



ONTARIO HOSTA SOCIETY

SPRING 2011
NEWSLETTER.
VOLUME 17 ISSUE 2

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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 winter meeting, please send the editor an e-mail confirming same (hostaed@rogers.com)

hostaed@rogers.com

PRESIDENTIAL MUSINGS

The Ontario Hosta Society is very proud of the success of our first Hosta Forum! The efforts of the Executive and Volunteers who spent many hours planning and organizing this event definitely paid off in spades. We had 114 attend. Approximately half were not OHS members! Some have now joined the OHS! Feedback received has been amazing. The Executive received lots of positive feedback and several suggestions, which we will definitely apply on future events. I would like to share some comments with you:

"Thank you so much for all your hard work that went into giving the OHS members the very best informative meeting that we have ever had in Ontario. All the speakers were excellent and I believe we all learned something from each of them. I was very impressed with the presentation on photography in the garden. I know my pictures from my camera will now be much clearer. Mike's talk on English gardens was great to see how gardens are presented in other countries and of course his talk and pictures on mini Hostas was Marlit's favourite. The Wilkins' presentation of their gardens was second to none"... "We believe if we can continue to present meetings like the Forum on Sunday, our membership will grow. We also believe that if there is another one next year, similar to this, we will double the attendance we had this year. Thanks again for all your efforts; you came up with a tremendous programme and meeting." Doug Young.

"Just wanted to let you know that I really enjoyed the day. I especially appreciated how smoothly everything ran – speakers started and ended on time, length of presentations was appropriate, breaks were well timed and lunch was amazing. The speakers were all entertaining as well as informative and I learned quite a bit from each of them. I loved that your OHS members were all very friendly and welcoming and their passion for the subject matter was very evident. I know how much work goes into planning and staging an event like this and you should be very proud of pulling it off with such success. Great job!" Shirley Gadd, Highwinds.

Cont'd.....

"I just wanted to let you know how much my daughter and I enjoyed the Hosta Forum. I can't say enough about the quality of the speakers, the wonderful location, the food, the generous door prizes as well as the general organization of the entire day. You did a wonderful job!! I can't imagine how much work it was, but I sincerely hope you are considering making this an annual event. Thanks for a wonderful, informative and inspiring day!!!! Cheers" Sharon Link

"...We really liked the concept of the mini silent auction at the Hosta Forum. It would have been ideal to include pictures on screen or have a live auction viewing area prior to the auction at lunch (especially when not everyone in attendance is an expert on hosta). We were very impressed with the amount of donated gift certificates that were raffled off. Not only is this enticing to attend more events but it was a great way to advertise the variety of hosta retailers in Ontario. The business card area was also a great feature. We enjoyed seeing some of our favourite places advertised. On breaks and at lunch, it would be nice if a picture slide show was running to feature previous OHS events such as picnics, bus tours, plants, gardens, etc. This is a great opportunity to show non members what value they get from their membership and entice them to join. I hope this feedback is beneficial to improving future events. We think you did a great job with this new event and appreciate all the hard work you put into it." Vanessa and Mackenzie.

Carel and I just booked our tickets to the American Hosta Society Convention in Marlborough, MA. Are you attending? It is hosted by the New England Hosta Society. I heard that the optional tours are filling up so send in your registrations soon! There are wonderful gardens to tour as well as leaf shows, auctions, judging clinics, a clam bake and much more to fill the week. Check out details at www.hosta2011.org Hope to see you there!

At our Eastern Picnic this summer at Bonibrae Daylilies and Hostas, you will have the chance to make a Papercrete container for your mini hostas! Don't forget to RSVP so we will be sure to have enough supplies.

June 12th is the bus tour date and it is shaping up to be a real winner!

Our August picnic has been booked for the 7th. Cindy & Wade Mitchell of Hosta Fever in Barrie will host the picnic this year. I am placing an order for white and cream sweatshirts with an embroidered OHS logo. If you are interested in placing an order, please let me know your size. The cost of these will be \$30.

We also have a nice addition for your garden...an OHS concrete stepping stone with our logo and we are taking orders! The detail is amazing. This stone has been in the works for over a year now and you can have yours this summer! We are selling them at \$30 each.

Enjoy the spring and we will see you at one of our summer events!

Cindy Deutekom

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

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

Winter Meeting January 2011 C.F. Falstad Walters Gardens Inc.

Contributed by *Olga Elchuk*

Our meeting opened at 12:30 p.m. with our president Cindy Deutekom discussing upcoming events and pertinent business:

- We have been asked to take pictures of our gardens/hostas over the next year which will be viewed in a slide show at next years winter meeting. We will also be having our first photo contest. The winner will have his/her photo published in the spring 2012 newsletter and also in our future 20th anniversary book. We are also looking for volunteers to help put together this book.
- The Peterborough Gardening Show, April 8 (evening), 9 and 10. There will be a booth there for the OHS, represented by Kevin Elchuk. If you have any business cards, send them to Cindy Deutekom; they will be displayed at the booth for you.
- Our annual bus tour will be Sunday June 12. Location and gardens to be determined.
- We gained 44 new members in 2010. Fantastic!

Our meeting continued with 2 short slide presentations. The first was by Glenda and Trevor Tolley of their lovely gardens during the 2010 bus tour. The second was of the 6 gardens during the bus tour: Don Budd's Garden, Ann Federking's garden, Tolley gardens, Sandy Hanson's garden, White House gardens (Suzanne Patry), and the Rideau Woodland Ramble. Also seen were the gardens of Kevin and Olga Elchuk during the Eastern picnic, Doug and Marlit Young during the Western picnic, and our first Leaf Judging Clinic.

Lynn Bishop then discussed news from the new South Western Ontario Hosta Society. There will be a summer picnic on June 26 at Henry and Mary te Sligte in Thedford Ontario and a bus tour July 17 in the Windsor/Sarnia area. All OHS members are welcome. Lynn also informed us she is still working on having stepping stones made with the OHS logo on them.

Belinda Betz informed us that the Eastern chapter of the Ontario Hosta Society in the Kingston area is still being worked on. There is not much happening as of yet.

Cindy Deutekom then introduced us to our guest speaker, C.H. Falstad of Walters Gardens Inc. in Zeeland, Michigan, US. C. H. put on a wonderful slide presentation:

"Flowers – The Crowning Glory of Hostas"

From a Hosta Registration standpoint basis the flower traits are color, shape, pattern, bloom time and fragrance (Y/N)

- Bloom time can be: before 6/1, 6/1 to 7/15, 7/15 to 8/15, 8/15 to 10/1 and after 10/1.
- Pattern can be striping, spotting, translucent margins, etc.
- Shape can be tubular, bell, spider, closed, double and other.
- Color can be pure white, near white, pale lavender, medium lavender, pale purple, deep purple and other. There can be 10-12 pigments in hosta flowers.
- Fragrance is the most powerful sense of all the senses.
- Flowers are just modified leaves.
- Hosta capitata flowers are congested at the top of the scapes making it difficult to hybridize with this hosta. The flowers are narrow, funnel shaped and deep purple.
- Bracts can match the leaf color. You will find that a hosta with a green edged, whitish pink centred bract will be a variegated hosta with green edged, white centred leaves.
- Hostas with red scapes tend to have a light color in the centre of the leaves.
Ron Livingston's H. Wild Ride has flowers that have 5-7 stripes usually on opposite tepals, and translucent margins on the edge.

Traits that are now being built on are the reflexing of petals such as is being seen in daylilies. We must think outside of the box when hybridizing hostas for traits that we don't have yet.

- Gold Regal has very attractive medium lavender flowers that form on tall scapes.
- Bill Meyers H. Double Vision has 8-9 flower petals.

- H. Guacamole (sport of H. Fragrant Bouquet) has flower stalks that are held at different angles with large fragrant pale lavender flowers that open mid August to September. The different angled scapes can tend to make you feel uncomfortable as compared to straight scapes that are more military like.
- Blue Lightning has very soft striping in its flower petals.
- H. yingeri, a species hosta has spider like flowers. They radiate all around the scape when grown in full sun as compared to most hostas whose flowers tend to be clustered on one side of the scape.
- In H. Independence and H. Revolution, the flowers are nearly identical. The flowers are lavender on creamy yellow scapes. Most hostas with the same parents will tend to have identical flower traits.
- Tetraploids are hostas that have 4 pairs of chromosomes instead of 2. The leaves tend to be thicker, stiffer, color more intense, and the flowers scapes tend to be stiff and held straight up.
- H. Harmony has flowers that have a pattern- a blotched purple color. It blooms late in the season.
- H. Austin Dickenson has flowers that have intense purple striping and fragrance. The flower buds have dark/light purple banding.
- Ron Livinston's H. Cosmic Blue has dark purple flowers. His hosta, Glorious has white centres and purple edges on its flower petals. On H. Pretty Flower the front and back of the flower petals are different. From the outside the flowers are purple but from the inside 3 tepals are light while every other one has purple striping.
- H. Raspberry Cheesecake has pinkish flowers, while H. Waxed Cream has intense purple flowers.
- Mary Chastain's H. Lakeside Elfin Fire has spotting on its purple flowers.
- H. Fragrant Blue has fragrant pale lavender flowers.
- H. Blueberry Muffins from Bill Meyers has purple centres with white edges on its flower petals. Both the foliage and scapes have purple in them.
- H. rectifolia from Japan has variation in the striping, shape and spotting in the flowers even though it is one species of hostas.
- H. pulchella another species from Japan, has very few flowers on it's scapes.
- H. Blue Vision has scapes that are at or below the foliage.
- H. Rocket's Red Glare has a large number of flowers, and the flowers tend to stagger on the scapes with flowers and bracts, then a space then more flowers.
- H. Arctic Blast has fascinated scapes.
- H. Oh My Heart by R. Lydell has thick fascinated scapes with hundreds of flowers. These flowers tend not to bear seed pods.
- On H. Hirao Majesty, the scapes and flower colors match the bract colors.
- With H. Jane Ward, the bracts are variegated – green with pinkish white centres, matching the plant which is variegated green and white. H. Manhattan is another hosta with excellent bract color.
- H. Holly's Dazzler, a Herb Benedict plant, has water lily like flowers, the bract color and flower buds are nearly identical. On H. Lakeside Neat Petite the bracts and flower buds are identical as well on the dense purple flower clusters. On H. Oze the flowers are white with a bit of green in the buds.
- H. Marilyn Monroe has fringed edges on its purple flowers which are found in dense clusters.
.H. American Sweetheart has a star like pattern behind the petals.

Under UV lighting, some colors and patterns will change. Color is seen as a bee will see it.

The slide presentation closed with the last hosta, H. Venus which is very difficult to get to flower. This very large pure white hosta flower has many petals, up to 30 per flower, and is very fragrant. It flowers very late in the season and so needs as much sun and heat as can be provided. A suggestion was to place large rocks near this plant to absorb the sun's heat and to keep the soil warm longer.

Many questions were taken after the presentation with the following information obtained:

- The largest hosta flowers are from H. plantaginea, being 5 inches long and 4 inches wide
- When crossing early and late flowering hostas, the pollen can be dried (no more than 2 days) then frozen quickly
- H. clausa is one of the only flowers that does not open. It increases by rhizomes.
- Bob Kuk's method of hybridizing is by cutting the flowers as they are about to open and placing them in vases in sugar water. He does all his hybridizing inside until the pods form.

- To learn more about hybridizing you can join Hosta Pics, a hosta forum where you can ask questions from experts, you can also contact the Russ O'Hara Hosta Society where you can obtain a list of hosta seed growers, you can also contact the Daylily Society where you can ask for hybridizing information as hostas and daylilies are very similar in their hybridizing techniques.
- "Black" flowers are actually just intense purple flowers. There are no real black flowers in nature.
- How does one get a hosta introduced at Walter's Gardens: There are 2 categories: 1) The collector's plant which tends to be an oddity of a plant. It is marketed for a small group of people, and is not patented. 2) The mass market plant- over 20,000 plants per year marketed. This plant can be patented for 20 years. It needs to be distinctively unique, it can be one that gets awards. As much information as possible is needed about your plant such as growth rate, how old it is, parentage, color, flowers, etc. If you have such a plant, send pictures via mail or email to Walter's Gardens. Note: a piece only of your plant will be needed. It takes about 2 years from plant to market.
- Red petioled plants are more marketable if the plant's growth habit is upright, showing off the color. Red into the leaves is excellent.
- With regards to dormancy, the longer, the better as the plant will be stronger.
- Future plants from Walter's over the next few years, could include tetraploids, possibly more miniatures (although they have not really taken off yet) and more solid colored plants.

Our meeting concluded with a silent auction of a number of new hostas that Bob Leask had brought in. It was a great meeting with special thanks to C.H. Falstad for his wonderful slide presentation on hosta flowers. I think we will all be looking at our hosta flowers with a different perspective this summer.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Vanessa Chaborek (Port Hope), Warren & Cathy Faber (Toronto), Jacqueline Flowers (Cambridge), Susan Glofcheskie (Mississauga), Colin Gosdon (Mississauga), Lillie Haworth (Grimsby) Diane Kiers (Welland), Kathryn MacCarthy, (Val Caron) Barbara McCahery (Barrie), Stuart McCarteny (Guelph), Donna McGlone (Mississauga), Anna Norman (Perth) Victor Norris, (London), Frenda Pike (Oakville), Nancy Serrick (Keswick), Vivian Shoalts (Wainfleet), Mark Tinney (Harwood), Charlotte Vorstermans (Creemore), Mary Wood (Inverary) Judy Zinni (Mississauga)



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Hosta Forum - March 27, 2011 - Royal Botanical Gardens

Hostas in the English Garden by Mike Shadrack

Mike Shadrack is the co-author of the following books: "The Book of Little Hostas: 200 Small, Very Small, and Mini Varieties", "The New Encyclopedia of Hostas", the "Timberpress Pocket Guide to Hostas", and "The Color Encyclopedia of Hostas". He is a member of the British Hosta and Hemerocallis Society, The American Hosta Society, and the Ontario Hosta Society. Mike also has retired from the London, England Police Force after 32 years of service.

English Gardens are much different than gardens in Canada and the US. Here in Canada and the US we feature "Hosta" gardens with many varieties of hostas dominating the gardens, along with a few companion plants. Such examples were slides of Phil Little's 1 acre shady hillside garden previously near Guelph, Ontario, of 600 varieties of hostas, growing both in the ground and in pots and Van and Shirley Wade's Gardens in Bellville, Ohio with over 6000 varieties of hostas in a huge park like setting.

In England, space is very limited and gardens are more natural looking with hostas scattered throughout amongst other perennials. Typical English gardens are small and crowded. Plants are grown everywhere including on walls with color coordination being very important. The climate in England is mild allowing almost anything to be grown. There is very little snow, and spring comes early. Summer temperatures are cool, around 80 degrees F. The south western region of England receives lots of rain, has no snow and very little frost. London is dryer and cooler with a wind from Russia and only 40-50 days of frost.

In 1961, Eric Smith of Dorset, England crossed *H. sieboldiana* with *H. tardiflora*, resulting in his famous group of 14 "Tardianas" of which *H. Halcyon* was the most famous. *H. Halcyon* sported to *H. June*, the most popular hosta world wide, *H. El Nino*, *H. First Frost*, *H. Katherine Lewis*, *H. Paradise Joice*, and many more sports including a green one which is known under 3 different names depending on the country it is grown in. In England it is known as *H. Devon Green*, in Canada it is called *H. Canadian Shield*, and in the US it is known as *H. Peridot*. All of Eric Smith's Tardianas are planted at Hadspen House in Dorset, England. Eric Smith also put on the first show of hostas at the Chelsea Flower Show in 1968.

Kew Gardens began in the 1700's and is still in existence today. It is now the world's most famous garden with over 300 acres of landscaping and glass houses located on the Thames River in south-west London, England. The gardens are spectacular, however, there are only 4 hostas to be found there.

The 4 acre Chelsea Physic Gardens beside the Thames River in London are one of the oldest gardens in England, being founded in 1673. It was used for growing and studying medicinal plants. It was opened to the public in the 1980's.

The Sissinghurst Castle Garden near Cranbrook, Kent, England consists of 9 gardens on 4 acres. Here we learn about the use of site lines—looking down the property without revealing it all, and about garden rooms. This garden is one of the most popular ones in England, consisting of rooms, each with a different character of colour or theme such as the red garden or the white garden divided by tall hedges or brick walls.

Another top 5 garden in England is that of Christopher Lloyd, near the south coast of England. These gardens have beautiful perennial walkways. Christopher Lloyd wrote many gardening books, along with weekly articles in an English gardening magazine for 44 years.

The gardens of Westminster Abby are the oldest gardens in England, being created in the 10th century when the original abby was built.

The Heligan Gardens are famous jungle like gardens in Cornwall, England. The gardens were once taken care of by 27 servants, who were all killed in WWI. The owners could not take care of the gardens after which the Smith family inherited and restored them.

The Marlboro Gardens in Devon have a collection of older hostas prior to the 1980's.

The Longstock Park Water Garden in Longstock, Hampshire has lots of hostas.

The Beth Chatto Gardens in Colchester, Essex, has many of Eric Smith's hostas. It has a beautiful woodland walk along with a dry garden that has not been irrigated in 14 years.

Nunwich Hall in Northumberland, northern England has a hosta walk.

The Hanging Hostas of Hampshire are 600 varieties of hostas, most in pots found in a very small yard.

The Highgrove Stumpery at St. James's Palace is home to a National Plant Collection of hostas, ferns and hellebores.

Flip this Garden by Sandy Wilkins

Sandy was the founder of the Hosta College, and is the wife of Jim Wilkins, past president of the American Hosta Society. Sandy has 9 grandchildren. Sandy shared her personal journey in flipping her gardens. She believes a garden is a reflection of yourself.

Sandy and Jim purchased a house with many individual gardens which needed to be renovated and many shade trees which needed to be thinned out in order to have an attractive view of the home from the driveway, and to have a beautiful view from within the home. You must plant with a picture in mind from inside your house. Sandy believes "less is more" when it comes to flipping a garden. Many large trees were taken out and the underbrush was removed. Ferns were removed from the gardens to showcase the individual hostas. Some gardens were incorporated together. The edges of the gardens were changed to create soft curves which would be easy to cut around with a lawnmower. Soil was amended in all renovated gardens.

There are gardens all around the house with many hostas, hydrangeas, astilbes, Japanese irises, and many rare conifers. Jim is also a member of the conifer society. A large swampy pond area also needed to be renovated after it flooded the year of the AHS convention tour. Large equipment was brought in to reshape and stone the pond edges.

Sandy is artistic and believes every garden should include some art. She had four season statues of women plus a large urn placed strategically in her gardens. She also had a very large stone bench beautifully custom carved to look like the face of a woman. Sandy also placed a rich dark wine colored bench in her garden to bring out the color of the nearby hostas. Using old cracked gas pipes cut to different heights she filled them with soil, planted them with hostas and incorporated them into different gardens in the front yard to give them height. Mini hostas were planted in pots to showcase their tiny stature.

Photographing Gardens: Keep it Simple by Trish Symons

Trish is one of our own members of the Ontario Hosta Society. She lives on Hockley Meadow Farms near Orangeville with her husband. Trish's beautiful gardens were featured on the 2007 OHS bus tour. Trish is not only very talented in her gardening skills, but she is a very accomplished photographer, writer, judge of floral design and horticulture, and instructor of floral design and garden photography. In 2006 she won an award at Canada Blooms for her floral design of Night Life in the City.

Photography consists of 3 letters: T. O. E.

T = technical, it is the image, correctly exposed.

O = organization – well organized and composed

E = emotions

When judging garden photography, judges consider 40% as horticultural value, 40% as photographic value and 20% as impact. Why do we take photographs? 1- to have memories such as family photos, 2 – to remember good ideas, such as one photograph Trish had of growing allium among her hostas. During the flowering season she has fresh allium flowers high above her hostas but when the flowers have dried, she spray paints them with tremclad paint for different color affects. Also to remember what you grew where the previous year. 3 – to use as art, such as Paul Zammit's fruit bowl put together on top of hosta leaves. 4 – to tell a story such as Trish's picture of a racoon in her yard.

One of the guidelines of photography is the rule of thirds. Where lines intersect there should be subjects

U F O 's = Unnecessary Foreign Objects in the foreground. Step closer into your area to keep the main objects in thirds. If you have shadows and they add nothing to your photograph, eliminate them. If objects at the edges of your photo add nothing, move in and get rid of them.

Clean up the background of your photo by using black paper behind your subject such as a wet spider web with light shining on it from in front. In floral design, use white paper behind your flowers. A silver reflecting sheet behind purple allium gives a stunning effect. On your computer, you can edit your background to improve it, such as changing the water color to black behind a waterlily.

Suggest a bigger picture eg. through the eyes such as with a photo of swallows on a ledge, capture the relationship between a horse and its colt.

Change your physical point of view in your photo. Stand below your house so that you are looking upwards at it. A photo of Peggy's Cove shows the point of view from the water below the houses. The physical point of view allows you to capture the environment. Think of where you can best capture the environment. Capture the essence.

Lead ins and using straight lines as guides, you can use an archway into a garden, or a mulch pathway to lead you into the photo.

Capture a mood with serene pictures. Add tall hedges, old garden gate entrances, monochromatic shades of green.

Soften an image using pantyhose over your lense. Good for delicate photos.

Contrast colors, blue/gold, allium and gold hostas, contrast textures, rocks and sedums.

Take close up photos, such as bees on a flower. Instead of taking a photo of an entire Japanese Maple tree, take a photo of only a few leaves, catch a few water drops on the edge of a flower.

The professional photographer Freeman Patterson used shapes and triangles in his photos. Have your sections of your photo appear as triangles, such as the tree frog- the black background formed a triangle, the leaf the frog is hanging onto is shaped as a triangle, and the frog appears as a triangle. The focus of the photo however is on the frog's eye.

Frame your photo to create depth. Photos are 2 dimensional but a garden is 3 dimensional. Use a tunnel as a frame, tree branches to the side or top.

Lighting- do not use your flash. Capture the soft natural early morning light as it is. On a misty day, you will not have shadows to ruin your photos, after a rain there are no shadows and the colors are very intense. Use light through leaves, flowers, as back lighting, as long as the light is not too strong. Use your flash after the sun is setting as side lighting.

Most important tip from Trish: "A photographer paints with light".

The Book of Little Hostas: 200 Small, Very Small and Mini Varieties by Mike Shadrack

There is much controversy in the definition of hosta sizes. Most are defined using a tape measure measuring leaf size. In Mike's book he uses objects to compare the sizes. Little and small hostas require little care. The leaves are the size of potato chips, such as H. Golden Tiara and Silver Threads and Golden Needles. Very small hostas take a bit more care such as H. Blue Mouse Ears and H. Masquerade with leaves the size of silver dollars. Mini hostas have leaves the size of your pinky finger nail and need more TLC. They can be used in very small spaces. Examples are H. Tiny Tears at 4" high, H. Daisy Dolittle, H. Cat's Eye, H. Pandora's Box (which originally sold for \$600 at the AHS convention), H. Tet-A-Poo, H. Lakeside Cricket, H. Dragon Tails among many others.

Where to plant and how to grow little hostas: Little hostas grow best in raised beds for their requirements and to bring them closer to the eye. Due to their delicate root system they need good drainage. Prepare a bed with 50% soil, 25% compost and 25% particulate such as crushed gravel, grit (inorganic) to allow oxygen into the medium. You can also dig fine mulch into the soil to improve it. Leaving a thin layer of mulch on top prevents water from splashing onto the tiny leaves, but keep it away from the petioles. Use pea gravel and little stones in your pots, and larger stones around the bottom of your pots. The use of aquarium gravel can contrast your colors. Good hostas to use in raised beds are H. Blueberry Tart, H. Calypso with lots of white in the centre, H. Lakeside Baby Face, H. Just So, H. Hushpuppy, H. Silver Lance (great for edging).

Planting your little hostas in containers helps with controlling their environment. You can plant in window boxes, deck boxes, wash tubs, anything that has good drainage. You can have an entire garden in a pot using other small plants as contrast or using 2 green hostas and 1 variegated one. Use a pot or container that has vertical sides so you can plant right up to the edge. Containers with sloped sides will leave you with shallow edges you cannot plant in. You can plant in single pots, or mass your pots together in a sheltered area of your garden. Great container hostas are H. Cream Cheese, H. Blonde Elf, H. Sultana, H. Corkscrew, H. Tickle Me Pink, H. Lakeside Elfin Fire, H. Hidden Cove. It is also a good idea to put your new plants into containers for the first while to watch for any sign of viruses. Mike and Kathy have 100 hostas in pots on a 18'x 10'deck.

Small hostas can also be planted in rockeries. Use 50% soil and 50% pea gravel, add larger stones, more pea gravel and soil, then more large stones. Finish with a layer of pea gravel. Hostas for rockeries can be H. Lakeside Zinger, H. Winsome, H. Little Jay.

You can grow small hostas with large hostas in the background to contrast their sizes. Use H. Surprised by Joy, H. Dixie Chick, H. Dixie Chickadee. H. Ginko Craig, H. Bizarre, H. Vera Jean, H. Hacksaw which has very thin wavy yellow leaves. You can grow small hostas in old logs.

Labelling with small hostas. Use small 3"x ½" labels sunk down to the ground. You can also write on stones, or use small plastic labels and turn them upside down in the soil.

In the last chapter of the book you will find collecting hostas by dynasty: Francee and all its sports, the Tiara series-sports of sports of sports, Baby Bunting and its sports Pandora's Box, Hope, Cameo and Cherish, Blue Mouse Ears and its many sports, and many other hostas and their sports.

Mike left us with his final comment "We hope we have left you 'small minded' ".

The Beauty of the Woodland Garden by Jim Wilkins MD

Jim is a dermatologist, a musician, a photographer, a hybridizer and a gardener. He was also past president of the American Hosta Society, and past registrar for new cultivars of the genus *Hosta* for the AHS. He shared some wonderful photos of his 4 season woodland gardens focusing on winter structure, spring renewal, summer explosion and fall fruit. Jim specializes in Conifers.

Jim left us with a handout sheet "Shade Tolerant Plants Listed By Season of Interest"

SPRING:

1. Bulbs (March-May) a) Minor—aconite, snow drops, chinodoxa, species crocus, Anemone Blanda-double white. b) Major—daffodil, species tulip
2. Helleborus – Christmas and Lenten Rose
3. Epimediums (Barronwort) flowers small, columbine like in red, pink, orange, yellow
4. Primroses (April-June) a) Denticulata (drumstick) and rosea, b) Kisoana-mats of bright pink and good summer cover, c) Acaulis and Polyantus-more typical primroses, d) P. Seiboldii-wild geranium like, e) P. Japonica-Candelabra(tiers of flowers)
5. Woodland Plants (April-June) a) bloodroot (also double), b) Rue Anemone, c) Trout Lily, d) Trillium-Erectum, sessile, luteum and grandiflora, e) Foam Flower, f) Wood anemones, g) Bead Lily, h) Jack-in-the-pulpit, Green Dragon and other Arisaema, i) Solomon Seal
6. Other Shade Perennials for spring – a) Fern leaf peony, b) Bleeding Heart, c) Pulmonaria, d) Heuchera, e) Sweet Woodruff, f) Brunnera
7. Shrubs (May-June) a) Azalea-Korean, b) Rhododendron-PJM, c) Tree peonies, d) Serviceberry
8. Trees (April-June) also provide for fruit for summer/fall interest and good fall color a) Cornus mass (yellow dogwood) , b) serviceberry c) Redbud, d) Cornus Florida-white and red, e) Cornus kousa blooms well into July
9. Dwarf conifers – beauty of new growth each spring.

SUMMER:

1. Season of the Hosta – these emerge to cover the fading spring perennials
2. Flowering-Astilbe, Ligularia, Heuchera, Rodgersia, Cimicifuga, Corydalis lutea (blooms from April-Nov), Lilies
3. Foliage – various Ferns, Ginger, Hellebores, Epimedium, Rodgersia, Pulmonaria, Polygonatum, Kirengeshoma, Corydalis
4. Shade tolerant grasses and grass like plants – Carex, Deschampsia, Hakonechloa, Luzula and Ophiopogon
5. Flowering Shrubs: Hydrangeas (Annabelle, macrophylla, serrata, and quercifolia), Aesculus parviflora, Clethra alnifolia
6. Flowering trees: Franklinia and Stewartia
7. Flowering vines: Hydrangeas petiolaris and Schizophragma hydrangeoides

FALL:

1. Early autumn color of trees (Dogwood, Serviceberry, Redbud, Sassefras) and shrubs
2. Interest from fruit: White Baneberry, Holly, Yews, Blue Cohosh, Dogwood, Green Dragon and Jack-in-the-pulpit

WINTER:

1. Dwarf Conifers – varieties of spruce and hemlocks
2. Yews and Boxwood (have not had a deer problem)
3. Broadleaf evergreens – holly(berries), Rhododendrons and Azalea
4. Under story trees (form and shape – Dogwoods, Serviceberry, Redbud
5. Spent blooms of Astilbe and Hydrangeas
6. Dried foliage of Ornamental Grasses
7. Bark – Kousa Dogwood, Stewartia, Oak Leaf Hydrangea
8. Ferns – Especially Polystichum species

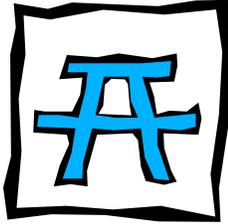
Contributed by

Olga Elchuk

2011 Hostas Suppliers

Belgian Nursery	Breslau	519 648 2608	www.belgian-nursery.com
Bonibrae Daylilies & Hostas	Bloomfield	905 892 4124	www.fairyscapedaylilies.com/Bonibrae.htm
Budd Gardens Perennials	Ottawa	613 830 4328	www.buddgardens.com
Canadale Nurseries	St. Thomas	519 631 7264	www.canadale.com
Chris Potze Perennials	Waterford	519 443 5767	
Crooked Creek Garden Centre	Newtonville	905 786 2212	www.crookedcreekgardencentre.ca
Eagle Bay Hosta Nursery	Dunkirk, New York	716 366 8844	www.eaglebaygardens.com
Ego's Nursery	Coldwater	705 326 9922	www.egosgardencentre.com
Evergreen Acres Nursery	Hornby	905 878 0475	www.evergreenacresnursery.com
Floral & Hardy	Moorefield	519 638 3937	www.floralandhardy.com
Frank Schenk Perennials	Caledon	519 927 5415	
Gardens Plus	Peterborough	705 742 5918	www.gardensplus.ca
Giboshihill Hostas	Cobourg	905 342 3153	www.simplyhostas.ca
Glen Echo Nurseries	Caledon	905 584 9973	www.glenecho.com
Goldenbrook Hostas	Blackstock	905 449 5906	www.goldenbrookhostas.com
Handlebar Hosta Farm	Uxbridge	905 852 7024	www.handlebarhostas.ca
Harpers Garden Centre	Ancaster	905 648 2157	www.harpersgardencentre.com
Hosta Choice Gardens	Appin	519 289 5471	www.hostachoicegardens.com
Hosta Fever	Barrie	705 725 5771	www.hostafever.com
Hosta La Vista	Norwood	705 639 2789	www.hostalavista.ca
Humber Nurseries	Brampton	416 798 8733	www.humburnurseries.com
Keltyn Woods Hostas	Paris	519 759 8617	www.keltynwoods.com
Koerts Hostas	Courtland	519 688 5135	
Lamrock's Country Garden	Port Perry	905 985 5462	www.lamrockscountrygarden.com
Lost Horizons	Acton	519 853 3085	www.losthorizons.ca
M.H.P. Hostas	Tillsonberg	519 688 4473	
Niagara Nursery	St. Catharines	905 682 4783	www.niagaranurseries.ca
Olde Towne Gardens	Niagara-on-the-Lake	905 937 6758	www.oldetownegardens.ca
Rideau Woodland Ramble	Merrickville	613 258 3797	www.rideauwoodlandramble.com
Riverbend Gardens	Wroxeter	519 335 6175	www.riverbendgardens.net
Shades of Green	Aylmer	519 773 7279	www.shadesofgreenhostas.ca
Smiddycroft Perennials	Kincardine	519 395 5934	
Te Sligte Gardens	Thedford	519 296 5756	www.tesligtegardens.ca
The Potting Shed	Dunnville	905 701 8921	www.pottingshed.org
Whitehouse Perennials	Almonte	613 256 3406	www.whitehouseperennials.com
Wildthings Plant Farm	Clifford	519 338 3228	www.wild-things.ca

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



2011 Picnics

EASTERN—SUNDAY, July 10th 11 - 3 p.m.
Bonibrae Daylilies & Hostas
Hosts: Barry & Maggie Matthie
497 Matthie Road, Bloomfield.

Join Barry and Maggie, enjoy a day in the country, watch and a **Papercrete** demonstration and make your own container. Stay overnight at one of the local B & B's and enjoy the local wineries in Prince Edward County

Directions: 401 East to Belleville, South on 62 to County Rd 1, Left on County Rd 1 to Matthie Rd (2nd on right)

RSVP with Barry or Maggie by 3rd July
E-mail: bonibrae@kos.net or
1.613.393.2864



PLEASE DON'T FORGET YOUR BROWN
BAG LUNCH AND LAWN CHAIRS
Soft Drinks and water will be provided
See web for updates



www.ontariohostasociety.com

Please join us for our August Picnic,
August 7th (Rain date 14th August)
at Hosta Fever, Barrie

Hosts: Cindy & Wade Mitchell

Please see our summer newsletter for complete details

Upcoming in the South Western Ontario Hosta Society Chapter

Saturday April 30, 2011.

First General Membership Meeting. 1 - 4 p.m.
Active Lifestyle Centre, 20 Merritt St. Chatham
Features a guest speaker and hosta auction.

Sunday, June 26, 2011.

First Annual SWOHS Picnic 11 - 4 p.m..
Te Sligte Gardens, 8146 Northville Road, R.R. #3, Thedford.
R.S.V.P. 519.296.5756 tesligte@sympatico.ca

Sunday, July 17, 2011.

First Annual Bus Tour.
Details - tours@swohs.org

Brian Skaggs Auction Update

The last week of March saw an exciting on-line hosta auction, using the facility of the Hosta Library, for the benefit of Brian and Virginia Skaggs. They are probably most widely known for introducing some of the largest hostas on the market and their pictures can be seen in the promotional material for their EMPRESS WU and AMOS - garden giants. They are also known amongst hostaphiles as being very generous in their distribution of plant material and seed.

Unfortunately, Brian has recently twice had surgery for removal of brain tumours which has left him in poor health and financially stressed. In true Hosta friendship, a group put together the auction which featured donations of one-of-a-kind new introductions and some very rare cultivars from the past. There were donations of plants and cash from our own OHS members and as a society we also contributed through the auction and with some of the funds from the recent Hosta Forum.

In the end, over \$19000 was raised to assist the Skaggs in their time of need. It is a tribute to the whole hosta community which recognizes the unselfish and generous nature of one of our own and who will rally 'round in a time of need.

by:
Bob Leask

Wild Things

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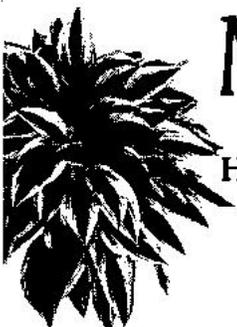
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IN MEMORIAM

by Heinke Thiessen



On February 2nd, Liisa Wolfgram passed away at Credit Valley Hospital following her fight with cancer. Notwithstanding a diagnosis of lung cancer in 2009, she continued to bring hard work, ideas, leadership and enthusiasm to everything she did. Once having met Liisa, who could forget her dynamic personality, sense of humor, love of dogs and all hot spicy foods, and her dimples

Born and raised in Toronto, Liisa's career as a vocalist and entertainer took her across the country and onto cruise ships. A love of gardening drew her to join the Credit Valley Horticultural Society in 1991 after she settled in Mississauga. She was quickly recruited to join their Board of Directors the next year and was elected President in 1995. Following terms as Assistant District Director and District Director for District 15 of the Ontario Horticultural Association, she was elected President of the OHA in 2006-2007. Liisa spearheaded several projects that are of lasting importance. She was particularly proud of the association's rebuilt website and new visual identity. She continued her efforts after her presidency leading work on long term plans for the OHA and implementing a program for associate members. She continued to represent the OHA at meetings and events of many like-minded groups.

Liisa was a founding member of the Mississauga Master Gardeners and earned the title Master Gardener in 1996. In April 2000, she became a horticultural judge accredited by the Royal Botanical Gardens and in 2010, a Rose Judge accredited through the Canadian Rose Society. She orchestrated a joint flower show for the three horticultural societies in Mississauga in 2004, 2005, 2006 and served as Chair of the Ontario Horticultural Association's flower show at Successful Garden since 2003. Liisa was active with community beautification serving as co-chair of the Mississauga-in-Blooms steering committee and worked with Communities in Bloom at both the provincial and national levels. In March 2009, she initiated the Streetscape Mississauga program, a city wide front garden competition.

Liisa was a member of the Toronto Gesneriad Society, the Toronto Cactus & Succulent Club, the Hamilton & Burlington Rose Society, the Canadian Rose Society and, of course, the Ontario Hosta Society. While all these accomplishments are important, it's Liisa's belief in living life to the fullest that should stay with us. Despite all her commitments, she found time to regularly go the theatre, lunch with friends and attend the OHS bus trips and picnics proudly wearing her OHS t-shirt. Thanks for the memories Liisa.

To honor her memory, The Liisa Wolfgram Memorial Fund has been set up at a local bank to finance the planting of a tree in Jack Darling Park in Mississauga. The leash free area of Jack Darling Park was a daily destination for Liisa and her dogs. If anyone would like to contribute to the fund, please make out a cheque or money order, payable to the *The Liisa Wolfgram Memorial Fund* and mail it to: Roger & Maureen Ricker, 4573 Inverness Blvd., Mississauga, Ontario L5M 3L1. Please include your email address so you can be informed when the arrangements have been made for the tree planting ceremony.

2011 Photography Contest

We would like to announce our first ever photography contest • You will have this summer to gather your best shots. The photographs will be judged at our Winter meeting in 2012 (January 29th) • Prizes will be awarded for the best photograph in each category • The winning photograph will be published on the web, in the newsletter and 20th Anniversary OHS book • The photographs must be taken by the contestant during the 2011 growing season.

The overall theme of the contest is of course hostas and their place in the garden. This presents an opportunity to show off your talent and share the joy of hosta growing and gardening with fellow members by submitting your photos for the contest.

Photo Submission Procedure

1. Number of entries per person - Up to 2 photos per class. Enter any number of classes.
2. Photo Size - standard 4" x 6" to 5" x 7"
3. Write the entry class and your name on the back of each photo plus the Hosta name if you know it
4. Bring your photos to our Auction (September) meeting or mail them to:

OHS 2011 Photography Contest, 2301 5th Street Louth, St. Catharines. Ont. L2R 6P7

Competition Classes

- Class 1.** Hostas in a group setting. Landscape with multiple hostas in a garden setting
- Class 2.** Hosta - single leaf
- Class 3.** Hosta in a mature clump, entire plant preferred
- Class 4.** Hosta with companion plants in a garden setting. Could include statuary or garden structures
- Class 5.** Hostas with a water feature
- Class 6.** Mini hostas, individual or grouped
- Class 7.** Hosta close up showing a minimum of 6 hosta leaves
- Class 8.** Hosta flowers

To help you with your photography, here are a few tips from Trish's talk at Hosta Forum

Taking and Judging Horticultural Photographs

Three letters a photographer should consider and memorize to create the most effective images possible: **TOE**

- T** is for **TECHNICAL** - Is the image correctly exposed and with a full range of tonality?
- O** is for **ORGANIZATIONAL** - Is the photograph well organized/composed to maximum effect?
- E** is for **EMOTIONAL** - Appeal - this is the wow factor!

JUDGING

- 40% Horticultural Value
40% Photographic Value
20% Appearance and Impact





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Upcoming Events

2011

Bus Tour

When: Sunday, June 12th
Where: Please see page 3
for more information

Eastern Picnic/Garden Tour

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

2011

Summer Picnic

When: Sunday, 7th August (rain date 14th August)
Where: Cindy & Wade Mitchell, Hosta Fever
Addr: 38 Summerset Dr. Barrie
Time: 11:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Auction

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

2011 Hosta of the Year



Hosta 'Praying Hands,' has been named the 2011 Hosta of the Year by the American Hosta Growers Association. It has narrow, upright, green, curled leaves edged with a creamy white band that makes it unique. Each leaf is rolled and folded into a tube shape, displaying the prominent veins on the back of the leaf. Vase-shaped in form it forms a small to medium clump reaching 15" in height & 18" in spread. It is a beautiful choice for a shaded container garden; or placed in the foreground & underplanted with violets, sweet woodruff or golden moneywort.

Photo Courtesy of Walters Gardens, Inc

OHS STEPPING STONE

We are excited to showcase our new concrete
OHS Stepping Stone.

They will be
available to members at future events
at a cost of \$30.00



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cindydeutekom@netscape.ca

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sandrasherbalife@aol.com

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hosta@kos.net

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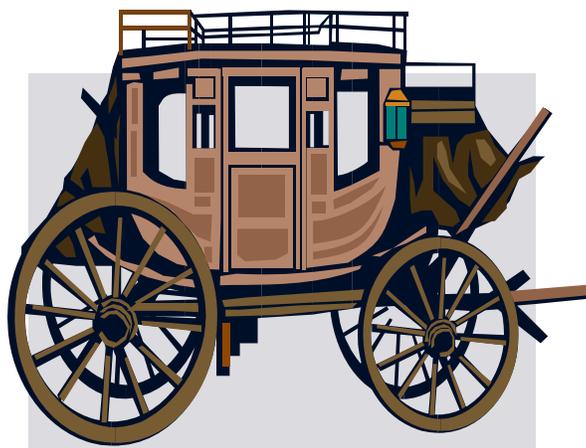
Coach Tour - 2011

DATE: Sunday, 12th June
(Please note amended date)

COST: \$40.00 per person (incls. drivers tips)

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).



While the details of the itinerary are still being finalized,
make sure you plan to attend the annual bus tour.

Hidden gems, rural and urban, large and small, are being planned.
Enjoy hosta friends and gardens while travelling on a luxury coach.

Please ensure we have your e-mail address and check the web site
for the latest news. Others will be notified by regular mail

**Please remember to bring your own picnic or brown bag lunch
Soft Drinks and Water will be provided.**



Please reserve my seat

If you would like to join us on the 2011 bus trip, please complete the following
Information, include a cheque payable to OHS (\$40.00/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 _____

E-MAIL _____