**SUMMER PICNIC - Saturday, July 8th** beginning at 10:00 am (Rain or Shine so dress accordingly) held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County Office at 24 Martin Road in Voorheesville.

We are excited to promote our combined Summer Picnic for all members of the Upstate NY Hosta Society, Capital Hudson Iris Society and the Hudson Adirondack Daylily Society as well as invited guests.

**WE WILL START WITH A GUIDED TOUR OF THE GARDENS** at 10:00 am at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County Office.

**To make sure we have enough Tour Guides, please RSVP to** UNYHS@aol.com **on or before June 30th. Preregistration is not required if you don’t plan to go on the tour…you can just come at noon for the picnic).** The gardens are designed as demonstration gardens to educate the community in horticulture and science. The gardens are dedicated to the memory of all former Master Gardener Volunteers.

The combined gardens consist of 20 distinctly designed gardens including a Shade Garden, a Native and Pollinator Garden, a Shrub Garden, a Grass Garden, a Knot Garden, Gazebo Garden, and a Children’s Garden.

The gardens begin with the Floral Demonstration Garden that is along the front of the Cornell Cooperative Extension building. The color scheme and design changes from year to year to demonstrate the varied looks that can be achieved in the same space. Other color scheme gardens include the White Garden and the Blue & White Garden. The Cottage Garden contains a variety of perennials and annuals. The goal in this garden is to create an ever-changing floral display throughout the growing season. The Autumn Garden’s main attraction is provided by plants that exhibit great Fall color, texture, seedpods, and late season bloom. This garden contains an ever-blooming rose, bulbs, and perennials to be attractive all during the season. The Low Maintenance Garden showcases a growing movement in contemporary horticulture. It features plants that are drought, pest and disease resistant. The Key Garden models the concept of succession planting, and the Mahonia Garden highlights an unusual shrub, the Mahonia (Oregon Grape Holly).

We also have a Vegetable Trial Garden and a Culinary Herb Garden. The Vegetable Garden is used to trial annual and perennial vegetable varieties for Cornell University Research to determine germination rate, disease resistance, growth habit, vegetable and fruit production while showcasing gardening techniques that can be used by home gardeners.

The societies will be providing paper products (cups, plates, utensils and napkins) as well as Cold Drinks (water, iced tea, lemonade and assorted sodas)

 The tour of the gardens will be first, so the food will wait safely inside (in the A/C) until lunch time when we will gather inside to feast together.

We encourage everyone to bring something “picnic-like” to share.  There will probably be plenty, so no need to feed everyone, just enough to share with maybe 10-12 people.  Some ideas are fried chicken, sausage & peppers, sandwiches, pasta, salads (Pasta, Tossed, Macaroni, etc.), vegetables, desserts/cookies, fresh fruit or whatever else you can think of.

We will be putting the food inside, so it will be out of the sun.  If you bring a crock pot, you could plug it in, but there is no other cooking or refrigeration facilities for our use.  If you need to keep it cold, bring ice and a cooler or bowl with ice to accomplish the task.

We will NOT be having a door prize table at this meeting. We encourage people to participate in the picnic instead. **HOWEVER, we will have a couple local vendors set up to sell to you so be sure to bring some extra cash and/or personal checks.**

Looking forward to seeing you all there!