



The American Hosta Society

July 2024

eNewsletter



H. 'Paradigm'

Walden West 1999

(Photo by Mary Vertz)

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President's Message

Amy Peterson, Oakdale, MN

TRAVEL ADVENTURE - Spring & Summer are when hostaholics travel to visit gardens, and/or attend the AHS National Convention and or Regional Conventions. I hope for you this is an AND occurrence vs an OR occurrence. These events allow you to see new gardens, participate in a Hosta Show, see and buy new hosta AND visit with old and new Hosta Friends! An added bonus if you drive to these events is to see parts of the USA you may not have thought to visit. One fellow Hosta Couple uses these trips to visit presidential libraries, another visits different halls of fame or Hosta Vendors along the way. Some tag along spouses try new golf courses or attend local sporting events. Every trip can be a fun adventure and something to look forward to year after year.

Local Hosta Societies and their membership put a lot of effort (typically a few years of planning) in crafting a convention experience for us to enjoy. These events whether a national convention or regional one are typically important to maintain fellowship within the Hosta Communities as well as a means to raise money for ongoing operation or special projects. There are also events to recognize members' achievements at the awards and honors segment of the meeting, including the beautiful leaves and displays at a Hosta Show.

Most conventions include vendors that have supported our passion for new hosta year after year. At conventions we can visit with well known and new vendors. I have never been disappointed with the selections offered and typically found a hosta that was on my HUNT FOR list! I do try and set a budget for the Hosta Auction portion of a convention as one can easily get wrapped up in the excitement of bidding for the new, unique and limited available hosta!!

The best part of attending a convention for me is visiting with the attendees. I try to mingle and meet some new fellow hostaholics by sitting at different tables at each meal event. During the auction though I typically sit with my own Hosta Society friends in case we want to share in bidding on a particularly interesting hosta. My garden is getting full but I can still find

room for a few additions which may also include a companion plant or two.

As I age, I value the social aspect of getting together and staying connected with folks having a like interest & talking hosta and gardening in general. In conclusion I hope this year and future years you plan a traveling adventure to a Hosta Convention!!

Amy Peterson,
AHS President



Traveling to a Hosta Adventure in Style!



Photos by Mary Vertz from
2024 AHS Convention.



Ready for the Friday
night AHS Auction.



Even more enjoyable than visiting the tour gardens, is visiting with friends and making new friends along the way!



Hostas and Associates

Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

Emerald Ash Borer Update

Trees are essential to a hosta garden. Without them, the foliage of most hostas would undergo stress and burn due to the scorching rays of the sun. No doubt many hosta growers relied on ash trees (genus *Fraxinus*) to provide this shade. White ash (*Fraxinus americana*) and green ash (*Fraxinus pensylvanica*) were the favorites, and many outstanding cultivars were selected for fall color and form. Known for their autumn foliage color, relatively rapid growth rate, and tolerance of a wide range of soils, they were widely planted along city streets and in private gardens. A bonus feature is that *Fraxinus* is dioecious, meaning that male and female trees are separate. Plant a male cultivar and you don't have to contend with seed drop and seedlings sprouting up in the middle of our hostas. When I taught horticulture at Illinois Central College in East Peoria, IL, it was one of my top recommended trees. All this changed in 2002.

It has been 22 years since Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was first detected near Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario. Since then, it has spread to 36 states and the District of Columbia, as well as southern Canada. Most states from the east coast to the great plains are included and it's not done yet. EAB continues to spread south, north, and west. In my home state of Wisconsin, where it was first detected near the small town of Newburg in 2008, it has spread to 69 of the 72 counties, gradually moving northward. EAB was first found within the city limits of Cedarburg, where I reside, in 2014. Within 10 years it has killed 39 percent of the public ash trees in the city and virtually all trees in the wild. Only trees that have been treated with a preventative insecticide remain. With so few ash trees remaining, the EAB population in Southeast Wisconsin has likely crashed due to lack of food. A smaller population will always exist, however, feeding on resprouting trees and seedlings.

EAB originated in Asia where native ash trees have evolved and developed resistance to the beetle. North American and European ash trees are susceptible to EAB and its larvae. Adult beetles feed on the foliage, but larval feeding on the vascular tissue below the bark is far more detrimental because it effectively girdles the tree, disrupting nutrient and water transport upward through the vascular tissue. Without water, the tree quickly declines and dies. Cedarburg and other communities have been treating public ash trees with systemic insecticides that travel through the vascular tissue, killing the larvae and adults. Currently, Cedarburg is treating about 1000 ash trees every three years with a chemical called Mectinite (emamectin benzoate) by injecting it into the vascular system at the base of the tree.

Tree injection is a short-term solution aimed at saving some of the mature ash trees and slowing down the need for removal. The United States Department of Agriculture is involved in some long-term programs aimed at regenerating the ash population in EAB infested areas. They are taking a three-fold approach: First, identifying native trees, called “lingering ash,” that have survived the EAB onslaught and testing them for resistance. If they show resistance or tolerance, they are used in breeding programs to develop resistant trees with high quality aesthetics. Second, identifying Asian species of *Fraxinus* that would be bred with North American species. These hybrids would then be back-crossed with the North American species with the hope that the resistant genes stay in the progeny. Through many generations, trees can be developed with the characteristics of North American species but with Asian EAB resistance. Early results indicate that the hybrid/backcross breeding approach has potential to be successful in ash.

The third approach to restoring North American ash populations is the release of biocontrols, specifically wasps, that prey on EAB but are not detrimental to humans or the environment. Three different Asian species of non-stinging wasps have been released in test areas, including 29 counties in Wisconsin. *Tetrastichus* and *Spathius* wasps drill through the bark of the ash tree and lay their eggs on EAB larvae. When the wasp eggs hatch, they feed on the EAB larvae and kill them. *Oobius*, another Asian wasp species, attacks the eggs of the ash borer. *Spathius galinae* was released in test plots

in Michigan in 2015 and has shown that it will persist, and even spread, in the wild. Results show that the population growth of EAB was reduced by 35 to 55 percent. By releasing wasps into areas that have secondary growth, due to resprouting and seedling growth, the hope is that there will be a long-term reduction in EAB, and ash will once again persevere in these areas.

Ash will never again be planted in our backyards or on our streets in the quantities that they once were, nor should they be. Diversification is the key to a healthy urban forest. But the hope is that there will once again be trees of the genus *Fraxinus* to grace our landscapes and streets. Breeding and research take time. EAB may have gotten a head start, but I have faith that we will ultimately catch up and overtake this pest.



Fraxinus pennsylvanica, Green Ash, in its better days—Photo by Glenn Herold



Above images of Emerald Ash Borer are publicly available from bugwood.org

Cedarburg resident Glenn Herold was professor of horticulture at Illinois Central College, East Peoria, IL from 1979 to 2011. He earned his BS in biology and MS in horticulture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Additional articles on plants and gardening can be found on my blog: <https://TheCottageGardener53012.Wordpress.com>



GO HOSTAS!

Warren I. Pollock, Glen Mills, PA

GO HOSTAS!

**Warren is taking a well deserved summer break.
Stay tuned for the next *Go Hostas!* this fall.**

GO HOSTAS!





Book Notice

Clyde Crockett, Carmel, IN

Gardening With FOLIAGE FIRST

Written by

Karen Chapman

Christina Salwitz

Published by Timber Press, Inc.: 2017)

We learn from the outset that the proper title includes “127 dazzling combinations that pair the beauty of leaves with flowers [.]”

We find out here and along with the back cover that we are in excellent company: Chapman is a landscape designer and Salwitz has a business helping people plan their dream gardens. We quickly learn we are dealing here with combinations. You have to dig a bit, but combinations of two or up to ten plants. They are divided into two principal parts: Spring and Summer on the one hand, and Fall and Winter on the other . Then follows a division between sun plants and shade plants.



These groupings are described as “juicy”, and all are given “fun” titles. Why the combinations are given such titles is unexplained but for sure the terminology used is a far cry from the typical terms we find in non-fun gardening books. For example, in “Captivating Combinations for Bright Actors,” which is a sub-section of spring and summer combination, you find such titles as “Bad Hair Day,” “Dripping with Jewels,” and “Naughty but

Nice.” Juicy and fun, to be sure! These rather amusing titles actually do relate in a way (sometimes remotely) to the plants in the group. “Pretty in Pink” for instance, tells us what to expect.

Hosta people will be drawn to “Cool Ideas to Shaded Space” and “Inspired Design for Shaded Locations,” where there is a photo of the plants in setting and a description of “How the Design Grows,” Foliage Framework,” and “Finishing Touch.” A try at translation: structure of where you plant, why you chose the plants, and what they look like at maturity.

I don’t care for the design of this book, but my job is to review the contents. The combinations are truly juicy, remarkably beautiful, and their presentation in this book suggest superior gardening experience, knowledge and artistry. The photos are among the best I have seen in books noticed here. A big plus is that hostas are recommended in a goodly number. Worthy of a sustained look.

Happy Gardening,

Clyde



Photo by Mary Vertz

Hop on the Hosta Train to the [2025 AHS Convention](#) in Peoria, IL. Registration opens June 30th. Don’t hesitate, registration limited to 350!



Hostas Happenin's

Don Rawson, Grand Rapids, MI

“Ahem! There’s a Frog in My Throat!”

Summer is all about outdoor fun – but hopefully you can enjoy it without an allergy flare-up. Unfortunately, for many people seasonal allergies can cause adverse symptoms at specific times of the year. Plants release their pollen at different times, so depending on which type of pollen triggers a reaction, those individuals may experience seasonal allergy symptoms for a few months annually.

The seasonal allergy symptoms a person encounters may vary depending on the specific allergen that triggers their immune system. Common signs can include:

- Nasal Congestion
- Sneezing
- Itchy Eyes
- Itchy Nose
- Sinus Congestion & Pressure
- Runny Nose
- Watery Eyes
- Itchy Throat

In addition, it’s not unusual to hear a voice that sounds hoarse or croaky – what’s described as a “frog in the throat.”

A Frog in My Throat

When doctors hear of this complaint, it can point to one of two things. It can indicate a temporary hoarseness when people try to speak, or patients may feel like there’s a lump in the throat – as if they swallowed a frog.

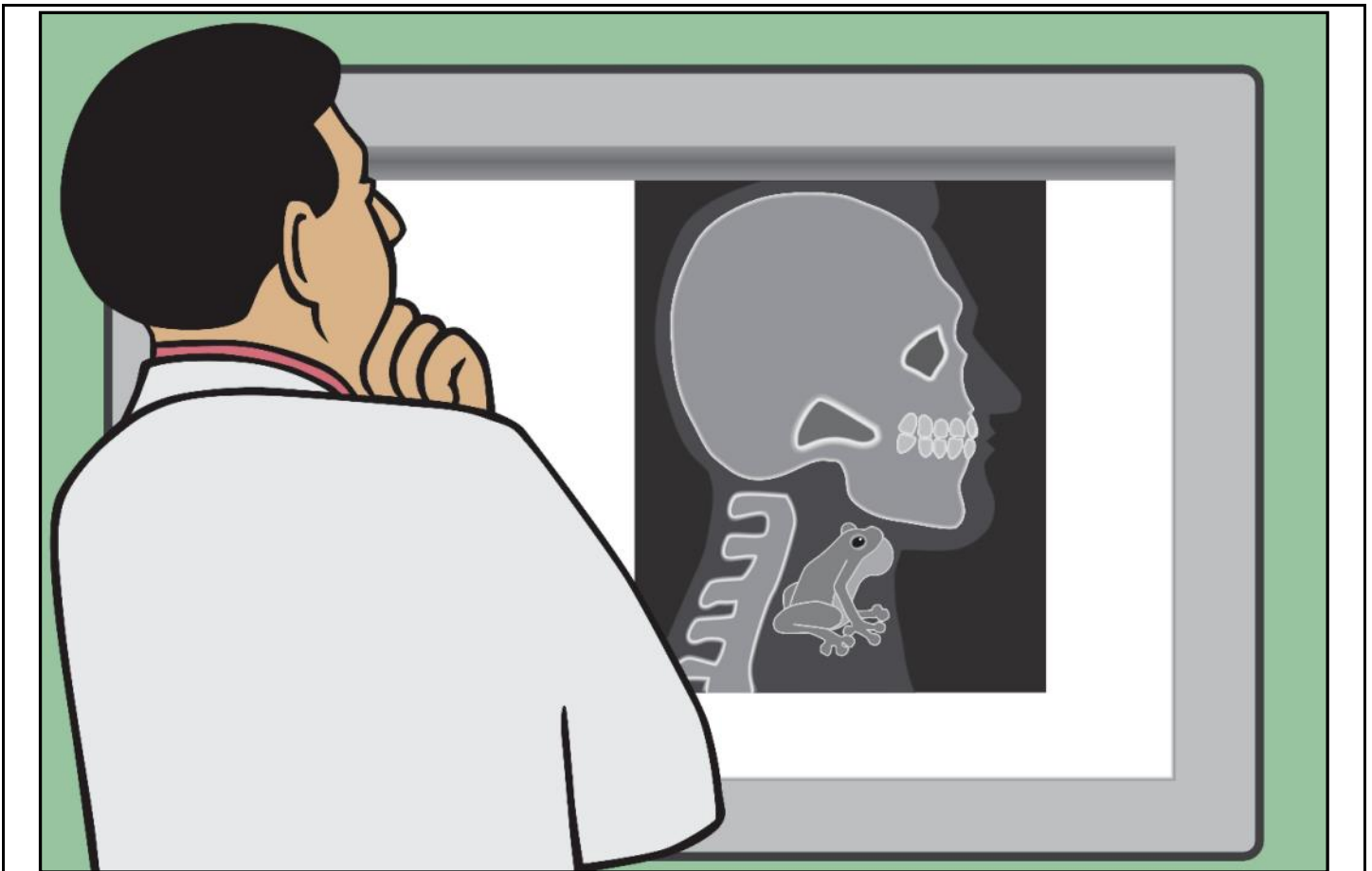


Photo: Getty Images. Used by permission.

Patients may complain about a “frog” in the throat that can be caused by a viral infection of the nose and throat, allergies, or acid reflux.

The three primary causes of a "frog in the throat" affliction are viral (a cold or flu), allergies, or acid reflux. An allergy is a condition in which the immune system reacts abnormally to a foreign substance. Anything that disrupts the opening and closing of the vocal cords can deepen your voice and make it sound rough.

For seasonal allergy sufferers, phlegm from the sinuses can make its way into the throat and act as a wedge, interfering with the normal opening and closing pattern of the vocal folds, also known as vocal cords. This changes the sound of your voice so it sounds raspy and strained. Sometimes simply clearing the mucus in your throat helps your usual voice return.

Also, during a viral illness mucus can clog up the inner workings of the voice box, resulting in a similar condition to that caused by allergies. But if you are not responding to seasonal allergies and you don't have a cold,

sore throat, or the flu, the likely culprit is acid reflux. Acid from the stomach can come up into the throat and irritate the delicate voice box. This problem is frequently provoked by spicy foods, alcohol, caffeine, carbonated beverages, and smoking — all of which can irritate the throat over time, leading to a chronic cough, excessive throat clearing, and difficulty swallowing.

Regardless of the underlying cause, for someone with a croaky voice or who sounds as if they need to cough, we say they have a frog in their throat.

Origin of the Expression

According to Candace Osmond, USA TODAY Bestselling Author and writer for Grammarist.com, the idiom “frog in my throat” can be traced back to the 19th century. It likely comes from the croaking sound a person makes when they have a sore throat, reminiscent of the noises our little green friends make.

Candace comments, “You don’t need to worry. Having a frog in your throat doesn’t literally involve an amphibious creature setting up camp in your larynx. If that were the case, we’d all be hopping to the nearest hospital! It’s just a figure of speech used to describe a hoarse voice or an inability to speak due to a temporary obstruction or tightness in the throat. If your voice is croaky and you’re finding it hard to talk, you can simply say, ‘Excuse me, I seem to have a frog in my throat.’”

Here are some ways the expression could be used:

- I have a frog in my throat; it must be the changing weather this morning.
- You sound like you have a frog in your throat. Are you coming down with a cold?
- I seem to get a frog in my throat whenever allergy season rolls around.
- She must have had a frog in her throat during the presentation. Her voice was a bit raspy.
- He had a frog in his throat from talking non-stop during the sermon.
- I always get a frog in my throat when I get nervous about speaking in public.

It's these kinds of interesting expressions that make our language so much fun. So, if your voice ever sounds a little hoarse or raspy, you'll know exactly what to say: "I have a frog in my throat!"

Frogs in the Hosta Walk at Walters Gardens

If you have ever had the privilege to tour the Hosta Walk at Walters Gardens in Zeeland, Michigan, you may have nearly stumbled over some of these slippery little creatures. With their smooth skin, long legs and webbed feet, there are some resident frogs on duty within the garden confines at Walters. Their job is to guard the hosta that is directly behind them affixed with the comical name, 'Frog in My Throat'.



Photo by Don Rawson.

These silly ceramic frog ornaments (available at Menards) add a little humor for those strolling along the Hosta Walk at Walters Gardens. They are displayed in front of the newly discovered hosta, 'Frog in My Throat'. This interesting mutation exhibits wavy, green-margined leaves and a white center.

Established in 2020 in preparation for the AHS National Convention, the Dennis & Harriet Hosta Walk is a beautiful display area that shows off hostas along with other shade tolerant plants.

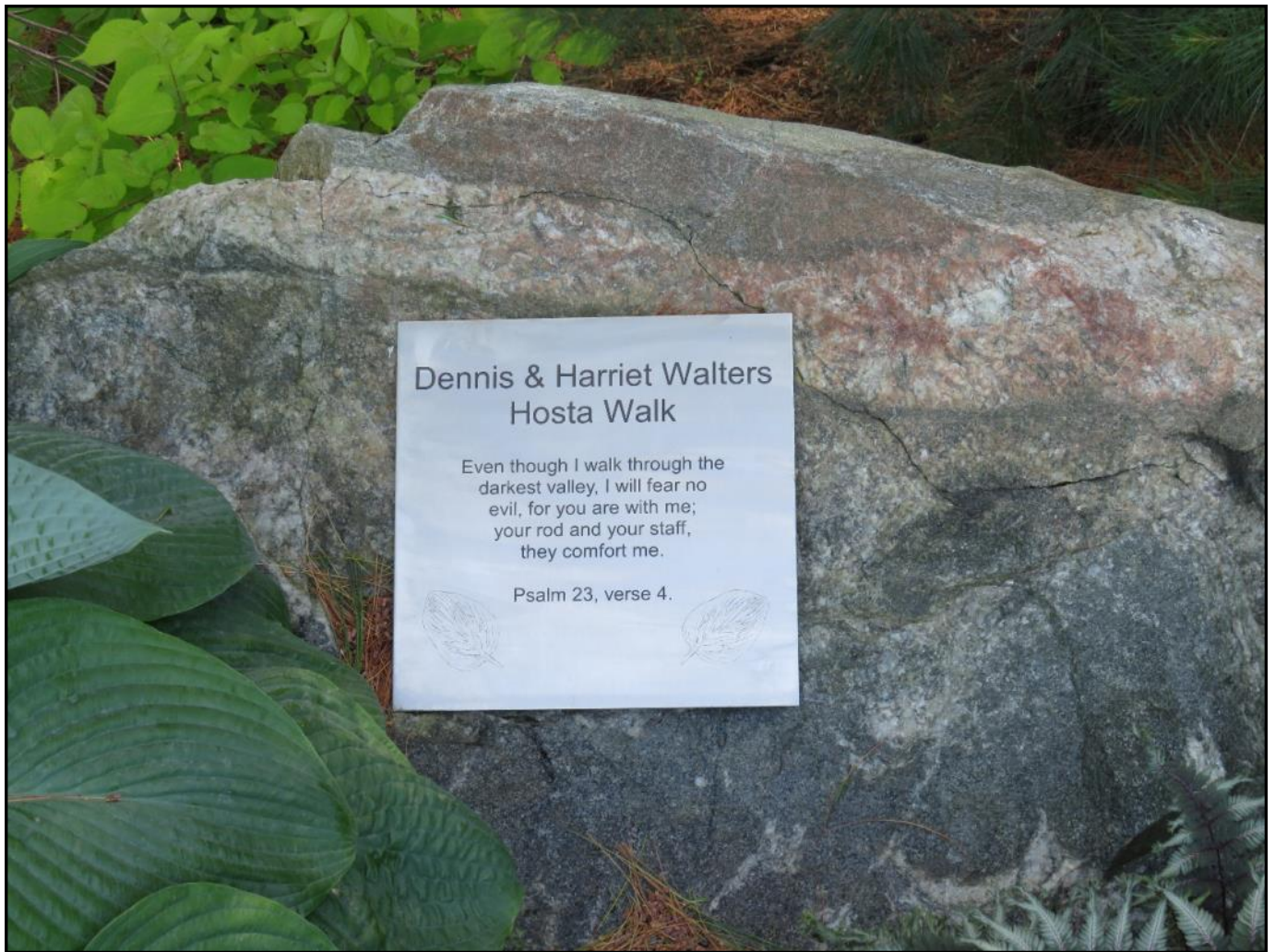


Photo by Don Rawson.

The Hosta Walk is named in memory of Dennis and Harriet Walters, the founders of Walters Gardens.

The early history of Walters Gardens dates back to 1942 when Dennis Walters was hired by Dena Knoll to work in the fields of the Knoll family farm. Dena Knoll had a small perennial business that she shared with her mother and daughter, Harriet. Little did she know that within a few years, Dennis and Harriet would become romantically attached and married. This began the enterprise known as Knoll and Walters Perennials. When Dena retired in 1946, the company was re-branded as Walters Gardens, the same year Dennis and Harriet were married. Over the next 80 years, the business gradually grew. Harriet passed away in 2008 and Dennis in 2019. Today, Walters Gardens offers over 1,000 varieties of plants with

hundreds more being trialed and tested by their research and development team.

And now, back to the Hosta Walk that was created in 2019 to honor Dennis and Harriet Walters. This shady display garden shows the hosta introductions and other companion plants that are offered by Walters, along with some that are on trial for possible future introduction. It is here that a new sport of *H. 'Emperor's New Clothes'* can be found. For those individuals who may not be familiar with 'Emperor's New Clothes', this hosta is a very unusual, speckled cultivar that was registered by Hans Hansen in 2021. The leaves are mostly white in spring, with specks of green growing in size and number as the season progresses. *H. 'Emperor's New Clothes'* is in tissue culture propagation and is currently in the Walters catalog, but with limited availability.



Photos by Don Rawson.

Unlike 'Emperor's New Clothes' (left), the newly discovered mutation named 'Frog in My Throat' (right) has a green margin with a creamy white center. Located in the Hosta Walk at Walters Gardens, this new hosta is currently under evaluation.

All the buzz now is about a new origination, *H.* ‘Frog in My Throat’. Unlike ‘Emperor’s New Clothes’, this mutation appears to have a mottled green margin while the center of the leaf is creamy white. It is suspected that this hosta is now in tissue culture to determine if it is stable enough to propagate and market.

The original, patented ‘Emperor’s New Clothes’ is mottled throughout the leaf, but more recent sports that have been discovered at Walters seem to have a solid green margin with the mottling only in the center, or as in the case of ‘Frog in My Throat’, with no speckles in the center at all. Finding new sports such as this can be both exciting and frustrating, as it complicates the stability during mass production to another level.

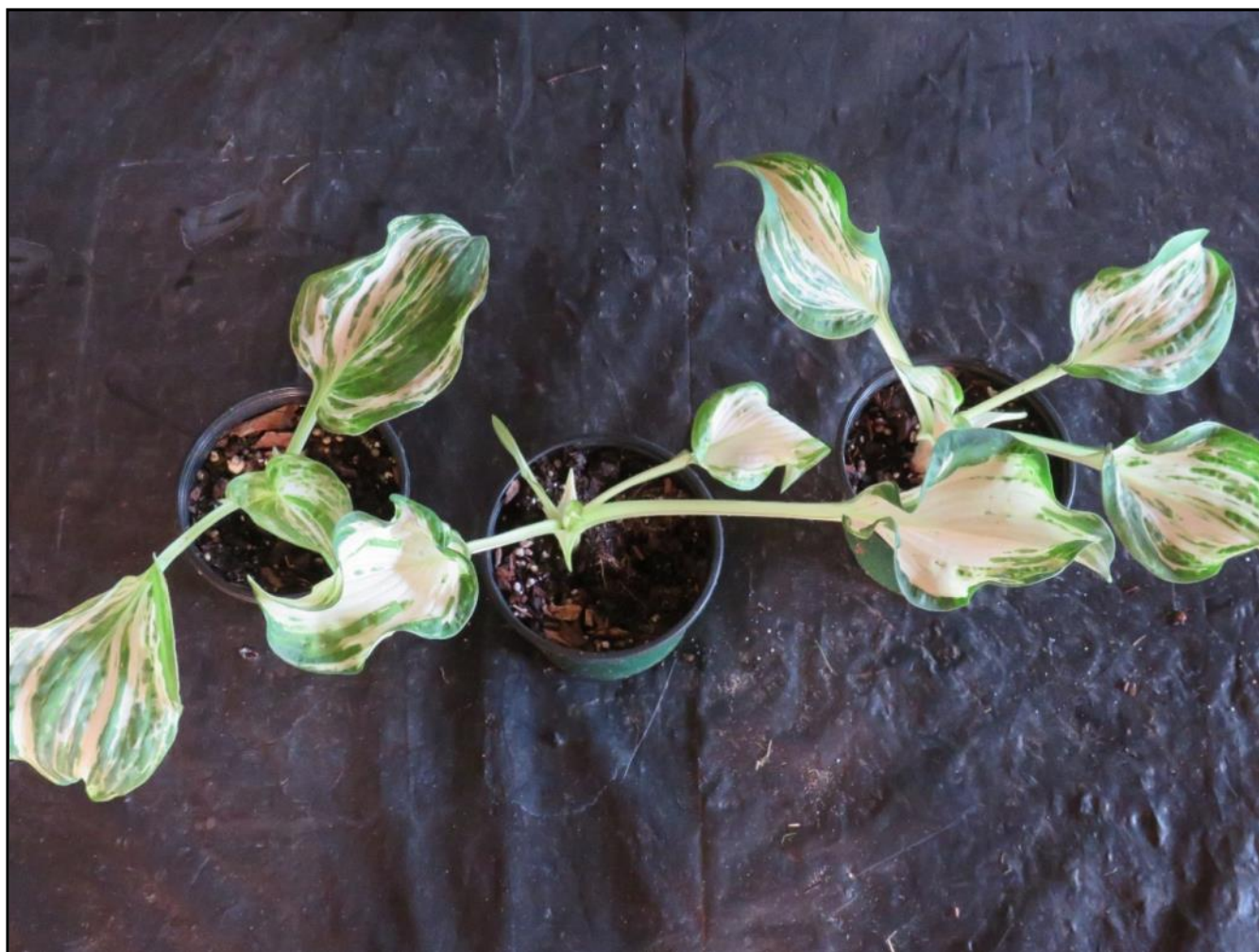


Photo by Don Rawson.

All labeled ‘Emperor’s New Clothes’, but three distinct plants: one that is mottled throughout (*left*), one with a solid green margin and a white center (*middle*), and one with a solid green margin and some mottling between (*right*). It will not be surprising to see even more variability in the future.

About the Name

For the originator, creating a distinctive hybrid or discovering a unique sport is just the first step in introducing and marketing a new hosta. A name for that novel invention is needed and the importance of choosing a good name cannot be overstated. A great hosta deserves a great name!

A good name is often short and catchy — something people will think is clever and memorable. Sometimes it is descriptive of a particular characteristic of the plant, but in other cases, a great name is just whimsical and the product of imagination. In any case, the originator wants a name that people will think is just as distinct as the plant itself and that will be etched in their minds when the new introduction comes to market.

The dilemma faced by many hybridizers today is finding a good name when so many names have already been taken. This situation makes the naming game an even greater challenge. At Walters, Hans Hansen is responsible for naming all new hostas, and when queried about the name ‘Frog in My Throat’, he replied, “One has to be creative since so many names have already been used.” Indeed, this name has NOT been used and is very original! A few other cultivars include the word *frog*, but none are named, ‘Frog in My Throat’. The name is unforgettable.

Availability

The speckled, wavy foliage of ‘Emperor’s New Clothes’ is so unusual that I suspect it is currently on everyone’s “to get list.” But now are you ready to take a leap and add the frog hosta to your backyard paradise? Perhaps eventually you can. While it is unclear at this time if ‘Frog in My Throat’ will become part of the Walters product line, you can certainly add it to your wish list. That way you will be ready to hop right on it if it does!



Photo by Don Rawson.

H. 'Frog in My Throat' a sport of 'Emperor's New Clothes' from Walters Gardens.



Photo by Hans Hansen. Used by permission.

The Hosta Walk at Walters Gardens in Zeeland, MI is open to the public. Groups may contact the office to make arrangements for a guided tour. Go to <https://www.waltersgardens.com/article.php?CfgID=2014>



Hybridizer Corner . . .

Don Rawson, Grand Rapids, MI

In this column we are learning how to set up a hosta hybridizing program...everything from how to make a cross to recording the pod and pollen parents, collecting and planting the seed, and growing healthy hosta seedlings. And most importantly, we want to have fun doing it!

Review

In the last issue we looked at some ways to beat the bees. These busy little insects are extremely efficient at what they do. Just a single one can pollinate 5,000 flowers per day. For the hybridizer, bees and other pollinators must be kept from spoiling the opportunity to make the cross that you have intended.

One of the ways to keep pollinators away from the flowers is to do your work early in the morning. Placing bags over the flowers the night before, or emasculating the flowers (removing the petals and stamens) also works. Or, the hybridizer can bring the selected pod parent indoors the night before if it is already potted up. Building a hybridizing room in which to do your crosses is a wonderful addition if you can afford it, but it must be completely insect and rodent proof. All these methods can be implemented successfully. Choose the one that works best for you.

Marking and Recording Your Crosses

Okay, you have figured out a way to beat the bees and have made a cross. You have taken the pollen from one hosta and have placed it onto the stigma of another. And ideally, you have recorded the cross in a notebook (pod parent × pollen parent). At a minimum, your notes should include the date, pod parent, pollen parent, and any additional notes (e.g., the temperature, humidity level, etc.).

After making a cross, you should somehow mark the flower that was just pollinated. This will allow you to keep track of which flowers were pollinated with what pollen, and will be extremely helpful when it comes time to collect the seed. Keeping meticulous record of the pod and pollen parents of your hosta seedlings will make it possible to repeat the cross if desired, or to not replicate it if the desired goal was not achieved.



Photo by Thomas Jolliffe. Used by permission.

Each cross should be marked to keep track of which flowers were pollinated with what pollen. There are various methods hybridizers use for doing so.

There are many techniques that are suitable for marking crosses, but some are better than others. The hybridizer should select a procedure that is both reliable as well as expeditious, as time in the morning is of the essence. The best practice is to find a way to mark crosses quickly so that the most can be accomplished in the time allowed.

Paper Marking Tags

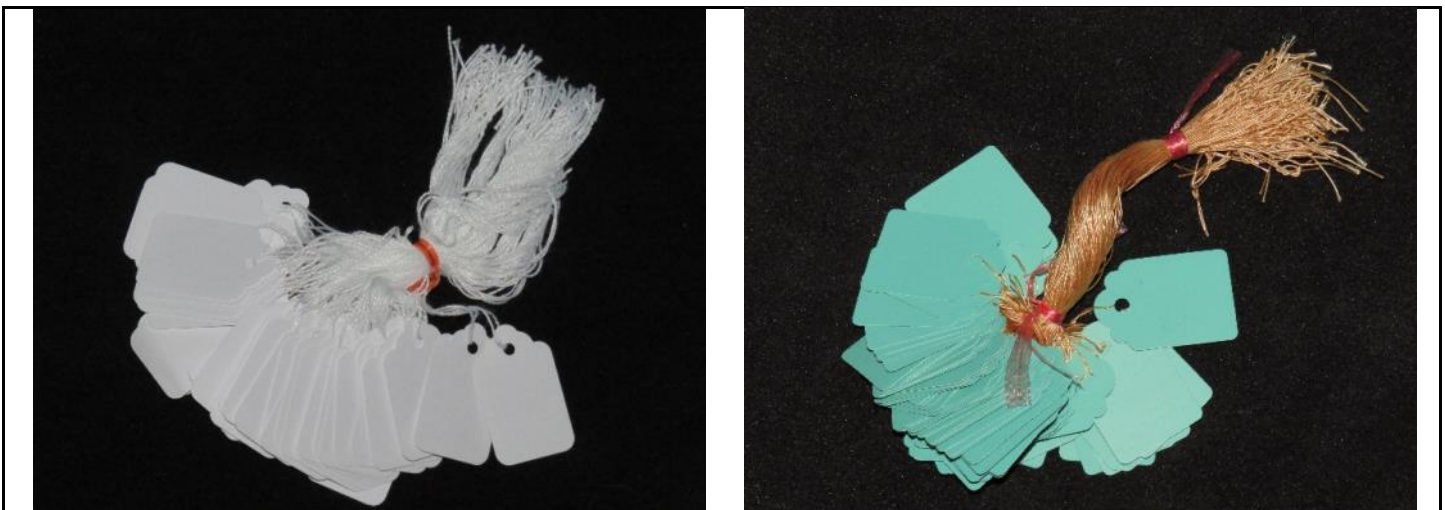
Many hybridizers use strung marking tags (aka jewelry tags or merchandise tags). Just be aware that a ball point pen or Magic Marker will fade, so a fine tip UV resistant pen is essential. A pencil is also a good option because it allows you to erase and reuse tags.

Jewelry tags are cheap and easy to use, but their shortcoming is that a specific writing utensil must be used to avoid fading. Furthermore, it takes time to write each tag and sometimes critters chew on them, which is quite aggravating! Paper tags gradually deteriorate and fall off if they are left outdoors too long, they become tangled with one another when the wind blows, and they cannot be reused more than a time or two.

Vinyl Marking Tags

A step up from paper tags are labels made of vinyl. These hold up much better than paper tags and can be reused many times. The writing instrument of choice is a Sharpie Industrial Marker (available on Amazon).

Vinyl merchandise tags (aka Tyvek tags) can sometimes be difficult to find. Search “Tyvek tags” on Amazon, or on ebay search “Jewelry Garment Merchandise Brand Label.” Tyvek tags are available in various colors and sizes, and the string is better than that of paper merchandise tags.



Photos by Don Rawson.

Paper vs. Tyvek tags: paper tags are less expensive, but are not very durable. The Tyvek tags are a step up. They last all season and can be reused over and over again.

Vinyl Key ID Tags

Vinyl key tags have the same benefits as the vinyl marking tags mentioned above, but with the benefit that they will not get tangled up like strung marking tags. They can be purchased on both Amazon and ebay, in various colors.

Fold Over Jewelry Labels

Also called dumbbell or barbell labels, these tags are easy to find at Amazon, ebay, Office Depot, and Walmart. They are very affordable (only 2¢ each) and easy to use. Like paper jewelry tags, the drawback is that a Sharpie Industrial Marker or garden pen must be used, they cannot be reused, and it takes time to write out every individual label while doing crosses. But at least they do not tangle as much as strung jewelry tags.

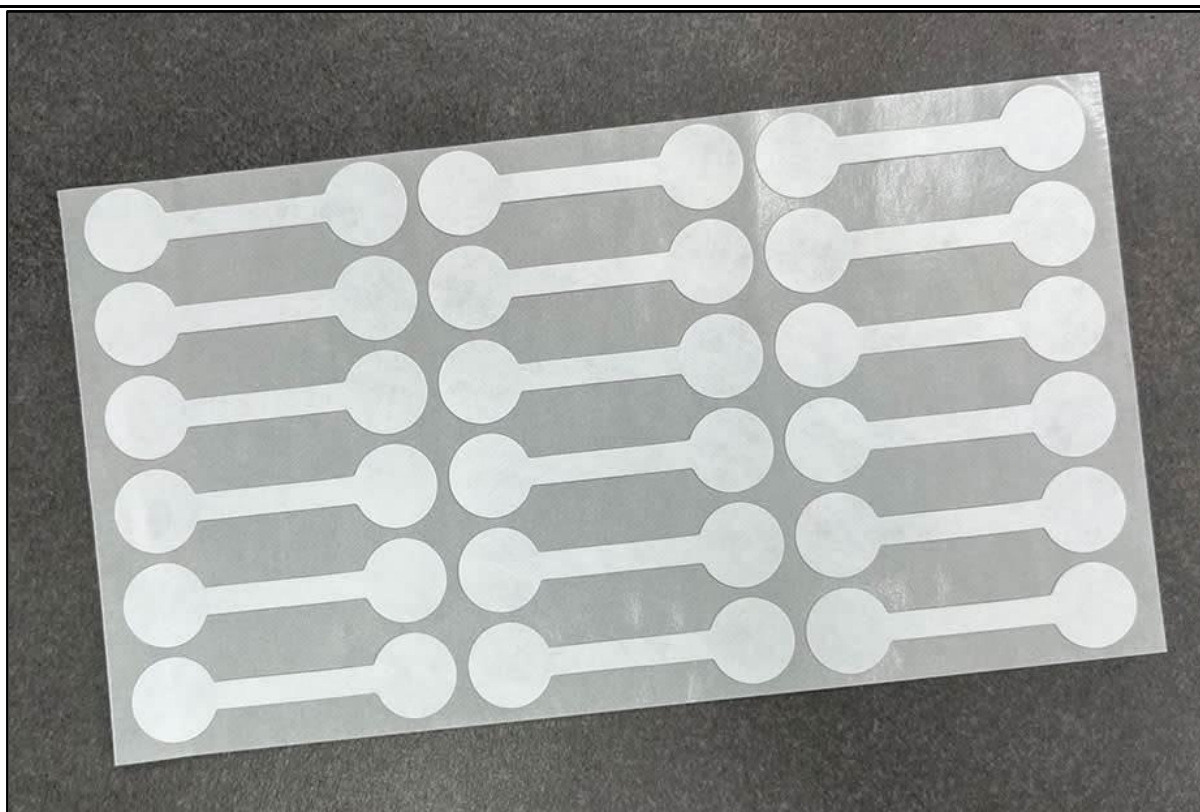


Photo by FDJ Tool. Used by permission.

These Tyvek dumbbell tags hold up well in the weather. However, there is not much space to write the pollen parent. It would be better to assign a number to a pollen donor and then write the number on the tag.

Plastic Push-on Tags

Vinyl push-on tags are yet another option to consider. They can be ordered from the Macore Company (<https://www.macore.com/>) in several different colors, Also offered by Stout Gardens

(<https://www.stoutgardens.com>, click on “Hybridizing Tools”).



Photo from Stout Gardens. Used by permission.

Vinyl push-on tags are very affordable and can be quickly attached to flowers when making crosses.

Other Methods for Marking Crosses

Sometimes there are various ways to accomplish the same task, and that is true when it comes to marking flowers while doing crosses. All the options mentioned above involve writing out the cross on a label of one type or another. But what if there was a reliable method that is faster and better? Let's look at some other possibilities.

Colored Cable Ties

Plastic cable ties are cheap (1 to 2¢ each) and can be found in a variety of colors. When making a cross, a particular color can be assigned to a pollen donor and recorded in a logbook or card file. For example, if the job at hand is to place pollen from ‘Volcano Island’ onto ‘Designer Genes’, you could make a file card for ‘Designer Genes’. Then, on that card you would write that a red cable tie designates ‘Volcano Island’.

Some of the cons are that you must record the cross in a logbook or card file and that cable ties cannot be reused.



Photo by Tonia Parrott Case. Used by permission.

Cable ties (aka zip ties) are cheap and easy to use. Each color is assigned to an individual pollen donor. The pollen parent and the color of the tie is recorded in a logbook, which is then consulted when it comes time to harvest the seed.

Vinyl Coated Wire Paper Clips

Like the colored cable ties mentioned above, vinyl coated paper clips can be used. Unfortunately, the color options are somewhat limited, but unlike cable ties, at least they are reusable.

The Ultimate Labeling System

The best approach to marking crosses is to assemble an assortment of items and to assign a pollen donor to each one at the beginning of the season. These can be pipe cleaners of various colors, twist ties, wires, colored tape, string, yarn, ribbon, and tinsel. For example, a blue pipe cleaner could be earmarked ‘Blue Mammoth’, a red twist tie could indicate pollen from ‘Bloodline’, a yellow wire for ‘Lemon Snap’, etc. Place the appropriate item on the flower when doing a cross. When collecting seed in the fall, you already know who the pod parent is — it is the hosta from which the seedpod is taken. The pollen parent can be determined by looking at the marker that was attached to it.

Pipe Cleaners: A large assortment of pipe cleaners is available from Hobby Lobby and Michael’s.

Twist Ties: A great variety is sold by Weststone International (<http://www.twisttie4sale.com>).

Communications Wire: Short lengths of colored wire can be easily bent into a U-shape, hooked around the pedicle, and twisted snug. Each color corresponds to a specific pollen parent. This small gauge wire can be purchased on ebay. Search “25 Pair 24 AWG Cable.” Make sure the wire is solid core copper, not multi-stranded. You will need to strip the sheath, but the bundled wire can be cut with a bandsaw into 4” lengths beforehand.

Bare Wire, Decorative Tape, Ribbon, and Tinsel: Available from Hobby Lobby or Michael’s in various colors.

All these items (pipe cleaners, wires, ribbon, etc.) should be cut into 4” lengths and placed in a bin organizer such as the one offered by Harbor Freight (<https://www.harborfreight.com/40-bin-organizer-with-full-length-drawer-94375.html>). This storage unit is ideal for stowing the pipe cleaners, wires, ribbons, etc. until they are ready to be used. These items can be reused many times and will last for years.



Photo by Don Rawson.

A bin organizer is ideal to store items used to designate pollen donors including pipe cleaners, twist ties, colored wires, yarn, tinsel, etc. Each item is assigned to a pollen donor at the beginning of the season.

In the Next Issue...

What if you wish to make a cross, but the desired pollen parent is not yet flowering? In the next issue, we will look at some of the ways to force a late bloomer to flower early, or to make an early bloomer to flower later than normal. Stay tuned!



And In Other Hosta News . . .

Reminders for AHS Members!!

Capture your favorite hostas throughout the summer. Then remember to submit your favorite photos to the annual photo contest. Watch for details in the AHS Journal and set a reminder for fall to get those pictures entered!



Public Domain Picture

Popularity Poll



Each year the American Hosta Society (AHS) conducts a popularity poll among its members to determine their favorite Hostas.

Popularity polls are important to Hosta gardeners, letting everyone know which plants perform best in their gardens throughout the years.

From AHS Popularity Poll website

Remember to vote for your favorite hostas! Sign into the 'Members Only' section on the AHS [webpage](#) and follow the instructions under 'Popularity Poll'. **Popularity Poll Voting closes July 31.**

Anyone can explore the [AHS Hosta Treasury](#). Have a unique seedling you'd like to register and be part of the Hosta Treasury? Visit [AHS Hosta Registration](#) for details and start documenting your "treasure" with pictures (don't forget your ruler too)!

We're getting a **makeover!!!**



During the last half of 2024, the "*Hosta Treasury*" will be undergoing an extensive redesign and functional improvement project. Check out the old dinosaur before we roll out the new & improved version at <http://www.hostaregistrar.org/>

2025 American Hosta Society Convention

"Hosta Double Feature"

Jointly sponsored by the American Hosta Society
and the Midwest Regional Hosta Society
Hosted by the Central Illinois Hosta Society

SAVE THE DATE

Par-A-Dice Hotel – June 19-21, 2025 – East Peoria, IL

Garden Tours – Accredited Hosta Show -Vendors – Live and
Silent Auctions – Educational Speakers
Hosta Seed Growers Seedling Competition

Gift Hosta is Hosta 'Prairieland Memories'

Optional Thursday evening at Hornbaker Gardens
Garden Center – Arboretum – Botanic Garden

Classic Midwest Hosta-tality

Registration opens June 30, 2024



Sponsored by AHS and MRHS
Hosted by Central Illinois Hosta Society



2024 AHS Member Plant

Hosta 'I'll Fly Away'

(McDonnell, 2019)



Members of the American Hosta Society are eligible to purchase the 2024 AHS Member Plant, *Hosta 'I'll Fly Away'*, a new introduction by Harold McDonnell. It is a cross of a *H. 'Neptune'* open pollinated seedling with a *H. 'Neptune'* open pollinated seedling. *H. 'I'll Fly Away'* has intense persistent blue color that holds through August in Georgia, and "wings" at base of the leaves. The plant will be sold exclusively to AHS members during 2024. The cost is \$26.00, which includes the cost of shipping. Plants will be available until sold out. **The 2024 AHS Members Plant will ship in early September 2024.** To order, send a check payable to American Hosta Society or call 309-678-4119 with your credit card. Mail your check to Barry Ankney, Membership Secretary, PO Box 7407, Villa Park, IL 60181-7407.



And In Regional News . . .



*Winnebago Haho
Wisconsin Hostality*

2024 MRHS Convention

July 11-13, 2024
FOND DU LAC, WISCONSIN

Hosted by MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY

2024 MRHS REGIONAL CONVENTION

REGISTRATION FORM – Winnebago Haho



July 11-13, 2024 – Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
 Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, 625 W. Meadows Dr., Fond du Lac, WI
 Make your hotel reservations by calling (920)638-4175 or use the link at the
 MRHS convention website: midwesthostasociety.org
 Remember to request the special 2024 MRHS Room Rate
 (\$139 per night – includes breakfast and free drink voucher)

REGISTRATION DETAILS *(Please print clearly - one attendee per form)*

Name:	Preferred Name on Badge:
Address:	City, State, Zip Code:
Phone:	Email:

*Please see cancellation policy at midwesthostasociety.org

EARLY REGISTRATION if received by 3/15/24 (bonus gift plant)	\$ 149	➔	\$
STANDARD REGISTRATION if received by 6/15/24	\$ 149		
LATE REGISTRATION received after 6/15/24	\$ 169	➔	\$
MEALS ONLY (companion or vendors)- Friday lunch buffet, Fri & Sat Banquets only	\$ 96		

Optional Thursday night welcome event – LaClare Family Creamery	\$ 35 /person	➔	\$		
<table border="1"> <tr> <td> Friday Banquet Meal Choice: <input type="checkbox"/> Roast Pork Loin <input type="checkbox"/> Panko Crusted Walleye <input type="checkbox"/> Pasta Primavera (veg.) </td> <td> Saturday Banquet Meal Choice: <input type="checkbox"/> 8 oz. Sirloin Steak <input type="checkbox"/> Pecan Crusted Chicken Breast <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable Stir Fry (veg.) </td> </tr> </table>	Friday Banquet Meal Choice: <input type="checkbox"/> Roast Pork Loin <input type="checkbox"/> Panko Crusted Walleye <input type="checkbox"/> Pasta Primavera (veg.)	Saturday Banquet Meal Choice: <input type="checkbox"/> 8 oz. Sirloin Steak <input type="checkbox"/> Pecan Crusted Chicken Breast <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable Stir Fry (veg.)	TOTAL DUE	➔	\$
Friday Banquet Meal Choice: <input type="checkbox"/> Roast Pork Loin <input type="checkbox"/> Panko Crusted Walleye <input type="checkbox"/> Pasta Primavera (veg.)	Saturday Banquet Meal Choice: <input type="checkbox"/> 8 oz. Sirloin Steak <input type="checkbox"/> Pecan Crusted Chicken Breast <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable Stir Fry (veg.)				

Make Check Payable to: 2024 MRHS Convention
 MAIL THIS FORM AND PAYMENT TO: Barry Ankney 1104 Oxford Court, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-5249

Hosta Show: Please check if you wish to <input type="checkbox"/> Judge <input type="checkbox"/> Clerk Plan # ____ entries in the Hosta Leaf Show Seedling Competition: Plan # ____ entries in Seedling Competition Rules & Regulations available at MIDWESTHOSTASOCIETY.ORG	Friday night auction I plan to donate ____ items for the auction.
	Saturday Gardens tour ride sharing transportation: I can provide transport for ____ persons. I will need transport for ____ persons.

2024 FALL HOSTA FORUM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st

Plus Friday preview night – 9/20/24

Edinboro University – 219 Meadville Street, Edinboro, PA

The Daffodil and Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania and Western New York Hosta Society are happy to present the *TWENTY SIXTH* Fall Hosta Forum. All of the Forum activities take place at the Frank G. Pogue Student Center at Edinboro University, Edinboro, PA. This site has exceeded our expectations and despite the small inconvenience of having to move between hotel and venue, for those who stay, we are thrilled with the arrangements.

Everything takes place in one enormous room – talks, vending and auctions. Some people have complained about the temperature – which is not within our control SO, we suggest that you bring jackets and sweaters that you can pile on if it's cooler than you would like – or BONUS, we'll be selling FHF travel blankets!

We have worked out a deal with the Edinboro COMFORT SUITES, 1007 Market Place Drive, Edinboro, PA 16412, (814 969-7000 – select #2) to hold a block of rooms for us @ \$114/night plus taxes. We will host a Hospitality Room there on Friday night for those who have registered. **We suggest you book ASAP if you plan on staying.** We will again be funding hospitality with raffled "baskets 'o cheer".

This year's theme is all about dance hall gals, riding and roping and good guys chasing bad guys and then playing poker at the saloon.

THE WILD WEST

So... for those who don't remember (or this is your first rodeo), here are the details

Enclosed is the brochure and registration form that should be returned before 8/1/24 (and certainly no later than September 1st). The bodacious fee for the day is \$75 – but when you donate a high-falutin' auction item worth \$20 or more (or items... remember, this benefits the Societies and helps to keep prices down), then the registration fee is only \$65! This fabulous deal includes 4 talks, lunch, access to lots of excellent vendors, and a chance to score at the auction.

So saddle up, grab your hat and let's giddyap

However, since so many people do come in Friday night and stay, we have added a Friday night element along with a light meal and a short talk by Dennis James (topic TBA). **THIS IS A RESERVATIONS ONLY EVENT** – our costs are fixed and so we charge a modest fee in order to recoup some of those costs. **THIS WILL ALSO OCCUR AT THE UNIVERSITY.** We will then host a free Hospitality Room at the Comfort Suites in Edinboro.

And don't forget the "wheelers and dealers"! We will have the usual high-quality blend of vendors with our usual array of exciting plant and garden items. This year we expect the usual suspects – Eagle Bay Hostas, DJ's Greenhouse, Marilyn's minis plus anyone else we can round up

For those who attend the Friday night vendor preview, you will be receiving a \$5 voucher – redeemable at our vendors, just for being you. Make a weekend of it and get your reservations in today – space is limited! **NOTE: If you plan on Friday night, make your reservations NOW!**

And finally.... If you say you're bringing an auction item, two requests.... We're asking you to make it something worthy of an auction, and we're counting on you to **honor your word** (and to tell us in advance). We've experienced a few glitches so if you show up empty handed when we counted on you, we will ask you to ante up...(special instructions on donations when you register).

**2024 REGISTRATION
FALL HOSTA FORUM**

THE WILD WEST

Saturday, September 21st
8:00 am – 4:30 pm



Complete and return with check payable to: **FALL HOSTA FORUM**
Karen Schmidt, Registrar
Fall Hosta Forum
111 N. Benbrook Road
Butler, PA 16001 (karensmg@aol.com)

**REGISTRATION
MUST BE RECEIVED
BY 9/10/24**

Name #1 (list additional persons below) Address _____

City/State zip _____

Area code/phone number e-mail _____

Name #2
Enclosed please find \$ _____ for _____ registrations (Friday too, add \$25 pp)
NOTE: US CASH OR CHECK ONLY – PAYABLE TO FALL HOSTA FORUM
 Check here if you are bringing an item (INTRIGUING hosta or other interesting item) valued at **\$20 or more** (one per attendee – **AND PLEASE, WE DO COUNT ON YOU!**)
Registration is \$75 per person UNLESS you bring an item as above... then \$65 per person.
 Please let us know if you will be arriving Friday night for vendor preview plus sandwich & salad*, so that we can make the necessary reservations and arrangements – 5:30 pm dinner (\$25 pp, reservations REQUIRED). *Note - \$25 price covers only our costs; food, room rental, staff and voucher
Sorry! no refunds after September 1st due to our own obligations
DONATIONS
Please list donations so that we can prepare an auction list in advance
(if you don't know yet, just indicate you WILL donate and follow up when you have decided).
1. _____ 3. _____
2. _____ 4. _____

Remember, Regional Activities are also available on the AHS Website under ‘Events & Awards’, ‘[Regional Activities](#)’.

BECOME A MEMBER!



- Receive *The Hosta Journal*, mailed to you
- Gain access to members-only online materials
- Participate in exciting events and auctions
- Further your love of hostas and gardening

HOSTA.org



ADDITIONAL BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY

- Receive two print issues per year of our popular publication, *The Hosta Journal*. This 84-page publication is filled with color photos and current information regarding Hostas.
- Receive a copy of *The Hosta Adventure – A Growers Guide* and the *Hosta of the Year* booklet, both filled with color photographs and a wealth of information.
- Receive access to the members-only section of the website to read our *Online Hosta Journal* and access other publications and our member directory.
- Attend national and regional meetings where specialty vendors offer the most recently introduced *Hostas* and companion plants and where a live auction offers rare and distinctive *Hostas* and other garden items.
- Enjoy garden tours open only to AHS members.
- Exhibit your favorite *Hostas* and compete for recognition in various AHS national and regional cut-leaf shows.
- Vote on the most popular *Hostas* with our popularity poll.
- Enjoy the camaraderie of fellow *Hosta* enthusiasts.

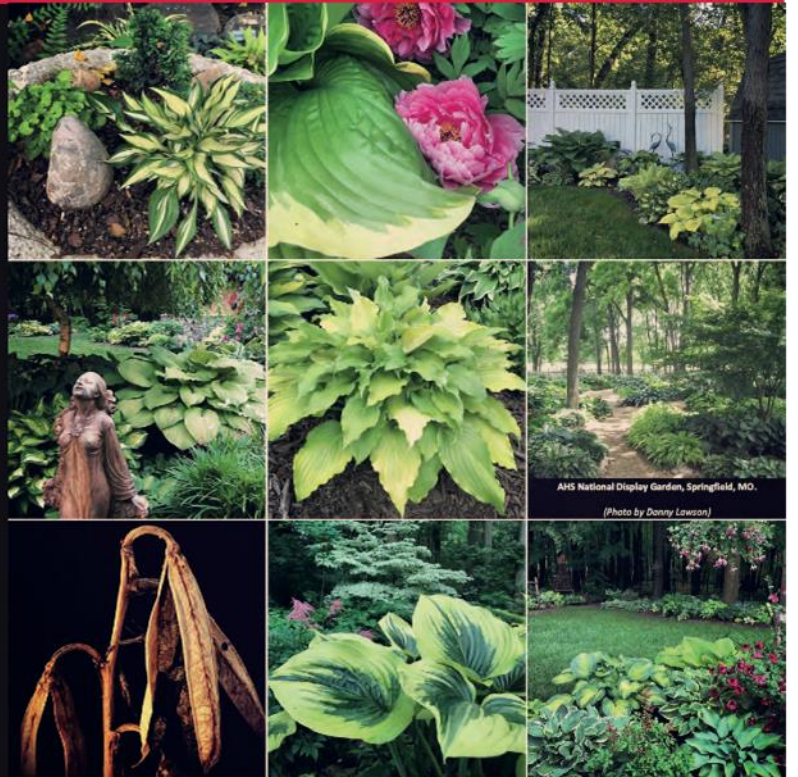
For more information or to join go to hosta.org or call 309-678-4119.

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landscapes
and inspiring ideas.



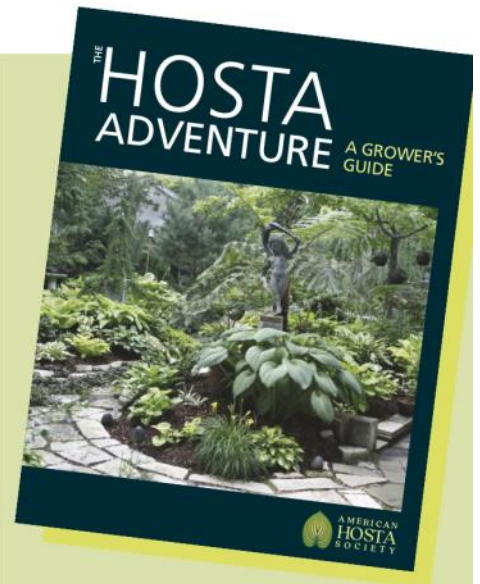
4th
edition

The American Hosta Society's

Hosta Adventure: A Grower's Guide

Newly updated...

This 32-page hosta primer, illustrated with colorful photos, features valuable advice from experts, who provide tips on how best to purchase, plant and propagate hostas. Newly registered hostas are featured in the update. Chapters also address landscaping with hostas, container gardening and growing minis. *The Hosta Adventure* is popular with garden clubs, plant societies and collectors. Looking for a gift, you will want to order this essential AHS guide.



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BACK ISSUES

The Hosta Journal back issues are \$5.00 each plus shipping; contact Barry Ankney to verify availability and shipping charge.

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When you give a Gift Membership to the American Hosta Society, you are helping our society grow. As a thank you, you will receive a free hosta. *Hosta 'Gunther's Rim'* is an all-gold sport of 'Gunther's Prize'. Be sure to include your own name/address when you order the gift membership.

Please choose the gift option:

- New member + plant \$40
- New member \$30
- eMember \$20

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Contact info. for the gift receipt as it will appear in the AHS Member Directory:

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Address _____

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from

Name and address of AHS Member giving the gift:

**MAIL YOUR CHECK TO: Barry Ankney
AHS Membership Secretary
PO Box 7407
Villa Park IL 60181-7407**

**Or call 309-678-4119
to pay by credit card.**

SPORTING IN HOSTAS: A PRIMER



This educational booklet explains the process of sporting in hostas, with a new section, "Inheritance of Yellow Leaf Color in *Hosta*."

Drs. Zonneveld and Pollock have produced the most definitive work on this subject. The serious hosta enthusiast will want to add this booklet to their hosta library. Photographs and illustrations supplement and enhance the scientific information.

NEW 2nd Edition!

ORDER NOW

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Photo from AHS Hosta Registry
***Hosta* 'American Halo' is a sport of *H.* 'Northern Halo' registered by Van Wade.**



Photo from AHS Hosta Registry
***Hosta* 'Andrew' is a sport of *H.* 'Blue Mammoth' registered by Hans Hansen.**



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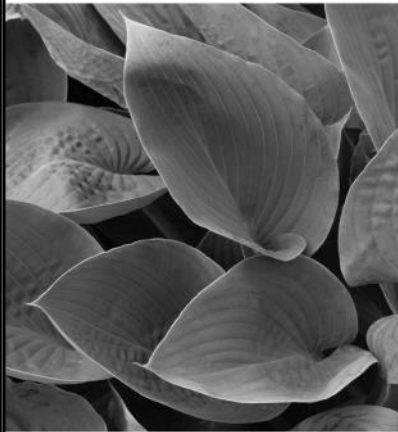
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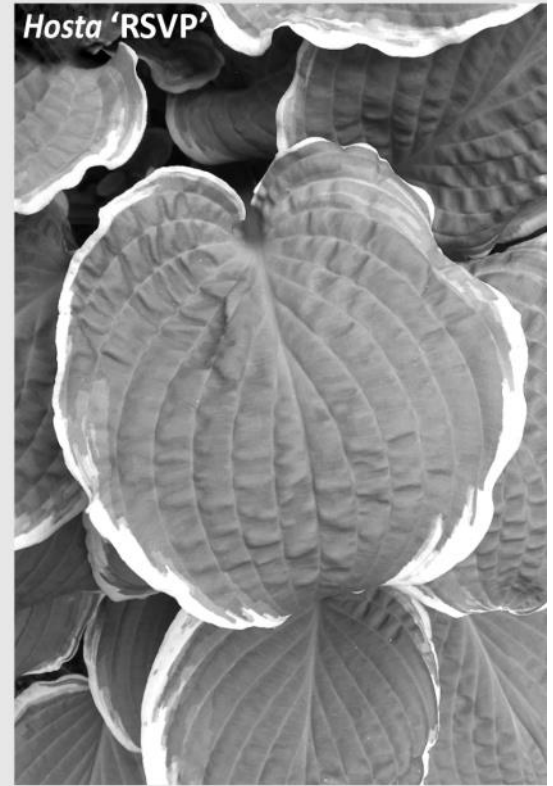
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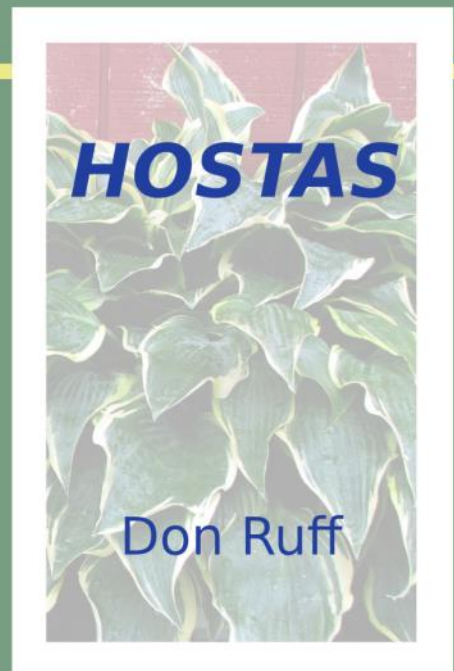
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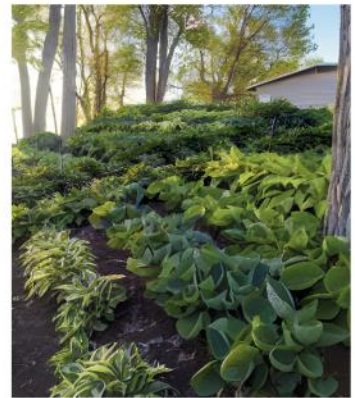
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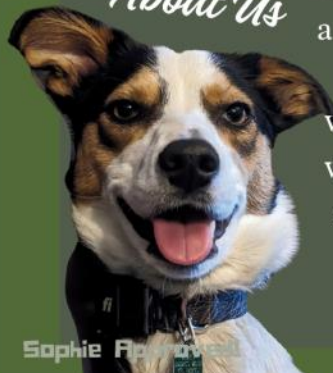
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