

ONTARIO HOSTA SOCIETY

Celebrating 20 Years

OHS Newsletter



Volume 21, Issue 3

Fall 2015

Save the Dates

Annual General Meeting & Auction

September 13

SWOHS Fall Meeting

November 7

2016 Hosta Forum

April 17, 2016



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President's Musings

As summer slowly draws to an end I'm finally able to let nature take its course and pull myself away from weeding, watering, and late night searches for the elusive hosta chomping beasts!!! I promised myself last winter that this was the year that I would stop fretting about my hostas and actually spend time enjoying my collection. With the installation of a new deck this spring I was all set to do just that... with beverage in hand and from the comfort of a patio chair. I told myself I had progressed as a gardener and that I could deal with whatever nature tried to throw at me this year.

Nature however tossed me a new curve ball early in April when we introduced a new family dog (Otis) to the gardens along with nine new barn kittens (to add to the nine cats already roaming the gardens). Havoc soon brought complete disregard for my late winter promise to not stress myself.

My memory of my gardens over the last few months is rather hazy. I do however remember our new pooch chasing the nine kittens through the garden beds on a daily basis.

When Otis was safely locked in the house the kittens decided they needed some extra exercise so they climbed up the trees and trellises and

happily pounced on every hosta that borders the side of the house. Don't let anyone tell you 'Sum and Substance' is indestructible!!! When the weather heated up the little rascals decided that our freshly watered hosta containers made a cool place to bed down and no sooner had we replaced a containerized hosta than they flattened it again. Stress had made a comeback...

Although my own garden held its challenges this year I was able to get away in June to enjoy some wonderful hosta and perennial gardens in

Raleigh, North Carolina at the 2015 American Hosta Society Convention. A visit to numerous nurseries during the convention (and on the drive home) saw my truck loaded with 50 new hosta varieties upon arrival home. The kittens were waiting...

If you have never been to an AHS Convention you should plan to attend next year's convention (June 15-18th) in St. Louis, Missouri. The premier AHS event is the highlight of many a hostaphile's year with garden tours, vending, the AHS Live Auction and the Cut Leaf Show. Other highly anticipated components include scientific lectures and other educational opportunities. Each convention brings together wonderful hosta folk for a few days of friendship and hostatality.

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Musings

Speaking of Hostality, I would like to extend a great big thank-you to the hosts of the open gardens on this year's OHS bus tour that took place on June 28th, as well as to Norm and Lynne Limpert who hosted our summer picnic on July 19th.

To each of our hosts... please know that the members and Executive of the OHS truly appreciate you opening up your gardens and further appreciate the work that it took each of you to prepare for our visit.

All the gardens toured were outstanding and a great time was had by everyone who took advantage of these yearly events. To those who couldn't join us we offer you a glimpse into each event in the following pages of this newsletter.

As we come close to our **Annual General Meeting on September 13th** (details inside this newsletter) I would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to

my fellow Executive members for their contribution to the OHS in 2015. Each of you played a tremendous and necessary role in keeping our organization together. I look forward to the possibility of continuing to work with each of you should you decide to remain on the OHS Executive into 2016. I would also like to extend a welcome to our new Newsletter Editor, Marta Cepek, who has taken on this demanding role when it seemed like no one would step in to help get us "to press" ...thank-you Marta!!!

I hope to see everyone at the Annual General Meeting on September 13th. Please consider joining the OHS Executive as we move into our 21st year. Everyone on this wonderful planet has special qualities and abilities....the OHS would like to tap into yours!!!

One final item... *does anyone want a kitten?*

Best Regards,

Glenn Wilson

2016 Hosta Forum

Date: **Sunday April 17, 2016**

Location:

Glencairn Golf Course
9807 Regional Road 25
Halton Hills Ontario.

More news to follow about the agenda and speakers. But in the meantime block out the date and plan on attending!

South Western OHS Fall Meeting

November 7th in Essex County (possibly in Leamington area at Colasanti's)

More info to follow.

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Newsletter

Newsletters are published quarterly. Effective fall 2015, printed copies of the OHS newsletter will no longer be offered as a membership option.

PDF copies of past issues of the OHS newsletter are available in the Members section of the OHS website.

Advertising

Hosta retailers: Business card-sized ads are only \$100 per publication year.

Annual General Meeting

On behalf of the Executive of the Ontario Hosta Society, we invite you to our **Annual General Meeting**.

Date: **Sunday September 13, 2015.**

Time: **12:30 pm - 4:00 pm**

Location:

**Nassagaweya Community Centre,
Brookville Hall**

2005 Cameron Drive
Campbellville, Ontario
L0P 1B0

(Part of the Town of Milton)



The Mississauga location where we usually hold our meetings is no longer available, so please come out to the new site and provide us your feedback. This is a central location for those coming from the Toronto area or southwestern Ontario.

Directions from the 401: Take Guelph Line north 6 km to the Nassagaweya Community Centre at Cameron Drive located on the left at the corner of Guelph Line and Cameron Drive. Guelph Line is one exit west of Highway 25 if you are coming from Toronto or one exit east of Highway 6 south if you are coming from Kitchener.

Agenda: Annual General Meeting which will include an update on items of interest, an election of open positions on the Executive and a Hosta Auction.

See you all then!

OHS Merchandise

OHS merchandise will be available for sale at reduced prices at the Annual General Meeting.

Sweatshirts	\$15
Hoodie Sweatshirts	\$20
Golf Shirts	\$13
T-shirts	\$10
Caps	\$5



OHS HOSTA STONES remain the same at \$30 each.

If you have suggestions for other merchandise (mugs, mousepads, whatnot) please send your ideas to Lynne Limpert at lynnelimpert@hotmail.com

Gardens 2015

Rather than have a photo contest this year we will present a slide show on images taken by members during 2015. They can be from your own garden or from places you have visited.

We will present the show at the January meeting. By then, amidst the snow and cold, it will be lovely to look back at all the beauty of 2015.

Please send your best images to Trish at: symonstrish@gmail.com

If you have images of spring and summer garden send them as soon as convenient.

Fall images can be sent up to the middle of October.

To make sure Trish gets them, please send only one photo per email. Trish's email server is in the country and cannot take large files.

Article Submissions

We are always looking for hosta-related articles, stories, and photos. Do you have something to share? Submit it to hostanews@gmail.com

Why go on a garden tour?

If you were unable to join us this year on the **Ontario Hosta Society's bus excursion on Sunday June 28**, you missed so much. After the trip a few of us talked about how to encourage more members to participate. A good starting place is to explain why we have garden tour/ bus trips. *Photos and words by Trish Symons*

1. TO EDUCATE

We want to learn more about hostas in the landscape, pairings with other plants, and to see the use of structures and ornaments to enhance a garden. I learned new things and relearned a few I had forgotten.

Repetition is not used nearly as much as it could be. Planting a single type of hosta can become a WOW factor, especially under a red Japanese Maple.



Scale can be a sophisticated concept. Several of the gardeners used ornamental elements in such a successful way.

The female sculpture at Bill and Bonnie Gibbons' was in perfect scale with the garden.



Contrast is an element that can greatly enhance the beauty of a garden. The dead recycled tree, set in the midst of a lush hosta bed, was brilliant. I cannot wait to imitate it.



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Unexpected Elements: The art work at the London garden of Mark Vaandering and Paul Flemming was amazing. Two members asked me to photograph the metal cones under the pine tree. One gardener is considering replicating this look in her garden.



The male sculpture, high above the garden, was perfection. It emphasized the serenity of the garden as a place to stretch and unwind.



2. TO ENTHRALL

The 2015 gardens were amazing. Those of us who attended were sad for those who could not join us. We have decided to present a short slide show of our adventure to share with everyone.

The variety and condition of Glenn and Yvon's *Hosta Choice Gardens* was a delight. The wide paths made it easy to wander the grounds and pick out prospects for our own gardens. We all came home richer in hostas and poorer in finances.



The landscape at Marlit Young's has become the perfect haven for this hosta collector. She has created a treasure of beautiful plants in a serene and beautiful place.



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GLENN WILSON

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3. TO INSPIRE

We cannot all have huge properties like many of the gardens on the tour. It was nice to see the contrast with the smaller village garden of Angie Holman.



She obviously loves hostas and has painstakingly created a garden to be proud of.

4. TO SOCIALIZE

It is such fun to spend a day with people who have similar passions. We all left the bus trip feeling we had made new friends and eager to see what treasures Sandra will come up with for next year's trip. At the end of the day everyone had a list of new ideas and plants for their wish list.



Thank you Sandra, it was a wonderful day

Trish Symons

Companion Plants

When space permits (or when we have some extra space to fill) we will show examples of unusual or tried-and-true companion plants for hostas.



Today's photo is *Toxicodendron radicans* (poison ivy). From firsthand experience, we **do not recommended** this plant as a suitable companion plant for hostas. Please send Marta your photos of suggested hosta pairings for future issues!

hostanews@gmail.com

Marta Cepek



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Web: www.goldenbrookhostas.com

The Evolution of a Garden

When Margaret and I moved into our new house some forty six years ago the “garden” consisted of bare earth at both the back and front of the house, and eventually grass in the front some months later. We got together with the neighbours and put sod on four back gardens as a joint project. That was when we became aware that the topsoil was about an inch deep, and underneath that was Brampton brick clay. Margaret was used to being able to scatter seed on the ground in her English Devonshire home and have a beautiful garden as a result. It wasn't that way in Brampton!

As was usual at that time we ended up with a 'foundation planting' or evergreens under the front windows, and a couple of birch trees in the front lawn. To our new home-owner eyes it looked O.K. at first, but as soon as the birch trees tried to put roots into the clay they gave up and the front needed new trees. We tried maples, mountain ash, etc. as suggested by the local nursery but they too gave up when their roots tried to pierce the clay.

The back garden stayed simply as grass until we added a couple of apple trees and a Chinese elm hedge all round the garden. This was another mistake; have you ever tried to keep Chinese elm trees down to six feet tall? I suggest you never try to as it was a bit like trying to tell the tide to stop coming into the Bay of Fundy.

When our son was about ten he requested a hammer and pry bar. He had decided he was too old for his sandbox and climber. When he had finished his demolition work he proudly announced that we could now have our garden back. So we put in a vegetable garden which required double digging and the addition of lots of soil amendments, and we proceeded to grow veggies. We were members of the local horticultural society by then so growing for the flower show involved as many as ten varieties of tomatoes, some tiny, some very large, some striped and some white!

I still blame Diane Murphy, Bob Murphy's late wife, for introducing us to gardening in Brampton, and

what followed her gift of many perennial plants from her own superb garden, including a couple of hostas: H. 'Honeybells' and H. hyacintha. Soon we had the plant collecting virus which eventually led to a collection of over 600 varieties of perennials. Somewhere in there we joined the Ontario Rock Garden Society and tried growing rock garden plants from seed. During this stage of our growing experience I built a small greenhouse and Margaret had up to forty flats of seedlings to look after!

We eventually gave up growing rock garden plants: we saw them in the wild on our walks in the mountains in various countries in Europe and realised our specimens were poor examples of these beautiful plants. It was at a Rock Garden Society meeting that we were introduced to Bob Leask and thus began the downhill path towards hostas.

By this time our front garden had become sweeping raised beds surrounded by limestone rock to get us above the brick clay. The beds are still there but the trees are more recent; katsura, redbud, ginko, dawn redwood, magnolia, royalty purple crab apple and a Japanese maple now crowd the 50 by 50 ft front garden. The raised beds contain may hundreds of spring bulbs, mainly scillas which turn the beds into a blue river in the Spring. These Spring bulbs are later overgrown by hostas. This scheme means that there is no room for weeds to grow so the work there is limited to trimming trees and shrubs.



Since our son gave us back our back garden back some thirty odd years ago, it became divided into rooms by split rail cedar fences. The veggie garden was turned into a rock garden, a limestone paved

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The Evolution of a Garden



'flattery' doubling as a small patio, and various raised beds for perennials appeared. There was a small lily pond in the veggie-rock garden and another in one of the raised flower beds with a weeping Japanese maple shading each pond. Some twenty years ago I built cedar rail arches between the rooms as a backdrop for our elder daughter's wedding photos.

A friend named our garden 'The Oasis' a few years ago, which it still is.



Last year after a hip replacement and two previous knee replacements Margaret persuaded me that things had to change because we are getting a bit too long in the tooth to properly care for this garden. So, six weeks after the new hip I was out there with a chainsaw and spade to remove ten standard lilacs and some other trees.

Margaret didn't think it was funny when she found me laughing, lying on the ground on my back with a tree on top of me. Fortunately it was only 8 feet tall!

We still have a black alder, liriodendron, robinia, yellowwood, tricolour beech, downy serviceberry, a few Japanese maples and assorted shrubs plus a couple of lilacs which escaped the chainsaw. It might seem a lot for the 50 by 50 ft back garden, but there is still room for the raised beds, although they are almost one third the size they were.

Under the weeping Japanese maple that shaded one small pond there is now rock outcrop with a bed of small hostas, and in the space left by the other small pond in the veggie-rock garden there are more, but larger hostas. Throughout the still raised perennial beds there are lots more hostas. The garden has been the source of several of the 'OHS hosta of the year' varieties, either from garden sports or 'weird ones' bought from such places as Walmart: always look for weird ones anywhere hostas are sold and report any which have Virus X!

The transition from the old garden to the new garden took about seven weeks at an average of two and a half hours a day: a great way to lose 10 pounds! Was it worth it? Next year will tell. The new grass will hopefully match the old by then, unless the 40 year old stuff is a completely different variety from the new stuff, which I suspect it is.



Margaret and I welcome visitors to the garden if you phone first. You might even go home with a hosta nipped off one in the garden, *excluding* H. 'Athena' which is in flower now.

David Barkham

OHS Retailers Top Hostas for 2015

Retailers were asked to select their top 10 hostas, taking into account current sales trends as well as what looks promising looking towards 2016. Here are their picks:

- 1 **Curly Fries (Top Pick)**
- 2 Brother Stefan
- 3 Praying Hands
- (tie) Sum & Substance
June
- 4 Liberty
- 5 Rainforest Sunrise
- 6 Orange Marmalade
- (tie) Paradigm
- 7 Lakeside Paisley Print
- 8 Empress Wu
- 9 Halcyon
- (tie) Wheee
Island Breeze
- 10 Paradise Island
- (tie) Atlantis
Key West

Thank-you to the six retailers who participated in this year's Top Ten:

- Belgian Nurseries** Breslau, Ontario
www.belgian-nursery.com
- Gardens Plus** Peterborough, Ontario
www.gardensplus.ca
- Goldenbrook Hostas** Blackstock, Ontario
www.goldenbrookhostas.com
- Hosta Choice Gardens** Appin, Ontario
www.hostachoicegardens.com
- Niagara Nurseries** St. Catharines, Ontario
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- Olde Towne Gardens** Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
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AHS Region 7 Director Report

In June, Carel and I attended the AHS National Convention in Raleigh, North Carolina. The south sure have their challenges in growing fabulous hostas but with lots of water and shade we were delighted to see excellent hostas! Despite the heat everyone had a terrific time!

Touring Bob and Nancy Solberg's Green Hill Farms was exciting! Bob gave us a peak at his future hostas. All I can say is WOW!

It was a treat to visit Plant Delights Nursery owned by Tony Avent. The nursery is renowned for its diversity of rare plant material. Tony and Anita treated our attendees to dinner at the nursery.

Tony Avent was the winner of the 2015 Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Merit Award! This is the highest award offered by The American Hosta Society in recognition of outstanding achievement in hosta hybridizing.

David Spain's nationally known moss garden was simply a joy to wander through. The coolness of the shade and moss might have had something to do with that. Who knew there were so many varieties of moss!

The Solbergs hosted this year's Convention and absolutely out-did themselves

Next year's convention will be held in St. Louis, Missouri June 15-18. Mark the date on your calendar. Conventions are a great time to make new hosta friends!

The AHS Foliar Nematode Research Project will be complete at the end of December. Results so far are looking really good for finding a solution to nematode problems you may have in your gardens. Currently, Dr. Grewal's lab is looking at when the nematodes travel down the leaves back to the crown and soil so that we will know exactly when to treat the plants for maximum results. Look for an update in the next Newsletter.

Please let me know how you would like my role to benefit the OHS and the type of information you would like me to pass on in my new role. I look forward to hearing from you.

Cindy Deutekom

Region 7 Director

Two Old Hosta Friends

Over the years we have made many friends through our love of hostas and so it is always sad when we learn of the passing of those friends. Two more of our charter members have left us and we recognize their contributions now.

Frank Schenk of Belfountain was a perennial grower and supplier for many retailers in this area and his generous contributions to our society auction each year, of both hostas and a variety of perennials, were always appreciated. Frank had an unfortunate accident at his residence.

Bill Nash was reknowned for his distribution of seeds of streaky varieties, especially his own "Let's Streak", free to anyone requesting it world-wide. For many

years Bill filled his yards with both known varieties and thousands of his seedling prodigies. He had so many that he also had permission to stock part of a farmer's field north of Guelph. From this mass planting he found many unique varieties and gave them names honouring his family and hosta friends. He sought out seed sources from both AHS founder Alex Summers and Toyozo Yakamuro from Japan so you can imagine the variety of genetics in Bill's trials. Bill suffered some health problems and the loss of his wife Rose in recent years but he was still interested in propagating hostas.

We note the passing of these two members and remember them fondly.

Bob Leask



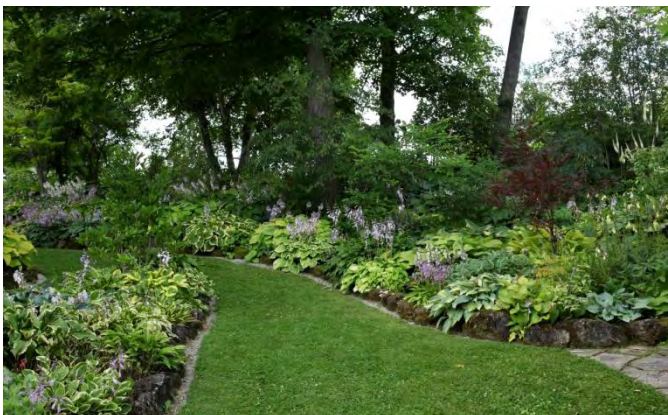
OHS 20th Anniversary Picnic

Photos and words by Trish Symons

The picnic this year was a celebration of the **20th Anniversary of the Ontario Hosta Society** held at the garden of **Norm and Lynne Limpert** in Milton Ontario. Hot dogs, hamburgers and veggie burgers were put on the BBQ. Along with potato salad, fruit, and cold drinks, and desserts, we all had plenty to eat.



Norm is a collector of sempervivums and jovi babers as well as hostas and everyone kept Norm busy digging up plants for them to take home.



Glenn arranged for a couple of quizzes to test our knowledge of hostas. First we had to guess the name of the hosta by looking at the leaves, then he gave us the names of the hostas and we had to match up the hosta to the leaves. Prizes were awarded. There was also a draw for great stuff to use in our own gardens. Glenn and Cindy had plants for sale too.



It was a hot humid sunny day, but we had a great turn out. Everyone seemed to enjoy the day. Thanks to everyone who came out to help celebrate our 20th Anniversary.

Trish Symons

OHS 2015 Executive

President / Vice-President - **Glenn Wilson**
ontgmw@gmail.com

Vice-President - **Open**

Past President - **Cindy Deutekom**
cindydeutekom@gmail.com

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jutta.daverne@gmail.com

AHS Regional 7 Director - **Cindy Deutekom**
cindydeutekom@gmail.com

ELECTIONS for open positions will take place at the Annual General Meeting on September 13th.



Welcome!

Clara Costa
Judy Goudreau
Sue Hodge
David Lewis
Sarah McGlynn
Joan Timbers

Our newest members

OHS Membership

\$15.00 for 1 year

\$40.00 for 3 years

The membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st. Members joining after October 1st are deemed to be paid-up until December 31st of the following year.

Note: Effective 2015, memberships with printed newsletters are no longer being offered. Members with newsletters will continue to receive them until their current membership expires.

American Hosta Society

Contact

Sandie Markland

AHS Membership Sec.

P.O. Box 7539

Kill Devil Hills, NC

27948-7539 U.S.A.

E-mail: ahsmembershipsecretary@earthlink.net

Membership for Canadians

\$39.00 US per year or \$107.00 US for 3 years.

Memberships can now also be paid by VISA or Master Card online at the AHS website www.hosta.org