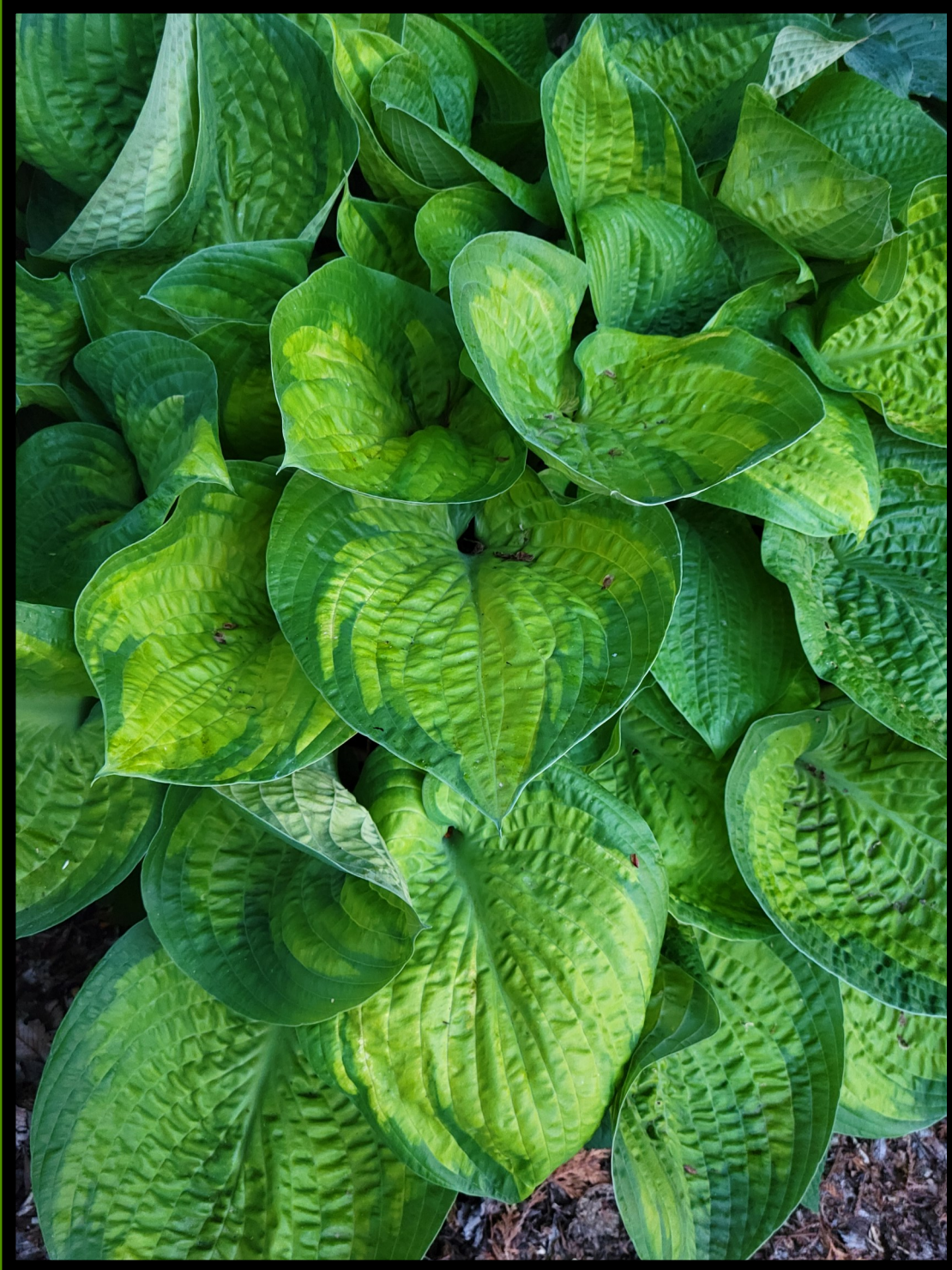




# The American Hosta Society

Oct 2021

*eNewsletter*



***H. 'Jabulani'***

**M. Zilis 2010**

*(Photo by Mary Vertz)*

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# President's Message

Andy Marlow, Hopkins, MN

Wow! Just wow. In a nutshell, that's my reaction to the AHS 2021 virtual convention, a.k.a. Smitten in the Mitten. The Southwest and West Michigan Hosta Societies created a fantastic event attended virtually by over 500 people. I didn't attend every event, but several were of special interest to me.

The garden tours were in some ways beyond what we would have experienced had we been there in person. Number one, we wouldn't have been able to fly around the gardens. Number two, we spent a lot more quality time with the gardeners than we would have been able to in person with many attendees competing for their attention.

Another notable series, for me at least, was the workshops given by Gayle Hartley Alley and Kathie Sisson. Gayle, the International Registrar for the Genus Hosta, explained in detail the process for registering new cultivars and why it's important to do so. Kathie, a skilled photographer, explained and illustrated how to take the three photos required to go along with a registration form: clump, leaf and flower. I have a plant that has been kicking around my garden for many years that should be registered. I think I am now motivated to do so.

In case you missed any of the convention events while they were going on, they are still accessible on the convention website ([ahs2021.org](https://ahs2021.org)) to registered attendees. Just use the password that was sent to you when you registered. It's possible we can make the videos available to all members of AHS in the future, but for now only people who registered for the convention will see them.

If wider distribution comes a reality, making those videos available will be the job of Joe Parisi. During the AHS Board meeting that was part of the convention, the Board approved the creation of a new position, Video Editor, reporting to the Vice President Publications. I have appointed Joe to the job. He is a retired physician from Mayo Clinic. Retirement has allowed him to hone his skills with several image and video editing and graphic design programs. He entered the hosta world through his hostaholic wife, Chris. Together, their love of hostas has evolved into a collection of over 300 varieties. Joe has been active in the Shades of Green Hosta Society of Southeast Minnesota, where he is cochair of the 2023 Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention.

Another appointive position that has been around a little longer, also took a little longer to fill. The editor of the *Online Hosta Journal* needs to know a lot about hostas, should be a good writer, have wide contacts in the hosta world, and know how to get the job done. I finally found just the right person in David Teager of Garnett Valley, PA. Those of you who attended the AHS 50th anniversary convention in Philadelphia in 2018 (Phifty in Philly) would recognize David as the very busy and very capable chair of that convention. He is a constant presence on many of the hosta related sites on Facebook and is always ready with a knowledgeable and well written comment or answer. I know if David makes a comment, it will be accurate! He has also been the President of the Delaware Valley Hosta Society and the editor of its newsletter.

There was also a changing of the guards of sorts among AHS elected officers at the Michigan convention. New people were elected to fill the positions of Vice President Judging/Exhibitions (David Bowe), Vice President Genus Hosta (Glenn Herold), Vice President Member Services (Phyllis Weidman) and Vice President Publications (Bob Saathoff). Not new to the Board, but in a new position, Barry Ankeny has moved from Vice President Publications to be the new Membership Secretary. I look forward to working with all the Board members. We anticipate having an in-person Board meeting in October in the Twin Cities.

I also deeply appreciate the contributions of outgoing Board members Michael Greanya, Jim Henry, Sandy Klausman, and especially Sandie Markland, who served faithfully and well for 18 years as Membership Secretary.

Finally, I have been asked a number of times about the 2022 convention slated to be held in Minnesota. We are planning on meeting June 8 through 11 at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park. It's the same location that was planned for the cancelled 2020 convention. Because of the impact of the Delta variant of COVID 19, we felt it was best to hold off a bit on publicizing and opening registration for 2022. Look for the convention website and registration to open sometime in October.

Well before we became all too aware of COVID 19, the Minnesota Hosta Society chose an outstanding cultivar from Dan Wols as the 2020 convention plant. It turned out to be somewhat prophetic. The cultivar is H. 'Phoenix Feathers'. The phoenix is a mythical bird that perishes in a ball of flames but rises again from its ashes. Hosta Vision 2022 is the convention equivalent of the phoenix.

The plants MHS ordered were delivered on time, and thanks to Dennis Savory of Savory's Gardens, they have been carefully nurtured and will be very mature plants by the time convention attendees receive them. Recently a group of MHS members went out to weed the plants and I took this photo of our efforts.



# Meet Your New Board Members...



## **Glenn Herold:** Vice President Genus Hosta

I was born and raised in Watertown, Wisconsin and received both BS (Biology and Secondary Ed) and MS degrees (Horticulture) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Since retiring in 2011 my wife, Terry, and I have been living in Cedarburg, WI. We have one daughter who resides in Durham, NC.

Between starting my career and retiring, I was Professor of Horticulture and Head Cross Country coach at Illinois Central College, East Peoria, IL for 32 years. There I founded the Illinois Central College Arboretum, which is now a display garden for the AHS.

Hosta offices held:

President of Central Illinois Hosta Society, 1995-96

Secretary of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society, 2009- 2011

President of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society, 2011 to 2015

American Hosta Society Region 5 Liaison, 2017-2021

Vice President Genus Hosta, 2021-present

I first became interested in hostas a few years after starting my teaching career at ICC. I thought the arboretum needed a hosta display, so I contacted Roy Klehm to see if he could help out. He shipped me dozens of hostas! I continued to add to the collection through connections with Tom Micheletti and local nurseries.

Tom asked me to speak at the Midwest Regional Hosta Society Winter Scientific Meeting (now Winter Conference) shortly after its inception. I'm not sure how many years in a row I did this, but it was a lot.

I was also a founding member of the Central IL Hosta Society. Besides serving as its president, I was co-chair of the 1996 AHS National Convention in Peoria.

I still do not consider myself a hosta expert but have found my niche and gladly continue to serve the MRHS and AHS. What keeps me going is the many friends I have made within the group.





## Barry Ankney: Membership Secretary

Barry is a retired clinical and school psychologist. He began growing hostas in 1970, when he was given three plants from a family member. Over the years, his collection grew to around 600 cultivars. After retirement, he bought White Oak Nursery and later the inventory from The Hosta Patch. He was then growing 1,600 varieties at White Oak Nursery. After selling White Oak Nursery he retired to Chicago.

He has been active in local, regional and national hosta organizations. He served as President of the Central Illinois Hosta Society, President of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society, Editor of the AHS eNewsletter, Editor of the AHS *Online Hosta Journal*, and later as VP Publications for AHS. He currently serves as webmaster for the Central Illinois Hosta Society and Webmaster for the Midwest Regional Hosta Society, in addition to serving as AHS Membership Secretary. He is also active in planning for the Northern Illinois Hosta Society's 2022 MRHS convention to be held in Lisle, Illinois next summer.

Barry is excited to take on this role as Membership Secretary and plans to initiate some new initiatives to retain current members and recruit new members to the American Hosta Society. Feel free to contact him with any questions at [AHS.Memberships@gmail.com](mailto:AHS.Memberships@gmail.com) or call him at 309-678-4119. Also, if you have a friend or neighbor who you think may be interested in learning more about AHS, just send their name, address, and email to Barry and he will send them an informational packet and a membership application.



*H.* 'Christmas Tree'  
Photo by Mary Vertz



*H.* 'Paradigm'  
Photo by Mary Vertz



# Hostas and Associates

Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

## *H.* 'Guacamole': 2002 Hosta of the Year

The Hosta of the Year was only in its 7th year but already 'Fragrant Bouquet' had figured in 3 of the selections. The 1998 HOY was a parent of the 1996 HOY, 'So Sweet.'



*H.* 'So Sweet'

Photo by Glenn Herold

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*H.* 'Guacamole'

Photo by Glenn Herold

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'Guacamole' is a medium to large plant and is a very good grower. The leaves have a medium to dark green 5/8-inch margin and a center that starts out chartreuse and changes to a bright gold during the summer, especially if it gets a couple hours of morning sun. They are shiny and of better than average substance. A thin bloom is found on the underside of the leaf.

It also led to the 2002 selection, for 'Guacamole' was found during the tissue culture process of propagating 'Fragrant Bouquet'. Bob Solberg registered this reverse variegation of 'Fragrant Bouquet' in 1994.



*H.* 'Guacamole'

Photo by Glenn Herold

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The pale lavender to white flowers form in mid-August until September on scapes that are about 3 feet long. Flowers are very fragrant, as are those of its close relatives 'So Sweet' and 'Fragrant Bouquet'. Few pods form, so it is not a good breeder.



*H.* 'Halcyon'  
Photo by Glenn Herold

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A number of notable sports of 'Guacamole' have been found and introduced. Perhaps the most renowned is 'Stained Glass', which would become the 2006 HOY. It has a wider edge than 'Guacamole', about 2 inches, and a bright gold center. 'Fried Bananas' is an all-gold sport, and 'Fried Green Tomatoes' is all green and very shiny. 'Avocado' and 'Holy Mole' are both tetraploids that have a wider green margin and narrow gold center.



*H.* 'Emerald Charger'  
Photo by Glenn Herold

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Grandplants (I think I coined a new word!) of 'Guacamole', both mutations of 'Stained Glass', are 'Cathedral Windows', a tetraploid, and 'Emerald Charger', which has a wider green margin and was the 2013 Midwest Regional Hosta Society convention plant, held in Lisle, IL. I am especially impressed with 'Emerald Charger'. It has a tight compact form and has held up very well on the west edge of my hosta bed, receiving direct late afternoon sun.

Though 'Guacamole' is not currently in the top 15 of the AHS Popularity Poll, it remains a hosta grower's favorite and should be in every shade garden.

Bob Solberg is well known throughout the hosta world as an introducer, breeder, propagator, and lecturer. A life-long North Carolina resident, he was educated in the plant sciences at Davison University and the University of North Carolina. Currently, he lives in Franklinton, NC where he sells hostas both wholesale, retail, and mail order from his Green Hill Farm. Since specializing in hostas in 1981, he has introduced or co-introduced over 160 hostas. In 2016, Bob introduced 'First Blush', one of the first hostas to have red coloration extend into the leaf blade.

The American Hosta Society wouldn't be the thriving organization that it currently is without Bob. From 1988-1990 he was editor of *The Hosta Journal*. In 1998 he was elected Vice President for The Genus Hosta and currently serves as the American Hosta Growers Association liaison, an organization that he co-founded in 1998. It is this organization that names the annual Hosta of the Year. In 2003 he was the recipient of the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award. In 2008 Bob was awarded the Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Merit Award by the American Hosta Society for his work with hostas.

Bob has spent most of his life studying hostas, both here in the US and in Japan. Much of this knowledge he passes on as a frequent speaker to hosta societies, and through his numerous articles in *The Hosta Journal* and his own publication, *Green Hill Gossip*. Despite all his accolades, Bob remains humble and easy to talk with. We are fortunate to have him in our midst.



# GO HOSTAS!

Warren I. Pollock, Glen Mills, PA

## OVERWINTERING HOSTAS IN CONTAINERS

In the July 2021 eNewsletter I announced that the October issue will be devoted to overwintering hostas growing in containers. I mentioned I am collecting readers' experiences and requested contributions.

The first article below is my unusual method of overwintering containerized hostas, some quite large, on my balcony. I call it the "On-site Overwintering Method" I don't think it is used by anyone else. (Let me know, please: [giboshiwip@aol.com](mailto:giboshiwip@aol.com).)

I initiated my "On-Site Method" about five years ago and I have had 100% success with it. It gets freezing cold in the winter where I live, sometimes for over a week. Though there often is repetitive freezing and thawing, I've never observed any root damage. This could be due to root systems of the hostas in the containers are well established.

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My methodology is then followed by contributions from readers to the July request. For their responses, I want to thank Cornelia B. Holland, Franklin, Tennessee; Cozart Smith, Decatur, Georgia; George R. Kruer, Milton, Delaware; Harold W. McDonell, Fayetteville, Georgia (editor of Georgia Hosta Society Notes [newsletter]); June Colley and John Baker, Hampshire, England (principals in British Hosta and Hemerocallis Society); and Larry Tucker, Memphis, Tennessee (author of "Hosta la Vista" column in *The Hosta Journal*).

Hostas in a bowl on Warren's patio. Leaves spread 21" across and are 8" high



*H.* 'Sun Mouse' (T. Avent - NR) PP30033

*H.* 'Mini Skirt' (Walters Gardens - 2013) PP26743

# On-Site Method of Overwintering Hostas in Containers

by Warren I. Pollock

For some twenty years I had an extensive hosta garden in Wilmington, Delaware. In June 2000 I moved into a retirement community in Glen Mills, Pennsylvania, about 10 miles northeast towards Philadelphia. It is a third-floor apartment with no gardening land associated with it. But it has a south facing concrete balcony about nine feet by twelve feet.

For the first couple of years, the balcony only had wrought iron furniture. I was not satisfied with this! I wanted an aesthetic venue with some huge hostas in containers. But I realized I had no garage facility for overwintering containers as I had done each winter in my Wilmington residence. Specifically for overwintering hostas in containers, I built a multi-level network of shelves in the back of my garage. Over 500 hosta containers were stored in my garage each winter.

My investigation led to development of what I call the On-Site Overwintering Method. It involves no moving of hostas in containers into special sheltered conditions. In other words, what's on my balcony in spring, summer and fall is overwintered in their same sites on my balcony in winter. For the most part,



*H. "Touch of Class"*  
Photo by Warren Pollock

an easy inexpensive adjustment is made to the containers to be eligible for the On-Site Method.



Spring

*H.* 'Whee!' in the corner of the railing is more than three feet in diameter.

*H.* 'Lakeside Paisley Print' also is over three feet in diameter.

*H.* 'Blue Ivory', in lower left, also is three feet in diameter.

This is what my balcony looked like in spring, summer and fall 2021

*H.* 'Liberty' is over 4 1/2 feet across! (By the way, all my containers are black plastic, and all are sitting on saucers.) *H.* 'Liberty' is in a 16-inch container. It is nearly 5 feet across. I cannot lift it. It sits outside all year.



Summer



Fall

Hostas not seen in the group photos are large clumps of *H. 'Rainbow's End'*, *'First Frost'*, *'Touch of Class'* (two big pots), *'Exotica'* (my favorite *'Striptease'* sport), and *'Gunther's Pride'*.

What is the overwintering troublemaker? Probably to many folks' surprise, almost certainly it is not excessively cold air temperature. Glenn Herold, AHS's new Vice President Genus *Hosta*, in email correspondence to me emphasized that air temperature isn't really that important; it's what the ground temperature is. Most roots of temperate plants can tolerate about *15 degrees Fahrenheit*.

The bad winter actor is *WATER: liquid H<sub>2</sub>O*. It's not snow nor ice, but it could be melted snow or ice. Furthermore, it is water that would be in the container. The bottom line: In winter, you do **not** want water in contact with frozen root mass for a considerable length of time. The key words are *water in contact with frozen root mass*. That water may come from a snowfall and the snow melted, or maybe from a winter shower. This unwanted condition can result in the root mass becoming mushy-like and dying.

Many of our hosta containers intentionally have big gaps between the top of the rims and potting soil levels. Often, they are there because it makes overhead watering of containers easier. You fill the gap with water, and it seeps into the root mass underneath, saturating the soil beneath.

If this gap has water in it, say from a late winter rain -- *and remains in contact with frozen root mass for some length of time*, what you'll likely find in spring is that the root mass has become a mush-like consistency and the hosta is dead. If not dead, it likely won't recover.

So, what is occurring in overwintering hostas in containers in garages and shelters? Simply, the hostas are not being snowed or rained on. The On-Site Overwintering Method is just conditioning the containers, so no water is in contact with frozen root mass. And this is simply done with extensive mulching.

I use black shredded wood mulch because it's available in handy plastic bags in garden supply stores, and thus convenient and easy for me to handle. But technically any mulch will do.

I stuff the container's contents with mulch up to the rim and beyond. I am not skimpy with mulch. I do not remove the mulch in spring -- unless I want to assess if pips (divisions) have developed.

Accompanying this item are two specially constructed photos. One is labeled "No! No!" The other is labeled "Yes! Yes!"

"No! No!" shows a hosta container with a big void gap. This is not the type of container suitable for the On-Site Overwinter Method. Water can collect in the void space.





"Yes! Yes!" is heavily mulched. This type of container is ideal for the On-site Overwinter Method. All containers in the On-Site Overwinter Method are heavily mulched; no void spaces for water to collect in, especially in winter.

If you overwinter any of your hostas in containers next winter adopting the On-Site Overwintering Method, please share your experiences. I would like a follow-up article in the AHS *eNewsletter* in 2022. My email address is [giboshiwip@aol.com](mailto:giboshiwip@aol.com). Thanks.





# **And from the Mailroom...**

## **From Cornelia Holland:**

I live in middle Tennessee and have been growing hostas in pots since the late 1900s when I learned that planting under maple trees was not feasible. As my collection has grown, the use of pots has provided for “vertical gardening” when there was no room in the ground. I now have between 350 and 400 hostas in pots and the growing season can be as long as late February until early November.

General suggestions for growing in containers...

### **Selection of Containers...**

There are many types of shapes and materials to choose from, each having various attributes, which include: weight, durability, amount of heat held, and drainage.

Concrete, plastic, terra cotta and other materials hold heat in various degrees and some that are in higher levels of sun may required more watering

Plastic decorative pots are generally cheap but eventually crack from exposure to heat and cold but are easier to move throughout the garden. Plastic nursery pots work well and are more durable.

I have found that terra cotta pots may crack and craze after a few years of exposure to the elements. Therefore, I generally choose to only buy “made in Vietnam” pots with thick walls and glazing that goes over the lip and into the pot. (Some Vietnamese pots have recently appeared on the market with very thin walls and are not suitable for outside growing.)

Pots with curved sides are interesting, but if the hosta becomes root bound it will be difficult to remove without breaking the pot.

Always examine the pot for cracks, especially in the drainage hole(s). Make sure the hole is a sizeable one.

Start the planting process by placing a screen over the drainage hole to keep debris from blocking the hole. I also place the pots on tiles and bricks to facilitate drainage and keep tree roots from growing into the pots. Always check your pots after heavy rains to make sure water is not holding in the pots.

I use the same potting soil for all the pots and do not use any mixture with moisture retention. To reduce the weight of tall containers and the amount of potting soil, you may add drink cans or plastic bottle to take up some of the space.

Plant hosta crowns about one inch below the rim of the pots.

If snails/slugs are a problem, a 20% solution of unscented household ammonia can be used to spray the hosta crowns. Also spray into the drainage holes and under the tiles/bricks.

A few of my pots have drip irrigation, but most are watered by an overhead system. In time of high summer heat, the pots in the hotter areas of the garden will have to be individually watered if they start do show signs of stress.

### **Winter advise...**

In preparation for winter, make sure the soil in the pots is up to the glazing line.

Repot or divide the hosta no later than one month before the first freeze so they can acclimate.

If a hosta is in a nursery pot, and is root bound, transfer to a larger pot to provide insulation from the potting media.

After heavy rains, check the pots to see if any are retaining water due to blocked drainage holes. Turn any of these pots on their sides for a temporary fix.



## **From Cozart Smith:**

### **Overwintering Hostas in Containers: A Southern Strategy**

My friends in northern climates use a variety of methods to overwinter their containerized hostas. Some bury the pots outside; some move pots to an unheated space such as a shed or garage; and some cluster the pots together away from the wind and cover them with mulch.

No matter where you live, the winter is a balancing act between giving hostas a six-week cold, dormant period while protecting them from repetitive freezing and thawing that damages their roots.

In the South, our shorter, milder winter seasons present additional challenges, but I have had success with my strategy for overwintering my containerized hostas.

My collection consists of hundreds of varieties that are all grown in containers. Most are displayed on large wooden benches, and I use shade cloth to protect them from the sun during the spring and summer months. During the winter, I drape plastic tarps over the shade cloth and secure it on the sides, creating a roof to shed precipitation.

This technique requires continued watering responsibilities throughout the winter, but it allows me to control the amount of moisture in the soil. This significantly reduces the risk of root rot. To date, every hosta in my collection has survived the winter and emerged in the spring.

I live in zone 7, near Atlanta, Georgia, and some varieties emerge in late February when we experience occasional periods of spring-like weather. Since there is still a risk of intermittent low temperatures, I use frost cloth to protect leaves that have unfurled on any early emergers.

Southern gardeners love hostas, and I hope everyone finds a winter strategy that works well for them!



## **From George R. Kruer :**

### **Hostas in Pots :**

When we moved into this two-acre property in Delaware in 2001, I started planting hostas in the ground. All went well for several years and many of the hostas had grown into large clumps. Then I had an explosion of voles and many of the clumps were decimated. I tried all of the usual precautions and preventative measures, but nothing worked so I started moving what plants that were left into pots, mostly plastic.

This did not work well as the voles gnawed through the bottom of the plastic pots. I put hardware cloth in the bottom of the pots and two or so inches up the side. This worked, but the cloth was hard to work with and fashion to fit the round bottoms. I also put gravel in the bottom, but this made the larger pots too heavy. Also, it was messy with the gravel getting mixed up in the soil when repotting.

For some reason it occurred to me to try elevating the pots since I knew the voles did not like to stay exposed outside the ground. I cut squares from 2x6, 2x8, and 2x10 treated lumber and sat the pots on the squares. Lo and behold, it worked. I have a hundred plus hosta in all sizes of pots and after several years of elevating them on the squares I have never had the voles gnaw a hole in a pot.

That is how I arrived at where I am now. There are a number of observations I can make about my having to grow my hostas in pots.

Buying the nicer looking non-utility pots can get expensive.

I tried the castor oil approach, really saturating the ground, but it did not deter the voles. With most of my plants in pots, the vole population seems to have gone down considerably.

At first, each winter I moved all the pots up to around the house for some added warmth, but after time I found this was not necessary. The moderate Delaware climate did not require it. I leave them in the yard and my

over winter loss is very minor. One thing that may help in this regard, is that if the plastic pots do not have holes in the side, I drill three  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  in holes in the side of the pot for extra drainage. The bottom holes on the wood squares did not seem to provide enough drainage.

For larger pots, I fill the bottom  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  with pine bark nuggets for drainage and to lighten them.

I miss having the large clumps that you get over time when growing spreading hostas in the ground. This can be partly overcome by being able to stage hostas in pots. You, Warren, have stressed this and I find it very useful. I move my hostas around quite a bit to achieve different effects and to alleviate crowding.

A major drawback to growing hostas in pots is simply that every few years you need to repot them. This can be quite a chore for the bigger ones. For these, I often just dump them out of the pot; cut 3 to 4 slices off the outside of the plant; and repot the original center portion. This gives you several new plants to start over with.

All in all, I would prefer to grow my hostas in the ground, but the ability to stage them in pots is a definite plus.



## **From Harold McDonell :**

### **Overwintering Hostas in Containers in the South:**

I live in the Atlanta, Georgia area about 30 miles south of downtown Atlanta. In my mild climate (USDA Zone 8-a), I find it quite easy to grow and overwinter hostas in containers. In fact, it is actually easier growing and overwintering them in containers than growing them in the ground where they must fight tree root competition and voles. Also, my mild climate means I can leave the containers in place in the garden without any additional winter protection. No back-breaking relocation of my container hostas to the garage in winter for me!

Even though my climate is mild, I do have to be mindful that temps can dip to 15 degrees *F* or even lower at times, so I have to take some care in selecting the type of containers I use. I seldom use clay pots, not only because they tend to dry out so fast, but also because they can be extremely sensitive to freezing temperatures. They can and do easily break under the cold stress. I use a lot of ceramic containers but they, too, can falter under the increased pressures of freezing moisture in the potting soil and in the pores of the unglazed insides of the pot. To minimize this, I first choose my ceramic containers carefully. Some are much more resistant to cold damage than others. I have found that the heavy thick-rimmed pots made in Vietnam are some of the best and can often be obtained at very reasonable prices at Ollie's or similar stores.

Before I use ceramic containers for the first time, I spray all the unglazed interior surfaces as well as the outside bottoms with a couple of coats of clear FLEX SEAL® or similar liquid rubber sealant products to keep the pots from absorbing moisture in the pores. This not only reduces the chance of pots cracking but also reduces scaling and flaking of the glazed surfaces from freeze stresses. Every time I reuse a ceramic pot, I treat it again. In addition, I try to find black plastic containers that can be used as inserts in the ceramic pots to keep the moist soil from directly contacting the sides of the container. Even if I use a plastic insert when planting a ceramic container, I still treat the pot with the sealant.

I have found plastic and composite containers to be the most winter resistant of all. I am using them more and more, not only for their winter resilience, but also because they are much lighter in weight and easier to move around and repot as needed, especially the larger pots. Many of the high-end composite containers really look great and hold up quite well for many years. Keep in mind when purchasing plastic and composite containers, though, that you get what you pay for. The cheaper ones never hold up as well in appearance or durability as do the more expensive ones. I have noticed with these types of containers that the drainage holes are often inadequate. Good drainage is critical for growing hostas in containers, especially in the winter. If the drainage holes are too small for proper drainage, don't hesitate to drill more and bigger holes. Also, place all containers on bricks or tiles away from direct contact with the soil to deter voles and tree roots from going into the pot from the bottom.

Speaking of plastic, don't overlook the value of the old standard black plastic nursery pots. They are dirt cheap compared to ceramic or composite decorative containers and they often have numerous large side holes that provide for excellent drainage. They are also pretty much impervious to winter damage. Some have exterior designs to improve their looks and the larger ones often have hand grips that makes them easier to maneuver. Even the plain ones should be considered for use in display gardens when they can be tucked behind other more decorative pots or when other in-ground plants can hide the container. As I mentioned before, I also use them as inserts in ceramic pots when I can find ones that fit well into the outer containers.

I think the selection of the potting soil is one of the most important considerations when thinking about how best to overwinter hostas. Potted hostas do not tolerate dense, poorly draining soil that keeps excessive moisture around the crowns of the plant. This is particularly critical during the cold winter when the pots may freeze, then trap subsequent rain or melting snow water around the crown area. If you ask which potting soil is the best to use, you will probably get as many different answers as the number of people you ask. My personal experience over time says

lighter is always better. I use only a coarse potting medium that contains at least 50 % pine bark and plenty of perlite, both of which insure faster drainage and longer lasting soil life. Even as the pine bark and other organic components of the mix such as peat moss do break down and become denser over time, the inorganic perlite insures continued good drainage and soil oxygen retention. A fast-draining medium also reduces winter stress to the containers due to less moisture being trapped and expanding during freezing. When planting miniature hostas in containers, I also add flint or granite chicken grit to the mix for even better drainage. I have found the mini's to be the most difficult to overwinter in pots. The grit seems to substantially improve the odds of winter survival.

Even when using the very best potting soil, keep in mind that it is primarily organic and will not last forever. The older it gets, the denser it becomes. With the high-quality soil I use, I can usually go five to seven years before the mix breaks down to the point that repotting is required. I watch the soil level in the pot. When the soil sinks over an inch to 1 1/2 inches in a medium-sized pot, I know it is time to repot the hosta and replenish the soil. I never just add more soil to the pot. That results in the crown being too deep which is never good for the health of the plant and that will cause the hosta to be more susceptible to winter kill.

Since I dabble in hosta hybridizing, I always have hundreds of hostas overwintering in pots of various sizes ranging from three inches to well over 12 inches in diameter. I seldom lose hostas over the winter and when I do, it is usually because I have not followed my own advice as stated above. I also have to remind myself throughout the year, but especially in the winter, to check regularly to ensure that no container's potting soil has deteriorated too much and that no drainage holes have become blocked. I firmly believe good drainage is the key to successfully overwintering hostas in containers.





## **From June Colley and John Baker:**

### **2000 Plus Hostas in Containers: Overwintering in the UK**

#### ***Winter Care for Potted Hostas***

We water the plants well in late autumn before they go dormant and remove any saucers under the pot long before the expected first frost.

We then store the pots in a somewhat protected area (along the side of the house, etc.) covered with a layer of mulch. We use fallen oak leaves because it is plentiful and the tannin in oak helps deter slugs and snails for pots stored outside.

Dead bracken (wild fern) is also a useful alternative and the saponin in the bracken also helps deter slugs and snails. We have also tried cocoa bean shells which are coarse and sharp but are rather expensive and the chocolate aroma lingers. During a very harsh winter the roots close to the side of the pots may get damaged as some would have started to grow in the alternating mild and cold weather experienced here in the UK. Another option is to bring the pots into an unheated summerhouse after they have gone dormant. This is a procedure we follow with some of the VIP minis and small hostas so that they suffer minimal losses or damage even in the harshest winter.

Another method we use to protect small hostas is to grow these in small pots which we embed into slightly larger pots. We then fill the gap between the two pots with a soil-grit-fine bark mixture. We have found this to be a highly effective way of protecting the fine roots of delicate small and miniature hostas with hardly any losses in the worst winters. This is extra work, but it helps protect your rare and precious minis.



Hostas will require very little extra moisture during the winter once the leaves have gone down. We spray occasionally with water without completely soaking the pots but not if the pots are frozen. If you have watered the pots well before the first freeze, it may not require any extra watering. Just check occasionally to ensure the pot is not completely dry especially during the gradual warming up period.

Check routinely for pots that have heaved and cover these with new soil and alpine grit/gravel mixture (50-50), or with pine needles. Slugs and snails don't like pine needles while moist bark tend to attract them. Hostas which we placed under pine canopies that shed their sharp needles regularly, definitely suffer less from slug and snail damage and seldom require treatment with molluscicides.



We have a lot of minis still thriving after many years in pots. One of these is 'Blue Mouse Ears' which is now approaching 18 years old. We also have old large classics like 'Fortunei Albopicta' and several 'Undulata' plants now 31 years old and still growing in pots. Large clumps of 17-year-old 'Gold Standard', 'Sagae' and 'Guardian Angel' in pots are amongst our favourites.

Whatever you do, do not try to overwinter hostas as houseplants. We experimented out of curiosity using a few hostas and the result was disastrous. Hostas need a cold, dormant period (six weeks below 5°C or 41°F).

## ***Natural Habitats***

The majority of species come from where the temperatures fall close to zero or below zero in winter. In their northern natural habitats, the temperature drops to between  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $14^{\circ}\text{F}$  to  $-4^{\circ}\text{F}$ ).

Freezing occurs for several months and the plant cells produce chemicals that prevent complete dehydration. In these northern habitats there is no thawing and freezing that we often experience in the UK which can damage the roots and may kill the hosta.

The exception is hostas found in the southern islands of Kyushu and Shikoku where the average low temperature range is  $5.4^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $6.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $42^{\circ}$  to  $43^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). The longer they can hibernate, the better for the hostas. Some of the best and biggest hostas we saw were grown in Russia where snow cover lasts for months and with the average temperatures in the coldest months falling to  $-9^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $15.8^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) and with the lowest temperatures reaching close to  $-24^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $-29^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-11^{\circ}$  to  $-20^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) in recent years.

## ***What we do in emergencies***

When frost, snow or hailstones are forecast suddenly after the hostas have emerged, we always have horticultural fleece ready to cover them to prevent damage.

This is cheap to buy and will save you from having a disappointing display. Don't allow the fleece to get in contact with the foliage as this can cause damage when the fleece is damp and frozen. We normally suspend the fleece using wires attached to bamboo poles, wooden poles, and trunks of nearby shrubs and trees.



The hostas are grouped into 60-100 in each area to facilitate covering of the plants which can take two-three hours during emergencies. The use of large rolls of plastic bubble wrap was found to be equally effective but these are quite bulky to store.

We also purchased recycled pots to use as emergency covers for emerging hostas. The pot must be large enough so that it is not in contact with the hosta. These must be removed the morning after as a sudden rise in temperature during the day can 'cook' the foliage, causing more harm than good. If you are forgetful and not keen on getting up early, sticking a bamboo pole into the soil to raise the pot cover slightly helps prevent this problem especially when using black pots as these absorb more heat quickly.

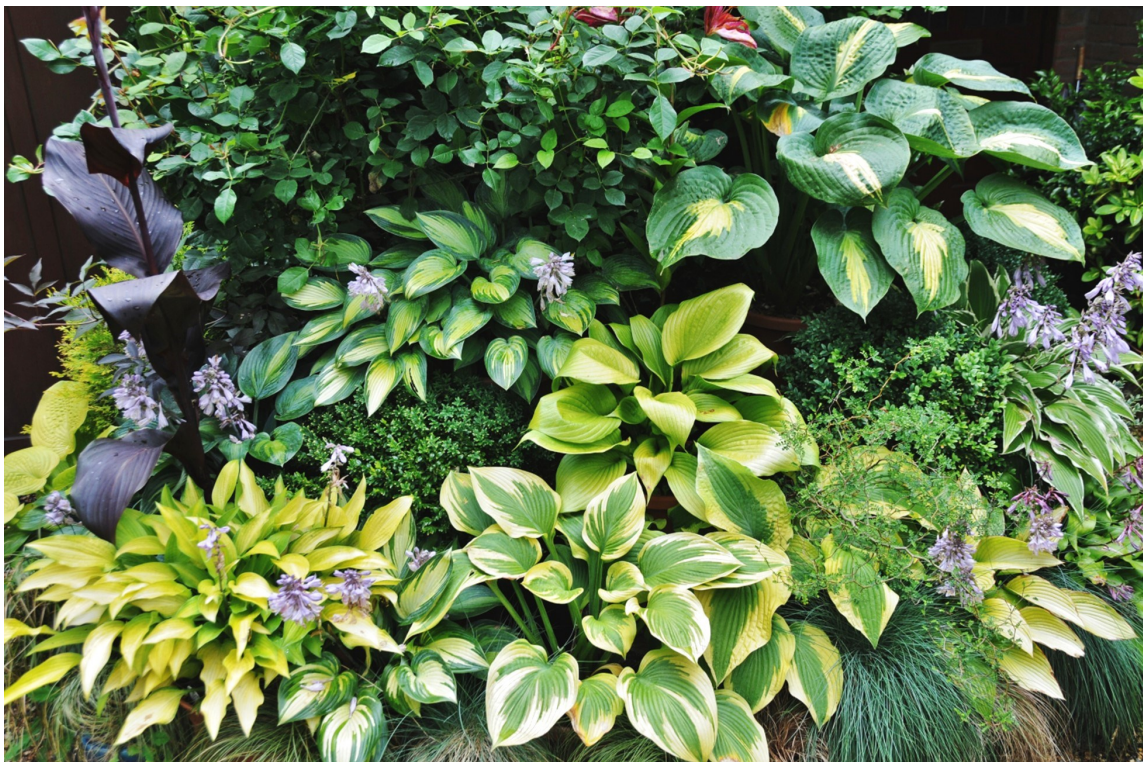


A quick method that we have tried was the use of very large, tall recycled cardboard packaging. We fence off a group of potted hostas using this material with success. This can be secured with wires tied into shrubs and tree trunks.

As we have access to clippings of flat pine branches, we also utilize these as emergency covers provided the hosta foliage can hold the weight of the branch. It might be sensible to use several small clippings rather than one large clipping. We keep the clippings in big plastic containers found near each group of potted hostas ready for the next freeze. These can keep until the danger of frost is over.



A combination of the above methods works for us here in the UK, especially where we live which is noted for its frost pockets. The British weather is so unpredictable, but we will do anything to protect the hostas to ensure visitors will enjoy their visit each year.



## From Larry Tucker:

### **An Effective Undercover Scheme For overwintering Hostas in Containers:**

For most of my three decades of hosta gardening in Memphis, their habitat has been confined to containers—out of necessity. My first gardening experience here was a wake-up call. I was serving delicacies to voles, who tunneled their way year-round to lunch in my back-yard beds. I quickly learned that in-ground hostas demanded more protection than our cats could provide, so I replanted most of the cultivars in submerged pots to deter the voracious varmints.

As my hosta collection grew from several dozen varieties to a gross, I tired of digging and graduated to portable above-ground pots, a timely adjustment that helped facilitate our 2014 move to a new garden. Most of the townhouse patio plot was transformed into a reservoir of ceramic blue containers bursting with hostas. But fall arrived and I missed the luxury of a garage, which had provided off-season storage for my sleeping beauties.

What to do? In this southern climate, how could I maintain hosta dormancy for the better part of three months? Winter here is often mild and rainy. Sometimes the simplest solution is the best. My scheme was to trim foliage, assemble pots in several snug groups, drape them with large tarps, stake the covers to the ground and keep everything secure and safe from gusty wintry winds and soaking showers.



A rare blanket of snow in 2018 topped tarps hiding the dormant Tucker garden.

That kept my undercover garden cold, dry and dark from mid-November to late February.

Now accustomed to fickle weather here, including rare snowstorms, I first cover hosta crowns with a blanket of needles from our canopy of tall pines. Pine straw, this shady garden's seasonal groundcover, helps reinforce plant dormancy. Northern gardeners may prefer to use a layer of mulch.

When evidence of spring becomes conclusive, I peel back the tarps to give hostas a jump-start, then spread out the containers. Sunlight and showers soon have leaves peeking out of pots. I help propel them into the new season with doses of fertilizer.



**Come November in Memphis, hosta pots are snugly grouped and put under tarps.**



**Hats protect emerging hostas from late winter frost.**

protection also has kept my extensive collection of ceramic containers from cracking.

But, as you know, Jack Frost's appearance always is a threat, so I keep tarps handy just in case. If early-rising hostas have their foliage unfurled, I beat the momentary freeze with a "hat trick"- draping ball caps and other lids over the pots.

For the past six winters, my undercover scheme has helped potted hostas sleep peacefully and emerge in spring with renewed vigor. The

## **GO HOSTAS!**





# *Book Notice*

Clyde Crockett, Carmel, IN

## ***Hostas The Complete Guide***

Written by Rosemary Barrett

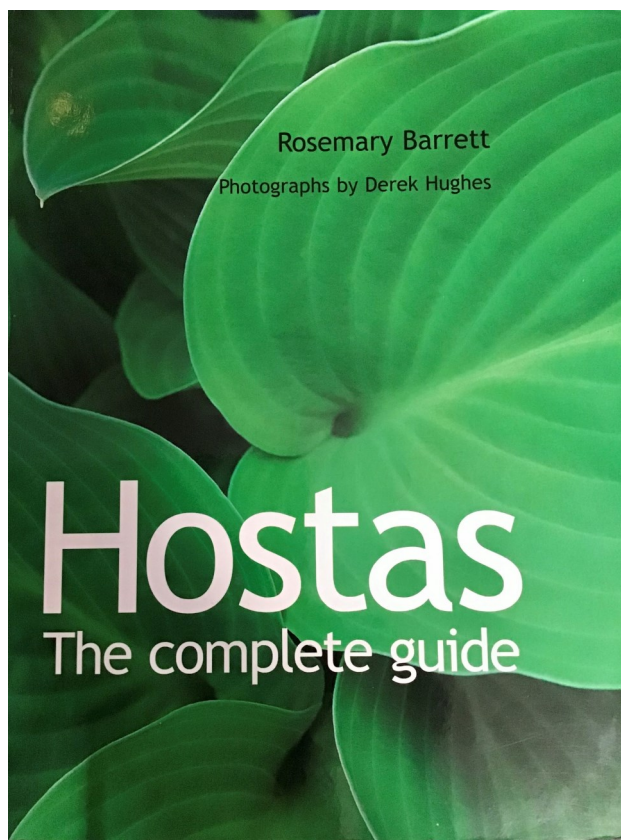
Photography by Derek Hughes

Published by David & Charles: Newton Abbot, Devon UK (2004).

You are going to feel a kinship with the author right off the bat as she writes in her introduction: “To my mind, the hosta is, without a doubt, a perfect perennial.” Add photos by Derek Hughes, and you can anticipate not being disappointed, given Barrett’s wonderfully flowing conversational style and Hughes’ pictures of the first order.

Since it is one of the few works that is focused solely on hostas, it is perhaps obvious why this book is noticed, despite the fact that much familiar ground is covered. But this work has something new to add to those well ploughed topics. The chapter on “Cultivation”, for example, delights us with a sub-section, “3 Different Beauties”, which refer to a trio probably unknown to or unowned by many of today’s hostaphiles: *h.* ‘Frances Williams’, ‘Aurora Borealis’, and ‘Samurai’. I would bet that this will pique the interest of many readers. It made me wonder if any are for sale anywhere today. See if you can locate a nursery and let me know if you do.

Chapter 3, “Propagation”, contains a quaint method—swapping plants. “I’ll trade you a division of my trillium for a division of your sieboldiana.” It is doubtful that this is prevalent today, considering the quickness a hybrid gets on the market, thanks to modern methods of propagation. Two chapters are on “Landscaping”, with detailed instructions for creating the garden of your choice — a mixed border, hosta walk, or gold, blue and white gardens.





Chapter 7 on container growing has some refreshingly new ideas. Chapter 8 treats a subject dear to my heart — companion plants. It is the longest of the chapters and affords excellent advice not only on perennials but trees and shrubs as well to add to your garden. Varieties of clematises are featured in a separate section as they should be. As illustrated, they are exceptionally beautiful with hostas.

The final chapter is “Catalog of Hostas”, which, given the date of publication, lists only a few that are now commonly grown, many once popular no longer in the trade, but maybe one or two that might be something that you like and might still be available. In this section are many introductions of hosta hall-of-famers such as Paul Aden, the Lachmans, Mildred Seaver, and others pioneers of hostadom.

The mention of pioneers of the hosta world leads me to highlight what is my favorite part of the book — “Discovery and Development” — the opening chapter. The early history portion is by far the best description in print. Many names of historical importance are included besides the usual ones that are found in the literature.

The “Development“ is devoted to a mention of those who deserve, as Barrett says, “special recognition” for their invaluable contributions to the development of hostas: Alex Summers, Peter Ruh, Gus Krossa, Mildred Seaver, Dr. Herb Benedict and our very own, Dr. Warren I. Pollock. As Ms. Barrett notes, through his many publications so much important history has been preserved.



*H. ‘Gene’s Joy’*  
Photo by Clyde Crockett

A final word about Rosemary Barrett. I found that she wrote a book on magnolias and one on maples. In one review, we are told she and her husband owned a nursery. She had a garden. I contacted the publisher and went to the internet. I was unable to find out anything else. So, if you know more about her, it would be greatly appreciated if you let me know. Since she is such an excellent contributor to the genus, I’d like to include more about her in a future issue. Thanks!

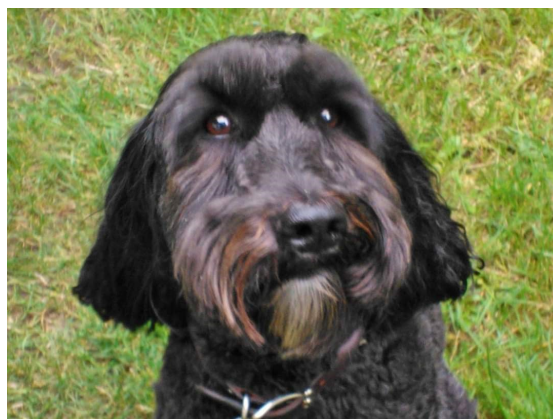


## In Memoriam: *Gary Lindheimer*

By Don Dean

### *“In My Hands”*

“I will likely die with a hosta in my hands,” came close to the truth. These were the words stated by Gary Lindheimer each year around this time as he and I began our annual review of hosta photos for selection to send to the tissue culture lab. These words fell close to reality. Gary passed away August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, following a day of sending out hosta orders. Gary is survived by his daughter, Nicole Lindheimer of New York City, his trusted dog Snickers, and the two resident goats Midnight and Cyclone.



Gary's Facebook profile

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Zephyr & Snickers August 2021

Photo by Marco Fransen

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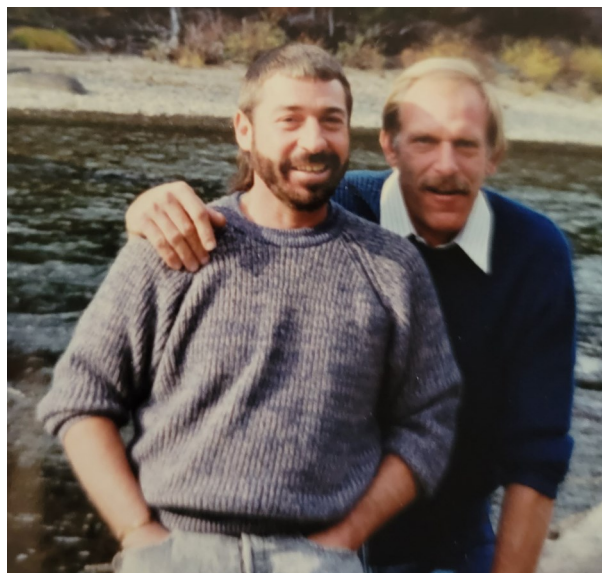


Midnight & Cyclone or Cyclone & Midnight?

Photo from one of Gary's Facebook posts

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Gary with business and life partner, Jack Hirsch, were co-owners of Naylor Creek Nursery in Chimacum, Washington. Jack preceded Gary in death by a couple of years. Many met Gary throughout the 90's at the American Hosta Society annual convention while gathered around the pair's vending tables. An audience would be filled with knowledge of hostas but stay to listen to his many stories resplendent with his own style of humor. Change over time was a continuous trait, but these things remained constant for those who met Gary.



Gary & Jack

Photo from Marco Fransen

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Naylor Creek was a go to source for hostas as well as Epimediums, Jack's passion, during the last decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Epimediums were dropped from their many offerings. Their focus went solely to hosta. Contacts with American hosta hybridizers began by the late 90's. By the beginning of the new millennium, Naylor Creek was offering exclusive availability to these breeders' newest releases. Shortly thereafter, a partnership with Marco Fransen from the Netherlands was solidified. European hybrids came to the U.S. from the many contacts established overseas, and stateside cultivars traveled across the ocean to Europe. After 2010, vending at national conventions came to an end for Naylor as dependability of required vehicles and travel distance became issues. The year 2014 marked the end of a much-anticipated paper copy of Naylor's catalog. The Naylor catalog took the form of double sided, color printed sheets of hostas offerings resplendent with photos. Advances in the electronic era surpassed the time, cost, and effort to create the annual catalog. The catalog went electronic. Facebook was explored by Gary in the twenty-teens; more U.S. hybridizers were pointed out to him. Soon these newly found hosta breeders had their work made available through Gary's efforts. As often happens, discovering Facebook led to his collaboration with Jeff Moore to kick off the highly successful group, Hosta Buyers Guide. Gary posted there regularly. A young man, Zephyr Petrick, joined Gary at Naylor Creek picking up much of the work Jack had done prior to Jack's decline and soon became a valuable friend as well as being an invaluable worker. Gary embraced change, adapting and then adopting in order to bring many unique plants while having hosta in hand.

Many across this nation and beyond benefited from Gary's depth of hosta



Zephyr, Peter, Gary

Photo from Marco Fransen

knowledge, entertaining stories, and special humor. His impact upon the hosta world across the continents has been extensive. Gary's audience over the years will certainly miss his adept social skills regardless of venue. Folks were always met with friendliness. Those people who had become friends over the years will miss him greatly. A small handful had become an extension of his family, often garnering monikers indicating the relationship. They held him in their hearts and certainly will not forget. All will remember Gary with a smile upon their faces.

Hostas aside, Gary will be remembered for his selfless devotion to others. His relationship with Marco and Joyce Fransen was family like in every regard. Gary and Marco were like brothers one day and like father-son the next. Gary provided loving, round the clock care for Jack during his decline with dementia. Gary even made sure Snickers the dog had the best available cancer treatment.

Naylor Creek has come to an end, but Gary's legacy will hopefully carry on through the efforts of a handful working behind the scenes. Patience will serve one well while waiting to see what the future brings to the world of hosta.



Jack, Gary & Marco Fransen

Photo from Marco Fransen

# In Memoriam: *Jack Barta*

By Tom Micheletti

Jack Barta became one of my best hosta friends many years ago. I don't remember when or which convention I first met him. I do remember spending time visiting with Bob Kuk who was also a friend of Jacks, standing near his vending booth at conventions. We would talk about everything hosta, the plants, the hosta business, the convention, and many other topics. After Bob's passing it was just Jack and I. Being a fellow teacher, Jack and I also had that in common and would converse about our teaching experiences and careers. We would meet periodically at a "halfway" point between our homes at a Pizza Hut in Racine, Wisconsin. It had a pizza buffet lunch, and anyone who knew Jack knows he loved his buffets. We would visit all afternoon long after the lunch buffet had closed.

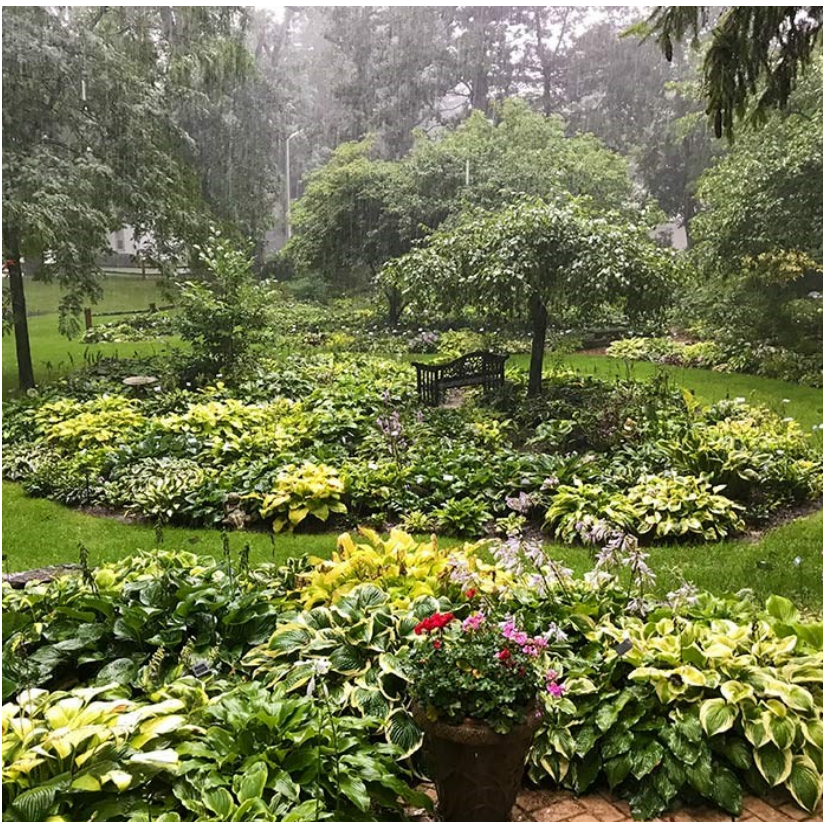
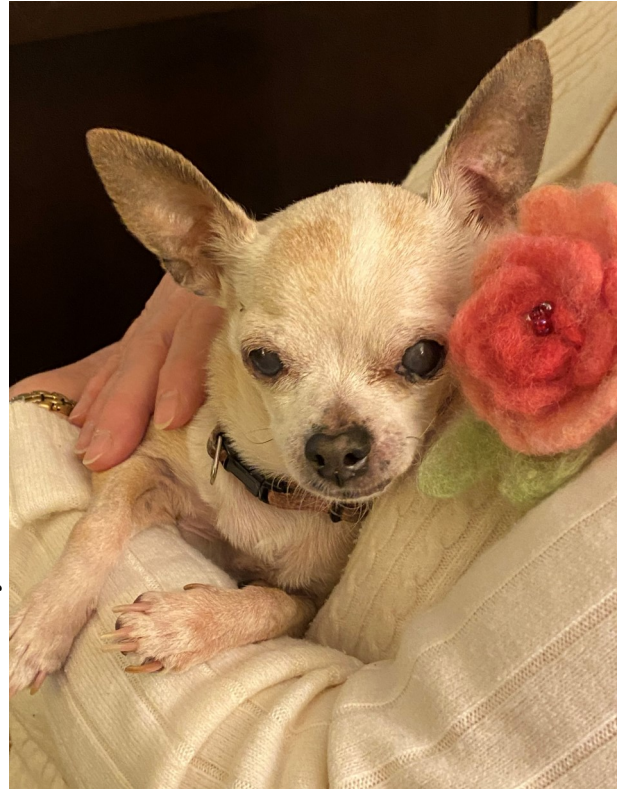


Jack & Tom at Hosta College 2015  
Photo by Joan Altman (with permission)

It was during our organizing of the 2013 AHS Convention in Milwaukee that our friendship cemented itself. We would speak over the phone several times a week with thoughts and ideas. Since this was the first AHS convention with "drive yourself" to gardens, it took a lot of logistics and planning. For years after the convention, we spoke regularly over the phone even till just before he went into the hospital for a lengthy stay due to his anemia. He was always trying to figure out how and where to organize another convention. He took over the Midwest Regional Winter Meeting holding it in the Milwaukee area after it was discontinued in the Chicago area. He even had it planned for February 2022 after postponing it due to COVID in 2021. Jack was also one of the cofounders of the Southeast Wisconsin Hosta Society, serving as one of its early presidents, and again later as president trying to resuscitate it before it closed down due to lack of participation.

Of course, Jack can be remembered carrying the small black satchel inside of which was his beloved Chihuahua dog. He had a few different ones during the course of time I knew him. The dogs would just sleep in the satchel and not make any noise. He would bring them out periodically to show them off. When we went to a meal Jack would leave with a true “doggy bag”, with portions to feed his dog.

Pink Photo by Jack



Picture of Jack’s yard from his Website.

Jack was passionate about all thing’s hosta. It was his life. His whole yard was planted in hostas and he was a popular vender at conventions. He would often have people lined up at his booth with hostas in hand ready to purchase them. He could be found working with his beloved hostas any time he could dig in the soil. Winters were trying for him because he wasn’t able to work with hostas. He did keep busy with hostas, researching new varieties and ordering them to offer for sale the next year.

Winter was also a time he would cultivate his many hosta friends and have lengthy phone conversations. There was no such thing as a short phone conversation with Jack! But they were always informative an interesting.



Photo from Jack's Website

Jack was at times outspoken and a bit rough around the edges for some, but he had a big compassionate heart. Tim Triolo, Jack's nephew said, "My uncle had a unique way of expressing himself at times". He may have come across as rough, but he was always willing to step in and offer a helping hand. I remember regularly seeing him at convention hostality rooms helping clean up at closing times. He was also a judge at hosta shows and would pitch in with those when he was able.

I could continue with many memories of my friendship with Jack. There are so many to recall. He was a one-of-a-kind person. My fondest memory was at a Midwest Regional Convention a few years ago when Jack was awarded the DeEtta Montgomery Award for service. He was sitting near me and the emotion and look of surprise that shown on his face was a memory I will never forget. He was so proud of that award and I am so proud of him for having so deservedly received it. I will miss you, Jack!



MRHS 2018 Convention

Photo by Mary Vertz

# In Memoriam: *Jack Barta*

By Glenn Herold

For the last 10 years, Jack and I have lived less than a mile apart, but our relationship started in the 1990's when I was teaching horticulture at Illinois Central College in East Peoria, IL. I don't remember exactly when I first met him but no doubt it was either at the 1991 MRHS convention in Peoria or the 1998 AHS convention, which I co-chaired. He was quick to volunteer hostas to add to our collection at the college arboretum, an offer that I often took advantage of.

My wife, Terry, and I purchased our house in Cedarburg, WI in 2010, nine months before moving in. During that time Jack would regularly check up on our house and take photos of the yard, which we still have. He would water plants as needed, especially when we brought a U-Haul full of containerized plants a month before relocating. He did all this without ever being asked.

Over time, Jack and I became good friends. We would often go out for breakfast or make a buying trip to a nursery. In the early days I would be buying a lot of plants to fill up our one-acre yard. Jack would use his wholesale buyers discount and then I would reimburse him, if he remembered to give me the bill. After a trip to Beaver Creek nursery, I returned home and excitedly exclaimed to Terry that "Joe Witt was only \$70!" She had no idea what I was talking about until I explained that it was a large plant of *Acer tegmentosum* 'Joe Witt'.



Photo from Jack's Website

Those of you who know Jack and me will not be surprised to hear that my breakfast conversations with him were often one-sided. Most of the time the topic was about plants. I would pick his brain about hostas and he would pick mine about just about any other plant. Every once in a while, we would get onto other subjects, and I would get snapshots of Jack's life. Even though he talked a lot, it was rarely about himself. He was very private with his own life. Like me, Jack's career was in teaching. He taught music and conducted band and orchestra on the high school level. I also learned that he was an accomplished photographer, especially during his



college days at Lawrence University in Appleton, WI from 1965-69. I was surprised to hear that he even photographed the “ice bowl,” when the Green Bay Packers beat the Dallas Cowboys on December 31, 1967, in minus 13-degree weather.

At first glance, one might wonder how Jack and I became good friends, for we are nothing like each other. In our younger days, he was a musician, I an athlete. He is a talker, I am quiet. He preferred bacon and eggs for breakfast, I would usually order blueberry pancakes. He was Roman Catholic, I am Lutheran. Politically he leaned right, I left. Maybe that’s why we talked about plants all the time, for we could never agree on anything else!

When the MRHS put a hold on the Winter Conference several years ago, Jack immediately said to me that we needed to get it started again. Single handedly he found a hotel, lined up speakers, planned the hospitality, and then named me as co-organizer. He didn’t care about promoting himself, he just wanted to promote hostas.

Jack would never hesitate to tell you how he felt about something, and often that would rub people the wrong way. But no one in the hosta world had a bigger heart and more giving soul. We would walk around his garden, and he would exclaim, “Oh, you’ve got to have that!” and he would dig up a clump for me. Almost half of the hostas in my current garden came from Jack. I gave him one in return, the cultivar ‘Friends’ that I obtained several years ago. Three years ago, he received the MRHS DeEtta Montgomery Award for his lifetime service to the Midwest Region. We are fortunate that we were able to do this. Thank you, Jack, for being my friend, for sharing your knowledge of hostas (and your plants), and for all you have done. We will miss you.



Photo from Jack’s Website

# The 2021 AHS National Convention in Retrospect

by Don Rawson

This year's AHS National Convention was hosted by two local hosta societies in West Michigan. However, as you are aware, the current situation with the COVID-19 virus prevented an in-person convention, so a virtual event was planned and held on-line for your viewing pleasure. The theme was "Hosta Smitten in the Mitten" ...the mitten referring to the Lower Peninsula of the Great Lakes State. All of the activities were recorded and will be on the convention website for your convenience until **January 1, 2022.**

So, have you perused the website lately? Now that the gardening season is coming to an end, our time outdoors is diminishing, and it is time to move indoors. You have a perfect opportunity to watch the events of the 2021 AHS Virtual Convention and will really enjoy all of the videos which are available. Go to the convention website at <https://ahs2021.org/>. They are all there just for you!

To provide an overview, the recorded sessions include the AHS Awards and Meetings, Gardens, Speakers, Workshops, and Competitions. Together, there are over 19 hours of recorded material posted to the website that cover the convention events.



AHS Awards

National Awards

[View Here](#)



Gardens

Virtual Tours

[View Tours](#)



Speakers

Recorded Topics

[View Now](#)



Workshops

Recorded Information

[View Now](#)



Competitions

View the Winners

[View Now](#)

First off, there are the awards and meetings. These recordings include the AHS Board Meeting, Membership Meeting, Presidents Meeting, the AHS Awards, the Seedling Competition winners, and the Leaf Show winner. They can be accessed from the tab at the top of the main webpage titled "About AHS 2021" and the tab titled "Competitions".

Secondly, you will greatly enjoy watching the garden tour videos. There are ten videos total, ranging from 13 to 54 minutes each. They say that a picture is worth a thousand words, which is why a professional videographer was given the task of photographing each garden, and you will not be disappointed! Just pop a bowlful of butter-drenched popcorn, plop down in an easy chair, and dream-walk thru each of the private hosta glades. To increase your viewing enjoyment, the videos should be streamed to your large screen TV. What better way to have a relaxing and delightful snowy winter eve!

Next are the three speakers and eleven workshops, including keynote speaker Hans Hansen of Walters Gardens. Hans shares his fascination with plants and specifically, his lifelong journey with hostas, which began at a young age. By fifteen, he was already hybridizing Asiatic lilies, and then working with hostas which were planted throughout his 5-acre forested parcel in Waseca, Minnesota. Two other speakers - Bob Iames and Rob Mortko - will surely interest you as well. Bob is enthusiastic about plants and shares with you his ideas on garden design, while Rob whets your appetite by giving a sneak peak of new hostas which will be on the market in the next year or so.

Gardening always involves learning. The workshops are the educational part of the convention. By the way, the Bylaws of the American Hosta Society require that a national convention always includes an educational element. This year's convention took that to a whole new level - it had eleven educational presentations, which is many more than any AHS convention in the past. The workshops convey information on hosta pests (slugs and deer) and diseases (Virus HVX), organic fertilizers, growing in containers, and tips on how to use an aeroponic propagator. In addition, there are informative presentations on photographing and registering hosta cultivars, and a workshop about how the Hosta of the Year is selected, beginning in 1996.

Every national convention includes a leaf show, and this year's virtual convention was no exception. Since it was not possible for convention attendees to bring leaves for an in-person show, registrants were encouraged to submit photos so that everyone could vote on their favorite. Take a look at the winning photo, submitted by Gail and Dave Russo of New Jersey. It is a leaf with a lot of twists and turns. Also, you will want to see the winning entries for the Ed Elslager Seedling Competition.

Lastly, try your wit at playing the “Guess that Hosta Game” on the main webpage. The video lasts about 24 minutes and includes a couple hundred hostas. This is a fun activity. How many can you get right?



The convention team has worked diligently to provide all of this year’s activities, so take advantage of them. We hope that you, too, will become “hosta smitten in the mitten”!



# AHS 2022 National Convention is ON!

by Amy Peterson



The phoenix is rising and Hosta Vision 2020 is re-born as Hosta Vision 2022. The Minnesota Hosta Society is excited to bring hostaphiles together once again June 8-11, 2022 at the Minneapolis Marriott NW located in Brooklyn Park, MN.

Mid-October the convention website ([hostavision2022.com](http://hostavision2022.com)) will be operational. Included will be both convention and hotel online registration using a charge card along with a downloadable registration form for check payment to “Hosta Vision”.



June 8<sup>th</sup> all day add-on tour (lunch included) to southeast Minnesota to view 5 Shades of Green Hosta Society gardens.

June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> morning tour in METRO gardens. Stroll thru a total of 11 beautiful gardens. Optional add-on ride a bus or you can drive on your own. This year's tour includes three sets of “neighbor” gardens where you can see two gardens in one stop.

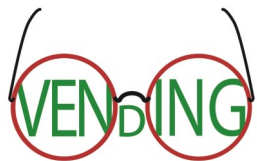


Six education speakers will present with three speakers on each day of June 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. More detail will be posted on the convention website.

In addition, hosta show judge's clinics 1, 2 & 3 will be held.



“Dreams of the Past: Visions of the Future” is an AHS sanctioned Hosta Show. The theme highlights Minnesota notables who influenced or contributed to our wonderful local & regional natural environment. Plan to participate by entering those beautiful hosta leaves you grow in your garden. Set a goal for yourself to enter leaves at the 2022 convention!



More detail will be posted on the convention website as vendor details are finalized.

Registration also includes seven meals (two breakfasts, three lunch buffets and two banquet dinners) and four nights of hospitality. At the banquet meals we will recognize and celebrate with the Alex J Summer and Eunice Fisher Award winners, awards that recognize the contributions of AHS members.

Commensurate with our “vision” theme, we are collecting used eyewear as a philanthropic element of the 2022 convention. Please collect and plan to donate used eyewear for subsequent donation to the Lions International program.

Lastly, plan to participate in the AHS convention auction by donating a great plant to the auction. The auction is a highlight at each convention and is one of AHS’s primary means to raise money. The auction will be on the afternoon of Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Minnesota Hosta Society looks forward to seeing our friends! It’s been a long time between visits, so please join us in 2022.

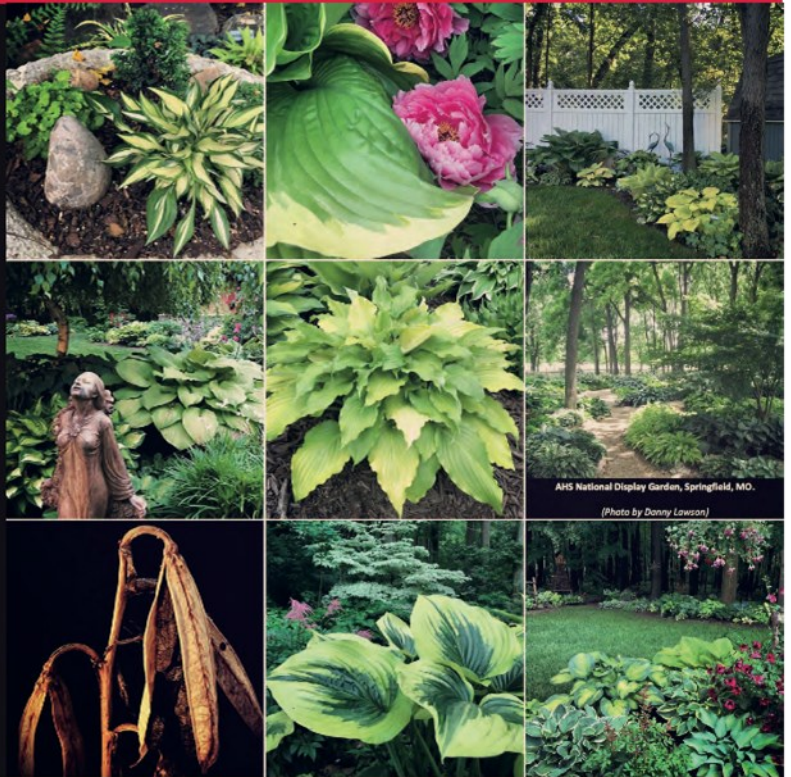


# Follow

The American Hosta Society  
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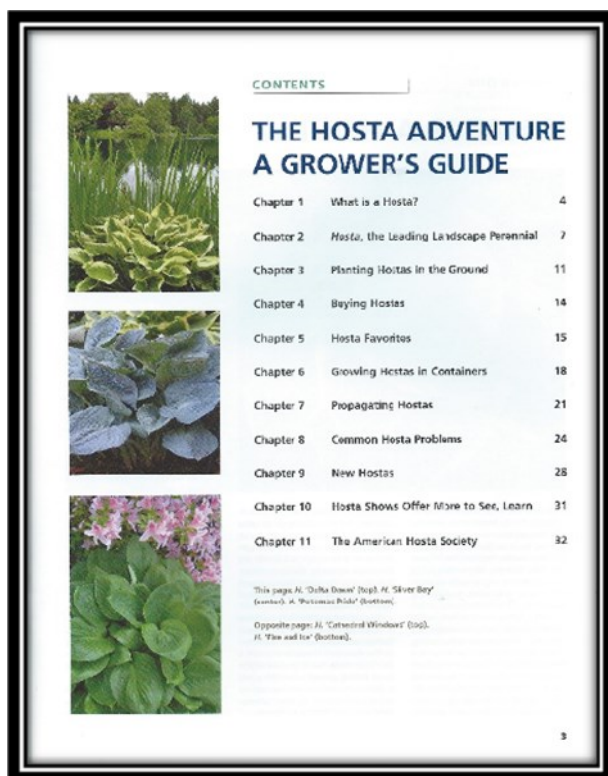
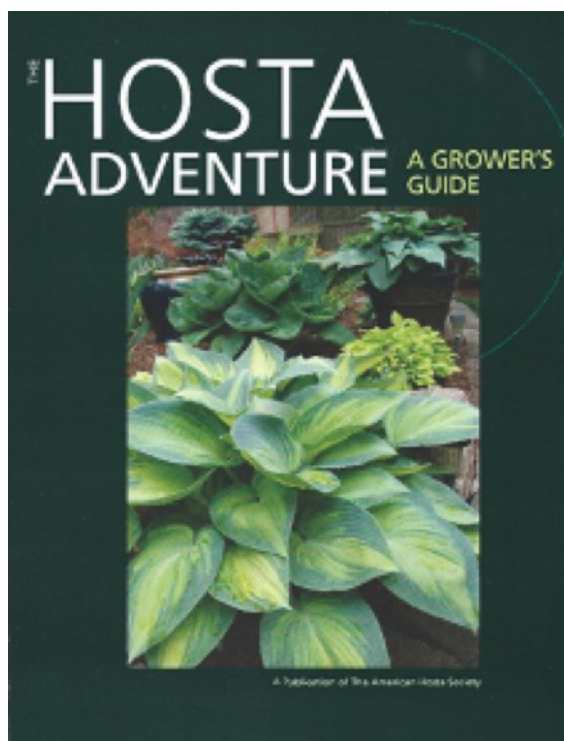
Discover beautiful  
hosta images,  
landscapes  
and inspiring ideas.



## From AHS Publications

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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





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

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

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

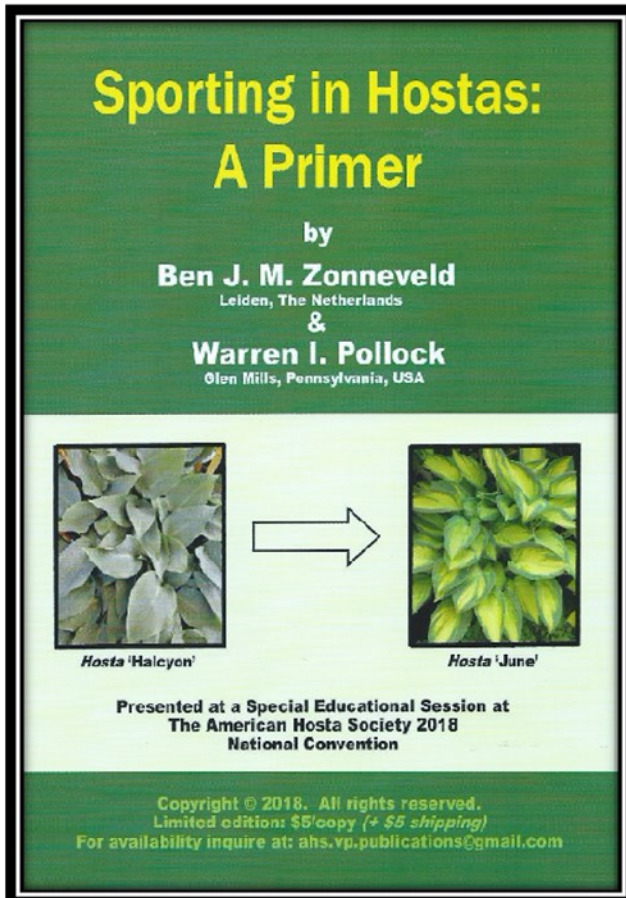
- 2-6 books, \$4.00 each + \$8.00 postage
- 7-30 books, \$4.00 each + \$15.00 postage
- 31-99 books, \$3.75 each + \$21.00 postage
- 100-499 books, \$3.25 each + \$27.00 postage

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

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

**Barry Ankney, AHS VP Publications**  
**Hosta Adventure**  
**1104 Oxford Court**  
**Oakbrook Terrace IL 60181**

## From AHS Publications



Ben J. M. Zonneveld and Warren I. Pollock have researched and written a booklet about sporting in hostas. Based on nearly ten years of research, this 28-page booklet describes the process of sporting.

*Sporting in Hostas: A Primer*, was compiled by Dr. Pollock. He gave a presentation at the American Hosta Society (AHS) National Convention held in Philadelphia in 2018, highlighting the major points contained in this publication.

Hosta enthusiasts interested in how and why hostas mutate, or sport, have found this source book of great value. Dr. Pollock, along with the late Gregg Peterson, Past President of the American Hosta Society, and one other donor funded the printing of this booklet and generously donated these booklets to the AHS.

All proceeds from the sale of *Sporting in Hostas* go to the general fund of the AHS, to further its educational goals.

This booklet outlines the basic principles of sporting, explaining the three layers of cells that are contained in the meristem or apical dome in the shoot of the hosta plant. He explains the chromosomal makeup of hostas, and the concept of ploidy, or the number of sets of chromosomes in the cell nucleus. The difference between sports and hybrids is covered.

The eleven (11) sporting rules in hostas are presented, including examples of each. Also, examples of unusual sporting with photos of many of the examples are presented. An appendix contains selective slides from Warren's presentation at the National Convention.

A second appendix provides some hosta sporting statistics compiled by Hugo Phillips, founder and custodian of the “MyHostas” website. For those inclined to study this process further, a final appendix lists resources for additional reading.

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**Page 22 Appendix A: PowerPoint™ slides**

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While some elements are rather technical, Warren walks the reader through this fascinating process of change in hostas with plenty of photos and practical examples. The reader will come away with new knowledge of how hostas change to produce new and interesting plants.

This valuable resource is available only from the American Hosta Society.

You may order your copy from AHS Publications by mailing a check payable to *The American Hosta Society* in the amount of \$10.00 (postage paid) to:

**Barry Ankney, AHS VP Publications**  
**Sporting in Hostas**  
**1104 Oxford Court**  
**Oakbrook Terrace IL 60181**

# AHS Membership



The American Hosta Society (AHS) is a society dedicated to the study and improvement of the genus *Hosta* and the dissemination of general and scientific knowledge about hostas. There are numerous benefits for the members that result from these efforts, both social and in nursery trade. All AHS members receive several publications a year, including two colorful issues of *The Hosta Journal* (mailed), four *eNewsletters* (emailed), along with *The Online Hosta Journal* (posted on the web for members only).

These *Journals* include articles on cultivation tips, propagation techniques, landscape uses, new cultivars and old species, pioneers and personalities, scientific advances, convention awards, gardens, and news about the AHS.

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

## Other membership benefits:

- ✓ The privilege of visiting display gardens throughout the country, many of which are only open to AHS members.
- ✓ An invitation to exhibit your favorite hostas and compete for recognition in various AHS national and regional hosta shows.
- ✓ Developing friendships with people who share an interest in growing hostas.
- ✓ Access to Members Only section of the AHS website.

**Another benefit of becoming a new member is you receive a voucher from the AHS Membership Secretary good for \$15.00 towards any purchase at sponsoring nurseries. For information about this program, go to:**

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

**Print and mail the Membership Application form on the next page, or to join online, go to:**

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



Photo by Don Rawson

# Give a gift membership!

To pay by credit card online: [www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org)

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\*Online digital versions only.

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 Make check payable to: American Hosta Society.

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 ENTIRE PAGE +  
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