



The American Hosta Society

April 2025

eNewsletter



H. 'Night Shift'

D. Savory 1991

(Photo by Mary Vertz)

Table of Contents

Bob Saathoff
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Mary Vertz
eNewsletter Editor

Josh Spece
Web-editor-in-Chief

Amy Peterson
Glenn Herold
Warren I. Pollock
Clyde Crockett
Don Rawson
Gail Russo
Featured Columnists

<u>President's Message - Amy Peterson</u>	3
<u>Hostas and Associates - Glenn Herold</u>	5
<u>GO HOSTAS! - Warren Pollock</u>	8
<u>Book Notice - Clyde Crockett</u>	29
<u>Hosta Happenin's - Don Rawson</u>	31
<u>Hybridizer's Corner—Don Rawson</u>	38
<u>Welcome to My Garden—Gail Russo</u>	39
<u>Vendor Spotlight—Gail Russo</u>	40
<u>And In Other Hosta News</u>	45
<u>AHS Convention</u>	47
<u>And In Regional News</u>	49
<u>AHS Advertising</u>	50
<u>Support Our Advertisers</u>	56

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President's Message

Amy Peterson, Oakdale, MN

- Aging

I'm at an age where friends and family are celebrating 40, 45 & 50 year wedding anniversaries. Also having children turning 50+ and older grandchildren getting married and having babies, so what does this have to do with AHS.

My generation has enjoyed homes where we spent time in making gardens and enjoying the work as well as the beauty and serenity gardens can bring. We have likely shared a hosta or two with a friend or family member.

Pragmatically, gardening is exercise and that has been good for us, as has the sunshine. As members of a Hosta Society you made friends with others having a similar interest. For some you extended your talents in organizing meetings and provided society leadership. I just turned 70, hard to believe, and while I am scaling back somewhat, as a priority I keep renewing my membership in both AHS and my local society.

In the big picture I enjoy the friendships most, hearing the meeting speakers, volunteering (maybe on a smaller scale) but also just being present to encourage others with a hosta interest, makes the cost worthwhile for me. It's an easy way to stay active, keep the body moving and the mind active. I love reading the *AHS Hosta Journal* which often triggers exploring the Internet or scientific journals for more information on a topic.

As you ponder renewing your memberships keep in mind both the tangible and intangible benefits you receive that keep you going, healthy and Happy.

Also join your fellow hostaholics at the annual conventions; come and have fun; enter your favorite hosta leaf in the Hosta Show; or donate a hosta for the auction, especially if you're thinking of downsizing. Don't undervalue those friendships you cultivated while enjoying gardening with hosta.

Looking forward to gathering with Hosta friends again at the convention.



Hostas and Associates

Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

Moss: Small but Mighty

Photos by Glenn Herold

Small, but mighty. That may be the best way to describe the mosses, perhaps the first land plants on earth. Mosses are in the group of plants called bryophytes, which also includes the liverworts and hornworts, not exactly dinner table topics. Structurally, they lack specialized vascular tissue, the xylem and phloem, which conduct water upward and food downward in the plant. They also lack true leaves, stems, and roots. Taxonomists place mosses halfway between aquatic green algae and higher land plants. They are the most primitive of land plants, yet inhabit nearly every ecosystem on earth. It is estimated that there are over 22,000 species of moss.

Due to their lack of a support system, mosses rarely exceed four inches in height. Their small size makes them unable to compete with taller plants for sunlight, so must find other ways to reach toward the sun. They do this by finding refuge on logs and stumps, which also keeps them above a shading layer of leaves. Because they have no roots, water must be absorbed directly into their cells, which is possible because moss “leaves” are generally only one cell thick and



lack a waxy cuticle that most other land plants have. In addition, the density of mosses helps them to trap water and slows the process of drying out. Mosses also have an innate ability to absorb water like a sponge, storing it for future use. Despite these adaptations, mosses do dry out, but can still survive because of poikilohydry. This is the capability of an organism to regulate their water content and adjust their metabolic ac-

tivity and physiological processes to match the moisture of the environment. Mosses can lose up to 98 percent of their moisture and still survive. The organism fully recovers after rehydration.

Bryophytes require a continuous film of water for sexual reproduction. At the risk of losing my readers, here is a somewhat simplified description of the life cycle of mosses: Mosses generate spores, which are released from a capsule at the top of a raised stem called a seta. The spores germinate, provided they land where there is adequate moisture, and form a branched, filamentous edifice. From this, separate male and female leafy structures called gametophytes develop. The gametophytes are attached to the substrate by a primitive root-like structure called a rhizoid. The rhizoid's function is to anchor the plant only, not take up water and nutrients. The separate gametophytes produce the sperm and the egg. For fertilization to take place, the sperm must swim to the egg. If this union takes place, a fertilized egg called a zygote is created, which then continues to divide. Thus, a new plant is formed, which reaches maturity in six to 18 months. These produce spores, which start the process over again. If this complicated process fails, all is not lost, for asexual reproduction can take place by fragmentation of the gametophyte.

Mosses have had many uses throughout early American history. Its insulation qualities made it useful in chinking the cracks on log homes and in lining winter boots and mittens. The softness of mosses made it useful as a pillow. In-



digenuous and early settler women utilized its absorptive ability for diapers and sanitary napkins. During World War I sphagnum moss was used as a temporary bandage because of its microbial properties.

Moss logs in the forest shelter many organisms, including protozoa, mites, nematodes, and fly larvae, all of which help to recycle dead trees and plants. Downed trees

in the forest are quickly covered by moss, which was carried to the site by wind and ants. Hosta gardeners can use beds of moss under their plants instead of mulch, or under trees where grass won't grow well. You may find moss occurring naturally in shaded areas of your lawn. Many homeowners think that the moss kills the grass, but this is not true. Moss is more adapted to shaded, moist areas than is grass. In a sunny, well-drained site, the moss cannot compete with the turf.

Robin Wall Kimmerer, in her book "Gathering Moss," published in 2003, said it best: "(Mosses) take only the little that they need and give back in abundance... I hold tight to the vision that someday soon we will find the courage of self-restraint, the humility to live like mosses." All of us can take lessons from the humblest of plants, the mosses.



Additional articles on plants and gardening can be found on my blog:

<https://TheCottageGardener53012.Wordpress.com>



Moss garden at Sarah Duke Gardens, Durham, NC



Mosses combined with hostas



GO HOSTAS!

Warren I. Pollock, Glen Mills, PA

On Origination of Cultivar Name

Hosta 'Emperor's New Clothes' – MY THOUGHTS

First, my hardy congratulations to Hans Hansen, principle plant breeder at Walters Gardens, Inc., Zeeland, Michigan, for having the fortitude to register the unusual cultivar name *H. 'Emperor's New Clothes'* for the unusual variegated sport found in a tissue-culture-propagated batch of very popular, ultra large, fast growing 'Empress Wu' in 2021. I suspect there were cocked eyes and other body gestures by Hans's colleagues at Walters Gardens questioning his oddball-ish nomenclature choice for this hosta.



Picture from Hosta Treasury Registration

Furthermore, I suspect also that many hosta enthusiasts worldwide have or have had the same questioning.

There have been odd-ball off-the-wall names registered for hostas in the past but none with what seems to be the level of cynicism of the name 'Emperor's New Clothes'. This may be because those names did not have the powerhouse backing of Walters Gardens, Inc., the largest wholesale grower of tissue culture hostas in North America and the home of *Proven Winners*(R) perennials. (Is there a garden center/nursery in the U.S. and Canada that does not have the very distinctive Proven Winners white containers on display? I doubt it in early season!)

Second, I want to emphasize that these writings are my thoughts.

And third, I need to mention up front that I am asking Hans Hansen for his thoughts on my thoughts.

My investigation of 'Emperor's New Clothes' indicates Hans wanted the cultivar name for the sport of 'Empress Wu' *to link* the sport's name with the parent's name. This is a form of "branding" some top-level marketers employ to determine names of premium commercial products. Graduate business colleges have courses on the methodology with demonstration clinics.

I suspect Hans's eye was caught by three adjacent letters in the parent's name: *Emp* in 'Empress Wu'. Accordingly, *Emp* became the link between the parent's name and the sport's name. Since linguistically *Emp* already is in the parent's name, Hans looked for "something of substance" with *Emp* in it for the sport's name.

There were many candidates. But he went to his memory bank. Maybe because of their same first names, Hans recalled Hans Christen Anderson's classic folktale "The Emperor's New Clothes" from his childhood. Significantly then, since the three-adjacent-letters *Emp* already are in the word "Emperor's." 'Emperor's New Clothes' became the sport's name.

For more information on 'Emperors New Clothes', see Don Rawson's comprehensive article in January 2023 newsletter.

Question to Hans Hansen.....

How did I do in my analysis? I'd appreciate your reply; my email address is giboshiwip@aol.com. Thanks in advance. (Keep in mind that your response might precipitate a new article!)

H. 'Emperor's New Clothes' is viridescient, changes during the season very dramatic.



Springtime Clothes—Photo by Don Rawson



Summertime Clothes—Photo by Don Rawson



Fall Clothes Photo — by Don Rawson

GO HOSTAS!





Book Notice

Clyde Crockett, Carmel, IN

ARCHITECTURAL FOLIAGE

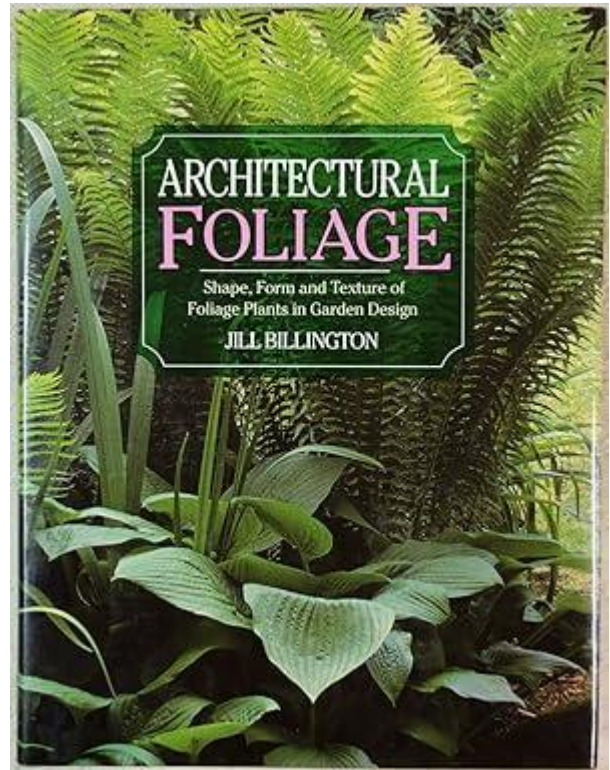
Shape, Form and Texture of Foliage Plants in Garden Design

Written by Jill Billington

Publisher: Ward Lock Ltd (1991)

The squib on the flap of the dust jacket confirms that the author is our friend. She writes,

“A garden without flowers is possible but can you imagine a garden without leaves?” The answer is obvious to the hostophile but who nevertheless would like to add more and different leafy varieties to their collection to get just the look they want. It is important in reading the works of Jill Billington to know that she will furnish much valuable material but it is up to you to use the things that appeal to you in building this structure of plants. If you want her suggestions you will find them here. Always remember—you are the architect.



The first major section is titled “The Shape of the Larger Leaf.” It comprises shoes of leaves in the aesthetic rather than the horticultural sense. One assumes there are some givens—attractiveness and beauty to your eye. The first shape dealt with is Spike which perhaps gives us drama. It is described as always powerful and eye catching. One I wasn’t familiar with is Cordyline Australia’s, ‘Alberti’, a striking specimen. Similar in firm but more relaxed in habit are REEDS with their gently arched leaves. These in-

clude something I have always greatly admired in the gardens of others but due to laziness and bad timing never acquired: the non-invasive bamboos.

ROUNDS are suggested if you want contrast. Valuable varieties in this category are the asarums that defy overplanting.

BROAD-LEAF comes next. This group includes hostas which are discussed more than any other group of plants. Since their forms are paramount it makes little difference that this book was published in 1991 and the talk is about *Hosta* 'Frances Williams' and 'Francee'. The mention of those two is a good reminder how far we have come.

Other forms covered in no little detail are NARROW, FEATHERY, TWINING and PALMATE. A special section is devoted to PRIMA DONNAS which include the huge ones like the gunneras, and the ferns, and exotics such as musas. Of course, there is a separate section on hosta forms. Noted is that "few other herbaceous plants are quite so precise in line or sculpturally neat in layered foliage."

There is more to be your invaluable companion on your architectural adventure in creating some new structures to your jewel. Although the book is out of print, it may easily be purchased via the internet from various sources.

Happy gardening,

Clyde



"Hostas, Ferns and Irises create a lovely grouping of different forms."



Hostas Happenin's

Don Rawson, Grand Rapids, MI

Confessions of a Hostaholic

Admitting Your Addiction

I will admit it: I am a hostaholic. My beloved wife came to realize it many years ago when I was gravitating toward the great hosta abyss. In fact, during one question and answer activity of our local hosta club, she dropped a slip into the bucket that asked, "Is there any hope for a hostaholic?" I had no idea who submitted the query, but as leader of the group, without hesitation I declared, "No, there is NO hope for a hostaholic!"

Along our gardening journey, there are signs that you and I are becoming hostaholics. Here are some indicators:

- ⇒ You know you're a hostaholic when you have hundreds of hostas and can cite all their names, but forget the names of your grandchildren.
- ⇒ You know you're a hostaholic when you come home with a new load and you scan the driveway for your hubby's vehicle before turning in, trying to decide if you should hide your stash in the trees until he's not home.
- ⇒ You know you're a hostaholic when you spend \$1,325 on *Hosta* 'Sharon Stone' and you think you got a good deal.
- ⇒ You know you're a hostaholic when you start planting hostas in your neighbor's yard or in the park behind your house.
- ⇒ You know you're a hostaholic when you plan your vacations around the hosta nurseries you want to visit.
- ⇒ You know you're a hostaholic when you can't remember what you did yesterday, but have instant recall when it comes to your hosta wish list.



Hosta gardening is addictive! While it is often the plants that grab our attention, it is our friends that keep our interest going and help to spur our gardening passion. Research has shown that gardening is therapeutic when it comes to both physical health as well as mental well-being. Furthermore, being part of a local gardening club is an enjoyable social activity.

Research shows that gardening can reduce stress, improve mood, and increase feelings of well-being. Gardening is not only fun, but is also very relaxing and satisfying.

It provides a sense of accomplishment and can help individuals feel more connected to the natural world around them. Beyond its therapeutic psychological benefits, gardening improves physical health.

Our Tendency to Collect Things, Including Hostas!

Did you know there is a Wikipedia page titled, “Psychology of collecting”? It begins with this statement: “The psychology of collecting is an area of study that seeks to understand the motivating factors explaining why people devote time, money, and energy making and maintaining collections.” What makes an individual a hostaholic certainly involves many factors, but one is our desire to *collect* hostas. I think it is because of the diversity of this genus of plants — variety in the sizes, shapes, colors, and textures. When another outstanding, eye-popping introduction comes along, it is just too hard to say no.

Currently, there are nearly 7,000 registered hostas, with thousands more that are not. That is a lot of hostas! Some of the largest private collections have 2,000 or 3,000 different kinds, all in one locale. For gardeners who have a limited amount of space with little room for new plants, the plan usually is to get rid of some to make room for incoming newer varieties. These new introductions simply seem too irresistible to pass up.

Hostas That Get My Adrenaline Flowing

We are living in the Golden Age of Hostadom. With so many hostas to choose from, where do we begin? It seems that stunning new hostas are posted online almost weekly and it really gets my adrenaline flowing!

Many of these new cultivars have unusually variegated leaves. *H.* ‘Emperor’s New Clothes’, for instance, is distinctively variegated with green speckles, patches and streaks in spring. Later in the season, the foliage becomes minty-green from the numerous speckles that increase in number and size. At this point, the dark green speckles and patches dominate the outer edges of the leaf, almost creating a margin. While very white in the spring, the transition to a greater amount of dark green allows ‘Emperor’s New Clothes’ to grow and mature in the garden.

Hosta ‘Sir Prize’ is another extraordinary introduction that I find quite interesting. A sport of ‘Alex Summers’ discovered by Dave White of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, ‘Sir Prize’ is an upright, medium-large hosta unlike any other. The leaves are green-speckled and misted in the center, surrounded by a wide, limey-green margin. Later

in the season, the leaves transition to green with a yellow border and, at this point, 'Sir Prize' looks like its sport parent, 'Alex Summers'. It is reported to be a good grower, have excellent leaf substance, and exhibit good sun tolerance. This unusual cultivar remains rare, but is available from a few mail-order nurseries if you search for it.



Photo by Hans Hansen. Used by permission.



Photo by Matt Pederson. Used by permission

***Hosta* 'Emperor's New Clothes' (left) is undeniably a very unusual cultivar with its numerous dark green speckles, patches and streaks. The markings become notably larger and darker in summer, almost forming a margin. *Hosta* 'Sir Prize' (right) is also quite distinctive with its fine misting and large, dark green streaks. *H.* 'Emperor's New Clothes' is a mutation of 'Empress Wu', while 'Sir Prize' is a mutation of 'Alex Summers'.**

Gecko's Glance' from Heemskerk Plants in Noordwijk, Netherlands, really knocks my socks off. A sport of 'Lakeside Banana Bay', but radically different from its parent, 'Gecko's Glance' has a leaf with a white center. This white area is interrupted by a green flame that jets upward from the petiole, all of which is surrounded by a wide, green margin. The unusual pattern is somewhat uncommon among hostas. Others with a similar design are 'Burlesque' and 'Milk Road'.



Photo by Tatyana Timonina. Used by permission.



Photo by Al Ritchey. Used by permission.



Photo by Tatiana Kosovska. Used by permission.

Three hostas that look somewhat similar:

‘Gecko’s Glance’ (top), ‘Bulesque’ (bottom left), and ‘Milk Road’ (bottom right).

All are very interesting!

Christina Brinkmann had an amazing find when she came across an off-type shoot in a pot of *Hosta* 'Justine'. Asked about her newly found treasure, Christina says, "I found a big pot of 'Justine' that was overflowing and had several varieties or sports. A small part of it caught my attention. Actually, it was just one leaf. At home I put the pot, which barely contained any soil but only roots, in water for two days and then cut the plant into many pieces." One of the divisions was exceptionally exciting, which Christina named 'Chris' Camouflage'. Like 'Justine', it too is likely tetraploid.



Photo by Christina Brinkman. Used by permission.

***Hosta* 'Chris' Camouflage' is a sport of 'Justine' from Christina Brinkman in Germany. Unfortunately, this spectacular hosta may be difficult to mass produce by tissue culture.**

Tony Avent's 'Time Traveler' is another one then gets my heart pumping! As a sport of 'Stitch in Time', 'Time Traveler' is a smaller hosta with broadly ovate leaves. But it differs considerably. *Hosta* 'Stitch in Time' has a narrow green center with a wide yellow margin, while 'Time Traveler' has the addition of a white streak between the two colors. It is one that I ooh and ahh over whenever I encounter it.



Photo by Lee Couture. Used by permission.

***H.* ‘Time Traveler’ is offered by Plant Delights Nursery in Raleigh, NC. Tony says, “*Hosta* ‘Time Traveler’ is one of the most unique hostas we grow.” The narrow, white streak between the dark green center and-wide, yellow margin adds much appeal!**

Old Reliables Versus Rising Stars

Simply said, there are some hostas that you simply cannot live without, especially if you are a hostaholic. For most of us, it would be very difficult to select our favorite five or ten, but identifying the best has already been done for you. In a recent article by Andy Marlow titled, “The AHS Popularity Poll Over Time,” the author traces the results of the poll since it was kicked off in 1974. Andy provides an overview of the “old reliables” as well as notes the “rising stars.” *Hosta* ‘June’ — the greatest of all time — ranked in first place for 16 years in a row, only to be dethroned more recently by ‘Lakeside Paisley Print’. These tried-and-true beauties will certainly dominate the poll for years to come, but it will be interesting to see if they will eventually be out-done by newer originations, including those fancy and fresh introductions previously mentioned. We will just have to wait to see where we go in this crazy world of Hostadom.

Closing Remarks

I have a lot of fun gardening. I have a lot of fun growing hostas. I have a lot of fun doing what I am doing, and doing it with friends who likewise enjoy it. My wife once asked me, “Do you think there is a world beyond growing hostas?” My reply: “You ask me? And how would I know?”

Symptoms Common to Hosta Addiction

- Tolerance - the need to engage in the addictive behavior more and more to get the desired effect, which explains why I always want more plants...especially hostas.
- Withdrawal happens when the person does not take the substance or engage in the activity, and they experience unpleasant symptoms. Withdrawal happens at 10:00pm each evening when my wife doesn't let me work in the garden any longer.
- Difficulty cutting down or controlling the addictive behavior, e.g., the failure to resist ordering more hostas.
- Social, occupational, or recreational activities becoming more focused around the addiction, and important social and occupational roles being jeopardized. This is why it is so important to form a network of fellow hostaholics!
- The person becoming preoccupied with the addiction, spending a lot of time on planning, engaging in, and recovering from the addictive behavior. Recovery... there's hope for *recovery*???



Hybridizer Corner . . .

Don Rawson, Grand Rapids, MI

Summer is coming! And, that means our opportunity for hybridizing hostas will soon be here. Making crosses and growing seedlings is a lot of fun, and YOU can do it. All it requires is a bit of time and effort. Join us as we learn about setting up a hybridizing program.

Review

In the last issue, we learned about long-term pollen storage. Storing pollen is a very worthwhile endeavor because it allows the hybridizer to use it at any time he or she wishes to do so. The basic steps begin with harvesting pollen when fluffy yellow or ripening it after it is collected. Then, the pollen should be dried thoroughly before freezing. 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. The drying process can be aided with a silica gel packet. Finally, the anthers (or pollen scraped from them) are placed in a small airtight container such as a centrifuge tube and stored in the freezer.

Making Out-of-Season Crosses

Hostas species and cultivars bloom at different times throughout the growing season, a situation which the hybridizer must address. Early varieties may begin flowering in June, while late flowering cultivars do not bloom until September and October. Storing pollen for long-term use is not only convenient, but it enables the hybridizer to do what normally could not be done. It allows an individual to make a cross even when the desired pollen parent is not yet flowering, or conversely, long after the pollen parent has finished flowering. So, long-term pollen storage is an easy way to make crosses when the pod and pollen parents are not flowering at the same time.

However, there are other methods to remedy the situation. You can encourage late bloomers to flower earlier, and conversely, cause early bloomers to flower much later. The goal is to have the pod and pollen parent flowering at the same time so that a successful cross can be made. With a little planning, you can manipulate the natural bloom period to coincide with the other plant you wish to use.

Shortening Dormancy by Forcing Hostas

Forcing is the practice of bringing a plant into active growth outside of its natural growing season. For the hybridizer, it is an easy way to get a later blooming cultivar to flower earlier. The late bloomer is potted and then placed in an unheated garage or shed. Or, you can sink pot and all into the ground for the winter. Then in late winter, just bring the pot indoors to let it leaf out. The forced plant will usually flower earlier than normal with this head start.



Photo by Don Rawson.

Forcing is the practice of bringing a plant into active growth before its natural growing season. Here, *H. 'Praise Him'* is brought indoors in hopes that it will flower earlier in the season. This will not only allow crosses to be made that normally could not be done, but has the added benefit of giving the seed plenty of time to mature before late season frost.

There are some things to keep in mind. In fall, select the parent plants you wish to use the following season. They should not be tiny, immature specimens. It is of little value to force plants that are too small to flower anyway. Choose those with multiple eyes that are capable of flowering once they leaf out, not single-eyed plants.

If taking a division from an established clump in your garden, get a good-sized piece. Single-eye divisions yield a low percentage of scapes and flowers, while larger

multiple-eye divisions are more vigorous and have higher flowering percentages. A word of caution: do not dig the whole plant. Pot up only a portion of the plant you want to force. Far too often plants do not survive winter storage and you cannot afford to forfeit your best breeders. That way you will not lose the entire plant if, unfortunately, something happens to the potted division.

A big key to successful winter storage is using the right potting mix. A free-draining well-aerated mix is best for potted hostas. Such a mix should consist mostly of bark fines and Canadian peat moss with the addition of a little perlite and coarse sand. Avoid coconut coir (such as with Miracle-Gro Moisture Control Potting Mix) that retains too much water.

Keep potted hostas watered well during the fall. A drench with a fungicide will help prevent rot during winter. Once in storage, keep potted hostas on the dry side and minimize temperature fluctuations as much as possible.



Photo by Vladimir Mirka, Used by permission.

An unheated garage, shed or root cellar is best for winter storage. A big key for success is using a potting mix that is free-draining. Keep potted hostas watered well during the fall, then on the dry side once in storage.

Barerooting Hostas for Cold Storage

In the event that potting and storing hostas is not possible, an alternative is to remove the soil and store them bareroot during the dormancy period. In many production facilities, hostas are often bare rooted, placed in peat moss, and stored in coolers in complete darkness at 28 to 30°F (-2° to -1°C) for extended periods of time. This may be an alternative to consider if you have no space to store potted hostas, but have an extra freezer that can be set at the appropriate temperature.

Bringing Hostas Indoors

In late winter, potted hostas can be brought indoors and kept under lights or placed in a sunny window until spring. There is no purpose in forcing those varieties that you do not intend to use in your hybridizing program unless you just want to enjoy a burst of beautiful foliage and beat the winter blues. For the hybridizer, the late bloomers are the ones that should be chosen to leaf out and bloom earlier than normal.

Forcing hostas is not without risk. The plant's normal dormancy period is being reduced. Furthermore, it can be stressful on the plant to have an abnormally long growing season. If the dormant hosta is placed in a warm window or greenhouse, supplied with ample water, and given a fast-release fertilizer, it will sprout and grow quickly. However, fast growth translates to soft, tender growth, and that is undesirable. Somewhat cooler temperatures (as with those pots placed in a cold frame) help prevent tender growth, but extends the forcing period. A daily morning dip in temperature will make for shorter, more compact plants. Stagnant air is also problematic and can lead to fungal issues. Creating some air movement with a small fan dissipates heat and helps to strengthen leaves and stems. Eventually, hostas that were forced can be moved outdoors. Just know that those which were forced indoors under grow lights should be acclimated slowly to bright sunlight once placed outside to prevent burn.

How many weeks of cold dormancy do hostas require?

Some sources suggest at least 30 days with temperatures below 40°F (4°C). While this is a good guideline, research shows that *Hosta plantaginea* and its hybrids can survive in areas with long, hot summers and short, mild winters. Others, such as the Sieboldianas and Tokudamas, require a greater dormancy period. Those gardeners in the North with longer, colder winters grow the best hostas, as well as those who live in areas with plenty of rainfall. Shortening the dormancy period will affect the amount of foliage produced, and furthermore, the overall vigor will be compromised.

At what point should a particular hosta be brought indoors for forcing? That is a question often raised. The answer depends upon how late during the season the forced hosta typically flowers as well as how early the bloom period is for the other parent you intend to use. The relationship between the two dissimilar bloom periods should affect your decision. And, while a hosta that is forced will generally flower earlier, there is no guarantee of precisely when such will happen, as there are many factors that are involved.

One reason late bloomers are not used more often is because the seed often does not have sufficient time to properly mature before frost arrives. Forcing late bloomers helps to remove this obstacle by extending the growing season. It not only allows hybridizers to make a cross that otherwise would not be possible, but provides the added benefit of giving the seed plenty of time to ripen. As a side note, the flowering period of the resulting progeny will fall between that of the pod and pollen parent.

Extending the Dormancy Period

So far, we have discussed the procedure of forcing late bloomers to allow for pollination between hostas that do not normally bloom at the same time. *Hosta* 'One Man's Treasure', for example, blooms from mid-September into October, while 'Elegans' blooms from mid-June into July. Instead of forcing 'One Man's Treasure' to bloom in June/July, is there a way to delay the bloom period of 'Elegans' until late summer so that a cross can be made?



Photos by Edward McHugh. Used by permission.

***Hosta* 'Elegans' (left) blooms in June/July, while 'One Man's Treasure' (right) does not until September/October. For the hybridizer, this is a dilemma. Can the dormancy period of 'Elegans' be lengthened so that the two cultivars bloom at the same time?**

One technique to delay blooming is to cut the foliage off before a plant has a chance to produce scapes and flowers. That may seem a little harsh, but in effect, it is not much different than your prized treasures experiencing a late spring frost. It sets them back a bit until they leaf out again a few weeks later. Perhaps you know the bloom time of a particular hosta from past experience. If not, refer to *The Hostapedia* or the registration data at <https://www.hostaregistrar.org/>. Cut the plant off near ground level before the scapes appear and then wait for the second flush of leaves. Eventually, the scapes and flowers will be produced, but weeks later than normal. If you wish to have flowers both during its normal bloom time as well as later, try cutting off half of the clump at ground level. If you have multiple plants of the same cultivar, each one could be cut to the ground in two-to-three-week intervals.

A second technique for getting early bloomers to flower later is by bare rooting hostas in the fall, placing them in peat, and then extending their cold dormancy (see “Barerooting Hostas for Cold Storage” above). *Hosta* ‘Elegans’, for example, could be bare rooted, stored in a plastic bag with peat moss at 28 to 30°F, then removed at the desired time and potted. It will leaf out and flower much later than normal. Just do not place hostas pot and all in your home freezer. I’ve tried that and it doesn’t work! While a typical home freezer is fine for storing food, it is too humid for hostas, and moreover, the pots are exposed to light whenever the freezer is opened. (Besides, my wife does not like me doing so!)

Utilizing Microclimates

The term *microclimate* refers to the climate of a very small area that differs from the surrounding area. You likely have various microclimates in your own yard.

The key to finding microclimates in the garden is to be a keen observer, paying special attention to temperature. Temperature is impacted greatly by the amount of sun that an area of the garden receives. The presence of concrete walkways, paved driveways, and even your own home can amplify the impact of sunlight, warming temperatures up significantly.

Other aspects of your yard can help to cool certain areas of the garden. Mature trees, shrubs, or other structures that create dense shade can all impact the way plants grow. Though these small microclimates are cooler in the summer, they may also be more prone to frost and cold in the winter, as well affect how quickly these areas warm up in spring.

Identifying microclimates in the garden extends beyond the presence of trees and structures within the yard. Elevation also plays a major role in the garden climate. Those plants growing in lower elevations will experience colder air that often settles in these places. Familiarizing yourself with the topography of your own garden will help

to better understand what to expect and may even determine where to locate various plants.

For the hybridizer, utilizing microclimates can be quite beneficial. Areas of the garden with a northern exposure are shady much of the day, staying cooler and moister. They are slower to warm up in spring. If early blooming hostas are grown in these areas, they will likely bloom somewhat later than normal.

On the other hand, those places in the yard with a southern exposure are warm and sunny, even in winter. Masonry walls with a southern exposure, as well as rocks and patios, gather heat and warm the soil. Siting late blooming hostas in these areas will accelerate bloom time. Even circling a hosta with concrete or stone pavers adds warmth.

The strategy of using microclimates is to delay the bloom time of an early flowering hosta while, at the same time, speeding up the bloom period of a late flowering variety, simply by siting them in the proper locations within your garden. With any luck, the two will bloom at the same time.



Photo by Nancy Patterson. Used by permission.

Masonry walls with a southern exposure, as well as rocks and patios, gather heat and warm the soil. Siting late blooming hostas in these areas will speed up bloom time. On the other hand, areas of the garden with a northern exposure are shady and cool much of the day. Early blooming hostas growing in these areas will bloom later than normal. The strategy is to use microclimates so that early and late blooming cultivars will flower at the same time.

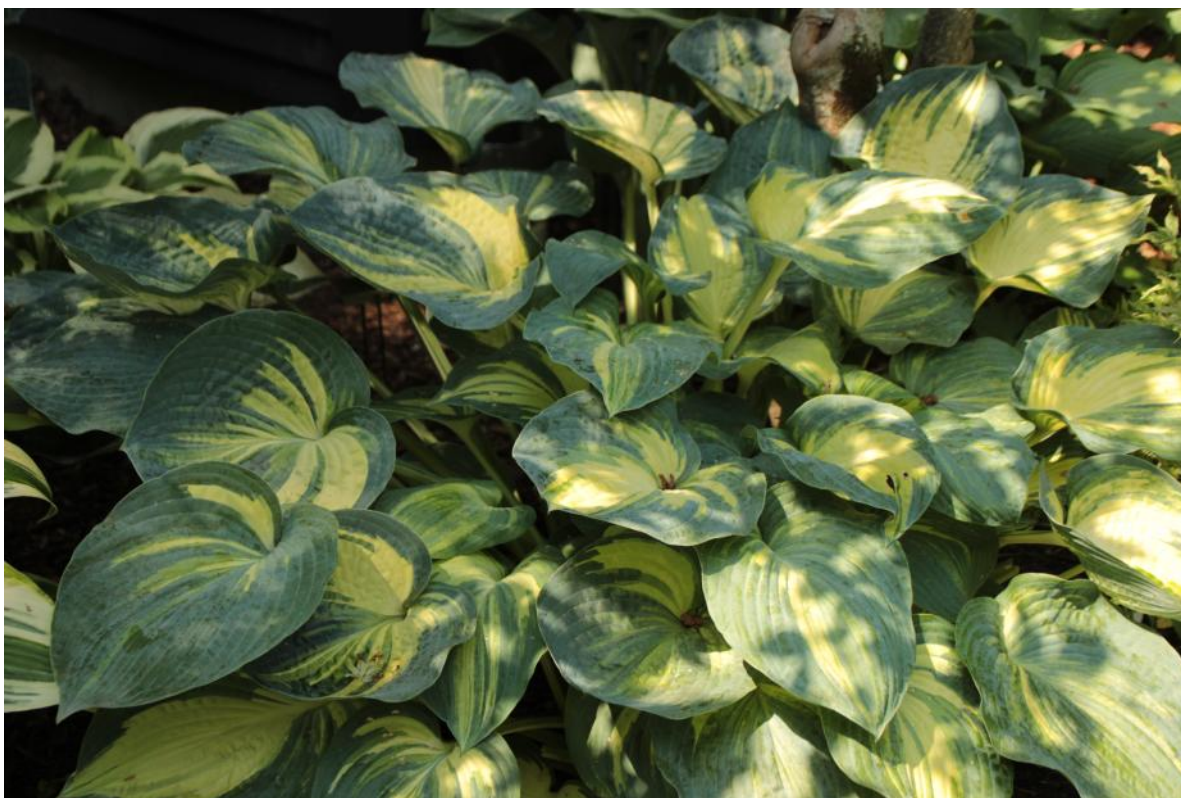
Summary

In late summer of 1961, English gardener Eric Smith discovered that his *Hosta sieboldiana* ‘Elegans’ was producing a scape. He took advantage of this fortunate situation and placed the pollen of ‘Elegans’ onto the flower of late blooming *Hosta* ‘Tardiflora’. The resultant offspring were outstanding, now referred to as the “Tardianas.” They include some of my personal favorites — *Hosta* ‘Camelot’, ‘Dorset Blue’, ‘Hadsphen Blue’, ‘Halcyon’, and others.

By following the methods outlined above, the hybridizer can arrange for two previously selected cultivars to bloom simultaneously. This can be accomplished by having a late bloomer flower earlier, or by encouraging an early bloomer to flower later than normal. You do not need to get lucky like plantsman Eric Smith. You can make it happen right in your own garden simply by implementing these steps. Go for it!

In the Next Issue...

Every plant breeding program has its challenges. Even the most experienced hybridizers sometimes pull out their hair when nothing seems to be going right. In the next issue, we will look at possible obstacles and reasons for why a cross may fail to take. It can be quite frustrating! Stay tuned.



Rick Goode-nough seedling in Gerry and Rindy Bennett's garden—AHS Convention 2024.

Photo by Mary Vertz



Welcome to My Garden

Gail Russo, Cedarville, New Jersey



Gail Russo

Please meet Joseph Jansen from Gurnee, IL



Joe Jansen with his wife, Monica

Many of the readers of this publication will recognize the name Joe Jansen and will recognize some of the photos printed here from his participation in the American Hosta Society page on Facebook, as well as many other groups there. If you don't participate in social media, you're in for a real treat! For those who do follow him, have you ever wondered about the man behind the gorgeous photos you enjoy?



Joe Jansen created the garden you see pictured here after many years of research and interest in gardening. While he attended classes at Elmhurst University, he worked on the college's grounds crew, which tends the Elmhurst University Arboretum. The arboretum maintains more than 850 trees and numerous varieties of shrubs and perennials, including many rare specimens. He also started his own landscape business to earn money and pass the time productively while on summer break from school. He gardened and installed a pond at his parents' home before graduating. Joe is currently employed as an Associate Director at AbbVie with a primary focus on Global Pharmaceutical Learning & Technologies. Joe has been married to Monica, his greatest supporter of his hobby, for 33 years now. They have four wonderful children including two boys named Trent and Vince and two girls named Bella and Gigi. They also have two French bulldogs named Fleury and Daisy. Fleury is named after an ice hockey goalie who played for Joe's favorite sports team, The Pittsburgh Penguins. They reside in Gurnee, a town in Lake County, IL, which is in garden hardiness zone 5b/6. Joe enjoys spending quality time with his family and his hobbies include gardening, fishing, hiking nature trails, nature photography and visiting garden nurseries. His favorite public garden is the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, IL. Because his love of gardening is near the top of his list, he is often found in the garden he has created at his home of 24 years, on 1/3 acre of property, that he has named "Jansen Arboretum." There is some skill required to garden on his property, as it is primarily clay about 3-4 inches under the soil and must be amended for many plants that require well-drained soil.

I asked Joe to identify his garden inspiration and this was his response: "My inspiration was to create a garden that was a sanctuary; a peaceful retreat that allows my family and me to feel refreshed and inspired after spending time in it. A garden that embodies harmony with nature, blending calming shades of different greens with captivating textures and hues. My plan, in order to accomplish this, was to integrate the reds and yellows of Japanese maples, the serene blues and greens of conifers, along with the lush elegance of hostas, which would create a living tapestry that doesn't rely on flowers but on the natural beauty of the plants themselves. With regard to hardscape, I've added cozy sitting areas that invite moments of relaxation, while the water features add a soothing, meditative ambiance. Mossy rocks, thoughtful statuary, and artistic accents throughout the garden complete the tranquil atmosphere, transforming my garden into a restorative escape where you can truly unwind."

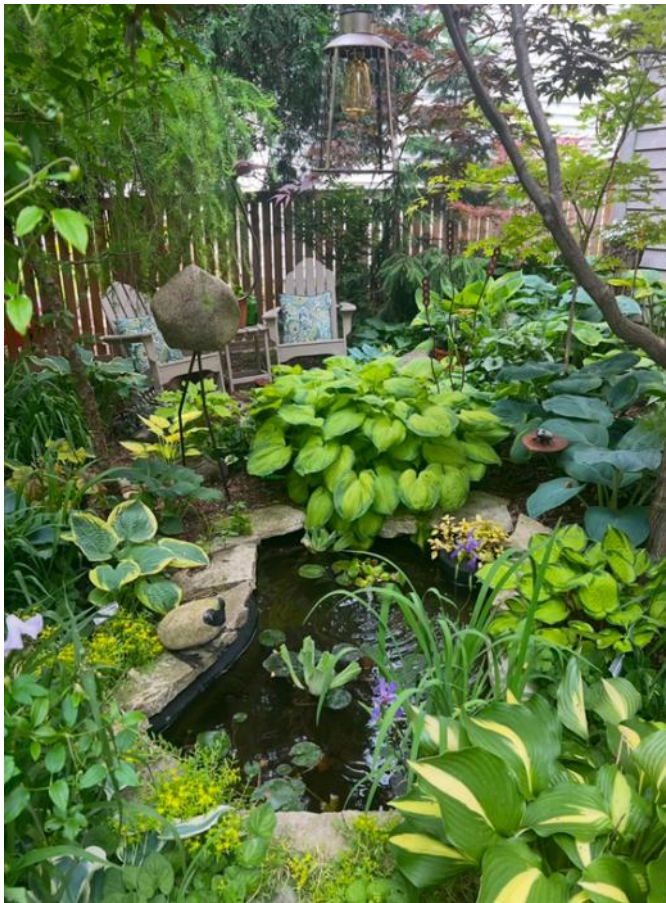


I asked Joe what first interested him in hostas. “I’ve enjoyed visiting gardens for many years. Quite a while ago, I came across a garden with hundreds of different hostas, many of which I had never seen or noticed before. I started asking questions about the hostas, and the owner used terms like ‘OS’ and ‘TC’, which I didn’t understand at the time. As I learned more, I realized that some hostas were readily available while others were extremely rare. This discovery intrigued me and sparked a deeper interest in the world of hostas. I began networking, meeting hybridizers and other serious collectors, which was incredibly exciting – especially when I started collecting some of the rarer varieties. Over a thousand hostas later, here I am!”

In addition to the 1000+ varieties of hostas, Jansen Arboretum also boasts more than 60 different Japanese maple trees, more than 75 varieties of conifers, more than 100 varieties of daylilies and numerous other perennials, with rarity being the focus. This is an enormous number of plants to pack into such a small area, and it takes skill to accomplish it in a way that also is visually appealing and inviting. Approximately 95% of his hostas are planted in the landscape, with the remaining 5% planted in decorative pots. Joe does not fertilize his hostas regularly but does distribute Milorganite (bio-natural fertilizer) throughout the garden every few years. His biggest common hosta pests are slugs and rabbits. To combat the slugs, he applies Sluggo in early spring and mid-summer. If he notices any slug damage earlier than mid-summer, he

applies it sooner. For the rabbits, he uses Milorganite and moth flakes. He notes that the Milorganite does not work as well, but since it doubles as a fertilizer, it offers additional benefits throughout the year. The majority of the garden is fenced in, preventing deer intrusion, and he recently added chicken wire to the bottom of the fence which has proven to be the most effective rabbit solution, though he notes that no method is completely foolproof.

Joe indicated that he has city water and does not have an automatic sprinkler system. He enjoys manually watering the hostas with hoses and watering cans, noting that he can enjoy and inspect each specimen as he waters it. If necessary, during drought or a busy time in his life, he will set up sprinklers with timers. He prefers to maintain and renovate his garden himself and does not have any help doing so. He does not have an overall theme to his garden but notes that certain sections are theme inspired, such as Japanese style, farm/country style and the water garden. The Jansen Arboretum was honored with the City of Gurnee's Property Beautification Award.



Because his garden contains so many trees packed into such a small space, he has to battle tree roots competing with those of his prized specimens. To maintain the health and growth of his hostas, he must dig them out, cut away invasive roots, amend the soil and re-plant them. He does this every few years to each section of his hosta beds and remarked that you can notice which section requires attention when the hostas begin to get smaller in size. Many gardeners would admit defeat when faced with

the enormity of this task, but as the true hosta enthusiast that Joe is, he is constantly renovating the garden to maintain its peak condition. Joe's mantra is, "I think the most important thing to remember is to [actually enjoy](#) your garden. It should never become a burden or stress you out. Being in the garden should relieve your stress and be a blessing in your life."

To keep track of his extensive hosta collection, he utilizes an Excel spreadsheet to track information for each hosta, such as the hybridizer, year purchased, who or where the hosta was purchased from, the mature size, description, and finally, the location in the garden. He has designed a zone map for his property and records which zone each hosta is planted in. He also has each hosta identified in the garden with the use of zinc plant markers, with black lettering on a white tape label (*Brother P-Touch label maker*). He finds this method to be complete and trouble-free.

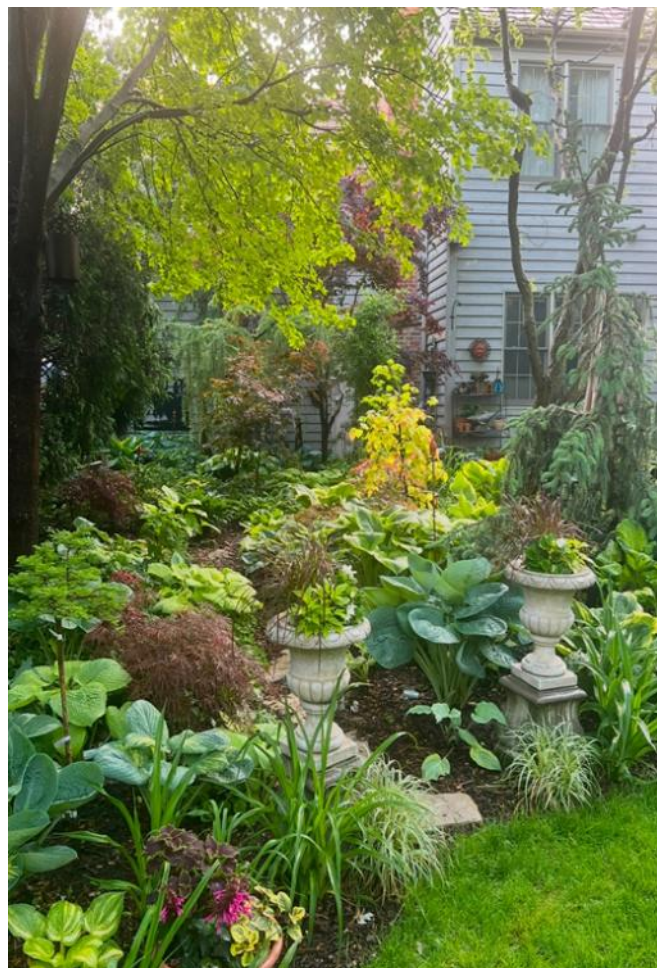
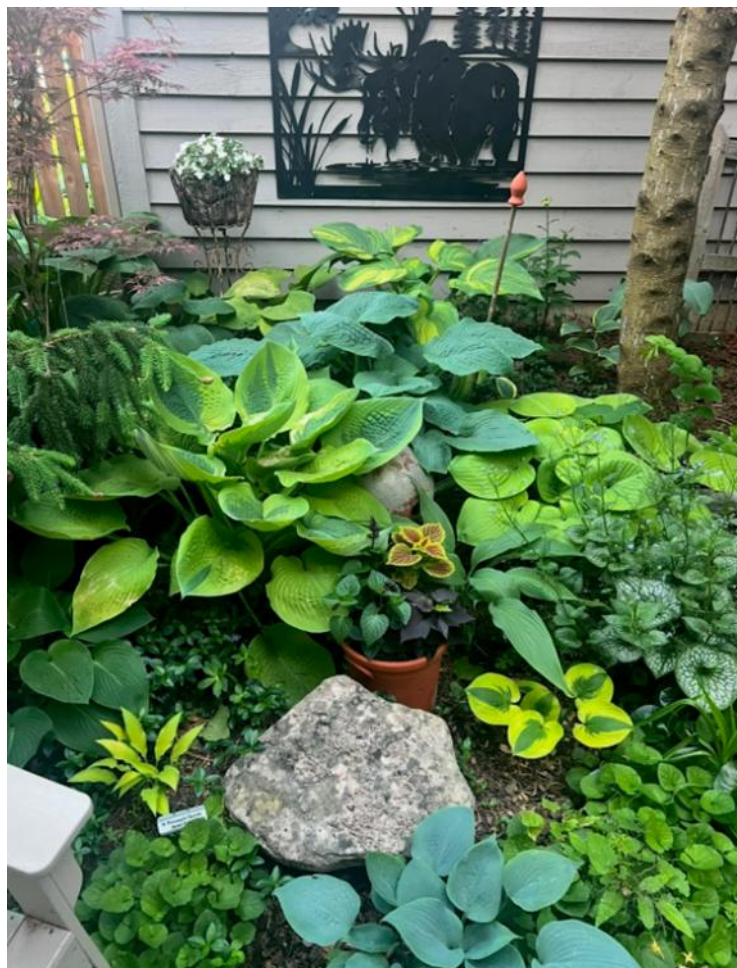
Joe has dabbled with growing hosta seeds during the winter months but admits that he struggled with the time needed to grow them successfully. He plans to become more active with hybridizing and growing seeds once he has retired and has the time to dedicate to it, which will not be for at least 10 years. Instead, he spends his time while the garden is dormant watching garden content on *YouTube*, reading books and magazines and scouring the catalogs to purchase more plant specimens and seeds for his garden. A few of his current favorite reads include the books *Private Gardens of Philadelphia* (Nicole Juday) and *Pastoral Gardens* (Clare Foster) and the magazine *Gardens Illustrated*. He also enjoys the TV show *Gardener's World with Monty Don* and the *YouTube* channel *Garden Answer*.

Although he does not hybridize or grow seeds at this time, Joe does have several open pollinated plants and a few unnamed sports that he is excited to call his own. He has been approached by a few individuals requesting to tissue culture the plants, but he's not quite ready to do that. He has sold a few of his hostas but admits that he mainly trades with select collectors. At some point, he plans to sell some of his rare plants to newer collectors since he was lucky enough to have met a few hybridizers who allowed him to obtain some rare plants along his journey and that would be a form of paying-it-forward.

When asked about future plans for his garden, Joe indicated that he's been interested in crevice gardening and looks forward to adding one to his garden soon, perhaps with a few varieties of miniature sized hostas. He recommends the book *The Crevice Garden* by Kenton Seth and Paul Spriggs. He has carefully planned and renovated his garden, and the only thing he'd change, if possible, would be the size! He'd like more room for more [plants](#) and he'd like to build a larger pond. When he wants to add plants to his garden now, he must eliminate something from that space in the garden, or it goes in a pot. He would also love to have a small greenhouse, but structures

are not allowed by the Homeowner's Association for his neighborhood.

Joe has a few tips he'd like to share with the readers regarding hostas. "Don't forget that hostas make fantastic container plants. This allows you to showcase some of your favorites! Some years, I will dig a hosta out of the ground and put it in a pot, then put it back in the ground in fall. You could keep them on your patio/deck, by an entrance, or on a pillar to have it stand above the rest. Just be sure to provide them with enough water throughout the summer as they will dry out quicker than those in the ground. I'm in zone 5b/6, so for the winter, I bring the pots into my unheated garage until early spring when freezes are no longer a threat. Once in the garage, I usually will place snow (not too much) on top of the pot when it snows out, so it doesn't dry out (about 1-2 times a month). I have a few that I leave outside but you should tip the pots on their side prior to winter. This helps in late winter/early spring when it rains, snows and freezes repeatedly which can cause root rot if the pot is left standing upright."



I asked Joe if anyone encouraged, inspired or mentored his gardening journey. "I naturally gravitated towards gardening when I was younger, but as I've gotten older, I've come to enjoy visiting other gardens (big or small) and talking with fellow gardeners. These interactions allow me to understand what inspires and drives them, their

approaches, what excites them, and the struggles they face along with their solutions. This exchange is how we truly learn and find inspiration from others. When it comes to hostas specifically, I've been fortunate to have a mentor in Kenny Ziarek. In addition to working in my own gardens, I've had the privilege of working alongside him in his garden for years. I'm constantly learning from him - sometimes lessons that go beyond gardening - gaining new knowledge and seeing things from a different perspective, which I believe is essential for personal growth and development." Joe stated that it is very hard to pick just one, but a favorite hosta in his garden is *Hosta* 'McKinley's Charm' which is a super special Kenny Ziarek origination that he named after his granddaughter.



H. 'McKinley's Charm' (K. Ziarek - NR)

Joe's best advice to future gardeners is to not worry about placing everything perfect in the garden because you can always move things around later if you change your mind. Try not to stress about your garden. The garden is a journey, not a destination. Take your time to enjoy it along the way.

I asked Joe if there was something that he thinks every hosta gardener should have. "Patience and appreciation. I think we all want our plants to be mature immediately, but part of the fun is watching them grow and change over the years. Don't forget the saying, 'First year they sleep, second year they creep and the third year they leap.' Also, be sure to take the time to walk your gardens daily in order to appreciate what you do have in your garden and all of your hard work. There is always something that's changed or bloomed from day to day. Be sure to fully enjoy your gardening journey!"

The Jansen Arboretum has hosted a garden tour for members of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society, which Joe is a member [of](#), several times in the past, and will host their return again this summer. The members of the Midwest Regional Hosta

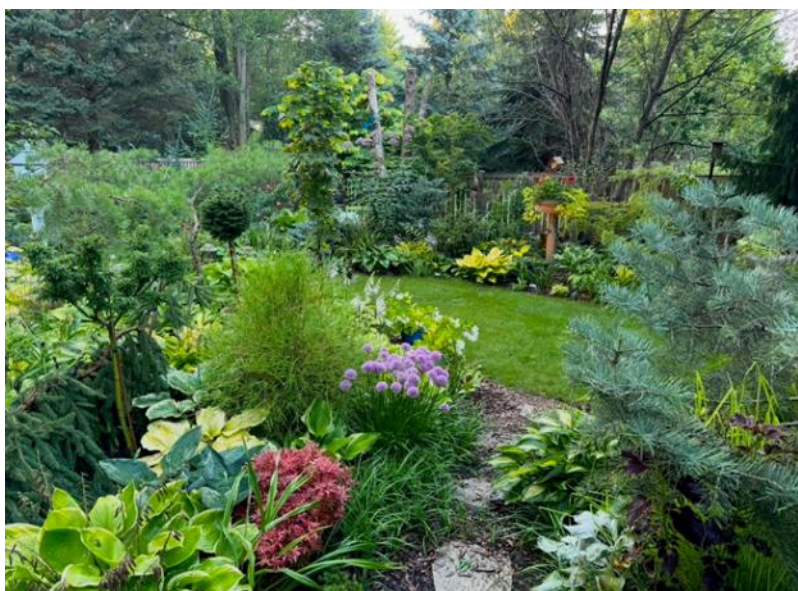
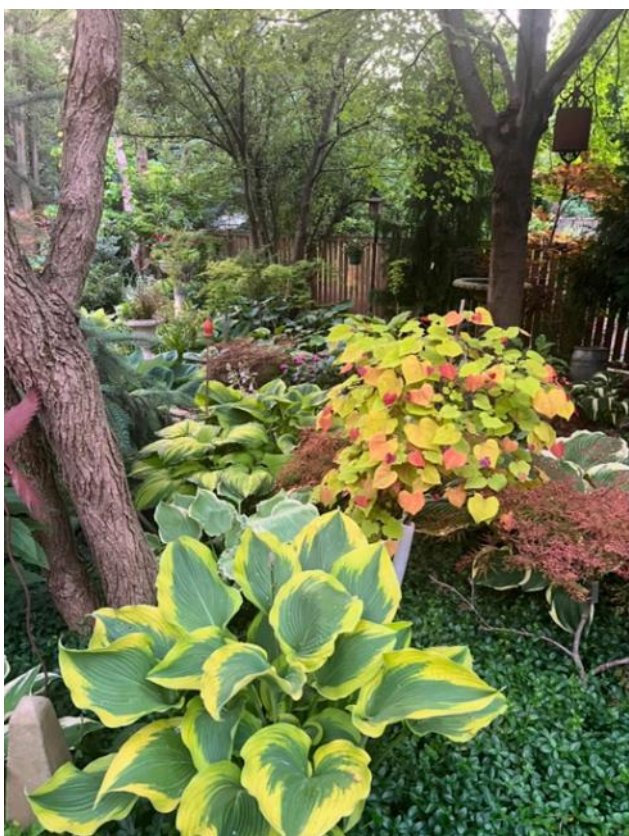
Society have also enjoyed a tour of the garden. Joe enjoys sharing his gardens and explaining all of the hard work he's put into it.

If anyone is in the Chicago area and would like to visit the Jansen Arboretum, or if you have questions for Joe about this feature or any of the photos, please contact Joe via email: Joseph.w.jansen@gmail.com

You can also view more photos, continue the journey in the future or chat with Joe through Facebook/Messenger via this link:

<https://facebook.com/joseph.w.jansen>

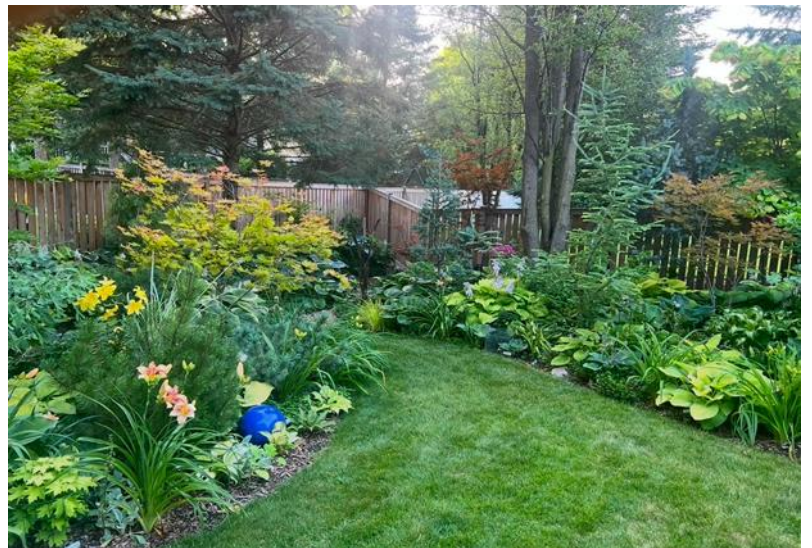
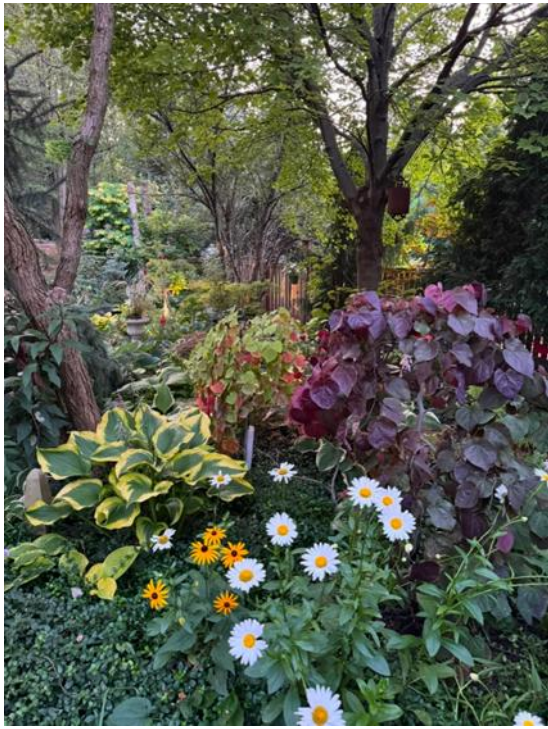
I personally hope you have become inspired by Joe's story and his garden, and that you all enjoy the photographs he has shared with us here on a journey through the Jansen Arboretum.

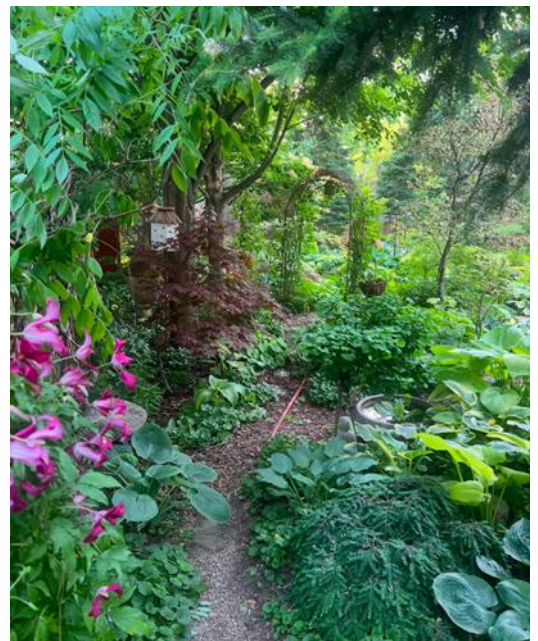


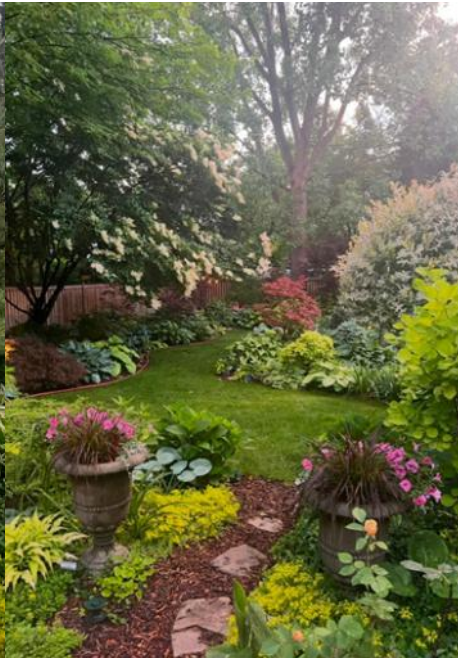
Left:
Cercis canadensis
'Flame Thrower'
competes for attention
with
Hosta 'Atlantis'



Allium 'Millennium' is a fantastic pollinator in the garden







Left,
Acer palmatum 'Dark Knight'



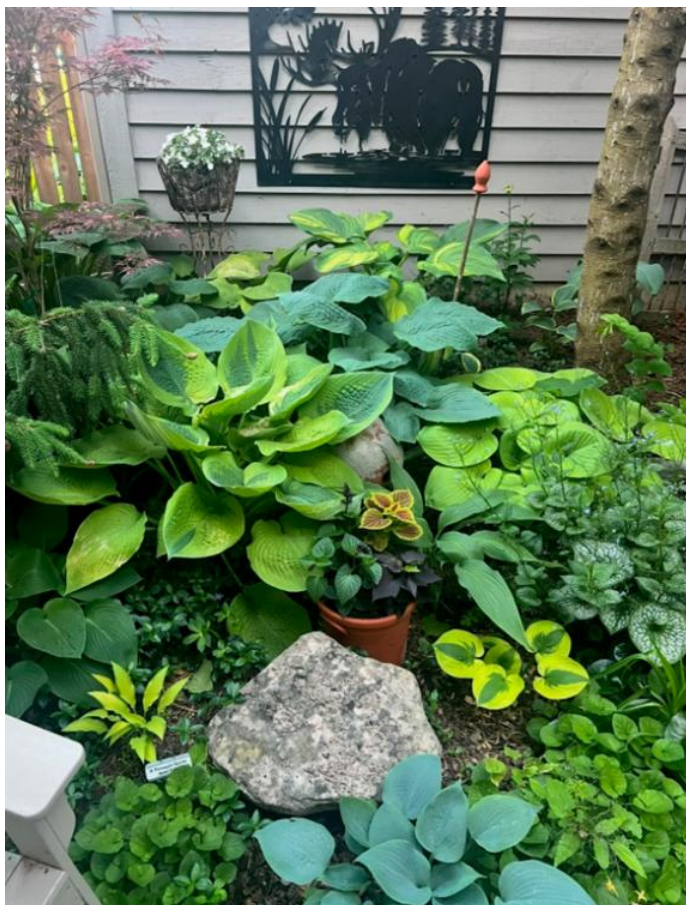
Above, *Epimedium* 'Amber Queen'



Left,
Chamaecypar-
is obtusa
'Chirimen'
standard form







Clockwise, from bottom: *H.* 'Baltimore Blues'; ginger; *H.* 'Pineapple Upsidedown Cake'; *H.* 'White Ceiling'; *Picea abies* 'Pendula'; *Hosta* 'Handy Hatfield'; *H.* 'Cindy-Lou Who'; *H.* 'Havanna Blue'; unnamed hosta seedling; *H.* 'Country Boy'; solomon's seal; Siberian Bugloss 'Jack Frost'; *Hosta* 'Summer Chill'; ginger



Clockwise, from bottom: *H.* 'Lakeside Prophecy Fulfilled'; *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Chirimen'; *Picea* 'Koster x Omorika'; *Hosta* 'Refiner's Fire'; *Abies concolor* 'Kinky'; *Hosta* 'Ooh La La'; *H.* 'Skunk'



H. 'Sir Prize'



H. 'Who's Your Daddy'



Acer palmatum 'Shaina'; *Hosta* 'Foxfire Crying Games'; *Picea abies* 'Formanek'; *Hosta* 'Ocean's Fury'; *H.* 'Naughty Niece'



H. 'Ocean Isle Twist'



H. 'Hollywood Shere Khan'
Acer palmatum 'Strawberry Spring'



H. 'Master Pearce'

Clockwise, from bottom: *Athyrium niponicum 'Ghost'*; *Hosta 'Funny Bones'*; ginger; *H. 'Regal Splendor'*; *H. 'Orange Marmalade'*; *Larix decidua 'Horstmann's Recurved'*; *Hosta 'Old Glory'*; *H. 'Silver Wedding'*; *Acer shirasawanum 'Red Dawn'*; *Hosta 'Old Glory'*



H. 'The Sweetest Thing'



H. 'Spilt Milk',
H. 'Pocketful of Sunshine'

Clockwise from bottom:
H. 'Shade Fanfare'; *Picea abies 'Gold Finch'*; *Hosta 'Oma Grandma'*; *H. 'Viking Ship'*; *H. 'Sea Raven'*; *H. 'Brussels Waffles'*; *H. 'Lakeside Symphony'*; *H. 'Whirling Dervish'*; *Acer palmatum 'Peve Starfish'*



H. 'Deep Waters'



Clockwise from bottom: *H. 'Monkey Business'*; *Acer palmatum* 'Dark Knight'; *Hosta* 'Lakeside Whispering Leaves'; *H. 'Lakeside Un Huh'*; *Acer palmatum* 'Dragon Master'; *Hosta* 'Lakeside Cha'



H. 'Hakumuo'



Left:
H. 'Lakeside Dragonfly'



Right:
H. 'Allegan Fog'



H. 'Mito-no-hana'

Right, clockwise from bottom:

H. 'Cheesehead'; *H. 'Oshima Silk'*;
Acer palmatum 'Dragon Master';
Hosta 'Lakeside Un Huh'; *H.*
'Follow Your Dreams'; *H. 'Glen*
Tiara'; *H. 'Filled with Extasy'*





H. 'Whirling Dervish'
Front left *H. 'Shade Fanfare'*



Left, clockwise from bottom:

H. 'Pumping Iron'; *H. 'Funky Monkey'*; *H. 'Piedmont Honey'*;
H. 'Viking Ship'; *Abies concolor 'Candicans'*; *Hosta 'Lakeside Whispering Leaves'*; *H. 'Jack Berry'*; *H. 'Picasso'*; *H. 'Copasetic'*; *H. 'Armani'*



Left center:

H. 'Scituate Sunrise'

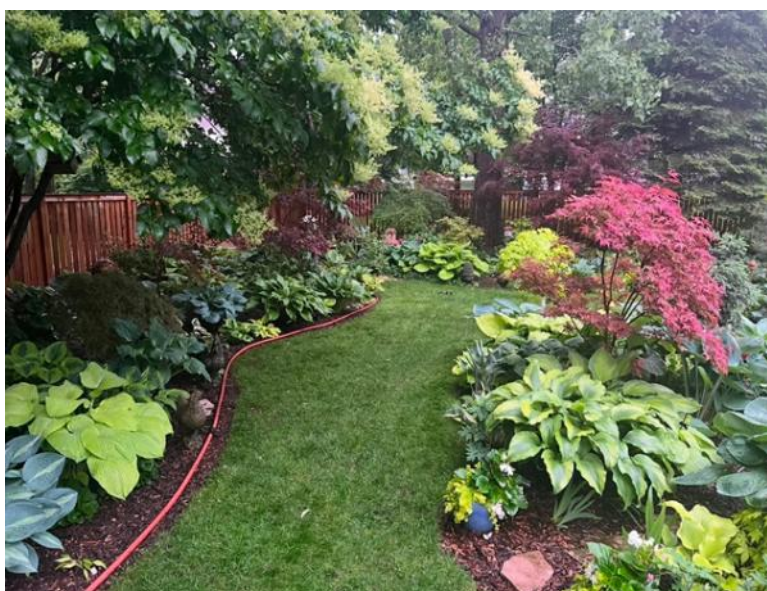
Left, clockwise from bottom:

H. 'Slippery When Wet'; *H. 'Conquistador'*;
H. 'Wunderbar'; *H. 'Hollywood Lochness Monster'*; *H. 'Glory Bee'*; *H. 'Tobacco Road'*





Left center:
Hemerocallis
'Asheville Sun-
rise' brightens
the staged pots
of annuals
Left, clockwise
from bottom:
Carex 'Ice
Dance'; un-
named hosta
seedling; *Hosta*
'Kim';
Chamaecyparis
obtusa
'Chirimen';
Abies concolor
'Kinky'; *Hosta*
'Refiner's Fire';
H. 'Lakeside
Prophecy Ful-
filled'



Left, center:
H. 'Viking Ship';
Left, clockwise from
bottom:
H. 'Arabella'; *H.*
'Pumping Iron'; *H.*
'Brussels Waffles'; *H.*
'Golden Falls'

Right,
Hemerocallis
'Asheville Sun-
lit Rainbow'
stages a pot of
annuals





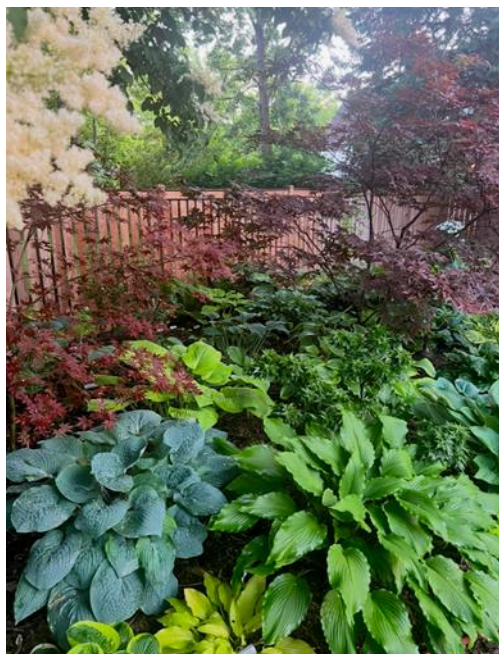
Left, clockwise from bottom:

Hosta 'Tokyo Drift'; *H.* 'Photogenic'; *H.* 'Hugs & Kisses'; *H.* 'Big Boss Man'; *Picea abies* 'Formanek'; *Thuja orientalis* 'Franky Boy'; *Acer palmatum* 'Shishishagira'; *Abies concolor* 'Kinky'; *Acer palmatum* 'Shaina'; *Hosta* 'Ocean's Fury'; *H.* 'Foxfire Crying Games'



Right, clockwise from bottom:

H. 'Ocean's Fury'; *H.* 'Naughty Niece'; *H.* 'Big Boss Man'; *Thuja orientalis* 'Franky Boy'; martagon; *Hosta* 'Foxy Bobbi'



Left, clockwise from bottom:

H. 'Stir It Up'; *H.* 'Maya Tritone'; *H.* 'Tropical Storm'; *H.* 'Blueberry Muffin'; *Acer palmatum* 'Dragon Tears'; Japanese Lilac tree; *Hosta* 'Rosedale Golden Goose'; *H.* 'Devil's Advocate'; *Acer palmatum* 'Emperor 1'; *Acer palmatum* 'Mikasa'; *Acer palmatum* 'Yatsubusa'



Right, clockwise from bottom:

Picea abies 'Goldfinch'; *Hosta* 'Preacher'; *H.* 'Golden Falls'; *Pinus virginiana* 'Wate's Golden'; *Hosta* 'Capitol Hill'; *H.* 'Blackberry Turnover'; *H.* 'Hollywood Tin Cup'; *H.* 'Spring Back'; *H.* 'Sea Raven'; *H.* 'Shade Fanfare'

Right, clockwise from bottom:

H. 'Foxfire Good Friday'; *Diervilla* 'Kodiak Red'; *Hosta* 'Big Boss Man'; *Thuja orientalis* 'Franky Boy'; *Hosta* 'Naughty Niece'; *H.* 'Ocean's Fury'; *H.* 'Foxfire Crying Games'; *Picea abies* 'Formanek'; *Acer palmatum* 'Shishishagira'; *Hosta* 'Cheesehead'; *H.* 'Filled with Extasy'; *Acer palmatum* 'Dragon Master'; *Hosta* 'Kiwi Full Monty'; *Picea pungens* 'Montgomery'; *Hosta* 'Just Living Life'; martagon; *H.* 'Color Revolt'; *Acer palmatum* 'Dark Knight'; *H.* 'Gentle Blue Persuasion'; *H.* 'Lakeside Beach Bum'; *H.* 'Chorus Girl'; *H.* 'Sea Peridot'; *H.* 'Photogenic'; *H.* 'Hugs and Kisses'





Above, clockwise from bottom:

H. 'Redback Tavern'; *Vinca minor*; *Hosta* 'GASS'; *H.* 'Grand Tiara'; *Acer japonicum* 'Emmett's Pumpkin'; *Hosta* 'Brave Attempt'; *Acer shirasawanum* 'Red Dawn'; *Hosta* 'Eric's Gold'; spiderwort; *H.* 'Old Glory'; *H.* 'Sylvester's Cousin'; *Clematis* 'Betty Corning'; *Hosta* 'Zita'



Above, clockwise from bottom:

Acer palmatum 'Shaina'; *Hosta* 'Ocean's Fury'; *H.* 'Foxfire Crying Games'; *Picea abies* 'Formanek'; *Hosta* 'Naughty Niece'; *H.* 'Big Boss Man'; *Acer palmatum* 'Shishigashira'; *Hosta* 'Foxfire Good Friday'; *Picea abies* 'Little Gem'; *Thuja orientalis* 'Franky Boy'; *Hosta* 'Soul Shine'; *Acer saccharum* 'Sugar Cone'; marta-gon lily; *H.* 'Foxy Bobbi'



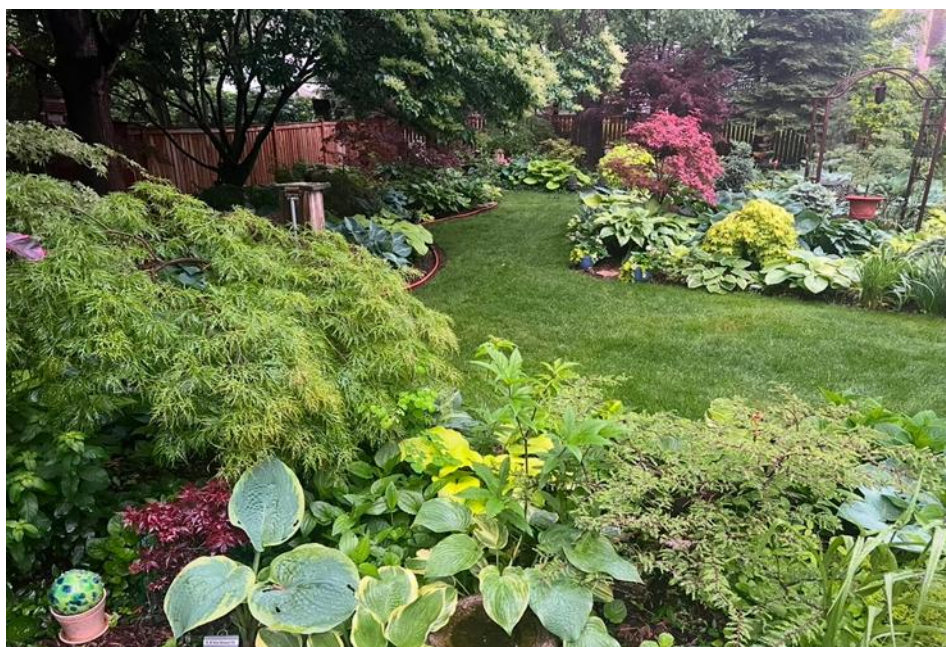
Above, clockwise from bottom:

H. 'Oh My'; *H.* 'Invincible Spirit'; *H.* 'Soul Shine'; *H.* 'Island Breeze'; *H.* 'Golden Falls'; *H.* 'Capitol Hill'; *H.* 'Blackberry Turnover'; *H.* 'Oma Grandma'; *H.* 'Waukon Thin Ice'; *H.* 'Preacher'



Above, clockwise from bottom:

H. 'Lakeside Dividing Line'; ginger; spiderwort; *H.* 'Zita'; *Clematis* 'Betty Corning'; *Hosta* 'Cousin Sylvester'; *Larix decidua* 'Horstmann's Recurved'; *Hosta* 'Regal Splendor'; *H.* 'Lakeside Prophecy'; *H.* 'Orange Marmalade'; *H.* 'Funny Bones'; *H.* 'Old Glory'; *Acer palmatum* 'Bloodgood'; *Acer palmatum* 'Summer Gold'; *Hosta* 'Handy Hatfield'; *H.* 'Rock My World'; *H.* 'Volcano Island'; *Pinus strobus*



Right:
Hemerocallis
'Frilled to
Death'



Left:
Hemero-
callis
'Cluster
Muster'



Above, clockwise from bottom:

Hosta 'Sweet Henlee'; unnamed *hosta* seedling; unnamed *hosta* seedling; *Acer palmatum* 'Viridis'; *Hosta* 'A Step Beyond'; *H.* 'Kiwi Full Monty'; *Filipendula*; *Acer palmatum* 'Rhode Island Red'; *Acer palmatum* 'Dark Knight'; *Acer palmatum* 'Dragon Master'; *Hosta* 'Lakeside Un Huh'; *H.* 'Just Living Life'; *H.* 'Lakeside Foot Prints'; *Taxodium distichum* 'Secrest'



Above, clockwise from bottom:

Hosta 'Island Breeze'; *H.* 'Golden Falls'; *H.* 'Viking Ship'; *H.* 'Streets of Gold'; *H.* 'Blackberry Turnover'; *H.* 'Oma Grandma'; *H.* 'Capitol Hill'



Left, clockwise from bottom:

H. 'Cheesehead';
H. 'Purple Sun';
 bleeding heart; *H.*
 'Lakeside Cha
 Cha'; *H.* 'Monkey
 Business'; *H.*
 'Color Revolt';
Acer palmatum
 'Dark Knight';
Hosta 'Gentle Blue
 Persuasion'; *H.*
 'Lakeside Un
 Huh'; *Picea mari-
 ana*; *Hosta*
 'Lakeside Whis-
 pering Leaves';
Picea pungens
 'Montgomery';
Hosta 'Just Living
 Life'; *H.* 'Filled
 with Extasy'



Above, clockwise from bottom:

H. 'Foxfire Crying Games'; *Picea abies* 'Formanek';
Hosta 'Photogenic'; *H.* 'Sea Peridot'; *H.* 'Fiesta'; *H.*
 'Age of Gold'; *Acer palmatum* 'Shishishagira'; *Hosta*
 'Hugs and Kisses'; *Picea abies* 'Little Gem'; *Thuja*
orientalis 'Franky Boy'; *Hosta* 'Big Boss Man'; *H.*
 'Naughty Niece'; *H.* 'Ocean's Fury'; *H.* 'Foxy Bobbi';
Acer palmatum 'Shaina'



Above, clockwise from bottom:

Acer platanoides 'Golden Globe'; *Hosta* 'Breeder's Love'; *H.*
 'Bashful'; *H.* 'Dream Queen'; *H.* 'Gunther's Prize'; *Ginkgo biloba*
 'Saratoga'; *Acer shirasawanum* 'Jordan'; *Hosta* 'Celebration of
 Angels'; *Pinus mugo* (standard form); *Acer shirasawanum*
 'Autumn Moon'; *Hosta* 'Sacramento'; variegated grass; *Pinus mugo*
 'Carsten's Winter Gold'; *Hosta* 'Lightning Storm'; *H.* 'Lakeside
 Breaking Waves'; *H.* 'Pebble Beach'; *H.* 'Lakeside Foaming Sea'



Above, clockwise from bottom:

H. 'Streets of Gold'; *H.* 'Arabella'; *H.* 'Viking Ship'; *H.* 'Pumping
 Iron'; *H.* 'Brussels Waffles'; *Cornus kousa* 'Celestial'; *Hosta*
 'Trendsetter'; *H.* 'Lakeside Symphony'; *H.* 'Granny's Blue Bon-
 net'; *H.* 'Sea Raven'; *H.* 'Oma Grandma'; *H.* 'Continental
 Divide' (streaked sport); *Pinus strobus* 'Stowe's Pillar'



Above, clockwise from bottom left:

Daylily foliage; sedum; *Hosta* 'Spinach Souffle'; sedge; *Picea abies* 'Gold Drift'; *Taxodium distichum* 'Peve Miniaret'; Joe Pyeweed; *Abies koreana* 'Silberlocke'; crabapple; *Acer palmatum* 'Sister Ghost'; *Picea abies* 'Blondie'; *Hosta* 'Crocodile Frost'; *H.* 'Curious Yellow'; *H.* 'Valley's Karma'; *Picea pungens* 'Globosa'; pulmonaria; *Hosta* 'Calypso Beat'; *H.* 'Cosmic Blaze'



Above, clockwise from bottom:

H. 'Cosmetic Surgery'; *H.* 'Dancing Queen'; *Abies concolor* 'Fastigiata'; *Hosta* 'Generation X'; *H.* 'Blue Mountain'; *H.* 'Coast to Coast'; *H.* 'Lakeside Expose'; *H.* 'War Paint'; *Acer palmatum* 'Firefly'; *Hosta* 'Blueberry Waffles'; unnamed hosta seedling; *Larix kaempferi* 'Jan'; *Acer platanoides* 'Curly Lamppost' seedling; *Hosta* 'Warwick Comet'; *H.* 'Pat Raeder'; *H.* 'Captain's Adventure'

This interview was conducted and compiled by Gail J Russo, Cedarville, NJ.

If you would like to see your garden or the garden of a friend featured in this publication, please contact Gail Russo at Russo4@comcast.net for the application questionnaire.

All of the photos printed in this column have been provided by the featured gardener with their permission, unless otherwise noted, and are the property of the featured gardener, so contact them if you'd like permission to use a photo.

We are trying to bring lovely, remote gardens to the readers who would not be able to see them otherwise and get to know the person behind them.

International hosta gardeners are encouraged to join us. We would love to meet you and enjoy your gardens, but you must communicate in English.



Vendor Spotlight

Gail Russo, Cedarville, New Jersey

VENDOR SPOTLIGHT

Hugo's Hosta Haven, LLC

7131 Wheatland Terrace

Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Business contact: Michael Carr

Email: hugoshostahaven@gmail.com

Business phone: 815-509-9715



Located in the heart of Illinois, away from the hustle and bustle of Chicago, you will find a delightful family-owned nursery, in business for the past 6 years, dedicated to their love of hostas, and I'd like to share Hugo's Hosta Haven with you.



Michael and Pamela Carr in their gardens.



Hugo's Hosta Haven entrance from the road.

Owners Michael Carr and Pamela Ward-Carr met each other later in life and they share a love of gardening and especially hostas. Pam works in hospice care and Mike was a builder of residential homes for 30 years. He has retired and currently maintains a deck construction business. Together, they built and maintain Hugo's Hosta Haven in their "spare" time!

After they married, in 2014 Mike and Pam [purchased](#) a home on 1.25 acres and Mike began moving plants in. Mike has collected hostas for more than 25 years. He and his former partner in life loved gardening and he started collecting different favorite varieties of hostas. He would buy as many as he could find, including the largest varieties available and he started filling his gardens with them. He learned that they love water and rich soil, so he amended his soil to accommodate and installed automatic irrigation to ensure they received sufficient moisture. He has moved a few times over the past few years, and always moved his prized plants with him. Being in the construction trade afforded him the equipment to easily accomplish this. He even moved more than 400 specialty plant species with years of growth on them to Pam's small garden when he was between homes. He was not permitted to garden at a rental home he lived in, so he transported truckloads of fertile soil to Pam's home and prepared space to transplant all of his hostas. Pam cared for the hostas until they could move together into their current home in Cherry Valley. They now have more than 15,000 plants between the two homes they own.



Designing the layout of the "Mother Yard"

Mike moving *Hosta* 'Atlantis'

In 2019, they purchased the 1.25 acres that includes Hugo's Hosta Haven. Again, being in the construction trade was beneficial because the properties were a blank slate. Mike had the knowledge and ability to design the layout and construct all of the arbors, tables and pathways in the gardens that you see in the photos. Mike planted all of the trees, shrubbery, perennials and especially hostas, with Pam's aid. A true labor of love! They do not have any paid employees. In addition to their daytime jobs, from April through November they spend between 6-10 hours a day in the gardens, anywhere from 3-5 days per week performing maintenance chores including weeding, dividing, potting, fertilizing, preparing for sales, etc.... We all know that weeds never take a break and properly grown plants require maintenance to keep the gardens in peak viewing condition.



Hugo's Hosta Haven sales area.



Mike holding the scape of *H. 'Fortunei Gigantea'*

In addition to the business display gardens, they also maintain personal gardens at their two homes. The "Mother Yard", as they call it, is a show garden where they host garden walks and give tours to hosta groups and other local clubs and personal friends, so its upkeep is a priority. Maintaining flowers with companion plants so customers can visualize hostas in a native setting with other complementary plants, trees and shrubs is important, so moving plants in and out of it for featuring and creating colorful groupings is key. The "Mother Yard" is primarily a perennial garden.



The "Mother Yard" perennial garden and Mike designing and planting the "Mother Yard"



Mike and Pam have hosted garden tours to local garden groups and Master Gardener groups, as well as hosta societies including Northern Illinois Hosta Society, Wisconsin Hosta Society and the Green and Gold Hosta Society. The neighborhood has become accustomed to the sight and sound of tour buses pulling up for a summer garden stroll. They are happy to host garden tours and welcome any group that wishes to plan a visit, noting that June and July are peak viewing periods in their zone 5b gardens.



Wisconsin Hosta Society touring the gardens



I asked them what the inspiration was behind the unique name for their business. Hugo is the name of Mike's favorite steakhouse, as he always loves a fine dining experience and Hugo was also the name of Mike's beloved cat of 17 years. When they decided to open the nursery, they toyed with different names including Hugo's Heaven and Mike's Hosta Heaven and then Pam came up with Hugo's Hosta Haven. It had a good ring to it and when Pam hand-drew the logo on a piece of paper, Mike exclaimed, "YES!" It was that easy. Hugo has since passed in the winter of 2022, right around Christmas. He is buried in Hugo's Hosta Haven right between two lilac trees near the potting shed and next to Lily, his kitty sister who has also passed. The cats were considered family to them and were a huge part of their lives. They are grateful to have adored them in their lives and enjoy visiting them now as they tend their gardens.



Left, Mike holding Hugo, the name-sake for Hugo's Hosta Haven.

Right, Hugo in his Hosta haven.



Mike and Pam are also extremely grateful for their garden volunteers, Vicki and Kelly. They spend countless hours in the gardens weeding and aiding in the tours and open house days throughout the summer. They appreciate their friendship and the dedication to their business that makes their lives easier, noting that they couldn't do what they do without their help



Mike and Pam with their treasured volunteer friends Vicki and Kelly.

With the little spare time they have outside the gardens, Mike and Pam enjoy completing home projects and riding their electric bicycles to enjoy the local scenery. They also enjoy traveling when they can, which is mostly during the winter when the gardens are dormant. Mike has also begun to grow hosta seeds in their basement to pass the winter months productively. They try to stay active and exercise to stay in shape for the heavy physical work they know is just around the corner in spring. Though they cannot claim to have originated any hosta varieties up until now, growing seeds is the sure way to accomplish that dream. They currently have 25 varieties of hosta seeds sown, with approximately 135 seedlings growing.

In addition to offering hostas for sale at Hugo's Hosta Haven, they offer a few companion plants, noting that this year they will offer a very old peony variety acquired from a retired gardening friend. They also plan to offer more merchandise such as hats and shirts printed with their logo. Hostas remain their priority and they currently grow 1,200 – 1,400 different named hosta varieties in their gardens. The hostas offered for sale are potted and they currently have 3,500 pots covered for the winter, ready to start their 2025 sales season, with 60 new varieties of hostas, roughly 800 plants, arriving in the spring to be potted for sales. Though sales are primarily pre-potted plants, they are willing to dig and divide hostas, when possible, during scheduled private visits.



When asked about plans for future expansion or new features, they remarked that they have expanded on their properties as much as possible and have even planted on their neighbor's property, with permission. They are planning to expand the number of hosta varieties they grow and offer for sale. They are especially excited for their future plan to register new hostas under the moniker "Hugo's" to bring new hostas to the market to share and firmly plant their legacy. They note that they do not have children or protégés interested in perpetuating their business, but they do have written instructions in place to handle the disposition of their business and their legacy, in their absence in the future.

I asked them the questions most hosta enthusiasts want answers to when considering to purchase plants.

What professional groups are you associated with?

- ♦ American Hosta Society
- ♦ Northern Illinois Hosta Society
- ♦ Midwest Regional Hosta Society
- ♦ Wisconsin Hosta Society

What certifications/licenses/inspections does your business have?

- ♦ Nurseryman's license for Illinois
- ♦ Illinois agricultural (soil) inspection (annual)



Illinois Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Environmental Programs
State Department of Agriculture • P.O. Box 10001 • Springfield, IL 62794-0001 • (217) 259-2007 • Fax: (217) 524-4862 • TTY: 800-287-6888

28 Frydaker, Governor
Jerry Cantale II, Director

Mail Address:
HUGO'S HOSTA HAVEN
7131 WHEATLAND TERRACE
CHERRY VALLEY, IL 61016

Physical Address:
HUGO'S HOSTA HAVEN
7131 WHEATLAND TERRACE
CHERRY VALLEY, IL 61016

ATTN Certificate Holder:
Nurserymen Certificate # 518-7493

Below is your Nurserymen certificate for License Year 2025 valid for the period January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

Please cut along the line and display the certificate in a prominent location in your place of business. A copy of this certificate must accompany any shipment of plant material from your business.



Billing Year: 2025 State of Illinois Certificate # 518-7493
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Environmental Programs
State Department of Agriculture • P.O. Box 10001
Springfield, IL 62794-0001
(217) 259-2427 (voice/TTY) • (217) 524-4862 (Fax)

Report of Inspection of Nursery Stock

COMPANY NAME: Hugo's Hosta Haven INSPECTION DATE: 6/16/24
SET # (SALES TAX ID): _____ FEIN # OR SOCIAL SECURITY #: _____

OWNER: _____
ADDRESS: 7131 Wheatland Terrace City: Cherry Valley Zip Code: 61016 County: Champaign

STOCK LOCATION: Field

NURSERY ACREAGE: _____
Crown Trees: _____ Ornamental Stock: _____
Native Stock: _____ Soil: _____ Other: _____

AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO DISPOSAL OF STOCK

The above stated firm is hereby notified by the Illinois Department of Agriculture that the inspection of your nursery on the above date has revealed the presence of dangerous plant pests or weeds in such proximity thereto as to render your nursery stock liable to become affected before the next regular inspection. Said pests are identified on the attached sheet(s).
It is hereby notified that the Illinois Department of Agriculture, under paragraph 905 of the Illinois Insect Pest and Plant Disease Act, as amended, to preserve measures of production and control for the pests enumerated on the attached sheet(s).
It is to be understood that no stock affected with dangerous plant pests, whether or not reported by the inspector, may be removed from the nursery.
The issuance of a certificate for your nursery is predicated upon your acceptance and compliance with the above stated provisions and controls. Therefore, your signature is respectfully requested on the agreement below which indicates your acceptance of these conditions. Please attach this original copy of this agreement.

DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR:
Name: Alvin Volkmann Signature: [Signature]
POST (Date): 6/16/24

I promise and agree that the above mentioned conditions shall be observed as affecting any and all nursery stock grown or growing on my premises, and I also agree that I will not use, or permit to be used, any official certificate of nursery inspection issued to me by the Illinois Department of Agriculture on any stock to which the above provisions and requirements apply, until such time as I am in complete compliance with said provisions and requirements. I agree to attach a copy of my valid certificate to all shipments of nursery stock as required in paragraph 907.2 of the Illinois Insect Pest and Plant Disease Act, as amended.

[Signature] Title: President
Signature of Company Representative

Left on Premises on: _____ Date _____ Telephone Number: _____
Mailed to Proprietor on: _____ Date _____

LAR-10271 (Rev. 1-02)

What pesticides/ other chemicals are used regularly?

- ♦ Pylon miticide insecticide is applied annually

What precautions do you take to prevent the spread of Hosta Virus X and nematodes?

- ♦ We utilize Pylon to control nematodes and we purchase HVX test strips from Agdia to perform random tests on our nursery stock and on any plant that looks suspicious. If a plant was to test positive, it would immediately be destroyed utilizing industry accepted procedures with quarantine of surrounding plants until further testing proves them clean. We sanitize our tools regularly between usage to prevent the spread of disease. Our stock is obtained from sources verified as practicing regular testing to prevent distribution of infected stock.

Do you have a website for online sales?

- ♦ No. We do not offer plants for sale online. However, we do maintain a business page on Facebook where visitors to the page can learn about any off-site vending we will participate in and to view current photos of our gardens and the hostas we offer for sale. The link below will take you to our page:

<https://www.facebook.com/hugoshostahaven>

Do you ship hosta orders?

- ♦ No. At this time, hosta sales are on site only, and plants must be picked up by the buyer.

Which of your hosta varieties do you consider the most prized?

- ♦ *Hosta* 'Fortunei Gigantea'. It is an older variety, but the largest specimen growing in our garden, currently measuring 4 feet tall by 8 feet across. It is the most requested variety by our customers. Growing hostas to their mature size is Mike's goal, and he believes that bigger is better!

When or how can we visit?

- ♦ Hugo's Hosta Haven is open for business from May 25 through September 10 annually, during announced open houses, scheduled group tours and by appointment. Anyone wishing to schedule an appointment to visit can contact Mike on his cellphone @ 815-509-9715.

Why should potential customers want to visit your business besides to purchase a hosta?

- ♦ Our current customers and "client friends", as we like to call them, say that we are extremely friendly, passionate about our love for hostas and gardening, and that we treat them like close friends. We price our plants [reasonably so](#) that everyone can leave with a few plants they absolutely love, and we enjoy coaching them when we can with gardening tips and indicating good growing areas. We are still small enough in size to be able to have meaningful conversations with our client friends and we want to keep it that way!

The American Hosta Society hosts a national convention in a different location every year. The convention this year will be held in Peoria, Illinois, in June. Attendees planning to drive to Illinois are normally planning their trip right around this time to maximize the number of gardens they can visit on their way to and from the event. Hugo's Hosta Haven is a two-hour drive northeast of the convention location. It is situated near the Chicago Rockford International (RFD) Airport.

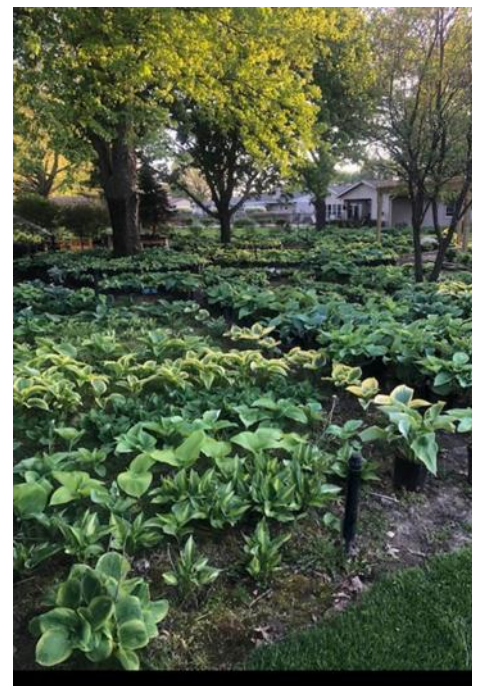
Attendees planning to arrive by plane and rent a car to travel to the convention, or the die-hard road-trippers may want to consider planning a visit to Hugo's Hosta Haven. Mike has indicated that they will be readily available that week to accommodate visitors. Mike also plans to attend the convention himself this year, and is excited because it will be the first AHS national convention he has ever attended! If you know Mike, or recognize him from his photo in this publication, be sure to welcome him!

Mike and Pam have indicated that their favorite public garden is Klehm Arboretum & Botanical Garden, located in Rockford, IL, where they often can be found as a

vendor during the garden's fairs. They recommend visiting this garden if you can. Mike and Pam are excited to see the future of Hugo's Hosta Haven and predict that 2025 will be their best year yet!

I personally hope that this spotlight on their business will encourage and entice you to visit this lovely couple and appreciate the hard work they put into their display gardens firsthand.

For the hosta enthusiasts too far away or unable to visit in person, we hope you enjoy this photographic journey through Hugo's Hosta Haven and the "Mother Yard"!

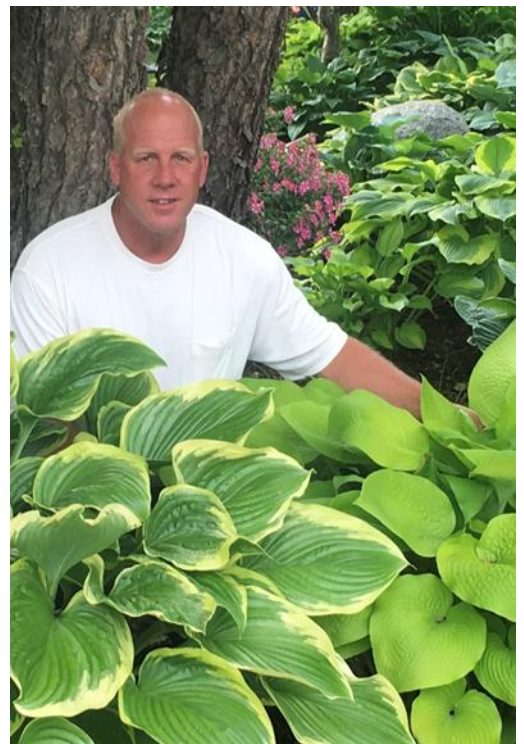












Mike with Jeff Miller



Mike with Kathy Zander in the garden dedicated to her.





Mike behind H. 'Elatior'

This interview was conducted and compiled by Gail J Russo, of Cedarville, NJ

The objective of this column is to allow the hosta gardeners of the world to learn about the existence of your business so they might plan to visit your business or place an order online, if available. All of the photos printed were supplied by the business featured unless otherwise noted.

If you would like to see your hosta business featured in this column, free of charge, please contact Gail Russo at Russo4@comcast.net for the application questionnaire.

International vendors are welcome to be featured, but only if they ship to the USA. If you do not ship but have lovely display gardens, consider applying to be featured in the *Welcome to my Garden* column of this newsletter instead. You must communicate in English.



And In Other Hosta News . . .

Election Time.....

Four positions are up for election this year at the annual meeting. Following are the nominees for each.

- President - Charles Doughty, owner of Cochato Nursery, Holbrook, Ma
- Executive VP / Conventions - Robin Murray, Bridgewater, MA
- VP Members Services - Michael Greanya, Jackson, MI
- VP Publications - Fritz Drasgow, IL

Chuck Doughty

Chuck, along with his wife Sue, is the owner of Cochato Nursery. Chuck is retired from Northeastern University where he and his team developed an accredited Arboretum at the main campus in Boston. Where once were parking lots, now are winding paths through gardens exhibiting trees and shrubs from all over the world. You will find a hardy banana tree growing here in Boston. There is a Koi pond with tropical lilies, crepe myrtles and a garden devoted to only New England native plant species. Also, there are many hostas.



Chuck is a graduate of UMASS, and is also a member of the Horticultural Club of Boston, the American Public Garden Association, as well as the American Hosta Society, the New England Hosta Society, the North American Rock Garden Society and the American Conifer Society. Being an avid photographer, he has traveled to the Rio Negro tributary of the Amazon River in Brazil, as well as, Cuba, Iceland and Sicily.

Robin Murray

For 125 years, the piece of land that has been transformed into my gardening oasis was the family farm. Today, my two acres are covered with many different garden “rooms”, where the casual visitor can see my collection of plants and original farming equipment that delight my heart and bring joy to my spirit. This rejuvenation has taken 32 years to accomplish, but brings great joy and happiness to me.



In June of 2024, I retired from teaching after 28 years. I was an active part of the planning committee for the 2024 American Hosta Convention held in Marlborough, MA: my garden was featured as one of the tour gardens for that event. I am a member of the American Hosta Society, the New England Hosta Society, the Tri-State Hosta Society, the American Horticultural Society, the American Conifer Society, and the Bridgewater Garden Club, along with other charitable organizations located in my home town. I garden for pleasure and have found some of my favorite people through the world of gardening. I look forward to meeting more friends, gathering inspiration from visiting new gardens, and making the world a better place by playing in the dirt.

Fritz Drasgow

Fritz is Dean Emeritus of the School of Labor and Employment Relations and Professor of Psychology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His research focused on the assessment of cognitive and non-cognitive traits. He was President of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology and served on numerous technical advisory committees. Despite a continuing battle with deer, his gardens now include about 700 hosta cultivars.



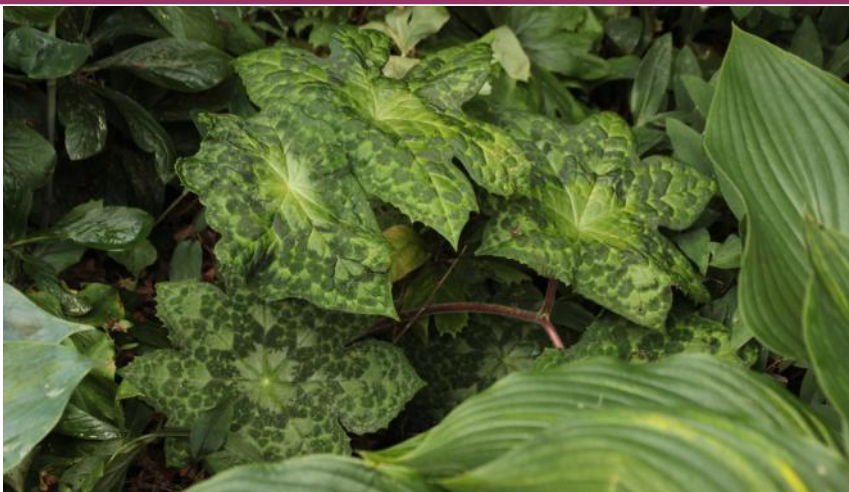
Michael Greanya

My wife Libby and I have been growing hostas since the mid-1980's. We have been members of the American Hosta Society (AHS) for over 35 years and members of Michigan Hosta Society (MHS) for 30 years. Annual AHS national conventions have been events we look forward to annually and have only missed a few since we became members. Part of AHS conventions are tour gardens where we all get a chance to see some spectacular gardens. Michigan Hosta Society hosted AHS conventions in 1999 and again in 2009. Our gardens were selected as a "national tour garden" for both of these conventions. There is no greater honor for us than being selected to host several hundred Hostaphiles in our gardens for these occasions.



I have been a board member for the MHS for many years and Chair of Hosta Hillside for about 10 years. I am responsible for the MHS Hosta Happenings newsletter and proud that the newsletter has won awards from the AHS. I'm also Chair of the Benedict Garden Performance Awards for the AHS since 2014, and was AHS VP Judging and Exhibitions 2017-2021.

I would be honored to volunteer for the position of VP Members Services if the AHS and its members accept the nomination.



Podophyllum 'Spotty Dotty' in Rick and Shelia Goodenough's garden—AHS Convention 2024.

Photo by Mary Vertz

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!](#)



AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY

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The World's Largest Hosta Gathering!



2025 AHS/MRHS Convention

“Hosta Double Feature”

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 . . .



Hosta Society of Greater Cincinnati



2025 Great Lakes Region Hosta Society Tailgate

Jul 11 Friday, July 11 at 8:00 AM
to Saturday, July 12 at 7:00 PM

122 E Silver St
Lebanon, OH 45036, USA



July 11-12, 2025

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

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

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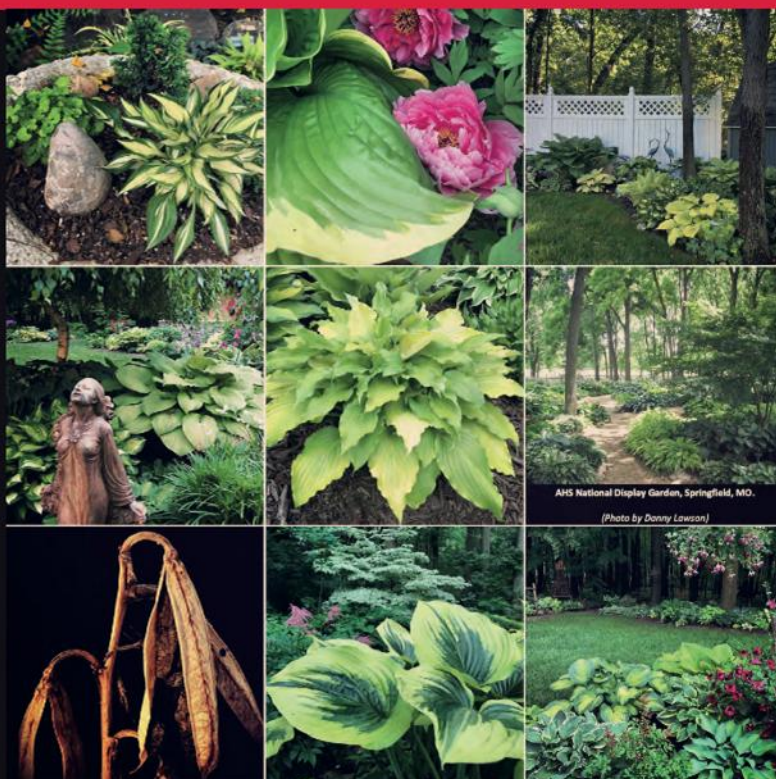
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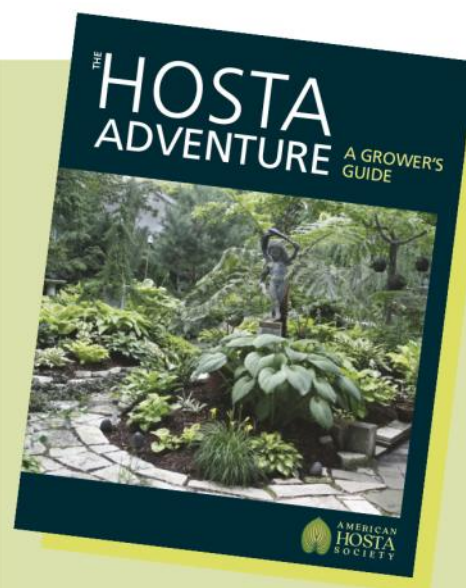
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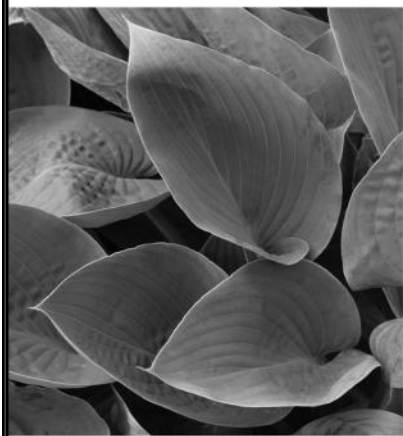
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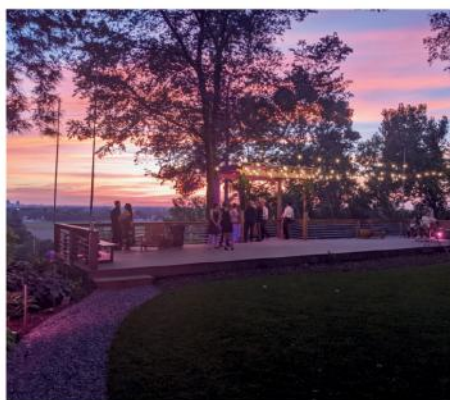
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