

Hosta la vista

Until we meet again



July 2023 Presidents Message



Plant them high. Global warming is here to stay and it is worth thinking a little more carefully about how we plant our hostas. Rainfall and heat could mean that our local hosta growing climate is getting less and less ideal.

It is going to get warmer. Hostas do not appreciate high temperatures and that is one of the reasons that they are more difficult to grow in the southern States. Extremely high temperatures can send them into summer dormancy and warmer winters can mean that they often don't get the deep sleep that they need to re-charge their batteries. There is not a great deal that the gardener can do about this problem other than providing good shade cover and allowing what breeze there is to circulate through the hosta beds.

Rainfall is likely to be much more unpredictable. There are likely to be times of severe draught and also times of very heavy and persistent rainfall. With some effort and an element of luck we might be able to minimize both of these predicaments.

We need to raise our hosta beds. Hostas grow best with plenty of irrigation but in an area that drains really well. (Heavy irrigation and good drainage are not counter-productive). I was told years ago by my hosta mentor that it is easier to save a hosta that got dried out than one that has rooted in wet conditions. Our plants do not want to sit in a swamp. We can provide good drainage and prevent soggy conditions by raising the bed into a low berm.

It might not be possible to do this in an established part of the garden but it should always be considered when planning a new bed.

Outline the area, maybe with a section of old hose pipe or rope, and break up the surface to the depth of a couple of inches. Consider some sort of boundary fence, a low wall of rocks, logs or even manufactured plastic or metal garden edging to prevent the soli you are going to add flattening out too quickly.

Take the opportunity to add considerable soil amendment. This can be in the form of well-rotted compost, ground pine

bark, grape pomace or alfalfa pellets bought from an animal feed store. Soak this new area and give it a day or so to settle. Then add your good quality top soil, either from an established part of the garden or imported from a good quality supply, and turn the mix a little. The raised bed you are creating only needs to be fifteen or so inches high at the center and four or five inches at the edge.

Allow the new bed to settle for a few days before planting. This will prevent the decomposing alfalfa from burning your hosta roots.

You now have an ideal spot for planting hostas. An area that will drain well and will not flood in heavy rain. But, now comes the tricky bit. Once planted, water the new introduction heavily just the once. Ideally, we want the hosta roots to grow down into the bed and if we water a newly planted hosta too much too often the roots will remain shallow and not be encouraged to grow deeper is search of moisture. The deeper the root the more able the plant to survive drought. The shallower the root ball the easier the plant will succumb. Sadly, the delicate watering regime required is likely to be ruined by rain. But that does not mean we should not try.

So, that has solved the global warming problem. What's next? Well, August is next and it is a busy month for the Hostaphiles.

We have a hosta tea on the 5th in a wonderful member's garden that you may not have visited. Then we have our public sale with the Daylily and Iris folks on August 12th. This is at a new venue and will require a great deal of planning and help from volunteer members. Our members' picnic at Eagle Bay Gardens is on Sunday August 27th.

Hopefully that will keep us all busy, sociable and smiling as summer comes to a close.

Mike

Mike Shadrack

President

Calendar

Saturday August
5th

Hosta Tea

Saturday August
12th

Public Sale

Sunday August
27th

Members' Picnic

Saturday Septem-
ber 2nd

Hosta Tea

Saturday Septem-
ber 16th

*Fall Hosta
Forum*

Saturday October
7th

Hosta Breakfast

Sunday November
5th

*Members
meeting*

AHS Great Lakes Region Tailgate

Our Hosta Society were hosts for the annual GLR Tailgate at the Hamburg Fairgrounds on Friday July 7th. We were hosts for a previous Tailgate in 2014 and we followed much the same format. Despite past experiences there was an awful lot of planning and hard work to be done so that we could be sure that the WNYHS put on an event worthy of the region's largest Hosta Society.

The date was chosen so that out-of-town visitors could enjoy the Hamburg Garden Walk and the Taste of Buffalo. In addition, 12 members' gardens were advertised as open to visitors on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

After some wet days and even an early Friday morning rain shower, the weather held and the sun shone brightly. We had encouraged a large number of vendors to set-up and the area looked pretty inviting to our visitors. There was much to see and bargains to be had.

It is fair to say the WNYHS Board was a little disappointed at the turn out. The event was constantly brought to the attention of our membership but drew a local crowd slightly less than a typical members' meeting. It had been difficult to tell the rest of the Societies in the Great Lakes Region of our activities. The communication lines were poor, emails encouraging clubs to tell their membership, went un-answered and whilst our web site carried the required information, we have no idea how many folks accessed it. Very few people registered in advance and it was difficult to predict the attendance.

The numbers of hosta folk attending from other societies was much lower than we had hoped. In total we had 81 attendees and we had hoped for as many as 140. But, we must always look on the bright side. We enjoyed ourselves, met some very nice people and the auction was very good. Some high quality and rare hostas were sold to a lively audience and, whilst the two biggest purchasers were both members of our Society, the auction proceeds were very good.

Two Members, Pat Gurney and Judy Johnson, worked particularly hard and were presented with American Hosta Society Appreciation certificates and their names will appear on the AHS digital Wall of Honor. Many, many other members worked really hard before, during and after the event and, whilst Hosta Bucks showered down on them, they deserve a huge round of applause. Thank you

Annual Sale

Our annual hosta sale is the major fund raiser for the WNYHS and it is going to be very difficult this year. We face some challenges and we would appreciate a great deal of help from our membership.

The sale will be held

**From 11:00 am until 2:00 pm on
Saturday August 12th**

But the location and the timing of the event has had to change. For many years we have held the sale at the Buffalo and Eire County Botanical Gardens but they are not able to accommodate us this year. Proposed major building works meant that the basement area was not available and alternative areas offered were too small.

So, we have moved. The Board decided to keep the sale in South Buffalo and as close to the Botanical Gardens as possible. The sale is to be held at

Lake Erie Italian Club.

3200 South Park Ave, Buffalo, NY 14218

The new venue has the advantages of being just down the road from the Botans, has a huge car-park and is nearly as large as our previous location. The big disadvantage is that we are unable to set-up the room the previous evening and open our doors at 9am.

This year the plan is for volunteer members to collect some well grown hostas from the hoop house on Friday evening and take them home. Next morning at around 7am these plants need to be delivered to the Italian Center. We will then have four hours to display them for sale, set-up the room and prepare to open to an enthusiastic public at 11am. Coffee and donuts will be provided. Volunteers from the Western New York Iris Society and The Buffalo Area Daylily Society will be setting up their sections of the sale.

The sale will only be open until 2pm when we will clear up, return the half-dozen unsold hostas to the hoop house and go home for a well-earned rest.

Details of how you can help will be contained in Hosta Flashes a little near the date but meanwhile, all you need to do is tell you friends, neighbors and folks you meet in the street all about it



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:

Barry Ankney
AHS Membership Secretary
1104 Oxford Court
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-5249

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/>

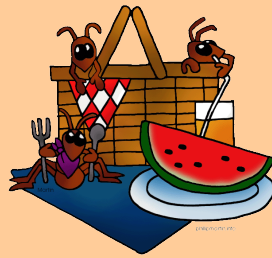
To subscribe for free to the
American Hosta Society
newsletter:

[http://www.americanhostasociety.org/
Publications/newsletter.htm](http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Publications/newsletter.htm)



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Members' Picnic



Sunday, August 27th

The final event of our busy August is the eagerly anticipated Members' Picnic at Ran and Katie Lydell's Eagle Bay Gardens.

Sunday 27th August commencing around 11am

Members' Picnic. Eagle Bay Gardens

2912 Main Street Sheridan, NY 14135

Eagle Bay Gardens is an amazing place and our members' picnic there usually attracts our biggest attendance. The gardens around the lake contain a wide variety of plants, shrubs and trees, some of which should not grow in WNY. Ran's sales area is huge and you are likely to find something new there.

Usually folks spend some time wandering the gardens and the sales area before settling down to food, entertainment and the auction. We have not yet decided on the entertainment but there will be hot dogs and an array of other foods and the large auction, where YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SPEND HOSTA BUCKS. Cash and Checks will also be accepted but not credit cards.

We look forward to seeing you there. Please bring an auction donation valued at \$10.00 or more, a dessert or something to compliment the hot dogs and your Hosta Bucks.

Oh, and wear your name-tags.



Situations Vacant

The Western New York Hosta Society has two vacancies that would suit someone with an hour to spare each week and would be content to work from home. The pay is not wonderful but everyone would love you for it.

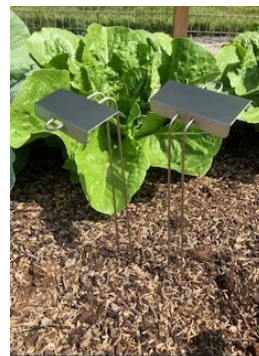
Treasurer. Since Beth left us and Dianne moved on to other roles, Sue Sickels has spent time and expertise sorting out our finances. We will be eternally grateful to her but she has always insisted that she did not see the role as a permanent position.

Our finances are now in order. We need a volunteer who can add up and sign checks. All that is required of the new person is to visit the bank occasionally and pay in our income (mostly subscriptions) and sign checks, against receipts, for the expenses incurred by various members. Maybe one or two visits to the bank per month.

Our new Treasurer would need to report the state of our finances to the Board once a month (we have a proforma for this) and resign their memberships to any casino.

Retail Sales Assistant

Our Society has a tote full of Atlas gardening gloves and a box full of Kincaid Plant Markers that we are anxious to sell to our membership at discounted prices. We would love a volunteer to bring both to our members' meetings and sell them to our members. Once they are all sold, we will decide whether or not to buy some fresh stock. At the moment it is simply a service that we would like to give to our membership.



Marcia Sully, a very long-term member of the WNYHS Board, recently tendered her resignation as our Recording Secretary. Marcia, who organized our 2015 GLR Tailgate, gave us every assistance to run the event again this summer. Now that the GLR Tailgate has been completed, she has decided to move on.



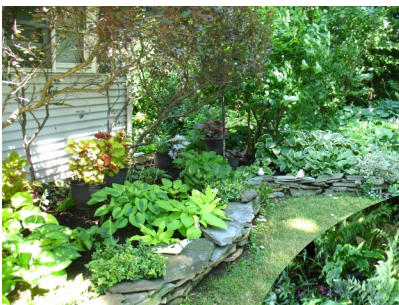
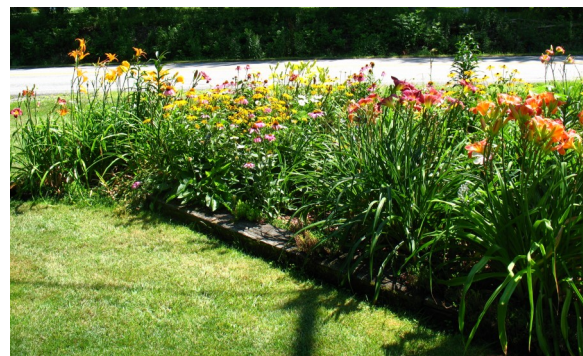
Marcia has not only been an active servant of our Society but she has also volunteered countless hours for both the Great Lakes Region and the American Hosta Society. She has been the GLR President for a number of years and was very prominent in the organization of Hosta College. This was particularly difficult during and after the pandemic years. At the same time Marcia was the Recording Secretary for the Board of the American Hosta Society. (A role she inherited from another WNYHS member, Kathy Guest.) I know that Marcia is very well thought of by the AHS Board who are very appreciative of her talents. She is likely to continue in this role.

David and Marcia have maintained a huge hosta collection in their garden in Eden, despite spending many winters in Florida. The garden has for many years been one of our flagship gardens and has attracted many visitors to the area and not a few new members to our Society.

Thank you, Marcia, for your immense contributions to the WNYHS over a number of years. We all wish you well for the future and happy travels.

Karen Sully, Marcia and Dave's daughter, has for many years been our Web Site administrator. Earlier in the year she informed us that once Tailgate was over, she would relinquish her role and move on to other professional interests. We have thanked Karen for all she has done and wish her well, while we look for a new administrator.

(Photos of Marcia's fabulous gardens)



Join us for a Hosta Tea.

Hosta Teas were invented to fill the space between the last Hosta Breakfast of the winter and the first Hosta breakfast in the Fall. Hosta breakfasts are held on the 1st Saturday of each winter month and it naturally followed that Hosta Teas should also be arranged for the 1st weekend of the summer months.

The pattern that we follow for Hosta Teas is to invite a member with a worthy garden to host a tea. Sometimes a member will volunteer their garden. We often choose a garden that is a little out of the way and which not many of our members will have visited. However, this is not always the



case. The garden is typically open for a span of a few hours that is convenient to the garden owner. Visitors are not required or encouraged to visit the garden for the entirety of the opening hours, but rather to visit and admire during those hours.



'Tea' is a euphemism. Don't expect cucumber sandwiches and Earl Grey, but usually the garden owner provides cookies and/or pastries with a cool beverage.

There are two teas arranged for you to enjoy for the remainder of the summer. One large garden that you may not have visited before and a smaller, exquisite town garden that is ever popular and contains an amazing collection of plants, shrubs and unusual small trees.

Saturday August 5th from 2.00pm until 6.00pm.

Pipe Creek Garden, the garden of Susan and Roger Haskell

7736 Hayes Hollow Road, West Falls, NY 14170

This is a large, winding and undulating country garden with a large collection of mature hostas, perennials, including daylilies and cone flowers with shrubs, water features, scenic vistas and cool shade. Plenty of off-street parking and fairly easy access throughout. A garden not to be missed.

Saturday September 2nd from 2 pm until 6 pm

The Garden of Pam and Joel Rose

310 Woodland Avenue, Parkside, Buffalo, NY 14214

This wonderful garden is very popular with our members and we are delighted to have been invited back. A mini-arboretum featuring many unusual trees showcases both sun and shade perennials. An awning covered deck shelters hypertufa planters and tufa rock planters are also tucked between the new collection of interesting conifers. Stump carvings and unusual sculptures personalize the garden to the home owners.

The Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania and
The Western New York Hosta Society Presents:

The 25th Joint Fall Hosta Forum

September 16, 2023

5 Fabulous Speakers:

Saturday

Bob Solburg

The Hosta Gardening Calendar

Tammy Borden

Garden Design with Hostas

Michael Vaughn

Woodland Plants

Chris Baker

'Coleus—The Hawaiian Shirts of the Plant World'

Friday Evening

Mike Shadrack

For more information and registration forms
[Www.wnyhosta.com/2023-fall-hosta-forum](http://www.wnyhosta.com/2023-fall-hosta-forum)

Hosta la vista



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West Seneca NY 14224
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Hosta Tea 8/5/23
Public Sale 8/12/23
Members Picnic 8/27/23

We're on the web
wnyhosta.com

Annual Public Plant Sale

WNY Hosta Society

WNY Iris Society &

Buffalo Area Daylily Society

Saturday, August 12th, 2023

11 am till 2 pm

*****NEW LOCATION*****

The Lake Erie Italian Club

3200 South Park Ave— Buffalo, NY 14028

(less than a mile from the Botanical Gardens)

BARGAINS GALORE!
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