



Growing Together Growing Together

Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania

DECEMBER 2016

Well, here we are almost to the end of 2016. As I reflect on all the activities we did during the year I have to say it was a very nice year for the club. Not only did we had two fantastic shows but we had a very nice bus trip; as usual we had great food at the picnic & very nice gifts for the raffle & the auction.

We had a forum on hostas, a grooming clinic for daffodils & another for hostas. We had a workshop on forcing bulbs. We had a story teller for our banquet (a first in the history of the club).

We bought a hoop house & Gary & his brothers took time to put it together. And Gary took time to have members only sales at his place, twice!

So in all we did very nice. Now 2017 is around the corner & the Steering Committee have settle on a schedule which I include here at the end of the newsletter. Note that if we have an activity that includes food we start with the food at Noon.

We are also starting the picnic earlier & we will probably divide the articles/plants in the raffle & the auction, some before lunch, some after.

And to start the year we have our annual Winter Friends Lunch at Sarafino's. (This will be our 11th year at Sarafinos! Can't believe it.)

Then we will have our ever popular Soup Luncheon & our speaker will be Jessica Walliser co-hosts "The Organic Gardeners" on KDKA-Radio.

And we will have another 2 day bus trip to New York. Karen already has several gardens for us to visit—a sneak peek in the newsletter.

So read all about it in the newsletter—is in there.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year, Alicia the Pres

Steering Committee

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Newsletter Editor
C. Alicia Pérez

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Megan Danik

Vice-Presidents Daffodils
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Gary Gahagan

Membership
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Speaker Facilitator
Karen Schmidt

Education
Sandy Ellenberger

Members At Large
Jim Kalka
Matt Wilson

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Awards at the Hosta Show

Megan Danick, VP Hosta

We offer a number awards at our hosta show each year. There are American Hosta Society awards and our local awards. The AHS awards are sponsored by the national club and we adhere to their guidelines. Our club awards are judged separately. However, criteria for judging both AHS and local awards are the same and the judges must be accredited by the AHS. An exhibitor can win awards in either or both venues. To win the AHS awards, the exhibitor must be a member of the AHS.

For many years now, we have had several local awards up for grabs for our hosta show entrants. Local awards are awards that are sponsored by the members of our club or the club itself. They consist of anything from memorial awards of prior influential members to best red petiole or large variegated leaf. We are interested in expanding these awards to provide more great reasons for people to enter our show.

People who are interested in sponsoring an award can choose from some awards that already exist or choose a new award. The sky is the limit when it comes to choosing a new award, anything from best ruffled leaf, best small variegated leaf, best solid color leaf. The best way to think of a new award, is to think about what type of leaves draw your attention. Do you like miniature, small, large, variegated, blue, gold, green, ruffled, sear suckered leaves? Then look if we have an award for that style leaf. If we don't, why not sponsor it?

When it comes time to choose the prize for the winner, it can be almost anything! Currently all the awards are monetary, but if you wanted to give away a more personal prize, feel free. For example, Tom Tindall used to give a rain catcher to the person who won the award he sponsored. On average, the awards have been a value of \$25. We would like to keep them very similar.

Below is a list of all the awards that we offered and were won at this past hosta show. They might give you some inspiration into choosing which award you would want to sponsor. If you have any questions about sponsoring an award or would like to sign up for sponsoring an award, reach out to me!

Awards June 6, 2015

Award	Sponsor	Award	Entrant	Variety
Red/Purple Petiole	Alicia Perez	\$30.00	Sandy Ciccone	Island Breeze
Best Large Leaved: Sections II & XI	Cheryl Pavlick	\$40.00	Megan Danik	Golden Tusk
Best Novice Entry: Sections I-V & XI	Chuck & Anne Olescyski	\$25.00	John Powell	Lakeside Cupcake
Best Medium Variegated Leaved: Sections III & XI Class 4 thru 8	Claire McConaha	\$30.00	Sandy Ellenberger	Swamp Thing
Best Blue: Sections I - V & XI, Class 2	Claire McConaha	\$30.00	Bob & Sandy Stupar	Big Dady
Best in Show Division I Sections 1-V and Section XI	DHSWP	\$50.00	John Powell	Lakeside Cupcake
Best Hosta of The Year Selections	DHSWP	\$25.00	Sandy Stupar	Sum and Substanance
Best Seedling or Sport Sections: VI-X	DHSWP	\$25.00	N/A	
Sweepstakes:	DHSWP	\$50.00	Sandy Stupar	22 Blue Ribbons
Danik Memorial Ruffler Edge Hosta	DHSWP	\$30.00	Bob & Sandy Stupar	Emerald Rough Cut
Best Large Variegated Leaved: Sections II & XI	DHSWP Tom Tindall Award	\$30.00	Robin Kamin	Alantis
Danik Memorial Best Opposite	Friends	\$30.00	Megan Danik	Golden Tusk
Best Miniature Leaved: Sections 5 & XI	Margie Elliott & Jim Kalka	\$25.00	Jim Kalka	Lakeside Fruit Loops

11th ANNUAL WINTER FRIENDS LUNCHEON 2017

Wow! I can't believe it is time for our Winter FRIENDS LUNCHEON...much less that this will be our 11th year!

I (Herbie) spoke with Joe at Sarafino's and he is happy to have our friends back again.

WHEN: January 7th, 2017

TIME: 12:00 until 3:30 pm

WHERE: Sarafino's

40 E Crafton Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15205, Phone: 412-922-8911

Note: BYOB and Dutch treat

Space is limited to about 30 friends.

Separate checks

If you are interested in Friends/Lunch at Sarafino's give Herbie a call or send him an e-mail on or before December 31st.

E-mail: john@thealtmans.net

Cell: 724-944-4406

Home: 724-946-3328

Joan's cell 724-971-9998

Join us for fine friends and fine food.

We are also interested in your ideas for 2018. Tell us about your favorite restaurant so we can check it out.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Sarafino's is not open until 4:00 on Saturdays. They will open specially for our friends. We will have the restaurant to ourselves.

Sarafino's menu combines classic Italian dishes with family-restaurant prices -- none of the sandwiches, salads and pasta dishes are more than \$12.

<http://www.sarafinos.com/Site/Menu.html>

In short, Sarafino's is the kind of place where both the down-home atmosphere and the food make it worth the journey.

This year's recipients of the DHSWP Service Awards

At this year's annual DHSWP Banquet at Luciano's Brick Oven we had our second annual Special Recognition Service Awards. We had 8 members who received the service pin and certificate. We also gave out a surprise service pin award to our President, Alicia Perez, for all her hard work and dedication to DHSWP.



Susan Gahagan, Gary Gahagan, Bonnie Plato, Steve Plato, Alicia Perez, Jim Kalka, Chuck Olescyski and Anne Olescyski. Missing is Claire McConaha.

The Fall Hosta Forum will be celebrating our 20th year on September 15-16, 2017. Save the date, since we are having a extraordinary line up of speakers and you not want to miss it.

Paul Zammit the Director of Horticulture for Toronto Botanical Gardens will be talking about garden design.

Barbara Tiffany the co-owner of The Gardens at Mill Fleurs (rare plant nursery) will be talking about garden design using hosta and will have plants for sale.

Karen Perkins from Garden Vision Epimediums will be talking about Epimediums and will have plants for sale.

Jonathan Hogarth from the UK will be talking about mini hostas.

In addition to the great speakers there will be huge variety of silent auction items, live auction plants and numerous vendors. In 2016 we had a great turn out with 114 attending; hope you plan on attending this year to make it the best one ever.

**Yes is time for our super famous ANNUAL SOUP LUNCHEON!
So come on down & join us! Bring a dish to share.
Sample the soups, the salads, the desserts—It's all Yummy!
Say Hi! to old friends, meet new ones...IT'S JUST FUN!**

WHEN: Saturday, February 4, 2017

TIMES: 11:15 AM – Social Time & Set-Up

12:00 Noon – Lunch

1:00 PM – Speaker

WHERE: Phipps Garden Center (*Shady at Fifth Avenue, Shadyside Area*)

Speaker: Jessica Walliser co-hosts “The Organic Gardeners” on KDKA-Radio (See short bio below)

Topic: “Butterfly Gardening: It’s not just about the grown-ups” If you want to attract and support butterflies in your garden, you need to think about way more than providing nectar sources. Turning your backyard into a haven for butterflies involves more than having a bunch of pretty flowers. You need to have both very specific host plants for the caterpillars and the keen observational skills required to identify them from egg to chrysalis.



What to bring: either sandwiches, breads, salads, desserts to feed 8 people

Bring your own NON-STYROFOAM plates, silverware & cups.

(We have signed an agreement with Phipps that all plates, cups, utensils that are used at the Garden Center must be compostable and recyclable. Dust off your picnic basket!)

Coffee and hot tea will be provided.

If you would like to bring a special soup - please let us know so that we can co-ordinate all of the delicious offerings.

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Jessica Walliser co-hosts “The Organic Gardeners” on KDKA-Radio in Pittsburgh, PA. She is a former contributing editor for *Organic Gardening* magazine and a regular contributor to *Fine Gardening*, *Urban Farm*, and *Hobby Farms* magazines. The former owner of a 25-acre organic market farm, Jessica received her degree in ornamental horticulture from The Pennsylvania State University. She’s taught a diverse array of gardening topics for over 20 years and is a former faculty member of Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. She is author of the Amazon best-seller *Good Bug, Bad Bug: Who’s Who, What They Do, and How to Manage Them Organically* and blogs weekly for both SavvyGardening.com and HobbyFarms.com. As owner of [Ironweed Apparel](http://IronweedApparel.com), Jessica is working to unite fashion and gardening at long last by providing gardeners with hip, funky urban farming and gardening tee shirts that let you grow in style. Jessica lives and gardens northwest of Pittsburgh with her husband and son, six chickens, two cats, two hermit crabs, and billions and billions of very good bugs.

2017 Daffodil & Hosta Society of W PA Bus Trip Buffalo and Rochester, NY Area June 23 and 24, 2017

Smug Creek Gardens

The Garden of Mike & Kathy Shadrack Hamburg, NY

This is a large wooded rural plot with four completely different gardens. Four terraces displaying daylilies, hydrangeas, lilies, irises and unusual perennials rise from a creek-side patio. On the opposite wooded slope a large collection of hostas is planted. A second shade garden designed especially for little hostas includes a hosta rock garden, featured in Kathy and Mike's Book of Little Hostas. The newest planted area, also in the sun, features island type gardens with more daylilies, irises, conifers and unusual perennials and shrubs. Many troughs and containers are featured and there is a wide, shallow creek running through the property and under the house.

Hidden Gardens of Eden

Home of Marcia and David Sully Eden, NY

The 'Hidden Gardens of Eden,' home of a passionate gardener, contain over one thousand named hosta and a number of unique hosta seedlings that Marcia has hybridized. New hosta are constantly being added to this collection. These gardens offer a touch of mysticism, where hidden gardens are interspersed throughout the two acre plot, which is also accented by a creek rambling through a deep ravine. Viewer friendly terrain, with artistic landscape design incorporated, reflects the gardener's love of experimenting with unique placement of plants and eclectic decor. Garden features include a tropical succulent display, a new addition of tropical bromeliads and Martagon lilies, as well as a wide variety of pots and hanging baskets containing colorful annuals. Sunny plots containing daylilies and specialty perennials, as well as hundreds of companion plants growing in the shady hosta beds, offer a sweeping panorama of beauty. Meandering stone paths, scenic overlooks, and benches invite the visitor to linger, breathe deeply, and enjoy nature at its best.

Whit's End Gardens

The Gardens of Barb and Dave Whittemore Hamburg, NY

Whit's End provides a shady retreat for a large collection of hostas, astilbe, and many other varieties of perennials and annuals. Several outdoor rooms provide different vistas for viewing and enjoyment. The focal point is a waterfall surrounded by an operating Garden Railroad (good weather only), with dozens of different miniature conifers, structures and other miniature plants that create a world in scale. The garden shed has been disguised as a railroad station. A grounded treehouse and sheltered canopy provide places for quiet reflection.

Pots and containers are homes to numerous other perennials and annuals and a few fairy gardens. The gardens are full of color, animation, fun and whimsy.

Menne's Garden Center

Buffalo, NY

Premier garden center with a large perennial and miniature plant sections.

Niagara Falls, NY

We will be spending the night in Niagara Falls, NY. This will allow for those that are interested to visit the American side of the falls or casino.

Jim Ecker

Rochester, NY

Jim has a very nice large shade garden and grows many hostas in pots.

Jerry and Karen Kral

Rochester, NY

Jerry and his wife, Karen, garden have been featured in several National Magazines. Started in 1992 the garden is presented as dozens of raised beds interconnected by over a 1/2 mile of meandering Pennsylvania bluestone pathway. Water features and unique statuary add whimsy and drama at every turn. Over 1000 taxa of plants are displayed including over 300 conifer cultivars. The purpose of this private garden is to delight the guest and present conifers in an aesthetic manner.

Susan Buckner

Rochester, NY

Susan is more of a plover and not a planner, the gardens are filled with hundreds of hosta, many unusual to rare perennials, a nice collection of conifers, variegated trees and shrubs. Also cool garden ornaments of metal with glass and hypertufa from local artists. A small backyard nursery with plants and hypertufa for sale.

Palmiter's Garden Center

Avon, NY

Premier garden center with a large perennial and miniature tree sections. They have a large supply of tuffa rock for sale and display gardens.

So mark your calendar now!

You don't want to miss visiting these gardens & a chance to be at Niagara Falls –that's a treat.

So plan now to join us for the fellowship, the tours of the gardens, the water of Niagara River.

My Friend, Peter Ruh

Mark Zilis, Rochelle, IL

Editor's note: Peter Ruh passed away on Tuesday, September 20, 2016.
The hosta world has lost one of its pioneers. Our sincere condolences to his family.

Peter Ruh was my first good friend in the world of hostas. I met Pete at my first AHS convention in 1980 along with many other hosta greats including Alex Summers, Kevin Vaughn, Eldren Minks, and Paul Aden. Pete seemed knowledgeable about hostas and a wide variety of other topics including building walls, types of fertilizer, Indian artifacts, soil, etc. (Prior to that meeting, I had not realized the value of elephant manure in gardening!) Listening to him go into great detail about these and many other subjects on our long bus rides across Minnesota was intriguing and informative.



Mark Zilis and Peter Ruh in his garden in June, 2009

We became friends by chance about a year later. As I arrived at Gretchen Harshbarger's house in Iowa City for the 1981 mini-meeting of the AHS (a one day affair), Pete and his wife Jean emerged from their car. When they saw me, they greeted me warmly, like we were old friends. And from that moment we were.

My first visit to their world-class hosta collection in Chesterland, Ohio occurred in 1983, and I made yearly trips there for many years to come. Studying hostas with Pete was a pleasure. As we wandered through his garden, he would first read the label (permanent markers) and then give a small speech about each of his plants, noting its origin, controversies, and characteristics. I recall feverishly attempting to take notes and photos while Pete quickly moved on to the next hosta. Over the years,

once he realized I was serious about my hosta studies, he would pause while I finished my write-ups and photography before proceeding to the next plant.

At night, our discussions about hostas would continue for many hours. During one visit, I recall Jean telling us in the wee hours of the morning that it was time to "go to bed".

Pete assembled the first hosta database. No, he did not use a computer. Instead, he meticulously recorded the origins, descriptions, and source for every plant in his garden on index cards stored in his basement. The name of each hosta appropriately matched the information etched into the permanent labels in his garden. He also kept a chronological listing of hostas he obtained on stenographer's notebooks. For many years whenever the phone would ring past 10:30 p.m., I knew it would be Pete. We would talk for hours about the plants in his collection. We also discussed issues of the American Hosta Society and controversies amongst members. It was always interesting.

Pete and Jean's garden was on tour during two AHS national conventions, 1985 and 2005. The latter meeting may have been the last time that society members could appreciate Pete's incredible contributions to the genus *Hosta*. His collection never looked better on the day we visited Chesterland. The Tardianas at the back of his house offered members a side-by-side comparison of every Tardiana that existed. The "lower beds", where his Presidential series of hostas grew, were a great example of how to protect a hosta collection from hungry deer. The hostas in front of the house and up the hill toward Mayfield Road flourished beneath a collection of conifers that his father had planted many years prior.

The "Trails End" bell in front of the house seemed to glow that day. I also recall a happy, smiling Peter Ruh touring Mildred Seaver around his garden in his golf cart. That is one of the special memories I will always have of my good friend, Peter Ruh.

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2017 SCHEDULE

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Northland Library on Saturday Feb 11, May 13 & Nov 18, 1:00 PM

Saturday, January 7	12:00 Noon	11th Annual Friend's Winter Luncheon, Sarafino's
Saturday, February 4	12:00 Noon	Annual Soup Luncheon at Phipps Garden Center in Shadyside
FEBRUARY 11	1:00 PM	STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Saturday, March 4	12:00 Noon	ANNUAL Meeting, Pizza & Salad Social , Church across from Library ¹
Fri – Sun, March 10 - 12		National Daffodil Convention, Sacramento, CA
Fri – Sat, Mar 17 - 18		Hosta College, Piqua, OH
Saturday, April 15	1:00 PM	PENDING: Daffodil Grooming Clinic , Northland Library
Saturday, April 29		Daffodil Show , joint with the Penn State Master Gardener's Symposium & Marketplace. Ice Rink at Shady Side Academy, Fox Chapel
MAY 13	1:00 PM	STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Sunday, May 21		JUDGES CLINIC
Saturday, June 3		Hosta Show & Sales at Soergels. Sales start at 10 AM, Show opens to the public around 1:30 PM (after judging)
Wed – Sat, June 7 - 10		National Hosta Convention, Indianapolis, IN
Sat – Sun, June 17 - 18		Whispering Pines Hosta Sale
Fri – Sat, June 23 – 24		BUS TRIP, New York
Saturday, July 15	11:00 AM	Picnic & Hosta Auction at DJ's Greenhouse
Saturday, August 5		RESERVED Northland Library
Saturday, August 19		Garden in the Parks Field Day
Fri – Sat, Sept 15 - 16		Fall Hosta & Garden Forum, Edinboro PA
Fri – Sat, Sept 29 -30		Hosta College Board Meeting—we are Hosts
Saturday October 14		RESERVED Northland Library
Saturday, November 4		End of Season Luncheon, TBA
NOVEMBER 18	1:00 PM	STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER		Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

¹ St John Lutheran Church of Highland, 311 Cumberland Rd, Pittsburgh PA 15237