

Hosta la Vista

November '22

Until we meet again



President's Message



I wish that I knew, as I write this, whether or not there would be heavy frosts, or even a big snow fall, before this newsletter reaches its readers. At the moment I am working hard to winterize our hostas to be sure that they emerge beautifully next spring. If there has already been frost and snow before you read this, much of what I am about to say will be redundant.

A working party recently put the hoop house hostas to bed for the winter. A white plastic cover has been put over the hoop house shade cloth. Our small working party made a good job of it this year. Thank you all for braving the elements. The idea behind the plastic cover is not simply to protect our plants from the worst that winter can throw at them but also to maintain an equal temperature throughout the season. We don't want our hostas to think that spring has arrived if we have a week of warm bright weather in February. The cover will help do that.

The hosta garden is a different proposition. We can't cover the gardens. Luckily our hostas are extremely hardy perennials and those in the ground will normally survive all that even a Buffalo winter can throw at them without much help from us. The small and very small will need a little more attention. They have small shallow roots and constant frost and thaw, warmer and colder temperatures, can cause them to 'heave'. The action of the weather can literally pull them out of the ground. The exposed roots can then be easily damaged by the frost and snow and the

plant can die. To prevent this, they need to be covered with some form of mulch before the freezing temperatures and the snowfall arrive. Over the years I have successfully used ground pine bark, compost, a thick layer of leaves, 'Yellow Bag' top soil and pea gravel. Whatever you choose to use, it is a good idea to mix some Milorganite in with the mulch.

Hostas in pots need a little help to make sure they enjoy their dormancy. Simply moving larger pots, gallon size and larger, to a sheltered area close to a wall or fence is all that is required but those in smaller pots might need a little more.

We used to mulch all the smaller pots under cedar wood mulch. The mulch was packed tightly around and between the pots as well as a layer a couple of inches thick over the top, to deter foraging voles. Nowadays we don't mulch nearly so many, putting most of them in nursery trays and stacking the trays in a cold garage.

Some of our potted hostas are planted in ceramic and terracotta pots. Whilst the hosta is hardy such pots might not be. These are therefore stacked on temporary shelving in the same cold garage. (The truck in out in the elements).

There are two very important facts to remember when putting potted hostas (and other plants for that matter) away for the winter. The first is to resist the temptation to water the dried-out pots until the plants break dormancy and begin to emerge in the spring. If there are no leaves the plant cannot transpire and the root ball will simply rot. The second issue is that of vermin. We have learned that waiting until after the first few heavy

ELECTIONS

Our November meeting is the time of year when we elect our new Board. All of the officers are re-elected biennially and are on the slate for 2024. For 2023, we have four Board members up for re-election and one vacancy:

Board Positions
Ran Lydell
Mike Sheehan
Carol Abendschein
Leslie Murray
Kathy Guest (seat vacant)

President's message - continued

frosts

or snowfall, before mulching or putting away the pots, will mean that the mice and voles have already found their snug winter quarters and will not find a convenient place to nest between your pots and the ready winter banquets that they contain.

GARDEN VISITORS' PRIZE DRAW

Every year the WNYHS produces a Members' Garden Directory that is issued free to the membership. It contains descriptions of the gardens of Members who are willing to welcome members to visit their yards. Visitors are encouraged to get the garden owner to sign their booklet.

At the November meeting each year those who remember to bring their booklet are given a prize draw ticket for each signature in their booklet.

Tickets mean prizes!
Remember to bring your booklet on the 13th



A STAR IS BORN

Congratulations to member Carole Hajnosz who has registered her first hosta seedling with the International Hosta Registrar, administered by the America Hosta Society.

It is to be called *Hosta* 'Powder Brute'. The registration details tell us that the plant is a hybrid seedling that is 60 inches in diameter and 30 inches tall. The leaves, which are 16 inches long and 13 inches wide are nicely corrugated and very thick in texture. They are dark blue in color with creamy white stripes throughout. In Fall the leaves become slightly shiny dark green with white streaks.

The pod parent is H. 'Powder Keg' and the pollen parent is H. 'Brutus'.

Well done, Carole. Keep the WNYHS flag flying.



BOARD MEETING DATES

The WNYHS Board meets monthly to plan the activities of the Society

January 24th
February 28th
March 28th
April 25th
May 23rd
June 27th
July 25th
August 22nd
September 26th
October 24th
November 28th
December Happy Holidays

Would you like to host a tea in 2023?

You can make it as simple or as elaborate as you like... all things being equal, we would like to schedule a garden visit for the first Saturday in June, July and August (and sometimes, September).

Please indicate your interest to: Mike Shadrack - H8staman@aol.com or 716-941-6167

PRELIMINARY 2023 CALENDAR*

All dates are tentative and subject to prevailing mandates

Saturday, Jan 7	Hosta Breakfast - Hillview <i>(adjusted for New Year's Day)</i>
Saturday, Feb 4	Hosta Breakfast - Hillview
Sunday, Feb 19	General Meeting - E. Aurora Senior Ctr.
Saturday, March 5	Hosta Breakfast - Hillview
March 17	Hosta College - Piqua., OH
Saturday, April 1	Hosta Breakfast - FINAL
Sunday, April 23	Members' Meeting - E. Aurora Senior Ctr.
Saturday, May 20	Hoop House - Season Opener
June 6 thru 10	AHS Hosta Convention, Ames, IA
June 3	Hosta Tea: TBA
June 24 & 25	Garden Art Sale & Plant Society Ave. Botanical Gardens
Saturday, July 1	Hosta Tea - TBA
July 7th	Hosta Tailgate
Saturday, August 5	Hosta Tea - TBA
Saturday, August 12	Public Hosta Sale
Sunday, August 27	Hosta Picnic: Eagle Bay Hostas
Saturday, September 16	Fall Hosta Forum, Edinboro, PA DISCO
Saturday, October 7	Hosta Breakfast - Hillview
Saturday, November 4	Hosta Breakfast - Hillview
Sunday, November 5	Hosta Annual Meeting <i>(tentative date)</i> East Aurora Senior Center
Saturday, Dec. 2	Hosta Breakfast - Hillview

And don't forget **OPEN GARDENS**,
the **BUFFALO GARDEN WALK**
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)



The next meeting
of the WNY Hosta Society is the
**FALL MEMBERS' MEETING &
ANNUAL MEETING**

Sunday, November 13th - 1:30 to 4:30

East Aurora Senior Center
101 King Street @ Oakwood - 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
(come and socialize)

Program commences at 2 pm

PROGRAM

"Hostas and their Co-Stars"

CHUCK DOUGHTY

Cochato Nursery - Holbrook, MA

'B' MOVIE

ANNUAL MEETING

Welcome
Annual Meeting & Elections
2023 Calendar of Events
Open Garden Book Prize Draw

PLUS 'C' MOVIE

Robert Olson Remembered
Sue Sickels

Plus

Refreshments
Door prizes
Hosta bux
And the usual fun and frivolity

**BE THERE
OR BE SQUARE**



Our Speaker Chuck Doughty



"Hostas and Their Co-Stars"

This presentation by Charles (Chuck) Doughty will walk you through [Cochato Nursery display garden](#) demonstrating the original design concepts and the progression through ever changing ideas exhibiting perennials, natives, nonnatives, trees, and shrubs. The use of stone, water, and curvilinear paths, add wonder and drama making one question what lies ahead. One will find new hosta varieties amongst a varied assortment of companion plants. Cochato is framed and buttressed by stone hardscapes starting from native boulders left behind from the Ice Age to stone ledge outcroppings. The curving paths of crushed granite leading to private sitting areas closed off to the rest of the garden, offering hidden pockets of rare and collectable flora adorning more hostas.

Chuck Doughty has a degree in horticulture from University of Massachusetts Amherst. He recently retired from Northeastern University as a Program Director. In 2019 Northeastern became a level II accredited Arboretum. He is credited with transforming the concrete urban campus to a verdant and dynamic greenspace, creating a campus environment for learning, [research](#), and residential life.

Chuck is a member of The Horticulture Club of Boston, The American Hosta Society, The New England Hosta Society, The North American Rock Garden Society, The American Conifer Society, The American Public Garden Association, The Perennial Plant Association and The South Shore Camera Club. He is an avid photographer having traveled to the Brazilian Amazon, Cuba, [Iceland](#), and Sicily on photography expeditions.

WNYHS Annual Meeting 2022

Our Constitution requires that we have an Annual Meeting each year. We need to receive and approve committee reports, receive a financial statement, declare a budget for next year and elect the slate of board members approved by the current Board. No quorum is required in conducting this business.

We also have an obligation to keep our membership informed on the state of the Society.

On Sunday November 13th, we will hold our Annual Meeting, followed by our regular Membership meeting.

The committee reports, financial statement, proposed budget and the slate of board members to be elected will be circulated for prior reading. (Members who would like to comment on these reports can do so by email to H8staman@aol.com before November 12th. These comments will be aired).

Minutes will be taken and the reports and the slate presented voted upon. It is intended that the meeting will only last 10 minutes or so.

The Open Garden Book Prize Draw

The November meeting is traditionally the time for the Open Garden Book prize draw. Our Open Garden Book is published each year in April. It contains descriptions of members' gardens that are open to view by other members (the book includes iris and daylily gardens too). For privacy reasons, addresses are not published and intending visitors need to contact the garden owner by telephone or email to arrange a visit.

Most members who visit a listed garden take the book with them and get the garden owner to sign it. This is because at the November meeting, each signature gets a free draw ticket and (insert your own glowing adjective here) prizes can be won. Mike Sheehan is again in charge and if you present your duly-signed book to him, he will give you a ticket for each garden owner's signature you acquired.

**So, remember to bring your 2022
Open Garden Book with you on
Sunday!**

**AND WEAR YOUR GOD BLESSED
NAMETAGS!
*smiley face***



Hospitality

We need YOU to help
with hospitality for this meeting.

Please contact

Judy Johnson

716-649-2764

wjohnson21088@verizon.net

If you can bring something

ANTI VOLE POTION

This is a wildly circulated recipe for discouraging voles:

4 oz bottle of castor oil poured into
a gallon milk jug. Fill the jug with
water and add 1 tbsp dishwashing
soap.

Mix and put into a hose end sprayer
and spray your garden.

Good luck!



**Remember - finger foods only (nothing requiring spoon or fork),
and remember to label your containers!**

Western New York Hosta Society

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h8staman@aol.com

We're on the web
WWW. Wnyhosta.com

Next meeting: Sunday, November 13
Annual Meeting

All the pieces for NEXT year's Fall Hosta Forum are falling into place.

We have two very highly-regarded hosta personalities, plus two amazing non-hosta speakers in great demand everywhere. Plus our Friday night has evolved and increased into an event in itself, with a light presentation, vendor shopping and theme-related "dress up" for those so inclined - plus "hosta-tality"...

2023 FALL HOSTA AND GARDEN FORUM

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

DISCO!

**As soon as we have all the moving parts in place
We will announce the details**

