doubled as garden consultants and laborers. Under the canopies of the original Tulip poplars, chestnuts and walnut trees I can walk throughout the gardens now and see the cobblestone edging Chloe installed before her high school graduation. I see the influence of Phoebe, who planted and can identify many of the Hostas — she was also the child at 9-months that had a mouthful of dirt clods when I had her sitting on a blanket next to me when I was planting perennials one 1997 spring.





Milli, the red heeler mix, suggests plantings in threes

Aly, the eldest was always game as a 5-year-old to plucking off the spent daylily flowers for 1¢ each — but later began bringing up CPS and mentioning something about child labor laws. Aly is magical in "setting the stage"— and enjoyed helping get our garden 'friend-ready' for visitors for the 2017 Indy Convention.

Although we were blessed with beautiful mature trees my husband, Steven and I didn't get serious about gardening until the first youngin' went off to college.

My Hosta-holicism in full force started as I was working as a freelance journalist and ran into

Hoosier Hybridizer Randy & Susie Goodwin. When I first walked through his garden, I'm sure I audibly heard angels singing. Next thing I knew, I was sucked into the vortex — joining the Indianapolis Hosta Society and breathing in all that great knowledge. The first IHS coach trip I attended was perfectly organized & orchestrated by the Tony Benner and Curtis Boyd and sisters Carol Youngblood and Janet Stultz. I loved touring gorgeous private gardens as well as just hanging around and laughing with these avid gardeners.

As a habitual gateway drug leads to another.... I began attending the Great Lakes Hosta College and later attended my first AHS Convention in North Carolina - aka 'Bob Solberg country.'
In 2016, I was soaking up the hosta garden

In 2016, I was soaking up the hosta garden creativity in St. Louis and in 2017 found myself blessed to be able to be a part of team Indianapolis.

Like all of you, I continue to collect ideas, hostas, hardscape and new friends. Years ago I met Hybridizer Jeff Miller at Hosta College and realized that on our families' 30-year annual fishing trip to northwest Ontario, we pass Jeff's phenomenal 'Land of the Giant's Hosta Farm in Wisconsin - it is now an annual stop.

The education I receive from fellow AHS members is remarkable. The encouragement from being able to tour members private gardens sparks creativity. Hosta gardening friends are life-giving.

As for our ever-evolving gardens - Steve and I enjoy working in them immensely as they continue to be a great spot for family gatherings, Easter Egg hunts, swim parties and



Hosta hotline, because you never know when you'll need to order more hosta!



As for our ever-evolving gardens - Steve and I enjoy working in them immensely as they continue to be a great spot for family gatherings, Easter Egg hunts, swim parties and garden visits. It is a marriage-hobby that complements Dr. Steve's thriving 35-year Chiropractic Practice and my 14-year newspaper columnist gig and writing/speaking ministry.

Steve has evolved into 'my tree/conifer gardening partner' and continues to know exactly what happens when I look into the backyard and say those dreaded four words: 'So, I was thinking" I continue to serve on

the Indianapolis Hosta Society Board and am honored to serve as the AHS VP of Awards and Honors.

If you see me at the convention, say hello — I'm the friendly, but shy one taking copious notes!





pottery while H. 'Empress Wu' stands tall in the background whispering "I know you can see me!"



Alex J. Summers and Eunice Fisher Awards

Cutoff Date for 2020 Nominations is April 1, 2020!

Whether you're a new 2020 member (welcome!) or a member since the AHS was formed in 1968 — we need your help!

The *Alex J. Summers Award* and the *Eunice Fisher Award* are two awards designed by the American Hosta Society to recognize member achievement and to encourage activities that promote the genus *Hosta*. Both recognize those members who have contributed in significant ways. The Alex J. Summers Awards recognizes service to the genus, to our society, or both. The Eunice Fisher Award recognizes those whose contributions lie mainly in hybridizing.

The recipients are selected from nominations received from you — our members. YOUR participation in making a nomination is key to this process in recognizing a fellow hostaholic for their contributions to the AHS.

While your hostas lay dormant awaiting to emerge energized this spring, don't miss this opportunity to actively participate in the nomination process — energizing and honoring a fellow AHS member. The selection committee needs your input! Nomination forms only take a few minutes to fill out. Please help us consider those who may be deserving of these honors. Honorees will be recognized at the *Hosta Vision 2020* AHS National Convention in Minnesota.

Thank you in advance for your nomination contribution.

Janet Hommel Mangas

VP Awards and Honors American Hosta Society

P.S. If you're interested in how Alex J. Summers (of Long Island, New York) and Eunice Fisher (of Oshkosh, Wisconsin) via letter correspondence in 1968 began to approach 'hosta pioneers' and start a society go here: http://www.americanhostasociety.org/About/History.htm

Alex J. Summers Award

The Alex J. Summers Award is the highest award given annually by the AHS honoring an individual who has contributed much to the Hosta World.

The recipient is chosen by a special committee that bases the selection on merit. Nominations received alert this committee to valuable information, achievements and individual contributions, of which the committee may otherwise not been aware; therefore, it values all input.

The nominee must have contributed materially and significantly to the betterment of the genus *Hosta*, The American Hosta Society, or both, and/or to the development of hosta awareness either as an active developer and promoter or as a support person. Relate specific instances and/or examples; attach extra pages as needed.

Please be advised, however, that the decision is based on merit alone and no decision will be based on the number of nominations.

Please e-mail nominations to:

jsmangas@aol.com
Or mail to:
Janet Hommel Mangas
VP Awards and Honors
7077 Stones Crossing Road
Greenwood IN 46143

Before April 1, 2020

NOMINATION BY:

Name
Address
Phone
E-mail
NOMINEE:
Name
Address
Phone
E-mail

On a separate sheet, detail the reasons for your nomination, then e-mail or mail to above address.

Cutoff Date for 2020 Nominations is: April 1, 2020

Eunice Fisher Award

The Eunice Fisher Award is designed to recognize annually an AHS member who has hybridized a significant number of registered hosta; has demonstrated an advanced knowledge of the genus *Hosta* and a willingness to share that information with others; and has given us notable advances in color combinations, leaf shapes, flower arrangement and petiole colors.

The Award recognizes an individual's body of achievement in hybridizing rather than a single significant plant and the focus is on quality rather than quantity of registrations. It does not recognize the development of sports.

The honor may be awarded posthumously.

Please e-mail nominations to:

jsmangas@aol.com
Or mail to:
Janet Hommel Mangas
VP Awards and Honors
7077 Stones Crossing Road
Greenwood IN 46143

Before April 1, 2020

NOMINATION BY:

Name______Address_______Phone_______E-mail

NOMINEE:

Nominee:

Name_______
Address______
Phone______
E-mail

On a separate sheet, detail the reasons for your nomination, then e-mail or mail to above address.

Cutoff Date for 2020 Nominations is: April 1, 2020

Greetings from the Minnesota Hosta Society (MHS)!!



The MHS is the convention host for the American Hosta Society (AHS) 2020 National Convention. My name is Amy Peterson the 2020 Convention Chair. I am sending this email to a leadership member of all local, regional and international hosta societies of record to ask your assistance in bringing awareness to your membership about "Hosta Vision 2020". The convention is being held June 10-13, 2020 at the Minneapolis Marriott NW located in Brooklyn Park, MN. If you received this and another in your local society is the better contact please forward it to them for consideration. We hope you will help us spread the word at your group meetings and by adding the convention logo and link to your society membership paper and/or electronic communications. Convention details are located www.hostavision2020.com. Links also

reside on the AHS (<u>www.americanhostasociety.org</u>) and MHS (<u>www.mnhosta.org</u>) websites. The home page of the convention website includes a convention summary, press release and logos you can easily import into any publication. Please view our website at your earliest convenience for full convention details on:



Thank you in advance for helping us to promote this annual event where those with a zeal for hosta will gather!



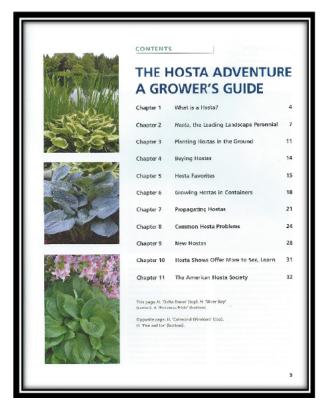
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA June 10-13, 2020

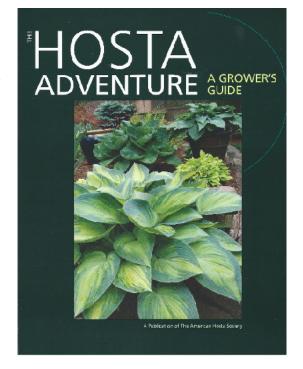
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN June 16-19, 2021

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

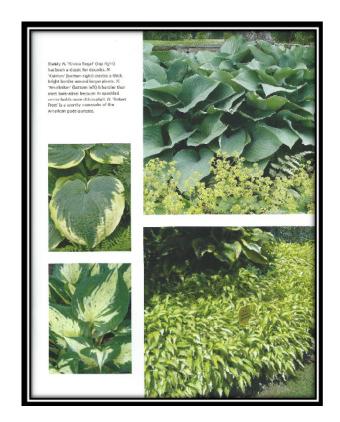
to add to your library is given, as is information on hosta shows, and information on how to link up with fellow hosta growers by joining The American Hosta Society.

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





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.

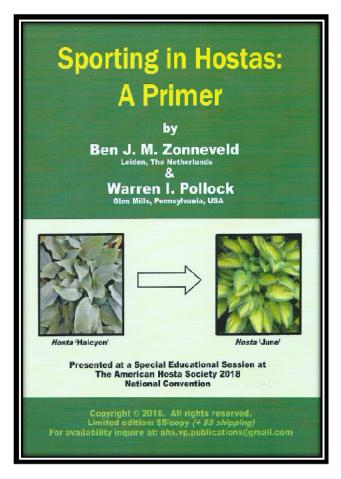
For local societies and nurseries, the best price per copy is in bulk: 2-6 books, \$4.00 each + \$8.00 postage 7-30 books, \$4.00 each + \$15.00 postage 31-99 books, \$3.75 each + \$21.00 postage 100-499 books, \$3.25 each + \$27.00 postage

(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 2001 S Meyers Road #300 Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-5271

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 28page 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 in 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 2001 S Meyers Road #300 Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-5271

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), 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 hostas 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.
- **M** 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

AHS Membership Application

Name:				
Street:				
City:	State:	Zip:		
Country:	Phone Numbe	Phone Number:		
Email Address:				

Please Circle	Membership Type	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Life
USA	Individual	\$30	\$80	\$129	\$900
	Family	\$34	\$90	\$146	
Canada	Individual	\$39	\$107	\$168	\$1,170
	Family	\$43	\$117	\$185	
Europe	Individual	\$51	\$142	\$219	\$1,530
	Family	\$55	\$152	\$236	
Pacific Rim	Individual	\$59	\$165	\$254	\$1,770
	Family	\$62	\$175	\$267	
E-membership	receive everything electronically	\$20			

All memberships payable in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank.

Make check payable to:

The American Hosta Society

Mail application and payment to:

Sandie Markland AHS Membership Secretary PO Box 7539

Kill Devil Hills NC 27948

Email: AHSmembershipSecretary@charter.net

Or pay by credit card or PayPal at:

http://www.americanhostasociety.org/ZenCart/

Membership Year:

January 1 to December 31

Type of membership:

New or Renewal (please circle one)

How did you find out about the AHS?

(please circle one)

Friend/Word of mouth

Web site search

Web banner ad

Event/Presentation

Plant Tag (which nursery?)

Facebook

Instagram

e-Newsletter