

# Hosta la Vista

Nov. '08

*Until we meet again*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It seems to have spent a great deal of time in the last few weeks reading the newsletters of other Hosta Societies around the country.



The American Hosta Society runs a newsletter exchange system whereby Newsletter Editors send their newsletters electronically, and sometimes by snail mail, to all the other editors who are in the loop. There is also a web site where the articles, rather than the news, are posted so that editors can download and use them at will.

If that were not enough Hosta Societies around the country send Kathy and I their newsletters in our capacity as Editors of the AHS Members' Newsletter that is produced in February each year.

So, I have been working my way through a pile of publications at least two feet high. It has been a very interesting process. Although the newsletters are very different in appearance they all contain common themes. Some newsletters are twenty pages thick and contain many colored pictures; some are just a couple of pages with just news of the up-coming meeting and a plea to supply soup or brownies. Some clubs organize plant pot re-cycling sessions; some detail those members who are not well and need prayers and comfort. Some are full of advertising; most have few adverts or none.

Interesting common themes emerge in the articles that most of the newsletters include. The big issues

now are Hosta virus X, nematodes, the drought that folks are suffering in the south and soil amendments, but mostly it's about the plants and the people who grow them. Hostas that will be available through membership of a Society are listed. Gardens that have been or will be visited and those folks who create them are written about. Many clubs organize and report on garden visits and bus trips and these are detailed at length.

It is true that a group such of ours is formed by people whose common interest is the hosta and is sustained by the friendships and companionship that occurs thereafter. However, we have to remember that more than half of our membership does not come to our meetings and functions and for them the newsletter is their only real link with the community that is our Hosta Club. So we need to make our newsletter friendly, informative and a *darn good read* as well as an enticement to come and join our adventures. I think we achieve that but it is your newsletter and it is your contributions and ideas that are needed to make each edition better than the last.

You can write a letter to the Editor, you can furnish a finished article or suggest an article that you would like to see. You can send in your pictures (the on-line letter will soon contain colored illustrations.) You can tell us where you have been, or even where you are going. You can ask the experts (we have one or two!) or simply relate your successes and failures. You, the member, need to contribute.

So, we come to the end of another successful year. Our final meeting

will be on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November and do we have a treat for you? Oh yes we do! **Kathy Sisson** is coming all the way from Connecticut to speak to us. Kathy is actually a member of our Society, but this will be the first time she has given us a talk. She has the most amazing hosta garden containing 1500 varieties and she intends to give us a virtual tour of not only her garden but also several others that are near where she lives.

Many of her photographs appear on the Hosta Library web site and in the AHS Journal. We are bound to pick up good ideas from her and are very likely to be adding dozens of hostas to our wish lists.

Please come and join us. There will be a B Movie, door prizes and good cheer. If you intend contributing refreshments to this meeting please contact Dolores Galbo. If you cannot be there please enjoy this newsletter.

*Michael Shadrack*

**President WNYHS**



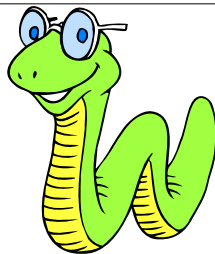
### HEADS UP

Members of the WNYHS will soon be making their yearly calls for the 2009 OPEN GARDEN BOOK.

We hope more people will agree to have their gardens open - and we intend on 'sweetening the pot' for those who visit.

Stay tuned

## Nematodes are unwanted visitors



There are many things that you may want to see in your hosta garden but foliar nematodes are not one of them. Nematodes are microscopic worms that will devour hosta tissue. They live in the plant stems and leaves (and retreat to the crown in winter) feeding inside the tissue. The tell tale sign is the brown dried up portion that shows up on the leaf between the veins. They are more prevalent in hot wet summers and late summer, early fall is the easiest time to spot this affliction.

Bob Solberg suggests that by the time you notice the dead brown tissue between the leaf veins, the nematodes have already retreated to the crown but it might still be possible to see if you really have an infestation. Take the injured leaf, tear the infected portion into tiny pieces and place them in a shallow, clear glass dish. Cover them with warm water and let them sit overnight. Stir and using a high-powered (X 10) magnifying glass or your child's microscope, you will be able to see the tiny worms swimming in the water.

Host plants for nematodes include hosta, begonias and chrysanthemums, so you may never know how they arrived in your garden. Buying hosta late in the summer or keeping them isolated in pots for a season will give you an opportunity to see if the plant is infected. Sadly, most of us don't do that, so if you have nematodes, here are a few things that you can do about them.

Dig the plant and send it to the landfill, not the compost heap. Then plant something new, which is not a nematode host, in the bare spot. This is the only real way to rid your yard of these worms but for most of us it is too drastic a step. We can live with the problem and do our best to minimize it.

Minimize top watering. Wet foliage helps nematodes spread as they are able to travel in a thin film of water. Always clean utensils, including pruners and trowels, in 10% bleach solution after every use. Wash pots in a strong bleach solution too before re-using them.

There are nematicides labeled for nursery and garden use, but they are very toxic to fish and wildlife and must be used with extreme care.

Insecticidal soap or ZeroTol (a concentrated solution of hydrogen peroxide) should be applied when symptoms become evident but these are 'contact kill' and have no residual benefit.

Hosta grower and breeder, Ran Lydell offers the following advice. You should start treatment in early spring. It is a good idea therefore to flag in late summer those plants suspected of

being infected with foliar nematodes that are still in the ground and to isolate totally those that are in pots. In spring the newly emerging foliage will not show signs of nematode damage so marking the plant will help you find it in the spring.

**Spring.** First application – **Disyston** as in Bayer (brand) Advanced Rose and Flower Care, with fertilizer at 12-18-6. It is a granular systemic product available at The Home Depot and elsewhere.

**Mid and late summer.** Second and third applications, Zeritol (one tablespoon per gallon of water).


Fourth application, drench the whole plant in a 25% solution of household bleach.

The order of the application makes sense; fertilize in the spring and bleach in the fall. 'Ran sez' that he is not sure if any of the products is more effective than or if any one treatment might be sufficient, but after this treatment regime the infected hostas show no noticeable damage.

Unless all infected plants are removed and destroyed you will never be totally free of foliar nematodes but the above advice will make living with them in your yard much easier.


*With apologies to Mary Bardens, who wrote the original article.*

### The Gardener's Prayer



Oh Lord grant that in some way it may rain every day, say from about midnight until about three o'clock in the morning, but, You see, it must be gentle and warm so that it can soak in; grant that at the same time it would not rain on campion, alyssum, lavender and the others which you, in your infinite wisdom, know are drought loving plants – I will write their names on a little piece of paper if You like – and grant that the sun may shine the whole day long, but not everywhere (not, for instance on spirea, or on plantain lily and rhododendron), and not too much; that there may be plenty of dew and little wind, enough worms not aphids or snails, no mildew, and that once a week liquid manure and guano may fall down from heaven.

*Amen*



The next meeting  
of the WNY Hosta Society is the

## FALL MEETING

with a program by

# KATHY SISSON

## A Virtual Tour of Connecticut Hosta Gardens

Kathy tells us:

"I am planning to give a virtual garden tour of some CT gardens with focus on my own garden.

I hope to show the gardens of Carol Brashear/Bill Meyer, John O'Brien and many more! Depending on length of program, I may also add a couple other gardens from New England.

Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> - 1:30-4:00  
East Aurora Senior Center

(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.)

### Plus our "B Movie"

#### Geophytes

(aka bulbs, corms, rhizomes and such)

By Carolyn Schaffner

#### Plus

A short business meeting  
and an introduction to the  
2009 Calendar of events.

Be there or be square.

### Hospitality

we need YOU to help with hospitality  
for this meeting. Please contact  
*Dolores @ 693 0376 if you can  
bring something*

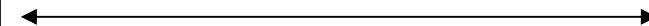


## KATHY SISSON

We asked Kathy to provide a short bio... She says:

I am the president of Tri-State Hosta Society and a member of the AHS, WNYHS, UNYHS, OHS and NEHS. I have been a gardener most of my life and most interested in hosta for the past 15 years. I currently live in Avon, CT where my 1.3 acre yard is chock full of hostas. Though my current gardens are fairly 'young', I do seem to have the perfect conditions to grow 'em BIG! My collection of hosta WAS 1500 (stopped counting years ago) but the number fluctuates with the impulse to add to my collection balanced by the constant loss of hostas to voles. Grrrrr. My garden is being evaluated to be on tour for the 2011 AHS Convention. I am an AHS judge, a hybridizer wannabe and love to photograph hostas.

Pretty good!



### 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.



Park in the lot along the fence to the back corner only.

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 along the side or in front of the fire hall
- ◆ Do not park in the Oakwood Plaza

## A THANK YOU

TO ALL THE MEMBERS WHO WORKED AT THE PUBLIC SALE... THE CASHIERS, THE BAGGERS, THE CALCULATORS AND MONEY CHANGERS... THE SCHMOOZERS AND THE GENERAL HELPERS. WE COULD NOT DO IT WITHOUT YOU! **KUDOS**



**PRELIMINARY**  
**2009 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....

March 20-21 – **Hosta College**, Piqua, Ohio—*Annual weekend educational conference & plant sale*

June 20 - **Hosta Show** - Menne's

June 24-27– **American Hosta Society Convention** – Lansing, MI

August 22 – **Annual Sale** with Daylily Society—Harvey D. Morin VFW – Center Rd., W. Seneca

September 5 - **Cross-Pollination Potluck** - Boston, NY

September 19 – **Fall Hosta Forum**, Cambridge Springs, PA – 4 speakers, wonderful venue

**PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGE**

*We have been going over our bylaws and find that they are silent on the issue of who shall represent our Society at the Regional level. To that end, we propose the following amendment, which we will vote on at the meeting:*

- 1- that WNYHS elect one person for each 100, or portion thereof, members of WNYHS to represent WNYHS at the Great Lakes Region Hosta Society's Board of Directors in accordance with the Bylaws of GLR
- 2- that the Representative(s) shall be nominated and elected by the Membership, and subject to the same terms of office as other Board positions
- 3- that the the Representative shall be a position on the WNYHS Board with voting rights as other Board members
- 4- That the Representative shall attend meetings of the Board of the GLR, abide by the duties and responsibilities of the GLR job description, regularly report to the WNYHS Board of Directors on the activities of the GLR. and shall be prepared to report to the membership at each General Meeting on activities carried out between meetings

**Western New York Hosta Society NOMINATIONS**

—John Walczak

**MUST BE POSTMARKED BY 11/7/2008**

The Western New York Hosta Society is seeking individuals interested in serving the society in the capacity of officer or director. For 2009 the officer positions open for election are as follows: President, Treasurer, Vice President, Secretary. For 2009 there are three board of directors positions up for nominations. If you or someone you know that would like to serve in any of these positions, please complete the form contained in this newsletter and return it to John Walczak, 105 Bernadette Terrace, West Seneca, NY 14224-3803 or

**CURRENT**

**WNYHS Board of Directors**

President:	Mike Shadrack
Vice-President	Ran Lydell
Secretary	Marcia Sully
Treasurer	Dolores Galbo

**DIRECTORS**

Kathy Shadrack	Kevin Plumley
Ann Harlach	Wayne Harlach
John Walczyk	Carolyn Schaffner
Anita Sheehan	

**NOMINEES FOR 2009**

President	Mike Shadrack
Vice President	Ran Lydell
Secretary	Marcia Sully
Treasurer	Dolores Galbo

**DIRECTORS**

Ann Harlach	Kathy Shadrack
Wayne Harlach	Carolyn Schaffner
Kevin Plumley	John Walczak
Anita Sheehan	

*One additional director seat open. Board meets monthly year-round, rotating through members' homes. E-mail correspondence between.*



# Great Lakes Hosta College

Coming up on March 20-21, 2009, the Great Lakes Region (GLRHS) of the American Hosta Society hosts a gathering of approximately 500 enthusiastic gardeners from the Midwest and other parts of the US, Canada, and Europe. This gathering is called Hosta College, and it takes place at Upper Valley Joint Vocational School in Piqua, Ohio.



Hosta College begins on Friday night with several activities. The vending area offers a large selection of plants, garden accessories, tools, and other garden related merchandise. The Bookstore features gardening books and tools at fantastic savings, .

The auditorium and other areas provide visual presentations, talks by garden experts, and a chance to socialize with new and old Hosta College friends. An auction of rare and unusual plants will also occur Friday evening.

Saturday opens with a chance to shop in the vending and bookstore areas. Classes begin at 8:00 AM and students can attend 5 classes that they have chosen from a program of nearly 60 classes taught by a faculty of approximately 60 volunteer teachers.

Midday offers a lunch from a buffet which is included in the registration fee. At the end of the day students take a brief break and then return for a banquet and a presentation from a keynote speaker.

Persons who belong to one of the local societies with membership in the GLR receive preferential registration and a reduced fee. (\$40 fee for members, \$55 fee for non-members).

On-line registration for classes begins in early February of 2009. Watch for further information about preplanning your classes.

If you are interested in becoming a Hosta College teacher please contact me for further information.

**Thank you,**  
**Chuck Olescyski, GLRHS Teacher Facilitator**  
**PO Box 14, Mars, PA 16046**  
[cvoaao@zoominternet.net](mailto:cvoaao@zoominternet.net)

**Have we got a deal for you.....**

Kevin Plumley, WNY Hosta Society Board member, and Regional Vice President for eastern Canada, strongly believes in the value of an American Hosta Society membership.

And to that end, he has made a VERY generous offer....

Kevin is DONATING one new American Hosta Society membership to some lucky WNYHS member!

We'll figure out the details later, but the deal is open to ALL MEMBERS OF THE WNY HOSTA SOCIETY WHO ARE NOT CURRENTLY MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY.

And the only other rule we can think of at the minute is... you have to be present to win.

**Good luck!**

## JOINING THE AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY

Why join the AHS? The question was put to Mike Shadrack who says:

- Well there are three Journals a year. Anyone who has opened a Hosta Journal can see the quality,
- There is an annual newsletter.
- There is news about various regional events around the country.
- There is a website at Hosta.org.com with a private members area
- There are on-line auctions.
- There are many ways to meet some really nice people.

You Join for the Plants - You stay for the People

# WESTERN NEW YORK HOSTA SOCIETY

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

h8staman@aol.com

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

Next meeting: Anniversary Meeting!  
11/16/08– East Aurora Senior Center  
Elections

## Fall Hosta Forum—WOW

On September 20th, almost 100 people from as far away as Michigan and West Virginia attended the 11th annual FALL HOSTA FORUM. This year's Forum was entitled: This Land is Your Land - and featured all things Americana.

The Forum has grown over the years from a small event to the size it is now... and we consider 100 to be the limit. The Forum is a joint effort by the WNY and Western Pennsylvania Hosta Societies.

This year our headliner was Olga Petryczyn - famous hosta hybridizer of huge plants, named after American icons (Niagara Falls, Manhattan, Hoosier Dome). The other three speakers played to the theme... loosely. Mark Langdan of Toledo, Ohio did a fascinating hands-on display of building a miniature garden using mini hostas in a trough—with mini conifers and ground covers to flesh out the display. When he was done, he then turned his masterpiece into a "fairy garden" with a few well-placed whimsies.

Kathryn McGregor is a nurserywoman specializing in Native American plants. Her powerpoint presentation was compelling and beautiful and opened our eyes to the possibilities contained in native plants.

Mark Hanner of Michigan gave a program on establishing—and dismantling a home hosta business. He told his story with humor and with good solid information... and made it entertaining besides.

But Olga was the star. Her program focused on hosta hybridizing, which she illustrated by pulling a couple from the audience.... Donning bouncy antennae and simulating the act of pollination (my you look lovely today...!). She did educate—but she also had the room screaming with laughter!

But wait—there's more. This year we had 8 quality vendors of all types of plant material. We had a silent auction (rocks anyone?), and a lively and fast-paced live auction. There is so much to do in the short time we have.

And as if that weren't enough, many of the celebrants begin arriving on Friday to stay at the

charming Riverside Inn. To amuse them, we have developed a separate Friday program - either a light-hearted speaker or 'games', plus a FREE THEME HOSTA to all.

This year we had a very special Friday night program... an authentic English Pub Quiz (using hosta questions of course), interspersed with the Quixotes—a folk duo composed of Chuck O of Pittsburgh and Mike L, his long-time partner. They led the merry crowd in such staples as "This Land is Your Land" as well as some specially-created HOSTA SONGS (we have permission to reprint one in a future edition.



It's a fantastic time. Going over the comments sheets with very very few exceptions, folks proclaimed this year to be "the best one yet..."

*Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh - but wait till NEXT year.*