

Hosta la Vista

April '16

Until we meet again



President's Message

I cannot believe just how good our Hosta breakfasts have become. A group of members gather once a month in a local restaurant for breakfast and a lively gossip. Usually there are about 20 of us but once there were thirty four. A small group who never miss and a few who come now and again as other commitments, the weather and grandchildren allow.



What makes the breakfasts so entertaining, in my opinion, is that attendees (we really need to think of a noun for people who attend hosta breakfasts) are asked to bring with them a 'drag and brag'. Something to add to the table to stimulate conversation. Because the breakfasts occur during the winter months, this rarely a hosta but it is usually hosta or other plant related, but not always. Early this month we were delighted by a small flowering shrub that none of us knew anything about and intrigued by an organic product that introduces fungi into the potting soil to help roots grow.

What we talk about is not important. It is the fact that we talk together is what matters. A group of like minded people with questions to ask, opinions to declare, advice to give and information to debate. Hey, the light just went on! Isn't that exactly what a book club, a church group, fraternal orders and Hosta Societies are all about? Meeting people and talking with them, learning from them and, most importantly, enjoying their company.

Most groups similar to ours, both locally and nationally, have lost membership over the last decades. The pressures on our modern lives have eroded the time available to each of us to devote to something as unimportant as a hobby, an interest or a garden. And even those of us who have a hobby can find out all we need to know from books, magazines and the internet. Google and Wikipedia know everything do they not? More and more folks, it seems, are assuming that because they are able to sit at home and find the answer to every question they ever thought of asking there is no need to make the effort to get up off their butts, leave the house and go and meet, greet and talk to other people.

Putman discusses this exact topic and tells us why it happened and what we can do to change it. The complete title of the book is "Bowling Alone – The Collapse and Revival of American Community". He shows how we have become increasingly disconnected from family, friends, neighbors, and our democratic structures– and how we may reconnect. We sign fewer petitions, belong to fewer organizations that meet, know our neighbors less, meet with friends less frequently, and even socialize with our families less often. We're even bowling alone. More Americans are bowling than ever before, but they are not bowling in leagues. Putnam shows how changes in work, family structure, age, suburban life, television, computers, women's roles and other factors have contributed to this decline. I bought this book and tried to read it. It is heavy going but the theme has always stayed with me.

However good, clever and slick the pages of the internet maybe nothing can replace meeting with other humans and being social.

That is exactly the message that Nikki Schmith, President of the American Hemerocallis Society by choice, and a corporate motivator by profession, gave in her talk at the revival meeting of BADS late last year. She described many of the benefits of joining a group and being part of an activity. We all garden but we don't have to garden alone. Our Hosta Society gives members the opportunity to meet together, socialize together, visit each others' gardens, share information, ask questions of those who know, solve problems and, most importantly, have fun together.

Hosta breakfasts are over for another winter season but there are plenty of other hosta activities throughout the summer for you to take part in and enjoy. It all kicks off on Sunday April 24th. Hey, it is nearly spring. There will be lots to talk about.

Michael Shadrack
President.

April is the cruelest month
.... TS Elliott

In his epic tome, 'Bowling Alone', Dr Robert

YOUR New Hostas

Hopefully your order of new hostas from Naylor Creek and will be available for distribution at our April meeting. They will arrive bare root. So, what to do. Perhaps these tips will help the newer hostaphiles!

Plant your bare root hostas as soon as possible. Given Western New York weather, it might be better to pot them and leave them potted until all danger of frost has passed before putting them in the ground.

Soak the roots in tepid water for a couple of hours before planting. Use a rich soil mix that will drain well (ProMix is a good choice). Dampen it before using it. You can form a small cone in your pot and spread the roots over it. Back-fill with your soil mix firmly, but not hard enough to damage the roots. Add water to prevent any air pockets near the roots. When you finish, the hosta crown should be level with the surface of the soil.

Water slowly but thoroughly. Do not water again until the soil becomes dry. One of the most frequent mistakes people make with newly planted bare root hostas is overwatering. Remember, some plants will emerge more quickly than others. Don't overwater the slower plants because you may cause them to rot.

If there is a threat of frost after potting or planting outdoors, protect new growth with an upside down bucket or pot or bring the newly planted pots into an unheated garage or shed.

Borrowed from the Mississippi Valley Hosta Society Newsletter

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



Anyone Can Win a Hosta Show!



Really?

Sure, why not?

But, I've never even thought about it before.

Let me tell you a story.

Two years ago, we were planning our biennial hosta show. It was to be our first show on the big stage, the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens! We had to put our best foot, hosta, forward. There would be so many people and so much work and planning to be do. And it was only my second experience as Hosta Show Chair. Yikes!

The planning and work went forward with all of those who always step up and make us such a wonderful group. Then we decided to provide classes to our members on how to enter a show from choosing the right leaf, to preparing it properly, beautifully staging it and filling out the paperwork.

So Mike and I proceeded to conduct two classes, one each in the north and south towns. I was armed with my power point and handouts and Mike with his usual aplomb. Did we have have flocks of attendees? Well, no. But we did have just the right attendees. Come show day, all went as planned. We had enough judges and clerks and as many volunteers as we needed. Also we had more entries than ever before. What could be better?

When the judges have finished their judging, there it is the fruit of all our hard work. The winner of Best in Show. This is the very best cut-leaf entered in the show. Our winner was entered by one of our long time members who had never entered a show. She attended one of classes and listened and took notes. On the day of the show, she came with her cut-leaf specimens, was assisted by one of our volunteers to stage her displays and fill out the paperwork. Imagine our surprise and delight that a hosta ingénue had won the coveted Best in Show award. *That's how I know anyone can win a hosta show!*

Once again this year, we are planning a hosta show at the Botanical Gardens. This time we are celebrating our 20th anniversary as the Hosta Society of Western New York. We will plan and work hard again. We will recruit judges and wonderful volunteers. We will learn from our experiences and once again strive to present one terrific *WNY Hosta Show that anyone can win.*

Twenty Years of Friendship, Fun and Hostas

Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens

Administrative Building

Entries will be accepted from 8:30 am to 12 pm on

Saturday, June 11, 2016

Open to the public 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday, June 12, 2016

The next meeting
of the WNY Hosta Society is the

Spring Meeting

Sunday, April 24th —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 1:00

Program commences at 2 pm



Not one, not two but **THREE** short talks
to delight (and inform) us all....

Solving the Nematode Problem
Our June Hosta Show - *How YOU Can Bring
Home a Ribbon*
Photographing Hostas & Gardens

Short business meeting
& review of 2016 calendar

Plus

Door prizes
drag and brag
hostality
Fun and Frolic

Spring is almost here



Save the Date!!

Another wonderful hosta sale is booked for **Saturday, August 20, 2016** Once again, we will be located at the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens, 2655 South Park Ave, Buffalo NY. The Buffalo Area Daylily society and the WNY Iris Society will join us with a large selection of beautiful plants for sale as well.

Of course, this means that we need help to make this happen. That help starts with working at the hoop house. We have ordered lots of new bare-rooted plants that require potting and organization. Volunteer requests for these opportunities will be announced via "Hosta Flashes" as soon as the weather is amenable and we will have sign-up sheets at the meeting.

Then in August we will send out a request for assistance on both Friday, August 19 and Saturday August 20. On Friday, we transport all the plants from the hoop house to the Botanical Gardens. And the sales area is set up, the plants received and arranged. Everything is ready for the opening on Saturday morning. We will also request help with the sale itself on Saturday.

Don't forget, this is the last opportunity to spend all the hosta bucks you've earned since last August.

GARDEN GLOVES

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

Only \$7.00
Get them at the meeting.



NAYLOR CREEK HOSTAS

Remember

**We will have your pre-paid
NAYLOR CREEK HOSTAS
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.**

**PRELIMINARY
2016 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!!*

Sunday April 24th	Members' Meeting, and Naylor Creek hosta pick-up East Aurora Senior Center
Saturday, May 14th	Hoop House - Season Opener
Saturday, June 4th	Hosta Tea - TBA
June 11th & 12th	Hosta Show - Botanical Gardens
June 16-19	Hosta Convention - St. Louis
June 25 & 26	Garden Art Sale & Plant Society Ave Botanical Gardens
July 2	Hosta Tea - TBA
Fri-Sun, July 8th - 10th	HOSTA TAILGATE - Ohio
August 7th	Members' Picnic Eagle Bay Hosta Garden
Saturday August 20th	Public Hosta Sale - Botanical Gardens
September 3rd (tent)	Hosta Tea (TBA)
Saturday Sept. 17th	Fall Hosta Forum, A BOCKIN' HOSTA FORUM Edinboro, PA
Sunday November 11 th	Members' Meeting, East Aurora Senior Center Botanical Gardens

*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)

SPRING HO'S SPRUNG
THE GROSS HO'S RIZZ
I WONDER WHERE THE HO'S RIZZ.....

They're in the hoop house of course! They're patiently waiting for us to come and primp them up for the big sale.

But before that we're opening the hoop house for the Members Only sale on Saturday, May 14th from 10 am to 2 pm. Don't forget that this is your opportunity to get the choice selection before the public sale.

Such privilege has a few rules. You may purchase a maximum of 8 plants. All sales are cash, no Hosta Bux. The management reserves the right to withhold some of the hosta for future sales.

The new location of the hoop house is 6425 South Abbott Rd. in Orchard Park. Please park on the road. Wet ground footwear is highly suggested.

And while we're on the subject.....

POTS AND TRAYS....POTS AND TRAYS....POTS AND TRAYS....POTS AND TRAYS.....POTS AND TRAYS

We could use all you've got. Especially trays. Please bring them to the April meeting or the Members Only Hoop House Sale.

Please donate only clean pots that bear no markings or writing or advertising of any kind. Thank you for your generosity. It makes a difference!

Watch your mailbox for your invitation to join in on the repotting fun. It won't be long now till it's that time again. Hope to see you there!!

WAIT TILL YOU SEE IT!

THE WESTERN NY HOSTA SOCIETY
WILL SOON HAVE A NEW BANNER

LOUD AND PROUD

The Ugly, the Bad and the Good

About Nematodes by Susan Sickels

For years we have lived with and researched foliar nematodes in hostas. Now we have some answers to questions about their biology and control.

The Ugly Foliar nematodes are microscopic roundworms that overwinter as larva in the plants we love. Every spring they wake up with the plant and start their annual migration up the petiole and into the leaves. Once in the leaf these parasites leave behind ugly trails of destruction between leaf veins. Just when you think that you have mitigated the slug and deer damage to our hostas, these nasty nematodes march in to destroy the beauty of our gardens in August every year.

The Bad The Ohio State University and the American Hosta Society joined forces to study foliar nematodes in our beloved hostas in the spring of 2013. They looked at the effectiveness of 23 chemical agents to kill nematodes in a petri dish. Only 4 chemicals were 100% effective at killing nematodes. The only other treatment that has been found effective is to cook our plants!! The goal was to heat a plant to kill the nematodes without killing the plant - a bit risky to say the least!

The Good The research concluded that NemaKill was the most effective and least toxic of all of the products tested. Made of cinnamon, clove and thyme oil, it even smells better than any of the other products. It is now available for sale, but it is still packaged in

gallon containers by the company for use in farms, not gardens. Our Board decided to purchase 2 gallons of NemaKill and divide those large containers into 2 ounce (60ml) amber bottles. The bottles have been labeled and have childproof tops. Each bottle can be used to make 3 gallons of solution. Our Board has managed to make this all available to club members for the low price of \$5 per bottle. NemaKill will be available for sale at our April meeting.

Mike Sheehan treating a clump of H. 'Celtic Dancer' with NemaKill. He had marked the clump with yellow ribbon last year when nematode damage was evident. Now, as the pips are breaking ground is the proper time to treat affected plants. A second treatment will be a foliar spray in July



MEMBER OPPORTUNITY!!!

The WNY Hosta Society has been given a very generous opportunity to purchase potting soil at a very reasonable price. The potting soil is the equivalent of ProMix and is called "BM1". It comes in large, 3 cu ft compressed bales and we are able to purchase at about 1/3 less than retail.

We need to assess interest in such a purchase. Logistically, we will purchase the soil on your behalf and have it labeled with your name for pickup at our hoop house location. Cost will be somewhere around \$22 per bale.

Please let us know **NO LATER THAN APRIL 24th** how many bales you wish to purchase.

Mike or Kathy:

H8staman@aol.com or Irisborer@aol.com

MY FAVORITE HOSTA

By Barb Whittemore

Picking a favorite hosta is a lot like picking your favorite child. Hard to do, as each have attributes that are the favorite at that moment, only to be replaced when the mood or view changes. I found my passion after several attempts at growing the plants of my Minnesota childhood. My Mom always had what is now called a "cutting garden", which included roses, zinnias, dahlias, and my Dad's favorite, glads. Located in the front planter were some variegated hosta that my Mom called "funkia", always followed by "I don't like them". In my first gardens I tried roses, iris, zinnias, to name a few, but nothing really thrived in the shade.

I purchased 3 nameless yellow hosta from one of the kids rather than buy another tub of cookie dough to support a school activity. When they arrived, 3 bare root masses of brown roots, I planted them next to each other, behind the garage. Didn't pay any attention to the spacing, just stuck them in. Three years later, there was a thriving trio of yellow foliage, no weeds under them, and all I had to do was sit back and admire them. Finally, success!

Thus began the great hosta quest. At first, my spouse was not impressed or involved. He started to get concerned when he saw how some were growing quite large. His first question was always "how big will it get?", as I dragged home "Frances Williams", "Samuel Blue", "Blue Umbrellas", to name a few. I would hide the tag, tell him "not too large", and plant away, hoping he wouldn't notice later on.

When the decision was made to plant a shade garden, he was hooked on the idea of hosta playing a big role. Admiring balance and sameness, we came home with 5 "Blue Cadet's", and planted them all in a row. After 3 years the Cadets were now an army, and all that sameness didn't look right.

Deciding to add some variation, "Patriot", "Minute Man", "Diamond Tiara", "Allan P. McConnell", "Fair Maiden" were added and replaced some of those "Blue Cadets". Truly the friendship plant, many were split and sent home with family and friends.

We have many favorites now, from the giants to the mini's, and the initial shade garden has morphed into the entire yard. We left one of those initial "Blue Cadets" right where it was originally placed to remind us of how far we have come and how many more we have to get! Learning that "Blue Mouse Ears" is a sport of "Blue Cadet" was proof that it would grow in our yard. The many sports of "Blue Mouse Ears" are now found in pots and troughs throughout the garden. We keep hoping that our "Blue Cadet" will sport something, but so far nothing.

As for my Mother, she continued to tell me "I don't like funkia", until she actually saw the garden. What a great day when she called from Minnesota to tell me she had purchased a hosta named "Queen Josephine" and planted it under a window so she could see it.

And now, she calls it a Hosta!



The Open Garden Book

The 2016 Open Garden Book will be distributed at the April Members' meeting. It is difficult to believe that this is our **TENTH 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.

APRIL MEETING

We need the following for the April meeting:

**Volunteers to bring
desserts/refreshments -
Please call: Judy (649-2764)
YOU....**

**Make sure you come—
and bring a friend!**

2016 AHS HOSTA CONVENTION

June 15-18, 2016

*The St. Louis Hosta Society is honored and excited to host the
2016 AHS National Convention, "Gateway to the Gardens"!*

Convention Information

The National convention of the American Hosta Society will be held in St. Louis on June 15 to June 18, 2016. The convention hotel will be the [Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel St. Louis](#).

2016 AHS Hosta Convention Registration Form - Register Now!

Download the [Registration Form \(PDF\)](#). You may complete the PDF form online, print, and mail with your payment. Alternatively, you may print out the form, fill it out by hand (please print) and mail with your payment.

(We will have hard copies of the registration form and convention agenda at the April 24th meeting)

List of Gardens on Tours Friday, June 17th & Saturday June 18th

The following Gardens will be on tour for the 2016 AHS Hosta Convention...



**Criscione
Buehrig
Frimel
Honaker
LaFata
Metzler
Plahn
Poos
Weidman
Wolkowitz**

Attending a hosta convention is a great way to meet people, learn and get ideas (and hostas and plants) for your own garden.

And it's also a great excuse to see a new part of this country.....

Meet us in St. Louis...

MIDLAND HOSTA SOCIETY

hosting this year's Great Lakes Region HOSTA TAILGATE

Friday, July 8th - Sunday, July 10th - Socializing, Garden Tours, Hosta Shopping, Auction

Friday kick off: Cherokee Park Family RV & Campground, 3064 State Rt. 43, Mogadore, OH

Hand outs at the 4/24 meeting with full details - or go to:
<https://ihostohio.org/portal/glhc/events.asp>

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 24th

Spring **M**eeting

All the pieces for this year's Fall Hosta Forum are in place. Our advice is 1) SAVE THE DATE AND 2) BOOK YOUR ROOM 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 additional speakers in great demand everywhere. Plus our Friday night has evolved - based on your survey responses we are changing to a vendor preview with pizza and salad and a \$5 voucher for the vendors... at a greatly reduced price.. All this and plants, plants, plants.

We hope YOU will be bop your way to Edinboro for this this fabulous event.



2016 FALL HOSTA AND GARDEN FORUM

Sponsored by: Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western PA and Western NY Hosta Society

ROCKIN' FALL HOSTA FORUM

"I know, it's only rock and roll, but I like it"
2016 SPEAKERS

Jeff Miller

Land of the Giants Hosta Farm

Chris Wilhoite

Soules Gardens

Ron Livingston

Fraternal Order of Shady Fellows

September 17th
Edinboro, PA

Len Lehman

On Rock Gardens

A rockin' great time!!