



Growing Together Growing Together

Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania

FEBRUARY 2016

Hi there!

Cannot believe it's already the middle of February! And on top, winter decided to arrive after almost absent half way through—the nerve! But all things considered—we could be worse. Look at DC & Philadelphia, WOW! That was snow...And the Turnpike—a nightmare in PA Roads!

But the Steering Committee had its first meeting of the year on a very sunny Saturday, January 30. And I am excited with all the things we are planning for this year. And the first thing coming up is the annual meeting next Saturday, February 20. It will be a Pizza & Salad Social with brief reports from the Steering Committee Chairs on what we did & what we are planning.

Soooo Mark That Calendar! & be there at Noon, this time at the church across the Northland Library. (see more info in the newsletter)

We also are planning a two day Bus Trip to Toledo & Michigan for June 11-12, 2016. Karen, the Gahagans & Bobbi are working on it so we can have a very nice trip.

Chuck, Lenny & Joan are on for the Open Forum—you need to bring some questions, we really want to test the knowledge of this panel—LOL! Anything on hostas & maybe then some will be fair game.

And if you have not registered for Hosta College, what's keeping you? This event is the combined effort of the Great Lakes Region Hosta Soc of which we are members. As the name implies, is a sort of college with classes & periods & running from one class to the other, vendors, food & best: you get to meet new hostaholics or catch-up with old ones. Check the web site: <http://ihostohio.org/portal/glhc> & register Today. Registration closes on February 28 & once is closed...

And daffodils are just around the corner. Can't wait to see what the ones I bought at the banquet will look like. So start getting ready to pick daffodils for the show in April 23.

But don't take my word, keep reading & get all the details & join us for the food or the speaker or the activity or all of the above. I am sure I want to see you at the annual meeting & beyond. Come join us!

Alicia, the Pres

Steering Committee

President
Newsletter Editor
C. Alicia Pérez

Vice-President Hosta
Megan Danik

Vice-Presidents Daffodils
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Speaker Facilitator
Karen Schmidt

Education
Sandy Ellenberger

Members At Large
Jim Kalka
Matt Wilson

E-Mail Editor to:
Pitvp@aol.com

Think Spring
Think Yellow
Think Daffodils!

MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL MEETING!

Saturday, February 20, 2016
 Noon – 4:00 PM
 St John Lutheran Church of Highland
 (across from the Northland Library)
 311 Cumberland Rd
 Pittsburgh PA 15237



It's a Pizza & Salad Party!

This will be our first general meeting for the year/season. And we are starting with a State of the Club: a summary of what we did last year & what we are planning for this year. Each member of the Steering Committee will explain their "role" in those activities & some time for Q & A after each presentation. Soooo come & learn what's going on with your club.

This will also be a time to meet other fellow members or say Hi to old ones. We will have pizza from DiPietro's Pizza & brief presentations from the Chairs.

As always we will have a raffle so if you can bring a raffle item—Thanks.

And also as always, we ask you to bring some refreshment to share & because we are having pizza we are asking for either a salad or a dessert. We will have the pizza, coffee tea & punch.

This should be a nice & informative event, sooo please Mark Your Calendar! & plan to come.

Can't wait to see you! Alicia, the Pres.

HOSTA POPULARITY POLL

Please submit your choices for your favorite hostas by February 20th

Many people will suggest that there isn't much of a change from year to year in the Popularity Poll and to some extent that is true. More dramatic changes can be seen over a longer period of time...especially if viewed in 10 year intervals.

According to poll results from the AHS the top favorite in 1974 was 'Krossa Regal'. No other hosta in the Top Ten from 1974 placed in the top ten favorites for 2014, except 'Krossa Regal'. Change is inevitable and as members of a hosta society we are in a unique position to determine the fate or success of various hostas, both locally and nationally.

It has been 5 years since the DHSWP has conducted its own survey and we are looking forward to finding out what our choices are for 2015.

The results of our survey will be shared at the March 12th Hosta Forum meeting.

RAFFLE --- RAFFLE --- RAFFLE

A winner will be drawn from the surveys that are received by Feb. 20th.

The winner will receive a year's paid membership to the DHSWP.

Hosta Forum - March 12th BACK TO THE BASICS AND BEYOND!

This panel discussion will give members an opportunity to ask questions and discuss issues related to the 'basics' of hosta culture as well as concerns facing hosta gardeners today.

A panel of members will field questions and invite member participation/interaction. Although the panel is asking that questions be submitted in advance in order to prepare for the forum,

questions will also be addressed from the floor at the meeting.

Please help make this meeting a successful and educational experience for everyone by preparing your questions.

Thank you...Lenny, Joan, and Chuck

Please send hosta surveys and questions to Chuck Olescyski, cvoaao@zoominternet.net.

TIME TO GET YOUR HOSTA FINDER

Hosta Finder is a booklet that lists nurseries (address, phone, e-mail...) the hostas they sell & how much they cost. The booklet allows you to compare prices & find the hosta you want without having to drive/travel all over the nation--unless you want to...You can easily find the hosta you want at the price you are willing to pay, where it is being sold & who to contact. These booklets are published new every year as nurseries, hostas & prices change every year.

Every year around this time we buy a bunch of them at group price so members can get a copy at a discount & Jim Kalka will be placing the order for 2016 Hosta Finders at the end of this month. If you want a copy, this is the time to get it!

If interested in ordering a Hosta Finder please send a \$15.00 check payable to DHSWP before February 28, 2016 to:

Jim Kalka
2690 Timberglen Dr
Wexford Pa 15090

REMEMBER: The Hosta Finders **will not be mailed**, they will be available for pick up at upcoming club meetings,

Thanks,
Jim Kalka
(724) 933-3382

OF PINS & HONORS

On January 1, 1992 twelve individuals met and formed the Daffodil and Shady Garden Club, the following year the name was changed to The Daffodil and Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania. Over the past twenty three years we have seen many faces come and go, some as active members others as leaders and organizers of club activities.

Last year Gary Gahagan recognized that the club did not have a way to acknowledge the people who have contributed to the club's success over the years. Through Gary's efforts an award pin has been created to recognize the contributions made by these individuals.

The faces of the club are constantly changing. While we need to recognize the people who are presently contributing to the club it is also important that the individuals who have guided the club through the years and made it a success are recognized.

Last year a number of people were selected by the Steering Committee to receive the first of these awards. This year we need to open the nominations to the entire membership, so start thinking about the people who have contributed to the club's success both past and present. Take a look at the history section of the DHSWP website to see the people who have contributed over the years. <http://www.dhswp.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/dhswp-timeline.pdf> . We will be soliciting nominations from the membership for pins to be awarded at the annual banquet.

Great Lakes Region Hosta College

On-Line registration at <http://ihostohio.org/portal/glhc>

Time to kick off the 2016 gardening season by registering for Hosta College and making your hotel registrations. Be sure to check the accommodations page for Piqua, Ohio area hotels.

Registration began February 6, 2016 at 6:00 a.m. EST for members which as a member of the DHSWP you are...Registration closes on February 28, 2016. There will be absolutely NO CLASS CHANGES or REFUNDS after registration closes.

If you have any problems, call Kay (the registrar) at 1-616-796-8510 for help. You may also contact our representative, C. Alicia Pérez: 412-854-4929 or pitvp@aol.com.

The following page is the form for donating an item for a door prize at Hosta College.

The form can be printed, filled out and given to me C. Alicia Pérez at the Annual Meeting—Feb 20 or at the Open Forum on Hostas—Mar 12.

I'll take your donation to Tom. Thanks, Alicia



HOSTA COLLEGE 2016

Greetings!

It's time for another great Hosta College (March 18 & 19, 2016 in Piqua, OH), and we need your help. Would you consider donating an item for a door prize?

Donations may be made by a business, club or individual. Over 400 participants eagerly look forward to this drawing. Also, if you know anyone who would consider donating a door prize, please have them contact me! The list of prizes and donor names are posted and distributed, so it is a great opportunity to advertise your business or organization.

Suggested donations: plants, bird items, fertilizers, books, garden ornaments, etc.
Suggested value: \$20 or more....depending on the type of item donated.

If you have any questions or comments, call Tom Miller (859) 396-0802 or e-mail him at

tom@lotsahosta.net

DONATED BY _____

ITEM DESCRIPTION _____

____ ENCLOSED IS THE GIFT CERTIFICATE (mail order availability required)

____ I WILL BRING MY DONATION TO HOSTA COLLEGE

Please return this letter, or e-mail the information by March 1st to:

Tom Miller
509 Craig Lane
Georgetown, KY 40324
(859) 396-0802
tom@lotsahosta.net

*****Please send reponses and Gift Certifictates by March 1st*****

Thank you for your consideration.

2016 AHS Certificate of Appreciation Award

Note: This award is from the national society. This is in addition to our local pin award. We are also requesting nominations for this award. Thanks.

The President and Board of the American Hosta Society would again like to honor members of local hosta societies who have given of their time, skills, energy and enthusiasm over the years. 2016 will be the 5th time the AHS has honored such people and many hosta society clubs have taken the opportunity to nominate members. The nominating society receives a signed certificate for each nominated recipient for local presentation. In addition the recipient names are inscribed on the 'President's Wall of Honor', that is now part of the AHS website at www.Hosta.org.

The AHS is asking each local hosta society to nominate a maximum of two members (per year) to be honored. The nominated person does not have to be a member of the AHS and no nomination submitted by the local Society will be rejected.

Last year (2015) was the first time the DHSWP was asked to submit a nomination & the Steering Committee nominated Bob Danik. You can see his "brick" on the wall at the AHS website www.Hosta.org. This year (and for future years) we are requesting nominations from the membership.

So please submit 2 members who you think "have given of their time, skills, energy and enthusiasm over the years." The nominees can include past or deceased members.

Send me an e-mail to: Litvp@aol.com with your nominations. Nominations will be accepted until Monday, March 28.

HEARD THROUGH THE GREAT VINE Say Whaaaat?

Lysol I.C. Disinfectant Cleaner for Botrytis, Black Spot, Powdery Mildew... and Deer Control? Chris Wilson & Brian Hall, Hallson Gardens Newsletter

Don't you just love happy accidents? This year we had one when we decided to try using Lysol® Brand I.C.™ Quaternary Disinfectant Cleaner to prevent botrytis leaf spot on our lily crop. The lilies we sprayed had virtually no leaf spotting, turning in an awesome display in the gardens and one of our best

potted crops in the nursery. But that wasn't the surprise. The incredible side effect was that the resident deer didn't touch them!

The deer walked through the nursery and nibbled on Hydrangeas and daylilies, munched on hostas and Fine Line buckthorn, but never touched the lilies. In the display garden they were eating just about everything, but again not touching the lilies.

How did we know to use Lysol I.C. on our lilies in the first place? Years ago our chemical supplier recommended and sold us Consan 20 as an all purpose fungicide to treat Botrytis leaf spot and powdery mildew, among other things, and it worked pretty well. At the time we were using Lysol I.C. as a surface and tool cleaner, for cleaning and disinfecting used nursery containers, and for cleaning our hosta soaking tubs and wash areas.

After purchasing Consan 20 we noticed the liquids looked and smelled the same so we checked the labels and noticed that the active ingredients were nearly identical too. This year we mixed up the Lysol I.C. concentrate at a rate of 2 teaspoons per gallon, the rate listed for Consan 20 for plant treatments, and test sprayed it on different plants, starting with the lilies. We sprayed the foliage to runoff in late April, mid-May, and again in early June and in July.



Just be aware that we are not talking about Lysol like you would buy at the grocery store for cleaning your kitchen or bath. Those contain a LOT more additives such as soaps, degreasers, and more fragrance, and those WILL damage plants. We are talking about Lysol® Brand I.C.™ Quaternary Disinfectant Cleaner. It is a hospital and commercial type disinfectant that is easily found online at places

that sell cleaning supplies, Amazon, and maybe also at Costco and Sam's Club.

After that eureka moment with the lilies we started spraying our hosta area with Lysol I.C., again at a rate of 2 teaspoons per gallon, but this time applied only a light spray to the entire growing area. After two weeks the deer had not touched any of our hostas and after three weeks only started to munch on flower scapes. After four weeks they were eating hosta leaves again. This was the longest we had gone all season without deer damage, even after spraying the

perimeter with liquid fence and twice dusting the whole place with blood meal and granular Repels All.

After this test as an all around deer deterrent we continued to spray the rest of the property. We found that it was not harmful to most of the perennial plants here, but if you are going to try this yourself, please test on a few of your own plants first to make sure you don't cause damage. Also be sure to spray downwind so you don't get Lysol in your eyes as that could burn too, and follow other label directions for safe handling. We also sprayed in the late evening so the spray wouldn't evaporate too quickly & can sometimes cause leaf damage and we weren't sure if this would also happen with the Lysol.

So what is the verdict on the Lysol vs. deer, happy accident in the summer of 2015?

Our preliminary tests have clearly shown that a diluted spray of Lysol I.C. Disinfectant Cleaner acted as a deterrent to deer grazing in our 5 acres of

growing areas, gardens, production houses, and sales area, though it really didn't act as a repellent. We still saw deer walking through, often eating clover and grass in the pathways, so we will still be incorporating applications of Liquid Fence, blood meal, and Repels All to try and keep them out as well.

This was a particularly tough year for us with deer since a doe decided to have twins right here at the nursery this spring. Those fawns grew up playing out back and even greeting a few customers on the pathways, so it took an extra effort to stop their feeding. In the past Liquid Fence did a great job to repel them from the perimeter, but this year they started inside so the Lysol ended up being a big plant saver. If you decide to try it yourself please let us know how it goes!

Wishing you continued gardening success,
Chris Wilson and Brian Hall
Hallson Gardens

Just an early-bird reminder!



There are only
110 Days
remaining until the
Hosta Show and Sale On
June 4, 2016!!

**JUST ENOUGH TIME TO PUT
YOUR THINKING CAPS ON TO
GET SOME PRELIMINARY PLANS**

**IN MIND FOR YOUR POSSIBLE ENTRIES FOR THE SHOW AND/OR
A PROJECT FOR THE EDUCATION DISPLAY TABLE**

DJ's Greenhouse & Gardens 2016 Schedule of Events

1004 East Lake Rd, Transfer PA 16154

724-962-1230

www.djsgreenhouse.com

APRIL

- 5th Create your own Terrarium**
\$35..... All Materials Included
6:30..... Reservations Required
- 7th Create your own Fairy Garden**
\$35..... All Materials Included
6:30..... Reservations Required
- 15th Opening Day 9AM - 5PM**
Stop by for Refreshments
- 26th Vegetable Gardening Class**
6:30
What to plant and when to plant it!
Will frost hurt me?
- 30th New Plants Class**
11:00
Join us as we walk the greenhouse discussing
new plants for the season.

MAY

- 17th Gardening to attract Hummingbirds**
6:30..... Guest Speaker Paula Shacklock
- 24th Gardening to attract Butterflies**
6:30..... Guest Speaker Donnajean Enyeart
- 31st Vegetable Gardening Class**
6:30..... Is it time yet? Is the heat on?

JUNE

- 2nd Container Class: Can I be Creative?**
\$25..... All Materials included
6:30..... Reservations Required
- 4th Breakfast with DJ**
You name it we discuss it!
9:00.....Reservations Required
No Charge!
- 7th For the Birds!**
Should I be feeding the Birds?
6:30
Guest Speaker from the Birdwatchers Store
- 10th Ladies Night Out**
\$15
6:30-8:30 PM....Reservations Required
- 14th Create your own Fairy Garden**
\$35..... All Material Included
6:30..... Reservations Required
- 21st Create your own Terrarium**
\$35..... All Materials Included
6:30..... Reservations Required
- 25th**
- 28th Vegetable Gardening Class**
6:30..... Why is it not Growing?
Now what do I do?

JULY

- 2th Breakfast with DJ**
Fertilizer! What's That?
9:00 Reservations Required
No Charge!
- 12th Create your own Fairy Garden**
\$35All Materials Included
6:30 Reservations Required
- 15th Evening in the Garden**
\$26Garden Party
6-9Reservations Required
Great Food and Good Music!
- 19th**
- 23rd**
- 26th Vegetable Gardening Class**
6:30
Is it time to Harvest? Can I still plant more?

AUGUST

- 6th Breakfast with DJ**
You Did What...to your plant?
9:00 Reservation Required
No Charge!
- 9th Tappas at Sunset**
\$24Guest Chef David Armstrong
6:30Reservations Required
- 16th Create Your own Fairy Garden**
\$35All Materials Included
6:30 Reservations Required
- 20th Customer Appreciation Day**
9AM – 5PM..... Refreshments and Specials
- 23th Vegetable Gardening Class**
6:30I can still plant that now?
- 27th**

SEPTEMBER

- 3rd Breakfast with DJ**
It's not over yet!
9:00 Reservations Required
No Charge!
- 6th Create your own Fairy Garden**
\$35All Materials Included
6:30 Reservations Required
- 10th**
- 13th For The Birds! Getting ready for winter**
6:30Guest speaker from
The Birdwatchers Store
- 24th Fall Garden Walk**
10:00Getting your garden ready for Winter!
A tour of the gardens
- 27th Vegetable Gardening Class**
6:30It's all over except the Harvest! Maybe!

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