

Hosta la Vista



April '14

Until we meet again

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spreading the Hosta Gospel



I have just returned from visiting a Niagara Falls cemetery to help plan a hosta garden. The folks there wanted to plant some attractive gardens in parts of the cemetery that were a little barren. As some of these areas were in shade, hostas were the natural choice and who better to ask for advice than the Western New York Hosta Society. Ambitious plans have been made to plant a large hosta garden this spring

Many years ago the Society gave hostas to the Buffalo and Erie Botanical Gardens and these were planted in the perennial gardens. Those that are still there have grown into fine mature specimens and are very good advertisements for the plant we all enjoy. I am told that a long while ago we donated hostas to the Buffalo Zoo. I wonder if they are still there.

Two years ago the Society donated a large number of hosta to the Olmsted Parks Conservancy and our members helped plant them in the Japanese Garden in Delaware Park behind the History Museum. What better place for hostas than a Japanese Garden as so many of the hosta species can be found wild on the Japanese islands. I confess that I did not visit the gardens last summer to see how our plants have grown but I have put a note in my diary to make sure that I visit this year. I intend visiting during the 2014 Buffalo Cherry Blossom Festival that runs from April 24th until May 4th.

There are hostas too around the pond maintained by the Niagara Frontier Koi Society at the Erie County Fairgrounds. These have grown into very large specimens indeed and several years ago we were asked to dig them

and split them. Sadly time restraints suggested by the Fairgrounds prevented us from putting together a working party to get the job done. Maybe a situation that should be re-visited this year.

Perhaps we should be putting hostas in more public places. Many of us have large clumps in our gardens that need dividing. Donating hostas and giving advice on how best to plant and grow them is an excellent way to spread the hosta word. Two areas that I know that are going to be landscaped in the near future are the Roycroft Campus in East Aurora and the gardens around the historic Williamsville Meeting House on Main Street. There might be many more. I looked carefully at the East Aurora Senior Center, where we hold our members' meetings, but sadly there are very few places there that might cherish a hosta.

If any reader can suggest a public place where a few hostas would look good the Board would be delighted to hear of them. We are willing to approach those in charge and see if it might be possible to plant some hostas. It is a known fact that the more hostas there are in the world the more friendly the world becomes.

See you soon! *Mike*

NAYLOR CREEK HOSTA And ZILIS HOSTA BOOK PICK-UP

Remember

**We will have your pre-paid
NAYLOR CREEK HOSTAS & ZILIS BOOKS
at this meeting for pickup.**

**If you are unable to attend the meeting,
please let us know
and other arrangements
will need to be made.**

THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

If you are not visiting the Chelsea Flower Show in London this year (and many Western New Yorkers are) you might like to make a vicarious visit by attending a talk entitled *'Behind the Scenes at the Chelsea Flower Show – an evening with Mike Shadrack...'* This is a fund raiser for the Williamsville 'Village in Bloom Project' and will be held on

Thursday - April 10th - 7:00pm
Village Meeting House
5658 Main Street - Williamsville.

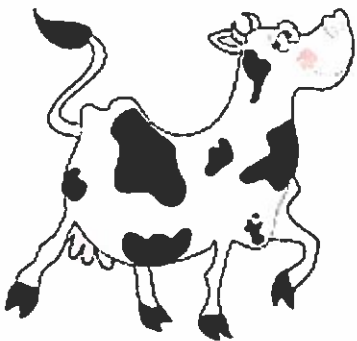
Tickets are \$5.00 at the door and can be obtained in advance by calling (716) 632 4120 ext. 3009 or by visiting the Village Hall, 5565 Main Street.



SPRINGVILLE'S WNY DAIRY/AGRICULTURAL FESTIVAL JUNE 6, 7, & 8, 2014

This year's theme: Thank you Farmers!!

For the past 25 years, Springville has promoted local farmers of Western New York with this outstanding 3 day event. Last year it drew over 12,000 people. The Festival takes over the downtown area and includes non-stop musical entertainment, a huge parade, amusement rides, a large food court, fireworks, health fair, crafts & trade show, and many other contests/events celebrating



and thanking the dedicated hardworking farmer and their high quality, locally produced products.

Go to <http://www.wnydairyagfest.com/>

The last of the season's Hosta Breakfasts makes way for *Summer Garden Teas.*

We held our last Hosta Breakfast of the season on April 5th. We have had a pretty good turnout through the winter and it is satisfying to find that the idea of this social gathering of Hostaphiles is still popular. We will resume them on the first Saturday in October.

Once again three Hosta Teas have been arranged for our members this summer.

Three member's gardens will be open for three or four hours during a Saturday afternoon and members may visit, take a look at the garden and its plants, socialize and partake of some light refreshment.

Hosta teas will be held this year in the gardens of Chas and Karen Wagner, Barbara Evans & Rick Hantz and Mike and Anita Sheehan.

The first is to be held on Saturday May 31st at the Wagner's home, 11274 Curtis Road, North East, PA 16428. *This early date has been chosen especially to showcase Chas and Karen's wonderful collection of rhododendrons at the historic Grimshaw Glen, which should be at their best at the end of May.* A Hosta Flash with directions to North East will be sent nearer the day but mark up the calendar and maybe go to Youtube "Spring at Grimshaw Glen" to banish that cabin fever.

Kathy adds: We will have a handout at the meeting with dates, times and addresses - and we will send out HOSTA FLASH reminders. We believe these "teas" will become even more popular than the breakfasts...



HOSTA FLASH!

Our HOSTA FLASHES have turned out to be a wonderful way of telling the membership what is going on, offering deals, reminding them of events and so on. This is like a hosta/horticultural newsbulletin.

If you are NOT a subscriber, please make sure Kathy has your e-mail address. Contact her at

irisborer@aol.com



The next meeting
of the WNY Hosta Society is the

Spring Meeting

Sunday, April 13th —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

Hosta Gardening
In a DIFFICULT Climate
Lynn Bisschop—Aylmer, Ontario
Shades of Green Hostas

B-Movie

Sue Sickles

“Building a Waterfall -
No... not THAT waterfall, *THAT* waterfall”

Short business meeting
& review of 2014 calendar



Plus



Door prizes,
drag and brag,
hostatality
Fun and Frolic
Spring is almost here



Our speaker is Lynn Bisschop. She has been a registered nurse since 1985 and works full time now as a pediatric ICU nurse.

Although, Lynn says nursing was her first love, when she and her husband, Arthur, bought their first home in 1989, they started to garden, starting small. They soon realized they had found something that they really enjoyed doing together.

One day in 1998, they realized they had 24 different hostas! They figured that was really a lot! Over the next 4 years, they added even more - Lynn just couldn't get enough of all the beautiful hostas. There were so many different sizes and colours and leaf patterns. Some of them even had fragrant flowers!

Lynn's husband joked one day about starting a nursery. The more they talked about it, the more they realized that that was what they wanted to do.

In 2002, Lynn and Arthur moved to their present location, bringing their plants with them. In May of 2003, they opened for business. *Shades of Green* is a small nursery specializing in hostas. they also sell daylilies along with a good variety of shade-tolerant perennials. The goal is to provide customers with a broad range of hostas, both trusted oldies along with the hot new varieties, at reasonable prices.

Lynn and Arthur are in the process of building display gardens for people to walk through and see the plants growing as they would in their own gardens. Lynn says that her fear when she opened was that people would be disappointed that their gardens were so young, but they have had so many wonderful comments from long-time customers as they are able to watch them grow year by year.

Lynn says that her nursery education did not come from a classroom, but through personal failures and triumphs. Some plants have been moved several times before finding the perfect spot. Much of gardening is trial and error. If it pleases *you* and *you* like what you have created, then it is good. I

Lynn belongs to the Ontario and American Hosta Societies, as well as some very informative online perennial groups. She is President of the South Western Ontario Hosta Society which is in it's fourth year and growing yearly! She is also involved in the Nematode research study with the AHS and Dr. Parwinder Grewal at the University of Tennessee

Lynn says that gardening for her is a passion. *“Thankfully, it is one shared with my best friend, Arthur We opened our nursery full time in 2011 and have not looked back.”*

GARDEN GLOVES

Want Gloves?
Special spring offer
Two Pairs of our wonderful
Atlas gardening gloves

Only \$7.00



PRELIMINARY
2014 Calendar

*We've spent some time looking at the calendar already... all these dates are subject to change, but it's going to be a **BUSY** year!!*

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

Sunday April 13th	Members' Meeting, and Naylor Creek hosta pick-up East Aurora Senior Center
Saturday, May 3rd	Members' Only Sale - Hoop House
May 31st	Hosta Tea - Wagner Garden, Northeast, PA <i>Fabulous rhododendron display!</i>
June 12th - 15th	AHS National Convention Cedar Rapids, Iowa
June 21	Members' Hosta Show
June 22	Public Hosta Show - Botanical Gardens
June 21 & 22	Hosta Tailgate - Midland, OH
June 29	Garden Art Sale & Plant Society Ave Parkside Lodge
Saturday, July 5	Hosta Tea - Barb Evans Williamsville
Saturday, August 2rd	Hosta Tea - Mike & Anita Sheehan Holland
August 10th	Members' Picnic Eagle Bay Hosta Garden
Saturday August 23rd	Public Hosta Sale - Botanical Gardens NEW LOCATION!!
Saturday September 20th	Fall Hosta Forum, <i>Damn RIGHT, I Got the Blues</i> Edinboro, PA
October 4th	Annual Luncheon - JP Fitzgeralds Hamburg, NY
Sunday November 9th	Members' Meeting, East Aurora Senior Center

Additional plans are in the works -
 your suggestions **always** welcome.

And don't forget **OPEN GARDENS**, the
BUFFALO GARDEN FESTIVAL and all the
 other green activities that occur during our too
 short season... we'll try to keep you up to date
 (especially with e-mail blasts)



Hoop House Sale

Hoop House Sale – Hurry while stocks last

Thanks to some shrewd planning by the Board, the generosity of Hilltop Farms and sheer hard work by Dolores, Jackie and their crackerjack team of hosta wranglers, the hoop house is full to bursting with potted hostas.

We feel that we may even have too many and so we are holding a ...

Hoop House Sale

Saturday, May 3rd

9am to 12 noon only

Mystic Meadows Daylily Farm

5362 Merlau Road, South Wales, NY

by kind permission of Pam Hoffman

The notion behind these sales is to give our members first dibs on the exciting (and CHEAP) hostas we are growing for our public sale in August.

The rules, there has to be rules! Members **ONLY**. Eight plants maximum per member. Real money, no hosta bucks. The management reserves the right to withhold some of the hosta for future sales.

Hurry while stocks last

Please note. Park carefully and quietly in the road.
 There is to be **no parking** in Pam's driveway.

APRIL MEETING

We need the following for the
 April meeting:

**Volunteers to bring
 desserts/refreshments -**

Please call: Dolores: (693-0376)

YOU....

Make sure you come—
 and bring a friend!

Hostas, Hostas, Hostas.

Despite alarming reports to the contrary, spring will arrive this year and the arrival of spring means the arrival of hostas.

A 'hostaphile' is sometimes described as a person who, in spring, can be found on hands and knees in the flowerbeds searching with fingertips for those emerging tiny tight pips that prove that once more their hostas survived the winter.



Splitting, dividing, potting and labeling.

Volunteers will be needed at the hoop house in late April to help prepare our 'for sale' hostas for another season. Come and learn a little more about the care of hostas and help your Society at the same time. The actual date is dependant on the emergence of our potted hostas. It will be announced at the April meeting and in a subsequent Hosta Flash.

Naylor Creek Hostas

Provided that spring is not delayed on the west coast our friends at Naylor Creek will have sent our huge hosta order in time for distribution at the April Members' meeting. Those members who ordered hostas may collect them or make arrangements to have them collected. These plants will be very recently unpacked but will be bare-rooted and mostly in leaf. They will need potting up ASAP and kept out of the frost.

The Hosta Show



Two exciting events are planned to help the Society stage a really good Hosta Show this year. We need to pull out all the stops, work hard and encourage membership participation. Our new venue at the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens will bring in a new group of people to see our show and they will need to be impressed. We may only get one opportunity to wow this whole new set of visitors so we all want to do our very best.

So, two Master Classes will be held, one in the north and one in the south.

The first will be on **Monday June 2nd at 6pm until 7:30** Mennes Nursery, Niagara Falls Boulevard, Amherst.

The second on **Tuesday June 3rd 6pm until 7:30** at Lockwoods Greenhouses, Clarke Street, Hamburg

The idea behind these classes is to show members how to take a leaf from a hosta in their yard, clean it, prepare it and set it a vase for the judge.

Dianne Giordano and Mike Shadrack will do their best to inform and entertain. Hostas Shows, and entering hosta leaves in Hosta Shows is a whole new way of appreciating hostas and learning how to grow and care for them. Please come along to one of these evenings and enjoy learning how to exhibit hostas in a social and fun way.

The Open Garden Book

The 2014 Open Garden Book will be distributed at the April Members' meeting. It is difficult to believe that this is our ***eighth annual booklet.***

Remember too that every time you visit a member's garden and get your book signed *you qualify for a ticket in the prize draw that takes place in November.*

Please support those who enter their gardens in the book by visiting a few of them this summer.

Audio



Only two members present at the February meeting returned the printed slips seeking suggestions and ideas for improvements and innovations in the way in which your Society is run and organized. A very poor response. Both were exactly the same and collusion is suspected!

Both complained that speakers were difficult to hear and suggested that we supplied some audio system to improve the quality of the presentations.

The Board has researched the possibility of purchasing a microphone, amplifier and speakers. The cost worked out at about \$400.00 for a fairly small system.

Luckily a weekday visit to the Senior Center revealed that at the click of two hidden switches their audio system is available for our use. Result.

The President, however, insists that he will continue to shout at you as old habits are hard to change.

Western New York Hosta Society

Mike Shadrack, President
8399 Zimmerman Road
Hamburg, NY 14075
h8staman@aol.com

We're on the web
WWW.Wnyhosta.com

Next meeting: April 13th

Spring **M**eeting

The Daffodil and Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania
and The Western New York Hosta Society

~present~

A Very Special Fall Hosta Forum

DAMN RIGHT, I've Got the BLUES!

*And you should have the blues too - blue hostas, blue plants...
come join us to chase the blues and embrace the blues.*



Saturday, September 20, 2014
Edinboro University, Edinboro, PA

**SPEAKERS: Don Dean, Rick Goodenough,
Oscar Cross & Laura Deeter**

4 speakers - lunch included

Additional Friday Night dinner and entertainment.

Registration: \$60 WNY/WPA members - \$70 non-members

Contact: Mike Shadrack @ h8staman@aol.com or (716) 941-6167 for brochure & application
Speakers, Fun, Vendors, Auction, Chinese Auction, Laughter, Good Food
www.wnyhosta.com

All the pieces for this year's Fall Hosta Forum are in place and we will have registration forms at the meeting. Our advice is 1) **BOOK YOUR ROOM** and 2) **GET YOUR REGISTRATION IN**. This is the finest lineup we've ever had, interest is high and we'd really hate to have any of our member miss out.

We have two of the most highly-regarded hosta hybridizers in the US, plus two addition speakers in great demand everywhere. All this and plants, plants, plants.

We hope YOU won't have "the blues" by missing this fabulous event.