

Josh Spece
Wanted: Shady Characters (Hostas and Their Companions)

Many gardeners plant a ring of *Hosta lancifolia* around their trees and ignore the shady areas of their garden. What a wasted opportunity! A shade garden can be filled with a multitude of colorful and architectural perennials that thrive in the cool shade. We will explore the exciting world of hostas and shade perennials that thrive in the Midwest, with an emphasis on unique and the more uncommon varieties that will inspire you to look at your shady areas with newfound excitement!

Josh is well known to all of us. He wrote a column entitled "Enabled Gardening" for *Pond & Garden* magazine during its final year in print, and regularly contributes articles and photos to the American Hosta Society's *The Hosta Journal*. He was awarded the AHS Best New Author award at the [2008 American Hosta Society National Convention](#), and currently serves as Webeditor-in-Chief on the Board of Directors for the [American Hosta Society](#).

Josh and Sue are long-time members of the [Eastern Iowa Pond Society](#) and Josh is an occasional contributor to their monthly newsletter, as well as the club's webmaster. Josh [speaks frequently on Hostas, water gardening, water plants, and accessible gardening](#) to garden and pond clubs, Master Gardener groups, and other gardening groups and events.

They have opened their gardens for the optional tours on Sunday.