November 2025
Until we meet again



November 2025 Presidents Message

For many decades the Hosta has been fondly reported to be America's biggest selling perennial plant. This was always an interesting observation, in that many of the southern and south western states do not have a winter cold enough to support hosta dormancy. Hostas only thrive in the northeast, northern and central states where winters are cold and where often heavy snow provides a blanket to protect the dormant plants.

Television advertisements tell us that if we live somewhere with a harsher winter than Minnesota's we need to move, but hostas love it. After a very cold winter, with a covering of deep snow here in Western New York, followed by a spring in which our hostas emerge big and strong we will say, with a smile, that we have 'Minnesota Hostas'.

True, older gardens would have banks of *H. plantaginia*, with their huge fragrant white flowers in late summer and groups of dark-green *H. ventricosa* splendid below a blanket of dark-purple blossom and every good-sized nursery or garden center would have a shade plants section that was 90% hostas... but biggest selling perennial? That was always a leap of faith, even for Hostaphiles.

However, it is certainly not true these days. Hosta sales are reportedly way down in recent years. Tissue culture has allowed a beautiful brand-new hosta to swamp the market on day one, rather than the fourteen H. 'Striptease' that were originally introduced by Rick Thompson at an American Hosta Society Convention in 1991, but they are not selling like they used to. The biggest wholesalers do not have 800,000 plants listed at the beginning of the season. Many of the plants in those shady areas of nurseries are unsold from last year.

The culprit is the deer. In England you mention hostas in conversation and

the come-back is always. "I love hostas but the slugs and snails......." Here the deer are the massive problem and turn off for growing hostas, even in suburbia.

Continues on page 2



H. plantiginea enjoying the window air conditioner overhead

Unless indicated, all photos by Jill Rohring

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HOSTA LA VISTA

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Continued from Page 1

More and more local wooded areas and open, uncultivated, land on the edge of town is being cleared and turned into treeless developments. The deer who once happily lived there are turned away. Where can they go, where can they feed? In our back yards. That's where!

Deer will eat the whole plant. They don't just nibble a few holes in some of the leaves. Those of us who grow large numbers of hosta work hard to keep the deer away. The deer are rarely frightened by people and dogs and some can be very bold. Substantial deer fencing can be expensive. There are many deer repellent sprays but these are expensive, need to be applied frequently and always renewed after rain.

The average gardener, who might want a few hostas to add some magic to their garden beds, is not prepared to work that hard and so, hostas lose their appeal.

Of course, there are many ardent hosta lovers who will work hard to maintain a collection of hostas and keep the deer away. Sadly, many average gardeners who used to visit a nursery and think "wow, that is a lovely hosta", now too often think "that is just deer food" and turn away. And sales tumble.

Take care and enjoy







The next meeting of the WNY Hosta Society is the

FALL MEMBERS' MEETING & ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, November 9th -1:30 to 4:30

East Aurora Senior Center

101 King Street @ Oakwood -East Aurora 14052 Senior Center will be on your right. Park behind, NOT IN PLAZA.

Doors open at 1:30 (come and socialize) Program commences at 2 pm

Annual Meeting

Financial Reports, By Law change vote (see page 3), Committee and officer reports, calendar for 2026,

Program:

Hostas in The English Garden

Mike Shadrack

For about a decade before I came to live in the USA in about 2000. I was a member and sometime President (chairman) of the British Hosta and Hemerocallis Society, founded by my book writing partner Diana Grenfell. After I retired, I took a six-month course to qualify as a London Tour Guide and started a small business bringing American gardeners to England to see some of our famous and wellloved gardens. During that time, I saw a huge number of wonderful gardens, countless hostas and made many friends.

The talk today is a pictural visit to some of those gardens and other aspects of the British horticultural industry and an explanation of the place that hostas find in those gardens.

Door prizes, Hosta Bux, And the usual fun and frivolity

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November Meeting

For the November meeting we need the following -

Yummies for your Tummies

Volunteers to bring desserts/refreshments We like to keep coffee and water 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 JU-DY JOHNSON – the hostess with the mostest at 716-649-2764 or email at wjohn-

son21088@verizon.net

Make sure you come along - and bring a friend.

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

Wear Your Name Tag!

Many members resist wearing their name tags, but they really do help other members, and visitors.



If you are bringing treats, please have them on the treat tables by 1:45 so that everyone has time to enjoy them.

November Annual General Meeting

The November meeting of the Western New York Hosta Society Is when we vote on new officers (in even numbered years), present the budget for the 2026 program year and financial results from 2025. We also will hear reports from our committee chairs and other leaders. In addition, we will be voting on a change to the WNYHS bylaws at this meeting. This change has been discussed extensively in the WNYHS Board meetings and we ask that you support it. We will engage in discussion and questions prior to the vote.

New WNYHS membership fees and subscriptions.

At the annual meeting the membership will be asked to vote on this change to the by-laws. It reads

"Section B From January 1st 2026, new membership dues shall be fifteen (15) dollars per individual for the first year and ten (10) dollars for each individual each year thereafter for those with an email address and thirty (30) dollars per person, for the first year and twenty (20) dollars for each year thereafter for individuals who do not have email to defray the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. Dues will be payable each 12 months from the first day of the month in which the member joined.

The effect of this by law change will be that there will no longer be joint memberships. Each individual will need to be a member. Spouses, who have not signed up as members, will always be able to attend meetings and other membership functions as guests. Also, only paid-up individual members will receive Hosta Bucks. If approved, this takes effect on Jan

If you would like to review the minutes of last year's Annual Meeting, see the February 2025 Newsletter, Pages 6 and 7.

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Personalities—by Mike Shadrack

Michael Hannen



To those members who were not at the members' Picnic at Ran Lydells in August or at the Fall Hosta forum in October, and sadly there were many of you, allow me to introduce Michael Hannen.



Michael donated a tray of very unusual perennials to the auction at the picnic and was able to describe the mature version of each one before it was auctioned. At the Fall Hosta Forum Michael was a ven-

dor, with a huge display of mature and seedling perennials.

He was wearing a tee shirt with the logo, "If you were a plant, I would know your name", and he certainly knew the names, history, habits and preferred growing conditions of all the plants that he was offering for sale.

Michael has a nursery, that is open by appointment, at 171 Laburnum Cresent, Rochester, where he has rare and unusual Perennials for sale. Visitors report that it is so jam-packed with plants that it is difficult to wander. The telephone number is 585 256 1124 and his email address is Growboy22@yahoo.com. Michael Hannen says that he is always available to answer your garden questions and give advice on garden design and mainte-



A gardening resource with whom we surely need to maintain contact.







Photos of Michael's display at Hosta Forum 2025



Does Michael have a sense of humor, or is he trying to sell more plants?

November 2025 Until we meet again



The Members' Picnic Sunday August 17th

Another memorable picnic held at Ran and Kati Lydell's Eagle Bay Gardens What an assortment of food! No one left hungry. Unfortunately, some of us did leave wet, as their was an intense downpour as we were finishing our meal. The sky cleared and the activities commenced.





A "Name the Hosta" contest had been set up early. Six hostas from Ran's hybridizing beds were on the table, the parentage information was given and we were invited to create names for these hostas. Ran judged the names and the winners were given the hosta that they had "named".



Some of the plant treasures available for the auction



Many members used the opportunity to expand their own plant collections.

The sun came out and shined, but it took a few minutes for







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WE NEED YOU and YOU and YOU !!!

If you are reading this Newsletter, you are part of the WNY Hosta Society!

Did you know we have over 300 members?

Approximately, 40-65 members attend our meetings. Some of our popular events include hosta sales, garden tours, hosta teas, and a picnic.

Earlier this year a hosta flash was sent asking for members to volunteer for endeavors during the year that make these fun activities happen.

How many volunteers signed up????

SEVEN !!!!

Come on Folks...WE NEED MORE Volunteers, We need YOU! The more we have, the less you will be called! Volunteer and support the WNY Hosta Society...You may make a new friend or just have a good time !!!!

Please call Pat Gurney (volunteer coordinator) 716 861- 6113 or send her an email at gpdchestnut@aol.com She's waiting to hear from you...make her day!!!



HOSTA.org

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 Ct Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181 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

An electronic only membership is also available if you prefer to receive the Hosta Journal by e-mail

instead of a hard copy Join as an eMember now for one year for only \$12.

Call the Membership Secretary for details. 309-678-4119

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WNYHS Calendar 2026

2025

November 9

Annual General Meeting

December 6 Hosta Breakfast

2026

January 3

February 7

February 22

March 7

March 20 & 21

April 4

April 19

May 2

June TBD

June TBD

June 10-13

June 27 & 28

July TBD

July TBD

August 1

August TBD

August 16

SeptemberTBD

September 18 & 19

October 3

October 30,31

November 7

November 15 or 22

December 5

Hosta Breakfast

Hosta Breakfast

Members Meeting

Hosta Breakfast

Hosta College

Hosta Breakfast

Members Meeting

Hoop House Sale

Hosta Tea

Hosta Wine and Whirlaway

AHS Convention, Dublin, Ohio

Garden Art Sale and Plant Society Avenue

Hosta Tea

GLR Hosta Tailgate

Annual Public Sale

Hosta Tea

Annual Picnic

Hosta Tea

Fall Hosta Forum

Hosta Breakfast

Hosta Halloween

Hosta Breakfast

Annual General

Meeting and Elections

Hosta Breakfast

For locations and times pay attention to the website or to "Hosta Flashes"

Directors Meetings

Are held monthly except for December

January 27

February 24

March 24

April 28

May 26

June 23

July 28

August 25

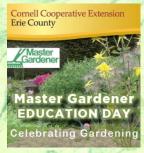
September 22

October 27

Additional Dates of Garden Interest in WNY:



February 5 and 6



Saturday, March 7



Lewiston Garden Fest June 20 and 21

Western New Yok Hosta Society Mike Shadrack, President 1187 Orchard Park Road, Apt 236 West Seneca NY 14224 H8staman@aol.com November 9 Meeting Dec Hosta Breakfast

January Hosta Breakfast

HOSTA" LA VISTA

We're on the web wnyhosta.com

The extended E-Mail version of the WNYHS newsletter continues on the following pages

The next issue of Hosta La Vista will include a section of Member News. Lists of new members, birthdays, anniversaries, did you add to your garden or your family? Let us know, pictures are welcome as well. Submissions will be due by February 7 for the February newsletter.



Sunday, November 9, 2025

Annual General Membership Meeting

Doors open at 1:30 PM, Meeting commences at 2:00

East Aurora Senior Citizens Center

101 King Street @ Oakwood -East Aurora

I grow plants for many reasons: to please my eye or to please my soul, to challenge the elements or to challenge my patience, for novelty or for nostalgia, but mostly for the joy in seeing them grow.

David Hobson

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The Fall Hosta Forum

What you missed!

Vendors, Speakers, a Hosta Auction, Pirates, and more.











Photo by Peggy Dzminian



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The Public Sale Saturday August 2nd.

The public hosta sale, where we combine with the Western New York Iris Society and the Buffalo Area Daylily Society, is our biggest annual fund raiser and was held this year on **Saturday August 2**nd.













Next year's sale is planned for August 1 at a new location

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Hosta Tea at Pipe Creek Gardens, Sue and Roger Haskell West Falls September 6, 2025







Attention to detail is present as soon as you pull off the road. Creative touches include lighting, multiple water features, repurposed salvaged pieces, and so much more.







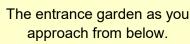
The fire pit and shelter are tucked in to the views of the spring fed pond.

Manicured beds of Hostas greet you from both sides of the driveway













The primary home entrance garden.
Photo by Mike Shadrack

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Drought and Microclimates

The weather has been nothing but challenging for gardeners in Western New York in 2025. From the incredibly long cold spring, to a summer of high temperatures accompanied by little to no rain. What's a gardener to do?

For those of us in the hosta world, persevere.

We can follow the advice of the Sally Cunningham article "Water Wisely If You Water At All " that was in our February 2025 newsletter, but sometimes all of the conventional solutions and techniques don't hold the answers.

When gardeners who have a pond or well devoted to irrigation and that dries up they may be just as reliant on municipal water as the rest of us. And municipal water has a major drawback for gardeners. It has been cleaned and sanitized..

Over my many years of gardening I have noticed many times how the plants that I am watering and fertilizing regularly just seem to stop thriving. There is no doubt that all of these plants just need a good old fashioned rain shower, with all of the dissolved minerals and nutrients in the water that are embedded in raindrops. When the rains don't come, well the plants may look less than happy.

MICROCLIMATE — the climate of a very small or restricted area, especially when this differs from the climate of the surrounding area



Some Non-Stop begonias that I planted in the spring of 2025. They languished and did nothing until Mid September, when the fall rains started. Now they are thriving, blooming, and glad that I have very late frosts!

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Drought and Microclimates

Continued from Page 12

Microclimates exist in almost all of our gardens. A corner that is protected from extreme winds might also receive less rain. If you have slopes and open areas an early frost might be obvious in the open, but not next to the house. Do you treat that area differently?

I discovered an unexpected microclimate in my garden in late June this year after several days of high temperatures and very high winds (30 – 50 mph). The 'Empress Wu' that I planted in 2018 finally was showing its beauty and size. I went out with my camera and discovered all of my hostas in that area severely burned. Photo shows her in late October, with the leaves still ravaged.

Microclimates can also be a larger area, when discussed in relation to a much larger area. Most of Western New York is in USDA zone 6a, 6b, 5b, and 5a.

It is a well known fact, to those of us in Wilson, that we have a definite microclimate here, especially along the lakeshore. We do not get as cold, in fact there is a Zone 7A within about 1500 feet of the lakeshore. Our first fall frost will be considerably later than most other areas of WNY, in fact that 7A area will be usually saved from frost much later than the rest of Wilson. The winter of 2024-2025 was even stranger. We never actually had a killing frost in my yard, yes the plants did freeze finally in late November/early December, but I never saw that glaze of white across the lawn until March.

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Drought and Microclimates

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Our last frost in the spring also tends to be earlier in that area because of the lake. Unfortunately, Lake Ontario does not warm up as fast as Lake Erie, the North breezes from the lake can be very chilly well into June. There are times in the summer when the lake "flips" or experiences upwelling and the fog rolls in so fast you can see it coming, all summer long. This is because the surface temperature of Lake Ontario suddenly went from 70 degrees to 45 degrees. Lake Ontario also does not warm up as fast as Lake Erie. It is common to have temperatures in the spring in the 40's and 50's when the rest of WNY is in the 60's and 70's, or maybe even 80!

All of this also plays havoc with the rain (and snow) clouds. The winds come in from Lake Ontario and seemingly push the rain clouds south, where they meet up with the Lake Erie winds. The result is a line of rain and storms that drops moisture in parts of Niagara County, but leaves the rest of us dry. One of these storm systems a few years ago dropped so much rain on Faery's Nursery on route 104 that they flooded out to the point of destroying the retail business. Faery's now operates as strictly a landscaping company. In Wilson we watched and heard those clouds, but were in sunshine.



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Drought and Microelimeter		
Drought and Microclimates	Continued from Page	14

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month 2025	Lakeview	Buffalo	Wilson	Newfane	Lockport	Buffalo historical	
March	1.84	1.85	1.67	1.54	1.65	2.68	
April	3.88	3.86	1.56	2.22	5.6	3.39	
May	4.07	3.08	3.16	3.99	3.41	3.23	
June	2.58	3.35	1.08	1.26	1.93	3.44	
July	2.16	0.77	1.74	1.88	1.23	3.22	
August	3.69	2.35	1.17	1.68	2	3.13	
September	1.15	1.33	0.64	1.05	0.73	3.91	
October to 10/27	6.49	3.41	2.53	4.36	4.15	4.29	
Totals, March-October 27	25.86	19.81	13.55	17.98	20.7	27.49	

This chart shows the rain comparison for several locations in WNY along with my own garden. Newfane is about 7 miles away from Wilson, Lockport about 18 miles away. Lakeview is within Hamburg and part of the 'snow and rain belt' that has made Buffalo NY so famous.

<u>Climate</u> click on climate and past weather to get local observations from the Buffalo National Weather Service



Blue arrows represent a typical WNY wind, West or Southwest



Red Arrows show a less common Northwest wind

Green arrows show the direction of NorEasters, and the significant area of Lake Ontario that they have for precipitation, even after Lake Erie freezes, since Ontario doesn't freeze.

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The predominant weather and precipitation tendencies are formed by the prevailing winds here in Western New York. Lake effect snow or rain form when there is a significant difference between the air temperature and the surface temperature of our great lakes. The typical wind pattern is from the Southwest, drawing water from Lake Erie and dumping it in any number of areas depending on minor changes in the wind direction. This pattern also draws tremendous waters from Lake Ontario and dumps it in the Oswego to Watertown area.

Sometimes the winds come from the Northwest, these winds will put lake effect rain or snow down starting in Eastern Niagara County and affecting much of the state all the way to Syracuse.

Occasionally, we get a Northeaster. This pattern does actually dump rain and snow onto the Wilson area, but the winds are so wide that much of Western New York gets that precipitation.

The bigger problem with drought is that the drier it gets, the harder it is to get rain to fall. Many times the moisture levels in the air are so dry that the rain actually dries up on the way to the ground. Dry weather turns into drought, and if the weather patterns don't change enough, the ground and air just keeps getting drier.

When the moisture levels in the ground get lighter the ground water table suffers. If rain falls too hard and fast it just runs off into the ditches and into the creeks, and eventually the lakes. The ground water helps our trees and other deep rooted plants to thrive. Without that ground water, the trees suffer, and have less than wonderful fall colors. Some lose their leaves much earlier than normal. Some areas of our property have an extremely high water table in the spring, creating puddles and 'swamp' areas. Thinking of a possible alternate water source for my gardens I dug a test hole in the lowest and wettest part of our property, after the rains we have experienced lately, my 4' hole is still dry. It is going to take a lot of water to replenish the water table to healthy levels.

The rain we have had since early October is finally helping. Not for the 2025 gardens and crops, but at least the water table may recover, if sufficient snow melts in a beneficial way.

We are gardeners, optimism runs through our veins. Hopefully 2026 will be better.

November2025 Until we meet again



Things to do in November:

- Attend the WNYHS Annual General Meeting on November 9.
- Start thinking about the 2026 AHS Convention in Dublin, Ohio (near Columbus)
- Register for the AHS Hosta Convention (see pages 18-19)
- Leave the leaves, free winter mulch, habitat for numerous species of pollinators to erupt in the spring. Including Fireflies!
- Renew your Western New York Hosta Society membership.
- · Convince your family to buy you gift certificates for more hostas...
- Start making your lists of hostas to add to your garden in 2026.
- Stop thinking of the gardens you didn't get done this year. There is always next year.
- Write an article, submit some pictures for the February newsletter.

"Winter is the season dominated by bare soil: the whole gardening cycle begins with the care and preparation of the earth during winter so that it will feed plants the following year." - Monty Don



Do you know whose garden this is? (A WNYHS member)

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ıt's a Hosta Halloween at Harbor Haven Gardens













Did you miss it? Check the calendar for 2026

November 2025 Until we meet again



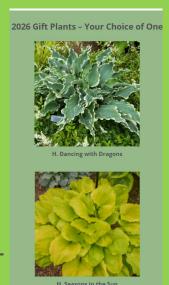


Great Lakes Region Hosta College Upper Valley Career Center 8811 Career Drive **Piqua, OH 45356** March 20 & 21, 2026

Hosta College officially begins at 6:00 pm on Friday with hos-

quet and speaker at 6:30 pm

ta and gardening vendors, an auction, snacks, and fellowship with old and new gardening friends. Starting at 7:30 on Saturday morning you can enjoy a complimentary continental breakfast /and attend five hours of classes and lunch. Our event ends with an optional ban-





We would like to encourage everyone to consider donating a plant / plants or garden related item to the Hosta College Auction. The proceeds help to keep Hosta College going and the registration fees low. If you would like to donate, contact: Pat Thompson at triciakayt343@gmail.com.

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Website for more information:

Home - American Hosta Society Convention

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Buckeye Hosta Fever 2026 AHS NATIONAL CONVENTION

June 10-13, 2026 – Dublin, Ohio Embassy Suites by Hilton, 5100 Upper Metro Place, Dublin, OH 43017



HOSTED BY THE CENTRAL OHIO HOSTA SOCIETY (COHS)

Make hotel reservations by using the link at the AHS convention website: www.Hostaconvention.org beginning June 30, 2025

Name:		Preferred Name on Badge:				
Address:		City, State, Zip Code:				
Phone:		Email:				
ANDARD REGISTRATION if received by 5/15/26 (Thurs. BBQ dinner included)		ed) \$235				
ATE REGISTRATION if received after 5/15/26 (Thurs. BBQ dinner included)		ed) \$260				
Friday & Saturday Banquet COMPANION MEALS ONLY or Vendors Meals (Registration includes your Banquet meals. This is only if you are bringing a guest with you)		\$105	\$			
ARDEN TOUR BUS Includes bus **Bus seats limited to 160 atten- Box lunches for Tour Bus Riders ON Friday - Choose One	dees** ILY – Lunch on your owr Iam 🔲 Deli Turl	n for self-drive key 🗆 Vegan Wrap	\$110	\$		
026 Convention T-Shirt - Unise			\$20	\$		
	CELLATION POLICY:		Total Due →	\$		
received by May 1, 2026 (50 iday Banquet Meal Choice: Grilled Bone-in Pork Chop Beef Tips with Gorgonzola Ratatoulle (vegan)	Saturday Banquet M Grilled Salmon Chicken Marsa	eal Choice	Buckeye H MAIL PAYMENT Debi Gerrio	Check Payable to: Buckeye Hosta Fever MAIL PAYMENT AND FORM TO Debi Gerrick, Registrar 1638 Doone Road,		
st any special dietary restrictions	/allergies:			ton, OH 43221		
osta Show: Please check if you wish Judge □ Clerk an # entries in Hosta Leaf Sho I Elslager Seedling Competition:		I plan to donate	y night auction items for the			
an # entries in Seedling Comp \$5 per seedling entry fee paid at c Rules & Regulations available Hostaconvention.org	convention	I am willing to volu	inteer during the c ES NO	convention		

Registration is limited to 350 participants. Questions? – contact Debi Gerrick at: debigerrick@gmail.com or (614) 205-8187

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ENDING THOUGHTS

Our Member's Only Sale and the Public sale in August provide the funding so that we can have fabulous speakers at our meetings. The Board of Directors decided that the April meeting is more conducive for the presence of an out-of-town speaker. The February meeting can be disrupted by snow, and it really isn't fair to any speaker to listen through the annual meeting functions. Lastly, we do try to schedule the November meeting opposite a Bills home game to alleviate traffic concerns, which makes it more difficult to book speakers.

Local/regional hosta newsletters are distributed to all of the other newsletter editors. Articles, pictures, etc. are available to reprint in the newsletters of other societies. Mike Shadrack's article 'What's In a Name?' has already been reprinted in a couple other newsletters. Sally Cunningham's watering article has also been reprinted in other newsletters.

Did you know that The Western New York Hosta Society is the largest local hosta society in the US and Canada? We have

306 members at present! Please make it easier on our membership chair and return your renewals promptly.

GO BILLS! Don't worry, we will have regular updates during our 11/9 meeting.



This newsletter will get much better as we get more interest and submissions of your announcements, writings, articles, and photos. Please send anything that you think may be of interest to Jill Rohring - newsletter editor email— Jill-rohring@gmail.com

