

MRHS Winter Symposium

Mark Zilis - **Searching for Hostas in the Wild in Japan**

In July of 2018, Mark traveled to Japan with his son Andy and Bob Solberg to determine whether the species *Hosta sieboldiana* is fact or fiction. Not only did they reach a definitive conclusion, but they were able to achieve a greater understanding of several other hosta species.

Mark Zilis is the owner of A to Z Perennials, a contract tissue culture lab in Rochelle, Illinois and the author of three books about hostas, *The Hosta Handbook* (2000), *The Hostapedia* (2009) and *Mark Zilis' Field Guide to Hostas* (2014). Since 1991 Mark has made six trips to Japan to study hostas in their native habitats.

Note: Mark will be selling his hosta books during several of our breaks

George Papadelis – **New Annuals and Perennials for 2019**

In this presentation, George will introduce us to many new annuals and perennials and explain why we must grow them in our gardens in 2019. His presentation will also include some of the most outstanding introductions from 2018.

George has been growing unique annuals and perennials since age 11. He travels extensively and evaluates those that are the latest and greatest. See his garden center on-line at Telly's Greenhouse.

Bob Solberg - **Growing Hostas Successfully in Containers**

After his recent trip to Japan, Bob gained new perspectives on how to grow hostas. Try soil!! You will come away with many cutting edge ideas.

Bob is one of the "mensa" group of hosta folk. He received a B. S. in biology and became an expert in mosses in graduate school. Bob is a nationally known speaker, as well as a hosta hybridizer with such introductions as 'Corkscrew', 'Curly Fries', 'First Blush', 'Ginsu Knife', 'Guacamole', 'Orange Marmalade', and 'Sharp Dressed Man' to his credit. We are honored to have Bob here today.

Jeff Moore – **Thoughts on Hosta Hybridizing**

Jeff is a highly respected hosta hybridizer, producing thousands of seedlings each year from his crosses. Yet most never see the market due to his incredibly selective culling process. Jeff only introduces hostas that bear unique qualities, ones that make collectors and gardeners alike say “Wow!”

For the past fifteen years he has been active in the hosta world; hybridizing, growing, and selling his plants. His new ideas about hostas are refreshing and not the same old stuff.

Don Dean – **Where did That Trait Come From?**

Don will look at a range of species, discussing their general traits and how they relate to modern hosta cultivars. Be prepared to look at your garden in a new way and take lots of notes!

Don started his love for hostas in 1984 when his mother gave him a clump of *Hosta* ‘Undulata’. He was looking for shade tolerant plants. Since that time Don has registered over fifty hosta cultivars. In 2016 Don received the Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Merit Award from the American Hosta Society for his achievements in hybridizing.

Donald Rawson – **You can have a Tree-mendous Garden**

Don will examine the issue of root competition in the garden. Twenty helpful tips are presented to assist the gardener in dealing with this problem.

Don and his wife Pam grow hundreds of hostas in their garden and each year plant a few thousand seedlings. Check out his latest hosta introduction, ‘Gabriel’s Wing’. Don is active in the AHS, speaks regularly, and is the author of two hosta books, *The Hosta Lists* (a compendium of species and cultivars based upon various characteristics) and *The Hosta Hybridizer’s Manual* (covers all aspects of growing hosta seedlings).

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