

# Hosta la vista

Until we meet again



April 2023

## Presidents Message

April is a wonderful time of year. There is so much to look forward to. Warmer days, a greener world and the fact that the joys of summer are just around the corner. For those of us who garden and who appreciate nature's gifts there is even more.



The countryside is at last beginning to turn green. The willow trees are almost in leaf and they will be quickly followed by the rest of the trees, large and small. The leafing of the trees will change dramatically the amount of light reaching the ground beneath them. The spring ephemerals will have a very short flowering period when the earth and air are warmer and the leaves above are not blocking out most of the light.

During the coming weeks large numbers of spring and summer flowers will emerge. Forsythia, daffodils, aconites, buttercups and dandelions will soon turn the world into a sea of yellow. Before we know it, we will be cutting grass, dead-heading and finding a space for just one more hosta.

But wait, wait there is more. This summer your Hosta Society is organizing two new ventures. One is a repeat of a very successful event that we sponsored several years ago and the other is the beginning of a brand-new five-year project.

The Western New York Hosta Society is going to host the 2023 Great Lakes Region 'Tailgate'. It will take place on Friday July 7<sup>th</sup> at the Hamburg Fairgrounds and we will encourage attendees from other Hosta Societies to stay in town over the weekend of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. They can enjoy the delights of the Hamburg Garden Walk "Buzz around Hamburg" and maybe even try local delicacies at The Taste of

Buffalo. We will be arranging for many of our members' gardens to be open for them to visit during the weekend as well as some of the Gardens Buffalo Niagara Open Gardens. More about the Tailgate will be explained at the meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and we will be seeking volunteers to open their gardens and help with the organization and administration of the event.

The five-year project mentioned above is the creation of an American Hosta Society Display Garden in Martin Luther King Park. Several members have already visited the location to get an idea of the opportunity. We are helping the Olmsted Parks Conservancy to create a shade garden in the John E Brent Garden which can be found next door to the Buffalo Museum of Science and the Charles Drew Science Magnet School, just off North Parade Avenue. We are going to need lots of help creating the garden and maintaining it.

To give us an idea of how this garden might evolve we have invited Phil Hollenbaugh from the Black Swamp Hosta Society in Bowling Green, Ohio to come and talk to us at the April meeting. Phil has been largely responsible for the creation of a wonderful Display Garden and is going to tell us how it all worked out.

Just one of the things that I love and appreciate about our Society is the willingness of members to volunteer to help. Well, you will get plenty of opportunities in the next few months and we look forward to your response.

See you there. Meanwhile take care and stay safe.

*Mike*

President

## April Meeting

Sunday, April 23rd

East Aurora Senior Center  
101 King St., East Aurora  
14052

Doors open 1:30 pm for socializing  
Collect your order of Bob Solberg hostas.

Meeting commences at 2 pm  
Short Business Meeting

### The B Movie

The WNYHS Tailgate

### The Main Event

Creating an AHS  
Hosta Display Garden

Phil Hollenbaugh

The Black Swamp Hosta Society

Beverages and refreshments

Door Prizes

Fond farewells

### Directions:

From I-90 - 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 will be on your right. Park behind, NOT IN PLAZA

*The Board and Membership of the WNYHS are very pleased and grateful that Jill Rohring has volunteered to edit and Format our Newsletters*



## THE HOSTAS ARE COMING

The twenty-seven members who pre-ordered hostas from Bob Solberg will be able to collect them at April meeting.

If you are not able to collect your order, please try to make arrangements for another member to collect them for you.

**The Pre-ordered Potting Soil** is also available for pick up

The WNYHS order of BM 6 Potting soil will be available for collection to those who have pre-paid from Friday April 21<sup>st</sup> at:

**Henry's Gardens  
7884 Sisson Highway,  
Eden, NY 14057**

The nursery will be open from 9am until 6pm on the 21<sup>st</sup> and from 9am until 4pm over the following weekend.

Henry's will also have available four items that the Society has always recommended to the membership.

**Ground pine bark mulch**, which is also an excellent addition to compost and garden and potting soil.

**Cedar Wood mulch**, that we recommend because vermin apparently dislike the smell of cedar and rarely make their little nests in the medium.



**Permatill**, that seems to repel mice and voles and can be mixed into the hole when freshly planting a hostas or added to the medium when putting a hosta into a pot.

**Milorganite**, fertilizer and deer repellent. Henry's also have on display their renowned hanging baskets that can be reserved until after the last frost.

## April Meeting

For the April meeting we need the following -

### Yummies for your Tummies

Volunteers to bring desserts/refreshments

We like to keep coffee, water, cider and lemonade available at our meetings along with cookies and more.

If you are able to bring something to add to the hosta-tality table, please call JUDY JOHNSON – the hostess with the mostest at 716-649-2764 or email at wjohson21088@verizon.net

Make sure you come along - and bring a friend.

Remember, finger foods please and remember to put your name on your containers.

**Wear Your Name Tag.**

## Hosta of the Year for 2023

### Hosta 'Neptune'

Another wonderful cultivar from Hans Hansen. A seedling from (H.'Maekawa' x H. 'Halcyon') x H. 'Salute'.

A medium blue-green hosta that at maturity is 24" high and up to 46" wide with pale lavender flowers in late August



The next meeting of the  
WNY Hosta Society is the

## 'Welcome to Spring' Meeting

Sunday, April 23rd

East Aurora Senior Center 101 King  
St., East Aurora 14052

Doors open 1:30 pm

Program commences at 2 pm

### PROGRAM

#### **The Black Swamp Hosta Society AHS Hosta Display Garden**

Creator Phil Hollenbaugh will lead us  
through the design, building and official  
recognition process.  
There will be lots of pictures of the gar-  
dens and hostas growing there.

#### **B – MOVIE**

#### **The 2023 GLR Hosta Tailgate**

Comes to Buffalo  
July 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>

Plus Refreshments Door prizes  
Hosta bux

Bob Solberg Hosta Delivery

And all the usual fun and giggles.

### ***Be there or be Square***

#### **Directions**

From I-90 - Route 400 to Maple exit, right. Ma-  
ple to the end, left onto Main, then second right  
on South Grove ... past the Roycroft to the stop  
sign, then left on Oakwood. The Senior Center  
will be on your right. Park behind, NOT IN PLA-  
ZA



#### ***Some hostas grow strange crowns***

front to back and left to right:

H. 'Prairie Moon', H. 'Snowcap', Feline  
'Snuffy Smith', H. 'Komodo Dragon', H. 'Old  
Glory'

### **2023 CALENDAR**

April 23 **Spring Meeting** East Aurora Senior Center

May 20 **Hoop House Opening and Members' Sale**

June 3 **Hostas and Wine Murray's Hosta Farm**

June 6-10 **AHS Annual Convention**, Ames, Iowa

June 24-25 **Buffalo Garden Art Sale** - Plant Society Av-  
enue Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens

July 7, 8, and 9 **Hosta Tailgate** Erie County Fairgrounds

August 12 **Annual Public Sale** Lake Erie Italian Club  
3200 South Park Avenue Buffalo, NY 14218

August 27 **Picnic** at Eagle Bay

November 5 **Annual Meeting and Members' meeting**  
East Aurora Senior Center

On February 2<sup>nd</sup> of this year Don Rawson gave a presentation on “What’s New in the World of Hostas 2023” at the Made in the Shade Hosta Association, Don is very accomplished in the hosta world. He is a hybridizer, an excellent speaker (he spoke at our 2021 Hosta Forum), and has authored/edited 3 volumes of Hosta information; The Hybridizers Manual, Hosta Theme Gardens, and Hosta Lists.

Don’s presentation was split into 8 groups of hostas being introduced for 2023: Hostas from Walters Gardens (Hans Hansen), Green Hill Hostas (Bob Solburg), Plant Delights (Tony Avent), New Mouse Hostas, Other Introductions, Hostas That Blush, Progress With Hosta Flowers, and of course Originations of Don Rawson.

Lack of space makes it impossible to picture and describe all of the 78 varieties that Don highlighted. Where to start?

This is one from the Bob Solburg order that some of us might be growing this year. **‘Gabriel’s Wing’** is large. This is probably the best of the margined sports of ‘Empress Wu’. Its huge blue leaves sport bright yellow margins in spring. It grows well and does best if given some bright light during the day. From **Don Rawson**, this hosta is a winner from winning lineage.



From the magic of **Hans Hansen at Walters Gardens** two golden yellow hostas are featured. **‘Echo The Sun’** is large, 19”T x 44”W with yellow heart shaped rippled leaves. It has a low mounded habit.



**‘Seasons in the Sun’** is even larger at 28” T x 50” W. It has a very large rounded leaf that are deeply veined and mildly corrugated. The habit is upright.

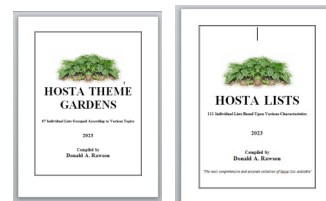
**Tony Avent of Plant Delights Nursery** has created numerous striking hostas. Many of them have been related to ‘Blue Mouse Ears’. One of his newest is **‘Fingertips’** this mini has densely packed, elongated leaves with a blue tinge. It puts on a magnificent flower show with scapes that are just loaded with light purple flowers.. Only 3”T x 12”W, the leaves are cardboard thick, providing good substance.



While this is just a sample, you can also order Don’s books. Hosta Lists 2023 is \$32 + \$7 shipping and handling. Hosta Theme Gardens 2023 is \$20 + \$7 shipping and handling.

Payment by Paypal, Check or Money order.

Don Rawson  
426 9 Mile Rd. NE  
Comstock Park, MI 49321 donrawson1@gmail.com



## The First Hosta Tea of 2023

### Hostas and Wine

Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup> 4pm – 8:30pm



#### Murray's Hosta Farm

4735 Transit Rd, Orchard Park, NY 14127

Please park carefully on roadside verge  
There is limited Disabled Parking thro drive-way

You will have time to admire the expanded gardens and recent renovations.

I wonder if those wonderful cup cakes will be there again.



WNYHS members will get a **15% discount** on all plant purchases

So

**Wear Your Name Tag.**



## 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/>

## *The Members' Garden Directory 2023*

Members of the WNY Hosta Society, the Buffalo Area Daylily Society and The WNY Iris Society have been contacted. The booklet lists those members of the societies who are willing to have members visit and view their gardens. We do not publish addresses just names, geographical location and contact details. If you would like to visit a garden you will need to contact the garden owner and arrange a date and time for your visit.



Most folks who open their gardens under this scheme complain that they get few visitors. Please try and visit some of these gardens this summer. Remember, if you get the garden owner to sign your booklet, at the November meeting you will get a draw prize ticket for each signature. Draw tickets mean prizes



Normally the **Members' Garden Directory** is distributed at the April meeting and available thereafter. Unfortunately, publication will be delayed this year. Compiler and Editor Kathy Guest has had knee surgery and is unable to connect with the computer data base. Hopefully the booklet will be available to the Hoop House Opening and thereafter.

# Hosta la vista



Mike Shadrack, President  
1187 Orchard Park Road, Apt 236  
West Seneca NY 14224  
H8staman@aol.com

Hoop House Opening sale 5.20.23  
Hosta Tea 6.3.23  
GLR Tailgate 7.7.23

**We're on the web**  
**wnyhosta.com**

## 2023 FALL HOSTA FORUM

DATE: Saturday, September 16  
(preview night Friday, September 15)

SITE: Edinboro University, Edinboro,  
PA

### PROGRAM

### HOSTA SPEAKERS

Bob Solberg

Tammy Borden

### NON-HOSTA SPEAKERS

Michael Vaughn

Chris Baker

Registration remains the same

2023

## FALL HOSTA FORUM

# DISCO FEVER

Plans are pretty much in place for the 2023 FALL HOSTA FORUM... the speakers are booked, the hotel is booked, the committee has met and agreed on a few things and we are ready to go. The fervent hope is to have registration material available for you shortly on the web site.

We have a fabulous theme this year - **DISCO FEVER**- just because it's fun!

As you know, our formula for the event is two hosta speakers, two non-hosta speakers, a Friday night preview night - plus vendors, a live and silent auction and more!

If you plan on going, it's not a bad idea to book a room right away: call the Comfort Suites directly at 814-969-7000 and select #2 for the front desk.

Tell them your with the hosta folk and you will get the guaranteed rate of \$114/night.

