

AHS SPEAKERS LIST

For additions and corrections please contact JOY COLLURA at JDSONGRAHAM@AOL.COM



CLARENCE FALSTAD, III ("CH")

Cell- 616-218-2707
(best evenings or weekends)
Cfalstad3@gmail.com

152 Birchwood
Holland, MI
49423-6657

Call for travel and calendar time available

TOPICS

Why Are the Hostas on the Other Side of the Fence Always Bigger and Greener? – Nutrition
The World of Hostas and Hosta Flowers
Landscaping from my perspective
Hosta Production at Walters Gardens- From Tube to Truck-propagation of hostas in tissue culture and large scale mechanized field operations and steps involved
Plant Patents and Intellectual Property

PROFILE

CH says he has never killed a hosta plant, although many in his care have up and committed suicide, as hard as he has tried to keep them alive.

In 1980 CH began doing tissue culture of hostas and other perennials at Walters Gardens and took over the management when Mark Zilis left to form Q&Z Nursery. CH managed the tissue culture lab producing over one million perennials per year until taking on other responsibilities of hybridizing, licensing and plant patents. Currently concentrating on licensing contracts, royalties, plant patents and plant breeder's rights. Graduated with a Bachelor's in Science from the University of Illinois in Ornamental Horticulture.

In Hosta groups CH served a number of positions in the Michigan Hosta Society including: Charter Vice President, President. In AHS, Master Show Judge, Scientific Chair, Scientific Editor, Journal author, Organized the first several AHS Research Grants, Auction Chair, Strategic Planning Chair, Vice President, President and honored with the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award.



GLENN HEROLD

Cell- 309-369-2383
Glenn.herold50@gmail.com

W69N984 Washington Ave.
Cedarburg, WI 53012

Travel distance available- Open for discussion
Calendar time available- Just about any time

OPICS

My 25 favorite plants
Artistic, Bold, Creative Design
Conifer ID and Use
Conifers in the Landscape
Deer Resistance Landscaping
Edible Ornamentals

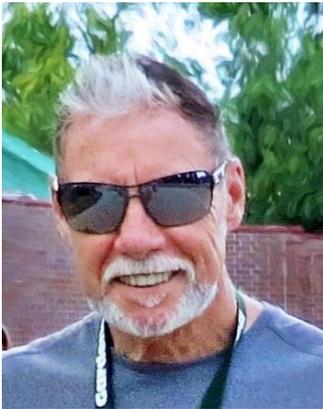
Insect and Disease Pests of Wisconsin
Minor Bulbs
My Prairie Garden
Shrubs for Cold Climates
Small Trees
The Korean Hostas

The Effect of Climate Change on Conifers
The Barberry Family
The Hosta Family
Glamorous Green
Hostas of the Year and their Derivation
Introduction to Conifers
Sedges and Grasses for the Shade Garden

Tree and Shrub Pruning
Trees for the Hosta Garden
Trees for Fall Colors
Woodland Wildflowers
Hostas and other Shady Characters
Heucheras, Heucherellas, and Tiarellas

PROFILE

Glenn Herold is a retired professor of Horticulture, Illinois Central College, East Peoria, IL. Glenn is the former president of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society, and Central Illinois Hosta Society.



RONNIE LIVINGSTON

Cell- 248-933-0319
ronlives@gmail.com

529 Batchewana
Clawson, MI 48017

Travel distance available- 6 hours maximum (one direction)
Calendar time available- Late Spring until Late October

TOPICS

Hybridizing with High Tech Tools
Cannabis- “Reefer Madness” or “Amazing Medicine Plant” ?
The History of Cannabis.
Are our Hostas Going to the Dogs_ (a comparative study of the effects of selective breeding on dogs, and the potential for hosta improvements, with a taste of human genetics)
Digital Photography Tips and Tricks
Fifty Shades of Green (a study on how plants have enlisted humans to transport and improve them by fulfilling human desires)
Hybridizing Hostas (basics of hybridizing hostas)
Custom presentations can be made as well.

PROFILE

Ron Livingston is a retired Science teacher, and worked as an adjunct professor at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, MI teaching classes in Heredity and Plant Sciences. Operation Physics instructor at LTU. Ron has been hybridizing hostas since 1997. Together with Brian Skaggs they founded the Fraternal order of Seedy Fellows (FOOSF). For Ron, a hobby often leads to a new hobby, hosta hybridizing led to photography, which led to rugged hiking, the process is ongoing. It is exciting to see what happens next.



MARY ANN METZ

217-841-7343
heyblondy@earthlink.net

1108 W. William
Champaign, IL 61821

Travel distance available- not limited
Calendar time available- not too limited- just advance notice

TOPICS

Bulbs for every season
Landscaping with Hosta
New Hosta
New Perennials
New Annuals

Color Scaping
Continuous Color In the Garden
Shade Gardening
Small Space Trees and Shrubs

PROFILE

Mary Ann Metz is a retired Horticulturist- Greenhouse grower/Manager at Klemn Nursery Champaign, IL. She is a Landscape Designer for residential and commercial properties. Mary is a Garden Center Educator at Champaign, IL (Prairie Gardens).



Photo : © Josée Lambert

REGGIE MILLETTE

514- 892-5388
info@millettephotomedia.com

62-7th Ave.
St-Ambroise de Kildare
Qc-JOK 1CO, Canada

Travel distance available- I live near Montreal, Canada- I don't mind driving or flying
Calendar time available- Just ask for my time schedule

TOPICS

How to create a garden by an amateur gardener
Hostas, nice foliage plants
Hostas for collectors
Daylillies and all their differences

Iris, the rainbow flower
Montreal botanical Garden thru all seasons
Hostas grow them as per species habits
Gardening to attract birds

PROFILE

Reggie Millette's hosta enthusiasm in his very visited garden led to founding the Quebec Hostas and Hemerocallis Society in 2000. In his garden he grows over 700 different hostas. In 2003 he wrote the very first book on hostas in French. This book became a best seller with 16000 copies. This first book was followed by a book on daylilies and a third one on irises. A new book followed on hostas in 2014, in French, also in an English version. The new book *Hostas- Grow your Hostas as per species habits* is now available on his website <http://www.millettegardenpictures.com>. Reggie was the host of a radio show on gardening for 350 weeks. Reggie takes many pictures now sold through www.millettephotomedia.com and writes articles in many gardening magazines. He gives many conferences all over Quebec, France and United States



ROB MORTKO

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913- 206-6939 (business)
RobMortko@gmail.com

16370 W. 138th Terr
Olathe, KS 66062

Travel distance negotiable
Calendar time available- Available year round

TOPICS

The Hot Hostas of Tomorrow
Tissue Culture for Dummies.... Like Me
Growing Better Hostas- Lessons Learned in the Greenhouse
Hot Hostas for the Cool Shade (a beginners overview of growing hostas and pics of top 25 hostas)
Miracles out of Nowhere (discovering sports in your own garden)
Wild thang (an entertaining look at hosta species)
50 Ways to Kill your Hosta
So you want to introduce a new hosta

PROFILE

Rob Mortko is a retired chemical engineer. He spent 25 years with Black & Vetch in Kansas City where he was Vice President of Process Technology. His passion for shade gardening and hostas has grown over the past 35+ years since he and his wife Sheri moved into their shaded woodland home in Olathe, Kansas.

Their shade gardens have been featured on various public garden tours, on local TV, and in "Kansas City Homes and Gardens Magazine". For 20 years Rob operated Made in the Shade Gardens- a retail and mail order hosta specialty nursery. Rob is now devoted full time to Made in the Shade Tissue Culture – a plant tissue culture laboratory specializing in hosta population.

In 2000 Rob registered and introduced his first hosta cultivar 'Heart and Soul'. His hosta introductions include 'Stitch in Time', 'Mouse Capades', 'Rising Star' and 'Cary on'. In 2019 'Stitch in Time' was awarded Honorable Mention in its first year of competition towards the AHS Benedict Medal Award

Rob is a frequent speaker at hosta clubs and gardening groups across the country. He is a Johnson County Kansas Extension Master Gardener where he is also served on the Advisory Board. He has also served on the Executive Board of the American Hosta Society, on the board of the American Hosta Growers Association, and as a Contributing Editor for The Hosta Journal.

Rob co-chaired the 2017 Midwest Regional Hosta Convention in Lenexa, Kansas. Along with his fellow Johnson County Master Gardeners they hosted "Hostas in the Land of Ahhhs".



MIKE AND KATHY SHADRACK

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Irisborer@aol.com - Kathy

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8399 Zimmerman Road

Hamburg, NY 14075-7143

Travel distance available- Any

Calendar time available- Not available May/June/July

TOPICS

Little Hostas- (Kathy Shadrack, speaker) The charm of very small and mini hostas- an exploration of growing the smallest hostas; special cultural needs, container growing and selections

Eric Smith: Master Hybridizer- (Mike Shadrack, speaker) An in-depth look at the life and works of this famous British plant hybridizer, known for his work with perennials, especially hostas and for his association with the famous gardens at Hadspen House

Chelsea Flower Show- (Mike Shadrack, speaker) A review of the history, organization, set-up and ambiance of [the world's best and most famous flower show](#). (This talk can exceed one hour).

A Wander Through English Gardens- (Mike Shadrack, speaker) A lighthearted tour through the gardening obsession in the UK showing famous as well as private gardens.

'H 20' (Hosta, Hemerocallis and Others) (Mike Shadrack, speaker) A look at the organization of horticulture in the UK.

Hostas in the English Garden- (Mike Shadrack, speaker) A review of English gardens and how hostas feature in English gardening.

Hosta: The Flowering Foliage Plant- (Mike Shadrack, speaker) A talk geared to gardening clubs and plant society members. An introduction to the joys of hostas.

Hosta Photography- (Mike Shadrack, speaker) A simple talk about getting the best from your photographic equipment when photographing the hostas and other plants by a dinosaur who has is still using slide film.

Eight English Gardens- (Mike Shadrack, speaker) A tour of four pairs of gardens in different corners of southeast England, each with entirely different gardening styles and contents.

Shady Characters- (Kathy Shadrack, speaker) A talk on shade-loving perennials, common and not-so common, for your garden.

PROFILE

Mike Shadrack is retired from the London Metropolitan Police. Mike's talents in photography and love of hostas soon led him to supplying pictures of hosta and gardens, many published in the UK and USA. He supplied the illustrations for the Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley's handbook 'Hostas'. He is co-author with Diana Grenfell and photographer of the book, *The Color Encyclopedia of Hostas*, in 2004, and the book sequel *Pocket Guide to Hostas* was released in 2007. In 2010, a new edition of Mike and Diana's *The New Encyclopedia of Hostas* was published with updated descriptions and photographs of new cultivars. A French hosta book, *Les Hostas* was published in 2007 with Mike as photographer and co-author. Mike has served on the AHS Board for eight years. He has been a long time member of the BHHS, is former Chairman and currently their executive Bulletin Editor. Mike holds many board and chair positions and is active in numerous local garden organizations.

Kathy Guest Shadrack belongs to and is active in many plant organizations. Kathy wrote *The Book of Little Hostas*, illustrations by Mike in 2010, and has been published in *Fine Gardening Magazine* and *Upstate Gardener's Journal* as well as many newsletters and publications.

Kathy and Mike's Smug Creek Gardens has a large collection of hosta, daylily, iris cultivars, polygonatum and a garden devoted to small hostas

For more info www.smugcreekgardens.com



BOB SOLBERG

919- 309-0649
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Green Hill Farm, Inc.
P.O. Box 773
Franklinton, NC 27523

Travel distance available- worldwide
Calendar time available- all times but preferably not
April or May

TOPICS

The Future of Hostas
When the Hosta Bug Bites
Growing Hostas: The Bigger the Better
Bringing a New Hosta to Market
Hostas in Holland
Turning a Hosta Collection into a Shade Garden
Hostas in Japan

What Makes a Great Hosta
Moss Gardening
Hostas of Indistinction: The Name Game
Hostas in Pots
My Love Affair with Gold Hostas
Back to Hosta Basics
Hostas are Supposed to Be Fun

Numerous other topics available

PROFILE

Bob Solberg is the owner of Green Hill Farm, specializing in new hostas for over 35 years. Bob being a top-notch hybridizer, has introduced about 100 hostas, and is in pursuit of producing hostas with red in the petioles, scapes, and leaves, like his 'First Blush'^{PPAF}. He is co-founder and longtime Executive Secretary of the American Hosta Growers Association and developed the Hosta of the Year Program. In graduate school he studied mosses. Bob writes and edits *The Green Hill Gossip* a popular newspaper/catalogue on all subjects hostas as well as the twice-yearly newsletter *The Gossip Jr.* Bob is the recipient of the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award and Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Merit Award from the American Hosta Society.



JOSHUA SPECE

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319-934-3620 (business) Independence, IA 50644
josh@inthecountrygardenandgifts.com
<http://www.inthecountrygardenandgifts.com>

TOPICS

The Big World of Little Hostas
Heavenly Hostas
Maintaining a Balanced Water Garden
It's Not Easy...Being Green
Succulents
Wanted: Shady Characters (Hostas and their companions)
What's New in the Hosta World
Accessible Gardening

PROFILE

What began, as Josh's own little corner of the vegetable garden, blossomed into an interest in plants that grew throughout childhood. He graduated with an AAS degree in Horticulture and owns In The Country Garden & Gifts with his mother, Sue. Since 1998, In The Country has been dedicated to specializing in innovative hostas, choice perennials, water plants, succulents, and dwarf conifers. Being in a wheelchair creates obvious obstacles in the garden, but with a little creativity, a lot of determination, and much help and support from family and friends, physical limitations don't get in the way.

Josh wrote a column entitled "Enabled Gardening" for Pond & Garden magazine and regularly contributes articles and photos to the American Hosta Society's The Hosta Journal. Josh currently serves as Web editor-in-Chief on the Board of Directors for the American Hosta Society, is an Associated Editor for The Hosta Journal, and has served on the Board of Directors of the American Hosta Growers Association.

Josh is a long-time member of the Eastern Iowa Pond Society and is an occasional contributor to their monthly newsletter, as well as the club's Webmaster. Josh speaks frequently on Hostas, water gardening, water plants, shade gardening, succulents, and accessible gardening to garden and pond clubs, Master Gardener groups, and other gardening groups and events.



JOSEPH TYCHONIEVICH

517-303-0865- (e-mail is better) Williamsburg, Virginia
gsparrowgardens@gmail.com
e-mail is best way to reach me

Travel distance available- Any, provided travel expenses are covered
Calendar time available- Any, unless I have a previously scheduled engagement

TOPICS

Thinking outside the hosta: great, unusual plants for the shade garden
Rock Gardening: Reimagining a Classic Style
Plant breeding for the home gardener
How Plants Got their Stripes: The Science of Variegated and Patterned Leaves
Plant Science That Will Make You a Better Gardener
Why hummingbirds like red flowers and other stories of plants and pollinators
How Genetic Engineering Works: Understanding the Science, Not the Controversy
Confessions of a plant crazed garden nerd

PROFILE

A life-long gardener and lover of plants, Joseph earned his degree in horticulture from Ohio State University, worked at specialty rare plants nurseries in Michigan and Japan, and was named by Organic Gardening Magazine as one of "...six young horticulturists who are helping to shape how America gardens." He is the author of *Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener* (Timber Press, 2013) and *Rock Gardening: Reimagining a Classic Style* (Timber Press, 2016). Currently Joseph lives and gardens with his husband and an adorable black cat in eastern Virginia.



MARK ZILIS

815-561-0035
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10087 E. Branch Road
Rochelle, IL 61068

Call for travel distance and time available

TOPICS

Exploring for Hostas in Japan
Herbaceous Perennials for the Shade Garden

Developing New Hostas
Hostas: an Overview

PROFILE

Mark is the owner of A to Z Perennials, Inc., a contract tissue culture lab. He has introduced over 400 new hostas and is a recipient of the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award. Mark is author of the *Hosta Handbook*, *The Hostapedia*, and *Mark Zilis' Field Guide to Hostas*.