

Hosta la Vista

Nov. '17

Until we meet again



President's Message

By the time you read this most of us will have put away the garden for winter, our tender plants will have been cosseted and our pots and troughs will have been protected from the frosts. The hoop house has been closed up for winter and the plants there will be safe until spring. Although another mild winter is predicted we can never be sure and it is better to be safe than sorry.



It is very difficult to avoid talking about the weather when it is such a huge influence on our gardening style and the way our plants grow. The fact that locally it is so variable is both a blessing and a curse. A very cold winter with plenty of snow will mean that many of those bugs and critters that harm our plants will be killed off and our hostas will be enormous next season - Minnesota Hostas. A mild winter with not so much snow will mean our hostas will be smaller and we are likely to be plagued with slugs and snails.

A friend was in Florida recently checking on property after the devastation wrought by Irma. Happily his property was fine but locally there had been a lot of flooding. Just prior to coming home he visited a small supermarket. He found himself knee deep in water. He asked the owner if he could buy stuff from the top shelves for his journey home. "Where is home?" he was asked. "Buffalo" he happily replied. "How do you put up with all that snow?" was the incredulous response.

I think we have had a good gardening year but others may disagree. The mild winter was followed by a very wet spring. Not only did it raise the water table and fill our wells but the early rains also inflated our emerging hosta leaves. We are told that if you want hostas to grow to their potential the leaves have to be pumped up in spring rather like a balloon or an emerging butterfly's wings. That certainly happened this spring but there is also a downside to this effect. If the large leaves do not continue to receive copious amounts of water they are likely to droop and look sad throughout the remaining season.

Spring and early summer flowers were abundant. Rhododendrons that had previously only produced a few flowers were covered in blooms, fringe trees and dogwoods produced masses of flowers and the ephemerals did really well too. Maybe the ground was a little too wet for a good display of spring bulbs. The downside was the vast amount of pollen that the pines and conifers produced. The yellow stains on the deck look like they will last forever.

Summer came and went and, unless you live in the path of the tornado, it was unremarkable. There was heavy rain now and again and it was warm rather than hot. Hostas continued to grow well and the daylilies produced a kaleidoscope of color. The hydrangeas also produce a massive amount of huge blooms.

Fall seemed to go on forever this year. We had mild, sometimes even very warm days well into October and the trees were very slow to show their autumn colors. The hostas too seemed to take forever to die back and go dormant. We are still to have that heavy frost that would finally put paid to the foliage. I still don't know whether it is best to cut back hosta foliage as the plants begin dormancy or whether it is better to allow them to rot down naturally. Maybe that is something we could ask Bob Solberg, our celebrity speaker at our November meeting. He grows and sells hostas in North Carolina where the climate is far different from our own.

What to do with all those hosta leaves? I certainly believe that a fall clear up is more beneficial than leaving all those rotting leaves on the ground over winter. This is particularly so if you have a foliar nematode problem. Research suggests that the little blighters leave the foliage in the wet and damp conditions of late fall and over winter, or lay next season's eggs, in the soil surrounding the plant ready to infect it next year. So, dispose of the hosta foliage in the garbage or the fire pit. Do not, under any circumstances, compost the spent hosta leaves.

Now that we are ready for winter it is time to relax, to meet our friends, to talk about hosta and to look forward to next year with wonder and cheerful anticipation. We hope to see you all at our November meeting.

Mike Shadrack President WNYHS

Our website is fabulous - make sure you check in frequently for the latest news

www.wnyhosta.com

Ed note - in this issue, we asked some folks who voted in the popularity poll to discuss one of their choices. Good stuff! Look for these morsels.

PRELIMINARY- 2018 Calendar

We've spent some time looking at the calendar already... the meeting dates have not yet been set, but we thought you'd like a peek at what is already in place....

Saturday, January 6th	Hosta breakfast, 10 am Forestview, Transit Rd., Depew
Saturday, February 3rd	Hosta breakfast, 10 am Forestview, Transit Rd, Depew
Sunday, February 11th	Members' Meeting with speaker East Aurora Senior Center
Saturday, March 3rd	Hosta breakfast, 10 am Forestview, Transit Rd, Depew
Saturday, March 17th	Hosta College - Piqua, Ohio
Saturday, April 7th	Hosta breakfast, 10 am - Forestview, Transit Rd, Depew
Sunday, April 22nd	Members' Meeting with speaker and Naylor Creek hosta pick-up East Aurora Senior Center
Saturday, May 19	Hoop House Season Opener Lasting Dreams Daylilies, Orchard Park
June 2nd	Hosta Tea: TBD
June 9 & 10	Hosta Show - Botanical Gardens
June 20 - 23	AHS Convention - Philadelphia, PA
June 30 & July 1	Garden Art Sale & Plant Society Avenue - Botanical Gardens
Fri/Sat - July 13 & 14	Hosta Tailgate - Columbus, OH
Saturday, July 21	Hosta Tea: Whittemore Garden "Twilight Tea"
Sunday, August 5th	Members' Picnic - Eagle Bay Hosta Garden
Saturday, August 25th	Public Hosta Sale Botanical Gardens
Saturday, September 1st	Hosta Tea
Saturday, September 15th	Fall Hosta and Garden Forum - Edinboro, PA
Saturday, October 6th	Hosta breakfast, 10 am - Forestview, Transit Rd., Depew
Saturday, November 3rd	Hosta breakfast, 10 am - Forestview, Transit Rd., Depew
Sunday, November 11th	Annual Members' Meeting with speaker East Aurora Senior Center

Mark your calendars

note: if we DON'T have you on our e-mail "**Hosta Flash**" list, please send your address to "irisborer@aol.com". Things tend to shift... and new opportunities arise, and this is the **best way** to be able to notify our membership **fast**

2017 FALL HOSTA FORUM

The 2017 Fall Hosta Forum was a fabulous success - with record attendance - **A SELL OUT** - and we are still basking in the warm glow.

The Planning Committee has met to wrap up loose ends and to plan for 2018 and we are thrilled to announce that we have two of the four speakers in place and invitations out to others (we will announce when the slate is filled in).

We recommend that as SOON as you get the formal announcement, you book your room and send in your registration (block out September 15th, 2018 now) so you won't be disappointed. We looked at our budget numbers very carefully and have decided to hold the registration fees as they are for another year.

And the theme? We're going to the BEACH - fun, fun, fun ... Beach Boys. Get your Aloha shirts ready.



ELECTIONS

Our November meeting is also the time of year when we elect our new Board. Two of our hard-working Board members are up for re-election this year. **Kathy Shadrack was appointed to fill out a vacant term** and needs to be formally elected; **Pat Gurney**, is a familiar face at our meetings and activities and is a new nominee

The slate we will present for your vote at the meeting will be:

Board Positions

Pat Gurney
Sue Sickels
Judy Johnson
Kathy Shadrack

The officers were elected to a two-year term in 2017 and will all be up for re-election for 2019

The next meeting
of the WNY Hosta Society is the

FALL MEMBERS' MEETING

Sunday, November 12th

Doors open 1:00

(come and socialize)

Meeting 2:00-4:00

East Aurora Senior Center
King Street at Oakwood, East Aurora

(Route 400 to Maple exit – right. Maple to the end left onto Main,
then second right – S. Grove – past the Roycroft to the stop sign,
then left on Oakwood. The Senior Center is on the right
next to the Fire hall. - Park behind - not on the plaza.)

THE MAIN EVENT

Bob Solberg:
Hostas - Where They Come From
and Where Are They Going?

MEETING

Welcome

Annual Meeting & Elections
2018 Calendar of events
Open Garden Book Prize Draw
Refreshments
Fun and Laughter

Parking at the East Aurora Senior Center

Parking is at a premium at the Center and there have been
problems (mostly during the week). Please take note when
attending our meeting. There is a large parking lot behind the
building.

Street parking on both sides of King St is allowed - **after** you pass
the entrance. Other street parking in the area is permitted.

♦ **Do not park in the Oakwood Plaza**



Hospitality

We need **YOU** to help
with hospitality for this meeting.

Please contact

Judy Johnson
716-649-2764
or wjohnson21088@verizon.net

If you can bring something

OUR SPEAKER - BOB SOLBERG

Born and raised in Miami, Florida, Bob Solberg grew palm trees from seed
in his small backyard nursery as a kid and cruised Biscayne Bay in his
small sailboat. He attended Davidson College in Davidson, North Carolina
and graduated with a B.S. in Biology and then studied bryophyte ecology
for three years at the University of North Carolina. Like so many UNC
students he decided to stay permanently in "Blue Heaven".

In 1981, after experimenting with azaleas and rhododendrons, Bob chose
to specialize in hostas in his new backyard nursery endeavor. He became
founder and head of the Carolina Hosta Society in 1986 which hosted the
1991 American Hosta Society National Convention and again in 2001 and
2015. He has served in many positions in that organization up until the
present.

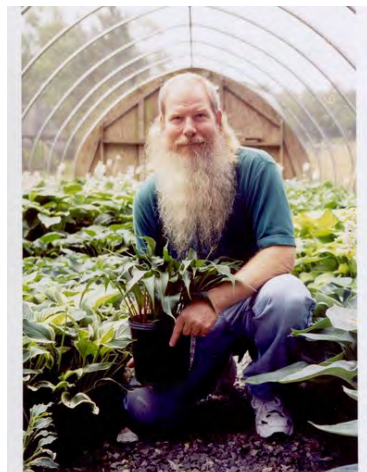
In 1992 Green Hill Farm outgrew the backyard and moved to its current
location. It is now a wholesale and retail nursery introducing new hostas
into the trade. From its hosta hybridizing program, new hostas are shipped
nationally and internationally to nurseries, hosta clubs, and hosta collectors
throughout the year.

Hosta hybridizing has been a passion of Bob's for almost 30 years. In 2008
he was awarded the Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Merit Award
by the American Hosta Society for his work with hostas. He has introduced
about 70 hostas to date and has plans to add five or so to that number
each year. 'Guacamole', introduced in 1994 and Hosta of the Year in 2002
is probably his best known cultivar and is probably in your garden. 'Orange
Marmalade' PP#16,742 is his first patented hosta and destined for a wide
distribution. 'Corkscrew', 'Ginsu Knife', 'Cracker Crumbs', 'Crumb Cake',
'Tongue Twister', 'First Frost', 'One Man's Treasure', 'Smiley Face', 'Sweet
Sunshine' and 'Curly Fries' (currently one of our hottest hostas) are some
of his better introductions.

Bob has been very active in the American Hosta Society, serving as the
Editor of The Hosta Journal, the principle publication of the American
Hosta Society, (1988-1990) and Vice President for The Genus Hosta,
(1998-2001). He was the recipient of the 2003 Alex J. Summers
Distinguished Merit Award. Bob is co-founder and was Executive Secretary
of The American Hosta Growers Association, (1998-2011), a professional
trade organization for hosta nurseries. The members of the AHGA select
the Hosta of the Year annually.

Bob is a nationally known lecturer on
the subject of hostas and writer of
many articles on hostas. He has
edited the "Green Hill Gossip" for the
past 13 years and the "Gossip Jr.", a
twice yearly subscription newsletter
since 2004. When the hostas are up
and glowing in the garden you may
find him on the road, bringing hostas
and hosta stories to a town near you.

***We are SO pleased to have him here
in Western New York!***



HOSTA BREAKFASTS

For more than 5 years now the WNYHS has held **Hosta Breakfasts** on the **first Saturday of each month throughout the winter**. They have proven to be a wonderful way of meeting our hosta friends during the non-growing season. The first one of this season was no exception, with lots of chatter and laughter.

THE FORESTVIEW RESTAURANT

4781 Transit Road - Depew, NY 14043
656-8760

It is the people and the friendship that make our breakfast meetings so good, but another thing that helps is that attendees are asked to bring to the table something that they can pass around and talk about. It can be a plant, a seedling, a catalogue, a magazine, a book, a favorite garden tool, a new deer repellent... anything to get folks talking.



We usually have between 16 and 20 folks and the biggest turn out so far has been 34.

There is only one rule. If you intend going to the November and/or December breakfasts you must call or email Dianne Giordano at 716 225 5991 or deg888@verizon.net, **before 5pm on the previous Friday** as she will have to book the places with the restaurant.

So.....the dates are: November 4th, December 2nd, January 6th, February 3rd, March 3rd, April 7th (then we adjourn until October).

A **Hosta Flash** will be sent to all those members on our email list as a reminder a few days before each breakfast. So, no excuses. See you there.

In FACT, these have been so successful, a few years ago, we replaced the breakfasts with a monthly **HOSTA TEA** in a members' garden during the summer months. We are still working on finding gardens for 2018 - we have July lined up, but we need a garden for June 2nd and September 1st (let us know if you're willing).



Thank you!

Celery Sticks

by Susan Sickels

Every spring I have a recurrent dream. Walking out to my garden I am surrounded by stalks of celery. The deer have dined and removed the leaves from my hostas. An entire gardening year has been lost to the deer. So I wipe away the fog of sleep, grab my favorite deer repellent and spray the plants and the openings to my garden. Thankfully it was just a bad dream. The deer have not caused any damage. Just to add another layer of defense, I run the dogs in the woods where they stop occasionally to leave their calling card, reminding the deer that wolves live in the house in the middle of the garden.

That is until the tornado hit. I have lived in California, so earthquakes are no big deal. Blizzards? Oh yeah, I live in the snowiest township of Erie County, so I have survived a few of those. I worked in Springville during the floods of 1998. I really respect the power of flash floods! What was left on my bucket list of weather disasters?

Eric and I were both home when the circular winds struck. The hostas stood straight up, not swaying from side to side. The winds were loud but not like a freight train. Trees over one hundred years old rotated with the wind. After about 90 seconds the winds died down and we surveyed the damage. A couple trees had the tops plucked off like the winds had decided to pick a flower. Several 75-year-old trees came down and I immediately called Tree Care of New York. They were taking trees down within the hour. Our house and barn were untouched; we were OK. Thank you, God!

When I had a chance to survey the gardens, I realized that a tree had come down destroying several large plants. Dream Queen had made my list of top ten hostas this year, but the tree had left nothing of this plant standing. Many of the plants had lost or torn leaves. Celery sticks!! My nightmare had come true. The loss of a dozen large trees changed the landscape of the woods that surround our house. The deer had a better view into our garden and felt safer coming in for breakfast and dinner. The dogs worked overtime chasing deer from the garden. More celery sticks!!

The tornado never touched down on our property, but I have a new respect for circular winds. Many of my very small hostas were so shocked by the winds that they started to shut down for the year in early August. The gardens were no longer photogenic, but the destruction showed me one exciting part of gardening. Throughout all the destruction I could only think about next year. This year was over, but hope and anticipation abounds for the new growth I will see next spring. Gardeners – we are a hopeful bunch. Faced with at least a dozen trees down and a sad group of beloved plants, I am thankful that my family is safe and next year is just around the corner.



HOSTA COLLEGE

The Great Lakes Region Hosta College next year will be held at the usual venue in Piqua, Ohio on Friday and Saturday, March 17th and 18th.

For those not familiar with the Hosta College Format, it usually consists of a Friday Night lecture and auction and then all day on Saturday a huuuuge variety of classes on all kinds of topics allow attendees to choose subjects that interest them from the list available. There is an optional banquet on Saturday evening.

For more information, please talk to Chas or Karen Wagner, Marcia Sully or Dianne Giordano.

or visit the Hosta college website at:
<http://ihostohio.org/portal/glhc/>

CURLY FRIES

"Mini" Hostas excite me just as much as regular Hostas. How could they not, when you can have fun sticking them in Hypertufa containers or little "fairy gardens"? One day I may plant them in a large Alpine looking rock garden in the ground. But for now I am having fun creating little theme gardens and placing companions like fern and other interesting dwarf plants with my mini's.



Curly Fries is a Hosta that I purchased this garden season. At 6 to 12 inches, this one would be classified as a very small Hosta. The plant has a mounding habit, has multiple long narrow pointed leaves, ruffled on the edges, all the way up to its long tips. In the spring this specimen has a golden yellow color. Curly fries is a seedling of Pineapple Upside Down Cake. Like its mother, the leaves begin to turn white as the season progresses. I like it best before the plant reaches this stage.

It seems happiest in the shade with little sun. The long ruffled edges are what I find most attractive in this hosta. It is why I score this one as a 5, on a scale from 1 to 10. These ruffles make this plant very unique from other Hostas.

~ Joanne Tanner

OUR FABULOUS HOSTA CALENDAR



The Western New York Hosta Society's second calendar, for 2018, is printed - and gorgeous - and will be available for sale at the November meeting.

Price is \$10.00 each - and they will make great presents for the Christmas season. The calendar features photographs submitted by our members. Over sixty photos were submitted for consideration. Choosing the best of the best was a challenge because they were all really good!

We hope you are pleased with our selections and hope you will consider submitting your own photographs for our **2019 calendar**. Envelopes for mailing will also be available.

Selected photos this year were submitted by:

Jack Barta
Pat Boissonneault
Brenda Fox
Carol Haj
Marianne Rice
Peg Riexinger
Pam Rose
Kathy Shadrack
Mike Shadrack
Sue Sickels (cover)
Marcia Sully
Joanne Tanner
Chas Wagner

Editor's note: This is a fabulous calendar - complete with our important WNY Hosta dates already noted...

We hope you are as thrilled as we are with the quality!

Thank you all for your submissions!

The calendar was produced by Dave Whittemore with assistance from Barbara Evans, Peg Riexinger and Carol Abendschein.

You should love H. Beckoning too!

I keep coming back to this hosta for another look as it has almost everything I like in just one plant. Let's get specific:



1. **Size:** Large hostas amaze me all that growth each year starting from great big pips emerging in spring. Large hostas have "presence" and can anchor an area of garden. Since this is a sport of Blue Angel, size is guaranteed.

2. **Color:** The heart shaped leaf is slightly wavy and has a bright chartreuse to yellow gold center with a blue-green edge that offers great contrast. It is also a bit less common to have the leaf margin in the dark shade and the large, lighter center.

3. **Surprise** or you may also call it delayed gratification because it begins the season looking rather ordinary with a barely discernable leaf pattern. It is only as the season progresses and sunlight is sufficient that the leaf develops the contrast that is so wonderful.

Beckoning is planted on our hill and has enough vigor and substance to overcome ivy and enough color to call attention from across the yard. It is still bringing color to the garden even into fall. Gotta love it!

Karen Wagner

A "Treasure" of a hosta; **LITTLE TREASURE**

In my garden small hostas are in constant peril from insects, dogs, wildlife, other plants and weeds, and non-gardeners. Not a lot of pampering goes on. Hosta 'Little Treasure' is a survivor. It is planted in the ground with the big guys and continues to thrive. I have it in afternoon sun in good soil and only occasional watering.

I love the thick, perky leaves and the blue and cream colors. Forms a nice swirly clump fast. The purple flowers are pretty nice in July too!

This plant was given to me by a friend a couple years ago. I suspect it would be easy to divide and pay it forward but there is apparently a plant patent on it . .

Nancy Burlingam



BEWARE THE WORM

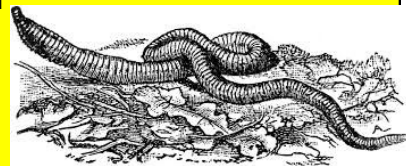
We have received this alert through the Rochester Perennial Society on the ASIAN JUMPING WORM. The worm does not attack your plants, but what it does do is dramatically change the pH of your soil, raising the alkalinity to a point that will not sustain many plants (like hostas). We will have the Cooperative Extension bulletins as handouts at the meeting, but for now, here is the alarm raised:

About 2 months ago one of our members approached me with a vexing query. A Japanese umbrella pine in one of her client's yard was turning yellow (chlorotic) for no apparent reason. After several questions, the situation had to be pH. However, the client yard's pH was mostly neutral to acid. Then it dawned on me. 12 years ago, while visiting Cornell Plantations, the head horticulturist showed us a chlorotic azalea collection. They were trying to figure out what was happening. About a month after that, the horticulturist emailed me that the culprit was the Asian jumping worm that was quickly, in six weeks, reducing a 4 inch layer of mulch to worm castings. The castings turned out to have a pH of Plus 9! (Normal soil pH ranges between 6.5-7.2) The horticulturist did mention they were removing what was left of the mulch and applying a heavy dose of sulphur. I have never heard more about this. They must have reached a solution because I was there two years ago and the same collection was thriving (and mulched!!)

The metabolic rate of this worm is 10 times that of our normal earth worm. They move quickly and often startle you, much as a snake would.

We do not want to spread this worm .

Do you have it? A quick way to tell is to apply a "mustard solution" to the soil at the plant's base (potted or in-ground). This will quickly bring any worms to the surface where you can dispose of them. Do this again in late May or Early June. Any overwintering eggs will have hatched and bring the remaining population to the surface. The mustard drench will not harm your plant. You can then promise a "worm free" plant.



B Movie

The **B Movie** at the November meeting will be the WNYHS Annual meeting. We promise to keep this short and very cheerful. There is good news on the financial front and our membership continues to grow. There will be an election of officers and a new Board member to elect. We will report on the newsletter/communications and on our activities over the past year.

ONE RINGY DINGY TWO RINGY DINGYS

Heads up!!

Your phone will be ringing in the new year, with - maybe not Ernestine, but certainly our own Marcia Sully on the other end. The purpose? To determine whether you wish to participate in the **2018 OPEN GARDEN BOOK** (this is the one published through the WNY Hosta Society).



Every year, Marcia takes on the task of calling every single WNY Hosta member to check the details of their listing (if they're already in the book) or to check whether a new member wants to be included.

We do not publish addresses, only phone numbers and e-mail addresses (with your permission...sometimes that's an easier way to reach people).

The directory is very popular and a great way to see how your colleagues are growing hostas. So... Marcia will be calling. *One ringy dingy....*

GLOVES & KINCAID LABELS

For Christmas Stockings and winter projects....
Gloves and labels will be available at
the meeting....
See Dianne Giordano



OPPORKNOCKITY TUNES

By popular demand (at least among hostaphiles) we are repeating an offer we have offered for the last SEVEN years,putting together a **group order** for Naylor Creek (www.naylorcreek.com) hostas (and arisaemas too). Here's how it works... Naylor Creek offers an **EARLY BIRD SPECIAL** for orders placed by 12/14 and totaling \$200 - a 10% discount and free shipping. We are **extending that offer to our membership** so that by joining our group order, by even ordering *one tiny hosta*, you will reap the benefit of the 10% and free shipping.

SO.... Here are the rules - please put together your order and bring it to the meeting - or otherwise get it to us **NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 4th (at the meeting)**. We will place one order (and bill you when we get confirmation). **Please note - as soon as we place the order they charge our credit card. Please, please please pay us promptly!**

We will ask Naylor Creek for delivery in time for our April meeting. We're sure to exceed the \$200 minimum so get your orders in! What a deal! (If you don't have a computer, we will have a **few paper copies** at the meeting. Otherwise <http://www.naylorcreek.com/>).



You should ALSO know that Naylor Creek are advertising individual hostas heavily on Facebook (ask to join 'Hosta Buyers Guide'), and some are already sold out or in short supply. In the words of Yosemite Sam "Time's a-wastin'!"

Open Garden Book

The November Members' Meeting is the traditional time to produce your Open Garden Books and to enter the draw to win a prize. Throughout the summer members have been visiting other member's gardens and many will have been clever enough to get their Open Garden Book signed by the garden owner. For each signature members will get a free draw ticket. And what do draw tickets mean? **Draw tickets mean prizes.** (Editor's note - Please appreciate the use of member's, members' and members in the above paragraph.) There will be LOTS of prizes!

Remember to bring your books!



WESTERN NEW YORK HOSTA SOCIETY

Mike Shadrack, President
8399 Zimmerman Road
Hamburg, NY 14075-7143

h8staman@aol.com

We're on the web
Www. Wnyhosta.com

Next meeting: Late Fall Meeting!

11/12/17– East Aurora Senior Center

Speaker: Bob Solberg

Elections

THE END!



The WNY Hosta HOOPSTERS - we could not have done it without you! **Thank you.** Now our hostas are safe for the loooooooooooooooooong winter.