

AHS SPEAKERS LIST

For additions and corrections please contact JOY COLLURA at JDSONGRAHAM@AOL.COM



TAMMY BORDEN

920-540-9619

friendsgardenparty@gmail.com

E9288 Crain Rd.
New London, WI
54961

Travel distance available- 75 miles.

Calendar time available- contact for availability

Zoom presentations are available, if needed to eliminate travel expenses, but prefer to do in person.

TOPICS

Hosta Garden Design

Growing Hostas in Containers

Shade Companion Plants

"Will customize a presentation upon request."

PROFILE/BACKGROUND

Tammy has been gardening in the shadows for more than 25 years and obtained her Master Gardener certification through the Wisconsin UW extension, and she also has a design degree. She has served on the AHS Board of Directors and currently serves as the Marketing and Publicity Chair. Her garden was featured as a tour garden for the 2019 AHS national convention in Green Bay.



CLARENCE FALSTAD, III (‘CH’)

616-218-2707
(best evenings or weekends)
cfalstad3@gmail.com

152 Birchwood
Holland, MI
49423-6657

Call for travel and calendar time available.

I have done Zoom talks during Covid but would probably prefer to do them in person. It's much harder without the interaction of the audience. I probably have some talks that could be done by Zoom. If there is someone interested, they could contact me.

TOPICS

Why Are the Hostas on the Other Side of the Fence Always Bigger and Greener? – Nutrition
The World of Hostas and Hosta Flowers
Landscaping from my perspective
Hosta Production at Walters Gardens- From Tube to Truck-propagation of hostas in tissue culture and large-scale mechanized field operations and steps involved.
Plant Patents and Intellectual Property

PROFILE/BACKGROUND

CH says he has never killed a hosta plant, although many in his care have up and committed suicide, as hard as he has tried to keep them alive.
In 1980 CH began doing tissue culture of hostas and other perennials at Walters Gardens and took over the management when Mark Zilis left to form Q&Z Nursery. CH managed the tissue culture lab producing over one million perennials per year until taking on other responsibilities of hybridizing, licensing and plant patents. Currently concentrating on licensing contracts, royalties, plant patents and plant breeder's rights. Graduated with a bachelor's in science from the University of Illinois in Ornamental Horticulture.
In Hosta groups CH served in several positions with the Michigan Hosta Society including Charter Vice President, President. In AHS, Master Show Judge, Scientific Chair, Scientific Editor, Journal author, Organized the first several AHS Research Grants, Auction Chair, Strategic Planning Chair, Vice President, President and honored with the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award.



GLENN HEROLD

309-369-2383

Glenn.herold50@gmail.com

www.TheCottageGardener53012.Wordpress.com

W69N984 Washington Ave.

Cedarburg, WI 53012

Travel distance available- Anything reasonable.

Calendar time available- Any

Zoom presentations are available.

TOPICS

A garden for all Seasons

Conifer Identification and Use

Conifer Survival in a Flowering Plant World

Environmentally Friendly Landscaping

Hosta and Other Shady Characters

Hostas of the Year

Hostas Through the Ages

Lilies

Major Minors: the Small Bulbs

Shrubs in the shade

The Korean Hostas

Tree Pruning/Shrub Pruning

Trees for the Hosta Garden

Tree Selection and Planting

Woodland Wildflowers

PROFILE/BACKGROUND

Glenn Herold is a retired professor of Horticulture, Illinois Central College, East Peoria, IL. and was head Cross Country coach at Illinois Central College, for 32 years. There is founded the Illinois Central College Arboretum, which is now a display garden for the American Hosta Society.

2023 recipient of the DeEtta Montgomery Award, the highest award given by MRHS.

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, 2011-2015

American Hosta Society Region 5 Liaison, 2017-2021



DANNY LAWSON

316-259-3955

danny.lawson2514@gmail.com

518 S Vine St.

Wichita KS 67213-3970

Travel distance available- Any distance.

Calendar time available- Most any time that is not during an AHS Convention.

I do not offer Zoom presentations. I do a lot of interaction with the audience and that just doesn't work well in a Zoom setting.

TOPICS

Primary topics are: AHS Membership and Benefits, promotion of AHS National and Regional Conventions, and celebrating the AHS National Display Gardens.

PROFILE/BACKGROUND

Danny is a lifelong Kansan who always enjoyed gardening. Introduced over 20 years ago to hostas by his older sister Linda, who is a Sedgwick County Master Gardener, his love for them quickly took off. Danny is the President and Newsletter Editor with the Wichita Hosta Society, a position he has held for the past several years. He is also current Editor of The Hosta Journal, past Editor of the Online Hosta Journal and eNewsletter for The American Hosta Society, and the Newsletter Exchange Coordinator keeping the many local societies in touch with each other. An AHS Convention regular, he enjoys traveling the country visiting nurseries and touring gardens in all growing zones.



RONNIE LIVINGSTON

Cell- 248-933-0319
ronlives@gmail.com

529 Batchewana
Clawson, MI 48017

Travel distance available- 6 hours maximum (one direction)
Calendar time available- Late Spring until Late October

Ask for Zoom availability.

TOPICS

Hybridizing with High Tech Tools

Are our Hostas Going to the Dogs_ (a comparative study of the effects of selective breeding on dogs, and the potential for hostas improvements, with a taste of human genetics)

Digital Photography Tips and Tricks

Photo editing Software Basics

Fifty Shades of Green (a study on how plants have enlisted humans to transport and improve them by fulfilling human desires)

Hybridizing Hostas (basics of hybridizing hostas)

Cannabis- "Reefer Madness" or "Amazing Medicine Plant"?

The History of Cannabis

Custom presentations can be made as well.

PROFILE/BACKGROUND

Ron Livingston is a retired Science teacher and worked as an adjunct professor at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, MI teaching classes in Heredity and Plant Sciences. Operation Physics instructor at LTU. Ron has been hybridizing hostas since 1997. Together with Brian Skaggs they founded the Fraternal order of Seedy Fellows (FOOSF). For Ron, a hobby often leads to a new hobby, hosta hybridizing led to photography, which led to rugged hiking, body building, the process is ongoing. It is exciting to see what happens next.



MARY ANN METZ

217-841-7343
heyblondy@earthlink.net

1108 W. William
Champaign, IL 61821

Travel distance available- not limited.
Calendar time available- not too limited- just advance notice

Zoom presentations are not available.

TOPICS

Bulbs for every season
Landscaping with Hosta
New Hosta
New Perennials
New Annuals

Color Scaping
Continuous Color In the Garden
Shade Gardening
Small Space Trees and Shrubs

PROFILE/BACKGROUND

Mary Ann Metz is a retired Horticulturist- Greenhouse grower/Manager at Klemm Nursery Champaign, IL. She is a Landscape Designer for residential and commercial properties. Mary is a Garden Center Educator at Champaign, IL (Prairie Gardens).



ROB MORTKO

913- 206-6939
robmortko@gmail.com

16370 W. 138th Terr
Olathe, KS 66062

Travel distance negotiable (prefer to drive)

Calendar Time available- Prefer March thru October during the growing season to bring plants for sale.

Zoom presentations if needed which eliminate travel expenses, but I prefer to do in person.

TOPICS

Tissue Culture for Dummies.... Like Me
Growing Better Hostas- Lessons Learned in the Greenhouse
Hot Hostas for the Cool Shade (overview of growing hostas and pics of top 25 hostas)
Miracles out of Nowhere (discovering sports in your own garden)
Who's Who in the Hosta World (the people behind the plants and the societies)
Wild thang (an entertaining look at hosta species)
The Future of Hostas
50 Ways to Kill your Hosta

PROFILE/BACKGROUND

Rob Mortko is a degreed chemical engineer, recently retired from Black & Vetch where he was Vice President of Process Technology. Rob and wife Sheri's shade gardens have been featured on various garden tours, local TV, and in *Kansas City Homes and Gardens Magazine*. Rob's Made in the Shade Gardens, a home based, retail business specializes in offering over 500 varieties of hostas. Rob also operates a tissue culture laboratory where most of his hostas are propagated. Rob has served in various board positions for both the American Hosta Society and the American Hosta Growers Association. Rob's introductions include 'Heart and Soul' and 'Stitch in Time'.



BOB SOLBERG

919- 309-0649
hostabob@gmail.com

Green Hill Farm, Inc.
P.O. Box 773
Franklinton, NC 27523

Travel distance available- worldwide.

Calendar time available- all times but preferably not April or May

Zoom presentations are available.

TOPICS

The Future of Hostas
When the Hosta Bug Bites
Growing Hostas: The Bigger the Better
Bringing a New Hosta to Market
Hostas in Holland
Turning a Hosta Collection into a Shade Garden
Hostas in Japan

What Makes a Great Hosta
Moss Gardening
Hostas of Indistinction: The Name Game
Hostas in Pots
My Love Affair with Gold Hostas
Back to Hosta Basics
Hostas are Supposed to be Fun

Numerous other topics available

PROFILE/BACKGROUND

Bob Solberg is the owner of Green Hill Farm, specializing in new hostas for over 35 years. Bob being a top-notch hybridizer, has introduced about 100 hostas, and is in pursuit of producing hostas with red in the petioles, scrapes, and leaves, like his 'First Blush'^{PPAF}. He is co-founder and longtime Executive Secretary of the American Hosta Growers Association and developed the Hosta of the Year Program. In graduate school he studied mosses. Bob writes and edits *The Green Hill Gossip* a popular newspaper/catalogue on all subjects' hostas as well as the twice-yearly newsletter *The Gossip Jr*. Bob is the recipient of the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award, the highest award offered by the American Hosta Society in recognition of having given outstanding service to the American Hosta Society, and Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Merit Award from the American Hosta Society.



JOSHUA SPECE

319-327-0927 (cell) 2587 Quasqueton Diagonal Blvd
319-934-3620 (business) Independence, IA 50644
josh@inthecountrygardenandgifts.com
<http://www.inthecountrygardenandgifts.com>

Travel distance is negotiable.
Calendar time available- year around

Zoom presentations available. The charge is the same for Zoom or in person.

TOPICS

The Big World of Little Hostas	It's Not Easy... Being Green
Heavenly Hostas	Succulents
In the Country...Then and Now	What's New in the Hosta World
Maintaining a Balanced Water Garden	Accessible Gardening
Orchids: An Introduction	
Wanted: Shady Characters (Hostas and their companions)	

PROFILE/BACKGROUND

What began, as Josh's own little corner of the vegetable garden, blossomed into an interest in plants that grew throughout childhood. He graduated with an AAS degree in Horticulture and owns In The Country Garden & Gifts with his mother Sue. Since 1998, In The Country has been dedicated to specializing in innovative hostas, choice shade perennials, water plants, rock garden plants, dwarf conifers, succulents and house plants and ships plants to gardeners across the country. In the Country works closely with hosta growers and hybridizers in the US and around the world to offer cutting edge hostas to collectors. Being in a wheelchair creates obvious obstacles in the garden, but with a little creativity, a lot of determination, and much help and support from family and friends, physical limitations don't get in the way. Josh regularly contributes articles and photos to the American Hosta Society's The Hosta Journal. He was awarded Best New Author award in 2008, currently serves on as a Website Editor-in-chief on the Board of Director's for the American Hosta Society and is a past board member of the American Hosta Grower's Association. In 2023, the American Hosta Society presented Josh with the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award, the highest award offered by the American Hosta Society in recognition of having given outstanding service to the American Hosta Society, the development of the genus Hosta, or both. Josh speaks frequently on Hostas, water gardening, water plants, shade gardening, succulents and accessible gardening to garden and pond clubs, Master Gardener groups, and other gardening groups and events.



JOSEPH TYCHONIEVICH

517-303-0865- (e-mail is better) South Bend, Indiana
gsparrowgardens@gmail.com
e-mail is best way to reach me.

Travel distance available- Any, provided travel expenses are covered.
Calendar time available- Any unless I have a previously scheduled engagement.

Zoom presentations are available.

TOPICS

Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener
Pollinators and How to Support Them
The World of Rock Gardening
Plant Science That Will Make You a Better Gardener
How Plants Got their Stripes: The Science of Variegated and Pattered Leaves
How Genetic Engineering Works: Understanding Science, Not the Controversy

Confessions of a Plant Crazy Garden Nerd
Cool, Non-wimpy Plants You Haven't Heard of

PROFILE/BACKGROUND

A life-long gardener and lover of plants, Joseph earned his degree in horticulture from Ohio State University, worked at specialty rare plants nurseries in Michigan and Japan, and was named by Organic Gardening Magazine as one of "...six young horticulturists who are helping to shape how America gardens." He is the author of *Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener* (Timber Press, 2013) and *Rock Gardening: Reimagining a Classic Style* (Timber Press, 2016). Currently Joseph lives and gardens with his husband and an adorable black cat in eastern Virginia.



MARK ZILIS

815-561-0035
mzilis@comcast.net

10087 E. Branch Road
Rochelle, IL 61068

Call for travel distance and time available, and possible Zoom presentations.

TOPICS

Exploring for Hostas in Japan
Herbaceous Perennials for the Shade Garden

Developing New Hostas
Hostas: An Overview

PROFILE/BACKGROUND

Mark is the owner of A to Z Perennials, Inc., a contract tissue culture lab. He has introduced over 400 new hostas and is a recipient of the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award. Mark is author of the *Hosta Handbook*, *The Hostapedia*, and *Mark Zilis' Field Guide to Hostas*.