



# Shady Business

Newsletter of The Potomac Hosta Club, Inc.  
Volume 31, Number 1, March 2017  
[www.potomachostaclub.com](http://www.potomachostaclub.com)

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## President's Letter

Potomac Hosta Club's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary guest speaker is Bob Solberg! His topic is "Turning a Hosta Collection into a Shade Garden and Hostas in Pots." The meeting will be held at the Fair Oaks location of Merrifield Garden Center and his talk will start at 2:00 pm with a short business meeting and plant sale to follow. [This is different than past years.](#) Please invite your gardening friends to hear him and join our club. The room holds 120, so please help to "**Pack the House**"!

Did you know...?

Our Annual Spring Meeting costs from \$600 to \$1,000

Hosta Bingo cost average \$300 +

Fall Picnic now only averages \$100+

The above does not include our liability insurance, storage unit, web page, etc. *Our income from membership dues was \$165.00.* Please help the club and bring in new members so we may continue to bring the activities you enjoy.

Please bring not only guest/new members to the spring meeting but also a dish/appetizer to share and door prizes/raffle items. The club provides the paper goods and drinks. As always **we need volunteers for the Potomac Hosta Club's Garden Walks and plant sales.** So before you leave the meeting please sign up on the appropriate clip boards.

Thanks to all of you who purchase plants at our sales and volunteer your time.

*Susan*

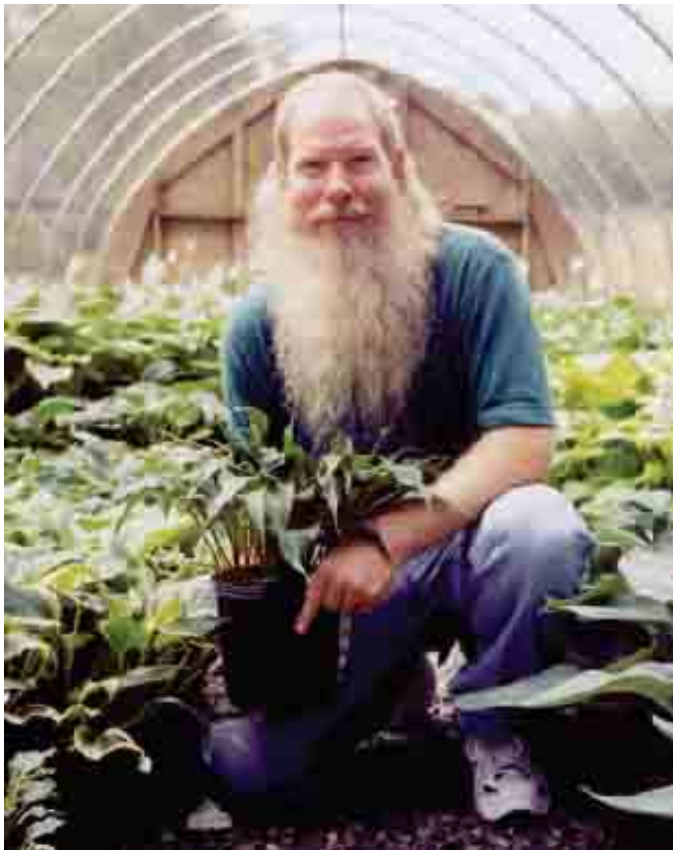
**'Hosta Gardeners have it made in the shade.'**

## PHC Annual Spring Meeting and Plant Sale

The spring meeting of the Potomac Hosta Club will be held at the Fair Oaks Merrifield Garden Center on Sunday, March 26th, starting at 2:00 PM, with the doors opening at 1:45 PM. Directions to the Merrifield Garden Center are listed below.

The meeting will start off with our Guest Speaker, Bob Solberg, proprietor – along with his wife Nancy – of Green Hill Farm in Franklinton, North Carolina. Following Bob, we will have a short business meeting and then get on with the annual plant sale, featuring a variety of hostas described and shown below. There also will be assorted door prizes to enliven the meeting. **Members are asked to bring a bring a dish or appetizer to share and are encouraged to donate items for our raffle or their own inexpensive hosta and garden-related items for door prizes**, providing greater enticement for members to attend the meeting.

### Bob Solberg, Hosta Hybridizer and Entrepreneur Extraordinaire



Born and raised in Miami, Florida, Bob Solberg grew palm trees from seed in his small backyard nursery as a kid and cruised Biscayne Bay in his small sailboat. He attended Davidson College in Davidson, North Carolina, and graduated with a B.S. in Biology and then studied bryophyte ecology for three years at the University of North Carolina. Like so many UNC students he decided to stay permanently in “Blue Heaven.”

In 1981, after experimenting with azaleas and rhododendrons, Bob chose to specialize in hostas in his new backyard nursery endeavor, Green Hill Farm. He became founder and head of the Carolina Hosta Society in 1986, which hosted the 1991 and 2001 American Hosta Society National Convention. In 2015 Bob and wife Nancy hosted the AHS convention on their own in Raleigh, NC.

Green Hill Farm and its online division Green Hill Hostas is a family business owned by Bob and Nancy. They specialize in hostas and are one of the leading introducers of new hostas, many of them hybridized by Bob as well as other leading hybridizers. From its hosta-hybridizing program,

new hostas are shipped nationally and internationally to nurseries, hosta clubs, and hosta collectors throughout the year. They take great pride in the quality of their plants and their hostas are known for their very large root systems. (As Bob notes: “Great roots make a great growing hosta!”)

Green Hill Farm sells hostas both retail and wholesale, to hosta collectors, home gardeners, hosta clubs and other nurseries all over the world. They are online at [www.HostaHosta.com](http://www.HostaHosta.com) offering their best hostas as well as a wealth of hosta information. They also publish a unique newspaper annually, *The Green Hill Gossip*, and a newsletter, the “*Gossip Jr.*,” in August and November.

Bob has been very active in the American Hosta Society, serving as the Editor of *The Hosta Journal*, the principle publication of the American Hosta Society, (1988-1990) and Vice President for The Genus Hosta, (1998-2001). He was the recipient of the 2003 Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award. Bob is co-

founder and was Executive Secretary of The American Hosta Growers Association, (1998-2011), a professional trade organization for hosta nurseries. The members of the AHGA select the Hosta of the Year annually.

Hosta hybridizing has been a passion of Bob's for almost 30 years. In 2008 he was awarded the Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Merit Award by the American Hosta Society for his work with hostas. He has introduced about 70 hostas to date and has plans to add five or so to that number each year. 'Guacamole', introduced in 1994 and Hosta of the Year in 2002, is probably his best known cultivar and is probably in your garden. 'Orange Marmalade' PP#16,742, is his first patented hosta and destined for a wide distribution. 'Corkscrew', 'Ginsu Knife', 'Cracker Crumbs', 'Crumb Cake', 'Tongue Twister', 'First Frost', 'One Man's Treasure', 'Smiley Face', 'Sweet Sunshine' and 'Curly Fries' (currently one of Green Hill Farm's hottest hostas) are some of his better introductions.

### **Directions to Merrifield Garden Center at Fair Oaks**

12101 Lee Highway  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
703-968-9600

#### **From Herndon, Reston, or Sterling:**

- Take the Fairfax County Parkway (Route 283) South
- Take the Lee Highway Exit (Route 29)
- At the overpass, go straight through the first traffic light, then turn left at the next light onto Lee Highway (Route 29) heading east
- You will merge onto Lee Highway; Merrifield Garden Center is 1/2 mile down on the right

#### **From Manassas and Points West:**

- Take Interstate 66 East to Exit 55, Fairfax County Parkway (Route 283)
- When the exit ramp splits, take Exit 55A (South)
- Take the first exit at Lee Highway (Route 29)
- At the overpass, go straight through the first traffic light, then turn left at the next light onto Lee Highway (Route 29) heading east
- You will merge onto Lee Highway; Merrifield Garden Center is 1/2 mile down on the right

#### **From Burke, Springfield, and Fairfax Station:**

- Take the Fairfax County Parkway (Route 283) North
- Exit at Lee Highway (Route 29) and turn right at the bottom of the ramp (Route 29 North); you will be heading east on Lee Highway
- Merrifield Garden Center is located 1/2 mile down on the right

#### **From Alexandria, Maryland or Points East and South:**

- Take Interstate 66 West to Exit 55, Fairfax County Parkway (Route 283)
- Take the exit for the Fairfax County Parkway (Route 283) South
- After passing under I-66, take the first exit at Lee Highway (Route 29)
- At the overpass, go straight through the first traffic light, then turn left at the next light onto Lee Highway (Route 29) heading east
- You will merge onto Lee Highway and Merrifield Garden Center is 1/2 mile down on the right.

**REMEMBER: You can always visit the Potomac Hosta Club on Facebook for all the latest information.**

### **2017 Hosta Plant Sale**

#### **PHC Member Discounts**

PHC member families get a **\$5 discount** on the first plant(s) they buy. The discount applies to the family only and not to each member of the family.

You may purchase ***only one hosta per variety*** for a total of 8 plants. If there are plants remaining after everyone has had an opportunity to buy, then you may purchase additional plants. Doors will open at 1:45 - first come first served.



## This Year's Plants For Sale

### *H.* 'First and Ten'



From Doug and Mary Beilstein, a hybrid of *H.* 'Brutus' x seedling BEV3-MOM in 2013, this hosta is upright and of large-size, 32 inches high by 50 inches wide. The large, medium blue-green leaves are broadly ovate, lightly corrugated, and moderately folded and wavy. Medium lavender, tubular flowers bloom in July. It sets viable seeds. **Price is \$25**

### *H.* 'Hovercraft'



Also from Doug & Mary Beilstein, it is a sport of *H.* *Laevigata* x an open pollinated seedling in 2016. A medium hosta, 16-inches high by 30-inches wide, with lavender flowers. The leaves are nearly round and a steel-blue in color. It has a large classic hosta form but with a little more open look as the leaves seem to float over the petioles. **Price is \$25**

### *H.* 'Munchkin Fire'



From Randy Goodwin in 2009, this is a mini hosta, 7-inches high by 15-inches wide, with bright yellow, elongated leaves held upright on a vigorous mound. The leaves hold their color all season long. Its flowers are purple and bloom in midsummer. **Price is \$20**

### *H.* 'One Last Dance'



From Walters Gardens, a medium-sized, 12-inches high by 36-inches wide, sport from *H.* 'Dancing Queen'. The feathery, rippled leaves have a dark-green center and a wide greenish-yellow border



that mellows to chartreuse by mid-summer. Flowers are pale lavender and bloom in mid to late summer. **Price is \$20**

### ***H.* ‘Roberta’**



From Dave Chopko and Bob Kuk in 2008, a sport of *H.* ‘Golden Delight’. A medium sized, mounding hosta, 18-inches high by 25-inches wide, hosting variegated blue-green foliage with a golden-yellow margin. The leaves are slightly rippled, lightly wavy and moderately corrugated. Flowers are pale lavender and bloom in mid-summer. **Price is \$20**

### ***H.* ‘Sun Mouse’**



A Tony Avent hosta and seedling with the characteristics of *H.* ‘Blue Mouse Ears’, this mini hosta has thick bright yellow and slightly wavy

leaves, 3 inches long by 2-inches wide, that make a 6-inch high by 18-inches high mound. It has lavender flowers in midsummer. **Price is \$20**

### ***H.* ‘Waterslide’**



A medium-sized, mounded hosta 15-inches high by 30-inches wide, with blue, rippled leaves that come to a distinct tip with some twist that hold their color all season long. The flowers are lavender and bloom in the late summer. Considered to be a good companion for *H.* ‘Wheee!’. **Price is \$20**

### ***H.* ‘Wrinkle in Time’**



From Walters Gardens, this sport of *H. 'Pilgrim'* will grow into a dense mound about 9-inches tall and 29-inches wide. Its dark-green leaves have creamy yellow margins in spring, maturing to creamy white margins in summer. The leaves also have a single prominent wave that begins one third of the way from the leaf base. Lavender flowers appear above the foliage in midsummer. **Price is \$20**

## **TC (Tissue Culture) vs. OS (Originator's Stock)**

by Ray Rodgers

*(Originally appearing in the Central Illinois Hosta Society's March 2004 newsletter, it is reprinted here courtesy of the AHS Newsletter Exchange.)*

Have you ever looked at a hosta price list and wondered what the "TC" and/or "OS" meant in some of the hosta descriptions? Occasionally one would even see two prices for the same plant, the lower price being for TC (Tissue Culture) and the more expensive price for OS (Originator's Stock).

TC references plants which have been propagated via tissue culture. In very simple terms, these are chemically energized test tube babies started from small shavings of the parent plant's meristem (the central growth point of a hosta crown).

Compared to increasing the number of plants through manually dividing garden plants, tissue culturing results in rapid reproduction. Tissue culturing must be performed in a sterile lab type environment. This is a tedious, exacting, repetitious process that must be monitored very closely. Except for a few serious hobbyists, tissue culturing is better left up to the professionals. The resulting plants are typically wholesaled in multiple quantities to retail outlets.

The OS designation basically means the plant being offered is a division of the original named hosta. This hosta could have been derived through hybridization (seedling) or sporting\*, which is not uncommon with hostas. If an as plant was purchased and a division was given to another person, who in turn eventually gave a division of their plant to yet another person, all these plants would still be considered originator's stock. On

price lists, the OS designation is most often used for newer or rare plants. Originator's stock plants can help to validate exactly what was originally registered and ensure the direct lineage of the original plants are not lost.

Are originator's stock hostas better and should they demand a premium price? The newer the plant and the more unique it is, the more likely an as division is worth the extra money. Some of the truly unique hostas are not replicated easily via tissue culturing. With these plants, a TC lab may develop a high percentage of babies not possessing the same characteristics of the parent. This inability unquestionably drives the price of these varieties up. Luckily for us consumers, most hostas can be TCed with a high degree of success.

Responsible wholesalers and retailers will typically guarantee their plants to be true to name. This starts with the TC labs' commitment to cull (throwaway) or give a new name to hostas not meeting specific criteria. Since it is not always possible to know for sure if small tissue cultured plants will look like their parents in subsequent years, a small percentage of untrue hostas do reach nurseries and other retailers. Since responsible retailers typically grow TC plants on for at least one full season prior to selling them, some additional variants may be caught.

It is the untrue forms that slip through the cracks that generate some of the unfavorable comments about tissue cultured hostas. Usually such comments are used to justify the price of as plants. Certainly people should expect to receive what they pay for. Some variants are not as attractive or as good of a grower as the named variety. But, some variants are actually better than the original plant. As an example, in a batch of tissue cultured *H. 'Great Expectations'*, some wider-margined plants were discovered. These plants were given the name *H. 'Dream Weaver'*. The additional green leaf surface allows this hosta to produce more chlorophyll than *H. 'Great Expectations'*, making it a better grower.

Tissue culturing has also accelerated the popularity of "Sport Hunting". This is the act of hosta enthusiasts searching through nurseries for hostas that are different from their published descriptions. These plants may vary in a variety

of ways, including variegation pattern (including Instability\*\*), coloration, plant size and leaf shape. For those interested in hybridizing or just growing open pollinated seed, finding an otherwise desirable plant with some degree of splashing could be a significant find. Except for somewhat rare occasions, it requires an unstable pod parent (mother plant) to produce variegated seedlings. Whether the found plants turn out to be better than the named variety or not, it is occasionally worth the purchase price to the hunter to have something a little different to display in their garden.

Make no mistake; tissue culture plants have fueled the popularity of hostas by rapidly increasing the availability of many newer varieties of hostas at affordable prices. The elevation of hosta to the rank of most popular perennial from almost obscurity can directly be linked to the early 1980s when plant tissue culture was in its infancy.

Tissue culture and originator's stock plants both have their place in the hosta world. Whether purchasing as plants is a good value depends largely on the specific hosta variety, but the ultimate decision rests with each individual buyer.

\* A Sport is a hosta arising from another hosta, possessing different characteristics.

\*\*In hosta, Instability is a plant that does not maintain its solid or variegated pattern, resulting in a Splashed pattern (formerly referred to as Streaked, also known as Striated). Splashed hostas have many non-connected light and dark variegated sections. Splashed hostas typically stabilize into a solid colored or variegated plant over time.

### Gardening Blog

Fellow Club member Barry Sperling has started a gardening blog, posting a short essay once a month, which many of you may enjoy reading. You can find Barry's blog at:

<http://www.thegardenedge.blogspot.com>

## The Hosta Collectors' Challenge

By Jayne Christiani

*(Reprinted from the Ontario Hosta Society's newsletter, OHS Newsletter, Volume 23, Issue 1, Winter 2017, courtesy of the AHS Newsletter Exchange.)*

I don't ski. I don't skate. I don't toboggan. It is the middle of winter and my idea of a good healthy regime in the cold bleak months is to sit at my computer with the dogs at my feet, exercising my fingers. Every morning I check email; see what the weather is bringing for the next 14 days; and I must, must read my horoscope to see what the day has in store for me.

Winter is my time to check out the upcoming hostas for the new year. I place my orders for not only newer hostas for my business, but hostas that are on my own wish list. You don't want to know how long my 'wish list' is. We all know I'm addicted to these plants. There must be cocaine or some other addictive drug within the leaves, because nothing else can explain my continued addiction with hostas. Yes, we know they are lovely and easy to care for, and offer a variety of sizes and colours to stand out in any garden. But why do I feel that each and everyone of them is one of my children away at school for the season? I long for those first few days of warm spring weather when they announce their return 'noses first'. To see the little buds peeking out of the ground makes my heart so happy. And as each little bud unfurls to a beautiful, unique leaf, I am rewarded with a lovely reminder as to why I chose that particular hosta for my gardens.



Juvenile H. 'June' in a sunny location



I have been blessed to make many friends and acquaintances while dealing with hostas. Most, like myself, want nothing more than to share both hostas and hosta gardening experience with anyone that will listen. I have a dear friend that has been in the business forever and actually went to horticultural college. We talk hostas on the phone for hours on end, comparing the merits of one hosta over another.

You'd think after all these years we would be tired of it, but with the thousands of hostas out there, I don't think we've even touched on a small fraction. We've had discussions on certain hostas that look like, well, CRAP in both our gardens. And yet when we see photographs of same, we scratch our heads wondering where we went wrong.



Mature H. 'June' in deep shade

Case in point is both 'June' and 'June Fever.' I've had both in my gardens for seven years now. They have been small in size and insignificant in colour. I have seen pictures where they look outstanding and have often thought that maybe my own had been labeled incorrectly when I purchased them. Mine didn't look like that!

And then came the drought and heatwave of Summer 2016! Holy Mother of the Lord above! Where did those plants come from? Someone has dug up my 'June' and 'June Fever' and replaced them with these outstanding, glorious, flamed and stunningly green specimens. Oh, wait a dog-gone minute. They must love the heat. Duh! Nothing else has changed. And 'Justine' looks glorious as

well, and she's only four years old in my garden. All from the same family of hostas. And guess what...they looked great in my friend's garden as well. She lives several kilometers from me but had the same weather conditions during the summer.



H. 'June Fever'

If you have under-performing hostas, please consider moving them. While I don't like to dig and move, sometimes it is a necessary evil. Consider the conditions in your garden that are currently affecting your hosta(s). Too much sun ... move to more shade. Too much shade (yes, it's possible)...move to more sun. Too much water? Too little water? Additives to the soil, i.e., compost. The smallest change can net the biggest results. While hostas are not finicky as a rule, there are optimum conditions that each and every plant in the world has to have to look outstanding. If that were not the case, I'd be growing pineapples in my Ontario backyard.

My friend and I have had several conversations about 'June' and 'June Fever.' You'd think one conversation would be enough, but as the season changed from summer to autumn, there was a new conversation as to how well they transitioned with the cooler temperatures. Yeah, we talk a lot. But we both absolutely love hostas. Do you?

If you answered 'yes', then here is my challenge. Share your thoughts and ideas. Share them with friends and neighbours that have a similar passion. Please, please, please, consider sharing them within the pages of our newsletter. Yes, OUR



newsletter. I think the last issue of the newsletter was the best yet, and wrote to tell our editor just that. She did a marvelous job. And so do all the many volunteers that make the Ontario Hosta Society possible.

But if we are to keep the passion alive, we have to share it. New blood, new ideas, new concepts. I would love to see an online auction of hostas, once or twice a year, in Canada, but don't have the computer know-how to pull that together. I'd also love to see a column where volunteer 'experts' answer your hosta questions.

We have to scream out our passion, because if we don't, the market for hostas will shrivel up and die. We don't want that. We want to continue to bring in new plants, attend new functions, write new columns. I know everyone is busy, but if we don't make the effort, who will?

### **THE CLUB NEEDS YOU!!**

The Club needs you to volunteer your garden for showing on our **Garden Strolls**, scheduled for Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, and Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. We all have very different gardens, but one thing we have in common is pride in our garden. So show it off! By May you will have done all the hard work, so sit back and bask in the glory other members will see in what you've created. It's easy; just contact Susan Hedrick at: [hostaclub@gmail.com](mailto:hostaclub@gmail.com), or Tom Hilt at: [tandjhilt@verizon.net](mailto:tandjhilt@verizon.net), and we'll get you on the schedule. **And Thanks!**

### **I Love Those Minis!**

by Joe Haber, Centerport, NY

*(Reprinted courtesy of the AHS Newsletter Exchange.)*

Gardening on a small piece of property with a steep hillside in my backyard, I must confess that mini and small hostas have become my favorites. Obviously I'm not alone since the American Hosta Society decided to conduct a separate popularity poll for minis in addition to their poll of the most popular standard varieties. Also, I have noticed that articles on this subject and photos are

appearing in *The Hosta Journal* more frequently in recent editions.

These little guys look great in containers and my favorite containers are troughs. Troughs can be filled with many different plants including dwarf conifers, small succulents and of course, mini hostas.

Making hypertufa troughs is not difficult and can be a good winter pastime as you wait for your hostas to start emerging in the spring. There are several recipes for hypertufa mixtures. The main ingredients are portland cement, peat moss and perlite – all readily available in local home improvement centers. They can be made using molds that are rectangular, round, etc., or even free shaped. Whatever shape you choose, the final product can really dress up a patio.

I grow mini and small hostas in a variety of containers and even have 'Lemon Lime' growing in a tree stump. It has been there for eight years. In most of my containers I mix hostas with companions like Ajuga 'Metallica Crispa', Tattling Fern (*Athyrium Frizellae*), and even small annuals. Some mini hosta favorites that I grow in our rock garden are: 'Pandora's Box', 'Surprised By Joy', 'Medusa', 'Teeny-weeny Bikini', 'Blue Mouse Ears', 'Green Eyes', 'Crepe Soul', 'Chickadee', 'Kinboten', and 'Thumbnail', to name a few. Like peanuts, you can't have just one.

Slugs are a bigger problem for small hostas than large ones. My way of combating the "damn slug" is by spreading a topping that forms a barrier. My formula for this very successful topping is a mixture of ground egg shells, ground sea shells, and chicken grit. An occasional sprinkling of Sluggo also helps.

In closing I will quote Bob Solberg: "Miniature hostas are cute, little babies that will grow in a thimble. They often run in herds through rock gardens, around ponds, or along the edge of a path. Minis are especially happy in containers, strawberry pots, troughs, or even whiskey barrels. Hundreds can live comfortably along a driveway. Just give them water."

## 2017 AHS Convention: “Hosta Hysteria”



The American Hosta Society’s 2017 convention, “Hosta Hysteria, is to be held Wednesday through Saturday, 7-10 June 2017, in Indianapolis, Indiana, hosted by the Indianapolis Hosta Society. Ten gardens with bus transportation are scheduled, along with optional tours and a “Gardener’s Marketplace” of unique and interesting vendors. “Early Bird” registration is set at \$269 per person. The meeting will be held at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel. Details can be found on the convention’s website, [www.indyhosta2017.com](http://www.indyhosta2017.com).

### Buyer Beware!

***That new hosta might not be what the label says you’re getting!***

by J.D. Belanger

*(Reprinted from the Northern Wisconsin Hosta Society’s newsletter, Northern Star, Volume 21, Issue 1, January 2017, courtesy of the AHS Newsletter Exchange.)*

What’s in a name? Shakespeare might think a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, but Warren I. Pollock, a columnist for the American Hosta Society’s *The Hosta Journal*, thinks otherwise.

He frequently dwells on what, to some, might appear as nitpicking. Not too long ago he was upset, perhaps justifiably, we don’t know, because a hosta with “Dr.” in the name contained – horrors! – a period, when there shouldn’t have been one. This is probably important to purists, but to us, it was more interesting to learn that abbreviations like Prof. and Rev. have periods, but

others, such as Dr and St [Doctor and Saint] do not – in England, that is. And in AHS.

His latest revelation is more pertinent. It involves television giant’s HGTV selling plants, including hostas. The problem is, they’re renaming well-known registered hostas, presumably to add some sales pizzazz.

One is Bob Solberg’s ‘Orange Marmalade,’ which they call “Citrine Supreme™.” Another is “Blue Dew™,” registered as ‘First Frost.’ The list goes on.

Just be aware that if you buy an HGTV Home, or Hosta Treasures™ hosta, you might not be getting what you think you’re getting. You might already have it, under another name.

### Discover Hostas.....

#### Join the American Hosta Society

The American Hosta Society is a non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to educational and scientific purposes, and especially to promote, encourage and foster the development of the genus *Hosta*. Members of the AHS receive *The Hosta Journal* mailed twice a year and have access to a third issue online in the “Members Only” section of the AHS website. This publication offers the latest information on care, feeding, and hybridizing; pictures of new cultivars; and news of upcoming meetings and conventions. Additional membership benefits include:

- 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 hosta in the hosta show.
- 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 cut-leaf shows.
- Developing friendships with people who share an interest in growing hostas.
- Access to “Members Only” section of the AHS website.

New members are also eligible for the **AHS Voucher Program**, which is a \$15 voucher redeemable on purchases at a number of participating nurseries. AHS members can also participate in the **Members-Only Plant Program**, which is the exclusive right to purchase a new, first-time and top-shelf plant for \$20 plus shipping. The initial offering, *H. 'Sterling Medallion'*, one of Don Dean's best blues, sold out in the first few weeks, interest was so strong in this new program. The second plant will be introduced in 2017 from Doug Beilstein, former AHS president, current Board Member and a well-known hybridizer. So don't delay, **Join the AHS NOW!!** Details of these two programs and membership forms can be found on the AHS website: [www.americanhostasociety.org](http://www.americanhostasociety.org) under "Membership."

### AHS Membership Fees

Individual: 1/3/5 years at \$30/\$80/\$129  
Family: 1/3/5 years at \$34/\$90/\$146  
e-membership-NEW: \$20 annually

**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).

### Volunteers

**This note has finally become a permanent feature in the newsletter and only you, as members, can make it go away.** The club needs volunteers for the many activities we are involved in, so as a member, that means you! As we head towards Spring, the Club will be entering our busy period with a multitude of hosta-related events that should command your attention – and

hopefully, your help. We'll be looking for you! For your information, a list of 2017 activities is at the end of this newsletter. If you have 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).

### Support for Our Professional Members

These commercial members not only bring another level of expertise to the PHC, they also support our efforts to bring members the newest hostas at reasonable prices.

**Bridgewood Gardens**, Chick Wasitis proprietor, Strasburg, Virginia;  
[www.bridgewoodgardens.com](http://www.bridgewoodgardens.com)

**Claythings**, LJ Pendlebury, proprietor, Alexandria, VA; [www.claythings.net](http://www.claythings.net)

**Green Hill Farm**, Bob and Nancy Solberg proprietors, Franklinton, North Carolina;  
[www.hostahosta.com](http://www.hostahosta.com)

**Heather Hill Gardens**, Bonnie Ruetenik proprietor, Fairfax Station, Virginia;  
[www.heatherhillgardens.com](http://www.heatherhillgardens.com)

**Possess the Land Nursery**, Addie Drayton proprietor, Oxon Hill, MD;  
[possessthelandnursery.com](http://possessthelandnursery.com)

**Wade & Gatton Nurseries**, Van Wade proprietor, Belleville, Ohio,  
[wadeandgattonnurseries.com](http://wadeandgattonnurseries.com)

### PHC Membership Dues:

The current dues for 1 year/3 years are:

Households \$10/\$25

Senior Households (65+): \$5 Annually

(However, Seniors can renew for more than one year, e.g., 3 years for \$15.)

Garden Clubs, Plant Societies: \$15/\$40

**Note: Members receiving the newsletter electronically who need to renew will have received an e-mail reminding you to do so.**



## 2017 Hosta Schedule

- **Hosta College:** *Friday and Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 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 2017 and registration information is available on-line at: [www.ihostohio.org/gllhc](http://www.ihostohio.org/gllhc).
- **The PHC Annual Meeting and Plant Sale:** *Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM*, at the Merrifield Garden Center in Fair Oaks; details are on Page 2 above.
- **Town of Vienna Garden Faire:** *Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 AM to Noon*, on the town green, 144 Maple Street, Vienna, VA 22180; **volunteers are needed to help with the sale.**
- **Green Spring Park Plant Sale:** *Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM*, at 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, VA 22312; **volunteers are needed to help with the sale.**
- **PHC Garden Strolls:** *Scheduled for Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>*; **the Club needs volunteers who would like to show off their gardens and all your hard work.**
- **AHS Annual Convention:** *Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, through Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>*, in Indianapolis, Indiana, hosted by the Indianapolis Hosta Society; see Page 12 above for details.
- **Hosta Bingo:** *To be held July 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>*, with the location still to be determined.
- **PHC's Annual Picnic and Plant Auction:** *Scheduled for Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, from Noon to 2:00 PM*, with the location to be determined.
- **Dixie Regional Hosta Convention:** *"Shady University – A Fall Hosta Retreat," Friday-Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>*, to be held in Peachtree City, Georgia, approximately 25 miles south of Atlanta; additional details will be published in the newsletter when they become available.
- **Fall Hosta Forum:** *Saturday, September 16<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. Specific details for 2017 are not yet available; if you are interested in this event, check the website [www.wnyhosta.com](http://www.wnyhosta.com).

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## **2017 Spring Meeting and Hosta Sale Edition**