



Saturday, February 27, 2021

Zoom Meeting

“Hostas In Japan”

June Colley

10:30 a.m.

DIRECTIONS

While some of our generation may still remember the Saturday morning “Zoom” TV series (seven seasons on PBS starting in 1999), Zoom has a different sense today. Many of you may already be “fluent” in Zoom, from even before the pandemic, but for those of you who aren’t, don’t worry. Here’s what you need:

- **Email address:** David Teager will send out the Zoom link, with instructions, a few days before the meeting. For security reasons, we won’t include this in the newsletter, our website, or on Facebook. *If you haven’t been receiving emails from us already, use the Contact form on the website to send us an update or call Rebecca Boylan (p. 2) to update.*
- **A computer, tablet, or smart phone** that will let you see the presentation. You *do not need a camera* for this, as we won’t need to see you, you just need internet/WiFi.
- **An app that lets you use Zoom:** you can download the “Zoom desktop client” from whatever app (application) store works on your system, or go to www.zoom.us to download the app. You do not need to create an account, just installation of the app.

If you have not used Zoom on this device previously, you should either do the download in advance at your convenience, or simply “join” the meeting via the link early enough to let your computer/tablet/phone do the set-up in time. If you have questions about using Zoom, go to support.zoom.us, where there are guides and videos to help you.

June will not be there in person, so we will not have questions and answers; however, there might be an opportunity for some discussion within our group.

Let’s bring the DVHS into the 21st century! Zoom along with us!



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Well, the last shoe has dropped for hostas in the time of pandemic: the American Hosta Society has just announced that this year's convention will be a virtual event, held from July 15 to 17. The bad news is that attendees won't get to judge (or visit) a Hosta Show, or spend big bucks while browsing in the vendors' room, or eat mediocre boxed lunches on buses. The good news is that many more people can "attend," albeit via virtual garden tours, an on-line auction, and Zoom-style lectures, judges' clinics, and awards presentations. All this at only \$49 per household! You're responsible for your own boxed lunches: caviar, or corn doodles?

On the other hand, the Delaware Valley Hosta Society schedule is starting to take shape, now that we have a better comfort level of what we should and should not schedule. We promise new experiences for you, but the same hospitality.

Coming up first will be an online presentation (again, via Zoom), of "Hostas in Japan" by June Colley. This is a high-quality, stand-alone video presentation (no live narration) detailing June's several trips to Japan, seeing hostas in gardens, in nurseries, and in the wild. When she gave this presentation at the 2018 convention, many of us were occupied with other tasks, and didn't get to see it ourselves. We'll open and close the meeting with a little time for chatting. If you twist my arm, maybe I'll show you some of my latest seedlings. Playing with hybridizing is one way I cope with a gardening-free winter. We also enjoy a few houseplants, some of which spend the summer outdoors. What kinds of indoor gardening do you enjoy? Maybe grab something pretty from your collection to share by video during the meeting.

Getting onward toward spring and summer, we're working on a venue for safely selling the hostas we bought for last year. They'll all be freshly repotted and growing well; we want to sell them off while you still think you have space for them in your garden! Conny Parsons has agreed to open her garden for a special tour later this summer. More about that, and about our other season's activities, in our next issue.

Kathy Miller reached out to your board of directors with a fun diversion, which I hope many of you will enjoy (and try out yourself): picking out one hosta you would want to buy this year. (See page 4.) Stephen and I visited the websites of several vendors, drooling over the "New for 2021" listings. Because of course if it isn't new, we don't want it! Haha. In truth, with so many hostas now on the market, that was an easy way to target ones just making their way out of the gardens of our top hybridizers. Not that there aren't hostas that remain classics for good reason, but the results that high-level hybridizers (I'm just a dabbler) are producing are quite amazing. See if you agree.

David

Hostas in Japan: My Visits in 2016, 2017, and 2018.

June Colley, Lindford, Hampshire, UK

June has been paying periodic visits to Japan to see hostas in the wild and in collectors' gardens. She will detail many of the prominent Japanese hosta collectors and nursery owners. She is the editor of the *British Hosta and Hemerocallis Society Bulletin* and contributing photographer and author for *The Hosta Journal*.

June was a speaker at the AHS 50th Anniversary National Convention In Philadelphia in 2018.



Her own garden may be seen on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zMiVUWUktRk&t=12s>.

'RAINBOW'S END'

AMERICAN HOSTA GROWER'S ASSOCIATION HOSTA OF THE YEAR FOR 2021

The American Hosta Growers Association established the AHGA Hosta of the Year in 1996. It is selected by a vote of AHGA members.

Award winners are hostas that are good garden plants in all regions of the country. The hosta is usually chosen at least two years in advance to allow nurseries enough time to increase their stock.

H. 'Rainbow's End' is a small to medium plant. Registered by Hans Hansen in 2005, it was a sport of *H. 'Obsession'*, which was a distinctive green hosta with unusual black variegation. Unfortunately it is difficult to find *H. 'Obsession'* OS today.

When registered, *H. 'Rainbow's End'* was described merely as a yellow centered sport. In actuality, it riotously striped and streaked, adding a bright spot to any garden. Scapes are dark red and flowers are lavender tipped.

Look for *H. 'Rainbow's End'* at your local nursery this summer.



Photos: L. *H. 'Rainbow's End'* flowers, Astrid Obern via The Hosta Library
 R. Top: *H. 'Rainbow's End'*, Luwihter Benson via The Hosta Library
 R. Bottom: *H. 'Obsession'*, Tony Avent, Plant Delights

2020 Hosta Show Rescheduled to Summer 2022

LET'S GO SHOPPING WITH THE BOARD

Since many of us are planning to stay safe and sound at home in the garden this year, maybe it's time to plan some purchases. Nothing like a new hosta to brighten your day. "If you could have just one new hosta this season, what would it be?"

Missy Kashey, DVHS Secretary
Hosta 'Golden Meadows'

I particularly like *H. 'Golden Meadows'* bold and flirtatious rippling dark green edges which contrast against the light green and cream streaky centers reminiscent of *H. 'Zebra Stripes'*. I saw a vigorous specimen in a Berks County garden that caught my eye.



photo: Matthew Sanford via The Hosta Library.

Rebecca Boylan, Membership
Hosta 'Goodness Gracious'

"Goodness gracious, where do I begin?" Yes, with *H. 'Goodness Gracious'*! This hosta stops me every time as I pass it in my front garden. It's nestled among other hostas, but its wide, heart-shaped leaves with an undulating yellow border and green center just call out to me. Maybe it's the substance; very thick and slug-proof which further draws attention to those undulations. I'll need to purchase another one for my son's garden that I've been planting in New Jersey. It will brighten up the shady border of woody plants we installed in the fall and contrast well with purple and chartreuse, two of their favorite plant colors.



photo: Harold McDonell via The Hosta Library

Ed MacFarland, Advisory Board
Hosta 'Rosedale Tractor Seat'

This past September I was at Alan Russell's nursery and observed some new hostas that he had just received. I saw this large specimen at the back of the greenhouse and it really looked different from all the rest of his stock due to a unique leaf. The hosta was *H. 'Rosedale Tractor Seat'*. It produces a wide mound 22"- 30" high; leaf size 12" x 14". Leaves are huge, cupped and green (blue in early spring). The leaf blade is almost round, thick, and really is shaped like a seat from an old Farmall Tractor. The almost-white flowers bloom in late June to early July and produce many seed pods. This hosta was originally *H. 'Salad Bowl'*, then *H. 'Rosedale Salad Bowl'* and then Mark Zilis took it to his nursery and started to produce it via tissue culture and it was renamed *H. 'Rosedale Tractor Seat'*. Originally a cross of *H. 'Galaxy'* (pod parent) and *H. 'Elegans'* (pollen parent), it was registered in 2000 by J. Hadrava.



photo Jan Hurup Hansen via The Hosta Library

Irene Cassidy, Hostatality
H. 'Midnight Oil'

I've been wanting to try a black hosta like *H. 'Midnight Oil'*. [hybrid of *H. 'Potomac Pride'*, registered by B & D Stegman in 2004]



photo: Latvian Horticultural Association

David Teager, DVHS President

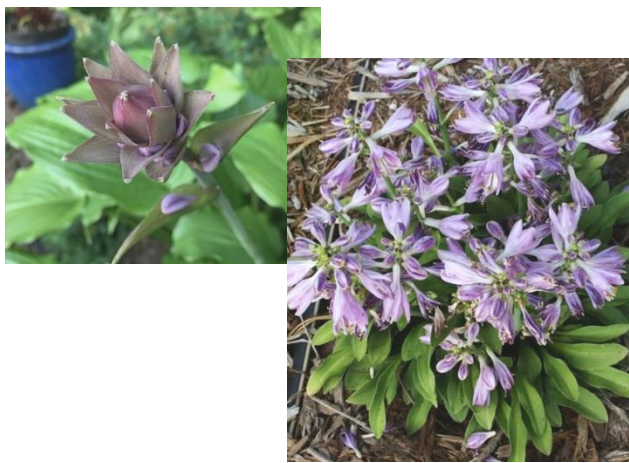
Because he's the president, he gets TWO.

***Hosta* 'Bohemian Queen'**

While I'm not planning to buy anything by mail order this year, there are a few newly released hostas that catch my eye. Some of the new hostas are from a newer (not always younger) generation of hybridizers. My vote goes to *H. 'Bohemian Queen'* from Dave Bowe, who has been an online hosta friend for many years. It's a cross of *H. 'Manhattan'* with *Hosta plantaginea*, and such crosses aren't easy. Pretty, fragrant flowers on a tidy clump with ruffled leaves. Available from Josh Spece at "In the Country Garden and Gifts"

***Hosta* 'Fingertips'**

A beautiful new mini hybrid from Plant Delights Nursery. Fabulous flowers and leaves of "cardboard", according to Tony Avent.



photos: L. 'Bohemian Queen', Dave Bowe via Hosta Library
R. 'Fingertips', Tony Avent, Plant Delights.

Kathy Miller, DVHS Newsletter Editor***Hosta* 'Gilt By Association'**

I would love to have *H. 'Gilt By Association'*, but as of now have no room for it (insert crying emoji here). Saw this in a garden in Green Bay. Love the bright gold color teamed up with the white underside. The leaves are relatively thin, so they ruffle in the breeze. Registered by Kevin Walek in 2000, it is a *Hosta pychnophylla* seedling.



photo: Kathy Miller

Stephen Fugate, DVHS Treasurer***Hosta* 'Valley's Lemon Limbo'**

If I were to buy just one hosta in 2021, it would be *H. 'Valley's Lemon Limbo'* (Linneman 2015). I like its parentage and, at the risk of being duped by pictures in catalogs and the Hosta Library, it appears to be distinct; great color, form, and texture. Alas, it seems unlikely that I will order one, but one can dream. Josh Spece's "In The Country Garden and Gifts" has it.



photo: Jeroen Linneman via Hosta Library

Marilyn Romenesko, DVHS Vice President***Hosta* 'Cosmic Arrowhead'**

As for the hosta I'm most excited about, all of them! I ordered quite a few too! I'm a bit enamored with lanceolate blue leaved hostas this year. A newer one I've ordered is Rod Keunster's *H. 'Cosmic Arrowhead'*. It is a medium to large fast growing hosta that has wavy blue lanceolate leaves.



photo: Land Of the Giants

STEP RIGHT UP

We welcome your assistance.

Help with:

Communications
Programming
Display Gardens
Plant Auctions
Hostality

No experience necessary.

Contact any board member (see p. 2)

ELIAS COHEN: *in memoriam*

David Teager

Our “Plain Dirt Gardener,” passed away in November at the remarkable age of 93. Eli and his wife Marcie have been members of the Delaware Valley Hosta Society for as long as I remember. Eli was on the board for many years.

Little did we know, though, of his illustrious career serving the needs of Pennsylvania’s forgotten populations—the elderly, the mentally disabled, and the destitute—through his tireless advocacy.

His public service career began at age 29, when he was appointed the state commissioner for aging issues in the Department of Public Welfare. Eventually, at age 49, he earned a degree in law which allowed him to take his work to the next level, taking many cases of those who could not afford to pay him. In 1979, following a fire at an unlicensed Pennsylvania boarding home for the aged that killed nine residents, his ire led him to testify before the US House Select Committee on Aging. A frequent witness at Pennsylvania legislative hearings, he was labeled by one lawmaker as a “wild jackass,” an attempted insult that delighted him. A news write-up of his career is available at the Philadelphia Inquirer website. To us, however, Eli was a constantly-smiling presence at our meetings. He authored a series of columns for the DVHS Newsletter, never believing that his gardening skills were anything special and calling himself a “plain dirt hosta gardener.” Two of those columns are archived on our website’s *Newsletter* page. I wish we could have all visited his garden in Wynnewood, but I feared he would have exhausted himself on the steep hillside to get it just right for our visit.



Eli’s “Plain Dirt Garden” in 2012.
photo: David Teager

The DVHS offers its deepest condolences to Marcie and their two sons, Barry and Peter

The following is an excerpt from Eli’s column Plain Dirt Hosta Gardening (PDHG)

Selecting and Positioning Hostas

Plain Dirt Hosta Gardeners do not typically prepare an analysis of what they seek in a hosta: a systematic description and priority placement of the next one or five, or fifty hostas sought for the PDHG garden—plant size, leaf size, color(s), growth habit, parentage, price, characteristics of deer or slug resistance, flowers and scapes,

We are, at heart, existentialists whose hosta lusts are determined (a) by the exquisite specimen or grouping or drift we saw at the last garden visited, (b) by the comments of the auctioneer at the last DVHS meeting, (c) by the hostas offered at sale prices at the local nursery or garden center, and (d) by the “hole” or space(s) we hope to fill in our gardens. The latter is easiest when we are making a decision about edging a bed, or providing a backdrop at the rear of a bed. It is best informed, at least for me, by what I see in a visited garden.

It took me a number of years before I began to think about what I wanted both in terms of the individual plant and the garden challenge I confronted—did I want a small group (i.e. three plants) of “blues” to backstop a group of

green/gold hostas? a specimen to anchor a bed or serve as an entry plant (e.g. ‘Guardian Angel’)? an architectural plant (e.g. ‘Golden Sculpture’) to define the direction or boundary)? or even a couple of “Mice” (Ears, Holy, or Rural) to fill in at a bed my visitors might see close up?

And then it took me a few more years, I am almost ashamed to say, to realize that one can have a great hosta garden by paying attention to the Popularity Poll which appear annually in *The Hosta Journal*, and which differentiate between capital-H “Hostas” (which means large, variegated, distinctive plants) and “very small” hostas, a distinction initiated, wisely, in about 2008.

Starting with the polls, and then leavening the list with plants that strike your fancy for no particular reason (other than, perhaps, a sight in a visited garden where you saw mature plants in an especially well-chosen spot) will produce great satisfaction for the PDHG.

This approach works to an extent. It runs the substantial risk of producing a hosta hodgepodge which the PDHG will work on correcting over the next few years. But then, that feeds our optimism that next year will be even better.

GEORGE SCHMID 1930 - 2020

The following excerpts are from
Georgia Hosta Notes vol. 36 no. 3.

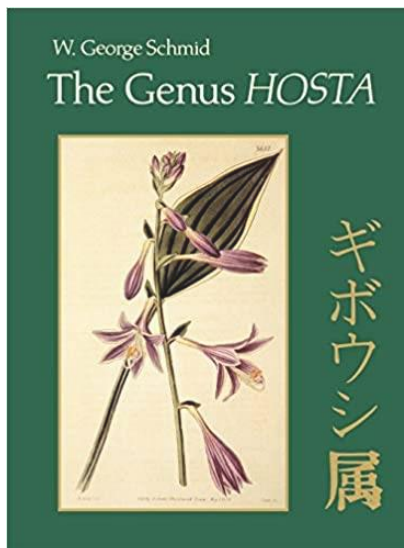


On September 8, 1984, The Georgia Hosta Society became a reality with its inaugural meeting. George [Schmid] was elected its first president and The Georgia Hosta Society was off and running. ...He was the editor of the society newsletter, *Georgia Hosta Notes*, a job which he held for most of the first 30 years of the society.

George went on to become one of the most respected researchers on the hosta species. In 1991, his book, *The Genus Hosta - Giboshi Zoku*, was published and his fame in the hosta world soared as his position on the reordering of the species of the Genus *Hosta* was widely acclaimed and accepted.

He was awarded the AHS' prestigious Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award in 1996, not only for his seminal work on sorting out the confusion in the hosta species but also for the many other contributions he made to AHS.

In 2002, he published his *Encyclopedia of Shade Perennials* which revealed his vast knowledge of not only hostas, but of many other shade plants as well, especially those suitable for growing in the southeastern US. It quickly became an important reference book for those seeking companion plants to hostas in their shade gardens.



The Genus *Hosta* (472 p.), appears to be no longer available from Timber Press. However, the hardcover and paperback versions are available (new and used) from Amazon and possibly other retailers.

History. Taxonomy. Plant Anatomy. Reproduction. Speciation. How-to in the garden. Photographs. Anything and everything you want to know about hostas.

In 2016, with most of his family and many GHS members present at the April 9 GHS meeting, he was presented the highest award given by AHS, the AHS Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding service over many years to AHS, by then President Don Dean. Although he rose to the heights of fame in the national and international horticultural communities, he always remained OUR George - the wonderful friend, mentor, and family man who unselfishly gave so much of himself to all of us.

DVHS MEMBERSHIP DUES. Please check your mailing label. If you see a number less than 21, you owe DVHS dues for 2021. The dues pay for the publication of this newsletter and maintenance of the website, as well as for other activities.

Cut off and mail in.

Delaware Valley Hosta Society Membership and Renewal Form

Dues (household membership) are \$10 per year.
Mail to: Rebecca Boylan, DVHS Membership
1200 Farmington Ave.
Pottstown, PA 19464

Please use this form also to update your records for address and e-mail, or to offer your garden for a potential meeting or tour. Thanks!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Would you consider opening your garden for a members' tour? _____

Are you in the nursery trade? _____

Calendar of Events 2020- 2021 www.delvalhosta.org

Please watch our website for more!

Saturday, February 27, 2021. Winter Meeting
Presentation: June Colley. "Hostas in
Japan". Zoom Meeting

Saturday, TBA. Spring Meeting. Plant Sale

Saturday, June 19, 2021. Summer Meeting.
Garden walk, Plant Sale, Auction.
Parsons Garden. (Rain date: June 20)

July 15 – 17, 2021. AHS National Convention.
On-Line. See AHS website for
information www.hosta.org.

June 2022. AHS National Convention.
Minneapolis, MN.

The American Hosta Society

www.americanhostasociety.org

Check out the benefits of membership.
Join other hosta lovers from around the world.