



The American Hosta Society

January 2024

eNewsletter



***Hosta* 'California Goldrush'**

M. Zilis 2010

(Photo by Mary Vertz)

Table of Contents

Bob Saathoff

Vice President Publications

Mary Vertz

eNewsletter Editor

Josh Spece

Web-editor-in-Chief

Amy Peterson

Glenn Herold

Warren I. Pollock

Clyde Crockett

Don Rawson

Featured Columnists

<u>President's Message - Amy Peterson</u>	3
<u>Hostas and Associates - Glenn Herold</u>	5
<u>GO HOSTAS! - Warren Pollock</u>	10
<u>Book Notice - Clyde Crockett</u>	11
<u>Hosta Happenin's - Don Rawson</u>	14
<u>Hybridizer's Corner—Don Rawson</u>	29
<u>And In Other Hosta News</u>	36
<u>And in Regional News</u>	43
<u>AHS Advertising</u>	49
<u>Support Our Advertisers</u>	56

Receiving the AHS eNewsletter is FREE and EASY!

*To subscribe to the American Hosta Society eNewsletter
just click on this link:*

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Publications/enewsletter.htm>

Enter your name and email address in the spaces provided. You will be sent a confirmation by email to which you must respond in order to be placed on the distribution list. You will then automatically receive all future AHS *eNewsletters* to enjoy!

You may unsubscribe at any time by going to the same link.



President's Message

Amy Peterson, Oakdale, MN

WINTER OPPORTUNITIES – Yes Winter is here! In MN we have had three light snowfalls that melted in days but another is on its way, so gardening is really done for the year. What is now a gardener's focus as winter progresses?

You have more options than you may think to keep your interest in "Hosta" going:

If you are a hybridizer or starter of hosta seeds you likely are getting ready to pot them up. Looking for that next great hosta can be an exciting activity. While historically, focus has been on leaf characteristics, many are now looking into bringing color like red into the leaves and flowers. Red in the flowers may be a wow for many who prefer to cut the hosta flowers and will now have a reason to keep them.

Celebrate the season and give yourself a treat or two. Renew your AHS and local hosta society memberships. You could also buy the AHS Membership plant, *Hosta 'I'll Fly Away'*, orders due by April 15, 2024. Details are on the AHS website and in *The Hosta Journal*. AHS Membership can also be a great gift to a fellow gardening friend or your adult children to encourage a hosta gardening interest.

Consider registering early for the 2024 AHS National Convention, *Have a Whale of a Time in New England* (Marlborough, MA – July 18-22) and book your hotel reservation. Details on AHS website.

Other winter hosta activities include active participation in your local HS events. Two annual events include:

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society, *Winter Symposium*, held in Milwaukee, WI (www.Midwesthostasociety.org), Feb 23 & 24, 2024.

The Northeastern Region/Great Lakes, *Hosta College*, held in Piquette, OH (www.Hostacollege.org), March 15 & 16, 2024.

Lastly, I like to review the literature on hosta, often searching for newly published articles. Two sources are:

The International Society of Horticultural Science (www.ISHS.org) and search the word “Hosta” for a host of journal articles on a variety of topics.

Alternately search the Science Direct website (www.sciencedirect.com) again search on the word “Hosta” as of this writing over 2600 articles are listed.

The articles span a wealth of topics from medicinal uses of hosta composition elements, growth characteristics, hosta virus X, nutritional value of hosta and hosta as a perennial agricultural plant to name a few topics. I admit the biochemistry ones are somewhat beyond my full understanding but at least the abstracts get the main points across and may spark an interest in writing an article for your hosta society newsletters.

Hope this information helps you to continue your hosta activity thru the winter. Happy New Year 2024!

Amy Peterson



AHS President



H. 'Brother Stefan' O. Petryszyn 1998,

(Photo by Mary Vertz)



Hostas and Associates

Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

“Stretching the Plant Hardiness Zone”

Photos by Glenn Herold

Plant hardiness zones are the gardener's guide to which plants can be expected to survive in any given area. They are established on average winter low temperatures. Based on the average temperatures from the last 10 years, this map was revised in 2023. Where I live in Southeast Wisconsin, it is zone 5b, which means that an average winter will see temperatures plunging to minus 10 to minus 15 degrees. Less than a mile east of me though, closer to Lake Michigan, the zone is 6a. If you want to know your exact zone, an interactive map is available on the USDA website at <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov>. Recent changes were made because winter temperatures were not getting as cold as they used to and gardeners were able to successfully grow plants that in years past had succumbed to frigid temperatures. Midwest readers are probably saying, "But wait. Didn't we just have temperatures in the 20 to 25 or more below zero range?" Right you are, but remember that the map is based on average temperatures, not results from a single week, or even season. I await with trepidation the fate of some of the plants in my yard should we again reach those lows! Local temperatures are not the same as global climate, and the reality is that global temperatures have been steadily rising. I could give a strong argument that the burning of fossil fuels, the destruction of forest land, especially in the tropics, and the subsequent rise in CO2 levels are major contributors, but that is something to be debated over cocktails at our next convention. What I want to discuss here is how the average gardener can grow plants that may be on the hardiness fringe, and give a few examples of plants we are likely to be successfully growing in the future, should this warming trend continue.

Plant hardiness is not affected by winter temperatures only. The ability to withstand summer heat, soil type and drainage, and exposure to sunlight are also contributing factors. When I was living in Central Illinois, I found it very difficult to grow firs (*Abies*.) These plants are generally native to northern areas or higher elevations and would suffer in pro-

longed summer heat. Wisconsin is much more to their liking. Coral Bells are another plant that like my Cedarburg, WI soil better than what I had in Peoria. Central Illinois is known for its deep, rich, silt loam soils. They may be great for growing corn and beans in the summer, but tend to hold a lot of moisture in the winter, causing roots to be exposed from the alternating freezing and thawing of the soil. My sandy loam Cedarburg soil is much more conducive to growing shallow rooted plants such as *Heuchera* and miniature hostas. Though they tend to dry out quicker, plants are much less susceptible to winter heaving.

Winter sun can be a problem with evergreens in areas with prolonged snow cover. A number of years ago we had the worst problem with winter sun damage in recent memory, resulting in brown foliage and areas void of live needles. Dry soil and prolonged snow cover caused the reflecting sun to draw the moisture out of conifers and broadleaf evergreens. Fortunately, most of my plants have recovered from the damage, but signs of the severe injury still linger on some area plants. This problem can be prevented by placing susceptible evergreens on sites that are in sun during the summer but in shade during the winter. The lower angle of the sun during the winter has allowed me to grow a couple of conifers that would otherwise not be possible in our area. The most notable is a dwarf form of Japanese Cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica* 'Globosa Nana') that I purchased in Durham, NC eight years ago. The price was right, and it was a beautiful plant, so, being a gardener, I thought I'd take a chance with it! I sited it where it receives full sun in the summer, but complete shade in the winter. So far this Zone 6 plant has been growing well with no damage. Another success story has been my Overcup oak (*Quercus lyrata*.) When I planted this zone 6 plant 10 years ago a knowledgeable plant person questioned its hardiness in my area. It has never had dieback and grows at a rate of over two feet per year. The late-developing fall color is worth waiting for each year.

One of the enjoyments of gardening is to try plants that stretch the hardiness limit. A rule of thumb is that you have to kill a plant three times before you give up on it! Sometimes it takes that many tries to find the right location. There are a few plants that I grew in Central Illinois that I would love to try in my Wisconsin garden. Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) and Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) are two trees that come immediately to mind. I was even able to grow Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*), a Zone 7 small tree, as a shrubby perennial. It would die back to the ground

each winter but came back from the roots in the spring. Perhaps I'll give these plants a try in my current garden.

Global warming can work the other way, too, pushing Midwest plants north of their current zones. Hopefully, I'll still be able to grow firs in my garden during my lifetime. Though I don't expect the streets of Cedarburg to be lined with palms anytime soon, don't be afraid to stretch the hardiness zone and try something new. Look at plants that are listed a zone warmer than where you live and take a chance. With proper placement, you may just be successful.

Want to read more of my plant writings? Check out my blog at <https://thecottagegardener53012.wordpress.com/>



Cryptomeria japonica 'Globosa Nana' (Dwarf Japanese Cedar) growing next to *Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Sike's Dwarf' (Oakleaf Hydrangea)





Quercus lyrata (Overcup Oak) showing fall color



GO HOSTAS!

Warren I. Pollock, Glen Mills, PA

GO HOSTAS!

DON RAWSON'S HOSTAS OF DISTINCTION

Donald A. Rawson, Comstock, Park, Michigan, is an extensive *Hosta* hybridizer. He's registered some 28 hosta cultivars. Among the best known are *Hosta* 'Gabriel's Wing', 'Rhino Hide' and 'Catcher's Mitt'.

Don has an interesting method for marketing his introductions. It's a website that features the many nurseries that offer his hostas.

A link to it is below. Click on the numerous links available. There is considerable interesting commentary — which is Don's exceptional editorial style.

<https://www.hostasofdistinction.com/>



H. 'Gabriel's Wing'

Don Rawson Photo used with permission



H. 'Catcher's Mitt'

Don Rawson Photo used with permission

GO HOSTAS!





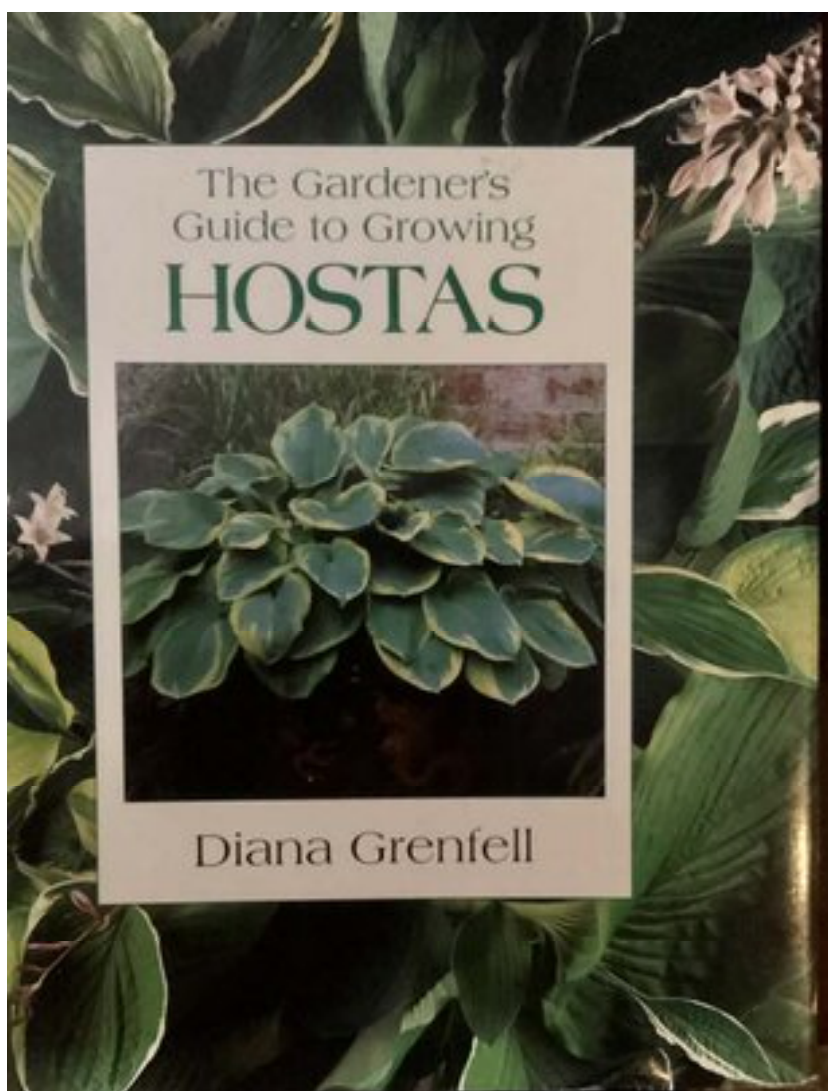
Book Notice

Clyde Crockett, Carmel, IN

The Gardener's Guide to Growing Hostas

Written by Diana Grenfell (Timber Press: 1996)

Diana Grenfell—a magical name not only in *Hosta* history but in the annals of horticulture as well. There are a few others who may have had a similar impact upon hosta popularity but none that surpasses hers. She published a slew of highly acclaimed books on the genus including the beautifully crafted ***The New Encyclopedia of Hostas*** which we noticed here. She was a co-founder member of the British Hosta and Hemerocallis Society in which she served as vice president. With her husband, Roger Ground, she created the well-known Apple Court nursery in Hampshire which always boasted a large number of equally well-known cultivars and the best of the newly introduced hosta varieties and daylilies. Her supervision of the selection of the plants for the National Hosta Reference Collection of hostas being grown in Britain acquainted the avid British gardening public with the very best species and cultivars. Her many achievements and honors were recognized by the American Hosta Society at its 1987 convention where she received the Alex Summers award.



I met Diana on several occasions , the most memorable of which were on two occasions. My first meeting was at an outdoors gathering at a national hosta convention where she was autographing one of her publications. She mentioned that she should like to meet a certain a hybridizer who was creating some sensational hybrids. It was my distinct pleasure to introduce Diana and Olga Petryszyn! I did have a photo of this event but have misplaced it. Somewhere in a closet. Darn!) The other was at a luncheon in Chelsea, London, put on in my honor, hosted by the irrepressible Ian Crystal and attended by the *crème de la crème* of British hostaphiles and aficionados. In a very short speech Diana spoke about hostas in what I consider the best remarks I have heard of the genus. Truly remarkable words enhanced by a charming Surrey accent.

The ***The Gardener's Guide to Growing Hostas*** has fifteen parts, the first of which is my own favorite, History. As always, I look for something new to me and as old as the hills. I was not disappointed here. We have a fascinating item about the first Westerner, Englebert Kaempfer, to see and describe hostas. He named one as follows: *Joksan, vulgo gibbooshi Gladiolus Plantagenis folio* = “the common Hosta with the plantain-like leaves.” I bet Dr. Warren I. Pollock has written about it in his “**What's in a Hosta Name**”, series in the ***The Hosta Journal***. The commentary is complete, including history, description, lineage, orthography, syntax, bios of the introducer and more! Thanks Warren! It is my favorite THJ feature.

Following are sections on “**The Botany of Hostas; Nomenclature**”, written by Piers Trehane; “**People and Their Plants**”, which highlights hosta people who have been heavily involved with the genus; “**Propagation; Cultivation; Breeding Hostas**”, unusual to find in hosta books but very welcome, to be sure; “**Hosta Collections**”; and “**A-Z of Hostas in Cultivation**” which comprises around 150 + pages with lots of information about each entry. I cannot imagine compiling this kind of information, then writing a huge number of entries. I doubt I would run the gamut of descriptions from A-B, if that far. Many varieties have become “heirloom” plants and hopefully will find a place in today's gardens. You won't be disappointed.

There is more—5 articles by distinguished hosta people who come as near to being experts as the late George Schmid would allow: Richard Ford, William Burto, Dr. Warren I. Pollock, Dr. Ulrich Fischer, and Gordon Collier. They write about hostas in Japan, North America, Europe, and Austral-

ia. Ford, about exhibiting hostas. These sections in particular are why this book is historically important. ***The Gardener's Guide to Growing Hostas*** is not Grenfell's best but you need it for a compleat and complete collection. (I mean to write "compleat," Josh.)

Diana Grenfell died in 2021. She was 85.



Hosta nigrescens



Hostas Happenin's

Don Rawson, Grand Rapids, MI

Red and Purple-leaved Hostas — The Best is Yet to Come!

(Photos used with permission of the photographer noted)

We've all been there at one time or another. When you say something, or do something, that makes you just want to crawl into a hole and hide.

One woman walked around a crowded shopping mall for HOURS with a 2-foot stream of toilet paper hanging out of her pants.

"I wasn't aware of it until I got home," she confessed to her husband as her face turned red. "He took one look at me and said, 'Oh, no. NO! Oh my God, you DIDN'T!!!' as he was rolling around on the floor, trying not to pee from laughing so hard. At least I had toilet paper handy, LOL!"

Embarrassing situations like this often cause facial blushing, an involuntary reddening of the cheeks and forehead brought about by increased capillary blood flow to the skin. It can also extend to the ears, neck and upper chest, an area termed the "blush region."

These experiences can trigger the sympathetic nervous system which controls the muscles in the face to dilate or constrict the blood vessels. Any kind of threat, including embarrassing moments, can activate your body's fight-flight-freeze response. When this happens, your nervous system sends signals that result in several physical changes, including an increased heart rate and heightened senses.

So, why does your face turn red? Facial skin has more capillaries per unit area than other parts of the body, and the blood vessels in the cheeks are wider and closer to the surface. This makes the face subject to rapid change, such as blushing. And to make matters worse, most people find that blushing only adds to their embarrassment!

Hostas can blush, too!

In the past few years, the term "blusher" has become increasingly popular to refer to hosta cultivars which turn reddish or purplish during the early part of the growing season. And like people, some hostas blush more than others...much, much more. *Hosta* 'First Blush', which came to market in 2016, was the first hybrid to really capitalize on the blushing trait, and the

name alone helped to solidify the term “blusher” in Hostadom. In spring, the leaves start to “blush” red from the tip down toward the base, and they “blush” again when a second flush appears.



Photo by Gayle Hartley Alley

Like people, hostas can blush, too!

***Hosta* ‘First Blush’, an introduction of Bob Solberg from Green Hill Farm, was the first hybrid to really capitalize on the blushing trait.**

The blush can last for a few weeks, depending on the environmental conditions.

In people, reddening of the face generally lasts for only a minute or two. Likewise, the blushing trait in hostas is quite transitory...at least at the current time. Stress factors like drought and cold can cause blushing. A cool and prolonged spring extends the red or purple color somewhat, but then the blushing subsides. Cultivars which previously blushed in spring may turn reddish or purplish again in fall as temperatures turn cold again.

Today’s hybridizers are focused on not only intensifying the red and purple hues, but upon making the blush more reliable as well as improving the staying power — to last all summer long, if possible. The goal is to have red and purple-leaved hostas in our landscapes to complement the green, blue, yellow, and variegated ones which we now enjoy. Creating this wider color palette is certainly no small feat, but incremental steps are steadily being realized and the current newcomers will likely be surpassed in the near future.

Like colorfast fabrics, today's hosta hybridizers are focused on making the colors more intense and fade resistant. The aim is to develop vibrant red and purple hostas to grace our gardens throughout the entire growing season in addition to the wide range of colors we already enjoy.



Photo by Don Rawson

Veins — an Extension of the Petiole

In hostas, the red, purple, or even nearly black pigments are concentrated at the crown, and with some, the saturation of color extends upward to the base of the leaf. But beyond the petioles, many exciting newer hybrids are being introduced which have a red or purple midrib and veins that radiate outward into the leaf blade. The veins are an extension of the petiole. The million-dollar question is, to what extent can the red or purple color permeate a leaf blade? Will we eventually have hostas with the deep, rich red and purple colors found in *Caladium*, *Coleus*, *Heuchera*, *Mukdenia*, and other genera?

In hostas, the midrib and veins are a continuation of the petiole. With *Hosta* 'Purplicious' (right), the purplish hue extends from the petiole into the veins, and then to the leaf tissue between the veins. The pigments also congregate along the edge of the leaf.



Photo by Don Rawson



ShuttleStock

Persian shield (*Strobilanthes dyeriana*), an annual native to Myanmar, is a common flowering plant cultivated for its colorful iridescent foliage. The stems and veins are dark green, while the tissue between the veins is metallic purple – just the opposite of most red and purple-leaved hostas.

Adding further interest to blushing is that we are starting to see sports of blushers, including some in which the red and purple pigments are localized to a specific area of the leaf blade. These sports may blush just in the center, or only on the margins. This new development of red and purple variegated patterns is extremely exciting. It will be interesting to see if these latest colorful sports are repeatable year after year, and furthermore, if these mutations can be propagated reliably through tissue culture.

Doug Ruff, originator of *Hosta* ‘Bloodline’, makes a good point: “An issue I can see with commercializing these sports is that the effect is very environmentally specific. It may be quite dramatic in spring with a cold climate, but not show much at all in a mild climate.”

He goes on to say, “Also, how much sun and when it gets it has a big effect on the look. No direct sun does not trigger a defense response to create the red or purple pigments. Too much sun can burn right through the blush. It’s tricky. As a breeder I have the choice of evaluating from a quantity of plants for repeatable and reliable blush. With sports, you only have the one with nothing to compare it to.”

Red on the Edge

While most of the new sports and seedlings that are being introduced have red veins radiating outward from the petiole and midrib, a few are defying

the rules and exhibit a red or purple margin. The effect is a medio-variegated hosta with a green, yellow, or white-centered leaf and a red or purple margin. Some of these new originations are mutations which were discovered in tissue culture stock, while others are seedlings from pod and pollen parents that have been selected for their propensity to blush.



Photo by Arie Blom



Photo by Arie Blom



Photo by Dan Heims



Photo by Josh Spece



Photo by Doug Ruff

**Exciting new originations
with a red or purple margin:**

- 1 – Sport of *H.* ‘First Blush’ (Arie Blom)**
- 2 – Unnamed seedling (Dan Heims)**
- 3 – Sport of *H.* ‘Bloodline’ (Josh Spece)**
- 4 – *H.* ‘Red Rim Cutie’ (Doug Ruff)**

Hostas with a Purple Heart

It is fascinating to observe how variegation is displayed in the plant kingdom. Surely the hosta garden itself would be dull without all the variety of leaf shapes, sizes, and textures as well as the diversity of colors...and especially if there were none with variegated leaves. The vast majority of those listed on the Popularity Poll each year are variegated, which shows the importance of multi-colored hosta foliage.



Photos by Gail Russo

H. 'Crazy Hazy', a sport of H. 'Purple Haze', shows off its purplish heart in May and early June (left). Unfortunately, the purple then fades away (right) and H. 'Crazy Hazy' looks like any other variegated hosta. The staying power — the ability of red and purple-centered hostas to maintain their vibrant colors throughout the season — will be extended as hybridizers move forward.

To envision a medio-variegated hosta with a deep red or purple center and a yellow or white edge is simply mind-blowing. But gradually, that dream is becoming reality. *H.* 'Crazy Hazy' was the first commercially-available, medio-variegated cultivar with a purple center. Unfortunately, the show is quite short-lived. The purple hue fades away by mid-June, and thereafter *H.* 'Crazy Hazy' is indistinguishable from other variegated hostas in the garden. Nevertheless, it is worth seeking out.



Photo by Lonnie Miller

Coleus 'Kong Scarlet' (left)



Photo by Arie Blom

In the past few decades, a resurgence of interest in coleus has occurred as uniform, seed grown varieties have become more popular. Because coleus mutate frequently like hostas, sports and reversions are not uncommon and often lead to renewed interest, an excitement referred to as “coleus fever.”

The radiant colors of coleus intensify as the summer progresses, unlike those of most red and purple-leaved hostas with colors that fade. This intriguing sport of *H.* 'First Blush' (above right) from Arie Blom of Heemskerk Plants resembles *Coleus* 'Kong Scarlet', an introduction bred by Sakata Seed Corporation.

Another purplish-centered hosta which was posted on social media some time ago is an unnamed seedling of *Hosta* 'Neat Splash' × OP from Patrick Butaye of Belgium. The photos caused quite a stir, generating acclamations like “Wow!” and “Remarkable!” With its purplish center bordered by a wide chartreuse margin, this small hosta has it all. As a side note, the purple pigments on this seedling are not located in the veins as with most blushers, but primarily permeate the tissue between the veins and are limited only to the center of the leaf. This is a new phenomenon in hostas.

An unnamed seedling of *H.* 'Neat Splash' × OP from Patrick Butaye of Belgium, which created quite a stir on social media.



Photos by Patrick Butaye

Unlike most blushers, the purple pigments in this hybrid of *H.* 'Neat Splash' are primarily located in the leaf tissue between the veins rather than the veins themselves, and are limited to an area at the center of leaf.

Color Variations in Hostas

At this point, you may be wondering what causes the various shades of color we see in hostas — from green, yellow and blue to white, red and purple. The variety of color is primarily produced by combinations of three types of pigments: chlorophyll, carotene, and anthocyanins:

Chlorophyll

The **green** pigment in hosta leaves is chlorophyll, which absorbs red and blue light from sunlight. Because the red and blue light reflected by the leaves is reduced, the leaves appear green. Through the process of photosynthesis, the chlorophyll absorbs light energy and converts it into chemical energy. The light absorbed by chlorophyll supplies the energy used by plants to transform carbon dioxide and water into oxygen and carbohydrates (starches and sugars).

Chlorophyll is not a very stable compound and is continually being diminished in plants. The production of more chlorophyll requires bright sunlight and warm temperatures. Long, hot, summer days are ideal conditions for the continuous production and breakdown of chlorophyll. As the days get shorter and cooler in fall, the production of chlorophyll slows and is no longer replacing the chlorophyll that was broken down.

As a side note, the complete absence of chlorophyll results in white being reflected from the leaf. Also be aware that green hostas which produce a waxy coating appear as blue-green. The wax reflects blue light. Rubbing the wax off with your fingers will reveal the green pigment below.

Carotene

Another pigment found in hosta foliage is carotene. Carotene absorbs blue and blue-green light. The light reflected from carotene appears **yellow**. You may have heard of beta-carotene, which is used to color foods such as margarine.

Carotenes contribute to photosynthesis by transmitting the light energy they absorb to chlorophyll. It is a much more stable compound than chlorophyll and persists in leaves even after the chlorophyll has disappeared. When chlorophyll disappears from a hosta leaf in the fall, we are left only with the remaining carotene, which causes the leaf to appear yellow.

Anthocyanins

A third class of pigments that occur in plants is anthocyanins. Anthocyanins absorb blue, blue-green, and green light. Therefore, the light reflected by leaves containing anthocyanins appears **red**. Unlike chlorophyll and carotene, anthocyanins are not attached to cell membranes, but are dissolved in the cell sap. The color produced by these pigments is sensitive to the pH of the cell sap. If the sap is somewhat acidic, the pigments impart a bright red color; if the sap is less acidic, the color is more purple.

Anthocyanins are formed by a reaction between sugars and certain proteins in the sap. This response does not occur until the sugar concentration is quite high. The reaction requires sunlight, which is why apples often appear red on one side when picked from a tree, but are green on the other side. The red side is exposed to the sun, while the green side is in shade. This also explains why hostas such as 'First Blush' need exposure to some bright sunlight to bring out the best reddish color.

The function of anthocyanins is to protect plants from environmental stressors like UV light, drought and cold.



Photo by Nick Ternes

H. 'First Blush' in its final decline with the onset of winter. The green pigment produced by the chlorophyll has broken down. Likewise, the yellow pigment from the carotenoids is absent. All that remains is white foliage with red pigments which is produced by the anthocyanins.

Anthocyanins and Chlorophyll — an Inverse Relationship

Most of the large amounts of anthocyanins in reddish and purplish hostas are primarily produced in spring. Then, gradually with the heat of summer, the red or purplish hue is reduced as the anthocyanins break down and are no longer produced. Eventually, as hostas go into summer, they are decreasingly productive in making the anthocyanins anymore and the color disappears, even though it may show up again in the fall.

However, in reality an inverse relationship is taking place when the foliage and petioles lose their reddish or purplish pigments. The term *inverse relationship* is used for any interaction in which one variable increases while the other variable decreases. Such is the interaction between anthocyanins and chlorophyll within a hosta leaf.

Leaf color correlates with pigment metabolism. With hostas, anthocyanins are produced mostly during the cooler temperatures of spring. Gradually, the anthocyanin levels decrease with plant growth as warmer temperatures aid in the production of chlorophyll. Because anthocyanin and chlorophyll levels are negatively correlated, the anthocyanin degradation coupled with chlorophyll accumulation leads to a transition from a reddish or purplish blush in spring to a plain green leaf in summer. Often, hostas blush in the fall due to an increase again in the production of anthocyanins and a decrease in the production of chlorophyll once temperatures drop.



H. 'First Blush', blushing again in September as temperatures gradually drop. This color change is due to an increased production of anthocyanins coupled with a decrease in the manufacturing of chlorophyll.

Photo by Tom Kieser

Anthocyanins can Form a Pattern on Hosta Leaves

Previously, we looked at a few of the new developments in blushing hostas — some with red margins (medio-variegated) and others with red or purplish centers (marginally-variegated). Personally, I can hardly wait to see if gardeners will welcome these futuristic colorful introductions, especially as the hues become more vibrant and longer-lasting and as the leaf patterns become more pronounced. How will richly-colored reds and purples look intermixed among a wave of greens, blues, and yellows?

You may be asking how anthocyanins, which are responsible for the red or purple blush in foliage, can become localized to the only the margin or center of the hosta leaf. The answer is found in understanding that the margin and center of the leaf can differ genetically, as with chimeras which have two or three different sets of DNA. Each layer in a chimera can have a different color.

According to research by Dr. Ben Zonneveld, a hosta leaf includes three layers which cover each other like a glove on a hand. The margin of the leaf is comprised solely of the L1 layer, the narrow area between the margin and the center is the L2 layer, and the center is made up of the L3 layer. A chimera can have a different color in each layer.

With a leaf containing three different layers, the production and concentrations of anthocyanins and chlorophyll can vary from layer to layer, explaining the pattern which is showing up in some of the recent seedlings and sports with reddish or purplish foliage. In other words, the inverse relationship in the L1 layer can differ from that in the L2 or L3 layers. When a mutation occurs, such as with *H.* ‘Crazy Hazy’ and in those sports of *H.* ‘First Blush’ and *H.* ‘Bloodline’ previously shown, the change in DNA alters this inverse relationship in one or more of the layers.



Photo by Arial Blom

Theoretically, a variegated blusher such as this one from Aria Blom of Heemskerk Plants could emerge in spring with solid purple foliage. Within a few weeks, the variegated pattern could show up as anthocyanin production in the margin (the L1 layer) decreases and chlorophyll production increases, turning the edge green. Once the anthocyanin production in the center of the leaf (the L3 layer) declines and chlorophyll production increases, the center of the leaf can “catch up” to the margin, resulting in a solid green leaf by early summer.

Ultimate Contrast: Red Veins against a White Background

Like sketching with gray pencil on white paper, nothing shows up more than dark colors against a white background. Such is the case with *H.* ‘Raspberry Sundae’. Terra Nova Nursery of Canby, OR worked on this one for years to find the perfect combination of variegation which brings the deep burgundy pigmentation from the petioles up into the foliage...and overlaid upon a creamy white center. The wide, two-toned green margin enables *H.* ‘Raspberry Sundae’ to be an adequate grower. A pretty hosta indeed!



Photo by Hosta Paradise. RU



Photo by Margarete Kuehn

The tricolored leaves of *H.* 'Raspberry Sundae' with creamy-white centers are surrounded by two shades of green. In addition, the leaves are nicely wavy and twisted when mature. But the most sensational feature is the deep burgundy midrib which stands out against the white background.

Heemskerk Plants in Noordwijk, Netherlands achieved a similar result with a chemically-induced mutation of *H.* 'Lady in Red'. The completely saturated, dark rosy pigments of the petiole extend well into the midrib and veins, but it does so upon a wide, white-centered leaf blade. The color contrast is striking. Unfortunately, the green margin is very narrow, and without adequate green tissue to create chlorophyll, a hosta such as this would not be able to sustain itself.



Photos by Arie Blom

Hybridizers who wish to create a similar effect should begin with a streaked pod parent (to obtain variegated progeny) and a pollen donor which is known for pushing the deep red color up into the leaf blade. Some pod parents may inherit the red or purple pigments pigments better than others.

The photos shown here are real — they are not altered in any way. This mutation of *H. 'Lady in Red'* was induced in the lab by Heemskerk Plants in 2013. Unfortunately, it probably was unable to grow well due to the lack of chlorophyll and is not in production at the time of this writing. Nevertheless, it shows the attractive combination of red veins against a nice white background. The rippled leaf margin is frosting on the cake.



Conclusion

This glimpse into the future of red and purplish-leaved hostas is simply awe-inspiring. It should be a great motivator for anyone who wants to try their hand at hybridizing. But for those who do not want to dabble with pollen, keep the shovel handy and find a spot for a few new blushing hostas — because there are more really cool and colorful hostas just around the corner, and the best is yet to come!

We encourage feedback from our readers. Email Don at donrawson1@gmail.com



Hybridizer Corner . . .

Don Rawson, Grand Rapids, MI

In the Hybridizer Corner, we are on a journey to learn how to make successful hosta crosses, collect, clean and store hosta seed, plant and grow seedlings, and all the other things which are involved with such a venture. Thanks for joining us!

Review

In the last issue, we looked at the hosta flower and how it works. The two main parts of the flower are the pistil (the female part) and the stamens (the male part). Making a cross is easy — it simply involves moving pollen from the stamens of one flower to the pistil of another.

The female plant which receives the pollen and makes the seedpod is the **pod parent**. The plant which supplies the pollen is the **pollen parent**. Think of it as the mom and the dad. When recording the cross, always write the mom first and then the dad. For example, *Hosta* 'Key West' × *H.* 'Designer Genes'.



Photo by Joanna Kovalcsik Used with permission

A typical hosta flower, with one pistil and six anthers.

Making a successful cross often means getting up early to beat the bees, but there are other techniques which can be used and we will discuss those in a future newsletter.

When getting prepared to make a cross, the first step is to carefully remove the stamens to avoid getting pollen on the pistil. The actual act of pollination is very easy — just cover the stigma with the yellow pollen. The pollen can be applied by removing a stamen from the dad with tweezers and then rubbing it against the stigma of the mom. A small paintbrush or Q-tip can also be used.

In this issue, we will look at a few tools and supplies which make the job easier. It would be quite beneficial to acquire these as you set up your own hybridizing program.

Headband Magnifiers — to Zoom in on What You're Doing

The first item which is invaluable for any hybridizing program is a headband magnifier, which reduces eye strain while leaving both hands free to perform the work at hand — in this case, the task of making a cross. Headband magnifiers can be worn over prescription eyeglasses.

There are several brands on the market. However, the best magnifiers are made by the Donegan Optical Company in Lenexa, KS. Donegan has been manufacturing optical products for over 60 years and all of their products are made 100% in the United States. I wholeheartedly recommend the Donegan OptiVISOR; aftermarket magnifiers are inferior to the original. Do not buy a cheap-made copycat!

Go to the Donegan website at <https://doneganoptical.com/product/optivisor/> to purchase an OptiVISOR with a DA-5 lens, which has a 2.5 times magnification with an 8" focal length. This is the preferred lens strength and focal point for the task which you will be doing. Click on the "Dealer Location" tab to find a retailer near you. Or, purchase at Amazon. Type in "Donegan DA-5 OptiVISOR Headband Magnifier" to find the correct item.



Photo by Don Rawson

Donegan DA-5 OptiVISOR headband magnifiers are essential for any hybridizing program. They are a great aid to reduce eye strain while making crosses.

Tools for Making the Cross

In addition to headband magnifiers to zoom in on hosta flowers, three other necessary tools are hemostats, tweezers, and reverse tweezers.

A **hemostat** is a small instrument which is commonly used in surgery for clamping blood vessels to control bleeding. They can be thought of as miniature pliers with long, narrow jaws. As known as hemostatic or mosquito forceps, this tool is equipped with handles that can be held in place by their locking mechanism.

For the hybridizer, hemostats are the perfect tool for grasping onto the petals and anthers of the hosta flower. Once the petals and anthers have been removed, the hybridizer can use the hemostats to grasp an anther from the pollen donor and rub it against the stigma of the pod parent.

There are many shapes and sizes of hemostats. Alligator hemostats (*right*), aka alligator forceps, are so named due to the angled jaws which resemble an alligator's snout. The most common shape, however, are mosquito hemostats with straight, narrow jaws. The standard length for mosquito hemostats is 5", although they may be as long as 24".



Wikipedia



Reddit

The long, narrow tip of mosquito hemostats take their name from the proboscis of the mosquito, as with the Australian elephant mosquito (*Toxorhynchites speciosus*). This species holds the title for the "world's largest mosquito," with adults reaching a length of more than 1.3 inches. Predominantly found in Australia, their long, trunk-like proboscis curves downward is pointed at the tip to assist in sucking nectar from deep flowers.

For the hybridizer, hemostats are the perfect tool for grasping onto the petals and anthers of the hosta flower. Once the petals and anthers have been removed, the hybridizer can use the hemostats to grasp an anther from the pollen donor and rub it against the stigma of the pod parent.

Hemostats come in a variety of brands, shapes and sizes, as well as price ranges. For the hybridizer, straight-jaw 5" hemostats work best for making crosses. Go the Amazon and search for "mosquito hemostat locking forceps 5 inches."



Don Rawson

From left to right, three indispensable tools for a hybridizing program: hemostats, tweezers, and reverse action tweezers.

While I prefer hemostats, I have friends who use **tweezers** or **reverse tweezers**. Reverse action tweezers open when you squeeze and close again when you release. This allows you to handle small, fragile parts for extended periods of time with uniform tension and without finger strain. They are perfect for grasping onto an anther, especially if you want to set it down for a minute while tending another task.

There are various styles of tweezers. The most common one that you've probably seen is a slanted-tip tweezer. They are mainly used to remove brow and facial hair. But there also are some with a pointed, flat, or even rounded tip.

The straight, pointed tweezer is the most suitable for doing hosta crosses. Make sure to use extra caution when working with pointed tweezers because they are very sharp!

As a side note, it is important to clean your tools after each cross to keep from spreading unwanted pollen to the next flower. This is particularly important when using a paintbrush to apply pollen from one flower to another. To avoid accidentally contaminating your crosses, the bristles of the brush should be cleaned in alcohol, which will evaporate quickly and allow the brush to be used again minutes later.

The bottom line is that whether using hemostats, tweezers, or an artist's paintbrush, any pollination method is suitable as long as the job gets done!



Shuttlestock

“I use a fine brush to paint the pollen onto the pistil.”

— Kevin Walek

Recording the Cross

In addition to the items mentioned above, a notepad or binder is useful for keeping a record of your crosses. The record can be as brief or as detailed as you wish. As a bare minimum, the date, pod parent, and pollen parent should be written down. This will allow you to see if a cross was successful, and will be helpful when it is time to harvest the seed.



And In Other Hosta News . . .

While sifting through past issues of THJ, I came across this article and was pleased that most of the information remains applicable today. I removed the portions that are no longer relevant and present to you the “condensed” version of . . .

So, You Think You Want to Be the Registrar

by Kevin P. Walek [International Registrar Genus *Hosta* 2005-2015]

The purpose of registration can be found in the first stated principle of the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP)*:

A precise, stable, and internationally recognized system for the naming of plants in cultivation is essential for international understanding and communication. The aim of this code, the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP)*, also known as the *Cultivated Plant Code*, is to promote uniformity, accuracy, and stability in the naming of agricultural, forestry, and horticultural plants.¹

Recently several people have asked me: “What is it that the Registrar does?” The Registrar makes decisions about the naming of hostas, guided, and sometimes directed, by the *ICNCP*. These decisions are not being made on a whim. The registration of “fancy names” is a serious endeavor with important scientific value.

Performing the job of Registrar is like doing a research project about each proposed name, using varied types of published media. When I receive a registration form, the first step I take is to check for prior use, and for conflicting or confusing uses. For example, if John Doe submits a registration application for the name *Hosta* ‘Sea Peridot’, I would start by reviewing the existing registration database to ensure the name has not already been used to register a cultivar.

I then try to find out if the name has been used to identify an unregistered cultivar. This is often referred to as *establishing* a name. If a name has been established, it is not available for registration except for the original cultivar to which the name has been attached. To find out if a name has been established, I review a second database, created for and by past registrars, that contains the names of unregistered cultivars.

Another way to determine if a name has been established is to review prior publications, including horticultural books, magazines, nursery catalogs and other written media about hostas. The *ICNCP* requires registrars to gather such materials. Reviewing

nursery catalogs has made it clear to me how little information about a cultivar we get in most catalogs, compared to the information contained in the registration information about that same cultivar. That’s one reason I have become an even greater advocate of registration since I’ve become the Registrar.

The next step is to search the Internet. Although, at present, electronic publication in itself is not sufficient to establish a hosta’s name, it is highly useful for identifying names that already have been used, and it often leads me to hard-copy publications where any prior use is documented. The Internet is especially useful when it comes to searching for other countries’ plant patent laws or plant breeders’ rights statutes.

This is important because there are other means of legally binding a name to a cultivar, aside from registration, and the rules for doing so are covered by plant patent laws or plant breeders’ rights statutes in each country. If a plant has received favorable treatment under one of these laws or statutes (even if the name otherwise would be invalid; see the discussion on name construction below), the Registrar must accept the name.

~~This year’s Registration Issue will be the first to include a section listing names that have received legal protection, under either plant patent laws or plant breeders’ rights statutes, and indicating in which jurisdictions those rights exist.~~

Once I determine that a proposed name is truly being used for the first time, I then research whether the name violates any rules of construction. Following are some examples of the numerous rules

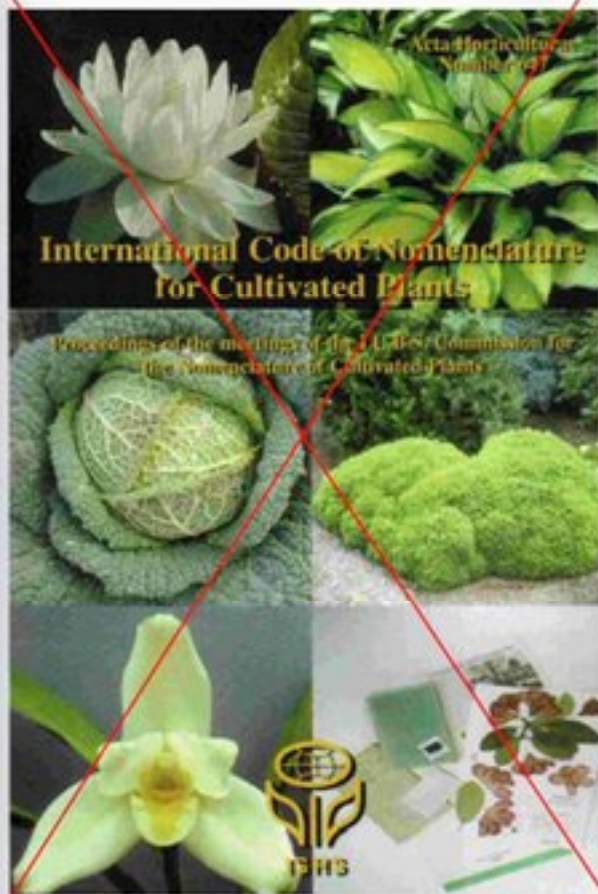
- A cultivar name may not use the word *Hosta*, or any like-sounding word, anywhere in the name (*ICNCP* 2004, Section 19.23).

Example 1: ‘Howling Hasta’ would not be allowed.

Example 2: ‘Hasta Mañana’ would not be allowed.

Example 3: ‘Hasta la Vista’ would not be allowed.

- The legal or professional name of a living person (other than the namer’s immediate family) cannot be used without written permission from that person.



- Names may not be so similar to an existing name that they might be confusing (*ICNCP* 2004, Section 19.25). For example, you cannot add possessive pronouns (My, Your, His, Her, Our, Their) or other short prefixes (Whose, It's, That's, What's) to an existing cultivar name to create a different name.
Example 1: 'My Tortilla Chip' would not be allowed ('Tortilla Chip' is registered).
Example 2: 'That's Guacamole' would not be allowed ('Guacamole' is registered).
- A cultivar name should not be published if its epithet gives the false impression that the plant is derived from or related to another hosta (*ICNCP* 2004, Section 19E1), or if it gives a false impression about the identity of its raiser, breeder, introducer or origin (*ICNCP* 2004, Section 19G.1).

Example 1: 'Frances Williams Baby' would not be allowed unless 'Frances Williams' is one of the parents.

Example 2: 'Lakeside Kitten Whiskers' would not be allowed unless it was hybridized by Mary Chastain, who is responsible for the Lakeside series of hostas.

If the name does not violate any of these or other rules of construction, I notify the registrant that the name has been accepted. (At any point in the process, if I determine that the name submitted by the registrant cannot be accepted, I ask the registrant to submit a different name.) Finally, I enter all the information from the registration form into the database—really the smallest part of the job—and then e-mail or otherwise notify the registrant that the process has been completed.

~~I have been working on a guide to hosta registration over the winter and hope to have it ready soon. It is intended to make the registration process less daunting and will include all the rules of construction, as well as simple instructions, like those for filling out your tax return (but much more fun!), on how to register a hosta name. I also am working with a Web designer on constructing a Web site for the Registrar, which will enable electronic submission of registration information. Currently, only hard-copy registration is allowed.~~

~~In addition to an online registration and payment process, the Registrar's Web site will include a downloadable PDF version of the aforementioned registration guide, past registration publications in PDF form, and some Hosta Show classification information, which is also contained on the AHS Web site (www.hosta.org).~~

~~Other information may be added to the site as time and demand dictate, such as a list of unregistered names that have been established, and thus are not available for use, as well as other historical data on registered cultivars. The purpose of the site will be to provide as much information as possible to educate hostaphiles about registration and make the registration process as easy as possible.~~

Please register your hostas! ■

Endnote

¹ Principle 1, *ICNCP* (2004).

As the current Registrar, I want to add that more steps are involved in processing a registration today than when this was written in 2006. A lot of time is spent managing the "administrivia" relating to the addition of registration photographs in the online registry. Additionally, I welcome the services of the AHS Nomenclature Committee (Warren Pollock and Don Rawson) who review everything before I finalize each registration and notify the Registrant of completion. Lastly, two editions of the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants* (*ICNCP*) have been published since the original article; cited Sections and Articles will be numbered differently when I quote them to you today.

Gayle Hartley Alley
 International Registrar Genus *Hosta*

[Details](#)[Gardens](#)[Accommodations](#)[About](#)[Contact](#)[Register](#)

AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY

2024 National Convention

JUNE 18-22 | MARLBOROUGH, MA

[Register Now](#)

The Nation's Largest Hosta Event

The American Hosta Society national convention is organized by a group of hosta enthusiasts. We are excited to have you join us to celebrate the friendship plant and to share our passion for gardening.

SAVE THE DATE!

2024 American Hosta Society Convention

Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel • Marlborough, MA

June 18-22, 2024

Garden Tours • Accredited Hosta Show • New England Clambake & BBQ

Vendors • Taste of New England Welcome Reception

Speakers • Workshops • Judges Bootcamp

Plenty of "classic" New England Hosta-tality

Optional "Day in Boston" with a Whale Watch or Duck Boat Tour

New England Seedling & Sport Competition

The American Hosta Society annually holds a multi-day event that is packed-full of activities for all.



Attendees get a chance to tour multiple private and/or public gardens; attend educational seminars; compete in the accredited Hosta Show; attend Hosta Judges Clinics; shop vendors featuring the latest and greatest hosta additions, companion plants, or garden-themed accessories; bid in the AHS auction for that unique "must have" hosta; and best of all, get together with old friends and make new ones in Hostatality. In addition, the AHS Board of Directors meets, the annual business meeting is held, and annual awards are presented.

About AHS



Garden Tours

Several stunning tour gardens await you!

Tour Schedule



Join us for some fun packed days and a “Whale of a Time”.

Go to <https://hostaconvention.org/>
For full details.

2024 AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY
NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

June 18-22, 2024 - Marlborough, Massachusetts

Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel

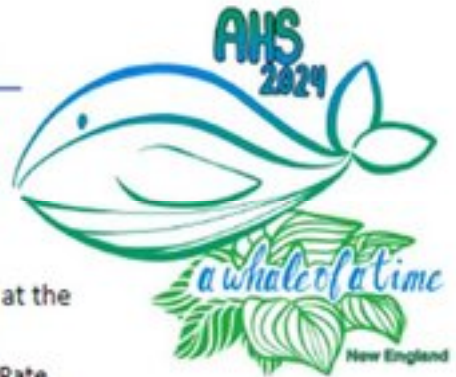
181 Boston Post Road W - Marlborough, MA 01752

Make your hotel reservations by calling (508) 460-0700 or use the link at the

AHS convention website: www.hostaconvention.org

Remember to request the special AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY 2024 Room Rate

\$139/night (includes full buffet breakfast in Zachary's Restaurant)



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 www.hostaconvention.org

EARLY REGISTRATION if received by 1/31/24	\$ 240
STANDARD REGISTRATION if received by 4/30/24	\$ 255
LATE REGISTRATION received after 5/1/24 before 6/8/24	\$ 275
MEALS ONLY (companion)- Thursday Picnic, Friday Buffet & Saturday Banquets only	\$ 175
GARDEN TOUR BUS includes bus fee and box lunches for Friday and Saturday garden tours - *select lunch choice below	\$150

\$
\$
\$

* Select ONE Box Lunch per day (Tour Bus riders ONLY) - lunch on your own for self drive attendees

Friday	☐ Deli Turkey Sandwich	☐ Smoked BBQ Chicken Sandwich	☐ Mediterranean Vege Sandwich
Saturday	☐ Bacon Turkey Sandwich	☐ Steak & Arugula Sandwich	☐ Mediterranean Vege Sandwich

* Optional Wednesday Tour (choose only ONE)

WHALE WATCH/BOSTON (7:30am-5:30 pm) inc. transportation	\$ 126 /person
BOSTON/DUCK BOAT TOUR (7:30am-5:30pm) inc. transportation	\$ 108 /person

\$
\$

Thursday Clambake Meal Choice:	Saturday Banquet Meal Choice:
☐ Lobster (1 1/4 lb)	☐ Garlic Parm Chicken
☐ Steak (10 oz sirloin)	☐ New England Scrod
☐ BBQ Chicken	☐ Vegetable Kabobs

TOTAL DUE

\$

MAIL PAYMENT TO: Sandie Markland
PO Box 1573, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

* Please let us know about any special dietary needs ASAP



Pay by Credit Card - will send an invoice to your email address
for Total Due PLUS 5% convenience fee

Hosta Show: Please check if you wish to

☐ Judge ☐ Clerk

Plan # _____ entries in the Hosta Leaf Show

Plan # _____ entries in New England Seedling
& Sport Competition

Rules & Regulations available at
www.hostaconvention.org

Judges Bootcamp (Tuesday, June 18): Please check if you plan to attend

☐ Judges Clinic I (1-5 PM) ☐ Judges Clinic II (6-8 PM)

☐ Need Judges Handbook (\$10 payable at Clinic)

I AM WILLING TO VOLUNTEER ☐ YES ☐ NO

American Hosta Society
Alex J. Summers and Eunice Fisher Awards
2024 Nominations Due by March 15, 2024

We need your help!

The *Alex J. Summers Award* and the *Eunice Fisher Award* are two awards designed by the American Hosta Society to recognize member achievement and to encourage activities that promote the genus *Hosta*. Both recognize those members who have contributed in significant ways. The Alex J. Summers Award recognizes service to the genus, to our society or both. The Eunice Fisher Award recognizes those whose contributions lie mainly in hybridizing.

The recipients are selected from nominations received from you — our members. *Your* participation in making a nomination is key to this process in recognizing a fellow hostaholic for their contributions to the AHS.

Don't miss this opportunity to actively participate in the nomination process — energizing and honoring a fellow AHS member. The selection committee needs your input! Nomination forms only take a few minutes to fill out. Please help us consider those who may be deserving of these honors. Honorees will be recognized at the 2024 AHS National Convention.

Thank you in advance for your nomination contribution.

Curtis Boyd
VP Awards and Honors
American Hosta Society

[see nomination forms on next page]

Alex J. Summers Award

The Alex J. Summers Award is the highest award given annually by the AHS honoring an individual who has contributed much to the Hosta World.

The recipient is chosen by a special committee that bases the selection on merit. Nominations received alert this committee to valuable information, achievements and individual contributions, of which the committee may otherwise not be aware; therefore, it values all input.

The nominee must have contributed materially and significantly to the betterment of the genus *Hosta*, the American Hosta Society, or both, and/or to the development of hosta awareness either as an active developer and promoter or as a support person. Relate specific instances and/or examples; attach extra pages as needed.

Please be advised, however, that the decision is based on merit alone and no decision will be based on the number of nominations.

Please e-mail nominations to:

curtis_boyd@sbcglobal.net

Or mail to:

Curtis Boyd

AHS VP Awards and Honors

4201 Melbourne Road East Drive,
Indianapolis, IN 46228

Before March 15, 2024

NOMINATION BY:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

NOMINEE:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

On a separate sheet, detail the reasons for your nomination, then e-mail or mail to above address.

**Cutoff Date for 2024 Nominations is
March 15, 2024**

Eunice Fisher Award

The Eunice Fisher Award is designed to recognize annually an AHS member who has hybridized a significant number of registered hostas; has demonstrated an advanced knowledge of the genus *Hosta* and a willingness to share that information with others; and has given notable advances in color combinations, leaf shapes, flower arrangement and petiole colors.

The Award recognizes an individual's body of achievement in hybridizing rather than a single significant plant and the focus is on quality rather than quantity of registrations. It does not recognize the development of sports.

The honor may be awarded posthumously.

Please e-mail nominations to:

curtis_boyd@sbcglobal.net

Or mail to:

Curtis Boyd

AHS VP Awards and Honors

4201 Melbourne Road East Drive,
Indianapolis, IN 46228

Before March 15, 2024

NOMINATION BY:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

NOMINEE:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

On a separate sheet, detail the reasons for your nomination, then e-mail or mail to above address.

**Cutoff Date for 2024 Nominations is
March 15, 2024**



And In Regional News . . .

Thirty Years and Counting

by Pam Rawson

Hosta College...it all started 30 years ago when a group of gardening friends from various States first met at a hotel to learn about the latest gardening tips, tricks and secrets for growing hostas. That is how Hosta College, an educational event in Piqua, Ohio, was born. The event has grown every year since, that is, until tragedy struck and COVID hit the world. During the pandemic, we were not allowed to be in large groups and were required to stay home. For the first time ever, we had to suffer gardening alone. We could not meet together in public, so became proficient on the Internet and we resorted to socializing via Zoom to avoid being left in the dark.

Prior to COVID, it took my husband several years to convince me to attend Hosta College in the first place. I like hostas, but admittedly, they are not my favorite perennial. I actually thought he was crazy to travel five hours to gather with other hosta enthusiasts for an entire day just to talk about hostas! I do not like driving and consider anything over 30 minutes too far to go unless I have a really good reason...grandkids are a good reason.

A gardening friend who had attended told me that I would really like it. There is a variety of classes to choose from at Hosta College, she said, with courses which cover a wide range of subjects. My husband finally convinced me to go when he said that I did not have to sign up for a single class on hostas if I did not want to, so I didn't.

This year, about 250 people from various geographical locations all descended upon a little town in south central Ohio. There, we checked into rooms which we had previously reserved at various hotels and then went to the Upper Valley Career Center where the classes are held. Don and I have our trip planned out to a fine science. We leave Grand Rapids on a Friday morning at 10:30 am. Along the way, we stop for lunch at our favorite Mexican restaurant (Cebolla's) in Fort Wayne, Indiana. At about 4:00 pm, we check in to our hotel and catch a quick nap before leaving for the Career Center to register at 6:00. We greet friends we haven't seen for years, peruse the items offered by vendors, walk around to find our class-

rooms, and grab some snacks to munch on during the auction which begins at 7:00 pm. The next day, we are up at 7:00 for breakfast at the hotel, then head off to the school to visit with more friends while enjoying donuts with coffee or juice.

The classes go by quickly, and here I must put in a good word for all the teachers. The instructors are friendly and knowledgeable. There is a wide variety of classes offered. While called Hosta College, it actually is possible to attend five hours of classes, none of which are about hostas. On the other hand, if you are drawn to hostas, you can take a beginner's class and then advance to a more difficult hosta class. Or, you can take a class on other perennials and be utterly amazed at someone pronouncing words you have never heard while viewing photos of plants you have never seen!

After attending Hosta College for two years, I determined that I would like to teach a class on tall bearded irises. As a student, I had previously taken courses on daylilies, orchids, and trilliums, so why not have a class on irises? So, I offered to teach a class a few years ago because I have a keen interest in this beautiful and elegant perennial. A total of 33 individuals signed up. I had no idea that so many shady hosta enthusiasts would also be interested in a sun-loving plant like irises. This year, there were 21 enrollees for my class, and I decided that three years from now, I would like to teach the class again with a hands-on approach when I will have plenty of irises to share. I intend to demonstrate how to divide an iris in class.

There are many other benefits of attending Hosta College. It is where you go to connect with the top names in the hosta world. Bob Solberg, for example, is easy to spot, as his table in the vending room is the one crowded with people in awe of his latest introductions. And there are a great many others whom we have established relationships with as fellow gardeners over the years. "Hostas are the friendship plant" is the saying coined by the late Herb Benedict, and that is so appropriate when we all meet up at Hosta College. For one weekend, it brings people together from all over to share their love for gardening. New friendships blossom and grow as people share the latest news, resources, and achievements in the world of hostas and gardening.

A big thank you goes to all who make Hosta College possible. Thirty years and counting. I hope to see you there next year!

Pam Rawson, member of West Michigan Hosta Society

For more information visit their website: [Great Lakes Region Hosta College](#)



MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY 2024 WINTER HOSTA SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, February 24, 2024 - Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel

The MRHS Board remains proudly committed to promoting hosta education. Join us for this uniquely MRHS event featuring six speakers on a variety of hosta and related gardening topics.

Registration Fee (includes Sat. lunch): \$69 (MRHS members); \$79 (non-MRHS members)

Hotel Rate: \$112 per night including buffet breakfast (plus taxes) – rate applies to Fri and/or Sat night

The Symposium features:

- **Friday Evening Hostatality – special ‘Meet and Greet’ with Marco Fransen from Holland**
- **Hosta Silent Auction**
- **Saturday Symposium with 6 speakers on a variety of hosta and related gardening topics:**
 - **Marco Fransen – The Transatlantic Hosta Connection**
For many years Fransen Hostas and Naylor Creek Nursery cooperated to bring the best new hostas from the U.S. to Europe and vice versa. Marco will reminisce a bit about his relationship with Gary and Jack from Naylor Creek and how he has managed the transition following their untimely passing. Marco will also present a number of hot new hostas from Europe's top hybridizers.
 - **Glenn Herold – Shrubs for the Shade Garden**
Variety is the spice of life. This presentation will teach and inspire you to balance out your hosta garden with not just shade perennials but also with the use of shrubs for that added texture, shape and color.
 - **Dave Wanninger – Nuts about Nuts**
Maybe a bit off topic, but a passionate (and no doubt entertaining) talk on hickory trees and hickory nuts. The presentation will include Dave's passion for hybrid Hickory trees and nuts from collecting and hybridizing. There will be a nut tasting of “hicans”, a hybrid nut of hickory and pecan tree origin. You will never look at Hickory trees the same way again.
 - **Phil Timm – Why You Should Be Hybridizing**
This presentation will give you some insight into why hybridizers love what they do. It will also show some incredible results that can be obtained from growing hosta seed. If nothing else, you will get to see some wonderful hosta eye candy during the winter doldrums.
 - **Bob Solberg – Full Spectrum Hostas**
Hostas are no longer just blue, green, yellow, and white. Red and purple have become dominant colors in hostas, but the future promises to bring even brown and black into play in healthy hostas. That leaves orange, Bob's favorite, as the rare outlier. We will see how these colors are produced by hostas and hosta hybridizers. This will be a Zoom presentation.
 - **Mark Zilis – Midwest Hosta Highlights**
The top hostas for people and gardens of the Midwest.

Please register early. Late registration fees start February 2, 2024.

The hotel room rate is guaranteed through February 2, 2024. Use this link to make a reservation online:

Book your group rate for Winter Hosta Symposium Meeting Feb 2024

Or phone the Sheraton at 1- 888-627-8235 and mention “Winter Hosta Symposium Meeting Feb 2024” or mini hotel code “WH9” to get the special group rate.

**MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY
2024 WINTER HOSTA SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION FORM**

Saturday, February 24, 2024 - Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel

Hotel Rate: \$112 per night + tax (includes breakfast for registered hotel guests)

Deadline for hotel reservation is February 2, 2024

To make a reservation online use this link:

[Book your group rate for Winter Hosta Symposium Meeting Feb 2024](#)

Or call the Sheraton at 1-888-627-8235.

The group code is "Winter Hosta Symposium Meeting Feb 2024" or mini-hotel code "WH9".

The Winter Hosta Symposium will be held at the Sheraton Milwaukee-Brookfield Hotel - 375 S. Moorland Rd, Brookfield, WI 53005.

Symposium check-in is Friday afternoon from 4 to 6 PM, and Saturday morning from 7 to 8 AM. The Symposium will be from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM on Saturday. Lunch is included with your registration.

Hostality will be on Friday Night at the Sheraton Hotel.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. Fill out registration form completely.

Make a copy of this registration form for your records. Confirmations will be sent by email.

Note that MRHS memberships are family memberships, so individuals in the household are also MRHS members.

NAME _____ ☐ MRHS member ☐ Non-MRHS member
ADDRESS _____ If a non-MRHS member,
CITY _____ your \$10 surcharge will be applied to a
STATE/ZIP _____ 1-year membership in the MRHS.
PHONE _____
EMAIL ADDRESS _____
FAMILY MEMBER(S) ATTENDING _____

Registrations postmarked after February 2, 2024 require a \$10 late registration fee per person. Cancellations before February 2, 2024 will be sent a full refund. (Except for medical emergencies or death in family)

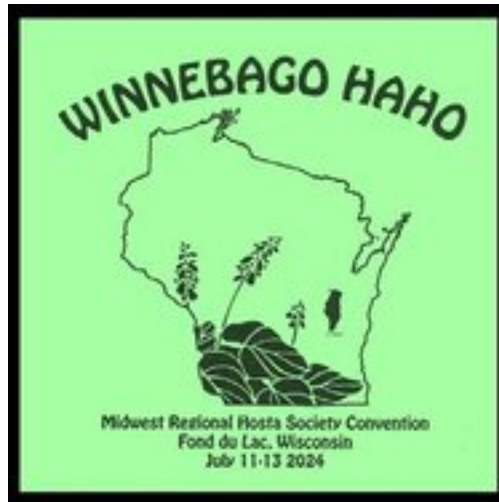
Number of members _____ X \$89 = _____
Number of non-members _____ X \$79 = _____
Number of late registrations _____ X \$10 = _____
TOTAL _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO MRHS

Mail your registration form and check to:

Dave Collura, 13600 W. Graham St., New Berlin, WI 53151-2572

Questions about registration? Contact Rob Mortko (robmortko@gmail.com) (913) 208-8939



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	\$
---	---------------	----

Friday Banquet Meal Choice:

☐ Roast Pork Loin

☐ Panko Crusted Walleye

☐ Pasta Primavera (veg.)

Saturday Banquet Meal Choice:

☐ 8 oz. Sirloin Steak

☐ Pecan Crusted Chicken Breast

☐ Vegetable Stir Fry (veg.)

TOTAL DUE

\$

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 ☐ Judge ☐ 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.
--	--



Support AHS . . .

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



AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY

Enjoy the carefree beauty of this shade-tolerant perennial

Sign Up!
New members join for \$40/yr and receive a free hosta, *The Hosta Journal* and a \$15 voucher towards hosta purchases from participating vendors.

or call to join 309-678-4119

HOSTA.ORG

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, Third Edition – 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.

2024 AHS Member Plant

Hosta 'I'll Flyway'

(McDonell, 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 McDonell. 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, 1104 Oxford Court, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-5249.

Follow

The American Hosta Society
on **Instagram!**

@americanhostasociety

Discover beautiful
hosta images,
landscapes
and inspiring ideas.





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 Publications Sales
Hosta Adventure
1104 Oxford Court
Oakbrook Terrace IL 60181



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* 'Heart of the Sunrise' is an all-gold sport of *H. 'Goodness Gracious'*. Be sure to include your own name and address when you order the gift membership.

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

Name _____

E-mail _____

Phone () _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Country _____

Name of the AHS Member giving the gift:

Please choose the gift option:

☐ New member + plant \$40.00

☐ New Member \$30.00

☐ eMember \$20.00

Your address:

Send your check to:

Barry Ankney, Membership Secretary

1104 Oxford Court

Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-5249

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

Order for \$15 (postage paid).

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

Barry Ankney
Publications Sales
1104 Oxford Court
Oakbrook Terrace IL 60181

Email:
ahs.publications.sales@gmail.com



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.**



Support Our Advertisers . . .



**NH HOSTAS
& COMPANION PLANTS**

CHOOSE FROM OVER 1,000 VARIETIES
OF HOSTA PLANTS

ORDER ONLINE • FAST SHIPPING
Your satisfaction is our main goal!
www.nhhostas.com

“Fabulous! I've ordered hostas from several other companies but NH Hostas sends the freshest, largest and most healthy hostas! They are wonderful to deal with! Hostas arrive very carefully packaged.” - Green Bay, WI



*New from
In The Country...*

Hosta 'Grace Wins'
by Milt Whitmer

**Website Updated for
2024 November 1st!**

www.inthecountrygardenandgifts.com

In The Country Garden & Gifts
319-934-3620 - Independence, IA



Sebright Gardens
*Offering a large selection of mature hosta crowns
at competitive prices.*

Visit: www.sebrightgardens.com

To download our catalog &
view informative web site, or
send \$2.00 for color catalog to:
Sebright Gardens P O Box 9058
Brooks, Oregon 97305-0058



Kincaid
plant markers
Made for a lifetime of gardening.

Original 100% Stainless Steel Plant Markers
Signature - Collector - Garden - Designer
Custom Engraving and Label Printing
Brother P-Touch Products
Everything you need to label your garden
www.kincaidplantmarkers.com 816-324-4931
support@kincaidgardens.com

Use code **HOSTA-GYR** for discounts on plant markers

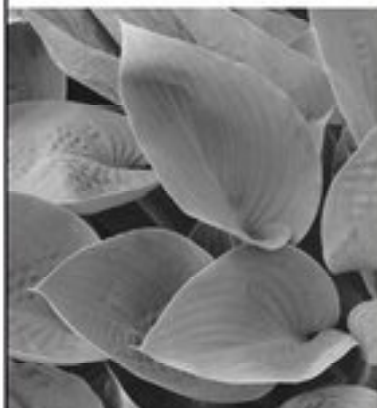
www.aaaqualityengravers.com

Garden Marker Specialist for 23+ Years

- Quickly installed with new or existing systems
- U.V. stable material—life is 10+ years
- Maintains plant identity in an attractive manner
- Fast service—ships in 1-2 weeks



Garden markers that keep going and going and going and going!



Our labels are black, green, or coffee bean with round or square corners. They work well with SIMPLY ELEGANT, SEE-FINE, KINCAID, other stakes. AAA also labels daylilies, roses, irises, and other plants.

AAA QUALITY ENGRAVERS

P.O. Box 9

Terry, MS 39170

(601)878-5999 Fax: (601)510-9396

E-Mail: daylilyranch@bellsouth.net

www.AAAQualityEngravers.com

SEE GARDENS
PHOTO

ON WEBSITE
GALLERY

EARTH FRIENDLY GARDEN MARKERS

Durable
Recyclable
Sustainably Made



MADE IN USA - PATENTED

**NEW! Add Custom
Engraved Plastic Labels**

3 sizes/4 colors



BIOMARKERS®
PREMIUM GARDEN PRODUCTS

info@mcgbiomarkers.com

319-378-0077





Garden Center, Arboretum, Botanical Gardens

Growing and
loving hostas for
over 35 years
near Princeton, IL.



Bareroot hostas wrapped for shipping.

WE SHIP HOSTAS ACROSS THE U.S.

Check out our stock of over 400 varieties on
hornbakergardens.com

Some of our 2022 best sellers:

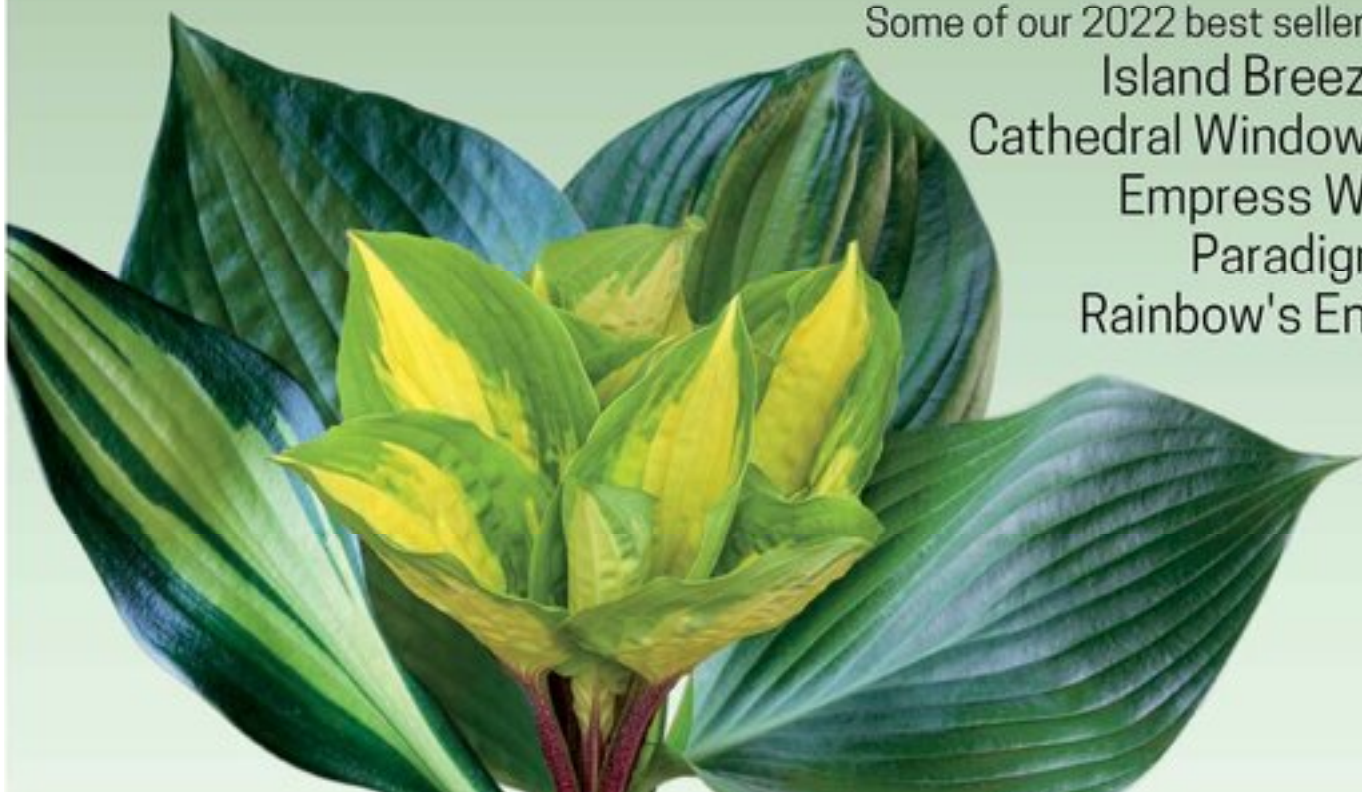
Island Breeze

Cathedral Windows

Empress Wu

Paradigm

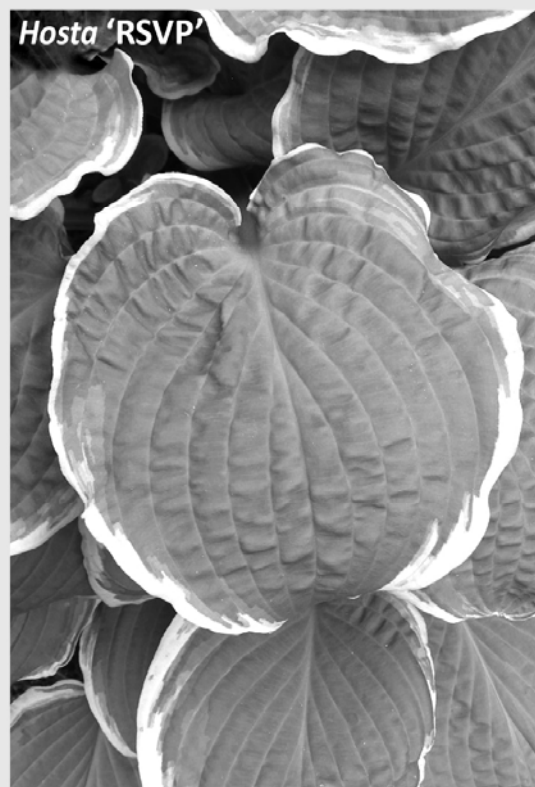
Rainbow's End



NORTHERN GROWN PERENNIALS

Check our website at www.hostalink.com
Email: ngp@mwt.net

- * Providing quality Hostas, Daylilies and Peonies
- * General listing of Hostas as well as many of our own introductions
- * All ground-grown stock; no small tc starters
- * Check our reviews on Garden Watchdog
- * Wisconsin Zone 4 grown and hardy
- * Home of 'Glad Rags' and 'Jurassic Park'
- * Gift plants with orders



Specializing in custom engraved nameplates, signs, and plant markers.

Our products are computer engraved on UV resistant acrylic plastic designed for long term outdoor use. You may choose between black or green colored labels and square or rounded corners. Other colors are available on request.

Our labels install quickly and easily and can be designed to your specifications for any variety of garden plants.

There will be no need to re-label your garden year after year due to faded and missing signs. This will be your one time botanical quality labeling system.

All orders are processed by your specific plant list and design and will be shipped within 1-2 weeks.

Our standard label size is designed to be used on See-Fine stakes and Simply Elegant stakes. We also make labels for other types of stakes when dimensions are supplied by you.



Personalized and friendly service the old-fashioned way.

Please request a free sample package which will include a free label engraved with your information requested along with stake and ordering information.

BY-YOU ENGRAVING

Tami Boos
2601 Bayou Road
St. Bernard, LA 70085

Phone: 504-495-1614

Fax: 504-309-5523

E-mail: Kentami2@att.net

www.By-YouEngraving.com



Mason Hollow Nursery

47 Scripps Lane, Mason NH 03048

www.masonhollow.com

From the novice gardener to the collector, we offer 750 varieties of Hosta, as well as Conifers, Ferns, Ornamental Grasses, Heucheras, Trees and Shrubs and other selected perennials including native plants.

Visitors are welcome to stop by and tour our display gardens.

*Bring this ad to the Nursery
for \$5 off a purchase over \$20*

603-878-4347

Hours: Wed through Sat 9 – 5, Sundays 12 – 5.



Golden Skep Flower Farm

264 Linden Street, Berlin, MA

978-838-2471

www.goldenskepfarm.com

**Home of one of the largest selections of
Hosta, Daylilies, Iris and Peonies
in Central Massachusetts
~ Thousands of Sun & Shade Perennials ~**

Open: May 1 through Columbus Day

Hours: Wednesday-Sunday 10-5

July: Open Every Day 10-5

Bring this ad to the farm
for \$5 off any one potted perennial

**One of the
“Five Best Flower Farms in New England”
According to Yankee Magazine
(March 2019 issue)**

Cochato Nursery
373 North Franklin St.

Holbrook, MA 02343

781-767-9770

info@cochatonursery.com



Durable, affordable, & made in the USA!

• Now with rounded corners •



www.EverlastLabel.com

PAW PAW
EVERLAST
LABEL COMPANY

INTRODUCTORY OFFER

Sample pack of 8 styles plus a marking pencil

JUST \$6