



MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY

2024 WINTER HOSTA SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, February 24, 2024 - Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel

The MRHS Board remains proudly committed to promoting hosta education. Join us for this uniquely MRHS event featuring six speakers on a variety of hosta and related gardening topics.

Registration Fee (includes Sat. lunch): \$69 (MRHS members); \$79 (non-MRHS members)

Hotel Rate: \$112 per night including buffet breakfast (plus taxes) – rate applies to Fri and/or Sat night

The Symposium features:

- **Friday Evening Hostality – special ‘Meet and Greet’ with Marco Fransen from Holland**
- **Hosta Silent Auction**
- **Saturday Symposium with 6 speakers** on a variety of hosta and related gardening topics:
 - **Marco Fransen – The Transatlantic Hosta Connection**
For many years Fransen Hostas and Naylor Creek Nursery cooperated to bring the best new hostas from the U.S. to Europe and vice versa. Marco will reminisce a bit about his relationship with Gary and Jack from Naylor Creek and how he has managed the transition following their untimely passing. Marco will also present a number of hot new hostas from Europe’s top hybridizers.
 - **Glenn Herold – Shrubs for the Shade Garden**
Variety is the spice of life. This presentation will teach and inspire you to balance out your hosta garden with not just shade perennials but also with the use of shrubs for that added texture, shape and color.
 - **Dave Wanninger – Nuts about Nuts**
Maybe a bit off topic, but a passionate (and no doubt entertaining) talk on hickory trees and hickory nuts. The presentation will include Dave’s passion for hybrid Hickory trees and nuts from collecting and hybridizing. There will be a nut tasting of “hicans”, a hybrid nut of hickory and pecan tree origin. You will never look at Hickory trees the same way again.
 - **Phil Timm – Why You Should Be Hybridizing**
This presentation will give you some insight into why hybridizers love what they do. It will also show some incredible results that can be obtained from growing hosta seed. If nothing else, you will get to see some wonderful hosta eye candy during the winter doldrums.
 - **Bob Solberg – Full Spectrum Hostas**
Hostas are no longer just blue, green, yellow, and white. Red and purple have become dominant colors in hostas, but the future promises to bring even brown and black into play in healthy hostas. That leaves orange, Bob’s favorite, as the rare outlier. We will see how these colors are produced by hostas and hosta hybridizers. This will be a Zoom presentation.
 - **Mark Zilis – Midwest Hosta Highlights**
The top hostas for people and gardens of the Midwest.

Please register early. Late registration fees start February 2, 2024.

The hotel room rate is guaranteed through February 2, 2024. Use this link to make a reservation online:

Book your group rate for Winter Hosta Symposium Meeting Feb 2024

Or phone the Sheraton at 1-888-627-8235 and mention “Winter Hosta Symposium Meeting Feb 2024” or mini hotel code “WH9” to get the special group rate.