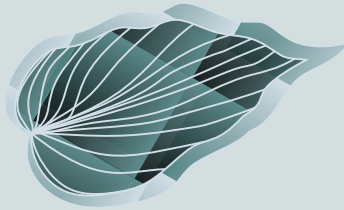




Save the dates

- Winter Meeting  
Sunday 31 January
- 2016 Hosta Forum  
Sunday 17 April
- OHS Bus Trip  
Sunday 26 June
- OHS BBQ/Picnic  
Sunday 17 July
- Annual General Meeting  
Sunday 11 September



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President's Musings

As the 1st official day of 2016 is to fade I find myself sitting at my window watching the snowflakes accumulate on an otherwise bare and exhausted lawn. For your average Southern Ontario resident this has been an unexpected and enjoyably warm fall and early winter. With above average daily temperatures and the occasional +10C day

lot of folks complaining about the weather. with the exception of some howere holding out hopes

temperatures signal that winter have finally arrived and, for not a particularly bad thing.

For hostas (and most perennials) the frozen ground and plentiful snow cover provides perfect conditions for what is called

period of prolonged cold, vernalization provides the best period that our beloved hostas need to support strong spring growth and

and hosta camaraderie. a great winter and spring schedule planned for you and hope that you take the opportunity to come on and spend some time with us.

For those of you who yourselves from digging in the dirt now is a great time to try your hand at planting some hosta seeds indoors. Requiring minimal equipment,

growing hostas from seed is not therapeutic but a very rewarding experience. If you dig out of mscapes in the fall there will most likely be some seed pods still on the picking in your garden.

Decide what your favorite hosta in your garden last season and to see if there are any seeds left to harvest. Remember hosta seeds

mother plant and the seeds you harvest will produce open pollinated seedlings with some characteristics

characteristics of the unknown mother plant. *[Editor's note: this issue of the OHS newsletter features an excellent article starting hostas from seed by Randy Goodwin, reprinted from the Late Winter edition of the Indianapolis Hosta Society Newsletter.]*

For more information on growing hostas from seed visit the Hosta Library at [www.hostalibrary.org/seed/indoors/sd.html](http://www.hostalibrary.org/seed/indoors/sd.html)

and hosta camaraderie. a great winter and spring schedule planned for you and hope that you take the opportunity to come on and spend some time with us.

Our Winter Meeting is scheduled for January 31st where we will have a wonderful slide show presentation and spend some time with us.

Our Winter Meeting is scheduled for January 31st where we will have a wonderful slide show presentation and spend some time with us.

... continued on page 3

## OHS 2016 Executive

President Glenn Wilson  
ontgmw@gmail.com

Past President Cindy Deutekom  
cindydeutekom@gmail.com

Vice President- Open

Treasurer Keith Skanes  
keithskanes@hotmail.com

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Membership Prime- Norm Limpert  
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SW Ontario Dir. at Large Lynn Bisschop  
pastpresident@swohs.org

Eastern Ontario Dir. at Large Jutta Daverne  
jutta.daverne@gmail.com

AHS Regional 7 Director Cindy Deutekom  
cindydeutekom@gmail.com

*W ednesday*

## Our newest members

Diane LeBlanc  
Jim Chambes  
Kelly Williams

Marilyn Elliott  
Judith Rogers  
Alexei Sherman  
Maria Dekhtiarenko

## ONTARIO HOSTA SOCIETY

487 Irish Dr  
RR #4, Appin, ON  
NOL 1A0  
5192895471  
Email:  
ontgmw@gmail.com  
Website  
ontariohostasociety.com



## Renew your Membership

The membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st. Members joining after October 1st are deemed to be paid until December 31st of the following year.

\$15.00 for 1 year  
\$40.00 for 3 years

<http://ontariohostasociety.com/index.php/membership>

Note: Printed newsletters are no longer being offered. Members with printed newsletter memberships will continue to receive them until their membership expires.

## OHS Newsletter

Newsletters are published 3-4 times a year. PDF copies of past issues of the OHS newsletter are available in the Members section of the OHS website.

## Article Submissions

We are always looking for hosta-related articles, and photos. Do you have something to share? Send it to: [hostanews@gmail.com](mailto:hostanews@gmail.com)

## Advertising

Hosta retailers Business cards sized ads are only \$100 per publication year.

... continued from page

### President's Musings

slide shows always captivate and for this presentation she has compiled photos from some of our 2015 along with the following

Tychonievich from Ypsilanti, Michigan present his talk *Dealing with your addiction: a message from the Overdose Treatment Association (H.O.S.T.A.)*

Author of *Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener* (Timber Press, 2013) and a forthcoming book on Gardening, Joseph has been a repeated guest on radio's food show *The Splendid Table* was named by *Organic Gardening* magazine as "...one of six young horticulturists who are helping to shape how America Gardens", his writing has appeared in top garden magazines such as *Fine Gardening*, and he writes regular columns for *Michigan Gardening Magazine* also draws ridiculous gardening cartoons. Joseph combines horticultural science, a deep obsession with plants, and humor to create a presentation that is informative as it is fun and also understandable.

... a pizza and Caesar salad lunch (and beverages) will be provided!!!

Following our January meeting is the event that gets us excited and motivated for the gardening Hosta Forum once again at the scenic Glencairn Golf Club in Hamilton on Sunday, April 17th. Our wonderful and hardworking Hosta Forum chairs, Lynne Limpert and Donna Hussey have put together an amazing slate of speakers make this 6th Annual Hosta Forum (and Hosta Sale now (early

of additional information on the Forum to be found and enjoy a day of information, auctions, gifts and hostatality.

On behalf of the OHS Executive I wish you all a safe enjoyable winter and we look forward to seeing you at the January 31st membership meeting.

Glenn Wils  
OHS President

## OHS Winter Meeting

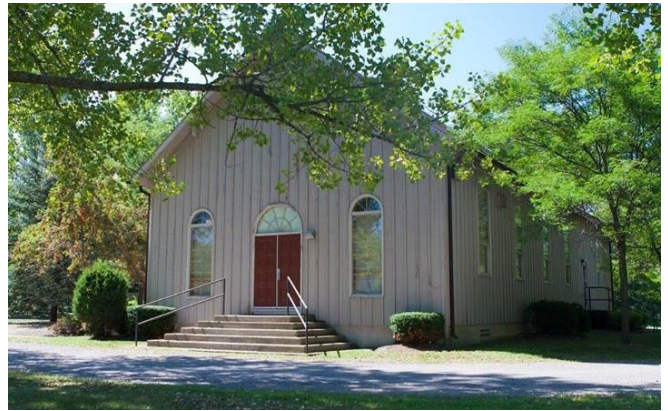
Tickets for the Hosta Forum will be available We will also have 2016 OHS calendar for sale.

Date: Sunday 31 January 2016

Time: 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm (lunch will be provided)

Location:

Nassagaweya Community Centre  
Brookville Hall  
2005 Cameron Drive  
Campbellville, Ontario  
L0P 1B0  
(Part of the Town of Milton)



Directions from the 401: Take Guelph Line north 6 km to the Nassagaweya Community Centre. Cameron Drive located on the left at the corner of Guelph Line and Cameron Drive. Guelph Line one exit west of Highway 25 if you are coming from Toronto or one exit east of Highway 25 if you are coming from Kitchener.

### 2016 Hosta Forum

Your 2016 Hosta Forum Coordinators, Lynne Limpert and Donna Hussey are excited to invite you to attend our next Hosta Forum.

We have arranged for diverse and dynamic speakers once again. Your day is all inclusive with a new deluxe lunch this year.

Please note that cost has not changed over the years, as long as you get your ticket before March 1 early bird deadline.

We are looking forward to seeing you all.

Lynne and Donna



## OHS Constitution & Bylaws

The OHS Executive committee has been work updating the Constitution to better reflect th we operate today.

Members have been sent the following four documents by email:

- < Existing Constitution
- < Proposed Changes to the Constitution
- < New Constitution
- < New Bylaws

All of these documents are also available in th Members only section of [the website](#)

The Constitution identifies our operating obje

The Bylaws provide more information about hc intend to operate.

Both documents work together to provide bc members and Executive with direction on how to operate the Ontario Hosta Society.

Please read the documents and reply to Keith ([keithskanes@hotmail.com](mailto:keithskanes@hotmail.com)) and Lynne Limpert ([lynnelimpert@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnelimpert@hotmail.com)) by Friday January 2 with any issues, concerns or questions or to know that you are in agreement with the New Constitution and By Laws.

If we don't hear from you we will assume yo agreement.

At our January 31st General meeting we intend approve the changes to the Constitution and both the new Constitution and new By Laws.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at th Sunday January 31 meeting. Mark it in your c

In the meantime Happy New Year to all of the members of the Ontario Hosta Society from y Executive Committee.

We look forward to an exciting 2016.

## Spotlight on June



For her versatility Blue green in the shade

A nice yellow and green in sun

And the colour is half way between these when sited in part sun /part shade

*Trish Symons*

*Spotlight on is a new feature being introduced this issue. We will put the spotlight on several outstanding Hostas in every issue.*

## American Hosta Society

### Membership for Canadians

\$39.00 US per year or \$107.00 US for 3 year Memberships can now also be paid by VISA or Master Card online at the AHS website [www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org)

### Contact

Sandie Markland  
AHS Membership Sec.  
P.O. Box 7539  
Kill Devil Hills, NC  
27948-7539 U.S.A.

E-mail: [ahsmembershipsecretary@earthlink.net](mailto:ahsmembershipsecretary@earthlink.net)



Correction: Volume 21, Issue 1  
Words and photos for OHS  
20th Anniversary Picnic  
provided by Lynne Limpert

Apologies for the incorrect attrib

# Starting Hostas from Seeds

by Randy Goodwin *Article & photos courtesy of the AHS Newsletter* *Reprinted from the Late Winter 2010 edition of the Indianapolis Hosta Society Newsletter*

## SEED SELECTIONS

Decide what you want to create:

- A. Variegation, need splashed pod parent, a 7 process with edged, solid and medio form development needed



- B. For yellows, blues, or distinctive forms, solid parents needed; edged and center variegated produce lethal or green seedlings only

## COLLECTING, CLEANING AND STORING SEED



- A. Collect seed only after mature, i.e. 40 days 40 nights
- B. Timing differs from one to another, i.e. sieboldianas vs. summer vs. late bloomers
- C. Dry pods with name tags
- D. Crushing pod helps speed process
- E. Separate seeds from pods, then dewing for viability
- F. Stratification not necessary, but cool storage recommended for viability
- G. Create a storage container, paper or plastic, identification

## CONTAINERS AND MEDIUMS

- A. Sterilized #
- B. Use sterile non organic planting medium
- C. Use of Michigan peat or any soil based media prohibited
- D. Medium examples: Pro Mix, or peat/sphagnum/vermiculite, perlite, and perlite mixtures
- E. Moist medium prior to planting
- F. Use boiled water to kill fungus, fungus gnats, algae



## PLANTING PROCESS

- A. Plant in a prepared trench, then cover
- B. Plant in a scatter, then cover with more media
- C. Use bone meal with seeds to increase germination
- D. Coverage should be 3 times depth of seed
- E. Uncovered seeds have roots unable to penetrate soil
- F. Water planted seeds after planting
- G. Cover with plastic dome
- H. Place in plastic baggie

## LIGHTING

- A. Use fluorescent shop lights
- B. 24/7 light cycle or timed with timer from 12/12 to 8/4/8/4 cycle

... continued on next page



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GERMINATION

- A. From 3 to 14 days, 7 average, with an ave 33%
- A. Germination rate, germination is irregular
- B. Water from bottom, salts built up and pathogens,
- C. With ¼ strength soluble fertilizer roots ca water for extended time
- D. Room temperature should be maintained between 67-70 degrees
- E. Damp off is a constant problem; use of Be or Benomyl in a liquid spray ~~after~~ planting
- F. Use of plastic bags does lead to mildew w closed environment

CULLING AND DECISION MAKING



- A. For splashes, thin after 1st or 2nd leaf, eliminating the greens
- B. For solids and forms, keep most and cull c after 2nd year.
- C. Up potting helps ~~seed~~ seedling gain size, blooming in 1st year (scapes should be cu preserve seedling from energy drain and d
- D. Use deep containers for root growth
- E. Use a tool that creates a deep hole in por medium
- F. Grow in containers until safe to p ~~ad~~ out
- G. Continue culling until the ~~DIS~~ **DISTINCTION** UNIQUE applies.



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# Seasonal Hosta Tips

by Bob Solberg

Article courtesy of the AHS Newsletter Exchange

## 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 in mid-March.

Irrigation As needed to maintain moist soil, but do not wet. Remember this Bob Solberg rule:

When you see a hosta plant that is wilting, it is not dying, it is just thirsty. If you water it, it will be fine.

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

Division Not the best time, since they 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.

## Mark Your Calendar!

What, you don't have one? We still have 2016 OHS calendars left! Only \$19 (includes postage). To order, contact [rtgmw@gmail.com](mailto:rtgmw@gmail.com)

## 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.)

## Fall

Final seed set and dormancy begins

September-October-November

Fertilization None.

Irrigation None.

Protection None.

Division None, remove senescent and dead foliage if desired.

Pests Begin watching for voles.

## Spotlight on El Nino



A floral design dream! The green/grey with cream border works well with every single flower in a floral design.  
*Trish Symon*



## Robert John Murphy

We received the sad news of the passing of Murphy on December 27. Bob will be remembered by members of the OHS for his tireless contribution as a member and director for almost 20 years.

While I had known Bob previously through his work as an educator and federation representative for Peel, it was during one of our early auctions at the Toronto Botanical Gardens that we reconnected. Bob became active in the OHS as his nature, and he eagerly offered his assistance wherever needed and became the Chair of our Seed Committee which oversaw the collection, organization and distribution of seed to members and others who were interested in growing them. He also brought his experience and expertise to the work of revising the constitution to incorporate the newly formed SWOHS and EOHS so they could share other prohibitive insurance costs.

It was during a seed cleaning session that he announced to a group of us that he had a testicular cancer and he entered a research program through many rounds of both chemotherapy and radiation

that prolonged his life many years to enjoy his love of gardening along with his wife Diane who passed away in 2012.

We spent many hours on behalf of the OHS (road collecting plants for auction, collecting scouting bus itineraries, scouting picnic sites) generally enjoying the friendships of the many members we met.

In recent years Bob arranged for the use of meeting rooms that bore his name for the OHS to hold its meetings at no cost. As usual he was there to assist wherever he could. His contributions were recognized by the awarding of the American Hosta Society certificate in 2015. (Editor's note: See AHSPresident's Web page.)

Bob's life was defined by service: to his profession, to his community, and to his interests. We remember him in that light and are proud that he was a member of our Ontario Hosta Society.

Our sincere condolences to his family. We are all richer for having known him.

Bob Leask

### Spotlight on Pineapple Upsidedown Cake



Gotta love this for the name alone. The yellowish slender leaves are a lovely contrast to many of our traditional hostas. I have had great luck in splitting mature plants.  
*Trish Symons*



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# Speaking of Viridescence

by Rob Mortko

Article courtesy of the AHS Newsletter Exchange

We have all come to appreciate that foliage color is a dynamic variable in growing hostas. And we generally deal with that. But what about those variegated cultivars that start the year with a glorious combination of variegated color only to turn up all green by mid-season?

7  
h  
7  
the season with an attractive cream colored center along with a green margin. But by late May they are essentially the same thing even if it does give us a little show of variegation in early July before turning green.



Fortunei Albivicta (early June) photo Marta Cepeda

o  
Society defines the term viridescence as "having leaves which begin the season lighter colored and become more green as



Same Fortunei Albivicta (late July) photo Marta Cepeda

Viridescence is just another reason to know your hosta cultivars well before purchasing and planting. Just like knowing what the mature size will be, knowing that a specific cultivar viridescents will help us manage our expectations down the road. It may even be a deciding factor in whether we purchase a specific cultivar or not.

@  
specific hosta a poor choice? The current trend is to purchase a hosta that is variegated. But that is a decision to be made at the time of purchase right along side with size and color considerations.

The more we know about each hosta cultivar the less likely we will be surprised or disappointed later by not knowing your hosta cultivars before you buy.

## AHS President's Wall

The American Hosta Society honours the members of local Societies who have worked tirelessly for many years to ensure the smooth running of local clubs.

Congratulations Bob Murphy and Cindy Deutekom of the OHS and Lynn Bisschop of the SWOHS for being honoured in 2015 with this prestigious award. You can find their names on the 2015 President's Wall on the AHS website at [http://www.americanhostasociety.org/AwardsandHonors/Presidents\\_wall2015.htm](http://www.americanhostasociety.org/AwardsandHonors/Presidents_wall2015.htm)

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## Avoiding Spring Frost Damage

by Ray Rodgers

Article courtesy of the OHS Newsletter Exchange

The anticipation and excitement of early spring. Spring is a joyous time for gardeners, a time of anticipation as we start wandering around our gardens looking for signs of new beginnings. So excitement must be tempered with the realization that freezing temperatures are always a possibility until approx. mid-May in Central Illinois. The average last frost date for Peoria is May 8. Every year spring will come in gracefully, without the major temperature swings we come to expect. Unfortunately, this rarely has happened.

Last year was a prime example. After efforts to protect my rapidly unfurling hosta leaves on a couple occasions, I thought the days were once again behind us when we reached the month of May, only to be surprised by an unexpected (to me) frost that damaged gardens throughout the area on the night of May 32

smartest hosta in my garden: as it is the last to emerge from winter dormancy, making it much more susceptible to frost damage.

When hostas should be protected it is important to realize that hostas, even completely leafed out, can withstand temperatures below freezing (32° F). I have repeatedly read that hostas can handle temperatures down to 28° F for short times with minimal or no damage.

During winter, if I find exposed hosta buds, I scrape a little mulch or soil mix from the surrounding area to cover them for protection. In very early spring, if shoots are starting to emerge, I often cover them in the same manner, in an attempt to slow their progress and provide additional protection.

If shoots are a few inches or more tall, yet leaves have not started to unfurl or are still in the early stages, and temperatures below 30° F are forecast, I suggest providing additional protection via a choice of straw mulch or dried leaves piled around and over the emerging shoots. Alternatively, one of the protection methods described below can be utilized.

The more leafed out hostas are, the more susceptible they are to frost damage. In these cases, covering via one of the methods described below is the best alternative.

One must consider the uniqueness of their garden and plant placements when determining whether to protect or not.

Of course, part of the decision process is how much trust one has in the accuracy

a scary thought!

Plant protection is one of those things that one decides to protect or not. There are many options. Basically almost anything that can cover a hosta will help.

*photo Marta Ceppek*

It is important not to let the leaves touch the covering material as they are more likely to sustain frost damage at that contact, if the temperature gets cold enough.

There are many methods for protecting your hostas via covering. Materials include:

- < Plastic pots (crumpled newspaper covering drainage holes improves protection)
- < Newspapers
- < Cardboard boxes
- < Frost Cloth\* (fabric material available through nursery supply companies. Search the Internet for options.)
- < Bed sheets\*
- < Bath towels\*
- < Light blankets\*

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