

The Ontario Hosta Society is pleased to host a Powerpoint presentation by Don Rawson -

TOP PERFORMERS IN THE RAWSON GARDEN

Don and his wife Pam live on four country acres near Grand Rapids, Michigan. Together, they grow over 400 hosta cultivars and an assortment of other companion plants. Don hybridizes on the side, growing a few thousand hosta seedlings each year. His introductions include 'Rhino Hide' and 'Gabriel's Wing', with more on the way



Don Rawson

Don has a liking for rocks...big rocks! One area of the landscape is covered extensively by large boulders- some weighing 15,000# and 9 ft. across. Don estimates that the mass total of the rocks hauled in probably weigh over 1,000 tons. The rocks and boulders were all brought in and put in place by Don and his family since the house was built about 20 years ago. Most of the stones are from local fencerows and construction sites, but some were transported from quarries and sites as far away as Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, and locations throughout Canada. It is no surprise that visitors to the Rawson garden often find themselves peering at rock specimens rather than looking at flowers. A sidewalk that winds between the boulders provides access to some of the flowerbeds and eventually leads to a woodchip trail along the lake which the property overlooks. Don and Pam generally host a couple garden tours each year and visitors are always welcome.

Don served as president of the West Michigan Hosta Society and was the co-chair of the 2021 AHS National Convention. In addition, he is co-chairman of the Nomenclature Committee and compiles the list of miniature hostas for the AHS website.

He is responsible for two publications- *The Hosta Lists* and the *Hosta Hybridizer's Manual*. *The Hosta Lists* is a compilation of over 100 individual lists of hostas based upon various characteristics. This resource represents two decades of work on Don's part and currently includes over 29,000 entries. The second booklet- the *Hosta Hybridizer's Manual*- is a collection of articles from various authors and well-known hybridizers.

