



Save the dates

Hosta Forum

Sunday 22 April 2018

See flyer on page 15

Bus Tour

Sunday 10 June 2018

See flyer on page 14

BBQ/Picnic

Sunday 22 July 2018

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 9 September 2018



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Counting Down to Spring

Hi, hosta friends. Are you impatient for spring to get here? I'm very fortunate to have access to the excellent hosta-related articles that you get to read in every issue. The majority of those articles are reprinted from the newsletters of other hosta societies, thanks to AHS newsletter exchange.

This winter feels interminable. Where I am, just north of Ottawa (zone 4), the snow banks were finally receding, and with the temperature a balmy +8°C last weekend, I went for a tour of my garden. Sadly, (or so I mistakenly thought at the time) not a single hosta stem could be seen coming up. By Tuesday night the temperature fell -10°C and along with the cold came another 10-15cm of snow which melted within 24 hours, and the temperature back up to +6°C. With this crazy weather roller coaster, though, some tips to protect our hostas from frost damage would be particularly timely.

So until my beloved hostas finally start to come up, my way of counting down to spring and getting a great big jolt of hosta will be by attending the OHS Hosta Forum which is just a couple of weeks away (22 April - see the flyer on page 15). If you haven't made plans to attend, check out the speaker lineup on page 3. I hope this issue convinces you to go but don't delay! The last date to get tickets is April 15th.

After every issue, I usually get a few very nice emails with thanks and praise. A lot of time and effort goes into each issue, and I am glad to know that OHS members are reading and enjoying them.

I'm very fortunate to have access to the excellent hosta-related articles that you get to read in every issue. The majority of those articles are reprinted from the newsletters of other hosta societies, thanks to AHS newsletter exchange.

Our own OHS member Jayne Christians has written an original, entertaining and informative article for every OHS newsletter since I became editor. You'll find another great one from Jayne on page 4.

But here is one aspect of the newsletter that I would really like to improve: reports on OHS events. In the GTAI, get the sense that everyone who attends them has a glorious time, but I'm 500km away. I could really use your help if you regularly attend OHS meetings. You enjoy writing, hope that several members will volunteer to capture OHS events in words and/or photos so that far-away members like me get to enjoy them too, and maybe it'll also entice more local members to come out more often. If you might also be interested in co-editing the newsletter with me (selecting articles, learning layout, suggesting new ideas), let me know. I hope that you will think about and email me, or seek me out at the Hosta Forum. Don't be shy!

Marta Cep

OHS Newsletter Editor
hostanews@gmail.com

ONTARIO HOSTA SOCIETY



Visit our website:
ontariohostasociety.cc

Mailing address:
 16 Sparrow Ln.
 Wasaga Beach, ON
 NOL 1A0

Membership



\$15.00 for 1 year
 \$40.00 for 3 years

<http://ontariohostasociety.coindex.php/membership>

The membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st. Members joining after October are deemed to be paid until December 31st of the following year.

OHS Newsletter

Newsletters are published 3 times a year. PDF copies of 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.

Our newest members

Welcome!

Dianne Bailey	Peter Schieman
Debbie Brown	Helene Selemidis
Ron Drury	Kathryn Spiwak
Lois Hersey	Christine Williams
Bob Munday	Marlit Young

OHS 2018 Executive

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Eastern OHS President Annic Lavertu
president@easternohs.com

Meet the Hosta Forum Speakers



Bob Leask

Hot New Hostas and Where Do They Come From

Bob has been "dabbling" in hostas for over 25 years and after he discovered that there was more than just the green one and the green and white one, he has sought out and acquired interesting varieties: try in his challenging growing circumstance (toony trees!).

From personal contacts with hosta pioneers Jim Hawes, F Ruh, and Keith Squires, he learned of the history of early varieties and species and the methods used to propagate unusual seedlings, sports and offspring that often appear. With the advent of tissue culture, the hosta world exploded with thousands of varieties available today.

What's hot, what's popular, where do you find them? In long association with the OHS Bob has stuck his nose into nooks and crannies to see what's new.



Charlie Dobbin

Gardening in a Changing Climate

Charlie Dobbin is a well known horticulturist and landscape designer with professional gardening experience worldwide. In May 2000 Charlie started her own landscape design and horticultural consulting business.

Currently Charlie hosts the Garden Show on AM740 every Saturday 9am. She also teaches horticulture at Humber College and Durham College and fits in garden consultations whenever she can. During 2015 she was the Garden Director for the Luminato Festival in David Pecaut Square in Toronto. In her garden advice to clients, Charlie can be seen delivering practical and entertaining gardening tips on a variety of television stations. She has diverse experience including 18 years in retail Garden Centres, hosted the HGTV Garden Centre of the Year in Canada Blooms, The Flower and Garden Festival for 12 years, and volunteer judging for Communities in Bloom Ontario.

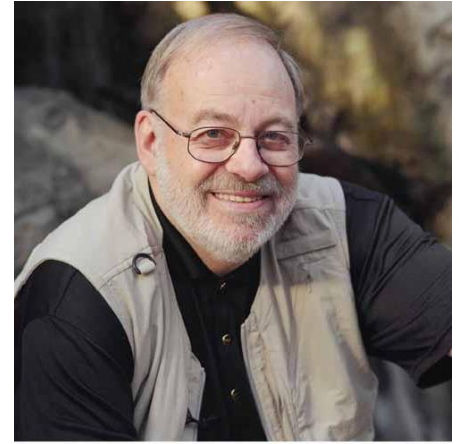


Photo : © Josée Lambert

Reggie Millette

Hostas: Grow Them As Per Species Habits

Reggie's enthusiasm in his very visited garden led to founding the Quebec Hostas and Hemerocallis Society in 2000. In his garden grows over 700 different hostas. In 2003 he wrote the very first book on hostas in French. This book became a best seller with 16000 copies. This first book followed by a book on daylilies and a third one on irises. A new book followed on hostas in 2015 in French, also in an English version. The new book *Hostas Grow your Hostas as per species habits* is now available on his website <http://www.millettegardpictures.com>

Reggie was the host of a radio show on gardening for 350 weeks. Reggie takes many pictures now sold through www.millettephotomedia.com and writes articles in many gardening magazines. He gives conferences all over Quebec and the United States.

Directions to 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 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 approximate kilometers
 - < Then turn right to continue north on Highway 25
 - < Take Highway 25 north past Campbellville Road and the 10th sideroad
 - < Glencairn is on the east side of highway 25

Directions from Oakville

- < Take Highway 25 north from the QEW to Steeles
- < Turn west (left) on to Steeles Road for approximate 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

2018 OHS Events

Check the EVENTS page of our website:

<https://ontariohostasociety.com/index.php/event>

OHS Hosta Forum

When: Sunday 22 April 2018 [Details on page 15](#)
Hurry! Tickets only available until 15 April!

OHS Bus Tour

When: Sunday 10 June 2018 [Details on page 14](#)

OHS BBQ/Picnic

When: Sunday 22 July 2018

Where: Garden of Kelly Williams
 9248 County Road 1, Hockley, ON

Note: Most GPS have trouble finding it:
<https://goo.gl/maps/n2NmpiCdAXu>

Annual General Meeting & Auction

When: Sunday 9 September

Where: Nassagaweya Community Centre, Brockville

Go For The Green (or the Gold) or the Blue

Emerald green. Chartreuse. Forest green. Apple green. Shiny leaf. Matte leaf.

Why would you buy hostas with these solid colours and finishes? Variegated hostas are the way to go! Green leaves with gold margins. Yellow leaves with

them and gravitate toward a minimum of variegated leaf. Three is better! Many of us want nothing more than variegated hostas, and the more pronounced the differences within the leaf, the better.

or hosta dealer, intent on brightening up that area under the trees. We want colour. We want that area to pop with colour growing there.

At the garden centre we are inundated with a variety of hostas, most all sporting some form of variegation.



Hosta Apple Green (photo Marta Cepek)

The solid coloured hostas, be they green or be they blue, Island Breeze. I almost always stagger my hostas sit on the shelves, row upon row and it looks like no one has moved a pot in ten years. You hurry by these beauties as if you are being chased by a wasp, because you have spotted a brilliant yellow and blue hosta at the end of the aisle. Oh, and there is another you like, and then another. You fill your cart, thrilled with your finds, plotting in your head where you will be putting each one when you get home. @

are going to go... there is always room for yet another hosta in your garden. You pay for your purchases, deal with the drudgery of loading them into your vehicle and praying that you can get them home without a pot tipping over. Golden rule number one of gardening! When are transporting plants, you WILL HAVE DIRT IN YOUR VEHICLE.

Somehow your careful driving skills are tested to the limit on your journey home from the nursery. There is always going to be that light that you have to stop for fast, or a kid on a bike, or a squirrel. And if you are fortunate enough to think you have made it home safely, you will inevitably drop or spill one as you are taking it out of your vehicle. So, you get the pots out of your car or truck, clean up the dirt, then grab your shovels and head out to the trees. You place the pots around the base of the trees before planting, and stand back to admire your handiwork.

The wind slowly leaves your inflated sails, and you feel dejected. Why did they look so good at the nursery, and here under your trees, they seem to get lost somehow? What went wrong? They are outstanding specimens!

I have many, many customers that ask for my start. I always ask preliminary questions. Size of the garden, type of shade cover, colour of the house (if the house is against yellow siding), etc., etc., etc. And then the question: "Is your heart happy?"

If someone asked me, my preference is yellow leaves with either blue or green margins. And the more corrugation on the leaf, the better.

I love Great Expectations, Paradigm, Epiphany: all medium to large hostas, all with some corrugation to the leaf, all considered to have green margins. But because of the size, they would go at the back of my garden. If you are planting these under trees, all of a sudden that area has gotten brighter. So, now we need some smaller hostas for the foreground. Emerald Ruff Cut, June,

Justice, Island Breeze. I almost always stagger my hostas sit on the shelves, row upon row and it looks like no one has moved a pot in ten years. You hurry by these beauties as if you are being chased by a wasp, because you have spotted a brilliant yellow and blue hosta at the end of the aisle. Oh, and there is another you like, and then another. You fill your cart, thrilled with your finds, plotting in your head where you will be putting each one when you get home. @

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Of course, this is a simplified version, but you get the idea. Each of the greens I have mentioned are beauties unto themselves, but ultimately, they allow the variegated hostas to stand up and stand out. They pop with beauty. There is a calm of the heart as the eye travels from one hosta to the next. It is a work of art!

To a lot of people, the following paragraph will like 8 theme and say you have predominantly yellow leafed, green margined hostas. You are going to want to offset the variegation with yellow or solid green. Blues

Carefully consider the colours in your prized variegated hosta, the one you absolutely love and want to show off and use those colours as a jumping point for the hostas or plants around it. Very similar to decorating your living room. If you can haul those three or four colours over several other hostas, you have a colour scheme working. The end result is that your heart is happy, your eye is happy as it travels from one plant to the next, and the

As we talked, I discovered that he wanted to FEED the deer, not deter them.



Photo Jayne Christiani

and continue to bring the deer to his property. What a thrill to be able quietly watch gentle wildlife to your backyard.

In mind my, there is definitely a lesson to be learned here) but nothing will be able to replace the vision of a mother deer and fawn standing in my backyard. And the other lesson: GO FOR THE GREEN!

Jayne Christiani
Hosta Vista, Baby!

PS: GARDENERS LIKE TO SPEND ALL DAY IN THEIR BEDS!



Most people lament the deer feeding off their hostas both he and his neighbour just wanted to enjoy the beauty of these stunning creatures. He said the deer preferred solid green hostas and would only eat the and white ones once the greens were done. He also mentioned that once they were done feeding off the leaves, his gardens looked like stalks of celery planted all

Growing Hostas from Seed

by Rob Mortko

Reprinted courtesy of the AHS Newsletter

Everyone seems to have their own technique for hosta seed, and yet there is general agreement on a number of key points.

Start the seeds in flats with a clear plastic dome (or a similar high humidity setup). Wash the flats and use a sterile soilless mix to minimize fungal problems. Crosses!

typically occurs in 12 to 15 days. Target an air temperature of about 75°F (24°C). Heating mats are useful when working in cooler basements.

crosses!

Timing on starting seed is a variable with some starting in October or November while others wait until February. Lighting is critical when gardening indoors (although not relevant to germination). Use supplemental

lighting (cool white fluorescent tubes) to grow

Never let the seedlings dry out. Keep the soil moist but not soggy. Grow until the tops of the plants touch the dome. Then transplant (typically at the 2 or 3 leaf stage) and begin using a water soluble fertilizer. How much water soluble fertilizer you use will depend on how fast you want to push the process.

Culling can be a painful process but most seedlings are rather plain looking. Unfortunately many characteristics (other than color) take time to develop. Balance your culling habits with the number of seedlings you are managing.

Before moving seedlings to the spring garden, forget to harden them off like a tomato plant that was started inside.

Seed is available from a number of commercial sources. Seed can be stored in plastic photo film canisters and placed in the freezer until ready for planting.

Great Expectations Exceptional Ho



OHS member Ruth Kumpa submitted this photo of *Great Expectations* in the Fall 2016 AHS photo contest. It was announced in Volume 48 Number 2 of the AHS Hosta Journal that this photo has tied for first prize in category 5 Artistic Impressions. Congratulations Ruth!



American Hosta Society



Membership for Canadians
\$39 US/year / \$107 US/3 years
NEW! eMembership \$20 US/year
<http://www.americanhostasociety.org>

OHS General Meeting Report

Text: Russ Talbot, Photos: Trish Symons and Pat Loy

January 28th saw 42 Hosta enthusiasts meet at Brookville Hall in Campbellville for the OHS General Meeting.

After signing in, members and guests had the opportunity to renew/buy memberships, and purchase tickets to the Hosta Forum and Bus Trip with the new OHS credit card reader.

Before the meeting got underway, everyone had a chance to enjoy a delicious Caesar Salad and oodles of dessert goodies.

This gave everyone a chance to mingle and talk about their hostas!

President Russ Talbot introduced the OHS Board members and asked for vendors to introduce themselves as well. After announcements regarding our upcoming bus trip to the Peterborough Garden Show, Lynne Limpert shared details on the upcoming Hosta Forum and Russ talked about the OHS bus trip.

To break up the business part of the meeting, Trish Symons showed a couple of presentations on the gardens that we will be visiting on the bus trip, as well as pictures from her own gardens. Included also, were pictures from Kelly Williams gardens that we will be visiting for our picnic in July. By the time the picture was shown, everyone was dreaming of Spring!

@ 2:00 PM we discussed the amendments to our bylaws and constitution and they were passed unanimously. Kelly also told everyone present about an upcoming survey that was going to be sent to all members.

Bob Leask introduced our speaker, John Kee, one of the founding members of the OHS. John regaled us with recollections of early events and hosta stories. As a newer member it was interesting to learn of some of the history as an organization.

After Keith Skanes thanked John, the meeting was adjourned and everyone had a further opportunity to socialize and eat more food.

The day was a fantastic opportunity for getting to know old acquaintances who share a passion for hostas.

ew acquaintances who share a passion for hostas.



Garden Smarter Not Harder

By Sandra L. Mason

Unit Educator Horticulture/Environment University of Illinois Extension/Champaign County

Reprinted from the State Tribune, Spring 2018, the Newsletter of the State Hosta Society of NY, NJ, & CT

Here are some tips to have more fun and less fatigue in the garden:

- < Avoid doing the same task for more than 30 minutes. Take regular breaks to give your parts rest. If necessary, sit on those fancy benches we buy and enjoy the view.

Avoid unnecessary twisting. Instead of shoveling soil or compost by digging and twisting to empty the shovel, move your feet instead. When raking, keep the center of gravity and movement close to your body. Move to the chore.)

Sometimes just finding the right tools makes gardening easier.

- < Purchase pruners that fit your hand. When pruner handles are expanded completely they should fit your hand. Brands such as Felco offer pruners for large to small hands and even pruners for lefties.
- < Check out the heavy duty gel knee pads available in the flooring section of lumber supply stores.
- < Use a hand truck or dolly to move heavy bags of soil, mulch or fertilizer.
- < Use a wheeled chair or "scoot seat" designed for garden use. If possible take it for a test drive. Some of them work better on concrete than they do in grass or mulch.
- < Use a cart with big wheels. Small wheels do not roll well in mulch or on uneven surfaces.

Don't forget to sit on those benches and enjoy the view.

- < Stretch before, during and after. Try yoga and improve your flexibility.
- < Remember what your mom told you: Maintain good posture at all times as you work.
- < Lift objects by bending at the knees not bending your back.
- < Hold items close to your body. One of my worst injuries occurred when I bought some bags of soil after work. Of course I had my business clothes on and my momma raised me right so I picked up the bags and I held them away from my body. I felt a twinge as though a rubber band had broken in my back.
- < Keep an old shirt or coat in your vehicle for those unplanned shopping occasions. Or make sure you always have your garden slave around to carry bags.

Use a cart with big wheels. (photos Marta Cepek)

Reserve wheelbarrows for light weight material. Heavy items may shift in transit and cause you to twist your back.

Enlist a garden buddy. Start an exchange program. Offer to work on their project this year.

It is amazing how much faster the work proceeds when you garden with a buddy.

- < Stay healthy. Remember as you get older your

