

Hosta la Vista

Until we meet again



Aug. '15

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As an interesting Western New York summer draws to a close, we have three major events lined up to delight our members, old and new. When we last met in April, we had little idea what the previous cold winter might have done to our gardens but the summer has revealed all.



Most of us worried a little, but it turned out to be unnecessary. The November snow seems to have damaged some of our woody shrubs and ornamental trees but the deep snow and low temperatures of the rest of winter seem to have helped rather than damaged perennial gardens. Some folks I have spoken with report the loss of a few hostas and other plants in pots but generally everything seems to have done well under that thick snow blanket. We always say the the biggest hostas are in Minnesota because they have such cold winters, and this year it seems that we had 'Minnesota hostas' in our own yards.

A wet spring helped too. Our friend, Bob Solberg, who is speaking at our **Fall Hosta Forum** in September, says that water in spring blows up the newly-emerging hosta leaves like balloons...and it certainly seems to have happened this year. We have visited a few gardens this summer and I *must* say they all looked especially good.

Thank you to all those members who opened their gardens. This summer was particularly busy for open gardens, as in addition to the invitations found in

our WNY Hosta open garden book, the various garden walks throughout the area and the Garden Walk Buffalo Niagara Open Gardens, we also had **Hosta Tailgating** in July.

What a marvelous event the *AHS Great Lakes Region Tailgating* weekend turned out to be! The weather was very kind and hoards of volunteers, under the leadership of Marcia Sully, did a grand job organizing the event on Friday evening and the other activities throughout the weekend. Everybody I spoke to

from out of town enjoyed their stay in Buffalo immensely, and visitors I heard from really enjoyed the **Buzz Around Hamburg** garden walk especially as such events are not common outside our area and they *loved* the garden visits.

We also managed to make some money to help fill the Great Lakes Region coffers.

So what now? Well, our late summer calendar is full of events for you to enjoy.

First up is our **Members' Picnic** on Sunday at Ran and Katie Lydell's **Eagle Bay Gardens** in Sheridan. The gardens are spectacular and include many rare and unusual plants a lot of which should not really be thriving in our zone. It is a *Pot Luck picnic* with short informative talks, fun and frolics and a famous auction. Please bring something for the auction, it need not be a hosta. Members will also be able to spend their Hosta Bucks.

We then have our big fund raiser of the year, our **Hosta Sale** at the Botanical Gardens in South Buffalo

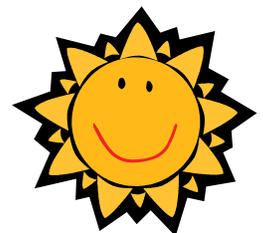
on Saturday July 22nd. We share the sale with the Buffalo Area Daylily Society and the Western New York Iris Society so there will be something new for everyone's garden. We will need lots of volunteers on both Friday afternoon and evening and at the sale on Saturday. For those that help there will be another chance to spend Hosta Bucks on some really cool stuff. For those who are just buying the advice is to come early – last year we had a long, long line when we opened the doors at 9am.

As if that was not enough there will then be the **Fall Hosta and Garden Forum** at Edinboro University in Edinboro, PA. on Saturday September 19th. This is an annual joint venture with the Hosta and Daffodil Society of Western Pennsylvania and this year we have lined up four wonderful speakers and a good bunch of vendors to delight our audience. There is a limit on 100 attendees and our hotel, just down the road, for those who also wish to attend the Friday night entertainments, fills up pretty quickly, so please sign up early.

Now is a really good time to be a member of the Western New York Hosta Society.

Tell your friends.

*Mike
President*



PICNIC MEETING & AUCTION

The next meeting of the WNY Hosta Society is the ever-popular picnic at Eagle Bay Hosta Gardens

Sunday, August 9, 2015 – 11-ish to 5 pm
Eagle Bay Hosta Farm—Sheridan, NY

Thruway to Silver Creek/Irving exit (exit 58)– west on US 20 for 8 or 9 miles to Sheridan. Watch for Liberty Winery on the left - Eagle Bay on the right—please park neatly on the grassy verge, well off the road (crazy traffic!)

Agenda

Garden Visit
Drag & Brag

2015 Calendar Update

Public Sale Planning
Fall Hosta Forum -
THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS
Hosta Breakfast—10/3/15
Fall Meeting—November 8th
Fun and Frolics

AUCTION

A SPLENDID TIME IS GUARANTEED FOR ALL

We generally wander in about 11-ish—allowing ample time to see the gardens and shop if you've a mind to.



True, we have a sort of meeting—but it's all stuff you want to/need to know.... And you'll be amply rewarded with hot dogs and such!

We are changing it up this year - instead of having individual kiosks for the various talks - the demonstrations will be AT THE TABLES right there in front of you.....

THEME IS:

LATE SEASON STUFF TO KNOW

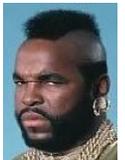
Including:

Best Practice - Dividing Your Hosta
Making More Hellebores by Division
How to Properly Pot a Hosta
The Latest News on Nematode Control

And then, to top off the festivities, We will have our famous MEMBERS ONLY auction (bring something to add to the fun, please - doesn't have to be a hosta).

PLUS - Mr. Handsome Ransom "PT Barnum" Lydell has promised to have a RARE AND SPECIAL hosta for raffle!!!

In the immortal words of Mister "T", I pity the fool that misses this!



NOTE ON DONATIONS

This applies to AUCTION donations for the picnic and SALE donations later....

Please make sure that **HOSTAS ARE LABELED** - and make sure all plant material is disease-free and attractive to a buyer or bidder!

At the picnic we have TWO categories for donations this year.... Auction and non-auction... and the auctioneers will be "the Deciders". This will keep the momentum high and the opportunities UNLIMITED.



POT LUCK

This is our "pot luck" picnic. **So bring a dish to pass... something to complement the house specialty**—hot dogs and/or bratwurst.

Beverages will be provided - but we will need finger-friendly desserts as well.



If you have "HOSTA BUCKS", bring them for the auction.. And this is a great opportunity to see Ran and Katie's gardens, including the amazing plants they manage to keep alive in the micro-climate of Eagle Bay.

WNY HOSTA TAILGATE AND UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS!

Against a backdrop of torrential rains on Thursday, which created a degree of angst, Friday, July 10th produced a festival of sunshine to welcome the Great Lakes Region to the **2015 Tailgate**, hosted by the Western New York Hosta Society. Tailgaters from the Wisconsin and Potomac Hosta Clubs, along with Great Lakes Region clubs from Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, descended on Western New York, for friendship, fellowship, and fun.

Spawned at the Bellville, Ohio, GLR Board meeting, attended by Marcia Sully in September 2014, the Western New York Hosta society plunged headlong into the planning and advertising of the event. Utilizing copious knowledge obtained by attending the 2014 Tailgate at the Miami Valley Ohio Hosta Club, located near Dayton, Marcia patterned the planning after the avowed purpose of Tailgate, which highlights an informal atmosphere, while providing regional directions to open gardens and area attractions, along with the opportunity for a large central gathering for socializing and vending, culminating with the center piece auction, held at the Erie County Fairgrounds in Hamburg on Friday evening. Our Tailgate plans also included offering participants the opportunity to view even more than the nineteen WNYHS open gardens by distributing a booklet of maps and garden descriptions from the Hamburg Village event called "Buzz Around Hamburg" on Saturday and Sunday.

Despite the air of informality, considerable planning was required, commencing in early October, with an organizational meeting of our WNYHS Core Team, where general guidelines were established and duties outlined. As early as December, Marcia contacted twenty-four hosta clubs, requesting mention of the event in their newsletters. Planning continued, with the selection of the site, continuous contact with the Fair, with attendant requirements of insurance, reservation of picnic areas, porta-potty rental, parking

designations, signage, and other minutia. At the same time, other team members were lining up club members' gardens for viewing by attendees, while still others on the Core Team created the flyers, advertisements, and informational articles for our event. One of our members created an incredibly detailed web site specifically for Tailgate information.

Considerable effort by the Core Team and club volunteers was expended in obtaining brochures and maps, outlining area attractions and restaurants, while also contacting area nurseries to obtain discount coupons. The culmination of this endeavor resulted in a handout bag of all pertinent information, which was given to all registrants.



With the sunny welcome to Western New York, the 2015 Tailgate received rave reviews from attendees, many of whom went back home laden with hosta from the auction, along with items procured from on-site vending, and local nurseries, but, perhaps most of all, happy memories of a first class event. With over 125 participants representing 14 different hosta societies, Midland HS of Ohio, not surprisingly, boasted the most members attending from any one club (excluding our own WNYHS.) That club is next years' host of Tailgate 2016!

Thanks go out to our Core Team members who devoted considerable time and effort to make the event a success. Special appreciation is extended to Bruce and Marie Herman, for their continuous support, enthusiasm, and creative ideas, beginning in January by designing auction paddles, nametags, centerpieces, and signs, helping with other details throughout the May, June, and early July stages, and for their nonstop dedication from the afternoon set up right through the cleanup, pack up finale of Tailgate. Kudos to other Core team coordinators including Kevin Plumley and Mike Sheehan, who performed yeoman service at the Fairgrounds, and to Mike and Kathy Shadrack, Diane Giordano, Lyn Chimera and Marge Jasinski, as well as to ALL of

their WNYHS helpers. Additional thanks to our intrepid auctioneers Mike Shadrack and Ran Lydell.

Our society acquitted itself quite well in our first GLR excursion into the Tailgate arena. Why not plan on attending next year's Tailgate, as the Midland Hosta Society, in the Akron, Ohio, area hosts the 2016 July event. A Friday night bon fire, as well as great gardens, and 'hosta-tality' await. It is my hope more WNYHS members will attend Tailgate in the future, now that 43 members enjoyed our 2015 event.

Marcia Sully, 2015 Tailgate Chair

Sad News

Member Bob Kuntz of Bradford, PA, has passed away (July 28th). Please keep his wife, Judy, and family in your prayers.

Condolences to:

Judith Kuntz, 10 Best Avenue, Bradford, PA, 16701.

Bob was an avid gardener and hosta collector and we are sorry he was unable to regain his health.

Final 2015 HostaTea Saturday August 1st



About twenty members, plus our two new friends from the Alden Garden Club, enjoyed a visit to Bob Weigel's amazing garden in Holland, NY last Saturday.

The garden is unlike most others locally and consists, in the most part, of mowed walks through mature woodland and understorey with extensive colorful ground cover. Bob has a huge pond half covered by large white water-lilies and a lovely yellow flowering aquatic the name of which I never discovered. A large gazebo overlooked both the pond and the more cultivated part of the garden.

Here Bob had laid thousands of dusky red colored bricks to form a winding pathway that leads from a small Asian inspired enclosed garden, through a cultivated area of hostas, other perennials and bamboo along the side of the pond, to the gazebo and other garden shelters. The walk takes visitors past an impressive collection of metal garden sculptures.

There are not too many hostas but those that Bob has are well grow and impressive. Two well-grown miniature hostas in pots were hung on a wooden fence near the gate - another good idea for those who complain that they are running out of space. Bob knows that the shady conditions his garden provides are ideal for hosta growing and he aspires to increase his collection over time. Meanwhile, if I could have hitched the impressive two - or was it three - story barn to the back of my car as I left I would have done so in a heart beat.

Thank you, Bob, for inviting us into your most interesting garden!

Hosta teas will resume next June, for the interim, mark your calendars for hosta breakfasts beginning in October - first Saturday - Garden View.

A WORD

This newsletter is filled with stuff we've done and stuff we're going to do soon. The season is filled with opportunities like garden visits, meetings....and then there's the Tailgate just past, and the picnic and Fall Hosta Forum coming up. And some of you are saying "what's this got to do with me??"

It's got EVERYTHING to do with you!! I can tell you right now that as much as Mr. Googles and Madame Siri seem to know, there is nothing like the things you learn simply by immersing yourself in the middle of a bunch of folks who like the same things YOU do. Not only do you learn the best places to get plants, the best way to manage your plants and the techniques to try when things go wrong, but you can begin to develop your own style and tastes in the process.

In case you worry that we're all a bunch of hosta scientists and you're going to feel inadequate or say something too basic, you

should know that there are some of us who only come to these things for the snacks.

So do yourself a favor. Dip your toe in the shallow end of the hosta pool and bring your beans or cookies to the hosta picnic. You'll have fun.... Promise.

And if you're REALLY smooth, you'll fill out the registration for the Fall Hosta Forum - a full day (or day and a half if you come on Friday) of GREAT speakers, tons of plants and good clean fun..

Your club is as good as you want it to be. No... we can't make you more handsome/beautiful or richer ... but we CAN make you a little smarter - at least where hosta things are concerned, and certainly happier.

That's all

Kathy Shadrack - editor and long time club lady

ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS



The Western New York Hosta Society is looking for YOU! How can you make the Society your own? How can you make a lasting impact on the direction the Society takes? By serving as an officer or director of the Society is how. The WNY Hosta Society is always looking for a few good members to lead the Society in the 21st Century. Officer positions open for election on an annual basis are President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary and serve a one year term. There are two board of directors positions up for election/re-election this year and serve two year terms. The officers and board members meet once a month in the evening in a restaurant for about two hours to discuss Society business and communicate via e-mail in between meetings. This is your chance to make the Society yours! It is great fun and great friendships. Please consider running for an officer or board member position.

Elections are at our Fall meeting - Ballot enclosed for nominations. please contact John Walczak if you are interested: 825-0002 or Johnwalczak@hotmail.com



www.WNYHosta.com

If you have not been on our website lately, you are in for a very pleasant surprise...it has undergone a total revamp and is pretty wonderful. In addition to highlighting our activities past present and future, there are links to other informative sites.

A big **THANK YOU** to our webmaster, Karen Sully, for all her recent hard work and hours spent in front of the flickering screen!

PLANT Sale

Our Public Plant Sale *Members Invited*

Western New York Hosta Society's
big fund raiser

Saturday, August 22nd
9am until 2pm

Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens
2655 South Park Avenue - Buffalo, NY

Loads of Hostas (and Daylilies & Irises)

Volunteers needed
Friday, August 21st
4pm until about 8pm

Refreshments and fun provided

**Plus an opportunity
to redeem your Hosta Bucks**

Saturday, August 22nd
8am until 3pm (set up to clean up)
Refreshments provided

Our Members' Plant Sale

Public Invited

The Sale.....

We have a GREAT selection of hosta for sale this year.

We need help on Friday evening to set up the tables and display the plants - we will be in the ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ON THE RIGHT SIDE... AND KIND OF BEHIND THE GLASSHOUSE..

Helpers on Friday evening will have the opportunity to use their hosta bucks. Jackie Adams is in charge of transporting the hostas to the sale - she will need help. Dianne Giordano is in charge of all things financial - she will need help.

We now have developed a NEW way of setting up the hostas which should make things much easier.

Please bring brooms too – no silly, to sweep the floors, not for transport.

We will also need help after 2pm on Saturday to clear everything away, return unsold plants to the hoop house site in Orchard Park, and to provide an armed guard for Dianne and all those dollars as she makes her way to the night safe. *So please don't all rush away too quickly at the end.*

This is our most important activity of the year and it IS labor-intensive. We need worker-bees and we need schmoozers (folks to schmooze the public about hostas). We will need primers...folks with scissors and vision who can get our hostas looking spiffy. We need plastic bags. We need flats. We need big smiles and willing hands. We need sunshine and rainbows and kittens and lollipops! WE NEED YOU! (Please don't bring kittens).

We will have signup sheets at the picnic. Limber up your volunteering arm.

DON'T FORGET YOUR SIGNS!!

We need to return the GLR Hosta Garden Tour signs that we used for the recent TAILGATE WEEKEND.



Please remember to bring them to the picnic so that Marcia can move them along to their next home.

And THANK YOU.

WELCOME To our *new* Great Lakes Region reps

The Western New York Hosta Society is an active member of the AHS Great Lakes Region. This is the regional board who, among other things, organizes the annual Hosta College in Piqua, Ohio. For several years Marcia Sully and Kevin Plumley have been our representatives on their Board, but have both recently resigned their positions.

Luckily Chas and Karen Wagner have stepped up and will now be Western New York's representatives. Thank you Marcia and Kevin for your years of service and Karen and Chas for taking it forward.

Buffalo Audubon Society

Call for volunteers

The Buffalo Audubon Society is an education and conservation organization that runs Beaver Meadow Audubon Center in North Java, NY. The Center is WNY's premier nature facility. We welcome volunteers of all ages and backgrounds to share their enthusiasm for nature to help promote an appreciation of the natural world through education and stewardship.



Volunteers have been conducting nature programs, workshops and festivals for children and adults at Beaver Meadow Audubon Center for more than 20 years. Although the Society maintains a small staff, its success in connecting people with nature has always depended on the kindness and generosity of its volunteers.

Opportunities include nature tour leaders, program educators, working in the arboretum and gardens, designing and building displays, nature trail maintenance and special events. Often, people create their own niche by offering to contribute a new unique talent or service. No matter what your interest, you need not be an expert naturalist to join in. All that is necessary is a little of your time, enthusiasm and a love of nature.

Buffalo Audubon's success in promoting nature is unquestionably dependent on its many volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering for us or coming to one of our open volunteer days, please contact Karen Michel by phone at (716) 870-2327 or by email at kmtmichel@gmail.com.

Nominations for the WNYHS Board 2016 elections

Positions up for election include President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. There are also three Board positions available. **NOMINATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY 10/31/15**

I am nominating the following person(s) for a position on the 2016 WNYHS Board:

President _____

Vice President _____

Secretary _____

Treasurer _____

Board Positions (2)

1. _____

2. _____

Contact John Walczak at 825 0002 Email johnwalczak@hotmail.com if you have any questions or nominations. Please include nominee's phone no. and/or email address.

YOUR NAME _____ (please print)

Positions expiring and up for re-election or nomination in 2016 include:

Officers

President: Mike Shadrack
Vice President: Ran Lydell
Treasurer: Dianne Giordano
Secretary: Marcia Sully

Board Positions

Barbara Ehinger
Kevin Plumley

Hosta la Vista

Mike Shadrack, President
8399 Zimmerman Road
Hamburg, NY 14075
H8staman@aol.com
716-941-6167



We're on the web
Wnyhosta.com

OPPOBKNOCKITY TUNES

FALL HOSTA FORUM—9/19/15

The 17th Fall Hosta Forum, jointly hosted by our own Society and the Daffodil and Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania, will be held in Edinboro, PA on Saturday September 19th.

You should all have received a copy of the brochure and registration form. If not, or if you're new, or if it has been lost, we will have some available at the picnic.

The theme this year is **THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS** and the four main speakers will be concentrating the strange changes in the hosta world! Our speakers are all world-class: Bob Solberg is owner of Green Hill Hosta Farm and a popular speaker, Rob Mortko is a hybridizer and operates a tissue culture program, Lloyd Traven is a regular on the Martha Stewart Show and owner of Peace Tree Farms and Al Pfeiffer operates Oriental Garden Supply, a source for Japanese Maples. Our Friday night speaker, Stephen Piskor, is a popular speaker on garden tools. And, of course, those Friday night folk will receive a special hosta

as a gift. The venue has remained the same as last year...the Comfort Suite for accommodations but all activity will take place at Edinboro University - as different from the Riverside as the earth is from Mars.

Our fame has been spreading... we have one guy who comes all the way from Chicago, one woman who comes from Maine and it's on the AHS website so if you have not registered yet, you really should! (Especially if you need a hotel room - the Edinboro Comfort was releasing our block on 7/31, but you should still be able to get a room if you hustle - 814-969-7000) So... it's going to be a good time - it's always fun - and it's your last chance in 2015 to learn something new and add some cool plants to your garden. Oh yes.... Plaaaaaants.

