



ONTARIO HOSTA SOCIETY

FALL 2010
NEWSLETTER.
VOLUME 16 ISSUE 4

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Membership

If your address label says 12/10, your subscription to the Society ends on December 31st, 2010. Please don't forget to renew it.

E-Mail

We do our best to remind you of upcoming events, but we can't do this unless we have your correct e-mail address. If you would like to receive reminders and did not get one for the last picnic, please send the editor an e-mail confirming same

hostaed@rogers.com

PRESIDENTIAL MUSINGS

This has been one steamy hot summer! We have had some fabulous hosta events with our first 'out-of-town' bus trip declared a great success by the participants. We visited incredible gardens and had a great time visiting with our garden hosts and meeting new hosta friends. Caryl has written detailed articles for the newsletter.

The picnic Eastern Picnic held at Kevin and Olga's had a great turnout and we all enjoyed great company, hostas and Kevin's famous baking!

We just attended the picnic at Marlit and Doug this weekend for our Western Picnic reconnecting with friends and making new ones. We had a few new members sign up at the picnic. THAT is always a good sign!

In the last newsletter, I mentioned the interest in starting a new chapter of the OHS in the London/Windsor area. Since then, we've heard from the Kingston/Ottawa area of their interesting an eastern chapter! We will keep you updated through the website and future newsletters. If YOU are interested in joining either new chapter (if enough interest), then check out the OHS website for a new section and send your name to us!

Are you interested in learning how to be a leaf judge? We have the opportunity to have Kathy Sisson, a U.S. judge, come here to teach us. We have 4 people interested in attending a class. We would like to have a few more. Kevin Plumley is a judge and he will be co-teaching the class with Kathy Sisson. Date to be determined. Send me an email if you are interested - cindydeutekom@netscape.ca

Mark these dates on your calendar! **Winter Meeting** will be held January 30th at the RJ Murphy Room. Speaker TBA.

Your Executive is working hard to bring you new events to add to your OHS membership experience. With that in mind, will are now planning our first **1-day Hosta Forum**. Our tentative date is March 26th. Location TBA. We will have guest speakers, workshops, & include lunch - a fee will be charged to cover our expenses. Watch the website for more information!

In the next newsletter, we will publish all of the 2011 dates. They will be on the website by October so you can mark them on your calendar.

Looking forward to seeing you at the September 12th auction and general meeting at the RJ Murphy Auditorium.

Cindy Deutekom

Land of the Giants

With all of the attention that mini hostas have garnered in the recent past, especially those pesky mice, it's time to look at the other end of the spectrum.

All the arguments for pulling out the large ones and replacing them with a dozen smaller ones may have some merit in smaller gardens with an appetite for a large variety, but if at all possible select at least one giant as a focal point. This may even mean potting one up, but select a large enough pot to allow for growth.

So what's large? While Mark Zilis may list the average size for Niagara Falls as 26 x 52, it has grown to 42 x 72 in my yard (on the septic bed, mind you) so I call it a giant. Growing environment means everything.

Breeders and hybridizers seem to be in a never-ending race to produce the largest possible and then we'll expect numerous sports as well. Can you remember the urban legend of how Van Wade got his Sum and Substance to grow so large? (buried a possum or similar to stimulate the roots) And now we have x number of sports and crosses of similar size.

In the beginning we were happy to have a Blue Angel, Big Momma, seiboldiana, Jade Cascade, Grey Cole, Mira, Elatior, and tenryu.

But now we anxiously await the ultimate mature size of Empress Wu, Jurassic Park, T Rex, Tiffany's Godzilla, Mastadon, Sea Monster, Komodo Dragon, Swamp Monster, Goliath, Sea Dragon, and Cyclops. If I didn't know better, I'd say breeders are caught up in a B movie mode. How about a theme for a corner of a large yard?

However there are a few more civilized named varieties that also bear some mention. Try Lakeside Surfrider, Millenium, Mr Big, Spacious Skies, Vim and Vigor, Winter Snow, Amos and Arch Duke.

The varieties mentioned above cover a broad range of solid and variegated colours and patterns so it may take a bit of searching to find the ultimate ABG hosta in this size (anything but green). However, having just one magnificent specimen to showcase the ultimate size of a giant is worth the search. These ones are what non-hostaphiles expect when you talk hostas, and of course they will be anxious to know when you'll be dividing it. When you explain that you wait until they reach their ultimate size a few years hence that they may appreciate the true beauty of the giants.

So minis may have their place, but it's hard to beat the hybridizers' quest for the ultimate giant. Happy hunting.

Contributed by

Bob Leask

NEW MEMBERS

Jo-Anne Johnson	Kingston	Pramak Wijesingh	Mississauga
Daniel Lessard	Ottawa	Keith Skanes	Burlington
Edythe Ann Fleming	Aylmer	Diana Simpson	Aylmer
Marianne Ketchabaw	Aylmer		

Ontario Hosta Society

Ontario Hosta Society Membership can be obtained by writing to (**new address**):

**Ontario Hosta Society
2301 5th Street Louth,
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American: \$16.00/YR Foreign: \$17.00/YR

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. **First-time members receive a bonus copy of "The Hosta Adventure – A Grower's Guide"**

American Hosta Society

Memberships can be obtained by writing to:

**Sandie Markland
AHS Membership Secretary
P.O. Box 7539
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E-mail:

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www.hosta.org

OHS 2010 AUCTION



When: Sunday, September 12th
Where: R.J. Murphy Auditorium
6435 Edward Blvd., Mississauga
Time: 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

A light luncheon will be served

Please join us for our 2010 Hosta Auction

There will be lots of variety, bargains and treasure.

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<i>Hideout</i>	<i>Eye Candy</i>
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<i>Sugar & Spice</i>	<i>White Wall Tires</i>
<i>Tongue Twister</i>	<i>Sleeping Beauty</i>
<i>Midnight at the Oasis</i>	<i>Prestige & Promise</i>
<i>Woop Woop</i>	<i>Lakeside Prophecy</i>

Join us for the camaraderie and fun.
Meet old friends and make new ones
Get that one hosta you have always wanted



Pick up a OHS T-shirt

Picnic at the Youngs

Great weather, great people, and great gardens. How better to describe the Southwest picnic of 2010.

Kevin Plumley was the judge of a "fun" leaf show but he took the time to explain what he was looking for, and how it is regulated by the classes and rules as laid down by the AHS. Prizes were awarded.

Kevin also solicited interest in Judge training offered by the AHS and it looks like we have enough interest. We'll try to get a session going for early spring with the possibility of a real show in June. Stay tuned for an executive decision.

Lynne Bisschop gave some details of hopefully forming a Southwestern affiliate to focus on the area between London and Windsor. Again, stay tuned for details. Mention was also made of an Eastern affiliate – Stay tuned.

A draw was held for several hostas and companions donated by our retail vendors and friends. Thank you for your generosity.

We displayed three possible club plants for this year and the future. Any more are welcome.

Doug and Marlit have garden displays second to none. Pots, ponds, structures, art and anything else you could possibly hope for - and immaculately maintained.

Thank you so much for allowing us into your little bit of paradise and to meet so many old and new hosta friends.

Contributed by

Bob Leask

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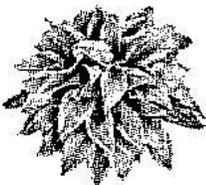
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A HOSTAPHILE'S FONDEST DREAM

And it was definitely like a delightful dream – garden after garden of mouth watering plants. Of course I'm talking about our Annual Bus Trip. This year we travelled to Ottawa and were bright eyed and ready to leave on our tour Saturday morning.

The day dawned and alas, rain drops were falling. Ever the optimists, we all marched to the bus fully expecting the rain to stop and an eventful day to follow. The rain actually did stop – off and on – and we only experienced about five minutes of actual umbrella time.

Our first stop was at the home of Don Budd, owner of Budd Gardens Perennials in Blackburn Hamlet. And what a stop it was, it took our breath away. A specimen garden in the finest sense. Over and over you could hear the exclamations of admiration of the sheer perfection and outrageous size of the hostas. Garden after garden of perfect specimens. How humbling it is to see your own favorite hosta that you are so proud of totally dwarfed by another of a perfect shape and color. That was the Budd garden, utterly breathtaking and the time was waaaay too short to absorb them all.

Next we stopped at his store, "Budd Gardens Perennials", boasting the largest selection of hostas in Ottawa with a wonderfully friendly staff. Of course the storage compartments on the bus began to fill up quickly as we searched madly for the perfect hosta as seen in Don Budd's gardens. After a satisfactory period of time we moved on to the urban garden of Ann Frederking.

Ann's gardens showcase what can be done with a small but well laid out area. Lovely – and a lot of hostas, 140+ - plants in both the front and back of the house and let's not forget the sides. Beauty everywhere. Amazing how creative you can be with a limited amount of space. Ann also treated us to "hosta cups", a variety of hostas planted and ready for us to help ourselves. Unfortunately, before we could totally satisfy our hosta addiction it started to rain in earnest and our visit was cut somewhat short.

We set out for Glenda and Trevor Tolley's home. Mayor Robert Gillard of the Township of South Dundas was there to greet us as well as a photographer from the local newspaper, The Morrisburg Leader.

Tolley Gardens, or "Seven Willows" began as a working farm and evolved into a magnificent showcase with too many areas and varieties to list. A butterfly garden, a Formal Garden, a 25th Anniversary Garden and a Japanese Garden are but a few. Lovely statuary strategically placed, some a beautiful surprise as you turned a corner and viewed yet another garden, and some in a special setting, made it perfect.

As we toured the extensive areas taking many, many photos, we came upon a "hydration station" where we were offered red or white wine, or other beverages, courtesy of the Tolleys. What luxury.

After exhausting ourselves exploring the huge grounds, we had a lovely lunch – compliments of the OHS. Glenda and Trevor generously provided salads, some "nibbles", sweet things and coffee.

We then set out for Sandy Hanson's 17 year old garden. Her home is situated in a tall coniferous forest with her gardens placed throughout. Sandy's gardens reflect a delightful whimsy and an artist's eye for color. A photographer's dream. We loved her "mouse" garden in which she had provided a home for a number of "mouse related" plants as mouse in a hole.

Cont'd Pg 5.....

.....2010 Bus Tour Cont'd

We saw a "tea" garden, a "dragon" garden, a "water" garden and many other areas too numerous to remember. She boasts a collection of 500+ hostas, plus multitudes of daylilies, peonies, heuchera and many more - over a thousand varieties of perennials. Another hostaphile dream. After saying goodbye much too soon, we set off for "Whitehouse Perennials."

Whitehouse Perennials, a fantastic 5 acre nursery growing steadily over the last 21 years. Features include unusual woody shrubs, small trees, small conifers, tender perennials, annuals and ornamental grasses. Their sales benches display plants that grow in their display gardens and are proven to thrive in their zone 5 gardens. Suzanne Patry has created a retreat of hostas and a multitude of other plants. Their daylily gardens are designated American Hemerocallis Society Display gardens. We really had a lot of ground to cover to view the magnificent plants and plantings throughout. The staff and employees were so friendly, helpful and efficient that once again we filled the luggage compartment on the bus - this time the other side.

We had a lengthy ride to Rideau Woodland Ramble and thus some time to rest and restore ourselves. After a "power" nap we played a fun game of hosta bingo, naming the hosta and then trying to name the 'parentage.' Difficult, but fun, and Cindy and Carel had made wonderful concrete garden stone prizes. They also made "Ontario Hosta Society Tour Garden" plaques, with the date in brass, to present to the hosts of the gardens we visited.

Rideau Woodland Ramble - almost too much to describe. The hosts Dave Dunn and Rob Caron were so hospitable and their 7 acre woodland gardens are breath-taking. In a 2005 issue of "Gardening Life Magazine" they were named as one of Canada's top destination nurseries. Trees of all sizes, the most miniature was 4 inches tall and only grows about 1 inch a year. Amazing. The woodland setting showcased hostas as well as grasses and other perennials. Just to be able to walk the tranquil trails was a special treat. Of course there was a lot of shopping to be done and when we were finished, a special barbeque.

Prepared on the patio of the main building, the barbequed hamburgers and sausage, as well as the accompanying delicious dishes, were devoured on the sundeck, patio and surrounding areas. The owners, Dave and Rob, treated us to bountiful wine and soft drinks to compliment the meal. And so, we bid a reluctant farewell and fled the descending mosquitoes back to our now bulging bus.

Alas, the end of a perfect day. Suddenly, back to reality - there we were, safely back at our hotel and ready to 'crash' but reluctant to end our enjoyment. And so, we look forward to getting back to our own gardens with newly acquired plants, or just to look, plan or move existing plants - all to achieve **our** perfect dream.

Contributed by

Caryl Vaillancourt

Ever Wonder... cont'd from pg 8

This brings us back to the original question, what's in a name. I see that some plants are named after people. These people may have played a significant role in the plant world, or may just mean something very special to the person who is choosing the name. Something about the plant may remind one of a certain place or thing or event that sparks the naming. Perhaps there is nothing more than 'it's a nice name' involved in the naming. Whatever the reason, it opens gardeners up to immense possibilities when planning their gardens and to inject some humour, nostalgia, or even some whimsy into their little piece of heaven. And here we are, right back where we started.

Contributed by

Lynn Bisschop

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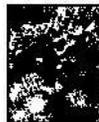
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OHS PICNIC - KEVIN & OLGA ELCHUK SUNDAY, JULY 11

Once again the members of our Hosta Society enjoyed a wonderful treat. Our annual Eastern Picnic was a huge success. We all converged on Olga and Kevin's home in Cobourg for a day of renewing acquaintances and admiring the scope and presentation of their gardens.

Aside from an incredible collection of hostas, Kevin and Olga have a wonderful eye for color, layout and exceptional accompanying plants, which enables them to complete a scenario as it appears in their minds, whether it be water features, unique shapes, wonderful trees and shrubs or a gazebo – contrary to those of us (I speak for myself) who have concepts but can't quite get them from mind to matter.

Of course, their collection is massive – from minis to giants – they are pretty much all there. Kevin declared a total of 1,063 different species and cultivars at the picnic. He had just received 3 more that day. They have deftly planted trees in strategic places and due to multiple water features the relaxing sound of running water is always nearby.

The day was beautiful, although very hot, but we all found shady niches for our chairs to devour our lunches. Kevin and Olga treated us all to wonderful homemade pies for dessert. After we satisfied our appetites we were treated to a presentation by Melissa Spearing of "Ground Covers Unlimited & Shady Idea Trees (her special interest). Melissa is a university graduate who yearned to get "out" and away to "the big city." After 5 or 6 years at Mercedes Benz and a multitude of weekend "horticultural getaways" she decided that maybe horticulture wasn't such a bad idea after-all and went home to start "Shady Idea Trees" and work with her parents at Ground Covers Unlimited.

Melissa brought several different pots of hostas and trees and demonstrated the difference in the way the roots developed by using one of the new "root burning pots" and a standard plastic pot. Melissa uses and recommends "Coir Fibre Pots" made from coconut fibre and latex. (Latex is a natural substance that bonds the fibre together and shapes the pot.) Plants growing in traditional plastic pots tend to develop tightly massed root systems that do not take full advantage of the growing area. When growing in coir pots, plants grow throughout the entire pot, and grow into the pot wall. Because all plants require 3 elements to grow and flourish (soil, oxygen and moisture), once the roots reach the outer edge of the wall they stop growing out (no soil or moisture) and continue to grow inside the pot. Because coir is biodegradable, commercial growers can use the pots to grow plants that can be planted directly into the ground, skipping the transplanting step, which often leads to transplant shock. Plants planted directly into the ground in coir pots will settle in and takeoff more quickly. As alternatives for planting, coconut (coir) fiber pots are considered more environmentally friendly than plastic pots.

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Cont'd Pg 7.....

.....Picnic Cont'd

Plants planted directly into the ground in coir pots will settle in and takeoff more quickly. As alternatives for planting, coconut (coir) fiber pots are considered more environmentally friendly than plastic pots.

Melissa also gave us a valuable tip about what to look for when buying a tree (aside from the obvious). If the tree trunk flares out slightly at the bottom, it will likely have good roots. On the other hand, if the trunk is straight up and down and goes into the earth that way, chances are that it has a spiral root or was root bound. She also advised only a thin layer of mulch (whether hostas or trees) should be used and to make sure the mulch does not pile up the trunk – seen often in multiple plantings such as sub-divisions or parks.

When Melissa concluded her talk and answered all of our questions, we all adjourned to the garage to play Kevin and Olga's "Giboshi" game of identifying leaves taken from hostas, the first letter of the hosta name to be a letter in Giboshi. Lots of fun and Bob Leask won, of course. Then Cindy called out numbers for door prizes, lots of prizes – gorgeous plants, plant markers, Hosta Virus X strips and I know I forgot some of them.

And so, our day was over, too fast but fabulous. Thank you Kevin and Olga for your super hospitality and for the time to absorb your wonderful gardens.

Contributed by

Caryl Vaillancourt

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Upcoming Events

2010

Auction

When: Sunday, September 12th
Where: R.J. Murphy Auditorium
6435 Edward Blvd. Mississauga.
Time: 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

2011

Winter Lecture

When: Sunday, January 30th
Where: R.J. Murphy Auditorium
Addr: 6435 Murphy Auditorium
Time: 12:30 - 3:00 p.m.

1 day Hosta Forum

When: Sunday, March 26th (tentative)
Where: T.B.A.
Time: T.B.A.
Speaker: T.B.A.

www.ontariohostasociety.com for more details

Ever Wonder?

Ever wonder what's in a name? I had a customer ask me once if I had any *Holy plants*. I wasn't sure what she meant by that and when I asked her, she said, "You know, plants named after things from the Bible." Well, that got me thinking...which is sometimes not a good thing!

Who makes up the names for plants and how do they come by them? I'm not talking about the botanical names. I'm sure that there is some sort of rule for those. I'm talking about the common names. Things like Lady Slipper are fairly easy to understand. When you look at the flower, it looks somewhat like a lady's slipper. But who got to name it and who decided that they were the one who should name it? Hmm...perhaps we're getting too territorial here.

Okay, we'll just stick to how names get picked and who picks them. Since there are so many plants to wonder about and I tend to travel directly to hostas when my mind wanders, I will concentrate on them.

Since we started on Bible names, I will start with the hosta Blue Angel. When Paul Aden introduced this hosta back in the 1970's, I don't know why he chose this name. Perhaps because it spreads its wings so widely and is such a beautiful plant. At any rate, it has given rise to a whole family of angels. To list some of them: Angel Eyes, Angel of Beauty, Confused Angel, Earth Angel, Green Angel, Guardian Angel, and White Angel. However, it has also given rise to other hostas whose namers have chosen to drop the 'angel'. Examples are: Beckoning, Devil's Advocate, Dream Maker, and Grey Ghost. I guess you don't have to stretch the imagination too far to see where they got these names.

Staying on the celestial theme, how about another hosta called August Moon. Although this is one of the oldest hosta cultivars, it was not registered until 1996 by Peter Ruh, but named by Alex Summers. I would guess that it got its name - by the way that it glowed on those August nights. Yes, there are many hostas now that glow much brighter, but one must remember how old this cultivar is and that there were few varieties back then. Examples of sports from August Moon are: Abiqua Moonbeam, Indiana Knight, Lunar Eclipse, Lunar Orbit, Mayan Moon, September Sun, and Watermark. Most of these are creative plays on the word 'moon'; however September Sun is a neat little twist. Watermark, however, doesn't even come close! That almost seems like it is coming out of left field. If you look at the plant though, the name makes perfect sense. The leaves look just like those of August Moon, but as the season progresses, they develop an interesting dark green watermark along the edge of the leaf. I guess Danny Van Eechaute, the originator, decided to deviate from the norm when naming this one.

Stay with me now, while I leave the heavens for a bit. Another old cultivar from the '70's is Golden Tiara. This is a small, green hosta with a yellow margin. Perhaps the margin was the inspiration for the tiara in its name. This hosta too has sported a whole family of Tiaras, some of which include: Diamond Tiara, Glen Tiara, Grand Tiara, Jade Tiara, Platinum Tiara, Ribbon Tiara, and Streaked Tiara. Other sports with related names are Emerald Sceptre, Golden Sceptre, and Jade Sceptre. Hmm... Tiara to Sceptre. I can see that.

Sum and Substance is a name that most everyone recognizes when it comes to hostas. It is a huge plant with chartreuse to gold leaves. Its triploid chromosomes give it extra substance, hence the name. This hosta has an unprecedented number of sports. Some of these include: Beauty Substance, Final Summation, Sum It Up, Sum of All, Sum Total, and Variable Sum. These names are all derived from, obviously, the original name. But where did the names of these other sports come from? Namely, Blizzard, Bottom Line, Corona, Eagle's Nest, Gunther's Prize, Lady Isobel Barnett, Parhelion, Titanic, and Winter Snow. Blizzard most probably got its name for the streaked leaves. Gunther's Prize from the introducer, Gunther Stark. Looking into the others is a project for another day.

One of the latest families of hostas to hit the market, and probably one of the most marketable names, is the Blue Mouse Ears family. Some of these are: Cat and Mouse, Frosted Mouse Ears, Green Mouse Ears, Holy Mouse Ears, Mighty Mouse, One Iota, Pure Heart, and Royal Mouse Ears. Blue Mouse Ears started this family and was aptly named with its blue mouse ear-shaped leaves. Even if this wasn't a sturdy, garden-worthy family of hostas, it would sell for the name alone.

.....Cont'd Pg 5

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