



## Save the dates

OHS Bus Trip

Sunday 26 June

OHS BBQ/Picnic

Sunday 17 July

OHS Annual General Meeting

Sunday 11 September



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## Thank you!

We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the huge success of our most recent Hosta Forum on Sunday April 17.

The OHS Executive team of Glenn Wilson, Cindy Deutekom, Norm Limpert, Keith Skanes, Trish Symons, Marta Cepek, and Bob Leask.

Thank you:

Glenn, for the great auction plants and for the gift plants that all attendees took home with them.

Cindy, for being an excellent Master of Ceremonies and for the beautiful pictures and descriptions of all the live auction plants.

Norm, for a great job coordinating the ticket sales.

Keith, for keeping track of the budget.

Trish, for taking loads of great pictures.

Marta, for helping with the raffle ticket sales and the cash out with Glenn and Cindy.

Bob, for helping to organize the live and silent auction plants.

A big thank you to our excellent auctioneers, Carel Deutekom and Mike Shadrack.

Thanks also to Lorie Dertinger and Brenda Breddy-Krentz for providing excellent on-site support for registration and distribution of plants and materials. We don't want to forget Lilianne Skanes, for helping to distribute materials, even with a broken arm!

Thanks to our wonderful speakers, Paul Zammit, Marion Jarvie, and Michael Shadrack. You were all so informative, enjoyable, and entertaining!

We'd like to individually thank everyone who donated items for our auctions and raffle... please see page 3 for the full list.

We appreciate the support Glencairn has provided to the OHS and the Hosta Forum. Look for Glencairn's "Member for a Day" offer on page 9.

And of course a huge thank you to everyone who attended!

*Lynne Limpert and Donna Hussey*  
2016 Hosta Forum Coordinators



## OHS 2016 Executive

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AHS Region 7 Director - **Cindy Deutekom**

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

# >Welcome!

## Our newest members

Jeanette Berenz

Stephen Cross

Jill Cutter

Julia Dimakos

Jane Falls

Donna McComb

Joanne Rachfalowski

Kathleen Scheer

Lisa Wark

Judy Watt

Paul Zammit

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



## Membership



\$15.00 for 1 year

\$40.00 for 3 years

[http://ontariohostasociety.com/  
index.php/membership](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.

# Hosta Forum Donations

Many thanks for the donations received (listed alphabetically).

## Anonymous Donor

- LCBO Gift certificate - \$50

## Belgian Nurseries

2615 Victoria St. N Breslau Ontario  
519 648 2608

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

- 2 Garden Baskets - \$90 value each

## Joe Di Carlo

- LCBO Gift certificate - \$20

## Gardens Plus

136 County Road 4 Peterborough Ontario  
705 742 5918

[www.gardensplus.ca](http://www.gardensplus.ca)

- Hostas 'Angel Falls' & 'Beyond Glory' & Tiarella 'Sugar and Spice' - \$62 value

## Goldenbrook Hostas

14950 Regional Road 57 Blackstock Ontario  
905 449 5906

[www.goldenbrookhostas.com](http://www.goldenbrookhostas.com)

- Two gift certificates - \$25 each
- Planter/trough with 4 mini hostas - \$100 value

## Hosta Choice Gardens

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519 289 5471

[www.hostachoicegardens.com](http://www.hostachoicegardens.com)

- Two gift certificates - \$25 each
- "Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener" - \$29.95
- 1 gift Hellebore for each attendee

## Donna Hussey

- Bird House - \$50 value

## Norm and Lynne Limpert

- Terra Greenhouses gift certificate - \$25

## LotsaHostas

15 Orkney Road Copetown Ontario  
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[www.LotsaHostas.com](http://www.LotsaHostas.com)

- Hosta 'First Blush' \$75 value

## Ontario Hosta Society

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

- 2016 calendars - \$15 value each
- 3 year OHS membership - \$40 value

## Riverbend Gardens & Nursery

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[www.riverbendgardens.net](http://www.riverbendgardens.net)

- Gift certificate - \$50

## Jared Ryder

- Large container of worm castings - \$25 value

## Terra Greenhouses

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- Gift certificate - \$50

## Whistling Gardens

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519 443 5773 [www.whistlinggardens.ca](http://www.whistlinggardens.ca)

- 2 passes to Whistling Gardens - \$27 value

## Wild Things Nurseries

9688 Baseline Road RR#3 Clifford Ontario  
519 338 3228

[wildthings@wightman.ca](mailto:wildthings@wightman.ca)

- Two gift certificates - \$15

## Sue Willemsen

[hostahoehaven@gmail.com](mailto:hostahoehaven@gmail.com)

- Two Sun Catchers - \$65 value each



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## SWOHS News & Events

### SWOHS Bus Tour

SWOHS is pleased to announce that it will be hosting a bus tour to eastern Michigan on **Saturday June 18**.

All SWOHS, OHS and EOHS members are welcome to attend for only \$40. Non-members/guests may attend for \$55 and get a one year SWOHS membership!

Bus pick-up will be in Sarnia at 8am. If enough interest is generated, an earlier pick-up may be arranged in London.

We will be visiting four gardens in Clio, Otisville, and Lapeer, Michigan.

Only those with a valid passport, Nexus pass, or enhanced driver's licence will be able to cross the border.

Please RSVP to [editor@swohs.org](mailto:editor@swohs.org) before June 4, 2016. Seating is limited and we are already 1/4 full without advertising. Please join us!

### SWOHS Summer Picnic

The SWOHS Summer Picnic is being held in the Aylmer area on **July 16, 2016**. Information will be available as to where to those who are interested.

### SWOHS Annual Corn/Sausage Roast

The SWOHS Annual Corn/Sausage Roast is being held in London (at a wonderful garden that many OHS members I believe saw last year) on September 11. Information will be available as to where to those who are interested.

Please visit [www.SWOHS.org](http://www.SWOHS.org) for details

## Eastern OHS News & Events

We're excited to announce that the Eastern OHS chapter has a website under construction! Please check [www.EasternOHS.ca](http://www.EasternOHS.ca) towards the end of June.

### EOHS Events

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events.

- **Progressive Garden Tour and Plant Swap**  
Saturday 9 July
- **Glass Garden Sculpture Workshop + EOHS Annual General Meeting**  
Saturday 24 September

Event details will be posted on the website once available. In the meantime, please contact Gail Johnson, at 613-378-1492 or [msj1941@hotmail.com](mailto:msj1941@hotmail.com)

## My First Hosta Forum

By Marta Cepek, OHS Newsletter Editor

All photos by Trish Symons

It's only been a few years since I developed the passion for hostas that many of you seem to have been enjoying for many years. The 6th annual OHS Hosta Forum was the first gathering of hostaphiles that I've attended. It was an eye opener!

As a participant, I was incredibly impressed by all of the hostas available for the live and silent auctions. I wondered how many, if any, hostas would come home with me... I bid vigorously in both the silent and live auctions, and finally went home with five new hostas, plus the gift hosta and gift hellebore that all attendees received. Next year I will need deeper pockets!

There was also a raffle for several wonderful donated prizes (that was me selling the tickets during the morning registration).

The day started with the energetic and charismatic Paul Zammit of the Toronto Botanical Gardens, who gave some great tips for gardening in containers. He mentioned many new-to-me companion plants for hostas, including sedum 'Angelina', cornus 'Midwinter Fire', and abutilon 'Savitzii', all of which I'll be looking out for this spring. Paul has a website and a blog that you can visit: [www.paulzammit.ca](http://www.paulzammit.ca)



Next, passionate plantswoman Marion Jarvie spoke about garden design incorporating hostas and companion plants. During her talk I eagerly scribbled the names of many more awesome companion plants to look for, including cornus 'Baton Rouge', Roscoa x beesiana, and Cypridium calceolus (Lady's slipper). Marion's love for Rhododendrons was absolutely contagious. Did you know that there is a 'Marion Jarvie' Prunus cultivar named for her? You can visit Marion's web page today and visit her garden on her open garden days: [www.marionjarvie.ca](http://www.marionjarvie.ca)

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Although the lineup for the BBQ lunch was long, the Glencairn staff kept restocking the tables and I was glad to see they didn't run out of the good things!



In the afternoon Mike Shadrack gave a talk that he calls "The Canada Talk" ... Yes, *more* companion plants to look for: blue Agapanthus, Japanese blood grass, November-blooming hellebore 'Praecox'. But his talk was all about hostas ... you can tell he loves *all* hostas, but he especially loves the itty-bitty ones. He gave advice and tips accompanied by enchanting photos for creating a hosta bed / rockery / scree garden for the minis. In particular, he recommends using gravel as mulch! Not only does it aid drainage and discourage voles, but it looks fantastic! I added several more mini hostas to my already huge wish list: Emerald Necklace, Dragon Tails, Popo. Mike and his wife Kathy have a delightful website

and blog at [www.smugcreekgardens.com](http://www.smugcreekgardens.com)

The remainder of the afternoon included the live auction presided over by the hilarious tag-team of Carel Deutekom and Mike Shadrack, as well as announcing the winners of all of the raffle prizes and silent auctions.



As editor of the OHS newsletter, I got an additional insight into just how much behind-the-scenes work went into the day. All of the Executive and several volunteers were at Glencairn at 6:30am to set up the room and the tables, and stayed afterwards to pick everything up.

The heartfelt thank yous on the first page of this newsletter fail to recognize the huge amount of time and coordination put in by Lynne Limpert and Donna Hussey. They arranged for the speakers, the venue, the food, all of the donations, all of the live/silent auction plants, and so much more that we don't even realize.

This event also taught me the meaning of *hostatality*. I might not have made the 500 km drive (each way) to attend this event had I not been so warmly welcomed by everyone in the OHS, and accommodated by the gracious Trish Symons.

*Marta Cepek*

*OHS Newsletter Editor*



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## AHS Region 7 Director Report

This year's convention will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, June 15-18. It's not too late to register! Conventions are a great time to make new hosta friends. Hostaphiles from Europe, Canada, and all over the US attend this fabulous event. Garden tours, vendors, seminars, an auction, and banquets. The Friday night guest speaker is Dr. Parwinder Grewal. Dr. Grewal was the lead on the AHS Foliar Nematode Research project which was completed the end of December. Rob Mortko and I co-authored an article in the latest edition of *The Hosta Journal*, which you will find in this newsletter. Hope you enjoy it!

*Cindy Deutekom*

*Region 7 Director*

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## Cindy Goes to Hosta College

2016 Hosta College, held in Piqua, Ohio, was a fun-filled weekend! With over 70 classes to choose from, taught by approximately 50 volunteers, you are sure to find a class that's right up your alley! This year I took a few classes and taught a class.

Friday night starts with registration and receiving your gift hosta. The vending area is always a room full of vendors offering the latest and greatest in the Hosta world, as well as other plants (yes, there are other plants!), hand made pottery, tools, T-shirts, and other interesting garden items.

The auction was lively with lots of great hostas, some rare, some originator stock and more common hostas were there to bid on. It's easy to get carried away with bidding to get that special hosta for your garden.

Back at the hotel, everyone was welcome to join in the 'hospitality' to socialize for a few hours. Great to catch up with so many hosta friends.

Saturday began with Rob Mortko's talk, *The Hot Hostas of Tomorrow*. With several of the larger TC labs now out of business, it is a challenge for hosta retailers to find new varieties. Smaller TC labs, like Rob's, are working with new hybridizers to bring their hostas to market. His lab produces smaller quantities of hostas in the 100's instead of 1,000's. Look for more of Don Dean, Meg Dalton, Jeff Moore, Randy Goodwin, Dan Wols, Trudy Van Wyk, and Olga Petryszyn hostas to hit the market in the coming years! My wish list grew immensely!

Next class was Bob Solberg from Green Hill Farms in North Carolina. Bob presented *Growing Hostas in Containers*. He's been growing hostas for 35 years! Some of the reasons to grow hostas in containers are to protect them from mice, voles, tree roots, and slugs. Another great reason is that we are all getting older and it's easier on our backs to pot on a bench or table! Fertilizing, controlling water and even pampering those delicate mini hostas are all reasons to grow hostas in your favorite pots. The best mix for containers is a mix that is high in bark content. Remember to plant small hostas in small pots and large hostas in large pots using bigger particles of bark. Add slow release fertilizer on top of the pot. For those huge hostas, you can use a liquid fertilizer in addition to the time release granules. Bob recommends using tomato fertilizer as it contains magnesium, which makes chlorophyll. Bob suggests



Photo of Cindy by Trish Symons

planting those fragrant hostas near your walkways and beside patios. Place hostas with red petioles at eye level so you can see those lovely red legs! Have fun moving them around to refresh your gardens.

Next class we were off to see Jeff Miller's talk on *How to Get the Most Out of Your Shade Garden*. Jeff is the owner of Land of the Giants located in Wisconsin. Jeff is well known for his huge hostas and he does not do anything small! He recently added wholesale to his retail business. Between 360,000 and 390,000 hostas are now growing on his property. I'm thinking he may be the largest hosta grower in North America! Some tips Jeff shared to grow BIG hostas were to use oak leaves as mulch.

Hostas love the oak mold created over time. He does not clean-up his leaves. The extra covering keeps the ground colder as long as possible in the spring so that those delicate buds poking up, do not get damaged by frost. When the first hostas come up, usually the montana Aureomarginata and Empress Wu, it's time to fertilize and use slug bait. Jeff likes to plant bulbs, Japanese

Maples, astilbes, and ferns in his gardens to add variety as well as using driftwood and rocks for accents. Varying the colours and planting in threes will really showcase your hosta gardens. His number one tip is to amend your soil.

After a fantastic lunch, we were off to see slides from last year's Great Lakes Region *Tailgate with Hostaholics*. Bob Sinke's presentation toured hosta gardens in the Western New York area. A BBQ picnic was enjoyed as well as vending and an auction with Mike Shadrack as auctioneer! What a lively, fun and low cost event! It's open to all who would like to attend.

Next class was on Foliar Nematodes – an AHS research progress report and update to the project. Rob Mortko and I reviewed the two-year project. This project was a \$100,000 effort to find a solution for those pesky nematodes. Although, here in Ontario we do not have the same problem as our southern neighbours. This is due to the hotter temperatures and higher humidity. Nematodes thrive in those conditions. Rob and I wrote a summary of the Progress Report in the *AHS Hosta Journal*. [Ed: the report is reprinted on page 11].

We had an amazing time and I hope to see you at Hosta College next year.

*Cindy Deutekom*

AHS Region 7 Director and OHS Past President



# 2016 OHS Picnic

**Sunday, 17 July 2016, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm**

This year, Jack and Paul of the Potting Shed are opening their lovely gardens to host our OHS picnic.

OHS will supply the BBQ and beverages. Please bring your own lawn chair.

Please RSVP to [ontgmw@gmail.com](mailto:ontgmw@gmail.com) by July 13th.

**The Potting Shed Garden Centre and Nigerian Dwarf Goats**

**44 Haldimand Road 17, Dunnville Ontatio, N1A 2W4**

Please get driving directions from the [www.pottingshed.org](http://www.pottingshed.org) website. GPS does not always find us!

## A Message from Jack and Paul of the Potting Shed

We look forward to welcoming the Ontario Hosta Society here in July for the Summer Picnic. The Potting Shed is our home, our business, and our ongoing creative outlet to exercise our passions for plants, animals, good design, and artwork.

You can explore the nursery with its extensive display gardens, its three ponds (including a swim pond), the gift shop, and various barns and aviaries. Heck, if you decide to, you can even do a bit of shopping while you are here.

We started as a specialty nursery for hosta and daylilies. Ten years ago we changed locations and diversified to be a full service garden center, though our focus remains to find and sell the rare and unusual plants that the bigger chains don't carry. Our gardens also feature large scale permanent outdoor sculptures created on site by Paul Bolland.

Eight years ago we began to breed Nigerian dwarf goats ... as a hobby ... which has since gotten totally out of control. Jack started as a commercial dairy goat farmer and this breed has re-kindled his love for the animals to the point where the initial intent to keep three goats has developed to the point where the herd seems to hover at about 75 animals. You will be welcome to wander our barns, see the kids, and meet the rest of the menagerie of peacocks, rabbits, doves, ducks, budgies, dogs, cats, and Violet, our-much loved potbellied pig.

We had a customer this week that summed up her visit here by saying "I really love this place. Every time I turn a corner there seems to be a surprise." She is right... our place is quirky, it's interesting, there is lots to do, and lots to see. We look forward to a really fun day with all of you.

Sincerely,

*Jack Kent and Paul Bolland*



## Summer Alert

### - Beware of the Drought

by **Rob Mortko**

*Reprinted courtesy of the AHS Newsletter Exchange*

Most reference books on hosta will report that they are quite adaptable to dry shade conditions once they have become established. While this may be true, there is also a practical limit to most generalizations.

During the growing season the hosta rhizome or crown is building reserves that will be used the following spring. Large amounts of water are also required to replace the natural transpiration that occurs with the large leaves. If (as we typically do in the Midwest) encounter a prolonged spell of hot, dry weather, the rhizome will spend reserves to support the plant.

Ever wonder why a hosta appears OK at the end of the year, but appears much smaller and/or less vigorous the following spring, or (even worse) fails to reappear altogether the following spring? This is most likely the result of a decline in the crown mass the previous summer.

So what to do if we do encounter a typical Kansas City summer with day upon day of hot temperatures and extended dry spells? Avoid the stress by watering deeply at least once a week during the summer if we don't receive any help from Mother Nature. Optimum moisture is reported between one and one and a half inches of water per week during the growing season. This is especially important if your hostas receive significant levels of direct sun exposure.

Watering time is also important. Watering in the morning will help discourage both slugs and fungal activity. Use of soaker hoses works well. When watering blue leafed hostas avoid overhead watering of the leaves which can slowly destroy the glaucous bloom (i.e. the waxy covering that makes a green hosta appear blue). Residual water droplets on any leaf which is followed by sun exposure can also result in leaf burn.

## 2016 OHS Bus Tour

Sunday, 26 June 2016

Rain or shine - always a good time!



Photo by Ricky Lee

Details for year's bus tour were not confirmed at time of publication. OHS will communicate bus trip details to OHS members by email as soon as they are confirmed.

To get on the RSVP list or for other enquiries, please contact Sandra Shrieve-Mahoney at 1-866-742-7155 or [sandrasherbalife@aol.com](mailto:sandrasherbalife@aol.com)



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## MEN (And the women that train them!)

By OHS member Jayne Christiani

Just kidding! But let's face it, 90% of the people that are gardening are women. Okay, maybe 80/20. Which makes perfect sense if you think about it.

Women are the ones that want to beautify their homes, picking the right furniture, the right colours, the right accessories... and that includes the outside. So how do we get the men in our lives interested in what we are doing in the gardens? Oh, they will cut and trim the lawns and do some weeding if we ask them nicely. But how do we get them interested in the plants, especially our beloved hostas?

Spring has finally sprung and we have been out in the gardens, looking for the little noses under the debris left as a result of the winter. We've hopefully cleaned up our beds by now and are anxiously looking for new growth. The winter was a hard one for plants in Central Ontario... warm, cold, warm, cold. As I was out cleaning one of the beds on the weekend, I came across "Rainforest Sunrise." I've had it maybe four or

five years. This winter it had heaved right out of the ground. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that it was hardy enough to survive, but I saw no sign of growth. (Heavy sigh!) Regardless, this is an exciting time of year for me. It's almost as if my babies have left home and one by one, are returning to bring me joy. After decades of gardening, I still get so thrilled with the signs of growth and the wonder of Mother Nature. This is the reason why we pour over websites, why we make the trek from garden centre to garden centre, why we seek out the latest and greatest. Because come spring, we get such a thrill to see the return of our beloved children, knowing that their beauty will bring us nothing but joy as they grow and mature over the coming season. This is what gardening is all about.

In a previous article, I touched on theme gardens, but I think this requires more clarification. There are so many hostas available and most of us buy them as they grab our attention at the garden centres.

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Halton Hills, Ontario  
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### Member for a Day at Glencairn - May 24 2016

If you have attended the Ontario Hosta Society (OHS) Hosta Forum in the past 4 years, you have already enjoyed the hospitality of Glencairn Golf Course in Halton Hills Ontario - a Clublink property.

Maybe you are not only a gardener and lover of Hostas, but you also love to golf. Come out on your own or with your golfer friends on Tuesday May 24 and become a "Member for a Day" at Glencairn Golf Course. Please share this opportunity with anyone who might be interested.

For \$84.00 which includes your green fee, golf cart and all taxes, you can play an exclusive private links style golf course. Perhaps before or after your round of golf, you would like to relax with a beverage and a bite to eat in the Black Friar Pub while enjoying the beautiful scenery and the Glencairn experience.

If you are interested in spending a memorable day at Glencairn on **Tuesday May 24**, please contact **Craig Cupido** Director of Operations at **905 876 3666** to book your tee time.

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... continued from previous page

Or if you are like me and have OCD (Obsessive Colour Disorder) you have to have them all. But once you hit 100 or so, the inclination is to try to put some order to the chaos. At least that has been my experience ... like I said ... OCD!

My first hosta gardens were started in memory of two beloved Cairn terriers that had passed away within three months of each other. We have a lovely stand of honey locust trees, where the ashes of the dogs are buried beneath two small concrete benches. The hostas were a result of wanting to beautify that area. And frankly, prior to living in this house, our other yard had south exposure and growing hostas was next to impossible. Now, finally, my passion for these lovely plants could be fed.

And so I started buying hostas and even though I kept track of the names and where they were planted, (I've always made charts of my gardens) if it was a hosta that I didn't have, I bought it. Within a few years, I moved all my Lakeside hostas to one area. I now have around 60 of them, and a few of the sports of some of the Lakesides are in that garden as well. I'm really liking the Foxfire series and have started another area for that group. I try to keep all the ones with people's names in one area... Rebecca, Janet, Timothy, Steffie. You get the drift!

If you are looking for a theme and don't really know which direction you want to take, check out Don Rawson's website, [www.hostalists.org](http://www.hostalists.org). There are 60+ suggestions for theme gardens. I guarantee that you will find something there that piques your interest. Or, if you have always had an affinity to a certain hybridizer, for example, Mary Chastain's Lakeside series, that is certainly another area to explore.

As I'm sitting here reading this back, I'm realizing that not everyone wants a theme. They just want hostas. GREAT! Go for it! You can't go wrong with the beauty and growing performance of these amazing plants.

Very few of them are finicky. Dig a hole, plant them, and watch them go!

So, back to the men. My own husband has finally stopped calling the hostas "your flowers". He finally gets that they are *plants*. Our final breakthrough was the day we had visitors to the gardens and he actually remembered the name of one of the hostas without looking at the tag. The fact that he remembered 'Striptease' is a whole other conversation.

What interests your partner? Cars? Sports? Science fiction? Bring home hosta 'Captain Kirk' and note the interest in his eyes as you tell your man the name of it.



Photo of hosta 'Captain Kirk' by Ann Frederking

Mark my words, he will ask where you planted it and when you are out watering the gardens the next morning, he will join you with his morning coffee in hand and casually meander over to the plant. Add a few more... 'Battle Star', 'Captain's Adventure', 'Starship' ... you got him! He's hooked, now reel him in. Mention a few others that you would like to get, and ask his opinion. There are lots of pictures on-line to pique his interest. Before you know it, he'll be out there tending to those babies and consider them *his*.

Okay, okay, in a perfect world this could work. But at the end of the day, when all is said and done, being out in the garden is *your* "MY TIME." Do you really want your man out there with you?

Jayne Christiani

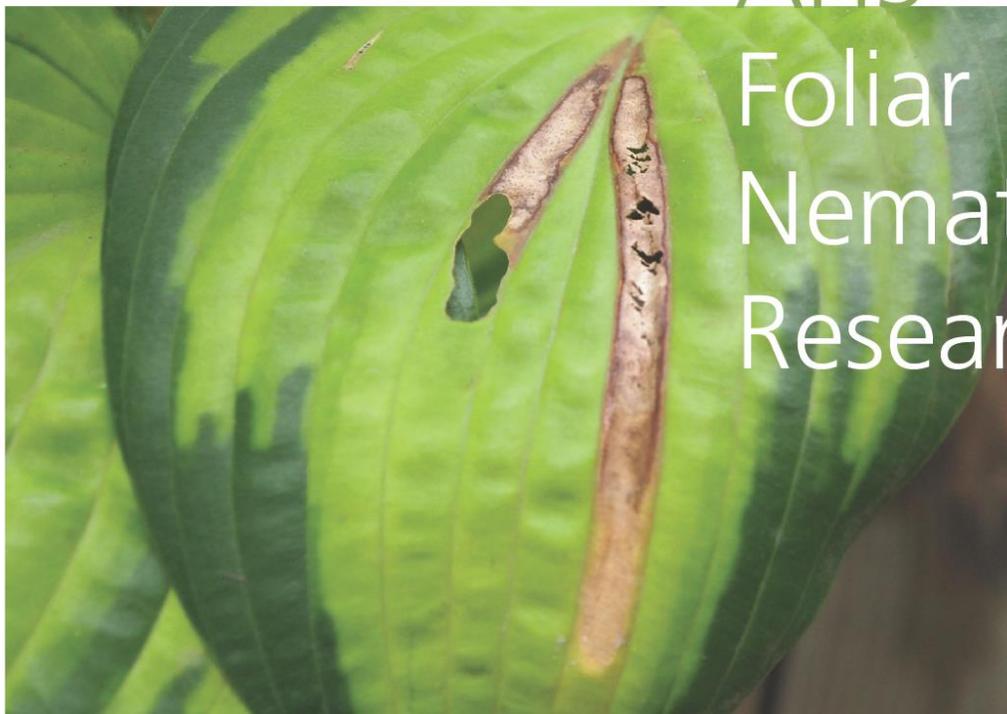
**Hosta Vista, Baby!**

PS: This year's garden promises to be better than the last.

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# AHS Foliar Nematode Research

## 2015 Progress Report



*Distinctive damage denotes foliar nematodes: brownbound by leaf veins.*

by **Cindy Deutekom** Blackstock, Ontario  
and **Rob Mortko** Olathe, Kansas

The draft Final Report of the AHS Foliar Nematode Research Project has just been received from Dr. Parwinder Grewal and his team of scientists at the University of Tennessee. This article is a quick summary of the key findings of the two year study. Some conclusions relate to the seasonal timing of chemical controls. When the report has been finalized and approved by the AHS Advisory Committee, the entire report will be posted on the AHS website. The AHS will produce a brochure and forward it to sponsoring societies and individuals.

### Key Findings

**Overwintering** - Foliar nematodes do not overwinter as eggs in soil or in hosta plant tissues. They overwinter as juveniles and adults in soil and in below-ground hosta crown tissue. This was a key finding relative to potential chemical treatments. Foliar nematodes may also overwinter in a desiccated state in withered leaves.

**Migration** - Foliar nematodes move upward from overwintering sites onto hosta petioles in the spring and early summer at high humidity levels that would be experienced during spring rains or even dew that is formed as temperatures drop at night below the dew point. Foliar nematodes appear to move downward during the autumn season in a different manner. They may simply drop from the foliage (aided by rain or water

*This article reprinted with permission from the Spring 2016 issue of The Hosta Journal (Vol. 47, No. 1, page 10). Photo Rob Mortko*

that washes them downward) or they may “ride” the withering foliage to the ground. In any event they return to the ground where they overwinter in the soil and in the crown (in the outer-most layers of buds).

**Chemical Controls** - Foliar nematodes were exposed directly to 23 different chemical products in an aqueous suspension to determine toxicity. This test served as a screening tool to narrow the list of chemicals for further testing. The most effective of these products were then used in soil drench testing. Growth chamber experiments were conducted to determine the effectiveness of soil drench treatments with selected chemicals and hot water to control foliar nematodes in the soil of potted hosta plants. Pylon, Nemakill, and hot water were the most effective treatments that virtually eliminated the nematodes from soil. Spraying of nematode-infected leaf discs with Pylon® miticide-insecticide or Nemakill™ organic nematicide resulted in 100% mortality of nematodes. Testing also indicated no evidence of phytotoxicity for Pylon or Nemakill treatments on healthy hosta plants. Residual activity of Pylon in soil was up to 30 days compared to 20 days for Nemakill. However the mortality rate drops rather quickly 10 days post treatment for both chemicals. Residual activity should also be compared to a typical 10 to 14 day life cycle for foliar nematodes.

*... continued on following page*

## Foliar nematodes do not overwinter as eggs in soil or in hosta plant tissues. They overwinter as juveniles and adults in soil and in below-ground hosta crown tissue.

...continued from previous page

Other chemicals including ammonia, Clorox® bleach, KMnO<sub>4</sub> (potassium permanganate), NaDCC (sodium dichloroisocyanurate) and ZerolTol® broad spectrum bactericide/fungicide provided complete control when in direct contact with foliar nematodes but less effective control when used as a soil drench.

**Conclusions** - Chemical controls have been identified that appear to give good control of foliar nematodes. One chemical (Pylon) is labeled for greenhouse use only and therefore an option limited to commercial growers. The other chemical (Nemakill) is an organic product (OMRI certified) that is exempt from EPA registration. Nemakill contains natural oils (cinnamon, clove and thyme). While hot water provided good control, it is more of academic interest rather than practical use in the garden. Multiple repeat treatments timed based on residual activity would be expected to further improve overall control. An initial soil drench at the time of bud break (i.e. pips appearing) in the spring would be recommended since the nematodes are all in one place (i.e. underground in the soil and in the crown). A foliar spray in the summer (especially on clumps that appear symptomatic) would also be a reasonable consideration. Spraying the bottom side of the foliage where the stoma are located may further aid in access of the chemical to the nematodes. Removal of foliage in the fall from affected clumps will further help reduce nematode populations.

### Relative costs

**Pylon** - Available to commercial growers at \$450.00 for 16 ounces. At a dilution of 1.0% v/v, a 16-ounce container will yield 12.5 gallons.

**Nemakill™** - Price available from ExcelAg Corp. USA. Sizes: 8 ounces, 32 ounces, 128 ounces. At a dilution of 0.5% v/v (1.3 tbsp per gallon), an 8-ounce container will yield 12.5 gallons.

### AHS Members Can Purchase Nemakill.

For more information visit [www.excelag.com](http://www.excelag.com)

AHS members have expressed interest in purchasing this organic product for fighting foliar nematodes. Manufacturer ExcelAg Corp. USA is establishing a national distribution network. With the exception of AHS Members, Nemakill is sold commercially.

The prices below are discounted for AHS Members. Be sure to mention you are a member.

- At a dilution of 0.5% v/v (1.3 tbsp per gallon), an 8-ounce container will yield 12.5 gallons.
- \$25.00 for 8 ounces; \$97.25 for 32 ounces; \$385.00 for 128 ounces.

If an AHS member experiences difficulty placing an order directly with ExcelAg, please contact AHS VP Genus Hosta, Cindy Deutekom at [cindydeutekom@gmail.com](mailto:cindydeutekom@gmail.com)



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