



Growing Together Growing Together

Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania

MAY 2017

OMG! Tremendo show de narcisos! Considering how late it was, we had very nice flowers & a lot of them! Thank you to everyone that participated It was a super show.

Now start getting ready for the Hosta show & sale in just 3 weeks!

The **Hosta Show** will be Saturday, June 3rd at Soergels. We will have a hosta sale from 10 AM. Set-up as always will be Friday starting around 3:30 PM. Entries for the show of cut leaf as well as potted hostas, arrangements & educational displays will be accepted from 5:00 to 8:00 PM on Friday, June 2, and from 8:00 to 10:00 AM on the day of the show (Saturday, June 3.) Keep in mind that you can also enter an educational display at the hosta show. Displays are judged on educational value (theme, originality, materials used) and staging (arrangement, attractiveness, neatness). So, please consider entering an educational display.

I am including in this newsletter a couple of articles full of tips from how to select, clean & “model” your leaves to what the judges look for & what they like & don’t like. Tips on how to simplify the registration process from Jim & even an article on the local awards you can win &/or sponsor from Megan. And sponsoring is super easy: just let Megan know that you are interested in sponsoring an award—she’ll take you from there. So take a look at the newsletter & get ready to win!

Two things:

1. The May 20-21 Judge’s Clinics are CANCEL—sorry
2. Is that time of the year when we open our gardens to family, friends, others. If you plan to do so, send me the information. Include times, if open one day or by appointment, best way to contact you if get lost...You know the drill. We all love to visit gardens & chat about plants!

So keep reading & see you at the Hosta Show & Sale on June 3, 2017
Alicia, the Pres

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DIVISION I - HORTICULTURAL - CUT LEAF SHOW TIPS!

PREPLANNING YOUR LEAF EXHIBITS ... 'Getting a Head Start'

1. Stroll through your gardens and select those eye-popping plants that are sure to give you some great leaf specimens.
2. Protect leaves from falling debris and critter damage by covering them with light weight netting.
3. Eliminate the chance of frost damage by covering with frost cloth or sheets.
4. Broadcast slug bait early in the spring to prevent slug and snail damage.

SELECTING YOUR SPECIMENS ... 'Getting Down and Dirty'

1. Select mature leaves located on the outside perimeter of the plant.
2. Cut the stem close to the base at a 45° angle. This allows for maximum water absorption which is critical to the vigor of the leaf.
3. Avoid leaves that have holes, blemishes, tears, and evidence of critter damage.

PREPARING YOUR SPECIMENS! ... 'Cleaning up your Act'

1. Leaves can be picked several days before the show. Place them in a cool water bath to preserve their rigidity.
2. Begin the grooming process at home. Techniques for grooming and cleaning can be found in the show booklet. Getting a head start means you've done an initial grooming and now a final inspection can be done before staging them in the appropriate test tube or vase.
3. To save time label the leaves and fill out the exhibit tags prior to the show. Show rules now requires you to enter the leaf size (length x width) on the show card. Classification lists will be available at the show to help.

JUDGING YOUR SPECIMENS! ... 'Here Come the Judges'

The judges will be looking for the following while judging the exhibits.

1. FORM - Form and shape are true to the variety.
2. SIZE - The leaf meets the size qualifications as found in the classification list.
3. COLOR AND PATTERN - Color and pattern should be typical of the variety. Mottling and streaking must be uniform (symmetry) and attractive.
4. TEXTURE - is the surface quality of the leaf such as ribbed, puckered, or silken gleam. The lack of normal feel or appearance is a fault.
5. CONDITIONING AND GROOMING - Wilting, flabbiness, disease, insect holes, and dirt are faults. Cleanliness and a well trimmed stem would indicate good grooming.
6. SUBSTANCE - Applies to the firmness and rigidity of the leaf and petiole. Leaf should be: firm, strong, crisp.
7. LABELING - The exhibit should be correctly labeled and the entry tag correctly filled out. Make sure to add the leaf's dimensions (length X width) as this is a new requirement for this year's show.

MOST COMMON FAULTS AS VIEWED BY THE JUDGES! 'Looking it over and checking it twice'

1. Conditioning/Grooming - leaves are dirty, damaged by insects, and holes are evident. Care should be taken to remove dirt from leaves with puckers or deep veins.
2. Size - immature leaves are selected.
3. Color and Pattern - left side of leaf does not match right side, lacks symmetry.
4. Substance - leaf lacks firmness and rigidity. Droopiness is due to insufficient substance.

5. Form - avoid leaves that are misshapen due to insect, rodent, and weather conditions. Leaves should be attractive, fully developed, not frail or immature.

NOTE...Help will be available for grooming leaves during the prep time on Friday, June 2nd from 5-7 PM. This is a learning opportunity as well as a fun activity. If you are a novice (first time exhibitor), bringing only a few leaves to exhibit will help you overcome your entry anxiety and you could very well go home with an award and bragging rights.

See you at the DHSWP Hosta Show on June 3rd at Soergels Orchards
2573 Brandt School Rd, Wexford, PA 15090

Good Luck, Chuck O

REGISTRATION MAKE EASIER

Hint # 1: bring along some preprinted return address labels (2 per entry). The ones you get as a gift from various organizations. This saves you from having to write out by hand your name & address twice per entry.

Hint # 2: Take the time to go to the American Hosta Society website & open:

http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Hosta%20Judging/2016_show_classification_full_list.pdf

under the Hosta Judging tab, Show Judging. They don't have the 2017 posted yet.

Look up the Hostas you will be entering, you will need the following information: Division, Section, Class, Registered leaf length & width & Variety



Hint # 3: Copy & paste the information (for each Hosta you are entering) into a word document. Print it out & you have all the information needed for registration. Saves you time & it is an efficient way for doing multiple entries.

Hint # 4: While you are on the American Hosta Society website go to the Show Judging section there are three articles you may be interested in reading:

[Sample Leaf Show Preparations + pdf](#)

[Fun - Cut Leaf Pandemonium + pdf](#)

[It's Show Time + pdf](#)

Good luck, see you at the show
Jim Kalka

Awards at the Hosta Show

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. 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!

Megan Danik

Award	Sponsor	Award
Red/Purple Petiole	C. Alicia Pérez	\$30.00
Best Large Leaved: Sections II & XI	Cheryl Pavlick	\$40.00
Best Novice Entry: Sections I-V & XI	Chuck & Anne Olescyski	\$25.00
Best Medium Variegated Leaved: Sections III & XI Class 4 thru 8	Claire McConaha	\$30.00
Best Blue: Sections I - V & XI, Class 2	Claire McConaha	\$30.00
Best in Show Division I Sections 1-V and Section XI	DHSWP	\$50.00
Best Hosta of The Year Selections	C. Alicia Pérez	\$30.00
Best Seedling or Sport Sections: VI-X	DHSWP	\$25.00
Sweepstakes:	DHSWP	\$50.00
Danik Memorial Ruffler Edge Hosta	DHSWP	\$30.00
Best Large Variegated Leaved: Sections II & XI	DHSWP Tom Tindall Award	\$30.00
Danik Memorial Best Opposite	Friends	\$30.00
Best Miniature Leaved: Sections 5 & XI	Margie Elliott & Jim Kalka	\$25.00

Indiana Garden Club May Mart

42nd



42nd

**White Township Recreation Complex
S&T Bank Arena 495 East Pike Indiana
www.indianagardenclub.org/maymart**

FRI-May 19

SAT-May 20

10am to 7pm

9am to 5pm

**STOP BY OUR BOOTH!
We Will Be Inside The Building
Come See Us!
Bring Your Family/Friends Too.**

Preplanning Your Hosta Show Exhibits

Here's a second take at Chuck's tips to remind members and introduce new members to the art of planning for the June 3rd show.



Long before it's time to groom your hosta leaves for the show, you can do some preplanning to make the job and decisions more manageable.

- Begin by identifying potential leaves early in the season. A few strolls through the gardens can help you select those eye-popping plants that are sure to give you some great leaf specimens to exhibit.
- You can ensure top quality leaves by protecting them from falling debris and critter damage by covering them with some light-weight netting.
- Frost damage can be eliminated by using frost cloth or sheets.
- Slug bait should be broadcast early in the season to prevent slugs and snails from damaging the leaves.
- When selecting your leaves, cut the stem close to the plant base at a 45° angle to expose more surface area. This will allow for maximum water
- absorption which is critical to the health and vigor of the leaf.
- Only select those mature leaves that are located on the outside perimeter of the plant. Although the inner leaves may appear to be more appealing, their immaturity will eventually lead to droopiness due to insufficient substance. Size and true color can also be limiting factors as the leaf will have not reached it's full growth potential.
- Avoid selecting leaves that have holes, blemishes, tears, and any evidence of critter damage.

A few tips on how to avoid the rush of selecting, collecting, and grooming your chosen candidates:

- Leaves can be picked several days before the show. Place them in a cool water bath to help preserve their rigidity. The 45° angle which you made at the base of the leaf will allow for more water absorption.
- The best case scenario is that you now have the time to rescan your specimens for the most pristine leaves, as well as beginning the grooming process at home.
- Grooming techniques can be found in the show booklet and 'at the elbow' help that will be available during the prep time on Friday from 4 till 7 o'clock.
- Getting a head start for us means taking the exhibits to market in a container of your choice (adding water, of course) and doing a final inspection before staging your exhibit in test tubes and vases.
- I have seen many exhibitors bring in an overwhelming amount of leaves that have not had an initial grooming, only to find they cannot meet the time restraints.
- Label the leaves and if possible fill out the exhibit tags ahead of time. It all saves time and frustration and you can better enjoy the show and share the experience with others.

Sandy Ellenberger -- Education Chair

UP-COMING EVENTS

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Northland Library¹ on Saturday Nov 18, 1:00 PM

Fri – Sat, May 20 - 21		Indiana Garden Club May Mart, Hosta Sale
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	1:00 PM	Regular Meeting, 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	1:00 PM	Regular Meeting 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 Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Rd, Pittsburgh PA 15237, 412-366-8100