



Hosta 'Uniquely Catawampus'
M. Rosenberg 2016
Uniquely Hostas Introduction



Message from the President

Andy Marlow, Hopkins, MN

You should be receiving the fall issue of *The Hosta Journal* in the next few weeks, if you haven't already. Because of the size of the mailing and the diversity of locations of our membership the publication arrives at different times for our members. One of my other hosta jobs is photo editor of *The Journal* and I am always pleased to hear people say they really enjoy the photos inside. We accept submissions of photos at any time, and often solicit them from members we know have photographic talent. If you have photos you would like to share, email me and I'll send you the guidelines for submission. My email is on the masthead.

One of the ways we discover photographic talent is through the annual American Hosta Society/*The Hosta Journal* Photo Contest. There are lots of benefits to entering the contest besides being noticed by The Journal staff. Winners get a very nice certificate and recognition at the AHS annual convention, plus their photos are printed in the spring edition of *The Hosta Journal*. Of late, several of the winners have also graced the cover of The Journal; our highest honor. Again, email me if you'd like a copy of the rules, or check out the spring 2019 issue. The December 31st deadline for entry is fast approaching. Now that many of your gardens have been put to bed for the winter, start combing through your photos from the growing season.

The Board of Directors of the AHS met near the end of October in Minnesota. We had a very informative and productive meeting. We received a very detailed report from the 2019 Hostaffinity convention organizers and realized we needed to update the planning guide for future conventions. I appointed an ad hoc committee to examine the issues and suggest revisions at our summer meeting.

We did enact one change immediately, reinforcing the action previously taken by the Board to reduce the rate of vendor fees at the convention. The Board had voted in 2016 to set the fees at 10% of gross sales minus a \$100 table charge. But the change did not get reflected in either the planning guide or the contracts with sponsoring societies for the 2020 and 2021 conventions. Our action will now fix the situation. Vendors are very important to the conventions and some are key members of our Society.

Speaking of conventions, we have conventions scheduled in the Twin Cities in 2020 and in Kalamazoo in 2021. But we have none scheduled beyond that point. Can your local Society step up to sponsor a future convention? The AHS can provide logistical and other assistance, so you won't be doing it all on your own. Plus there are many experienced convention planners who put together previous meetings who will be more than glad to provide plenty of sage advice. Please contact Executive Vice President Tammy Borden if you would consider being a sponsor.

Finally, I want to announce that I have appointed Pat Gwidt of the Green and Gold Hosta Society of Southeastern Wisconsin and Vice President of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society as chair of the Audit and Finance Committee. The position was filled on a temporary basis by Harold McDonnell when former chair Elaine Cole became AHS Treasurer. Pat is a retired banker. She's a past president of the Green and Gold Society, has exhibited successfully in hosta shows, and is a Senior Hosta Show Judge. Pat is also a Wisconsin Master Gardener.

Sincerely,

Andy Marlow
President, American Hosta Society



Hostas and Associates

Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

The Japanese Hostas, Part 9

Hosta rupifraga (Hachijo Giboshi)

by Glenn Herold

Though hostas are native to Japan, China, and Korea, the majority of species come from Japan. This article is the ninth 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* and *H. tibae*. 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. rupifraga*, Hachijo Giboshi, which is named for the island on which it is found, Hachijo Island, a volcanic island in the Philippine Sea about 200 miles South of Tokyo. Hachijo Island has an area of just over 24 square miles and is part of the Izu archipelago. It receives about 120 inches of rain annually and has a humid subtropical climate. Though this may sound an alarm for Midwestern gardeners, *H. rupifraga* has proved to be hardy to much colder climates.

Hosta rupifraga is found in the cooler environment at the top of Mount Nishi at an elevation of about 2500 feet. The specific epithet, *rupifraga*, is derived from *rupifragus*, which means "growing in the cleft of rocks." In its native habitat it is found growing on scree, making it useful in rock gardens. When first emerging, it may be in full sun but is shaded by tall grasses during the heat of the summer. As might be expected of a plant that is found in a limited area, it is morphologically very uniform.

Hosta rupifraga is a small plant with a mature height of 10 inches. Leaves are light to medium green, of thick substance, shiny, and slightly waxy on the underside. Margins are wavy. Its size and substance make it useful as an edging plant in the shade garden. Flowers are lavender with whitish petal margins, surrounded by white and purple bracts. They are both pollen and pod fertile. Scapes are purple dotted and grow to a height of about 18 inches. The plant blooms in September, fairly late when compared to other hostas.

Hosta rupifraga is similar to and often confused with *H. longipes* var. *latifolia*. Speculation is that *H. rupifraga* evolved from *H. longipes* var. *latifolia* on isolated Hachijo Island. One major difference is that the petioles of *H. rupifraga* are green while *H. longipes* var. *latifolia* has reddish-purple dots.

Several sports of *H. rupifraga* have originated in Japan. 'Fukurin Ki Hachijo' has golden leaves with paler margins. 'Ki Hachijo' has entirely golden leaves. 'Urajiro Hachijo' has green leaves with a thick waxy bloom on the lower side.

Hosta hybridizers have latched onto *H. rupifraga*'s characteristics of waxy thick leaves and late flowers in their breeding programs. Because of the confusion with *H. longipes* var. *latifolia*, however, some may have used this plant rather than the true *Hosta rupifraga*. 'Forever Green' (Dishon 94,) a cross between *H. rupifraga* and *H. plantaginea*, has fragrant lavender flowers and dark green leaves. 'Raspberry Sorbet' (Lohman/Zilis 99) is an attractive low dense plant with shiny green leaves and purple flowers on purplish scapes. Its parentage is *H. rupifraga* x 'Shining Tot.' Herb Benedict crossed *H. kikutii* with *H. rupifraga* and got 'Roy's Pink.' It is an earlier blooming plant with pale purple flowers. 'Frosty Morn' (Lachman 93) is a *H. rupifraga* hybrid with cupped,

medium gold to chartreuse leaves and near white flowers in late July. Tony Avent's cross between *H. rupifraga* and *H. plantaginea* resulted in 'Surfer Dude' (Avent 07), a plant which is heavily rippled and has a thick bloom on the underside. Flowers are purple with white stripes and are slightly fragrant. 'Burgundy Bermudas' (Goodwin 13) is a *H. rupifraga* seedling that has red petioles.

A multi-plant cross, 'Sweet Susan Streaked' x ((*H. rupifraga* x 'Fall Bouquet') x 'Blue Blush') resulted in 'Extasy' (Hansen 07). I'm sure there's a joke in here somewhere, but I'll refrain! 'Extasy' is a small upright growing plant with a creamy white center and blue-green edge. Also by Hans Hansen is 'Prairie Sky' (Hansen 05). This cross between ((*H. rupifraga* hybrid) x 'Maruba Iwa') x 'Blue Jay' is medium sized, blue, and cupped. A recent introduction is 'Frisian Green Waves' (Bate Aukema 19), a cross between 'Frisian Waving Steel' and *H. rupifraga*. This small green plant with a wavy edge has red flower scapes. Just imagine your planting bed edged with this beauty!

Other seedlings and hybrids of *H. rupifraga* exist, but unfortunately are not readily available. Isn't it time this species had more of a presence in your garden?



Hosta rupifraga (Hachijo Giboshi)

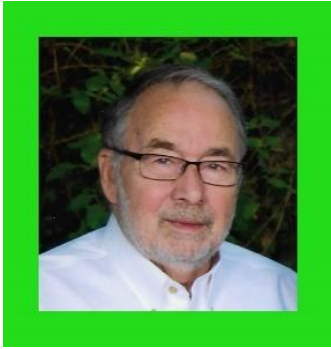
(Photo by Glenn Herold)



Hosta rupifraga (Hachijo Giboshi)
(Photo by Glenn Herold)



Hosta rupifraga (Hachijo Giboshi)
(Photo by Glenn Herold)



Go Hostas!

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Winter is Vole Season: What's your Abatement Program?

Voles are subterranean relatives of the field mouse. They eat the rhizomes and roots of hostas and are especially bothersome in winter. In many hosta gardens they are a major problem. I know gardeners who have lost prize clumps due to this rodent's appetite in winter.

I've had articles on combating vole damage in several AHS *Online Hosta Journals*. The principal one was in the 2015 edition, Volume 46. It discussed bait stations, spraying the ground with castor oil-dish detergent mixture and planting hostas in wire-mesh waste basket and hardware-cloth circular enclosures.

Frankly, it is a somewhat draconian task to view this article. You need to enter the AHS website (<http://www.hosta.org>) and go into the "Members Only" section. Access requires the current AHS website password—which is revealed at the bottom of page 5 in Spring and Fall issues of *The Hosta Journal*. Spring 2019 issue is Volume 50.1; Fall 2019 issue is 50.2 and not yet published at this writing. NOTE: Spring 2020 *THJ*, 51.1, will have a new password on page 5.



Vole found in Brashear-Meyer garden, Woodbury, CT
Meadow voles are five to seven inches long, counting the tail, usually weighing an ounce or two.

(Photo by Carol Brashear)

Once in Members-Only section, select "Publications," then "Online Journal Archives" and then "2015 - Volume 46 Online." Click the cover photo for the Contents page and then select "This and That: 2015." Proceed through the lengthy article to item titled "Combating Vole Damage."

There you'll find information—as I initially said—on bait stations, spraying the ground with castor oil-dish detergent mixture and planting hostas in wire-mesh waste basket and hardware-cloth circular enclosures.

Bait stations are not traps. They don't capture nor kill voles. Instead, they are confinements containing poison bait. Voles enter the sites and eat the toxic bait or, as likely, take the bait away to their nest and eat it there, sharing it with other voles. They don't die in the stations; they die somewhere else, likely in their nests.

The castor oil-dish detergent method is Richard Merritt's. He is owner of NH Hostas in South Hampton, New Hampshire (<http://www.nhhostas.com>). Merritt, who just served as American Hosta Growers Association president, has a very educational video of his applying the solution. It was made in his nursery and he narrates. Title is "Voles and mice: How to have a vole-free garden" and it can be seen on his website (<http://www.nhhostas.com/voles-and-mice/>). I highly recommend it. A big plus for Merritt's method is it is environmentally friendly.

Richard Merritt waters the ground with a *castor oil and dish detergent solution*. For large areas, using a hose-end sprayer, his recipe is:

- 1-2 oz. castor oil. Do NOT use unscented castor oil. He buys his castor oil from Shay and Company in Portland, Oregon (<http://www.shayandcompany.com/castor-oil-1-gallon.html>)
- 1-2 oz. dish detergent.

He adds the mixture to the jar of a hose-end sprayer and then fills the jar with water. He then attaches the jar to a garden hose and thoroughly waters every desired location to deter the pests. For hose-end sprayers with a dial, it's the highest setting.

For small areas he uses a watering can. The recipe is: 1 teaspoon of castor oil (Do NOT use unscented castor oil) to 1 teaspoon dish detergent. Add this mixture to 1 gallon of water and thoroughly water the area to be protected.

Merritt says: "You want to water the ground, not spray it. You should thoroughly wet the soil so the mixture penetrates a few inches. It is hard to say how much lawn and garden area the solution will cover. You just want to make sure you get the mixture *into* the soil.

"You do NOT have to re-apply after a rain. You may want to re-apply in the spring if you have damage during the growing season. Some people do and some don't. Mostly, vole damage is just a winter issue as the pests are desperate for a food source.

"You want to apply the organic vole control mixture before the ground freezes and after you have cleaned away all the leaves from your garden. This typically is after a few frosts.



H. 'Electrocution' (Tony Avent - 2006) in vole cage.

Kathy Sisson's garden, Avon, CT.

Photo taken at 2011 AHS National Convention.

Note extension of wire basket above soil level.

(Photo by Carol Brashear)

“This castor oil solution is organic and will not harm wildlife or pets. It just makes those garden pests move out of your gardens.

“Remember! Voles (and mice) will eat wherever the solution is NOT applied!”

As for using wire mesh baskets, the 2015 article was pretty thorough. Most important, the mesh wire baskets and hardware fences must extend above ground an inch or more. The collars are a barrier to the voles.

Carol Brashear, Woodbury, Connecticut, has had many years of experience combatting voles with wire baskets. She explains, “Voles are surface scavengers. They travel along the soil surface until they find a plant. If unprotected they start down into the crown. If they bump their noses on a cage/fence sunk in the ground, they go around it and move on to the next thing they bump into. They don't climb, even a little bit. That is why there is an inch or so of wire cage and hardware cloth above the soil surface. It stops them.”

I think it fair to say that usually the collars are not attractive and markedly can detract from the leaves' beauty. They can be especially noticeable around hostas with upright leaves and mound widths less than the collars' dimensions. On the other hand, around clumps with large wide-spreading bending-over leaves the collars often are hidden.

In the article in “This and That” column in *Online Hosta Journal 2016* (yes, you need to take a similar involved path to view it), I described using wire baskets differently to combat vole damage. *They are upside down over the clumps!* This clever technique is used by Mike and Kathy Shadrack, Hamburg, New York.



Cages of ½” hardware cloth protecting *H.* ‘Little Treasure’^{PP21,210}

**(Jan van den Top - 2008), foreground, and
H. ‘Brother Stefan’ (Olga Petryszyn - 1998), background.**

Kathie Sisson’s garden, Avon, CT.

Photo taken at 2011 AHS National Convention.

Note extension of hardware cloth above ground level.

(Photo by Carol Brashear)



Upside-down wire baskets protecting hosta dormant in the ground in Mike and Kathy Shadrack's Smug Creek Garden, Hamburg, NY.

Hosta is 'Lakeside Rocky Top' (M. Chastain - 1999), a small mound of undulating deep green leaves with white margin. White flowers are on low scapes. Parentage unknown.

(Photo by Mike Shadrack)

Kathy Shadrack told me: "I had huge losses one winter to those horrible little critters. It is devastating to find empty pots and vole trails leading to a label guarding the spot where a plant once lived. I have discovered they love hostas, phlox, and a special type of iris called *I. pseudata* most of all. They wiped out my entire *I. pseudata* collection that fateful year. For our most precious plants, especially ones I know are vole candy, I buy wire baskets in two sizes from a 'dollar store,' such as Dollar Tree. One size is like a fruit basket; the other, a trash basket. Also, I buy the longest landscape pins that A.M. Leonard (<http://www.amleo.com>) sells, 10 inches."



Winter scene in Shadracks' garden.

Upside-down wire baskets protecting hostas from vole damage.

(Photo by Mike Shadrack)

“When the plants are cut down, I overturn a basket over the plant crown and kind of screw it into the soil about ½ inch and secure it with landscape pins. Although voles could burrow under, they don’t seem to.”

“I suggest a couple of landscape pins (staples) for each cage to tightly secure the basket’s rim to the ground. Six-inch pins should be O.K. if driven into the ground at an angle; they are then less likely to heave up during a thaw.”

NOTE: It is critical that the basket be securely fastened to the ground. Also, there is no opening between the basket rim and ground for a vole to squeeze under, or burrow a bit and squeeze under. Voles can, and will, find any opening along the cage’s perimeter and get inside to the rhizome and roots. This is why Kathy mentions screwing the basket into the soil about ½ inch. This is best done when the ground is still workable

Removing the pins in the spring can require considerable physical effort. I suggest using Easy-Out Earth Staples with a loop on the top. A hammer’s claw or pliers can be inserted in the wire loop and the pin (more or less) easily pulled out. These pins, 6-inches long, also are available from A. M. Leonard.

Upside-down cages are only one part of Kathy Shadrack’s multi-tier vole abatement program.

“*First*, I believe in the ‘Sherman’s March to the Sea’ method of fall cleanup,” she explained. “I do not leave nesting material. No foliage. No leaves. I clear as much as possible. It will never be perfect, but I do my very best.

“*Second*, once the foliage is gone, the plants are dormant. Before it snows I douse every plant and every pot with a mixture of castor oil, cheap-o liquid dish soap and water. [That’s Richard Merritt’s successful vole control method described earlier.] You must spray every square foot of your garden. If you don’t, you’ll have vole problems in the untreated areas.”

“*Third* is upside-down wire baskets. Upside-down baskets *and* applying castor oil have worked for me. I have not lost a single plant since. Frankly, I almost think it’s the castor oil that’s the key. We have found several vole trails in the lawn in our ‘new garden’ area and they came to a halt at the gardens where the plants were treated. No pots were entered either.”

Last October I asked Kathy: “Are you planning to de-vole your garden this winter with upside-down cages over hostas and castor oil?”

“Yes, I will,” she said. “Also, I purchased a new product: stainless steel mesh bags from a company called Vole King. But my chief defense is wire baskets *and* castor oil.”

Vole King (<http://www.voleking.com/>) is a stainless steel, wire mesh that forms a barrier between the plant and rodents. It’s available as gallon baskets and rolls 3½ feet wide by 100 feet long and 6 inches wide by 100 feet. The former is intended as a bed liner, the latter as a tree wrap. The rolls are double lined in a sleeve fashion, so cutting longways doubles the width. Only a home scissors is required for cutting.

If you have experience with Vole King, please inform me and I’ll pass it along.

Removing Spent Hosta Flower Scapes? Yes or No?

I was asked at a Delaware Valley Hosta Society meeting by a new member whether it's O.K. to cut off the spent hosta flower scapes. This got me thinking about the issue and I recalled there was an article in an old AHS publication with a lot of good information.

The author was Bill Mitchell, the title was "Removing Hosta Bloomscares?" and it was in the 1984 issue of *The American Hosta Society Bulletin*. This was the early name of *The Hosta Journal*; the name was changed in 1986. The 1984 issue was the 15th Anniversary Issue and jam packed with articles from everyone in the exciting hosta world. Russ O'Harra of Des Moines, Iowa and I were the editors.

I'm going to reprint the article below because likely very few readers have this old journal. But before I do, I need to relate a bit about William "Bill" Mitchell who lived in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. If you search the AHS registry, you'll find he's credited with one hosta as originator and nominant registered in 2009: 'Mayan Moon'. There's an interesting backstory about this cultivar's name that I explained in a "What's in a Hosta Name?" column in *The Hosta Journal* years ago.

Bill Mitchell was a plant physiologist with a doctorate degree and post graduate studies from a top mid-western university. In the sixties and seventies, he was employed in the Central Research Department of the DuPont Company in Wilmington, Delaware involved in discovering possible new products. I knew several DuPont researchers that I would classify as "5-star exceptional" and Bill Mitchell was among them. His knowledge of plant biology and general horticulture was fantastic, outstanding.

Bill retired from DuPont in his late 50s, maybe early 60s, to full-time operate the retail nursery he started in his large back yard a few years earlier. Mitchell's Perennials was a one-person operation. There were no visiting hours and no mail order.

A list of plants, both bare root and in pots, with prices was available. You left a message on his phone with your order. He then left a message on your phone stating what plants would be supplied, when to pick them up at his back door and the cost. You went there at the designated day, or in the following two days, with cash or check, left the money in a labeled envelope and took away the plants marked with your name. You never saw Bill or the nursery.

The growing beds were almost 100% weed-free. Bill treated the soil with extremely toxic herbicides, knowledge from his research days. He specialized in highly unusual perennials, in particular the new tissue-cultured hosta varieties. He was a big purchaser of Paul Aden's introductions from Klehm nursery. (See item below on Song Sparrow Farm.) Moreover he was very proficient in propagating and growing plants. He offered hostas that were usually big divisions at reasonable prices.

Customers came from as far away as Connecticut and Massachusetts; Ohio, Indiana and Michigan; and Virginia and North Carolina. Longwood Gardens was about 20 minutes away and Bill encouraged people to visit the world-famous site when they came long distances for their orders. A list of other places to visit and near-by motels and restaurants was provided.

For the 1986 AHS National Convention held in Delaware & Southeastern Pennsylvania, Bill opened the nursery as a featured tour garden. *H.* 'Mayan Moon' was on display.

After about ten years, Mitchell's Perennials closed. Bill told me he was exhausted and could not keep up the pace anymore. He moved to another city and I lost track of him. I assume he's passed away.

Here's the article:

Removing Hosta Bloomscape? by Bill Mitchell

"Should flower scapes be cut off soon after the blossoms are spent, assuming there is no interest in the seeds?"

"There are several aspects to this question. Many people—and I am one—believe that the aesthetics of hosta plants are improved by removing the bloomscapes after the flowers are spent. If your hostas' appearance is of prime importance, then you may want to cut off the scapes. Some growers remove the scapes even before the flowers start to open.

"On the other hand, there is an important physiological reason for not removing the scapes. Any green (photosynthetic) tissue can contribute to the accumulation of carbohydrates and subsequently protein, both absolute requirements for plant growth. Green tissue includes the scape stems, seed pods and the bracts (which are the modified leaves that occur below the flowers on the scapes). If the scapes are not objectionable, then my recommendation is to *not* cut them off because of their contribution to photosynthesis.

"The contribution of non-leaf portions of a plant to the plant's overall photosynthesis is well documented, especially for cereals. Photosynthesis by the small ear of wheat is at least as high as by the wheat's leaf blade.

"I do recommend, however, removing the developing seed pods. Seed formation is accomplished at the expense of some photosynthates which are the products of photosynthesis. To prevent seed formation, remove the spent flowers soon after blooming, including the ovaries in fertile species (e.g., *H. decorata* [now called *H. 'Decorata'*]) and fertile cultivars (e.g., *H. sieboldiana* 'Elegans'). This is because the ovary contains the ovules which on fertilization become 'metabolic sinks' drawing photosynthates for their development.

"These principles are used by commercial Dutch tulip growers. They remove just the flower after two or three days of full bloom, leaving the stem to encourage maximum bulb size.

"But if you don't remove the blossoms, don't be concerned about the amount of vegetative growth lost due to developing seed pods. All things considered it is relatively small.

"In my view, the more serious consequence of seed formation is that their maturation and dispersal result in volunteer seedlings. These volunteers ultimately may become mixed—perhaps even in the crown—with the original hosta plant and also neighboring hostas. Since no hybrid comes true from seed, this can cause considerable confusion to both nursery growers and gardeners."

Comments on Bill Mitchell's discourse are most welcome and, with responders' permissions, will be summarized in a *Go Hostas!* column next summer.

Song Sparrow Farm & Nursery Has New Owners

Roy Klehm and wife Sarah announced that as of April 2019, Song Sparrow Farm and Nursery, aka Song Sparrow Perennial Farm, their highly regarded mail-order establishment in Avalon, Wisconsin, is now under new ownership. A neighboring farmer purchased the facility. After three generations of nurserymen, the Klehm family retired from the horticulture industry.

Song Sparrow Farm, I'm told, was in full business in 2019 and the new owners were fully committed to the shipping season. I have no information about the upcoming 2020 season.

Song Sparrow Farm specialized in peonies. It was noted for its exceptional catalog, described by one reviewer as "very satisfying with luscious photos and understated but engaging text." Over the years, Roy Klehm introduced many new plant varieties including hostas, daylilies and of course peonies. In 2005 the American Horticultural Society awarded him with a Great American Gardeners Award for his significant contributions in commercial horticulture.

Klehm's Song Sparrow Farm began in 1852 as a nursery for fruit trees. In 1916 Charles Klehm shifted the emphasis to ornamental plants. That year he planted his first peony fields in Arlington Heights, Illinois. In 1946, the company was renamed Charles Klehm & Son Nursery when his son Carl G. Klehm joined as a partner. In the 1960s, the nursery moved from Arlington Heights to South Barrington, Illinois. The Arlington property was sold in 1984. Until 2004 Carl's son Roy G. Klehm managed the operations. In the winter of 1999/2000, the fields in Champaign were closed and all plants were moved to the Song Sparrow Farm in Wisconsin operated by Roy and Sarah.

Mary Ann Metz, a long time AHS member, worked at Klehm's. She had responsibilities for the hostas. When I first met her in the early '80s her name was Mary Ann Stinson. In 1993 she married Dan Metz, a mechanical engineering professor at Univ. of Illinois.

I asked Mary Ann for some recollections. "Almost 100 acres of peonies in flower is quite a sight," she responded. "That was my first introduction to Klehm Nursery in Champaign County, Illinois in the late '70's. For the next 20 years I pinched myself continually, not believing that I was actually working surrounded by all that beauty. Many people from around the world made the trip to this somewhat tucked away location every year to view and walk through the many thousands of flowers.

"In spring the staff would work from sun-up to sun-down cutting and bunching flowers for the cut flower markets in Chicago. Summers were filled with daylilies and yet another array of incredible colors. In 1980 Roy Klehm took a bold step into the new world of tissue culturing daylilies and hostas. With the addition of 40 greenhouses in the early '80s, we began growing and shipping hostas and other perennials, facilitating the collecting passions of many people all over the world.

"Even more people would come to the farm to see what was new and exciting in the hosta world perusing every inch of those greenhouses. How fun it was to pack up a truck full of plants for hosta conventions and even more fun to see those plants in tour gardens. Hostas truly are the friendship plant. It was sad to see the farm close and move to Wisconsin in 1999. Thankfully the Song Sparrow farm didn't miss a beat and moved forward continuing the traditions of the Pretty Petals farm in Champaign."

I asked Mary Ann why Klehm nursery had huge growing fields and greenhouses in Champaign in central Illinois? Weren't the facilities in Arlington Heights in northern Illinois sufficient?

“The Klehm family, for several generations, had been University of Illinois students in Champaign,” she said. “Champaign is about 160 miles or 3 hours south of Arlington Heights. Roy’s dad, Charles, realized that peonies bloomed around Memorial Day in Champaign County giving him the opportunity to get into the cut flower business for wholesale markets in Chicago. At the same time that gave him the opportunity to sell root stock.

“The Champaign farm was about 50% cuts and 50% root stock for a number of years. I can’t remember exactly when but in the mid to late ’80s we no longer did cuts. I think it was because our greenhouse production had become so successful that there just wasn’t time in the spring. By then we were selling potted hostas and other perennials like crazy.”

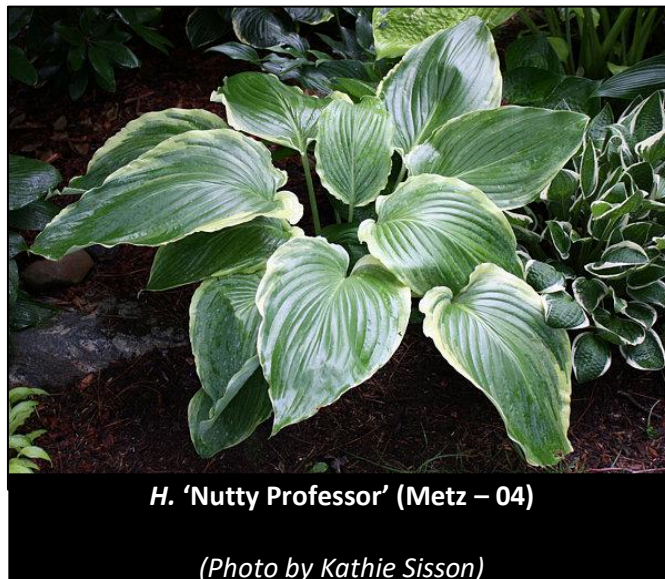
Mary Ann registered one hosta: ‘Nutty Professor’ in 2004, a white-margined sport of green leaf white-backed *H. ‘Maekawa’*. Song Sparrow Perennial Farm was introducer and Roy Klehm was registrant. “I still have *H. ‘Nutty Professor’* in my garden,” she told me, “but I don’t think it’s in the trade anymore. It’s a shame, I really liked it.”

CORRECTION

I need to correct an editing error I made in *Go Hostas!* in September *AHS eNewsletter*, page 13. Bill Meyer lives in Woodbury, *Connecticut* (not Woodbury, New Jersey). He previously lived in Willingboro, New Jersey, moving in 2008.

I’ve known Bill since 1994. Willingboro, NJ is not far from Wilmington, Delaware where I previously lived. He often visited my garden and we would talk about hostas. We still often talk about hostas—now on the phone and with emails.

Bill Meyer and Carol Brashear are co-“librarians” of Hosta Library (<http://www.hostalibrary.org>). The highly rated Brashear-Meyer Garden in Woodbury, CT was a June 22 meeting site for the Tri-State Hosta Society of NY, NJ & CT.



GO HOSTAS!

FEATURED LOCAL SOCIETY

Greater Ozarks Hosta Society

Tom Micheletti, President

Website: www.gohs.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Greater-Ozarks-Hosta-Society

The *Greater Ozarks Hosta Society* was formed in 1996 and has grown to the size of about 90 members. They meet at the beautiful Springfield Botanical Gardens where each meeting averages about 25 members. Yearly dues are a very reasonable \$10 per year. A quarterly newsletter is published to keep the membership informed of the latest hosta information.

The *Greater Ozarks Hosta Society* enjoys a wide range of special speakers, from local to regional to national! Always someone interesting featured.

Major fundraising activities include of course dues, an annual member plant sale, and an “Evening in the Garden” – all of which are always enjoyed by the membership!

In 2001 construction began on a Hosta Garden at the Springfield Botanical Gardens, in 2013 it was officially designated as an AHS National Hosta Display Garden. The *Greater Ozarks Hosta Society* has been the sole source of maintenance for the Display Garden and continues to maintain it with regular workdays for spring cleanup and fertilization. There is also periodic workdays for weeding, fall clean-up, and other necessary maintenance. Without the dedicated efforts of the *Greater Ozarks Hosta Society*, this garden would cease to be the most popular of all the dedicated gardens in the Springfield Botanical Gardens. The hosta garden hosts weddings, graduation photo shoots, parties, and other special events by the public. We are proud of it!



AHS National Display Garden, Springfield, MO.

(Photo by Danny Lawson)



The waterfall at the Display Garden.

(Photo by Tom Micheletti)



Another view of the Display Garden.

(Photo by Danny Lawson)



Brilliant gold hostas at the Display Garden.

(Photo by Tom Micheletti)



GOHS "Evening in the Garden" on a beautiful Ozark day.

(Photo by Tom Micheletti)



GOHS Garden Walk.

(Photo by Tom Micheletti)



GOHS Garden Walk.

(Photo by Tom Micheletti)

Book Notice

by Clyde Crockett

HOSTAS

An essential Guide

Written by Richard Ford (Crowood Press Ltd.: 2010)
Photographs courtesy of Ellie Stevenson.

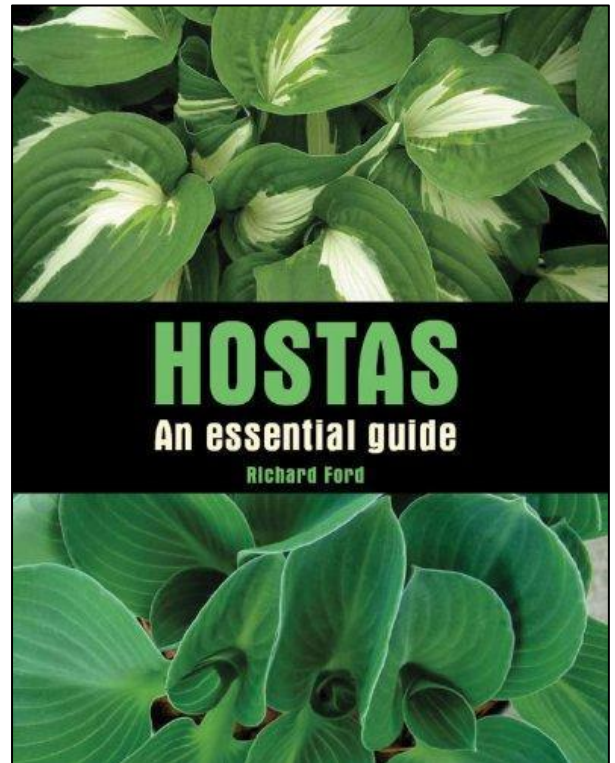
You can indeed judge our noticed book by its cover. Many horticultural works have something to say about hostas, but this one is among the relatively few that are devoted solely to the genus. To boot, it has a distinctive Anglo-American touch. The English author pays ample attention to cultivation in the States as well as his native Britain. It may seem somewhat dated, but don't be discouraged by the time of publication. The guidance is as relevant today as it was almost a decade ago.

Chapter 1 presents the obligatory section on *Hosta* species. There is no attempt to list and describe all of those then known. Rather, there is a selection of ones considered to be garden worthy. Included are *H. nigrescens*, *H. sieboldiana* and varieties of *fortunei*. Certainly, those mentioned are impressive in the garden but whether they are actually species is quite another question. Another question your reviewer has

always had is what is the origin of the now discarded epithet that hostas are "shade and damp lovers?" After a brief discussion of the introduction of the genus in the U.K., this question is, for the first time, finally answered.

The chapter, "How and Where Do Hostas Grow," is all about the life cycle of the plant. Although this might appear to be something we can skip, those of us infected with a touch (maybe more) of hostamania will enjoy the pictures of the various stages of growth, particularly the charming pictures of the emerging sprigs in Spring. Of course, those of the autumn die-back are best avoided by those sentimentalists like me. Included is a chart of cultivars that do well in various conditions such as wind, sun, shade, and moisture availability.

"Variations between cultivars," Chapter Three, takes note of the vast variety of colorations, forms, and variegations in the genus. One photographic comparative representation is illustrative: *H. 'Praying Hands'*



alongside *H. 'Tattoo'*. Many other examples of this diversity are included, which should come as no surprise given the number of the different hybrids that are registered every year. Indeed, Ford notes that a million different varieties are theoretically possible. Of course, we will want to have each one of those! "The Flowers of Hostas," a section of this chapter, is the most extensive discussion of hosta blooms that I have found in published books. You can find numerous references in issues of *The Hosta Journal* of the American Hosta Society.



Chapter Four, "Hostas in the Garden," deals, in my opinion, insufficiently, with the advantages of foliage plantings. There is also commentary on plant positions, and somewhat misplaced advice on soil improvement. My criticism of this part, is, I'm sure, influenced by my predilection for incorporating a substantial number of companion plants in the garden.

A standout part of Ford's work is Chapter Six: "Hostas in containers," a topic rarely addressed in the literature. Here we find choices of containers, choices of hostas for containers, and the feeding, watering, and overwintering of such. Raised beds, treated as a container, are deservedly included particularly for minis. The pictures are outstanding and numerous which should encourage a reader to make part of their collection go to pot, so to speak.

After the discussions of pests and diseases, we arrive at what makes the book truly "essential": "Popular Hostas." Bearing in mind the date of publication, there will be absent, of course, many new, exciting, spectacular hybrids; but, I would wager that both the neophytes to and the seasoned veterans of Hostadom will find here some real beauties that are virtually unknown to the initiates or forgotten by the old pros. There are a whopping 45 pages of pictured plants accompanied by detailed descriptions.

The book is a classic: A great read or re-read and a handsome (see the picture of the cover!) addition to your library. No matter whether you garden in the States or the UK or elsewhere, the book should appeal to all!

Happy Gardening,

Clyde

*FEATURED
VENDOR*



Uniquely Hostas

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Uniquely Hostas began in 2013 with the help of Jeff Miller / Land of the Giants. With Jeff's help, the initial show gardens were established, and we opened for retail sales in 2014. Jonathan Goodrich and Marlene Rosenberg own and operate the business. We have assistance from a wonderful neighbor and some kids of Marlene's staff members at her other job as Director of Rehab Services & Audiology at Mile Bluff Medical Center. We wanted to have a "small little business to do when we retired" – well . . . we aren't small or retired!

We have an online website available 24/7 as well as our Show Gardens and retail sales. We operate from Memorial Day weekend (Open House hours) and the first full weekend of June from 9am to 3pm. Then every Saturday we have walk-ins from 9am to 3pm until the end of August, otherwise we are open by appointment only. Since we do not have any greenhouses, we start shipping on our online orders when Mother Nature says we can - this is typically early May.

We have over 3,000 named varieties to offer our fellow hosta lovers. We added to our collection in 2017 when we purchased Jim's Hostas. In 2019 we completed the paperwork to add another business' collection as well as a privately-owned collection to our gardens. Many of these additions include O.S. plants including Lakeside's right from Mary Chastain's own garden!

We are fairly young in the hybridizing side of the world, but we do have some interesting plants we are evaluating. There are a few "Uniquely" plants available including:

H. 'Uniquely Go Big or Go Home' (originator Jeff Miller)

H. 'Uniquely Catawampus' (originator Jeff Miller)

H. 'Uniquely Dark of the Moon' (*H. 'Dream Weaver'* sport)

H. 'Uniquely Shirley Temple' (*H. 'Maraschino Cherry'* sport)

We also have plants in Tissue Culture such as: *H. 'Uniquely Purple People Eater'* and *H. 'Uniquely Sweet Lady'*



H. 'Purple People Eater' in early spring.

(Photo by Marlene Rosenberg)



H. 'Uniquely Go Big or Go Home'.

(Photo by Marlene Rosenberg)

Lastly we also feature a beautiful koi pond and our own little family of Call Ducks. This makes visiting our gardens fun for kids! We support Mile Bluff Medical Center's "Nurses Helping Nurses" program. We have a one-day event where 50% of all sales go to the support of the program. This program supports nurses going back to continue their education.

We will be introducing "Instant Garden" Hostas in 2020 – which are large, mature clumps for those *who just can't wait!*



Red Barn and Sales Tables.

(Photo by Marlene Rosenberg)



Toy Train Hosta Display.

(Photo by Marlene Rosenberg)

Greetings from the Minnesota Hosta Society (MHS)!!

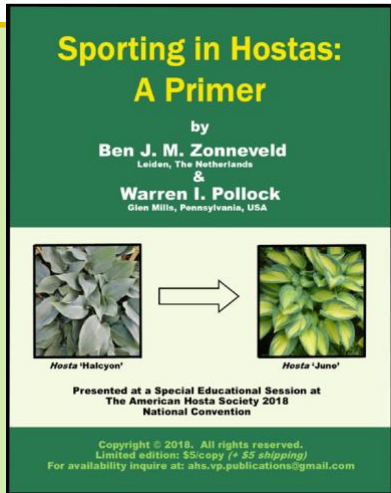


The MHS is the convention host for the American Hosta Society (AHS) 2020 National Convention. My name is Amy Peterson the 2020 Convention Chair. I am sending this email to a leadership member of all local, regional and international hosta societies of record to ask your assistance in bringing awareness 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 www.americanhostasociety.org and MHS www.mnhosta.org 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!





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This educational booklet explains the process of sporting in hostas.

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3rd
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Hosta Adventure: A Grower's Guide



Beautifully revised... the third edition of this popular hosta primer. It has been updated with new pictures of popular cultivars and information regarding the latest research on hosta culture and pest control. The 32-page guide, illustrated with dozens of colorful photos, features valuable advice from experts, who provide tips on how best to purchase, plant and propagate hostas. Chapters also address landscaping with hostas, container gardening and growing minis. *The Hosta Adventure* is popular with garden clubs, plant societies and collectors. If you love the "Friendship Plant," you will want to order this updated essential AHS guide.

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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), 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 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>

American Hosta Society Membership Application

Name		
Street		
City	State	Zip
Country	Phone Number	
Email Address		

Make check payable to:

The American Hosta Society

Mail application to:

Sandie Markland
 AHS Membership Secretary
 P.O. Box 7539
 Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

[http://AHSmembershipSecretary@charter.net](mailto:AHSmembershipSecretary@charter.net)

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Membership Year = January 1 to December 31

Type of membership: Please circle New or Renewal

AHS eNewsletter, Late Fall – November 2019

Editor: Danny Lawson

Featured Columnists: Glenn Herold
Warren I. Pollock
Clyde Crockett



Contributing Authors: Andy Marlow, President
Tom Micheletti, Greater Ozarks Hosta Society
Marlene Rosenberg, Uniquely Hostas

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Share this AHS eNewsletter with anyone who is interested in Hostas and shade companion plants.