



ONTARIO HOSTA SOCIETY

**SPRING 2009
NEWSLETTER**

Volume 15 Issue 2

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## PRESIDENTIAL MUSINGS

Spring is "finally" here and I know we are all antsy to get into our gardens after our February "Winter" meeting with Chris Wilson. Chris was an amazing speaker and taught us a lot more about Hosta Virus X and also had burned enough of his "Hosta Virus X" DVD's for all of us. No small feat when you consider we filled Bob Murphy's Auditorium. Thanks so very much Chris!

Well, I finally made it! After joining the Ontario Hosta Society in 1998, all I ever wanted to do was get to College. It seemed something always came up, whether a scheduling conflict or a full house by the time I went to register. But Not This Time! I made it and am planning to make it again next year!

The courses were excellent and I would encourage all of you to take advantage of the generosity of those who volunteer to teach at Hosta College. **YES, Volunteer!** I was not aware until I attended that these wonderful, knowledgeable people were there simply to do a service for us and share their knowledge with us – **gratis**. **THANK YOU TO ALL THE WONDERFUL TEACHERS!** I think I learned lots (will soon be putting some knowledge to the test and testing my retention).

I was in very good company traveling down to Ohio with Sue Turner keeping me company in my car. We hooked up with Cindy & Carel Deutekom in Guelph and off we headed to the border.

At this year's classes were a few other O.H.S. members that we met up with there. I hope I am not missing anyone but here goes, (in the order I happened to run into them): Lynn Bisschop, Caryl Vaillancourt all the way from Corbeil (North Bay), Lynda Lou Gourlie, Cheryl Novak, and Laura & Ken Lenz.

Mark Zilis was our guest speaker at our Saturday night banquet and he took us through the undertakings of writing his new book. Unfortunately he was not able to have any copies at the event but we know they are on their way.

I think most of us are now planning our next excursion to the American Hosta Society Convention. It is being held June 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> and is hosted this year by the Michigan Hosta Society. Please take a moment to go on line to the A.H.S. site for details.

Cont'd.....

Lansing Michigan is approx. a 5 hour drive from Toronto and surrounding area which, after the 8+ hour drive to Piqua Ohio, will be a short hop. I hope to see many of you there and also, at our own first Ontario Hosta Society event of the season, our Bus Tour Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup>. Bring a lunch!

July 5<sup>th</sup> is our Eastern Picnic hosted by Cindy & Carel Deutekom at their "Goldenbrook Hostas" and Lynn Bisschop of "Shades of Green" will be hosting our August 9<sup>th</sup> picnic. More details are inside and please, remember to bring a bagged lunch and a lawn chair as well to these two events.

Sue Turner has volunteered to help Bob Leask out with the Bus Tours and we couldn't be more delighted. Thanks Sue! Our members make our Society and we are proud of all of our Volunteers!

See you all "on the bus".

Sincerely,

*Sandra*

(Check out our web for a photo op. - [www.ontariohostasociety.com](http://www.ontariohostasociety.com))



### Welcome to our New Members

|                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Cathy Kozma           | Toronto        |
| Julia McLaren         | St. Catherines |
| Linda Menard-Watt     | Lasalie        |
| Tammy Wilson          | Cardinal       |
| Wildthings Plant Farm | Clifford       |

### Ontario 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"**

### American Hosta Society

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:

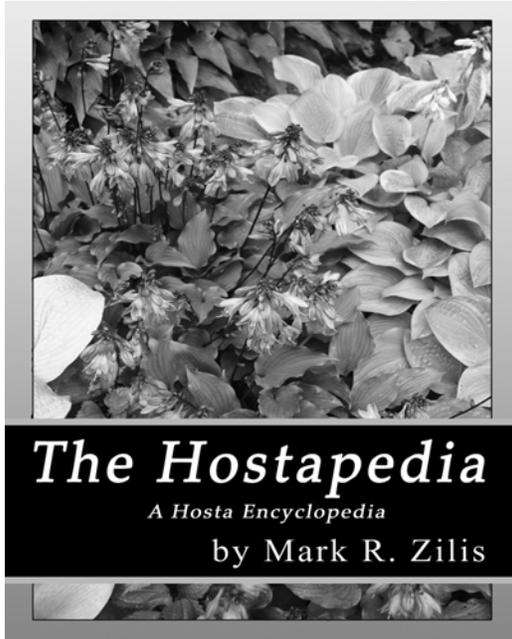
[ahsmembershipsecretary@earthlink.net](mailto:ahsmembershipsecretary@earthlink.net)

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

Q & Z Nursery introduces

# *The Hostapedia*

by Mark R. Zilis



In *The Hostapedia*, Mark Zilis describes every hosta that he has encountered over the past thirty years. This includes forms he studied in gardens and nurseries throughout the United States and those he observed in native habitats and collections in Japan. It encompasses all cultivars registered with the American Hosta Society and others listed in a wide variety of publications and websites. The 1900 photos in *The Hostapedia* highlight the most important hostas, as well as many unusual collector's plants and hosta oddities.

- Over 7400 hosta descriptions listed A-Z
- 1900 color photos
- Complete index of hosta names
- Factual and entertaining
- Most definitive work on hostas in print and a must for every collector, nurseryman and gardener

**Preorders are currently being accepted**

Available March 2009 through Q & Z Nursery  
All retail preorders will be signed by Mark Zilis

***The Hostapedia* by Mark R. Zilis, © 2009, 9" by 12",  
1120 pages, 1900 color photos, hardcover, \$79.95**

To order, include your name, shipping address and payment: \$79.95 plus standard shipping cost from chart below. Illinois residents add 6.25% sales tax. Include check, money order, Visa or MasterCard number with correspondence. Credit cards will not be charged until time of shipment. For foreign orders call, fax or email for shipping costs. Four easy ways to order:

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## 2009 HOSTA SUPPLIERS

|                             |                     |              |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Belgian Nursery             | Breslau             | 519.648.2608 |
| Bonibrae Daylilies & Hostas | Bloomfield          | 613.393.2864 |
| Bow-Ridge Herbs             | Fonthill            | 905.892.4124 |
| Canadale Nurseries          | St. Thomas          | 519.631.7264 |
| Carmen Martinez Landscaping | Kleinburg           | 905.893.8122 |
| Celtic Dreams Gardens       | Stoney Creek        | 905.643.6735 |
| Chris Potze Perennials      | Waterford           | 519.443.5767 |
| Eagle Bay Hosta Nursery     | Dunkirk, New York   | 716.366.8844 |
| Ego's Nursery               | Coldwater           | 705.326.9922 |
| Evergreen Acres Nursery     | Hornby              | 905.878.0475 |
| Floral & Hardy              | Moorefield          | 519.638.3937 |
| Frank Schenk Perennials     | Belfountain         | 519.927.5415 |
| Gardens Plus                | Peterborough        | 705.742.5918 |
| Glen Echo Perennials        | Caledon East        | 905.584.9973 |
| Goldenbrook Hostas          | Blackstock          | 905.986.4363 |
| Handlebar Hosta Farm        | Uxbridge            | 905.852.7024 |
| Harpers Garden Centre       | Ancaster            | 905.648.2157 |
| Hosta Choice Gardens        | Appin               | 519.289.5471 |
| Hosta Fever                 | Barrie              | 705.725.5771 |
| Hosta La Vista              | Norwood             | 705.639.2789 |
| Humber Nurseries            | Brampton            | 416.798.8733 |
| Keltyn Woods                | Paris               | 519.759.8617 |
| Koerts Hostas               | Courtland           | 519.688.5135 |
| Lamrock's Little Roses      | Port Perry          | 905.985.5462 |
| Lost Horizons               | Acton               | 519.853.3085 |
| Niagara Nursery             | St. Catharines      | 905.682.4783 |
| Olde Towne Gardens          | Niagara-on-the-Lake | 905.937.6758 |
| Plant World Ltd             | Etobicoke           | 416.241.9174 |
| Rideau Woodland Ramble      | Merrickville        | 613.258.3797 |
| Riverbend Gardens           | Wroxeter            | 519.335.6175 |
| Shades of Green             | Aylmer              | 519.773.7279 |
| Smiddycroft Perennials      | Kincardine          | 519.395.5934 |
| The Potting Shed            | Dunnville           | 905.701.8921 |
| Whitehouse Perennials       | Almonte             | 613.256.3406 |

We would like to recognize Blue Sky Nursery and Valleybrook Perennials for their corporate contributions to the OHS.

# Bus Tour 2009

**DATE:** Sunday, 14th June

**COST:** \$35.00 per person

We will be heading west, north west and will visit four, maybe even five gardens.

**TIME:** 8:30 a.m. - approx 5:00 p.m.

**PICK UP LOCATION:** Landscape Ontario, Milton,  
Located on 5th Line, just South of Steeles Ave. Exit  
401 at Trafalgar Rd or James Snow Parkway, go  
north to Steeles (5th Line is west of Trafalgar or  
East of James Snow Parkway).

There will be opportunities to  
purchase hostas and  
other treasures

***Please don't forget to bring  
a brown bag or picnic lunch -***

***Refreshments will be provided***



## Bob - book my seat!

Please complete this application if you want to join us on the 2009 bus trip with the following information, cheque payable to OHS (\$35.00/person) and mail to:

Bob Leask, RR #2, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 4S5

**DON'T MISS OUT - SEND THIS IN RIGHT NOW!**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE \_\_\_\_\_

NAMES \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_



## Winter Meeting 2009 - Hosta Virus X

### Guest Speaker - Chris Wilson

On February 22, 2009, Ontario hosta lovers, addicts, alcoholics, buffs, enthusiasts, or what you will, who are mostly fatigued by winter's endless gloominess gathered on this Sunday afternoon, the eve of spring's rebirth to be a rapt and riveted audience at the Robert J. Murphy auditorium in the Peel Educators' Centre, Mississauga. The exceptional guest speaker Chris Wilson provided a brilliant DVD packed with photos and scientific data on the prevalence of the hosta enemy called Hosta Virus X (aka HVX). Chris owns his successful fifteen year business in partnership with Brian Hall in Cement City, Michigan known as Hallson Gardens : Hosta and Perennial Nursery, ([www.perennialnursery.com](http://www.perennialnursery.com)). DVD's are available on request. Chris' positively intentioned lecture was 'not to scare' us but 'to prepare' us for HVX containment -- not its curability or extinction. Chris reminds us "I too am a concerned gardener and not a scientist."

#### What HVX Is

Dr. Lockhart first studied HVX in 1996 at The University of Minnesota. Chris has frequent consultations with him. Its earliest detection in the 80's is of Japanese origin in native colonies. HVX is coined the 'sleeper' disease'. Its symptoms may not be immediately identified visibly because HVX can lay dormant up to 2 to 3 years. Infected sap is capable of surviving 3 to 6 weeks out of the hosta plant and heat suppresses it, while coolness shows it up more. Even 3/15 visible symptoms do not detect the actual 13/15 infections within growers' batches. This creates havoc with its identification and its spread.

Often HVX is easily confused with environmental damages such as brown tips or spots from dryness, excessive frost, snow, wind, fertilizer use or nutrient deficiencies. HVX is spread through sap transfer, frequently through fused overcrowded roots, cutting, pruning, touching, handling by people, animals, and tools like trowels, rakes, and mowing machinery blades. Early Spring and late Fall is slightly safer when the sap is inactive. Contrary to myth, HVX does not spread via insects, pollen, soil, rainwater, or slugs' mucous and saliva. HVX is to the hosta plant what HIV is to the human body!

It does not kill hostas but hosts, alters, and destroys the plant's integrity

#### **HVX Occurrence**

Dr. Lockhart's testing noted different infection rates. Many of these vulnerable species have been distinguished ironically as being Hosta of the Year. For example, fragrant fast-growing hostas show quick symptoms as do the Tiaras and So Sweet. Cultivars like Regal Splendor, Halcyon, Patriot, El Nino, Krossa Regal are easily infected cell to cell then through sap to others. Other notably vulnerable species are Gypsy Rose, Striptease, and our giant favourite Sum & Substance. The good news is there are varieties which couldn't be tested positive for HVX-- Great Expectations, Elegans, Sagae and Bressingham Blue.

It is recommended that hosta growers consult bookplates, websites like [hostalibrary.org](http://hostalibrary.org) and other reliable sources for accurate hosta images and note their consistent solid colours and markings. Some confuse the HVX strange patterns and patches with 'a new specie'. Symptoms may be mottling, dull finish, lighter zigzag patterns, distortions, usual greens, discolorations parallel to the veins. A simple test is that a healthy leaf held up to the light shouldn't be translucent.

#### **What's the Prevention**

Chris Wilson, for one, has spearheaded HVX' responsible management. As a Grower/buyer, he reports and boycotts importers, most prevalently the Dutch, whose Department of Agriculture deem hostas for retail with less than 5% infection. That still is too much! What we can do is inform, educate, report irresponsible growers, and retailers. We can always refer cases to the Ministry of Agriculture or Agriculture Canada. Hobbyists need to inspect hosta products before buying and use tools wisely. Agdia test strips, see [agdia.com/hosta](http://agdia.com/hosta), are simple \$5. tests which provide infection proof to 99% accuracy. Talk directly to your local garden centre managers.

Cont'd.....

### **What can We Do**

We can prevent HVX spread in our own gardens.

- ◆ First destroy the HVX infected plant.
- ◆ Avoid contact
- ◆ Use Round-up
- ◆ Disinfect constantly.
- ◆ Dry out roots in the sun.
- ◆ Discard in plastic trash bags.
- ◆ Clean your tool with disinfectants

(recommended Lysol, with ammonium chloride, hospital grade, Neosan hand cleanser, Mr. Clean wipes, 70-90% rubbing alcohol)

### **What people said**

Nobody was disappointed with Chris Wilson's DVD information. Attendees ranged from the curious, the newly initiated hosta gardener to Master Gardeners, landscape designers, hobbyists, growers, members of RBG and TBC, local garden clubs and some who've attended Chris Wilson's lectures over 4 times who are just plain fans!

"Bloody marvelous", said Trish Symons. "I've got over 1000 hostas and will never cut them back 'til they're dormant & will use Round-Up vs. dig-up."

"Very informative," said David Chapman. "I'll clean the tools after dividing and giving to my neighbours from now on."

"I'll pass this along to the Chinguacousy Garden Club when I lecture and visit my local nurseries", said Diane Murphy, President CGC.

"What struck me about OHS is that it's very informal, friendly, interactive, well-run and not bureaucratic, exclusive or lording of knowledge power over others", said Cornelle Mainville a new member with 100 species and the goal of reaching 150 in 2009 "with a different eye now". (Get it Eye, eh?)

"I will share with Toronto Master Gardeners this DVD as an educational tool to promote it by buying in bulk from Chris Wilson", said Cathy Kozma. "I'm impressed that for \$10. that 50% of the profit goes to HVX research."

Empowered with new HVX awareness, we can all look forward to Spring & Summer, OHS bus trips and other community events with excitement about welcoming our precious hostas back to their healthy beautiful existence.

Contributed by

**Lynda Lou Gourlie**

(Check our web for pictures—[www.ontariohostasociety.com](http://www.ontariohostasociety.com))

## **An Aversion to Reversion**

One of the most annoying traits of the genus *Hosta*, but at the same time one of the most lovable, is genetic instability.

If hostas were genetically stable we would be limited in our choice of variegated hostas to a relatively small number of varieties which have been produced by cross pollination from the one variegated species which isn't either green or greenish blue. There is even some doubt as to whether there really is a variegated species of *Hosta*! Without genetic instability we wouldn't have such beautiful pairs as *H. 'Revolution'* and *H. 'Independence'*, the latter being a tissue culture (tc) reverse of the former. Nor would we have naturally occurring sports -- you choose an example from the many hundreds available: how about *H. 'Striptease'* from *H. 'Gold Standard'* for a stunning example?

The advent of tissue culturing of hostas has led to an explosion of new varieties, far more than would have occurred by any other means. I think it is debatable whether it is the mincing up of a meristem or the chemicals used during the tc process, or the genetic instability of hostas, or some combination of these factors which leads to so many new varieties. For example, few 'naturally occurring' sports have streaked leaves; however, many tc sports do. Is this a result of the process itself or the search for new streaked varieties amongst the (tc) off types, plants which might have been rejected if streaking weren't an 'in' thing?

Back to the title: what is meant by reversion? I suspect we have all seen the change back to green *H. venusta* which occurs so often in *H. 'Masquerade'*, formerly known as *H. venusta* 'Variegated'. As you know, it is necessary to remove the green eyes from *H. 'Masquerade'* to prevent reversion of the whole plant. It seems that the original variety is way more vigorous and stable than the sport, and I suspect this may be true for most sports.

I now have at least two, possibly three, other hosta varieties which are showing signs of reversion in "M's collection" in our garden (how times have changed her attitude towards the most beautiful plant species ever grown!)

The one certain example is the reversion of a plant of *H. 'June'*, a tc sport of *H. 'Halcyon'* back to *H. 'Halcyon'*. Of the three eyes, two are *'Halcyon'* and one is *'June'*. Is this a single plant? Yes, I bare-rooted it and washed it clean to convince myself that it is a single plant. Since it is likely that this plant came from tc I guess reversion in it isn't startling.

A second example is the reversion, I think, of a portion of *H. 'Striptease'* back to a completely green leaf variety. Why the doubt? Well, the parent of *'Striptease'* was *H. 'Gold Standard'* which has gold centered, green margined leaves later in the year. *H. 'Gold Standard'* was itself a sport (natural?) of *H. 'Hyacinthina'* which has green leaves. Is this what the sport or reversion on our *'Striptease'* is? If so it has skipped a generation in its reversion, which I suppose is possible. Or is it a new, rather uninteresting green variety that only a Bob L could love?

The third example is a reversion of *H. 'Fire and Ice'* back to a green leaf variety. Again I have bare-rooted the plant to observe only a single entity. If this is a new, uninteresting all green, Bob L variety, could it be called *H. 'Emerald Ice'* perhaps? If it is a reversion, it has skipped more than one generation. *'Fire and Ice'* is a natural sport of *H. 'Patriot'* (not to be confused with *H. 'Minutemen'* which is very similar to, and often mistaken for, *H. 'Patriot'*). *H. 'Patriot'* is a sport (probably natural since it was developed in the early 70s) of *H. 'Francee'*. *H. 'Francee'* has an all green sport called *H. 'Jade Beauty'*, and another called *H. 'Francee Green'*, so is my *'Fire and Ice'* sport actually *'Jade Beauty'* or *'Francee Green'* or is it a new Bob L baby? If it is *'Jade Beauty'* or *'Francee Green'* then the sporting process has skipped a couple of generations. Why and how did it skip more than one generation?

I have come to the conclusion that tc plants are normally unstable enough to revert or sport to something else, which is often green, or that they have been rushed to market to get big money for them without their being sufficiently tested for stability, or both!

I think you can now see why I am confused about genetic instability being either a blessing or a curse. It sure leads to confusion in us old guys!

Contributed by

**David Barham.**

## **GARDEN TOUR/PICNIC**

Sunday, 5th July

**HOSTS:** Carel & Cindy Deutekom  
**WHERE :** Goldenbrook Hostas, 14950 Regional Road 57, Blackstock  
**TIME:** 11:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Goldenbrook Hostas have over 350 different varieties of hostas - definitely not a picnic to be missed.

Directions to Goldenbrook: Hwy 401 East to Bowmanville, take Regional Rd. 57 and go north past Blackstock - Goldenbrook will be on the right - before Jobb Rd

**Please RSVP by Monday June 29th - 905.986.4363 leave a message or e-mail Cindy: [cindydeutekom@netscape.ca](mailto:cindydeutekom@netscape.ca)**



***Please don't forget to bring your lawn chair and brown bag lunch!***

***Refreshments will be served***

## **GARDEN TOUR/PICNIC**

Sunday, 9th August

**HOST:** Lynn Bisschop  
**WHERE :** Shades of Green, 48855 John Wise Line, Aylmer  
**TIME:** 11:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Shades of Green specialize in hostas, and also have daylilies ornamental grasses—you won't want to miss this one.

Directions to Shades of Green: Hwy 401 West toward London, take Elgin Road (Hwy 73) south, through Aylmer at Hwy 3. John Wise Line is 2nd road on right (west) past Aylmer.

**Please RSVP by Monday, August 3rd - 519.773.7279 leave a message or e-mail Lynn: [shadesofgreen@amtelecom.net](mailto:shadesofgreen@amtelecom.net)**

**FOR  
SALE**

Hosta Virus X test kits

Sue Turner has HVX test kits available for sale—\$5.00/strip (postage included) Strips expire June 2009 so get yours now. Strips need to be kept cold while not in use.

Contact Sue at 905.430.6638 or e-mail [tigertails@rogers.com](mailto:tigertails@rogers.com)

Hosta Plugs (4" pots)

Virginia Hildebrandt has hosta plugs for sale in 4" pots. \$5.00 each, except for Calamari at \$6.00. Virginia has Halcyon, On Stage and several others.

Contact Virginia at 519.821.4736 or e-mail [vhildebrandt.sgci.com](mailto:vhildebrandt.sgci.com)

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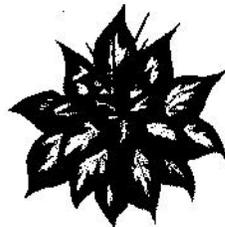
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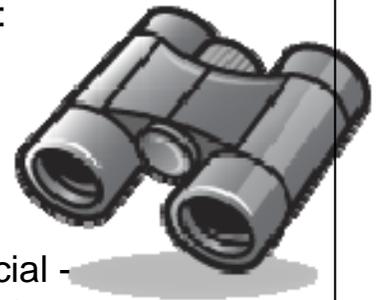
[keith.tyndall2@sympatico.ca](mailto:keith.tyndall2@sympatico.ca)

We are **always** on the look-out for the following:

Gardens to visit  
Articles  
Interesting Pictures

Please help us to make your club and newsletter special - please e-mail your ideas, suggestions and thoughts to:

[hostaed@rogers.com](mailto:hostaed@rogers.com)





## Upcoming Events - 2009

### Bus Tour

**When:** Sunday, 14th June  
**Where:** See Page 5 for details

### Garden Tour/Picnic

**When:** Sunday, 5th July  
**Where:** Garden of  
Cindy & Carel Deutekom  
**Time:** 11:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
**Addr:** 14950 Regional Rd 57, Blackstock

### Summer Picnic

**When:** Sunday, 9th August  
**Where:** Garden of Lynn Bisshop  
Shades of Green, Aylmer  
**Time:** 11:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
**Addr:** 48855 John Wise Line, Aylmer

### Auction

**When:** Sunday, 13th September  
**Where:** R.J. Murphy Auditorium  
6435 Edward Blvd, Mississauga  
**Time:** 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

## **GOLDENBROOK HOSTAS**

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goldenbrookhostas@bbste.com

www.goldenbrookhostas.com

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## **Riverbend Gardens & Nursery**

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www.riverbendgardens.net

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## OUT AND ABOUT

Take a trip to  
Peterborough Garden Show—April 9/11  
[www.peterboroughgardens.ca](http://www.peterboroughgardens.ca)

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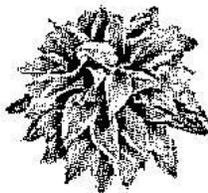
Or go further North  
Scugog Spring Garden Show April 18/19  
[www.township.scugog.on.ca/  
whats-happening.27.php](http://www.township.scugog.on.ca/whats-happening.27.php)

~

Or South in June  
Midwest Regional Hosta Convention  
Champaign, Illinois—11-13th June  
[www.mrhs2009.com](http://www.mrhs2009.com)

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AHS National Convention  
Lansing, Michigan June 24-27  
[www.americanhostasociety.org/  
conventions.html](http://www.americanhostasociety.org/conventions.html)



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## *Shades of Green*

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perennials also available. Come for a stroll in  
our gardens. We look forward to meeting you.*

*Lynn Bisschop*

[shadesofgreen@amtelecom.net](mailto:shadesofgreen@amtelecom.net)  
[www.shades-of-green.ca](http://www.shades-of-green.ca)



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[www.hostachoicegardens.ca](http://www.hostachoicegardens.ca)

**FINALLY - WE THINK WE'VE IRONED OUT THE KINKS!**

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