



Save the Dates

Winter Meeting

January 25

Hosta Forum

April 12

OHS Bus Tour

June 28

OHS Picnic

July 19

OHS AGM & Auction

September 13

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President's Musings

If you're anything like me, you've been spending a lot of time, of late, sitting by a warm fireplace counting the months/weeks until you can get back into your garden and turn some soil. Perhaps, you might even be dreaming of hosta "eyes" poking up through the leaves. Yes, leaves... remember the ones that you didn't manage to get cleaned up before the cooler weather settled in and the days got too short to make it worth the while to put your gardening clothes on? It's funny how we barely remember "throwing in the towel" last September, as the

hostas started to show signs of shutting down for the season and our knees decided they couldn't take another minute of bending to pull yet another weed. January brings hope of another gardening year ahead. It has a way of erasing from our memories the gardening struggles we had the last season....being it weeds, heat waves or those pesky slugs that didn't seem to succumb to any of the crazy methods of destruction that our friends told us about.

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Winter Meeting

Our next meeting will be Sunday January 25th between the hours of 12:30 - 3:30p.m at the RJ Murphy Auditorium, 6435 Edwards Blvd., Mississauga, Ontario.

Janet Lamborn and **Julie Mollard**, representatives of Agdia, will give a presentation on HVX and other viruses that can affect our hostas! HVX test strips will be available to purchase with 5 strips costing \$40.32 and 25 strips costing \$128.80.

Jack Kent, owner of the Potting

Shed, in Dunnville, will give a talk on, "Gentrifying the Ghetto: Adding diversity to your hosta garden". Jack will be talking about balancing out the hosta /shade garden with companion plants that give alternate textures, shapes, patterns, sizes and colours that help compliment and showcase your hosta specimens.

Photo contest judging will take place, Hosta Forum tickets will be available for sale and memberships will be available.

ONTARIO HOSTA SOCIETY

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Newsletters are published on a quarterly basis. All are encouraged to submit content to the editor at ohs.editor@gmail.com

Business card-sized ads are welcome from hosta retailers at a rate of \$100 per publication year. Digital submission (e.g. jpg files) of such ads is encouraged to ensure the quality of the ads.

Any questions or concerns about the newsletter should be directed to ohs.editor@gmail.com.



Our Purpose

Promote knowledge of and interest in the genus Hosta

Encourage the development of new and improved varieties of Hosta

Promote Hosta cultivation and its usefulness in the landscape

Identify issues related to the genus Hosta and educate members and the public how to deal with such issues.

(Continued from page 1)

Yup, Spring is on the way and this year I am renewed. I am imbued. I am askewed, as I face the daunting, oppressive, suffocating, stifling and positively stultifying challenges of the coming gardening season (ok...I might be exaggerating a bit). I have a goal this year, which, frankly is to just take it easy and enjoy what the season brings. I'm promising myself that I'm going to stay calm and that I will not go through another Costco sized container of flashlight batteries searching for the maker of each and every hole in my hosta plants. I'm going to remember that a "true" gardener takes the challenges along with the triumphs and shares both with friends.....usually over a good bottle of merlot (or two)!!!

So, sit back and enjoy the countdown to spring. Better yet... spend some time with us - your hosta friends - at our Winter Meeting on January 25th and at our ever popular 'Hosta Forum' on April 12th. Tickets for the 'Hosta Forum' can be purchased at the Winter

Meeting or by mail (more information on page 6).

As we usher in the OHS's 20th Anniversary it is my hope that you will partake in all that the OHS has to offer. Along with my fellow Executive members, I look forward to doing my part in making this a special year for the OHS and its members. We urge you to check the OHS website (www.ontariohostasociety.com) on a regular basis for event updates.

Finally, if you find getting to meetings and events a challenge (perhaps you don't drive and/or you just don't want to "go alone") please don't hesitate to contact any of the OHS Executive (see back page)...we will do our best to locate a fellow member in your area to pick you up and drop you back off after an event. Whatever your gardening level.... please know that the OHS has something to offer you in the way of information and most importantly, friendship.

Glenn Wilson

OHS 2015 Incoming President

OHS 20th Anniversary

The OHS will be celebrating 20 years as a society in 2015. In honour of such an achievement, we will be offering a celebratory calendar featuring pictures of some of the winning pictures of the photography contests. The first run of calendars will be available for

\$10 each at our Winter Meeting. We will also be featuring articles from previous OHS Newsletters in each 2015 newsletter. Look for these past articles under the heading "Rewind". Stay tuned for other 20th anniversary events and celebrations



2014 OHS Photography Contest—Last Call!



- Class 1 A single Hosta leaf
- Class 2 Bejeweled – Hosta with water drops (may be single leaf)
- Class 3 The entire plant of a mature hosta
- Class 4 Multiple Hosta in a group setting
- Class 5 Hosta(s) with companion plants, garden art or fauna
- Class 6 Autumn's Glory - Hosta(s) in the fall
- Class 7 Hosta flower(s)
- Class 8 Hosta Wildcard – Be creative, artistic, no restrictions)

Rules

1) One entry per class per member permitted; 2) Entries must be the work of the exhibitor; 3) Photographs must be 4" x 6", no border; 4) Photographs may not have been entered in an OHS photo contest in a previous year; 5) No digitally altered photos except Class 8

Entry Procedure

On the reverse of the photograph, please indicate:

1) Exhibitor's name, 2) Class number, 3) Name of Hosta(s) depicted in the photograph (if known).

***** Entries may be received the day of the meeting, but no later than 12:15pm *****

Judging

Photographs will be judged by a qualified judge and displayed at the winter meeting. Judging is based on the following: 40% Horticultural Value, 40% Photographic Value, 20% Appearance & Impact.

Prizes

OHS prize dollars, for use at the 2015 September auction, will be awarded as follows: 1st place in each class: \$10; Best in Show: \$20; Judge's Choice: \$10.

If you have any questions, please contact Norm Limpert
at normlimpy@hotmail.com or 905-878-3366


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Rewind

Getting Started, or Never Knew What Hit Me

by **Bob Leask**

How does an innocent gift from a mother-in-law launch one into a passionate quest for the ultimate Hosta? It may be something just that simple that can explain a new-found interest in a beautiful plant.

Since I live on a shady lot (three acres of 75-foot trees), it was only natural that the culls from the thinning and transplanting at the cottage would be diverted my way. I dutifully found a spot for these green and white foliage plants and, over the course of a couple of years, having found that they divided nicely, kind of spread them around other areas.

The next gift came from a colleague who was renovating a pool area and found that two large clumps just did not fit into future plans. But these were the green ones – no white. Similarly, another friend mentioned that he had some large foliage plants that seemed to thrive in the shade and that he was thinning his crop. Would I like some? Some were a darker green, some had a narrower leaf, and some carried a bunch of trumpets on a long stem.

At this point, it became obvious that I was dealing with a type of plant that would cer-

tainly suit my surroundings, came in a variety of leaf shapes and colours, and even produced a noticeable flower. I even discovered during a visit to friend's garden that his neighbour had one on his side of the fence that was slightly gold in colour. Time to start asking questions!

Some preliminary visits to a number of small garden centres produced the usual variety as described above, but there were some interesting variations in how that whit was incorporated. And even some of the green ones had a gold edge. And some gold ones had a green edge. And some looked splashed. Wow!

Needless to say, I purchased a few and even kept the name tags close to the plants. I also tried to match the 'gifts' to a name. And the collection started. A chance conversation between my wife and a colleague of hers led to the mention of a catalogue available from a BC source. I sent, I read, I ordered, I planted, I enjoyed. The collection was now close to twenty varieties.

The larger local nurseries were now my target, along with a growing list of mail-order sources. Where I encountered variety, I purchased. But these same varieties were starting to cause some confusion so the purchase of a reference text was in order. *The Hosta*

(Continued on page 5)



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Book by **Paul Aden** provided a new insight and of course a number of new varieties – at least to me. Where to get them?

While asking questions at a garden centre, the name of **John Kee** was mentioned as someone who had an interest and a fair amount of knowledge about Hostas, and if I would leave my name they would pass it along to him. I received a telephone call within a week, and I eagerly accepted an invitation to visit his home. I was on my way to Hosta Heaven. John not only showed me his collection of about 320 varieties (at the time), but also introduced me to the *Genus Hosta* book and the *Hosta Journal* along with an amazing variety of other mail-order sources. His willingness to share is incredible.

Through John I have also been introduced to many other enthusiasts and ultimately became involved in the formation of the Ontario Hosta Society. I have taken the opportunity to take my in-laws to John's garden to show them what they got me into. My garden now contains over 200 varieties while John's has grown to over 400. We have become close friends. And think that this happened only in the last three years (or maybe five or six including the gifts) is beyond belief.

Editors Note: *This article appeared in the inaugural edition of the Ontario Hosta Society Newsletter Volume 1, Number 1; May 1995.*

Request for Pictures

The OHS would like to revamp the OHS Club Plant page of the OHS website. If anyone has some great pictures of OHS club plants that they would be willing to share, please send them along to **Glenn Wilson** at ontgmw@gmail.com

With Sympathies

It is with regret that the OHS has learned of the passing of **Thomas Wilson**. Thomas and his wife Frances were OHS members since 2010. The OHS would like to extend our deepest sympathies to family and friends of Thomas.

OHS Outreach

Look for the OHS booth at the Peterborough Garden Show on April 2-4, 2015. The show is hosted by the Peterborough Horticultural Society and the Peterborough and Northumberland Master Gardeners at the Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road, in Peterborough.

Visit www.peterboroughgardenshow.com/ for hours of operation, admission costs and a list of vendors.



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5TH ANNUAL HOSTA FORUM



*Come out and enjoy a day with your fellow Hostaholics!
Don't come alone, bring a friend...everyone is welcome!*

Sunday, April 12, 2015

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\$55.00/Member & \$60.00/Non-Member

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c/o Norm Limpert, 11174 Sixth Line, Acton, ON L7J 2L7**

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*Please include your mailing address, email
address and telephone # so tickets can be
mailed to you.*

*Don't Miss a Great Day
Order Your Tickets Today!*

Mark Your Calendars



Save the date and mark your calendars - The Ontario Hosta Society will host a bus trip to the London Area on Sunday June 28th. Pick-up will once again be at Landscape Ontario with a second pick-up to be arranged. Stay tuned for further details in upcoming newsletters and by visiting the OHS website.

Also mark your calendars for an OHS picnic on Sunday July 19, 2015. **Norm and Lynne Limpert** have agreed to open their gardens for this event. Don't miss this opportunity to tour a great garden and meet many fellow OHS members!

In Memoriam—Doug Young

Suddenly, after a short illness at Strathroy Hospital on October 17, 2014, **Doug Young** of Strathroy passed away in his 82nd year.

Lovingly remembered by his wife Marlit, his daughter Debbie and step sons Ian and Thomas. Grandfather of Amanda and Alex.

Doug was the Canadian President of Myers Tire Supply Canada Ltd. for over 40 years.

Doug has been a member of the OHS for many, many years and has also been involved with the SWOHS since it's inception. He and his wife Marlit have many friends in the hosta world. Doug will be missed by old and new friends alike.

Lynn Bisschop
President SWOHS



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Please make cheques payable to the **Ontario Hosta Society**
Send to: 11174 6th Line, Acton, Ontario L7J 2L7

<input type="checkbox"/> One Year with electronic (E-mail) newsletter	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> One Year with mailed (paper copy) newsletter	\$20.00
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New Renewal Cheque # Cash

Name: (Mr./Mrs./Ms.) _____

Address: _____

City

Province

Postal Code

Telephone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

I give permission to the OHS to contact me by E-mail. Yes No

I give permission to the OHS to publish my contact information in the OHS newsletter. Yes No

My garden is open to visitors. Yes No

Director's use ONLY: Date Received:

Card List Package



Ontario Hosta Society

Memberships can be obtained by writing to:

OHS Memberships
c/o. 11174 6th Line
Acton, ON
L7J 2L7

Dues: \$15/yr. or \$40/3yrs

*** For mail delivery of ***
newsletters - dues are
\$20/yr. or \$50/3yrs

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



American Hosta Society

Memberships can be obtained by writing to:

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

E-mail:

ahsmembershipsecretary@earthlink.net

Membership for Canadians

\$39.00 US per year or
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Money order or cheque drawn on a US bank. Memberships can now also be paid by VISA or Master Card online at the AHS website www.hosta.org



We're on the web!
ontariohostasociety.com



OHS 2014 Executive

President - **Glenn Wilson**
ontgmw@gmail.com

Past-President - **Cindy Deutekom**
cindydeutekom@gmail.com

Bus Tour - **Sandra Shrieve**
sandrasherbalife@aol.com

Treasurer - **Bob Leask**
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Membership Secretary - **Norm Limpert**
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Director at Large - **Dave Barham**
mbarham@bell.net

Director at Large - **Bob Murphy**
rjmurphy1@rogers.com

Dir. at Large - SW Ontario - **Lynn Bisschop**
president@swohs.org

Dir. at Large - East Ontario - **Jutta Daverne**
jutta.daverne@gmail.com

Hosta Forum Coordinators
Lynne Limpert & Donna Hussey
lynnelimpert@hotmail.com
husseyde@sympatico.ca

OHS Chapter Updates

South Western OHS

A SWOHS Executive meeting will take on Saturday January 17th. During the meeting the planning of upcoming events, e.g. garden tour, picnic, general membership meetings will take place.

All are encouraged to mark their calendars since our first General Membership meeting of the year will be April 25, 2015 at the Active Lifestyle Centre, 20 Merritt Street, Chatham, ON. Time and speaker(s) to be determined.

We are looking to fill several vacancies at the executive level and need some highly motivated volunteers to step forward in order

to keep the society functioning. Please consider fulfilling a role with the Executive.

Eastern Chapter of the OHS

An Executive meeting is planned for Feb 7th. During the meeting planning for a plant swap, road trip again, picnic and another photo contest will take place. All are encouraged to stay tuned for dates and details of upcoming EOHS events.

Several members suffered illnesses and hardships last year, so we would like to start this year on a positive note by wishing everyone a happy, healthy and great gardening year.

