

Special Guest Speaker: Rob Mortko

“Hosta Propagation thru the Ages”

Please join us on Sunday, September 16, 2007 at 1:00 pm to welcome our special guest speaker, Rob Mortko, owner of Made in the Shade Gardens in Olathe, KS (<http://www.hostaguy.com/>). Rob will also bring plants to sell to satisfy our fall hosta shopping fix. Don't miss it – mark your calendars!

Topic:

How are new hosta cultivars developed and brought to market? We'll explore how hostas sport/mutate as well as how new hybrids are developed. Then we'll look at the various methods of propagating hostas - from common root division, to bud cutting and finally the more modern tissue culture process. We'll also address the growing concern regarding Hosta Virus X (HVX) that is showing up in garden centers across the country.

Biography:

By day, Rob is a chemical engineer with Black & Veatch in Kansas City and is currently Vice President of Process Technology. His passion for shade gardening and hostas has grown over the past 22 years since he and his wife Sheri moved into their shaded woodland home in Olathe, Kansas (a Kansas City suburb).

Their shade gardens have been featured on various public garden tours, on local TV, and in “Kansas City Homes and Gardens Magazine”. Rob's “spare time” is now devoted to Made in the Shade Gardens – a home-based, retail business specializing in hostas. Made in the Shade Gardens offers over 400 varieties of hostas. More information can be found on their website at: www.HostaGuy.com.

In 2000 Rob registered and introduced his first hosta cultivar named ‘Heart and Soul’. His latest introduction named ‘Stitch in Time’ has been awarded a U.S. plant patent.

Rob is a Johnson County Extension Master Gardener. He is also a member of the Wichita Hosta Society, the American Hosta Society, the Western Nursery and Landscape Association, and the American Hosta Growers Association. He is also the Newsletter Editor Coordinator for the American Hosta Society.