

A close-up photograph of a large number of hosta plants. The leaves are a mix of vibrant green and bright yellow, showing a variegated pattern. The plants are densely packed, filling the entire frame. The lighting is bright, highlighting the texture and color of the foliage.

**GHS
40 YEARS OF HOSTAS**



AGENDA

How We Started

40 Year Old Trivia

Charter Member Panel

Hostas through the Decades

Notable Member Contributions

GHS Today and Tomorrow

**HOW WE STARTED:
A BRIEF HISTORY OF
THE GEORGIA HOSTA
SOCIETY BY JUDY
BURNS**



A CHANCE ENCOUNTER

- In the early 1980's two Atlanta bus commuters struck up a conversation when one noticed the other reading a plant catalog. The two commuters were George Schmid and Ray Stephens. The catalog George was reading was from Peter Ruh's Homestead Nursery. The topic was hostas.

THE FIRST MEETING

- On Saturday, September 8, 1984, a group of 28 gardening enthusiasts met at a nearby bank. By-Laws were drawn up and all but two of the 28 became charter members. The deadline was extended to October 1, 1984 and eventually the number of charter members totaled 41. Ray, a bank officer, filed the organizational papers with the Secretary of State and the Georgia Hosta Society was incorporated on October 12, 1984.

CHARTER MEMBERS

1	Abel Jr., Harry L.	3431 Landrum Dr.	Smyrna, Ga. 30080	(404)434-9955
2	Bastedo, Virginia	860 Edgewater Dr. N.W.	Atlanta, Ga. 30329	(404)255-9210
3	Biggers Jr., W. P.	648 N. Indian Creek Ln.	Clarkston, Ga. 30021	(404)292-8276
4/5	Blihovde, Helene & Norman	Box 3088 Woodland Lane	Dahlonega, Ga. 30533	(404)864-3099
6	Bray, Nancy F.	3600 Thaxton Road	Atlanta, Ga. 30331	(404)344-3686
7	Brown, Tim	Rt. 1 Box 219	Talking Rock, Ga. 30175	
8	Cherry, Beck	1777 West Paces Ferry Road	Atlanta, Ga. 30325	(404)355-4025
9	Collins, Charles Patrick	1398 Northcliff Valley Way-C	Atlanta, Ga. 30319	(404)636-8823
10	Coney, Wilma	5157 Antelope Lane	Stone Mountain, Ga. 30087	(404)939-1356
11	Cook, David-The Garden Source	405 Pharr Rd.	Atlanta, Ga. 30305	(404)261-9690
12	de Man, George	801 Briar Park Ct., N.E.	Atlanta, Ga. 30306	(404)876-8776
13	Denny, Gwen	115 Gordon Street	Warner Robins, Ga. 31093	(912)923-6454
14	Ferryman, Audrey	140 Mountain Shoals Road	Roswell, Ga. 30075	(404)992-6210
15/16	Foote, Jeanne & Ward	5497 East Point Dr.	Marietta, Ga. 30067	(404)992-1189
17	George, Bob	1025 Moores Mill Rd. N.W.	Atlanta, Ga. 30327	(404)351-8802
18/19	Grovenstein, Lillian & Erling	2424 Briarmoor Road N.E.	Atlanta, Ga. 30345	(404)938-3229
20	Ham, Fred D.	2447 Old Peachtree Road	Duluth, Ga. 30136	(404)476-3458
21	Humphreys, Barbara	P.O. Box 450494	Atlanta, Ga. 30345	(404)636-7198
22/23	Jones, Carleen & Sam	Rt 1 Box 56D1	Bishop, Ga. 30621	(404)769-6516
24	Malcom, Jimmy	1998 Commerce Court	Chamblee, Ga. 30341	(404)455-8826
25	McCune, Jane	6221 Glenridge Dr.	Atlanta, Ga. 30328	(404)252-5021
26	McDonell, Harold W.	110 Dawn Drive	Fayetteville, Ga. 30214	(404)461-8882
27	McDowell, Maggie	765 Pinewood Dr.	Macon, Ga. 31204	
28	McGinnis, James T.	2447 Old Peachtree Road	Duluth, Ga. 30136	(404)476-3458
29	Mitchell, Barbara	501 Tallwood Dr.	Stone Mountain, Ga. 30083	(404)292-5856
30	Pollock, Warren I.	202 Hackney Circle	Wilmington, De 19803	
31	Potter, Jeff	1690 Stanwyck Terr.	Tucker, Ga. 30084	(404)938-2243
32	Schmid, W. George	4417 Goodfellows Ct.	Tucker, Ga. 30084	(404)939-8922
33	Searcy, Mike	103 Waverly Way	LaGrange, Ga. 30240	(404)882-2390
34	Shores, Owen	1025 Moores Mill Rd. N.W.	Atlanta, Ga. 30327	(404)351-8802
35	Snoeyenbos, Milton	488 Overlook Dr. N.W.	Atlanta, Ga. 30318	(404)355-2172
36	Stephens, Ray	2446 Cofer Circle	Tucker, Ga. 30084	(404)938-1806
37	Timmons, Selma	1306 Laura Ave.	Warner Robbins, Ga. 31093	(912)922-3409
38	Wade, Marianne	1401 Ben Franklin Ct.	Marietta, Ga. 30062	(404)973-6244
39/40	Walker, Claudia & Hugh	200 Laurel Forest Circle N.E.	Atlanta, Ga. 30342	(404)262-2910
41	Woods, Betty	130 Hull Rd.	Athens, Ga. 30601	(404)543-2901

OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER



THE GEORGIA HOSTA SOCIETY

1984/85 NEWSLETTER

President's Message

VOL. 1 NO. 1

We have a Georgia Hosta Society. Our charter membership list shows it, and a certificate received from the State of Georgia, signed by Max Cleland, our Secretary of State, makes it official. I thought you might want to see it, so it is reproduced in this issue. Ray Stephens has been working very hard on getting all the paperwork done that is required by law to establish the Society as a non-profit institution. His help and knowledge have been invaluable. Wilma Coney has established our bank account with Decatur Federal Savings and Loan Association and had our checks printed, and Barbara Mitchell has been busy writing down the minutes of our meeting and helping all around. As you can see, your officers have been very hard at work to get off to a good start. Talking about a good start, our charter membership stands at 41 I believe a lot of our local Hemerocallis crowd must have discovered they had shady places to grow hostas in. Just read the list, you will recognize many of them. Not to be outdone, I joined the GAHS, and now I must find a sunny place to grow daylilies in. Earlier this year, in June, when I saw what the Alabama Hosta Society had accomplished in a very short time, I knew this could be possible right here in Georgia. I sent out the first batch of invitations in May, and that was followed up by the second definitive invitation late August. 30 people showed up at the charter meeting. Most were from Atlanta, but Dahlonega, Talking Rock, Warner Robbins, Bishop, LaGrange, and Athens were also represented. Thanks to all of you for coming. Some others could not attend, but joined soon afterwards by mail. We have one long-distance charter member: Dr. Warren I. Pollock, editor of the AHS Bulletin.

Exemplifying the cooperative spirit of our members, Carleen and Sam Jones brought four hostas to the charter meeting to be auctioned for the Society's benefit. Marianne Wade helped by computerizing our membership list. And to jump right into our primary purpose for existence, promoting the genus Hosta, this Newsletter contains articles contributed by Wilma Coney, Lillian Grovenstein, Barbara Mitchell, and Ray Stephens. I want to express the Society's sincere thanks to all of them for contributing to our cause. Also, I believe all those attending the charter meeting enjoyed the beautiful tour gardens. Our thanks go to Jere Houseworth, Barbara Mitchell, and Ray Stephens. My own 'Hosta Hill' garden was on tour too, and I extend an open invitation to come again in the Spring. I am starting a regular one-page feature, called Hosta Hill Hostalogy, designed to be informative and educational. Also included in this issue is hosta wholesale information, unfortunately from one source only (Klehm). The others contacted did not respond in time. Harry Abel has offered to get fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides, and other expendables at wholesale cost. His breakdown is included and we appreciate his contribution. We plan to offer more as time goes on.

I encourage all of our members to seek new members. It will be well worth it to join The Georgia Hosta Society. Our program for next year will be an outstanding one. It will include garden tours, plant exchanges, slide presentations, a picnic, a dinner meeting, and many other activities. If you have any ideas for additional programs, or if you would like to show your garden on tour, please let me know. We want to make this a group in which everyone has her or his own hosta voice.

A NATIONAL CONVENTION

- In May 1985, GHS became a non-profit organization.
- On May 21, 1994, hostaphiles from around the world gathered at the Ravinia Hotel in Dunwoody, Georgia for “A Taste of Southern Hosta-tality”, the first AHS convention in the South since 1984.
 - One notable first-time convention attendee was a bloke from across the pond named Shadrack, who has, himself, gained a bit of notoriety amongst hosta lovers.
- Claudia and Hugh Walker, both charter members, became co-chairs of the Georgia Hosta Society Convention Committee

40 YEARS LATER
THE NEWSLETTER



Georgia Hosta
Notes

A Publication of The Georgia Hosta Society

Volume 40

August 2024

No. 3

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE
GEORGIA HOSTA
SOCIETY

FORTY YEARS 1984 - 2024

The Georgia Hosta Society is forty years old this September! We will be celebrating our anniversary at our September 21st meeting with a step back into the history of GHS in a program coordinated by Charter Member Claudia Walker. Be there to celebrate the founding of GHS with us.

40 YEARS LATER THE SHOWS

GHS 2024 Hosta Show Results
Other Winners - Division I

			
<u>Section I - Giant Leaf</u>	<u>Section II - Large Leaf</u>	<u>Section IV - Small Leaf</u>	<u>Section V - Miniature Leaf</u>
H. "Winter Snow"	H. "Dream Queen"	H. "Jilly String"	H. "Siberia"
Exhibitor - Rebecca Paris	Exhibitor - Mark Malaguerza	Exhibitor - Harold McDowell	Exhibitor - Doug Smith



8

40 YEARS LATER THE SALES

GHS 2024 Hosta Show Plant Sale



There were much more than just hostas for sale, including this nice selection of native azaleas.

GHS members Chuck Zehn and Bill Sivers enjoying the plant sale.



GOING FORWARD

- The interest in hostas in the south continues to grow, although we still have to convince our northern neighbors that they do grow very well here.
- GHS currently has over 100 members who gather four times a year for some fine fellowship, some great Southern cooking and some good hosta talk.
- Accurate, reliable hosta information is now much readily available. After all, the man who wrote the book, *The Genus Hosta*, is our own George Schmid.

40 YEAR AGO:
A TRIVIA GAME



QUESTION #1:

**HOW MANY HOSTAS
WERE REGISTERED
BEFORE 1984?**

• **330**

- Terms of Endearment

QUESTION #2:
WHAT MOVIE WON
THE BEST PICTURE
AWARD AT THE 1984
OSCARS



QUESTION #3:

**HOW MANY NEW
HOSTAS WERE
REGISTERED IN 1984?**

• 33

- Synchronized Swimming

QUESTION #4:

WHAT SPORT HAD ITS
DEBUT AT THE 1984
OLYMPICS IN LOS
ANGELES?



QUESTION #5:

**WHAT YEAR DID THE
HOSTA GROWERS
ASSOCIATION START
THE HOSTA OF THE
YEAR?**

• **1996**

- The Macintosh Home Computer

QUESTION #6:

WHAT NEW PRODUCT
WAS INTRODUCED IN
A 1984 SUPER BOWL
COMMERCIAL?



QUESTION #7:

WHAT WAS THE FIRST
HOSTA OF THE YEAR?

- Hosta 'So Sweet'

QUESTION #8:

**WHAT WAS THE
AVERAGE COST OF A
GALLON OF GAS IN
1984?**

• **\$1.20**

QUESTION #9:

**ACCORDING TO AHS,
HOW MANY HOSTAS
HAVE BEEN
REGISTERED BY GHS
MEMBERS?**

•267

QUESTION #10:

**AS OF TODAY, HOW
MANY HOSTAS HAVE
BEEN REGISTERED BY
AHS?**

•6726

WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

SINCE 1984 WE HAVE SEEN...

- Cell phones
- Fax machine
- DNA testing
- World Wide Web (the internet)
- Bluetooth
- MP3
- DVD / Blue Ray
- Podcasts
- YouTube
- Laptop computers
- E-mail
- MRI
- Digital Camera
- Camera Phones
- Netflix / streaming
- iPhone / Smart Phones
- e-books
- Tablet computers
- GPS
- HVX

CHARTER MEMBER DISCUSSION



HOSTAS THROUGH THE DECADES



**SINCE THE FOUNDING
OF GHS, HOSTA
REGISTRATIONS HAVE
TAKEN OFF!**

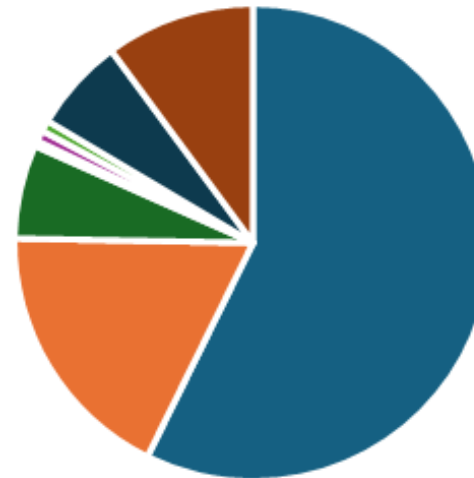
- Before 1984, there were ~330 hostas registered
- Since 1984, there have been 6396 hostas registered
- 8 members of GHS have registered 267 hostas

**SEE JUST HOW
QUICKLY HOSTAS
STARTED GETTING
REGISTERED**

Year	# Hosta Registered	Year	# Hosta Registered
Pre-1984	330	2004	238
1984	33	2005	284
1985	35	2006	133
1986	148	2007	142
1987	109	2008	150
1988	132	2009	574
1989	40	2010	296
1990	84	2011	179
1991	84	2012	190
1992	31	2013	156
1993	60	2014	125
1994	62	2015	171
1995	103	2016	116
1996	110	2017	114
1997	85	2018	96
1998	169	2019	160
1999	394	2020	177
2000	284	2021	132
2001	154	2022	140
2002	234	2023	160
2003	309	2024	3

**THERE ARE MANY
HOSTAS THAT HAVE
BEEN REGISTERED BY
MEMBERS OF GHS**

267 GHS Member Registrations



- Mary Chastain (153)
- George Schmid (48)
- Harold McDonnell (17)
- Malaguerra / Smith (1)
- C & R Thompson (2)
- Bud Martin (2)
- Ray Stephens (17)
- Bill Silvers (27)



Hosta 'Dahlongega'
by Harold
McDonnell

Image courtesy of The Hosta Library



H. 'Aphrodite'
by George Schmid

Image courtesy of The Hosta Library



H. 'Big Mo'
by Ray Stephens

Image courtesy of The Hosta Library



H. 'Striptease'
by Criss and
Robert Thompson

Image courtesy of The Hosta Library



H. 'Charity'
by Bill Silvers

Image courtesy of The Hosta Library



H. 'Dixie Pixie'
by Bud Martin

Image courtesy of The Hosta Library



H. 'Wu Hoo'
by Mark Malaguerra
& Scott Smith

Image courtesy of The Hosta Library



H. 'Lakeside Shore
Master'
by Mary Chastain

Image courtesy of The Hosta Library

HOSTA OF THE YEAR

- Program was started in 1996 by the American Hosta Growers Association
- Selected by vote of AHGA members
- Plants listed should be good growers across the country

Some hostas of the year include...



H. 'SO SWEET' 1996

**THIS WAS THE FIRST HOSTA OF THE
YEAR**

Image courtesy of The Hosta Library



H. 'STAINED GLASS' 2006

Image courtesy of The Hosta Library



H. 'CURLY FRIES' 2016

Image courtesy of The Hosta Library



H. 'DANCING QUEEN' 2020

Image courtesy of The Hosta Library



H. 'MINI SKIRT' 2024

**WHO HAS THIS IN THEIR GARDEN
TODAY?**

Image courtesy of The Hosta Library

HERE ARE ALL OF THE HOSTAS OF THE YEAR

Year	Hosta of the Year	Year	Hosta of the Year
2024	H. 'Mini Skirt'	2009	H. 'Earth Angel'
2023	H. 'Neptune'	2008	H. 'Blue Mouse Ears'
2022	H. 'Island Breeze'	2007	H. 'Paradigm'
2021	H. 'Rainbow's End'	2006	H. 'Stained Glass'
2020	H. 'Dancing Queen'	2005	H. 'Striptease'
2019	H. 'Lakeside Paisley Print'	2004	H. 'Sum and Substance'
2018	H. 'World Cup'	2003	H. 'Regal Splendor'
2017	H. 'Brother Stefan'	2002	H. 'Guacamole'
2016	H. 'Curly Fries'	2001	H. 'June'
2015	H. 'Victory'	2000	H. 'Sagae'
2014	H. 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd'	1999	H. 'Paul's Glory'
2013	H. 'Rainforest Sunrise'	1998	H. 'Fragrant Bouquet'
2012	H. 'Liberty'	1997	H. 'Patriot'
2011	H. 'Praying Hands'	1996	H. 'So Sweet'
2010	H. 'First Frost'		

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE?

GHS TODAY AND TOMORROW



MANY DIFFERENT PRESIDENTS OVER THE YEARS

- 1984-1987 George Schmid
- 1988-1991 Jim McGinnis
- 1992-1993 Harold McDonell
- 1994-1995 George Schmid
- 1996-1997 Claudia Walker
- 1998-1999 Toni Wright
- 2000-2001 Maisie Partridge
- 2002-2003 Chuck Zdeb
- 2004-2005 Judy Burns
- 2006-2007 Claudia Walker
- 2008-2009 Julia Lyons
- 2010-2011 Harold McDonell
- 2012 -2013 Mark Malaguerra
- 2014-2015 Greg Ferguson
- 2016-2017 Steve McMurtry
- 2018-2019 Scott Smith
- 2020 -2023 Greg Ferguson
- 2024 - Mark Malaguerra

**MEMBERS OF GHS
HAVE ALSO BEEN
RECOGNIZED IN
OTHER WAYS**

GHS PRESIDENT'S WALL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

- 2012 Toni Wright
- 2013 Lilian and Erling Grovenstein
- 2014 George Schmid
- 2015 Claudia & Hugh Walker
- 2016 Julia Lyons & Dexter Henry
- 2017 William and Pamela Baker, Judy Beeler
- 2018 Steve McMurtry and Ricky Cox
- 2019 Harold McDonnell and Greg Ferguson
- 2021 Mikky Lockwood and Chuck Zdeb
- 2022 Mark Malaguerra and Scott Smith
- 2023 Sandra Bussell and Richard Jolly

ALEX J. SUMMERS AWARD RECIPIENTS

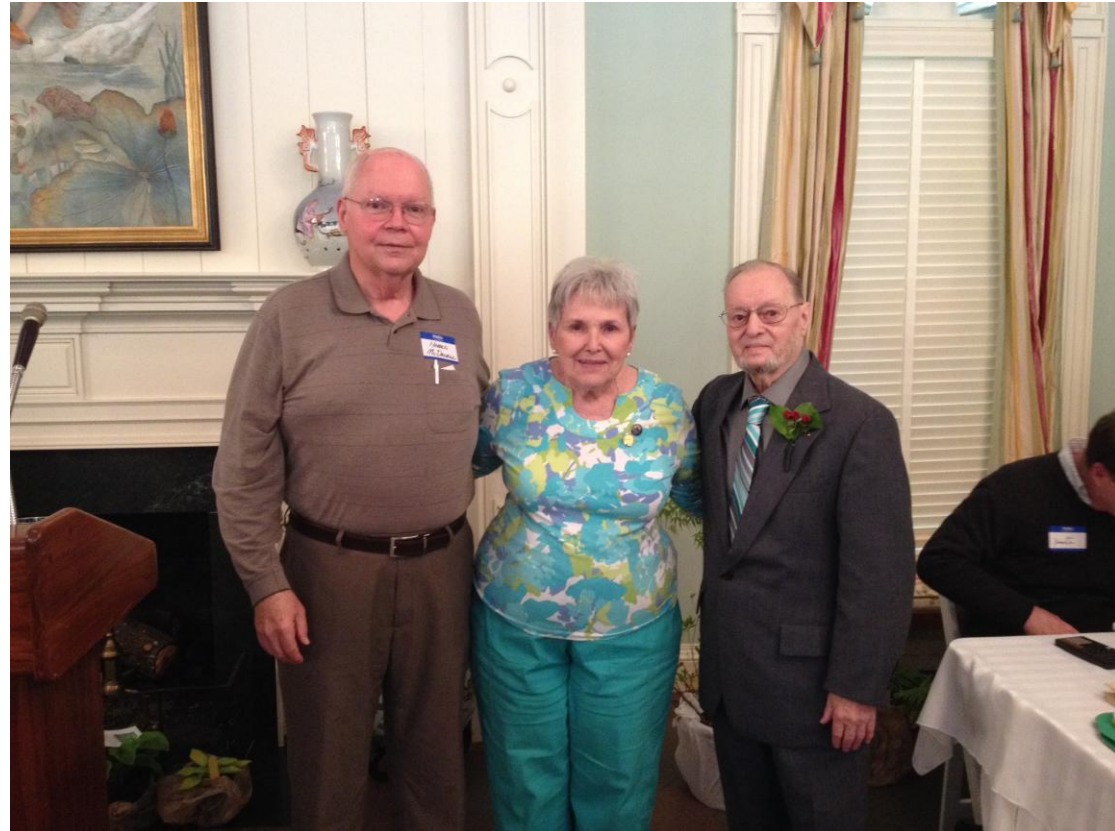
- 1996
 - W. George Schmid
 - Distinguished Merit Hosta: H. laevigata
- 2011
 - Harold McDonnell
 - Distinguished Merit Hosta: H. 'Spilt Milk'
- 2015
 - Claudia Walker
 - Distinguished Merit Hosta: H. 'One Man's Treasure'

**EUNICE FISHER
MERIT AWARD**

- Award for outstanding hybridizing
 - 2007 – Mary Chastain
 - Hosta: H. ‘Lakeside Cupcake’

AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- Recipients of this award are selected by the AHS president to reward outstanding long time service to the American Hosta Society on the national level.
- In over 50 years of the AHS, there have been only 5 winners of this award.
- 2016 – W. George Schmid



**GHS MEMBERS
ACTIVELY
CONTRIBUTE TO THE
NATIONAL AHS**

- Harold McDonald – AHS Gifts & Memorials Chair
- Chuck Zdeb – AHS Hosta Shows Chair
- Sandra Bussell – AHS Judge’s Records Chair
- Chuck Zdeb – AHS Judges Training Chair

AND THEN THERE ARE
THE MANY THINGS
GHS MEMBERS DO IN
GEORGIA

- Annual Show & Sale
- Meetings
- Garden Tours
- Auctions
- Growing Hostas
- Education