



Aralia
Sun King

Hosta
Northern Exposure

Hosta
Sum and Substance

Hosta
Golden Tiara

Kirengershoma

Mayapple

Painted fern

Martagon
Lily

Peonia
Obavata

Hosta
Radiant

European
Ginger

Hosta
August Moon

Helleborus

Hosta
Bright Lights

Bleeding Heart
Gold Heart

Hosta
Gold Edger

Pulmanaria

Monarda
Fistulosa

Hosta
Gold Regal

Hosta
Allen R. McConnell

Red Leafed
Mukdenia
Edenvale
Nursery

Assorted Annuals; petunias, calibrachoa, profusion,
zinnias, marigolds and assorted coleus.

A Tribute to Shady Oaks Nursery

Any gardener in the state of Minnesota remembers Shady Oaks Nursery

located right here in Waseca. Founded in 1982 by UMW Plant Biologist and teacher, Clayton Oslund. Shady Oaks was a mail order nursery specializing in plants for shady environments.

Oslund's own challenges sent him searching for plants that would grow in the shade, as his backyard was well shaded under a canopy of oaks.

He eventually found plant selections that could tolerate shade. When he had enough growing in his backyard, he offered them for sale.

By 1984 the business outgrew the backyard and garage. He purchased five acres north of Waseca and put up a greenhouse, growing primarily hostas. In 1989, a former implement building in Waseca was purchased to handle orders and shipping. The business was still strictly mail order, employing four people to help with planting, growing and shipping. Oslund worked part time at the nursery until he retired from teaching in 1992. In 1993, Shady Oaks opened its doors to retail customers. In 1994 another building was purchased. Plants were sold throughout the growing season. Customers could shop for established plants under numerous shaded green houses. If you were a gardener with a shady yard you were a customer of Shady Oaks.

Clayton Oslund is a plant biologist. He put his skills to use by reproducing plants from tissue culture, not division or seed.

This is something he taught students in his biology labs at UMW. Tissue is taken from the growing point, or meristem of the plant, and cultured in a nutrient medium under sterile conditions. When the plantlet "shoots" develop they can be divided into large numbers of plantlets. The new plants can then be planted in soil where they continue to grow.

Shady Oaks was known for their hostas. Hans Hansen was the research and development coordinator at Shady Oaks. Hansen is credited for developing 10 new hosta varieties, three are patented. Hansen also managed the lab and the tissue culture process.

and provided the photographs of the plants for the catalog.

In 2001 Shady Oaks discontinued retail sales, but continued growing plants for the wholesale market under the direction of son Gordy Oslund and wife Julie Oslund. Shady Oaks not only grew tissue cultured hostas, they offered succulents, herbs and specialty geraniums. In 2012 Shady Oaks Nursery was sold to Plant Source International, a plant source for wholesale growers.

In 2020 WCHS added the Shady Oaks Tribute Garden to the Bailey-Lewer House landscape. Plants were donated by Tim and Audra Nissan Boyer who purchased Hans Hansen's home in Waseca. Hansen left a legacy of his work in the acres of gardens planted with many of the varieties developed and sold at the nursery.

The Shady Oaks sign from the building was donated By Nick Poehler, a student of Clayton and friend of the Oslund family.

The Tribute Garden can be viewed from the Bailey-Lewer House accessibility ramp on the west side of the building.