

# Hosta la Vista

April '19

*Until we meet again*



## PRESIDENT'S

W

e're on the move again.



Our hoop house has had a checkered history and has traveled almost as far as a migrating hummingbird. We are going to have to move it again. Its presence at Lasting Dreams Daylily farm does not fit their new five year business plan and they have asked us to vacate. Fortunately we have been given a very long window in which to comply and sometime this year we will be moving on.

The Society purchased the hoop house second hand from the late Jim Schnellinger, whose wife Betty is still a member. Our 45 foot long hoop house is actually half of an old 90ft professional building and is way stronger, heavier and more solid that the new ones on sale today.

The first home we found for it was on Sally Cunningham's property in East Aurora. Re-constructing it was a huge members' joint effort and a steep learning curve for us all. It was way behind the house and barn next to her lake. In those days we shared the internal space with the Buffalo Area Daylily Society.

Delightful as Sally's property was, access to water and the long trek from the cars to the hoop house were always a problem. In those days we exhibited hostas and daylilies at Plantasia which meant that in midwinter large planted pots had to be removed from the hoop house and taken to the warmth and the light to get them ready for display very early in the season. Hilarious but difficult.

We were offered a new home with Pam Hoffman at Mystic Meadows Daylily Farm and, whilst it was a little out of town, it was ideal in every other respect. We had water, it wasn't too far from the parked vehicles and we could even install a gravel floor. We knew a little more about moving and putting back together our hoop house and again a joint Society working party had fun putting it up.

While the hoop house was at Mystic Meadows dear Dolores Galbo spent hours and hours there, often by herself, tending to our hostas and daylilies. We learned about shade cloth and winter protection with white plastic sheeting. We learned about slug and weed control and we began to divide our

hostas. The hoop house, has always been a place where we can learn about hostas and help teach new members of the society good practice and skillful husbandry.

Growing and storing hostas in the hoop house has always been very important to the Society. It is those hostas that form the bulk of both our sales. The "Members' Only Sale" in the spring and our big public sale in August. Without those events the society would not be financially viable. Our dear friends, nursery owners Oscar and Amy Cross in Missouri, have always been generous donators of hostas and each year they bring us a truck full of their surplus plants. Amazing generosity.

Sadly, about five years ago Pam decided to move on and put her house up for sale. We needed to find another new home and Anthony and Carol Haj quickly offered us a place at Lasting Dreams. We took the hoop house apart. I swear I heard it sigh. We hired an enormous U-Haul truck and moved it a third time. We were now getting good at this and had professional help. Spouse member Randy Vogel had constructed dozens of hoop houses and this time the working party had expert assistance. For the first time it was square and level and looked pretty good. Randy returned a couple of weeks later and, by himself, constructed proper wooden ends that made it look tidy and neat.

Life at Lasting Dreams was pretty good and we enjoyed some really interesting and worthwhile working parties. We grew hostas like never before. Jackie Adams put in hours and hours labeling and cataloging the stock and soon Dianne Giordano joined her. Eventually we had regular work parties there on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the growing season. Sue Sickels took on the responsibility of pest control, fertilizing and watering. Dave Whittemore built racking and we were able to raise our plants off the ground.

Access, both vehicular and pedestrian, was an issue from the beginning and eventually water became a problem too but generally we were very happy. Those members who witnessed the annual fixing of the white plastic winter protection will always have stories to tell.

But, now we have to move it again.

**Michael Shadrack**  
President.



## YOUR New Hostas

If you ordered hostas from Naylor Creek last December, they will be available for distribution at our April meeting. They will arrive bare root. So, what to do. Perhaps these tips will help the newer hostaphiles!

*Plant your bare root hostas as soon as possible.* Given Western New York weather, it might be better to pot them and leave them potted until all danger of frost has passed before putting them in the ground.

Soak the roots in tepid water for a couple of hours before planting. Use a rich soil mix that will drain well (ProMix or BM1 is a good choice). Dampen it before using it. You can form a small cone in your pot and spread the roots over it. Back-fill with your soil mix firmly, but not hard enough to damage the roots. Add water to prevent any air pockets near the roots. When you finish, the hosta crown should be level with the surface of the soil.

Water slowly but thoroughly. Do not water again until the soil becomes dry. One of the most frequent mistakes people make with newly planted bare root hostas is overwatering. Remember, some plants will emerge more quickly than others. Don't overwater the slower plants because you may cause them to rot.

If there is a threat of frost after potting or planting outdoors, protect new growth with an upside down bucket or pot or bring the newly planted pots into an unheated garage or shed.

*Borrowed from the Mississippi Valley Hosta Society Newsletter*

### SOME NOTES ABOUT THE HOOP HOUSE

*We will be moving the WNY Hosta Hoop House again within the year, but while we are still on the property of Lasting Dreams, a few things....*

*Remember to only visit the hoop house during designated hours and by prior arrangement. You HOSTA FLASH will let you know when those opportunities are.*

*Please park respectfully on the road and walk across the grass to the Hoop House.*

*Remember that you are there at your own risk.*

*Thank you.*

## MEMBER OPPORTUNITY!!!

The WNY Hosta Society has again been given a very generous opportunity to purchase potting soil at a very reasonable price. The potting soil is a little coarser than ProMix with better water retention. It comes in large, 3 cu ft compressed bales and we are able to purchase at about 1/3 less than retail.

Logistically, we will purchase the soil on your behalf and have it for pickup at our Smug Creek (8399 Zimmerman Rd., Hamburg) location. Cost will be somewhere around \$22 per bale.

We will have an order sign up at the meeting and the pick up will be the same day as the Hoop House opener (we are about 3 miles away from Lasting Dreams).

If you are not going to be at the meeting, please let us know **NO LATER THAN APRIL 28th** how many bales you wish to purchase.

**Mike or Kathy:**

**716-941-6167**

H8staman@aol.com or Irisborer@aol.com

## THE 2019 WALL CALENDAR

The WNY Hosta Society 2018 calendar was a great success! Members took photos in their yards, a committee selected the best of those submitted, Dave Whittemore put the calendar together and we almost completely sold out again.

Of course, we are going to repeat the process for 2020 - and we hope for many years to come. But this year, we need to step up the pace. We would like the finished product available for sale at the 2019 Fall Hosta Forum in September. We would also would like to have even MORE hosta pictures to select from to be included and we will need them earlier.

So please get out and about with your cameras this summer and take some interesting pictures of hostas and hosta gardens. They will need to be sent or given to Dave Whittemore **by the end of July** so that there is plenty of time for the complicated production process.



The next meeting  
of the WNY Hosta Society is the

## Spring Meeting

Sunday, April 28th —1:30-4:00

East Aurora Senior Center  
101 King Street—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 1:00**  
**Program commences at 2 pm**

### ★ **PROGRAM** ★ **ALL B-Movies - 3 Shorts**

**Cloning Hostas - Mike Shadrack**  
**Photo Gallery of New Hostas Ordered from**  
**Naylor Creek this Spring - Sue Sickels**  
**What to Do with Your New Hosta**

Short business meeting  
& review of 2019 calendar

**Plus**  
Door prizes  
drag and brag  
hostatality  
Fun and Frolic

Spring  
Is Almost Here



## OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that I announce the death, at the tender age of eighteen, of Mike Shadrack. It is deceased, it is no more, it has run down the curtain, it has ceased to exist, it has passed on, it has expired, it has gone to meet its maker, it is an ex hosta. Eaten by voles it may never push up daisies but with luck there will be a few candelabra primulas.

Born in 2001 in Brecksville, Ohio, the only son of the English H. 'Great Expectations' and the American H. 'Rock and Roll', it quickly enjoyed considerable popularity. But now the O.S. version is no more, etc., etc.. Luckily it was divided several years ago so there is another, though not nearly as handsome. It was prolific, nay rampant, in its youth and there are hundreds out there.

Luckily too, like that other Brit., Dolly the Sheep, it is being cloned by Rob Mortko and its continued existence is ensured.

So, there might be two morals to this tale. First, take a good look at your lovely plants this summer. Take time to enjoy them when you can. Second, if you have a beautiful or treasured hosta be sure to divide off a piece and plant it elsewhere, or better still give a piece to a friend.



## APRIL MEETING

We need the following for the  
April meeting:

**Volunteers to bring  
desserts/refreshments -**

Please call: Judy (649-2764)

**YOU....**

Make sure you come—  
and bring a friend!

# Hoop House Sale

Hoop House Sale – Hurry while stocks last

Thanks to some shrewd planning by the Board, and sheer hard work by our crackerjack team of hosta wranglers, the hoop house is full to bursting with potted hostas.

We feel that we may even have too many and so we are holding a ...

## Hoop House Sale

Saturday, May 18th  
9am to 12 noon only

**Lasting Dreams Daylily Farm**  
6425 Abbott Road, Orchard Park

The notion behind these sales is to give our members first dibs on the exciting (and CHEAP) hostas we are growing for our public sale in August.

The rules, there has to be rules! Members **ONLY**. Six plants maximum per member. Real money, no hosta bucks. The management reserves the right to withhold some of the hosta for future sales.

## Hurry while stocks last

Please note.  
Park carefully and quietly in the road.

Nametags... remember your nametags

## NAYLOR CREEK HOSTAS

Remember that we will have your pre-paid Naylor Creek hostas at this meeting for pickup.  
If you are unable to attend the meeting, PLEASE LET US KNOW and other arrangements will need to be made.

## PRELIMINARY 2019 Calendar

*We've spent some time looking at the calendar already... all these dates are subject to change, but it's going to be a **BUSY** year!!*

Sunday, April 28	Members' Meeting Naylor Creek hosta pick-up East Aurora Senior Center
Saturday, May 18	Hoop House <b>Season Opener</b>
Saturday, June 1	Hosta Tea - <b>Bruce &amp; Marie Herman</b>
June 8 and 9	Hosta Show - Botanical Gardens
June 12 thru 15	AHS Hosta Convention Green Bay, Wisconsin
June 21 - 23	Tailgate; Bay Village, Ohio
June 29 & 30	Garden Art Sale Botanical Gardens
Saturday, July 6	Hosta Tea - <b>Brenda Fox</b>
Saturday, August 3	Hosta Tea - <b>Ray Boronczyk</b>
Sunday, August 11	Hosta Picnic Eagle Bay Hosta Garden
Saturday, August 24	Public Hosta Sale
Saturday, September 7	Hosta Tea - <b>Pam Rose</b>
Saturday, September 15	Fall Hosta Forum, Edinboro, PA <b>Sgt. Peppers</b>
Saturday, October 5	Hosta Breakfast Forestview, Depew
Saturday, November 2	Hosta Breakfast Forestview, Depew
Sunday, November 10	Hosta Annual Meeting East Aurora Senior Center

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)



# Hosta Show 2019

## Woodstock: 50 Years of Peace, Love and 'Paisley Print'

By Dianne Giordano

For those of you who remember, Woodstock was the biggest and best event that ever took place. It was a music festival held for three days in August, 1969 on a dairy farm in the Catskills. It attracted an audience of over 400,000. It was headlined by many legendary acts including, Janis Joplin; the Grateful Dead; Joe Cocker; Crosby, Stills, and Nash; and Jimi Hendrix.

Our inspiration for this year's hosta show is only fitting as the Hosta of the Year is H. 'Lakeside Paisley Print' reminding us of Jimi who not only was an incredible guitarist but also did paisley oh so well! We are including a special section for only the 2019 Hosta of the Year, H. 'Lakeside Paisley Print.' The American Hosta Growers' Association annually selects one hosta plant as HOTY based on ease of growth, affordability and widespread availability.

We will have a section to include Hosta Design Exhibits. We are currently planning the details for this section. More information will be available in a future Newsletter or Hosta Flash.



We are also limiting the number of entries allowed per participant. This information will be available in the Show Schedule that will be available upon AHS approval.

Participation is a great way to learn more about growing Hostas and the various species and cultivars that are grown in our area. You will also meet many hosta folks running the gamut from novice to experts! We provide all the materials necessary to stage your exhibit and assistance with that staging. Even if you don't choose to enter an exhibit, we would love to have you come and volunteer with any and all parts of the show.

Detailed volunteer sign-up sheets will be available at the April 28<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting, and we will be available at the meeting to discuss any questions.

## 2019 Hosta Show

Fri., June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Set up
Sat., June 8 <sup>th</sup>	Entry and Judging
Sun., June 9 <sup>th</sup>	Move Exhibits and Open to the Public

## The Open Garden Book

The 2019 Open Garden Book will be distributed at the April Members' meeting.

This book is the result of hard work by Marcia Sully who telephoned every member (sometimes more than once) during the winter months, Kathy Shadrack who spent hours transcribing it all and putting it together, Mike Shadrack proofed and organized it all and Pat Gurney who arranged for the printing. We have more advertisers in the book this year and we are grateful for their contribution - we hope you pay them a visit too.

Your Open Garden Book gives you details of the members' gardens that you can visit throughout the summer - not only hosta members, but also daylily and iris members too. It is up to you to contact the garden owner by phone or e-mail to arrange your visit.

Remember too that every time you visit a member's garden and get your book signed you qualify for a ticket in the prize draw that takes place in November. Draw tickets mean PRIZES.

***Please support those  
who offer their gardens in the book  
by visiting a few of them  
this summer.***

***And of course...  
support our advertisers!***

## Nema Stop™



It is relatively easy to design a laboratory experiment to determine the efficacy of a product or process to kill nematodes in a petri dish. They are easily seen with a microscope and they wiggle to show they are alive. However, it is more difficult to determine the effectiveness of a product (and at what dilution and rate of application) to eliminate nematodes in a garden. It is only by trying it in our gardens and looking for results that we can find those answers.

We are all participants in the next part of the fight against nematodes. The study done by the AHS had suggested that Nemakill<sup>®</sup> is an effective treatment in the lab. Since it works as a contact pesticide, it must be in contact with the nematode to be effective. I have two suggestions on how to rid a given plant of nematodes. First, fully saturate the pot of a plant that has not yet emerged. The effectiveness of this treatment depends on the size of the plant. So, I would like to suggest another method. Isolate a small division of the hosta you cannot replace. You will still have most of the plant to try other methods to eliminate nematodes, including heat. Wash all dirt from the plant and submerge the plant in a dilution (19 ml Nemakill<sup>®</sup> per gallon of water) of Nemakill<sup>®</sup>. Swish the plant so that every part of the plant is soaked in the diluted Nemakill<sup>®</sup>. Pot the plant and grow for a year to see if any nematodes survive.

Nemakill<sup>®</sup> is now made by PureGro USA under the name Nema Stop™. Be very careful about Googling for Nema Stop™. If you search for NemaStop, an entirely different and untested product (against foliar nematodes in hostas) comes up that is made by SoilTech. I have had a series of emails with PureGro about the dilution rate on their packaging, as it differs from the dilution used in the study done by the AHS. They had been totally unaware that another company was stepping on their trademark, before my email to them. PureGro's 16 oz bottle is selling for \$50, plus shipping. It is potent for at least two years but may be useful beyond that point. Part of our spring routine at the Hoop House is to drench every pot we have overwintered. We also isolate (remove from the Hoop House) any suspicious plants in July and August.

We continue to collect data on nematode control from gardeners like the members of the WNYHS. Please forward all observations to PureGro, the current manufacturer of this product. [www.puregrousa.com/products/nema-stop-concentrate](http://www.puregrousa.com/products/nema-stop-concentrate)

## OPEN SHOP

*There is so much stuff that we will be offering and giving away at the April meeting that you may just need a shopping cart.*

**Naylor Creek Hostas.** Those of you who ordered hostas from our friends at Naylor Creek will be able to pick them up at the meeting.

**Atlas gardening gloves.** These excellent gardening gloves, in various sizes and colors, will be available at an amazing discounted price.

**The 2019 Open Garden Book.** Our Open Garden book will be available free to members who remember to wear their name tags.

**Potting soil.** You will be invited to order potting soil at a reduced price for collection from Smug Creek Gardens on Hoop House Opening Day – May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Kincaid Labels.** These excellent stainless steel plant labels will be available at a discount price.

**Marking Pens.** For those of you not using the Kincaid labels, excellent marking pens will be available.

**Nemastop** We will have some Nemastop available for the treatment of foliar nematodes and Sue Sickels will be available to give expert advice.

***Remember to wear your name tags!***



## HOSTA TEAS BEGIN ON JUNE 1ST!

We will have a hand out available at the meeting to describe this year's teas... and they are all unique and wonderful. We are kicking off the season on June 1st in North Tonawanda at **Bruce and Marie Herman's** alpine garden. They specialize in these choice plants that most of us don't have an opportunity to see. This is a treat indeed.

Other cool invites include a trip to Pembroke to **Brenda Fox's** (lunch at Indian Falls?), new member **Ray Boronczyk's** hand started vegetables and annuals and **Pam Rose's** Parkside garden. All choice, all diverse and all places we need to see. Dates are in the calendar and details at the meeting.



## Hostas in the Mojave Desert

Peter Cross

We (myself, wife Tara, son Quinn [4], and daughter Ophelia [2]) live in the town of Ridgecrest, CA, which lies at an altitude of about 2000 feet in the high Mojave desert 150 miles north-east of the malignant cancer known as Los Angeles. Two words define our climate: hot and dry. (We are, after all, in the closest town of any consequence to Death Valley.) Our USDA hardiness zone is 8b; our sunset climate zone is 10 or 11. A typical winter will have about 85 nights with lows below 40°F; the typical low for the winter is in the mid-20s. Our last freeze of the winter is usually late February; first freeze is about mid-November. 100°F temperatures usually start in May and extend into September; usually 70-80 days in the summer will be over 100 degrees; about 5 will be over 110. The hottest I have seen in the 12 years we've lived here is 116, the lowest is 19. A relative humidity exceeding 10% is considered a humid day. We get about two inches of precipitation in an average year. It last snowed in January, 2011. (We got about three inches overnight, and it was gone by noon. But we still got half a snow day off from work.)

Our lot is quite small at 8800 square feet. In front of our house was originally a xeriscape with some huge agaves, a few yuccas, three palm trees, and lots of very ugly rocks. This has all gradually been replaced, and we now have a set of retaining wall flower beds. These are relatively new, and have not been fully planted yet. This area is mostly sunny and hot, but some parts get afternoon shade from our house and another part morning shade from some olive trees we planted. A set of flower beds along our driveway get morning shade from our neighbor's trees. In our back yard we have a covered, north-facing patio surrounded by a grass lawn bordered by flowerbeds. It is mostly sunny; some of the lawn is shaded parts of the day by our house. We also have a 'Purple Robe' locust that casts some light shade on one corner of the yard.

Horticultural highlights include quite a few roses (which do tolerably well here), the afore-mentioned locust and olive trees, a red-flowering oleander, a pomegranate tree, and a *Chilopsis* (desert willow). I am attempting to grow some espaliered apricot trees along our back wall (they are surviving, but not really thriving). The horticultural jewel that came with the house is a very nice clump of *Lycoris aurea* that sends up lots of yellow-orange flowers each October. We planted some gaura years ago and it has turned into something of a thug, spreading to fill a large corner of our garden and threatening to take even more. I love a thriver! Gailardia also do very well here. We have a rather large rosemary bush, so always have plenty fresh for cooking. A bay laurel tree is growing in a container next to our house (and has since rooted into the ground). We have a few agapanthus, and have recently started an iris collection (they seem to do well around town). In the winter we have taken to planting lots of sweet peas, which do very well here and give lots of flowers from April into June. Our winter crops also include pansies, violas, lobelia, flowering kale, and heucheras. (We treat the heucheras as winter annuals... they often evaporate over

the summer.) Our summer crops consist of lots of vinca and zinnias, and some large containers with hibiscus and a few other odds and ends.

So, about hostas... we have and do grow hostas here, but I cannot say that we grow them well. At all. In our early years in town we went through a couple of dozen different varieties planted in the ground. However, I do not think that they got enough chill over the winter, as they would fade away over a couple of years. This was even true for *plantaginea* and some of her hybrids, which I expected to do better than most in the warmer climates. The hot and, more importantly I think, dry summers also delivered a beating to the leaves, especially the large-leaved varieties. We no longer have any hostas growing in the ground.

We have had our best success growing small to mini hostas in pots. We leave these pots outside under our covered patio year round, and they seem to get enough chill. In one pot we have a 'Stiletto' and in another a 'Pineapple Upsidedown Cake'. (I have always liked this variety, and Tara fell in love with it after seeing especially nice clumps of it at the 2008 convention in St. Louis.) A third pot contains a few miscellaneous minis and one eye of 'Francee' that has been bonsaied through abuse. The hostas emerge for us sometime in March and look good for a month or so. However, the heat and dry soon take their toll and the hostas spend most of the year looking very scorched.

These particular hostas have been growing in these pots, in the same exact location, for at least 8 years. This past year it looks like they have started to decline a little. I think that this is mainly due to neglect... the potting soil they are growing in is now ancient and degraded. I think that if I get them repotted into fresh soil and give them a bit more love they would do better.

So, it is possible, if somewhat cruel, to grow hostas here on the edge of Death Valley, in pots at least. They usually don't look like much, but as a true hosta lover, just knowing that they are in my yard in the blazing desert, that they are hostas, and that they are alive, brings me great pleasure. I won't be winning any leaf shows or hosting a convention garden tour anytime soon, however.



# Western New York Hosta Society

Mike Shadrack, President  
8399 Zimmerman Road  
Hamburg, NY 14075  
h8staman@aol.com

We're on the web  
**WWW. Wnyhosta.com**

Next meeting: April 28th

**Spring Meeting**

*All the pieces for this year's Fall Hosta Forum are in place. Our advice is 1) REGISTER NOW AND 2) BOOK YOUR ROOM. We have been selling out and we expect we will again.... And we truly hate to see the sad faces of the masses who were denied....*

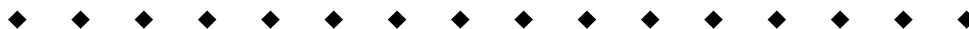
*We have two of the most highly-regarded hosta personalities in the world, plus two additional speakers in great demand everywhere. Plus our Friday night has evolved - based on your survey responses we are changing to a vendor preview with sandwiches and salad and a \$5 voucher for the vendors... **PLUS, an undistributed hosta - Hosta 'Mr. Kite'** All this and plants, plants, plants.*

So, "Altogether Now", get yourself ready for another FABULOUS Forum.

## 2019 FALL HOSTA AND GARDEN FORUM

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

**SGT. PEPPERS HAPPY HOSTA BAND**



**Hugo Phillips**

All the way from BELGIUM

**Paul Zammit**

All the way from TORONTO

**Ted Hildebrandt**

Coldwater Pond Nursery

**Chuck & Sue Anderson**

Mason Hollow Hosta Nursery

**September 14th**

Edinboro, PA

*Details: [www.wnyhosta.com](http://www.wnyhosta.com)*

We will have  
registration forms & information  
at the meeting