



# ONTARIO HOSTA SOCIETY

## EARLY SUMMER 2008 NEWSLETTER.

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 3

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### PRESIDENTIAL MUSINGS

It's Finally Here! And did it come on with a vengeance. Got the soaker hoses going full blast every day for three days at the start of our heat wave. Hot to work in but I'm loving every minute of it.

My double flowering vinca came back beautifully from it's sleep (thanks Dave - I'm taking very special care of it).

Our hostas are absolutely fantastic and so far at the count, I don't think we lost any at all. (Okay, except for a couple I had over wintering in the garage – the other two dozen made it through though).

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual event is coming up on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and that would be our fabulous bus tour. I am looking forward to seeing everyone and want to remind you all to wear your O.H.S. t-shirts for our annual group Bus Tour Photo.

This year's tour will include a large rural garden and a specialty nursery and display garden, both in Halton. Two smaller but exquisite urban gardens in Etobicoke will be our next leg of the journey and, if time allows, a final wooded rural garden that features thousands of hosta and an opportunity to purchase (always a highlight of the day). Thanks Bob for another great game plan.

*(Continued on page 2)*

Get your tickets a.s.a.p. as there are only so many seats on the bus. As usual, Bob will keep a list of those unable to get on board and if demand dictates, we can always add another bus.

We are still looking for a couple of Volunteers for our Society. One to help Bob Leask plan our bus tours and eventually transition into that position. We also still need a web site volunteer to help Kevin Plumley out. Kevin has been our Membership Person for a long time now, he has also volunteered to do our web site and now, since he is such a strong liaison with the American Hosta Society, he has volunteered to be involved there as well. We really need to find someone to take over the web site and give Kevin some breathing room. If you know of anyone at all, please have them contact myself or Kevin. For anyone with or starting a web site business, sprucing up our web site would look great on a portfolio.

**HAPPY SUMMER GARDENING AND – SEE YOU ON THE BUS !**

*Sandra*

### **Ontario Hosta Society**

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

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

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

**American: \$16.00/YR Foreign: \$17.00/YR**

Your 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, is \$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 American Hosta Society website at **[www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org)**

# Upcoming Events for 2008

**Bus Tour 2008**  
**Sunday, June 22nd**  
see previous newsletter for details

**South Western Ontario Picnic**  
**Sunday, August 10th, 2008**  
**The Potting Shed—Dunnville**  
See Page 5 details

**Hosta Auction — Weekend of**  
**September, 13/14th, 2008**  
with Mike Shadrack  
Location to be advised  
see next newsletter

## We Welcome Our New Members

Terri Hobbs

Wendy Brown

Linda Haist

Charles & Elaine Grierson

Ridgeway

Pefferlaw

Waterdown

Waterloo

## GOLDENBROOK HOSTAS GARDEN TOUR/OPEN HOUSE

June 21-22, 2008  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

- ◆ Please join us to see our extensive hosta beds in sun and shade
- ◆ We have over 250 varieties—new, favorites, unique and miniature varieties
- ◆ AHS Hosta of the Year 1996 - 2009 available
- ◆ Enjoy light refreshments while you tour the gardens
- ◆ Gift hosta to all visitors

## **APOLOGIES!**

To **Dave Dunn** of Rideau Woodland Ramble. I inadvertently missed a few sentences of his article "Hostas and Other Shady Characters" in the last newsletter.

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To Allan and Shirley Koch of **Riverbend Gardens** whose telephone number was missing from the 2008 membership list.

They can be reached at (519) 335 6175 and can be visited at 43846 C Line Road, Wroxeter

Editor

Gardens Plus presents

### **HOSTA FEST**

Thursday, June 26th to Monday, July 7th (closed Tuesdays)

**See a collection of 300+ varieties. Awarded as one of the Top 40 Boutique Nurseries in Canada.**

**Hostas are for sale all season, but this event brings even more selection for the avid collector!**

**Gardens Plus, 136 County Road #4 Parkhill Road East  
(Donwood on most maps)**

**Call (705) 742 5918 or visit [www.gardensplus.ca](http://www.gardensplus.ca)  
for hours, info and mail order options**

# South Western Ontario Picnic

## The Potting Shed

44 Haldimand Road 17, Dunnville

Sunday - August 10th

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

(Light refreshments will be provided)

Jack Kent is owner/operator of "The Potting Shed". For the past twenty one years, since graduating from the university of Guelph, he has worked to maintain excellence in breeding programs originally related to the animal sciences and more recently related to plants, especially daylilies and hosta.

In this area he has lectured across Ontario and on television shows like "The Gardeners Journal" and "Calling All Gardeners". His work advances the appreciation and quality of daylilies and hosta particularly as they relate to our northern climates. Through his hybridizing program he has worked to improve the winter hardiness of flower colours and forms that were previously only available to more southern gardens. The Potting Shed plants are field and container grown to maximize their size and health as they are transplanted into gardens.

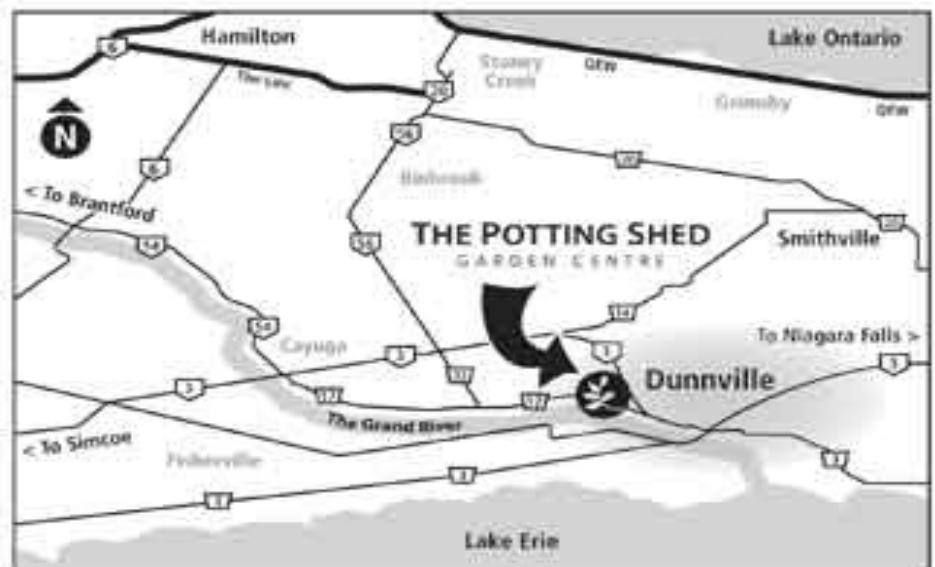
**DIRECTIONS:** From Toronto—QEW over Burlington Skyway to Exit 88, Centennial Parkway (Hwy 20). Drive on Hwy 20 up Hamilton Mountain, at top continue through light. You will be on Hwy 56. Follow until it ends at Hwy 3. Continue straight onto County Rd #32 and follow to Regional Rd. 17. Turn left and follow the river. Just past the gold course start watching for Potting Shed on left (#44). Look out for "Sara", the dinosaur.

### From Hamilton—

Take Hwy 6 (The Line) to Hwy 56 and follow directions above.

### From Niagara—

Hwy 3 through Dunnville onto Hwy 17 and watch for us on the right



## **Seasonal Hosta Tips**

**by Bob Solberg**

### **Spring - Foliage Emergence Begins**

March - April - early May

Fertilization: Apply Osmocote 2 weeks after emergence, or apply granular 10-10-10 mid-March, or begin applications of liquid fertilizer mid-March.

Irrigation: As needed to maintain moist soil, but not wet. Remember this Bob Solberg rule: If you **aren't** going to water -- **DON'T START**. If you **are** going to water -- **DON'T STOP**.

Protection: Protect from late frosts with lightweight cloth, pots, boxes or newspaper.

Division: Not the best time, since roots are not growing until after leaves form.

Pests: Begin slug control before foliage emerges.

### **Late Spring - Period of Rapid Foliage and Root Growth**

Mid May - early June

Fertilization: Apply granular 10-10-10 May 1, or continue weekly applications of liquid fertilizer. For rapid growth, foliar feed high-nitrogen fertilizer. Add a pinch of magnesium per gallon of water (Epsom Salts).

Irrigation: Maintain moisture needed for growth (overhead watering may damage blue hostas).

Protection: Thin layer of coarse mulch to conserve soil moisture.

Division: OK to transplant entire hosta, being careful not to damage roots. Do not divide.

Pests: Continue to watch for slug and vole damage, apply bait as needed.

### **Summer - Period of bloom, seed setting and dormancy**

June-July-early August

Fertilization: Apply 10-10-10 July 1, or weekly applications of liquid fertilizer until bloom. Also, fertilize once after dividing and replanting.

Irrigation: Maintain soil moisture. Also, sprinkle leaves during heat of day to cool.

Protection: Thin layer of coarse mulch to conserve moisture and keep crown cool.

Division: August is the best time to divide and replant. Fertilize after replanting.

Pests: July and August, begin watching for foliar nematodes on leaf blades, and isolate or destroy affected plants. Fungal diseases begin during summer. (Use Daconil every 10 days as needed)

cont.....

**Fall - Final seed set and dormancy begins**  
September-October-November

Fertilization: None.  
Irrigation: None.

Protection: Apply 1" course mulch.

Division: None, remove scapes and dead foliage if desired.

Pests: Begin watching for voles.

**PLEASE SEE OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER FOR  
TIMES AND LOCATION OF OUR  
2008 HOSTA AUCTION**



## ***Upcoming Events - 2008***

### Bus Tour

**When:** Sunday, June 22nd  
**Where:** North Halton and South Central Etobicoke—see previous newsletter

### South Western Picnic

**When:** Sunday, August 10th  
**Where:** **The Potting Shed - Dunnville**  
**Time:** 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
**Addr:** 44 Haldimand Road 17 Dunnville

### 2008 Hosta Auction

**When:** Saturday/Sunday, September 13/14th  
**Where:** TBA  
**Time:** TBA  
**Addr:** TBA

# Ontario Hosta Society

2301 5th Street Louth,  
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L2R 6P7



## EARLY SUMMER 2008 NEWSLETTER

Visit us at  
[www.ontariohostasociety.com](http://www.ontariohostasociety.com)

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