



Hosta 'Unruly Child'
T. Avent, 2012
Plant Delights Nursery Introduction



President's Musings

Gregg Peterson
President, American Hosta Society

I have had the privilege during the last few months to assist several local hosta societies in presenting "Certificates of Appreciation" to their local members. Recipients of this award are nominated by the local society leadership to recognize outstanding service at the local level. Members receiving the award do not have to be members of AHS and the service can be of a leadership position at the local level or can be service to a short-term project benefitting the local group. Two nominations per year can be submitted in writing and the local society determines if the award is to be made. Names are sent to Paula Lehtola, VP Awards & Honors by March 1st and she prepares the certificates and sends them to the local Hosta Society for presentation to their selected member(s). In addition, the award winners are also listed on the AHS website Wall of Honor along with the nominating local society. I wholeheartedly encourage all societies to recognize the hundreds of local members that perform countless hours of outstanding service at the local level by nominating them for this award.

The Hosta Society of Greater Cincinnati (HSGC) is the featured local society and they pack an awful lot of events and activities into their yearly program!! I really like a group that knows how to get in good with its members, namely using FOOD! Members also enjoy going on garden tours and it appears that HSGC offers up a tremendous variety of destinations and gardens to travel to.

The featured vendor, Plant Delights Nursery, Inc. has always been a favorite on-line nursery to go to. The wide variety of unique hostas combined with an extensive listing of companion plants makes their on-line catalog a real treat to peruse. I enjoy reading through the extensive plant descriptions even though I know I can't grow a good number of them in the far north!!

Finally, as our hosta gardening season winds down for this year, check out the updates to the Hosta Registry website. Plan to spend some time later this fall and winter checking out all of the new and updated features. This represents the culmination of a lot of hard work by a number of people and is a great new resource to the AHS.

Give yourself a well-deserved gardening break and always yours in the "friendship" plant.

Gregg Peterson
President, American Hosta Society

The Hosta Registry Website Update is Completed!

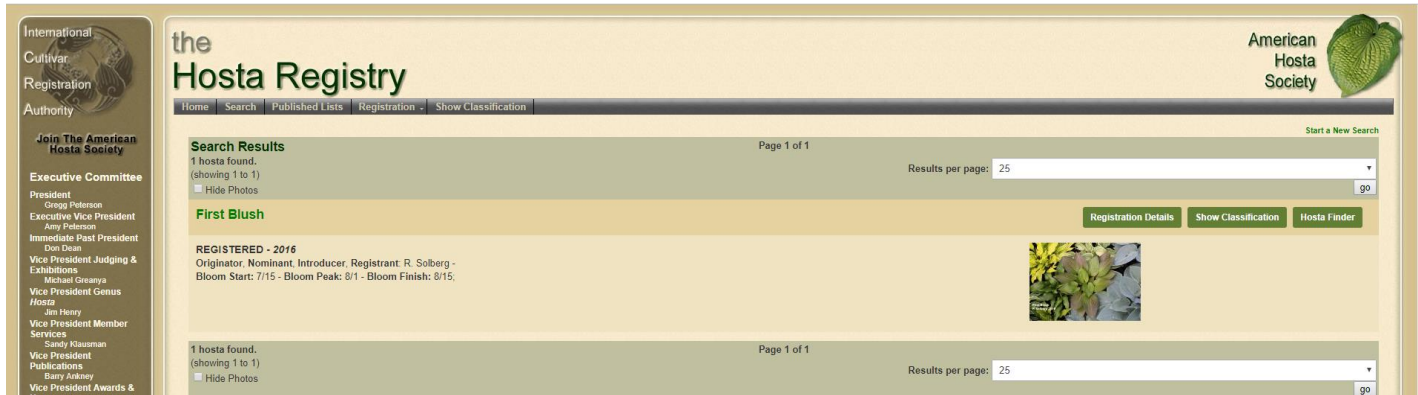
Those of you who attended the AHS Convention in June are aware of the changes coming to the American Hosta Society's **Hosta Registry Website**. Changes and additions were initially discussed by the executive committee of the AHS Board several years ago. Both Doug Beilstein and Don Dean, during their terms as president pursued adding some features to the Registry Website. As most of you likely know, the **Hosta Registry Website** is a service provided to you by the American Hosta Society (AHS) in its capacity as the International Cultivar Registration Authority for the Genus *Hosta*. The current Registrar is Gayle Hartley Alley. Hosta enthusiasts, growers, hybridizers, nurserymen, and horticulturists find this growing resource an invaluable tool.

Gayle Alley, Josh Spece, Barb and Rick Schroeder, Rob Mortko, and others have been working diligently on this project for over two years. Over 10,000 photos have been scanned and added to the website by Barb and Rick Schroeder. They have been instrumental in making this project come to fruition.

When available, the original photographs that were submitted to the registrar at the time of registration of a cultivar are displayed as a part of the registration detail page. The new registry site includes the original registration photos and, in many cases, also includes additional photos of the clump, leaf, and flower, and when applicable, any seasonal variations in the plant.

In addition to adding plant photos to the registry site, there is also a new feature that has been funded by the American Hosta Growers Association (AHGA). The AHGA has obtained permission from Steve Greene to use the name **Hosta Finder** to provide to all a **free** online resource that identifies the availability and pricing of hostas carried by member nurseries of the AHGA.

Let's look at an example of the new features of the **Hosta Registry Website**. From the search page, if you search for First Blush, the image on the following page is displayed. *(I suggest that after reading this article that you go through these same steps on the new website to familiarize yourself with these features.)*



When a cultivar is searched for on the Registry site, three tabs appear on the search results page. They are green tabs to the right of the name of the hosta. The first tab is **Registration Details**, which includes all of the photos of the cultivar, along with all of the details about the plant, leaf size, flower color, etc. The second tab is **Show Classification**, which lists the section and class for the cultivar for leaf show entry. The third tab is **Hosta Finder**.

If you click on the **Registration Details** tab, the image at right is displayed. Note that the **Registration Details** tab under the photos is now darkened. The photos are displayed and labeled as either a registration photo, or additional photos for the particular cultivar. You may enlarge the photos simply by clicking on any one of the photos. For example, clicking on the Registered Clump photo enlarges the photo to cover most of the screen, as shown below.



You can scroll through the larger sized photos by clicking on the right side of the photo to advance to the next photo or clicking on the left side of the photo to go back to the previous

photo. To go back to the registration details page, just click the **X** at the lower right of the photo or click anywhere outside of the photo.



From the **Registration Details** page, you can jump to the **Show Classification** page by clicking the **Show Classification** tab, just under the photos, at the center of the page. Doing so will bring up the **Show Classification** page, as follows. Note that the **Show Classification** tab is now darkened.

the Hosta Registry

Home Search Published Lists Registration **Show Classification**

First Blush - 2016
REGISTERED
Originator, Nominant, Introducer, Registrant: R. Solberg

Registered Clump

Additional Flower

First-Blush-L-R-Schroeder.06.2018 Additional Leaf

First-Blush-F-D-Beilstein.2018 Additional Flower

Registration Details **Show Classification** Hosta Finder

Classification Information			
Section Class	Classif Leaf Length	Classif Leaf Width	Classif Leaf Color
III-1	8.5	5	medium green

[2018 Full Classification List](#)
[2018 Simplified Classification List](#)
[Cover Pages for Classification Lists](#)
[Quick Reference Table for Leaf Sizes and Colors](#)

As you can see, the **Show Classification** page lists the Section Class, Leaf Length, Leaf Width, and Leaf Color for judging classification. Links to the full and partial classification lists, cover pages, and quick reference table for judging are also listed. *(Currently, there is an ongoing project by the nomenclature chair to review show classification data. As soon as these results are available, updated information will be added to the website.)*

To go to the **Hosta Finder** section, simply click on the **Hosta Finder** tab.

A sample page from the **Hosta Finder** for First Blush^{PP28920} follows. Note that the **Hosta Finder** tab is now darkened. You can navigate between the three sections at any time by clicking the appropriate tab.

The screenshot shows the 'the Hosta Registry' website. The main heading is 'First Blush - 2016'. Below it, it says 'REGISTERED' and 'Originator, Nominant, Introducer, Registrant: R. Solberg'. There are three tabs: 'Registration Details', 'Show Classification', and 'Hosta Finder', with 'Hosta Finder' being the active tab. A message states: 'The AHGA Hosta Finder is scheduled to debut in 2019, in time for the spring order season.' Below this is the AHGA logo and a message: 'The American Hosta Growers Association is proud to honor the legacy of AHGA member Steve Green. www.hostagrowers.org'. To the right is a table of vendors for the US region, sorted by price. The table has columns for Vendor, Price, and a location pin icon. The vendors and their prices are: Wadia & Catton Nurseries (\$25.00), Green Hill Farm, Inc. (\$35.00), Mason Hollow Nursery (\$35.00), Naylor Creek Nursery (\$35.00), New Hampshire Hostas (\$36.00), Hornbaker Gardens (\$40.00), and In the Country Garden and Gifts (\$40.00). The average price is \$35.14.

US	Canada	UK	Europe	Price
Wadia & Catton Nurseries 1288 Gatton Rocks Rd. Bellville, OH 44813 419-883-3191 - www.wadiandcattonnurseries.com				\$25.00
Green Hill Farm, Inc. P.O. Box 773 Franklinton, NC 27525 919-309-0649 - www.HostaHosta.com				\$35.00
Mason Hollow Nursery 47 Scripps Lane Mason, NH 03046 603-878-4347 - www.masonhollow.com				\$35.00
Naylor Creek Nursery P.O. Box 309 Chimacum, WA 98325 360-732-4963 - www.naylorcreek.com				\$35.00
New Hampshire Hostas 73 Exeter Road South Hampton, NH 03827 603-879-0065 - www.nhhostas.com				\$36.00
Hornbaker Gardens 22937 1140 N. Ave. Princeton, IL 61356 815-659-3262 - www.hornbakergardens.com				\$40.00
In the Country Garden and Gifts 2587 Quasqueton Diag. Blvd. Independence, IA 50644 319-934-3620 - www.inthecountrygardenandgifts.com				\$40.00
Average Price:				\$35.14

The **Hosta Finder** displays the AHGA member nurseries that are selling the chosen cultivar, listed in order by price, lowest to highest, with an average price also calculated. Each nursery listed has a link to their website, so the interested person can jump directly to the website to make a purchase, if desired. The current pricing shown is for the 2018 year. Early next year, pricing for the 2019 season will be posted.

Note that there are tabs for US, Canada, UK and Europe at the top of the listings. Where applicable, separate listings for each of these regions or countries are displayed by clicking on the region or country. If no AHGA Vendor is offering a particular cultivar, the **Hosta Finder** page will have no listings of vendors. Both registered and non-registered hostas are included in the **Hosta Finder** listings.

I am certain that you will enjoy this valuable new resource. If you have additional photos to share to add to the website, please contact Rick or Barb Schroeder (barbschro1@gmail.com or rickschro1@gmail.com). Feedback or comments should be sent to Josh Spece, Webeditor-in-Chief (josh@inthecountrygardenandgifts.com). Questions about registration information should be directed to Gayle Hartley Alley (giboshigayle@gmail.com). Hosta Finder questions should be directed to Rob Mortko (robmortko@gmail.com).

Barry Ankney, Editor



Hostas and Associates

Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

The Japanese Hostas, Part 3

***Hosta pycnophylla* (Setouchi Giboshi)**

Though hostas are native to Japan, China, and Korea, the majority of species come from Japan. This article is the third in a series which will talk about those species. Previous eNewsletter articles have covered *Hosta alismifolia* and *H. nakaiana*. This one discusses *H. pycnophylla*, Setouchi Giboshi, which is translated to "Hosta with densely arranged leaves."

Of all the hosta species that I have seen and/or grown, this one ranks as one of my favorites. It forms a medium sized clump, up to 19 inches tall, with pale to medium green lightly rippled leaves. The leaves have better than average substance. The underside of the leaves is white, giving the plant almost a variegated look when viewed from the side or when the foliage is being tossed around by the wind. Leaf petioles are covered with reddish purple dots. Because of these desirable characteristics, *H. pycnophylla* has been much loved by plant breeders. Over 110 entries are listed in the MyHosta Database containing *H. pycnophylla* in their origin. *Hosta pycnophylla* is often confused with *H. hypoleuca*, but the latter has a larger leaf size and lack of purple spotting.





The flowers of *H. pycnophylla* bloom in mid-August to early September. They are predominately lavender, but with a white margin on the petals. Three darker stripes run their length. Scapes grow to about 31 inches and are sometimes multi-branched. They emerge at a 30-degree angle from the ground, giving them a recumbent appearance. Scapes also have distinct purplish dots near the base. The flowers are very fertile and form abundant seed pods, which is

another reason why the plant is useful in breeding work. Though sometimes used as the pod parent, it is more often used as the pollen source.

Hosta pycnophylla does not have a very wide native range. It is only found on Oshima Island and a few others on the Western end of the Inland Sea between Honshu and Shikoku Islands. There it is usually found in dense shade on wet or damp soils, usually along streams.

Few seed variations of *H. pycnophylla* exist. Among these is 'Ogon Setouchi,' which has yellowish leaves. Of the many hybrids, *H. kiyosuiensis* and *H. longipes* seem to be the favorite female to cross with. Cultivars include 'Amethyst Joy,' 'Heart of Gold,' 'Inland Sea,' and 'Nancy Gill.' *Hosta pycnophylla* is the pod parent in 'Aliyah's Grace,' 'Gilt by Association,' 'James A. Garfield,' and 'Toots.' 'Pewter Frost' uses *H. montana* as the pollen parent.

Recent introductions with *H. pycnophylla* as a parent include 'Lady Grace' (van Eechoute 2014), 'Leather and Lace' (Don Dean 2013), 'Louie Louie' (Dean 2014), 'Spartan Spear' (Dean 2012), and 'Urchin' (Beilstein 2013). Since 2015 Jeroen Linneman from Hosta Valley in Zwolle, Netherlands has introduced over 20 hostas using *H. pycnophylla* as a parent. They include: 'Valley's Blue Wedding,' 'Valley's Curly Wurly,' 'Valley's First Bite,' 'Valley's Lemon Limbo,' 'Valley's Love Birds,' 'Valley's Love Buzz,' 'Valley's Pavlova,' 'Valley's Ratatouille,' and 'Valley's Witness.'

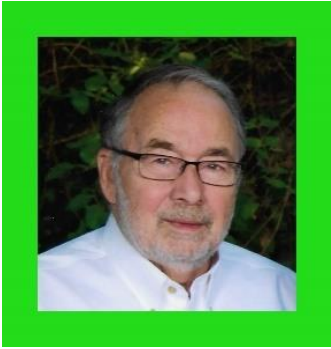
When asked why he chose to work with *H. pycnophylla* in his breeding program, Don Dean stated that the wax on the underside of the leaves can help in the breeding of blue hostas, something for which he is noted. 'Leather and Lace' is a product of at least five different hostas and he states that the genes of *H. pycnophylla* may have become buried in the breeding process. Both 'Louie Louie'

and 'Spartan Spear' came from this lineage: (('Liberty Bell' x ('Urajiro Hachijo' x *H. pycnophylla*)) x 'Mikawa-no-yuki' . 'Louie Louie' is a small green hosta with a white edge while 'Spartan Spear' is also a green hosta with a white edge, but with a strongly rippled margin.

The white under side of the leaves and purplish dots on the scapes and petioles make *Hosta pycnophylla* a very distinctive hosta in the landscape. Use it by itself, incorporate it into your breeding program, or choose one of the many hostas that have it in its DNA. You won't be disappointed.



Photos by Glenn Herold



GO HOSTAS!

Warren I. Pollock
Glen Mills, Pennsylvania

Bacterial Leaf Streak (BLS)

In the September *AHS eNewsletter*, I mentioned that bacterial leaf streak (BLS) can look somewhat like foliar nematode-infected leaves. Therefore, disfigurement of leaves thought to be due to FN may actually be due to BSL. Bill Meyer, Woodbury, Connecticut, co-“librarian” of Hosta Library, has extensively written about BLS in HL.

Bill points out that a distinguishing difference between FN- and BLS-infected leaves is that near the tip of the leaf, the damage from BLS crosses the vein. Leaf damage from FN is always within the veins.

If you cut a sample of an infected FN leaf and examine it under a microscope, you don't see any wiggly eelworms. Instead there is a milky substance oozing from the cut. If the magnification is high enough, you can see the milky ooze swarming with bacteria.

With FN infection, the tissue between the veins slowly turns yellow then brown as the nematodes multiply and kill cell after cell with their feeding. After a month or so, the area becomes uniformly brown with no living cells left.

With BSL infection, the area between the veins quickly takes a “waterlogged appearance.” The bacteria have destroyed the cells and released their contents. The waterlogged area quickly turns brown. It may not fill the space between the veins and may cross a vein. Another common symptom is a fan pattern at the base of the leaf with multiple veins involved. The brown stripes also can appear much earlier than in FN-infected leaves.



Bacterial Leaf Streak (BLS): The first sign of bacterial leaf streak is waterlogged areas between the veins, left. Within a week or so they start turning brown, right. (Photos Carol Brashear)

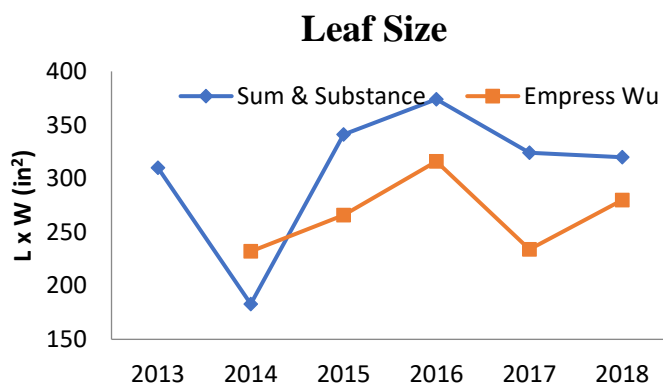
Treatment of bacterial leaf diseases is usually agricultural streptomycin. (You likely will have to go online to purchase it.) But once a leaf is infected, there is no cure. Spraying with a copper-based fungicide as a

preventative before infection is a good idea. One such liquid formulation is Bonide® Copper Fungicide available in many nurseries. A better treatment, though, might be a mixture of streptomycin and Cu-based fungicide.

Big Leaf Contest

If your local hosta society does not have an annual Big Leaf Contest at its summer meeting, I suggest it initiate one. It allows many attendees to actually be involved with the meeting. The contest is a great fun event with considerable competitive spirit. And it is educational, too.

I'm a member of the Delaware Valley Hosta Society, and we've had a Big Leaf Contest for the last nine years. The requirement is simple. Enter the biggest leaf of hostas known to have large leaves. Usually this means *H.* 'Sum and Substance' and *H.* 'Empress Wu'. Condition of the leaves is not important. They can have slug and hail damage and tears—and often do.



Delaware Valley Hosta Society Big Leaf Contests (DVHS Newsletter, Fall 2018, Vol. 27, No. 4)

The length and width of each leaf is measured with a yardstick or tape. Length is multiplied by width and a Big Leaf Contest Size is obtained. The winning leaf has the largest number. A prize is given to the winner.

NOTE: Although Big Leaf Contest Sizes are areas (in²), *they are not the actual geometric areas of the leaves' surfaces.*

Delaware Valley Hosta Society's Big Leaf Contest stems from Central Illinois Hosta Society's Hosta Leaf Contest. A DVHS member had been a CIHS member. When she moved to Southeastern Pennsylvania and joined DVHS, she introduced the contest to DVHS.

CIHS's July 2017 contest (there was no contest in 2018) was more extensive than just biggest leaf. There were five categories:

Biggest Leaf	Best Picrust (Wavy) Edge	Best Streaking Leaf
Best Tri-colored Leaf	Longest Scape.	

One could enter one or all five categories, but only one entry per category. Requested was for the name of the hosta to be written on the leaf; a Sharpie® marking pen was said to work well. Prizes were awarded to one winner in each category.

Five categories may be too many for many local hosta societies. If your group is going to start a contest, I suggest just the Big (or Biggest) Leaf Contest initially.

H. ‘Empress Wu’ & H. ‘Sum and Substance’ Leaf Sizes?

The Fall 2018 issue of the *Delaware Valley Society Newsletter* reported the results of the Big Leaf Contest at DVHS’s July meeting, raising the vexing question: What are the typical leaf sizes of H. ‘Empress Wu’ and H. ‘Sum and Substance’?

The registered leaf size for ‘Empress Wu’ is 28 inches long x 25 inches wide. Accordingly, the Big Leaf Contest Size would be 710 in² (leaf length x leaf width)! I’m not questioning that one and perhaps more leaves in Brian and Virginia Skaggs’s famous clump of ‘Empress Wu’ were of this huge size. But I do question whether 28” x 24” is the typical mature leaf size of this now classic hosta.

Supporting this is Mark Zilis in his popular authoritative, 2010 field guide. He states dimensions of ‘Empress Wu’ leaves are 22 ¼ inches long by 15 ¼ inches wide. Its Big Leaf Contest Size then would be 340 in².

Last September-October I asked a few growers of ‘Empress Wu’—one had it in his garden for 9 years—what are their clumps’ biggest leaf sizes. Response was these leaves ranged from 17 ½ to 20 inches long and from 13 to 17 inches wide. Accordingly, their Big Leaf Contest Sizes would be less than 350 in².

The typical mature leaf size of ‘Sum and Substance’ also can be questioned. S&S’s registered leaf size is 18 inches by 15 inches. Its Big Leaf Contest Size then would be 270 in². Interestingly, *Mark Zilis’ Field Guide to Hostas* states that S&S leaves can be up to 19 ¾ inches by 17 inches. Accordingly, Big Leaf Contest Size would be 335 in². Many S&S leaves in DVHS’s contests had Big Leaf Contest Sizes greater than 300 in².

What is needed are measurements from more growers of these hostas. So next year I’m going to initiate an all-AHS-membership request for dimensions of largest ‘Empress Wu’ and S&S leaves. I’ll also ask for their clump sizes. Results will be reported in an item in *The Hosta Journal*.

The request will be posted in the May 2019 issue of AHS eNewsletter. PLEASE PARTICIPATE. Your information is needed.

“The Mule” Movie and *Hosta*

On December 14, “The Mule,” a mega American crime/mystery movie, will be released in the United States. It stars Clint Eastwood, the popular 88-year-old Oscar®-award winning filmmaker, as a man in his 80s who is a drug courier for a Mexican cartel. Eastwood also directed the film. Bradley Cooper, an Oscar-winning Best Actor, co-stars. Also featured are several well-known supporting actors.

The film will be a major Christmas-New Year season cinema-going attraction. Expect huge television, newspaper and Internet promotions. The early scuttlebutt is the movie and Eastwood as actor or director, perhaps both, may be nominations for 2018 Oscar awards.

The film is based on the true story of a prominent daylily hybridizer and nurseryman. I’ll cite now there is a real-life connection between the real-life mule and *Hosta*. Namely, he attended an American Hosta Society national convention—where I met him—and he was a friend of a prominent hosta fancier.

I’m not going to say more here. Instead, I’ll wait until the movie comes out and the initial hype and hoopla have probably mostly passed. I’ll explain the connection in the next *AHS eNewsletter*. (If you happen to know, please don’t spread it around the hosta world for a while.)

[Editor's Note: We would have liked a photo of Clint Eastwood in "The Mule" accompanying this item. But all images we could find are copyright protected.]

TIP: Overwintering container-growing hostas

In the unusually harsh 2017-2018 winter, there was extensive damage to hostas growing in pots and troughs *kept outdoors unprotected*. This winter if you're overwintering container-growing hostas, I recommend covering the potting soil with mulch 1 ½ inches (and more) thick. Some suitable candidates are hardwood bark chips, coir (coconut husk and fiber) and ground rubber.

I discovered an interesting coir product on the Internet. It's called SpongeEase™ and is compressed bricks of the coconut fibers. The 8" x 4" x 2" size, after soaking in water, makes 2 gallons of mulch; a smaller size makes 5 quarts. SpongeEase is an excellent potting soil, too.

Don't forget to have mice and rat protection in overwintering container-growing hostas. Scatter a few rodenticide pellets on the mulch surface. Also, don't forget to remove the mulch—at least most of it—in spring.

Deer Repellent Lights

At the Educational Session Saturday afternoon at the 2018 AHS National Convention, June 20-23, there was a forum discussion on deer deterrents. Don Rawson, Comstock Park, Michigan, followed up with an email to me about "deer repellent lights."

"My friend Bob," Don said, "uses them and finds these lights very effective in controlling deer damage in his garden. It is much easier to install a few solar-powered lights than spraying all your hostas with a deer repellent liquid, which takes the wax coating off, too. And it's much cheaper than enclosing the garden with an 8 ft. high fence. For details, view www.nitegard.com."

More deer repellent information is planned for a *Go Hostas!* column in early 2019.

On the Publishing Front

In the last issue of *AHS eNewsletter* I related that Gerhard Ragus, Ganderkesee, Germany, just published a hardcover book titled "Hosta im Garten – eine Passion." It is available from www.hosta-gaertchen.de.

Gerhard has informed me he is planning to have his book translated into English. No publication date was furnished.

GO HOSTAS!

FEATURED VENDOR



Business name: Plant Delights Nursery, Inc.

Contact: Tony Avent

E-mail: sales@plantdelights.com

Mailing address: 9241 Sauls Road
Raleigh, NC 27603

Phone: 919-772-4794



Plant Delights Nursery (PDN) is a small, family-owned, mail-order nursery, established in 1988, offering unique, rare, well-grown, and properly-named perennials to passionate gardeners around the world.

Our love for interesting plants, and making them widely available, is equaled only by our passion for enriching the gardening lives of our customers. Plant Delights Nursery/Juniper Level Botanic Garden has one of the most extensive perennial trialing programs in the country. Our concern goes far beyond selling plants ... it matters to us how they perform in your gardens.

Despite being best known as a mail-order nursery, we exist for our work as a private 28-acre botanical garden, spiritual retreat center and plant research facility focusing on ex-situ plant conservation, plant exploration, breeding, and propagation. We have had several new plant species named from our collections, with more in the pipeline.

Our horticultural educational efforts are visible in our catalog, our website, our presentations around the country, in public and scientific publications, and now on social media.

Since our inception, 15% of our retail sales at PDN have been given to Juniper Level Botanic Garden to support this mission and we now currently display over 23,000 taxa (different kinds

of plants). We are working towards opening as a full-time public botanical garden and spiritual retreat center for all to enjoy.

Type of Business: Specialty hosta, mail order only (e-commerce, phone & Plant Delights Nursery & Juniper Level Botanic Garden Open Nursery and Garden Days on select weekends)

Unique about our hosta business: Many of our hosta are derived solely or in part from our 30 years of onsite breeding programs including dwarf hosta and variations of hostas; Blue leaf, gold leaf, purple leaf, branched and variegated. Founder, Tony Avent, is a recipient of the Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Merit Award.

Some exclusive hosta introductions have included:



‘Branching Out’, 2012, named by Tony as the Eunice Fisher Distinguished Merit Hosta in 2015



'Long Tail Lights', NR



'Deliverance', 2005



'Floramora', 2012



'Time Traveler', 2010, PPAF



'White Wall Tire', 1995



'Zebra Stripes', 2005

FEATURED LOCAL SOCIETY



Pat Thompson, President
3482 Westport Court
Cincinnati, OH 45248
Website: www.gchostas.org

HSGC was founded in 2001 by a small group of *Hosta* enthusiasts. It has grown to include gardeners of all types. Some of our members have hundreds of varieties of *Hosta* in their collections. We hold monthly meetings on Saturday mornings starting in February and ending in October. Most of our summer meetings are held in the gardens of our members.



Glenda and Gene Wogoman Garden



Mike Walters Garden

Annual dues are \$15 for individuals and \$20 per household. We currently have about 90 members. Meetings feature door prizes and lots of food. At our February meeting, we hold a homemade soup competition. We have local and nationally known speakers at most of our meetings. We go to at least one nursery each year where we can get discounts on our purchases that day.

Our annual bus trips are legendary. This summer's bus trip took us to Indianapolis, where we visited three private gardens and the Indianapolis Museum of Art gardens. The Indianapolis Museum of Art gardens incorporate trees, shrubs, perennials, and hardscape around the former Eli Lilly house and separate from it. Soules Gardens, south of Indianapolis specializes in hostas and daylilies. This was a sure stop for us! Past trips have featured Louisville, Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, and Columbus, Ohio, among others.

Our major fundraiser is an in-house auction of hostas and garden items. We buy sale items from nurseries, over-winter the plants, and offer them at auction the following summer. Additionally, we seek donations of plants from local nurseries and donations from members.

We hold an annual banquet with two other hosta societies, the Dayton and Columbus Ohio clubs. We also participate in the auctions of the Dayton and Columbus clubs.

We donate annually to a variety of horticultural related groups and organizations. We also have had informational booths at the Krohn Conservatory, Cincinnati Flower Show, and the Cincinnati Zoo. We participate in educational programs when they are available.



H. 'Designer Genes'



Brenda Demetriou and Carlon Addison



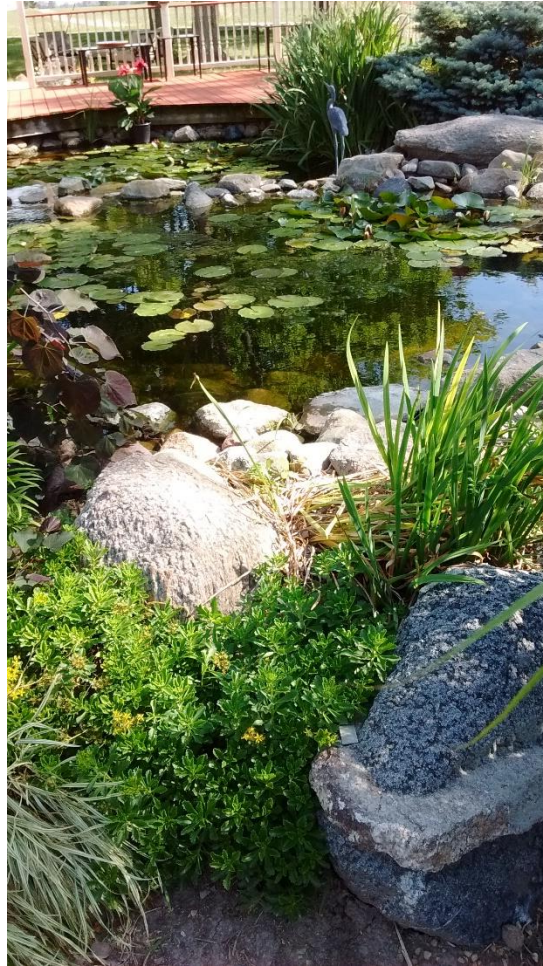
Carlon Addison in his garden



Mike Walters Garden



'Nutty Professor' lecturing other plants!



Member Gardens



Judy Case's Granddaughter, Sydney Lecander, with 'Empress Wu'



Profiles

Barry Ankney, Chicago, IL

Jim Henry
Vice President, Genus Hosta
Lewes, DE



After a first career playing basketball in Switzerland, I returned to the U.S. to pursue graduate studies to teach writing. When I got my assistant professor job in northern Virginia, I bought a ranch house on a heavily wooded lot in Lewes, DE. Knowing little about gardening, I asked friends for advice, and hostas came up often. I found a phone number online for a man who had a hosta display garden half an hour away, but when I called him, he told me that his garden had gone to weed, owing to two artificial knees. Imagining a half-acre lot like mine with a couple dozen hostas, I offered to weed for him if I could come see them.

The man turned out to be Alex Summers, and he had a few more hostas than a couple dozen, on a lot that required a golf cart to visit all the beds. We struck a deal whereby once a week, I would put in several hours weeding, and when I was done for the day, he would drive me around, taking me to different hostas and instructing me to take cuttings.

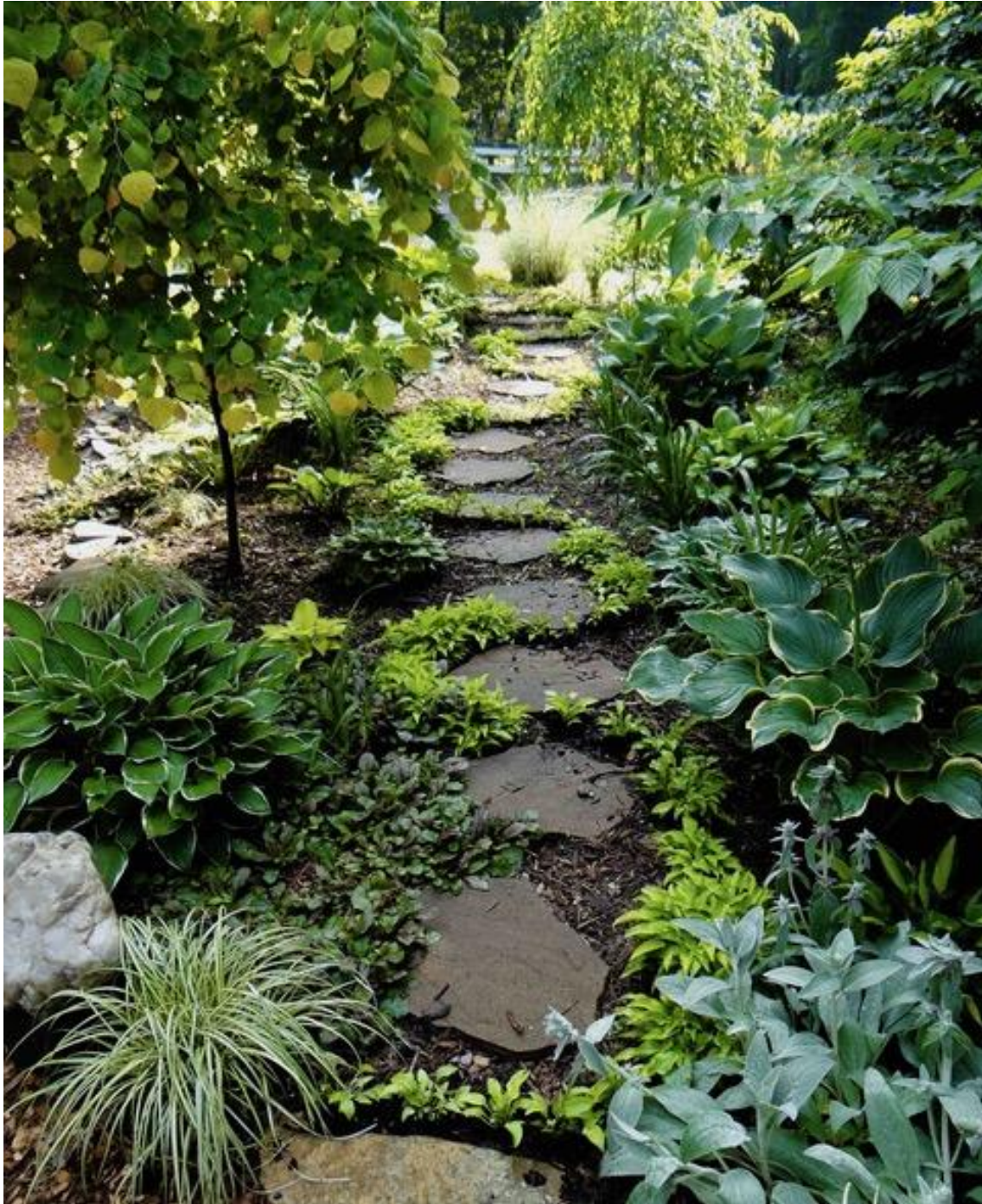


Our back garden with dining pavilion.



The path in front.

Today my partner Herb Burgess and I have around 300 varieties, along with several dozen fern varieties and other shade perennials. My job teaching writing took me to the University of Hawaii, and during a sabbatical in 2011, Herb and I were strolling the garden one evening and he remarked how much he loved our specimen of Stardust. “Shh. Not in front of the other hostas!” I joked. But my imagination was seized, and I soon imagined scenes in which hostas were discussing the curious species homo sapiens among themselves.



Above, *H. 'Feather Boa'* snakes through a pathway.



Herb's tray that won "best in category" at the AHS 50th Anniversary Convention.

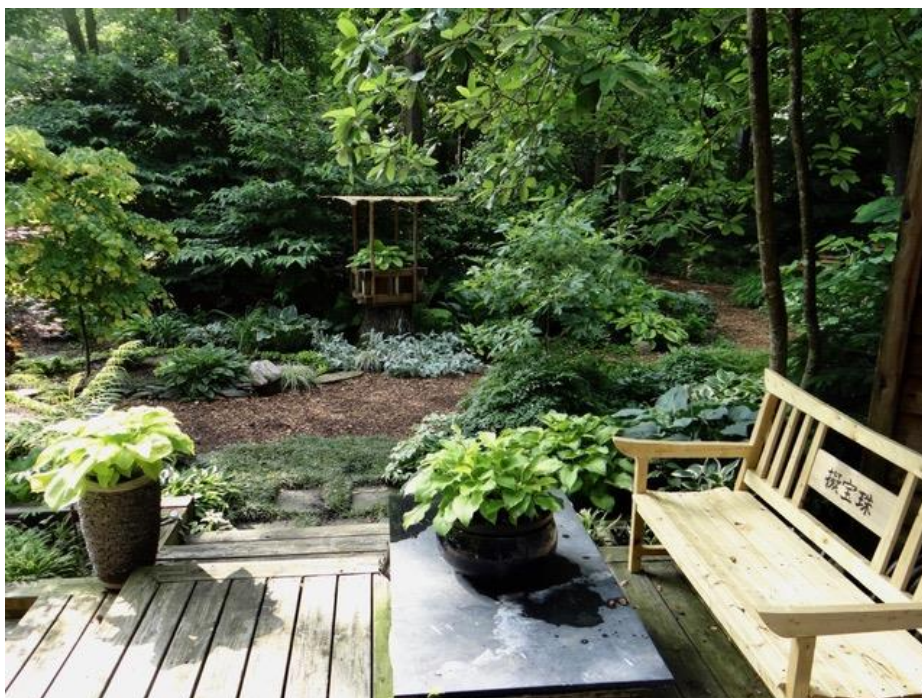
Imagining the personality for a Big Daddy or a Crepe Suzette came easily, but what characteristics should hostas have in common as a genus? I wondered. I bought W. George Schmid's *The Genus Hosta* and pored over it. Then I ordered all the back issues of *The Hosta Journal*. Then the various reference guides we all have on our shelves. (Sticky notes fly out in all directions from my copy of *The Hostapedia*.) I read everything about hostas I could find while sketching out scenes that would come to me while gardening, captured in voice memos on my iPod. By the end of my sabbatical, I had completed *Hosta Seizure*, which to my delight was serialized in *The Online Hosta Journal*.

When I retired in 2016, I published the novel as a paperback, and in spring of 2018 it was released in Kindle format on Amazon. Readers can view a trailer on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rETbHYMI01M>

While my celebration of hostas is mainly verbal, Herb's is visual; when I am muttering into my iPod he is clicking away on his camera. (He has won an AHS annual photography award several times.) We welcome visitors to our garden, which includes hardscape in the Japanese tradition to complement our Asian hosta friends. A 16'x20' treehouse (seen below) we designed and built in 2004 offers a view of many of the hostas from on high. Come see it!



Side garden with treehouse in the distance.

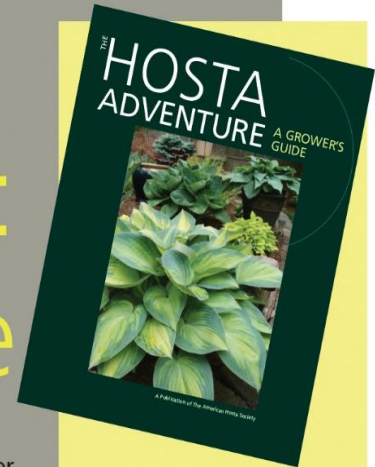


View from the front deck.

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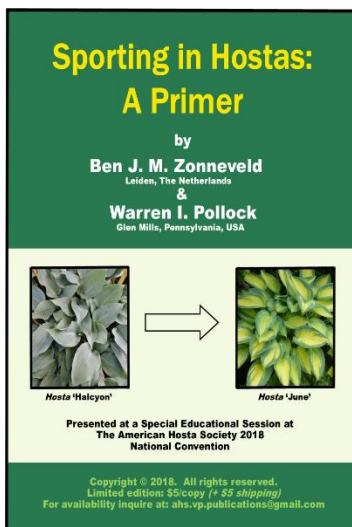
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AHS Membership



The American Hosta Society (AHS) is a society dedicated to the study and improvement of the genus *Hosta* and the dissemination of general and scientific knowledge about hostas. There are many benefits for the members that result from these efforts, both social and in nursery trade.

AHS members receive several publications a year, including two colorful issues of *The Hosta Journal* (mailed), four eNewsletters (emailed), and *The Online Hosta Journal* (posted on the web for members only). These Journals include articles on cultivation tips, propagation techniques, landscape uses, new cultivars and old species, pioneers and personalities, scientific advances, convention awards, gardens, and news about the AHS.

Membership provides an opportunity to attend national meetings and conventions which offer educational and scientific presentations, garden tours, judge's clinics, and a chance to see the latest and best hosta in the hosta show.

Other membership benefits:

A Biennial AHS Membership Directory.

The privilege of visiting display gardens throughout the country, many of which are only open to AHS members.

An invitation to exhibit your favorite hostas and compete for recognition in various AHS national and regional hosta shows.

Developing friendships with people who share an interest in growing hostas.

Access to Members Only section of the AHS website.

Another benefit of becoming a new member is you receive a voucher from the AHS Membership Secretary good for \$15.00 towards any purchase at sponsoring nurseries.

For information about this program, go to

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

Print and mail the application form on the next page, or to join online, go to

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

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AHS eNewsletter, Late Fall – November 2018

Editor: Barry Ankney
Featured Columnists: Glenn Herold
Warren Pollock



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Pat Thompson, Hosta Society of Greater Cincinnati
Lyllan Roberts, Plant Delights Nursery
Jim Henry, AHS VP Genus Hosta

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Tell your friends about the AHS eNewsletter.

***Share this eNewsletter with anyone who is interested in
Hostas and shade companion plants!***

Editor's note: There will be a change in the editor of this publication beginning in January 2019. The current editor will be out of the country on an extended journey. Danny Lawson, the Editor of The Online Hosta Journal will be taking over as the editor of the eNewsletter.