

# Hosta la Vista

Nov. '18

*Until we meet again*



## President's Message

**P**reparing for winter did not take quite so long this fall. In late September deer found a way into the hosta garden and over a couple of days ate pretty much everything. Better now than early in the season but you don't want to give the local deer a taste for your hostas.



So we replaced and repaired parts of the deer fence, spread Milorganite liberally around and sprayed what was left with deer repellent.

Normally we would pull off all the rotting hosta leaves and put them in the garbage before the snow arrives. This is the current best practice to prevent the spread of foliar nematodes in the hosta garden as it is believed that they are still able to move from a decomposing leaf into the soil below. Removing the leaf also removes some of those nematodes. This year there were not so many leaves to remove.



There are many other chores that need to be done to prepare the garden for a Western New York winter. Even if you are not a gardener that mulches everything, very small and miniature hostas need a mulch to prevent 'heaving'. This is when alternating frost and thaw pull or heave the little plant out of the ground and expose its roots. Not good! Once they are under a warm blanket of snow this is not a problem.

Labels heave too. Critters pull them, so do birds. Raking leaves often removes a plant labels. I suspect we have all found several in the compost bin. It is therefore a good idea to push plant labels well into the ground while the soil is still soft.

Small critters will also attack woody perennials and shrubs if they have not been protected. They will gnaw the bark from the trunk(s) and if they manage to take the bark all around the circumference, the plant will usually die. The bark needs to be protected. An excellent tip from Ran Lydell is to wrap cooking tin foil around the trunk of the shrub from ground level up. Wrap it really firmly (this will not hurt the plant) and do it to a

height above the anticipated snow line. Once there is snow around a shrub critters can eat bark above the snow line. Therefore the tin foil needs to be wrapped fairly high in these snowy climes.

Luckily our hostas are very hardy and those in the ground will happily hibernate under a warm blanket of snow. Potted hostas need a little care. Large hostas in plastic or other frost proof pot can be left in a sheltered position through the winter. The problem that may arise is in the spring as they begin to thaw. If the top of the potting medium thaws while the lower portions are still frozen rain and thawed snow cannot drain through the pot and the hosta can drown. Some folks suggest that the pots should be laid on their side but this is not totally necessary so long as they are inspected regularly.

Hostas in small pots should be mulched. This is both to maintain a regular temperate during the cold and warmer spells of the winter and to keep the critters out. It is suggested that the mice and voles do not like the smell of cedar mulch. Whilst the hostas are hardy, the pot might not be. Ceramic pots and other containers need to be kept away from the freeze/thaw cycle that is a typical winter. Constant temperature changes and damp conditions can lead to the pot falling apart. They can be ideally stored in a cold shed or garage.

Voies and mice can be a problem too. It is a problem right through the year but especially in winter when there is little else for them to eat. Voies will tunnel under the snow but on the surface of the soil and then dive into your hosta plants and other stuff to eat the crowns. There are various solutions to the problem that are too lengthy to go into here. If you have a question about them please ask.



No one knows everything about hostas but in a society such as ours there is a huge library of knowledge spread through the membership. Someone will know the answer to your question. You need to ask. Just one of the benefits of membership.

*Mike*

## 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 5th	Hosta breakfast, 10 am Forestview, Transit Rd., Depew
Saturday, February 2nd	Hosta breakfast, 10 am Forestview, Transit Rd, Depew
Sunday, February 24th	Members' Meeting with speaker East Aurora Senior Center
Saturday, March 2nd	Hosta breakfast, 10 am Forestview, Transit Rd, Depew
Saturday, March 16th	Hosta College - Piqua, Ohio
Saturday, April 6th	Hosta breakfast, 10 am - Forestview, Transit Rd, Depew
Sunday, April 28th	Members' Meeting with speaker and Naylor Creek hosta pick-up East Aurora Senior Center
Saturday, May 18	Hoop House Season Opener Lasting Dreams Daylilies, Orchard Park
Late May/early June	Hosta Tea: TBD
June 8 & 9	Hosta Show - Botanical Gardens
June 12 thru 15	AHS Convention - Green Bay, WI
Fri/Sat - June 21-23	Hosta Tailgate - Bay Village, OH
June 29 & 30	Garden Art Sale & Plant Society Avenue - Botanical Gardens
Saturday, July 6	Hosta Tea: Fox Garden, E. Pembroke
Sunday, August 11th	Members' Picnic - Eagle Bay Hosta Garden
Saturday, August 24th	Public Hosta Sale Botanical Gardens
Saturday, September 1st	Hosta Tea
Saturday, September 14th	Fall Hosta and Garden Forum - Edinboro, PA
Saturday, October 5th	Hosta breakfast, 10 am - Forestview, Transit Rd., Depew
Saturday, November 2nd	Hosta breakfast, 10 am - Forestview, Transit Rd., Depew
Sunday, November 10th	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**

## 2018 & 2019 FALL HOSTA FORUM

The 2018 Fall Hosta Forum was a fabulous success - and we are still basking in the warm glow.

The Planning Committee has met to wrap up loose ends and to plan for 2019 and we are thrilled to announce that we have three of the four speakers in place and have the fourth in the crosshairs (we will announce when the slate is filled in). The theme will be based around the Beatles' Sgt. Pepper's (and we'll have some special surprises!)

We recommend that as SOON as you get the formal announcement, you book your room and send in your registration (block out **September 14th, 2019 now**) so you won't be disappointed. We may have a slight fee increase this year, but early birds won't feel it. So get ready to ROCK AND ROLL..... All you need is LOVE.

## ELECTIONS

Our November meeting is also the time of year when we elect our new Board. All of the officers are re-elected biennially, and we have a couple of changes this time around - Ran Lydell has stepped down as Vice President after a long run and Sue Sickels has been nominated to take his place. Ran has agreed to remain as an active member of the Board. Dianne Giordano has also stepped down as Treasurer and is taking a break from Board responsibilities. As a result of our petition to the membership, we are very pleased to offer Beth Kreutzer as the nominee for Treasurer.

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

### Officers

Mike Shadrack - President  
Sue Sickels - Vice President  
Beth Kreutzer - Treasurer  
Marcia Sully - Secretary

### Board Positions

Carol Abendschein  
Mike Sheehan  
Ran Lydell

There is still one vacancy  
that we will leave open for now

The next meeting  
of the WNY Hosta Society is the

## **FALL MEMBERS' MEETING**

**Sunday, November 11th**

**Doors open 1:30**

(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**

**Rob Mortko:**  
**Hot Hostas of Tomorrow!**

**B-Movie: Review of our**  
**"Hosta Experience"**

### **MEETING**

Welcome

Annual Meeting & Elections  
2019 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](mailto:wjohnson21088@verizon.net)

***If you can bring something***

## **Our speaker:** **Rob Mortko**



*Rob is a degreed chemical engineer and retired in 2010 from Black & Veatch in Kansas City where he was Vice President of Process Engineering Technology. His passion for shade gardening and hostas has grown over the past 25+ years since he and his wife Sheri moved into their shaded woodland home in Olathe, Kansas (a Kansas City suburb).*

*Their shade gardens have been featured on various public garden tours, on local TV, and in "Kansas City Homes and Gardens Magazine". In 2000 Rob started up Made in the Shade Gardens – a retail nursery business specializing in hostas. Since 2010 Rob has operated a plant tissue culture laboratory – specializing in hostas.*

*In 2000 Rob registered and introduced his first hosta cultivar named 'Heart and Soul'. His introductions include 'Stitch in Time', 'Mouse Capades', 'Rising Star' and 'Carry On'.*

*Rob is a Johnson County Kansas Extension Master Gardener where he served on the Advisory Board. He has served on the Executive Board of the American Hosta Society, on the board of the American Hosta Growers Association, and as a Contributing Editor for The Hosta Journal.*

## **The Open Garden Book Prize Draw**

The November meeting is traditionally the time for the Open Garden Book prize draw. Our Open Garden Book is published each year in April. It contains descriptions of members' gardens that are open to view by other members. (The book includes Iris and Daylily Gardens too). For security reasons addresses are not published and intending visitors need to contact the garden owner by telephone or email to arrange a visit.

Most members who visit a listed garden take the book with them and get the garden owner to sign it. This is because at the November meeting each signature gets a free draw ticket and (insert your own glowing adjective here) prizes can be won.

So, remember to bring your 2018 Open Garden Book with you on Sunday.







greater connection to many plants because I've personally gotten to know those who introduced them into the market... and I feel like I have a connection to them, too, even though I only get to see them once a year.

The AHS national convention is held in a different city around the country each year. It was in Philadelphia in June 2018 to celebrate its 50th anniversary. In 2019, it's coming to Green Bay, Wisconsin! If you're a hosta enthusiast like me, or if you're just starting to gain an interest, I invite you to join me and several hundred others from across the country and around the world who come each year. Here are some details:

## *A Hosta Lover's Dream*

### *2019 Convention Coming to Green Bay*

By Tammy Borden

When I bought my first home, it had one variety of hosta that bordered the foundation of the house. I didn't even know what variety it was back then, and later discovered it was 'Ventricosa.'

With a shady backyard, I eventually began adding garden beds containing other kinds of hosta. When I reached 50 different varieties, I realized my hobby had evolved into a collection. Fast forward, and I now have nearly 600 varieties surrounding my yard. Needless to say, my collection has evolved into an obsession.

In those early days, I just knew I liked hostas with their diverse foliage, towering blooms, and a variety of colors, shapes and sizes. I never imagined there was such a thing as the American Hosta Society (AHS) — a dedicated group of other hosta enthusiasts from around the country who hold an annual convention. When I discovered the group, my eyes were opened to new aspects about the genus, such as cross-breeding, sun tolerance, tissue cultures, diseases, plant habits, and more.

When I attended my first AHS convention in Indianapolis, I got to meet others who shared a love of what many call the "friendship plant." Appropriately, I've formed many new friendships as a result. I also got to meet several hybridizers who bred many of the plants in my gardens — some of them pioneers in the hosta industry such as Dick and Jane Ward. I have the hosta named 'Dick Ward,' and now I think of him each time I walk by.

Other hybridizers include Olga Petryszyn who is known for her large introductions and originated such beauties as 'Niagara Falls,' 'Key West,' and hosta of the year for 2017, 'Brother Stefan' — named after her brother for his 50th birthday. I also met Doug Beilstein who strives to breed standout varieties with unusual leaf characteristics such as 'Cup of Grace,' 'Leapin Lizard,' and 2018 hosta of the year, 'World Cup.' Now, when I walk around my garden, I feel an even

## **American Hosta Society National Convention**

June 12–15, 2019

Radisson Hotel & Convention Center, Green Bay, WI

Registration Information:  
**[www.ahs2019event.org](http://www.ahs2019event.org)**

### **Featuring:**

- 11 Stunning Garden Tours
  - Vendors
  - Leaf Show
- Seedling Competition
  - Live auction
- Speakers: Rick Goodenough, Don Dean, Olga Petryszyn, Doug Beilstein, Jeff Miller
  - And much more!

The theme for the 2019 convention is Hostaffinity, a reflection of the relationship that we as gardeners share with each other and our beloved plants. Check out the website and plan to join us June 12–15 — where friends and foliage meet.

*Ed. Note: There is an active Facebook page:  
AHS Hosta Convention 2019  
Early registration discount until January 31st.*

*A number of WNY folks generally go to the convention every year.... It's great to connect with other hosta folk, it's a nice get-away - and if you drive, YOU CAN PACK YOUR CAR WITH PLAAAAAANTS.*

*Tour gardens, great speakers, a show, rare hostas, interesting people... give it a try. We will have registration information at the meeting.*

*(12 hour drive - no prob!)*

## What's New at the 2019 Hosta College?

By Marcia Sully

This year, for the very first time, the Great Lakes Region Hosta Society, with an eye toward encouraging gardening with the younger generation, is offering the opportunity for youth, ages 10 to 16, to participate in Hosta College. 'Hosta College for Kids' will officially debut as part the 2019 registration. As parents or grandparents attending Hosta College, you may register your child/grandchild following the directions on the Hosta College page of the website. A separate classroom setting and lunch period, as well as classes designed for just these students will be provided. Ohio certified classroom teachers, along with other volunteer teachers and master gardeners, will help facilitate the endeavor. There will be lots of hands-on projects, as well as instruction appropriate for the ages of the group. There is a maximum class size limit, so register early so your child/grandchild will not be disappointed.

*For those who are attending Hosta College for the first time, let me explain the treat you can anticipate with this experience.*

First, you will be able to look over class offerings ([www.ihostohio.org](http://www.ihostohio.org)), beginning January 12<sup>th</sup>. Last year we were able to offer 52 choices! Five periods of classes, with their descriptions, will be posted on the Hosta College web site. Early registration is highly recommended, since classes fill quickly. As you make your selections, be sure to have a second choice for each period in mind, just in case that class fills to capacity and is closed when you are registering. On-line registration opens January 26<sup>th</sup>. Remember, if you are a dues-paying member of WNYHS, then you are automatically a member of the Great Lakes Region Hosta Society. This offers you a reduced registration fee. Follow the computer directions to register.

Then, begin to shed the winter blues by heading to Piqua, Ohio, March 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> to begin a fantastic hosta adventure! Hosta College is held in the Upper Valley Career Center in Piqua, not too far from Dayton. Doors open Friday evening at 6:00, when you pick up your registration packet, name badge, and free gift plant. (Watch the web site to find out what hosta will be given out.) Then, before the highly-anticipated plant auction begins, you will have time to enjoy our 'Hostality Table', filled with tempting treats and beverages, while visiting with hosta friends. If you'd rather be shopping, then it's off to peruse the wares. There is a well-stocked bookstore, where I hear there will be an incredible book sale table this year! You will also find a great selection of A.M. Leonard tools and gloves for sale. If you need to smell green plants in March, then the vending room is for you! Along with plant sellers, there will be hardscape and soft goods for sale, as well. Then migrate to the auditorium for a fast-paced, exciting auction, listing some unusual and sought after hostas. Throw in a bid or two- you may end up with a real treasure! Following the auction, head back to your hotel and just maybe you will discover a hostality room with more socializing!

Early Saturday morning you will find a lovely continental breakfast and time to socialize or shop again! Next begins the busy five period class schedule where you can absorb a raft of valuable information from

knowledgeable instructors. Fortified by a delicious on-site lunch, which is included in the price of your registration, door prizes will be presented, along with a hosta raffle, and probably time to do just a bit more shopping!

If you have pre-registered for the banquet, return to the cafeteria area one last time for the evening banquet. This year's lively dinner speaker, Bob Iames, will be the final highlight of the weekend.

WNYHS has always had members attend, to renew old friendships and make new ones, while glean useful, new gardening tips. It is our hope that a few more folks from our club will attend this coming year, along with some grandchildren! Let's make our 'Hosta College for Kids' a real success!

### OUR FABULOUS HOSTA CALENDAR

*The Western New York Hosta Society's third calendar, for 2019, is printed - and gorgeous - and will be available for sale at the November meeting.*

Price is \$10.00 each - and they make great presents for the Christmas season (like to YOU). 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 **2020 calendar**. Envelopes for mailing will also be available.

*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!*

# Why Hostas Are Like Lays' Potato Chips

By Sue Sickels



I did what my mother had done before me. I taught my daughters about vegetables by growing them in a garden. It is something just short of a miracle to think that you can put a snap pea seed in the ground, water or not, and by June you can go to your garden and eat a snap pea right off the plant. Children learn that vegetables taste best when they have been planted by dirty fingers and washed by a spring rain.

My trees kept getting taller and soon there was more shade than sun. I was already on several mailing lists for seed and perennial plants. There were plenty of plants to choose from. Van Bourgondien had two hosta collections for sale totaling nineteen plants. After convincing my husband that a perennial garden would look better than weeds and blackberry, Eric tilled the area with our tractor that would be my first hosta garden. We had no horses at that point, so I bought some compost and peat moss. Imagine that I had to buy compost!! The plants arrived as dried sprigs in plastic bags. I tried to put them in the ground right side up and they grew!! I watered them occasionally, but they seemed to like the soil that was made richer each year with leaves and I mostly neglected them.

The first nineteen were followed by five more the next year and my husband had to bring the tractor up again to till another area. Well, now I had them all – a blue one, a green one, and a yellow one. I even had one with a white edge!! The next year I saw some more hostas in a catalogue, so I thought maybe a few more would complete my garden. Just like any addiction I started out slowly and rationally collecting a few hostas here and there to add a little variety to my garden.

Ten years later I had 200 hostas and I told my husband that I was joining the Western New York Hosta Society because I heard they had a 12 Step program to help persons with hosta addictions. Eric laughed and shook his head. Soon I was surrounded by dealers and other addicts, all justifying their addictions without any guilt or remorse. I had found a family of people who understood me. Each year I ordered more plants. Now there was this thing called the "Internet" that connected me to hosta dealers who would mail me the latest and greatest hostas for only an insignificant charge on my Discover Card.

Joining the WNY Hosta Society did not help me eliminate my desire for more hostas. Instead they taught me how to grow and divide hostas, design gardens, and prevent hosta diseases. The one thing I have accepted since becoming active in our local hosta group is that I cannot possibly own all 5859 hostas that are currently registered by the American Hosta Society or 7541 hostas on the Hosta Library. After all, some of those hostas no longer exist. But just like a Buffalo Bill's fan, I have hope that I can come close to that goal.



# Hostaholism

**Twelve Stages Described (in one man's opinion)**

By R.A. Smith

*Reprinted from the 2012 OHS Newsletter*

It appears to me that there are three general categories of dedicated hosta enthusiasts that can be identified upon visiting their garden.

Most are sane people with well adjusted outlooks who employ the hosta as a major part of the overall landscape design. In these gardens, the serious hosta connoisseur will have perfectly grown hostas that fully complement the shade garden. Mass plantings of edger hostas will be of all the same size and color setting off a garden bed with well executed landscape design. Some rare specimen plants will be beacons for visitors, a large yellow here, and a giant originator stock hosta over there. These are the gardens that we all love to visit.

Then there's the hosta collector which may manifest in theme plants of hostas. You can pick these out when you see monoculture plantings with common names, moon gardens, a collection of Van Wade's Native American series, many sports of a common type, and for the more dedicated, all the available tardiflorias (TF-1 to n) planted in numerical sequence – that's a difficult task with the best of contacts.

Lastly, there is the over the top hosta enthusiasts (addict if you will) that has either breezed through or right past these two sane categories—in these gardens, the plots will contain incomprehensible alphanumeric labels along with named plants with "NR" and "OS" following them – few of which you can find in the "Hostapedia" tome. You'll see plants and wonder to yourself, this must have been a missed cull along with 64 plants of the same look and size growing in wind rows cooking under the mid-day sun. These gardens can be referred to as the Eagle Nebula of the hosta world, where new stars are born but they can also be the pitfall of many a hobbyist that didn't see the warning signs of a slippery slope—this story attempts to better describe this latter stage of hosta addiction – let's look behind Monty's curtain # 3.

## The Twelve Stages of Hosta Addiction

**1. Purchase an H. 'Undulata' from the local box store in order to cover a shady garden spot under a tree – toss the tag – call it the green and white one.** This is how it all gets started and most sensible gardeners stop here. If it grows well and other mysterious forces come into play, a select few progress to step two.

**2. Buy a couple more hostas from the local nursery based on the cute names.** Plant two H. 'Blue Angel' right next to H. 'Blue Cadet' since they look like each other at this stage of growth. All tags are tossed out with the recyclables along with the pots. Notice how nice two of them seem to be growing.

**3. Discover that there are more than three hosta types and achieve Zen status when a large yellow is found.** Mistake H. 'Sagae' for the "green and white one" already in the garden so pass it by at the nursery. Start to worry that the little blue one (H. 'Blue Cadet') is being swallowed up by its overgrown



neighbors.

**4. Find the Hosta Library and become instantly overwhelmed with all the different cultivars.** Pick out the rarest of the group and decide that's exactly the one in the garden without a tag – make a quick label and mark it. Figure out that voles and deer like after dinner hosta snacks. Start to tire of the evening watering routine on the hot summer days.

**5. Start buying all the different hosta plants at the local nursery – keeping the tags now – plant them in full sun as well as shade.** Find that there's actually a book or two dedicated to hostas and buy them from the online book store (who then tells you about all the other related publications). Notice that some hostas produce seeds but alas, they go into the compost bin when the squirrels are done munching them. Pictures of the "No Tag" plants are offered up for identification to the experts. You take pictures of the deer that are visiting the garden, how nice. You manage the deer and vole damage the best you can and replace plants they destroy each year.

***At this point, if the majority of the below symptoms apply, you may be sliding into the abyss--be warned, hosta addiction can be a source of self-actualization and new friendships although at the same time, it will also be costly in time, garden space, and perhaps sanity.***

**6. Join the local and regional hosta society followed by a membership to the AHS for the great tri-annual journal.** Mail Order specialty catalogues are "bookmarked" on your internet browser. Long wish lists start with the header "Need List." You buy your third hosta book and start seeking out all the others. You bid on the out of print Zilis e-bay 1991 signed publication. Out-of-state garden visits become part of your annual routine to and from other destinations. Plant pictures are posted routinely onto the various web forums. You receive a mail order nursery gift certificate from the dear spouse who believes your new found hobby is wonderful. New plants arrive weekly in the spring from the winter's "downtime." You're thinking about taking out a bounty on the local deer population but install new fencing and use organic sprays instead.

**7. The hosta garden surpasses 250 named cultivars.** A few special gift plants are well placed as a special joy as a reminder to a great event or person – this is good. Digging up half the lawn or trying to tame a 45 degree sloping back yard may be over the top but you do it anyway. The spouse is wondering when it'll stop and starts tossing out the new catalogues when they arrive. AHS National Convention attendance is planned and you seek out Mark, Mike, and George for book signing opportunities. New stainless steel or plastic plant markers start to replace all the makeshift plant tags of past. Metal mesh cages are placed in the ground around the roots of the special plants. A bang gun is heard going off in the evening by the neighbors.

**8. "You mean the seeds can be grown" is a question that can put one over the edge.** In this stage of addiction, streaker madness sets in. On line auctions become your after dark bane of existence (luckily, you're not in the East Coast time zone).

You join the seed grower's forum and make a plant growing shelf in the basement. The neighbors call the Sheriff due to the strange glow coming from the basement windows 24- hours-a-day. You start the slow process to convince the spouse that an automatic sprinkler system in the yard would mean more dinner outings in the summer instead of watering chores. You keep 500 greenies and a few variegated seedlings the first year with no room in the existing garden plots to grow them. The spouse is concerned and seeks outside help for your addiction. You raid the back rooms at the local nursery for tossed plastic pots to use for the seedlings as they gain size. You start to dream up hosta names for "when the time is right" to register your first plant. You ask the spouse to help dig up the remaining lawn for another "little hosta garden."

**9. Sport fishing trips become the norm when visiting a nursery.** If a major wholesaler is nearby, you're on first name basis with the plant manager. Seeds are no longer bought but traded or sold to the poor souls slipping in at stage 8. The winter months are spent tending the seedlings and vacations are cancelled so that the little ones don't dry out. Fungal gnats become well known household pests. There's an anonymous bounty on the local buck that invades your garden at night.



**10. The seedlings grown are as good as anything on the market is now a common thought at this stage.** Garden names have been assigned. You've actually read all the way through "The Genus Hosta" tome and have dog-eared the section on plant breeding. A new macro lens may be purchased at this stage in order to take better seedling pictures—a sure sign you're going in deep. Many hostas have been dug up and replanted with root and vole barriers. Your new dog is doing a good job keeping the deer in check but the bang gun is still near the door.

**11. You register your first plant and share OS pieces with your hosta friends – the friendship plant concept now becomes most evident.** Off-hand discussions with your hosta friends may include phrases as "So, do you believe inhibitor genes caused that trait to appear?" or "There's no doubt in my mind that this is a tetraploid—look at that substance" followed shortly by "Did you see that new splashed plant in the vending area and the price? I have a whole batch of seedlings better than that thing." You have cages around your

best breeders to keep the rabbits, deer, and squirrels away during pollination season. A small backyard greenhouse is looking like something you must have.

**12. Your seed growing knowledge is sought by others at this stage of addiction.** Other possible symptom to watch for: you are asked to write articles for the journal documenting your hybridizing experiences, success and pitfalls along the way. You dream that you'll become rich and famous in the hosta world (well, maybe not rich as you've probably spent \$10,325 at this time and ruined your back digging up the lawn all to sell a single plant for \$400). With help, you may recover from the insanity and revert back to Step 7 although the number of hostas hover around 600 by now. If there's any lawn left, you concede that the kids and dog need some space to play. The automatic sprinklers are doing a nice job keeping everything green. Vacations are now possible once again although the mail order catalogs are still disappearing shortly after arrival—plant gift certificates are no longer considered. You start looking at the neighbor's poorly growing lawn under their oak trees—yes, that'd be a good place to plant some of these seedlings...



© Sarah Andersen

## 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 breakfasts you **must call** or email Mike Shadrack at 716 941-6167 or h8staman@aol.com, **before 5pm on the previous Friday** as he will have to book the places with the restaurant.

So.....the dates are: November 2nd, December 1st, January 4th, February 2nd, March 2nd, April 6th (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 2019 - we have July lined up, and one for early spring, but we are working on another (let us know if you're willing).



*Thank you!*



## 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 **2019 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....*

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

**Www.wnyhosta.com**

And join the conversation on **FACEBOOK**  
Western New York Hosta Society



## The HOSTA EXPERIENCE

The B-movie at our meeting will be a pictorial review of the HOSTA EXPERIENCE held this past summer at the Botanical Gardens. First intended as an accredited show, this event evolved into a very unique collaboration with the Lancaster Garden Glub and a very personal connection with the public. We hope you'll enjoy reliving "The Experience". *Are YOU experienced?*

## OPPORKNOCKITY TUNES

By popular demand (at least among hostaphiles) we are repeating an offer we have offered for the last EIGHT years, ....putting together a **group order** for Naylor Creek ([www.naylorcreek.com](http://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 11th (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'!"



## REAL LIFE ADVENTURES By Wise and Aldrich



Time to call Plantoholics Anonymous.

## 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!

11/11/18– East Aurora Senior Center

Speaker: Rob Mortko

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.*