

# Hosta la vista

Until we meet again



## June 2023 Presidents Message

July and August will be busy months for the Western New York Hosta Society. There is much happening that will be a mix of the familiar and the new. Memorial Day has passed and with it the curse of a late frost. Our hostas seem to be in good shape this spring and perhaps a little larger than could have been expected with our unusual snow falls and lack of permanent cover. But sadly, I had a few more losses than usual. Mostly in pots, those in the ground did well. I wonder if other peoples' experiences were different.

Many activities have been organized by your Board of Directors and at least one of them will take on a very different format than in previous years. Our public hosta sale this year will be both an interesting challenge and a bit of a worry.

First up is our presence at the Plant Society Avenue on June 24 th and 25 th . The Garden Art sale is always worth a visit.

It has proved impossible to recruit a volunteer for a Hosta Tea on July 1 st due to the close proximity of the 4 th of July holiday. But we just managed to fill August and September.

Next up is our tailgating weekend on July 7 th , 8 th and 9 th . Your committee has worked hard to ensure the smooth running of this event. We have a list of volunteers who have offered to help on the Friday afternoon and evening and you will be approached individually with a job offer. The more volunteers we have, the smaller those jobs will be. Even if you don't have a job on the day, please attend and show those 'out of towners', who will hopefully descending on us, that the Hostaphiles of Western New York are a friendly bunch of lovely people. Currently, numerically, we are the largest hosta society in the nation so it behooves us to put on an excellent show.

Our public Hosta Sale on August 12th will be very different this year. The Botanical Gardens, where will usually hold the sale with the Daylily and Iris folks, cannot accommodate us this year so we are moving to the Lake Eire Italian Club a little further down South Park Avenue. We are not going to be able to set-up on Friday evening so there will be a mad rush on Saturday morning to get our plants into the room, arrange them for sale and have them ready for the public when we open the doors at 11am.

The Society has leaflets available to advertise the sale and its new location and any member who has access to a social media site is asked to mention the sale as often as possible. We are also purchasing some new signs

Wait, wait there is more. Don't forget the Members' Picnic on Sunday August 27 th at Eagle Bay Gardens.

Enjoy the gardens, eat hot dogs and the selection of accompaniments and desserts, and buy hostas at the huge auction where you will be able to spend your hosta bucks on a variety of items including some pretty amazing hostas.

So, we have a a delightful program prepared for the summer please join us at as many of these events as you are able. We look forward to seeing you.

Meanwhile, take care and be well

*Mike*

Mike Shadrack

President



## Members' Picnic

Eagle Bay Hosta Gardens

On Sunday August 27 th Ran and Katie Lydell have once again invited us to hold our picnic at the amazing

**Eagle Bay Gardens,  
2912 Main Street,  
Sheridan, NY 14135  
Starting about 11 AM**

Please join us for a tour of the gardens, the opportunity to buy hostas, hot dogs with accompaniments and wonderful desserts. Lunch will be followed by our annual auction where you will be able to spend hosta bucks on a wide variety of items including some remarkable hostas.

Again, there will be Hosta Blasts nearer the date asking you to attend, bring

something for the auction and perhaps something for the picnic table. The fun starts around 11:00 AM





**Stop the photocopying.  
( We used to say “Stop the presses”.)**

It has been very difficult to secure a volunteer member to host a Hosta Tea on the first Saturday in July because it is so close to the 4th of July holiday.

However, we have had some wonderful luck for the following months. On August 5th Susan and Roger Haskell have agreed to invite us to their wonderful hosta filled garden in West Falls. In September Pam and Joel Rose have invited us to their Parkside, Buffalo, garden filled with hosta and unusual ornamental trees.

The two gardens are very different and we expect our members to thoroughly enjoy their visit to both. Watch out for Hosta Flashes nearer the time.

**THE FIRST STEP ON OUR FIVE-YEAR JOURNEY.**

On a very warm June 1st a small group of members planted the first hostas in the Brent Garden in Olmsted’s Martin Luther King Park. This venture is not intended to be an instant hosta garden but in five-year’s time we hope it will grow into an American Hosta Society Display Garden, the first in Western New York.

With guidance from Madeleine McGrady, Special Gardens Manager, Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, Valerie Szeluga, Vicki Carr and Sue Sickels planted twenty-one varieties. Later in the day Christine Denney helped map the planting to enable us to keep track. None of the hostas were rare or unique varieties and were planted as place setters to see how they perform in their new home. Some of the hostas planted were those gifted to the Society by Phil Hollenbaugh, caretaker of the Hosta Display Garden in the Simpson Garden, Bowling Green, Ohio. The others were sourced from Smug Creek gardens and the Society hoop house.

We will keep a close eye on the plants and later in the season we intend to planting groups of small and miniature varieties in a large, circular raised bed in the garden. Next spring there will be extensive maintenance in the gardens and provided our hostas have flourished we will plant many more in the coming years.

**The Annual Public Sale  
Saturday August 12th**

Our Annual Hosta Sale, held in conjunction with the Buffalo Area Daylily Society and the WNY Iris Society will be held on Saturday August 12th at 11am at

**The Lake Eire Italian Club**  
3200 South Park Avenue, Buffalo, NY  
14218

This location was chosen as it is not too far away from the Botanical Gardens where we usually hold our sale and which is not available to us this year.

The arrangements this year are also very different. Sadly, we are not able to access the location on Friday evening. The plan is that volunteer members will be invited to go to the hoop house late afternoon, early evening on Friday July 11th and load their vehicles with hostas. They will then take them home and deliver them to the Italian Club early on Saturday morning. We will then have a couple of hours to prime them and prepare them for sale when the room opens at 11am.

Signage will be prepared to guide people from South Park Avenue to the hall at the rear of the Italian Club and at the Botanical Gardens informing people of the new location.

Getting the information about our sale, its new location and timing, to the plant buying public will be crucial. We have prepared hundreds of small flyers announcing the sale that we are asking our members, and those of the other Societies, to distribute as widely as possible. (They will be available to members at the Garden Art Sale and at members’ Open Gardens)

Additionally, we are asking members who have access to the various social media sites to mention the sale, day, date, time and place as often as possible. If a member has access to any other form of advertising a mention of the sale would be much appreciated.

There will be Hosta Flashes near the date seeking volunteers to transport our hostas, help set-up the sale, be available during opening times to encourage sales and to help us clean up afterwards.

## So, what is tailgating all about?

Every year the local Hosta Societies of the Great Lakes Region of the American Hosta Society are invited to host "Tailgating". This year, next month, it is once again the turn of the Western New York Hosta Society. The Board are looking for lots of help and membership participation. Many members have already signed up to help and the more that do so, the smaller the tasks they are invited to perform will be.

Western New York Tailgating will be held on Friday July 7th, from 4pm until dusk, at the Erie County Fairgrounds, Quinby Drive entrance. The event will be well signposted.

The reason for choosing the July 7th date is because we would like to encourage many Tailgaters to stay in the local area for a couple of days. We intend to entertain them royally.

Ten local hosta Gardens will be open to visitors on Friday, Saturday and Sunday July 7th, 8th and 9th. Saturday and Sunday is also the weekend of "Buzz Around Hamburg" Garden Walk. Although we are familiar with garden walks many of our visitors are not and this event received rave reviews after the 2015 event. If that were not enough the Fortieth Taste of Buffalo food fest will be held down town the same weekend.

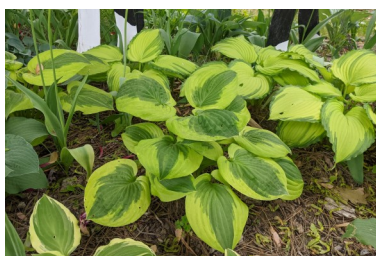
The host society is given complete control on how they will present tailgating, what arrangements they will make and what they will offer attendees from around the region.

We have decided to follow roughly the format of our successful 2015 event.

Our two local specialist hosta nurseries Eagle Bay Gardens and Murray's Hosta Farm, will be open throughout the weekend and in addition we will run a huge auction in which we hope to include many plants established by local hybridizers. There will be vendors selling hostas, garden plants and garden related objects. We will provide hot dogs, beverages and a light refreshment table. (Sadly, alcohol is not permitted on the fairgrounds.)

There will be lots of socializing.

How can you help? Attend, wear your name tag and offer our visitors friendship and Buffalo hospitality. Bring a lovely hosta as a donation to the auction. Add a simple plate to the table of light refreshments and desserts. Offer to do a simple job such as placing the direction signs, labelling the auction hostas, helping our visitors carry their purchases to their parked cars, or being an auction 'runner'.



### Garden Art Sale and Plant Society Avenue Saturday June 24th and Sunday June 25th

So far, the list of volunteers for the Hosta Booth at the Plant Society Avenue at the Garden Art sale in front of the Botanical Gardens is as follows.

#### Saturday June 24th

8am - 11am Marcia Sully, Steve Smith, Jill Rohring

11am - 2pm Vicki Bruning, Chris Denney Joanne Tanner

2pm - 5pm Peggy D, Gin Prunella Meredith Bartek

#### Sunday June 25th

10am - 1pm Sally Johnson

12noon - 3pm Pat Gurney

2pm - 5.30pm Karen Creek

Some more volunteers for Sunday would be wonderful. Please contact Mike Shadrack  
H8staman@aol.com

## 2023 CALENDAR

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

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

August 5 **Hosta Tea** at Susan and Roger Haskell's

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

August 27 **Picnic** at Eagle Bay

September 2nd **Hosta Tea** at Pam and Joel Rose's

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

# Hosta la vista

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Garden Art Sale 6.24-25.23  
GLR Tailgate 7.7.23  
Hosta Tea 8.5.23  
Hosta Picnic 8.27.23

**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

### SHADE PLANTS

Chris Baker

Registration remains the same

*WNYHS Newsletter Editor*  
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2023

## FALL HOSTA FORUM

# DISCO FEVAH

Plans are pretty much in place for the 2023 FALL HOSTA FORUM... the speakers are booked (mostly) 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 FEVAH**- 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.

