



Save the dates

- 2017 Hosta Forum  
Sunday 23 April  
[See flyer on last page!](#)
- 2017 Member Meeting  
Sunday 28 May
- 2017 Bus Tour  
Sunday 2 June
- 2017 BBQ/Picnic  
Sunday 9 July
- 2017 Annual General Meeting  
Sunday 10 September



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The Future of OHS

Did you know that the OHS has been around since 1995? Maybe you're one of the 29 people who are celebrating 15+ years of OHS membership (Congratulations! See page 3). Or maybe you've joined in the last few years.

OHS offers some fantastic member benefits: the annual Hosta Forum, picnic, OHS bus tour, and two OHS general meetings. Most of these events also include hosta giveaways, hosta sales, and/or hosta auctions. If you need more hostas, OHS membership gets discounts from many suppliers, and of course you receive the OHS newsletter with lots of hosta photos and hosta related articles every few months.

But do you ever stop to think that all of this is possible? These are the people who plan our activities, who take minutes of the planning meetings, who find and book the room, or the bus, or the speaker, or the gardens to visit; who take the registrations; who solicit donations and/or discounts from suppliers, coordinate auctions, transport the plants and set up the tables; who take photos and organize photo contests; who source and order club merchandise; who edit the newsletter, manage the website, manage the budget ... with these enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers there is no OHS. We pronounce everyone on the OHS Executive page 2 of every issue of the newsletter.

Some of the current OHS Executive have been in their positions for several years and some are relatively newcomers. If you've ever attended a Hosta Forum participated in an OHS meeting or

activity, you already know what a fantastic job they're doing. In their area of responsibility and as a team. The future of the OHS, however, depends on members like me and you.

When someone needs to step down sideways (to a different position), need make a call to the membership someone new to step in your call getting through?

Glenn Wilson, having served as OHS President for the past two years, announced at the OHS meeting September 2016 that he needs to step down for health and business reasons.

On behalf of the OHS Executive and OHS members, Glenn deserves a heartfelt thank you for all of his time, effort, sacrifices, and the many contributions he has made during his time as OHS President.

The ideal scenario would be for a seasoned Vice President to take over. The VP acts as a backup and shares responsibilities with the President, ultimately assumes the role of President when the President's term expires. The President cannot fulfill his or her duties. But the OHS VP position is also vacant. Without a President or a VP, the Executive is like an orchestra without a conductor. Capable and motivated people are without direction.

Now, not everyone sees themselves as Presidential (or VP) material. That is understandable. Before you had children, did you see yourself as a parenting material? OK, that may not have been a fair question, but what a President does is really more like what a parent or grandparent does: provide

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# OHS2017 Executive

President **OPEN SEEKING A VOLUNTEER**

Past President Cindy Deutekom  
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AHS Region 7 Director Cindy Deutekom  
[cindydeutekom@gmail.com](mailto:cindydeutekom@gmail.com)

## Our newest members

Leslie Mannion  
Athena Antiochos  
Carol Mathisor  
Ila Murphy  
Lucia Rostirolla

# Welcome!

## ONTARIO HOSTA SOCIETY

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NOL 1A0

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[ontgmw@gmail.com](mailto:ontgmw@gmail.com)

Website  
[ontariohostasociety.com](http://ontariohostasociety.com)



## Membership



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educational seminars.

[www.OntarioHostaSociety.com](http://www.OntarioHostaSociety.com)

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

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

## OHS Newslette

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 tips, articles, and photos. Do you have something to share? Send to: [hostanews@gmail.com](mailto:hostanews@gmail.com)

### Advertising

Hosta retailers: Business card sized ads are only \$10 per publication year.

## Future of OHS

...continued from page

encouragement, support, guidance, maybe some boundaries. And then let's go is right there if needed you have children or grandchildren, you also know much you can learn and get out of on that side of experience.

So, if you are also afflicted with an insatiable enth for hostas, you couldn't possibly be in better comp OHS Executive is a unique group of people united b passion for hostas. We're doing our part for the OHS and getting a lot out of it, but we really need someone at the helm, someone who will bring their particula of hosta enthusiasm to our mix.

Here is a description what is expected of the President:

Enthusiasm, communication and time commitment are the three primary requirements.

Everything else is details (but the rest of the Exec help you get up to speed on those):

- < Enthusiastically and proactively pursue all areas of interest to the OHS
- < Keep membership informed of OHS initiatives
- < Chair OHS executive meetings twice a year
- < Authorize (or not) various expenses and/or decisions with support from the OHS Executive
- < Follow up on action items, and help the other Exec get what they need
- < Attend as many OHS meetings and events as possible
- < Call and chair OHS meetings, make introductions and announcements as needed
- < Answer members' and non-members' questions about the OHS and its activities.
- < Write a message for each newsletter
- < Liaise with the SWOHS and EHOHS

The current OHS Executive is a friendly and welcoming group. Our new President and VP will have the support and assistance of the Past President and the entire Executive help her/him transition into the position.

Are you ready to take your passion out of the shadows, and make a difference in the OHS? If so, please reside within a reasonable driving distance of the OHS. Please nominate yourself for President or Vice President. Unless more people like you and me (and rest of the intrepid OHS Executive) do our parts, there wouldn't be an OHS.

To nominate yourself for President, Vice President, or to volunteer for our many OHS initiatives, or to make a suggestion, please contact Glenn Wilson at [glenn@hostachoicegardens.ca](mailto:glenn@hostachoicegardens.ca)

## Celebrating 15 years

Celebrating 15 (or more years) of OHS membership in 2017:

Elsie Baker  
 Rick & Lee Baxter  
 Stephanie & Don Cullen  
 Bruce Cumpson  
 Mary Lou Curry  
 Cindy & Carel Deutekom  
 Kevin & Olga Elchuk  
 Dagny Ingolfsrud  
 Allan & Shirley Koch  
 Bob Leask  
 Norm & Lynne Limpert  
 Pat Loy  
 Kenneth MacDonald  
 David McKnight  
 Dale Murphy  
 Lawrence Mutual  
 Sherry Peters  
 Chris Potze  
 Lory Rutherford  
 Nancy Serrick  
 Freda Smith  
 Cindy Sweeting  
 Tony & Sue Willemsen

Thank you all for your continued support!

## American Hosta Society

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org>



Membership for Canadians  
 \$39 US/year  
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 NEW! eMembership  
 \$20 US/year

# Meet the 2017 Hosta For Speakers

See the Hosta For Speakers on the last page for details!



Ran Lydell

## Small Trees Work With Hostas For Great Effect

Ran Lydell, of Eagle Bay Gardens in Dunkirk, NY, is well known and respected as a hosta hybridizer having created many hostas and registering 34 of his own originations to date. Among the better known ones are 'Arctic', 'Arctic Rim', 'Brass Ring', 'Eagle Nest', 'June Bug', 'Lunar Magic', 'Lunar Orbit', 'Oh My Heart', 'S Ho', and 'Saybrook Surprise'. He has also been involved in the introduction of several Japanese plants like 'Kinba', 'Hirao Grand' and 'Yabutsugi'.

Ran is a lively and engaging speaker who we're sure you'll enjoy.



Sean James

## Couples and Threesomes: Companions for Hostas

Sean James has been gardening professionally since he was sixteen and speaking to horticultural societies since 1981 when he graduated from the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture.

A public speaker, frequent guest on radio gardening shows, writer, teacher and environmentalist, Sean focuses on gardening techniques, which makes sense since he grew up surrounded by nature near Crawford Lake. He sits on several environmental committees, has appeared on several television and radio shows and runs Fern Ridge Landscaping & Ecoconsulting.



Jeff Mason

## Naturalistic Garden Design

Jeff has spent a lifetime in the Horticulture industry. With over 30 years of experience, he has worked in virtually every aspect of the industry. He is the owner of Mason House Gardens, a mail order specialty plant nursery in Uxbridge growing and supplying hardy perennials, specialty annuals, tropical plants, and shrubs. As Jeff is the Horticulture Foreman and Planting Designer for D.A. Gracey and Associates, an award winning Landscape Design firm based on the GTA.

In addition to teaching at Georgian Brown College, Jeff lectures to garden clubs, horticultural societies, as well as Canada Blooms.



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## AHS Regional Director Update

By Cindy Deutekom, OHS Past President

### 2017 Hosta College

Hosta College make this your year! March 17 & 18 in Piqua, Ohio. This is the 24th year this great event has been held.

Friday night starts with a visit to the vendors bookstore and then the auction. Saturday breakfast and lunch are included, raffles, classes and more to vending!

A few of the classes that piqued my interest are *When the Hosta Bug Bites*, and *Love Affair with Gold Hostas* #

Registration opens on February 11th.

Website <https://www.ihostohio.org/glhc/>

### 2017 AHS National Convention

Indianapolis, IN June 7-10th

HOSTA HYSTERIA will be hosted by the Indianapolis Hosta Society

Tour 10 gardens, historic estate garden, hosta sculptures, hostas, and more hostas! Travel on conditioned buses.

Enjoy amazing gardens, food, friends, and hosts of the great folks in Indy!

For more information, check out their website <https://www.indyhosta2017.com/>

## SWOHS News & Events

SWOHS scheduled lineup of events:

Saturday April 8, 2017

Annual General Meeting (venue TBD)

Sunday June 18, 2017

Bus/Garden Tour

Type of tour TBD based on interest

Selected area: Stratford, Thedford and further north

Saturday July 15, 2017

SWOHS Picnic (venue TBD)

Sunday August 27, 2017

Corn & Sausage Roast (venue TBD)

Please visit [www.SWOHS.org](http://www.SWOHS.org) for details

## Buyer beware!

That new hosta might not be what the label you're getting!

by J.D. Belanger *Reprinted from the Northern Wisconsin Hosta Society Northern Start newsletter*

What's in a name? Shakespeare might think any other name would smother it, but Warren Pollock, a columnist for the American Hosta Society The Hosta Journal, thinks otherwise.

He frequently dwells on what, to some, might be as nitpicking. (Not too long ago he was upset perhaps justifiably, we don't know, because a hosta with "Dr." in the name contained no errors! a period, when there shouldn't have been one. That's probably important to purists, but to us, it was interesting to learn that abbreviations like Prof. Rev. have periods, but others, such as St. or [Doctor and Saint] do not. England, that is. And AHS.

His latest revelation is more pertinent. It involves television giant's HGTV selling plants, including hostas. The problem is, they're renaming their registered hostas, presumably to add some pizzazz.

One is Bob Solberg's 'Orange Marmalade,' which is registered as 'First Frost.' The list goes on.

Just be aware that if you buy an HGTV Home = you're getting what you think you're getting. You might already have it, under another name.

## Eastern OHS News & Events

EOHS scheduled lineup of events:

< 25 March 2017 Spring Member Meeting

< 17 June 2017 Garden Tour, BBQ, and Plant Sale

< 30 September 2017 AGM and election of officers

Please visit the Events page on our new website [www.EasternOHS.org](http://www.EasternOHS.org). Details about these Kingston

area events will be posted as the event date approaches. With your involvement, we hope to add some events in the Ottawa and/or Montreal region.

# Q&A with Cindy Deutekom of Goldenbrook Hostas

If you've visited Goldenbrook Hostas website recently you will have noticed that there is a buy 2 get 1 free of equal value promotion going on. Sales like this don't happen every day!

We contacted Cindy Deutekom of Goldenbrook Hostas to get the scoop.

*OHS: Hi Cindy, please don't tell me that you are closing! Is this sale an inventory clean up?*

*Cindy: Retiring again! Selling out and moving to smaller home*

*OHS: I think OHS members would find the closing of Goldenbrook Hostas newsworthy. Would mind answering a few questions?*

*Cindy: Sure!*

*OHS: When did you open Goldenbrook Hostas and how long have you been in the hosta business?*

*Cindy: We started selling hostas in 2000 from wheelbarrow at the end of the driveway. In 2001, we officially opened Goldenbrook Hostas.*

*OHS: What did you and Carel do before?*

*Cindy: I was a Business Asst for EDS Canada/HP Canada. Carel had his own business and retired years ago.*

*OHS: What made you decide to open a hosta business?*

*Cindy: Hostas became a passion with me very early and were not readily available in my area. Through the internet I found wholesale companies to purchase small quantities of new varieties of hostas. So, it was there it grew into a small business. I retired 7 years ago, I dedicated time to growing the business.*

*OHS: What was the largest number of hostas you had, at the height of your inventory?*

*Cindy: The most we had were 6000 at one time. We generally keep our stock around 18500. In our show gardens we have approximately 1000 varieties.*

*OHS: What's your favourite hosta? Why? (Name several if it's impossible to name just one.)*

*Cindy: My all time favourite is H. 'Liberty' a such show stopper. That is one hosta you can spot a yard away. Actually, any in that family (Sage, Ivory Majesty, Big Hobber) are top of my list.*



*H. Liberty (2012 Hosta of the Year)*

*As we are downsizing, I am picking my top 100 with us to our new home. limiting to just 100.*

*OHS: What is your all time most popular or best selling hosta? (OK to name several.)*

*continued on next page*

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Cindy: Blue Mouse Ears and all of its progeny! They are top sellers of ours and have been for many years!



H. Blue Mouse Ears (2008 Hosta of the Year)

All children that show an interest in the garden should be given a H. 'Blue Mouse Ears' to get them started with hostas!

OHS: Since when/how long have you been on the Executive?

Cindy: 9 or 10 years, would have to go back to old newsletters to see!

OHS: What years were you President? What year Past President?

Cindy: 2 years past president, 5 years president, 1 year VP and 2 years Adoption Coordinator.

OHS: What other roles have you had on the OHS Executive?

Cindy: I started as Hosta Adoption Coordinator. This program was discontinued when I became VP for 1 year before moving to President.

OHS: Can you tell me a bit about your involvement with AHS? Regional Director, the Foliar Nematode study? Other things?

Cindy: I have been VP Genus Hosta since June 2014 and I will complete my 2nd term in June 2017. Regional Director reports to the AHS Executive. Updates local societies through our newsletter when I have updates.

OHS: Is there anything else you would like to take an opportunity to say, or that you think would be of interest to OHS newsletter readers?

Cindy: Get involved! It is very rewarding to be a change agent to the society. Being involved in the Executive is always open to making changes. The OHS needs expertise and enthusiasm. We always need more volunteers!

OHS: Thanks, Cindy, for everything you do for OHS and for the love of hostas!

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by Ray Rodgers

Reprinted courtesy of the AHS Newsletter Executive

Have you ever looked at a hosta price list and noticed the use of the letters TC?

TC is a reference to tissue culture. In very simple terms, these are plants that have been propagated from small shavings of the central growth point of a hosta crown).

TC references plants which have been propagated through tissue culture. In very simple terms, these are plants that have been propagated from small shavings of the central growth point of a hosta crown).

Compared to increasing the number of plants by manually dividing garden plants, tissue culturing results in rapid reproduction. Tissue culturing is performed in a sterile, controlled environment. This is a tedious, exacting, repetitious process that must be monitored very closely. Except for a few serious hobbyists, tissue culturing is better left up to professionals. The resulting plants are typically wholesaled in multiple quantities to retail outlets. The OS designation basically means the plant offered is a division of the original named hosta. The hosta could have been derived through hybridization.

Continued on page 6.

# Hosta Challenge - Why Hostas?

middle of winter and my idea of a good heating regime in the cold bleak months is to sit at the computer with my feet, exercising my fingers. Every morning I check email; see what the weather is bringing for the next 14 days; and must read my horoscope to see what the day store for me.

Winter is my time to check out the upcoming for the new year. I place my orders for not only newer hostas for my business, but hostas that

long these plants. There must be cocaine or some other addictive drug within the leaves, because nothing else can explain my continued addiction with hostas. Yes, we know they are lovely and easy care for, and offer a variety of sizes and colors that stand out in any garden. But why do I feel that and every one of them is one of my children awaiting at school for the season? I long for those few days of warm spring weather when they are

To see the little buds peeking out of the ground makes my heart so happy. And as each little bud unfurls to a beautiful unique leaf, I am rewarded with a lovely reminder as to why I chose that particular hosta for my gardens.



Juvenile *H. Junen* in a sunny location

I have been blessed to make many friends and acquaintances while dealing with hostas. My

myself, want nothing more than to share both my and hosta gardening experience with anyone that listen. I have a dear friend that has been in the business forever and actually went to horticulture college. We talk hostas on the phone for hours comparing the merits of one hosta over another, but with the thousands of hostas out there, a fraction

had discussions on certain hostas that look like CRAP in both our gardens. And yet when we see photographs of same, we scratch our heads wondering where we went wrong.



Mature *H. Junen* in deep shade

both in my gardens for seven years now. They have been small in size and insignificant in colour. I have seen pictures where they look outstanding and often thought that maybe my own were labeled

like that!

And then came the drought and heatwave of Summer 2016! Holy Mother of the Lord above! I wish those plants come from someone has dug up my June and June Fever and replaced with these outstanding, glorious, flamed and stunningly great specimens. Oh, wait a dog minute. They must love the heat. Duh! Nothing else has changed.

old in my garden. All from the same family of hostas.

Continued on the next page



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they looked great in my several kilometers from me but had the same wet conditions during the summer.



H. June Ever

If you have underperforming hostas, please consider

sometimes it is a necessary evil. Consider the corner of your garden that are currently affecting your hostas. Too much shade (yes

little water? Additives to the soil, compost. The smallest change can net the biggest results. While they are not finicky as a rule, there are optimum conditions that each and every plant in the world has to have outstanding. If

pineapples in my Ontario backyard.

My friend and I have had several conversations at K K 7 be enough, but as the season changed from summer

autumn, there was a new conversation as to how they transitioned with the cooler temperatures. You talk a lot. But we both absolutely love hostas. Do @

your thoughts and ideas. Share them with friends and neighbours that have a similar passion. Please, please, please, consider sharing them within the pages of our newsletter. Yes, OUR newsletter in the last issue of the newsletter was the best yet, and wrote to the editor just that. She did a marvelous job. And so do many volunteers that make the Ontario Hosta Society possible.

But if we are to keep the passion alive, we have to get it. New blood, new ideas, new concepts. I would like to see an online auction of hostas, once or twice a year # -how to pull @

We have to scream ta questions.

We have to scream

want that. We want to continue to bring in new people to attend new functions, write new columns. I know everyone is busy, but if we will?

Jayne Christiani  
Hosta Vista, Baby!

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TC or OS?

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(seedling) or sporting\*, which is not uncommon with hostas. If an OS plant was purchased and a division given to another person, who in turn eventually gave a division of their plant to another person, all these

price lists, the OS designation is most often used to validate exactly what was originally registered and the direct lineage of the original plants are not lost

demand a premium price? The newer the plant and more unique it is, the more likely an OS division is the extra money. Some of the truest hostas are not replicated easily via tissue culturing. With these plants a TC lab may develop a high percentage of babies not possessing the same characteristics of the parent. Unavailability unquestionably drives the price of these plants up. Luckily for us consumers, most hostas can be reproduced with a high degree of success.

Responsible wholesalers and retailers will typically guarantee their plants to be true to name. This statement

new name to hostas not meeting specific criteria. It is not always possible to be sure if small tissue cultured plants will look like their parents in subsequent years, a small percentage of untrue hostas do reach nurseries and other retailers. Since responsible retailers typically grow TC plants on for at least one full season prior to selling them, some additional variants may be caught.

It is the untrue forms that slip through the cracks that generate some of the unfavorable comments about tissue cultured hostas. Usually such comments are used to justify the price of OS plants. Certainly people should expect to receive what they pay for. Some variants are not as attractive or as good of a grower as the named variety. But, some variants are actually better than the original

plant. As an example, in a batch of tissue cultured plants 8% - 10% - margined plants were

Tissue culturing has also accelerated the popularity of searching through nurseries for hostas that are different from their published descriptions. These plants may arise in a variety of ways, including a different pollination pattern (including Instability\*\*), coloration, plant size and shape. For those interested in hybridizing or just growing an open pollinated seed, finding an otherwise desirable plant with some degree of splashing could be a significant discovery. Except for somewhat rare occasions, it requires an unstable pod parent (mother plant) to produce viable seedlings. Whether the found plants turn out to be better than the named variety or not, it is occasionally worth the purchase price to the hosta lover to have something a little different to display in their garden.

Make no mistake; tissue culture plants have fueled the popularity of hostas by rapidly increasing the availability of many newer varieties of hostas at affordable prices. The elevation of hostas to the rank of most popular perennial from almost obscurity can directly be linked to the 1980s when plant tissue culture was in its infancy.

place in the hosta world. Whether purchasing OS plants is a good value depends largely on the specific hosta, but the ultimate decision rests with each individual.

\* A Sport is a hosta arising from another hosta, producing different characteristics.

\*\*In hosta, Instability is a plant that does not maintain a solid or variegated pattern, resulting in a Splashed (formerly referred to as Streaked, also known as Splashed) hostas have many connected light and dark variegated sections. Splashed hostas typically do not stay a solid colored or variegated plant over time.



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## Showering with your plants | Love Those Minis!

By Sean James, speaker at 2017 OHS Hosta Forum. Reprinted from the Fern Ridge Landscaping and Consulting Newsletter Issue 3 with permission.

Showering with your plants down in the bottom of the stall or tub may seem like an odd thing to do, but, in the middle of winter, it serves several purposes.

By February, many of your house plants may have collected a lot of dust. Showering with them will wash that away, help them breathe and look their best. It also serves to reduce pest populations to levels that the plant can tolerate (spotted spider mite being a great example). Another challenge that house plants suffer is soil build up of salts in the soil. Giving them a good soaking will help leach those salts away.

On the topic of soils and watering, it's interesting that more plants die from overwatering than underwatering. Try and ensure that soils dry out between waterings and avoid putting your plants on a regular watering schedule. The only way to tell if a plant needs water is to stick your finger in the dirt and see if it's cool and moist or warm and dry. If it's moist, leave it for a day or two and try again.

House plants use water at different rates depending on the species, exposure and the size of the pot in relation to the root system.

Now is a good time of year to check and see if your plants need repotting into a larger container. For most plants if the root system is compacted and circling the pot, they should be given a new, larger vessel to live in. When repotting, strip away dead and diseased roots and add new, fresh potting soil.

Now is also an excellent time to clean up dead leaves and branches, making room for new growth, reducing disease and insect infestations and improving the overall aesthetics of the plants. Make sure you rotate them on a regular basis to ensure they grow evenly, getting full exposure to the sun.

Your plants will love you for this extra care and intimacy. In exchange for your love, they will filter the air in your house of carcinogens (up to 10% on the first day).

by Joe Haber, Centerport, NY  
Reprinted courtesy of the AHS Newsletter Exchange

Gardening on a small piece of property with a steep incline in my backyard, I must confess that mini and small hostas are my favorite.

The American Hosta Society decided to conduct a separate popularity poll for minis in addition to their poll of the most popular standard varieties. As you have noticed that article on this subject and photos are appearing in The Hosta Journal more frequently in recent editions.

These little guys look great in containers and my favorite containers are troughs. Troughs can be filled with many different plants including dwarf conifers, small succulents and of course, mini hostas.

Making hypertufa troughs is not difficult and can be a great winter pastime as you wait for your hostas to start growing in the spring. There are several recipes for hypertufa. The main ingredients are portland cement, perlite and perlite all readily available in local home improvement centers. They can be made using molds that are round, oval, etc., or even free shaped. Whatever shape you choose, the final product can really dress up a patio.

I grow mini and small hostas in a variety of containers. I have used anything from one gallon plastic containers to there for eight years. In most of my containers I mix in some perlite (Athyrium Frizellae), and even small annuals. Some mini hostas are "K" and "8" and "U".

Slugs are a bigger problem for small hostas than large ones. Slugs like to eat the leaves and a topping that forms a barrier. My formula for this very successful topping is a mixture of ground egg shells, sea shells, and chicken grit. An occasional sprinkling of Sluggo also helps.

In closing I will quote Bob Soler: "Miniature hostas are cute, little babies that will grow in a thimble. They do best in herds through rock gardens, around ponds, or along the edge of a path. Minis are especially happy in containers, strawberry pots, troughs, or even whiskey barrels. They can live comfortably along a driveway. Just give them love."

