

Hosta la Vista



Until we meet again

February '20

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There is a lot of talk nowadays about de-cluttering and downsizing. Normally it is applied to the house and its contents but it can equally be applied to the back yard garden.

We first started thinking about the concept **when we were researching the 'Book of Little Hostas'** As we looked at the little hostas we realized that it was not just hostas they were being produced in smaller sizes but lots of garden plants. There was a trend out there. Why was that we wondered? We decided that as gardeners inevitably grow older, energy levels, income and enthusiasm all begin to drop. Making the garden smaller is the obvious answer and if the space reduces so does the collection of plants. Unless of course the plants that we grow can be smaller versions. That way we can still collect and enjoy a large variety of hostas.

There often comes a time when we look at the garden, planned and created years ago, and wonder if we still have the energy to care for it for another season. A smaller garden is certainly easier to maintain than a large one. There is less weeding to be done; less mulch to be laid; less raking to be completed, before the first snows.

Maybe we should also consider decluttering the garden. Make room for the plants we really enjoy - **the ones that "spark joy"** and



remove some of those that have lost their allure.

Many years ago I read a magazine article by Sir Roy Strong, an English art historian, museum director and landscape gardener. In the article he suggested that most folks design a garden - or let one emerge over a period of time - and once accomplished, they change very little of its structure. Sometimes little extras are added; perhaps a new flower bed emerges, but the original basic planting is just left alone.

Except that most plants get bigger and maybe overfill the space originally allocated to them. Sir Roy said that, even in the best gardens, after years of growth there comes a time when changes should be made.

Shrubs that have grown unfettered need to be cut back or even removed and replaced by smaller examples. Trees that were once small and pretty have often grown tall, fat and ugly. They are not as compact as when they were first planted and they have changed the balance of the garden, changed what can be seen of the original design or landscape idea. Often they have begun to block the view that was so admired a few years ago. They need to go and be replaced by smaller examples that

better reflect how the garden was meant to look and open up the vistas.

Folks often refresh to family room by changing the drapes, the kitchen by adding different cupboard doors. Maybe the garden should be considered in the same way.

Another slightly bizarre element of downsizing comes with the deer fence. When, over time, we originally constructed and arranged the various deer fences, we placed them way behind our gardens and flower beds so that they would not be seen when looking at the flowers. Now they are old, falling apart and easily brushed aside by an advancing deer they need to be replaced.

At more than \$1.00 a foot it seems foolish to guard huge areas behind the gardens that are not cultivated. The new and repaired fences have been brought closer to the gardens and are therefore both cheaper and shorter. **The additional benefit is that it doesn't take nearly so long to 'ride the fences'** and be sure that everything is in order.

Mike Shadrack - President





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/>

POTPOURRI

(These interesting hosta tidbits are republished from the Michigan Hosta Society Newsletter Hosta Happenings - Volume 29, No. 4 - and are courtesy of Don Rawson, who will be one of our speakers at the Fall Hosta Forum.)

The longest registered name is H. 'Crows Landing Rippled Truffles', registered by P. Stygall in 2011. The name has 27 letters. The ICNCP requires that all names consist of no more than 30 characters.

On another note, the most difficult-to-spell registered name is 'Academy Brobdingnagian Viridity', an introduction registered by Steve Chamberlain in 2006. *Steve is our speaker at the February meeting.*

Hostas are the most widely sold perennial in the United States!

The American Hosta Society was founded by Alex Summers in 1969.

The first year in which hostas were registered was in 1969. That year, four hostas were registered: 'Golden Nugget', 'Midwest Gold', 'Rough Waters', and 'Roundabout'. The first three are still available from various retailers.

HOSTA OF THE YEAR 2020

The American Hosta Growers Association has selected H. 'Dancing Queen' as the 2020 Hosta of the Year.



To be selected as the Hosta of the Year, the cultivar must be a proven good garden plant in all regions of the country and must be readily available to the public at reasonable prices.

H. 'Dancing Queen' certainly fits those criteria. A spectacular medium-sized gold hosta with nice full spreading form and lightly ruffled leaves, it was registered by Kent Terpening in 2005. It is a seedling of H. 'Split Personality'. It begins the season as a bright gold hosta but the leaves will go to pale yellow as the season progresses. It is a strong grower that should do well in our locality. Give it a try if you do not already grow it.

We take special pride in the selection of H. 'Dancing Queen' as the hosta of the year as hybridizer and registrant Kent Terpening was a member of our Society when he bred this wonderful cultivar.

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 to all who paid 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.

The next meeting
Of the WNY Hosta Society is the

BORED WITH WINTER meeting

Sunday, February 16th - 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

Steve Chamberlain
HOSTAS FROM SEED

B-MOVIE

2020 Naylor Creek Hostas
Sue Sickels

Plus

Short business meeting
& review of 2020 calendar

Plus

Refreshments

Door prizes

Hosta bux

And the usual fun and frivolity

**Be there
Or be square**

Someone once said, "...if you are not growing hostas from seed, you are growing secondhand plants." Interesting.

Come hear from an expert on how to grow your OWN perfectly unique hostas.

Starting from Scratch:

A Practical Narrative
on Growing Hostas from Seed

Steven Craig Chamberlain
Scientific Editor, *The Hosta Journal*

New hostas come from sports - but also from **hybridizing (today's topic)**. Since hostas almost never come true from seed, collecting and germinating seeds, growing seedlings, and planting them in the garden is an adventure of sorts. Deciding what to save and what to cull can be a bit stressful. Disposing of your rejected seedlings, if done sensitively, can reduce the stress of culling. This talk will hit the high points of this process, focus in on sometime problematic places in the sequence, and provide time for lots of questions.

OUR SPEAKER : STEVEN CRAIG CHAMBERLAIN

Scientific Editor, *The Hosta Journal*

Dr. Steven C. Chamberlain is a native of Everett, Pennsylvania. He was educated at MIT, earning a **bachelor's degree in electrical engineering with a minor in mineralogy**. He earned a PhD in neuroscience at Syracuse University. He acquired his love of horticulture from his two grandmothers and his mother, all of whom were avid gardeners. After 30 years as a university faculty member, he retired in 2006 to focus on his interests in horticulture and mineralogy. Steve is the scientific editor of *The Hosta Journal* for the American Hosta Society and is a prolific hosta hybridizer having originated and registered more than 80 new hosta cultivars through 2019. He has published almost 30 horticultural papers and given dozens of public lectures on gardening topics. Over several years he wrote more than **100 columns for the regional weekly newspaper, "Eagle Bulletin", called In the Earth, which covered both horticultural and mineralogical topics**. He received the Outstanding Citizen Award from the Village of Manlius, NY in 1999 for his efforts as the Village Tree Commissioner.





HOSTA COLLEGE

It's Time to Register For Hosta College!

You are not too late to register for a fantastic educational experience called Hosta College, in Piqua, Ohio, on March 20th and 21st. It is an exciting weekend that includes a Friday plant auction, door prizes, raffles, a bookstore that sells up to date books and an assortment of garden tools, lots of plant and hardscape vendors, and Saturday classes that YOU select. Registration closes February 29, but do not delay signing up because classes fill quickly. It would be a shame if you didn't get you first choice in the six class periods offered!

There are also several 'make and take' hands on classes offered for garden art, stepping stones, tufas, and other crafts, where you take home a completed project at the end of the day. Lunch is provided on site and an optional banquet, with a speaker, is held Saturday evening in the same facility.

Once again, we are also offering Hosta College for Kids. Consider bringing your child or grandchild, age 9-15, to participate in classes designed for that age group, as you attend your own 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 or just Google hosta college! 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, join the frenzy with other 'hostaholics' for a chance to learn about more than just hostas. There are class offerings for daylilies, alpines, conifers, Japanese maples, cutting gardens, perennial shade companions, wildlife, bulbs, toparies, and so much more. I hope to see you there!

Marcia Sully, President
Great Lakes Region Hosta Society

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 all three gardens already secured! Thank you and we look forward to another fabulous year.

The dates for 2020 are:

Saturday, June 6 -
the garden of Sonia Falkowski, Amherst

Saturday, July 11th -
the Upton Garden - Grand Island

Saturday, August 1st -
the Neeper Garden - Medina

Details as we get into the season - it's going to be another great year!

BEVERAGE SURVEY

At each of our members' meetings, we supply a fairly wide range of beverages to accompany the wonderful snacks and refreshments supplied by our members. Then AFTER the meeting, we take a lot of them home again. In the interest of better serving the membership, we are going to conduct a 'Beverage Survey' at the February meeting. Hopefully, we can then provide the drinks that are appreciated.

FEBRUARY MEETING

We need the following for the February meeting

Yummies for our Tummys

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

ANITA SHEEHAN -716-537-2544 or

eluxlady@aol.com

And YOU

Make sure you come—and bring a friend!

Open Garden Book

Marcia Sully, Judy Johnson, or Pat Gurney, 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 2020 Western New York, Hosta, Daylily and Iris Open Garden Book. If they leave a message on your phone please be courteous and return it, even if it is only to say 'no thank you'.



The local calls have been completed (thank you Pat and Judy), but if you see the area code "239" come up on Caller ID... it's not a scam! It's only Marcia calling from the warmth of Florida....

"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 West Falls are sleeping happily, 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.

2020 CALENDAR



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

Sunday, February 16th	Members Meeting East Aurora Senior Center
Saturday, March 7th	Hosta Breakfast Forestview, Depew
March 19th - 22nd	Plantasia, Hamburg Fairgrounds
March 20th & 21st	Hosta College, Piqua, Ohio
Saturday, April 4th	<i>Final</i> Winter Hosta Breakfast Forestview, Depew
Sunday, April 26th	Members' Meeting Naylor Creek hosta pick-up East Aurora Senior Center
Saturday, May 16	Hoop House <i>Season Opener</i>
Saturday, June 6	Hosta Tea - <i>Sonia Falkowski Amherst</i>
June 20	Hosta Experience - Botanical Grdhs
June 10 thru 13	AHS Hosta Convention Minnesota
June 27 & 28	Garden Art Sale Botanical Gardens
Saturday, July 11	Hosta Tea - <i>Upton Garden Grand Island</i>
Saturday, August 1	Hosta Tea - <i>Neeper Garden Medina</i>
Sunday, August 16	Hosta Picnic Eagle Bay Hosta Garden
Saturday, August 22	Public Hosta Sale
Saturday, September 19	Fall Hosta Forum, Edinboro, PA <i>The Roaring Twenties</i>
Saturday, October 3	Hosta Breakfast Forestview, Depew
Saturday, November 7	Hosta Breakfast Forestview, Depew
Sunday, November 15	Hosta Annual Meeting East Aurora Senior Center

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 16th

Mid-Winter Meeting

2020 FALL HOSTA FORUM **THE ROARING TWENTIES**

Plans are pretty much in place for the 2020 FALL HOSTA FORUM... **the speakers are booked, the hotel is booked, the committee has met and agreed on a few things and we are *ready to go*.** The fervent hope is to have registration material available for you at the meeting.

We have a fabulous theme this year - The Roaring Twenties (with a nod both to that era - and to the decade just started.

As you know, our formula for the event is two hosta speakers, two non-hosta speakers, a Friday night preview night - plus vendors, a live and silent auction and lots of fun!

Last year, the hotel sold out early, so if you plan on going, it's not a bad idea to book right away: call the Comfort Suites directly at 814-969-7000 and select #2 for the front desk. Tell them your with the hosta folk and you will get the guaranteed rate of \$89/night.



We will feed you information as it **becomes available... but put it on your calendar now!**

DATE: Saturday, September 19
(with preview night on Friday, September 18)
SITE: Edinboro University, Edinboro, PA

PROGRAM

HOSTA SPEAKERS

Don Rawson

**IT'S A ROARING GOOD TIME
TO JAZZ UP THE GARDEN**

Noah Schwartz

HOSTAS FROM LINER TO GARDEN

NON-HOSTA SPEAKERS

Tim Boebel

NORTHERN HARDY HYDRANGEAS

John Totten & Linda Kramer

NATIVES IN THE SHADE GARDEN