

Hosta la Vista

Nov. '16

Until we meet again



President's Message

As we close down the garden in preparation for another winter; as we clean, polish, oil and store away the spades, forks and hand tools; as we plant just a few more spring bulbs, we anticipate the arrival of winter, hoping for a thick and even snow cover to keep our plants safe, and look forward to spring and a whole new gardening year.



Much of gardening is about anticipation. For some there is instant gardening. The type where a developer plants half a dozen mature conifers around the base of a new McMansion. We can buy a dozen huge, flowering mums and plant them both sides of the front path. A landscaper can be asked to fill a bare space with a truck load of mature perennials and shrubs. There are folks who dig up the scarlet geraniums in early summer and straightaway replace them with whatever is blooming at the local nursery. All these are instant gardens and will be fine for a short while.

To most of us there is satisfaction and great pleasure in planning a garden for the future.

We don't plant our gardens for instant results but rather thinking about what they will look like in a few seasons time. Gardening for most of us is about *anticipation*. We plant bulbs for the future, we buy small shrubs on the clear understanding that they will grow into something spectacular and in a few years time will perfectly fill the space allocated to them. We thumb through seed catalogs and carefully decide what is going to look good next year and we read hosta and other perennial lists looking for the new, the exciting and the plants that we would like to continue our obsessions into the future.

Gardening should never be finished. To some the death of a plant, even a much admired one, is seen as an opportunity to get something new and exciting to fill the

space. Gardening can be likened to playing with a model railway. Having a train set is such fun. Mapping the track layout, planning, and maybe making the little buildings to scale, adding artificial trees, painting roadways, buying everything to scale and carefully arranging it. All of this is great fun and very satisfying, but once the layout is complete, watching the toy train go around and around is perhaps a little boring. Gardening is like that. Once it looks like it might be finished, it is wonderful to walk around and take a look; to show it off to friends and neighbors but the real joy is the constant evolvement, the planning, the **anticipation**.

Planning something new for the garden is always fun. An idea that might improve an area, add a vista, fill a space or reduce the amount of mowing. Perhaps a rock garden, a berm, maybe a water feature. Visiting an open garden. Doing a little research, reading a book or a website, seeking the advice of someone who knows... and the plan begins to take shape. Even if the idea is not always achievable in the near future, the planning process is seldom wasted and the anticipation is delicious.

As we look back through our gardening years and the activities of our Hosta Society we can look forward - we can *anticipate* - the garden coming alive again for another season.

Mike Shadrack President WNYHS

"Society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in." — Anonymous Greek Proverb

Our website is fabulous - make sure you check in frequently for the latest news

www.wnyhosta.com

PRELIMINARY- 2017 Calendar

We've spent some time looking at the calendar already... the meeting dates have not yet been set, but we thought you'd like a peek at what is already in place....

Saturday, January 7th	Hosta breakfast, 10 am Forestview, Transit Rd., Depew
Saturday, February 4th	Hosta breakfast, 10 am Forestview, Transit Rd, Depew
Sunday, February 12th	Members' Meeting with speaker East Aurora Senior Center
Saturday, March 4th	Hosta breakfast, 10 am Forestview, Transit Rd, Depew
Saturday, March 18th	Hosta College - Piqua, Ohio
Saturday, April 1	Hosta breakfast, 10 am - Forestview, Transit Rd, Depew
Sunday, April 23rd	Members' Meeting with speaker and Naylor Creek hosta pick-up East Aurora Senior Center
Saturday, May 13	Hoop House Season Opener Lasting Dreams Daylilies, Orchard Park
June 7 - 11	AHS Convention - Indianapolis, IN
June 24 & 25	Garden Art Sale & Plant Society Avenue - Botanical Gardens
Sunday, August 20th	DATE CHANGE Members' Picnic - Eagle Bay Hosta Garden
Saturday, August 26th	Public Hosta Sale Botanical Gardens
Saturday, September 16th	Fall Hosta and Garden Forum - Edinboro, PA - Peace, Love, Plants
Saturday, October 7th	Hosta breakfast, 10 am - Forestview, Transit Rd., Depew
Saturday, November 11th	Hosta breakfast, 10 am - Forestview, Transit Rd., Depew
Sunday, November 12th	Annual Members' Meeting with speaker East Aurora Senior Center

Mark your calendars

~ note: if we DON'T have you on our e-mail "Hosta Flash" list, please send your address to "irisborer@aol.com". Things tend to shift... and new opportunities arise, and this is the **best way** to be able to notify our membership quickly!

BUT WAIT.... THERE'S MORE!!

We can't fit everything in the calendar

- Hosta Teas (to complement Hosta breakfasts) - TBA
- Other cool stuff that comes up from time to time - TBA

2017 FALL HOSTA FORUM

The 2016 Fall Hosta Forum was a fabulous success - with record attendance and we are still basking in the warm glow.

The Planning Committee has met to wrap up loose ends and to plan for 2017 and we are thrilled to announce that we ALREADY have all four speakers in place for 2017:

Paul Zammit - Horticulture Director, Toronto Botanical Garden

Barbara Tiffany - Mill Fleurs Gardens

Karen Perkins - Garden Vision Epimediums

Jonathan Hogarth - London England

Paul and Barbara will be talking about garden design, one from a general standpoint and one from a hosta standpoint. Karen Perkins will be delighting us with epimediums and Jonathan - who holds the National Collection of Miniature Hostas in England, will talk about showing at Hampton Court and Chelsea, and also about his micro-propagation techniques. You will NOT want to miss this.

September 16, 2017.

Oh, the theme? **Peace, Love, Plants.....**



ELECTIONS

Our November meeting is also the time of year when we elect our new Board. Two of our hard-working Board members are up for re-election this year. **Jackie Adams** has decided to stand down and we have one nomination to fill her position; **Carol Abendschein**, a familiar face at our meetings and activities.

The slate we will present for your vote at the meeting will be:

Board Positions

Mike Sheehan

Dave Whittemore

Carol Abendschein

Officers up for reelection for a 2-year term

President: Mike Shadrack

Vice President: Ran Lydell

Treasurer: Dianne Giordano

Secretary: Marcia Sully

The next meeting
of the WNY Hosta Society is the

FALL MEMBERS' MEETING

Sunday, November 13th

Doors open 1:00

(come and socialize)

Meeting 2:00-4:00

East Aurora Senior Center

King Street at Oakwood, East Aurora

(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 is on the right next to the Fire hall. - Park behind - not on the plaza.)

THE MAIN EVENT

Jerry Kral: Creating a Lush Garden

MEETING

Welcome

Annual Meeting & Elections

2017 Calendar of events

Open Garden Book Prize Draw

Refreshments

Fun and Laughter

Parking at the East Aurora Senior Center

Parking is at a premium at the Center and there have been problems (mostly during the week). Please take note when attending our meeting. There is a large parking lot behind the building.

Street parking on both sides of King St is allowed - **after** you pass the entrance.

Other street parking in the area is permitted.

- ◆ **Do not park in the Oakwood Plaza**



Hospitality

We need **YOU** to help
with hospitality for this meeting.

Please contact

Judy Johnson

716-649-2764

or wjohnson21088@verizon.net

If you can bring something

OUR SPEAKER - JERRY KRAL

Jerry attended Cornell University from 1958 to 1962 majoring in Agricultural Science. Two years of dairy farming in Wyoming County ensued. This did not do much for Jerry's social life. Jerry slowly phased out of farming while attending Geneseo State University and obtained his Permanent Secondary Science Teaching Certificate. He taught High School Science at Hilton until he retired in 1993.

Jerry and his wife, Karen, purchased 900 Winton Road in 1993 and began "Jerry & Karen's Garden". Within 3 years Jerry was giving regular garden tours. He became a Master Gardener in 1996. He was on the originating committee of the very successful Gathering of Gardeners (GOG) Symposia and is still an active committee member. GOG has featured such luminaries as Dan Hinkley, Tony Avent and Michael Dirr.

Jerry is an active member of the American Conifer Society(ACS) and served as a member of their Board of Directors for 6 years. He currently organizes the ACS -NE Regional auctions and serves on the National Scholarship Committee of the ACS as its chair.

Jerry is also president of Rochester's largest plant society (The Greater Rochester Perennial Society) with 150 members and entering its 17 year. Acquisition and subdivision of surrounding properties continues and the garden is now almost an acre within the city limits of Rochester. Jerry & Karen's Garden has been featured in the WXXI Show, The secret Gardens of Rochester, Upstate Gardeners Journal, The D&C, and The Conifer Quarterly. The 2008 Fall Issue of "garden ideas & outdoor living", a national special media publication of Better Homes and Gardens, featured 10 pages of parts of Jerry & Karen's garden. Fine Gardening has several photographs of Jerry's Garden (Go to the FG web page, click on design, then click on shade or trees and the pics will be under the article, "Conifers For Shade".)

Jerry & Karen actively support Cornell Cooperative Extension (GOG underwriting), Rochester Civic Garden Center (scholarships and symposia underwriting) and The Dutch Connection at George Eastman House ("Dutch Connection" underwriting).

Jerry and Karen's garden is considered the most visited private garden in the Rochester area. Over 600 people toured the gardens in 2013. The gardens consist of at least fifty garden rooms inter-connected by over a half-mile of stone pathway. Unique sculpture and other touches of whimsy greet visitors as they walk the paths. Fountains, fish ponds, waterfalls and giant hypertufa mushrooms add to the unique flavor of this garden. The garden features unusual "sitting nooks" with colorful polywood rockers, gliders and benches.

The "new Garden" has turned into a 12,000 square foot walk through rock garden featuring many unique styles of rock gardens from classic, to tufa crevice to just plain "edgy". The emphasis is always on the aesthetic with over 300 conifer cultivars adding backbone to the many rock garden plants displayed.

Stunning fall colors this year....



HOSTA BREAKFASTS

For more than 4 years now the WNYHS has held **Hosta Breakfasts** on the *first Saturday of each month throughout the winter*. They have proven to be a wonderful way of meeting our hosta friends during the non-growing season. The first one of this season was no exception, with lots of chatter and laughter.

THE FORESTVIEW RESTAURANT

4781 Transit Road - Depew, NY 14043
656-8760

It is the people and the friendship that make our breakfast meetings so good, but another thing that helps is that attendees are asked to bring to the table something that they can pass around and talk about. It can be a plant, a seedling, a catalogue, a magazine, a book, a favorite garden tool, a new deer repellent... anything to get folks talking.



We usually have between 16 and 20 folks and the biggest turn out so far has been 34.

There is only one rule. If you intend joining us you must let me know, either by phone on 716 941 6167 or by email at H8staman@aol.com **before 5pm** on the previous Friday as I have to book the places with the restaurant.

So.....the dates are: December 3rd, January 7th, February 4th, March 4th, April 1st (then we adjourn until October).

A **Hosta Flash** will be sent to all those members on our email list as a reminder a few days before each breakfast. So, no excuses. See you there.

In FACT, these have been so successful, a few years ago, we replaced the breakfasts with a monthly **HOSTA TEA** in a members' garden during the summer months. We are still working on finding gardens for 2017 - we have June lined up, but we need a garden for July 1st and September 2nd (let us know if you're willing).

Thank you!

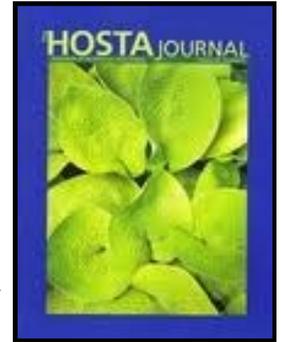


Why Not Join The American Hosta Society

Now is a very good time to join the American Hosta Society if you have not already done so.

Membership costs \$30.00 and **membership application forms will be available at the meeting.**

The membership year runs from January 1st until December 31st. In return for your \$30.00 you will get: *two copies of The Hosta Journal, access to the members' only portion of their website www.hosta.org, that includes a new online journal every year and, if that were not enough, a \$15.00 voucher that you may spend at any of the participating nurseries, which includes our very own Eagle Bay Gardens.*



Those wishing to join at the meeting - Mike or Kathy will be happy to take your application - will be given a free copy of an historic Hosta Journal plus a Hosta Adventure, just to whet their appetites.

Open Garden Book

The November Members' Meeting is the traditional time to produce your Open Garden Books and to enter the draw to win a prize. Throughout the summer members have been visiting other member's gardens and many will have been clever enough to get their Open Garden Book signed by the garden owner. For each signature members will get a free draw ticket. And what do draw tickets mean? *Draw tickets mean prizes.* (Editor's note – Please appreciate the use of member's, members' and members in the above paragraph.) There will be LOTS of prizes! Remember to bring your books!



HOSTA COLLEGE

The Great Lakes Region Hosta College next year will be held at the usual venue in Piqua, Ohio on Friday and Saturday, March 17th and 18th.

For those not familiar with the Hosta College Format, it usually consists of a Friday Night lecture and auction and then all day on Saturday a huuuuge variety of classes on all kinds of topics allow attendees to choose subjects that interest them from the list available. There is an optional banquet on Saturday evening.

For more information, please talk to Chas or Karen Wagner, Marcia Sully, Dianne Giordano or Jackie Adams ...

or visit the Hosta college website at: <http://ihostohio.org/portal/glhc/>

Open Garden Bus Trips

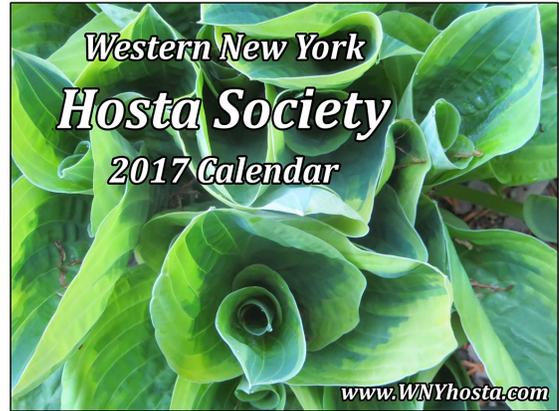
It has been suggested that in order to get our members to visit some of the more far-flung, and therefore less visited, gardens that appear regularly in our Open Garden Book, we should organize bus trips.



The plan is that next June/July we should arrange at least two trips, one for our southern membership to go north and one for our northern members to explore the south.

Whether these trips are to be half day or full day, in vans or in school buses, weekday or weekend, needs to be thought through. We would therefore appreciate your comments on the suggestion as we discuss the idea during the winter.

OUR DEBUT HOSTA CALENDAR



The Western New York Hosta Society's first calendar, for 2017, is finally ready and will be available for sale at the November meeting.

Price will be \$10.00 each - and they will make great presents for the Christmas season. The calendar features photographs submitted by our members. Over sixty photos were submitted for consideration. Choosing the best of the best was a challenge because they were all really good!

We hope you are pleased with our selections and hope you will consider submitting your own photographs for our **2018 calendar**. Envelopes for mailing will also be available.

Those submitting photos this year were:

Jackie Adams
Gordon Ballard
Sharon Barker
Nancy Burlingame
Dianne Giordano
Carol Haj
Judy Johnson
Kathy Shadrack
Mike Shadrack
Sue Sickles
Marcia Sully
Barb Whittemore
Dave Whittemore

Editor's note: This is a fabulous calendar - complete with our important dates already noted...

We hope you are as thrilled as we are with the quality!

Thank you all for your submissions!

The calendar was produced by Dave Whittemore with assistance from Barbara Evans and Carol Abendschein.

Hoop House Highlights

What a year it has been!! For most of us it has indeed been a challenging gardening season. The heat and lack of rain conspired to push our green thumbs to their limit. Seeing those lush green hosta turn golden yellow now brings out a big sigh of relief. Now we can spend the coming cold months dreaming of the perfect conditions Spring will bring.....WINK! WINK! It was a difficult season at the hoop house as well.

But let's start with the bright spots. The hoop house has been completed and even got some new parts in the process. In August when we were all buying and selling hostas and daylilies in the cool basement of the Botanical Gardens at the annual plant sale, our own Marcia Sully was sweating it up and directing the delivery of a truckload of stone that is now the new floor of the hoop house. Trust me when I say it is a considerable improvement over the muddy slippery mess that had been there! And come Spring things should be quite shady for the newly emerging pips as the old shade cloth had seen better days and was retired after years of faithful service being replaced with a new knitted model shade cloth. It was a thing of beauty to see it install with few glitches thanks to the team of very capable volunteers who pitched in to get the job done.

But it's what goes on IN the hoop house that is most critical to the success of our Society. The dollars we raise at our annual sale is how we obtain most of the funds we need to carry out the functions and provide the benefits we enjoy as members of the Western New York Hosta Society.

This year we made the decision to focus less on dividing the pots of hosta and more on making a good presentable plant to the public at sale time. It was a decision based on the fact that we felt our selection of varieties had gotten stale. Constant dividing seems to produce that effect. We also had a large stock of plants on hand and we could afford to be generous this year. I think it was a decision that paid off as we had a very successful sale and there is now room to provide new and interesting varieties to the public as well as to you the members.

Volunteers who came out to help in this process primped 1396 pots of hosta and checked to be sure each of the 178 varieties had the correct labeling. In all a total of 108.75 hours were spent just preparing for the sale. Our thanks go out to you:

Tom Koscielniak, Jerry Powarski, Judy Johnson, Keith and Sally Johnson, Lori Greene, Dianne Giordano, Valerie Horvath, Sue

Keenan, Marcia Sully, Gail Durkin, Karen Hazen, Sharon Robinson (BTW, I found the lost pair of sissors, call me)

The single most difficult obstacle this year was without a doubt the loss of our water supply. Our gracious hosts, Tony and Carol Haj had been allowing us access to their well but the drought proved too severe to accommodate all the demands. So the brigade of 5 gallon containers began from my pond in Colden to the watering cans of Mike Shadrack to the gasping pots in the hoop house. Reflecting back on this problem has opened a conversation on how to become water independent. Having the best membership, I know there is an answer out there so bring your thoughts and ideas to the attention of an Officer or Board member. All ideas will be considered.

And by the way, momma's aching back would like some greenhouse benching for Christmas if anyone hears of a good sale somewhere!

It truly does take a village,
Jackie Adams



Some moments from putting the hoop house to bed... thank you to all who came out to help - see the crew, back cover



B Movie

The **B Movie** at the November meeting will be the WNYHS Annual meeting. We promise to keep this short and very cheerful. There is good news on the financial front and our membership continues to grow. There will be an election of officers and a new Board member to elect. We will report on the newsletter/communications and on our activities over the past year.

ONE RINGY DINGY TWO RINGY DINGYS

Heads up!!

Your phone will be ringing in the new year, with - maybe not Ernestine, but certainly our own Marcia Sully on the other end. The purpose? To determine whether you wish to participate in the **2017 OPEN GARDEN BOOK** (this is the one published through the WNY Hosta Society).



Every year, Marcia takes on the task of calling every single WNY Hosta member to check the details of their listing (if they're already in the book) or to check whether a new member wants to be included. We do not publish addresses,

only phone numbers (and this year - we will include e-mail addresses with your permission...sometimes that's an easier way to reach people).

The directory is very popular and a great way to see how your colleagues are growing hostas. So... Marcia will be calling. *One ringy dingy....*

The Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens

The WNYHS are members of the The Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens. As a result we have a handful of free admission tickets to the gardens that need to be used by February 2017.

If you would like to make a visit please ask Kathy for a ticket at the November meeting.



OPPORKNOCKITY TUNES

By popular demand (at least among hostaphiles) we are repeating an offer we have offered for the last SIX years,putting together a **group order** for Naylor Creek (www.naylorcreek.com) hostas (and arisaemas too). Here's how it works... Naylor Creek offers an **EARLY BIRD SPECIAL** for orders placed by 12/14 and totaling \$200 - a 10% discount and free shipping. We are extending that offer to our membership so that by joining our group order, by even ordering *one tiny hosta*, you will reap the benefit of the 10% and free shipping.

SO.... Here are the rules - please put together your order and bring it to the meeting - or otherwise get it to us **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1ST**. We will place one order (and bill you when we get confirmation). **Please note - as soon as we place the order they charge our credit card. Please, please please pay us promptly!**

We will ask Naylor Creek for delivery in time for our April meeting. We're sure to exceed the \$200 minimum so get your orders in! What a deal! (If you don't have a computer, we will have a **few paper copies** at the meeting. Otherwise <http://www.naylorcreek.com/>). You should ALSO know that Naylor Creek are advertising individual hostas heavily on Facebook (ask to join 'Hosta Buyers Guide'), and some are already sold out or in short supply. In the words of Yosemite Sam "Time's a-wastin'!"



GLOVES & KINCAID LABELS

For Christmas Stockings and winter projects.... Gloves and labels will be available at the meeting....

See Jackie Adams.



WESTERN NEW YORK HOSTA SOCIETY

Mike Shadrack, President
8399 Zimmerman Road
Hamburg, NY 14075-7143

h8staman@aol.com

We're on the web
www.wnyhosta.com

Next meeting: Late Fall Meeting!

11/13/16– East Aurora Senior Center

Speaker: Jerry Kral

Elections



Our hoopsters: L-R Dave Whittemore, Pat Gurney, Jackie Adams (kneeling), Lynn Marohn, Randy Marohn (on ladder), Katie Keeler in front and Marcia Sully on the far right. Notice the addition of the gravel! Missing from photo (but not from our gratitude), Julia Guillaume.