

Hosta la Vista

February '08

Until we meet again



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I wish I could think.

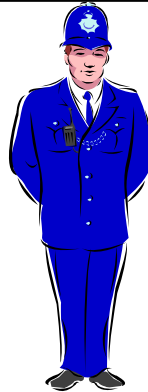
It is good to have January behind us and with the first members' meeting of 2008 almost upon us Spring cannot be long coming.

Well it *would* be across the pond where I used to garden but am I told that here we may have to wait a little longer. Several months in fact. Not so in southern England. By mid February the narcissus, crocuses and daffodils will be in full bloom whilst the snowdrops will be more or less over. The hellebores, bluebells and forsythia cannot be far behind. Ten years ago when a friend from Indiana told me that all he saw in his garden from November to April was the ivy growing up the wall I laughed in disbelief. Now of course I know a little better.

So if we have to wait a little longer for spring let's at least bring a little warmth with our first members' meeting of the year.

We have a very warm main speaker lined up. Our own **Ran Lydell**. Ran has traveled to the west coast often and has amassed a large number of pictures of the Japanese and Chinese gardens to be found in Portland, Oregon. Ran will be

showing us the best of these and explaining how the style of gardening common in the Far East has influenced us here.



February is also the time of year when we begin to look through all those catalogues and think about what additions might go well in our gardens. But those glossy plant lists can be very confusing and **Kathy Shadrack** is going to lead us through the maze in our 'B Movie' feature. It will also be a good time to talk about the 2008 Hosta Finder and take orders from those who want to secure an early copy.

We have a crowded meeting in February. We will be giving members the opportunity to obtain some really good hosta cultivars and very reasonable prices, we will be having a seed auction, the bring and buy table will be active again and Carolyn will want to talk, briefly, about our up-coming hosta show. All these topics get a mention elsewhere in this newsletter.

So, whilst our gardens and

yards might well be in the doldrums at this time of year there is no reason why the green corners of our brains should not be active. There are new beds to plan, maybe in a Japanese or Chinese style because after all that's where our hostas originated; there are new acquisitions to contemplate and order; there are year planners that need to be filled in so that we are more likely to be free to enjoy garden visits, our hosta show and Society activities and there are seeds to plant, nurture and watch over.

Then suddenly it will be spring. We can again get down on our hands and knees and gently feel for those little budding hosta shoots as they tentatively push up through the soil to begin another season.

As for me? I will be lucky enough to enjoy two springs this year. As soon as the February meeting finishes I will be off to England to catch all those spring bulbs and bursting buds. But fear not, I will be back in plenty of time to enjoy your spring too.

Take care

Mike Shadrack

MEMBER DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY

The 2007 growing season has ended, but our Society is asking ALL MEMBERS to think about Spring 2008. Do you have hosta that need to be divided? - large, medium, small, mini, blues, gold, variegated, named, unnamed?????

ALL donations gratefully accepted

Your surplus hosta would give us a wonderful stock base for sales. The more donations received, the more variety we can offer the public and our members.

Look at your plants as soon as they emerge in the spring, so you can dig before the leaves unfurl. We would like to receive your hosta donations as soon as possible, but no later than JUNE 1st.

When you dig, wrap your division (or clump) in wet news-paper (with name - if available), put all your donations in a plastic grocery bag and bring them to one of the drop-off locations. (Locations to be announced)

The Society will pot them and add name tags.

Thank you.

Dolores



2008 HOSTA FINDER

(order now for April delivery)

It's time to place your order for the **2008 Hosta Finder**. Cost is \$13 each. If you have never seen one, this is a wonderful locator tool for that "must have" hosta, along with pricing and brief description. We will have one to show you at the meeting. Most people buy one each year.

ANYWAY - get your order in with Dolores!

Call or e-mail: 693-0376

<dgabo@localnet.com>

DON'T BE LEFT FINDERLESS

The PHOENIX HOSTA ROBIN is no more.

Carolyn Schaffner

Legend has it that the mythical bird, the PHOENIX, lives for a thousand years, and when it's destroyed by fire, rises reborn from its own ashes. Presently, the PHOENIX HOSTA ROBIN returned to ashes, probably not to rise again. Until its last incarnation, as if emulating its own mythology, PHOENIX refused to die.

PHOENIX was born from an ancient HOSTA FORUM funded by the AHS, grew through PHOENIX HOSTA ROBIN funded by its members and an online auction, until a good fellow volunteered to host the forum for free. Now, that host has abandoned the project, and so the PHOENIX should say, "You bet I am tempted to return. But if I am wise, I will suppress the temptation."

PHOENIX invites its participants, and all other folks seeking to satisfy a need for a connection to other HOSTA folks, to join another group. Here is a list of discussion groups, with their web address:

The most popular discussion list, with 524 members, is HOSTA PIXLIST, moderated by Lu Nelson and Carol Brashear, and hosted by Bob Axmear. Enter the website: HostaLibrary.org and click on Bob's welcome message to PHOENIX folks. Subscribers may sign up and receive around 1000 messages each month.

HOSTA PIXLIST, also available at:

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/hostapix/> is a discussion group for those who love Hostas and other plants that grow in shade. Photos are exchanged from hybridizers and gardeners through E-mails. If you love Hostas you will have found the right group! Due to Yahoo policy, if you wish to view the wonderful photographs, you must set your membership to receive individual emails and not digest mode.

Hosta Forum <http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/hosta/> This forum is for the discussion of plants belonging to the genus Hosta, -- culture, books, such as Mark Zilis' soon-to-be-released new book and Mike Shadrack's newest, and legendary hybridizers, such as 93-year-old Alex Summers (see a delightful photo recently sent by Bruce Banyai). Before posting a question, check the FAQ and do a search to make sure it hasn't already been answered.

Hosta Open Archives <http://www.hort.net/lists/hosta-open/> is the mailing list archives for the Hosta-Open mailing list. Search the hosta-open archives acquired since May 1998. It was founded as a freewheeling, raucous and open mailing list about hostas.

Haupt's Hosta Habit <http://www.pal-metto.com/hosta/> This site hosts a collection of photographs, plant descriptions and a message board. The purpose of this Message Board is to provide Hosta vendors and others a place to advertise - buy - sell or trade Hostas. The first time you post you will be asked for a username and password. Just leave the fields blank and click the verify/register button, then enter a username and password of your choosing, being sure to remember them. This is not to restrict access, but rather to let you make sure that only you can delete or edit your postings. Subsequent postings will require you to enter your username and password. You are welcome to post as a guest anytime, but you will not be able to delete or edit. Be sure to check out The Hosta Forum on this site.

The next meeting
of the WNY Hosta Society is the

ANTI-WINTER Meeting

Sunday, February 10th—1:30-4:00

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

**Japanese & Chinese Gardens
and their Influence on American Gardens**

Ransom Lydell

plantsman, hostaphile, nursery owner and raconteur
(it means story teller, Ran, not snake charmer.)

Plus

Beginners corner/"B" Movie

Topic: How to Read a Hosta Catalog

Kathy Shadrack



**Short business meeting
& review of 2008 calendar**



PLUS

There will be a hosta seed auction with quality seeds from George Donsky, Ran and Mike together with those packets of seeds that were left over in November.

Raffles, door prizes, Bring and Buy table, refreshments and the opportunity to order some more brand new hostas at ridiculous prices.

The NEXT Great

HOSTA ADVENTURE

Will be the Great Lakes Region Hosta College—mark your calendars for 3/15/08 in Piqua, Ohio (near Dayton).

This is a one-day event (with a Friday night bonus program) of hosta and hosta-related "classes", wonderful vending room and an auction to boot.

You should have received the GLR Newsletter/postcard detailing the computerized registration process.

It's a fabulous event and sells out quickly. We hope to see lots of friendly WNY faces there!

Check it out at

<http://ihostohio.org/Portal/glhc>

Hosta College Hostality

Hosta College will be at the usual Piqua, Ohio address on Friday 14th March and Saturday 15th March 2008.

The Hosta College class list has been published and this year they are offering some really wonderful classes.

For those readers not familiar with the Hosta College concept is possibly the best available in the whole Hosta World. The Great Lakes Region of the American Hosta Society take over a school in Piqua, Ohio (Near Dayton) and run a Friday evening and all day Saturday list of events and classes culminating in an informal banquet on Saturday evening.

The biggest problem with Hosta College is that they organize over 100 really interesting classes and you can only get to six of them.

Another good reason for attending the College this year is to support your Society. Once again the Western New York Hosta Society is organizing the Hostality room at the Comfort Inn on Friday and Saturday evenings and we will need some help to refill the coolers and replenish the peanut dishes.

For more info, speak to our very own Carolyn Schaffner, the Director of the Great Lakes Region, at our February members' meeting.

Resolution

Well of course, it is that time again! You are suppose to make a resolution ~ "Turn over a new leaf" ~ something like that. You could even resolve to 'SAVE MORE MONEY.'

How silly, you know when spring comes, you will just find some plants to buy! OK, you could resolve to 'MOW THE LAWN MORE OFTEN.' Oh heck! Why bother with that one when there is snow all over the grass.

I Have it ~ WASH THE CAR' ~ that is easy, just put some liquid soap on the top and leave it outside it is bound to rain sometime!

I could give you a bunch more that you could fail to do, but I have a good one for you and it will be FUN! **PLANT THOSE SEEDS.**

The WNYHS is having a hosta seedling contest. There will be fabulous prizes and wide-spread fame for the winners. AND it is easy. Just mix a little sterile growing mix (Peat & Perloam). If you want to be sure your mix is "clean" put it in a plastic bag (no twist tie) and moisten it slightly and microwave it for 7 to 10 minutes. Place in a clean flat, moisten lightly, pat some seeds on top and cover the container with a clear plastic cover. I use a clear Zip Lock type bag.

The seedlings will start in about 10 to 12 days. You can grow your new plants under a florescent light that you keep turned on 12 to 14 hours a day. When your new seedlings are at about the 5 leaf stage, simply move them to a 3 or 4 inch pot.

Be sure to add some liquid fertilizer. **WOW** ~ forget supper, your spouse, the newspaper & all that other unimportant stuff and start sowing seed right now.

Don't have any seed for hosta? Contact Mike Shadrack or Ran Lydell We will be sure you get some "winning" seeds. If you need more growing help contact me at ranbl@fairpoint.net or call me at 716 792-7581. (ed - we will also have seed at the meeting)

OK repeat after me "I resolve"
"to grow",
"some winning seedlings",
"right now",
See you at the contest!

**I RESOLVE
TO GROW
SOME WINNING SEEDLINGS,
RIGHT NOW!**

Ran Lydell



The Bring and Buy Table

This new club feature was suggested to us by Barbara Evans and was first tried last year at the November meeting. Whilst it didn't seem very successful many members enjoyed it and we have decided to give it a better chance in future meetings.

The concept is a simple one. If you have something at home that is garden-related... or which is even vaguely "green", that you don't need anymore and that has been gently used bring it along to the bring and buy table.

Label it with your name and possible a sale price and put it on the table. Any member who is interested in purchasing the article will need to talk with you and agree a sale.

Find your tools, books and doo dads new, loving homes and turn your unused garden items into **BRAND NEW HOSTAS!**



My husband said he'd leave me

If I bought

One more hosta



I'm sure going to miss him

PRELIMINARY 2008 Calendar

We've spent some time looking at the calendar already... all these dates are subject to change, but we thought you'd like a peek....

February 10th – Winter Meeting

Program: Japanese & Chinese Gardens - and their influence on American Gardens

Speaker: Ran Lydell

March 15th – **Hosta College**, Piqua, Ohio

Annual weekend educational conference & plant sale

April 13th – **Spring Meeting**

Topic/Speaker To Be Announced

June 12-14 – **American Hosta Society**

Convention – St. Louis, MO

August 17 - **Picnic Meeting**, Dunkirk, NY

August 23 – **Annual Sale** with Daylily Society

Harvey D. Morin VFW – Center Rd., W. Seneca

September 6 - **Presidents' Potluck** - Boston, NY

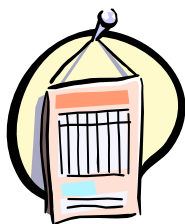
September 20 – **Fall Hosta Forum**, Cambridge

Springs, PA – Featuring: **OLGA PETRYSZYN**

4 speakers, wonderful venue

November 16– **Fall Meeting**

Topic To Be Announced



FEBRUARY MEETING

We need the following for the February meeting:

Volunteers to bring desserts/refreshments -

We like to keep the coffee and soda available at our meetings along with cookies and more. If you are able to bring something along to add to the hospitality table please call Marcia Sully at (716) 992 4994

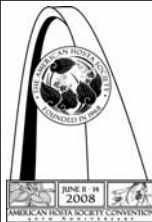
Door prizes

We like to keep our meetings interesting... if you have something we can offer for a door prize, bring it along

YOU....

Make sure you come—and bring a friend!

Scholarships to the AHS Convention



We are not offering scholarships to Hosta College this year but we are offering them to those members of our Society who wish to attend the AHS National Convention in St Louis MO.

The convention, which promises to be an exceptionally good one, runs from Thursday, June 12th until Saturday, June 14th with additional optional tours on Wednesday, June 11th.

Full registration costs \$250.00 and there will be traveling and hotel expenses too.

Details of the convention can be found at www.stlouishosta.org

The WNYHS has made \$500.00 available to be split between those members who are attending the St. Louis Convention. If ten of our members sign up they will each receive a \$50.00 rebate.

Please contact Mike or Kathy if you intend registering.

We will have registration forms at the meeting

OPPERKNOCKITY TUNES!!!

Member George Donsky was kind enough to call the other day and draw our attention to an offer that Bob Solberg is making to Hosta Clubs. Many of you will remember Bob Solberg, who looks like he used to play drums in Zztopp, coming to talk to us at one of our picnics a few years ago.

Bob and Nancy are the owners of Green Hill Farm hostas in North Carolina and on his website:

<http://www.hostahosta.com>

he offers hostas exclusively to hosta clubs at 'wholesale' prices. The brand new plant that he is offering this year is

'Coconut Custard' (Solberg 2007) - ('Blue Cadet' X 'One Man's Treasure' o.p.) Small, (6" X 14") \$30.00

Although that seems a lot of money it is a brand new plant and this is the only way you can get one.

Also listed are other plants that Bob is offering to Hosta clubs a reduced price. We have listed them below. Full descriptions and some photographs can be found at the website <http://www.hostahosta.com/> by clicking on the Hosta Club link.

These plants are sold bare root and clubs have to order at least ten of each. George suggests that our members might like to acquire some of these plants and we agree.

SO please look through the list and if there are any plants that you would like us to order on your behalf please come to the meeting on 11th February with your list and a blank check. Yes a blank check because if we don't get orders for at least 7 or 8 of a particular variety we won't be able to order them. We will sort out the orders and come to you for a check (or the cash) before you leave.

Good Luck.

'Country Mouse' (Hansen) - (Sport of 'Bill Dress's Blue') - Mini, (3" X 8") \$10.00

'Ginsu Knife' (Solberg 2002) - ('Irongate Supreme' X 'Green Fountain') - Medium, (18" X 28") \$10.00

'King of Spades' (Beilstein 2007) - ('Neat Splash' X 'Blue Moon') Medium, (16" X 30") \$12.00

'Libby' NEW (F. Nyikos 2003) - ['Beatrice' X 'Katerina Jo'(a 'Spritzer' hybrid)] - Medium, (15" X 36") \$12.00

'Lizard Lick' (Franks 2007) - ('Pineapple Poll' seedling) - Small, (12" X 18") \$15.00

'Millennium' (Wilkins 1995) - ('Herb Benedict' X 'Sagae') - Huge (36" X 80") \$8.00

'Miss Ruby' (A. Wrede 2005) - ('Katsuragawa Beni' seedling) - Small, (8" X 18") \$20.00

'On the Border' (Beilstein 2007) - ('Neat Splash' X 'Blue Wedgwood') Medium, (15" X 28") \$12.00

'One Man's Treasure' (Benedict, Solberg 1999) - (H. longipes hypoglauca seedling) Medium, (14" X 24") \$8.00

'Orange Marmalade' PP #16,742 (Solberg 2002) - (Sport of 'Paul's Glory') - Medium-Large, (18" X 42") \$10.00

'Singin' the Blues' (Beilstein 2007) - ('Trail's End' seedling) Large, (25" X 50") \$12.00

'Thunderbolt' PP# 12,232 (Crowder) - (Sport of H. sieboldiana) - Large, (28" X 60") \$10.00

'Titanic' PP# 12,402 (H. Hansen/Shady Oaks Nursery 1999) - (Sport of 'Sum and Substance') - Giant, (32" X 70") \$12.00

2008 Hosta Show

Sunday - June 8, 2008

Menne's Nursey

By kind permission of Gary Sokolowski
3100 Niagara Falls Blvd. - NY 14228.

We have a **superb** location for our 2008 Hosta Show and we really need to do our best to make it a wonderful occasion. Not just for those entering leaves but for the rest of the club members and the gardening public too.

Menne's will be hiring a tent for our show but in addition will be giving us close and easy access to, a preparation room, a classroom, a kitchen area and rest rooms.

We will have access to everything we need from Friday afternoon until after close of business on Saturday. They are even giving those members entering leaves and concerned with the organization of the show their own car park!

We will need lots of helpers but even more important will be entries. What good is a hosta show if we don't have a fine selection of leaves to show the public?

For those readers who have not entered a hosta show before we will have the opportunity on Friday afternoon to show you what you need to do to prepare a leaf for exhibition and to explain the entry form. You will then have plenty of time to go back to your garden, cut a dozen leaves and bring them along on Saturday morning.

Continued Pg 7

SHOW - continued

We need three or four hundred leaves to make a really good exhibition and that is less than six each.

Our Show Manager, Carolyn Schaffner will be giving a short talk explaining the show at the February Members' meeting and there will be more in subsequent newsletters and at the April meeting.



THANK YOU - AND WELCOME!

Since our last newsletter the Board have said goodbye to **Mary Walczak** who has been our secretary for a long while. Thank you Mary for all your hard work and good luck with your new career as a trainee Soccer Mom.

We welcome **Anita Sheehan** to the board to add a new voice to our proceedings and thank Board member **Marcia Sully** for taking on the daunting role of Secretary.

HELPERS NEEDED

Do you have some time to help tend daylilies and hosta at the hoop house??? Hoop house is located on Merlau Rd in South Wales.

We are trying something different in 2008. If you are interested in helping, sign up at a meeting or call me (Dolores 693-0376) and your name will be on the 'Master List'.

There will be no dates scheduled weeks ahead of time. Work days will depend on the time of year, what needs to be done and of course the weather.

Calls will be made a few days in advance. If you are available to work - great - we will see you there. If you are not available on that date then you will be called for another time. You will not be forgotten.

Dress - garden work clothes (if repotting, could be messy); garden shoes/clogs (grass could be wet); gloves; and your energy

We always have fun in the good country air! AND you go home with bux.

Thank you. Dolores

There's a new *Hosta Adventure* waiting for you.

Larry Tucker

Back by popular demand, this American Hosta Society publication is packed with valuable hosta advice. This **second edition** of *The Hosta Adventure: A Grower's Guide* has been revised extensively and offers up-to-date information about the "Friendship Plant." Included for the first time are tips on landscaping and growing miniatures. What's more, the guide is illustrated with dozens of dazzling new pictures of classic and cutting-edge cultivars.

First published in 2001, the *Hosta Adventure* was intended as a guide for novices, but it appealed to all levels of hosta gardeners. Over the past seven years, AHS has sold out its inventory of 25,000. Now a new *Adventure* beckons.

Chapters feature basic hosta information, landscaping with hosta, how on buy hostas, planting and growing hosta, propagation methods, common problems and new hostas.

We will be placing a club order... reserve yours! Only \$4



Some New Year Resolutions

- I will treat for slugs early and often
- I will not go *too* far over my hosta-buying budget
- I will dig a proper planting hole for each hosta I purchase
- I will attend at least one Regional or National meeting
- I will wear my nametag at all Society events
- I will work at the plant sale, donate at least two hostas and buy a whole lot more
- Because the hosta is the "Friendship Plant" I will introduce and share a hosta with at least two people this year
- I will take time to enjoy my garden, relaxing with friends, family and fellow Society members.

Thank you Shades of Green Hosta Society



Western New York Hosta Society

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

We're on the web

WWW.

Wnyhostasociety.com

Next meeting: February 10th
Anti-Winter Meeting

A Tipping Tip

Whilst we may have enjoyed a couple of recent thaws in our arctic weather danger signals should have been flashing brightly to all those of us who are over wintering hostas in pots.

The problem with a winter thaw is that only the top inch or so of the medium in the pot thaws. The rest of the potting soil is still frozen solid. If it then rains during the thaw the rainwater that collects in the pot cannot drain away. The result, if it stays there too long, is that it begins to rot the sleeping crown and kill the hosta in the pot.

If your pots are heavily mulched or are kept in a cold but dry area such as a garage or a shed this might not be a problem but any pot outside is likely to be a cause for concern. The solution is to tip the pot on its side. This might look untidy but come spring you will be so glad that you did it.



THEM SEEDS

A few folks have asked what the hosta seeds were that we handed out at the November meeting. They were a mixture from Carolyn Schaffner, Ran Lydell and Mike Shadrack.

Carolyn provided hundreds of seeds from some of her better breeding hosta including a streaked H. 'Little Jim' and H. 'Orange Marmalade'

Ran provided labeled seeds from

H. 'Revolution' streaked.
H. 'Chinese Dragon'
H. 'Alice Gladden'

H. 'Ran's Rainbow'
H. 'Impact' streaked
H. 'Galaxy'

Mike donated seeds from the seedlings that Doug Beilstein gifted us and a whole lot from H. 'Christmas Tree Gala'.

We mixed all the seed up and then divided into piles of about 50 seeds. The hope is not only will those that plant them get some interesting shapes and sizes of seedling but that also some of them should be streaked.

But fear not.....there will be a Seed Auction and you will have an opportunity to get even more.