



## Save the dates

2017 OHS General Meeting

Sunday 10 September

➔ See flyer on last page

2018 Member Meeting

Sunday 28 January 2018

2018 Hosta Forum

Sunday 22 April 2018

2018 Bus Tour

Sunday 10 June 2018

2018 BBQ/Picnic

Date TBA



## Inside this Issue

Where did the summer go? .....	1
OHS 2017 Executive .....	2
AGM Guest Speaker Jonathan Hogarth .....	3
Hostaphile vs. Hostaholic? .....	4
SWOHS News & Events .....	6
EOHS News & Events .....	6
Considerations for When and Where to Acquire Hostas .....	7
2017 Hosta Forum Report.....	8
2017 OHS Picnic Photos .....	10
Hosta Virus Myths.....	11
Testing for HVX .....	13
Sport Preservation .....	14
OHS September AGM Flyer.....	16

## Where did the summer go?

As I put the finishing touches on what was supposed to be the *Summer* edition of the OHS newsletter, I can't believe it's already Labour Day... Did *you* see the summer? Seems like the pips were just poking their noses out of the ground a few weeks ago, with infinite promise of unfurling into established, mature plants. All of a sudden it is already September!

This issue of the OHS newsletter includes a variety of articles that I wish I'd read before I became a hostaphile. Well, now that I've read Jayne Christiani's latest (page 4), maybe I'm less of a hostaphile and more of a hostaholic – I still have a few (OK, over a hundred) hostas that either need to be relocated to a less-crowded spot or put into the ground in the first place!

If only I'd known more about when and where to acquire hostas (page 7) before I started acquiring them by the dozen, I might not have bought those cheap hostas from the Loblaw's garden center a few years back... Although the majority of those less-stringently produced ones have now matured into perfectly healthy plants, I had reason to suspect and test for HVX (page 13).

But if there is a silver lining to this, it's bringing you an excellent article about Hosta Virus Myths (page 11).

Buying cheap hostas from "big box"

garden centres is *not* the best way to get more... If you notice a hosta sporting in your own garden, you can try Van R. Wade's method to preserve it (page 14).

This issue also contains some wonderful photos and things to be thankful for from the 2017 OHS Hosta Forum (page 8), as well some great photos from this year's OHS picnic at Keith Skanes' (page 10).

The OHS Annual General Meeting (AGM) is coming up on September 10th (see the flier on the last page). Don't miss it! Jonathan Hogarth (page 3) be speaking about "*The British (mini) Invasion*", and if you still have space in your garden (or have some lawn left), there will be a hosta auction. We'll also be holding our annual election of officers, so if you've been thinking about getting involved, this is the best possible time to talk to the OHS Executive (page 2) to find out what's involved and what you can do to make a difference. Member meetings are a great way to learn more about hostas and the OHS. We are always looking for people passionate about hostas to get involved.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have to go dig two new beds, move 12 cubic yards of soil, and plant all of these hostas before winter gets here!

*Marta Cepek*

OHS Newsletter Editor

## OHS 2017 Executive

President – **To be elected at the AGM**

Vice-President – **To be elected at the AGM**

Interim President – **Glenn Wilson**  
[ontgmw@gmail.com](mailto:ontgmw@gmail.com)

Past President – **Cindy Deutekom**  
[cindydeutekom@gmail.com](mailto:cindydeutekom@gmail.com)

Treasurer – **Keith Skanes**  
[keithskanes@hotmail.com](mailto:keithskanes@hotmail.com)

Secretary – **Kelly Williams**  
[kelly@kellysgarage.ca](mailto:kelly@kellysgarage.ca)

Membership Prime – **Norm Limpert**  
[normlimpy@hotmail.com](mailto:normlimpy@hotmail.com)

Newsletter Editor – **Marta Cepek**  
[hostanews@gmail.com](mailto:hostanews@gmail.com)

Webmaster – **Cindy Deutekom**  
[cindydeutekom@gmail.com](mailto:cindydeutekom@gmail.com)

Hosta Forum Coordinators –

**Lynne Limpert** [lynnelimpert@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnelimpert@hotmail.com)  
**Donna Hussey** [hussyeyde@sympatico.ca](mailto:hussyeyde@sympatico.ca)

Photographer – **Trish Symons**  
[symonstrish@gmail.com](mailto:symonstrish@gmail.com)

Bus Tour Organizer – **Sandra Shrieve-Mahoney**  
[sandrasherbalife@aol.com](mailto:sandrasherbalife@aol.com)

Directors at Large –  
**Robert Leask** [rleask@hotmail.com](mailto:rleask@hotmail.com)  
**Russ Talbot** [rwtalbot@teksavvy.com](mailto:rwtalbot@teksavvy.com)

SW OHS Dir. at Large – **Lynn Bisschop**  
[past-president@swohs.org](mailto:past-president@swohs.org)

Eastern OHS Dir. at Large – **Jutta Daverne**  
[jutta.daverne@gmail.com](mailto:jutta.daverne@gmail.com)

AHS Region 7 Director – **Cindy Deutekom**  
[cindydeutekom@gmail.com](mailto:cindydeutekom@gmail.com)

# Welcome!

### Our newest members

Matthew Dempster	Tanya Quinn
Sue Flinders-Adams	Barbara Richie
Michael Hofstetter	Lory Rutherford
Ann Inglis	Leslie Samson
Brad McMillan	Denise Shephard
	Kay Verdone

## ONTARIO HOSTA SOCIETY

4897 Irish Dr.  
 RR #4, Appin, ON  
 N0L 1A0

519-289-5471

Email:  
[ontgmw@gmail.com](mailto:ontgmw@gmail.com)

Website:  
[ontariohostasociety.com](http://ontariohostasociety.com)



## Membership



\$15.00 for 1 year

\$40.00 for 3 years

<http://ontariohostasociety.com/index.php/membership>

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.

## OHS Newsletter

Newsletters are published 3-4 times a year. PDF copies of past issues of the OHS newsletter are available in the Members section of the OHS website.

### Article Submissions

We are always looking for hosta-related tips, articles, and photos. Do you have something to share? Send it to: [hostanews@gmail.com](mailto:hostanews@gmail.com)

### Advertising

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

# AGM Guest Speaker Jonathan Hogarth

The September OHS Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Sunday, September 10th, 12:30 - 4:30  
➔ See flyer on last page

## Jonathan Hogarth

Our guest speaker is Jonathan Hogarth from the UK.



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.

**Goldenbrook Hostas**  
**14950 Regional Rd. 57**  
**Blackstock**  
**ON, L0B 1B0**  
*for the serious collector!*

*Cindy Deutekom* *Carel Deutekom*

*Goldenbrook Hostas is now officially closed.  
We'd like to thank OHS Members for supporting us for the past 15 years.*



**GLENN WILSON**  
 4897 Irish Drive  
 RR#4 Appin, ON N0L 1A0  
 Phone 519.289.5471  
 info@hostachoicegardens.ca  
 www.HostaChoiceGardens.com  
 Specializing in growing  
 quality hosta since 1998  
 Open Mother's Day weekend till  
 August 31st yearly

## Hostaphile vs. Hostaholic?

Recently I read an article in the American Hosta Society Journal addressing this very issue, and I had to ask myself, *which one am I?*

I've been running the question through my head for the last few weeks, and haven't come up with any definitive answers. So when in doubt, make a 'pro and con' list.

In my mind, a **hostaphile** has numerous hostas, all neatly

displayed and professionally labeled in their weed-free gardens. He or she knows them all by name, their parentage, their sports, how big they get, the size of their leaves, the vein count, what colours they display at any given time of year, including flower colour, the name of the originator, etc., etc., etc. They can take you through their gardens and expound the virtues of each and every plant. They have hundreds of hostas, know them all by name without looking at the tags, and are forever on the lookout for new and



exciting hostas. Part of the thrill is in the knowledge. If you need a hosta identified because so-and-so's grandmother gave you this hosta, this is the type of

hosta expert you need to find. They can help you out. The downside is that when you were really only after the name of the hosta, you will get a twenty minute dissertation on where to plant it for optimum performance, what to expect at any given time of year, make sure you

do this and make sure you do that. A **hostaphile** cannot fathom that your interest in these plants is not the same as his or hers.



A **hostaholic** can have all their hostas neatly displayed and labeled in their gardens, but can make do with venetian blinds for tags, quickly scribbled names using permanent marker, which is only permanent for a couple of years. He or she knows them all by name, and how big they

get, but doesn't necessarily know their parentage, their flower colour or any pertinent factors that identify that hosta. They can also take you through

their gardens and expound the virtues of each and every plant, but if you are lucky enough to get the tour, chances are that the hostaholic will be pulling weeds as you go. While they definitely love hostas, their minds are not 100% focused on showing their gardens. And even though they know each by name, if you were to take a picture or a leaf of a hosta to that person for identification, chances are good that they don't know. In their minds, they have a memory of where they are placed in the garden, rather than the plant itself. They have hundreds of hostas as well, probably more than a hostaphile, and not only are they forever on the lookout for new and exciting hostas, but they can move mountains in their efforts to acquire same. The thrill is in the acquisition, especially if the hosta is really new to the industry, or not yet available in Canada. Nothing is more satisfying in knowing that no one in the country has this hosta.

In purchasing a hosta, a **hostaphile** will consider a particular hosta,

check out its parentage, its size, its merits, and after careful deliberation, decide where it will go into their carefully prepared hosta beds should they be fortunate enough to acquire it. They can be quite meticulous in their choices. If a hosta has a certain parentage that the hostaphile knows does not do well in their area, they won't buy it. Move on to the next one!

A **hostaholic** will buy hostas willy nilly, doesn't care about maturity size because they plant their treasures far too close together, working on the premise that there is always room for another hosta. If they know that a certain family of hostas hasn't done well for them in the past, or doesn't do well in their area, they buy it anyway, thinking for some

reason that 'this time will be different'. It rarely is! How many times have they bought "White Feather" or "Tattoo", thinking they will be the ones to have perfect specimens in their gardens, and be the envy of the hosta world at large? Too many to count!

So again, I have to ask myself, *Which one am I?* The answer is, both! At one time, toward the end of the summer season, I would take a day for myself travelling to every nursery and garden centre within a hundred-mile radius. If I saw a named hosta that I didn't have, I bought it. If I loved the look of it, I bought it. If it was on sale, I bought it. I would tell myself that it was okay to spend like this, because after all, we are **seasonal** collectors and have a very

small window of opportunity to purchase.

Several years ago, I actually came home with the same hosta in triplicate. I bought it one place because I liked the look of it, and at the next garden centre, I didn't even consider what I had already packed



into the truck before buying it again. And again! Definitely shades of hostaholic here! At the end of the day, I would unload my new treasures into a shady spot, thinking of all the planting I had ahead of me, and move on to something else for the time being. They were safe and snug where I had dumped them, and I would get to them sometime. I am ashamed to admit that I currently have about 100 hostas ... no, honestly, more than 150 ... that are currently awaiting a new home in my gardens. I tell myself that I am looking for the perfect spot, and that is partially true, but the fact of the matter is that my gardens are near over-flowing and I don't know where to put them. New gardens are obviously needed! That is a hostaholic for you.

Age and wisdom has pushed me from being a total hostaholic who has to have them all, to being a partial hostaphile. I spent last winter researching the parentage of each and every hosta I own, and incorporated the information into my carefully detailed charts. What I was surprised to discover was that over the years, I have gravitated toward a certain family or two of hostas. It is amazing how many of the Halcyon sports I own, totally by chance, and they do very well for me. I have made a concentrated effort on getting as many of the Striptease sports that I can acquire, but who knew I was doing it unconsciously with other hosta families. And by the same token, I own only one hosta in the *montana* family. Has not done well for me in the past, and the others that I have purchased have gone to 'hosta heaven'. Who knew?

So, *hostaholic* or *hostaphile*? Which one am I? Neither. I am of the new breed of hosta collectors. We are not defined by a title, but by a condition (no, IT IS NOT A DISEASE). There is no cure and we don't care. The Latin term is *wackohostitis* and I wear the badge proudly.



**Hosta Vista, Baby!**  
1841 Buckhorn Rd, Lakefield, ON  
jayneandmarkchristiani@gmail.com  
for price list  
400+ Varieties Available to Purchase  
700+ Hostas in our Display Gardens

*Jayne Christiani*  
**Hosta Vista, Baby!**

PS. Other Latin terms to consider that I have jotted down over the years. I never got around to making the garden signs I wanted to do:

'*Insectum Devourum*'  
'*Et tu Insectus?*'  
'*Plantaholica Incurabilis*'  
'*Plantum Whydibuyum*'  
'*Costa Fortunii*'  
'*Gardenitis Uncontrollus*'

## SWOHS News & Events

Website: [www.SWOHS.org](http://www.SWOHS.org)

**Sunday 17 September 2017** – SWOHS Annual General Meeting

Guest speaker Master Gardener **Margaret Dudley**, on **Using Hostas in your Landscaping Design**



## EOHS News & Events

Website: [www.EasternOHS.ca](http://www.EasternOHS.ca)

**Saturday 23 September 2017** – EOHS Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers

Guest speaker Master Gardener **Gary Westlake**, on **Garden Art for Cheapskates**



2615 Victoria St. N. Breslau Ontario, Canada Phone: 519-648-2608



[www.belgian-nursery.com](http://www.belgian-nursery.com)



Display gardens in front • Greenhouses/sales area in back

Best prices and largest variety of Hosta, Daylilies & other easy care perennials



[www.gardensplus.ca](http://www.gardensplus.ca) - 705-742-5918

136 County Rd 4, Donwood / Peterborough, ON

Gardens/Greenhouses closed for season 20

\*\* shipping will continue until mid-September \*\*

Stay in touch by following us on Facebook / sign up for our newsletter

# Considerations for When and Where to Acquire Hostas

by **Ray Rodgers**

*Reprinted courtesy of the AHS Newsletter Exchange*

Most avid gardeners like to start purchasing plants each season as soon as they become available, but hostas as well as many other plants can mask a variety of problems in the spring. Purchasing from quality suppliers reduces the risks.

Like most gardeners, I very much enjoy visiting area gardens and nurseries at various times of the year. These excursions allow me to see how colors change and how various varieties react to Mother Nature's challenges. This is the main reason for my trips, but late summer to early fall visits to nurseries will help provide an idea of the overall quality of a nurseries stock, and whether one should feel comfortable buying from them.

The following conditions affecting hostas and other plants are not evident in the spring:

**Foliar Nematodes:** I believe the most serious problem we face as hosta enthusiasts is foliar nematodes. These microscopic segmented roundworms feed on the spongy tissue inside the leaf, causing damage between the veins only, and do not break the leaf skin. Areas infested leave a trail of dying and dead tissue, appearing as brown stripes progressively fading to just a slight discoloration. Nematode damage does not typically become evident until mid-summer or later, depending on the severity of infestation.

**Crown Rot / Petiole Rot / Southern Blight:** Known by a variety of common names, this disease caused by the fungus *Sclerotium rolfsii* develops rapidly during hot, wet conditions. The base of the leaf stems (petioles) turn to mush and the infected leaves start lying flat on the ground and can be removed with the slightest tug. Other symptoms are mats of white fungal threads (mycelia) growing from infected tissue and radiating away from the plant along the soil surface. Small spheres (sclerotia) about the size of mustard seeds (approx. 1 mm in diameter), ranging from light tan to dark reddish-brown, develop on the ground around the base of the plant.

**Anthracnose:** Although not as devastating as either of the above, Anthracnose is a fungal disease, appearing on the leaf as very small to large, irregular rust colored spots. The centers of these spots often fall out. Warm temperatures and wet conditions promote this disease. Usually Anthracnose is most visible on yellow or light centered hostas (medio-variegated). There are other foliage diseases caused by fungi, with similar characteristics, but Anthracnose is the most widespread.

**Melting Out:** Although not a disease, this does affect the

appearance of hostas. Melting Out is the dying (necrosis) of portions or all of the white or lighter center of hosta leaves, due to the rest of the plants inability to make enough chlorophyll to support the non-producing centers. Portions of the light center will actually disappear. Symptoms usually start when the warm days and nights of summer arrive. This is a common problem in the Midwest with many white-centered hosta varieties.

For additional detail and pictures for the above, and other diseases and pests, see <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/SUL14.pdf>

In my opinion, nurseries specializing in hostas and are members of the American Hosta Growers Association (AHGA), the American Hosta Society (AHS), regional and/or local hosta societies are more likely to be aware of the various conditions that affect hostas, and would be more inclined to take necessary steps to maintain quality plants. It may be advantageous for such businesses to promote their affiliations to help instill customer confidence.

I feel the greatest probability of obtaining diseased and/or pest infested hostas is through buying, trading or being gifted plants from individuals that are unaware of the problems they may be passing on. If you plan to gift, trade, donate or sell hostas, please be absolutely sure the plants were healthy the previous year and you have no reason to suspect anything less this year. Keeping newly acquired potted plants away from all other plants, allows time to better evaluate their health. If no signs of disease or foliar nematodes are exhibited by mid-September, plant them in a disease and pest free area of your garden. I'm not recommending that hostas should only be purchased in late-summer or fall, but I am suggesting that hosta enthusiasts should learn to recognize common problems and choose their hosta sources with great care. In my opinion, indiscriminately obtaining hostas from a variety of sources, is very similar to playing Russian roulette. Both acts have a huge potential for disaster.



open mid-April to November 7 days a week 9am-5pm  
7210 Burritt's Rapids Road, PO Box 348  
Merrickville, Ontario, Canada, K0G 1N0  
613-258-3797 - [info@rideauwoodlandramble.com](mailto:info@rideauwoodlandramble.com)  
[www.rideauwoodlandramble.com](http://www.rideauwoodlandramble.com)

# 2017 Hosta Forum Report

by Trish Symons

## Things to be thankful for

Yes, this retired English teacher is ending a phrase with a preposition. Language is changing and so too is gardening. And I am so happy that at Hosta Forum 2017 our speakers all talked about the Environment and our responsibilities as gardeners to help protect it with sustainable and healthy gardening practices.

As soon as we met Sean, with his Harry Potter shirt showing a bear holding a gardening tool, we knew he has a sense of humour and would be a delightful speaker. Sean has also recently started an Eco Consulting business.

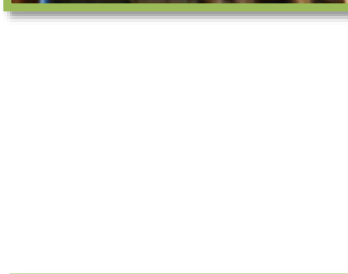
Jeff has always been interested in promoting Xeriscaping. One of our most precious resources is water. Many countries in the world would love to have our water. We must learn to respect it and preserve it.

Ran loves trees and travels the US and Canada promoting more trees in our landscapes. This helps protect species through biodiversity and helps clean air. Many of us went away with a list of trees to investigate for our own gardens.

Years ago Cindy decided it was time to provide a Forum for those who love Hostas, to come together for a day. We thank her for this on our 7th Hosta Forum.

I am thankful that the date was in April when our gardens 'beacon' for attention but do not yet 'scream' for it. Such a beautiful day we had at the golf course. The weather was perfect, the views over the golf course lovely and the food delicious. [Confession—I ate three of the just-out-of-the oven pastries.]

Of course nothing is perfect and a tech glitch added a bit of stress to Ran and your organizers. But in the end it all worked out. Next Forum we will have a tech specialist there for longer to be sure there are no such problems.







It broke my heart not to win either of the amazing Hosta Of the Year Collections. I spent \$50 in tickets—so badly did I want to win. My bank balance was not happy but I enjoyed daydreaming about where to plant this lusted-for collection. Maybe next year?

When you attend an event like this you have no idea how much goes into the organization. Glenn, as well as being our President, grew the Yankee Blue gift hostas and most of the Hostas for the auctions. We appreciate your doing so much to promote Hostas, Glenn!

Didn't you love *The Bob and Carel Show*—our entertaining auctioneers? Keith kept feeding them the next hosta to be auctioned to keep things moving quickly. It really added a lot having the images of the live auction items projected on the screen!

Thank you, Kevin, for the informative talk on how the Hosta for the Year is chosen and telling us about Brother Stefan.

Fourteen members went home with lovely gifts donated by vendors and members. Thank you Norm for coordinating ticket sales and Kelly for the photographs.

The Executive came at 6:30 am to set up the room and auction tables so everything would be ready when our guests began to arrive.

When planning a Conference:

- The first consideration is: **speakers** – we had 3 great ones.
- The second is a format with lots of activity and a timeline that makes sense.
- A room full of Hostas we could bid on was essential.
- A venue both beautiful and accessible.
- Comic relief in *The Carel and Bob Show*
- And the icing on the cake—the food was delicious and plentiful.

But the cherry on top has to be Donna and Lynne. We are thankful for their once again taking on the responsibly for coordination of another exciting and successful Hosta Forum!

*Trish*

# 2017 OHS Picnic Photos

Photos Trish Symons



# Hosta Virus Myths

by C. H. Falstad

Originally posted on the Hosta library site; reprinted courtesy of the AHS newsletter Exchange.

**MYTH** - HVX spreads easily/HVX is difficult to spread.

**FACT** - Which is it? Dr. Lockhart, who is credited with discovering HVX has said it is difficult to spread, while others say it is easy to spread. It depends on the point of view. A virologist considers it difficult compared to other viruses which can spread more easily because they are transmitted by insects or other

vectors. Gardeners and nursery owners on the other hand feel that it spreads easily because it is easy to spread it while doing the things they normally do with the plants, like cutting flower scapes, damaged leaves, or dividing. In this case there is no myth because both are true.

**MYTH** - Some hostas are immune.

**FACT** - The basis for this myth (and it is a dangerous myth at that) is a study done by Dr. Lockhart. In this study several varieties were not infected despite numerous tries. The report on this study in The Hosta Journal did unfortunately use the word "immune" to describe these plants. Testing for this "immunity" was not exhaustive, and the use of the word was clearly a case of jumping the gun. Since this study, one of the "immune" cultivars has tested positive (not the actual plant from the study), and this should be taken as evidence that these cultivars are not to be considered truly immune unless further testing proves them so. In a sidelight, articles mentioning this "immune" list have started adding plants that were not in the original study. One included 'Gold Standard', which is one of the



Hosta infected with HVX

most easily and heavily infected in the marketplace. No hostas should be considered immune at this time.

**MYTH** - Plants infected with a virus may recover.

**FACT** - Viruses do not just disappear, nor does a plant "fight off" an infection. The virus is permanent and will be with the plant until it dies. For practical purposes in the garden and nursery, there are no cures for viruses.

**MYTH** - Hostas from Tissue Culture (TC) will not have viruses.

**FACT** - If a hosta has a virus before going into tissue culture, the virus will be propagated along with the plant.

Many infected hostas in the marketplace were tissue-cultured. Plants that were clean after the tissue culture process may also be infected when being grown on. Labs are beginning to test all propagating material so in the near future tissue cultured hostas from those labs will be clean.

**MYTH** - All hosta cultivars will exhibit the same symptoms if infected with the same virus.

**FACT** - Symptoms can vary considerably with the same virus, and different strains of a virus may cause different symptoms.

**MYTH** - All mottled foliage in hostas is caused by viruses.

**FACT** - Mottling patterns in hostas can have a variety of causes, some of them environmental, and many have causes which we do not yet understand. 'Xanadu Paisley' has been repeatedly tested and despite its similarity to HVX symptoms has yet to be shown to be infected with any diseases. Old plants like 'Cynthia' and 'Filigree' also have no known cause for their mottled appearance and have never been known to pass this trait to other plants.

**MYTH** - Viruses will kill, or at least severely inhibit growth of the host plant.

**FACT** – Eventually, some deterioration in the health of the plant can occur, but a plant may survive for many years when infected with a virus. Different viruses affect the plant's health at different rates, but some effects may go unnoticed.

**MYTH** - If symptoms disappear after showing up in a previous year the plant has either cured itself or didn't have a virus in the earlier year.

**FACT** – The expression of virus symptoms can disappear, but this does not mean the plant is cured. The virus is still present in the plant and still able to infect other plants. Sometimes this can be due to environmental factors that might reduce the rate a virus replicates thus preventing a high enough population, or titer, to effect expression.

**MYTH** - Removing a leaf showing infection, or dividing out the portion of the hosta showing symptoms will help cure the plant.

**FACT** – Removing some symptomatic tissue will have no real effect in "curing" a plant of a virus. The virus is already in all or most all parts of a plant by the time symptoms show.

**MYTH** - All plants infected with HVX will show symptoms immediately.

**FACT** – To the contrary, many plants in Dr. Lockhart's study did not show symptoms after three years despite testing positive for infection. We do not know if they will ever show symptoms, but they are infectious in this state.

**MYTH** - If the symptoms have not spread to nearby plants the virus is safe.

**FACT** – If a virus is "safe", how did that plant catch it? The only way to tell if HVX has spread to other plants is through ELISA or other more sensitive scientific testing. It may be years before infected plants show symptoms.

**MYTH** - If a plant doesn't show symptoms it doesn't have a virus.

**FACT** – It can take years for an infected plant to show symptoms. During this time it very much can

infect other plants. Only careful scientific testing can determine if a plant that does not show symptoms is infected with a virus - there is no way for the gardener or nursery owner to tell.

**MYTH** - HVX is the only virus affecting hostas.

**FACT** – There may be more than ten viruses currently known to be found in hostas. HVX is now the most common by far, but Impatiens Necrotic Spot, Tobacco Rattle Virus, and Tomato Ringspot Virus have been frequently identified. Some as yet unidentified viruses have appeared also.

**MYTH** - Symptoms of Hosta Virus X look attractive.

**FACT** – Actually, this is not really a myth. The effects of HVX on some hostas can be attractive to many, thus heightening the risk of introducing the virus into the home garden. In addition to the mottling, these symptoms can include making the infected plant more compact and more glaucous. Nursery professionals and home gardeners alike have actually named HVX-infected hostas and offered them as new varieties.

**MYTH** - Virused hostas are worth more money than healthy hostas.

**FACT** – Well, does this really make any sense? If you buy a hosta for \$5 and infect it with a disease as common and widespread as HVX, how could it possibly be worth more? When infected with an incurable disease, it should be thrown away because it is no longer worth anything. Putting a different name on it once it is infected doesn't really change this.

**MYTH** - If we pretend the virus doesn't exist it will go away.

**FACT** – If we ignore the presence of Hosta Virus X in our gardens or nurseries, it will continue to spread until many more plants have it. In time, the number of infected plants will increase beyond any hope of eliminating the virus. It is irresponsible to keep the virus around, because it can infect other plants and spread itself. All plants exhibiting HVX symptoms must be destroyed immediately to prevent further infection, and in nurseries all plants in a batch that had symptomatic individual plants must be also considered infected and likewise destroyed.

**MYTH** - Talking about HVX and other diseases will ruin hosta gardening.

**FACT** – While it may be unpopular in the short term, allowing incurable diseases to run unchecked through nurseries and gardens will certainly cause worse problems down the road. The long-term impact of disease-filled gardens on their owners will surely be a negative one and far outweigh any short-term effects of facing our problems now. A healthy garden is a source of joy to the gardener, but a garden full of diseases and other problems will never provide the same enjoyment, and if it gets worse every year we will lose our enthusiasm.

**MYTH** - People don't want to know about HVX.

**FACT** – It is not a pleasant subject, but as adults we all understand that life isn't perfect. The world contains many harmful organisms, and some of these do affect hostas. We can face the issues of plant health when we need to. We understand that sometimes there are outbreaks of a particular disease that require our special attention. We don't really want to know, but we have to know to keep our plants healthy. We don't want that information kept from us when the time comes that we need it.

**MYTH** - Viruses are a "grower problem" and not a cause for concern among gardeners.

**FACT** – Hostas infected with HVX or other viruses ceased to be simply a "grower problem" when the retailers sold them to gardeners. Thousands of virus-infected plants have already been sold at the retail level, and many gardens now harbor virus-infected hostas. All gardeners should be aware of HVX and other viruses and be careful to avoid spreading them to other plants and to other gardens.

## Testing for HVX

*Text and photos by Marta Cepek, Ontario Hosta Society*

A few years ago the garden centers at supermarkets and hardware stores (Loblaws, Rona, and Lowes) were offering a remarkably large variety of named hosta cultivars. Priced at around \$10 (often less), they were too cheap to pass up. Alas! If it seems too good to be true, it probably is too good to be true!

While the vast majority of those cheap hostas have matured into healthy, vigorous plants, a few of mine gave me reason for concern.

The only way to confirm or rule HVX is with Agdia ImmunoStrips.



*HVX-suspected hosta leaf*



*An Agdia HVX test kit (test strip and buffer) and a 1" x 1" piece of leaf*



*Control line on the test strip proves it is working properly*

**Riverbend  
Gardens & Nursery**

Allan & Shirley Koch  
43846 C-Line Road, RR #2 Wroxeter, ON  
519-335-6175 · shirley@riverbedgardens.net  
[www.riverbendgardens.net](http://www.riverbendgardens.net)

Hostas - over 1000 varieties / Daylilies - over 1000 varieties  
Grasses, Lilies, Echinacea, and more ...  
Open May to September or by appointment; Closed Sundays



Second line (below control line) shows this hosta is infected with HVX

Lucky for me, a local OHS member generously shared her HVX test strips (thank you Ann F!).

If you have hostas in your garden that you are concerned about and don't know where to get the strips in Canada, you can order them directly from Agdia's Canadian supplier, A&L Canada Laboratories, Inc.

Their website is <http://www.alcanada.com/About-agdia.htm>.

I called to find out how much the HVX test strips cost. I spoke with Julie Mollard (1-855-837-8347 ext. 223, [jmollard@alcanada.com](mailto:jmollard@alcanada.com)).

The strips come in a 5-pack (includes both the strips and the extraction bags) for \$58.50 and a 25-pack for \$156.00 (tax and shipping extra). I know what you're thinking: OUCH! But to take a little bit of the sting out of that, if you call to order and mention that you read about the HVX test strips in the OHS newsletter, Julie said she will give you a 5% discount off your order of test strips.

---



**Canadale**  
Ontario's Favourite Garden Centre  
269 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas, Ontario  
519-631-7264  
[www.canadale.com](http://www.canadale.com)

## Sport Preservation

by **Van R. Wade**, Wade & Gatton Nurseries, Bellville, Ohio

*Reprinted courtesy of the AHS newsletter exchange from the March 2017 Illinois Prairie Hosta Herald [This article originally appeared in HostaScience, Vol 1, No 1, 2002. It has been edited for this edition of the Tri-State Tribune by Roberta Chopko]*

### Introduction

I have developed a very simple method to preserve, help save, or to establish a new hosta sport; a method to help you save that sport you may have just discovered. I have been using this method since 1986 and find that it works very well. I have been able to rediscover and duplicate known hostas, and also have developed dozens of new varieties.

### Materials and Methods

To discover a potentially new sport, watch all of your hostas very carefully. Any single leaf different from the parent may be the start of a totally new plant. The leaf may be all green on a gold plant, or all gold on a green or blue plant. It may have only a yellow, gold, or white streak in a leaf. It may be a leaf with half green or blue and the other half white, gold, or streaked. It may have a center different than the edge. The new leaf can be of almost any different pattern of color, shape, or form, but different from the mother plant or parent. Watch and study the new leaf, group of leaves, or small new plant! You will notice that it is attached to the mother plant and is a part of it.

Determine the value of the mother plant. Is it the only one you have? Could you get another if you should lose it? Find out, or try to determine, what your possible new plant might be. Maybe you are just duplicating what someone else has, or the new plant that is different from the mother might possibly be another known plant, rather than an absolutely new one. Consult an expert or the reference materials on hostas before proceeding to "save" what you think is a sport.

What I like to do is trim back part or all of the mother plant. Keep all of her roots intact. Trim part or all of the leaves back to just above the ground, leaving a few nearest to your sport's leaves a little

longer (or full size) at first. The purpose here is to give more strength to the new sport. Be sure that the plant doesn't receive too much sun now. Then you wait... Often in a few weeks, the leaf gets bigger, changes occur, and it slowly gets another leaf or two. Other buds may form, but usually they don't sprout the first year. The first year, under normal conditions, you may have to trim back the mother plant several times, often two or three times, because she will sprout up. But, you see, you are forcing more of the mother's strength into your new little sport. Protect it over the winter, the same as you normally might a new plant.

### Fertilize it in the early spring

As the plant develops, you will notice that the bud that had been forced to develop more fully at the base of the leaf will be more fully developed, or is a more stable plant. Again, repeatedly trim back mother, as she is strong, and this makes more strength available for your little sport, now stronger and better able to survive. It is possible that after a year or so, you can start to remove a part of the mother by cutting her away piece by piece. I usually wait another year, depending on the size, location, and value of the mother.

I do not want to cut away the new plant, dig it up and replant it yet. Most people do this in the first or second year. I wait. Remember, if you cut the end off of a new root, it does not get longer or branch. A new root must form from the root rhizome in order for it to benefit the new plant. Just keep your new baby where it is and let all the new roots and buds form as they will, without transplanting it. After two or three years of cutting and trimming your mother plant, and doing all you can to help your new baby sport develop, you will come to realize what it is, and exactly how it differs from your mother plant. Eventually, in two to four years, you should carefully cut a crown or eye away with all of its roots intact, leaving the base plant there. I usually like to do this in April or early September. Replant the new 1-2 eye crown plant in a specially prepared site with just the right amount of sunshine. I will often add peat moss, Promix, sand and/or aged horse manure in a partially raised plant bed. I do use Osmocote for expensive new plants. For older, established plants,

I sometimes use 19-19-19 or a similar general garden fertilizer because of the cost. But for the newest, expensive plant, I spare no expense in the preparation of a good planting pocket.

With this method, I have developed dozens of new sports.

It is always exciting to dream about your new little sport as to just what it will become. Then when it does develop, you can see just what you've helped Mother Nature do... only quicker!

This method probably isn't new or unconventional, but it works. I've tried to just cut off the new plant, eye, crown, or leaf, but it doesn't always work. You end up losing your sport, or weaken it so much that it doesn't come up the next year.

The next time you see a new and unusual leaf or more on one of your hostas, remember this method to preserve it. Try it or adapt your own method, using some or all of the technique described here. You'll have fun trying! Not all are success stories, but you will surely not miss very many times with this method.



**LotsaHostas**  
 Glenda Bargeman  
 15 Orkney Rd.  
 Copetown, ON  
 519-647-2815  
[www.lotsahostas.com](http://www.lotsahostas.com)



**Wild Things**  
 PLANT FARM  
 Choice Selection  
 Well-Grown Hostas \* Virus Indexed  
 36-acre Nursery in the Woods \* Display Gardens  
 PERENNIALS VINES GRASSES SHRUBS TREES  
<http://www.wild-things.ca> 1-877-538-3228  
 Hwy 89, 7 km west of Mount Forest



ONTARIO HOSTA SOCIETY  
GENERAL MEETING & AUCTION  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017  
12:30 – 4:30 PM

At the Nassagaweya Community Centre, Brookville Hall,  
2005 Cameron Drive Campbellville, Ont. L0P 1B0 (Part of  
the town of Milton) See below for directions and RSVP information.

**A special invitation to join us as our guests for this meeting.**

**Come and join the fun. Check us out! Join the OHS!**

We would love to have you as a member of the Ontario Hosta Society! There is no charge for non-members for this event.

We have a special guest speaker all the way from **ENGLAND!** **Jonathan Hogarth!**  
**PLUS** our fabulous Live Auction!

**AGENDA**

**12:30 - OHS will provide complimentary Pizza and Caesar salad as well as cold drinks as you view the live auction hostas.**

**1:00 – 1:15 A short general meeting** will be held to provide members and guests updates, vote in a new President, as well as American Society Appreciation AWARDS for outstanding continued service to the Ontario Hosta Society!

**1:20 – 2:20 Jonathan Hogarth'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.

**2:20 – 2:30 – short break**

**2:30 – 3:45 – Live Auction!**

**3:45 – 4:30 - Cash Out** (Cash - preferred, visa, personal cheques also accepted – sorry, no early cash outs)

**PLEASE RSVP IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND!**

EMAIL [cindydeutekom@gmail.com](mailto:cindydeutekom@gmail.com)

**Directions from the 401:** 7 km north of the 401 at Guelph Line and Cameron. Take Guelph Line north 7 km to the Nassagaweya Community Centre at Cameron Drive located west of Hwy 25 if you are coming from Toronto OR one exit east of Hwy 6 if you are coming from Kitchener.