

2017 FALL HOSTA FORUM

SPEAKER BIOS

KAREN PERKINS



Karen Perkins graduated from Cornell University with a BS in Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture and from the University of Delaware with a Master of Science in Public Garden Management.

She has worked and interned at several botanic gardens including: the Cornell Plantations, Longwood Gardens, the Arboretum at Flagstaff, Royal Botanic Gardens – Kew, England and Royal Botanic Gardens – Edinburgh, Scotland. She served in the Education Department of the Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, MA for 17 years. Karen is currently the owner of Garden Vision Epimediums, a Massachusetts-based mail order nursery, started by Darrell Probst, and offering over 170 species and varieties of epimediums, along with other choice companion shade perennials.

<http://www.epimediums.com/>

**Karen will be vending at the Fall Hosta Forum*

Karen's talk "**Tie Dye for the Shade Garden**" will illustrate the many and varied types of epimediums currently now commercially available. These plants are finally getting the appreciation they deserve as the perfect shade perennial, possessing a delicate beauty that belies their surprisingly tough nature. Karen will talk about some of the exciting new evergreen species from China. She will touch on their characteristics (including some 'far out' spring foliage colorations), growth habit, cultural needs, propagation and pests and diseases. Tips for combining epimediums with companion shade perennials (like hostas) will also be given. We will even get a glimpse into the plant collecting trips to China made by Darrell Probst.

PAUL ZAMMIT



Paul Zammit, a graduate of the University of Guelph, is the Nancy Eaton Director of Horticulture at the Toronto Botanical Garden. He is an energetic and passionate speaker who is much in demand and has presented across Canada and in the United States. In recent years, Paul has presented in Germany, Switzerland and Bermuda. He has appeared both on television and in print. For the summer of 2016, Paul had a weekly gardening column providing gardening advice on the CBC Here and Now radio program. In October of 2014, Paul led a 10 day garden and food tour on the island of Sicily. In February 2016, Paul and his wife participated in a week of gardening study at Great Dixter in England.

Paul's container designs have also been showcased several times in assorted gardening magazines (most recently on the cover of the 2012 special design issue of Garden Making). He also won first place in the Scott's Miracle-Gro, Do Up the Doorstep competition, for his container entry at Canada Blooms.

Paul's topic is **Gardening Without Flowers**. While flowers provide a source of colour and seasonal interest, Paul believes that there is often too much emphasis on using them in general landscape planning. Drawing on his 25 years of experience, he will emphasize how great gardens, large or small, could have year round interest and appeal without relying strictly on flowers. Join Paul for an energetic presentation that explores the importance of garden ornament, creative container designs, hardscaping elements and the power of living sculpture in the landscape from architectural plants with fantastic foliage, form and/or bark.

BARBARA TIFFANY



Barbara Tiffany grew up in Larchmont, New York and graduated magna cum laude from Barnard College in 1961. She founded a successful regional magazine, and subsequently established a career in space planning, based on the psychological use of space.

Barbara and Robert Tiffany began collaborating on residential furniture design in 1976 and have received many prestigious awards through the years. Philosophically, the Tiffanys believe that no matter how handsome the design, it isn't successful if it doesn't function. They pride themselves on engineering exquisite comfort into the construction of each original design.

Their home and studio in Point Pleasant, PA, is a 1742 stone grist mill abutting a 1790 timber-framed lumber mill which they have been renovating since 1993. The property is just north of New Hope, Bucks County, and continues to be their primary showroom. It is also the spectacular garden *The Gardens at Mill Fleurs*.

Barbara's passion is her garden, which receives national media attention and hosts visitors from around the country for tours and conventions. **Mill Fleurs specializes in rare Asian woodlander species and Barbara will vend at the Forum.*

Barbara's topic is **Harmony in Hostas** – Based on the spectacular, but serene, landscape of The Gardens at Mill Fleurs, Barbara will talk about how she has achieved the a sense of harmony in the design of a jam-packed collection garden. She will discuss how overall impact is achieved by attention to detail, grouping plants by color, the concept of 'companion' plants, the creative siting of hostas of varying heights and the placement of trees and shrubs for visual effect. She will discuss problems such as garden design in a perfectly flat site and appropriate labeling. Barbara is an artistic and creative speaker and we are thrilled she has accepted our invitation. <https://www.thegardensatmillfleurs.com/>

JONATHAN HOGARTH



Jonathan says that his first hosta came with his first house. One day, he decided to buy a hosta at a nursery... and instead bought *ten*. He then sought out specialist hosta nurseries, joined the British Hosta and Hemerocallis Society (BHHS), learning, acquiring and soon taking on various positions in the organization.

Then one day Jonathan received a call from British hosta matriarch, Diana Grenfell, who suggested he take on the UK Plant Heritage Collection of Small and Miniature Hostas; a great honor. Within a year of being approved, he had received an invitation from the Royal Horticultural Society to display at their biggest show, Hampton Court.

In an amazing trajectory of skill and luck, Jonathan won a top medal – a GOLD – on his very first time showing, and was also awarded "Best Exhibit" in the Heritage Section.

From there, he applied to – and was accepted at – the best and most prestigious show of all; Chelsea Flower Show (which has a waiting list of eight years for mere mortals). He won a Silver-Gilt at that show and learned how to improve going forward. Since then, he has applied to and been accepted for both shows again. His star continues to rise.

Jonathan's talk, **The British (mini) Invasion**, is very much the story of his journey into hosta growing, selling and showing in England. From one hosta to a thriving business in small and mini hostas, an unusual propagation system and showing in the most prestigious shows in England, we will all experience the journey.

On Friday night, for those attending, Jonathan will demonstrate his hydro-propagation technique as shown in the BBC video. We will then auction off the equipment used. See a video here: https://youtu.be/G_fhs71FTaQ (or by going to You Tube and searching for Jonathan Hogarth.)