

The Green Hill Gossip

Hosta Catalogue of Green Hill Farm, Inc.
P.O. Box 773, Franklinton, NC 27525

OUR 32ND YEAR
March 2013

\$4.00 | 919-309-0649
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Hosta pests ... the fear factor

By Bob Solberg

Editor's Note: There is a very handy booklet, "Hosta Diseases and Pests" published by Iowa State University. It is available on-line at the Iowa State Extension Website for \$1.50, <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/ProductList.aspx?CategoryID=109>. It has good photos of many of the problems listed here and a few others. (Sorry, no photos of big bucks!)

Let me get this out of the way at the "get go". I hate talking about hosta pests. I hate writing about them even more. I do not like all the negativity. Hostas are supposed to be fun and hosta pests take a lot of the fun out of it. I would venture to guess that only a very few of us relish the time spent spraying some nasty smelling concoction on our hostas, being especially careful to cover both the top and bottom of each hosta leaf thoroughly, even the minis.

So, the point of this little article is not to enumerate all the things that could possibly go wrong as you try to grow perfectly spot and hole free hostas, or even tell you in detail how to prevent these calamities. It is to lessen your fear of hosta pests.

The first step is to realize that if you grow your hostas under pine trees there is a very good chance that a pine needle might impale an occasional hosta leaf in your garden. The odds are good that it is your largest 'Winter Snow' leaf that you have been pampering to enter in the Hosta Leaf Show. The solution of course is simple, cut down the pines. Of course, the resulting sun scald won't win you any blue ribbons either, so just roll the dice. You are growing plants outside in a garden after all.

The next step is more difficult. You must stop thinking of your hostas as your children. Now before you slam this little newspaper on the floor, they can still be members of your family but just not human ones, only hosta ones. You need not give up talking to them and listening to their witty replies, but you have to realize that when you cut your finger it will heal and when a hosta leaf is damaged it will not. So preventing hosta damage, not healing it, is the mission for the loving hosta gardener. (So, are we back to cutting down the pines?)

The final step in lessening your hosta pest fears is to only fear those pests that are really scary to hostas. Your hostas do not fear the single pine needle falling out of the sky violently during a late spring thunderstorm, but they do fear the family of voles nested under the hosta next to them. Try to judge a pest by how much damage it does and at what time of the growing season it occurs. Damage in the spring, think hail, is much scarier than damage in late summer since your hosta leaves do not heal. In your garden, but certainly not mine, slugs may be more frightening to your hostas than the microscopic nematodes that fill their foliage.

If you have taken your blood pressure medicine and maybe poured a glass of therapeutic red wine, remember prevention is the key, then, we are ready to delve into the scary business of hosta pests. As an aside, I did not just use the word "business" randomly. There is a large agribusiness community feeding off your hosta pest fears. Remember, some chemicals are our friends, but most are not useful in preserving your hostas or lessening your fears. I, like the USDA, believe that there are acceptable levels of cosmetic damage to hosta foliage over the course of the growing season and I think when it comes

to chemicals, less is better.

As I said before I got distracted, hosta damage in the beginning of the growing season can ruin the garden for a whole year. So let's examine hosta pests month by month, or maybe season by season. Believe it or not, winter, or better said, dormancy, is the place to start. If your hosta is eaten over the winter there will be nothing for all the other hosta pests to attack in the spring. (Don't you love all the militaristic verbs that are associated with pest problems? It really makes it seem like there is World War III going on out there in your garden and chemical warfare is the solution.)

Voiles

Voiles should be feared, but remember you are a large human and voiles are tiny rodents. I have never had a nightmare about voiles but maybe that is their magic, they attack silently while we and our hostas are sleeping through the winter. Keeping with the theme of prevention, while voiles can be present in the garden in any month, they generally invade our hosta beds in the fall and set up housekeeping under rocks, landscape timbers, tree stumps, or the crown of your largest and most impressive hosta. Dry weather and falling temperatures signal the prudent hosta gardener to start vole patrols, searching for fresh entrance holes or soft, pushed up soil above new tunnels.

Fighting voiles is not a sprint but an endurance test. Prevention consists of eliminating favorable sites for "vole hotels" in the garden and pest removal is accomplished by poisoning or trapping at active tunnel entrances. Thin mulches are better than thick mulches and I like to blow all the fallen leaves off the hosta beds in December. (This year I waited until early February and paid the price in a bed previously "vole free".) So it makes sense not to pile leaves on your hosta beds in the fall, it just puts out the welcome sign for these pesky rodents.

Cheap rat poison works just as well as expensive "vole" poison. Be careful not to touch it as you put a healthy amount down the fresh tunnel entrances. (I use a knife to push it down the holes.) Voiles will hoard the tasty poison so reapply until they stop taking it. I will put a pot or rock over the baited tunnel to keep other mammals away and give the voiles some sense of safety while hauling off their last meals.

If poison distresses you, (I fully understand), or the little rascals will not take your generous offerings, then, trap them. Poisoned voiles die without a mess underground but some of us would rather take a body count. Use small mouse traps baited with apple and peanut butter. Again I suggest you place them near a fresh tunnel entrance and cover the hole and trap with a pot with a rock on it. Opossums and rac-

coons have been known to run off with my traps, so I use large rocks to cover my pots.

Voiles can ruin a hosta garden in a warm winter producing as many as four generations of family members in a good year. If you have voiles, you usually have lots of voiles. The good news is that they are easily controlled in most cases; it is just a year-round battle. So, put away your fear of voiles and get to it.



Hosta 'Pacific Sunset'

Hail, Spring Freezes, and Drought

The weather on the other hand cannot be controlled at all. Whether it is climate change or steering that severe thunderstorm away or toward your garden, (if the drought is bad enough even an inch of hail would be welcome), gardeners are at the mercy of areas of high and low atmospheric pressure. There are three meteorological events we all fear as hosta caretakers, hail, late spring freezes, and excess heat and drought in summer.

There is no preventing hail damage unless you grow all your hostas under shade cloth like I do in the nursery. If you have ever harbored thoughts of starting a hosta nursery I believe you need to first invest in two things, shade structures and automatic irrigation. Unfortunately, tree leaves while providing shade in the hosta garden do not protect your plants from hail stones.

Pea-sized hail will leave round holes often with "hanging chads" in your hosta leaves, while golf ball size hail will tear and break entire leaves. The bad news as I have said is that hostas do not heal themselves but the good news is that hosta leaves do not become brown and rot around hail holes. So, if the leaves are not too bad, leave them alone, if they cannot support themselves, cut them off. Then, give your hostas a little drink of liquid fertilizer and encourage them to make new leaves to cover the damaged ones.

Damage, (your hostas frozen to mush), from spring freezes can be prevented by covering your entire garden and/or your most favorite plants with a light weight frost cloth. This is the same cloth that the strawberry and vegetable growers will be using on those nights when the hostas have emerged in various stages and the temperature drops below freezing. Most hostas will endure one night of temperatures down to 30 degrees if the exposure is not more than a couple of hours. It is the second night in a row that does the damage. The frost cloth protects down to 26 degrees or lower but at 22 degrees all warranties are voided.

Frost cloth is a little hard to find sometimes, you need an agricultural supply firm. It also come in rolls large enough to cover a football field so go in with your hosta buddies when purchasing it. It does

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Moving update: The hostas have landed ... but



Hosta 'Catch of the Day'

"Are you all moved yet?" So goes the question in 2013. The usual answer is, "Well, all the plants are moved but... there is lots of construction left to do." We need to bring four more hoop houses home and build poor Bob an office and Nancy a shipping building. We are set up pretty well for retail sales now so come see us this spring and wander through the hoop houses. Everything is now in play!!! Hopefully in the next "Gossip" I can just answer, "Yes!" to that question.

Again, the new mailing address is:

Green Hill Farm
P.O. Box 773, Franklinton, NC 27525

Our new business email
is HostaBob@gmail.com

We have also moved to Facebook as scary as that sounds. I have not found my comfort zone yet in social media but at least I am trying. Please encourage me by liking us at [facebook.com/HostaBob](https://www.facebook.com/HostaBob). I promise not to fill your timeline with hosta photos 24/7 and we are catless right now, so there will not be any cute pet pics either.

We are also still adding names to our email list. If you want to know about our monthly specials, special events, and maybe a thought or two from Bob, please email your desire to us. Again we will not fill your inbox with spam, or at least we hope you will not think it is junk mail.

Having the nursery within walking distance of our front door certainly has its advantages. All those last minute little things seem to get done now. Dinner is still well after dark, even in the middle of summer, but at least now I can enjoy the quiet of the nursery after the employees have gone home for the day. Nancy just loves it.

It is with some sadness, however, that I must report that the old nursery in Chapel Hill looks very empty and unloved. I never realized how much the hostas, even though they lived in large cages, added to the beauty of the property. Only their ghosts reside there now as well as a few hardy seedlings that have evaded the deer in the compost pile. I guess there is good and bad, happy and sad, in everything.

So, come see us this year. The spring schedule is on the website, www.HostaHosta.com.

Be sure to visit our site at www.HostaHosta.com

A lament for the white-edged hosta seedlings

There used to be a simpler time when streaked hostas were rare and tissue culture was young. The bees made most of the hosta seeds, they made all the easy crosses, and white-edged hostas were the ultimate goal of the serious hosta hybridizer. It was a time of great innovation as all shapes, colors, and sizes of hosta leaves took on a variegated edging. It was a time we so easily forgot.

Imagine a hosta world where solid colored hostas, blues and greens, dominated the landscape. A single hosta, blue with a wide golden margin ruled Hostadom, Her Majesty 'Frances Williams'. From her a line of solid yellow and gold hostas would flow but true variegation, cream or white-edges on a green leaf, was rare.

Ironically, the source of the beginnings of successful variegated hybridizing in hostas began with Frances Williams also, the plantswoman, not the plant. In 1958 she produced a small streaked hosta, selected from 350 *H. sieboldii* seedlings that was to be the beginning of a long line of white-edged and white-centered hostas. She named it 'Beatrice' after a neighbor's daughter. Its chloroplasts have been passed down from generation to generation, by pod parent after pod parent creating the white and cream colors that are so attractive in hostas.

(As we all know now, a high percentage of variegated seedlings can be produced when the pod parent, the one that makes the seeds, has streaks of white or cream throughout the leaves of the plant. White chloroplasts, broken ones that are without the ability to make chlorophyll and thus be green, are passed directly from the pod parent to its seedlings. The seedlings get a mix of green and white chloroplasts mixed in their tissues creating the variegation patterns. The white chloroplasts from the 'Beatrice' line usually produce variegation that emerges yellow and then becomes cream or white in summer. I call this *H. sieboldii* variegation. Occasionally a pure white color will appear in seedlings of this line also but this is much rarer.)

It was Kevin Vaughn who took 'Beatrice' and began to self it, selecting the seedlings each year with the best qualities. These streaked hostas from 'Beatrice' became the pod parents for his

variegated hosta breeding program. Using 'Frances Williams' and *H. plantaginea* as pollen parents he then produced two lines of variegated seedlings, one with rounded heart-shaped leaves and another with fragrant flowers. From the 'Frances Williams' line he produced 'William Lachman', 'Mildred Seaver' and most famously 'Christmas Tree'. These were originally streaked hostas useful in breeding and Kevin shared them with their namesakes.

All this occurred in the late 1960's and early 1970's when I was still having too much fun at Davidson College. The variegated hosta world I found ten years later was dominated by 'Undulata' and 'Fortunei' cultivars. Without the aid of tissue culture and big business marketing new variegated hostas remained rare and expensive. By then, Frances Williams' legacy had spread through Kevin Vaughn to Bill and Eleanor Lachman and then later to Dick Ward. Those same chloroplasts had been passed along from pod parent to pod parent into three very different lines of variegated hostas of these hybridizers.

In those days, new seedlings had to be grown into a large clump and then divided and lined out in a nursery before they could be sold. Maybe 20 plants of a new variegated hosta would be available. White-edged hostas fared the best under these conditions. Their variegation was usually very stable, unlike streaked plants and they grew well, unlike white centered plants, usually to about the same size as the seedling clump that may have had green shoots, streaked shoots, and white-centered shoots in it as well. Thus the commercial goal of variegated hybridizing was white-edged hostas.

It was the 1980's and Klehm Nursery was marketing plants introduced by Paul Aden that he mostly had acquired, one way or another, from others. He had some of Kevin Vaughn's first plants that Paul named, 'Brim Cup', 'Fringe Benefit', 'Grand Master' ('Christmas Tree'), and 'Pizzazz' from the 'Frances Williams' line and 'Fragrant Bouquet', 'So Sweet' and 'Sweetie' from the *H. plantaginea* line. These plants were the first new introductions to be massed produced and the demand was high as well as the wholesale prices.

Handy Hatfield of Hatfield Gardens in the 1980's and 1990's however sold the newest white-edged hostas from Kevin Vaughn, the Lachmans, and Dick Ward at this time. Twenty plants of each new cultivar were usually available the first year of introduction and then maybe no more for a couple of years because they had to be increased by division. The hostas sold for a hundred dollars or more each but they were the best of the best. Most of the plants were presold so only a very few collectors could grow the best white-edged hostas.

Kevin Vaughn's best white-edged introductions at this time included: 'Bold Edger', 'Delta Dawn', 'Formal Attire', 'Hearts Content', 'Little Doll', 'Shirley Vaughn', 'Standing Ovation', 'Summer Fragrance', and 'Sunshine Glory'. The pod parents of these plants were 'Beatrice', 'Vaughn 73-2', 'Breeder's Choice', 'William Lachman' and its seedlings. The pollen parents were usually plants from his 'Frances Williams' line.

Like Kevin Vaughn, Bill and Eleanor Lachman used *H. plantaginea* as a pollen parent to produce white-margined, fragrant flowered hostas like 'Austin Dickinson', 'Emily Dickinson', and 'Mistress Mable'. The Lachmans however are best known for crossing their streaked pod parents with the "Tardianas", especially 'Blue Moon' and 'Halcyon', producing a long line of very blue hostas with white margins. They also used other pollen parents to produce large white-edged hostas. Maybe their best introduction, 'Robert Frost' was a cross of 'Banana Sundae' and 'Frances Williams'. Their white-edged hostas introduced by Handy Hatfield, maybe the best group ever, included: 'Border Bandit', 'Brave Amherst', 'Cavalcade', 'Chantilly Lace', 'Cherub', 'Cream Cheese', 'Crepe Suzette', 'Crusader', 'Eventide', 'Gay Blade', 'Lacy Belle', 'Leola Fraim', 'Little Wonder', 'Lonesome Pine', 'Moon River', 'Mount Tom', 'Robert Frost', 'Showboat', 'Tambourine', 'Tea and Crumpets', 'Torchlight', 'Verna Jean', and 'Waving Winds'.

Dick Ward has continued the hybridizing tradition of Kevin Vaughn and the Lachmans to this day, using many of the same pod parents and their seedlings to produce excellent white-edged



hostas.

His pod parents include 'Beatrice', 'Breeder's Choice', 'Pin Stripe Sister', (a Vaughn seedling, 'Breeder's Choice' X 'Frances Williams', that will produce white and yellow variegation), and now 'Zany Janie', (a Ward seedling of 'Pin Stripe Sister'). His special contribution to white-edged hostas has been his small or miniature cultivars that have very good vigor. 'Firefly', 'Pixie Vamp', my favorite, 'Thumbelina', 'Toto', and 'Winsome' are all nice little hostas. His other larger white-margined hostas from a variety of pollen parents, including maybe uniquely *H. montana macrophylla*, include: 'Amazing Grace', 'Brief Encounter', 'Emma', 'Grace McClure', 'Imperial Palace', 'Irish Eyes', 'Just for Jane', 'Kaitlyn', 'Orion's Belt', 'Pillow Talk', 'Spellbound', 'Splendid Sarah', and 'Sophisticated Lady'.

It does make for a wonderful story of serious hybridizing with spectacular results. All the hostas mentioned above are an unbelievable improvement over those 'Undulata' and 'Fortunei' types that dominated my first years in Hostadom. So where is the love today for these great hostas that have stable variegation and are easy to grow? It is mostly gone now, along with the desire for most other white-edged hosta hybrids, lost in a whirlwind of three colliding forces, the introduction and marketing of 'Patriot', the appearance of 'Dorothy Benedict', and the eternal infatuation with streaked hostas.

Believe it or not, I might even be a little responsible for at least some of this. In 1992, Green Hill Farm, introduced 'Patriot' to Hostadom. (You can look up our color ad in the Fall 1991 issue of *The Hosta Journal*, if you like.) That fall over 10,000 plants of it were sold into the wholesale

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The "Gossip" Page

It is another year in Hostadom and last year's breaking news has become this year's follow up stories. Do not fear however, there are new items that interest and inflame to report also. Some issues have taken a new twist or turn and others have faded away into the mists of our memories. For me, while I do remember the details of many of the controversies of the past 30 something years in the hosta world, they do not consume me. I believe hostas are supposed to be fun and no one is going to ruin that for me. Today in Hostadom, the positives greatly outweigh any and all negatives. I hope you agree.

'Sum and Substance'

When we last left the 'Sum and Substance' controversy, we were guessing at the origin and parentage of one of our most famous hostas. Both questions revolved around Paul Aden and from whom he may have acquired the plant. I related a legend that I had heard, (to which I must admit I gave some credence because it was passed along to me through the chain of custody from a very reliable source), that suggested the hosta may have been one of four seedlings Paul acquired from Alex Summers. The other three siblings were later named by Aden 'Green Wedge', 'Green Sheen' and 'Chartreuse Wedge'. Well, evidently the American Hosta Society now reports that there is no truth to this legend.

I guess things got really serious about resolving the origin of several, no all, of Paul Aden's registered hostas. I think some now believe that most if not all of his introductions were acquired and not hybridized by him. Since all this happened 30 to 40 years ago and most all the participants in the story are no longer living, I think there will always be gaps in our knowledge and that is fine with me. I really do not want to replace one legend with another with just a little more glimmer of truth.

So anyway a committee was formed and after an in depth investigation it was determined that 'Sum and Substance' was not originated by Paul Aden, or for that matter Alex Summers, but by Florence Shaw. Who is Florence Shaw you may wonder? Florence Shaw was an early hosta hybridizer from Weston, MA, who in the late 1960's and early

1970's had amassed a large group of hostas that she had produced from seed. She is most famous for her "Birchwood" series that she named and was later registered for her by the AHS after her death. Most are *H. sieboldiana* seedlings with a couple probably from *H. nakaina*, common parents at that time because they set seed easily.

It turns out, in 1974 and 1975 Paul Aden took plants from the Shaw garden and later named and introduced them as his own hybrids, 'Sum and Substance' and ironically 'Green Wedge' were two of the hostas the commission determined to have come from Florence Shaw. There was no mention of 'Chartreuse Wedge' or 'Green Sheen' in the report, that, by the way you can find in the 2012 AHS Registration Book or in the Fall 2012 On-Line Journal in the members section of the AHS website, www.Hosta.org.

So maybe the old legend of 'Sum and Substance' has more truth to it than we think. Four sibling seedlings were obtained by Paul Aden but they came not from Alex Summers but Florence Shaw. In looking for the parentage of 'Sum and Substance' then we do not need to know which possible parents were in Alex Summers' garden in the early 1970's but which were in Florence Shaw's.

I have speculated previously that the parentage of 'Sum and Substance' was a cross of a yellow *H. sieboldiana* type, maybe a 'Frances Williams' clump with a yellow sport or partial yellow sport, and *H. nigrescens* 'Elatior'. It turns out that we know that Florence Shaw had a yellow *H. sieboldiana* in her garden that she used to hybridize 'Birchwood Parky's Gold', 'Sunlight'. 'Sunlight' is a yellow sport of 'Frances Williams'. The question is did she have *H. nigrescens* 'Elatior'. Given that Alex Summers acquired it in June of 1971 from Dr. K. Kaneko in Japan he could have passed it along to Mrs. Shaw shortly thereafter. In fact, Kevin Vaughn in his acceptance speech for the Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Award states that she had some of the first plants of *H. nigrescens* 'Elatior' and made some crosses with it and some variegated 'Tokudama' types and 'Bengee' an all gold hosta. Could 'Bengee' be the yellow parent, then?

The timing is still very tight, however, since Alex Summers purchased 'Green Wedge' from Paul Aden in 1975, possibly the year he acquired it

from the Shaw garden. In any case, the parentage of a 'Bengee', (or 'Sunlight') and *H. nigrescens* 'Elatior' cross is very possible. Thus, despite all the gnashing of teeth, we end up at almost the same place, the basic facts of the legend intact. Only the names have been changed to protect the innocent.

Hosta Heights

What is the best way to measure a hosta? How large is a large hosta, how small is a miniature? At what point does small become medium and medium large? These are types of questions that plague hosta philosophers and retired engineers.

A committee was formed, (this will be a continuing theme in this year's "Gossip" report, for better or worse), by the American Hosta Growers Association, the trade organization for hosta nurseries. Its mission was to attach quantitative dimensions to the sizes of hostas that we all know sort of intuitively. I know a mini when I see one and probably even a medium sized hosta but when it comes down to defining those size categories to the inch, well that is a different matter.

I measure my hostas by their width, always have, but I am in the minority or less politely, "way out in right field". (Do people still use baseball metaphors?) Most people like to measure their hostas by their height as they do with other herbaceous perennials. I can do height, but I just like width better. So what do you know, I find myself on this hosta size committee.

In the past I have written about "The problem with height." Here is an excerpt:

"Hosta height, despite what you read on picture tags, in catalogues and in reference books, is not a constant. It is the most variable of all hosta characteristics, more so than leaf size or clump width. Environmental factors, nutrition, the number of divisions in the plant, and even its location on the planet all cause the height of a single hosta cultivar to change in time and space..."

Pick a hosta, any hosta. It will be taller in the shade than twenty feet away in a sunnier location. Bright light for most of the day can make a majestic hosta become almost flat. The difference in height may be six inches or more. It is that old light intensity thing, plants stretch in deep shade and spread out in the sun. It is not just the leaf petioles that lengthen or shrink because of light intensity but

the hosta leaf blades become more narrow and smaller in more sun, also.

Light intensity varies globally with latitude also. The same hosta in Georgia may be as much as half as tall as it is in Minnesota, (much to the chagrin of the folks in Georgia!) Hosta width however, varies much less with latitude and is more dependent of maturity of the clump, (number of divisions), and amount of moisture. I believe the tallest hostas that I have seen were in Spokane, Washington. I came home from that National Convention and was appalled how short my best clumps were. I remember yelling at them, "Stand up! Grow!" They ignored me being the sane, courteous creatures that they are.

As hostas mature and produce more and more divisions they naturally increase in height. As the plant widens, the leaves in the center of the clump have really nowhere to go but up. Moisture can also change the height of a mature hosta dramatically. Spring weather with constant rain will produce abnormally tall and lush hostas due to both the abundant moisture and a reduced number of sunny days. Drought during the spring period of rapid growth will dwarf mature hostas for the rest of that growing season no matter how numerous those summer showers are."

All this I explained ad nauseum to the AHGA committee and I received their compassion for the plight of hostas growing in the South. In fairness to the other members of the committee, they did a great job and carefully studied the option of using width for the size standards but in reality width has one set of problems and height another. The latter are more easily solved and since height is more universally accepted, the new standards are based on height, but... there is a disclaimer or two.

There are actually two sets of AHGA size standards, one for the North and one for the South. The North is defined using my old "hosta regionalization" theory, as Interstate 80 and above and the South is I-40 and below. The middle is a transitional zone. It is also noted that hosta width is usually 2 to 2.5 times the hosta height but may be less with upright hostas. This is definitely a generalized size standard I can fully endorse.

The whole story can be found in the latest issue of *The Hosta Journal* Volume 44, Number 1,

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A LAMENT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

market by Mobjack Nursery and it was put into tissue culture labs all over the world. It literally took the world by storm. Mass marketing and the power of high-tech propagation propelled this wide white-edged sport of that old 'Fortunei', 'Francee' to almost instant celebrity. Why, because the mass marketers of hostas believed, and I think they still do, that white hostas sell and 'Patriot' had by far the whitest margin of any hosta. It was very white, grew rapidly, increased well, and made a great nursery plant.

It was the beginning of the "Age of Sports" in Hostadom. Other wide white-margined hostas soon followed from Mobjack Nursery like 'Minuteman' also from 'Francee' and later 'Liberty' from 'Sagae'. These plants also were soon mass produced and filled every niche in the market. Several white-edged sports of 'Halcyon' followed from other sources, 'El Nino' and 'First Frost' the most widely propagated, as well as 'Victory' from *H. nigrescens* 'Elatior'. The most popular new white-edged hostas no longer came from generations of careful hybridizing but from hosta sports.

Q & Z Nursery in the late 1990's and continuing into the present has put some of Kevin Vaughn's, The Lachman's and Dick Ward's best

white-edged hostas into tissue culture and reintroduced them. I think it has been a tough sell for them however as the buying public has lost their infatuation with white-edged hostas, now preferring gold-centered hosta sports. 'June', and all the others have now even passed 'Patriot' as it falls in popularity. Also, I think, because of their similar parentage and those same chloroplasts being passed along generation to generation, all those wonderful hybrids while looking different to the most studious of hosta collectors, all look the same to many of us. It is almost impossible for me to identify with 100% certainty most of the white-edged hybrid leaves that folks bring to me to identify these days.

About the same time that 'Patriot' appeared in every nursery on the planet, a new streaked hosta with very different chloroplasts finally became available to most hosta hybridizers. 'Dorothy Benedict' registered in 1983, is a streaked seedling from a selfed cross of 'Frances Williams' by Herb Benedict. Being slow to increase and difficult to tissue culture because of its instability, 'Dorothy Benedict' was a very rare hosta for many years, fetching huge bids at the AHS auctions and even enticing thievery.

Finally, this new source of streaked seedlings made its way into the hybridizing channels, many times by first generation seedlings, much like Kevin Vaughn's 'Beatrice' seedlings, and soon everyone was using it and nothing else.

'Beatrice' variegation was old school. Mildred Seaver's 'Sea Mist' also soon came into vogue, a streaked hosta of unknown parentage that produced seedlings with interesting yellow and light green variegations. But it was 'Dorothy Benedict' that did the damage bringing better substance to her larger seedlings than those of 'Beatrice' prodigy.

Finally, with the addition of these new parents, streaked seedlings could finally be produced in large numbers, large enough to fill a garden. There is nothing more beautiful to most hosta lovers than a hosta with streaks. They almost always bring the highest prices in any auction, especially very blue hostas with yellow or white streaks.

The very plants that were thought to be unmarketable in the past and remained in the hybridizer's gardens until they stabilized into white-edged hostas are now traded or sold regularly between hybridizers and hosta collectors that are willing to accept the risk of instability. The new reality is that once you have a garden of streaked hostas, it is easy to produce more streaked seedlings each year than you could ever grow to maturity. Streaked hostas have become a hybridizing goal of their own.

All this should make me melancholy except that I have lived in Hostadom long enough now to know that hostas have a way of coming back in style. Maybe it's a throwback feeling but I am en-

thralled by white-edged hostas again. There is something crisp and clean about a hosta with a white edge. Many of the newer hybrids that I see have three colors in them or streaks from the margin into the center of the leaf. Some have uneven variegation with the white all pushed to the front of the leaf and most have wide, nearly 'Patriot' wide, margins. The leaf shapes are innumerable. I like a long pointed leaf with the white completely filling its tip or a perfectly round leaf, slightly cupped because of the different growth rates of the green and white tissues.

So after years of shunning white-edged hybrid hostas from the "Gossip" for lack of customer demand, this year you will find them here again. Next year there will be more and more the year after. 'Pearly Gates' has those long pointed leaves I like and 'Pacific Sunset' mixes blue and white very beautifully. Neither are my hybrids, they belong to Doug Beilstein and Randy Goodwin who have mixed the old with the new. Both are being forced for Hosta College right now in the basement and boy, do they demand attention.

I hope you will give white-edged hostas, wherever you see them, a second look. They can still be the bread and butter of hosta hybridizers if you, the collector, will just give them a chance. I am enamored with them again, how long it will last I do not know, but for now I see these new white-edged hostas, and me, as the product of a long line of indirect evolution.

THE "GOSSIP" PAGE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

pages 67-68. Here are the measurements, in case you wondered, (North is always the larger number, the first number). Mini, up to 8", up to 7"; Small, 9-14", 8-11"; Medium, 15-22"; 12-18"; Large, 23-29", 19-24"; and Giant, 30" and above, 25" and above.

Now that I look back on it, these standards not only quantify the sizes of hostas but they also support what I have said all the time. Hostas do grow taller in the North or maybe they are really normal sized there and just short in the South. I would like to think the former is true but I would not bet the farm on it.

How do you spell *H. sieboldiana*?

Yes, there is a committee involved in this story, actually two. But I will stick to the story because the answer still remains elusive. When most of us think hosta we see the cultivar *H. sieboldiana* 'Elegans' or just plain 'Elegans' as it is called now, since it is a hybrid not a plant from the wilds of Japan. Those big round leaves and blue color, a huge hosta designed for cooler climes. And precisely because *H. sieboldiana* is a flagship hosta, changing how we write its name and the meanings that name change will impart, is not a decision to be made without considerable discussion and careful thought.

There may be actually two truths working in opposition here. We may really just have a naming problem, possibly two groups of hostas of different origins that want to share the same name. First there are the European plants that were grown from seed and described in Europe as early as the 1830's and with the name *Hosta sieboldiana* becoming cemented in the publication, Engler and Prantl, *Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien*, 2/5:39-40 in 1888. Think of these hostas as a European "species", a population of varied individuals propagated from seeds, mostly selfed, that have similar characteristics. They all look enough alike that they are recognizable as *H. sieboldiana* even though no two plants are identical. I assume that botanists of the time believed that there was a similar Japanese species, a series of populations, that were identical to the European plants and there was a connection in time and space between the genetic material of the two.

The problem we face today is that no Japanese species of *H. sieboldiana* has been found in Japan that matches the description, from European plants, that defines the name. There are similar hostas in populations in Japan but most can be better placed in the abundant species, *H. montana*. The few Japanese hostas with large, round leaves, now called *H. sieboldiana* var. *glabra*, lack the blue color and high vein count that matches the description of the European plants.

It would then seem that the name *H. sieboldiana* as described in 1888 is attached only to plants of European origin. The European "species" is really then of hybrid origin, or at least horticulturally produced, and not a true wild species after all. With no known plants of *H. sieboldiana* located in Japan, George Schmid in his Hosta Species Updates on the Hostalibrary.org and the AHS On-Line Journal for 2011 reduced *H. sieboldiana* to a cultivar *H. 'Sieboldiana'*.

While the rules of taxonomy would seem to dictate that there is really no other choice than to give the name to the European plants, there is some collateral fallout that must now be resolved. First,

the very much alive populations of *H. sieboldiana* var. *glabra* have lost their species name. I feel they are too distinct to be lumped into *H. montana* so it would seem that a new species name is needed for them. This is not a huge problem since *H. sieboldiana* var. *glabra* is not a commercially important plant.

But what if a population of hostas is found in Japan on some remote cliffside that closely resembles those European plants of 'Sieboldiana'? If the reduction to cultivar status is accepted, then they too would require a new species name, maybe the same species name as given to *H. sieboldiana glabra*, maybe not. In any case, if *H. sieboldiana* is finally found in the wild it would not be called *H. sieboldiana* but given a new name. You see we have two different "species", one in Europe and one in Japan, vying for the same name and this is not just any name, it is one of best known brands in Hostadom!

As fate would have it last year a new population of hostas has been discovered in Japan and from the photo I have seen, the plants look remarkably similar to what we think of as *H. sieboldiana*. So has this illusive species finally been found in the wild? Well, maybe, but more research will be needed to know for sure. The new population will have to undergo taxonomic scrutiny to see into which species it may fall.

Even if these hostas appear to be the long lost *H. sieboldiana* species in the wild can we connect them to the plants in Europe that were the type specimens for the name? Can we even call the Japanese and European plants by the same name given one group is a wild population and the other is a group of similar seedlings propagated in gardens and nurseries? If not, which group of hostas gets the *H. sieboldiana* name brand? It might still be more logical, and more according to nomenclature rules, for the European plants to be called 'Sieboldiana' and the wild plants given a new name. It might also be more confusing.

Thus the American Hosta Society has decided not to endorse the name change from *H. sieboldiana* to 'Sieboldiana' until more study can be conducted, especially on the newly found hostas in Japan. A committee has been established to review any new information that comes to light, especially from Japan. The AHS has taken a wait and see approach to try to get this name change as correct as possible. Remember, any name change would cause ripples throughout the commercial side of Hostadom when it came, so the transition needs to be logical and go as smoothly as possible. So stay tuned, this is an ongoing story, no longer breaking news.

Foliar Nematode Research

I was glad to see the election year of 2012 finally give way to 2013. I was hopeful that all the political bickering would subside and maybe this country's leaders could come together and make good decisions on how to spend your tax dollars and mine. I have turned off the TV and radio so things seem much more harmonious than last fall, at least to me.

Unfortunately some of these strong fiscal feelings have spilled over into Hostadom. An exciting opportunity has presented itself to the AHS. As you know foliar nematodes have become a major pest problem in hostas and as you also know there are no really good methods to control or eliminate them from your garden at this time. There has been recently a clamoring for new research to be conducted on the life cycle and habits of these nasty little

worms and some new approaches for controlling them.

A discussion was begun with Ohio State University where some of this research has been conducted in the past and a grant proposal was presented to the AHS for \$50,000. Yes, this is a lot of money but Ohio State was willing to match that amount increasing the size of the study dramatically to \$100,000. This is truly a great opportunity to conduct an in depth study on foliar nematodes and their control and have it overseen, at least to some degree, by hosta people. (Yes, another committee was formed.)

Now just stop for a minute and go back in time to the election year mentality and think how polarized simple issues can become. What seems like a good idea, like funding efforts to help save the environment, can become contentious when the details of the program are made public. Some folks on one side say windmills will never produce enough energy to help the problem, and some say the cost vs. return on investment is too high. Folks on the other side say we have to try something because by doing nothing things are just getting worse. The reply is that our money is better spent doing something else, like planting millions of trees to prevent climate change, all with hostas growing under them. "Hostas, that's outrageous!!!" Then the name calling begins followed by the false accusations and lies. Our leaders are personally attacked and everyone feels threatened. It starts to feel like the terrorists are winning.

Some of this has unfortunately spilled into Hostadom. I know nobody is opposed to fighting foliar nematodes in hostas. The question is really not if we should do it but how should we do it? Doing nothing is not a valid option. I believe that we now have an opportunity to try to do something on a fairly large scale that might teach us when chemical treatments might be most effective in controlling foliar nematodes. You see, it is easy to kill the worms if you know where they are, soap alone will do a great job. Is there a combination of simple treatments that can reduce worm populations and virtually eliminate those brown streaks in the garden? Some of us want to see.

Some hosta folks think that we are wasting our money and urge us in the most unpleasant ways not to donate funds to this project. For them the money can be spent better elsewhere since they never expect a complete cure to be found. I too am not optimistic about finding a way to eliminate foliar nematodes from our lives, after all I guess they have just as much a right to a home on this planet as we do, but expanding our knowledge of them is important and today, that knowledge is expensive. Gone are the days of a graduate student being paid \$3000 per year and being expected to live off of that. That sum hardly covers the cost of being totally socially networked these days.

Fund raising efforts are well under way and by the time you read this at least 50% of the hosta folks' share of the funding will have been pledged. If you hate the worms as much as I do then let's all chip in on this one. It's good to know your enemy and satisfying to fight to help save the hosta environment. We are really all in this together.

National Hosta Open Garden Day

I am an idea guy. Sometimes I have a really good idea, like the AHGA Hosta of the Year, and sometimes my ideas fall on deaf ears. At the Winter Scientific meeting in Chicago in January, I somehow had a little time left at the end of my talk and eager to fill that time, shared an idea that had

been drifting aimlessly in my head for a while. How about a National Hosta Open Garden Day?

Imagine a single afternoon, (2:00-5:00PM), how about the first Sunday in June, (hopefully most of the weeds would be out of the garden by then), when every hosta grower in America stayed home and opened their garden to the public. There would be no need to put down fresh mulch, no need to even mow the lawn, and no need to serve elaborate desserts, although maybe a little lemonade might be nice. Just sit on the porch and see who drops in. Sounds like fun to me.

Ideas are great but they need an easy, practical method of implementation for them to become reality. (Do we need another committee? I hope not.) We could set up a website, *National Hosta Day.org*, and have a little box where interested garden visitors would enter their zip code and the 10 nearest open gardens would magically appear. They could even appear as pins in a Google map, I imagine. Obviously a data base would have to be hidden in the site somewhere with the names and addresses of participating hosta gardeners and that data would have to be collected somehow.

This new website, linked to the AHS and everyone else we can talk into linking with it, would then need to be promoted through AHS publications, nursery catalogues, local hosta clubs, local newspapers and radio shows, and nationally on gardening websites and, think big, on HGTV and "Good Morning America". Again we would need folks to do this publicity but it would be pretty much a onetime set up with yearly updates.

Now my idea has become a dream. We just have to go one step further and make that dream a reality. I believe we need to put our energy into doing the things that promote hostas and expose as many people as possible to how much fun it is to be part of Hostadom. The people and the plants and what better way to get acquainted with us than in a garden that is right down the street or just across town. Let's do something positive on a grand scale, and have some fun doing it.



"Half Price"

Hosta of the Month

Check it out @

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**March 2013:
'Peach Salsa'**

HOSTA PESTS ... THE FEAR FACTOR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

come in several weights but the lighter weights work just fine. You can always double it up if you are expecting temperatures below 26. Have it on hand when spring comes, it might not be available the night before the big freeze.

Several other things will protect your hostas from a late spring freeze including cardboard boxes, nursery pots, and bed sheets. I am not a big fan of using plastic since it must be taken off in the morning soon after the temperature rises above freezing whereas the frost cloth can be left on for days. I also have not had much luck with running irrigation and sealing my hostas in ice. The leaves often are left with clear dots where some of the "raindrops" first froze.

Finally, there is heat and drought. All you can do is water, water, and water some more. Water until you hate doing it and then do it some more. This is where that automatic irrigation system is handy. Hostas were not genetically designed for temperatures of 105 degrees and no rain. Their closest relatives, agaves were. Drought is stressful for both garden and gardener, so hang in there. The rain will come with cooler temperatures and next spring may be wettest on record.

At high temperatures, 95 to 100 degrees hostas stop growing and if prolonged, go into what I call "heat dormancy". If severe drought accompanies the heat, and it often does, then some hostas will "dry rot" in their roots and underside of the crown. You will see no symptoms above ground until the next spring when your huge hosta has shrunk back to tissue culture liner size. This is the unseen danger. So water, water, water, and pray for rain.

Slugs and Snails

I am the wrong person to give any advice about the danger to hostas from land gastropods. I do not have any fear of them at all. I will only reluctantly pick up a snake but slugs do not bother me at all. In fact, I think snails are cute. I even have a snail collection.

More importantly, my hostas suffer very little slug damage here in North Carolina. If April is cool and wet, I might get a few holes, ironically especially on *H. sieboldiana* and 'Tokudama' cultivars as they emerge, little holes made by little gray slugs. We do have a wide diversity of slugs and snails in the nursery but mostly they feed on the algae and debris that forms on the pots and flats.

What I know about preventing slug damage is that if you are going to apply any bait or chemicals, including beer or Romaine lettuce, do it early in the spring, even before the hostas emerge. The slugs are active before the hostas so round them up early and then reapply the bait as necessary as new species of slugs become active. The trick is to reduce the slug population, you will not eradicate it and you do not want to. Slugs and snails fill a useful niche in the environment, cleaning up the mess.

In summer once the slugs get into the hosta foliage they may never reach the ground again. Some hosta folks hand pick them off at night or on cool, wet mornings when they are up on the leaf surfaces. Others spray a 10% household ammonia solution on the slugs and hosta foliage. As I said, I do neither, but I think with a clean garden and

maybe a little bait early in the season and the slug population will decrease year to year hopefully.

Hosta Viruses

For many of you hosta viruses, especially Hosta virus X (HVX), are especially scary. I have a theory about that. Humans are very familiar with human viruses, we catch them all the time and often times the only cure is bed rest and plenty of fluids. Familiarity breeds fear. We think hosta viruses will spread through the air or by casual contact like human viruses will. Fortunately for your hostas, this is not true. Unfortunately for them, once a hosta is infected with a virus, there is no cure. The infected plant including the roots and any associated soil should be removed from the garden, bagged and trashed. (Some gardeners insist on burning their infected hostas but I think this is just a carryover from the Dark Ages when the plague raged and the clothes and bedding of the dead were incinerated.)

There are eight viruses included in the standard virus scan, (test), for hostas. They are: Arabis mosaic virus, Cucumber mosaic virus, Hosta virus X, Impatiens necrotic spot virus, Tobacco streak virus, Tomato ringspot virus, Tomato spotted wilt virus, and Tobacco rattle virus.

HVX is especially hard to transfer and most of the infected plants we see are in nurseries. HVX in recent years has been a hosta nursery problem and many nursery folks rightly now spend thousands of dollars a year to insure their plants are virus free. The best way to avoid HVX is to not buy an infected plant, one that has irregularly mottled leaves, green on yellow leaves, yellow on blue leaves. Variegation in hostas is streaked or flecked running with the veins. Leaves that have splotches of color are probably victims of HVX.

HVX is associated only with hostas as far as we know. The other viruses that can, but rarely do, infect hostas are associated with other plants as their names indicate. Some are transferred by soil nematodes, some by specific insects. The best way prevent your hostas from catching most of these "bugs" is to not plant them in the vegetable garden. Since hostas are shade plants, there is not a great temptation to do this anyway. Impatiens however are commonly used in the shade garden and so Impatiens necrotic spot virus could be more of a concern but again it is rarely seen on hostas.

Viruses then are not scary at all. Just buy your hostas wisely, or trade them wisely, and keep them out of the tomato patch. Yes, this is an oversimplification but hostas infected with viruses are very rare in the garden, they spread very slowly and infected plants are easily removed. There are better things to lose sleep over.

Deer

Deer on the other hand may be something better to lose sleep over. These days whenever I tell strangers that I grow hostas for a living, they always seem to reply, "Oh yes, hostas, you mean deer food." Deer are a serious threat to the glorious future of the hosta as the number one selling perennial in America. They are larger than humans and I do not think I would want to get into a grunting match with a large buck. They can also do a lot of damage in an evening or two. Deer are something to fear, and fight!

If you can afford it and your neighbors will let you, build a 12 foot zoo fence around your hostas. (In my nursery they are all in cages, deer and hail

protection.) Two four foot fences four feet apart will do just as well for probably half the cost. I have a friend of mine in Chapel Hill and he has some of each and they seem to work equally well. Fences do make good neighbors.

Short of a fence, deer repellent works very well as long as you spray it every three weeks or so and don't just leave it unopened in the tool shed. Almost any kind will work, but I like to switch them during the summer so the deer do not get too comfortable. Deer are creatures of habit, that's why once they find your hostas you are doomed, and keeping them off balance is part of my strategy.

Deer are also smarter than you think. More than likely they were born in your backyard, or at least in the neighborhood, and are very familiar with your habits. They know when you are sleeping, they know when your dog is sleeping, and they know when you're gone for a week to the hosta convention or to the beach and then they start to nibble at the edges of the garden. Make sure you spray that deer repellent, don't leave home without doing it.

Deer usually do a first time walk through of my garden when the first hosta flowers begin to open. Deer love hosta flowers and scapes, I think because they are right there at eye level, easy to see, easy to eat, no bending necessary. I rarely need to spray early, you may need one application however as the hostas flush out, but I spray for the first time when the hostas begin to flower and then when I travel. It is maybe three or four times a year, not too bad to have hostas.

Yes, there are a hundred things that will deter deer from human hair to shiny pie pans to soap on a stick. I like my garden, however, to look to the visitor like I have conquered my fear of deer and it is a place safe from the troubles of the gardening world. Trust me, repellents work, if you use them. They are not as effective as a 12 foot zoo fence but I can stand a little late fall nibbling for the difference in cost and esthetic effect.

Insect damage

Generally insects do not do a lot of damage to hostas. They are really nothing to fear. Occasionally, black vine weevils will notch small semi-circular holes in the margins of hosta leaves. Cutworms, usually the caterpillars of moths, will cut large banana-shaped holes often between the veins or eat the fresh new leaves as they flush in summer. Damaged leaves can be removed or chemical treatments can be employed if the problems get locally severe. We do not have black vine weevils fortunately but do suffer attacks by cutworms in the nursery. I generally seek them out, remove them by hand and then...

Fungal infections

Fungus is everywhere. Most of it just cleans up the mess of biological death. Some however get a little impatient and attacks stressed or even healthy tissue if the conditions are right. I do not fear fungus, but I hate it and it is impossible to permanently defeat. Technically, fungal infections, like viruses I guess, are not hosta pests but hosta diseases. It really is just a matter of semantics, a pest is something



that bugs me and fungi bug me a lot.

Since I do hate fungus and feel somewhat impotent in fighting it, this discussion will be short and you can fill in the blanks in the Iowa State booklet that I mentioned above. Petiole Rot, (formally Southern Blight, a very offensive name to some, and sometimes mustard seed fungus), is a hosta crippling disease that does deserve some coverage.

Petiole rot, *Sclerotium rolfsii* var. *delphinii* strikes when the summer weather turns hot and dry. It is a soil borne disease and I believe that it is often brought into the hosta garden in fresh mulch, especially hardwood bark mulch. It attacks the hosta petioles near the ground and actually secretes an acid that dissolves the plant tissue causing the leaves to collapse to the ground. It is very distressing to see half of the leaves of one of your best hosta clumps suddenly rot off at the ground level. Many a frightened hosta friend has called in a panic. The immediate solution is simple. Treat the plants in the ground; do not remove them as this may spread the fungus. Carefully remove the fallen leaves and any about to fall. Bag and trash. Mix up a 10% household bleach solution, (1 part bleach, 9 parts water), in a plastic watering can and drench the damaged area with a gallon or two of the mixture. I hate doing this because the earthworms hate it but the hosta must be saved. You may need to repeat this if another leaf or two fall victim to the fungus.

Bleach is a contact biological killer. There are fungicides that are longer lasting that you can treat hostas with petiole rot damage that may be more effective but they are often difficult for the hosta gardener to find, though safe to use. Also, keeping fresh mulch away from the hosta petioles may deter the fungus. Petiole rot is usually an isolated event in a small section of the garden and will spread slowly as rain washes the spores downhill.

The fungi I hate the most are the myriad of species that attack hosta foliage in hot humid summer weather that has been damaged by excessive light or heat. It attacks stressed hostas that might be heat dormant. If you live north of I-80 please skip to the next paragraph and spare yourself some pain, you will probably never see this problem.

In the heat of summer especially in a crowded nursery situation with less than perfect air circulation, fungus will invade the stomates on the back of hosta leaves and attack the leaves. Repeated treat-

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What makes a good hosta great?

I think that we can all agree that 'Sum and Substance', whoever planted the seed that produced it, is a great hosta. It is distinct, grows well, has a great name and is easy to find to buy. It somehow stands tall above the others both in the garden and in the Popularity Poll. It is a hosta that everyone who has space for it, even if that means in a three gallon pot, should grow. It is spectacular!

In truth, there are very few of the over 8000 hostas now named that are great. There are hundreds of good ones but only a few are really great. To pick on my own introductions, 'Guacamole' is a great hosta but I am not sure any of my other babies quite meet the standard. Most all of them are very good hostas, unique, easy to grow, and great additions to any hosta collection but they lack that certain panache of greatness. You may disagree but for me greatness is limited to the best of the best.

What then are the traits of greatness?

1. It grows well.

A great hosta is a hosta that we can all grow well.

It is tolerant of a wide range of climates and reaches mature size quickly, even if large. That being said, I know of no hosta hybridizers that select seedlings using the "grow well" trait as their first criterion. In fact, it is often a surprising bonus that just happens to come along with a number of more eye appealing characteristics. What makes 'Guacamole' great more than anything is the reliably way it grows. It is the perfect hosta to give to a beginner.

2. It has great color.

Color has always been number one on my list of traits for which to select hosta seedlings, (vigor may be number two). We grow hostas in shady gardens for their blues, greens, and golds, and their splashes of white and cream. They replace the riot of floral color in the sunny perennial border. Color is the first thing we see and for many maybe the last. It may also be the most important trait in making a hosta great, and then, maybe not, look at 'Sum and Substance'.

3. It should be variegated.

Next to a perfectly streaked seedling, nothing is more eye-catching than a white-centered hosta. Couple that with a blue margin and you just may have the perfect hosta. 'High Society' is a perfect example. I wonder however, are variegated forms of 'Sum and Substance' an improvement on the original? I like 'Parhelion' and 'Winter Snow' better but neither is as popular. 'Sage' on the other hand is great because of its color and varie-

gation. I think solid colored hostas can be great without variegation; there is elegance in simplicity of color.

4. It should have lots of accessories.

Hostas with ruffles, puckers, cupping, and twisted leaves, and flashy petiole and scape colors are the hybridizer's hope for the future. Are the more accessories really the merrier? Does the perfect hosta have to have all of these, some, or none? Just because a new car has a backup camera, GPS, and the latest Sync technology doesn't insure its greatness. Accessories are just that, enhancements. The perfectly ruffled leaves of 'Candy Dish', however, do make it a spectacular pot plant. Would 'Sum and Substance' be better with highly ruffled leaves? It would be different, but maybe those huge leaves are more appealing if they only have a slight undulation.

5. It is large.

'Sum and Substance' is a great hosta but why? First, it is a large hosta, in fact a very large hosta. There is just something magical and unbelievable about a large hosta. A plant that goes zero to 6 feet wide in a few weeks is truly amazing and even if you were not there to see the transformation, somehow you can sense that it occurred by looking at the finished product. Then, are all large hostas good hostas? Well, pretty much.

6. It is identifiable.

If almost any large hosta is worth having, what

makes greatness? Hosta show judges would argue distinctiveness. I prefer recognizability, is that a word? 'Sum and Substance' is easy to identify even for the non-hosta gardener. Huge, round, chartreuse leaves with an umbrella-like pose make a recognizable sight. 'Blue Mouse Ears' is not large at all but very identifiable. The number of similarly identifiable hostas is maybe a few hundred but they too are not all great.

7. It is the product of a great hybridizer?

It would be flattering if like artwork, hosta collectors selected their new hostas based on who originated them. In Hostadom, however, great hostas come from many different sources. Most of the best hostas are sports that anyone with a good eye could have discovered. Think about it then; who is your favorite hosta hybridizer? It is a much tougher question than "what is your favorite hosta".

8. It has interesting genetics.

For hosta hybridizers and some collectors too, parentage alone can make a hosta great. Just reading the labels of tiny seedlings in a hybridizer's hosta patch can bring the excitement and hope that a certain cross may yield the next, best hosta. 'Beet Salad' is one of those parents for those who chase red leaves in hostas. It will produce hostas with interesting patterns of red in the leaves but the resulting plants are often lacking the other

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Spring 2013

Complete Retail Hosta Listing

♥ indicates our introductions

Editor's Note: Hosta collectors have in recent years become infatuated with miniature hostas, and ironically, giant hostas. As a result, this year we are now arranging are hosta listings by size. It is still easy to find our newest introductions and our specially priced hostas are listed by size and again at the end of our complete listing. Hopefully this will make your shopping easier and more fun. Remember photos of all our hostas are on our website, www.HostaHosta.com.

Medium to Large Hostas ...

NEW 'Almost Heaven' (D. & M. Beilstein 2012) - (Seedling of MCBS #2 Red Seedling [Mary Chastain seedling] X OP) - Small to Medium, (14" X 30") This is a cool hosta from Doug Beilstein! It has three distinct colors in the leaf, a white center and a wide bi-color border of dark green and chartreuse that produces plenty of energy so that this small hosta grows very well. It really needs a special place of its own where garden visitors can pause and enjoy its beauty. **\$25**

'Avocado' (J. & B. Diesen 1998) - (Sport of 'Guacamole') - Large, (20" X 40")

This wide-margined sport of 'Guacamole' has a wide green, traploid margin and a narrow gold, diploid leaf center. It is a sturdier plant than its parent, a little more compact and sun tolerant, but slower growing. It too, has large light lavender fragrant flowers in August. **\$25**

'Bailey's Cream' (Beilstein 2009) - ('Sea Prize' X 'Blue Angel') - Medium, (20" X 36") I like different hostas, especially different colors on new leaf shapes. This hosta has both, from its clean pure white margins and Irish green centers to its not quite round, shiny leaves. It looks a little "unhosta", maybe more tropical, and I like that. Nice lavender flowers in mid-summer. **\$20**

♥'Barbara May' (Solberg 2004) - [(*H. pycnophylla* X 'Harvest Dandy') X ('Blue Arrow' X 'Sea Fire')] - Medium, (14" X 30") This beautiful blue hosta has everything you want, great bright blue color with abundant white wax on the top and bottom of the leaves, interesting, almost triangular leaves with delicately ruffled margins, strong veins and good substance. A "long season" hosta that holds that blue color well, producing light lavender flowers in July and August. **\$12**

'Battle Star' (G. Randy Goodwin 2006) - (sport of streaked seedling) - Medium, (15" X 36") Thought by many to be Randy's best introduction, its great color combination of gray green leaves and yellow margins is distinct from across the garden. This sturdy hosta has good substance and produces dark lavender striped flowers in June. A special hosta for that special spot. **\$20 or "Two for \$30"**

♥'Beet Salad' (Solberg 2009) - (*H. clausa normalis* F2 seedling) X ('Strawberry Banana Smoothie' sibling) - Small-medium, (11" X 22" or larger) This is a very unique hosta and a hybridizer's dream. Yes, I am letting the genie out of the bottle. 'Beet Salad' has beet red petioles and beet red scapes with rich purple flowers in July to be sure, but it also has a thin, beet red margin, if only one vein wide. This hosta has great pollen and does set red seed pods and appears to pass along the red margin. It is the first wave of the future of red hostas. It is named for a wonderful meal in Minnesota. **\$50**

NEW 'Blue Legend' (K. Anderson) - Large, (28" X 60" or larger) Most very large blue hostas are well, not very blue. 'Blue Legend' is an exception. It is a very large hosta with very waxy blue leaves that resemble *H. montana* and its strong venation. It has

many light lavender flowers in June. See how big you can grow this one from Minnesota. **\$30**

♥'Blue Ridge' (Solberg 2009) - (Sport of 'Frost Giant') - Large, (28" X 66") This large sturdy, blue-green hosta quickly makes a stately upright clump in the garden. It also grows well in Southern gardens, holding up well into late summer. Its straight scapes produce near white flowers in June. Large plants!!! Limited. **\$30**

'Blue Tooth' (D. & M. Beilstein 2011) - ('June' X 'Azure Snow') - Large, (18" X 36") I love hostas that have long, narrow leaves with lots of veins. This powder blue hosta has both, leaves 11.5" X 4.5" and 12 pairs of veins! It also has light lavender Bird of Paradise-like flowers in August. It makes a large symmetrical mound. **\$20**

♥'Blueberry Cobbler' (Solberg 2009) - ('Iwa' X 'Blue Blush') - Small, (7" X 18") This is a rare September flowering frosty blue hosta. It is really a very nice little blue *H. longipes* with little pale lavender flowers whose tiny petals recurve delicately. Our best "long season" blue to date and it grows well. When you have finished your 'Blueberry Tart' it is time for cobbler. **\$20**

'Blueberry Waffles' (Sandy Brown 2008) - ('Spilt Milk' X 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd') - Very Large, (30" X 68") This is the one you have all been waiting for!!! Maybe it is the huge almost perfectly round leaves, or their deep blue color, the color of blueberries, with all the perfect puckering, or maybe just the impressive mound of foliage that makes it the perfect specimen, (probably all three), but this is a spectacular hosta that you can't get out of your mind. It flowers with its *H. sieboldiana* kin in June. It's destined to be one of the hottest hostas of the year. **\$35**

'Brutus' (D. Beilstein 2007) - ('Sea Drift' X *H. venusta*) - Very Large, (36" X 65") 'Brutus' is a huge-leafed, dark green monster that is a little unruly. At maturity, every leaf has an intricate pattern of ridges and valleys that draw closer inspection. It is topped by pretty purple flowers in early summer on tall scapes. It makes an impressive specimen if raised above ground level. 'Brutus' is a beast! **\$20**

'Bumblebee' (D. Savory 2000) - ('Honey' seedling) - Large, (19" X 52") This golden yellow hosta of *H. montana* heritage, has large heavily corrugated gold leaves. It has grown well for us here and shone brightly in the hoop houses. It has near white flowers in early summer on 30 inch scapes. It is a nice, large gold to try. **\$20**

♥NEW 'Catch of the Day' (Solberg 2013) - (Sport of 'Hoosier Harmony') - Large, (20" X 36") I guess we all like to go sport fishing; I do it occasionally with mixed results. Sometimes if you produce thousands of hostas in tissue culture you begin to create a better plant, one that grows better. This wide green-margined, bright yellow centered sport of 'Hoosier Harmony' grows well for me. I like to grow this one in a container on the deck so that it gets a little more sun and we can enjoy the fragrant flowers in August. **\$30**

'Cathedral Windows' ^{PP17,295} (Hansen 2005) - (Sport of 'Stained Glass') - Large, (20" X 40") This tetraploid hosta has thick, sometimes domed leaves with very wide shiny dark green margins and narrow, bright yellow centers. The large, light lavender flowers appear in August and are highly fragrant. It makes an upright clump with excellent combinations of color and appreciates lots of morning sun. **\$20**

'Cup of Grace' (Beilstein 2009) - ('Halcyon' X 'Breeder's Choice' op. seedling) Medium, (21" X 36") What do hosta folks want in a "dream hosta"? Frequently, they want it to be very dark green with white flowers. Add a very upright habit and highly cupped leaves and you have 'Cup of Grace'. This hosta is very well proportioned and exhibits classic grace. It is striking as the focal point of a mixed container. **\$20 or "Two for \$30"**

'Dandy Lion' (D. & M. Beilstein 2011) - ('Green Piecrust' X 'Just So') - Large, (20" X 40") Everyone loves a hosta with large rounded yellow leaves. This hosta makes a compact mound and is ideal for cool

Northern gardens. It has light lavender flowers in June and keeps its golden yellow color well. **\$20**

♥'Deane's Dream' (Solberg 2000) - ('Blue Arrow' X 'Sea Fire') - Medium, (14" X 36") Back by popular demand, this upright hosta has pointed blue leaves that have the rare combination of an unique aqua or turquoise color and bright purple petioles up to the leaf blade. It also has nice lavender flowers in July. Named for my late good friend, Bob Deane who loved blue hostas. **\$15**

'Dragon's Eye' (W. Lefever, Solberg 2008) - ('Rip-tide' seedling) - Large, (22" X 36" or more) This large hosta has frosty, undulating gray-green leaves with tall purple petioles, very waxy white leaf backs. Lavender flowers appear on waxy purple scapes in August. Good in the garden or as part of your breeding program, (sets seed). **\$15 or "Two for \$20"**

'Dream Boat' (D. & M. Beilstein 2009) - (*H. nigrescens* op) - Medium to Large, (22" X 40") From the first time I saw it, the unusual cupping and color of this hosta, made it a favorite of mine. It's truly unique foot-long artichoke colored, upright leaves are boat-shaped, a small flotilla sailing in the wind. It flowers in July and August, is fertile and would make a great breeding plant. It is worth a look for sure. **\$25**

'Emerald Charger' (M. Zilis 2010) - (Sport of 'Stained Glass') - Medium to large, (20" X 45") Interesting sports from the 'Fragrant Bouquet' line just keep popping up. This one from 'Stained Glass' has wider green margins and an interesting twist or wave in the leaf. It has the same great fragrant flowers as its parent in July and August. Its bright colors will catch your eye. **\$25**

♥'Final Summation' (Solberg 2008) - (Sport of 'Sum and Substance') - Large, (20" X 60" or more) This is the dark green-edged sport of 'Sum and Substance' that for many years I have searched for all over the hosta world. It was selected for its wide green margins, superior rich colors and slightly cupped, very round, giant leaves. It has typical lavender flowers in July. **\$20**

♥'First Frost' (Scolnik, Solberg 2002) - (Sport of 'Halcyon') - Medium, (16" X 34") "Great hosta sports start with great hosta parents." 'First Frost' is a frosty white edged sport of 'Halcyon'. Blue leaves emerge with a sharp margin the wonderful color of the center of 'June' and then turn pure white. Lavender flowers in July. It also holds up well in the garden until the "first frost". AHGA Hosta of the Year for 2010! **\$15**

'Frost Giant' (W. Lefever, Solberg 2008) - ('Galaxy' seedling) - Large, (28" X 66" or more) Big blue-green, sturdy, leaves that have a bright yellow margin that becomes cream in late summer make this a very stately hosta. Straight scapes produce near white flowers in June. It is a nice addition for that big hole in the back of the bed. **\$20**

♥'Frozen Margarita' (Solberg 2003) - ('Fried Bananas' sport) - Large, (22" X 42") This hosta has very shiny, plantain-yellow leaves with a clean, variable white margin. It is a rapid grower that appreciates morning sun in the garden. Its light lavender flowers are very fragrant flowers in August. Cool and refreshing, served only without salt. **\$15**

♥'Ginsu Knife' (Solberg 2002) - ('Irongate Supreme' X 'Green Fountain') -Medium, (14" X 28") Imagine a hosta with arching leaves with wide, irregularly cream-colored serrate margins that have large undulations and some twisting. It has white fragrant flowers in late July. A unique hosta that looks as good fountaining over a pond in the garden as it does at the head table of the Hosta Show. **\$20**

♥'Grape Fizz' (Solberg 2011) - ('Rhapsody in Blue' X *H. plantaginea*) - Large, (16" X 36") Here is a hosta with heavily subtended green leaves that might look a little wild and crazy if grown in some sun but has the most wonderful large purple striped, gently fragrant flowers. It flowers late, in August, but is well worth the wait. I grow mine in a container on the deck. **\$20**

♥'Guacamole' (Solberg 1994) - (Sport of 'Fragrant Bouquet') - Large, (24" X 48") This large open

Our New Hostas for 2013

'Tarheel Blue'
'Peach Salsa'
'Honey Pie'
'Catch of the Day'
'Blue Legend'
'Almost Heaven'
'Pearly Gates'
'Jetstream'
'Light Everlasting'
'Delona's Smile'
'Justine'
'Pacific Sunset'
'Prairie Sunset'
'Tropicana'
'Green Mouse Ears'
'Slim and Trim'
'Wonderful'

mound of rounded gold leaves with a dark green margin is the perfect beginner's hosta. It is a fast grower if given some direct sun and one of the last to go dormant. Large lavender fragrant flowers in August, too. AHGA Hosta of the Year for 2002! **\$15**

♥NEW 'Honey Pie' (Solberg 2012) - ('September Sun' X *H. plantaginea*) - Large, (18" X 40") This may have been my favorite hosta this summer. Despite all the heat, boy did it grow. The honey colored leaves pucker with age and fragrant flowers follow in late summer. It is a large hosta, a cross of 'September Sun' and *H. plantaginea*, having the best characteristics of both parents. Give this one a little extra sun also. **\$30**

NEW 'Jetstream' (D. & M. Beilstein 2013) - (Seedling of *H. yingeri* OP seedling) - Medium to Large, (26" X 40") I am a sucker for a waxy blue hosta. I also like hostas that make perfect clumps, with all their leaves neatly arranged in just the right place. This medium-sized hosta, with the help of a little morning sun, is the perfect combination of both. A seedling of Doug Beilstein, plant this one next to 'June' or better yet 'Justine'. **\$25**

NEW 'Justine' ^{PP15,340; CPBR2850} (J. van den Top) - (Sport of 'June Fever') - Medium, (16" X 30") I saw this hosta first in Holland at Jan van den Top's nursery. It is one of his many excellent sports of 'June' that he has produced. This one is from 'June Fever' and has a rich blue-green margin and bright yellow center and wonderful substance. It is probably more of a small than medium but a standout in the garden. **\$20 or "Two for \$30"**

'King of Spades' (Beilstein 2007) - ('Neat Splash' X 'Blue Moon') - Medium, (16" X 30") This unusual, medium blue-green hosta has extremely heavy puckering throughout its spade-shaped leaves. This eye-catcher forms a very tight clump in the garden and is a very tough, dog-proof plant. Lavender flowers in July. **\$15 or "Two for \$20"**

♥'Lemon Ice' (Solberg 2011) - (*H. clausa normalis* F2 seedling) X 'Strawberry Banana Smoothie' - Medium, (12" X 26") This is the beginning of the next generation of red and yellow hostas. It is the largest of this very excellent and varied group of seedlings and has bright yellow leaves with bright red petioles and scapes. It keeps its yellow color very well and will be better in the shade garden as too much light will bleach it white. It is the one that Mark Zilis selected to produce for his nursery. Nice purple flowers on red scapes in July. **\$15 or "Two for \$20"**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Planting Instructions

Hostas perform best when planted with ferns and other perennials in prepared beds. They can also be tucked into the landscape on a hole by hole basis if an area of at least 2-3 feet wide is prepared to a depth of 9-12 inches. When planted in the woods with wildflowers it is important to remove all surface tree roots within 2 feet of each hosta clump.

Bed Preparation: The most important ingredient in successful hosta growing is bed preparation. Good hosta soil should remain moist after a good rain yet drain well. It should have enough organic matter to provide plenty of air spaces for vigorous root growth but be firm enough to discourage voles and other rodents. It should have high fertility and a light covering of mulch to keep the soil cool in summer and retain moisture. Here is how we do it at Green Hill Farm.

First the area to be planted is completely tilled with our old Troy Built tiller to its maximum depth of 8-9 inches. We remove all the surface tree roots that the tiller finds. If the soil is poor and/or hard, we will frequently add 4-5 inches of purchased topsoil, a good sandy loam,

and till it in to the existing soil. Then 3 inches (about 30% of the total bed) of organic matter is spread over the bed and tilled in with some 10-10-10 fertilizer to "feed the bark". We usually use coarse pine bark nuggets in our beds that are locally available in bulk, but well-rotted sawdust, compost or manure will also work well. The coarser the organic material is the larger the air spaces in the soil will be and the longer they will remain in the soil.

The addition of gravel gives the bed mass, moderating soil temperatures as well as making it firmer. Also, it is a vole deterrent. If you can dig in your bed easily with your hands then the voles can too. We no longer spread gravel over the entire bed and till it in to a depth of 4-5 inches, although it has worked well for us in the past. We just add gravel where we plant our hostas and other perennials that voles might eat.

Finally, after a good rain to settle things a little, the bed is ready to plant.

Hole Preparation: Hostas do not grow deep into the soil, usually no deeper than one shovel depth or so. Wide holes are better than deep holes, since hosta roots usually extend as far or further from the center of the plant as the foliage

does. Dig a hole wide enough to accommodate all the roots of the hosta to be planted without cutting or folding them. Make a small mound in the bottom of the hole to rest the crown upon and cover it with about an inch of 3/8 inch gravel, either crushed granite or pea gravel. Take the bare rooted hosta and run its roots down the hill. Cover the roots and crown with another inch or so of gravel, making a hosta and gravel sandwich. Loosely fill the hole with soil that has been amended with some slow release fertilizer or manure (especially if planting in the spring). Do not pack the soil around the plant. Water thoroughly and mulch with a thin layer of pine bark, shredded oak bark or whatever is your local favorite. Remember to keep the mulch off the hosta petioles in order to discourage fungal diseases. Also, deep mulches encourage voles.

When to plant: Hostas can be successfully planted any time that the ground can be worked. The best times to plant hostas are when they are actively making new roots, in the spring after the first flush of leaves has hardened off and in late summer once the hottest weather is past. Here in North Carolina that is usually early May and late August. Most plants that we ship to retail customers are sent during those optimum times. Planting at these times allows the plants enough

time to establish a good root system before the droughts of summer in the first case and before they go dormant for the winter in the latter.

Containerized hostas can be planted with a minimum of shock throughout the spring, summer and into fall. They should be completely bare rooted before planting and their roots untangled. If your hostas arrive bare root they will probably appreciate being soaked in a bucket of water for several hours to rehydrate them before planting. Pinching a leaf or two will also reduce desiccation shock and usually stimulate another flush of leaves. Hostas usually acclimate completely to their new homes in 1-2 weeks and should be kept moist during that period. A topdressing of fertilizer will also encourage rapid new growth.

Finally, for hostas to achieve their maximum potential, the soil must be able to readily take up the water and nutrients that they need. Good bed preparation in the beginning makes all the difference. This however is not the end of the process. Over time tree roots will invade your beds robbing your hostas of water and heavy rains will compact the soil making it hard for any water to penetrate deep into the bed. Alas, then the beds will need reworking. Remember, a garden is never completed; it is always a work in process.

Hosta 'Blueberry Waffles'



Hosta 'Justine'



Hosta 'Tarheel Blue'



Hosta 'Tropicana'



Hosta 'Plum Nutty'



Hosta 'Wonderful'



Hosta 'Doubled Up'



Hosta 'Blue Legend'



Hosta 'Prairie Sunset'



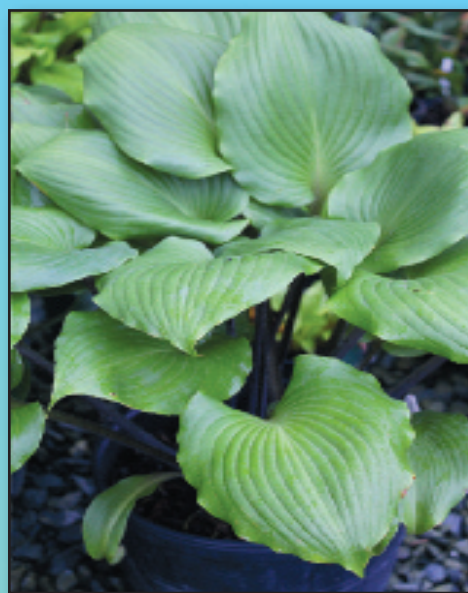
Hosta 'Curly Fries'



Hosta 'Mango Salsa'



Hosta 'Dream Boat'



Hosta 'Sugar Plum'



Hosta 'Jetstream'

HOSTA PESTS ... THE FEAR FACTOR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

ments of varied systemic fungicides will help prevent this invasion but a sleeping hosta is the perfect target for these fungi. Cutting the foliage back and allowing the hosta to reflush is as good a solution as any for heavily damaged hostas. There does seem to be a genetic resistance in some hostas to these problems and I believe better hostas can be hybridized that are not as susceptible to these fungal infections.

Foliar Nematodes

I think fear of the unknown is justified. Fear of what we cannot see is fairly reasonable, also. Unfortunately, too many hosta gardeners ascribe to the theory that “what they can’t see can’t hurt them”. Such is the case with foliar nematodes, microscopic round worms that live inside hosta plants. In this case, what you can’t see can be disastrous. If there is one hosta pest to live in fear of, it is foliar nematodes!

I have been fighting foliar nematodes in hostas since 1991 when with the help of Jim Wilkins and Herb Benedict, North Carolina State University and Michigan State University, we first deciphered the cause of those nasty brown streaks in hosta leaves. After many hard fought years and the disposal of thousands of infected plants, I have personally won the battle against foliar nematodes, as have a few others, but I fear, generally, we have lost the war. The word control has now replaced elimination in most discussions in the management of this ubiquitous pest.

Hosta gardens are initially infected with fo-

liar nematodes by bringing infected hostas home with you. Since the symptoms of brown streaks of dead tissue between the veins in the leaves of hostas does not usually appear until late in the season and plants with low populations of worms may show no damage at all until after a year of being pampered in the garden, it is easy to bring this unseen pest home with you from a nursery, an auction, or a friend’s garden.

Unlike viruses that spread very slowly, foliar nematodes spread every time it rains or you run the sprinklers. They come into the leaves, multiply, and then are spread by water to adjacent hosta clumps. In a year a single infected plant can release its worms to all the hosta clumps within a six foot radius or more. Thus, removing just the hostas that are symptomatic usually leaves a ring of newly infected plants ready to pass on the worms next year. All the hostas in that six foot radius must then be removed, bagged and trashed. Few hosta lovers are willing to make such a sacrifice.

In 1992, I removed 25% of my hosta garden in an attempt to rid myself of foliar nematodes using the six foot rule. It was over 100 hosta clumps and filled my pickup truck with large black trash bags. The next year I only had one hosta with brown streaks. I was well on the way to a happy, though painful, ending until the deer found me and devoured my entire garden in two nights.

There are no chemical treatments that will eliminate foliar nematodes, some may control the symptoms. Heat treatments, either hot water baths, or even hot greenhouses can kill both worms and eggs and eliminate them from a hosta. A minivan parked in the sun may prove to be the easiest way to free a hosta from foliar nematodes. Obviously, you might be able to clean up a few hostas this way, especially if they are very valuable and in

pots, but I doubt that your spouse would approve of you digging up all your hostas, stuffing them in the minivan, and leaving it in the Wal-Mart parking lot for a couple of weeks.

So here is my current thinking. If you are new to hostas and just have a few, (maybe less than 100), and have a few that show those nasty brown streaks in late summer, I would try to eliminate them from your garden. It is such a pleasure, especially in the South where the damage begins to appear in late June, to have a garden free of foliar nematodes. Removing the hosta with brown streaks seems easy but you must search carefully looking to find them not hoping they are not there. (“What you don’t see...”) Remove every hosta within the six foot radius also, bag and trash. That is the easy part.

Here is the part that is no fun. All the new hostas that enter your garden must now be foliar nematode free. I no longer buy any hostas in an auction or trade hostas, unless I send them straight to the tissue culture lab. (By the way, the tissue culture process can also produce foliar nematode free plants from infected hostas, albeit little ones.) In fact, all the hostas I buy for the garden and nursery come directly from the tissue culture lab. If I were you I would ask nursery folks what they do to insure their hostas are foliar nematode free before buying them. All this limits the hostas you can have in your garden and that is no fun.

If you have lots of hostas and lots of infected plants, then control the foliar nematodes. Stressing your hostas will stress the worms, reducing their ability to reproduce. Water less, feed less, let a little more hot sun into the garden. Drought is tough on hostas but it is tougher on foliar nematodes. You are welcome to try some chemical treatments, just do not fool yourself to think that just

because the symptoms are all but gone that the worms are too.

One more thing, yes, the foliar nematode war may be lost but that does not mean that some of us are not still fighting it. The idea that “they are everywhere so it really doesn’t matter anymore” is insensitive and is just not true. So, if you have foliar nematodes in your garden please do not bring any plants to auctions or plant sales. You may think you know where the worms are in your garden but how sure can you be, they are on the loose. Also, when you trade plants, please let your trading partners know that there is a chance that your plants might be infected. They may not care, but again they might.

Finally, here is how to bring some of the fun back into having a foliar nematode free garden. Grow hosta seeds. Hosta seedlings are free of foliar nematodes even if they come from infected plants. You might even try hybridizing and then you can trade hostas with other hybridizers that keep their seedlings isolated from infected plants. You might make new hosta friends and maybe even produce a wonderful new hosta that you can share through tissue culture with all of Hostadom. You will be able to sell that next great hosta to everyone, confident that it is foliar nematode free.

I no longer fear foliar nematodes, although there was a time when I thought they would destroy all that I loved about hostas. Yes, I am now limited in the hostas I can grow and the people from which I can get them. I no longer feel fear but I do feel sad. Hostas are supposed to be fun and foliar nematodes have stolen some of that fun away from me.

Well, we made it to the end. Not too scary after all. As the famous quote goes, in Hostadom, “there is nothing to fear but deer itself!”

Sometimes it is the voles and they have eaten all the roots off your favorite hosta. Remove it, it will pull right up, if it has not already fallen over. Divide it, the voles may have already done that for you, and pot it up. New roots will grow, fill the pot and it can be planted in a vole free zone in the fall or next season. Sometimes it is the continuing munching of deer. Again, pot and grow new leaves. Apply deer repellent and replant when new roots have been made.

Most times it is drought and/or tree roots. Again, dig the plant, divide it at least in half, and remove all the soft, mushy tissue from the crown. Then rinse in a 10% bleach solution, one part bleach, nine parts water, and then rinse in water. Pot the pieces and grow new roots. It might take a year or two before this one is ready to go back into the garden.

4. *A gardening friend is drooling over the plant and you want to share a piece.* Most hosta gardeners have a little group of hostas in pots hidden away for gift plants. When someone comes to visit or when you visit another garden, a potted hosta is the perfect gift. Sometimes though, a special gift is necessary. Usually you can lift a shoot or two from the side of a clump without digging the whole thing up. I hate to use a shovel for this so I have a small trowel I can use. First decide where to cut and then cut at an angle back toward the center of the clump so that you get some good roots with your division. Cut just through the crown, no further. Then with your hands and a trowel, or small shovel, tease the cut portion out of the ground. With practice you can get pretty good at this.

Here are a few words of caution. There are times when you will have to limit your generosity. Repeated taking of divisions from a clump especially during the same year will result in many uneven cuts in the crown, since you really do not know where you are cutting. This may cause large exposed areas for infection as well as added stress on the plant. You will not see the results of this until next spring when a trip to the hosta hospital may be necessary. Also, do not try this on a very large hosta; the success rate for both the division and the donor is greatly reduced. Buy a new plant of that hosta and then gift it if you can, but if it is a plant not available in the trade, wait until fall and remove three or four shoots from the clump that can be divided into one gift plant and one extra piece for you. Unfortunately, sometimes you may just have to say “no”, but that is okay, we all understand.

From up here on the porch, the hardest thing about dividing hostas is getting started. It is easy to put off renovating that big bed in the backyard that has not been touched for years until cooler weather. I suggest you tackle a small area at a time. A little in this bed and a little in that. Small jobs have a better chance of getting started and finished. The garden will look more balanced next spring, too.

Finally, do not try this on your own. Invite a friend or maybe three to “dividing day” and bribe them with free leftovers. You can offer to reciprocate later if all goes well. If it does not, well, let’s not think about that today.

Hosta restoration: Division revisited

From the August 2009 “Gossip Jr.”

Isn’t it ironic that on the hottest of August days, suited only for afternoon naps and sipping a cool beverage on the verandah, our gardener’s mind turns to dividing hostas. You can probably hear yourself now as you sit back in your comfortable chair, “There’s a hosta that I need to take up and move to a shadier spot,” or worse yet, “That whole bed needs dividing!” Certainly, none of this needs to be done today but the right time is fast approaching. Today is just for daydreaming.

Most all of you know how to divide a hosta. It is fairly simple surgery. The hardest part is getting the clump out of the ground, out of the tangle of five years of tree root competition and strangulation. To keep from cutting all the root tips off the plant, try using a digging fork to pop the clump out of the ground. If the tree roots won’t allow this, then shovel only half way around the clump and tease the rest of it out with your hands. This is obviously easier with small and medium sized clumps, but will work on large clumps too, with a little help from a strong friend.

Once out of the ground, it is important to be able to get a good look at the incision site. Small hostas can be dipped in a 5 gallon bucket of water, while larger ones may need to be rinsed off with a garden hose. If you have sandy soil, none of the above may be necessary. I like to halve the clump first and then go from there. Find a pathway across the middle of the clump between the shoots, using a sharp knife, (a ‘Ginsu Knife’ preferably), cut down through the crown but not into the root zone. Then with your hands tease the roots apart. You should now have two equal pieces.

How far to take this is up to you. Cutting a mature hosta in half will usually produce two mature clumps in two years. The first year after dividing, the hosta will sulk a little and may be only two thirds as large as it was when it was divided. This is especially true of larger hostas, like ‘Krossa Regal’. Quartering a hosta will usually add another year to maturity and radical surgery down to each division will add even more time. Small, fast growing hostas recover quickly, but large slow growing ones get really mad.

I like to halve or quarter my hostas, if I must divide at all. (I would rather sit on the verandah sipping away, rather than “making little ones out of big ones”.) Recovery is usually quick and the garden does not look like it has been butchered for a year or more. I have a small garden, so I really do not need a lot of extra plants. If you have space to fill, however, try quartering and dividing every two years. I think you will have just as many plants in the long run and they will look better along the way, than if you chopped them into little pieces. Besides, a larger root system will reduce the stress of transplanting.

As I said, most of you know “how” to divide

a hosta. You know the “what”, cut with a sharp knife and the “where”, between the shoots and through the crown stopping at the roots. The “when” however, is a hot topic for debate, one of which I do not want to tackle in a paragraph or two. Spring, as the shoots are just emerging, is certainly the easiest time to divide but also the most dangerous, as many bad outcomes are possible, spring weather being unpredictable. Late summer is more unpleasant for the gardener, but might be easier on the patient. I like the latter for esthetic reasons as much as any. I would rather divide my hostas in late summer when the garden is in decline than in early spring and have them look divided all summer. If I can save my hosta friends some stress in the process, great. I suggest halving in the spring and quartering in the fall.

The question nobody asks, (I guess it is understood), is the “why”? Why should we divide hostas? Is it assumed that hostas are just meant to be divided and it is the duty of every good gardener to propagate and cover the earth with them? Maybe, at least I do think that is how all those clumps of ‘Undulata’ lining walkways came into being. Today, however, we are just sitting on the porch and it is too hot for such reproductive urges. So, let’s contemplate why hostas should be divided and let’s start with the most basic of questions, should they be divided at all?

Probably not. Hostas mostly propagate themselves by throwing lots of seeds as far and wide as the wind will carry them. In the wild, hostas are not found in large clumps but with scapes full with pods. In a garden setting, hostas can remain in the same location for decades undivided. Over time these old clumps may fail to produce any shoots from the center of the crown creating a “fairy ring” appearance. The clumps, even *H. sieboldiana* hybrids, may, on the other hand, start to spread out and appear to “run”, acting like a groundcover.

Some hostas have made this running behavior part of their DNA. They are said to be “stoloniferous” or “rhizomatous”, spreading by underground shoots or roots depending on how you define your terms. While *H. clausa* is the most famous for this, there are many *H. sieboldii* forms and hybrids, like ‘Kabitan’, that form a loose mat of shoots. Even *H. venusta* will run some and as a result, many of our miniature hostas do not form tight clumps. Each spring the emerging buds from last year’s dormant shoot travel underground several inches to a foot or two, in the case of *H. clausa*, before forming leaves and pushing out of the ground. After a few weeks, roots emerge at the base of the leaves anchoring the new shoot. After a few years, the oldest parts of the crown will decay and the hosta will have divided itself into separate plants.

My position of whether to divide or not to divide is never divide a hosta without a good reason. It will probably be fine if left alone to get old and mature. Since it is in our nature to propagate as gardeners, and against my better judgment, here are some good reasons to divide a hosta.

1. *You want more hostas for free.* There is nothing wrong with wanting a few extra free hostas, but beware, this can become addicting and you may

find yourself in the nursery business. In addition, although dividing hostas seems to produce a lot of free plants, it does come at a cost. A hosta often divided will never reach mature size and may even develop permanent infections from the repeated knife attacks. If you are in the propagation for fun or profit game, then I suggest you buy two of each hosta and put one in the garden to become the best that it can be and chop up the other.

Small, rapidly growing hostas can probably be divided every two years, some every year with little harm to the plants. The ‘Lemon Lime’ series is prime candidate for annual division and their stoloniferous habit makes it so easy you do not even need a knife. Large hostas, especially the very large, should never be divided in my opinion. They may take five years or more to reach mature size and if divided they will take another three to regain that size. Some never do. The shoots and woody crown are so large and difficult to divide that inevitably severe damage is done to some divisions. There is also a greater tendency for these hostas to rot. If you need another giant, then buy one, you and your hostas will be happier.

2. *Your hostas have become too large for their spot in the garden.* I suggest then you move them, not necessarily divide them. We all tend to plant our hostas too close together when we prepare a new bed and probably know that someday we will have to deal with the consequences. Rather than dividing the entire bed and losing those mature hosta clumps, move a couple like shrubs to another location. If your garden is full, that other location may be the neighbor’s garden or the plant swap at a local hosta meeting. I see no problem with halving the clump and keeping a piece for yourself while you have it out of the ground but it will still need a new spot.

Moving a large hosta clump is a much easier task than dividing one. However, if you feel the bed would look better if several adjacent hostas were repositioned, then try to leave the largest untouched while halving the others. It is a shame to lose that huge clump that anchors the bed for even one season. If the little ones are getting smothered by the bigger ones, maybe it is time to remove them and put them in the front of the bed as a group. You may need to remove some of the lawn and extend the bed to do this. Please check with the other gardener in the house before spraying the Roundup however, he or she may be thrilled at the reduced space that needs to be mowed, but maybe not. Some people are very proud and protective of their lawns.

3. *Your hostas are shrinking.* If a hosta is a little smaller than it was last year, watch it. If it is half the size, you must take action and late summer is the time. If it has become a little tissue culture plant again, you then dig it in the spring. Hostas may be perennial, very long lived in fact, but they are an attractive food source for many other garden creatures. They are also often strangled by tree roots and weakened by drought so that they are easy targets for fungus and bacterial attacks. All these emergency situations require action, usually digging up the hosta and treating it and as part of the procedure, dividing it.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD HOSTA GREAT? CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

characteristics that make a hosta great. DNA, coupled with environment, makes a great hosta.

9. It has name recognition.

I believe that a bad name can ruin a great hosta and a great name can make a good hosta great. Better yet if the hosta becomes a household name. So the name itself takes on added importance as the fame of the hosta starts to spread. A simple name like 'Victory', with its positive connotations, will do but 'Sum and Substance' is one of the best names ever. The name, 'Blue Mouse Ears', makes the plant great.

10. It is the patriarch of a series of sports.

A great hosta, because it is produced in very large numbers in tissue culture, often times is the patriarch of a very long line of variously variegated sports. Sometimes a hosta becomes great because of its sports. 'Baby Bunting' may not be great on its own, but 'Pandora's Box', 'Cameo', 'Hope' and 'Cherish' have made it a household name.

'Sum and Substance' has its own line of sports to increase its fame. 'Golden Tiara' was great and then the myriad of sports that followed just added to its immortality.

11. It is readily available.

It is without saying, that a great hosta like 'Sum and Substance' must be easy to grow over a wide geographic area so that if for no other reason it will be widely propagated and sold. A hosta can only be great if we can all grow it. It must be produced around the world by hosta nurseries so that it finds its way into all markets. Availability, then may be the most important factor in increasing the popularity of a hosta; that and believe it or not, price. But again, just because a hosta is widely available does not mean it is great. Nurseries make mistakes, too.

12. It must be well marketed.

This might seem unfair, but the truth is marketing matters. A great hosta, poorly marketed, will never become widely available and thus never become very popular. Individual hostas are generally poorly marketed today, mostly by wholesalers to nurseries and then nurseries to collectors. A good photo, widely distributed, is the primary tool of

good marketing but promotions like the AHGA Hosta of the Year do make a huge difference. Great marketing makes great hostas.

13. It must become a celebrity.

For a hosta to be great it must reach celebrity. Both hosta people and home gardeners must want it. 'Empress Wu' has its own website and maybe its own Facebook page, I wouldn't know. As with all celebrity, the timing must be just right, too. It always helps to be the biggest hosta or the first of its kind when the competition is less. Also, like the celebrities that fill the tabloids, because of their perceived greatness we can overlook their huge flaws. 'Sum and Substance' has its faults too, but we easily ignore its crazy, wild flower scapes as we cut them off as soon as the first flower opens. Hostas and people can never be perfect.

14. It must have longevity.

Are great hostas great forever? Do some get better with age? Or do we focus on the imperfections in some old favorites as new and "better" hostas are introduced. 'Sum and Substance' may stay great forever while perennial number one favorite 'Frances Williams' has fallen from glory. Fame even with hostas it appears, can be fleeting but a

great hosta must have staying power.

Notice that there is no mention of substance here. Substance is a trait high on the list for some but do we want all our hostas to be thick and leathery? 'Ginsu Knife' would certainly not be improved by thickening its leaves and destroying is delicately arching habit. I also do not buy into the myth that substance in a hosta leaf can be equated to slug resistance. That has not been my experience.

There is also no mention of a great hosta looking perfect right up to fall. This is one of the traits along with great color and vigor that makes 'First Frost' in my opinion a great hosta. Not all great hostas must be all that great in the fall, however. 'June' is a spring hosta, blue and bright yellow in May but by August it is a green and muddy gold colored hosta that longs for those cool spring mornings. It is still a great hosta, maybe the greatest.

So think of a hosta that you think is great, or maybe just one of your favorites, and put it to the test. Not all great hostas have all these traits but many do. Just for fun make a list of 10 great hostas in your garden. Then go out and buy whatever catches your eye. You never know what the next great hosta may be.

SPRING 2013 COMPLETE RETAIL HOSTA LISTINGS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

♥**'Machete'** (Solberg 2004) - (Sport of 'Ginsu Knife') - Medium, (16" X 28") This one is a very vigorous upright, fountaining green hosta that accentuates all the great features of its parent except the variegation. The leaves and petioles are large, highly ruffled with serrate margins that combine well with large, white fragrant flowers on very sturdy scapes in July and August. Limited. \$20

♥**'Mango Salsa'** (Solberg 2011) - (*H. clausa normalis* F2 seedling X 'Strawberry Banana Smoothie') - Medium, (12" X 20") Maybe the best of this red seedling cross, this hosta is sun tolerant, has unusual wavy yellow leaves and red on both sides of the petiole into the leaf and red scapes. It has lavender flowers, maybe with a little red, and is a great breeding plant, fertile both ways. Light years away from its sibling 'Smiley Face', an equally stellar hosta. \$30

♥**'Margie's Angel'** (Solberg 2007) - ('Heart Throb' seedling) - Medium, (16" X 36") This unusual hosta exhibits excellent color, yellow-gold leaf centers with dark green margins, and a very sturdy, flat pointed leaf. It likes shade and will brighten up a cool, moist corner. Near white flowers appear in June. \$20

♥**'Millennium'** (Wilkins 1995) - ('Herb Benedict' X 'Sagae') - Huge (36" X 80") One of the best extremely large blue hostas because of its huge heavily subtended, rounded, dark blue leaves, good growth rate and heat tolerance. Near white flowers open on tall scapes in late June. It is impressive in the garden or a large container. \$20

♥**'Mojito'** (M. B. Vanous, Q & Z Nursery 2008) - ('Avocado' sport) Medium-Large, (16" X 36") This tetraploid sport from the 'Guacamole' family has rounded dark green, very heavily subtended leaves that are frosted with white wax in spring and shiny in summer. The very thick scapes have very large (larger than 'Guacamole') light lavender flowers that are very fragrant. Grows a little slower than 'Fried Green tomatoes' but still very vigorous. Large plants. \$25

♥**'Mystic Star'** (G. Johnson 2004) - (*H. yingeri* X 'Dorset Blue') - Medium, (10" X 32") This hosta caught my eye everywhere I saw it at the AHS Convention in New England. It wonderfully combines the substance and shine of *H. yingeri* with the rich dark blue color of the "Tardianas". It is a good-sized hosta but short enough to site near the front of the hosta bed. It is late flowering and I think very distinct. \$15

♥**'Nate the Great'** (Solberg 2003) - (*H. nigrescens* X 'Tokudama Aureonebulosa') - Large, (22" X 40") Tall and proud with large round blue-green leaves that are deeply cupped and puckered, this large upright hosta is worthy of the front of the bed. Lavender flowers on tall straight scapes top this one off in July. It is named for my son Nathan. \$20 or "Two for \$30"

♥**'Night Shift'** (D. Savory 1991) - (Sport of *H. 'Daybreak'*) - Large, (22" X 50" or more) This large-leaved sport of 'Daybreak' has a dark green margin and great yellow color in the leaf center that lasts well throughout the summer. It makes a spectacular specimen clump as it spreads to fill a wide space in the garden. It blooms in July and August with nice lavender flowers. Great when placed near a walk. \$20

♥**'Ocean Isle'** (Chopko 2006) - (Sport of 'El Dorado') - Large, (22" X 48") This impressive hosta has long, thin pointed, wavy blue-green leaves with a wide, bright gold margin. The leaf center becomes a shiny, rich green color by mid-summer. It has very good substance, a high vein count, and light lavender flowers in June and July. Winner of Best Sport at 2004 First Look. It becomes better with age. (Named for our favorite North Carolina beach.) \$20

♥**'Orange Marmalade'** ^{PP16,742} (Solberg 2002) - (Sport of 'Paul's Glory') - Large, (18" X 42") Breathing mound of heart-shaped blue leaves with a center that emerges bright yellow, then turns an orangish gold before becoming pale yellow or white depending on the amount of sun. Lavender flowers in July. Beautifully variegated all summer! Yes, it really looks orange-yellow or yellow-orange, like the Crayola

crayons. \$20 or "Two for \$30"

♥**'NEW Pacific Sunset'** (R. Goodwin 2003) - (Sport of seedling) - Small-medium, (10" X 30") White-margined hostas are common but blue hostas with creamy white edges are much rarer. This medium-sized seedling of Randy Goodwin has a coolness to its appearance, a slight waviness and nice flowers in summer. It is a front of the bed hosta that should be admired at close range. \$25

♥**'NEW Peach Salsa'** (Solberg 2013) - (*H. clausa normalis* F2 seedling X 'Strawberry Banana Smoothie') - Medium, (12" X 20") This bright yellow hosta has puckered leaves that are almost translucent, it glows! It is also a showoff with its bright red, not purple, petioles and scapes. Don't cut the flowers off this one. A sibling of my 'Smiley Face' and 'Mango Salsa', this one is a dappled shade plant that will brighten up any garden path. \$30

♥**'NEW Pearly Gates'** (D. & M. Beilstein 2012) - (Seedling of 'Sea Prize X OP') - Medium to Large, (17" X 38") This one of Doug Beilstein's has wide pearly white margins that streak through the blue-green center of its leaves. There is a softness to these sturdy leaves that brightens and calms the garden simultaneously. It's very showy, and also grows very well. \$25

♥**'Hosta plantaginea Large, (25" X 57")** Known to our grandmothers as the "Old August Lily", this large, pure white-flowered hosta species is the highly fragrant parent to all the scented hosta cultivars. The light green leaves are produced throughout the season until it blooms in August. It enjoys sunnier locations if provided with ample water. \$15

♥**'H. plantaginea 'Doubled Up'** (Solberg 2011) - (Tetraploid sport of *H. plantaginea*) - Medium to Large, (20" X 30") smaller and more compact than the species. Found in tissue culture stock at Green Hill Farm and tested for ploidy in Holland by Ben Zonnveeld, this fully tetraploid form of the species has very glossy and rubbery leaves, makes a more compact clump, and has larger flowers and a unique fragrance. It makes a great pot plant for the deck or patio. \$25

♥**'Plum Nutty'** (Solberg 2011) - ('Candy Dish' X [*H. pycnophylla* X 'Harvest Dandy') X 'Raspberry Sorbet'] - Medium, (16" X 30") I may be crazy for introducing this hosta with its shiny, (no wax), long-pointed leaves that are highly rippled but I really like it. It does have some purple on the petioles but is reluctant to set seed, (but does), for me since it flowers on nicely arching scapes in July here. You may have better luck. \$25

♥**'NEW Prairie Sunset'** (M. Zilis 2009) - (Sport of 'Prairie Fire') - Medium, (19" X 48") This is a hosta that I have wanted to have for over ten years since I first saw it at Q & Z Nursery. The yellow color is warm and glowing and the contrast of the bright green margin defines the undulating leaf perfectly. The prominent veins give it strength and structure. It is a large, medium hosta. \$20 or "Two for \$30"

♥**'Rebel Heart'** (Bridgewood Gardens) - Medium, (15" X 30") This blue-green hosta has creamy yellow margins that become whiter in summer. It has the look of a sturdy variegated "Tardiana", good substance and lavender flowers in July. It is a pretty hosta with a pretty good name. \$20 or "Two for \$30"

♥**'Sharp Dressed Man'** (Solberg 2005) - ('Francee' seedling) - Medium, (15" X 36") This one was a surprise, unique in both its leaf shape and coloration. The leaves are very thick with wide green margins and pure white centers with a wonderful streaking of a third lighter green color in between. It grows very well, never melting out or burning. Lavender flowers in July. It is both handsome and elegant, named for my son Michael. \$25

♥**'Hosta rectifolia SILVER STAR™'** (K. Muroya) - (Collected in Japan) - Medium, (18" X 24") Imagine finding this hosta in the wild!!! It is the best form of *H. rectifolia* to date and is brightly variegated, too. Its

white-margined leaves and very upright habit make it the perfect hosta for the centerpiece in a mixed container of perennials, annuals or mini hostas. It has tall, straight scapes with purple flowers in late July. \$20

♥**'Sno Cone'** (Solberg 2009) - (Sport of 'Night before Christmas') - Medium, (10" X 24") Finally there is a dark green-margined, white-centered, 'Fire and Ice' look-a-like that grows really well. Admittedly from different ancestry, the very thick, probably tetraploid, leaves of 'Sno Cone' emerge bright white not yellow and never melt out, but will sometimes green up a little in late summer, helping it grow. Light lavender flowers appear on white scapes in July. Enjoys morning sun but will also grow well in shade. It is a hosta with staying power. \$35

♥**'Spartacus'** (Shady Oaks Nursery/H. Hansen 2007) - (Sport of 'Sea Gulf Stream') - Large, (17" X 36") I do not know if it is the wonderfully ruffled yellow margin or the striking color contrast of it and the dark green leaf center, (bluish in spring), but this hosta makes you look twice. Pale lavender flowers in June. It is easier to grow than its parent. \$20

♥**'Spinach Soufflé'** (Solberg 2006) - (Sport of 'Garden Treasure', tetraploid?) - Medium, (14" X 30") Color is why we collect hostas and this one is all about great, bright color. Almost round, rich green leaves with a very bright 2" gold margin grace this heavily subtended hosta. Slow growth rate to a mature clump but looks great in a pot as a young plant. It has near white flowers in June. \$20

♥**'Spring Shower'** (Solberg 2007) - (*H. sieboldiana* X 'One Man's Treasure' F2 seedling) - Medium, (14" X 30" or larger) A welcoming sight in a special place in the garden, this light blue "Longiana" has classic heart-shaped leaves with strong venation and most resembles a "Tardiana". It has light lavender flowers in July. Try it next to 'Camelot'. \$15 or "Two for \$20"

♥**'Stained Glass'** (Hansen, Shady Oaks 1999) - (Sport of 'Guacamole') - Large, (15" X 32") A large, bright yellow-centered, dark green-edged sport of 'Guacamole' that comes out of the ground glowing. Certainly a classic hosta for the morning sun garden, it has large, fragrant lavender flowers in August. \$15

♥**'Star Power'** (D. & M. Beilstein 2009) - ('Komodo Dragon' X 'Super Bowl') - Medium to large, (20" X 48") Looking for an impressive upright yellow hosta with large heart-shaped leaves that are ruffled and somewhat puckered? This one from great parentage has good color and a sturdy stance that will brighten up any shady corner. It has lavender flowers in June and is fertile. \$20 or "Two for \$30"

♥**'Sugar Plum'** (Solberg 2011) - (Seedling X 'One Man's Treasure') - Medium, (20" X 28") This is the one!!! The ultimate goal of breeding purple-petioled hostas is to produce an upright plant with rich regal purple color that runs up into the veins at the base of the leaf. Add a bright white back to the leaf and you have the perfection of the purple running all the way into the white. This is that dream plant. It has purple scapes as well and blooms in late August and September. It is a prolific seed producer. \$30

♥**'Sugar Snap'** (Solberg 2011) - (Sport of 'Sweet Sunshine') - Large, (22" X 48") This dark green centered sport of the yellow gold 'Sweet Sunshine' makes a great fragrant-flowered hosta even better. It is very vigorous of course, but also maintains the cupping and puckering in the now variegated leaves. It has the look of a 'Tokudama' with the bonus of near white fragrant flowers in June and July. \$25

♥**'Summer Squall'** (Solberg 2007) - (*H. sieboldiana* X 'One Man's Treasure' F2 seedling) - Medium, (14" X 32" or larger) Selected for its rich blue color and nicely folded leaves, this "Longiana" may be the best and bluest of the lot. It makes a strong statement in the garden, good substance and sturdy leaves and is a great breeder. It has 3 foot scapes of light lavender flowers in mid-summer. A great hosta! \$15

♥**'Sumsational'** (M. Zilis 2010) - (Sport of 'Sum and Substance') - Huge, (26" X 50" or more) Yes, 'Sum

and Substance' is up to its old tricks again. This time it is a nice green-margined form of our large gold favorite. The flowers are typical, lavender, on long scapes in July. One more to collect! \$25

♥**'Sun Shower'** (Solberg 2007) - (*H. sieboldiana* X 'One Man's Treasure' F2 seedling) - Medium, (14" X 30" or larger) 'Sun Shower' was a surprise. A "Longiana" in every way, it is a rich yellow in spring that catches every eye. It will fade a little toward chautauque in mid-summer but remains a very attractive hosta. It is a one of a kind and the centerpiece of my "Longiana" hybridizing program. Light lavender flowers appear on yellow scapes in July. \$20 or "Two for \$30"

♥**'Sweet Sunshine'** (Solberg 1997) - ('Sweet Susan' X 'Tokudama Aureonebulosa') - Medium to large, (16" X 36") Still a hybridizing breakthrough, this yellow-gold hosta has round leaves that are cupped and puckered like a 'Tokudama' but also has near white fragrant flowers in June and July. The best thing of all, however, is that it grows very well. I saw several nice clumps of it in New England. Now available again. \$15

♥**'NEW Tarheel Blue'** (Solberg 2013) - ('Powderpuff' X 'Skylight') - Small to Medium, (14" X 32") A good blue hosta should have great blue color and hold that color well into the summer. This small hosta does both; it is my best blue yet. The secret is in the wax. A cross of two very waxy parents, 'Powderpuff' and 'Skylight', it makes a nice dense clump and stays blue here into July. Some morning sun will bring out the best in it. \$40

♥**'Thunder Boomer'** (Solberg 2007) - (*H. sieboldiana* X 'One Man's Treasure' F2 seedling) - Large, (18" X 38" or larger) This is the largest of my "Longianas" to date. Its stately, pointed, medium blue-green leaves are gently rippled, arching along the midrib, providing a calm elegance. It has good substance, sturdy scapes with a nice floral display in mid-summer and like all the other "Longianas" it is a great "long season" hosta, holding up well into the fall. \$15 or "Two for \$20"

♥**'NEW Tropicana'** (M. Zilis 2010) - ('Sea Prize' X 'Yellow River') - Medium, (19" X 40") This new seedling from Mark Zilis is a chameleon of color. It emerges in spring with a bright yellow leaf center bordered in white that later will become light green. New leaves will again be yellow, giving the plants two colors of leaves at the same time. It makes a medium-sized clump that will catch your eye in spring or summer. \$20 or "Two for \$30"

♥**'Victory'** (Zilis 2003) - (Sport of *H. nigrescens* 'Elatior') - Huge, (30" X 70") Huge variegated hostas are as rare as they are impressive. This hosta is an upright, spreading huge clump of shiny, "Elm Green" leaves with a wide cream margin. Light lavender flowers in July on very tall, spreading scapes. Leave plenty of room for this beauty. \$25

♥**'White Elephant'** (Franks 2007) - (Sport of 'White Christmas') - Large, (20" X 55") This hosta is an exciting introduction. It may be the large, fast growing, white-centered hosta for which we all have been waiting. Large, bright white leaves with a narrow dark green margin have lighter green streaks sandwiched in between. Light lavender flowers in July. It appreciates morning sun and ample water. \$20

♥**'Winter Snow'** (Winterberry Farms & J. Anderson 2003) - (Sport of 'Sum and Substance') - Huge, (35" X 70") This wonderful sport of 'Sum and Substance' makes a huge spreading mound of round 20" chautauque leaves that have exquisite wavy white margins that are consistently evenly wide. It has the typical tall scapes and lavender flowers in July that generally need early pruning. It is more impressive than its parent to me. \$15

Miniature & Small Hostas ...

‘**Appletini**’ (M. Zilis, M. Vanous 2009) - (Yellow sport of ‘Blue Dimples’ X ‘Shining Tot’) - Mini to Small, (6” X 14”) A great new mini, maybe the best of the “tini” series from Mark Zilis, it has the bright yellow color, the shine, good substance, and cute leaf shape to make this fast growing hosta a star in the garden or in a container. It also has nice lavender flowers in July. **\$15**

♥‘**Baby Blue Eyes**’ (Solberg 2006) - (‘Cody’ X ‘Dorset Blue’) - Mini-Small, (6” X 16”) This little hosta is a darling. It is a very cute tight, flat mound of heart-shaped pretty blue leaves that grows fast. Not too big for a large trough, it is also tough enough to show off in the garden. Light lavender flowers on short scapes in July. **\$15**

‘**Blue Mouse Ears**’ (E. & J. Deckert 2000) - Mini, (6” X 12”) A very tight mini mound of very thick, rounded, mouse-like, blue-green leaves. Lavender flowers on very short scapes in July. Cute as its name and now a classic! **\$12**

‘**Cameo**’ (Hansen, Shady Oaks Nursery 2002) - (Sport of ‘Baby Bunting’) - Mini, (4” X 12”) ‘Cameo’ is back in the catalogue again. I just cannot seem to let it go, it looks so good in the nursery in summer with its widely bordered summer leaves. Try giving this cream-edged beauty a little extra sun and water and watch it flourish. It has purple blooms early and will re-flush for me in late July. **\$15**

‘**Candy Dish**’ (Summers, Wrede 2003) - (‘Urapiro Hachijo’ seedling) - Medium, (12” X 24”) or larger) This may be as close to the perfect hosta leaf as there is. Start with heavy substance and dark green color, and then add a deeply ruffled margin to a broad heart-shaped leaf with purple petioles. Pretty lavender flowers top off this dense, flat mound in August and September. **\$20**

‘**Cherish**’ (Shady Oaks Nursery 2002) - (Sport of ‘Baby Bunting’) - Mini, (5” X 10”) From the same line as ‘Pandora’s Box’, ‘Cherish’ is a pretty cream-centered true mini with a wide blue-green margin. It has purple flowers in June and again in August some years. This one grows! **\$15**

♥‘**Coconut Custard**’ (Solberg 2007) - (‘Blue Cadet’ X ‘One Man’s Treasure’ o. p.) - Small, (6” X 14”) This little yellow hosta has heart-shaped leaves that are frosted with lots of white wax in spring, making it rich and creamy. Top that off with bright purple petioles that extend up into the leaf. Well proportioned, frosted yellow scapes in July-August with pretty orchid-colored flowers. Its a delicate look on a sturdy plant. **\$15**

♥‘**Cookie Crumbs**’ (Solberg, Zilis 2002) - (Sport of ‘Tiny Tears’) - Mini, (5” X 10”) Finally a clean white-margined mini reminiscent of *H. venusta*. This very flat mound of green heart-shaped leaves has a surprisingly wide white margin. It has purple flowers in June. **\$25**

♥‘**Corkscrew**’ (Solberg 2003) - (‘Tortifrons’ X ‘One Man’s Treasure’) - Small, (9” X 22”) Like its parent, ‘Tortifrons’, the leaves are dark green and contorted but unlike its parent, it grows very well making a full clump quickly. The small clump of upright and arching twisted, shiny dark green leaves produces lavender flowers in September and October, frequently on forked scapes. Winner of 2002 Best Seedling Award at First Look. One of a kind! **\$15**

♥‘**Cracker Crumbs**’ (Solberg 2002) - (Sport of ‘Shiny Penny’) - Mini, (6” X 12”) The miniature bright gold leaves have a shiny, dark green margin that appears hand painted. Good substance, growth rate and lavender flowers in July. It is perfect for troughs. **\$15**

♥‘**Crumb Cake**’ (Solberg 2008) - (‘Cinnamon Sticks’ X ‘Cracker Crumbs’) - Small, (4” X 12”) This rapidly growing hosta makes a very tight flat mound of honey-gold round leaves with mahogany petioles that are shiny, wonderfully wavy, and have very good substance. Its mahogany scapes have pretty lavender flowers in July. It is a cute little hosta tough enough for the garden but deserving of a very special spot. I just love it! **\$15 or “Two for \$20”**

♥‘**Curly Fries**’ (Solberg 2008) - (‘Pineapple Upside-down Cake’ seedling) - Small, (5” X 16”) Just look at the photo. I will add that the agave-looking leaves are stiff as a board and you can see that our award winning ‘Curly Fries’ is the most unique hosta to be introduced in some time. Best grown in half a day of sun, its highly ruffled narrow leaves emerge yellow and then fade to near white. The scape is deep purple, topped with lavender flowers. It makes a great container plant or grows very well in the garden. You just have to touch it. **\$25**

‘**Daisy Doolittle**’ (G. R. Goodwin 2003) - (Unknown) - Mini, (2” X 7”) This little mini has green heart-shaped leaves with wide creamy white margins. It has lavender flowers in June and prefers a container or a special mini area in the garden. It is very pretty when established. **\$25**

♥NEW ‘**Delona’s Smile**’ (Solberg 2013) - ([‘Kinkaku’ F2 seedling X Hercules] F2) - Small, (10” X 16”) Sometimes you never know how things will turn out. This hosta was hybridized to be very yellow, have heavy substance, be sun tolerant, and be large. Well, three out of four ain’t bad. It is everything I wanted but is small. Named for the late Delona Shockey you may have received one as the gift plant at the AHS Convention in Nashville. It is bright and cheery like Delona. **\$20**

‘**Dragon Tails**’ (Zumbar) - Mini, (5” X 8”) This bright yellow mini is best grown in a little strong light to accentuate the tight rippling along the narrow leaf mar-

gins but too much will bleach it white. It makes a cute little tuft of foliage with pale purple flowers in July. It reblooms here for me on a second flush of summer foliage. **\$15**

‘**Frosted Mouse Ears**’ (M. Zilis, E. & J. Deckert 2006) - (‘Royal Mouse Ears’ sport) - Small, (7” X 18”) This is the best wide creamy white margined form of ‘Blue Mouse Ears’. The cute round blue leaves have a wide border that emerges bluish yellow and becomes white in part sun. Lavender flowers top its short, stocky scapes in June. **\$15**

NEW ‘**Green Mouse Ears**’ (E. & J. Deckert 2004) - (Sport of ‘Blue Mouse Ears’) - Mini, (5” X 9”) This miniature hosta has “mini mouse ears”, greener and smaller than its parent. It maybe a little slower to grow also which makes it the perfect solid colored hosta to put with two variegated ones in your new mini bowl. Cute little scapes with lavender flowers appear in June. **\$15**

‘**Hideout**’ (Leonard Jones) - (Sport of ‘Hidden Cove’) - Mini, (4.5” X 11”) This little fella has very curly, white-centered, narrow dark green leaves that appear to be in constant motion. It is a fast growing hosta that favors some cool sun and plenty of water. A great container plant, it blooms in June and July with lavender flowers. **\$15**

‘**Holy Mouse Ears**’ (M. Zilis, E. & J. Deckert 2006) - (‘Royal Mouse Ears’ sport) - Small, (6” X 16”) Of all the ‘Blue Mouse Ears’ forms, this one is my favorite. The cute round leaves have a blue margin and an unique bluish yellow center that becomes creamy white in part sun. Lavender flowers top its short, stocky scapes in June. It is the baby of the family. **\$15**

‘**Itsy Bitsy Spider**’ (G. Johnson) - (‘Hadspen Heron’ seedling) - Mini, (2.5” X 6”) This hosta has a flat spider-like habit, short, narrow leaves with surprising substance. It is perfect for the trough or fairy garden. Light lavender flowers in July. **\$20**

‘**Kaleidochrome**’ (Q & Z Nursery) - (seedling from Japan, possibly *H. longipes* and *H. montana* parentage) - Small to Medium? (10” X 22”) The most exciting hosta that I have seen in years, this beauty is streaked bright yellow and green. My narrow leaves have widened the second year but the variegation is just as good. To my delight it is fertile and I am trying to imagine the wondrous seedlings that will soon appear in my seedling flats. It blooms here in June on tall straight scapes, almost *H. montana* like. **\$25**

‘**Lemon Zest**’ (M. Zilis 2009) - (‘Shining Tot’ X ‘Gold Regal’) - Mini, (5” X 12”) This nice little, somewhat upright yellow-gold hosta has lance-shaped leaves with pretty good substance, and is a little different from most minis. It flowers late, in August and will nicely fill the front corner of your next trough. **\$15**

NEW ‘**Light Everlasting**’ (PSI-Shady Oaks Nursery) - (Sport of ‘Eternal Flame’) - Small, (8” X 16”) maybe larger) This white-margined sport of ‘Eternal Flame’ has proven to be a very sturdy little plant. Its leaves have excellent substance and very wide margins, even on small plants. It is not a fast grower and will probably enjoy the extra loving care of a container at least for a year or so. I think it is a winner! **\$25**

‘**Limey Lisa**’ (W. Zumbar, K. Walek AHS (R) 2009) - Mini, (6” X 21”) This little hosta has unique limey green leaves, brighter in spring, that are round and deeply cupped for their size. It is very vigorous and makes a great garden plant, useful as a groundcover or from of the bed specimen. It has purple flowers in July. **\$15**

‘**Little Devil**’ (H. Gowen) - (‘Swoosh’ X *H. venusta* sport) - Mini, (5” X 12”) This cute little white-margined mini has rich green-centered elongated leaves that have a nice little ripple. It is a rapid grower, perfect for a fancy container. Lavender flowers in late July and very popular. **\$15 or “Two for \$20”**

‘**Little Miss Muffet**’ (W. Zumbar) - Mini, (4” X 8”) This little hosta is a classic *H. venusta* with little char-treuse heart-shaped leaves and pretty good substance. Little lavender flowers in June. It is a miniature ‘Gold Edger’ for the trough or that special mini garden bed. Do not plant next to ‘Itsy Bitsy Spider’! **\$12**

‘**Mouse Trap**’ (Shady Oaks Nursery) - (‘Blue Mouse Ears’ sport) - Mini, (6” X 14”) Best growing of the white-centered sports of ‘Blue Mouse Ears’, ‘Mouse Trap’ emerges with a pure white center with a few scattered green flecks. Summer leaves may green up in extreme heat so there is never any melting out! Lavender flowers on cute white scapes in June. It is the centerpiece of your hosta “mouse” collection. **\$25**

‘**Pixie Vamp**’ (D. & J. Ward 1996) - (‘Pinstripe’ seedling) - Mini, (6” X 12”) This showy little hosta makes a perfect mound of bright green heart-shaped leaves bordered in snowy white. It has lavender flowers on purple scapes in June and July. Very vigorous in the garden or in a container. A favorite of Nancy’s. **\$15**

‘**Rainbow’s End**’ ^{PP17,251} (H. Hansen, Shady Oaks Nursery 2005) - (Sport of ‘Obsession’) - Small, (11” X 21”) This hard to find hosta is a carnival of color, yellow and white leaf centers surrounded by very dark green margins. It is known for its great rubbery looking substance and random behavior, no two clumps are identical. Attractive dark purple flowers appear on purple scapes in August. **\$25**

‘**Rock Island Line**’ (G. Rasmussen, A. Malloy 2001) - (‘Flamboyant’ X *H. venusta*) - Mini, (2” X 6”) This little mini will make a showy clump in time with its creamy white margined green leaves. It has lavender flowers in June. **\$12**

♥‘**Roller Coaster Ride**’ (Zilis, Solberg 2005) - (Sport of ‘Ray of Hope’) - Small, (7” X 18”) Feel the excitement as your eye rides up and down the rippled

white line that borders the narrow medium green leaves of this variegated species plant. Good substance with small lavender “spider” flowers in August. It is perfect in a pot. **\$15**

NEW ‘**Slim and Trim**’ (H. & D. Benedict, R. Kuenster, AHS (R) 2010) - (‘Purple Verticulated Elf’ seedling) - Small, (8” X 18”) This blue, narrow-leafed hosta is rapid growing, filling a small space in the garden quickly. It makes a dense, flat mound that is topped by lavender flowers in July. **\$15**

♥‘**Smiley Face**’ (Solberg 2011) - (*H. clausa normalis* F2 seedling X ‘Strawberry Banana Smoothie’) Small, (7” X 16”) This hosta just makes me smile. It has the cutest round leaves that are full of personality and a unique rich yellow color. It has pink petioles and surprisingly heavy substance. It makes a small tight mound perfect in a pot or a special place in the garden. Pink scapes and rich purple flowers with reddish tubes appear in July. It is fertile both ways. **\$25**

♥‘**Sugar Babe**’ (Solberg 1977) - (‘Iron Gate Supreme’ X ‘Saishu Jima’) - Small, (10” X 16”) This is the smallest fragrant-flowered hosta that I know. Its narrow leaves have decent substance and a very attractive cream margin and often some streaking. It is stoloniferous and rapidly makes a spreading mound. Its unique rich purple flowers have a very strong sugary fragrance that you can smell from the garden path. Limited, never tissue cultured. **\$35**

‘**Tears of Joy**’ (P. Black & T. Johnson, Sebright Gardens 2005) - (Sport of ‘Tiny Tears’) - Mini, (4” X 13”) This little *H. venusta* like mini has green leaves that are folded and twisted when they emerge. It is a fast grower and spreader, perfect for covering a container or trough. Purple flowers appear in June. It is different. **\$15**

♥‘**Tiny Bubbles**’ (Solberg 2008) - (‘Corkscrew’ X ‘Lemon Frost’) - Small, (8” X 16”) This bright yellow harbinger of spring has arrowhead-shaped leaves with good substance but it is the closed orchid flowers that persist for weeks in mid-summer on perfectly proportioned yellow scapes that make this a very unique hosta. It is a very sturdy little plant that grows very well. **\$15**

♥‘**Tongue Twister**’ (Solberg 2008) - (‘Iwa’ X ‘Blue Blush’ o. p.) - Small, (8” X 18”) With its dark green leaves that twist upward out of the clump, this great little hosta looks as fresh in October as it does in May. It has great substance, rich color, and is cute to boot. The light purple scapes produce light lavender flowers in September and light purple pods in October. My best “long season” hosta, still green here in late November! **\$15**

NEW ‘**Wonderful**’ (R. Goodwin 2005) - (‘Little Wonder seedling’) - Mini, (3” X 6”) This tiny hosta has teardrop-shaped yellow leaves that form a very cute delicate miniature mound. Hybridized by Randy Goodwin, it is a perfect container hosta or grow it as Randy does in a special bed just for minis along a walk. **\$15**



Specials ...

“Two for \$20”:

♥‘**Crumb Cake**’ (Solberg 2008) - (‘Cinnamon Sticks’ X ‘Cracker Crumbs’) - Small, (4” X 12”) This rapidly growing hosta makes a very tight flat mound of honey-gold round leaves with mahogany petioles that are shiny, wonderfully wavy, and have very good substance. Its mahogany scapes have pretty lavender flowers in July. It is a cute little hosta tough enough for the garden but deserving of a special spot. I just love it! **\$15 or “Two for \$20”**

‘**Dragon’s Eye**’ (W. Lefever, Solberg 2008) - (‘Rip-tide’ seedling) - Large, (22” X 36” or more) This large hosta has frosty, undulating gray-green leaves with tall purple petioles, very waxy white leaf backs. Lavender flowers appear on waxy purple scapes in August. Good in the garden or as part of your breeding program. (sets seed). **\$15 or “Two for \$20”**

‘**King of Spades**’ (Beilstein 2007) - (‘Neat Splash’ X ‘Blue Moon’) - Medium, (16” X 30”) This unusual, medium blue-green hosta has extremely heavy puckering throughout its spade-shaped leaves. This eye-catcher forms a very tight clump in the garden and is a very tough, dog-proof plant. Lavender flowers in July. **\$15 or “Two for \$20”**

♥‘**Lemon Ice**’ (Solberg 2011) - (*H. clausa normalis* F2 seedling) X ‘Strawberry Banana Smoothie’) - Medium, (12” X 26”) This is the beginning of the next generation of red and yellow hostas. It is the largest of this very excellent and varied group of seedlings and has bright yellow leaves with bright red petioles and

scapes. It keeps its yellow color very well and will be better in the shade garden as too much light will bleach it white. It is the one that Mark Zilis selected to produce for his nursery. Nice purple flowers on red scapes in July. **\$15 or “Two for \$20”**

‘**Little Devil**’ (H. Gowen) - (‘Swoosh’ X *H. venusta* sport) - Mini, (5” X 12”) This cute little white-margined mini has rich green-centered elongated leaves that have a nice little ripple. It is a rapid grower, perfect for a fancy container. Lavender flowers in late July and very popular. **\$15 or “Two for \$20”**

♥‘**Spring Shower**’ (Solberg 2007) - (*H. sieboldiana* X ‘One Man’s Treasure’ F2 seedling) - Medium, (14” X 30” or larger) A welcoming sight in a special place in the garden, this light blue “Longiana” has classic heart-shaped leaves with strong venation and most resembles a “Tardiana”. It has light lavender flowers in July. Try it next to ‘Camelot’. **\$15 or “Two for \$20”**

♥‘**Thunder Boomer**’ (Solberg 2007) - (*H. sieboldiana* X ‘One Man’s Treasure’ F2 seedling) - Large, (18” X 38” or larger) This is the largest of my “Longianas” to date. Its stately, pointed, medium blue-green leaves are gently rippled, arching along the midrib, providing a calm elegance. It has good substance, sturdy scapes with a nice floral display in mid-summer and like all the other “Longianas” it is a great “long season” hosta, holding up well into the fall. **\$15 or “Two for \$20”**

“Two for \$30”:

‘**Battle Star**’ (G. Randy Goodwin 2006) - (sport of streaked seedling) - Medium, (15” X 36”) Thought by many to be Randy’s best introduction, its great color combination of gray green leaves and yellow margins is distinct from across the garden. This sturdy hosta has good substance and produces dark lavender striped flowers in June. It is a special hosta for that special spot. **\$20 or “Two for \$30”**

‘**Cup of Grace**’ (Beilstein 2009) - (‘Halcyon’ X ‘Breeder’s Choice’ op. seedling) Medium, (21” X 36”) What do hosta folks want in a “dream hosta”? Frequently, they want it to be very dark green with white flowers. Add a very upright habit and highly cupped leaves and you have ‘Cup of Grace’. This hosta is very well proportioned and exhibits classic grace. It is striking as the focal point of a mixed container. **\$20 or “Two for \$30”**

NEW ‘**Justine**’ ^{PP15,340; CPBR2850} (J. van den Top) - (Sport of ‘June Fever’) - Medium, (16” X 30”) I saw this hosta first in Holland at Jan van den Top’s nursery. It is one of his many excellent sports of ‘June’ that he has produced. This one is from ‘June Fever’ and has a rich blue-green margin and bright yellow center and wonderful substance. It is probably more of a small than medium but a standout in the garden. **\$20 or “Two for \$30”**

♥‘**Nate the Great**’ (Solberg 2003) - (*H. nigrescens* X ‘Tokudama Aureonebulosa’) - Large, (22” X 45”) Tall and proud with large round blue-green leaves that are deeply cupped and puckered, this large upright hosta is worthy of the front of the bed. Lavender flowers on tall straight scapes top this one off in July. It is named for my son Nathan. **\$20 or “Two for \$30”**

♥‘**Orange Marmalade**’ ^{PP16,742} (Solberg 2002) - (Sport of ‘Paul’s Glory’) - Large, (18” X 42”) Breath-taking mound of heart-shaped blue leaves with a center that emerges bright yellow, then turns an orangish gold before becoming pale yellow or white depending on the amount of sun. Lavender flowers in July. Beautifully variegated all summer! Yes, it really looks orange-yellow or yellow-orange, like the Crayola crayons. **\$20 or “Two for \$30”**

NEW ‘**Prairie Sunset**’ (M. Zilis 2009) - (Sport of ‘Prairie Fire’) - Medium, (19” X 48”) This is a hosta that I have wanted to have for over ten years since I first saw it at Q & Z Nursery. The yellow color is warm and glowing and the contrast of the bright green margin defines the undulating leaf perfectly. The prominent veins give it strength and structure. It is a large, medium hosta. **\$20 or “Two for \$30”**

‘**Rebel Heart**’ (Bridgewood Gardens) - Medium, (15” X 30”) This blue-green hosta has creamy yellow margins that become whiter in summer. It has the look of a sturdy variegated “Tardiana”, good substance and lavender flowers in July. It’s a pretty hosta with a pretty good name. **\$20 or “Two for \$30”**

‘**Star Power**’ (D. & M. Beilstein 2009) - (‘Komodo Dragon’ x ‘Super Bowl’) - Medium to large, (20” X 48”) Looking for an impressive upright yellow hosta with large heart-shaped leaves that are ruffled and somewhat puckered? This one from great parentage has good color and a sturdy stance that will brighten up any shady corner. It has lavender flowers in June and is fertile. **\$20 or “Two for \$30”**

♥‘**Sun Shower**’ (Solberg 2007) - (*H. sieboldiana* X ‘One Man’s Treasure’ F2 seedling) - Medium, (14” X 30” or larger) ‘Sun Shower’ was a surprise. A “Longiana” in every way, it is a rich yellow in spring that catches every eye. It will fade a little toward char-treuse in mid-summer but remains a very attractive hosta. It is a one of a kind and the centerpiece of my “Longiana” hybridizing program. Light lavender flowers appear on yellow scapes in July. **\$20 or “Two for \$30”**

NEW ‘**Tropicana**’ (M. Zilis 2010) - (‘Sea Prize’ X ‘Yellow River’) - Medium, (19” X 40”) This new seedling from Mark Zilis is a chameleon of color. It emerges in spring with a bright yellow leaf center bordered in white that later will become light green. New leaves will again be yellow, giving the plants two colors of leaves at the same time. It makes a medium-sized clump that will catch your eye in spring or summer. **\$20 or “Two for \$30”**

Ordering Instructions

All hostas are container grown and shipped bare root. Hostas can be shipped year round but usually travel best from May-June and August- September. Shipping is by UPS and the cost is \$15.00 per order except for all orders to the Rocky Mountain States and the West Coast that will be shipped by USPS Priority Mail at a cost of \$25.00 per order.

Please include payment with order. Make checks payable to Green Hill Farm, Inc. And we now take VISA and Master Card so you can call in your order. Order early as some hostas may be in limited quantities. We will not substitute but will send a re-fund unless you request otherwise.

All our hostas are satisfaction guaranteed. If for any reason you are not satisfied with your hostas, call us at the nursery immediately and return the plants within 5 days and we will gladly replace the hostas or refund your payment.

Come see us at

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in Asheville, NC
For more information contact:
<http://www.nargs2013.org>

The Dixie Regional June 7-8

in Memphis, TN
For more information contact:
Cheryl Lockhart
edsgirl611@yahoo.com

2013 American Hosta Society Convention June 13-15

in Milwaukee, WI
For more information contact:
Jack Barta
jbarta@wi.rr.com

Queen City Daylily Dreamin' June 28-30

in Cincinnati, OH
For more information contact:
Gail Braunstein
gailbraunstein@hotmail.com

Midwest Regional July 11-13

in Lisle, IL
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ORDER FORM

Green Hill Farm, Inc.
P.O. Box 773
Franklinton, NC 27525
Call:
919-309-0649 Nursery
Email:
HostaBob@gmail.com

SATISFACTION GUARANTEE:

All hostas are guaranteed to be true to name and certified pest free. If for any reason you are not completely satisfied with your hosta order just return the plants by UPS within 5 (five) days of receipt and the hostas will be replaced or your payment refunded. But please call us first and let us know of any problems. Thanks, Bob and Nancy.

Name _____ Phone _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Date _____ Desired Shipping Date _____

VISA/ MC # _____
3 Digit Sec. Code _____ Exp.date _____

Signature _____

Quantity	Hosta name	Price	
REGULAR UPS SHIPPING or		15.00	
USPS PRIORITY MAIL (west of Rockies)		25.00	
TOTAL			

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'Plum Pudding' 2013 is the exclusive club plant!



Each year Green Hill Farm offers a special new hosta introduction exclusively to hosta clubs for their members. This year **'Plum Pudding'** is the 2013 exclusive club plant! This usually gets us in a little trouble with some of our other customers, but we will not offer this hosta on any of our wholesale or retail lists. The only way that you can get **'Plum Pudding'** this year is through your local hosta group. In this way, we hope to increase the membership of local hosta clubs.

Let me elaborate a little on that. We live in changing times where the social and educational organizations of the past, plant clubs and societies, are in competition for membership with the new social media of the Internet. While both offer hosta infor-

mation, discussion, and even personal relationships to some degree, hosta clubs can offer "hands on" interaction with people and plants.

Have you ever noticed that the attendance is greatest at those hosta meetings where hostas are sold? When I give my lectures across the country, I like to flatter myself to think that all those hosta folks have come to hear me talk. In reality, they probably come just as much or more for the truck load of hostas that comes with me. The best way to attract new members and keep the ones you already have is to have a hosta plant sale. While as much as we like to say we are a "people" society, remember we are a hosta society first.

If sales are good, are auctions better? This depends on the make up of your membership. If you have several members that are active bidders, then yes, auctions can be fun for the attendees as well as good for the club treasury. If you only have bargain hunters, then it may not be so good. These days it seems there are more bargain hunters than high bidders. Why not try a raffle instead? A raffle keeps everyone involved for the price of a raffle ticket and all you need is one ticket to be a winner. Nancy once bought over eighty tickets trying to secure a hosta photograph at the Midwest Regional, by far a majority of the tickets sold, and still lost. Raffles have a place for the high bidders and the bargain hunters and can be a good alternative or addition to an auction.

If auctions and raffles are good and hosta sales better, the best encouragement to join a hosta club and keep coming back is free hostas. Yes, absolutely free hostas. Door prizes are great. At my talks I like to donate a plant or two for door prizes. If they are given away at the end of the meeting, it keeps people in the seats. (Just kidding.) Some clubs also use

free hostas as bribes to attend garden tours or rewards for a job well done for the society. We now have a free hosta every week at our local hosta sales at the nursery. You have to find it but it is absolutely free.

The point I guess I am trying to make is that I rarely see anyone leave a hosta meeting where there are plants available, free or otherwise, without one or two. Hosta folks love hostas!!! That is where our exclusive new hosta and our list of other recent introductions come in. These are plants that most all of your members have not yet acquired or are good plants for beginners and giveaways.

Our exclusive club hosta this year is **'Plum Pudding.'** Every year at our Memorial Day Hosta Hybridizing Tour I select a group of seedlings from one cross that the attendees evaluate. They then vote for their favorite by the process of elimination. The winner is sent to the tissue culture lab to be propagated and then named and introduced. A few years ago, **'Plum Pudding'** was selected by the attendees from the same 'One Man's Treasure' cross as 'Sugar Plum'. Its dark rounded green leaves with rich purple petioles and great substance set it apart from its siblings to make it a winner. I think with its purple scapes and flowers in September, it is a winner, too. 'Plum Pudding' is \$30 per plant with a minimum order of 10 plants. Supply is limited so order early.

Other new hostas include **'Pacific Sunset'** from Randy Goodwin, and **'Jetstream'** from Doug Beilstein. **'Prairie Sunset,' 'Justine'** and **'Tropicana'** are all colorful additions to our list. We also have some of our best sellers like **'Smiley Face'** and **'Sugar Snap'** at wholesale prices. If you would like more information about our 2013 club offerings, you can call Bob or Nancy at the nursery, 919-309-0649 or e-mail us at HostaBob@gmail.com. Remember, all these hostas are pictured in the "Hosta Club" section of our website, www.Hosta-Hosta.com with our complete Club List.

I give up!

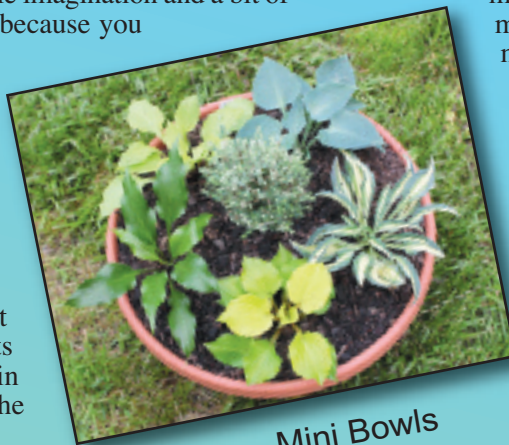
by Nancy Solberg

I give up! I'm tired of fighting voles and tree roots. Hostas hate tree roots and voles love hostas. It's a tough hosta world out there and I give up. Now you know I can't give up hostas. They are in my blood, I live with them, work with them and dream of them. So I have had to find a solution to my hosta woes.

I have always grown hostas in containers in the garden (of course, that's all we do in the nursery). For a long time I grew the big ones in pots to give more height in the garden. Then I started potting small and mini hostas in dishes as accent pots wherever needed. Now I'm thinking that I should grow ALL of our hostas in containers and only plant things in the ground that can compete with the tree roots and survive a little (okay, maybe a lot) vole damage. All it's

going to take is a little imagination and a bit of money for the pots because you know I don't want to use ugly black nursery pots in my garden.

The ideas for growing hostas in pots are limitless. I grow all sizes in pots but my favorites are giant hostas in giant pots and mini combos in dish gardens. For the



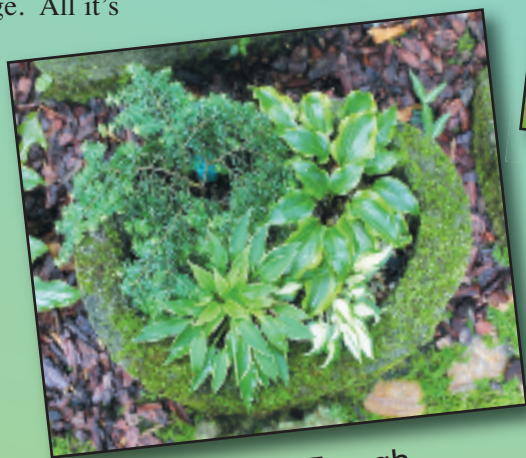
Mini Bowls

middle. Our local customers liked it so much I ended up selling it, so I'll have to make another!

One day I hope to steal one of the 16' by 48' hoop houses from Bob and turn it into my own personal garden. Then I will be able to grow hostas (again in containers along with a few other cool plants!) in a protected area guarded from deer, raccoons, opossums, rabbits, and squirrels. That way I can control the amount of light, water, and fertilizer each plant receives. It will be hosta heaven. You just wait and see, I'm going to do it! Come and visit me in a couple of years and see for yourself.

We'll share a beverage while walking through my new hosta heaven.

P.S. For those of you who know Cody, I want to pass along that he is in his first year of college and loving it!! I know a lot of you remember him at age 7 when he was waving at the tour busses as they were leaving our nursery after lunch in 2001. Or maybe you remember him from a convention where he entered hosta leaves in the leaf show. Somehow he has grown up and gone off to college. Bob and I love watching him change from child to adult. His future is wide open!



Garden Trough



Hosta 'Parhelion'

of course, is in one with 'Frosted Mouse Ears' and 'Green Mouse Ears.' They are too cute! But don't think that you are limited to minis for your dishes. Those terracotta looking dishes come in an array of sizes and the large ones work well for small hostas. I recently made a large dish, (24" wide), with 'Appletini,' 'Crumb Cake,' 'Baby Blue Eyes,' 'Tongue Twister' and 'Rainbow's End' with a miniature conifer in the

