



MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY

2026 WINTER HOSTA SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, February 21, 2026 - Embassy Suites by Hilton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel

The MRHS is 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: \$119 per night (plus taxes) includes buffet breakfast – rate applies to Fri and/or Sat night

The Symposium features:

- **Friday Evening Hostatality** – time to catch up with old hosta friends and meet new friends
- **Hosta Silent Auction** – featuring plant donations from the top hybridizers and vendors
- **Jack Barta Memorial Scholarship** – one lucky attendee will have their registration fee comped. Sponsored this year by the Illinois Prairie Hosta Society.
- **Saturday Symposium with 6 speakers** on a variety of hosta and related gardening topics:
 - **Dave Collura – An Introduction to Rock Gardening**
You will be introduced to rock garden design elements and rock garden plants that grow in the Midwest. Dave will finish with a tour of rock gardens from around the world.
 - **Don Dean – Hosta Hybridizer- You or Me- Born? or Evolved!**
Follow one person's journey from general gardener to hosta hybridizer. Hybridizing techniques that have been used, progress onto early introductions of hosta breeding results, and finish with the latest introductions. Then ask yourself if a bit of persistence similar to this is in the works for you?
 - **Glenn Herold – Ferns for the Shade Garden**
Ferns generally work well with hostas in the shade garden, but this talk will explore the scientific aspect of ferns as well as the aesthetic. How do ferns differ from flowering plants and from each other? Some species are great companions for hostas while others are not. Which to add to your shade garden collection and which to avoid.
 - **Rob Mortko – Drip Irrigation – a more efficient approach to watering hostas**
In a world of climate change with ever increasing weather extremes, drip irrigation can keep those thirsty hostas happy during the inevitable and extended drought periods.
 - **Bob Solberg – My Love for Hosta Science**
Bob will present some recent research on new hosta species, flower pigments and a couple of other short topics. Bob reassures "Don't worry, it's not too heavy".
 - **Mark Zilis – Hosta History, Part 3**
More on AHS and MRHS members from 1980 to the present who have the greatest impact on the society and hosta introductions.

Please register early. Late registration fees start February 3, 2026.

The hotel room rate is guaranteed through February 3, 2026. Use this link to make a reservation online:

Book your group rate for Winter Hosta Symposium Meeting Feb 2026

Or call Embassy Suites at 1-844-738-3913. Mention the group code "925" to get the special group rate.