



ONTARIO HOSTA SOCIETY

**SUMMER 2010
NEWSLETTER.**

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 3

CONTENTS

Presidential Musings	1
New Members	2
Membership Info	2
Picnic Details	3
Join Us	4
It's Show Time!	5/7
Upcoming Events	7
South West Chapter	8
In Memoriam	8
Executive	8



PRESIDENTIAL MUSINGS

Wow, what a spring we've had with record high temperatures! We've had extra time to get our gardens weeded and planted with new hostas and a few annuals for colour.

We have an exciting year ahead starting with our bus tour in the Ottawa area. There are a few seats left and if you hurry and email Bob Leask at rleask@hotmail.com, you might just get one of the last few seats! We would love to fill the bus.

We have a great line-up of gardens that will provide the opportunity to walk through members gardens, see a plant you don't have (but now want) and take home some new ideas for your own garden. You will even have an opportunity to shop at 3 fantastic hosta retailers who are also members of the OHS. Big, small, country or county gardens...we love them all.

The OHS will be providing lunch and a BBQ as the finale to a great day.

There is some interest in starting a new chapter of the OHS in the London/Windsor area to accommodate all the hosta lovers in that area. Look for more information in the newsletter (pg 8)

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We will be having a 'fun' leaf show at the August picnic. Bring a clean hosta leaf and participate. Have fun AND you may win a prize! Kevin Plumley will be our leaf judge.

Are you interested in learning how to be a leaf judge? We have the opportunity to have a US judge come here to teach us. Send me an email if you are interested... cindydeutekom@netscape.ca We need 6 people to have a class. Kevin Plumley is a judge and he will be co-teaching the class. (see article on page 5 for judging hints)

Looking forward to seeing you all at the various events this summer.

Cindy Deutekom

Welcome to our New Members.

John Bigg	Picton	Larry & Debbie Murphy	Binbrook
Dan Fulcher	Oakville	Peggy Richards	Mississauga
Wayne Gray	Omeme	Tys & Patty Schaafsma	Kingsville
Chantel Hunt	Mallory Town	Margaret Sheldrick	Gravenhurst
Ann Inglis	Wingham	Brenda Smith	Burlington
Donna Lehman	Fergus	Marian Smith	Tillsonburg
Lois Livingston	Woodbridge	Wayne Terry	Ancaster

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.
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Memberships can now also be paid by VISA
or Master Card online at the AHS website
www.hosta.org



OUR 2010 PICNICS

EASTERN -- SUNDAY, July 11th. 11:00 - 3: p.m.

Giboshihill Hostas. Hosts: Kevin and Olga Elchuk

3631 Kennedy Road, Camborne, R.R. No 4, Cobourg.

Join Kevin and Olga for a wonderful day on their tremendous property. You will need several hours just to absorb the gardens.

Directions: From the West take Exit 472 (also called Burnham Street, first Cobourg exit, or second Cobourg exit if you are traveling West). Go North through the village of Camborne. Pass a church on the left and Kennedy Road will be on the left. Turn Left (West) and continue for half a mile—the house will be on the right.

Please R.S.V.P. with Kevin or Olga by July 4th

e-mail: k.o.giboshihill@gmail.com or ph: 1.905.342.3153 (leave message please)

Please don't forget your brown bag picnic lunches/lawn chairs

Soft drinks and water will be provided

Please see web for updates: www.ontariohostasociety.com



WESTERN -- SUNDAY, August 8th. 11:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Hosts: Doug & Marlit Young

24152 Saxton Rd., R.R. # 1 Strathroy

(Parking is in the schoolyard on Scotchmere)

Doug and Marlit have been avid hostaphiles for 12 years now, and their gardening was so advanced that they hosted a OHS bus tour 3 years after they were “bitten”. A must see now!

Directions: (from the East) Take 401 west to south of London, take 402 west to exit # 82. At top of ramp, turn right to traffic light in Mt. Bridges. At light turn right onto Hwy 81 and drive to Scotchmere. Turn right and park in school yard on right.

(from the west) 401 east to Exit 177, take 4 north to Hwy 402 to Exit 82. (Follow directions above)

(from the south) Take 4 north to 402, go west to exit # 82. (Follow directions above.)

Please R.S.V.P. with Doug or Marlit by August 1st

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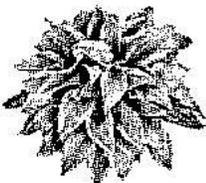
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Join Us

At Kevin & Olga's

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At Doug & Marlit's

**OUR FIRST EVER
"FUN" LEAF SHOW**



Join our illustrious Kevin Plumley (and a surprise wanna-be judge) and see how your leaves fair.

Bring along ONE sample to be judged. (see [page 5](#) for timely tips)



OTTAWA AREA BUS TOUR

June 26th

Please see the last newsletter for details or
www.ontariohostasociety.com

It's Show Time!

It is time to get serious about those *extra special* hostas that you have been watching. Maybe you would like a little advice about how to get started. Here are a few suggestions. Simply put, these are the things that the judges are looking for in order to score your entries. The leaf color and pattern—compared to the perfect specimen of that hosta in the judges' minds—are the most valuable, worth 25 points out of the 100-point total. The remainder of the points are then awarded based on the leaf matching the *registered* form, size, texture, and substance of the leaf, and the condition and grooming of the leaf (that's your job).

In selecting your leaves, look for the most mature leaves on the specimen with the truest color and even pattern and of course without any obvious flaws. Remember that you should try to choose the best *typical* leaf, not the one that might be the most interesting. This is especially true with variegated leaves. In most cases, that means look for the most even pattern (symmetrical) you can find. Also, think about the hostas that might be a little more unusual to help your chances to be the best in that class. It's a fine line: if the judges have *never* seen the hosta, they might have a hard time seeing how outstanding your leaf is, but then you can trust that the judges have seen a *lot* of hostas. Recognize also that there are quite a few well-known hostas that aren't registered; these all get lumped into one class, making that a difficult division to win. You may want to look up the registered information on the American Hosta Society's website, www.hosta.org; scroll down for show classification list. You'll need this class information when you register your leaves, and it's much easier to match them up in advance rather than at the show. If you're not sure, there will be a registry book available, and show assistants to help you.

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As well, you are invited to bring in brand new (unnamed) hostas, either sports or seedlings. This can be one of the most exciting parts of a Hosta Show.

Now that you've chosen the perfect leaf, wait until at least the night before to cut it. Handle it as little as possible. Cut the petiole as long as possible. Treat your leaves like cut flowers and stand them immediately in water so that they can absorb it. You may want to dunk them in cool water for a few minutes to pre-clean them. Keep them in water until the show. A good way to travel with them is in a cooler.

Specimen cleanliness is the first attribute that a judge notices. Take care to properly clean leaves of all exhibits prior to entering them in the show. An entry should have no dirt or other debris, insects, or spider webs anywhere on the leaf surface or on the petiole. Pay particular attention to the point where the leaf meets the petiole where trash often becomes lodged.

Carefully wash the leaf in cool water but do not scrub. A very mild dish detergent may be used to help dislodge dirt from the leaf surfaces. Often on smooth surfaced leaves, you only have to gently swish the leaf in the water and the dirt falls off. On leaves with quilted surfaces, you may use a moistened cotton swab (Q-Tip), small soft paint brush, or a cotton ball to remove dirt from the valleys and creases. Be very careful not to damage the leaf surface in any way. Be sure to rinse leaves if detergents are used to clean them.

Blue leaves are especially hard to clean and prepare for show because the delicate glaucous coating on the leaves is easily damaged. Be very careful when cleaning those blue leaves. On blue leaves with very rough surfaces, it is almost impossible to remove all the dirt without causing damage. The judges would prefer a little dirt than damaged surfaces in this case.

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Don't forget the other divisions. You may enter troughs as long as hostas are the predominant plant, as well as container-grown hostas that are grown alone and centered in the pot.

At the show there will be members to help guide you through the entry and final grooming with cotton swabs and balls in hand for the last minute cleaning. Allow yourself several minutes per entry (at least 10 if you are new at this). It is up to you to fill out the entry cards with proper judging section, division and leaf classification.

Eva Jones

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Upcoming Events

2010

Ottawa Area Bus Tour

When: Saturday, 26th June
Where: Ottawa

(see previous issue/web there may still be seats available)

Summer Western Picnic

When: Sunday, August 8th
Where: Doug & Marlit Young
Addr: 24152 Saxton Rd, R.R. 1, Strathroy
Time: 11:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Summer Eastern Picnic

When: Sunday, July 11th
Where: Kevin & Olga Elchuk
Giboshihill Hostas
Addr: 3631 Kennedy Rd, Camborne
R.R. # 4, Cobourg
Time: 11:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Auction

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

www.ontariohostasociety.com for more details

South West Ontario Hosta Society

The OHS is a healthy, thriving society with wonderful members from many areas of Ontario and beyond. Since Ontario is a large province, it has proven difficult to actively involve all of our members in our meetings/events. It has been brought to our attention that there are many potential members who are unable or unwilling to travel several hours to attend our events. Since I feel that the OHS has so much to offer, I have been attempting to find some sort of solution to this dilemma. I keep coming back to some sort of chapter of the OHS that is more accessible to the south western Ontario population. On talking with several other members, I found that they too had been mulling this over, as had our own dear Margot prior to her passing.

I would like to hear from members in the SW Ontario area, and from their friends and associates who are either hostaholics or who have a great appreciation for our favourite plant, if they would be interested in forming a SW chapter of the OHS. The details are very much in the infant stage, but the idea is to be able to have the option of attending meetings and events that would be more accessible to those in the Windsor/Sarnia/London area, while continuing to be a member of the OHS and enjoy all of the benefits that we now enjoy.

The OHS committee members are in complete support of this idea and have asked me to go ahead and investigate the interest in forming such a society. As a result, I was pleased to accept their invitation as Director At Large on the OHS committee.

I am excited about the potential expansion of the OHS and feel that it opens up great opportunities and potential for us as a whole. If you have any ideas or would be interested in either joining or helping to create this chapter of the OHS, please contact me by email at: swohs@amtelecom.net.

Thank you, and happy gardening.

Lynn Bisschop

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we note the sudden passing of Laura Lenz on May 20, 2010. Laura and Ken are long standing members of the OHS and were frequent bus riders on our tours, as well as active bidders and participants at our many auctions, meetings and picnics over the years. Laura and Ken were also active in the Michigan Great Lakes Societies and attended many national conventions and Hosta College. We will miss her sunny personality, wit and friendliness.

Our deepest condolences to Ken and family on their loss

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