

# Hosta la Vista

*Until we meet again*

February '19



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**A**bout this time of year, if everybody agrees, your president usually gives his State of the Society address. So, if you all agree, here it goes.

As we begin another year, what is the state of the Society? **'Very good' has to be the answer to that annual question.**

Our economy is in very good shape. Although we have invested heavily, we are not running a deficit and we have no debts. Over the financial year, our income is usually a little more than our expenditure - except on those occasions when we agree upon a big capital expense. We recently purchased an audio system with speakers and multiple microphones. We will soon be buying a shed. Happily we can afford this. In fact, we will still have enough in the bank to cover us for a couple of years.

Our membership continues to grow. In fact, membership has increased substantially over the last two years. As Tony Blair, a former **British Prime Minister, once famously said "I judge the excellence of a Society on the number of people who want to join it"**

We do not have exact figures because there have been so many changes in the administration of our Society that we are not able to give that information at this time. However, all members have a vote and voter **registrations stand at over 200... and that's households, not people.**



Despite various nominations there are still vacancies in the administration. All of our team work hard and we continue to provide, mostly, excellent information, entertainment and quality plants to our members.

On the employment front, there is a high level of participation in all the activities that the Society organizes during the year. We now regularly get **70 members to our members' meetings** and whilst attendance at our monthly winter Hosta Breakfasts has declined by about 20% recently, there is a steady increase in the numbers attending the summer Hosta Teas.

We are very industrious and have agreed that producing our own hostas in-house is far better for all than bringing them in from afar. We buy small and sell large. Both the red team and the blue team work at the hoop house in the spring and summer, one group on Tuesdays and one on Thursdays. Both groups have their priorities and between them they are, uniquely, producing a wonderful result. We divide, we re-pot, we fertilize and most importantly of all, we water. Our hostas grow and multiply. We provide our members with a lot of opportunities to work and help make our Society great. There is no need to be unemployed.

Social media is used to communicate quick thoughts and ideas to our membership, particularly early in the morning. The Society has a Facebook page and we keep the listening membership informed with various social media opportunities and our wonderful website.

Your president continues to be friends with some of the other presidents and our international relationships remain good. We have liaisons with other Societies in Canada, The Netherlands, Great Britain (which used to be in Europe), and Belgium as well as across the nation. Russia has not responded to messages for some time. What did I do?

So as we begin our 23<sup>rd</sup> year, our Society is in good shape. We can and will improve. We might want to see each other even *more* often. We might want to move our production facilities to a more convenient and less costly site. We need to remove barriers, real and imagined, and continue to encourage a diverse group of gardeners to join our happy band.

We need to keep smiling and enjoy what we have.





## AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY

Members receive three issues per year of The Hosta Journal, which includes color photographs of hostas, reports on national conventions, scientific information concerning current research pertaining to hostas, and advertisements of interest to hosta families.

Membership checks should be made out to "AHS," and mailed to:

Sandie Markland, AHS Membership Secretary  
P O Box 7539  
Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

Dues for one year are \$30 for an individual and \$34 for a family. For more information, visit the AHS website: <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/>

## 2019 HOSTA SHOW

### PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES

- all at the Botanical Gardens -

- |            |                                      |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| ✓ June 7th | Set up                               |
| ✓ June 8th | Entry and Judging                    |
| ✓ June 9th | Move exhibits and<br>Open to public! |

A hosta show is a great way to get more involved with your plants

## Hosta Show 2019

*By Dianne Giordano*

Yes, we are in the grip of the dreaded Polar Vortex, but as the hardy Western New Yorkers' that we all are (native or not), we know that this too shall pass. Hosta season will soon be upon us. Some of us are making plans to attend Hosta College in March where there will be plenty of Hosta talk but also multiple vendors with real live Hostas available for purchase. Then it's Plantasia our own version of a taste of spring. Then before you know it, will be the WNY 2019 Hosta Show. Those of us who like to plan are doing just that, and we thought you might to hear what's in store for that show.

As you may recall, we were unable to hold our show last year but are carrying on with it for 2019. We will also implement the ideas that we planned to implement last year in this year's show. Some of the changes are out of necessity and some are just to keep it interesting and fun.

Just to remind you of those changes, we are adding a new special section to include only the Hosta of Year of the Year (HOTY) exhibitions. In case you don't know, these plants are selected annually by the American Hosta Growers' Association based on such criteria as ease of growth, affordability and widespread availability. **The 2019 HOTY is 'Lakeside Paisley Print,'**



*Hosta 'Lakeside Paisley Print'*

The 2019 show will also include a small section of Hosta Design Exhibits. Many of you who attended our Hosta Experience in 2018 were able to enjoy a virtual sea of design exhibits. This was made possible by our own Peggy Reixinger, members of the Lancaster Garden Club and some of our members. Peggy has agreed to help us once again, and we are encouraging anyone who is interested to contact us as there is only limited space available.

Lastly, due to space considerations, we will limit the number of entries allowed per participant. Show information, including these changes, will be available in the Show Schedule that will be available upon AHS approval.



## 2019 CALENDAR

*Subject to addition and change, of course.....*

Sunday, February 24th	Members Meeting East Aurora Senior Center
Saturday, March 2nd	Hosta Breakfast Forestview, Depew
March 15th & 16th	Hosta College, Piqua, Ohio
March 21st - 24th	Plantasia, Hamburg Fairgrounds
Saturday, April 6th	<i>Final</i> Winter Hosta Breakfast Forestview, Depew
Sunday, April 28	<b>Members' Meeting</b> Naylor Creek hosta pick-up East Aurora Senior Center
Saturday, May 18	Hoop House <i>Season Opener</i>
Saturday, June 1	Hosta Tea - <i>TBA</i>
June 8 and 9	Hosta Show - Botanical Gardens
June 12 thru 15	AHS Hosta Convention Green Bay, WI
June 21—23	Tailgate; Bay Village, OH
June 29 & 30	Garden Art Sale Botanical Gardens
Saturday, July 6	Hosta Tea - Brenda Fox Garden
Saturday, August 3	Hosta Tea - Ray Boronczyk Garden
Sunday, August 11	Hosta Picnic Eagle Bay Hosta Garden
Saturday, August 24	Public Hosta Sale
Saturday, September 7	Hosta Tea - TBA
Saturday, September 14	Fall Hosta Forum, Edinboro, PA <i>Sgt. Pepper's Happy Hosta Band</i>
Saturday, October 5	Hosta Breakfast Forestview, Depew
Saturday, November 2	Hosta Breakfast Forestview, Depew

The next meeting

Of the WNY Hosta Society is the

**OH WINTER PLEASE STOP meeting**

**Sunday, February 24th - 1:30 to 4:30**

**East Aurora Senior Center**

**101 King Street - East Aurora 14052**

(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. Senior Center will be on your right next to the fire hall. Park behind, NOT IN PLAZA)

**Doors open at 1:30**

**Program commences at 2 pm**

### PROGRAM

**Hostas: On the EDGE**



H. 'On the Edge'

Growing Hostas

Where Hostas Don't Want to Grow

By: Sue Sickels

### B-MOVIE

**Rhododendrons in the Spotlight**

Chas Wagner

### Plus

**Short business meeting  
& review of 2019 calendar**

### Plus

Refreshments

Door prizes

Hosta box

And the usual fun and frivolity

**Be there**

**Or be square**







# JOIN US FOR THE 26 TH ANNUAL GREAT LAKES REGION HOSTA COLLEGE

## A Garden Symposium Friday & Saturday, March 15–16, 2019

Upper Valley Career Center, 8811 Career Dr, Piqua OH 45356

**Friday evening auction, raffle, vendors and bookstore**

**Friday is open to the general public at 6:00 PM.**

**Saturday registered 'students' receive:**

**Breakfast, classes, lunch, door prizes. Raffle, vending and bookstore open.**

**New this year: Hosta College for Kids, ages 10 - 15 pre-registration required**

**Login to Hosta College: <https://www.ihostohio.org/glhc/>**

**Register to join over 350 plus garden enthusiasts who take part annually!**

**2019 Hosta College Souvenir Plants *(One per registered attendee)***



H. 'Wiggles and Squiggles'



H. 'Diamonds are Forever'

**Registration opens for Great Lakes Region Hosta Society Members: January 26 for only \$42**

**For Non-GLR Hosta Society Members, opens on February 2 for \$55**

**Registration closes February 23 at midnight**

**Login to preview and register for Hosta College: <https://www.ihostohio.org/glhc/>**

**If you are new to Hosta College, click on "Registration" first, then "Site Registration" to set up your password.  
To view class lists, click on "Hosta College," then "Class List".**

**Preview some of the 2019 classes and vendors attending Hosta College next page.**

## Classes offered **Select five classes and one lunch period for Saturday.** **Evening banquet with guest speaker is an optional offering.**

All About Hostas  
 Not Your Grandma's Japanese Maples  
 Things That Work For Me  
 Bonsai Workshop 1- 2, 2 period class  
 Secrets of Shade  
 Advanced Hosta Hybridizing 2019, Breeding for the Market or Not!  
**Let's Talk Hosta** - The Big Picture  
 Alpine and Miniature Gardening  
 French Dirt  
 Native Trees and Shrubs for the Landscape  
 Creating a Living Flower Arrangement  
 How to Prepare a Winning Cut Leaf Exhibit  
**Butterfly Gardening: Beyond the Pollinators' Perennials**  
 Colored Pencil Hosta  
 Growing Hosta From Seed  
 Basic Papercrete  
 Tall Bearded Iris  
 Conifers for Modern Gardeners  
 Pond Building – 2 Period Class  
 How to Compete in a Hosta Show  
 The History of Botanical Latin  
 Secrets of Shade  
 Doug's Hybridizing- 2018 Style  
 Easy-to-grow Natives for a Sunny Area  
 Composting with Earthworms  
 Humane Solutions to Living with Wildlife  
 The Monarch Butterfly  
 Travels With Bob: The Search for  
     Hosta sieboldiana in Japan  
**You've Had a Garden Catastrophe, What Can You Do To Save Your Garden?**  
 Diversify Your Landscape  
 Color in the Garden

Hybridizing Tips, Tricks, and Secrets  
 Proper Installation and Monitoring of Bluebird Nest  
 The Meaning of Botanical Latin names  
 Rock Painting  
 Two Old Friends- My Garden and Me  
 Cool Tools and Accessories for the Gardener  
 Daylilies: The Essential Perennial  
 Soil Tests  
 Hungry Eyes  
 Ohio Native Bees in Your Garden  
 The Hosta Gardening Calendar  
 Growing Hostas Successfully in Containers  
 Hybridizing for Leaf Substance in  
     Papercrete Advanced Molding  
 Tips to Improve Your Garden/Nature Photography  
 The Magic of Plant Propagation - 2 Period Class  
 Getting Started in Grafting - 2 Period Class  
 Margaret's Miscellaneous Minutia  
 New and Improved Perennials  
 Bald Eagles, An American Success Story  
 Tropical Terrarium Gardens I  
 Trees: The Backbone of the Landscape, the Top '100'  
 Species for the Midwest  
 365 Days of Bloom / Plants that Reliably Bloom  
     in the Late Fall and Winter  
 Backyard Bats  
 Tropical Terrarium Gardens II  
 Tip Toe Through the Garden  
 Miniature Hosta Gardening  
 So You Want to Go into the Hosta Business  
 Trillium: More Than Just the White One  
 The Ins and Outs of Rain Water Collecting  
 Practical Pruning for the Home Landscaper  
 Costa Rica - **A Bird Watcher's Paradise**  
 Color in the Garden

## VENDOR INFORMATION

**(Open to the public 6 PM Friday March 15)**

Benedict's Nursery	Esther/Martha Benedict	Nappanee, IN
Dannaher Landscaping Inc	Dave/Leslie Dannaher	Galena, OH
Green Hill Farm	Bob Solberg	Franklinton, NC
Hollywood Bob's Hosta Farm	Mike Kreuger	Evansville, WI
Jack's Hosta	Jack Barta	Cedarburg, WI
Nature's Art	Debbie Hurlbert-Minard	Howard, OH
Peggy's Flowers	Peggy & Lee Coates	Highlanville, MO
Pine View Nursery	Kevin Collard	Leitchfield, KY
Sandy Miller Pottery	Sandy Miller	Painesville, OH
Soules Garden	Chris Wilhoite/Cynthia Miller	Indianapolis, IN
Stone Petal Gardens	Kathleen L. Zien	Oxford, OH
The Natural Alternative	Fred Williams	Greenville, OH
Uniquely Hostas	Marlene Rosenberg	Elroy, WI



## HOSTA COLLEGE

### Come to Hosta College!

You are not too late to register for the great event called Hosta College, in Piqua, Ohio, on March 15th and 16th. It is a fun filled weekend that includes a plant auction, raffles, bookstore, selling up to date books and an assortment of garden tools, lots of vendors, and classes that YOU select. Registration closes February 23, but do not delay signing up because classes fill quickly. It would be a shame if you didn't get your first choice in the six class periods offered!

There are several 'make and take' hands on classes offered, where you will take home a completed project. Lunch is provided on site and an optional banquet with a speaker, is held Saturday evening in the same facility.

This year, for the very first time, we are offering Hosta College for Kids. Consider bringing your child or grandchild, age 10-15, to participate in classes designed for that age group, as you attend your classes! We want to get our youth involved in gardening. The American Hosta Society has made a generous donation to help defray the tuition cost for students who enroll. Students must be accompanied by a registered Hosta College participant.

All of the information you need is found on the Great Lakes Region Hosta Society web site. <https://www.ihostogio.org/glhc/> or go the the LINKS page of [www.wnyhosta.com](http://www.wnyhosta.com) Remember, if you are a member of the WNYHS, then you are automatically enrolled as a member of the GLRHS for discounted tuition rates. Don't wait, check it out!

Marcia Sully, President  
Great Lakes Region Hosta Society

## Naylor Creek

We have paid for the Society's Naylor Creek hosta order and it is scheduled for delivery just before the April meeting.

Thank you all for settling your account with Kathy so promptly.

We can look forward to some lovely new hostas crossing the continent and arriving in Western New York in the spring.

## Hosta Teas

Following our successful winter 'Hosta Breakfasts', we are continuing with 'Hosta Teas' to help us through the summer.

What is a hosta tea? It is a planned visit to a member garden, usually with light refreshments. The garden is usually open for four hours between 1 pm and 5 pm, **but it's totally up to the gardener.** Members are encouraged to visit during the afternoon, but not for the entire four hours. Just drop in, take a look around and enjoy light refreshments and maybe have a relax to gossip for a bit.

Also, the most successful teas include suggestions for other gardens or places of interest nearby as well as possible places to eat.

Members are invited via flyer and newsletter and **reminders are sent by HOSTA FLASH.** It's just a nice bit of socializing between meetings and a great chance to nose around a garden.

So far this year, we have TWO gardens lined up and we are looking for invitations for JUNE and for SEPTEMBER. If you have not yet hosted a tea and would like to give it a try, please contact: Mike Shadrack - [H8staman@aol.com](mailto:H8staman@aol.com)

As mentioned, we DO have two gardens lined up this year and we promise you'll have a fabulous experience

*And thank you!*

The dates for 2019 are:

Saturday, June 1 - TBA (might even be May!)

Saturday, July 6th - the garden of Brenda Fox  
- Details to come

Saturday, August 3rd - the garden of Ray Boronczyk - Details to come

Saturday, September 7 - TBA



## FEBRUARY MEETING

We need the following for the February meeting

### **Yummies for our Tum mies**

#### Volunteers to bring desserts/refreshments

We like to keep the coffee and soda available at our meetings along with the cookies and more.

If you are able to bring something along to add to the hosta-tality table, please call

PAT GURNEY-716-649-7780 or

gpdchestnut@aol.com

And **YOU**

Make sure you come—and bring a friend!

## Open Garden Book

If she has not already done so, Marcia Sully, who is presently caring for her succulent collection in Florida, will be telephoning you soon to ask you if you are surviving the winter happily and whether or not you would like your garden included in the 2019 Western New York, Hosta, Daylily and Iris Open Garden Book. If she leaves a message on your phone please be courteous and return it, even if it is only to say 'no thank you'. **Please note... she will be calling from a '239' area code.... Not a telemarker—promise!**

## Buffalo-Style Gardens

The long-anticipated book is published and it is FABULOUS.



Featuring that particular style of garden that is uniquely Western New York's, many of our members' gardens are prominent throughout (Shadrack, Sheehan, Sully, Kreutzer, Whittemore to name a few).

We will have a few books for sale at the meeting - and with any luck - an author to sign them.

**\$24.95**

### **"Take the adventure, heed the call...."**

As the saying goes.... They may not have speaking of the HOOP HOUSE, but we are. The hostas in the hoop house in Orchard Park are growing magnificently, but it takes work to get them there.... Dividing, fertilizing, watering, primping, sorting, labeling... you name it. So when the HOSTA FLASHES start calling for volunteers to work - please come. It's camaraderie and you'll learn a lot.

### **This year's FALL HOSTA FORUM**

September 14th, 2019

"Come along and join the fun...."

**Sgt. Pepper's Happy Hosta Band**

## ANNUALS IN YOUR PERENNIAL GARDEN

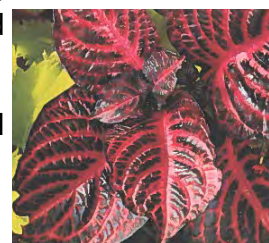
By Pat Gurney

This past July, I participated in the OPEN GARDEN event, sponsored by Gardens Buffalo Niagara. What does that mean? Well, every Thursday and Friday in July during 2018, my gardens were open to anyone who chose to come and walk through them. I was apprehensive at first, but gardeners are generally delightful people with many positive comments and many questions!

One comment that I heard several times was how surprised people were to see so many annuals interspersed with my sunny perennials and in the shady hosta areas. I use annuals, planted in the ground, or used in containers to:

1. Add color to shady areas (coleus, caladiums, iresine)
2. Fill in when some perennials are done blooming (cosmos, cleome, gomphrena)
3. Add height in an area or just to add interest (like colocasia)

Some annuals I always use: Iresine, begonias (rex, reiger and wax types), lobelia, torenia, caladiums, perilla, cleome, lysmachia, colocasia (coffee cups), gomphrena, dusty miller, cosmos, strobilanthes (Persian shield), Coleus (I like 'Campfire', 'Kong', 'Electric Lime', 'Lava Rose', 'Kingswood Torch', 'Smallwood Drive'.



So, give annuals a try! They will light up your garden.



## Western NY Hosta Society

Mike Shadrack, President  
8399 Zimmerman Road  
Hamburg, NY 14075  
H8staman@aol.com

**We're on the web**  
**Www.wnyhosta.com**

Next Meeting: February 24th

Mid-Winter Meeting

### SUM and Substance

The Board of the Western New York Hosta Society is working hard to keep account of all the Society's assets. Included among them are Sum and Substance. No, I don't have the punctuation wrong. In this case it is not 'Sum and Substance'

Several years ago we moved the hoop house (our biggest asset) on to land owned by Lasting Dreams Daylilies in Orchard Park. The hoop house is where we keep and grow all the hostas we acquire (more assets) and then sell at our annual sale. These hostas are important and the sale is our biggest source of income. The facility itself is distant from the water supply and also, that water is well water and is all owners Anthony and Carole Haj have to keep their thousands of daylilies and daylily seedlings alive and flourishing.

We had to make arrangements to save and to store water near the hoop house so that we could water our plants in times of drought. We invented several ways of doing this, but chief among them is a large tub used as a rain barrel. It is impossible, we eventually agreed, to fix guttering to a hoop house. So, we have half a dozen smaller plastic trays, measuring about 24 by 18 inches and 8 inches deep. These are put on the ground around the hoop house to collect rain water. This water is then tipped into the rain barrel until the rain barrel is full. It is easy enough to fill a watering can from the barrel and water our precious plants.

A problem arose before the barrel was halfway full. Mosquitos. The barrel quickly became home to many mosquito larvae and no one wants to have an infestation of mosquitos especially as the solution is so simple.

Sum and Substance. The Society invested in two more assets. Two Goldfish. They were purchased from a box store for the princely sum of 42 cents. Yep, 21 cents each. We didn't squander our funds. They didn't look too princely, but at least they were alive. They were slowly introduced to the rain barrel and immediately disappeared. The barrel is about 30 inches across and some four feet deep. We didn't see our fish for more than a week. But, very quickly there were no more mosquitos. They had eaten every one and no more have ever appeared.

Sum and Substance were fed very sparingly with flake fish food and soon became less shy, although if too many faces appeared in the sky above them, they quickly dived. Our problem was solved.

Another soon arose. Winter. We could not leave our assets to perish in the cold and ice of a WNY winter. We bought a small aquarium and set it up in our basement. It was surprisingly easy to catch both Sum and Substance and transfer them to their winter quarters. They were very shy at first. They had been used to the only light coming from above but here light came in all directions except from below. The answer was some aquatic plants in which they could hide. Pat Boissonneault, our very active member from Maine, sent plants from her home aquarium and both these and the fish are flourishing.

I am anticipating some protests from the fish when they are dumped back into the rain barrel in the spring but they have a job to do. They are not sleeping assets.

