



# *Shady Business*

*Newsletter of The Potomac Hosta Club, Inc.*

*Volume 29, Number 4, December 2015*

*[www.potomachostaclub.com](http://www.potomachostaclub.com)*

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#### **Newsletter Editor:**

Tom Hilt  
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## **President's Letter**

As we close 2015 there are a number of our club members to thank for all the hours of their time to keep the club operating. One of the top honors goes to Tom Hilt. My New Year's Resolution is to hit **save** when I write the president's letter so he is not waiting on me to rewrite it!

A number of members have requested a Membership Directory. Please fill out the form to be included in the directory. This list is for the use of PHC members only – It may not be used for any commercial purposes.

Longtime member Alma Kasulaitis has been in the hospital this year. I know we all wish her a speedy recovery.

Use this lovely El Nino weather and start getting your gardens ready for the 2016 Garden Strolls. I know you work hard on your gardens (doesn't have to be perfect for us to come visit.)

*Please consider running for an office position – Elections are this Spring. New officers will be installed at the fall picnic.*

*Susan*

**'Hosta Gardeners have it made in the shade.'**

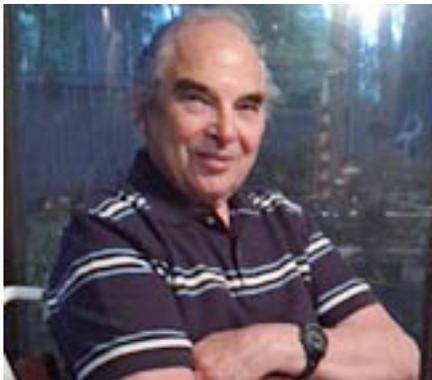
## Welcome Aboard!

The Potomac Hosta Club would like to welcome the following new member:

- Walter & Susan Weiss, Bethesda, MD

### PHC Member George Graine Receives Garden Writers Silver Award

George Graine, a long-time member of the Potomac Hosta Club and a Fairfax Master Gardener since 1988, has received a *Silver Award of Achievement from the 2015 Garden Writers Association (GWA) Media Awards Program* for his article entitled, "Fooling Mother Nature: Forcing Flower Bulbs for Indoor Bloom." His article, published by Virginia Cooperative Extension, was among 231 entries judged by a panel of distinguished members of the gardening, communications, and academic communities.



The award was announced at an awards banquet on Sept. 21, 2015 in Pasadena, Calif., as part of the 67th GWA Annual Symposium. This award makes George eligible to receive a higher honor: the GWA Garden Media Gold Awards for Best Talent and Best Product.

A contributor to Fairfax Gardening, he began his writing career in December 1990, when the newsletter editor of the Holmes Run Acres community asked him to write gardening articles for their publication. George, who often writes under the moniker "Grainethumb," has authored 118 articles for the Holmes Run newsletter and continues to write for every issue. He has also written 80 articles for the Virginia Master Gardener Association newsletter, and from 2008 to 2014 he wrote the North Piedmont Region Report for Virginia Gardener magazine.

In 2012, Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) was looking to build on its publication base and ran a manuscript contest to encourage master gardeners to write for VCE. George decided to enter and write about forcing flower bulbs for indoor bloom. He chose this topic because of his interest in it and because it was not already covered by a VCE publication. The 10-page article, "Fooling Mother Nature: Forcing Flower Bulbs for Indoor Bloom," is available online at:

<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/HORT/HORT-76/HORT-76-PDF.pdf>

This year, George will receive an award for 11,000 hours of service as a master gardener at the Virginia annual state conference, run in conjunction with Master Gardener College at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg.

**Congratulations, George!!!**

### PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY FOR THE POTOMAC HOSTA CLUB

A number of members have requested that the Potomac Hosta Club put out a Membership Directory listing the Club's members as an aid to help in communicating with one another. As the Club's Membership Secretary, I would like to compile a directory and make it available to all. To that end, I am asking members who would like to be included in the directory to fill out some or all of the information requested in the separate Micro Soft Word document accompanying the newsletter. This request comes with the following caveats:

- **Members must willingly opt into the directory;** those who do not want to be listed will not be, nor will those who do not respond to this request.
- Members who do wish to be listed can determine how much information they want to include in the directory.
- A paper directory will be distributed to members at the annual Spring Meeting, currently scheduled for Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

If you would like to participate, please complete the form accompanying the newsletter, save it, and then send it as an attachment to me at:

[tandjhilt@verizon.net](mailto:tandjhilt@verizon.net).

**Please do so as soon as you can, but no later than January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016.**

I thank you, Tom Hilt

## Hostas – More Than Pretty Leaves

by Jim Wilkins,

*(Courtesy of the Mid-South Hosta Society Newsletter of August 2001, via Illinois Prairie Hosta Society's newsletter, Prairie Hosta Herald, Volume 11, Number 6, August 2015.)*

With each passing season, I notice more and more the difference among hostas. Part of that skill has been acquired by looking at more than just the leaf. Don't misunderstand me. The most dramatic and significant impact of hostas comes from the leaves. However, by emphasizing only the foliage, we may miss the subtle beauty and some fun. As a hosta society (AHS), we honor the leaves. If one of our hybridizers were to create a hosta with a yellow or red flower, all of us would likely want such a plant. But if its leaf were not unique, it would not win an award in the seedling class at the cut-leaf show.

Consider the flower scapes. Some are rigid and some arch. Some have orderly ridges. Some are very tall compared to the plant's height. Others may be so short as to have all or part of the blooming under the plant's foliage. Some plants have several flower scapes per division. The color of the flower scape often mirrors the color of the central part of the leaf and petiole.



Don Dean photo

Some hosta leaves have a waxy coat called "bloom," which is what makes blue leaves blue, and which, after time, may melt off and create dark-green leaves. Have you noticed that flower scapes and even seed pods also have a "bloom?" The bloom on the scape persists long after the bloom on the leaf is gone.

Flower scapes can also have red pigment. This may vary from a light stippling to an intense uniform color such as seen on *H. 'Sparkling Burgundy'*. In some cases the purple color also extends to the seed pods. This is the case with *H. 'Purple Passion'*, making it a very striking plant when the seed pods are left on the scape. Several of my seedlings from *H. kikutii* var. *caput-avis* have purple flower scapes. One of them has a very unusual modification: development of the purple appears to be photo (light) dependent. The portion of the scape below the foliage is green and that above the foliage is purple.

Some flower scapes have leaves arising from them. These vestigial leaves or scape foliations can be very striking. They often mimic leaves that arise from the crown. Herb Benedict has commented that they are often seen in young, vigorous plants, and become insignificant in established clumps. Splashed vestigial leaves can be a useful guide as to which flowers are apt to produce variegated progeny.

We regularly talk about flower color, shape, size and fragrance. Other flower attributes may distinguish one hosta from another. Do most of the flowers arise from one side of the scape or are they regularly distributed around the scape? Do spent flowers readily drop off the scape or are they retained until they shrivel and desiccate? Are the flowers closed? This can be very beautiful because the flowers are not pollinated and seem to be retained longer before dropping off. Orientation of the individual flowers has great influence on the beauty of the bloom. Some flowers droop with their open end facing down, while others face straight out or even face up, making a more dramatic presentation.

Some hosta growers remove their flower scapes, just after they emerge, and miss most of the interest. Many hostaphiles remove their flower scapes as the



H. 'Dark Waters' Floyd Rogers

last few flowers are spent. This, it is felt, puts more energy into the plant and promotes more rapid growth. It is also good to remove the scape unless you want to grow the seeds, before the seed pods ripen and the seeds are spread all over the garden.

It can be difficult discriminating between a volunteer seedling and one of your prized hostas.



H. 'Roderick' flower bud  
Rick Schroeder

By cutting flower scapes early, you may miss some beauty and interest in the seed pods. Some are a lovely dark purple, some are striped, some are gold, some are large, and some may have a waxy coat or "bloom." You don't have to be a hybridizer to understand this wonder and wonder-filled plant.

### Some Fragrant Hosta - From Plant Delights

*(Courtesy of the Illinois Prairie Hosta Society from its newsletter, Prairie Hosta Herald, Volume 11, Issue 7, September 2015.)*

#### List of Some Fragrant Hostas

(56 officially registered as fragrant flowers) of these, only 27 are actually available/genetically stable/and truly fragrant

\* - denotes **Commercially Available Varieties or Good Garden Specimens**

\* Honeybells/Cumming 1950 (H. plantaginea x H. sieboldii)

\* Sweet Susan/F. Williams 1958 (H. plantaginea x H. sieboldii)

\* Royal Standard/Wayside 1965 (H. plantaginea hybrid)

\* Iron Gate Delight/V. Sellers 1981 (H. plantaginea x H. 'Tokudama Aureonebulosa')

\* Iron Gate Glamour/V. Sellers 1981 (H. plantaginea x H. 'Tokudama Aureonebulosa')

\* Fragrant Bouquet/P. Aden 1982 (H. 'Fascination' x H. 'Summer Fragrance')

Fragrant Gold/P. Aden 1982 (H. 'Sum and Substance' hybrid)

Fragrant Tot/P. Aden 1982 (H. 'Amy Aden' hybrid)

Garden Bouquet/V. Sellers 1983 (H. 'Iron Gate Bouquet' mutation)

Sweet Marjorie/H. Benedict 1983/(H. plantaginea x H. 'Ginko Craig')

\* Summer Fragrance/K. Vaughn 1983 (H. plantaginea x H. Vaughn 73-2)

\* Buckwheat Honey/H. Benedict 1984 (H. plantaginea x H. 'Ginko Craig')

\* Sugar and Cream/M. Zilis 1984 (H. 'Honeybells' mutation)

Curley Top/H. Benedict 1985 (H. 'Ginko Craig' x H. plantaginea)

\* Invincible/P. Aden 19861 (H. Aden 314 x Aden 802)

Royal Accolade/B. Zumbar 1986 (H. 'Royal Standard' mutation)

\* So Sweet/P. Aden 1986 (H. 'Fragrant Bouquet' x Aden #462)

\* Sweet Jill/H. Benedict 1986 (H. plantaginea x H. 'Tokudama' hybrid mutation)

- \* Emily Dickinson/E. Lachman 1987 (H. 'Neat Splash' hybrid x H. plantaginea)
- \* Fragrant Blue/P. Aden 1988 (H. 8413 x H. 8270)
- \* Sweetie/P. Aden 1988 (H. 'Fragrant Bouquet' x 'Fragrant Candelabra')
- \* Bennie McRae/N. Suggs 1989 (H. plantaginea hybrid)
- \* Old Faithful/O. Petryszyn 1991 (H. plantaginea x H. 'Old Faithful')
- \* Sombrero/B. Savory 1991 (H. 'Honeybells' hybrid)
- \* Austin Dickinson/E. Lachman 1992 (H. 'Resonance' x H. plantaginea)
- \* Warwick Essence/G. Jones 1993 (H. 'Northern Halo' x H. plantaginea)
- \* Fried Bananas/B. Solberg 1994 (H. 'Guacamole' mutation)
- \* Guacamole/B. Solberg 1994 (H. 'Fragrant Bouquet' mutation)
- \* Fried Green Tomatoes/B. Solberg 1995 (H. 'Guacamole' mutation)
- \* Hoosier Harmony/Indiana Hosta Society 1995 (H. 'Royal Standard' mutation)
- \* Mistress Mabel/E. Lachman 1995 (H. 'Beatrice' F6 x H. 'Blue Moon') x H. plantaginea)
- \* Sugar Babe/B. Solberg 1996 (H. 'Iron Gate Supreme' x H. 'Saishu Jima')
- \* Diana Remembered/J. Kulpa 1997 (H. 'Seventh Heaven' mutation)
- \* Sweet Sunshine/B. Solberg 1997 (H. 'Sweet Susan' x H. 'Tokudama Aureonebulosa') Not Registered
- \* Aphrodite/Japan NR (H. plantaginea mutation)

## Thinking Small!! Unique Trees For Your Yard

by Ran Lydell

*(Courtesy of the Western New York Hosta Society from their newsletter, Hosta la Vista, April 2015.)*

Spring is on the way, and I bet you wake up in the middle of the night thinking "Oh gosh – What can I

put in that empty spot in the yard?!?" WELL – I am here to help you get a decent night's sleep!

There are a lot of popular trees available but many are prone to problems and shouldn't be on any list you may make. BUT, I present to you here a few top performers. REMEMBER Just because it has big pink and white blooms that look like orchids – That doesn't make it the best choice for your yard.

**Kousa Dogwoods** A very good choice for a medium sized space. Becomes a spreading form to 20 feet wide. Bark is mottled and very striking with age. 3/4 Pink fruit in fall.

**C. kousa Chinensis** – Massive, long-lasting white blooms in June. A good variety is 'Milky Way'

**C. kousa Chinensis Satomi** – A smaller growing Dogwood with shaded pink blooms (intensity of color varies)

**C. kousa Chinensis Gold Star** – Another small one. Has green leaves with deep yellow centers.

**C. kousa C. x C. nutallii "Venus"** – All I can say is WOW. This new tree has ruffled blooms that can reach 6" wide.

**Small Elms** Several varieties exist. Here is one the best

Ulmus p. 'Frosty' – A small Lacebark Elm. White edged serrated leaves! Beautiful form!

**Japanese Maples (acers)** Some of the best small trees fall under this heading. Be Careful. Some are difficult! These trees need some wind shelter and good drainage. Most display fabulous fall color!

**Acer p. 'Bloodgood'** – This one grows somewhat slowly but can reach 20 feet. Awesome red foliage all summer.

**Acer p. 'Dissectum Atropurpureum'** – The thread leaf weeper. Narrow red leaves. Just gets better with age!

**Acer shirasawanum** – Simply a WOW group. Among the best are 'Autumn Moon' & 'Full Moon' 10 to 12 feet.

**Acer japonicum** – A bit more hardy. Our new introduction 'Dragons Claw' Is a dwarf. Deep maroon fall color!

(Continued on Page 7.)

# 2015 Annual Picnic



(Continued from Page 5.)

**Redbuds (cercis)** Wonderful Flowering trees. Can be a bit tender in Zone 5. Plant in a well drained and sheltered site.

**Cercis c.** ‘Hearts of Gold’ – One of the hardiest. Growing to 20’ Golden foliage on a graceful spreading form.

**Cercis c.** ‘The Rising Sun’ – Golden foliage with apricot colors on new growth. Typical cerise spring bloom!

**Cercis c.** ‘Covey’ – Outstanding weeping form. Looks great summer & winter!

**Cercis c.** ‘Merlot’ – Actually a hybrid. This the best red leafed variety. Deep color bloom. Reaches 15 feet.

**Dwarf Willows (salix)** There are a few small growing willows that can be used in the garden. I have listed the best one. Salix I. ‘Flamingo’ – can be a “standard” graft or a multi stem small tree. Variegated foliage with some pink tips.

**Dawn Redwood** These are true redwoods. There are several dwarf forms. Most have few pests. Metasequoia g. ‘North Light’ A small (20’) lacy tree with light color foliage. Very special garden addition.

**Oaks (quercus)** Just a few are suitable for a smaller city space. The ‘Japanese Emperor’ Oaks are best.

**Quercus dentata** – Small 20’ with a rounded profile. Leaves are semi glossy shaped like holly. Bronze fall color!

**Quercus d. Pinnatifida** – Smaller than above but with deeply cut foliage. Shape is “random”.

**Ginkgo** – Maiden hair trees. Bright yellow fall color on a unique tree. Many dwarf forms exist. Fan shaped leaves. Only buy male selections!

**Ginkgo b.** – ‘Marikan’ A tree with cupped & clustered bright green foliage. 6’ bright yellow fall color!

**Ginkgo b.** – ‘Jade Butterflies’ & ‘Spring Grove’ Striking selections growing to under 10 feet. Bright yellow fall!

**Castar Aralia** – Tropical-looking trees with thorny projections on the main trunks. Very unique garden specimens.

**Kalopanax pictus** – Large five lobed leaves on a slow growing very unique looking small tree.

**Aralia s.** – ‘Variegated’ An outstanding, “tropical” looking small tree with huge 4’ compound, variegated leaves.

I have intentionally left out many popular trees such as cherries, crabapples, some magnolias & eastern dogwoods as they are prone to a lot of problems.

Soooo -- You say “guess that pretty much covers it.” NOT REALLY! There are many, many more! Dwarf lindens, dwarf hawthorns, dwarf magnolias, dwarf Florida Cypress, & more. To select a great tree, do a bit of research. Make sure it has a good chance in your yard. *Now start planning the shade plants for its companions!!*

## Now For The Inside Story On Hostas

by Larry Tucker

*(Courtesy of the Mid-South Hosta Society from their newsletter, Hosta Hotline, Volume 18, Number 6, September 2015.)*

Just about every time I present a program to a garden club, someone asks “Can I grow hostas indoors?” I hate to disappoint the uninitiated, but hostas are outdoor plants. That’s where climatic conditions – cold, heat, sun, shade, wind and rain – guide them through their perennial life cycle.

It’s true that hostas can live for a while in a greenhouse, but they won’t thrive. Even with temperature control, light, water, soil and fertilizer, these misplaced plants may refuse to flower and propagate. More likely, they’ll suffer slow death. However, within reason and season, there are ways to enjoy hostas indoors.

We’re all familiar with cutleaf shows, where the finest hosta foliage is plucked, prepped and placed in vases or vials for competition. Well-grown and well-watered leaves can last well beyond a show. Several of my Dixie colleagues have won multiple ribbons with the same leaf at hosta shows weeks apart. For simple enjoyment at home, we can employ these same guidelines. That’s what I’ve been doing this summer.

Looking out the back door, I find great satisfaction in a patio pot garden that’s almost within reach. As temperatures climb into the high 90s with an even higher heat index, I do my watering, pruning and cleaning in the early morning. Most of the potted

hostas are shoulder-to-shoulder in the townhouse yard, so I don't have to traipse all over. Also, the containers are in dappled shade and retain moisture.

Pruning is necessary when leaves are eaten by slugs and bugs or beaten and broken by tree debris.

Among thousands of leaves, the unsightly ones must go. I have standards. In the meantime, I

selectively prune for indoor displays. One of my choicest vessels is a little log stand with test tubes, where I show off various mini and small leaves.

Another is a crystal rose bowl with a needlepoint in the water to hold larger leaves upright. Earlier this summer, I assembled favorites around hydrangeas in a silver colander for one of Shari's stitchery luncheons.

As the season progresses, new cuttings replace faded or floppy foliage. It's a process that will last well into the fall. Leaves last up to two weeks.

Most durable, so far, have been 'First Frost', 'American Sweetheart', 'Luna Moth', 'Slick Willie', 'Dark Star' and 'Blue Mouse Ears'. I stopped pruning one of my favorites when Mr. and Mrs. Wren moved into the luxury high-rise stand where 'Elvis Lives'.



Log stand with (from left) 'Dark Star', 'Rosedale Golden Goose', 'Little Wonder', 'Tick Tock', 'Ginko Craig' and 'Striptease'.



Accenting hydrangeas are (from left) 'Birchwood Parky's Gold', 'Crusader', 'Luna Moth' and 'American Sweetheart'. Also (not shown) 'Slick Willie' and 'June'.

Not all flowers and foliage cooperate when I want an arrangement to look its absolute best. There are times when a certain leaf could look perkier. I should try what one of our members reportedly did at the club's first hosta show. When one of his leaves looked saggy, he added Viagra to the water. It revived the sad sack! Unfortunately, judges had already awarded the ribbons.

## Let's Talk Hostas

by Tom Micheletti

*(Courtesy of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society from their newsletter, Hosta Happenings, Issue 89, May 2015.)*



Our Editor, Ron, has asked me to write a regular column for our newsletter. So I'm calling it "let's Talk Hostas". After all we are a hosta society and you joined to learn more about hostas didn't you? He said I could write on anything that "strikes my fancy" or is on my mind. Hmm! That could open a whole can of worms.

Ah yes, worms, they are certainly good for your soil, tunneling in the ground, providing air circulation in the soil. Plus their castings are an excellent fertilizer. In my opinion they are certainly good to have around. Another creepy crawly that is not so welcome in our gardens are slugs. When I give talks to garden clubs I say your slug program starts April first and ends March 31st. There are many treatments that can be tried, but your slug abatement program should start well before you start to see holes in the leaves of your hostas. It's still not too late to start. Space is limited here to go into detail so for more detailed discussion of slug treatment I have written an in-depth article that is posted on my website, [www.hostapatch.com](http://www.hostapatch.com). It is entitled "That thug the Slug". As for the saucers of

beer that are reported to work trapping slugs, we'll say drink the beer and you won't see the slug damage. You actually need to place the saucers every 3 or 4 feet throughout your garden to have any real effect. Many of us would need to own a brewery in order to afford all the beer we need to provide.

Another thing that needs your attention at this time of year if you haven't already done it is to clean up the debris from around your hosta plants. It allows them to unfurl without any hindrance, and it removes the overwintering site for unwanted critters. This is another thing that should be done before if not as soon as the hostas begin to emerge.

Another springtime ritual is fertilizing your hosta garden. It is good to fertilize just as the plants begin to emerge. I also apply another application just before the leaves fully unfurl. This is because I broadcast fertilizer and don't want it to sit on open leaves, which will burn holes in the leaves. After the leaves are fully opened, you will have to lift the leaves in order to apply the fertilizer around the base of the plant. Well I'm running out of my allotted space. For more detailed information about fertilizer I wrote an article "The Poop About Fertilizer" which is also in the articles section on my website.

One last thought, if April showers don't bring May flowers you will need to apply water. It is critical that hostas get a lot of water as they are unfurling. The more they get, the bigger they will be. Until next time, I'll see what's swirling around in my head to share.

## The Hosta Library

by Gregg Peterson

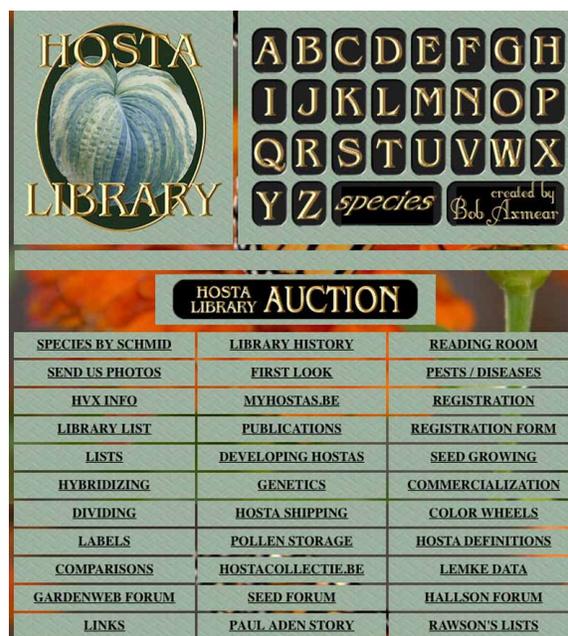
*(Reprinted courtesy of the Minnesota Hosta Society Newsletter, The Hostaphile, Volume 19, Fall 2010.)*

The Hosta Library is primarily a database for images of mature hostas. It is the policy of the Hosta Library NOT to add pictures for immature plants until they are mature and have been fully evaluated and/or registered with the Cultivar Registration Authority for Hosta. Therefore, named seedlings and immature hosta cultivars cannot be illustrated in the Hosta Library until images of fully mature plants can be obtained.

How many times have you read a brief description about a hosta cultivar in a catalog or article and wished you could see a picture of the plant? With hosta, a good picture is definitely worth a thousand words. How about over 12,000 photos covering more than 4,800 varieties of hosta? Where do you find such a resource, you ask? Why, at the Hosta Library located on the web at [www.hostalibrary.org](http://www.hostalibrary.org).

Started in 1999, the site was set up by Bob Axmear, a hosta aficionado from Waukon, Iowa, and is still managed by him today. (Note: Bob Axmear was the recipient of the Alex J. Summer's Distinguished Merit Award at the AHS Convention in 2010.) Helped by a number of other hosta lovers from across the country, the site developed an initial photo and information database on hosta varieties. Today, you too can contribute photos of mature hosta varieties in your garden to the photo library.

The site has grown over the years to include a number of different sections. First and foremost is the photo library. Here you can search and see photos of hosta varieties as they look like in people's gardens. Many of the photos also include the hosta flower and all submitted photos are credited to the photographer. Another section includes a number of information databases containing technical information about hosta varieties, including a number of lists like hosta species and other categories like fragrant hosta, leaf color and plant size.



When you open the web site, this is what you will see. In the alphabet portion, find the beginning letter of the hosta you are interested in. Click on it or click on any of the other links listed below the alphabet section.

The library has a section on Hosta Virus X and one on the process for registering a new hosta variety. Various forums and other hosta resources can be accessed from the website to connect you to other hosta lovers from around the world.

Finally, every year the Hosta Library runs an online auction where you can bid on various hosta plants and seeds contributed by hosta gardeners and growers from across the country!! Who knows what exciting new variety might show up for bid on the site!! Check out the Hosta Library when you get a chance. It's a great online resource for hosta gardeners to add to their favorites listing.

## A New Look For 'Sum and Substance'?

By Harold McDonnell

*(Courtesy of the Georgia Hosta Society from its newsletter, Georgia Hosta Notes, Volume 31, Number 4, October 2015.)*

Master sport hunter, Bill Meyer (of 'Wheee!' fame) has come up with yet another interesting sport, this time of *H.* 'Sum and Substance'. Bill calls it his feathered 'Sum and Substance' and it is actually a port of a streaked version S & S. It reminds me a little of that great cream centered elephant ear, *Colocasia* 'Nancy's Revenge', that you can see growing all around the Georgia sub-tropical coastal area and everywhere in Florida. Bill cautions that this is only a one-division plant, which may not prove to be stable, and it may not turn out to be a good grower as its sport parent. Even if it passes those two tests, it will still have to be proven stable



H. 'Sum and Substance' Sport with Feathered Center

through the tissue culture process before it might ever come to market. However, you have to admit that it has the potential to become an exciting new hosta. Will this host be a part of our future? At this point, who knows? I am going to remain optimistic that it will maintain its center variegation and will grow as vigorously and as big as its mama. I am even going to dream that it may produce more sports that have even stronger feathered center patterns like C. 'Nancy's Revenge'.

## Hosta of the Year



### Curly Fries

A seedling of *H.* 'Pineapple Upsidedown Cake', Bob Solberg's 'Curly Fries' is a small hosta with stiff, agave-looking leaves 6-inches long by 1-inch wide. The highly ruffled leaves emerge yellow and then fade to white. The scape is deep purple, topped with lavender flowers and blooms in the July-August period. Bob says it makes a great container plant or grows well in the garden in half-day sun.

## 2016 American Hosta Society Convention: "Gateway to the Gardens"

Next year's AHS convention will be held in St. Louis from June 13<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>, hosted by the St. Louis Hosta Society. The society is actively engaged in convention preparations and items, such as the schedule, hotel and meal and some of the major

arrangements, and the tour gardens, have been selected. Much of this information should be available later in the year on the American Hosta Society's website at: [www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org).



**Club Publicity:** With regard to publicity, we are asking all the PHC officers and board members to do what we can to ensure that articles or notes about the Club are inserted in local news outlets, homeowners' associations newsletters, bulletin boards and the like. We also need the Club's membership to help us with this effort. If you know of an outlet for publicity for the Club, we will provide a note or article for inclusion. For assistance with this, you can contact Susan Hedrick

at [hostaclub@gmail.com](mailto:hostaclub@gmail.com) or Tom Hilt at [tandjhilt@verizon.net](mailto:tandjhilt@verizon.net).

### Membership Dues:

The current dues for 1 year/3 years are:

Households	\$10/\$25
Senior Households (65+):	\$5 Annually
Garden Clubs, Plant Societies:	\$15/\$40

### Volunteers

**This note has finally become a permanent feature in the newsletter and, unfortunately, I have not been able to make it go away.** The club needs volunteers for the many activities we are involved in, so as a member, that means you! As summer fades, the Club will be entering our "dormant" period, but like your hostas, we'll come blooming out in the spring with a new list of hosta-related events that should command your attention – and hopefully, your help. We'll be looking for you! For questions, you can always contact Susan Hedrick on 703-866-2211 or at: [hostaclub@gmail.com](mailto:hostaclub@gmail.com) or Tom Hilt on 202-546-4199 or at: [tandjhilt@verizon.net](mailto:tandjhilt@verizon.net).

### Upcoming Events For 2016

- **Hosta College: March 18-19 at Piqua, Ohio;** the college is sponsored by the Great Lakes Region of the American Hosta Society and held annually. Further details, the Class List for 2016 and registration information is available on-line at: [www.ihostohio.org/portal/glhc/college.asp](http://www.ihostohio.org/portal/glhc/college.asp).
- **The PHC Annual Meeting and Plant Sale: Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM,** with the location and details to come; the speaker will be Bruce Banyai, a hosta hybridizer in the Blacksburg, VA, area.
- **AHS River Farm Plant Sale:** Normally held in early April at the American Horticultural Society's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia. The dates and the PHC's participation in the event have yet to be determined. ***Volunteers will be needed for this sale.***
- **Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA) Plant Sale: Friday and Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>,** at the National Arboretum, Washington, DC. ***Volunteers are also needed for this sale.***
- **Green Spring Park Plant Sale:** Date and time to be announced, but generally held in the latter half of May at 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, VA; ***volunteers needed.***
- **PHC Garden Strolls:** The Club would like to schedule the Garden Strolls on two dates, one in late May and the second in early June, with the strolls grouped by location. As always, ***we need members to volunteer to show their gardens.***

- **Dixie Regional Hosta Convention:** *“Rocket City Rendezvous,” to be held Thursday-Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup>*, at the Best Western in Madison, Alabama (the Huntsville area). Details can be found on-line at: [dixiehosta.net/regional-convention](http://dixiehosta.net/regional-convention).

- **Behnke Nursery’s “Garden Club and Plant Society” Day:** Date and time to be announced, but generally held in early June at Behnke’s Nursery, 11300 Baltimore Avenue, Greenbelt, Maryland.

- **AHS Annual Convention:** *Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, through Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>*, in St Louis, Missouri, hosted by the St. Louis Hosta Society; see Page 11 above for details.

- **Hosta Bingo:** to be scheduled in July, with the date, time and details to be determined. If members know of a location that can hold up to about 30 people for this event, please let Susan Hedrick know at: [hostaclub@gmail.com](mailto:hostaclub@gmail.com).

- **PHC Annual Picnic:** *Tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, from Noon to 2:00 PM*, at the Broyhill Crest Recreation Club, 7212 Early Street, Annandale, Virginia.

- **Fall Hosta Forum:** *Friday-Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>*, at Edinboro University, Edinboro, Pennsylvania. This one-day event is jointly sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania and Western New York Hosta Societies, with noted speakers on hostas and other plant/garden issues of interest. Details for 2016 are not yet available; if you are interested in this event, check the website [www.wnyhosta.com](http://www.wnyhosta.com) and click on the link to the “Fall Hosta Forum” at the top of the page for emerging news on the event.

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**2015 End-of-Year Edition**