



Save the dates

- 2017 Winter Meeting**
Sunday 29 January
- 2017 Hosta Forum**
Sunday 23 April
- 2017 Bus Tour**
To Be Announced
- 2017 BBQ/Picnic**
Sunday 9 July
- 2017 Annual General Meeting**
Sunday 10 September



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President's Musings

Well, wasn't this growing season a blast ... Not!!! As usual, when I finally sit down to write my "musings", I do so in front of my office window and with thoughts of what the next few seasons will throw at myself and my fellow gardeners. The office window has finally been opened to allow today's ample breeze to refresh the house after being shut tight since early June to allow the air conditioner to offer us badly needed relief from the oppressive heat and humidity. As I look out I can see the next batch of storm clouds rolling in, possibly adding an additional 40-50mm of rain to last night's 40mm.

We've been lucky in our tiny little village of Appin and the rain has always fallen just as things started to get critical. I'm not one for Greek Mythology but I believe Zeus has been watching over my neighbours and I... The crops in the fields are strong and healthy and it looks like we've been spared the agony that most folks throughout Ontario are feeling. We have shared in the heat and humidity for which this summer will go down in history, and our gardens are starting to show the usual August leaf scorch, albeit a little less than normal.

I've often said that in my "next life" I want to come back as a meteorologist, weather has always interested me. However, when we go through a summer like this one, I suspect it would be a less than stellar job choice for someone like me, who prefers not to be the bearer of bad news!!! Having said this, I will say that they were correct in their predictions... they did warn us that it was going to be a hot and dry summer. I guess we should thank them for the

advance warning, but I, like most of you, can't muster the energy as I don't have enough left...the humidity and heat have drained me. Let's hope for a pleasant and normal (whatever that is) fall and winter and that the lack of rainfall this summer doesn't too negatively affect our beloved hostas for next year.

This will be my last Musing as I prepare to take on the role of Past President in the New Year. I look forward to assisting a yet to be determined fellow gardener/hosta addict ease into the role of OHS President just as Cindy Deutekom helped me during the last two years.

I want to thank the members and executive for the opportunity to serve the OHS and I would urge each of you to consider taking a more active role so that we may continue to offer the great events that you will read more about as you turn the pages of this issue of the newsletter. In the next few months we will be sending out a membership survey that we hope all the members will return completed. Even if you're not an executive member you can help to shape and guide the OHS going forward. The membership survey will be a way for you to do just that.

Looking up from the keyboard I can see that my clan of barn cats is making a run for cover (I still have 15 available if you would like one!). I think the rain has come again. I hope the rain has also made its way to your garden. If not there's always a guy called Zeus that's waiting to hear from you.

Best regards,
Glenn Wilson
OHS President

OHS 2016 Executive

President - **Open**
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Past President - **Cindy Deutekom**
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AHS Region 7 Director - **Cindy Deutekom**
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Welcome!

Our newest members

Claudi Bernatchez	Paul Gilbert
Donna Cane	Paul Judge
Beth Duncan	Anthony Koziol

ONTARIO HOSTA SOCIETY

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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

Advertising

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

OHS General Meeting Report

Many thanks to all the OHS members, family, and friends who joined us at the Ontario Hosta Society General meeting on Sunday September 11. We had

a great turnout!

Everyone enjoyed the pizza and delicious Caesar Salad (Glenn's recipe) as well as the beverages and desserts supplied by the Ontario Hosta Society.

Glenn Wilson, our President, kicked off the meeting with the first opportunity to bid on many wonderful plants at the Silent Auction before dealing with the business part of the meeting.



For the 5th time, members of the Ontario Hosta Society were recognized by the American Hosta Society for their dedication and hard work to the OHS. This year **Lynne Limpert** and **Donna Hussey** were surprised and delighted to receive Certificates of Appreciation from the AHS.

Keith Skanes our Treasurer gave a favourable report on the state of the OHS finances.

Increased access to the members only section of the **OHS website** was encouraged. Contact Keith Skanes for more information.

Also check out the **OHS Facebook page** to connect with OHS Hosta lovers.

Upcoming OHS dates and events were discussed.

Glenn announced open positions on the OHS Executive and encouraged the members to participate in rewarding, fun volunteer positions.

Many of our suppliers who are members and are active supporters of the Ontario Hosta Society attended the meeting and were introduced:

- **Jack Kent** from **The Potting Shed** in Dunnville Ontario
- **Lynn Bisshop** from **Shades of Green** in Aylmer Ontario
- **Kevin and Olga Elchuk** from **Giboshihill Hostas** in Cobourg Ontario
- **Cindy and Carel Deutekom** from **Goldenbrook Hostas** in Blackstock Ontario
- **Cindy Mitchell** from **Hosta Fever** in Barrie Ontario
- **Shirley and Alan Koch** from **Riverbend Gardens and Nursery** in Wroxeter Ontario
- **Glenn Wilson** from **Hosta Choice Gardens** in Appin Ontario

A huge THANK YOU to all of our suppliers who make a huge contribution to the OHS at all our events!

- **President - Open - Glenn Wilson** is stepping down after 2 years. Thank you Glenn!
- **Vice President - Open**

Anyone interested in becoming more involved should contact Glenn or any member of the Executive.

- **Secretary - Mary Lou Curry** is stepping down due to health reasons. Thank you Mary Lou for your years of service to the OHS. Thank you, **Kelly Williams** for agreeing to take over as secretary.
- **Treasurer and Webmaster - Keith Skanes**
- **Hosta Forum Coordinators - Donna Hussey and Lynne Limpert**
- **Membership - Norm Limpert**
- **Past President - Cindy Deutekom**
- **Director at Large - Bob Leask**
- Unable to attend were:
Newsletter Editor - Marta Cepek
Bus Trip Coordinator - Sandra Mahoney
Photographer - Trish Symons

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Lynne and Donna announced the Sunday April 23, 2017 date of the 7th Annual Hosta Forum.

Glenn announced that for every Early Bird ticket purchased (before March 1 2017), you will receive an entry to **win the 2008-2018 Hostas of the Year.**



Both Bob Leask and Carel Deutekom were informative, lively, and entertaining auctioneers for the Live Auction.



The Silent Auction was conducted throughout the meeting. Organization and cash out of the hostas purchased was well coordinated and went quickly.

Thank you to everyone who helped and especially to all of you who came out and participated in a great day!

Don't miss our next meeting on Sunday January 29, 2017 - same time and location.

Lynne Limpert

SWOHS News & Events

Please visit www.SWOHS.org.

Hosta of the Year

Every year since 1996 the **American Hosta Growers Association** (AHGA) has named a Hosta of the Year. The selected hosta must grow well in all regions of the country, be widely available in sufficient quantity, and retail for approximately \$15 retail in its year of selection.



Hosta of the Year 2008–2018

2008	Blue Mouse Ears
2009	Earth Angel
2010	First Frost
2011	Praying Hands
2012	Liberty
2013	Rainforest Sunrise
2014	Abiqua Drinking Gourd
2015	Victory
2016	Curly Fries
2017	Brother Stefan
2018	???

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2016 OHS Bus Trip Report

Photos by Cindy Deutekom & Keith Skanes

The 2016 bus trip itinerary took place on Sunday June 26, bringing 33 OHS members to four impressive gardens.

Patty Carlson in Richmond Hill has over 100 hostas here. She has been gardening on her quarter acre property for 25 years.



Patty refers to her garden as a “cottage garden.” There is a stream that runs through this cottage garden as well.

Nancy Martin in Everett has about 300 hostas on this 2.25 acre property. She has been gardening here since 1991. Nancy graciously offered us to have lunch here. She has 2 large decks with a fair bit of shade which made lunching here delightful.



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Maureen Andersen and Russ Talbot in Wasaga Beach started out with about 30 hosta 8 years ago and now have between 120-150 different ones. Maureen considers herself a "Polka Dot" gardener. She sees it, buys it, and figures out where to put it when she gets home, thereby just dotting the landscape where things will fit!



Russ has built her a 9' x 40' structure to shade some of her hosta which were in full sun.



Leny & John Jansma in Wasaga Beach are gardening on an 80' x 150' property and have approximately 130 different hosta..



John's personal favourites are the minis although they have a treasure in a 1963 H. Blue Mammoth that was a gift from Leny's Mother.



We finished up our tour with a stop at Green Tree Gardens in Collingwood to fill our need to feed the Hostaholic in us!

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Fall Chores in Your Hosta Gardens

By Harold McDonell, Georgia Hosta Society
Reprinted courtesy of AHS newsletter exchange

After a long and hot summer, fall has finally arrived and it will not be long now before our hostas begin to bed down for the winter. Now is the time to perform a few chores that will help make our hosta garden even better next year.

First, don't forget to continue to water until the plants begin to go dormant, if we continue to be as dry, as we have been all this summer. This is a critical chore to ensure success with hostas in the South.

Next, if you have had slug problems this year in your garden, spread slug bait again now. This final application this year will significantly reduce the population of slugs next spring. Be sure to follow the labels for application rates and put down no more than recommended. More is not better and could create safety problems for pets and wildlife.

If you had vole damage last winter or this spring, now is the time to start deterring them for this winter. Everyone has his or her favorite method. One is the spreading of castor oil-based products. Some say this doesn't work while others swear by this method of vole control. It seems to work in my experience. Start by treating one area. Water in and allow time for the voles to move out to other areas and then systematically treat the other areas, pushing the voles back to where they will not bother your hostas. Other actions may include the use of rodent baits,

but if you use this method be careful that the baits will not be accessible to pets and wildlife such as possums and raccoons. Keeping the mulch layer thin will also help since our native pine voles prefer to travel through a deep protective mulch layer. You may also want to consider protecting any newly planted hostas with physical hoop barriers made from hardware cloth. The barriers should extend about eight or more inches into the ground and two inches above ground to be most effective.

If you have hostas in containers (and most of us do), check them now to make sure all are draining properly. Sometimes tree roots push up through the drainage holes and block water escaping from the pot. This spells doom for your hosta as the trapped water rots the roots and drowns the crowns. If you have pots that are sensitive to freezes, take steps to protect them, but remember that our hostas need all the chill time (temperatures below 40 degrees f.) they can get in order to thrive next year. Don't put the pots in areas that remain too warm over the winter.

Finally, take care to remove all dead hosta foliage from around your hostas to deter diseases and pests from overwintering. If you have had problems with foliar fungal diseases or foliar nematodes, do not compost your spent hosta leaves in the compost pile. Burn them or put them in the trash instead. You do not want them overwintering in your compost pile, only to be spread all around your garden as you use your compost.

After all the above is done, you can then settle down for a long winter's nap!



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2016 OHS Picnic Photos

The 2016 OHS picnic took place on Sunday, 17 July 2016, at the Potting Shed Garden Centre and Nigerian Dwarf Goats.



Damsels in Distress

Adventure at The Potting Shed

Kelly Williams, a new member, drove with me to the Picnic. The decision to take my Ford 150 pickup or her beautiful Porsche was easy. We had a nice day up until it was time to leave. The keys to her Porsche were missing. Thank you to all of you who helped us search the entire property. I suspected one of the goats wanted to elevate his status by consuming keys to such a classy car. But Jack and Paul assured us it could not have happened.

After a two hour wait for CAA to tow us back to Hockley we were disappointed that it was not to be. Paul and Jack, recognizing damsels in distress, were a delight. They offered us beer, wine, dinner, and a bed for the night if we did not get rescued. Kelly and Jack talked cars and Paul and I talked about the concept of STUCK and how as a therapist his role is to help his clients figure out how to get UNSTUCK. An unfortunate situation turned out to be rather fun. Now we have two new gardening friends.

Amazing how many hostas you can get in a Porsche—but think how many would have fit into the pickup...

Trish & Kelly

American Hosta Society

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org>



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Over-wintering Hostas in Nursery Pots

By Mary Bardens

Reprinted courtesy of AHS newsletter exchange

It happens to all of us. At some point in our gardening life, we don't get all of our plants planted. Fall comes, big end of season sales, life happens, then winter shows up and we still have plants sitting in black nursery pots. Not only are you looking at money spent, but you really wanted those hostas. And now you need them off of the sidewalk so you don't hit them with the snow blower.

Hostas can be over wintered in those pots in a few different ways. As temperatures drop, the plant will start to go dormant. The leaves will yellow and die back. Cut off the leaves and discard; don't compost. Be sure to sterilize your tools between plants in a 10% bleach solution to avoid spreading anything contagious. Allow the plants to continue getting the same moisture as the in-ground plants. Don't let them dry out prior to storage as they will need some moisture to get them through the winter. Check the pot bottoms for slugs and their little white pearl slug eggs so they don't over winter with the hosta.

Plants in gallon pots will survive better than in smaller pots due to the increased insulation of the soil around the roots. Soils that are too heavy with clay or peat will hold too much moisture and can cause root rot.



Tip 'em

If you are over wintering the pots outside and you don't have a cold frame, one way is to dig a shallow trench before the ground freezes. After the hostas are dormant, place them in the trench at an angle to keep water from pooling on the surface. They can also be leaned against

something like a landscape timber. You will want to keep the pots from thawing and freezing, so a cover of pine branches can be used. Or, a white insulating blanket designed just for this purpose can be placed over the pots and secured. Black plastic would cause too much heat and thawing could occur.

Bury 'em

Dig a hole to bury at least 3/4 of the pot in the ground. Again, a white insulating blanket over the pots and a piece of plywood weighted down over that to keep out extra moisture and critters.

Stash 'em in an unheated building

An unheated garage, shed or barn works very well for winter hosta storage. In this environment they can be put on shelves or on the floor. Place the pots in the coldest part of the building, such as the north side, to reduce the chance of premature thawing. A little mouse bait would be a good idea if the area is not critter proof or patrolled by a cat. About mid winter, or if the pots appear very dry, you will need to add some moisture, but not too much. This can be done by placing a few ice cubes in each pot, or a snowball if available. The normal winter temperature fluctuations should cause the ice or snow to melt slowly enough to add some moisture without drowning the roots.

Spring thaw

Now things will get interesting. You will have to be aware of the spring temperatures. If it gets too warm where the plants are being stored, they will prematurely sprout. Then you will end up with pale, gangly leaves that will be too tender for outside fluctuating temperatures. Ideally, you should move the pots back outside, or uncover if already outside, prior to their spring thaw so that they wake up slowly and naturally. You should be able to cover up the pots if it rains and then freezing temperatures occur. You don't want ice pooling in the top of the pot.

Be aware that not all hostas emerge at the same time. Just as in your garden, some will lag behind. Give the plants a chance, have a little faith, and make yourself the same solemn promise you did last year: "This year I will get everything in the ground by Labor Day".

Good Luck!

I Hate Gardening!

What a lousy spring! It was cold here in central Ontario until about mid-May, dropping down to the 2°C degree mark every night. When it did finally warm up, we went straight to summer for one weekend with temperatures in the high 30's with the humidex. I hate sweating. I am cranky when it's that hot and humid.

And even though it was a cool May, the black flies sure made their presence known. I am allergic to the "no-see-ums", but I sure know when they have bitten me. The back of my neck looked like I had leprosy. And before they were done making a meal of my delicate flesh, the mosquitos continued the attack.

I received a load of triple mix in early April and lost a lot of the new hostas due to the fact that the triple mix was still quite wet when delivered, but upon drying out, turned out to be a high concentration of peat moss. Coupled with the fact that these gardens receive way too much sun to make a hosta comfortable, I am now looking at moving everything to a shadier location.

Winter 2015/2016 was deadly for my nursery stock. Quite a bit of it decided to compost, despite, or probably because of, the leaf cover I put over the pots. With the few warm days in February and March, followed by rain, the hostas didn't stand a chance. They need the snow cover we didn't get. I even lost hostas that have been in my gardens for years. Oh joy, oh bliss!

And speaking of rain, when it did finally warm up to half-decent temperatures, we didn't get any. Not a speck... not a drop. THREE WEEKS without! I know that my plants don't really like the well water, but beggars can't be choosers... they rewarded my daily watering efforts with barely growing at all.

And what's up with the stupidity of robins. I have racks and racks of hostas, but I also have a kazillion trees. Did they want to nest there? No! Did they try to nest on my hosta racks. Absolutely. Every day I would remove one, and sometimes two nests. One would think that after a week or so, the robins would say... 'hmmm, this is not working. That wicked lady keeps destroying our lovely little baby beds. She keeps putting all these stupid moving things up to shoo us away. Plastic owls? How dumb is this lady?

We should move on.' Did they do that? NO! After figuring out that nesting on the shelves wasn't working, they decided to nest in the hosta pots. Yes, I lost a few. They took the hostas right out of the pots to make room for the nests.

And my poor husband dealt with a pinched sciatic nerve... Needless to say, he was of little help to me this year, and of course, this was the year that I didn't hire anyone to help with cleaning the gardening beds and the million and one things I have to do each spring. I was a one woman show. And boy oh boy, did the arthritis ever tell me that I am an idiot!

Now, can you say 'chipmunks'? I am assuming that we are going to get an influx of weasels or foxes, or something, because nothing else can explain the abundance of the brash little buggers this year.



Not only do I have families of the little guys, but I have their cousins here, their cousins' cousins, and their long lost relatives from the States that fear the new President they may get and have immigrated to Canada. They've all moved to our property claiming refugee status and to let me know that they will be here long after I'm gone. Do I feed them? Absolutely not. Did they reward my lack of bounty for them. Absolutely! They dug a crater in the grass at the end of one of my gardens so that I could step into it and twist my ankle. Oh, and they like to unearth anything newly planted.

Last year I discovered sea compost.... a blend of shrimp and seaweed, and whatever else is in there. Ideally, a handful in the hole before you plant your hosta would be great, but I have established gardens and top-dressed the beds instead. Last year I was rewarded with several long standing varieties of hostas doubling and tripling in size. This year, I have to say, they have almost all shown tremendous growth, and some have quadrupled in size. Great! Now I have to start moving or splitting or put in new

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beds. More work! Oh, my poor aching body. (Added footnote: one of my customers said his cats really like the sea compost. Poor man!)

We finally got a good downpour last weekend. Where the heck did all the weeds come from? My gardens were meticulous. How can the weeds possibly grow that quickly... DUH! Sea compost!

It is the middle of June and for the next couple of weeks, the temperature forecast is below seasonal. I put the furnace on today, it was that cool. It will warm up soon, and I can look forward to the earwigs and toads and frogs... I am terrified of toads and frogs. That's usually when my hubby takes over the weeding, but as I said: sciatica.

Last year I bought a lovely large plant from a local nursery. It took everything within me to carry it to the truck and put it in the back of my SUV. On the way home, I stopped in the local grocery store for half an hour. When I got home, I stopped half-way down the driveway to unload my plant. I had my arms wrapped around the pot, put it on the ground, and just before I straightened to stand, three inches from my face I saw the tree frog that had made a home in that plant. I danced the Irish jig, the watusi, the chicken dance, and a polka of sorts, all the while moaning and groaning while I rubbed my arms. All I could think was 'how many babies did it have while residing in my truck'?

If you have been with the OHS for a while, you have probably read my prior articles and know how much I love gardening. Please disregard those articles.... It was all lies. I hate gardening! But I sure have learned a lot in the process.

Jayne Christiani
Hosta Vista, Baby!



A gentle reminder of some fall "things to do"

Reprinted courtesy of the AHS newsletter exchange

- Check and replace any missing labels. Hand written plastic labels often fade away and are susceptible to being blown away. Some gardeners bury labels to ensure plant identity will not be lost. Garden maps and pictures are useful if labels are missing.
- Plant your summer purchases.
- If you have any grass left after planting all the plants you bought in the summer, applying winter fertilizer will get the lawn off to a good start in the spring.
- Speaking of planting, a 4" layer of mulch around (not over) the crown will help new transplants from heaving over the winter.
- Didn't get everything into the ground? Potted plants can be wintered over. Once they have frozen, tip them so water cannot stand over the roots and put them in a protected place. If you have an unheated garage or out building, they can be stored there. Smaller pots stored in the garage may dry out so a few ice cubes put on the surface of the pot in January and March will help them through the winter.
- Gather hosta seeds that might have interesting characteristics, dispose of the rest.
- Either cut back or rake up the hosta leave. Do not leave them on the beds as they provide good hiding places for slugs and slug eggs.
- Trim back and compost dormant perennials, only leaving those that add winter interest to your garden.
- Protect young trees from hungry winter mice by wrapping the trunk. Remember to keep the mulch away from the bark.
- Stop watering unless you have had a VERY dry fall, Hostas winter best without an excess of ground moisture.
- Remember ceramic and pottery containers may craze or break if left outside or unprotected.
- It's not too late to put in a few more spring bulbs.
- Clean all your garden tools. A light coating of oil will help keep them in good shape until they are needed in the spring.

Danemark

Article *Claudi Bernatchez*

C'est avec un immense plaisir que j'ai accepté en juin dernier de participer à l'événement "Hosta Society of The Nordisk Country and Plant Market" qui s'est déroulé chez M. Jan Hurup Hansen et son épouse Hanne Kjaer à Langeland au Danemark.

Rencontre avec une foule de gens passionnés d'horticulture, d'échanges, de partages et trésors à découvrir. Une journée où les gens sont venus parfois de très loin ce qui était assez étonnant à voir. Le marché a eu lieu le 14 juin en après midi et les gens ont pu acheter et parfois échanger une multitude de trésors.



Photo Jan Hurup Hansen

Cette belle journée s'est terminée avec les gens de l'association qui ont organisé un gros BBQ et un tirage de hostas, juste un peu déçu de ne pouvoir participer à ce tirage et de n'avoir pu acheter quelques trésors mais le seul fait d'y être a été, je crois, une belle expérience pour moi.

J'ai eu aussi l'opportunité de découvrir les superbes jardins de mes hôtes, composés de plantes peu ordinaires, d'arbres tous plus rares les uns que les autres et aussi une collection de hostas incroyables. Tout à fait impressionnants devrais-je dire ! Plus de 4 milles hostas ... c'est peu dire de la beauté de la collection.

Surprise pour moi de voir que les hostas étaient cultivés principalement en pots et ce à l'année. C'est une chose que l'on ne pourrait imaginer au Québec nos grands froids hivernaux.

Découverte aussi pour moi du monde des passionnées de l'hybridation, peu exploitée dans mon pays.

Et que dire des "seedling" ... Ce qui parfois me semblait un peu complexe m'a été expliqué avec patience et gentillesse à la néophyte (novice) que je suis dans le domaine.



Photo Sabine Landsman

Denmark

Translation from French by *Marta Cepek*

It was with great pleasure that I agreed last June to participate in the "The Hosta Society of Nordisk Country and Plant Market" event that took place at the home of Mr. Jan Hurup Hansen and his wife Hanne Kjær at Langeland in Denmark.

It was a gathering of people passionate about horticulture, exchanges, sharing, and discovery of treasures. A few people traveled great distances to participate in this day, which in itself is very impressive. The market was held on the afternoon of June 14th and people were able to buy and sometimes exchange a multitude of treasures.

This wonderful day ended with a big BBQ organized by the members of the association, and a hosta raffle—just a bit disappointed that I couldn't participate in the draw or purchase some of these treasures, but just the fact that I was able to attend at all made it a great experience for me.

I also had the opportunity to visit the beautiful gardens of my hosts, consisting of unusual plants; rare trees, each one more unusual than the other; and also a collection of incredible hostas. Quite impressive I'd say! Over 4000 hostas—to say nothing about the beauty of the collection.

I was surprised to see that hostas were grown mainly in pots year-round. This is unimaginable with the deep freeze of our Quebec winters.

I was also introduced to the world of hybridization enthusiasts, something we don't see as much in my country.

And what can I say about the seedlings ... What sometimes seemed a little complex was explained to me with patience and kindness to the neophyte (novice) that I am in this area.

Par la suite une série de visites de jardins privés dans la région de Jylland a été organisé. Ou encore une fois j'ai eu cette chance de partir à la découverte de jardins magnifiques, étonnants et tous de styles tellement différents mais où les hostas étaient toujours à l'honneur.

Quelle fut ma surprise d'y découvrir des gens passionnés de hostas, des collections incroyables de cette plante encore trop peu utilisée dans notre pays comparativement à eux.

J'ai toujours été agréablement surprise à chaque visite par la générosité des gens à ouvrir leur jardins, à présenter leur petit coin de paradis.

À chaque endroit j'ai eu l'impression de visiter un mini "jardin botanique". Chaque jardin était empreint de la personnalité de son créateur, ou les styles et les agencements étaient recherchés et harmonieusement composés.

J'ai été impressionné par la visite d'une serre de production de hostas où le propriétaire a pris le temps de me faire visiter ses installations, ses productions de petits trésors tout en m'expliquant la façon de faire du début jusqu'à la mise en vente de son produit.

Je dois dire que pour moi ça été un deuxième coup de foudre avec cette plante que sont les hostas, tellement que je m'en suis retourné avec la tête pleine de beaux projets avec aussi de nouvelles idées à réaliser pour ma petite maison de campagne dans le fin fond de mon Québec natal.

Et surtout avec l'idée de partager cette passion avec les gens d'ici qui sont comme moi des amateurs de hostas et pourquoi pas, partir un petit commerce des hostas de collection et d'hybridation venant d'Europe.

Malgré la langue qui aurait pu être un frein pour moi, je n'ai pu que constater que le monde des passionnés des "hostas" n'a pas de limites ni de aucunes barrières et surtout pas celle de la langue parlée.

Afterwards, a series of private garden tours was organized in the region of Jylland, where I had another chance to explore magnificent, stunning gardens in many different styles, but where hostas always held the place of honour.



Photo Claudi Bernatchez

What a pleasure to meet these people who are so passionate about hostas, with such amazing collections of these plants that are still under-appreciated in our country compared to theirs.

I was always pleasantly surprised at each visit by the generosity of people to open their gardens to share their little corner of paradise.

At each place I had the impression of visiting a mini "botanical garden." Each garden borrowed something of the personality of its creator, or styles and arrangements were being sought and harmoniously composed.

I was impressed by my visit to a hosta growing greenhouse, where the owner took the time to show me around the facilities where the little treasures were produced, all the while explaining to me everything from the start to the sale of his product.



Photo Claudi Bernatchez

For me it was like being struck by lightning for a second time by this plant called hosta, so much so that I returned with my head full of beautiful projects and also new ideas to try at my little country house in the heart of my native Quebec.

And especially with the idea of sharing this passion with the people here who are, like me, hosta lovers—and why not start a small business of collectable hostas and hybridization from Europe?

Although language could be a barrier for me, I couldn't help but notice that the world of hosta enthusiasts has no limits and no barriers, especially not those of the spoken language.

Les jardiniers possèdent une langue universelle ... celle de l'amour pour les plantes qui est facilement reconnaissable (compréhensible) par tous ceux qui la cultive.

Gardeners have a universal language—a love for plants that is easily recognized and understood by anyone who cultivates.

Je tiens à remercier tout particulièrement M. Jan Hurup Hansen pour l'invitation et à tous ces gens qui m'ont si gentiment reçu dans leur merveilleux jardins. Je n'ai que de bons souvenirs de ce voyage et je retiens surtout la grande générosité de tous.

Voilà
Claudi Bernatchez
Québec, Canada



Photo Claudi Bernatchez

I especially want to thank Mr. Jan Hurup Hansen for the invitation, and all those people who have so kindly received me in their marvelous gardens. I have only good memories of this trip and I especially remember the great generosity of all.

Voilà!
Claudi Bernatchez
Quebec, Canada



Eastern OHS News and Events

The EOHS annual general meeting, officer elections, and glass garden sculpture workshop took place on Saturday 24 September 2016 at the Daverne farm, Adolphustown, Ontario.

The incumbent President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Membership prime will continue in their positions for another year. Presently, most EOHS activity is centered on the Kingston area. The Executive would like to encourage members residing in other areas of Eastern Ontario to become involved in the chapter and participate locally:

- Come to our meetings and our garden tours
- Open your garden for an EOHS garden visit
- Volunteer to give a talk or workshop at a meeting
- Help organize and/or host an event in the part of eastern Ontario where you live.

OHS members receive all benefits of EOHS membership.

Contact us if you want more local hosta activity!



Everyone went home with several beauties from this wonderful selection. Thanks, Jutta, for organizing this!



Thanks to Karen Bridgen for organizing the glass sculpture workshop and for supplying all of the marvelous glass. We all enjoyed it!

Mark your Calendar!

- 5 November 2016 – Pinecone Art Workshop
- 7 January 2017 – Christmas Party
- 25 March 2017 – Spring Member Meeting
- 17 June 2017 – Garden Tour, BBQ, and Plant Swap
- 30 September 2017 – AGM and election of officers

Details about these Kingston-area events will be posted as the event date approaches. Please visit the Events page on our new website: www.EasternOHS.ca.

With your involvement, we hope to add some events in the Ottawa and/or Montreal regions!

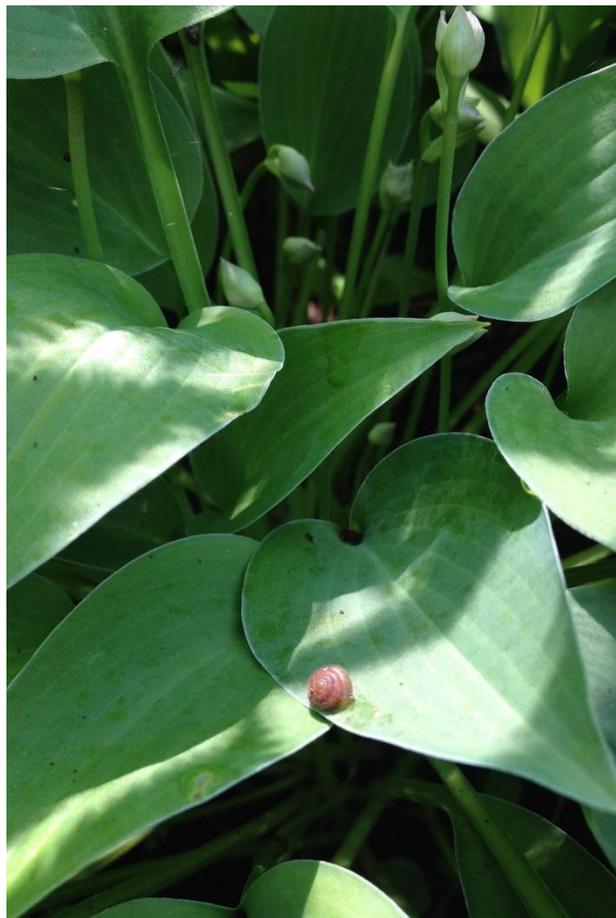
Fall Slug Control

by Mary Bardens

Reprinted courtesy of the AHS newsletter exchange

Did you know that fall is still egg-laying time for slugs? We tend to forget about them as the hosta leaves change color and head into dormancy. The slugs will be active until the soil temperatures reach freezing when they will go into hibernation until the

spring thaw. So, until that happens, they will lay eggs. Mating will occur from August until mid-October with eggs laid about 30-40 days after that. Look for 1/8 to ¼ inch sized gelatinous clusters of about 20-30 spheres. Older slugs will lay larger quantities. The eggs may be hard to see as they can reflect their surroundings. When the eggs are near hatching, the spheres may become cloudy. Slugs love those piles of leaves, damp from heavy dews and fall rains. Look for them under anything that will keep them cool and moist. Other favorite places will be flower pots, boards, cooled compost piles, at the edge of large rocks or under mulch.



& Budweiser. Check often to empty. Replace beer weekly. Commercial slug baiting stations are available. If you leave a flat board on the damp ground, you can scrape them off in the morning.

3. Go on a slug hunt. Late at night or very early morning, grab a flashlight and bucket of soapy water to drop them into after hand picking. Slugs are nocturnal and love to hit the all night hosta diner.

Watch for the little ones. Like teenagers, they are voracious eaters. You can even use a handheld vacuum to suck up the little pests, but you may want to warn the next person to use it.

4. Encourage a predator to hang out in your garden.

Toads, turtles, owls, Mourning Doves, and Robins love slugs. And then there are some predators that we may not be too thrilled coming upon in the hosta bed that also feast on slugs: black ground beetles, opossums, shrews, wild turkeys, chipmunks, skunks, moles and Northern Ringneck snakes.

So the big question is—what to do?

1. Eliminate their favorite spots. Clean up the old hosta leaves and other debris. Turn the compost pile to make it too hot to be attractive for them. Check under those flower pots before you store them.

2. Set a slug trap. They are attracted to any fermenting food: beer or a mixture of sugar, yeast and water. Sink a tuna can to 1" of ground level so they will crawl in and drown. If you put it flush to the ground you run the risk of drowning ground beetles which are a slug predator. Colorado State U. Entomology Professor Whitney determined that their favorite types of beer were Kingsbury Malt, Michelob

5. Iron Phosphate. Slug bait pellets made from this can stop slugs without poisoning birds, small pets, humans or earthworms. Though they are not sure exactly why, iron phosphate inhibits the slugs from feeding. And, it is actually good for the soil. This is sold under the names of Sluggo, Es-car-go, and Safer's Slug & Snail Bait.

6. Metaldehyde. This is a molluscicide which means it is a poison that kills slugs and can be purchased in a form to spray on the hostas. It is very effective for killing slugs, but also earthworms and other things with which it comes in contact. Great care in handling, application and storage must be observed.

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7. Ammonia Solution. A solution of household ammonia (1 part ammonia:5 parts water) in a spray bottle with the nozzle set on a direct stream and sprayed directly on the slug will kill it in a few seconds. This solution will not harm the plants.

8. Barriers. Copper tape placed around the hostas repels slugs because as they slime across it, it causes a toxic reaction like an electrical shock. But if they find a leaf lying over the barrier, they get in. A product called Slug Defence is composed of a low density polyethylene plastic and vacuum grade table salt. It repels the slugs unless they try to get over it, and then the salt gets them. Although, I'm imagining it may also look like you tried to wrap your plants with little trash bag fences.

9. Abrasive Materials. Eggshells, coffee grounds, sand, cedar shaving, hair or ash may be placed around plants which scratches the slugs bodies causing them to dehydrate. Diatomaceous earth can also be used, but it is a very fine powder and you must wear a mask to keep

from inhaling it. But, these products must all be kept dry to work, so they must be reapplied after a rain.

10. Biologic Control. In Europe you may purchase the parasitic nematode *Phasmarhabditis hermaphrodita* which is naturally occurring in their soil. This is a microscopic worm that enters the slug's body through natural openings and releases bacteria that multiplies and kills the slug in 4-16 days. It does not bother earthworms. It also has the ability to recycle and become part of the ecosystem in the absence of a host which would make it good for long term management. It is marketed under the name Nemaslug. But, don't try to add it to your Thompson & Morgan order just yet, it's still illegal here. Agricultural scientists collaborating from Ohio State U. and Purdue U. are doing parasitic nematode research to help protect crops in no-till fields which are most susceptible to slug damage. They are also evaluating the American parasitic nematode cousin, but so far none is as effective at the European relative. They are compiling data showing the safety of importing nematode *Phasmarhabditis hermaphrodita* into our soil.

Growing Hostas in Containers

by Rob Mortko

Reprinted courtesy of the AHS newsletter exchange

Many of us have tried our luck at growing hostas in containers. Maybe it's because we're slowly running out of space in the garden or maybe we're just looking for some attractive foliage on a shady patio or deck. The concept of planting hostas in containers seems simple enough. Unfortunately there is very little written information on the subject.

What I've learned (the hard way I might add) from growing hostas commercially in one gallon containers and then overwintering those same containers can be applied by any shade gardener attempting to do the same on their own patio or deck. Getting hostas to thrive during the growing season in a container is actually the easy part. The hard part is successfully overwintering them.

Hostas love water during the growing season and basically hate it during the winter dormancy period. That makes a huge difference in the choice of potting mix we use. Most potting mixes contain a large percentage of peat which holds moisture really well and reduces the amount of watering during the growing season. But that same moist peat will easily cause rot during the winter months. So we need to compromise a bit by using a pine bark based mixture that will keep us more on the dry side during the

winter which then requires more frequent watering during the summer months.

The other key to overwintering hostas is to make sure that once they freeze, they stay frozen. What we don't want is a repeated string of freeze-thaw cycles. That means we need to get those containers out of any direct sunlight during dormancy. Unheated detached garages will work fine as long as they provide the 700 hours of temperatures below 40 degrees. Outside we can take advantage of the earth's insulating capacity by getting the containers on the ground and covered with an insulating layer and then covered with plastic.

You can see that growing hostas in containers during the summer is a breeze. The challenge is managing the winter months. But with proper care it can be done successfully.



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