



The American Hosta Society

January 2020

eNewsletter



H. 'Tarheel Blue'

R. Solberg 2013

(Photo by Gail Russo)

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President's Message

Andy Marlow, Hopkins, MN

Ho! Ho! Ho! A Happy Holidays wish to everyone in Hostaland!

Yes, I do dress up as Santa Claus, although I only claim to be Santa's younger, smarter, better looking brother. I am not a mall Santa, but primarily visit children and their parents in schools. It is a great joy to me, even when I have a crying child on my lap (which does happen occasionally).

But soon the holidays will be over, and what's a hostaholic to do then? We in the frozen north of North America don't have the opportunity to spend much time in the garden. For me, any outdoor time is spent behind the controls of the snow blower, which I have already used more times this winter than all of last year. Or raking snow off the roof to prevent ice dams. Not the sort of things I relish, but they need doing. The younger and more athletic of my fellow Minnesotans might also be skiing or ice skating, but my age has put me past those activities.

One thing hosta people could be doing is looking through their photos and choosing the best ones to enter in the American Hosta Society/*The Hosta Journal* photo contest. The rules were printed in last spring's *Hosta Journal*. Make sure to check the rules before sending off any entries so what you send will be eligible. Winners will be printed in the spring 2020 *Hosta Journal* and recognized with a beautiful certificate at the annual AHS convention in June. Looking through those photos will also let you reminisce about the past growing season and help you remember when everything was green instead of white (in my part of the country) and brown. The deadline for entries is December 31.

After the winter-bound hosta grower has had a look back, it maybe time for a look ahead. Many of our fine specialty hosta growers and retailers already have their 2020 catalogs online. Take a little time to investigate the new varieties that inevitably appear and other plants you may need to fill in a few spots in your garden beds. Maybe also check out some new companion plants. I know I'll be looking for hellebores and martagon lilies, but your needs and tastes may be different.

When that's all done, it may be time to take some advice from a book we used to read to our children when they were young. That book is titled *I am a Bunny*. In it a bunny named Nicholas, who lives in a hollow tree, describes the things he likes to do during the seasons of the year, like smell the flowers, watch the butterflies and enjoy the leaves falling from the trees. But in winter he curls up in his hollow tree and dreams about spring. That's just what I intend to do, minus the hollow tree!

Andy Marlow
AHS President



Hostas and Associates

Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

The Japanese Hostas, Part 10

Hosta takahashii (Shihozo Giboshi)

by Glenn Herold

Though hostas are native to Japan, China, and Korea, the majority of species come from Japan. This article is the tenth in a series which will talk about those species. Previous eNewsletter articles have covered *Hosta alismifolia*, *H. nakaiana*, *H. pycnophylla*, *H. longipes*, *H. longissima*, *H. montana*, *H. kikutii*, *H. tibae* and *H. rupifraga*. If you missed any of the past articles, you can find them on my blog site: <https://thecottagegardener53012.wordpress.com>.

Today we will discuss *H. takahashii*, Shihozo Giboshi, which was collected on Mount Ibukiyama, Shiga Prefecture, Central Honshu by Shihizo Takahashi. Mount Ibukiyama, also called Mount Ibuki, is the highest mountain on the Shiga Prefecture, reaching an elevation of 4518 feet. It is a favorite destination for hikers and tourists, but has become a horribly commercialized tourist attraction. The sometimes crowded trail runs 8.7 miles long and has an elevation change of 2788 feet.

H. takahashii has similarities to *H. tardiva* and *H. sieboldii*. Like *H. tardiva* it is late blooming, producing flowers in September. It is similar in size and leaf shape to both of the mentioned species, but has slightly larger leaves and the DNA is different. Because of the similarities, some surmise that *H. takahashii* is an interspecific hybrid. Being that it is only partially fertile, there might be some truth to that.

Leaves of *H. takahashii* are shiny and medium to dark green. The underside is also glossy and a lighter green. The leaf blade is slightly rippled. Purplish-red dots are present at the base of the petiole. The plant forms a tight dense mound, maturing at 12 to 15 inches tall.

Flower buds are an attractive dark purple and open to a purplish-violet bell shaped inflorescence. The flower scape reaches a height of about 26 inches. Like the petiole, it has purplish-red dots at the base. Flowers have faint lines extending the length of the petals. This differs from *H. sieboldii*, which has distinct, dark lines. Anthers are purple.



Hosta takahashii (Shihozo Giboshi) clump
(Photo by Glenn Herold)



Hosta takahashii (Shihozo Giboshi) leaf
(Photo by Glenn Herold)



Hosta takahashii (Shihozo Giboshi) flower bud
(Photo by Glenn Herold)



Hosta takahashii (Shihozo Giboshi) flower
(Photo by Glenn Herold)

There are no hybrids or sports of *H. takahashii* in commerce, though the species is available. All of the plants in US trade likely originated from a plant in W George Schmid's Tucker, Georgia garden. He named it "Gosan" to identify it as true to the species, but this name is not acceptable as a cultivar. You can be assured that any plant obtained as "Gosan" is true to the species, but should be correctly identified as just *Hosta takahashii*. Bob Solberg sold divisions of this plant for a while and found it to be a fast grower and one that increased well.

A plant in Japan given the cultivar name 'Kinshoku,' meaning "tricolored," has three-colored flowers. The tube is dark purple while the perianth (petals and sepals) on the outside is white with dark purple lines. The inside of the flower is uniformly purple with darker stripes. This plant has not made its way out of Japan.

Hosta takahashii forms an attractive small to medium mound of shiny foliage and has beautiful late blooming flowers. Purplish-red dots on the flower scape and leaf petioles are also intriguing. Perhaps hybridizers should take a second look at this plant and incorporate it into their breeding programs. Regardless, it would make a fine addition to any garden.



GO HOSTAS!

Warren Pollock, Glen Mills, PA

GO HOSTAS!

Last October when I laid out what I planned to include in the January 2020 *Go Hostas!* column, there was nothing about three distinguished hosta fanciers: Jack Hirsch, Robin Milton and Barry Sligh. That markedly changed when I received information on their passing in November. Now this column is mostly about them. Items I intended to have in the January column, in particular responses to "How Big is Your *Hosta* 'Empress Wu' Clump?" query," have been moved to *Go Hostas!* in the March issue.

Passing: Jack E. Hirsch, Naylor Creek Nursery, Chimacum, Washington

Jack E. Hirsch, Naylor Creek Nursery, Chimacum, Washington, died last November. He was 74. He and Gary Lindheimer are the The Boyz—which is how they commonly referred to themselves.



The Boyz (Gary Lindheimer & Jack Hirsch) and Fransen family in Chimacum, WA restaurant, February 26, 2018. Clockwise from left front: Wouter, 3rd and youngest Fransen son; Gary Lindheimer; Jack Hirsch; Lotte, Fransen daughter; Martin, 2nd Fransen son; Marco Fransen; Joyce Fransen; and Jeroen, oldest Fransen son.

(Photographer unknown)

Here is the backstory. In February 2019, I had an extensive conversation, via email, with Gary Lindheimer about his and Jack Hirsch's backgrounds; their getting together; founding of Naylor Creek Nursery, one of the largest and most respected U. S. hosta nurseries; and their association with Marco and Joyce Fransen in the Netherlands, whose Fransen Hostas nursery is among the most respected in Europe. Gary told me Jack had dementia but didn't detail how advanced it was.

For my "Potpourri: 2019" column in the Fall 2019 issue of *The Hosta Journal* (Volume 50, Number 2, pages 74-75), I wrote a 1275-word article titled "A Conversation with Gary Lindheimer, Co-Proprietor of Naylor Creek Nursery in Chimacum, Washington." Accompanying it was to be a large

photograph I submitted to *THJ* of Gary, Jack and the Fransen family taken in 2018 when the Fransens last visited The Boyz. But because of lack of space in *THJ*, the inclusive photo was not included with the article.

When the *Journal* was to go to press, Jack Hirsch had not passed away. Thus, the implication from the article could be that he is alive.

On November 12th, I found out that Jack died the day before in a hospice facility. I immediately contacted *THJ* staff stating that the article should now include Jack's passing. Could a sentence be added at the end like "Jack E. Hirsch died on November 11, 2019"? I was told yes, and it will be included. With this important addition, the *Journal* article would be current.

Nonetheless, considerably disturbing to me was that the Journal article was missing the informative photo. I was certain the hosta world would greatly appreciate viewing The Boyz and Fransens, too. Moreover, Gary thought it might be the last photo taken of Jack and him, and he was keen on sharing it.

(This is a good opportunity to mention that, in my view, AHS publications, in general, don't have enough people photos—at least of folks who are currently active. In abundance are gorgeous photos of gorgeous hostas and landscapes. I'm reminded of a classic remark by Alex J. Summers, AHS's principle founder and first president (1968-1978): "The American Hosta Society is not a society of hostas. It is a society of *people* interested in the genus *Hosta*. The people are as important as the plants.")

What I decided to do with the missing photo was to include it in *Go Hostas!*, with its caption but no supporting text, as a stand-alone, unconnected item, maybe with the bland heading "Hosta People." I've always thought the column needed people photos, and this photo certainly is an excellent one. I planned to have it in the January 2020 column. Ironically, with Jack's passing, the photo now fittingly accompanies the tribute to him in the column.

The photo was taken in a Mexican restaurant in Washington State. Do Dutch children, peopled in the photo, like Tex-Mex food? It sure looks like it.

Marco and Joyce Fransen were best friends of Jack's. So I asked them for some remembrances of him. Marco emailed me this on December 5th:

"In 1996 Joyce and I attended our first National Convention of The American Hosta Society in Portland, Oregon. Not knowing what to expect, we were looking for the registration table at 6:00 in the morning, sort of nervous, not speaking the language well, in a big hotel on the other side of the world. Luckily there was already somebody from the convention organization at the registration table and that person was Jack Hirsch. He welcomed us and in his very gentle and serene way took away our nervousness feeling. In an instant friendship was born. He and Gary, his partner, helped us through that first convention and ended up after the convention at their lovely hosta nursery in Chimacum, Washington.

"Jack always stayed the nice and quiet, gentle guy. I am not sure if this is correct English but Jack always has been the "running engine" of Naylor Creek Nursery. He was out at the nursery every day and always worked according to his steady schedule. He was up early in the morning doing his daily trip to the post office for the going out mail orders, and coming back with the groceries. Jack was a terrific cook and it was always a joy to stay with him as he prepared the best meals. Besides his passion for food, he never wanted to miss the games of the Seahawks. Even there he had the patience to explain to a guy from Europe how American football is played.

"We will miss Jack, a man of not many words. But if he said something, you better listen as he was always right. One phrase we use a lot comes from Jack. It was when Gary had to do the new catalogue that year and didn't know where to start. Jack simply said: 'Start with the A hostas.' Sometimes it is that simple: Work hard. Don't do too many stupid things and start things at the beginning.

"We will remember Jack as a very loyal friend, steady as a rock. It is a big loss that his engine stopped."

Marco informed me he and Joyce were flying to Seattle on December 7th to stay a while with Gary to see how he is doing.

Passing: Robin Milton, Mickfield Hostas, England

Robin Milton, founder with wife Yvonne of Mickfield Hostas in Mickfield, Stowmarket, Suffolk, U.K., died last November. He was 77.



*Robin Milton 1942 - 2019
(Photo by Mel Collins)*

Mickfield Hostas started out growing fruits and vegetables for the local market. Hostas largely were a hobby. In 1992, the Miltons set up selling their limited hosta stock through small shows and fairs that they traveled to. In 1992, around £10,000 of new varieties were brought in from America, establishing them as a prime hosta specialist. Today, Mickfield Hostas has the largest National Collection of hostas in the U.K.

I met Robin Milton at a British flower show in the 90s or perhaps aughts; I don't recall exactly when. In that era my wife Ali and I vacationed often in England visiting hosta gardens and attending flower shows, in particular the Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Shows in late May and Hampton Court Palace Garden Festivals in July. Over the years we probably attended each six times. I have described the special highlights and enjoyments of these events in columns in *The Hosta Journal*. *There is nothing like them in the U.S. They're exhilarating, but exhausting.*

Though British hosta nurseries do mail order and walk-in sales, for many their principle business is at major flower shows. They have exhibits (stands) and compete for coveted awards; the highest at RHS shows is Gold medal. In the early days of Mickfield Hostas, Robin and Yvonne did as many as 30 shows and fairs *a season* across the U.K. and Ireland.

2011 saw Mickfield Hostas' first RHS Gold Medal for the Marquee exhibit at RHS Malvern Spring Flower Show. It was followed by another at RHS Tatton Park Flower. Now customarily, Mickfield Hostas wins medals and awards at shows each year. Last year it received a Gold medal and the RHS Lindley Award at RHS Hampton Palace Court and another Gold at RHS Malvern, a Silver Gilt at RHS Tatton Park, a Platinum Award (the highest) at BBC Gardeners' World Live and the Five Flower Plant Award at RHS Hyde Hall.

Daughter Mel (Melanie) Collins started at Mickfield Hostas in 2006 but built its website back in 2001. She's the exhibit designer. Mel made a video of the 2019 exhibit, describing each hosta displayed with a lot of interesting background information. It's 11:35 minutes—and worth viewing. Click here to see it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjFxxarbo8&feature=youtu.be>.

Robin and Yvonne gave up exhibiting in 2011; that was their last season on the road. Mickfield Hostas currently comprises Mel and brother Roy. Mel's husband David helps at shows and fairs.

I asked Mel what hosta was Robin's favorite. "*H. 'Paul's Glory'*," she said. "It was also the most expensive we ever added to the collection as we had to import it from the U.S. when it first became available. Robin loved so many hostas, tending towards the more colorful, larger leaved varieties. But he was also a huge fan of the Tardiana Group and their offspring.

"We all used to wait eagerly for the latest AHS Journal to arrive to admire the fabulous plantings across the U.S., which Robin never had the opportunity to visit in person. What he loved to see was mass plantings of cascading leaves, rather than individual specimens lined up in pots. He would have taken our whole collection on the road to shows if he could. What most people are reminded of Robin was his love for the genus *Hosta* as a whole."

Passing: Barry Sligh, Taunton Gardens, New Zealand

Barry Sligh, Taunton Gardens, Lyttelton, N.Z., died last June. He was 72. Taunton Gardens was on the South Island, a twenty-minute drive from Christchurch at Governor's Bay.

Barry Sligh began his business career in the tannery industry, moved on to manufacturing leather goods, fashioning Italian designed garments from New Zealand skins processed in Spain and exported to Japan. Later he opened up a series of retail shops, including handmade knitwear, and lastly this exquisite nursery featuring hostas. He was a self-taught botanist and horticulturist, who over the years acquired an extensive gardening background.

Why Barry concentrated on hostas always puzzled me. On the North Island there was a large, well-established hosta nursery: William Robinson's Tikitere Gardens at Rotorua. Perhaps Barry thought the South Island needed a hosta nursery, too. But his extensive catalog was in U.S. dollars and he advertised in *The Hosta Journal*, so it seems he was going for the American market.

In 1999 and 2000, Barry Sligh registered 30 hostas. All but two have his moniker "Kiwi." The most famous and still highly popular is *H.* 'Kiwi Full Monty' (2000), an eye-catching sport of *H.* 'Striptease' registered by Criss and Rick Thompson in 1991. The main difference between 'Kiwi Full Monty' and 'Striptease' is the color of the leaves. *H.* 'Kiwi Full Monty' has frosty blue leaves with a narrow golden-yellow center and, like 'Striptease', is highlighted with thin white stripes between the two colors.

In 1999, Barry organized "Hosta Tour of New Zealand" during the first two weeks in December, which is spring in that part of the world. He hired passenger vans and drivers, directing the entire tour himself sitting-up-front. On the tour were Gwen and Johnnie Black, Carlisle, England (now living in Scotland); Barbara and "Tiff" Tiffany from Point Pleasant, Pennsylvania (whose Mill Fleurs garden was on tour at the 2006 and 2018 AHS National Conventions); my wife Ali and me (then living in Wilmington, Delaware); and a couple from the Midwest whose names I don't remember.

We visited New Zealand's principal historical and cultural sites and gardens, from Auckland on the North Island to Dunedin at the bottom of the South Island. Tikitere Gardens on the North Island was included. And, of course, Barry's Taunton Gardens and Nursery was prominently featured. I was amazed at the large size of the facility and the number of hostas for sale. Barry and I became good friends and we corresponded for many years afterward.

In 2002, Barry sent Diana Grenfell, the noted British hosta author whose highly regarded hosta nursery was near Lymington in Hampshire, a large number of Kiwi hostas to be given to HRH Prince Charles. Prince Charles is a hosta fancier with a large collection, especially of large-leaved varieties, at Highgrove House, his country estate in the Cotswold. One of the hostas was an unnamed, wide yellow-margined sport of *H.* 'Blue Angel' (Aden - 1986). Prince Charles so admired it, he asked Barry to name it *H.* 'Duke of Cornwall'.

In 2004, at the AHS National Convention in Des Moines, Iowa, Barry gave a special presentation about gardening in New Zealand titled "Gardening in Paradise." I attended the event and recall his lecture. As he talked about hostas growing among tree ferns and other semi-tropical plants, showing dozens of slides, he concurrently played recordings of calls of native New Zealand birds, identifying them and their abundance on the islands.



Barry Sligh 1947 - 2019
(Photo by Ron & Linda Williams)

After the 2004 convention, on his way back to New Zealand, Barry visited Diana, bringing more hostas for Prince Charles. Barry was invited to visit Highgrove House, and, unexpectedly, met Prince Charles, who personally toured him around his famous hosta "Stumpery." A narrative descriptive account, from both Diana and Barry, of how Barry came to supply hostas to Prince Charles and the circumstance of Barry's and Diana's meeting Prince Charles and spending considerable time with him, is in the Spring 2007 issue of *The Hosta Journal* (Volume 38, Number 1, pages 72-74). It's an interesting read. To say the least, Barry Sligh had moxie.

In autumn 2008, Randy Goodwin, the well-known hosta aficionado and hybridizer who lives near Indianapolis, stayed at Barry's guest house at Taunton Gardens on a tour of New Zealand organized by Ron and Linda Williams' "Garden Travelers." This small, private Indianapolis company specializes in group travel to Europe and other world locations. It is noted for its garden tours to unique and private destinations. Ron and Linda are hosta folks; their garden was on tour at the 1997, '07 and '17 AHS National Conventions in Indianapolis.

For the New Zealand tour, the Williamses partnered with Barry, who served as a tour director. Garden Travelers advertised it as "We will be able to view the many diverse cultures of this fascinating country 'through the front door' with Barry."

I asked Randy about his recollections of Barry Sligh. "Barry's wide interest in all plants," he said, "was so evident at that time, especially rhodos and azaleas with several hybrids he introduced. He traveled often to the Himalayas on new plant discovery trips. We stayed at the excellent accommodations at Taunton Gardens' guest house. Barry showed us the Letter of Appreciation from HRH Prince Charles for *H. 'Duke of Cornwall'*."

I would consider Barry Sligh a Renaissance man contender.

In February 2011, a 6.2 magnitude earthquake occurred in Christchurch, badly damaging Taunton Gardens. During the next half dozen years, Barry rebuilt the facilities almost entirely by himself. He sold Taunton Gardens, now "highly earthquake resistant," in about 2017.

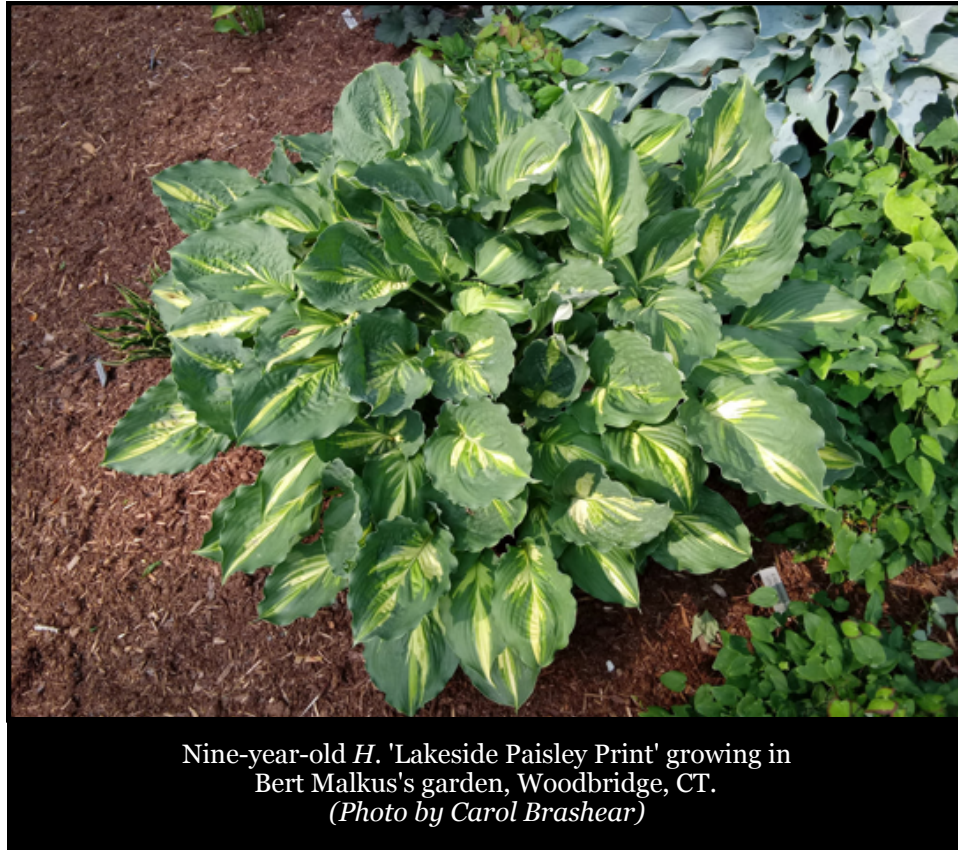
I also asked Madelon Gilligan, a noted hosta fancier in Winchester, South Island, New Zealand for a few words about Barry. "Barry loved his hostas," she said. "He was a great 'Sports Fisherman.' He was always ready to encourage those he thought were serious hosta growers. Many of the hostas he registered were raised or found by other New Zealanders."



Barry Sligh at Taunton Gardens, 2008,
with Letter of Appreciate from
HRH Prince Charles for *H. 'Duke of Cornwall'*
(Photo by Randy Goodwin)

Mature *H.* 'Lakeside Paisley Print' Is Medium-Size Clump

The item on Mary Chastain's *H.* 'Lakeside Paisley Print' in the Spring 2019 Issue of *The Hosta Journal* (Volume 51, Number 1, page 73) says this outstanding hosta, the American Hosta Growers Association's 2019 Hosta of the Year (HOTY), is "smallish," borderline between small and medium. I need to correct this.



Several growers contacted me stating the mature size of 'Lakeside Paisley Print' is medium - as it is listed in the AHS Hosta Show Classification, Section III-6a. In particular, I received a photo of 'Lakeside Paisley Print' growing in Bert Malkus's garden in Woodbridge, Connecticut.

Bert's clump is nine years old and measured 24 inches high by 46 inches across. It has been expanding at about 2-4 inches each year. Most leaves are about 8½ inches by 7½ inches; largest leaf size is 9 inches x 7¼ inches. The site receives morning sun and dappled sunshine from midday to late afternoon.

"*H.* 'Lakeside Paisley Print'," Bert says, "is best described as a medium hosta, but my clump is stretching the upper limits of 'medium.'"

GO HOSTAS!



Book Notice

Clyde Crockett, Carmel, IN

Beth Chatto's SHADE GARDEN

SHADE LOVING PLANTS FOR YEAR-ROUND INTEREST

(Pimpernel Press Ltd. 2017)

Photographs by Steven Wooster

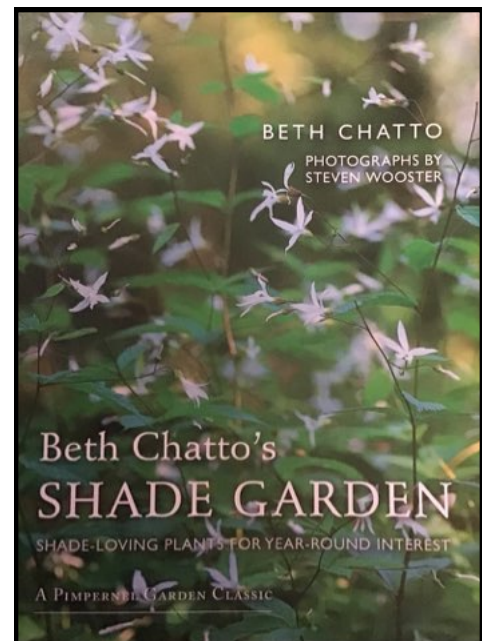
Written by Beth Chatto

In the early 2000s on a visit to England, I was the very appreciative guest of a great friend and an equally great hosta gardener, Glen Pether of Basildon in Essex. After a tour of his superb collection and exciting cultivars, Glen took me northward to the East Anglia gardens of the famous plantswoman and author, Beth Chatto. Through Glen's mediation we were the only guests present that summer's day and were extremely fortunate to meet Ms. Chatto and receive her expert commentary on and a never- to-be forgotten guided tour of the magnificent gardens. Thus, this book evokes very fond memories for your reviewer. It is a beautifully written account about the particular garden where shade prevails during a great part of the year. More than a journal or diary, it is a captivating and fascinating account of a gardening odyssey.

Its genesis is the subject of part 1, "The Wood Garden," now a planted place but which once consisted of nothing more than some spindly oak trees, tree stumps and hardscrabble ground after a 1987 hurricane had decimated everything else. Not to be deterred, the Chattos began to vastly improve the soil and save as many trees as feasible. Both deciduous and evergreen shrubs were planted to flourish beneath an oak-treed canopy. Among these were varieties of *Mahonia* and a particular favorite of mine, *Cornus mas*, the cornelian cherry. As is true of all parts, the outstanding photographs of Steven Wooster accompany the text.

Part 2, " The Awakenings", evokes that time eagerly anticipated by the avid gardener - the emergence of the snowdrops, aconites and first daffodils. Additionally, arums, and epimediums, are duly noted and particular attention is given to many varieties and forms of Lenten roses, the hellebores. We should note that these appear in February in Essex. Their appearance will be later for many of us stateside.

In Part 3, "Spring Enchantment " there is a further discussion of early spring beauties - the amelanchiers, forget-me-nots, pulmonaries, primroses, anemones and sillas that form what is



termed a "medieval tapestry." Included here is a section intriguingly titled "American Woodlanders". Featured are various forms of erythroniums and trilliums native to California, of which I confess I was totally unaware.

"Early Summer Profusion" describes the familiar time when the garden "explodes with new life." Many shrubs now blossom, along with the foamflower, Solomon's seal, and dicentras. Ornamental grasses that are shade tolerant and ferns, both mainstays of the shade garden, are discussed in detail.

The high point of the book for many will be Part 5, " High Summer Tapestries," for it is here we have the section on hostas, appropriately titled "Dramatic Foliage." Recognizing the need for shape and form in her Wood Garden, Chatto puts hostas at the top of her selections: "No other plant has the same impact," she writes. To be sure, she does exclude "strongly variegated" forms which would be out of place in the Wood Garden; however, besides solid colored standouts such as *H. 'Halcyon'* and *H. Blue Danube'*, some "gently variegated" are recommended, such as *H. fortunei albopicta*, forms of *H. sieboldiana*, particularly *elegans*, *H. ventricosa*, and even *H. lancifolia*. To combat slugs, pulverized bark and the attraction of birds are employed.

The final part, "Shade Tolerant Plants" is a useful listing of trees, shrubs, climbers, perennials, bulbs, ferns and grasses for the shade garden. Only ten hosta varieties are listed but each one would be a worthy addition. Found here will be invaluable suggestions of attractive additions to the shade garden.

The book ends with an "Afterword" by David Ward, Garden and Nursery Director at the Beth Chatto Gardens. Mr. Ward provides the reader with an informative and concise history of the Wood Garden. Your Noticer highly recommends a visit to the gardens and highly recommends this book as well. Both are remarkable achievements. Each is a true classic.

Happy Gardening,

Clyde





Featured Local Hosta Society

Georgia Hosta Society



Greg Ferguson, President

Website: www.gahosta.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Georgia-Hosta-Society-178042513984/>



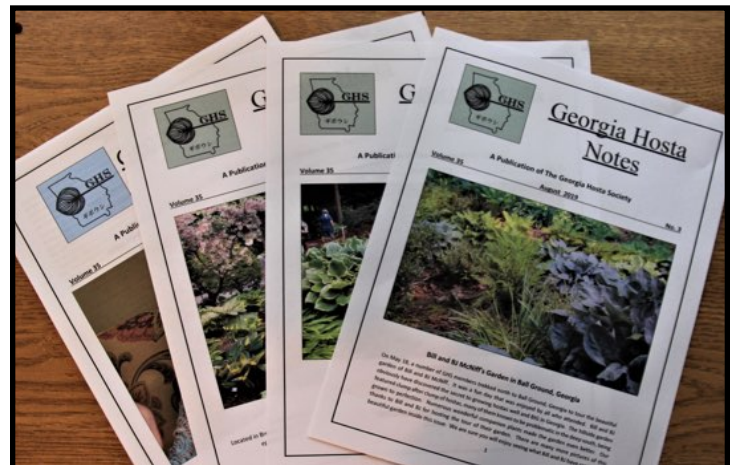
GHS' first officers: Vice President Ray Stevens, President George Schmid, Directors George deMan, Betty Woods, Sam Jones, Treasurer Wilma Coney, And Secretary Barbara Mitchell.
(Photographer unknown)

The GHS was founded by prominent AHS member, George Schmid, along with Ray Stevens in 1984. Its first Bylaws dictated that it conduct a hosta show annually except when hosting a regional or national meeting. It has faithfully met this requirement since its founding. It now conducts its show and plant sale in conjunction with the "Tucker Days" festival in Tucker, GA. This festival draws in many people from the area. This allows for opportunities to reach potential new members.

Membership in the GHS is 120 members with about 35 attending each meeting held four times a year at the Deen Day Sanders Garden House in Duluth, GA. Door prizes are given at the meetings and are always enjoyed.

Annual dues are \$15 per person \$25 family.

Each member receives their informative quarterly newsletter, *Georgia Hosta Notes*. About 95% choose the electronic version with the other 5% receiving a hard copy paper version.



The major fund-raising events are the Show Plant Sale, Spring Meeting Plant Auction, Raffles, and Silent Auctions at other meetings.

Each year an AHS sanctioned Leaf Show is held with many beautiful specimens brought in for display.

Occasionally carpool trips are made to local and regional gardens - which are always a lot of fun! The members are active in conducting educational presentations at meetings and occasionally to area Master Gardeners when requested. Special speakers are occasionally brought in for the enjoyment and education of the members.



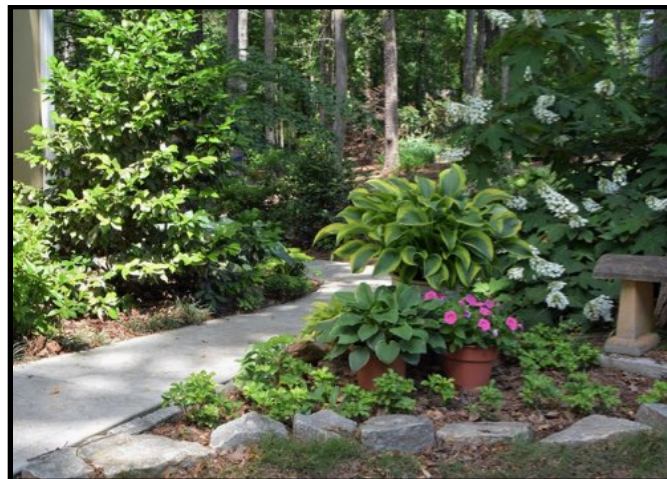
GHS Fern Ridge Farms tour in Cedar Bluff, AL in 2018.
(Photo by Harold McDonell)



George Schmid, GHS Founder, with wife Hildegard, being presented the Lifetime Achievement Award by AHS President, Don Dean. April 12, 2016.
(Photo by Harold McDonell)



Spring Plant Sale.
(Photo by Harold McDonell)



2019 Garden Tour McNiff Garden.
(Photo by Harold McDonell)



GHS Spring Auction - happy bidders!
(Photo by Harold McDonell)



GHS Spring Meeting in Duluth, GA.
(Photo by Harold McDonell)



GHS Hosta Show - the winners!
(Photo by Harold McDonell)



GHS Hosta Show - an impressive number of entries!
(Photo by Harold McDonell)



GHS Hosta Show - admiration all around.
(Photo by Harold McDonell)



2019 Garden Tour McNiff Garden.
(Photo by Harold McDonell)



And In Other Hosta News . . .



Toni Wright
1919 - 2019

On September 13, the Georgia Hosta Society lost one of its most cherished members with the death of Toni Wright. Toni had just celebrated her 100th birthday earlier this year. Shortly afterwards, she had to undergo heart surgery for a defective heart valve, but she survived it and was back home in a just few weeks. Unfortunately, and unknown to her at the time, a more sinister foe in the form of pancreatic cancer was taking its toll. It was a foe she could not overcome.

Toni was the ultimate gardener and her love of plants was spread across many genera. She became hooked on hostas in the late 1980's after attending a hosta show conducted by the Georgia Hosta Society. She immediately joined them and it did not take long before she was one of the most dedicated hosta ambassadors. She was a smart woman with excellent administrative skills, which were soon put, to use in the GHS. She did it all. She was on the GHS Board of Directors for many years and she also served as the president. She also became involved early on with the American Hosta Society and served on its Board for several years. In 1996, Bob Olson, then President of AHS, approached her with a request to form a regional organization for Region 3 of AHS, which incorporated several southern states, including Georgia. She took on the job and in only a few months, the Dixie Regional Hosta Society was formed. In 1997, it held its first Dixie Region meeting and the organization was off and running! Toni remained as its Regional Director for several years and built the Dixie Regional Hosta Society into the vibrant organization that it is today. Her daughter, Judy Burns, states that Toni considered this her proudest accomplishment. The members of GHS think maybe Toni's greatest accomplishment was that of being a good friend to many other members of GHS over the years, and to many others in the hosta world as well. She never forgot a face or name. It seemed she knew everyone and could form a fast friendship in a minute. Yes, the GHS will certainly miss Toni Wright, without a doubt. However, she will continue to live in their hearts.

~ *Harold McDonell*

Toni Wright's garden was on the National Convention Tour in in 1994. It won the coveted Harshbarger Award for "best use of hosts in a convention garden" (generally considered to be for "Best Garden"). It was small, meticulously tended, and comprised of hostas with carefully chosen annuals and perennials that made it quite gay and colorful. The hostas were not rare—nor were they "expensive", but they looked perfect in her little paradise. Toni, and her omnipresent daughter, Judy, greeted each and every visitor in the finest of Southern Traditions. They served iced tea and lemonade together with home made cookies. Toni was just like her garden, the embodiment of the best of Nature and of Dixie. Toni's garden said, Love! And everyone who met her that day fell in love with both Toni and her garden.

~ *Bob Olson*



Toni welcoming a bus load of
1994 AHS National Convention attendees.
(*Photographer unknown*)



And In Other Hosta News . . .

(Continued)

Follow the AHS on Instagram!



If Instagram is your social channel of choice, be sure to follow the American Hosta Society! You'll find lots of photos and inspiration for your own garden. Comment, like, and tag us in your posts. ~ *Tammy Borden*

[@AmericanHostaSociety](https://www.instagram.com/AmericanHostaSociety)





2020 Online Auction

Don Dean, Ramsey, MN

January Online Auction 2020: Today's thoughts lead toward a successful January event!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 11th through Saturday, January 25th, 2020, to sit down at your computer screen for a break from winter cabin fever with dreams of the coming spring.

December may seem an odd time to be thinking about sub-zero temps and cabin fever activities coming up in January of 2020 . . . WRONG! There is no better time than now to take inventory, make note, and plan donations for the AHS Online Auction. 2017 Online Auction showed us all that there exists a great degree of interest in seed, especially seed from good quality seedlings, rare collector plants, and streaked breeders. My supply this year is limited but back again. You do not have any of those, hey, there is also interest in seed from classics. Our participants have widely varying degrees of interest and experience with growing seed. The same holds true of plants, if you like it . . . someone else will.

This event is the second largest fundraiser for the society each year. Donors provide a description of plant material, seed, or garden related items and a digital photo. Each item is posted in an easy to use auction format.

Each year the AHS Online Auction is held in mid-January. News is distributed via email notices and upon the AHS website. Enter the AHS website and send a message to the chair, Don Dean, requesting that your address be added to the mailing group. Changed your service provider or have a new email address? Be sure to send this news to Don as well.

This event is open to members as well as non-members. You are encouraged to invite a friend(s) to join in and at least enjoy the process.

Much more information will be coming to the membership later. Take a moment now with this message to have your email included in future messages. Planning for possible donations is even more time critical prior to the actual event beginning. This allows time to prep the item for posting upon the auction site. Give it a thought and consider joining in on the fun and entertainment when the plant world can seem to have stopped!

Don Dean

Online Auction Chair

P.S. For a look at the beautiful hostas sold at previous Online Auctions, click this link:

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Activities/Auctions.htm>



AHS ONLINE AUCTION

Greetings from the Minnesota Hosta Society (MHS)!!



The MHS is the convention host for the American Hosta Society (AHS) 2020 National Convention. My name is Amy Peterson the 2020 Convention Chair. I am sending this email to a leadership member of all local, regional and international hosta societies of record to ask your assistance in bringing awareness to your membership about “**Hosta Vision 2020**”. The convention is being held June 10-13, 2020 at the Minneapolis Marriott NW located in Brooklyn Park, MN. If you received this and another in your local society is the better contact please forward it to them for consideration. We hope you will help us spread the word at your group meetings and by adding the convention logo and link to your society membership paper and/or electronic communications. Convention details are located www.hostavision2020.com. Links also reside on the AHS (www.americanhostasociety.org) and MHS (www.mnhosta.org) websites. The home page of the convention website includes a convention summary, press release and logos you can easily import into any publication. Please view our website at your earliest convenience for full convention details on:



Thank you in advance for helping us to promote this annual event where those with a zeal for hosta will gather!

A graphic for AHS Conventions. On the left is a black and white photograph of hosta leaves. The text 'AHS Conventions' is overlaid on the bottom left. In the center, the phrase 'Mark your calendar!' is written in a large, elegant cursive font. On the right side, there are two event listings separated by horizontal lines. The first listing is for 'MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA June 10-13, 2020'. The second listing is for 'KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN June 16-19, 2021'.

MINNEAPOLIS,
MINNESOTA
June 10-13, 2020

KALAMAZOO,
MICHIGAN
June 16-19, 2021

AHS
Conventions

*Mark your
calendar!*

3rd
—
edition

The American Hosta Society's

Hosta Adventure: A Grower's Guide



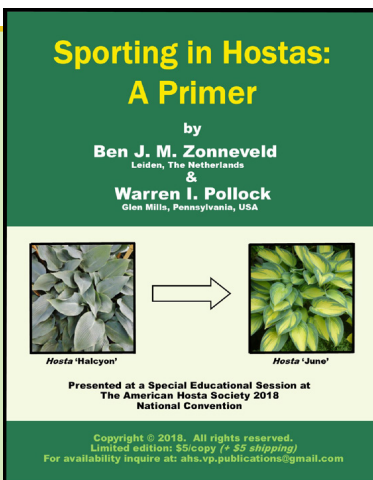
Beautifully revised... the third edition of this popular hosta primer. It has been updated with new pictures of popular cultivars and information regarding the latest research on hosta culture and pest control. The 32-page guide, illustrated with dozens of colorful photos, features valuable advice from experts, who provide tips on how best to purchase, plant and propagate hostas. Chapters also address landscaping with hostas, container gardening and growing minis. *The Hosta Adventure* is popular with garden clubs, plant societies and collectors. If you love the "Friendship Plant," you will want to order this updated essential AHS guide.

Get your copy!

Order from Barry Ankney
2001 South Meyers Rd, Apt. 300
Oakbrook Terrace IL 60181-5271
Email:
ahs.vp.publications@gmail.com

\$4.00 + \$2.50 U.S. postage
\$5.50 + \$2.50 postage for non-members

Inquire about quantity discounts.



NEW
FROM
THE
AHS!

SPORTING IN HOSTAS: A PRIMER

Order for \$10 (postage paid).

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

Barry Ankney
VP Publications
2001 South Meyers Rd Apt 300
Oakbrook Terrace IL 60181-5271

This educational booklet explains the process of sporting in hostas.

Based on over 10 years of study, Drs. Zonneveld and Pollock have produced the most definitive work on this subject to date. The serious hosta enthusiast will want to add this booklet to their hosta library. Photographs and illustrations supplement and enhance the scientific information.

AHS Membership



The American Hosta Society (AHS) is a society dedicated to the study and improvement of the genus *Hosta* and the dissemination of general and scientific knowledge about hostas. There are numerous benefits for the members that result from these efforts, both social and in nursery trade. All AHS members receive several publications a year, including two colorful issues of *The Hosta Journal* (mailed), six *eNewsletters* (emailed), along with *The Online Hosta Journal* (posted on the web for members only). These Journals include articles on cultivation tips, propagation techniques, landscape uses, new cultivars and old species, pioneers and personalities, scientific advances, convention awards, gardens, and news about the AHS.

Membership provides an opportunity to attend national meetings and conventions, which offer educational and scientific presentations, garden tours, judge's clinics, and a chance to see the latest and best hostas in the hosta show.

Other membership benefits:

- A Biennial AHS Membership Directory.
- The privilege of visiting display gardens throughout the country, many of which are only open to AHS members.
- An invitation to exhibit your favorite hostas and compete for recognition in various AHS national and regional hosta shows.
- Developing friendships with people who share an interest in growing hostas.
- Access to Members Only section of the AHS website.

Another benefit of becoming a new member is you receive a voucher from the AHS Membership Secretary good for \$15.00 towards any purchase at sponsoring nurseries. For information about this program, go to:

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Membership/AHSVoucherProgram.htm>

Print and mail the Membership Application form on the next page, or to join online, go to: <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Membership/Membership.htm>

AHS Membership Application

Name:			
Street:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Country:		Phone Number:	
Email Address:			

Please Circle	Membership Type	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Life
USA	<i>Individual</i>	\$30	\$80	\$129	\$900
	<i>Family</i>	\$34	\$90	\$146	
Canada	<i>Individual</i>	\$39	\$107	\$168	\$1,170
	<i>Family</i>	\$43	\$117	\$185	
Europe	<i>Individual</i>	\$51	\$142	\$219	\$1,530
	<i>Family</i>	\$55	\$152	\$236	
Pacific Rim	<i>Individual</i>	\$59	\$165	\$254	\$1,770
	<i>Family</i>	\$62	\$175	\$267	
E-membership	<i>receive everything electronically</i>	\$20			

All memberships payable in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank.

Make check payable to:
The American Hosta Society

Mail application and payment to:

Sandie Markland
AHS Membership Secretary
PO Box 7539
Kill Devil Hills NC 27948
Email: AHSmembershipSecretary@charter.net

Or pay by credit card or PayPal at:
<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/ZenCart/>

Membership Year:
January 1 to December 31

Type of membership:
New or Renewal *(please circle one)*

**How did you find out
about the AHS?**
(please circle one)

Friend/Word of mouth

Web site search

Web banner ad

Event/Presentation

Plant Tag (which nursery?)

Facebook

Instagram

e-Newsletter