

AHS SPEAKERS LIST



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.

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For additions/corrections, contact JOY COLLURA at JDSONGRAHAM@AOL.COM



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.

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GLENN HEROLD

309-369-2383

Glenn.herold50@gmail.com

W69N984 Washington Ave.
Cedarburg, WI 53012

www.TheCottageGardener53012.Wordpress.com

Travel distance available- Anything reasonable.

Calendar time available- Any

Zoom presentations are available.

TOPICS

- A garden for all Seasons
- Major Minors: the Small Bulbs
- Conifer Identification and Use
- Shrubs in the shade Conifer Survival in a Flowering Plant World
- The Korean Hostas
- Environmentally Friendly Landscaping
- Tree Pruning/Shrub Pruning Hosta and Other Shady Characters
- Trees for the Hosta Garden Hostas of the Year
- Tree Selection and Planting
- Hostas Through the Ages
- Woodland Wildflowers Lilies

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

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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,
- 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.

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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.

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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
- Color Scaping
- Landscaping with Hosta
- Continuous Color In the Garden
- New Hosta
- Shade Gardening
- New Perennials
- Small Space Trees and Shrubs
- New Annuals

PROFILE/BACKGROUND

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

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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'.

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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
- What Makes a Great Hosta
- When the Hosta Bug Bites
- Moss Gardening
- Growing Hostas: The Bigger the Better
- Hostas of Indistinction: The Name Game
- Bringing a New Hosta to Market
- Hostas in Pots
- Hostas in Holland
- My Love Affair with Gold Hostas
- Turning a Hosta Collection into a Shade Garden
- Back to Hosta Basics
- Hostas in Japan
- 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.

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JOSHUA SPECE

319-327-0927 (cell)

319-934-3620 (business)

josh@inthecountrygardenandgifts.com

<http://www.inthecountrygardenandgifts.com>

2587 Quasqueton Diagonal Blvd

Independence, IA 50644

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.

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JOSEPH TYCHONIEVICH

gsparrowgardens@gmail.com

e-mail is the best way to reach me.

517-303-0865

South Bend, Indiana

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
- Confessions of a Plant Crazy Garden Nerd
- Pollinators and How to Support Them
- Cool, Non-wimpy Plants You Haven't Heard of
- 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

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.

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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
- Developing New Hostas
- Herbaceous Perennials for the Shade Garden
- 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*.

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