



# The American Hosta Society

May 2020

*eNewsletter*



## ***H. 'Pewterware'***

**D. Dean 1999**

*(Photo by Jim Henry)*



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# President's Message

Andy Marlow, Hopkins, MN

Spring is a time of renewal and new growth. It's easy to get charged up this time of year — charged up for gardening and other activities. This year many of those activities have had to be curtailed because of the need for social distancing in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

And so it is with the American Hosta Society's annual convention. Your Board of Directors decided there was a compelling reason to skip this year's get together. They voted to suspend the part of the AHS By Laws that call for an annual convention along with "Judges Training Session, Hosta Garden Tours, Hosta Auction, Accredited Hosta Show, AHS Awards and an educational presentation". The vote was unanimous.

I'm sure this leaves a lot of disappointed people. At the peak we had over 300 registrants for the convention. Gardeners with their gardens scheduled to be on tour had been prepping for visitors since last year. Vendors had made travel plans to set up shop at the convention. Members were nominating people for the various awards. But it was absolutely necessary. The risk to the health of our members far outweighed the requirements of our By Laws and the anticipation of a great time in the Twin Cities.

I know it's been announced elsewhere, but everyone's registration fees will be refunded in the same manner in which they were paid. If you wrote a check, you will get a check in the mail. If you paid by credit card, the funds will be credited to the card you used to register. Please be patient as this may take a while to accomplish. Refunds will not show up on your credit card statement for a couple of weeks. Checks may get to you a bit faster. Vendors who put down a deposit will also receive a refund by check. And, if you purchased a convention t-shirt (which now becomes a collector's item), it will be mailed to you.

That's the bad news. The good news is that the convention hotel has been very accommodating and has allowed us to reschedule the Minnesota convention for 2022. Much of the same crew that was planning for 2020 will begin work on 2022, including Convention Chair Amy Peterson. I'm sure they will dig in with the same enthusiasm with which they approached this year's event. You'll get news of the exact plans after the 2021 convention in Kalamazoo.

**Andy Marlow**  
AHS President



# Hostas and Associates

Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

## The Japanese Hostas, Part 12

### *Hosta nigrescens* (Kuro Giboshi)

by Glenn Herold

Though hostas are native to Japan, China, and Korea, the majority of species come from Japan. This article is the twelfth 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*, *H. rupifraga*, *H. takahashii*, and *H. sieboldii*. If you missed any of the past articles, you can find them on my blog site:

<https://thecottagegardener53012.wordpress.com>.

*Hosta nigrescens*, Kuro Giboshi, was reduced to cultivar status (*Hosta* 'Nigrescens') by W. Georg Schmid in 2010. Though this is not universally accepted, there are strong arguments for this move. Only a single specimen was collected from the wild; others have been obtained from cultivated specimens, including a specimen introduced by the late Gus Krossa. Though not verified, this may be the cultivar 'Tenryu,' which is morphologically identical to what is described as *H. nigrescens*. Another argument in favor of cultivar status is that plants labeled as *H. nigrescens* produce very few seed pods, though the pollen is totally fertile. This would make it difficult for the species to sustain itself in the wild, a species prerequisite. In his numerous trips to Japan, Mark Zilis has yet to see *H. nigrescens* in the wild. An analysis by Bob Solberg concluded that it is a hybrid. For the purposes of this article though, let's assume that it is a species.

*Hosta nigrescens* forms a strongly vase-shaped mound that tops out at about 30 inches. The foliage is blue green in the spring, changing to more green in the summer. Leaves may be up to 12 inches long and 9 inches wide and are distinctly cup-shaped. The blade is moderately corrugated and has a thick substance. The underside of the leaves are coated with a white waxy layer. Petioles stand upright with the blade almost perpendicular to it. Emerging spring shoots are surrounded by a very dark bract. The Japanese name Kuro Giboshi can be interpreted as "black hosta." The specific epithet *nigrescens* also refers to this trait.



*Hosta nigrescens* (Kuro Giboshi) clump  
(*Hosta Library* photo by Dirk Dupre)





*Hosta nigrescens* (Kuro Giboshi) flower  
(Photo by Victoria Serafin)

Flowers form in late July and bloom until about mid-August. They are pale lavender to white with slightly darker streaks. Flowers form on what can be viewed as the trademark of the plant: scapes which tower to heights of 5 to 6 feet.

Though it is challenging to use *H. nigrescens* as a pod parent, a few hybridizers have been successful. Kevin Vaughn introduced 'Flower Power' in 1987 using *H. plantaginea* as the pollen parent. Another notable introduction is 'Nate the Great,' which Bob Solberg registered in 2003. The pollen parent is 'Tokudama Aureonebulosa.' Other hybrids, using *H. nigrescens* as a pollen parent are 'Allegan Emperor,' 'Smokerise Frosted Vase,' 'Garnet Prince' and 'Golden Gate.' A recent introduction, using *H. nigrescens* in a complicated cross, is 'King of Buchanan.' This eye-catching plant, which has a wide creamy white/yellow margin surrounding a green center, was registered by Mike Groothuis in 2019.

The parentage of 'Krossa Regal,' registered by Alma Krossa in 1980 for her late husband, is a topic of

debate. The plant originated in Japan and may be a selected seedling of *H. nigrescens*, or it may be a hybrid. Zilis speculates that it is a hybrid with *H. rectifolia*. Though introduced 40 years ago, this large plant remains a favorite of hosta collectors and plant enthusiasts.

Both *H. nigrescens* and its twin 'Tenryu' have a tendency to sport to yellow or variegated forms. MyHostas Database lists over 30 sports of 'Krossa Regal.' Perhaps the most noted, and certainly one of my favorites, is 'Regal Splendor.' This highly recognizable hosta has a creamy white margin that contrasts nicely with the blue green leaf center. If this can be improved upon, consider 'Regal Supreme,' which has an even wider margin.

A plant that is often listed as a *H. nigrescens* cultivar is 'Elatior.' No doubt *H. nigrescens* is in its DNA, but it is likely a hybrid with *H. montana* (or possibly *H. hypoleuca* or *H. rectifolia*.) The distinctive strawflower-like buds and near white flowers resemble those of *H. montana* and the long scapes were inherited from *H. nigrescens*. It has higher pod fertility than *H. nigrescens*. Because of its hybrid parentage, the correct designation is *Hosta* 'Elatior.' 'Victory,' selected as Hosta of the Year in 2015 and found in tissue culture by Mark Zilis, is a creamy white-margined form of 'Elatior.'

The long scapes are only one of the many attributes of *Hosta nigrescens* that make it stand out in the garden. Use it as a background plant and let the scapes arch over smaller hostas and shade plants. Whether it is a species or a cultivar, no garden should be without it.



# ***GO HOSTAS!***

**Warren Pollock, Glen Mills, PA**

## ***GO HOSTAS!***

### **MAJOR HOSTA EVENTS: LAST DECADE**

In the March issue, I highlighted outstanding events in Hostadom that occurred in the previous decade, the ten-year 2010-2019 period. Cited were:

#### ***PLUS EVENTS***

**2004: Mark Zilis' *Field Guide to Hostas* published.**

**2016: Gayle Hartley Alley appointed International Registrar for Genus *Hosta*.**

**2016: Bill Meyer and Carol Brashear became owners of *HostaLibrary*.**

**2018: The American Hosta Society celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

**2018: International exploratory team found what is thought to be true *H. sieboldiana* growing in the wild in Japan.**

**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 in Philadelphia.**

#### ***NEGATIVE EVENTS***

**Passing of well-known hosta contributors.** Twenty-three mentioned.

**2014: Q & Z Nursery in Rochelle, Illinois, and Shady Oaks Nursery in Waseca, Minnesota, closed.**

**2019: Van Wade's nursery in Bellville, Ohio, closed.**

Some readers thought another PLUS EVENT and several other NEGATIVE EVENTS should be added:

#### ***Additional PLUS EVENT in Last Decade***

**2016: AHS Foliar Nematode Final Report presented at 2016 AHS National Convention in St. Louis and published in *The Hosta Journal*, Vol. 47, No. 2.** The two-year study at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville lead by Dr. Parwinder Grewal—funded in part by The American Hosta Society, AHS members and regional hosta societies—found that foliar nematodes do not



overwinter as eggs in soil or in hosta plant tissues. They overwinter as juveniles and adults in soil and in below-ground hosta crown tissue.

Identified for FN control was an organic product now labeled Nema Stop™, recommended to be applied as an initial soil drench at time of bud break (i.e., pips appearing) in the spring and as a foliar spray in the summer.

A comprehensive update on foliar nematode abatement using Nema Stop was in the September 2019 *Go Hostas!* column. Nema Stop is marketed by Puregro™ ([www.puregrousa.com](http://www.puregrousa.com)).

### ***Other NEGATIVE EVENTS in Last Decade***

**2016: Steven H. Greene announced latest 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of *Hosta Finder* was last issue.** Since about 1995, Steven H. Greene, Sudbury, Massachusetts, gathered information about the specialty nurseries in the U.S. that sold hostas and the plants they offered, and published it in an 8½ × 11-inch annual paperback titled *Hosta Finder*. It listed, in handy helpful comparison format, hostas' retail prices and locations where they could be purchased. Included were the sources' postal addresses, phone and fax numbers and email addresses.

The first edition in 1995 was 71 pages, staple bound and had an abbreviated layout. The 1996 edition was 106 pages with what Steve called the “real” layout. The cover had a photo of *H. ‘Seventh Heaven’* (Kulpa - 1994). Starting in 1997 *Hosta Finder* was staple bound.

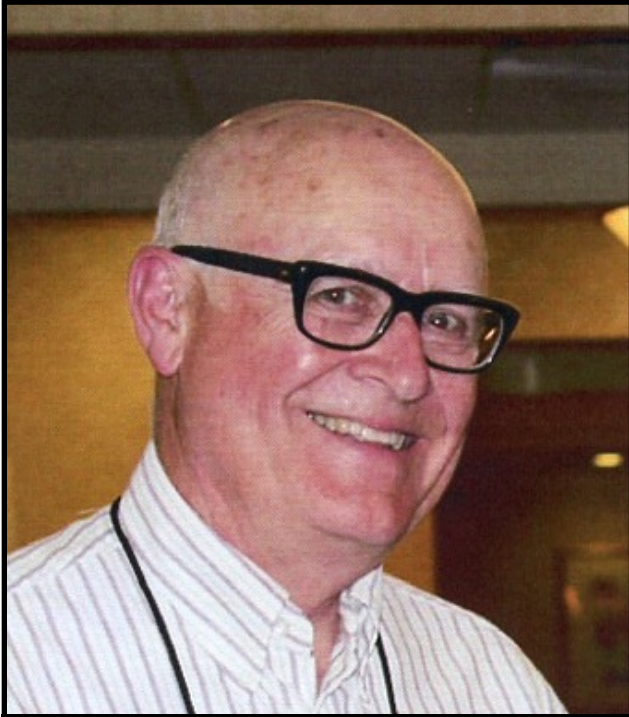
Pictures on the cover honored a different hybridizer every year and the hosta had to be registered. The only repeats were the Lachmans and Mildred Seaver on the last edition.

Early editions cost \$10/copy postpaid; media postage in those days was just \$1.38/copy. The 2004 edition cost \$13 postpaid and had 146 pages. The last edition cost \$22 postpaid and consisted of 184 pages.

*Hosta Finder* sales were highest in the early 2000s. In that era, 1240 copies were sold. in one year. Over the following years sales dropped off markedly, paralleling the decrease in AHS membership and increase in websites. About 400 copies of the 2016 edition were printed.

In the last issue, Steve wrote: “The *Hosta Finder*'s success was an incredible run of cooperation between growers and collectors. When I started this project, most growers produced enticing catalogs, many in color, to whet the appetite of every gardener. As my garden filled up with plants, I wondered how I could still made use of these catalogs, and the *Hosta Finder* was born.

“I still believe that it offers more versatility for individuals and nurseries alike when cataloging collections or inventory.



Steven H. Greene  
(Photo in 2016 Hosta Finder archived on  
HostaLibrary; photo date  
and photographer unknown.)

“The *Hosta Finder* was only as good as the growers and nurseries that contributed to the listing. Without their cooperation there would have been no basis for comparison and selective shopping.”

In 2019, the Hosta Treasury ([www.hostatransury.org](http://www.hostatransury.org)) was implemented. Included was a new feature titled “Hosta Finder,” a service sponsored and maintained by the America Hosta Growers Association (AHGA). The Hosta Treasury’s “Hosta Finder” provides pricing information for all hosta varieties (registered, non-registered and species) sold by AHGA member nurseries. Plants marketed by non-AHGA nurseries are not included in the Hosta Treasury’s “Hosta Finder”, while Steve Greene’s *Hosta Finder* included both.

*HostaLibrary* has preserved the last *Hosta Finder* issue. To view it, select 2016 Hosta Finder on *HostaLibrary* home page. Hosta prices, which likely would not still be current, were deleted as well as some information concerning the sources.

Significantly, since AHGA nurseries market species and non-registered cultivars, the Hosta Treasury

contains entries for these hostas. Take note, however: There is no show classification, photographs or registration information included for non-registered entries.

An example is *H. ‘Wheee!’* This hosta is listed as ‘Wheee!’ (NR) in the Hosta Treasury. If you select Registration Details, no information appears. Similarly, select Show Classification and no information appears. Select Hosta Finder and seven nurseries with prices for *H. ‘Wheee!’* are shown.

Steven H. Greene was the recipient of the 2018 Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award, recognized for his creation of the *Hosta Finder*, his invaluable compilation of hosta resources and prices for over two decades. The presentation was at the AHS National Convention.





**2018: First Look Canceled; 2019: First Look Not Scheduled.** First Look was first held in June 2001 in Stamford, Connecticut, and then each year afterward until two years ago. The last First Look was in Taunton, Massachusetts, in 2017. First Look's principle organizers were Bill Meyer and Carol Brashear, who reside in Woodbury, Connecticut.



Bill Meyer and Carol Brashear  
*(Photo taken in their garden in 2007;  
photographer unknown.)*

This famed event was the annual AHS Region One (Northeast) meeting that included a hosta seedling and sport competition and showcased new and unique hostas from hybridizers, gardeners and all hosta lovers everywhere. Its tagline was "The World's #1 New Hosta Show." The program and awards were intended to encourage the development of new and improved hostas in Region One and beyond. There was no activity, even partly, like it anywhere.

Awards were named for four of Region One's hybridizing greats. The William and Eleanor Lachman Award was for Best Seedling as Chosen by AHS Judges, The Mildred Seaver Award for Best Seedling as Chosen by First Look Attendees, The Kevin Vaughn Award for Best Sport as Chosen by AHS Judges and The Frances Williams Award for Best Sport as Chosen by First Look Attendees.

Awards were copper water vessel trophies, each with \$300 cash gratuity, and big rosette ribbons. The copper awards, which could be displayed in gardens, were eventually discontinued by the manufacturer. Starting in 2009, the trophies were engraved clear acrylic plastic obelisks, 10 inches tall.

Many First Look award winners went on to become highly popular hostas in gardens worldwide. Included were:

- Mary Chastain's 'Lakeside Dot Com' won in 2002
- Ron Livingston's 'Hacksaw', 2002
- Dick Goodenough's 'Mr Spock', 2015
- Mike Koller's 'Totally Awesome', 2002
- Alex Malloy's 'Alley Oop', 2001
- Bill Meyer's 'Wheee!', 2006
- John O'Brien's 'Simply Naked', 2005
- Alttara Scheer's 'Totally Twisted', 2004
- Bob Solberg's 'Corkscrew', 2002
- Kent Terpening's 'Clovelly', in 2005
- Chick Wasitis's 'She's a Dancer', 2008
- Art Wrede's 'Almost', 2004

## ***BEST HOSTAS Introduced in Last Decade***

I asked the hosta connoisseurs that participated in this activity: “What are the ten BEST hostas that were introduced in the last decade. They must be registered or have, or applied for, Plant Patents or Plant Breeders’ Rights. BEST is your definition.”

Not surprising, there were a considerable number of cultivars cited, many not well known. Just 44 different hostas met the criteria. None received more the three votes. These received three votes:

‘1st and Ten’ (Doug and Mardy Beilstein - 2013)  
‘Afterglow’ (Walters Gardens, Inc. - 2012)  
‘Bridal Falls’ (Jan van den Top - 2012)  
‘Coast to Coast’ (Olga Petryszyn - 2014)  
‘Happy Dayz’ (Naylor Creek Nursery - 2014)  
‘Hudson Bay’ (Walters Gardens, Inc. - 2012)  
‘First Blush’ (Robert Solberg - 2016)  
‘Jetstream’ (Doug & Mardy Beilstein - 2013)  
‘Minnesota Wild’ (Monty & Julie Carlson - 2013)  
‘Wu-La-La’ (Hans Hansen PP31,309)

How will they fare in this decade? Will any be on the AHS Popularity Poll list?



### ***Hosta ‘EMPRESS WU’ SIZES in GARDENS***

The July 2019 and September 2019 columns had an item titled “What is size of ‘Empress Wu’ in your garden?” Readers were invited to measure their clumps and report their heights and widths. Also asked were photos of the clumps and their ages.

The largest clumps reported in the responses seemed to be in Cindy Casacelli’s and John Ashworth’s gardens. Cindy lives in Livonia, New York, not far from Rochester in the upper western part of the state; John lives in North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Interestingly, the gardens are in significantly different horticultural regions of North America. John’s garden has huge annual rainfall; Cindy uses a soaker hose and water wand as needed. Copious water is critical for enormous ‘Empress Wu’ growth.

I had intended to report their 2019 clump sizes with photos in a *Go Hostas!* column late last year or early this spring, but changed this plan. I now have asked both to measure and photograph their clumps *this year*, with the intent of having a more comprehensive article next year. Both responded positively and I thank them. I am looking forward to the new info.



**DID RABBITS or DEER EAT YOUR HOSTA LEAVES?** Rabbits and deer often cause distressing leaf damage to hostas. Bill Meyer, on Facebook last April, explained how you can tell which pest might have caused the damage:

**Rabbits make clean cuts because their cutting teeth are very sharp.**

**Deer usually rip and tear the leaves because their cutting teeth are dull.**

*The Hosta Adventure: A Grower's Guide*, Third Edition, the 32-page highly informative booklet published by The American Hosta Society, adds:

**Rabbits prefer to eat fresh emerging leaves or occasional leaves of smaller hosta varieties; they don't eat entire plants.**

**Deer often consume the entire leaf blades leaving the petioles.**

[There are no photos of damaged leaves by rabbits and deer illustrating this item because I don't have any. If you have representative photos, please send them to me ([giboshiwip@aol.com](mailto:giboshiwip@aol.com)) for a future article.]



### **SLUG and SNAIL ABATEMENT: Pellets**

Mel (Melonie) Collins, chief operating officer of Mickfield Hostas in Mickfield, Stowmarket, Suffolk, U.K., authors a monthly online newsletter for this highly regarded nursery. Mickfield Hostas has won numerous top awards for its exhibits (stands) at flower and garden shows.

In the April 2020 edition, she shares her company's experience and recommendation using pellets for mitigating slugs and snails. I thought *Go Hostas!* readers would be interested in knowing this practical information and obtained her permission to include some of the newsletter here. Mel's entire newsletter can be viewed at [www.mickfieldhostas.co.uk/newsletters/April2020.pdf](http://www.mickfieldhostas.co.uk/newsletters/April2020.pdf).

The January and March 2019 *Go Hostas!* columns have extensive up-to-date information on metaldehyde and iron phosphate slug and snail pellets available in U.S., with histories of their developments. Included is the 1% sulfur pellet being promoted by Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, noted for its wide variety of products for home gardens and yards in retail nurseries and home improvement stores. These columns provide background information for Mel's item below. To view them, visit AHS website at [www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org), select Publications, E-Newsletter, Newsletter Archive and then January 2019 (PDF) and March 2019 (PDF).

I continue to endorse the blue-colored 4% metaldehyde pellets in Deadline® M-Ps™ Mini-Pellets Slug and Snail Bait. They should be spread thinly: just 6 pellets per square foot. Deadline M-Ps is available in 10 and 50 lb. bags on the Internet. Don't have the price, which doesn't include shipping, scare you away. Applied correctly—with weather cooperating, the results are rewarding.

***Slug pellets***  
***Metaldehyde versus phosphate***  
by Mel Collins, Mickfield Hostas, England

The most effective form of slug pellet contains metaldehyde. One of the benefits of metaldehyde pellets is the fact that they can be effective when a slug or snail comes into contact with it, not just by ingestion. When I have watched a snail interact with the pellets, I am more convinced they don't actually eat them as they exhibit obvious revulsion, recoiling at the touch. It is hard to imagine them actually eating the pellet.

Over the years we have tried a number of slug and snail control pellets and for quite a while we used various ferrous-based products. Although iron phosphate is not harmful to the environment, it is often chelated with EDTA to make the iron soluble and more toxic to slugs and snails. Non-chelated iron phosphate has no effect on slugs and snails so is a waste of money. The biggest drawback to chelated iron phosphate is the harm it does to other invertebrates, such as earthworms. For me that is an unacceptable risk and is why we no longer used these forms of pellet, preferring to target our sparing use of metaldehyde-based pellets in jars as stated in the main body of my newsletter.

As we all know, gardening is a form of control over the environment. Neglect it for a few weeks and nature will have made inroads into reverting it to a more wild form. In the same way as we combat invasive plant species and try to mitigate the effects of the weather, we need to manage the fauna.

Since using the pellets in the jars we have witnessed a flourishing of the thrush population with a record three broods recorded at the nursery a few years ago. As birds predate by movement, if a slug or snail has been in contact with a pellet, it won't be moving as it would ordinarily do, so is unlikely to even notice it.

I don't believe my trust in metaldehyde not entering the food chain is misplaced, although it may be a controversial statement. Because I use so little of it, my small stock will last for many years. The proposed ban on metaldehyde [in U.K.] has been recently overturned but I'm not sure that was a good move. I rather feel that regulating the supply and use of the chemical would have been a better way to deal with the situation rather than risking the environment through prolific, indiscriminate use.

***GO HOSTAS!***







# ***Book Notice***

**Clyde Crockett, Carmel, IN**

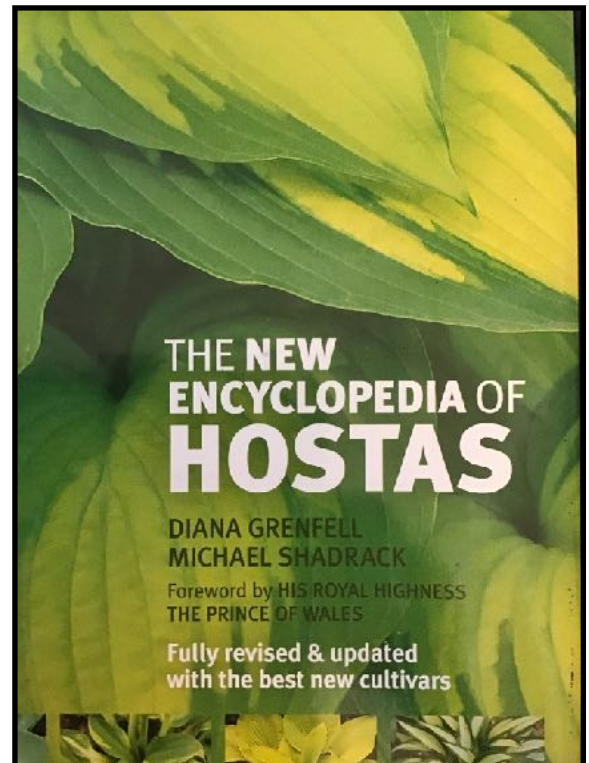
## **The New encyclopedia of HOSTAS** (Timber Press, Incorporated: Revised Ed. 2009)

Written by: Diana Grenfell & Michael Shadrack  
Foreword: HRH Charles, Prince of Wales

Right off, I must mention a few things about this book that surprised, impressed and delighted me. Surprised, in that I only discovered this work very recently. Overly impressed was I with what I thought was my omniscience in respect of *Hosta* literature. Impressed on several fronts—this book is really big and its dust jacket is the prettiest I've ever seen. To boot, the authors are both top-notch writers and well-regarded members of the hosta world, each having received the coveted Summers award bestowed by the American Hosta Society. The foreword by HRH Prince Charles is both delightful and charming, and it reminded me of receiving a beautifully crafted letter acknowledging my sending him a copy of *The Hosta Journal* when I was Editor. My wife accused me of trying to get an “in” with royalty. Guilty, as charged.

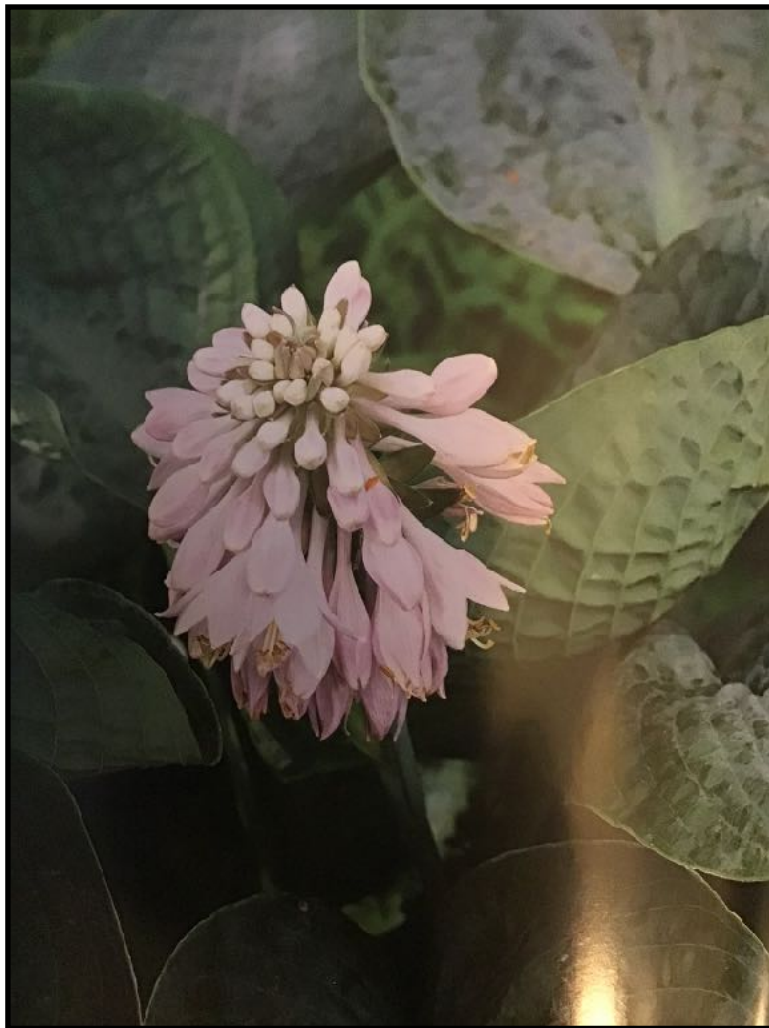
Being a history buff, I turned first to Part 2 of our noticed work, “Hostas in the West,” where we find an account of the introduction in Europe of hostas from Japan, Korea and China. In this part you will find some names that are not usually mentioned in the literature, such as Englebert Kaempfer, from the 17th and early 18th centuries, who, we learn, was the first person from the West to see and draw a hosta, and Heinrich Christian Funk from whom is derived the once generic name, *Funkia*. Part 2 also includes sections on classification and botany plus a large pic of that extra-large plant - ‘Niagara Falls’.

Part 3 covers in some detail cultivation and propagation. The section titled, “What To Look For When Buying Hostas” caught my eye. It cautions to be particularly careful when purchasing tissue-cultured plants, as they may not be “properly weaned.” On seeing a beautiful, new plant at, say, the local hardware store, we probably won't ever find out if the plant is tissue cultured or, if it is, if it is well-weaned. Best to stick with the specialist emporia, although, to be truthful, I have bought some beautiful and hardy specimens from Ace and Lowe's. Part 3 also covers soil and watering requirements, tips on planting and container growing, and two sections on propagation and hybridizing.



Part 4, titled “Gardening with Hostas,” includes sections on design, woodland and waterside settings, and more on hostas in containers. Also here is the recognition that our hosta collections are grown today as part of a “mixed” border, that “gives at least three seasons of enjoyment, starting with early spring bulbs and dying with the dying embers of late autumn foliage.” Emphasized is the incorporation of small ornamental trees, shrubs, and even roses to maintain interest. The term “mixed” was used to distinguish the types of gardens we grow today from the classical herbaceous border. Hostas mix well and provide interest from Spring through Autumn.

After the obligatory discussion of pests, diseases and other threats, we reach the massive catalogue (almost 400 pages) of hostas divided by leaf color (green, chartreuse, yellow, gold, glaucous blue, blue-gray, blue-green, gray-green) and by variegation, streaking, strippling, flecking, marbling, misting and unusual markings. There are also separate sections on hostas for connoisseurs and minis. While the majority of hostas selected are pictured with photographs, this is not simply a pix gallery. Each hosta is accompanied by details of its origin, description and cultivation. In many other instances there are also notes on similar hostas, sports and distinguishing features.



This is an exceptionally well-crafted, informative and superbly illustrated encyclopedia - one that should be in every complete hosta library. The photos are so masterful, it was difficult to choose just one for this book notice, but I opted for one of the former garden of the multi-talented hostaphile and esteemed garden designer, Randy Goodwin of Indiana.

Happy & Safe Gardening!

Clyde



# Featured Local Hosta Society

## Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania

**President:** Megan Danik

**Website:** [www.dhswp.com](http://www.dhswp.com)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/DHSWP/>



The Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania was founded on January 1, 1992. Currently the enjoy a membership of 110 members with about 40 - 60 of them attending each of their meetings. Meetings are held at various locations in the area, including libraries, breakfast places, and nurseries.

Annual dues are just \$10 per year or \$15 for two years.

A quarterly newsletter helps to keep membership informed, the overwhelming bulk are distributed electronically. A website and Facebook page also helps to keep information current in the group.

They host several fund-raising events each year selling hostas at various locations in the region. The year starts out with a "Friends Luncheon" in January where everyone just gathers together and visits. An "End of Summer Picnic" is held featuring an auction of hard-to-find plants. Members only sales take place too. An "End of Season Banquet" is held in November.

Several impromptu events also take place throughout the year. These events include visiting local gardens, nurseries, or anything else garden related. Occasionally planned events such as bus trips or car pools, sometimes overnight, are planned and are always enjoyed!



Certificate and Pin Honorees.  
(Photographer unknown)



Guest speakers are frequently brought in for the enjoyment and education of the members.

There is of course always a food table where members bring in food to share. Raffles are held to raise money for the club. A fun thing that is done is to award prizes for people who have attended the most meetings. At the end of the season 1 - 3 members are awarded with a Service Pin. The membership votes on who they think should be awarded/recognized based on the award set criteria. It's a nice incentive for the members to stay active in the group!



Hosta Leaf Show.  
(Photographer unknown)

They also help to co-sponsor the annual Fall Hosta & Garden Forum with the Western New York Hosta Society - now in its 21st year!

All in all a great and exciting hosta society to be a part of!



Hosta Show.  
(Photographer unknown)



# Featured AHGA Vendor



22937 1140 North Avenue  
Princeton IL 61356  
[www.HornbakerGardens.com](http://www.HornbakerGardens.com)



Hostas wrapped and ready to ship!  
(Photo by Dave Hornbaker)

## COVID-19 UPDATE:

Due to the global pandemic, Hornbaker Gardens has yet to open to the public for foot traffic in 2020.

For many years they have offered shipping for hostas and daylilies. Online ordering for shipping is available now at their website: [www.HornbakerGardens.com](http://www.HornbakerGardens.com).

Curbside pickup is available through the website as well.

Stay safe!

Rich and Kathy Hornbaker started Hornbaker Gardens in 1987. Prior to that, Rich practiced law in Princeton for thirteen years, and Kathy had taught school. In 1976, they bought 14 acres of isolated ground, upon which stood an abandoned homestead--a perfect place to build a house and raise a family. Little did they dream that someday they would be inviting the world to come share their lovely hideaway.

After they purchased the farm, Rich started thinking about the possibility of making a living on it. He and Kathy were both avid gardeners, so he thought perhaps they could develop a market for organically grown fruits and vegetables, while Kathy thought that growing perennial flowers was a possibility.

Over the next few years, while they started raising their family, Rich was busy planting fruit trees, strawberry plants, and raspberry bushes. A small pick-your-own business, known as Horn's Berry Farm, was started. It was a lot of work for not much money, but was a great learning experience.



From 1984 through 1986, they experimented with growing hardy mums in pots, and were encouraged by their success. In July of 1986, Rich attended a week-long symposium of the newly formed Perennial Plant Association. He came back very enthusiastic about the future of perennials, and in love with a plant called a hosta. That fall, the berries were plowed under, and plans were laid for the start of a perennial nursery. Rich informed his very surprised law partners that he was leaving the law practice to start a new business—Hornbaker Gardens.

Initially, Hornbaker Gardens started as a wholesale-only business. But in 1988, an Open House was held to let the local folks come out and view the operation, and to see if a retail operation had possibilities. The overwhelming response at that time made it clear that a retail operation should be started.

Everything seemed to take off from there. By 1990, Hornbaker Gardens was open seven days a week, and the wholesale part of the business was soon eliminated. A daylily collection was begun and established over a period of several years. The business expanded with the purchase of an entire iris business in 1990.



The Zen Garden  
*(Photo by Daniel Acker)*



The Barn at Hornbaker Gardens  
*(Photo by Daniel Acker)*





Garden Center  
(Photo by Daniel Acker)

It is their collection of hostas, however, that has done the most to make a name for Hornbaker Gardens. Rich and Kathy joined the American Hosta Society and have attended many of its annual conventions. Rich served on its Board of Directors for six years. This has helped them stay current with the latest developments in the hosta world. Besides the hostas and daylilies, Hornbaker Gardens also carries several hundred varieties of other perennials, including many ornamental grasses. Their ever-expanding offering of trees and shrubs has become as big a draw as the hostas. It

includes a wide variety of unusual plants, including dwarf conifers, along with the more standard varieties.

The Hornbakers try to plant, in their own gardens, as many of the varieties of the plants that they sell as possible. Over the years, the display gardens and plantings of trees and shrubs have turned Hornbaker Gardens into a botanical gardens and arboretum that attracts gardening enthusiasts from all over the Midwest and beyond.

The botanical gardens include two display ponds and a pondless waterfall featuring many of the aquatic plants that the garden center sells. The largest pond, built in October of 2001, is 40' in diameter and is fed by a stream, renovated in 2017, that is 150' long and has multiple gurgling waterfalls.

In 2006, the business started carrying a line of annuals in order to be a more complete garden center. That year, a special greenhouse was built, devoted to annuals, and in 2011, one of the large hoopouses was converted to a greenhouse for a major expansion of space for annuals.

Whatever the Hornbakers get interested in as gardeners, they seem to start providing for their customers, as well--thus, the offerings of granite and pottery, bronze sculptures and rusty metal artwork. In 2008, they put up a new building which is known as The Shop at Hornbaker Gardens. It is stocked with garden art and other garden accessories, where you are sure to find something unique for your garden.



Garden Shop  
(Photo by Daniel Acker)





Retail Gardens  
*(Photo by Daniel Acker)*



Hostas and more hostas  
*(Photo by Daniel Acker)*





Hosta Ravine  
(Photo by Daniel Acker)

2012 was the last year for the iris field. Where the iris field used to be, now stands [The Barn at Hornbaker Gardens](#), an event center available for wedding receptions, corporate meetings and other community events.

In August of 2014, Kathy Hornbaker died after suffering from frontal lobe dementia for several years. In honor of Kathy, the Children's Garden was created in 2017. It consists of a large, sloped, grassy play area where kids can be kids, climbing and jumping off a big flat boulder or a weather-smoothed White Oak log, going through a tunnel that's five feet in diameter, or playing

with scoops and trucks in the pea gravel area. A short distance from the Children's Garden is a sandy beach along the shallow stream in the front yard, where kids are allowed (encouraged, even, by Dave) to get all wet and sandy. A playhouse, known as Kathy's Kitchen, was added in 2018, and the Hornbakers plan to make more fun additions over the next few years. As Rich eases toward retirement, he is fortunate enough to have a daughter, Molly Blogg, and his son, David Hornbaker, helping him run the business.



Molly Blogg, Rich Hornbaker, David Hornbaker  
(Photo by Michelle Brown)





AHS  
Conventions

*Mark your  
calendar!*

MINNEAPOLIS  
MINNESOTA  
June 10-13, 2020

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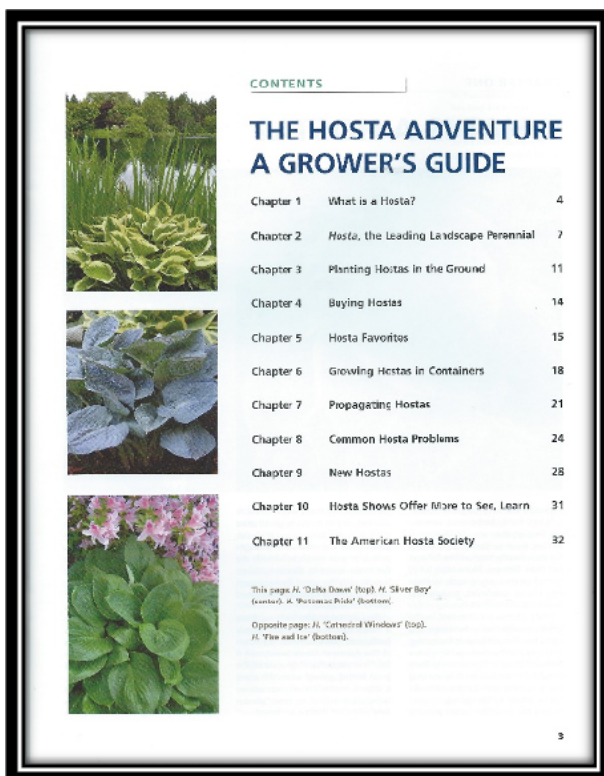
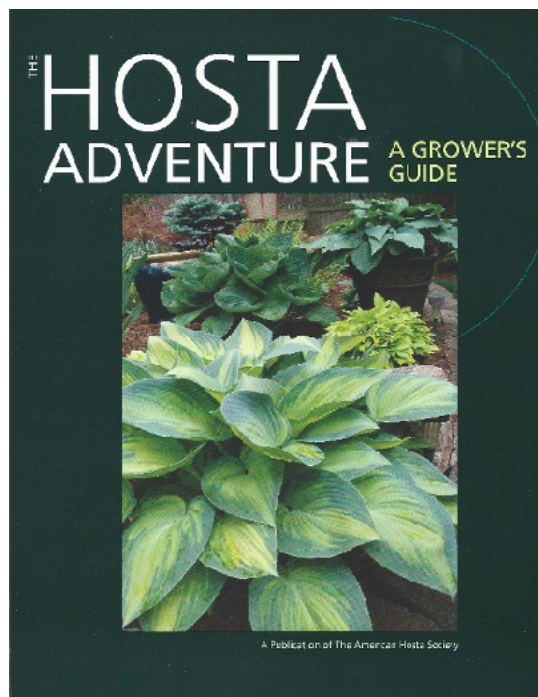
KALAMAZOO,  
MICHIGAN  
June 16-19, 2021

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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 set garden (photo by Larry Tucker).

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



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

The *Hosta Adventure* is filled with stunning photos of hostas and hosta gardens.

**Here is a great way to reward new members of your local club. Give them a copy of this American Hosta Society publication.**

For local societies and nurseries, the best price per copy is in bulk:

2-6 books, \$4.00 each + \$8.00 postage

7-30 books, \$4.00 each + \$15.00 postage

31-99 books, \$3.75 each + \$21.00 postage

100-499 books, \$3.25 each + \$27.00 postage

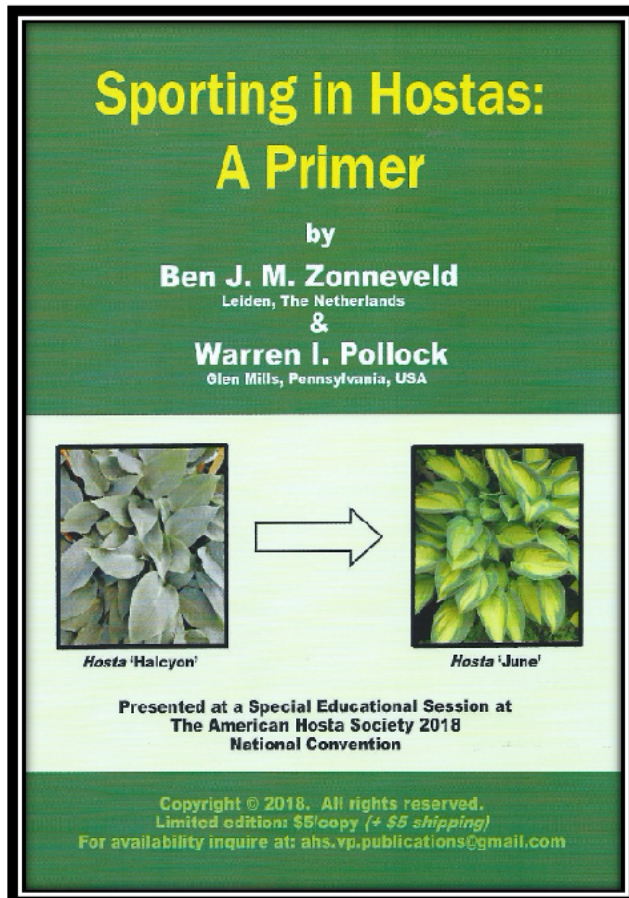
(All prices postpaid in the U.S.) Orders from foreign countries will pay any additional shipping charges.

Make checks payable to *The American Hosta Society* and send to:

**Barry Ankney, AHS VP Publications**  
**Hosta Adventure**  
**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 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**

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

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.
- 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

<b>Name:</b>			
<b>Street:</b>			
<b>City:</b>		<b>State:</b>	<b>Zip:</b>
<b>Country:</b>		<b>Phone Number:</b>	
<b>Email Address:</b>			

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