

OHS Newsletter



Volume 21, Issue 2

Early Summer 2015

← →
Save the Dates

- OHS Bus Tour**
June 28
- OHS Picnic**
July 19
- Whistling
Gardens Tour**
August 16
- OHS AGM
& Auction**
September 13

← →
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President's Musings

Welcome to the 2015 growing season. It's been a long wait for spring/summer, but if your hosta gardens look like mine, then a wet fall season followed by a brutally cold winter is the recipe for spectacular hostas!!! Every spring, I make a promise to myself, to measure my favorite hosta clumps (come fall) so that I can compare their sizes the following growing season. Last fall, as usual, I didn't take any such measurements and I'm really regretting that. It appears the increase in clump sizes

are impressive this year.....something that I really believe is more than just the plants themselves maturing. One of my favorites, 'Viking Ship', is a sight to behold with a strong upright mound that hovers over the surrounding mature hostas and captivates me beyond words. After years of only slight increases, 'Empress Wu', has finally become what I could only imagine by looking at pictures...a monster!!! I counted 89 "eyes" on the "Empress" this spring and room

(Continued on page 2)

2015 OHS Bus Tour

Date: Sunday June 28

Cost: \$40 per person

Time: 8:30 a.m. - ??? p.m.

Pickup: Landscape Ontario, 7856 Fifth Line South, Milton.

Alternative Pickup: Homewood Suites, 800 Jamieson Parkway, Cambridge at 8:30 a.m.

The Gardens: We will be traveling toward the southwest visiting **Bill & Bonnie Gibbons** in Innerkip, **Mark Vaandering** and **Paul Flemming** in London, **Marlit Young** in Strathroy and **Angie Holman** in

Wardsville. A shopping excursion Hosta Choice in Appin will also take place.

Contact **Sandra Shrieve** at sandrasherbalife@aol.com to reserve your spot.

Please make any cheques payable to OHS, c/o 4 Rayburn Court, Bolton, ON, L7E 5R8. Payment by credit card is also available by calling 1-866-742-7155.

Don't forget to provide your name, mailing address, phone number and email address.



ONTARIO HOSTA SOCIETY

4857 Irish Drive
RR #4, Appin, ON
N0L 1A0
519-289-5471

Email:

ontgmw@gmail.com

Website:

ontariohostasociety.com

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)

will have to be made for its expanding girth. The minis too were not immune to vast advances and, I often wonder, if the hybridizers of these little sweethearts ever experienced winters like we are experiencing in Ontario. If they had, would they have actually classified them as minis? Should there be reason to actually love our wicked Ontario winters? You bet there is.....so you best get out and enjoy your gardens this summer because, I for one, am hoping for a return of a winter like we had in 2014!!!!

Another wonderful event that I'm looking forward to (if you can call Winter 2014 an event) is our Annual Hosta Forum that is held each April at the Glencairn Golf Club in Milton. Yes, April 2016 is most likely far from most people's minds but plans have already begun to bring you another great day in 2016. I can't thank this year's organizers, volunteers, speakers, business donors and my fellow Executive enough for the wonderful event that they helped pull together for 80+ eager participants. To **Donna Hussey** and **Lynne Limpert**, this

year's Hosta Forum Coordinators, an extra special thank-you for the hours upon hours you both put in to pull an event of this size together with such precision and enthusiasm. To **Cindy & Carel Deutekom**, who originally ran with the Hosta Forum "idea" and organized the first years of this event, I would like to express my gratitude for continuing to offer your assistance to this wonderful event and for stepping in whenever Donna and Lynne needed your assistance. If you missed this year's Forum I can honestly say that you missed a "First Class" event.....we would love to see you next year at Glencairn!!!

Lastly, I invite all OHS Members (along with SWOHS and EOHS members) to the Annual OHS Bus Tour (June 28th) and OHS Summer Picnic (July 19th). Further details can be found in this edition of the newsletter as well as on our OHS Website.

On behalf of all my fellow Executive members I wish each of you a safe and enjoyable summer.

Glenn Wilson
OHS President

In Memoriam

It is with sadness we note the passing of **John Gallagher**, a long-time member and former OHS executive. John was very active in the initial years of our group and was a member of many a bus tour until recently. He was a retired Air

Canada pilot who flew everything from DC3s to 474s all around the globe. His Caledon home was the site of many OHS executive meetings and we enjoyed his hosta collection and gardens as well as his hospitality.



2015 OHS Bus Tour—Sunday June 28, 2015



GOT YOUR SEAT ON THE BUS YET?

TIME: 8:00 a.m. sharp from Landscape Ontario in Milton OR 8:30 a.m. (approx.) from Homewood Suites by Hilton, 800 Jamieson Parkway, Cambridge

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

ITINERARY

Bill & Bonnie Gibbons, Innerkip, Ontario. There are over 500 varieties of hosta here with many of them very large specimen plants. Some plants are actually over 30 years old. Every year there is a HUGE sale of hosta at the Gibbons property the first Saturday in June. Within 2 hours they are typically sold out of approx. 650 plants (over 100 different varieties).

Mark Vaandering & Paul Flemming's gardens in downtown London. They garden on one and a half acres right in the city and have around 300 different types of hosta and well over 1,000 plants in the garden. An amazing space to find right in the heart of London!

Marlit Young will be our gorgeous luncheon stop. Marlit & Doug have gardened here for 20 years on 18 acres with a gazebo, pond and over 2,000 varieties of hosta. We will miss our friend Doug on this tour but his presence will be felt everywhere with all he has created with Marlit.

Angie Holman's property is about one half of an acre where she has been gardening for about 23 years now. Angie has about 755 hosta. This garden is truly representative of what you can manage to fill into a half acre! We may see her beautiful puppy "Sassy Sable" on the grounds.

We will finish up our tour with an opportunity to shop at Hosta Choice. Over 1800 varieties of Hosta are on display with over 900 varieties of Hosta for sale in the greenhouses.

To reserve your seat please contact Sandra at sandrasherbalife@aol.com or telephone her toll free at 1-866-742-7155. Payment may be made by either cheque or credit card.

SEE YOU ON THE BUS!

(P.S. – We have managed to keep the price at \$40.00 again this year.)

Sandra Shrieve

2015 Hosta Forum Report

Our day started out with a wonderful breakfast. **Trish Symon** acted as the Mistress of Ceremony. The first order of business was a warm welcome to everyone and to have the members of the OHS Executive to stand up, introduce themselves and say a little bit about what they do for the OHS.

Our first guest speaker was **C.H. Falstad**, who is the "Royalty Administrator" at Walter's Gardens. C.H.'s talk was on "Proven Winners" (which is a trademark for Walters Gardens Inc.) and what it takes to "Make the Grade" to be one of the "Proven Winner" plants.

All plants come from the Walters Gardens breeding program or another breeding program, but in all cases, Walters Gardens is the one that determines whether a plant will go into further trials or not.

The branding of "Proven Winners" as a trusted brand was discussed. "Proven Winners" are tested again and again under numerous conditions to prove that they are a hardy plant which can be given to anyone.

To become a "Proven Winner" a plant has to be attractive and distinct/unique. In the "Proven Winner" program these plants are tested and proven at not only Walters Gardens but also at least 2 other Proven Winner sites and possibly at as many as 10 other

sites across North America.

All plant must be free of viruses and not be highly susceptible to a bacterial problem or a fungal problem. They will test a plant for 23 different viruses, including HVX for Hostas. Agdia Test Strips are used for HVX, but if there is any question about the reading, they will do a PCR testing (Polymerase Chain Reaction Test). This test is much more in depth and fine tuned and can pick up smaller amounts of viruses. All of their plants are

tested on a yearly basis to make sure they are not infected with a pathogenic virus.

The naming of plants is very important. It has to be easy to remember and it has to be distinct for that genus. Once it gets to that point, that plant must be promot-

ed. Walters Gardens promote in garden magazines for the consumer and in trade journals for retailers There are about 7,000 radio programs across Canada and the U.S. that advertise for "Proven Winners". Approximately 600,000 booklets go out in the spring to households.

C.H. showed us pictures of various plants that they were hoping to be "Proven Winners" and then went on to explain to us why they couldn't, e.g. slow to propagate, flowers too small, didn't perform well, etc.

Some "Proven Winner" Hostas were shown,



Wonderful venue, wonderful presenters, wonderful crowd. What more could a hosta lover ask for?.

which brought a lot of “ooohs” and “aaaahs” from the crowd. Included were H. ‘Coast to Coast’, H. ‘Autumn Frost’, H. ‘Empress Wu’, H. ‘Hudson Bay’, H. ‘Seducer’, and H. ‘Wheee!

Our next speaker was **Tobias Clarke**, the Owner of Metis Bees. Her talk was on “3C’s and 3H’s...Colony Collapse Crisis: How Hostas Help”

Tobias started by showing us slides of Texas and West Virginia, both States have beautiful plantings along their roadsides. So why not Ontario? She indicated that Ontario should have “Native” pretty plants along its roadsides! It would look wonderful and it would help out our bee population!

She went on to show slides of bees pollinating a variety of different

food crop plants and explained that if there were no bees – there would be no blueberries, no apples, no strawberries and no cacao, thus – no chocolate! That got a HUGE reaction from the crowd (and much laughter as well).

Tobias talked about a book written by **Laurence Packer**, entitled “Keeping the Bees”. The book indicates that a large portion of the human population could see a food shortage without pollination by the bees. Bees are disappearing at an alarming rate, but at the same time are responsible for up to one-third of our food supply. All bees are at risk, whether it is from loss of habitat, pesticide

use, or disease. Since the role these insects play in the ecology of our planet is integral, we may be at risk as well.

We learned how to tell the difference between bees, wasps, hornets and others. The differences are found in body size, number of wings, wing placement, and the fact that bees are the “hairy” ones.

Tobias talked about one bee in particular, the Orchard Mason Bee. It does not live in a nest like other bees; it lives in wooden blocks, but does not drill holes and destroy wooden items

like other bees. It uses holes that are already available. The male orchard mason bee can not sting and the female rarely stings. Slightly smaller than honeybees, mason bees are incredible pollinators. Each one visits as many as 1000 blooms per day – 20 times as many as a honey-



C.H. Falsted gave a talk about the “Proven Winners series of plants

bee!

We were all given a Pollination 101 course. Flowers are the reproductive organs of a plant. When the insect lands on the flower and searches for nectar and pollen to eat, tiny pollen pieces on the anther—the male part of a flower - stick to the body of the insect. When the insect goes to another flower, some of that pollen sticks to that flower’s stigma—the female part of the flower. That pollen then fertilizes the ovules which lead to seed production.

(Continued on page 6)

2015 Hosta Forum Report - Continued

(Continued from page 5)

After Tobias' talk, we took a break for lunch and during it **Sandra Shrieve** talked about the upcoming Bus Tour and explained briefly what the four gardens we were going to be seeing hold in them and about our buying spot at Hosta Choice. The date is Sunday June 28th.

Lynne Limpert let everyone know that the OHS picnic will be at hers and Norms place on Sunday, July 19th.

Sandra then spoke to the group about an upcoming tour of Whistling Gardens on Sunday, August 15th. .

After lunch Trish introduced **Mark Zilis**, author of the "Mark Zilis Field Guide to Hostas" amongst others. His topic was "Developing New Hosta Through Sport Mutation".

Approximately 300 to 400 new Hostas are introduced each year and since 1980 the number have Hosta have increased from less than 1,000 to over 9,000 types. Most of the development is in the United States and some in Western Europe and also a little bit in Japan. The Japanese are probably the leaders in the world of flower development. They have some unbelievable types of flowering Hosta including yellow flowers, reds, doubles, maroon, brown, you name it, they've got it in terms of flowers. But we are way

ahead in the west in sport development.

In the late 1970's plant tissue culture began to be used to propagate Hosta and other herbaceous perennials, meaning that new cultivars became available much quicker and in large numbers. Hostas also possess the highest leaf mutation rate of any temperate climate herbaceous perennial.

Sources for new Hosta include collecting in the wild. However, recently 72 out of 87 new patents on Hosta are from sports.



A silent auction was a success!.

Mark showed us a few examples of "sports" and explained that some will stay and some will be gone the following year. It was very interesting to see the many sports from different plants.

Mark also talked about so many nurseries going bankrupt. Mark

saw the writing on the wall that maybe in ten years, it could have come to that for him. He didn't want it to come to that. In his new business, he is hoping his son can carry it on for another 30 years. He showed his greenhouses and the material he is selling off.

In his lab, Mark said they find 2 to 3 sports every month which they will be introducing over the following years. We saw many slides of beautiful plants that were found by Mark or his staff and were amazed by the beauty in the subtle differences between

these sports and their host/parent plant. Some plants they will grow for 20 years before they introduce it. Some plants are different but not really marketable.

One lesson he learned from 'H' Lunar Eclipse when it was growing in the lab and then in the green house and then in a garden setting, with people saying "you have to introduce it". Well, it started to rip and tear along the edge and all the people that had told him to introduce it – they disappeared! Many examples of this "inconsistency" were shown to us in slides and with detailed explanations from Mark as to why they could not be used.

It was a very eye opening talk on the trial and tribulations of Hosta and we all enjoyed it immensely.

The end of the day had everyone walking away with a hosta, being it given away, or bid upon at the auction.

Thank you so much **Lynne Limpert** and **Donna Hussey** for organizing this event.

Sandra Shrieve

Editor's Note: This report has been edited for brevity. If you'd like to see the full report, a copy is available by request of **Sandra Shrieve** or **Glenn Wilson**.



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2014 Photo Contest Results

Photos submitted to the 2014 photo contest were judged at the Winter meeting of the OHS. Once again, Trish Symons acted as the judge. The winners are as listed below:

Class 1 – A single Hosta leaf went to	Ruth Kumpa
Class 2 – Bejeweled- a Hosta with water drops went to	Ruth Kumpa
Class 3 – The entire plant of a mature Hosta went to	Caryl Vaillancourt
Class 4 – Multiple Hosta in a group setting went to	Caryl Vaillancourt
Class 5 – Hosta(s) with companion plants, garden art or fauna	Olga Elchuk
Class 6 – Autumn’s Glory – Hosta(s) in the fall went to	Caryl Vaillancourt
Class 7 – Hosta flower(s) went to	Olga Elchuk
Class 8 – Wildcard – Be creative, artistic, no restrictions went to	Olga Elchuk

Best in show - **Olga Elchuk**, Class 5. Judges Choice - **Caryl Vaillancourt**, Class 8

Congratulations Cindy Deutekom

Our most recent Past-President, **Cindy Deutekom**, has become the new Regional 7 Director for the American Hosta Society. Cindy replaces **Kevin Plumley** in this role. Cindy has also been re-elected as Vice-President for the Genus Hosta for another two years.

Our Newest Members!

- Jeannine Austin** - Amaranth
- Susan Dallas-Wood** - Bobcaygeon
- Al Higgs** - Orillia
- The Potting Shed** - Dunville
- Jean Marr** - Mallorytown
- Walter & Lenore Pawziuk** - Toronto
- Russ & Maureen Talbot** - Wasaga Beach
- Laurie Wight** - Mallorytown



OHS 20th Anniversary BBQ and Picnic

The OHS is hosting a 20th Anniversary BBQ and Picnic this year!

Where: Norm and Lynn Limpert's gardens. 11174 Sixth Line Nassagaweya Milton, Ontario

When: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm on Sunday July 19, 2015

Features: Complimentary hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks, and sweets. There will be vendors, demonstrations and draws. Just bring your own lawn chair(s), camera(s) and prepare for fun!



RSVP to lynnelimpert@hotmail.com by Sunday July 12, 2015

About the Gardens: Lynne and Norm garden on 37 acres with two natural ponds in north Milton. They have over 500 different varieties of hostas, various perennials, trees and shrubs planted in several beds and rock outcroppings around the house. The gardens surround a green house and water features are nestled throughout the garden. You can wander from "room" to "room" as you check out the gardens. All the hostas are labelled so you make note of some favourites. Norm is also interested in growing many varieties of sempervivums and jovi barbas and has established a display garden to focus on these succulents near the vegetable garden.

Come and celebrate - Don't Miss it !

Thanks Kevin & Olga

The OHS conducts targeted outreach on an occasional basis during the year. This year, we had a significant presence at the Peterborough Home and Garden Show in early April. For manning the OHS booth, at

the show, the OHS would like to show some appreciation for **Kevin & Olga Elchuk**. Well done guys and thanks again!

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Feature Article

Never Met a Hosta I Could Not Love

By Trish Symons

If I believed in reincarnation I'd want to come back as a Hosta namer. Pineapple Upsidedown Cake, Key Lime Pie, Guacamole, Blue Mouse Ears, Spilt Milk – The names are as delicious and as diverse as this magnificent family of plants of more than 7,000 cultivars.

If someone has a better idea, I am not beyond begging, borrowing or imitating. Oscar Wilde said, "Imitation is the most sincere form of flattery." Sandy Leah gave me permission to use this wonderful column title she coined. I used to believe Hostas were green or green/white plants to fill a difficult shady area. How wrong! They are amazing plants to be desired for their strength, versatility and beauty. One visit to the Ontario Hosta Society meeting did the trick. Hook, line and sinker, I caught Hosta fever.

My hubby, Bill, said recently, "If you get one more expensive hobby, I am out of here". Of course he was joking.

Care and feeding of Hostas: They need lots of water. Avoid chemical fertilizer. Add compost and top-dress with last year's leaves. Leaves are an invitation for snails and slugs to visit, but well grown, well-watered Hostas will not succumb fatally to these nasties. Here are a few tricks to lessening the damage:

- 1 Select Hostas with thicker leaves, like Regal Splendor and Sum and Substance. Slugs prefer finer leaves that are easier to chomp.
- 2 Hand pick at dawn, if you are not too squeamish. I visited Sur Orr, a talented garden designer, and was surprised to

find her on her hands and knees with a miner's light on her head. She was looking under leaves and picking off the slugs. Birds are quite happy to have these delivered to their birdbath.

- 3 The ammonia treatment. Just after the heads have emerged in spring, spray a 10 percent solution of ammonia, 90 percent water, onto the ground around the plants. Be careful, ammonia could damage the tender leaves. If a bit of overspray touches them, it will not kill the plant. Remove the damaged leaves as the plant grows. The ammonia decimates many overwintering eggs. If you have an infestation, repeat during the fall.
- 4 Some people swear by beer in containers sunk at ground level. The slugs will be attracted and drowned. This is labour intensive for a large collection. Beer-loving hubbies do not take kindly to sharing with slimy creatures.
- 5 Slug and snail bait, the really powerful stuff, is no longer available, except to pest management professionals. There are commercially available milder ones for the home gardener. Supposedly non-toxic to birds, pets and people. I still take caution. Devise a structure only the slugs can enter. A dark piece of wood elevated on one side with a stone allows the slugs to crawl under (but not the birds). This creates the dank environment they like. Dark roofing shingles serve the same purpose. If you are totally pesticide-free, step on a board of shingle in the early morning to destroy the critters. Put the pellets inside black ABS pipes so only a crawly creature can get in. the only good

snail is one cooked gently in garlic butter or embroidered on the sun dress I purchased for our youngest granddaughter.

Feeding Hostas organically: Using organic compost and semi-rotted leaves serves three purposes: it replenishes the soil, keeps weeds down, and keeps moisture in.

Hostas and spring bulbs: Everyone loves tulips and daffodils. Nobody likes the mess as the leaves brown off. Planting them in Hosta collections solves the problem. Do not cut these leaves off, because the foliage uses the sunlight to photosynthesize. This turns sunlight into food stored in the bulbs. Flowers need this food for next year's bloom. Hostas emerge when the spring bulbs are retreating. Hosta leaves disguise the browning foliage, yet allow enough sunshine to penetrate. Giant Alliums are very popular. Unfortunately, they have huge, strappy leaves. Planting in a Hosta bed is ideal. You barely notice these leaves. The Alliums appear to float above the Hostas.



Hostas and sun/shade: Certain Hostas, because of their lime or yellow colour, greatly enhance shade. They appear to glow. They are perfectly happy in full sun, if they get lots of water. Just like humans, plants dehydrate in full sun without sufficient water. Blue Hostas are gorgeous. The waxy coating on the leaves create a bluish colour. Strong sunshine and handling the leaves will damage this coating. A blue Hosta is much happier with some shade. Hostas with a fair bit of white in them burn just the same as our skin

will. Shade is obviously the answer.

Hostas and flower arranging: Floral designers love Hosta leaves. There are so many shapes, sizes and colours. Using material from your garden saves money. It is difficult to condition them in spring. Conditioning means making sure there is lots of water to keep the tissue fresh. In summer and fall, it is easy keeping them turgid. Water the plant in the evening to ensure moisture gets into the tissue. Cut it at dawn. Rinse with tepid water. Place in a plastic bag with a bit of water and store in the fridge. Leaves will last several weeks.

Black Walnut Trees and Hostas: Hostas will thrive under Black Walnut trees. This tree exudes a secretion at its roots that kills many plants. I made a huge mistake of planting it outside our bedroom. All fall we hear the fruit dropping on the roof. Unfortunately, squirrels love the nuts and start collecting at the crack of dawn. The upside is squirrels hide the nuts all over the garden. We share Walnut seedlings with friends every year. Its wood is prized for fine furniture.

Hosta Virus X: A Black Walnut lives in harmony with my Hostas, but there is a culprit trying to decimate them – Hosta Virus X. Ontario Hosta Society's president visited last summer. She could only find four infected ones in my collection of more than 1,400. Check out the Ontario Hosta Society's website,

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Feature Article - Continued

(Continued from page 11)

www.ontariohostasociety.com , for the latest information.

The virus is transferred from host to victim through the sap. The leaves just do not seem right. Look closely at the veins. The tissue may be discoloured or colouring may bleed into the surrounding tissue. You will transfer the problem from plant to plant if you are not careful. Use a 20 to 40 percent bleach solution on your tools when cutting any Hosta, just to be safe.

If you are worried, take a leaf in a plastic bag to a good garden centre and ask for help. Hosta testing kits are available, but they are still fairly expensive. Check my blog at www.trishsymons.com for an article on how to prevent the spreading of disease during fall cleanup.

So far 1,400 Hostas live in my garden. I cannot wait for the next meeting of the Ontario Hosta Society to see what will tempt me to see if my hubby really means his threat.

Reprinted by permission of the Orangeville



Banner/Sideroads Magazine editor **Chris Vernon**

Editor's Note: Trish has been a contributing author to the Orange Banner and Sideroads Magazine on a number of occasions. We are fortunate that she loves to write about Hostas! BTW Trish, your granddaughter and her snail sundress are adorable!

Seeking a Newsletter Editor

It is with mixed emotions that I have tendered my resignation as the OHS Editor. I really enjoy editor positions and have been such for several organizations since the mid 90s. I have recently, however, sought the challenges associated with leadership roles; the first being the President of the South Western Ontario Hosta Society, and the second as the District 10 Director of the Ontario Horticultural Association. With a very busy home and work life and other

organizations that I volunteer with, something had to give, and unfortunately, it is my role as the editor for the OHS.

I hope that you have enjoyed OHS Newsletter over the past few years - it has been a pleasure bringing it to you.

I leave the OHS pleading for somebody to takeover as newsletter editor. I am even willing to assist - just drop me a line.

Stephen Douglas, Past-OHS Editor

OHS Visit to Whistling Gardens - Sunday August 16



The OHS is organizing a visit to Whistling Gardens in Wilsonville, Ontario on Sunday August 16, 2015. We have been offered a 1 1/2 hour tour by **Darren Heimbecker** through the gardens. Cost will be \$11 for the day.

Whistling Gardens features: ~ 20 acres are cultivated and sculpted into 6 major gardens and collections. Wheelchair accessible walking paths. The largest public collection of conifers in the world. A fountain display with 114 fountains choreographed to music. Two unique fountain displays are sure to entertain visitors of all ages. A new aviary has over 50 birds with many "little ones" that arrived in the spring.

*** There are over 4,000 different plants in the gardens and ***
more than 2,500 different specimens of conifers.

OHS members can bring their own lunch, or we have the option of having it catered (indicate your preference with Sandra)

We would car pool/drive to the gardens where we would meet for 10 a.m. Our tour will take place in the morning and then after lunch, we would be able to spend the rest of the day as we please, strolling at our leisure, and perhaps catching one of the choreographed fountain shows

Confirmation if required by July 31, 2015

Please contact Sandra Shrieve at 1-866-742-7155

Rewind—20th Anniversary Reprint

Hosta gems for 1998

by John Kee

In previous installments of the OHS Newsletter I've done an article called "Hostas Worth the Search", these were already proven to be great plants. This time around, I want to let you know about some plants that have only been here for a short while and I think will deserve a place in your garden. These plants have been tissue cultured to make them more widely available and some of them haven't been grown in garden situations long enough for proper evaluation. Many are priced at the high end, but still no more than a good dinner for two, and will be around a lot longer. These views are strictly my own based on growing many of the parent plants and only time will tell if I have guessed right.

H. 'Aristocrat'. Creamy white margin with blue centre. A sport of 'Hadspen Blue'. Should be a medium speed grower that is medium-sized with good slug resistance.

H. 'Pandora's Box'. Blue with a white centre. A sport of 'Baby Bunting'. Should be a medium speed grower and form a dwarf-sized mound. This Hosta was first introduced at the AHS convention last year and was auctioned off at \$600.

H. 'Fire and Ice'. Green with a white centre. A sport of 'Patriot'. Should be a good grower

and forms a medium-sized mound. This Hosta was first introduced at the AHS convention last year and was auctioned off at \$800.

H. 'Veronica Lake'. White margined form of 'Pearl Lake'. Should be a good grower and form a small mound like it's parent.

H. 'Donahue's Piecrust'. Green with a very piecrusted margin. This hosta has been around for a while, but very hard to find. This year it should be more widely available, and if you like piecrusting, this is the best! A large mound and good grower.

H. 'Blue Ice'. Blue leaves with puckering and good substance are not hard traits to find in many Hostas, but combined with a miniature size and you have a very unique Hosta. This Hosta was at the 1995 AHS convention and was auctioned off at \$400 US.

H. 'Striptease'. Wide dark green with gold centre that has a fine white outline. A mutation of 'Gold Standard' that's a good grower and forms a medium-sized mound.

Editor's Note: **John Klee** is a Past-President of the OHS. This article first appeared in Volume 4, Issue 1 of OHS Newsletter in the Spring of 1998. On a personal level, I am amazed at how some seemingly common hostas in today's collector's world were once highly sought after and had people paying hundreds of dollars for them!

Best Wishes Bob

The OHS has learned that **Bob (R.J.) Murphy** fell and fractured/broke his hip in early June. The injury required surgery to repair. It is now late June and Bob is now undergoing

rehabilitation. We have been informed that Bob is now coming along quite nicely.

On behalf of all of us at the OHS, we wish you a strong recovery Bob.

Honouring Bob Murphy

Bob (R.J.) Murphy was honoured at the beginning of the OHS Winter Meeting on January 25, 2015. Bob has been placed on the American Hosta Society 'Wall of Fame'. This Wall of Fame is headed up with this phrase: "The American Hosta Society is delighted to thank those members of Local Societies who have worked tirelessly for many years to ensure the smooth running of their local clubs". You can view that wall at AHS website at:

www.americanhostasociety.org

OHS President **Glenn Wilson**, did an excellent job of honouring Bob in front of the membership by sharing the following:

"I would like very much if you would join me in thanking a real special gentleman that has not only given of himself to the OHS but also worked tirelessly to ensure that retired teachers, both on the district level as well as

on the Provincial level, had a voice that would help them be heard when pension and retirement concerns were at the forefront. His contributions, too numerous to mention here, led to the naming of the auditorium we are sitting in today, after him. As long as I can remember the "OHS home" has been the RJ Murphy room and that home has been provided to us free of charge thanks to this gentleman's generosity as well as the generosity of his colleagues. One of the OHS founding members, the gentleman of whom I speak, has shared his professionalism and enthusiasm with many of our past executive and has certainly played a tremendous role in getting the OHS to where it is today."

Editor's Note: The above was modified from a report on the 2015 OHS Winter Meeting. Full copies of the report are available upon request by asking **Glenn Wilson** or **Sandra Shrieve**.



Left to Right: Norm Limpert, Sandra Shrieve, Keith Skanes, Lynne Limpert, Bob Leask, Bob Murphy, Glenn Wilson, Donna Hussey, Mary Lou Curry, Olga Elchuk, Kevin Elchuk, Trish Symons

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 \$40/3 yr

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

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
\$107.00 US for 3 years.
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 2015 Executive

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

Vice-President - **Open**

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

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

Treasurer - **Bob Leask**
rleask@hotmail.com

Membership Secretary - **Norm Limpert**
normlimpy@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor - **Open**
ohs.editor@gmail.com

Secretary - **Mary Lou Curry**
marylcurry@gmail.com

Publicity - **Keith Skanes**
keithskanes@icloud.com

Photographer - **Trish Symons**
trish.symons@sympatico.ca

Director at Large - **Dave Barham**
mbarham@bell.net

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

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

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

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

Liaison with AHS - **Cindy Deutekom**
cindydeutekom@gmail.com

OHS Chapter Updates

South Western OHS

Our AGM was held April 25th in Chatham. **Lynn Bisschop** gave a presentation on Hosta Families, H. 'Wheee!' was selected as the SWOHS Members Choice Hosta of the Year. **Stephen Douglas** was voted in as President, **Alice Silcox** as Publicity Director, other positions were acclaimed. Open positions on the executive are Vice-President, Treasurer and Tour Director. The duties of such positions are being taken over by ad hoc committees.

Our garden tour was on June 6th. Participants were able to enjoy three private gardens in the Aylmer Area, shopping and lunch in the Village of Sparta, and the opportunity to buy Hostas at Shades of Green Hostas.

Our picnic will be held Sunday July 19th in Sarnia, Ontario between the hours of 11am to 4pm. It will be a brown bag lunch. We will also have a trunk swap, vendors and lots of fun! RSVPs must be in to **Art Bisschop** at editor@swohs.org by not later than July 17th.

SWOHS will also be having a members only Corn Roast in Chatham, Ontario on Sunday August 30th. We will have a demonstration on Foliar Nematodes.

SWOHS is looking to host some travelling roadshow meetings in the various areas that our members live. The first meeting will be in Essex County in early November.

Eastern Chapter of the OHS

No updates were available at press time.