



The American Hosta Society

Jan 2025

eNewsletter



H. 'Key Lime Pie'

H. Hansen 2003

(Photo by Mary Vertz)

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President's Message

Amy Peterson, Oakdale, MN

Giving Thanks...

The end of year celebrations often allow one to ponder the year's events. The AHS organization is blessed with a host of great volunteers as are local Hosta Societies. In 2024 we had a great Hosta convention organized by Paula Lehtola and Kathie Sisson. Our Executive VP, Mary Schwartzbauer has been able to identify a number of Hosta Societies to host future conventions and we can look forward in 2025 to our annual convention being held in Peoria, IL co-hosted by Central Illinois Hosta Society and the Midwest Regional organization.

In 2024 Bob Saathoff, VP Publications has identified a Video Producer, Brendan Shick, and has a plan in place to video convention speakers and gardens. It is the AHS Board's hope the speaker videos will become a tool for local society meetings to have a speaker remotely presenting at membership meetings.

In 2024 Kathie Sisson, VP Judging/Exhibitions coordinated the Hosta judges in an update of the judging scoring system and offering judges training remotely. This created a more convenient training opportunity not in conflict with convention events scheduling.

In 2024 the AHS Board approved an update to the Hosta Treasury website. The software in place was quite old and required a full update. Many thanks to Gayle Hartley Alley & Don Rawson for putting an update plan together. Gayle has worked unerringly with the software company, to first ensure the update, still in process, works as intended and second allows her as the International Registrar to administer the registration of new Hosta efficiently.

Don Dean, a long-term volunteer, who has managed our On-line Auction for over a decade has passed the baton to Tom Voystock. The On-line Auction software also needed update and Tom has identified and is process of implementing a new software system for managing the On-line Auction. More information about the auction will be available soon including plant donations.

With all the software changes we have been blessed to have Josh Spece, our diligent Web Editor-in-Chief, whose efforts often are behind the scenes but keeps everything in control.

Last but not least two great issues of the Hosta Journal were published under the leadership of Danny Lawson, Editor, and great design assistance by Janet Mills of Mills Design, LLC. Each issue is a labor of love with interesting articles and great pic-

tures of Hosta and gardens.

I'm sure many other great actions by volunteers has occurred this year and it's hard to mention them all. Please remember to thank all the volunteers that give their time and talents in support of AHS and local Hosta Societies activities!

Many Hands Makes Lite Work! Looking forward to 2025!

Amy Peterson



S.J.R.& P. Railroad gardens of Stan & Deb Ames—an AHS 2024 Tour Garden.

Photos by Mary Vertz



Hostas and Associates

Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

Why We Garden

Photos by Glenn Herold

When I tell people that I have over 1200 different plants in my one-acre yard, they often say, "That must be a lot of work to maintain!" I reply, "It's not work if you enjoy what you're doing." There are a lot of reasons why I garden. As a horticulture graduate from the University of Wisconsin - Madison and a professor of horticulture for 32 years, I love plants and want to try out as many as I possibly can, within limits, of course. I am especially interested in unusual plants and recent cultivar introductions. I want to find out firsthand whether they can survive in my area, and under what growing conditions they thrive. To me, gardening is a challenge.

These thoughts are echoed by many of my gardening friends and acquaintances. Mary Ann says that "collecting, growing and analyzing different genre of plants is interesting and teaches me a lot about parts of the world I don't know." Marcia echoes this by stating that she gardens "to learn about nature and all the associated flora and fauna in our world." Dave also likes the challenge of gardening, especially plants that aren't from his location. He particularly relishes growing plants that the landscapers don't put in every garden.

Peggy says that she feels relaxed, happy and peaceful when she is in her garden, and loves the warmth of the sun on her back. Mary Ann goes further by stating that the soil connects her to the bigger picture, the flow of energy that runs through the entire universe. Marcia sees gardening as both a spiritual and emotional connection with the earth. Bob finds it relaxing, a way to unwind after a day at work. He says that "nothing is better than being next to nature."

Gardeners tend to be creative and use plants as a way of expressing that creativity. Joy loves to see changes in texture and color. Jack says that "the garden is a palette." Mary Ann is always looking for a different way to better arrange plants, and to create comfortable environments for her family, friends, and herself.

Most gardeners also garden to attract birds, butterflies, and bees. This thought was expressed by Peggy, Joy, Marcia, and Bob. Most gardeners are also willing to share their gardens with others. Jack said that he likes to see happy faces and to make new friends. Isn't that why hostas are called "the friendship plant?" Many new friends have been made by sharing hostas and by attending local and national conventions.

Dorothy sums it up best in her "Why I Love Gardening" statement: She says: "I

once heard a woman say about a neighbor, 'she spends all her time in the garden.' Upon hearing this, she could be describing me. Why (do I spend most of my free time in the garden?) Gardening has become an art form for me. Designing each area with regard to form, texture, and color while incorporating new and interesting plants has given me great satisfaction. Then there is the physical value of exercise, sun, and fresh air that contribute to good health. Working with the earth has enormous therapeutic value. Gardening teaches patience and slows one down in this fast-paced world we live in. Nature has its own speed; one can plant but cannot command quick results. Sharing my garden with other garden lovers has brought me great friendships. I could sum up my love for gardening in one phrase: gardening gives me a sense of purpose."

Whether your garden is large or small, enjoy every minute you spend in it. And share that love with others.



My shade garden provides a sense of serenity and artistic accomplishment.



View from inside the house looking at the shade garden



The color green provides a calming feeling.

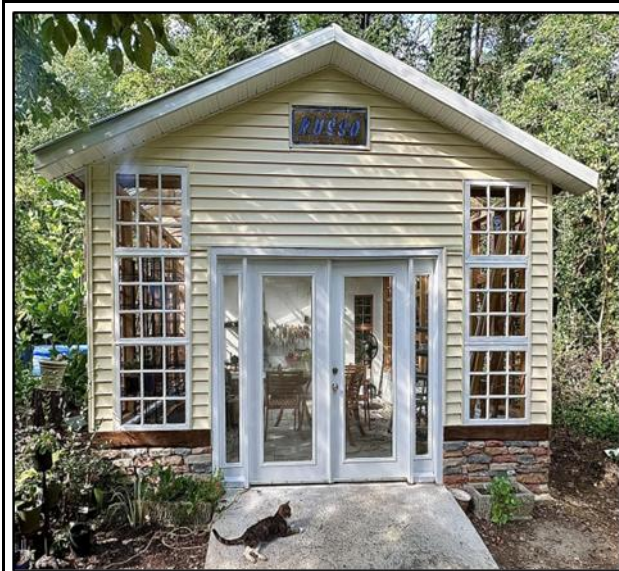




GO HOSTAS!

Warren I. Pollock, Glen Mills, PA

Editor's Note: Following article provided by Don Rawson for Warren's *Go Hosta!* column.



“We built our own
hosta greenhouse!”

The Dream Revisited...

Written by Gail J. Russo

Dave and Gail Russo of Cedarville, New Jersey built the greenhouse of their dreams. Here, they describe the entire adventure from start to finish. Admitting that the project was more difficult than initially perceived, they were pleased with the outcome and say that it was well worth the effort!

The Dilemma

Have you ever been faced with a gardening dilemma that had a relatively easy fix, but your ambition, dreams, and drive turned that easy fix into a project? Then the planning stages of your project were inspired by your online research into what other DIY dreamers have created and your project turned into a major undertaking?

That is exactly what happened to us when we were faced with numerous trays of hosta seedlings and potted hostas in an environment that has become trickier to manage.

Apparently, the USDA agrees with our conclusion that our weather patterns are changing, since they recently updated the national Planting Hardiness Zones map by raising the zones in all areas to account for the increased temperature lows. We live in southern New Jersey that has a unique temperature pattern largely due to being a peninsula surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean and Hudson Bay on all but the north side. The water temperature keeps the air warmer in the winter than the northern part of the state that is landlocked. As children, we fondly recall playing in the

snow. Now, we are not only dreaming of a white Christmas but we dream of seeing a single snowflake! We have all also experienced the polar vortexes that suddenly drop freezing air from the north, which is not altered by the warmer water around us. It is these tricky patterns that created our gardening dilemma.

After a mild winter, in the spring we found that we had lost several hostas and they all had a common clue. Each variety that died had been planted in a pot — either sitting on the ground or sunk in the ground — and each had rotted away. Our precipitation had fallen as rain all winter, which seemed beneficial. But between the rains, we had varying degrees of cold air, sometimes very cold but more often above freezing. The garden soil did not have any standing water, which indicates good drainage and is perfect for hostas planted in the ground. But it was a different story with the pots. The polar vortex had frozen the ground solid, which was then thawed by warmer air when the wind direction changed. Unfortunately, only the top few inches of soil had thawed before it rained again and this left puddles of water in the pots, unable to drain through the still-frozen soil at the bottom of the pots where the drain holes are. Then it got cold again and the standing water at the top of the pots froze, destroying the cells of the hosta crowns in the pots.

So, do we chalk this up to a weird winter or do we take it as a sign of future weather trends and change our fall habits to prepare for unpredictable winters? With our extensive and expensive collection of hostas, we opted to play it safe and take steps to prevent future losses due to weather extremes.

The pots that were sunk in the ground were fairly easy to prepare by drilling holes in the sides at the soil line so they could drain out. Many gardeners opt to tip loose pots on their sides or stack them together with a cover over them. Others opt to place all pots inside an unheated building, allowing them to remain dormant from cold, yet protected from precipitation. Since we have a large number of voles that are active in the winter, tipping pots or stacking them together on the ground is not a good idea because it would create a vole buffet. We decided to place them inside an unheated building.

Because of the steadily growing number of pots and trays that required protection, we were quickly out of space. We do not have a garage to evict a vehicle from. We have a few sheds that house necessary gardening equipment, one of which was more than 30 years old with a leaking roof. Dysfunctional and a waste of space, truly.

What we really needed was a big greenhouse. We had always dreamed of having one, and already have a tiny one, filled to capacity. So why not tear down the aged, dysfunctional shed and replace it with the greenhouse we always wanted? Easy, right? In theory, it is easy, but we found out it was way more difficult than we had ever counted on. Some dreams are worth the pain, and this was one of them.

The Planning

Since we had already settled on a greenhouse, we had to decide what type of structure we wanted and how to make it happen. So, we joined several greenhouse groups on

Facebook and scoured the Internet for inspiration and ideas. A hoop house with plastic covering is the most practical, but we dreamed of more. The huge Victorian style real-glass buildings are beautiful, but over-the-top and expensive. Both of us are retired and living on a budget, so expensive was unrealistic, but we do have a bit of skill. I am creative, artistic, and smart enough to learn from online videos and books, and skilled at working with concrete and paint. David is a workhorse with the drive to bring the dream to reality. The hidden gem was our longtime friend Pat, who has some construction experience and is smart enough to figure out what he does not know already. He agreed to help us build our dream from the ground up and we began discussing our options and planning the details. We scoured Meta's Marketplace and Craigslist for cheap, used materials and we managed to score a large lot of closely similar old-fashioned, wooden framed windows and a large lot of reclaimed lumber, all for less than \$300. We found an old quaint wooden door for \$20. The best surprise came when the lumber was delivered by a contractor's helper and he gifted us with a set of French patio doors he was supposed to dispose of. The windows and doors became the inspiration and we planned the details of the build around them. Being reclaimed, the windows and doors required stripping, sanding, cutting to size, repair, and refinishing to ready them for use. I started this task in July.

David's job was to tear down the old shed and prepare the site for the building as well as to determine the layout and how big it could be. It was September before we had completed these tasks and compiled enough materials to even think about beginning construction.



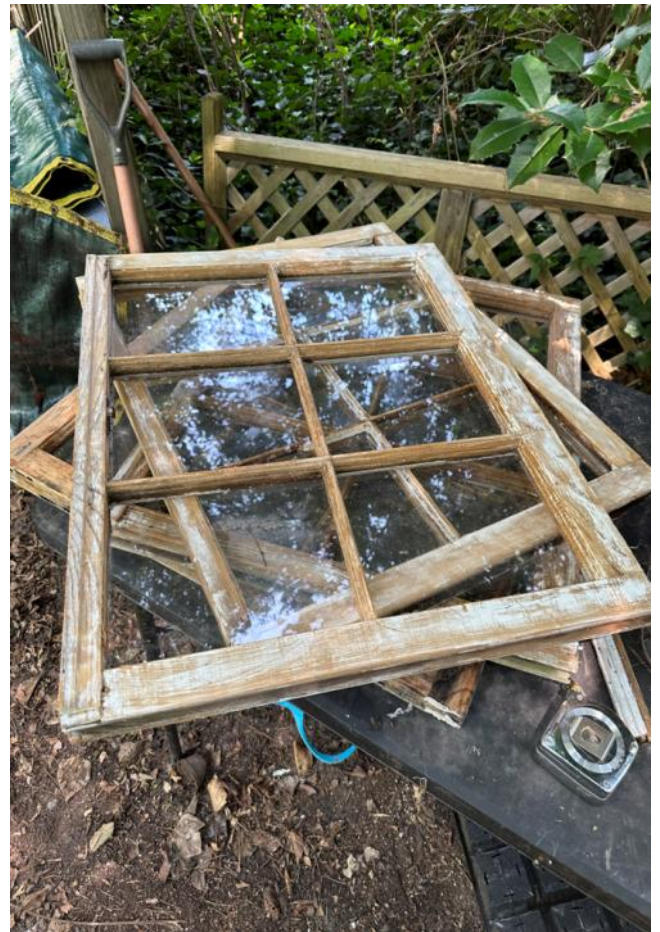
David Russo tearing down the old shed to prepare the site for the new greenhouse.



An antique door that we purchased for \$20 to refinish as the back door of the greenhouse



Matching windows that we purchased from a replacement window contractor to refinish for the new greenhouse.



A window that has been stripped, sanded, and repaired, now ready to be coated with outdoor paint.



Reclaimed windows that have been stripped, sanded, repaired, and cut to the correct size, waiting to be coated with outdoor paint.



Area where the old shed used to be, cleared of the shed and brush, ready for the initial layout of the new greenhouse floor plan to see how big it could be and if more brush or trees need removal.



We assembled a 16' x 20' box from scrap lumber to visualize the floor plan placement and determine where the ground needed to be leveled.

Squaring up the frame to place the corner cross lines; preparing to build the frame for the concrete foundation pour.

The Build

In September, we had the basic plan with layout and size, and still had the weather on our side to begin the foundation. We had settled on a permeable floor, requiring no preparation, but we needed a solid foundation to build the window walls on top of. Our natural soil in South Jersey is primarily sandy, so a concrete foundation with footers was necessary. After measuring, leveling, and building the frames, we dug the holes for the footers and began the task of mixing and pouring the (80) 80# bags of cement. We mixed three bags at a time and it took us a week to fully complete it all. The hardest part was keeping it all level from side to side and front to back. The dimensions we settled on were 16 ft. wide by 20 ft. long, leaving lots of room for error. We are truly humbled by the task we thought was so easy and marvel at the complexity of commercial buildings and skyscrapers, baffled by how the engineers manage to get it perfect. They certainly earned those degrees and deserve the pay they receive.



Placing the auger to dig out the footers; centering it underneath where the perimeter lines cross. Six footers were dug, each 24" deep.



Cardboard footing forms were placed in the holes that were dug with the auger, and were filled with concrete, after a stake is hammered into the ground. The stake ties the footer to the foundation and extends up into the corner row of the block wall, tying it all together.



The left side of the foundation was framed and concrete was mixed and poured into the footers and the perimeter, while making sure it was level from front to back and side to side.



The first row of the concrete kick wall was placed so it was square and level; tied into the staked corner with the edge of the block lined up underneath the string to keep it straight.



The right side of the foundation was completed, also making sure it was level all the way around.



While the first row of the block wall was being completed all the way around, we brought in dirt fill to bring the floor up to level.



The second row of block was placed, making sure it was level and straight, and the block had staggered joints.



The second row of block was completed all the way around, with spaces left for the doors.



The holes in the block are filled with concrete where necessary, so anchor bolts can be set in the block to mount the sill plate.



The wooden sill plate was installed and the bolts were tightened to secure it. This was the critical piece that joined the wood to the concrete so when the walls were nailed to the wooden sill plate they didn't fall over. We also laid landscape cloth on the floor to prepare for the gravel and to keep the orange dirt from tracking into our house.



The studs that will frame the window walls were nailed together, leaving open space for the windows to be mounted as the walls. The completed frames were screwed to the sill plate with temporary braces to hold them in place until they could all be joined together.

Next came two courses of concrete block for the kick wall and placement of the sill plate to secure the window studs to. Again, professional masons have earned their pay because it was not easy to keep those rows of block straight and level! Another 20 bags of cement were mixed to complete the two rows of block with anchors set for the sill plate installation. The concrete work was completed in two weeks and we were ready to begin the construction of the walls.

We could not find used studs, so we had to purchase them along with the sill plate lumber. The next step was to build the framing studs to hold the window walls. This is where Pat's expertise came in handy, since we had never constructed a building before and knew little about it. If the window walls of the building were not straight and level, the roof would not fit right and the building would not be sturdy. After the windows were installed, we filled the remaining wall space with plywood and installed the doors. Some important decisions were made at this point that refined our project. A special hosta friend had visited our gardens and gifted us with a gorgeous stained-glass piece that he had constructed featuring our last name. We decided the perfect place for this masterpiece was on the front of our building, with the sun shining through the glass. We also decided to use leftover siding from a repair made to our home in order for the greenhouse to match the exterior of our home. So instead of painting the plywood, we covered it with waterproofing barrier and then we learned how to install siding to complete the outside. It was late November before all of this was accomplished, since Pat only had the weekends off and we needed his skill to get it right. The weather had cooperated up to this point, but winter was closing in and it became uncomfortable working outside. We decided to pause the project until spring.



As the stud frames were completed on each side, we began attaching the windows that make up the walls. The bottom row of windows is fixed in place and they do not open.



The top row of windows and the corner windows are also fixed and do not open, so they are mounted next.



The second row of windows will open for ventilation with heat sensitive automatic devices, so they are mounted to the top row of windows with hinges. We also install plywood and siding to finish the outside corners.



After both sides and the front of the window walls were completed, the header was secured across the front to install the French doors. The back plywood wall was nailed into place and the back door was installed.



Plywood was nailed to the front and back to fill overtop and around the doors, and a waterproof barrier was added to protect the wood.



Siding was installed to the front and back to complete the building up to the roof line.

Temporary bracing ties were placed across the top to hold the walls for the winter until the roof could be built.

A warm spell a week later gave us the opportunity to construct the concrete ramp up into the building (another 20 bags) so it could fully cure before spring.



We constructed wooden wedge forms for the ramp and temporarily fixed them with rebar.



Concrete was mixed and poured in batches, with horizontal rebar added to help tie the layers together until the height and slope of the form was reached. The concrete was poured starting at the thickest part below the door, and was allowed to set just enough to support the next layer until the top was reached and the slope of the form was correct. Then it had the entire winter to fully harden and cure.

We spent the winter months planning the roof details and shopping for the necessary materials. We wanted a clear roof for maximum solar penetration, but it also needed to be sturdy enough to withstand our weather extremes, including the possibility of heavy snow. We decided on clear polycarbonate panels with green aluminum roofing panels for the edges and the peak. Materials of this sort are not often found used, so we had to splurge on new materials for this and it was our biggest expense at \$1200. We also had to purchase the necessary screws/nails and the electrical fixtures like lights and a fan. We researched and dreamed about finishing this project until the warmer weather of spring allowed us to resume construction.

The first task in spring was constructing the trusses for the roof. We used the reclaimed lumber for this, and made our own joining braces from plywood. Pat was a huge help, figuring out the precise measurements and angles necessary to bear the roofing panels. When everything was ready, we asked our grandson to assist with the installation because we were not physically agile enough to climb on the roof and attach the panels. This took several weekends to accomplish because the weather

turned rainy and unmanageable. During the week, we placed landscape fabric across the floor and filled the interior with pea gravel. We found a Marketplace clearance of leftover patio pavers and got enough to create a walkway through the center of the building, from door to door. We also installed plywood to cover the interior studs and coated it with exterior paint. Using leftover lumber, we constructed a workbench against the back wall. It is the only fixed object in the building.

When the roof was completed, Pat decided it would not look right without an eave and soffit, so he constructed these from scrap lumber and we learned how to finish them with vinyl. Lastly, we installed interior lighting, outlets and fans.



As each truss was constructed, it was hung upside down in place until all the trusses were completed and roof construction was ready to begin.



The trusses were flipped upright and fastened to the top of the window walls, then tied together with cross beams.



After all the trusses were secured and tied together, we installed plywood, barrier and siding to the front and back of the building.



After we covered the entire floor with 2" of pea gravel, we put down the center walkway of pavers to create a firm, level floor. That allowed us to support the ladders in order to install the roofing.



After multiple batches of facing bricks were made, they were pasted to the outside of the foundation wall until the entire perimeter was covered.



Installation of the clear polycarbonate roofing panels began.



Metal roofing panels were installed on the two sides and the center of the roof for structure and design appeal. Clear panels filled the remainder for light penetration. A metal peak overlapped it all.



Fastening the roof panels to the cross beams for added support.



When the roof was completed, the stained-glass sign was installed and an eave was added to the front of the building.



Roof was completed, brick facing covered the entire perimeter, and the front was completed. Decorative trim was installed to cover the hinges and gaps between the windows.



Soffits were installed to hide the gaps in the overhang of the roof, and to keep birds and pollinators from becoming trapped.



The completed building from the side.

The Finishing Touches

Over the years, I have adorned our garden beds and structures with colored concrete facing bricks that I make by hand. We decided that the newly constructed greenhouse would not look complete without the same adornment. So, I began making the hundreds of bricks necessary and then installed them on the exposed concrete block lower walls on the outside of the building. It was July when I finally completed this job, and the entire building was constructed.

We added finishing touches of trim and painted the inside. Then we placed the tables and shelves that we already had along the windows. A friend gifted us a used outdoor patio table and chairs that we decided to place inside too.

A full year after we began building the dream, it was finally finished and it turned out better than what we had hoped for. We figure our total cost over the course of the year was approximately \$6000. A true bargain! We planned a rustic, unheated building constructed from reclaimed materials built with our own sweat. We completed a unique, beautiful greenhouse that resembles our home.

The primary use for the greenhouse was to overwinter our numerous potted hostas and trays of seedlings and it was to remain unheated. So, when the fall frosts began, all the plants were moved into the building where they will remain until the spring frosts have passed. We purchased an extendable hose wand with a flexible positioning head to thoroughly water everything inside before it turned cold, and to water periodically throughout the winter if the weather is warm. The enclosed sunny area will allow the hostas to emerge earlier than outside and they will remain protected until frost threats have passed, when the greenhouse will be emptied into the landscape. We plan to have it remain empty through the summer when it will be too hot inside to sustain plant life. We will be forever indebted to Pat for his friendship, help and knowledge. We are grateful for the many Facebook friends who followed our year-long project, offering their support and praise. Lastly, we offer advice and luck to anyone inspired enough to try this on their own because it was truly harder than we thought it would be, but it was well worth the effort!



The table set gifted to us was placed inside. We covered the interior trusses on the back with plywood and built a workbench on the back wall. Installation of electrical wiring and fixtures began.

Front inside completed with benches and shelves installed, we then began to fill with plants.



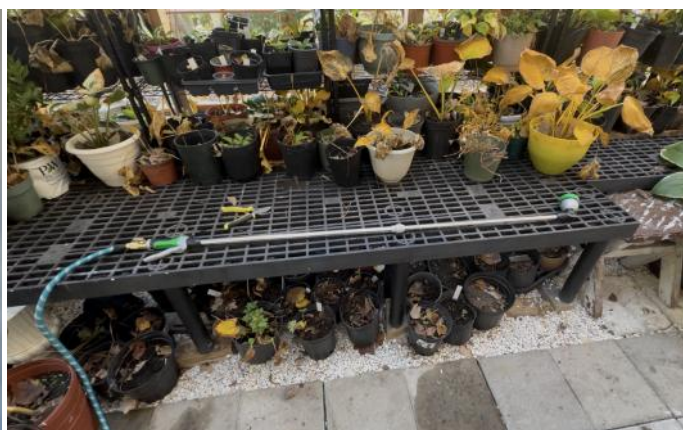


Back inside completed with benches and shelves installed; began filling with plants for the winter.

Left side completed; began filling with plants for the winter.



Right side completed; began filling with plants for the winter.



Watering wand with flexible head that reaches the top shelves to water plants when needed.



The Crew (left to right):
Connor Dunn (our grand-
son), David Russo, Gail
Russo and Patrick Hebert.



Gail J Russo, author

GO HOSTAS!





Book Notice

Clyde Crockett, Carmel, IN

USING FOLIAGE PLANTS IN THE GARDEN

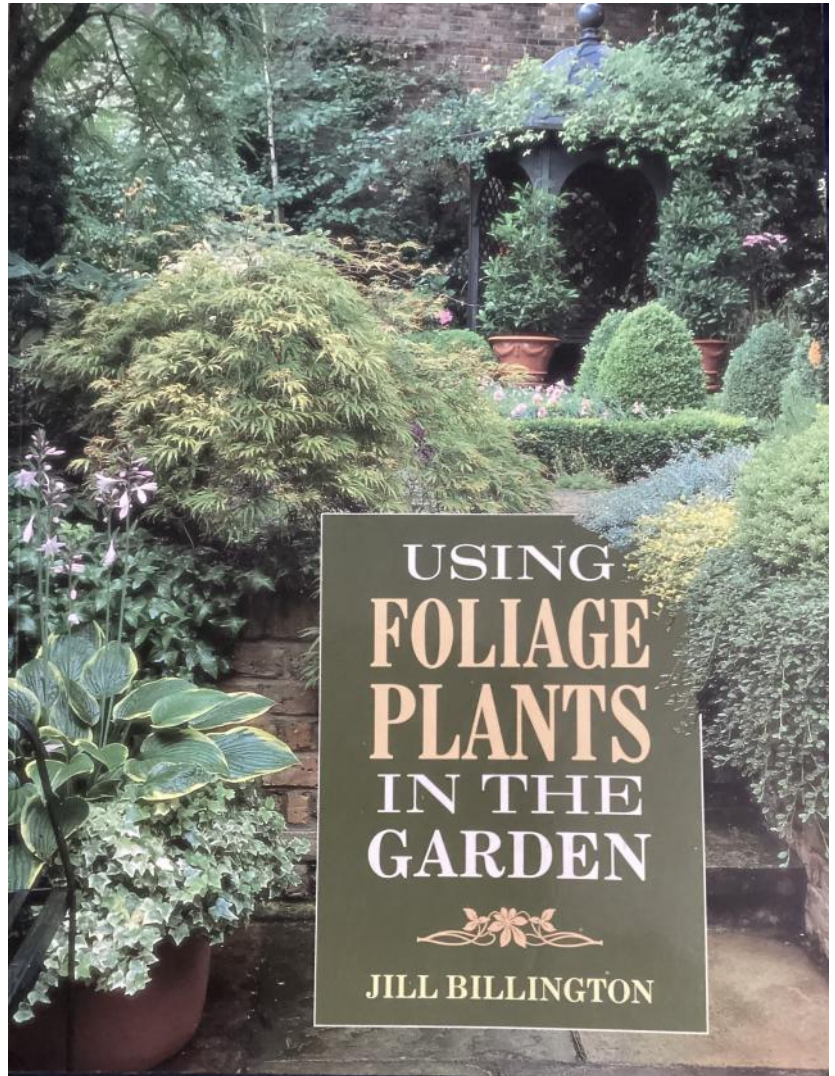
Written by Jill Billington

Published by Ward Lock, London: 1994

A Cassell Imprint

Like hostas, hosta gardens come in all shapes and sizes. A popular variety is one using nothing but our beloved varieties. I would bet most of those reading this have seen some outstanding examples. I think of when I laid eyes on the fabulous collection in the garden of Robert “Tiff” and Barbara Tiffany of Pennsylvania. Others for various reasons will want to incorporate what we call companion plants. Perhaps the desire is to add more to what already exists. We can acquire valuable information about such from the excellent articles by our own, Glenn Herold. I have used a lot of other plants in my garden, after learning what their habits are, how to grow them, their needs and the like. What I haven’t paid enough attention to

is something we may have in common— garden design—how to use plants; how to combine them for the best effect; how, in a nutshell, to design our plots to create our own “little bit of heaven,” as the noticed author describes the process in her writings. She assumes we know how to take care of our plants; she shows us how to use them. We are given our tools to become the architects.





A pool accompanied by foliage of ferns rogersia and hostas

Part 1, “The Shape of the Larger Leaf”, gives us some examples of the shapes of foliage that we can use and their effects. Take spikes, such as yuccas, “one of the most powerful forms, always eye-catching [.]” Yuccas are further described as “sharply dangerous to look at” so you might want to try some irises. Of note to us is one that grows in full shade, *Iris foetidissima*. Other forms to choose from are reeds (bamboos are highly recommended); rounds, (the huge *Gunnera manicata*, ligularias, bergenias, and asarums); broads, the wide and pointed broad leaf shape. Here we have hostas as the prime example along with illustrations. Other foliage shapes that are featured include narrow, feathery, twinned, and palmate.

The part that will surely attract much attention is Part 3, “Prima Donnas.” Of course we find here the big ones, *Gunnera* and *Rodgersia* varieties. Illustrations abound—other large leaf varieties, ferns, exotics such as Musas, more spikes, bamboos, grasses, climbers, and (drumroll please,) HOSTAS! This is not all. Much more follows. Be sure to read the part on “Plant Associations.”

That’s what the book is all about - how to put the tools at work, together, to construct your dream.



Rodgersia podophylla

There is much to commend this work by a well-known and admired garden designer. She was brought up in the Lake District of England, the beauty of such must have influenced her obvious love of plants. You will enjoy her vivid descriptions and striking style. Be sure when you read her, have handy a dictionary of plant botanical names.

One last mention of her publisher, which I gather no longer exists in that name, having been absorbed by a larger group. Ward Lock published works by Lewis Carroll, Oscar Wilde, Jules Verne, Charles Darwin and other great writers and their works including Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*!

Happy gardening!

Clyde



Hostas Happenin's

Don Rawson, Grand Rapids, MI

'Red Ninja' Captures Attention of Hosta Enthusiasts

Every now and then, a new introduction comes along that is a game changer in hostadom. Such a plant could be a radical improvement upon an already existing variety or perhaps a brand-new creation altogether. Whether it be the massive *Hosta* 'Sum and Substance', the exquisite 'June', or the totally adorable 'Blue Mouse Ears', breakthrough introductions move the world of hostas forward in leaps and bounds.

Hosta 'Red Ninja', an origination of Ninja Kramer in Denmark, promises to be a game changer indeed. This new hosta is a monumental advancement because, according to all accounts, it is the first cultivar that turns red in spring and then retains its color from thereon. Other reddish-leaved hybrids (casually referred to as "blushers") turn somewhat red in spring and then lapse to green or yellow for the remainder of the season, or at least until cold weather returns in fall — a real disappointment for many gardeners. But with this new introduction, that is about to change in a big way.

According to Mrs. Kramer, 'Red Ninja' is a chance sport that was found at her nursery in 2019. Ninja posted photos on Facebook under her nursery's name, Stovby Stauder. *Stovby* is the name of the village where Ninja resides. *Stauder* means "perennials" in Danish. The mutation was discovered among a batch of fifty bare root plants of 'First Blush' that she ordered for her nursery. Ninja admits, "I am not a breeder, just the lucky finder." Registered in 2024, 'Red Ninja' will be introduced by Plantipp B.V. in the Netherlands. (In the U.S., the company is known as Concept Plants.) European Plant Breeders' Rights and a U.S. Plant Patent have been applied for.



Red Ninja and
First Blush

Photo by Ninja
Kramer



Leaf of Red Ninja
and First Blush

Photo by Ninja
Kramer

At the four-year-old stage, ‘Red Ninja’ forms a mound that is 15 inches (38cm) wide by 7.9 inches (20cm) high. The registration reveals that the leaves are 3.1 inches (8cm) long by 2.6 inches (6.7cm) wide — about one-half the size of its sport parent, ‘First Blush’. The registration goes on to say that the leaves emerge yellow green and soon after, they develop a flush of red. Most importantly, it conveys that “by late spring through autumn, the leaf centers are dark red.” And if that is not abundantly clear, it asserts, “This variety retains its unique color throughout the growing season.” The registration will be viewable January 1, 2025. Go to <https://www.hostaregistrar.org/> and search for “Red Ninja.”



Photo by Ninja Kramer

“This is a picture from part of my hosta collection,” writes Ninja. “I run a small hobby nursery, mostly selling at plant fairs. I offer all kinds of perennials, but now specialize in hostas.”

Ninja, a Japanese Warrior

Historically, a *ninja* is an individual who is trained in ancient Japanese martial arts, employed especially for espionage and assassinations. The word is derived from the Japanese characters *nin* and *ja*. The first character *nin* initially meant “to persevere,” but over time the term took on the extended meaning of “to conceal” and “move stealthily.” The Japanese character *ja* means “person.”



The ninja image to the left is the work of Japanese artist Hokusai. Sketched in three colors (black, gray and pale flesh), the drawing is one of thousands that were published in ten volumes from 1814 to 1819, with five additional volumes added in 1834 to 1878. This particular drawing is in Volume Six, dated 1817.

Ninjas originated in the mountains of ancient Japan. They were engaged in ninjutsu, a martial arts form sometimes referred to as “the art of stealth” or “the art of invisibility.” When in disguise, they dressed in the same clothes as the enemy. It is quite ironic, then, that Kramer’s dark red introduction is named ‘Red Ninja’ because it stands in stark contrast among its companions — the greens, blues and yellows with which we are so familiar. With ‘Red Ninja’, we are beginning to realize the full color palette of foliage that is possible within this amazing genus.



‘Red Ninja’ (*center*) differs greatly from its peers, ‘Lemon Snap’ (*left*) and First Blush’ (*right*). It is much darker in color than even ‘Bloodline’ (*top right*).

Photo by Ninja Kramer



Photo by Ninja Kramer

The remarkable colors of *H. 'Red Ninja'*: the image above is not Photoshopped or the result of AI. It is real. Note that the reddish-purple pigments are localized to a specific area of the leaf blade, and absent from the light green margin along the edge of the leaf. The color contrast may be quite dramatic depending upon the weather and environmental conditions. How much sun it should receive to create the darkest red center and brightest green margin is something we will need to explore.

Flowers and Fertility

Hosta 'Red Ninja' is the very first cultivar that is dark red in color, and this deep shade lasts all season long. In hopes that its progeny will carry the same trait, hybridizers will certainly be scrambling to get their hands on it. It is one they will eagerly want to add to their breeding programs. Unfortunately, however, 'Red Ninja' is registered as pod sterile. The trial specimens at Plantipp did not experience any seed set. With Ninja's plant, there was one seed pod, but with no viable seeds inside. This is somewhat disappointing. Nevertheless, breeders will seek to obtain it to use as a pollen donor, even if it is pod sterile. The potential offspring that could result from crosses with similar hybrids could be phenomenal.

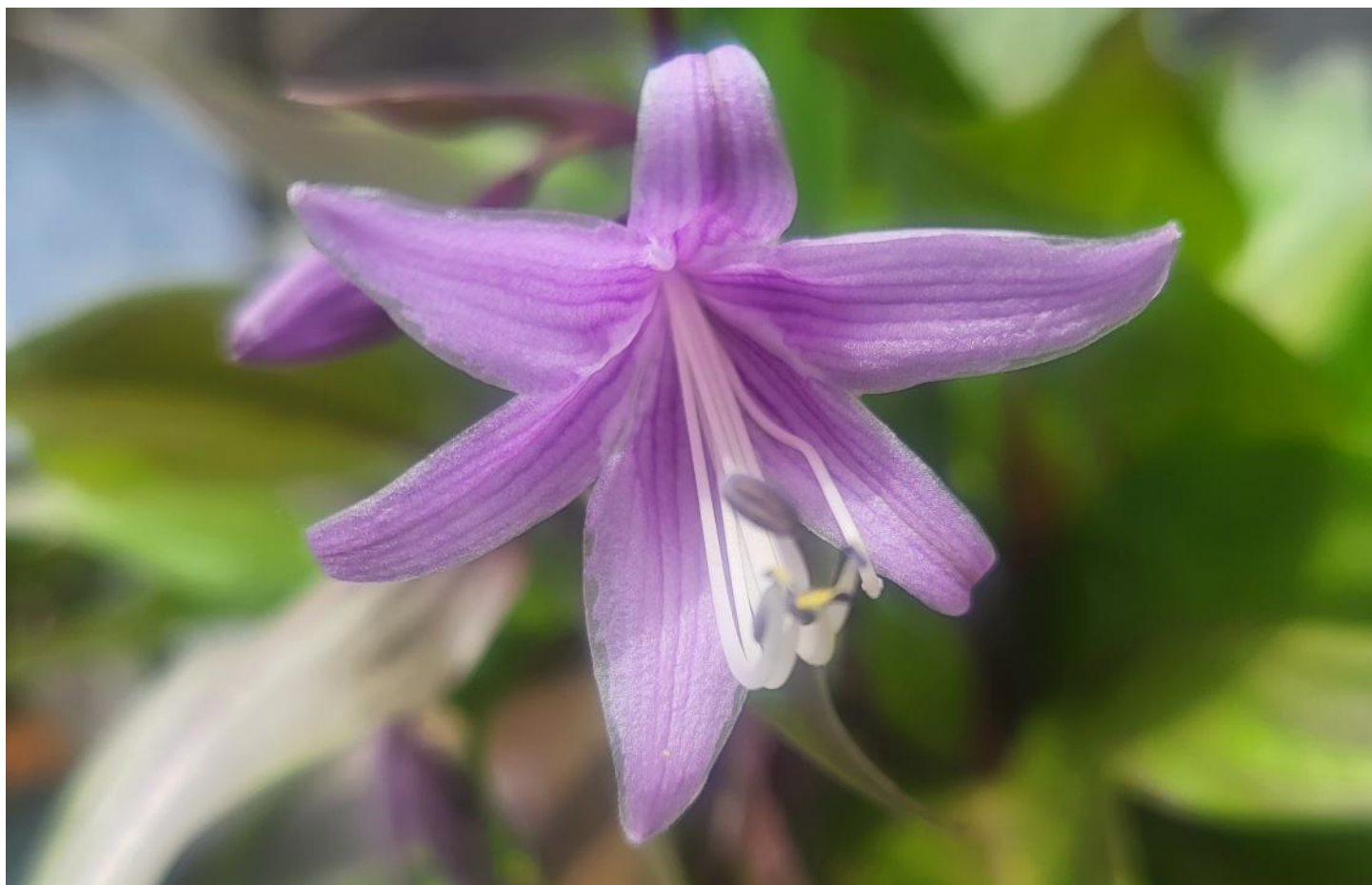


Photo by Kim van Rijssen.

While it is the dark red foliage that first grabs our attention, the inflorescence is equally attractive. The registration describes the flowers as being tubular in shape with recurved, purple petals.

Availability

After posting photos of her new plant on Facebook, Ninja generated a lot of attention. Gardeners were extremely excited to see a hosta with such unusual coloration and were immediately inquiring about how to obtain it. Ninja conferred with several people in the industry about where to go and what to do with her new hosta, 'Red Ninja'. Being somewhat overwhelmed, she reached out to Plantipp B.V. in the Netherlands (<https://plantipp.eu/uk/home>), an independent company that works with plant breeders worldwide.

Plantipp was founded nearly 25 years ago. Reinier van Rijssen began the company with the aim to represent breeders and support them by managing the licenses, royalties, and labels of new plant varieties. In the meantime, Reiner's son Peter and daughter Kim have joined the company. Today, Plantipp B.V. represents over 100 breeders from all over the world and manages more than 250 different plant varieties.

Realizing the market potential, Plantipp contracted with several labs to have ‘Red Ninja’ tissue cultured. Plant tissue culture (TC) is the technique of growing entire plants from small pieces of plant tissue, cultured in a growing medium such as agar. Generally, micropropagation of hostas by tissue culture takes at least two years. How successful was this process in the production of *Hosta* ‘Red Ninja’? Well, some of the tiny plantlets were not true to type (which would be disappointing), but at other labs, the plantlets surprisingly were 95% true to type!



Photo by Tieme van den Haak

At some labs, the tissue-cultured plants were surprisingly 95% true to type.

Concept Plants (<https://conceptplants.com/>) is the sister company of Plantipp in the United States. Under that name, the company introduces, manages, and promotes new varieties here in North America where it works closely with a strong network of partners.

According to Peter van Rijssen, Director of Concept Plants, ‘Red Ninja’ is slated for release in the United States in 2026-2027. This outstanding new hosta surely is one that you will want to place at the top of your wish list. It is a precursor of what is to come — an intimation of the future extraordinary hybrids just around the corner!



Photo by Kim van Rijssen

Ninja Kramer began collecting hostas just eight years ago. Here, she proudly holds her wonderful discovery, a sport of 'First Blush' named 'Red Ninja'. But it is her smile that really makes this photo. Hosta people are the best!



Hybridizer Corner . . .

Don Rawson, Grand Rapids, MI

We often enjoy adding new hostas to our gardens. Sometimes these new introductions are just random mutations that may appear in a garden or the lab. The other major way that new hostas come about is through hybridization. That's a big word that simply means making a cross between two varieties and then growing the seed that is produced from the cross. Once the new hosta is grown, it is then evaluated for its distinctiveness. It may sound like a lot of work, but it is also a lot of fun! I hope you join us on this adventure as we learn about hybridizing hostas.

Review

In the last issue, we learned about collecting pollen from one hosta to place on the stigma of another — the process of making a cross. Generally, pollen will ripen and turn golden yellow during the day. Collecting pollen is just a matter of gently removing the anthers from the flower. This can be done with tweezers, or if the entire stamen is to be removed, it can be done with hemostats. Grasping the stamens carefully and bending them to break them off is the best procedure. Then, brush the pollen-filled anther over the stigma of another flower until it is yellow with pollen. Tweezers and a pair of Optivisors will make the task easier.

We also discussed methods for **short-term pollen storage** so that pollen can be used in the next day or two. Pollen that is stored for daily use should be kept in a cool, dry place out of the wind and direct sunlight. A cool basement is suitable, as well as a refrigerator if the pollen is dry and placed inside a sealed container. By this method, pollen can be stored for a week or more.

However, what if you wish to make a cross, but the desired pollen parent is not yet flowering? Or, if the pollen parent flowered a month or two beforehand? In this issue, we will look at **long-term pollen storage** so that pollen can be used weeks, months, and even years later.

Long-term Pollen Storage

Storing pollen for long-term use is a very worthwhile endeavor since it allows the hybridizer to use it at any time he or she so wishes. When considering the requirements

for long-term pollen storage, we should begin with a refresher on harvesting pollen. There is no value to drying and storing pollen that is not viable in the first place. That is why it is so important to select stamens with lots of fluffy yellow pollen. Let the pollen fully ripen before removing the stamens from the flower. Then once the pollen is fluffy yellow, the anther can be separated from the filament with tweezers or by cutting them off with cuticle scissors.



Photo by Joanna Kovalcsik

When aiming to collect and prepare pollen for long-term storage, select stamens with lots of fluffy yellow pollen.

If the pollen cannot be harvested when it is fluffy yellow, it can be ripened after it is collected. For example, if the stamens are removed the night before, there will be no yellow pollen on the tip. Placing the flower in a pegboard tray with water (as described in the previous issue) is the best method to ripen pollen. The tray is kept overnight in a cool area as the flower opens and the pollen ripens. By morning, the anthers should be ripe with fluffy, golden pollen. This method is better than simply picking the flowers and sitting them on a table.

Preparing the Anthers, Drying and Freezing

Pollen prepared and then stored in the freezer can be viable for several years if it is done properly. The pollen must be dried thoroughly before freezing. You can scrape the pollen off the anthers and let it air dry for a few days or you can leave the pollen on the anthers. Most importantly, the anther must be removed from the filament, as the filament will retain excessive moisture that will destroy the pollen once it is frozen. Separating the anther from the filament can be a little time-consuming, but here is the easiest method that I have found:



Step 1 - Using tweezers, spread the stamens out on a sheet of paper that is placed on a cutting board. Then use a small paring knife to separate the anther from the filament.



Photos by Don Rawson.



Step 2 - Use tweezers to pick up and discard the filaments. Now only the anthers are left and are ready for drying.



Photos by Don Rawson



Step 3 - Label the capsule that will be used for storing the stamens. Lift the paper to shake the stamens into the capsule.



Photos by Don Rawson



Step 4 – Place the capsule inside a food storage container with a silica packet. Once the pollen is dried, place it in a jar and then the freezer.



Photos by Don Rawson.

Containers for Pollen Storage

The traditional method of drying and storing pollen is to scrape the pollen from the anther and let it air dry for a few days before freezing in pill bottles, film canisters, or centrifuge tubes. Alternately, the pollen can be left on the anther, the anther is then dried and placed in a capsule, and finally frozen. In either case, the storage capsule should be airtight and labeled with the name of the pollen as well as the year collected.

Some hybridizers find camera film bottles to be convenient, while others use 1.5 ml micro centrifuge tubes. One-hundred tubes in a corresponding storage box take up very little room in the freezer and can hold enough pollen for many crosses.

Another option to storing pollen for long-term use is 3 or 5-gram clear acrylic cosmetic sample containers. These small containers with screw-on lids are ideal for this purpose and are very affordable, available on both Amazon and eBay. Search for “acrylic cosmetic sample container.” The small 3 or 5-gram (ml) containers are the preferred size.

To use frozen pollen, it is simply a matter of taking the container from the freezer and removing enough pollen to make the cross. After allowing it to warm up for a few minutes, you are ready to pollinate. Do not forget to place the unused containers back in the freezer where they should be kept airtight and cold until ready for next use. You may even find it helpful to keep of a list of the frozen pollen you have available. It will become a great asset to your hybridizing efforts.



Small 1.5 ml centrifuge tubes are suitable for long-term storage of pollen, as well as 3-gram cosmetic sample containers with screw-on lids. They are available on both Amazon and eBay.



Photos by Don Rawson.

Q-tips, Cosmetic Applicators and Micro Brushes

While I prefer to store frozen pollen in centrifuge tubes or 3-gram acrylic containers, there are other options to experiment with. For example, some of my friends use Q-tips or micro-brushes for this task. These applicators are first coated with fresh pollen and then dried before freezing. Here are some tips:

1. Pointed-tip cosmetic applicators with a double end are cheap and work best.
2. Apply pollen to the applicator and air dry thoroughly, or dry by using a silica gel pack.
3. Wrap the applicator or brush in aluminum foil and label with pollen name and year.
4. Put in a Ziploc bag and store in an airtight container to prevent moisture.
5. Place in the freezer.

Silica Gel Packs

Silica gel is a drying agent that is meant to remove moisture from an enclosed space. These desiccant packets may be found in packages containing anything from electronics to new shoes or medicine bottles. The packets contain either granular silicic

acid, which resembles sand, or tiny gel beads. For our purpose, the packets are used to absorb moisture from the anthers, preparing the dried pollen for long-term storage.

I use the Dry & Dry 100-gram silica packets that measure 4" X 5 1/2". A two-pack is available on the Dry & Dry website at <https://dryndry.com/products/100-gram-non-woven-fabriccloth-packets-choose-size-quantity> for \$8.99 with free shipping.

To keep the packets completely dry and ready for use, they should be stored in a sealed container at all times. Otherwise, the packets will pick up moisture. But don't worry: silica packets can be reactivated by placing in the oven. Follow the directions that are included with the packet.

Efficacy of Frozen Pollen

Pollen will keep for at least three years, probably much longer, when stored in the home freezer at 0° F, and may keep indefinitely if completely dried and stored at much lower temperatures. To use frozen pollen, simply allow the pollen to warm up and make crosses as usual. Neither sudden warming nor repeated thawing and freezing seem to injure the pollen.

For Further Study

["How To Collect and Store Pollen," http://www.arghyagardens.com/?p=341](http://www.arghyagardens.com/?p=341)

["Collecting and Storing Pollen," https://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/v30n1/v30n1-mayer.htm](https://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/v30n1/v30n1-mayer.htm)



A seedling wall in Rick & Shelia Goodenough's garden—an AHS 2024 Tour Garden.

Photo by Mary Vertz



And In Other Hosta News . . .

Look Familiar??

Have a question? Have a suggestion? Contact Gayle Hartley Alley by phone or email - [Click here](#) for contact information.

[Register a Hosta](#) [Annual Registration Booklets](#) [Search the Database](#) [Q](#)



The Friendship Plant™

REGISTRATION & GUIDELINES



At first glance you might assume this is a screenshot of the **American Hosta Society** website, and it is . . . sort of. The Hosta Treasury is returning to its roots as the **Hosta Registry**.

Along with its new look, the Registry will host improved search capabilities and a new print function for individual hosta details. The example below of a printable detail page was an excellent idea from Don Rawson. While we are still working out the details, the goal is to present hosta details in a format that closely resembles the published registration. This won't be a perfect match as the required details for registration have varied widely over fifty years, but we are excited to offer you the op-

portunity to capture, save and print information related to any new, in-work or previously registered hosta.

H. 'Goodtest1' (R) 2024

Status: Pending Pub



Photographer: G. Hartley Alley;
Clump Photo



Photographer: G. Hartley Alley;
Leaf Photo



Photographer: J. P. Alley;
Flower Photo



H. 'Goodtest1' **D. Rawson (ON) G. H. Alley (IR)**

Plant: 24in (61.0cm) diameter; 12in (30.5cm) high; mound-like; growth rate medium

Leaf: 10in (25.4cm) long; 5in (12.7cm) wide; 10 to 12 vein pairs; white; 1in (2.5cm) wide, dark green (No. 135 RHS Chart), margin; slightly shiny on top; dull underneath; ovate with tapered base; overall; White margin color extends down each petiole.

Scape: 28 to 32in (71.1 to 81.3cm) long; blue green

Scape Bracts: small but numerous with maroon margins

Flower: 2in (5.1cm) long; other (medium purple) with dark purple center stripe with white throat and translucent margins; other (tubular flowers that don't open all the way); 06/20 to 07/05 to 07/15

Seed: sets seed, viability unknown, purplish red pods

Clump History: myself; 8 years old

Notable Characteristics: This cultivar is virtually invisible.

Pod Parent: H. 'Flemish Angel'

Pollen Parent: H. 'Midnight Oil'

Sport Parent: na

Seasonal Color Change: na

Section Class: III-6a

Patent/PBR Number: na

Additional Comments: na

Even more exciting is the new process for registration. Registrants will be able to submit their photographs directly to the site (no more emailing photos). Equally as useful is the ability for anyone to view the status of new registrations. The system will be up-to-the-minute on all in process registrations, and everyone can immediately see that a particular hosta has been submitted for registration. Once the registration details have been submitted, the information provided by the Registrant is immediately available to the public. Each new hosta application will progress from “Submitted” to “Under Review” when the Registrar accepts the application. During the Registrar’s review, hosta details are likely to change. After multiple reviews and final approval, the system will display a status of “Pending Pub” and further changes are unlikely. In the figure above, the registration status of “Pending Pub” appears directly beneath the hosta name at the top of the page.

When the annual registrations booklet is published, the status of all hosta registrations included in that issue will update to show “Published” and that new hosta variety is officially registered! [Gayle Hartley Alley, International Registrar Genus Hosta](#)

Videos now available on the AHS Website

Brendan Shick, AHS Video Producer

This quarter we have launched a video section on the AHS website. At present, three presentations and two garden tours are available to view in total. Garden tours were featured at American Hosta Society conventions and include interviews with the gardeners themselves. We look forward to producing similar content during the next AHS National Convention (Peoria, IL) in June 2025 and including this on the AHS website in the months to follow.

Non-members may **preview** some of the content available to members at <https://americanhostasociety.org/videos> and enjoy a full-length sample presentation on Hosta Virus X. Meanwhile, members of the American Hosta Society have exclusive access (password protected) to the extended garden tour videos and presentations at <https://americanhostasociety.org/members/resources/videos>.

Grab a beverage, sit back and relax, and watch these videos as you glean design ideas, jot down your favorite hostas, ooh and ahh over impressive landscapes, and maybe learn a thing or two. We hope these pieces will also serve as a resource for local Hosta Clubs to use at their gatherings.

Editor's Note: You can also go to <https://americanhostasociety.org/> to explore all that is available on the website including the Videos and Members Only area.

Become a member. Become a friend. – [Join Today!](#)



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Jointly sponsored by the American Hosta Society
and the Midwest Regional Hosta Society

Hosted by the Central Illinois Hosta Society
June 19-21, 2025
Par-A-Dice Hotel East Peoria, IL



Garden Tours – Accredited Hosta Show - Vendors – Live and
Silent Auctions

Raffle - Educational Speakers – Hosta Seed Growers Seedling Competition

Convention Gift Hosta is *Hosta* ‘Prairieland Memories’
Optional Thursday evening at Hornbaker Gardens
Garden Center – Arboretum – Botanic Garden

**For more information and to register, go to
hostaconvention.org and complete the
registration form.**

(or print off the registration form on the following page)



Some of our tour gardens are pictured above.

REGISTRATION FORM – *Hosta Double Feature*

2025 AHS NATIONAL / MRHS REGIONAL CONVENTION

HOSTED BY THE CENTRAL ILLINOIS HOSTA SOCIETY

June 19-21, 2025 – East Peoria, Illinois

Par-A-Dice Hotel, 21 Blackjack Blvd, East Peoria, IL 61611

Make hotel reservations by using the link at the AHS convention website:

hostaconvention.org beginning June 30, 2024.

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 hostaconvention.org

EARLY REGISTRATION if received by 2/15/25

\$170

STANDARD REGISTRATION if received by 5/31/25

\$185

LATE REGISTRATION received after 5/31/25

\$200

MEALS ONLY (companion/vendors) - Friday breakfast/lunch/dinner, Sat Breakfast/dinner

\$100

SATURDAY GARDEN TOURS - VAN TRANSPORTATION (OPTIONAL)

(Limited to 28 attendees - Includes boxed lunch)

\$30

Optional Thursday night welcome event – Hornbaker Gardens

(Optional Van transportation to Hornbaker Gardens)

(Or indicate need for free ride sharing below right)

\$ 20

\$ 15

Friday Banquet Meal Choice:

___ Chicken Florentine

___ Salmon Filet

___ Eggplant Parmesan (veg)

Saturday Banquet Meal Choice:

___ Stuffed Chicken Breast

___ Blackened Pork Chop

___ Pasta Primavera (veg)

Total Due ->

Check Payable
to: **2025 AHS/MRHS Convention**
Or call 309-678-4119 with a Credit Card.

List any special dietary restrictions/allergies: _____

MAIL THIS FORM AND PAYMENT TO: American Hosta Society, Registrar, P O Box 7407, Villa Park, IL 60181-7407

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 hostaconvention.org	Friday night auction I plan to donate _____ items for the auction. Thursday event and Saturday Gardens tour - ride sharing transportation: I can provide transport for _____ person(s). I will need transport for _____ person(s).
--	--

Hosta Judges Clinics: I will attend ___ Clinic I ___ Clinic II ___ Clinic III | Need Judges Handbook ___

(\$10 payable at Clinic)

Photography and filming activities may be conducted during American Hosta Society events, and attendees or personal property may appear in resulting photographic pictures or video and may be used in printed or digital publications, social media, advertising, or other AHS activities. Participation in the AHS convention constitutes permission and consent for the American Hosta Society to use the resulting photographs and video for any purpose without payment or acknowledgement. Additionally, persons who participate in an AHS convention assume all risk of personal injury and loss or damage to property.

Registration is limited to 330 participants. Questions? – call 309-678-4119

September 2024



And In Regional News . . .

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY 2025 WINTER HOSTA SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, February 22, 2025 - 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: \$119 per night (plus taxes) includes buffet breakfast – rate applies to Fri and/or Sat night

The Symposium features:

Friday Evening Hostatality – time to catch up with old hosta friends and meet some new friends

Hosta Silent Auction – featuring plant donations from the top Midwest hybridizers and vendors

Jack Barta Memorial Scholarship – one lucky attendee will have their registration fee comped. Sponsored this year by the Northern Illinois Hosta Society.

Saturday Symposium with 6 speakers on a variety of hosta and related gardening topics:

Noah Schwartz – Large Wholesale Grower Hosta Production

Noah is Director of Growing at Neal Mast Greenhouses in Grand Rapids. He will give a behind the scenes look and tackle the tough question: “Are all bare root hosta from Holland really a problem?”

Glenn Herold – Season of Hosta Flowers

Hosta flowers tend to be overlooked in most cases. Glenn will be explaining the importance of flowers by species and why we should be paying them more attention.

Don Rawson – What’s New in the World of Hostas

Every year there are more and more new hostas on the market. Don will be presenting the newest introductions and the “must haves” of the 2025 hosta season.

Rob Mortko – Hosta Tissue Culture for Dummies...like me

Rob will take you behind the scenes in a hosta tissue culture lab to demystify how it really works in an easy-to-understand manner.

Bob Solberg – Topic to be determined

Bob is still pondering his somewhat scientific topic for 2025. As always, you can rest assured Bob will challenge you to think about hostas in a new kind of way. This will be a Zoom presentation.

Mark Zilis – Hosta Highlights Part 2

Mark will be relating stories and the contributions of historical figures in the hosta community.

Please register early. Late registration fees start February 7, 2025.

The hotel room rate is guaranteed through February 7, 2025. Use this link to make a reservation online:

[Book your group rate for Winter Hosta Symposium Meeting Feb 2025](#)

Or phone the Sheraton at 1- 888-627-8235 and mention “Winter Hosta Symposium Meeting Feb 2025” or mini hotel code “HT8” to get the special group rate.

**MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY
2025 WINTER HOSTA SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION FORM**

Saturday, February 22, 2025 - Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel

Hotel Rate: \$119 per night + tax (includes breakfast for registered hotel guests)

Deadline for hotel reservation is February 7, 2025

To make a reservation online use this link:

[Book your group rate for Winter Hosta Symposium Meeting Feb 2025](#)

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

The group code is "Winter Hosta Symposium Meeting Feb 2025" or mini-hotel code "HT8".

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 7, 2025 require a \$10 late registration fee per person. Cancellations before February 7, 2025 will be sent a full refund. (Exceptions for medical emergencies or death in family)

Number of members _____ X \$69 = _____

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) 206-6939

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HOSTA.org

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HOSTA.ORG
or call to join 309-678-4119

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY

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

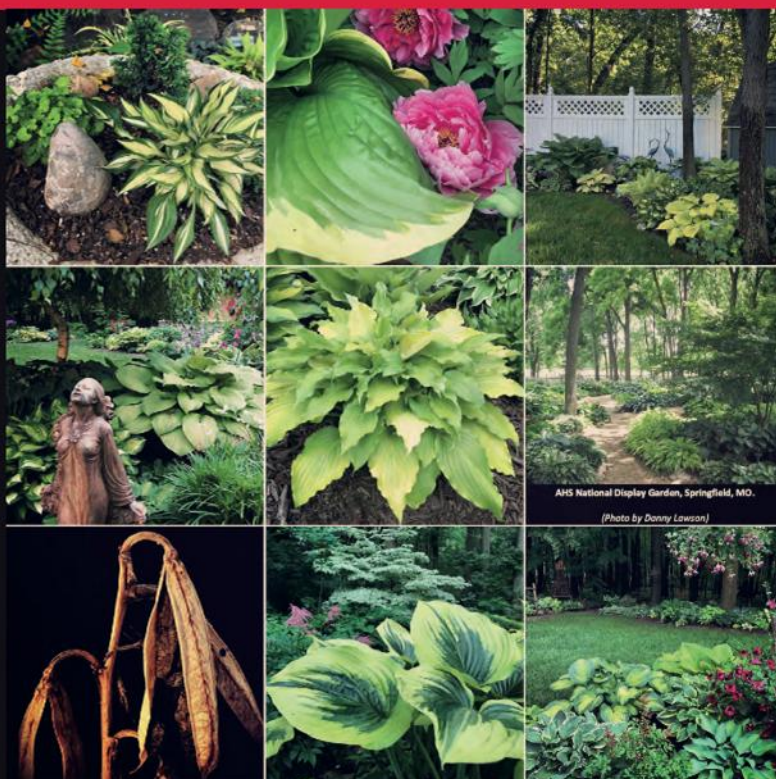
For more information or to join go to hosta.org or call 309-678-4119.

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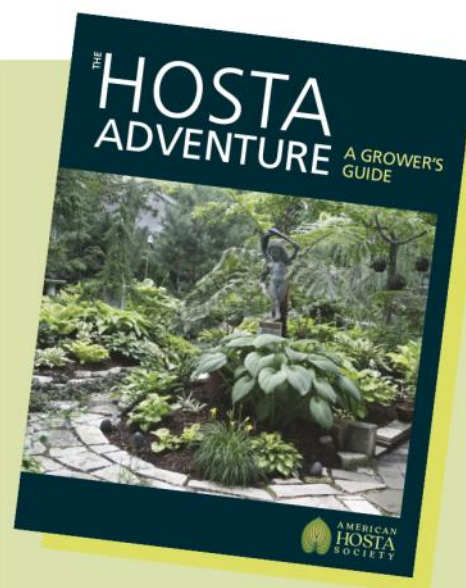
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The American Hosta Society's

Hosta Adventure: A Grower's Guide

Newly updated...

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



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

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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.

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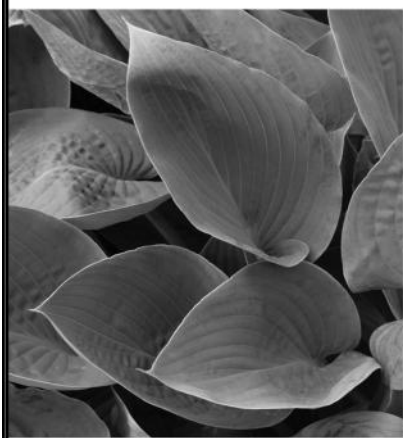
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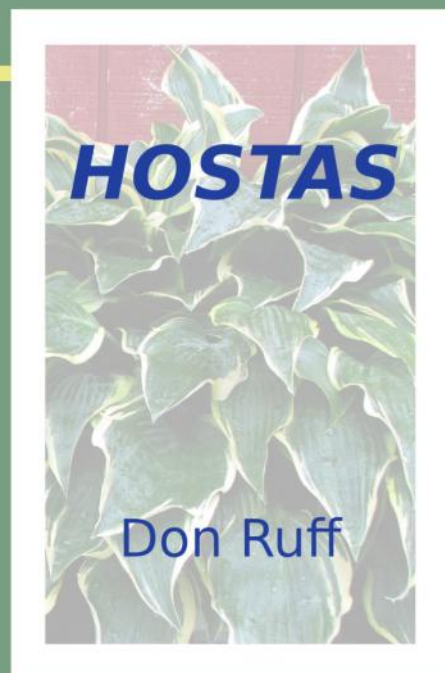
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