



ONTARIO HOSTA SOCIETY

JANUARY 2011
NEWSLETTER.

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 1

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INSERTS

Hosta Forum
OHS Survey

Membership

If your address label says 12/10, your subscription to the Society **has** ended. Please don't forget to renew it to receive the next newsletter. You can **renew** it at the Winter Meeting - please bring your cheque book - see Pg 3 for exciting new information

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

With the holidays behind us, we can now start thinking about hostas again! We have an exciting year ahead of us starting with our first meeting and guest speaker, Clarence (C.H.) Falstad from Walters Gardens Inc. Walters Gardens Inc. is a leading wholesaler to many of the retailers from whom you purchase your hostas. C.H. is coming to talk to us about hosta flowers and also what it takes for a hosta to make it to their hosta line-up. Clarence is writing an article for the British Hosta and Hemerocallis Bulletin on Hosta flowers, so this seems to be a hot topic for 2011. **The date of our Winter Meeting has changed to Saturday, January 29th.** We hope to see you at our first event of the year!

We have been promising more T-shirts sizes to be available. They are here! We had the Logo embroidered on the left side. We'll have them available at the Winter Meeting.

Your Executive, in conjunction with the Royal Botanical Gardens, is excited to bring a 1-day Hosta Forum to you on Sunday, March 27th at the RBG. The cost is \$55. **and** includes an entrance fee to the RBG, lunch, coffee/tea and 5 speakers! You can't beat that. We have Mike and Kathy Shadrack, Sandy and Jim Wilkins and our very own Trish Symons on the agenda which is enclosed. Tickets will be available for you to purchase at our Winter Meeting on Saturday, January 29th. This event is open to the public and will be advertised through the RBG and garden magazines, so be sure to get your tickets early.

The OHS will have an information booth at several gardening shows this year. We will be at the Peterborough – For the Love of Gardening, The Toronto Botanical Gardens and possibly the RBG again this year. If you would like to volunteer to spend a few hours at the booth promoting the OHS, please see me.

Cont'd.....

We look forward to working closely with the Royal Botanical Gardens and the Toronto Botanical Gardens to promote the passion we all have for hostas.

We have also enclosed a survey that you can fill in and mail or you can complete it electronically on the OHS website in the new **Member's Only** section. We really do appreciate your feedback and suggestions.

There is a vacancy on the Executive for a Secretary to take minutes at the Executive meetings. Please talk to one of the Executive if you are interested. There is a meeting a couple of weeks before each event and possibly an extra meeting if we are planning a special event.

Last year we celebrated our 15th anniversary. We are planning something special for our 20th year anniversary, which will come up all too soon. We are looking at putting together a pictorial history of the OHS. Please send me any tidbits of history and any photos you would like to see added to the collection. If you have any experience in putting a book together, we need to talk! We'll take all the help we can get.

The Bus tour will be Saturday, June 11th. As yet, we do not have a route planned. We would love to hear about some gardens you have visited or would like to visit on a tour. We are still looking for a new coordinator who will be ably assisted by Bob Leask. Please let me know if you are interested.

Our Eastern picnic will be held Sunday, July 10th at the home of Barry & Maggie Matthie in Bloomfield. This is the home of Bonibrae Daylilies & Hostas.

The Summer picnic will be held by the South Western Ontario Hosta Society (SWOHS) and it would be a great opportunity to support our new chapter.

The September Auction will be held on Sunday, September 11th at the RJ Murphy Auditorium in Mississauga. It's going to be a fantastic year for your Society!

We wish Dave Barham a speedy recovery after his recent knee surgery.

I look forward to seeing you in a few weeks.

Cindy Deutekom

Ontario Hosta Society

American Hosta Society

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

**Ontario Hosta Society
2301 5th Street Louth,
St. Catharine's, Ontario,
Canada L2R 6P7**

Annual Dues: \$15.00/YR \$40.00/3 YR

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"**

Memberships can be obtained by writing to:

**Sandie Markland
AHS Membership Secretary
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

OHS Winter Lecture

(Please note our new date!)

Please join us for our 2011 Winter Lecture with Clarence H. Falstad.

Clarence of Walters Gardens Inc. will be discussing Hosta Flowers & The Pathway for Hostas to make it to Market.

He is currently writing an article for the British Hosta and Hemerocallis Bulletin on Hosta Flowers.

When: Saturday, January 29th
Where: R.J. Murphy Auditorium
6435 Edward Blvd. Mississauga,
Time: 12:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Refreshments and a light luncheon will be served.

Please note our new date!



In 2011 OHS members of the OHS will be getting a membership card that will identify them as members at hosta suppliers/retailers. Members will also be able to avail themselves of a Members Only section on the web.

If your membership is up for renewal, join us at the Winter Meeting, renew your membership, get your membership card, see the new T-shirts and get first hand information on the year ahead.

Please don't forget to bring your cheque book



Thank You

The Executive and Members of the Ontario Hosta Society would like to thank all the numerous sponsors, Corporate, individual or member, for their generous donation of time and/or plant material for our 2010 Annual Auction.

Without your help, the Auction would not be possible.



*The OHS Executive
hope all its members have enjoyed a
Happy Holiday Season and wish them
Health and Happiness
in 2011*

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Rodney Bieman	Baden	Cindy Sweeting	Peterborough
Robert Peters	Moffat	Anna May Talbot	Priceville
Geraldine Price	Richmond Hill	Karyn Wright	Foxboro



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Spring Desiccation Burn

by Ray Rodgers

(Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the Central Illinois Hosta Society newsletter and is reprinted with the author's permission.)

Spring Desiccation Burn (SDB, spring burn or burning) is the small to large brown areas that develop most notably on the yellow leaf sections of Sieboldiana cultivars*. The non-yellow portions of the leaf are not affected. Spring burning is not to be confused with light frost damage nor the little reddish brown spots that often are visible on yellow leaf hostas in mid-summer. These spots are caused by a fungus most commonly referred to as anthracnose and can be avoided by regular applications of a fungicide prior to the development of the spots. Light frost damage is non-discriminatory, damage can occur to any leaf color and any variety of hosta.

SDB is one form of Necrosis, which is a generic botanical term defined by the American Hosta Society (AHS) as the death or dying of cells, tissues or whole plants.

Probably the most talked about hosta that suffers from burning is 'Frances Williams' (note that Frances is spelled with an "e", not an "i"). Many of the plants thought to be 'Frances Williams' in gardens today are actually 'Aurora Borealis'. It is my understanding that the most recognizable difference is 'Aurora Borealis' has taller bloom scapes. 'Frances Williams' bloom scapes barely extend over the top of the clump and some don't even make it outside the clump. They both will burn.

'Frances Williams' is one of the first variegated hostas, and despite its genetic flaw, remains a perennial favorite as voted by members of the AHS. I'm guessing the majority of the people listing 'Frances Williams' on their top 25 list live in cooler climates. As a general rule, Sieboldianas do not perform as well in hotter climates. For votes cast in 2002 (results published in 2003), 'Frances Williams' rank slipped to number 20 on the AHS Popularity Poll. After so many years of love it or hate it, combined with the continual influx of new introductions, it appears 'Frances Williams' may soon disappear from this poll, but it will remain a Classic for many years to come.

The nicest specimen of 'Frances Williams', which I have personally seen, belongs to past AHS President, and current Editor of *The Hosta Journal*, Dr. Bob Olson. When viewing this plant at the 2000 AHS Convention, I saw no signs of Spring Desiccation Burn. Grown in Minnesota, Bob has owned this very large and spectacular plant for 15 years. Bob believes placement is the key. This plant is not exposed to any direct sunlight. It is in an enclosed back yard, situated in the corner of his lot and protected on two sides by a solid, tall fence.

There are several Sieboldianas that regularly suffer from Spring Desiccation Burn, to varying degrees. Several, but not all, are sports of 'Frances Williams'. The following is a partial list of hostas that suffer from spring burn, which are commonly available today (none appear on the most recent AHS Popularity Poll):

Green to Blue Green w/ Yellow Edge

- H. 'Frances Williams'
- H. 'Aurora Borealis'
- H. 'Wagon Wheels'
- H. 'Samurai'***

Yellow w/Green to Blue Green Edge

- H 'DuPage Delight'
- H. 'Super Nova'
- H. 'Borwick Beauty'
- H. 'Color Glory' ***
- H. 'Queen of Islip'
- H. 'Carriage Wheels'

In my opinion (an opinion that is shared by many), the absolute worst of all hostas that are susceptible to SDB is the all yellow sport of 'Frances Williams', named 'Golden Sunburst'. Being all yellow, its entire leaf surface is subject to burning. This sport regularly appears in clumps of the parent plant. It most likely also occasionally occurs when tissue culturing 'Frances Williams'. I would guess that these two factors are why some nurseries continue to sell this extremely flawed ugly duckling. I am proud to state that I know of no Peoria area nursery that still offers this plant. I am equally disappointed with the nurseries that continue to sell this plant to buyers who are unaware of its problems.

Some of the nurseries that offer 'Golden Sunburst' are very well respected nurseries and sell a wide range of wonderful plants. Owning this plant, or even selling it to someone that is aware of the severe burning is fine, but advertising it in one's catalog is irresponsible, in my opinion, unless the problem is well documented, i.e. "susceptible to Spring Desiccation Burn" or "Caution, this hosta may make you sick!"

Cont'd on pg 6....

Based on information from a variety of sources, including thoughts on this subject recently provided to me by a well known and respected plantsman from New Jersey (Bill Meyer), I believe the Sieboldianas that are susceptible to burning have a genetic flaw. According to Bill, SDB is believed to be the result of cold temperatures experienced when the leaves are just emerging and are still soft and tender. It might not even require below-freezing temperatures to trigger spring burn, which would indicate that temperature changes rather than ice crystal formation may be the cause. One may notice that frost on hosta leaves in early spring sometimes leaves watery-looking areas in the foliage. Sometimes these areas collapse and die in short order, while other times they seem to recover well, only to go downhill by mid-season. If you look at 'Frances Williams' at this time you may spot some slightly lighter areas in the gold tissue. It appears that these slightly lighter or opaque areas are the first visible signs of Spring Desiccation Burn damage.

Bob Solberg writes in his January 2000 "The Green Hill Gossip", that Spring Desiccation Burn usually occurs in the morning on bright cool days with low humidity and a brisk breeze. Bright morning sun only compounds the problem.

My personal advice is not to purchase any of the above mentioned plants, unless you are willing to accept the inevitable flawed leaf surfaces

If you really love H. 'Frances Williams', except for the burning, the best alternative may be 'Olive Bailey Langdon'. The yellow edge on this 'Frances Williams' look-alike does not develop as quickly in the spring, most likely the reason why it has less of a problem. This plant will occasionally show minor signs of burning, but it is certainly much better than the previously mentioned hostas and is certainly well worth growing. A smaller substitute is 'Tokudama Flavocircinalis' (not a Sieboldiana), which is an outstanding plant and is not susceptible to Spring Desiccation Burn.

For an alternative for the yellow leaf with green to blue green edge plants, I recommend H. 'Dick Ward' (sport of 'Zounds').

* Sieboldiana describes a particular group of hostas. A cultivar is defined by the AHS as a contraction word for "cultivated variety"; a plant that is clearly distinguished by identical physical characteristics through proper propagation means. In simpler terms, I am referring to plants that were derived from the species *sieboldiana* or from other hostas in the Sieboldiana group.

Cont'd on pg 8....

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Upcoming Events

2011

Winter Meeting

When: Saturday, January 29th
Where: R.J. Murphy Auditorium
Addr: 6435 Edwards Blvd. Mississauga.
Time: 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

NEW

Hosta Forum

NEW

When: Sunday, March 27th
Where: ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(please see insert)

Bus Tour

When: Saturday, June 11th
Where: TBA - suggestions to Cindy Deutekom through the Contacts page or by e-mail cindydeutekom@netscape.ca

2011

Eastern Picnic/Garden Tour

When: Sunday, July 10th
Where: Barry & Maggie Matthie
Addr: Bloomfield, Prince Edward County
Time: 11:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Summer Picnic

(to be held by the S. W. Ontario Hosta Chapter)

When: T.B.A.
Where: T.B.A.
Time: T.B.A

Auction

When: Sunday, September 11th
Where: R.J. Murphy Auditorium
Addr: 6435 Edwards Blvd. Mississauga.
Time: 12:30 - 4:00 p.m.

....Cont'd from pg 6

- ** Reportedly the same as 'Frances Williams', any differences are within the realm of normal variability found in this plant.
- *** The gold-centered sieboldiana being sold today under this name is believed to actually be 'Borwick Beauty'.

2010 Auction Roundup

This year's auction saw an added dimension in that we offered a selection of plants on a special section of the Hosta Library on-line auction site devoted expressly to the members of the OHS.

This allowed many members who could not attend the physical auction to participate by purchasing some of the special offerings via internet. Look for similar offerings this year.

The live auction again featured a number of special and rare offerings, especially some brand new streaked varieties for those interested in these for breeding. Many of the new "mice" and other minis drew special attention. There were bargains galore and a wide variety of hostas and companions to bid on.

We appreciate the generosity of our many growers and nurseries who, in spite of the trying economic times, were able to contribute to our fund-raising efforts. It is through these efforts that we are able to provide top-notch speakers at our meetings and subsidize the various activities of our society.

Thanks to all bidders and contributors.

Contributed by

Bob Leask

EXECUTIVE

President - Cindy Deutekom
cindydeutekom@netscape.ca

Vice-President - Sandra Shrieve-Mahoney
sandrasherbalife@aol.com

Treasurer - Bob Leask
rleask@hotmail.com

Membership Secretary - Kevin Plumley
ghoster@rogers.com

Newsletter Editor - Lesley Chapman
hostaed@rogers.com

Secretary - T.B.A.

Liaison with AHS - Kevin Plumley
ghoster@rogers.com

Publicity - Caryl Vaillancourt
Caryl.vailancourt@yahoo.com

Seed Program - Bryan Tunstall
bryan.tunstall@gmail.com

Culinary Purveyor - Kevin Elchuk
k.o.giboshihill@gmail.com

Director at Large - Dave Barham
mbarham@bell.net

Director at Large - Bob Murphy
rjmurphy1@rogers.com

Director at Large - Western Ontario - Lynn Bisschop
swohs@amtelecom.net

Director at Large - Eastern Ontario - Belinda Betz
hosta@kos.net