

Hosta la Vista

April '20

Until we meet again



President's Message



The current dire situation in which we find ourselves and the rules regarding social distancing has meant that canceling our April Members' meeting was the only moral and practical course of action we could take. The situation is unlikely to get much better in the next week or so and we have therefore made our plans accordingly.

At the time of writing it is also extremely likely that we will have to postpone the opening of the hoop house and the members' only plant sale. Hopefully we will be able to arrange this later in the year.

In a normal Year the Society would have done much between the April meeting and the hoop house opening. There is the Naylor Creek hosta order to distribute, the Members' Garden Directory, (formally the Open Garden Book), to distribute, there would be much potting and re-potting at the hoop house and our order of BM1 and, this year, Permatill to distribute.

It is our plan to organize much around the weekend that would have been our April Members' meeting. We think we can achieve what needs to be done and still maintain social distancing.

The Society's Naylor Creek hosta order will be delivered to our Zimmerman Road address on Friday April 24th. Experience tells us that many of these plants will already be in leaf and will deteriorate quickly if left lying around. We will unpack them and put them into trays, one tray per member, on tables in the garage. Each tray will be named. We will cover the whole lot with wet newspaper.

If you have a Naylor Creek order please come to our house any time on Saturday or Sunday April 25th and 26th. Just go in the garage, take your plants and leave. You don't even have to wave. We would have liked to distribute the Member's Garden Directory at the same time, but sadly we have not been able to get it printed. Apparently "essential" means different things to different people.

Now here is the clever bit. Not far from here is Henry's Gardens and Nursery. Member Barbara Henry will also take delivery of our BM1 order on Friday April 24th. It will be stacked well to one side. And labeled WNYHS. Just go over to the pile and take your bales.

Why Henry's Gardens you may well ask. Well, for several years we have been trying to source a product called Permatill. This is a mineral compound that, when mixed with the soil in the garden or with potting soil in the pot, deters voles and improves drainage.

Last winter Barb Henry managed to source some and obtained a pallet load for us. If you need to buy some Permatill, and you should, you are going to have to go six feet from Barbara or Martin and purchase a few bags.

Enforced isolation and the early disappearance of the snow has meant that we have had more time to spend in our gardens. Leaves will have been raked, early weeds pulled, pots pulled from mulch, slug pellets broadcast and tree leaves composted. Indoors we can play too. Flower, vegetable and hosta seeds can be planted and the cloner, if you have one, pulled out of its box and cleaned up ready for a new season. I suspect that soon we will have to cut the grass.

Sadly the virus is not the only unwanted visitor to Erie County. Asian Jumping Worms have been discovered in a few places locally and we will need to work hard to prevent their spread. Sue Sickels has written an article about them elsewhere in this newsletter. There is nothing good about the Jumping Worm. Luckily they are easy to identify. They have a light, almost white, annular ring around their bodies with 'Asian Jumping Worm' written thereon.

Jumping worms eat through the organic matter in the soil and destroy it. WNYHS is going to have to change how we accept plants from, and exchange with, our members. *From now on* we are not going to accept donated plants at the hoop house or at the annual plant sale. Our finances are however very much dependent on donations at auctions at both the Annual Picnic and the Fall Hosta Forum. Donated plants will either need to be bare rooted and washed (we will be ready to re-pot them before they come up for sale) or very recently re-potted at home in a soil less potting compost. **Hey, BM1 is a soil less potting compost.**

We will be educating the general public about this pest at our Plant Sale and there will be many Hosta Flashes between now and then to keep us on our toes.

Sadly this is not the usual type of President's message but we live in unusual times. Please keep safe and stay healthy. We will get through this difficult time and enjoy each other's company again in the future.

Michael Shadrack
President.

**BE RESPECTFUL
BE RESPONSIBLE
BE KIND AND
BE SAFE**

Your New Hostas

If you ordered hostas from Naylor Creek last December, they will be available for distribution on April 25th and 26th at our house: 8399 Zimmerman Road, Hamburg 14075. 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 potting 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.

DIGGING TO SHARE

Many people divide their hostas in the spring, before the leaves fully unfurl when you can see what you're doing and the plant is growing vigorously.

Because of the concern we now have about jumping worms, we ask that you use only soil-less potting mix when potting these hostas. There are many varieties on the market... and, of course, BM1 is one example (also Promix, and various brands sold by your local nursery or box store).

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 Henry's Garden, 7884 Sisson Hwy., Eden. Cost is \$20 per bale.

The BM1 must be PREORDERED AND PREPAID - order from us and checks should be made payable to "WNY Hosta Society", and mailed to 8399 Zimmerman Road, Hamburg, NY 14075.

Mike or Kathy:

716-941-6167

H8staman@aol.com or Irisborer@aol.com

The 2021 WALL CALENDAR

The WNY Hosta Society 2020 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 sold out again.

Of course, we are going to repeat the process for 2021 - 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 2020 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.



Spring Hosta Tips

By Don Rawson*

The snow is melting and spring is on the way. You've been anxiously waiting for the chance to walk through your gardens and dream about the new plants you've ordered from your favorite mail order websites. And you can't wait to put your gloves on and get your gardens cleaned up.

Hold on. **Tip #1: Don't remove that winter mulch until the last frost is gone.** Early arrivals, like *Hosta montana* 'Aureomarginata', may require additional protection from that late season cold and wind. When all danger of frost is gone, then go for it. Get your rake and wheelbarrow.

Tip #2: Thoroughly clean your gardens. All debris should be raked and added to the compost bin to eliminate a breeding ground for slugs. Be careful not to rake or step on the shoots that are just popping up to avoid damaging the leaves which are about to unfold.



Are your plants in good shape? **Tip #3: Look to see if the frost has heaved your plants out of the ground- especially young hostas which were planted last year.** As the ground freezes and thaws, freezes and thaws, and freezes and thaws (get the idea?), those plants may need to be tucked in on several occasions.

Can your friends easily read those plant labels? Or has the name tag completely disappeared? **Tip #4: Make sure all plants, including new arrivals, are accurately labeled and the tags are in good condition.** Remember that large hostas will cover up name tags that are too close to the mound.

Perhaps you have trees and shrubs which need to be pruned. **Tip #5: Spring is the best time to prune most trees, and shrubs after flowering.** Those branches which are dead, or make it too shady, should be cut off cleanly, chipped up, and added to the compost bin or reserved for a woodchip path.

That pile of leaves, garden wastes and grass clippings from last fall should be flipped over now. **Tip #6: Turn over your compost pile.** You may want to add a little sand. The warm, rainy weather will turn all that debris into black gold. Then when those hot summer days reach 70 or 80 degrees, apply that free mulch around the base of your plants.

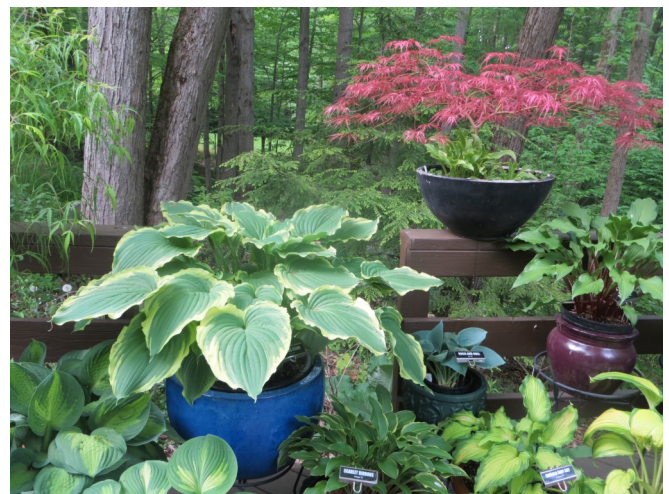
How is your supply of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides? **Tip #7: Take an inventory of your gardening supplies-** tools, gloves, hoses, sprinklers, wheel- barrows, fencing, tomato cages, etc. Shop and replace worn out items now so that you're not stuck in the middle of a job when summer arrives..

Spring is a great time to divide and transplant your hostas. Did you promise to give a hosta to a friend, or donate a plant for the hosta auction? You can create interest and educate others about gardening, and eventually turn your neighborhood into a hostaholic community.

Tip #8: Spring is the best time to dig in your hosta bed. Review your garden records from last fall to see which ones need your attention.

How wonderful to see those long awaited hostas shoot up, bigger and stronger than the year before! **Tip #9: Don't neglect to apply a slow release fertilizer.** But don't over fertilize, and keep those granules off the crown and newly emerging of the plant.

Above all, enjoy the fresh spring breeze, the chirp of the robins, and the signs of life as they appear, knowing that Old Man Winter is giving way to a new season of gardening and fun everywhere!



* NOTE: Don Rawson is one of this year's speakers for the FALL HOSTA FORUM

HOOP HOUSE SALE

Hoop House Sale – POSTPONED

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 generally offer our members a chance to purchase some of our bounty at a May Members' sale. Additionally, with our hoop house moved, our intention was to have a dedication ceremony where we will christen it in memory of a woman who was devoted to managing the hoop house; Dolores Galbo.

But, we will need to wait

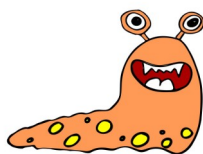
For the record, these are the rules.... That will be repeated whenever we are "free to move about the cabin..."

HOOP HOUSE SALE RULES

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.

Nametags... remember your nametags

Watch for a HOSTA
FLASH for further
information....



NAYLOR CREEK HOSTAS

Remember that we will have your pre-paid Naylor Creek hostas available for pickup the weekend of 4/25 & 4/26 at our garage:
8399 Zimmerman Road, Hamburg 14075

If you are unable to do so, PLEASE LET US KNOW and other arrangements will need to be made. Reminder by HOSTA FLASH.

PRELIMINARY

2020 Calendar

Sunday, April 26	Members' Meeting CANCELLED
Saturday, May 16	Hoop House Dedication and Season Opener - POSTPONED
Saturday, June 6	Hosta Tea - Sonia Falkowski Garden Amherst
June 09 thru 13	AHS Hosta Convention Minnesota
Saturday, June 20	Hosta Experience - Botanical Gardens
June 27 & 28	Garden Art Sale Botanical Gardens
Saturday, July 11	Hosta Tea - Upton Garden Grand Island
Saturday, August 1	Hosta Tea - Neeper Garden Medina
Sunday, August 16	Hosta Picnic Eagle Bay Hosta Garden
Saturday, August 22	Public Hosta Sale
Saturday, September 19	Fall Hosta Forum, Edinboro, PA Roaring Twenties
Saturday, October 3	Hosta Breakfast Forestview, Depew
Saturday, November 7	Hosta Breakfast Forestview, Depew
Sunday, November 15	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)

FOLIAR NEMATODES

Foliar nematodes are microscopic roundworms in the genus *Aphelenchoides* that move, by a swimming motion, in thin films of water that form on plant leaves and stems. Foliar nematodes enter the leaf tissue and once inside they feed on the cells and lay eggs. Once the eggs hatch they exit and swim to new sites. Nematodes can be moved from plant to plant in drops of splashing water and unintentionally on garden tools as well as through handling of the plant.

There are as many as 50 other garden plants that can be infected but Hostas are our main concern. Leaf damage is limited to areas between the major veins. This results in a streaking or striping pattern. The affected tissue becomes tan and necrotic over time and may drop out or tear. Leaf damage is most visible in late summer and early fall. Removal of affected leaves will help minimize re-infection in the plant when it emerges in the Spring. Ceasing overhead watering methods where possible is recommended. Prevention should be the goal.

The American Hosta Society supported a two-year research program at the University of Tennessee under the direction of Dr. Parwinder Grewal. The experiments demonstrated that treating with NemaKill in the Spring can significantly reduce infection in the leaves in the subsequent summer and fall seasons.

NemaKill (now called Nema Stop) is an organic (OMRI certified) product containing natural oils of cinnamon, cloves, and thyme. It does not cause damage to the plant. Treat in the Spring before the pips appear. Mix one two ounce bottle with three gallons of warm water. Saturate the soil around the Hosta. Foliar application in July is also recommended.



The Open Garden Book

(AKA The Members' Garden Directory)

The 2020 Members' Garden Directory will sadly, NOT be distributed at the usual time. Although the book is ready, our printing is done through the Hamburg Teachers' Resource Center, which is currently closed. We do not know when it will reopen, but we will get it to you eventually

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

Your Directory 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!***

LEE FREY

August 24, 1939 - April 9, 2020

We are so deeply sorry to announce that Lee Frey, partner of Marge Jasinski and father of Brian Legg, lost his battle with COVID-19 this week.



Lee has been an active and energetic member of our group for many years. He was a talented handyman, a willing set of hands for whatever he was asked to do... endlessly cheerful, and an avid supporter of the Buffalo Bills.

Services will be announced at a later date through the Bernhardt Funeral Home, 130 Main Street, Akron, NY 14001.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages memorials to your local fire company for purchasing personal protective equipment. Condolences to Marge and Brian at: 42 McParlin, Cheektowaga, NY 14225.

An unusual breakfast shared by Mike Sheehan, came complete with a recipe!

Dutch Baby Pancake or as some people call them German pancakes. They are so good and easy to make.

1 cup milk
1 cup of flour
1/4 cup butter
6 eggs beaten
preheat oven to 350

I like to make mine in a cast iron pan. I think its a ten inch.

So - in a mixing bowl whip up your eggs, if you plan ahead room temperature eggs will be a little fluffier, but not necessary. Then add the milk to the eggs stir up then add your flour slowly to cut down on lumps.

Now with the cast iron pan put the butter in the pan and melt making sure you get it all over the bottom and edges of it. Then pour the mixture into the pan and bake for 30 to 40 minutes. I know it seems like a long time, but so worth it. When its done I cut it into pie shape slices. What to serve with it. I like a like it topped with a dusting of powdered sugar, you can use fresh fruit, a squeeze of fresh lemon, syrup, anything really. Just use your imagination.



Photo: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Crazy Earthworms

Amyntas spp., or crazy/jumping/snake worms are an invasive species, native to East Asia, that grow easily in the soils of WNY. They reproduce asexually and mature in just 60 days, with two breeding cycles per year. Amyntas are voracious eaters and leave trails of worm castings and destroyed soil in their wake. They are easily identified by their light colored clitellum, or annular ring, as well as their thrashing behavior when held. The egg cocoons can be spread by shoes and vehicles, as well as potted plants and mulch. As you weed your garden this spring, look for these worms in the top 2" of soil or mulch.

A mustard test will cause all adult earthworms to come out of the soil but is a way of searching for these parasites on your property. All species of earthworms find mustard to be irritating to their delicate skin. Use 1/3 cup yellow mustard to a gallon of water. Follow this link for instructions. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZH_YmUCL5yo At this point, despite a significant amount of research, nothing has been found to deter these worms in large gardens. They can be killed individually by soaking in isopropyl alcohol, but this not effective for gardens.

Since Amyntas live on organic material in the soil, you should only accept bare root plants into your garden. If you purchase a plant with soil, immediately remove the soil and discard the soil in the garbage, not in a composting area. For our August picnic, we will only be accepting bare root plants for the auction. Since August can be warm, we suggest that the plant be thoroughly washed at home the morning of the picnic, then transported with cool wet paper towels. We will have materials on hand to repot most plants. The larger plants will not be able to be repotted at the picnic, so bring plants with less than 5 eyes.

A SOCIALLY DISTANT HOSTA BREAKFAST - the last breakfast of the season, as shared by our members



Peggy Riexinger enjoys her pre-Easter breakfast



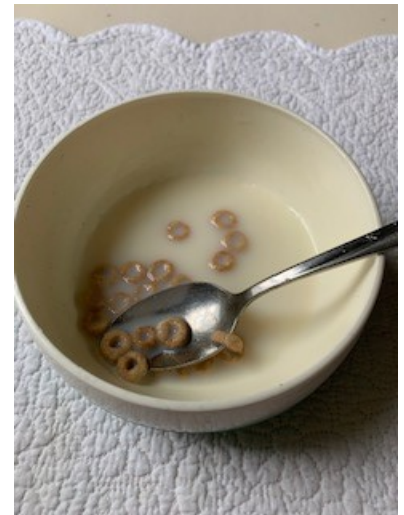
Timmy Ho apple fritters (with a possible side of HP) for our resident Brit



Ann Horstkotter is building a fairy garden with her breakfast



Vicki Carr-Lomas finishes her blueberries with oatmeal and honey and cinnamon tea



Cheryl Hall almost forgot!



Mike Sheehan sent this photo along with a recipe - see page 6



Peggy Dzimian has her coffee al fresco on a sunny morning

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: ?? TBA

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 have changed to a vendor preview with sandwiches and salad and a \$5 voucher for the vendors...

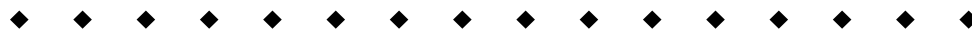
So, get yourself ready for another FABULOUS Forum.

registration forms & information is
on the website - or we can mail so
one if you ask....

2020 FALL HOSTA AND GARDEN FORUM

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

The Roaring Twenties



Don Rawson (hostas)

All the way from Michigan

Tim Boebel

Hydrangeas for the North

John Totten/Linda Kramer

Native Plants

Noah Schwartz (hostas)

Also all the way from Michigan

September 14th

Edinboro, PA

Details: www.wnyhosta.com