

THE LIPKA JOURNAL

A PHOTO EZINE WITH

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

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WELCOME TO THE LIPKA JOURNAL AUGUST 2026



Sometimes delaying a project is a good idea. A delay in my (almost) annual dying hosta project gave me the inspiration to photograph our hostas emerging from dormancy this spring. As photographers we tend to photograph the abandoned, ruined, and natural decay with gusto. I thought it might be interesting to present images of new growth in the same issue of the Journal with dying hostas.

In between these projects are lots and lots of wind turbines. The photographs are not about wind turbines, but about the results of making a decision.



The End of the Season

The End of the Season

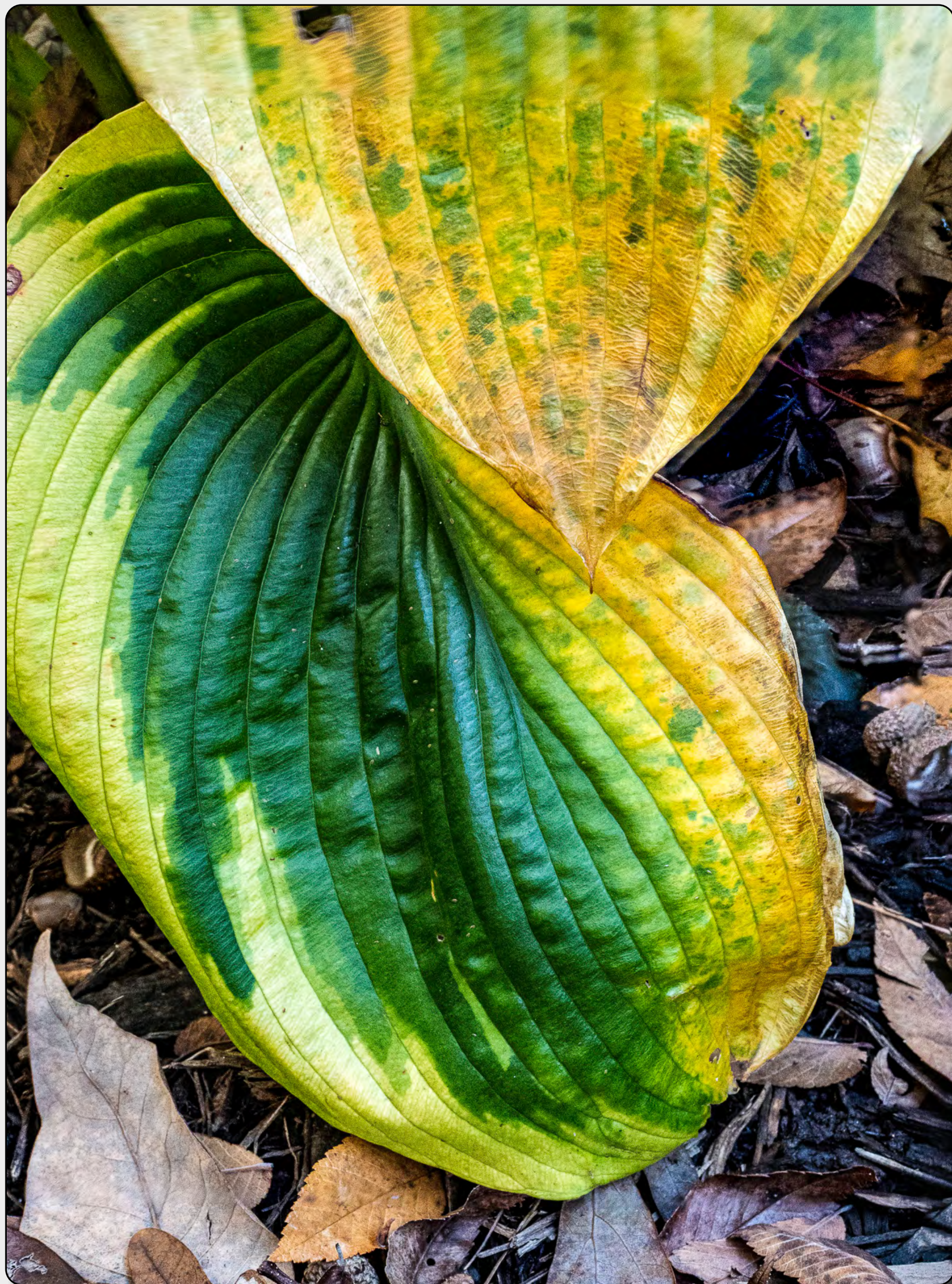
The end of the season is near. Agriculturally as well as in life.

She called it decrepitude. It was the painful awareness that in ageing she gradually lost the ability to function independently. She relied on the help of relatives, friends and finally professionals to help her navigate her daily routine.

When I see our Hosta plants go through this every fall, it is a reminder of our eventual demise. Live plants, supporting already dead leaves, leavings turning color as they fade, live and dead leaves arranging themselves side by side. By the time winter ends the leaves have all returned to the soil. The new growth is but a few weeks away.



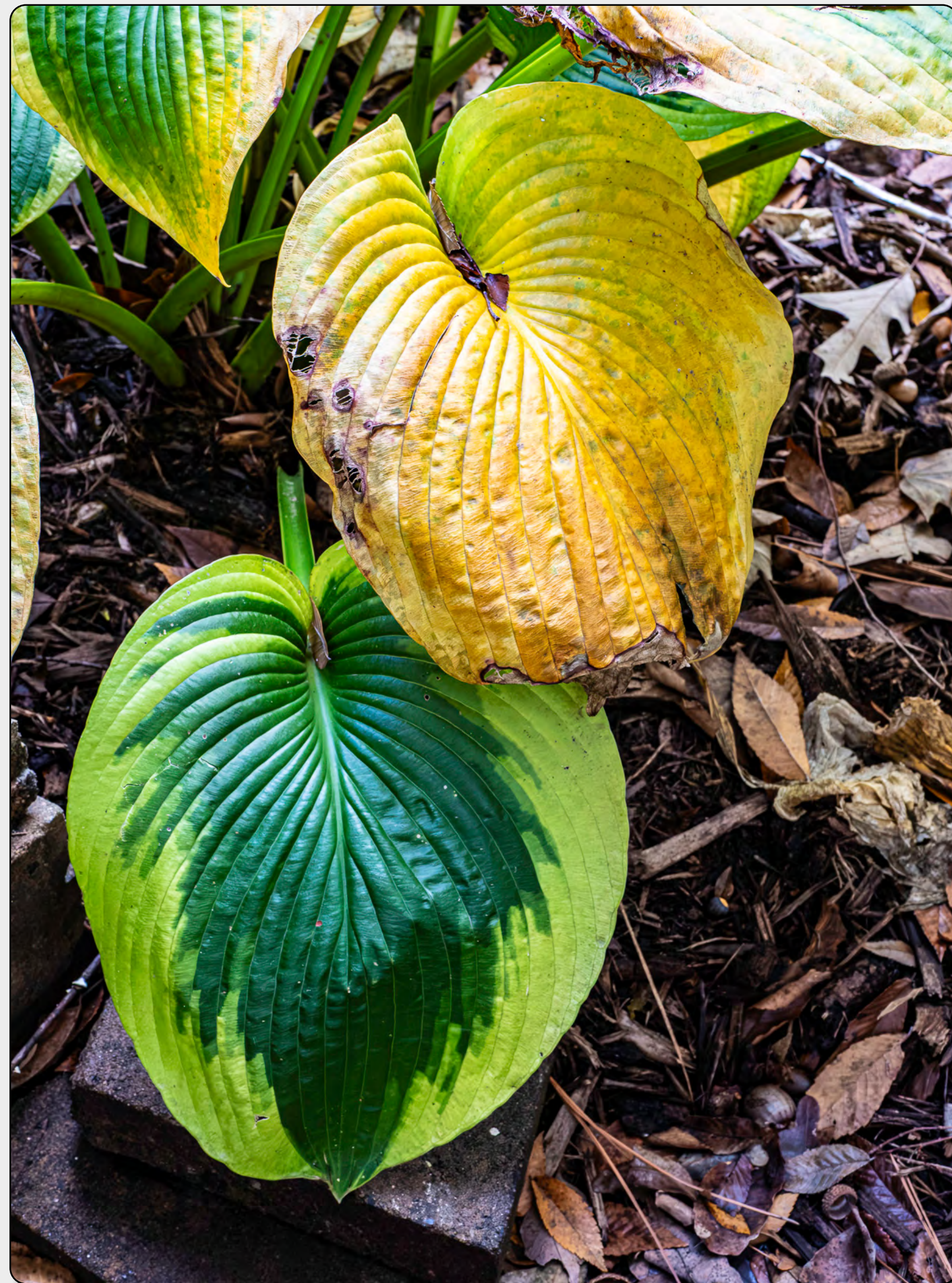
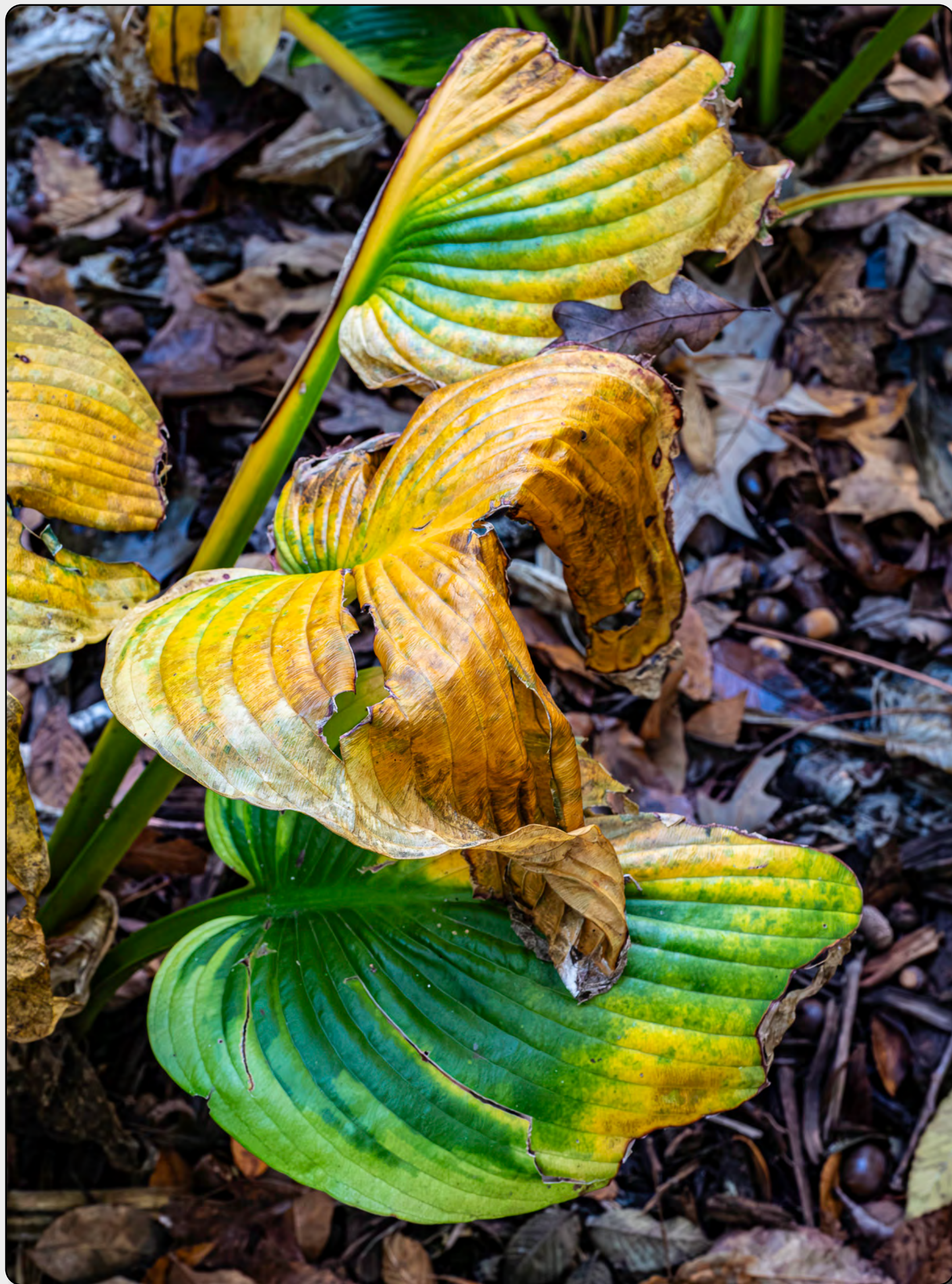




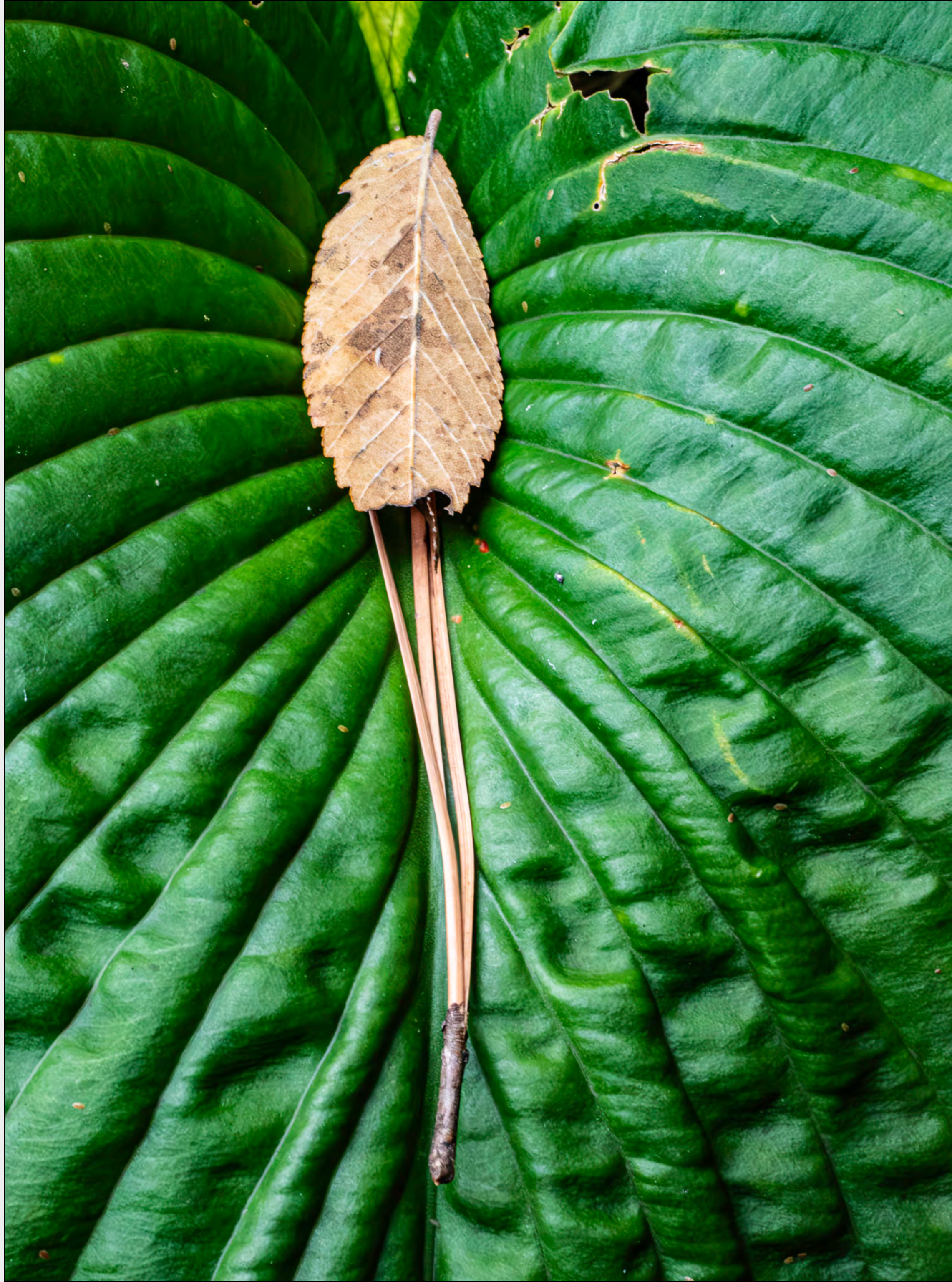














A Mostly True Story

It was all we could afford. One room, one window and the walls didn't match and were in dire need of repair. Nothing came with the room, so it was just the two of us in one cramped room starting out in a big, unfriendly city. Cold air came in through a leaky window in winter and in summer we sweltered. We made it do. We had no other choice.



The Alternative



The Alternative

Sometimes we are presented with a choice in which way to go, what to do or how we think. We evaluate the various options and their outcome. Based on what is presented to us, we decide and go on with our lives. Rarely do we consider the second or third level consequences of the decision we make. We worry about making the first decision in order to get on with our lives.

























I never did photograph that tree.

Prologue: A photo and six words.

Spring is Hope



Spring is Hope

A couple of months after the Season ends with the collapse of the leaves and stems, the weather begins to change, and the plants begin their next growth cycle. The new growth emerges. In the new season, the young plants are rambunctious, and their growth is visible on a daily basis.

Such is youth; full of energy, growing and not realizing that in the not-too-distant future they will turn brown and collapse after a season's growth. We think the same ourselves as we go about learning how to live.











Postcards from the Creative Journey



Harry,

Tech is great but we still have to decide if the subject is worth it, where the edges of the images are to be and a few other compositional decisions that will decide the outcome of our vision. Once we make those decisions, we can turn loose the Tech to complete the image.

Get out there and make some photographs.

JOE



Harry Bosch

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A FEW WORDS AT THE END OF THE JOURNAL



The End of the Season

I've taken to photographing my hostas at the end of every growing season for a few years. I'm a bit late publishing these images because more amusing projects came to the fore. But, out of loyalty, here they are, a continuing meditation on the end of life. We think about it more when we get older.



The Alternative

Wind turbines dominate the landscape of the Columbia Plateau. But, for the most of the two weeks we spent camping out on the plateau, the turbines did not rotate very often. I guess the design parameters for wind speed weren't there during our stay, and the turbines stood motionless while the wind blew around them.



Spring is Hope

I was washing the dishes and grouching about how I "missed" an attempt to publish last year's dying hosta project in a timely fashion. It was then I noticed the hostas beginning to emerge after a winter's dormancy. Aha, I thought, I can now photograph growing hostas rather than the dying ones. I could also publish both projects in the same issue of TLJ.

There. I've done it.



Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

In the last forty years, his photographs have appeared in over one hundred and twenty-five juried exhibitions, and twenty five solo exhibitions. His images have been published in *LensWork*, *Black & White Photography* (UK) and *F-Stop Magazines*. His recent book project, *Mostly True Stories*, was featured as a LensWork Bonus Edition Publication in February 2024.

His website www.joelipkaphoto.com has continuously evolved since it was launched in 2004. His blog *Postcards from the Creative Journey*, published weekly since 2010, is now part of *The Lipka Journal*.

His newest blog, *The Daily Photograph*, has migrated to Instagram. Don't forget to follow him on this new platform linked below.

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Joe Lipka

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Web site: www.joelipkaphoto.com

Instagram: www.instagram.com/dailyphoto7375

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