



## Save the dates

- 2017 Hosta Forum  
Sunday 23 April  
➔ See flyer on page 3!
- 2017 Member Meeting  
Sunday 28 May
- 2017 Bus Tour  
Sunday 25 June
- 2017 BBQ/Picnic  
Sunday 9 July
- 2017 Annual General Meeting  
Sunday 10 September



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## Guest Editorial Hosta Ramblings

by Harold McDonell, Georgia Hosta Society

*Editor's Note: This month in lieu of a President's message we are reprinting a delightful hosta rambling from the January 2017 edition of the Georgia Hosta Notes newsletter.*

I started thinking about it a few years ago in a tour garden at an AHS National Convention in Minnesota. The garden owners had created a little five foot square or so bed planted solely with the display markers of plants that had come to live in their garden, only to eventually die for whatever reason. It was an impressive display of quite a few markers but I couldn't help but think how I would need much more than a five by five foot area to house all the markers of plants that have died on my watch in my garden. Over the years I have tried to put it out of my mind but as more and more plants have since bit the dust, that display just remained on my mind until, finally, I had to realize and admit something very awful.

I am a serial killer of plants. No, I don't mean all those many weeds I have nuked as well as the poison ivy, privet, and oak and pine tree seedlings or the honeysuckle, grape, smilax, and Virginia Creeper vines I have dispatched. Neither do I include the many trees removed for my convenience or just because, in the case of sweet gums, I hate them. What I am talking about are those plants of value that came to

live in my garden at my express invitation with an implied trust that I would take proper care of them. I killed them, many of them, maybe even hundreds of them, over the many years I have been gardening. My first plant love was for daylilies back in the days when I had more sunny areas in the garden. Yes, I have killed many daylilies, or at least they have died while in my care. Many of you will be quick to say that you cannot kill a daylily. Well, just pay \$100 or more for a prized new cultivar and I can guarantee you it will be a prime candidate for death. (Of course, even I can't kill *Hemerocallis fulva*, the old common ditch lily, not even after dousing it with Roundup.)



*H. Tokudama Aureonebulosa*

The first hosta I ever acquired also died, a victim of climate acclimation issues within three years of purchase. It was H. 'Tokudama Aureonebulosa'. Hosta guru George Schmid warned me it would not grow in the south. However, I

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## OHS 2017 Executive

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### Our newest members

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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](mailto:hostanews@gmail.com)

### Advertising

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

# 2017 OHS Hosta Forum Is Fast Approaching...



**Come, Relax and Enjoy a Fun-Filled Day of Hostas With Hostaholics!**

## Order Your Tickets Now!

**OHS Members \$60.00 & Non-Members \$65.00**

**Sunday, April 23, 2017**

**At The Beautiful Glencairn Golf Club**

**9807 Regional Rd 25, Halton Hills, ON L9T 2X7**

**Registration Begins at 8:30 a.m.**

**Meeting: 9:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m.**

**Delicious Continental Breakfast and Lunch**

*(Give Dietary Restrictions when order tickets)*

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## \*\*\*Great Speakers\*\*\*

- **Ran Lydell - "Small Trees Work With Hostas For Great Effects"**
- **Sean James - "Couples and Threesomes - Companions for Hostas"**
- **Jeff Mason, "Naturalistic Garden Design"**

**Cheques payable to Ontario Hosta Society**

**Tickets: Norm Limpert, 11174 Sixth Line,**

**Acton, ON L7J 2L7 - 905-878-3366 or  
normlimpy@hotmail.com**

**By Credit Card, Glenn Wilson at 519-859-5701.**

*Tickets will be reserved and ready at the door for you.  
For ticket confirmation, please give your email address.*

## Directions to the Hosta Forum

### Directions from Toronto

- Take Hwy 401 west to Hwy 25 (Exit 320 Milton).
  - Take Hwy 25 north past Campbellville Road and before the 10th sideroad.
  - Glencairn is on the east side of Hwy 25.
- or
- Take Hwy 407 west to Hwy 401 exit.
  - Take Hwy 25 north past Campbellville Road and before the 10th sideroad.
  - Glencairn is on the east side of Hwy 25.

### Directions from Oakville

- Take Highway 25 north from the QEW to Steeles Road
- Turn west (left) on to Steeles Road for approximately 1.7 kilometers
- Then turn right to continue north on Highway 25
- Take Highway 25 north past Campbellville Road and before the 10th sideroad
- Glencairn is on the east side of Highway 25



### Directions from Hamilton

- Take Highway 6 north to Highway 401
  - Take Highway 401 east to Highway 25 (Exit 320 Milton)
  - Take Highway 25 north past Campbellville Road and before the 10th sideroad
  - Glencairn is on the east side of Highway 25
- or
- Take 407 east to Highway 25 north exit
  - Turn west (left) on to Steeles Road for approximately 1.7 kilometers
  - Then turn right to continue north on Highway 25
  - Take Highway 25 north past Campbellville Road and before the 10th sideroad
  - Glencairn is on the east side of highway 25

## Meet the 2017 Hosta Forum Speakers

Got your ticket yet? See page 3 for details!



**Ran Lydell**

### Small Trees Work With Hostas For Great Effects

Ran Lydell, of **Eagle Bay Gardens in Dunkirk, NY**, is well known and respected as a hosta hybridizer, having created many hostas and registering 34 of his own originations to date. Among the better known ones are 'Archduke', 'Arctic Rim', 'Brass Ring', 'Eagle's Nest', 'June Bug', 'Lunar Magic', 'Lunar Orbit', 'Oh My Heart', 'Sails Ho', and 'Saybrook Surprise'. He has also been involved in the introduction of several Japanese plants like 'Kinba', 'Hirao Grande', and 'Yaburitsugi'.

Ran is a lively and engaging speaker who we're sure you'll enjoy.



**Sean James**

### Couples and Threesomes ~ Companions for Hostas

Sean James has been gardening professionally since he was sixteen and speaking to horticultural societies since 1991, when he graduated from the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture.

A public speaker, frequent guest on radio gardening shows, writer, teacher and environmentalist, Sean focuses on eco-gardening techniques, which makes sense, since he grew up surrounded by nature near Crawford Lake. He sits on several environmental committees, has appeared on several television and radio shows and runs **Fern Ridge Landscaping & Eco-consulting**.



**Jeff Mason**

### Naturalistic Garden Design

Jeff has spent a lifetime in the Horticulture industry. With over 30 years of experience, he has worked in virtually every aspect of the industry. He is co-owner of **Mason House Gardens**, a mail order specialty plant nursery in Uxbridge, growing and supplying hardy perennials, specialty annuals, tropical plants, and shrubs. As well, Jeff is the Horticulture Foreman and Planting Designer for D.A. Gracey and Associates, an award-winning Landscape Design/Build firm based on the GTA.

In addition to teaching at George Brown College, Jeff lectures to garden clubs, horticultural societies, as well as Canada Blooms.

## SWOHS News & Events

SWOHS scheduled lineup of events

- **Sunday June 18, 2017** – Bus/Garden Tour Stratford, Thedford and points further north
- **Saturday July 15, 2017** – SWOHS Picnic (venue TBD)
- **Sunday August 27, 2017** – Corn & Sausage Roast (venue TBD)

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



## EOHS News & Events

EOHS scheduled lineup of events

- **17 June 2017** – Kingston area garden tour
- **30 September 2017** – AGM and election of officers

Details about these Kingston-area events will be posted as the event date approaches.

Contact us if you want events in the Ottawa and/or Montreal regions.

Please visit [www.EasternOHS.ca](http://www.EasternOHS.ca) for details

## Also Celebrating 15+ Years!

We humbly apologize for forgetting to mention the following 15+ year members in our previous issue.

**Dawn Golloher**  
**Sandra Shrieve Mahoney**

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### Guest Editorial Hosta Ramblings

thought it was just about the prettiest plant I had ever seen (still do) so I refused to heed his advice and the poor plant paid the price. Many more hosta deaths have followed over the years in my garden.

Being a believer in Tony (Plant Delights Nursery) Avent's oft-stated advice that no plant should be considered not growable in your garden until you have killed it at least three times, I have also introduced tons of other plants into my garden, quite a few considered marginal or unsuitable for my area, with disastrous results for many of them. Some I even managed to kill more than once just as Tony directed. Therefore, he should be considered at least a co-conspirator in some of my plant murders, shouldn't he? And shouldn't the voles and deer be responsible for the plants they took out despite my objections?

No. Just like alcoholics and drug addicts, I must take that first hard step and own up to MY problem rather than blaming others before I can get better. Therefore, I again repeat my earlier stated admission. **I am a serial plant killer.** With this admission, I hope that future plant deaths in my garden will become non-existent or at least less frequent. Somehow, though, I don't much think that is going to happen.

## OHS May Meeting & Plant Sale

**Sunday May 28, 2017, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm**

Speaker **Stacey Hickman** of **Natural Insect Control** (NIC) will be giving a presentation on: "Backyard Battles: Bug, Slugs and Other Critters."

**See the flyer for details.**

## OHS Bus Tour

**Sunday, June 25th, 2017, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm**

**Still only \$40! See the flyer for details!**

## OHS BBQ / Picnic

**Sunday, July 9th, 2017, 11:00 am–3:00 pm**

**Celebrating Canada's 150th birthday!**

**Keith Skanes' urban garden**

1550 Fisher Ave  
 Burlington, Ontario  
 905-319-8649

BBQ & beverages courtesy of the OHS  
 Remember to bring a lawn chair!

## OHS September AGM

**Sunday September 10, 2017, time TBA**



Our guest speaker is **Johnathon Hogarth** of the UK. Don't miss this opportunity. Details to follow!



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## How Old Are You?

### *(a.k.a. Keeping Up with the Joneses)*

After decades of gardening, one would think that I'd be tired of the whole thing. Planning, digging, preparing the ground, planting, fertilizing, etc., etc...

And one would think that after decades of gardening that there wouldn't be too much left out there that I hadn't tried in my gardens at one point in my life. One would be wrong.

This year marks a huge milestone for me. Where the heck did 60 years go? And as I'm nearing my 60th birthday, I find myself to be more fanatical than ever in getting hostas that I've never had, or are new to the marketplace. I would say that's where the 'keeping up with the Joneses' comes to play. Honestly, it's not that I'm out to have hostas that no one else has. It's more a case of it's brand spankin' new and I have to have it. Those people that I have purchased hostas from know exactly what I'm talking about. I can't buy one or two. I'm more a 20 or 30 type of gal. I tell myself that it's okay to buy that many at one time, because I've saved myself a lot of leg work in hopping from one nursery to the next. Basically, one stop shopping; easy, peasy, my purchasing all done! Sounds great in theory, but I have to admit that I do my so-called "one stop" shopping over and over again with several retailers every new gardening season.

I keep tell myself that I'm going to cut back. I wasn't even going to buy any hostas this year for petey-

eyed sake. At the beginning of the season I was around the 700 mark in my display gardens, and lo and behold, I am now nearing the 800 mark. And my motivation for buying a specific type of hosta changes all the time. The absolutely stunning hostas that are being hybridized is outstanding. The markings and designs within leaves both large and small have not been seen before and I HAVE TO HAVE THEM! Plain and simple! Mother Nature is amazing. Yes, some of these hostas have been crossed and crossed again to get a certain look, but let's face it, if it is not meant to survive, Mother Nature wouldn't step in and bring us one outstanding specimen after another.

A whole other factor in my purchasing frenzy is buying hostas that have been around for decades. Heck, if they are still going strong after 30 or 40 years, why wouldn't you want them? Those are 'indestructible' hostas! Those are 'Energizer Bunny' hostas. Sourcing them is a whole other story, but periodically I do trip across them, and guess what... I HAVE TO HAVE THEM!



*H. Krossa Regal (photo Marta Cepek)*

### American Hosta Society



#### Membership for Canadians

\$39 US/year / \$107 US/3 years.

**NEW! eMembership \$20 US/year**

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org>

I try my darnedest to do the research on the hostas I am purchasing. Not all hostas grow for me. Yes, I can modify the soil to keep them happy for awhile, but eventually their roots make their way down to the actual soil of our land, and they don't like it! Case in point is anything in the Krossa Regal family. My Krossa Regal is amazing, but it's taken eight or nine years to look that way. I've had Regal Splendor and Regal Supreme several times, and they have not survived. I've spent big dollars buying mature specimens, and after a year they die.

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Where is the fun in that? I now try to buy hostas that I can just plant in the ground and walk away. That's what draws a person to hostas in the first place. Hostas are supposed to be easy, minimal care plants. Who wants to buy a plant that dies after one season?

This year I have purchased one Regalia. I'm keeping my fingers crossed, but history is working against me at this point. And stupidly, I tell myself that this plant will be different. This is the one that's going to disclaim all that I know to be fact. This one WILL GROW!

So, back to my original question of "How Old Are You?" I wonder if age is a factor in my obsession. The artist side of me wants as many new and unique hostas that I can acquire, and I've really gotten worse in the last few years. In my younger day, I would buy what I liked without giving any thought as to whether or not it would grow for me. The only research I would do is look at the tag and if it was good to Zone 3, I knew I had a winner. (I'm in Zone 5b.) Now I do a thorough research on-line, and if it meets all my criteria, I buy it. Let me rephrase that. I make a wish list for a certain supplier, then I sit on it for a few days. If after a few days I still can't live without it, I place my order.

Part of me wants to know that whatever I am buying, it's going to be here for several years to come. THAT'S A LOAD OF CRAP! I am addicted to these damned plants and for the life of me I can't explain the obsession. I do not keep up with the Joneses. I have trouble enough keeping up with myself!

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



**Hosta Vista, Baby!**  
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## Brother Stefan: 2017 Hosta of the Year

Each year the American Hosta Growers Association (a trade organization of growers specializing in hostas) selects the best of the best and honors one variety as "Hosta of the Year." These special hosta selections are acknowledged for being unique, easy to grow, and loved by many. They can also be confidently recommended as a good choice for collectors, beginning hosta growers, and seasoned hostaphiles alike.



*H. Brother Stefan (photo Ann Bockes Frederking)*

The 2017 Hosta of the Year (HOTY) is H. 'Brother Stefan' (Petryszyn '98). This cross of 'King Tut' x 'Mildred Seaver' has large, heavily corrugated gold leaves with a wide, dark-green margin and might be Olga Petryszyn's most famous introduction to date. A moderate grower with white flowers in early summer, this selection forms a spectacular specimen in time.

Olga named this hosta in honor of her beloved brother and chose it as her favorite introduction when she was awarded the Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Award in 2013. Siting this hosta where it can receive a bit of morning sun will bring out the best color.

You can't go wrong with 'Brother Stefan'.



**Ontario Hosta Society**

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## Hellebores: Prelude to Spring

By Anne Randall, MVHS Member  
Reprinted courtesy of the AHS  
Newsletter Exchange

Most hellebores are native to mountainous regions of Europe, in open oak and beech woodlands, scrub areas, grassy meadows and on rocky slopes. They are best viewed on a hillside but even on flat land, they can be greatly enjoyed. They are shade loving evergreen perennials that bloom in early spring.

Hellebores are happy with other shade-loving perennials including ferns, hosta, gingers, short shade grasses, snowdrops, aconites, woodland phlox, primroses and hepaticas. They are grown in sandy or clay soils as long as plenty of humus is added when planted. Freezing and thawing do not usually damage the flowers.

Hellebores likely arrived in North American shores early in the continent's colonial history. The earliest cultivation may have been for use as an insecticide to treat other plants rather than ornamentals in their own right. John Bertram first mentioned them in his writings.

Interest in hellebore was strong after WWII and they were valued for their foliage, flowers and ease of culture.

In late winter, the flowers emerge from the barren ground to provide a prelude to spring. Elizabeth Strongman states in *The Gardeners Guide to*



*Growing Hellebores, 1993*, "The Christmas Rose and Lenten Rose are nature's gift to gardeners in the dismal months after Christmas when the weather is cold and discouraging and spring seems a long way off. At a time when few other flowers brave the elements, only Snodrops in their prime whiteness and fascinating variety of forms can compete with the hellebores."

They bloom for two months or more – longer when spring arrives slowly and nights stay cool. Elegant simplicity describes their fantastic foliage, precocious bloom and beautiful flowers, singles, doubles and anemone centered in many lush colors.

Once new foliage emerges in February–March, cut away carefully last year's foliage so plants look tidy and display flowers to the best advantage. By and large, hellebores are pest free. Do not plant hellebore too deeply nor bury the crown of the plant. They come close to being the perfect perennial with long-lasting blooms, hardiness, durability and a few are fragrant.



Mature clumps may be divided but both the old and new divisions are slow to recover from transplant shock. A mother plant produces many seedlings that, after a year, may be pricked out (best done in the fall) and planted to check their worthiness in flower shape and color. Do not allow seedlings to stay by the mother plant too long as they can be smothered by her foliage.

Honey bees, bumble bees and other small bees are the primary pollinators of hellebore. Pollen from one flower fertilizes another on the same plant. Cross fertilization from one plant to another occurs freely.

Buy plants in bloom for the exact color desired. Great Britain has done much in crosses and seed strains of hellebores. Most of the best hybrids available in America today are seed strains, some developed by making controlled crosses, while others come more or less true from open pollinated plants. Henry Ross at Grandview Horticultural Park in Strongsville, OH, began growing seedlings in 1950 and did so for 50 years.

The first hellebore I saw was 20 years ago: *H. niger*, Christmas Rose with its white pristine flowers and I have been smitten ever since.

There are many classifications for hellebore. The most familiar are *niger*, hybridis (Lenten Rose), *orientalis* and *foetidus*. Those hybridizing and propagating hellebore include Sam and Carleen



Jones of Picadilly Farm in Bishop, GA, and Judith and Dick Tyler of Pine Knot Farm in Clarksville, VA. Both farms have Spring Open Hellebore Days – a treat to attend and you can purchase blooming plants. Judith Tyler and C. Colston Burrell's book *Hellebores (A Comprehensive Guide)* is an excellent source for all the plant knowledge for beginning and advanced gardeners, and includes listings of those actively hybridizing today.

Presently hellebore are being developed to have upfacing flowers, doubles, combinations, stronger stems, foliage that remains clean and healthy and color on reverse of the flowers.

Float short stem blooms in a shallow dish for a beautiful display. Sear the stems of longer blooms and display in a short vase for enjoyment indoors.

So begin now... buy a hellebore plant, enjoy its beauty and you also may be smitten by this near perfect perennial.

*Anne Randall gardens with her husband Mike at "The Planted Place" in Greenville, OH.*

# Hostaholism

## Twelve Stages Described (in one man's opinion)

By R.A. Smith

*Editor's note: If you have been an OHS member for 5 or more years, you probably remember this article (OHS newsletter v18i1). I had not seen it before but I knew instantly that it had to be shared again!*

It appears to me that there are three general categories of dedicated hosta enthusiasts that can be identified upon visiting their garden.

Most are sane people with well adjusted outlooks who employ the hosta as a major part of the overall landscape design. In these gardens, the serious hosta connoisseur will have perfectly grown hostas that fully complement the shade garden. Mass plantings of edger hostas will be of all the same size and color setting off a garden bed with well executed landscape design. Some rare specimen plants will be beacons for visitors, a large yellow here, and a giant originator stock hosta over there. These are the gardens that we all love to visit.

Then there's the hosta collector which may manifest in theme plants of hostas. You can pick these out when you see monoculture plantings with common names, moon gardens, a collection of Van Wade's Native American series, many sports of a common type, and for the more dedicated, all the available tardiflorias (TF-1 to n) planted in numerical sequence – that's a difficult task with the best of contacts.

Lastly, there is the over the top hosta enthusiasts (addict if you will) that has either breezed through or right past these two sane categories—in these gardens, the plots will contain incomprehensible alphanumeric labels along with named plants with "NR" and "OS" following them – few of which you can find in the "Hostapedia" tome. You'll see plants and wonder to yourself, this must have been a missed cull along with 64 plants of the same look and size growing in wind rows cooking under the mid-day sun. These gardens can be referred to as the

Eagle Nebula of the hosta world, where new stars are born but they can also be the pitfall of many a hobbyist that didn't see the warning signs of a slippery slope—this story attempts to better describe this latter stage of hosta addiction – let's look behind Monty's curtain # 3.

## The Twelve Stages of Hosta Addiction

**1. Purchase an H. 'Undulata' from the local box store in order to cover a shady garden spot under a tree – toss the tag – call it the green and white one.** This is how it all gets started and most sensible gardeners stop here. If it grows well and other mysterious forces come into play, a select few progress to step two.

**2. Buy a couple more hostas from the local nursery based on the cute names.** Plant two H. 'Blue Angel' right next to H. 'Blue Cadet' since they look like each other at this stage of growth. All tags are tossed out with the recyclables along with the pots. Notice how nice two of them seem to be growing.

**3. Discover that there are more than three hosta types and achieve Zen status when a large yellow is found.** Mistake H. 'Sagae' for the "green and white one" already in the garden so pass it by at the nursery. Start to worry that the little blue one (H. 'Blue Cadet') is being swallowed up by its overgrown neighbors.

**4. Find the Hosta Library and become instantly overwhelmed with all the different cultivars.** Pick out the rarest of the group and decide that's exactly the one in the garden without a tag – make a quick label and mark it. Figure out that voles and deer like after dinner hosta snacks. Start to tire of the evening watering routine on the hot summer days.

**5. Start buying all the different hosta plants at the local nursery – keeping the tags now – plant them in full sun as well as shade.** Find that there's actually a book or two dedicated to hostas and buy them from the online book store (who then tells you about all the other related publications). Notice that some hostas produce seeds but alas, they go into the compost bin when the squirrels are done munching them. Pictures of the "No Tag" plants are offered up for identification to the experts. You take pictures of the deer that are visiting the garden, how nice. You manage the deer and vole damage the best you can and replace plants they destroy each year.

*At this point, if the majority of the below symptoms apply, you may be sliding into the abyss--be warned, hosta addiction can be a source of self-actualization and new friendships although at the same time, it will also be costly in time, garden space, and perhaps sanity.*



**LotsaHostas**  
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[www.lotsahostas.com](http://www.lotsahostas.com)

**6. Join the local and regional hosta society followed by a membership to the AHS for the great tri-annual journal.** Mail Order specialty catalogues are “bookmarked” on your internet browser. Long wish lists start with the header “Need List.” You buy your third hosta book and start seeking out all the others. You bid on the out of print Zilis e-bay 1991 signed publication. Out-of-state garden visits become part of your annual routine to and from other destinations. Plant pictures are posted routinely onto the various web forums. You receive a mail order nursery gift certificate from the dear spouse who believes your new found hobby is wonderful. New plants arrive weekly in the spring from the winter’s “downtime.” You’re thinking about taking out a bounty on the local deer population but install new fencing and use organic sprays instead.

**7. The hosta garden surpasses 250 named cultivars.** A few special gift plants are well placed as a special joy as a reminder to a great event or person – this is good. Digging up half the lawn or trying to tame a 45 degree sloping back yard may be over the top but you do it anyway. The spouse is wondering when it’ll stop and starts tossing out the new catalogues when they arrive. AHS National Convention attendance is planned and you seek out Mark, Mike, and George for book signing opportunities. New stainless steel or plastic plant markers start to replace all the makeshift plant tags of past. Metal mesh cages are placed in the ground around the roots of the special plants. A bang gun is heard going off in the evening by the neighbors.

**8. “You mean the seeds can be grown” is a question that can put one over the edge.** In this stage of addiction, stalker madness sets in. On line auctions become your after dark bane of existence (luckily, you’re not in the East Coast time zone). You join the seed grower’s forum and make a plant growing shelf in the basement. The neighbors call the Sherriff due to the strange glow coming from the basement windows 24-hours-a-day. You start the slow process to convince the

spouse that an automatic sprinkler system in the yard would mean more dinner outings in the summer instead of watering chores. You keep 500 greenies and a few variegated seedlings the first year with no room in the existing garden plots to grow them. The spouse is concerned and seeks outside help for your addiction. You raid the back rooms at the local nursery for tossed plastic pots to use for the seedlings as they gain size. You start to dream up hosta names for “when the time is right” to register your first plant. You ask the spouse to help dig up the remaining lawn for another “little hosta garden.”

**9. Sport fishing trips become the norm when visiting a nursery.** If a major wholesaler is nearby, you’re on first name basis with the plant manager. Seeds are no longer bought but traded or sold to the poor souls slipping in at stage 8. The winter months are spent tending the seedlings and vacations are cancelled so that the little ones don’t dry out. Fungal gnats become well known household pests. There’s an anonymous bounty on the local buck that invades your garden at night.

**10. The seedlings grown are as good as anything on the market is now a common thought at this stage.** Garden names have been assigned. You’ve actually read all the way through “The Genus Hosta” tome and have dog-eared the section on plant breeding. A new macro lens may be purchased at this stage in order to take better



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seedling pictures—a sure sign you're going in deep. Many hostas have been dug up and replanted with root and vole barriers. Your new dog is doing a good job keeping the deer in check but the bang gun is still near the door.

**11. You register your first plant and share OS pieces with your hosta friends – the friendship plant concept now becomes most evident.** Off-hand discussions with your hosta friends may include phrases as “So, do you believe inhibitor genes caused that trait to appear?” or “There’s no doubt in my mind that this is a tetraploid—look at that substance” followed shortly by “Did you see that new splashed plant in the vending area and the price? I have a whole batch of seedlings better than that thing.” You have cages around your best breeders to keep the rabbits, deer, and squirrels away during pollination season. A small backyard greenhouse is looking like something you must have.

**12. Your seed growing knowledge is sought by others at this stage of addiction.** Other possible symptom to watch for: you are asked to write articles for the journal documenting your hybridizing experiences, success and pitfalls along the way. You dream that you'll become rich and famous in the hosta world (well, maybe not rich as you've probably spent \$10,325 at this time and ruined your back digging up the lawn all to sell a single plant for \$400). With help, you may recover from the insanity and revert back to Step 7 although the number of hostas hover around 600 by now. If there's any lawn left, you concede that the kids and dog need some space to play. The automatic sprinklers are doing a nice job keeping everything green. Vacations are now possible once again although the mail order catalogs are still disappearing shortly after arrival—plant gift certificates are no longer considered. You start looking at the neighbor's poorly growing lawn under their oak trees—yes, that'd be a good place to plant some of these seedlings...

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## Start Early to Control Nematodes

Reprinted from *Hoosier Hosta Herald*, 2/2006

Editor's note: Ran Lydell will be speaking at the OHS Hosta Forum on April 23, 2017.

According to a talk given by hosta grower and breeder Ran Lydell, you should start in the spring to control Nematodes.

**Spring:** First application- Disyston as in Bayer (brand) Advanced Rose and Flower Care, with fertilizer at 12-18-6. It's a granular systemic product that he gets from Home Depot.

**Mid and late summer:** Second and third applications: Zeritol (1 tablespoon per gallon of water).

**Fall:** Fourth application: Household bleach at 25% concentration.

The order of application makes sense; fertilize in the spring and bleach in the fall. Ran says he is not sure which product is more effective or if any one treatment is sufficient, but after this treatment, the affected hostas show no noticeable damage.



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# Don't miss this event!!!



## OHS Spring Speaker and Hosta Sale

**Sunday May 28, 2017 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Location:** Nassagaweya Community Centre, Brookville Hall  
2005 Cameron Drive Campbellville, Ontario L0P 1B0  
(Part of the town of Milton)

### Speaker

**10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Stacey Hickman of Natural Insect Control (NIC)**

Join us for an informative presentation on:

#### **Backyard Battles: Bug, Slugs and Other Critters**

This seminar discusses the good, bad, and ugly bugs that you find in your own backyard. It explains how to use beneficial insects and natural products to control common pest problems such as aphids, slugs, and lawn grubs.

### Parking Lot Hosta Sale

**11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Hosta Sale**

The OHS has invited all of our **Retail Suppliers** to set up booths where OHS members and the general public can view and purchase a wide selection of hostas and shade plants.

We expect some vendors to have some of the newest hosta varieties as well as some of the great older varieties we have all come to love and admire. Each vendor is welcome to bring whatever they like... we expect to have a great selection of regular price hostas as well as some great deals.

Also available for sale will be a selection of NIC's products including Beneficial Nematodes (garden and lawn) and Praying Mantis (egg cases).

You can check out NIC's website ([www.natural-insect-control.com](http://www.natural-insect-control.com)) to pre-order everything from natural pet supplies to Purple Martin houses.

**Watch the OHS Website for a list of participating vendors**

To participate as a retail vendor call Glenn Wilson 519-859-5701

**SUNDAY JUNE 25, 2017**



**GOT YOUR SEAT ON THE  
BUS?**

**TIME: 8:00 a.m. sharp from [Landscape Ontario in Milton](#)**

**DON'T FORGET YOUR LUNCH!** We will have pop/juice/water with us on the bus.

### **ITINERARY**

#### **[Lidia Pezzi in Brampton](#)**

There are over 130 different varieties of hosta here in a Peel Village property. Some of the hosta are more than 15 years old.

#### **[Joseph Covello is also in Brampton](#)**

Joseph has more than 200 hosta on this 239 foot deep lot in Brampton. He uses lots of **hosta at the front of his borders which he says keeps them neat and tidy all season long.**

#### **[Sandra Leah in Mono Township](#)**

Sandra's gardens sit on approximately 3 acres of land with a large pond. She has 400 different varieties and 70 different mini and dwarf conifers. Sandra has graciously opened up her gardens for our lunch spot for the day.

#### **[Anna and Bill Barger are in Neustadt](#)**

Anna and Bill have over 750 hosta and have had some registered last year.

We will finish up our tour with a stop at **[Shirley and Allan Koch's Riverbend Gardens](#)** to fill our need to feed the Hostaholic in us!

**To reserve your seat** please contact Sandra at [sandrasherbalife@aol.com](mailto:sandrasherbalife@aol.com)  
or telephone her toll free at **1-866-742-7155**

**SEE YOU ON THE BUS !**

**P.S. We have managed to keep the price at \$40.00 again this year!**