



# ONTARIO HOSTA SOCIETY

## EARLY SUMMER 2009 NEWSLETTER.

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 3

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### PRESIDENTIAL MUSINGS

Well, this winter did not seem to take any toll on the gardens we saw on our bus tour this year. Every one of them was glorious and I thank our hosts and hostesses very much for opening them up for us. We are ever appreciative of the generosity displayed by you each and every year and we thank you.

We started off with our friends, Virginia and Henry Hildebrandt's garden in Puslinch. You would never have guessed it was only 3 years old! Beautifully done!

From there we went to Rockway Park in Kitchener for a lovely stroll and then on to Riverbend Gardens and Nursery in Wroxeter where Shirley and Allan Koch made us feel so at home. We had our lunch at their beautiful property and after much "loading up" of plant material onto the bus, Shirley took us to Marilyn and Wayde William's gardens in Listowell. Marvelous! The Williams were not at home but invited Shirley to take us there anyway and we thank them. What a delight!

Our last stop of the day was in Fergus at the gardens of Jean and George Loney. WOW! I have a 7 year old black walnut tree and had no idea that they could grow so darn huge. One of them is thought to be over 80 years old and talk about majestic! They play a very special backdrop in this elegant space.

I would like to give a huge thanks to Bob Leask who always does a smashing job of finding all of those beautiful locations and putting the tour together for us. We had 47 on the bus that day. I think the seating capacity of that bus was 51 so it doesn't get any better than that. What a day!

On a sadder note, we missed the company of Elizabeth Ingolfsrud on our bus this year. I would like to express our heartfelt sympathy for the family who lost this great lady this past month. We missed her on the bus and will continue to miss her solid support and her friendship.

A sort of "random" poll was taken on the bus and it seems our members would like to see us do a 2 day tour next year. Perhaps in the Ottawa area? Please let us have your thoughts on that (more info inside).

Well, I look forward to seeing you all at Cindy and Carel Deutekom's on July 5<sup>th</sup> and spending another wonderful day with all of you Hostaphiles at Lynn Bisshop's on August 9<sup>th</sup>. (Don't forget your lawn chair and lunch for both picnics). Much more info inside.

Thank you to the Executive Volunteers – you Rock! We always have room for new ideas and extra sets of hands so if any of you would like to help out in the planning and the success of our Society, please get in touch.

Happy Summer!

(Don't forget to check out our website for more photos and updated O.H.S. info).

*Sandra*

#### NEW MEMBERS

Patricia Alton	Chatham	Bill Lovelock	Sarnia
Donna Bonnell	Cobourg	June Marshall	Mississauga
Donna Hussey	Delhi	Brad McMillan	Hamilton
David Jewell	Lindsay	Lynne Melnyk	Elmvale
Helen Lackey	Cobourg	Mary Anne Perkins	Milford

#### Ontario Hosta Society

Ontario Hosta Society Membership can be obtained by writing to (**new address**):

**Ontario Hosta Society  
2301 5th Street Louth,  
St. Catharine's, Ontario,  
Canada L2R 6P7**

**Annual Dues: \$15.00/YR    \$40.00/3 YR**

**American: \$16.00/YR    Foreign: \$17.00/YR**

The membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st. Members joining after October 1st in any year are deemed to be paid-up until December 31st of the following year. **First-time members receive a bonus copy of "The Hosta Adventure – A Grower's Guide"**

#### American Hosta Society

Memberships can be obtained by writing to:

**Sandie Markland  
AHS Membership Secretary  
P.O. Box 7539  
Kill Devil Hills,  
NC 27948-7539 U.S.A.**

E-mail:

[ahsmembershipsecretary@earthlink.net](mailto:ahsmembershipsecretary@earthlink.net)

Membership for Canadians  
\$39.00 US per year or \$107.00 US for 3 years.  
Money order or cheque drawn on a US bank.  
Memberships can now also be paid by VISA  
or Master Card online at the AHS website  
**[www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org)**

## **GARDEN TOUR/PICNIC**

**Sunday, 5th July**

**HOSTS:** Carel & Cindy Deutekom  
**WHERE :** Goldenbrook Hostas, 14950 Regional Road 57, Blackstock  
**TIME:** 11:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Goldenbrook Hostas have over 350 different varieties of hostas - definitely not a picnic to be missed.

*Learn how to divide hostas - there is more than one way - ask all the questions you have been afraid to ask!!*

Directions to Goldenbrook: Hwy 401 East to Bowmanville, take Regional Rd. 57 and go north past Blackstock - Goldenbrook will be on the right - before Jobb Rd

**Please RSVP by Monday June 29th - 905.986.4363 leave a message or e-mail Cindy: [cindydeutekom@netscape.ca](mailto:cindydeutekom@netscape.ca)**



***Please don't forget to bring your lawn chair and brown bag lunch!***

## **GARDEN TOUR/PICNIC**

**Sunday, 9th August**

**HOST:** Lynn Bisschop  
**WHERE :** Shades of Green, 48855 John Wise Line, Aylmer  
**TIME:** 11:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Shades of Green specialize in hostas, and also have daylilies ornamental grasses—you won't want to miss this one.

Directions to Shades of Green: Hwy 401 West toward London, take Elgin Road (Hwy 73) south, through Aylmer at Hwy 3. John Wise Line is 2nd road on right (west) past Aylmer.

**Please RSVP by Monday, August 3rd - 519.773.7279 leave a message or e-mail Lynn: [shadesofgreen@amtelecom.net](mailto:shadesofgreen@amtelecom.net)**

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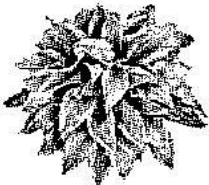
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*Lynn Bisschop*

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www.shades-of-green.ca

## **Bus Tour Sunday June 14, 2009**

Oh what a beautiful morning and hosta day!

Our first visit to Virginia & Henry Hildebrandt's 3 year new custom designed ranch bungalow on Puslinch acreage where the house & septic's were relocated to accommodate the high water table. Clever engineering of extensive tubing diverted the 40 foot well water & the neighbour's flood plain to feed the lush low-lying gardens and contemplative pond for Bob Murphy at mid-hill. Protected gardens contained 5 trillium types (ex erectum, grandifolium, recurvatum), red & yellow polophyllum, angelica gigas, A gorgeous cluster of 6 tamaracks stood nearby with silky soft mint green sweet smelling needles that when crushed can be used in salads & medicine. What workhorses V & H are to create beds upon beds of stone cairns! Thanks for the 'hosta garage sale' of tissue cultured hosta treasures.

Off to Rockway Gardens managed by volunteers from Kitchener's Horticultural Society, we read the slogan "Plants neither author nor read gardening books. The best sources of advice are the plants themselves. by Mike McKeag". Along the borders of maroon & purple annuals waving at us, were beds upon beds of exotic oriental and ornamental poppies (orange-scarlets, pinks, salmon-corals) complete with a chocolate-point Siamese cat. While oohing over a lush Harlequin Maple, cascading Bridle Wreath, climbing Hydrangea, Ricky-Lee and Diane were ahhing over the euphorbia polychrome (spurge), coral bells, purple catchfly silene, cornflowers, lupins and profusion of pyrethrum in fuchsias, yellows, and pinks with roots as natural insecticides. Wanderers found the incredible tadpole pond at the foot of a dense dark virtual forest of hostas trailing along a two-story-sized gushing waterfall complete with granite boulders. A photographic splendour found!

We lunched outside Listowel at Shirley & Allen Koch's Riverbend Gardens & Nursery, home to 600 carefully-labeled hostas. We basked in the sun, wandered the hosta ground beds, visited the frog pond, barns, newly planted species bed, a long shady path of display specimens, and the lush hosta presentations surrounding the family homestead. Literally hundreds of hostas carefully labeled plus the natural setting to rest, unwind, contemplate nature and digest our lunches and the surroundings, soon led to the 'feeding frenzy' to buy at the 'selling tent'. What do hosta lovers do best but to grow their collections and thanks to Bob Leask for this bus tour's lunch stop!

cont'd.....

At Marilyn & Wayne Williams 'private cottage home' on an expanse of the original family farmstead HEAVEN ON EARTH was created--a natural niche where **even** the frogs, silky hens, exotic chickens, quails, kittens, croaking frogs, fish, millions of tadpoles along with the hostas are living in Heaven'. Truly an idyllic peaceful healing environment created for worshipping life at its most calm and harmonious. Its crowning jewel the gorgeous pond with a backdrop of large granite boulders shouldering a peace-offering waterfall, lush lilies, plankton and new-born kittens stealing a few sips of its life-force. A pure naturalists' respite and reverence for agricultural relics! Kevin, took over for Bob as trip guide, soon discovered the challenge of rounding-up the pilgrims 'too charmed to leave' this heavenly peaceful healing 'artistic oasis'. Words can never do justice to the obvious love and passion for nature so the photos will have to convey the heavenly beauty.

In Fergus, Jean & George Loney's historical house posted their sign 'Anna – Housewife 1868'. Under the 80 year old walnut trees, we found 'love in the shade' perennial beds built since 1975 where they've lived, expanded the home into 3 additions, now expanding their collections. Jean's passion for Hellebores, 6-8 types of Lenten rose, soon gave way to hostas collections. A tall shell of a 3 year old long-dead Corkscrew Hazel soon meets the curious eye for their decorative necklaces covering their fragile limbs to warn those 'look-but-don't-touch'. A local sculptor envies its unique shapes and uses its cast-offs for inspiration. George's gardening role is to build the hidden running waterfall just off the wooden deck, the potting shed, bench, arbour, the 3 additions, the ever-widening garden beds. Retired Jean 'the housewife' today is particularly proud of her hellebores, variegated lily of the valley, healthy hostas, and the lessing of grass cutting that goes with the forty years of perennial growth. Plenty of colours mark the changes in nature from spring through to late fall, the backyard carefully designed to echo life in the shade. Watch out for those 'falling walnuts' some years so loud, strong and plentiful, it matches the crackle of a solid thunderstorm.

Back at Landscape Ontario, back to reality, back to loading up our cars with hostas, new feelings of wonder at gardening beauty, a sense that life is good!

OHS bus tours are little vestiges of natural delights. Thanks again, Bob!

by

**Lynda Lou Gourlie**

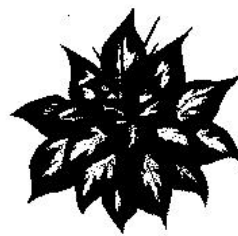


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## Bill's "Hidden Pot" Trick

I recently came across an article authored by Bill Jarvis, a Houston, Texas hobbyist / hybridizer of daylilies, entitled Bill's "Hidden Pot" Trick, see <http://www.ofts.com/bill/hidpot.html>.

I'm guessing most of you reading this are thinking Bill's article is about placing potted plants in the garden to shield them from aggressive tree roots and / or voles, as this is a trick often used by hosta enthusiasts. If so, you are incorrect.

Bill's use of plastic nursery pots is unlike any I can remember hearing of. Although the writing specifically pertained to daylilies, the same basic principles could apply to other plants, including hostas.

He purchased a quantity of 5-gallon black plastic pots, cut off the bottom 2/3 of each, which left a circular plastic ring about 4-5 inches deep (see picture). He then placed a ring around each individual clump of daylilies, sinking it about half way into the dirt. When finished, the daylilies looked like they were growing in pots which had been sunk in the ground.

I'm guessing most hosta gardeners wouldn't like this appearance, but with a layer of mulch outside the rings, combined with seasonal foliage maturation, the rings would virtually disappear.

Bill's stated advantages include:

When watering daylilies, water would run down to the lower places in the bed resulting in uneven distribution. The ring around the plant now prevents the water from leaving the area where the roots are concentrated. *Note: Even after a good rain, the root zone under some hostas' foliage often remains dry.*

In the spring, Bill liked to give his lilies a boost by applying a tea made from fish emulsion and other organic nutrients. This liquid is applied to the roots of each clump individually and if applied too fast, would drain away from the plant before it could sink into the soil. He now can just dump in the required amount quickly and go on to the next plant. The ring keeps the formula from draining away and it sinks right down to the roots. *Note: Haven't we all experienced this dilemma?*

According to Bill, when a daylily becomes infected by crown rot, completely soaking the roots with the systemic fungicide Subdue is necessary to save the plant. The ring allows him to quickly make sure the roots get completely drenched. The final benefit is to keep the mulch from getting too close to the plant. *Note: Keeping mulch away from the base of hostas helps to prevent Crown Rot and/or Petiole Rot.*

If not receptive to purchasing 5-gallon pots, rings cut from smaller pots can be used for small and mini hostas.

For those of you that are willing to try this technique on just a few plants, I suggest first trying this on hostas that are believed to need just a little extra attention to grow well. Also, those gardening on slopes may find this method particularly advantageous.

A number of gardeners save plastic nursery pots for various reasons and would likely be happy to share.

By

**Ray Rodgers**

### Future OHS Club Plants

We are looking for new hosta plants with the potential to be future Club Plants, and they should preferably be at least 3 years old.

If you know of such a plant or plants and would be willing to share this information with us, please e-mail the Editor

[hostaed@rogers.com](mailto:hostaed@rogers.com)



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## Upcoming Events - 2009

### Garden Tour/Picnic

**When:** Sunday, 5th July  
**Where:** Garden of Cindy & Carel Deutekom  
**Time:** 11:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
**Addr:** 14950 Regional Rd 57, Blackstock

### Summer Picnic

**When:** Sunday, 9th August  
**Where:** Garden of Lynn Bisshop  
Shades of Green, Aylmer  
**Time:** 11:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
**Addr:** 48855 John Wise Line, Aylmer

### Auction

**When:** Sunday, 20th September  
**Where:** R.J. Murphy Auditorium  
6435 Edward Blvd, Mississauga  
**Time:** 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

### Erratum

Apologies to  
**Cecil and Marion Lamrock**  
We erroneously advised that they do not wish visits to their garden.  
They are **happy** to have visitors and can be reached at 905.985.5462, ahead of a visit.

Apologies also to  
**Evergreen Acres Nursery**  
The correct phone no. is  
905.878.0475

It is with sadness that we advise the recent passing of a long-time member of the Society.

Elizabeth Ingolfsrud

She will be remembered.

### PLEASE NOTE

Change of Date for the Auction

The Auction will be held on  
**Sunday, 20th September**



*At Auction there will be a limited offering of the 2009 OHS Club Plant*

*"OHS Butter Pat"*

### YOUR INPUT IS REQUIRED PLEASE

In Summer 2010, we thought it would be a good idea to have a bus tour in the Ottawa area. Same day pick-up and drop-off would be in the Ottawa area and it would be the members responsibility to get to and from Ottawa. If you would be interested in participating, please e-mail the Editor asap

**hostaed@rogers.com**

If we have sufficient interest, we will try to locate a local hotel for group rates



### FEDERAL TAX CREDIT FOR LANDSCAPING

If you have landscaping projects for this year, (**think more HOSTAS**) the Federal Government is giving a 15% tax credit to all expenditures exceeding \$1,000 but not more than \$10,000. This can include new sod, trees, shrubs, perennials, interlocking driveways, decks, retaining walls, pathways, irrigation and lighting systems, ponds, waterfalls and garden sheds as examples.

Even professional landscape design services and contractors are included. You can do the landscaping yourself, but you cannot charge for the labour - **true hostaphiles wouldn't**. Keep the receipts on hand in case Revenue Canada questions your 2009 tax return when you claim the 15% tax credit

**Check it out for yourself - go to [www.cra.gc.ca](http://www.cra.gc.ca) and search for Home Renovation Tax Credit**



### E-Mail

We have been sending timely "reminders" to our members regarding upcoming events and we have had positive feedback however, we have noticed that we do not have e-mail addresses for a large number of our members and we have incorrect addresses for several members.

**IF** you did not receive a reminder about the recent bus tour and would like to receive these timely reminders , please e-mail the Editor and she will add/amend your e-mail address

**hostaed@rogers.com**

### EXECUTIVE

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