# Mini Hosta

Until we meet again

July '18

#### **CALENDAR**

## **NEXT UP**

Saturday, July 21st
TWILIGHT TEA
Whittemore Garden - aka
"Whit's End" Garden
Details in this newsletter

Sunday, August 5 HOSTA PICNIC Eagle Bay Hosta Garden Sheridan. NY

**Saturday, August 25**Public Hosta Sale
Buffalo and Erie County
Botanical Gardens

Saturday, September 1st FINAL Hosta Tea of 2018 Kreutzer Garden Cheektowaga, NY

**Saturday, September 15**FALL HOSTA FORUM
Edinboro. PA

Saturday, October 6
First Hosta Breakfast
Forestview Restaurant - Depew, NY

**Saturday, November 3** Hosta Breakfast - Forestview, Depew

**Sunday, November 11**Members Meeting - Annual Meeting
East Aurora Senior Center

Details will follow!

ormally we don't produce a newsletter until we issue the joint newsletter on the HOSTA PICNIC and the PUBLIC SALE.... But we need to get the word out about this special tea and then the picnic is going to be in our laps!

So, we thought the best thing to do (since not everyone, sadly is on e-mail and able to receive HOSTA FLASHES), was to produce a "mini hosta" newsletter (get it - Mini hosta ~).

This will give you all the deets on the tea, plus spell out the rest of the calendar so you aren't missing anything, plus flog you AGAIN for the Fall Hosta Forum (we have a cut off.... Remember that).

I don't know how you are faring, but we have had our share of issues this year with our hostas. First of all, the voles and mice had a DELICIOUS winter. We were out of town when we should have been putting them properly to bed (castor oil, wire cages and so on) and the rodents moved in and feasted.

I have lined up all of the labels of the lost as a lesson - a hard lesson - in what happens when you miss your fall tasks... at least when you live where we do. Big losses.

And then, as if that were not heartbreaking enough, we lost the shade over our deck last fall (two dying beeches needed to come down before they fell down). Our deck has become an enormous cookie sheet where our potted hostas are baking in this vear's unprecedented heat. We have had to remove guite a few from display when they took on the "boiled cabbage" look. tried shade sails... the problem is, the sun moves and the sails stay stationery.

So.... Next year will be BETTER - in the meantime WATER, WATER, WATER!

OPEN GARDENS although we present you with the opportunity to visit selected gardens each year for our HOSTA TEAS, we encourage you to continue to visit others on your own, using your OPEN GARDEN BOOK. Remember that when you visit a garden (make arrangements at your convenience), to get the gardener to initial your book so that you are eligible for fabulous prizes at our November meeting! Win win win.

# How Will We Do our Part to Continue the Legacy?

by Joanne Tanner

As I look around the room when I am attending Hosta meetings or when I was at the Hosta Forum, I noticed that many of us are at, let's say a "more mature age". Not very many YOUNG Hosta enthusiasts in our club. Maybe it's just because once we come to an age where we are more established in life, there is more time for joining such organizations? As our population matures, I can't help but wonder, "what will happen to the Plant Nurseries or Hosta Hybridizers and/or Tissue Culture Labs?" industries are not taken over by their children, will there be someone else that will? Have we not kindled the "garden spark" that is needed in our youth to continue on the legacy? Curt Hanson brought this very point up at our Daylily meeting last fall. I was 10 years old when I began my first attempt at gardening. I believe my interest started from watching and listening to Mom and Dad as they looked thru garden catalogs discussing what to plant and from the many visits we made to local nurseries. At that time, Burpee seeds advertised in comic books and magazines, a way to make a little income by selling their seeds. They cost 10 cents a package. I was excited and spent my profit on purchasing Marigold and Zinnia seeds to plant in a new garden. Mom gave me a small 4 ft. x 4 ft. plot alongside the back door to start my garden. It was a success and I was hooked on gardening.

As a parent, mother of 4, I was so busy creating and landscaping my own backyard, I forgot to include my own children in the process. My eldest daughter showed a little spark so I gave her seeds and a 2 ft. x 2 ft. plot and told her she could plant it like my mother did with me. But she lost interest. It appeared I had failed her. The garden gene skipped a generation.

When I became a Master Gardener this changed. I found my niche teaching children about gardening and found every way I could, to do that. Combining with The Botanical Gardens and a few other Master Gardeners, we established a "hands on" Children's garden, working with 4th grade classes from a neighboring school that would come to the Botanical Gardens. This eventually grew into a Jr. Master Gardener Program thru the 4H Program. We ran this program for several years.

Thru this experience, I came to an understanding of how important it is that our children and grandchildren learn about gardening right from a very early age. As we will be leaving this

earth to our Grandchildren, if there is no interest in plants or in growing their own food, they will have a "disconnect" from Mother Earth.

I do believe I have the answer and it is up to us. My youngest grandchild is age 6. She and her sister have been by my side gardening since they were 3 years old. They help me with shoveling soil, adding compost and mulch, planting and sowings seeds. They are not afraid to get their clothes dirty. They observe the insects that come to visit and love it all. I think in our elder years, as we slow down our pace while we do our garden chores, It's a good time to take the time to include the grandkids. Or if you hire a teenager or college student to give you a helping hand, remember that it is the opportunity to create the spark for our future gardeners. And lets' be tolerant, let them pick the flowers! I love that the Elementary and Middle Schools in my Village have school garden programs so I do what I can to support them by buying plants at their fundraisers or donating to the cause.

My eldest daughter, the one who I thought I failed 30 years ago, called me up late last summer looking for advice on starting a garden in her side yard in the city. Excited to hear this, I brought many Hostas from my garden that I divided to



share with her and gave her guidance. She planted and created a beautiful new garden. I am sure that Garden Walk Buffalo helped to create the spark, but she knows to call on me for advice and plants of course! I can't wait to see how her garden blossoms this spring.

## Why YES we *ARE* on FaceBook!

Join the WNY Hosta Society conversation... about hostas, slugs, and just whatever pops into your head - and post pictures too

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To join, send a request
and we'll fix you up "toot sweet"





# **GUYS AND DOLLS**

# AND A TWILIGHT TEA FINISH

The July HOSTA TEA is going to really be a full day event... we are "borrowing" from the Village of Hamburg, we then have two excellent Village gardens PLUS an amazing musical collection to marvel upon... culminating with an elegant TWILIGHT TEA at the famous Whit's End garden.

### Saturday, July 21st

You can start your day <u>any time you please</u> at Hamburg's **BURGERFEST** https://www.hamburgburgerfest.com/schedule/
Enjoy food, music and (fitting our theme) an antique car show from noon until 4 pm.

Anytime between the hours of 4 pm to 7 pm: The Amazing Collection of Bill Whittemore - 84 Long Street, Hamburg (one street south of Main): Bill has been collecting antique player type musical items for many years. He has everything from enormous dance hall players, to carousel organs to juke boxes and even very early video players. It is truly a magical place and very much worth a visit.

<u>Anytime between the hours of 4 pm to 7 pm:</u> The Garden of **Kathy Tolien**—38 Hillview Place, Hamburg (end of Hillview, about 500 feet from Bill Whittemore's). A beautiful hosta garden overlooking Eighteen Mile Creek.

<u>Anytime between the hours of 4 pm to 7 pm:</u> The Garden of **Sharon Beck** - 296 Brookwood, Hamburg. Sharon has a large collection of hostas, of perennials and whimsies. She has been kind enough to invite us to have a peek.

<u>Anytime between 7 pm to 10:30</u> - **A TWILIGHT TEA AT WHIT'S END GARDEN** - the garden of **David and Barb Whittemore**, 33 Sherwood Avenue, Hamburg - a quiet residential street with plenty of street parking. The garden features over 350 named hostas in addition to other perennials and annuals, located in gardens, in elevated beds and in containers.

Two notable features are the waterfalls and three operating garden trains. Several outdoor 'rooms' offer different viewing vistas and the garden shed is disguised to look like a train station. We will enjoy watching the garden transform from daylight to nighttime when the garden lighting takes over.

#### MINI Hosta la Vista

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# We're on the web Wnyhosta.com

Next Meeting - PICNIC 8/4/18 Eagle Bay Hosta Garden Hosta Sale - 8/25/18 - B&ECBG Fall Hosta Forum - 9/15/18 Fun, Fun, Fun

# OPPORKNOCKITY TUNES

#### FALL HOSTA FORUM—9/15/18

The 21st 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 15th

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 or it is downloadable from our website.

The theme this year is FUN, FUN, FUN (THINK BEACH BOYS) and the four main speakers are all FUN DUDES! Our speakers are: Glenn Herold, all the way from Wisconsin who will talk about those HOTY hostas (Hostas of the Year), Mike Shadrack on Hostas in Containers, Chris Law, from Iseli Nursery in Washington State who will talk about acers and conifers in your garden and Cindy Tibbitt from Hummingbird Farm in Maine on clematis. Friday night we'll have some fun and we munch pizza and spend our \$5 vouchers with our many vendors. The venue has remained

the same....the Comfort Suite for accommodations and Friday night hospitality but all activity will take place at Edinboro University.

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 WNY and the AHS website so if you have not registered yet, you really should! (Especially if you need a hotel room - the Edinboro Comfort was running out of rooms, but you should still be able to squeeze in 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 2018 to learn something new

and add some cool plants to your garden. O h y e s ... . Plaaaaaaaants.

And wear your Aloha shirts.....

