

Hosta la Vista

Until we meet again



Aug. '17

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here in Western New York we have had a wonderful hosta year. The weather has been kind to us hosta growers and our events and activities have been enjoyed by large, enthusiastic groups of friends.



Last winter was pretty mild and there was less snow than usual. We were not burdened by late frosts and the spring was very damp, (too damp some say).

Not only was this ideal weather for growing our hostas but we also had wonderful displays of rhododendron and azalea flowers. Shrubs in our yard that usually only produce a couple of blooms this year were a riot of color. It seemed to be a very good year for hosta flowers too and we had a chance to appreciate them fully.

I was once told that a hosta leaf is like a balloon. It needs to be inflated - but by water, not air. The copious amounts of rain this past spring certainly inflated those leaves and we saw very good growth early on.

There is a down side to a mild winter and a damp spring. Slugs and snails. Locally we do not normally have the huge mollusk problem that hosta growers have in England where the word hosta rarely appears in a sentence without the word slug. Here winter usually accounts for many slugs and snails demise, and slug bait, distributed sparingly around the flower beds early in the season, keeps the survivors and the newborns in check. Not this year. Most slug baits work by dehydrating the slug but this year slugs have mostly been able to find a damp patch and quietly recover. Incidentally, that is why slug and snail bait does not really work with snails as they are able to retreat into their shells and nullify the effects of the bait.

Away from the garden our hosta society also had a very good and busy year. Our membership list continues to grow and our two early meetings were very well attended. Those of us who open our gardens, be it just to fellow members or to the general public, had large numbers of visitors and we could proudly show off our hostas at their best. The Society also took the opportunity to outreach to the general public during the season, particularly at the **Plant Society Avenue** held in conjunction with the Garden Art Sale in late June.

Suddenly it is August and a very crowded August it has turned out to be. The **Garden Writers of America** (now wishing to be known as Garden Communicators) held their annual convention in Buffalo in early August and many WNYHS members were involved in their events and activities. Buffalo's enthusiastic gardeners, with their often very distinct and usual gardening style, wowed the attendees. Future good publicity for our city and region is almost guaranteed.

This huge event was soon followed by the **Maine Hosta Society Lobstah Classic** and then the **Conifer Society** are having their National Convention in Syracuse, New York and our members wanted to also be part of those events. Sadly, that left only one August weekend when we were able to schedule both our public hosta sale and our members' picnic. I know it will be difficult for members to be a large part of both events, one on the Saturday and the other on the Sunday. Believe me, the committee tried so very hard to juggle the schedule to avoid this but it became impossible. *Please do your very best to support both events fully.*

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find details of both events and you will also find requests for volunteers to help at the hoop house before the sale, on Friday evening at the Botanical Gardens and on Saturday, setting up, meeting the public, selling our hostas and clearing up afterwards.

The picnic will be very relaxed and hopefully a reward for all our hard work. There is a new activity this year that is likely to add interest to the affair. Hopefully many members will take part.

Then August will be gone and our season will begin to wind down. It seems that only a few short months ago we were eagerly watching those new shoots emerge in our hosta gardens and very soon we will be harvesting seeds and getting ready for winter.

But, there are still treats in store.

In September we have the **Fall Hosta Forum**. The speakers this year are simply amazing and we will have a special auction within our normal auction. Very interesting and rare plants have already been donated. Registrations are nearly at our limit and the hotel is pretty full so, if you were thinking of joining us and have not yet sent in a registration, you need to hurry.

Then, to put the icing on the WNYHS cake our speaker at our last meeting of the year in November will be none other than **Hosta Guru Bob Solberg from Green Hill Farm in North Carolina.**

A perfect end to an almost perfect Hosta Year.

Mike President



PICNIC MEETING & AUCTION

The next meeting of the WNY Hosta Society is the **ever-popular picnic at Eagle Bay Hosta Gardens**

Sunday, August 27, 2017 – 11-ish to 4 pm
Eagle Bay Hosta Farm—Sheridan, NY

Thruway to Silver Creek/Irving exit (exit 58)– west on US 20 for 8 or 9 miles to Sheridan. Watch for Liberty Winery on the left - Eagle Bay on the right—please park neatly on the grassy verge, well off the road (crazy traffic!)

Agenda

Garden Visit
Drag & Brag

2017 Calendar Update

Fall Hosta Forum -
Peace, Love, PLANTS

Hosta Breakfast—10/7/17
Fall Meeting—November 12th
Fun and Frolics

Brown Bag Ice Breaker
AUCTION

A SPLENDID TIME IS GUARANTEED FOR ALL

We generally wander in about 11-ish—allowing ample time to see the gardens and shop if you've a mind to.

True, we have a sort of meeting—but it's all stuff you want to/need to know....

And you'll be amply rewarded with hot dogs and such!



We are changing it up this year - due to our extraordinarily busy schedule (Sale on Saturday, picnic on Sunday), so instead of talks, we are having a

BROWN BAG ICE BREAKER



This is how it works

Anyone who wishes to participate should choose something special to them - a plant (hosta or something else), a book or something cool for the garden (no white elephants, please) and conceal it in a brown bag. Each person with a bag will draw a number.

When your number is called, you can introduce yourself, and then reveal the contents of your bag and give a compelling story on WHY you love it! Maybe it's your favorite geranium ever from Aunt Betty.... Maybe you love the way this lady's mantle holds dew like a string of pearls... you get the drift. It's yours to tell.

You then set your treasure down on the table where you are sitting.

When all of the treasures are revealed and described, the folks who brought items are able to select from the array in the order of their number. Again, this is done in order (and you can't "steal" someone else's prize), you can only select from items still on the table.

It should be fun - you can learn what's special to your fellow club members and maybe come away with something new!

NOTE ON DONATIONS

This applies to AUCTION donations for the picnic, "brown bag" and Fall Hosta Forum....



Please make sure that **HOSTAS ARE LABELED** - and make sure all plant material is disease-free and attractive to a buyer or bidder!

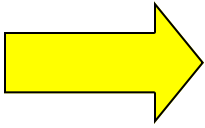
POT LUCK

This is our "pot luck" picnic. **So bring a dish to pass... something to complement the house specialty**—hot dogs and/or bratwurst.

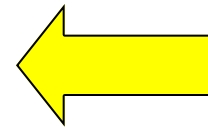
Beverages will be provided - but we will need finger-friendly desserts as well.



If you have "HOSTA BUCKS", bring them for the auction.. And this is a great opportunity to see Ran and Katie's gardens, including the amazing plants they manage to keep alive in the micro-climate of Eagle Bay.



The WNYHS 2017 Hosta Sale
bigger and better than ever
Please come join in the fun!



The sale takes place on **Saturday, August 26** - 9 am to 2 pm at the Buffalo Botanical Gardens (2655 South Park Ave., Lackawanna 14218) in the Administrative Bldg located at the back and to the right of the glasshouse - adjacent to the parking lot.

You will find us in the basement level with easy access through the overhead door.

We can use your help on either or both Friday & Saturday for any amount of time that you have available.

The action begins on Friday:

2 to 5 pm We need volunteers **at the Hoop House** to:

Transport hostas *from* the hoop house (located at Lasting Dreams Daylilies, 6245 S. Abbott Rd, Orchard Park) to the sale site. - The Hostas must be received at the Botanical Gardens by 5 pm.

2 to 6 pm We need volunteers **at the Botanical Gardens** to:

Help cover the tables and set up signs.

Assist moving the hostas to the sale tables when they start arriving at about 2:30 pm. Some carts will be available.

Arrange the plants on the tables by size, check that each has a name & price label and groom if necessary.

Keep the floors free of soil and debris.

Saturday

8am to 2pm We need volunteers **at the Botanical Gardens** to:

Greet, welcome and direct customers (aka "schmooze" ed.).

Assist customers with sales and information.

Manage trays and carts.

Keep the area clean and attractive

Assist with checkout - fill out forms, use of calculator, making change, bagging plants and assisting customers to their cars.

Sell gloves and plant markers.

2 pm Assist with breakdown and clean up.

Transport remaining plants to the Hoop House at Lasting Dreams Daylilies, 6245 S. Abbott Rd, Orchard Park.

Place the plants in the Hoop House.

Please bring a broom and plastic bags!

To volunteer contact

Dianne Giordano

diannegiordano225@gmail.com or 716.225.5991

Please let us know:

When you wish to volunteer, Friday/ Saturday & times.

What you wish to do, set up, sales, transport, etc.

Refreshments will be available on both days for volunteers.

And - of course - 2018 BUX!

CROWN ROT IN HOSTAS UPDATE

Last year, due to the hot weather, I encountered a problem not seen before in my garden. A long-planted hosta developed brown-edged leaves and it was getting worse. It wasn't a case of water so I decided to dig it up and find out what was going on... and I found a mushy crown with a terrible odor!! Bacterial soft rot! This happens in bearded irises, so I decided to treat it like an iris ... I cut the hosta into 4 manageable pieces. I discarded all the soil into bags into the garbage. I dug out the mushy parts of the crown (the fleshy area where leaves and roots meet) and I treated the exposed crown with a dilute solution of water and bleach (10%). I then dusted all of the cut areas of the crown with Rootone (a plant hormone with antibacterial properties).

I planted each section in a pot with fresh soil and watered with a SuperThrive and water solution. Finally, I cleaned my tools and the work surface with Clorox and water. This is NOT what The Internets will tell you to do... but we'll see what happens!

2017 Update: *NO rot at all in my treated hostas. I replanted one of the pieces last year in the garden (different place), and potted the other 3. None of them show any signs of rot and all are growing very well. It's up to you if you want to adopt this method, but it works on irises and it worked for me on my mushy hosta.*

PLANT SALE

Our Public Plant Sale Members Invited

Western New York Hosta Society's
big fund raiser

Saturday, August 26th
9am until 2pm

Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens
2655 South Park Avenue - Buffalo, NY

Loads of Hostas (and Daylilies & Irises)

Volunteers needed

Friday, August 25th

(see separate volunteer request pg 4)

Refreshments and fun provided

**Plus an opportunity
to redeem your Hosta Bucks**

Saturday, August 26th

8am until 3pm (set up to clean up)
Refreshments provided

Our Members' Plant Sale
Public Invited

The Sale..... Volunteer details - see page 4

We have a GREAT selection of hosta for sale this year.

We need help on Friday evening to set up the tables and display the plants - we will be in the ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ON THE RIGHT SIDE... AND KIND OF BEHIND THE GLASSHOUSE..

Helpers on Friday evening will have the opportunity to use their hosta bucks. There are lots and lots of easy peasy jobs - you can do it! There are lots of "schmoozing" type jobs - greeting people and helping them makes selections. You can do it!! Dianne Giordano is in charge of all things financial - she will need help.

We now have developed a NEW way of setting up the hostas which should make things much easier.

Please bring brooms too – no silly, to sweep the floors, not for transport.



We will also need help after 2pm on Saturday to clear everything away, return unsold plants to the hoop house site in Orchard Park, and to provide an armed guard for Dianne and all those dollars as she makes her way to the night safe. *So please don't all rush away too quickly at the end.*

This is our most important activity of the year and it IS labor-intensive. We need worker-bees and we need schmoozers (folks to schmooze the public about hostas). We will need primpers...folks with scissors and vision who can get our hostas looking spiffy. We need plastic bags. We need flats. We need big smiles and willing hands. We need sunshine and rainbows and kittens and lollipops! WE NEED YOU! (Please don't bring kittens).

FINAL HOSTA TEA FOR 2017



Hard to believe that we are already at the end of Hosta Tea season and will soon be into Hosta breakfasts.

Saturday, September 2, 1 pm to 5 pm

The Garden of **Barbara Evans & Rick Hantz**

67 Taverly Road – Williamsville, NY 14221 (but with GPS use Buffalo or Amherst - you won't find it in Williamsville)
(716) 688-5918 – evansb@buffalo.edu

A compact garden with collections of epimediums and hardy geraniums interspersed throughout old and new plantings including both natives and new cultivars. The demise of several trees and large shrubs has required the redesign of several sections. You'll see many new conifers, both full-size and dwarf, and as many clematis as can be squeezed in. A number of hosta remain, of course. As this is primarily a foliage garden, despite the many clematis, it shouldn't be a surprise to see few flowers.

IPM is practiced so no pesticide or herbicide is used unless absolutely necessary. If a plant requires too much intervention, it is removed. The battle was lost with slugs this summer and, sadly, no more lilies until the bright and too lively lily leaf beetle meets his match. Our own compost and occasional organic fertilizer is used. The garden is a certified wildlife and bird habitat by the National Wildlife Federation.

Please park on the street and on the right side only of the driveway. Visitors need the left side of the drive to enter the back garden. While the area is level, wheelchairs, walkers and strollers are discouraged due to uneven stony paths.

Nearby restaurants include several on Campbell Road as well as Nina's and Burger King on Millersport Hwy. Six miles north on Millersport Hwy where it meets Transit Rd. is Niagara Produce, a great source of low priced plants, pots and mulches during the season as well as good produce. Russell's Nursery on Transit & Dodge is the northtowns' source for the prized pine bark mulch. On Transit Rd. going back south there are many, many restaurants, dressy and casual. We like Pautlers, Rock Bottom Kitchen & Bar, Grovers Bar & Grill, and Zoé's to name a few.

A bit to the east, passing Arbordale Nursery on Dodge Rd., is of course Menne's on Niagara Falls Blvd.

~SEE YOU THERE~

ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS



The Western New York Hosta Society is looking for YOU! How can you make the Society your own? How can you make a lasting impact on the direction the Society takes? By serving as an officer or director of the Society is how. The WNY Hosta Society is always looking for a few good members to lead the Society in the 21st Century. Officer positions open for election on an biennial basis are President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary and serve a two year term. There are four board of directors positions up for election/re-election this year and serve two year terms. The officers and board members meet once a month in the evening in a restaurant for about two hours to discuss Society business and communicate via e-mail in between meetings. This is your chance to make the Society yours! It is great fun and great friendships. Please consider running for an officer or board member position.

Elections are at our Fall meeting - Please contact Mike Sheehan for nominations: 537-2544 or mightyone11@aol.com

Positions expiring and up for re-election or nomination in 2016/2017 include:

Officers (all re-elected in 2017)

President: Mike Shadrack
Vice President: Ran Lydell
Treasurer: Dianne Giordano
Secretary: Marcia Sully

Board Positions

Sue Sickels

Judy Johnson

Kathy Guest Shadrack

plus one additional vacancy

**STUFF FOR SALE
AT THE PICNIC & SALE
WILL INCLUDE**

**ATLAS GLOVES
KINCAID PLANT LABELS
NEMAKILL**

HELP WANTED!

Your Hosta Society is going to need a **lot** of volunteers before the hosta sale - at the hoop house, on Friday afternoon and evening, and at the public sale. This is our big annual fund raiser and all help is very much appreciated. We will also need help the picnic at Ran's.

We need a driver with a truck to transport our sale signs from the storage facility to the Botanical Gardens. We have a key and we can do this at any time. The same truck and driver would also be useful to transport tables from the hoop house to the Botanical Gardens.

On **Thursday August 24th** we need some volunteers at the hoop house to help us sort hostas for the sale and prepare them for transportation.

On **Friday August 25th**, during the afternoon, we will need MANY vehicles to help transport the hostas from the hoop house to the Botanical Gardens.

On **Friday evening August 25th** we will need helpers at the Botanical Gardens to set up the hosta sale and to clean up the hostas we intend to sell. *Refreshments and the opportunity to spend hosta bux will be available.*

At the sale on Saturday August 26th we will need help from 8am until clean up at 2pm. You don't need to be there the whole day but helping for a few hours will be mutually beneficial. You will get refreshments and the opportunity to spend Hosta Buxs. *Don't forget to wear your name tags.*

At the end of the Hosta Sale on Saturday we will need help transporting the unsold hostas back to the hoop house.

At the members' Picnic on Sunday August 27th we will need a volunteer to grill the hotdogs. Our expert chef is sadly unable to take on the task this year due to a painful hip problem.

The committee assumes that there will be many members at our sale but you are able to volunteer for any or all of the other activities mentioned above, or if you have questions, please contact me at H8staman@aol.com or 941-6167.

NEMATODES - now is the time!

Now is the time to look for nematodes. This is a microscopic worm that damages hosta leaf tissue and the damage shows up around here in late summer (see typical nematode damage illustrated below).

The worm will usually not kill your plant, but they will spread if not checked and we DO have the means to treat your plants.

So... look carefully for brown areas **BETWEEN VEINS**... if you have them, do not bring those hostas to the picnic or sale, but mark them somehow in your garden (flags are best) and make sure to buy some NEMAKILL (organic, despite the scary name) from Sue Sickels at the sale or picnic, with instructions on how to treat your hostas.



TOP HOSTAS IN WESTERN NEW YORK

Thanks to everyone who participated in our "ten favorite hostas" survey this summer. We had a great response and we'll revisit the results over and over. But for now, we're just going to share the top 10 (19, actually, due to ties) and top 5 small hostas.

- * June (runaway winner)
- * Liberty
- * Guardian Angel
- * Lakeside Paisley Print
- * Paul's Glory
- * Striptease
- * Curly Fries (some folks voted for this as a small)
- * Emerald Ruff Cut
- * Empress Wu
- * On Stage
- * Orange Marmalade
- * Sagae
- * Whirlwind
- * Bridal Falls
- * Cathedral Windows
- * First Frost
- * Praying Hands
- * Rainforest Sunrise
- * Victory

Favorite Small Hostas

Blue Mouse Ears
Little Treasure
Mini Skirt
Pandora's Box
Cameo

HOSTA HUMOR - from Dennis Upton

We like to use (what we think are) clever messages on our answering machine. It was late spring a few years ago and our message was "We can't come to the phone right now. We are busy in our gardens in a Hosta situation."

At the same time, I was selling something through the local Pennysaver which included our phone number. One day there was a message in a thick accent on our answering machine calling about the item I was selling and at the same time sympathizing with the "hostage situation".

When I called back, I didn't have the heart to tell him it was "hosta" not "hostage". Maybe I need to enunciate



Hosta la Vista

Mike Shadrack, President
8399 Zimmerman Road
Hamburg, NY 14075
H8staman@aol.com
716-941-6167



We're on the web
Wnyhosta.com

Hosta Sale - 8/26/17 - B&ECBG
Next Meeting - PICNIC 8/27/17
Eagle Bay Hosta Garden
Fall Hosta Forum - 9/16/17
Peace, Love, Plants

OPPORCKNOCKITY TUNES

FALL HOSTA FORUM—9/16/17

The 20th Fall Hosta Forum, jointly hosted by our own Society and the Daffodil and Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania, will be held in Edinboro, PA on Saturday September 20th.

You should all have received a copy of the brochure and registration form. **If not, or if you're new, or if it has been lost, we will have some available at the picnic.**

The theme this year is **PEACE, LOVE, PLANTS** and the four main speakers are all ROCK STARS! Our speakers are: Jonathan Hogarth, all the way from England who will talk about showing hostas at Chelsea Flower Show, Barbara Tiffany on designing a hosta garden, Paul Zammit, Director of Horticulture for the Toronto Botanical Gardens who will talk about foliage in your garden and Karen Perkins of Garden Vision Epimediums. Friday night we'll have some fun as Jonathan demonstrates a clever cloning machine (and we'll then auction it) and we munch pizza and spend our \$5 vouchers with our many vendors. The

venue has remained the same...the Comfort Suite for accommodations and Friday night hospitality but all activity will take place at Edinboro University.

This is our 20th Year and we plan some special celebrations - including a very special selection of auction hostas to benefit AHS.

Our fame has been spreading... we have one guy who comes all the way from Chicago, one woman who comes from Maine and it's on the WNY and the AHS website so if you have not registered yet, you really should! (Especially if you need a hotel room - the Edinboro Comfort was running out of rooms, but you should still be able to squeeze in if you hustle - 814-969-7000) So... it's going to be a good time - it's always fun - and it's your last chance in 2017 to learn something new and add some cool plants to your garden. Oh yes.... Plaaaaaants.

