



# Growing Together Growing Together

Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania

JULY 2017

WOW! What a trip! Not only did we visit fabulous, beautiful gardens but we also had a chance to visit Niagara Falls! It was such a nice, slow pace trip...I enjoyed it very much & I think that all who came did too. And visiting the falls again in a long time (for me) was really a treat. Thank you Karen!

Now is time for our Annual Picnic & Hosta Auction at DJ's:

**Saturday, July 15, 2015**

**10:30 AM**

**DJ's Greenhouse**

**1004 East Lake Rd**

**Transfer PA 16154**

**724-962-1230**

[djsgreenhouse@verizon.net](mailto:djsgreenhouse@verizon.net)

Those of you who have not been there, or are new members, you want to be there! DJ's is a great place with fantastic gardens and a great selection of plants for sale. You'll enjoy great food: the members always bring enough for everyone & then some. We'll have fun with the auction & a raffle & things in between. (more info later in newsletter) Once again we ask you to bring your personal tableware: **Think Reuse, Reduce, Recycle** We want to reduce the amount of trash we create at the picnic & you bringing re-usable tableware helps a lot. We will have a container for empty cans & bottles to recycle. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated it, thank you! And YES! You can bring family & friends! The more the merrier.

And again (I know: I sound like a broken record) If you have not registered for Fall Forum, do it now. If you plan to be there on Friday, the Comfort Suites room block is until August 19 or until the block is sold out—whichever happens first. And Karen said the rooms are going fast—so make your reservation now to take advantage of the price.

And we had to cancel the judges clinics set for May BUT Joan & Cheryl have been gracious enough & are willing to offer the clinics again for September 23-24, 2017! BUT we need at least 10 people attending. Soooo, even if you are not planning on being a judge, these clinics are educational & will help you understand how the leaves are judged & give you more expertise on how to prepare your leaves to be winners at the show! I'll be taking reservations at the picnic—if less than 10 there will be no clinics.

See you at the Picnic, Alicia the Pres

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***GET READY...It's time for a Picnic  
...the Daffodil and Hosta Society Annual Picnic!***

**SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2017  
FROM 10:30 AM  
DJ GREENHOUSE  
1004 East Lake Rd, Transfer, PA 16154  
724-962-1230 ~ [djsgreenhouse@verizon.net](mailto:djsgreenhouse@verizon.net)**

Hello All Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western PA Members,

Hard to believe it's almost time for our annual Picnic at DJ's Greenhouse! That's on Saturday, July 15, 2017. This year we will be starting early – 10:30 am to try avoid the hottest part of the afternoon and still enjoy all the festivities, shopping, visiting, and touring.

Remember to bring your plates, eating utensils and a food to share, a side dish or dessert. There are always such scrumptious goodies! The club will be providing chicken, ribs, water and soft drinks. This year Dennis will be coordinating and procuring the meats, and Megan will not have to be grilling on a hot (or rainy) day! She deserves to enjoy the day too. Be sure to thank her for all she has done in previous years!

This Picnic is a "Thank You" to all our members for your support of our club by participating and volunteering at so many activities and events throughout the year. We really appreciate your being a part of DHSWP and contributing to the Club.

In addition to the main dishes and drinks, the Club, through Gary and Susan Gahagan, has purchased some outstanding Hostas for an exciting Hosta Auction! Look for the descriptive catalog and photos Gary and Susan always put together - and be prepared to bid! Be forewarned things can get rather heated in this friendly competition. If you would like to donate a hosta for the Auction be sure to let Gary know it's name ASAP to include on the list, and to check on criteria for hosta donations.

The Club also has purchased some very special items for our Raffle. Each member will receive one free raffle ticket as you arrive. We are hoping you will be tempted to purchase additional tickets to increase the chances of your going home with one or two, or more, great raffle gifts. Remember this is a way to support your club AND have a great time. Should you want to donate a raffle item just bring it to the picnic early enough to log it in and arrange it on the tables.

Remember to come take advantage of DHSWP's free gift, the 2017 Hosta of the Year, H. 'Brother Stefan', for each membership. This is one beautiful hosta! All you need to do is show up. New members please note this more than compensates for two year's dues.

We are tentively planning to do half of the Auction, half of the Raffle, eat, then complete the second half of the Auction, last half of the Raffle. Please plan to be there and stay to the end of the festivities.

So - good food, great company, chance of raffle prizes, Hosta of the Year, and the long awaited fantastic Hosta Auction! So much fun squeezed into one day! Plus take the opportunity to enjoy the meticulously cared for grounds at DJ's Greenhouse and the enticing assortment of plants and garden items for sale that you could add to your garden. What more could gardeners ask for? Perfect weather maybe?

Thank you for coming! Steve and Bonnie Plato

## Up-Coming Daffodil Bulb Sale

by Bonnie Plato

For most gardeners this is an "in between" season regarding daffodils. Our beautiful spring garden displays and the Daffodil Show are long past and even those remnants of foliage are mostly gone now! Did you mark where those bulbs are? It's not planting time yet, but now it is time to consider how and where to tuck in a few more bulbs to add to your beds. BUT, if you can't locate where existing bulbs are – maybe see some brown foliage against the ground? - build a new bed or two, or extend a couple existing beds by building some raised beds. Ask how if you don't find the information you need. Look, if you put them on top of the lawn there'll be less mowing!

Right now enjoy those beautiful new hostas (or daylilies or other perennials) you've added to a "growing" (pun intended) collection. They have come up, leafed out, and helped hide the dying daffodil foliage. Hopefully you've managed to successfully combat the deer, rabbits, slugs, and other unwanted critters. Daylilies are building up to their peak with more and more opening daily. Enjoy the color, fragrances and glorious combinations of all your perennials and other plants while you are out there weeding and planning new displays.

So, while you are enjoying the blooms and plantings in your garden, your DHSWP Daffodil Chairpersons and Daffodil Committee are very busy poring through every daffodil catalog and source to find the best deals on bulbs. Bulbs to appeal to a wide range of interests in order to tempt members and other buyers at the many venues (10 last year!) now expecting us. We try to include all the different Daffodil Divisions, colors and color combinations, as well as all sizes (standard, intermediate, and miniature), and "garden" and "show" varieties at a reasonable cost to you. There will be something for everyone.

Please plan to support DHSWP events and activities including the Daffodil and Hosta Shows, the DHSWP Picnic, Hosta Auction, bus trip and luncheon club subsidies, speakers, Fall Forum, etc. You can do this by purchasing all, or at least part, of your daffodil bulbs from your club. The money you invest in your bulbs through DHSWP will contribute to the many events and activities, and maintain the "perks" we all can offer and enjoy when we participate. Become an active member to take full advantage of what DHSWP offers. Support your club. Buy DHSWP!

## Thoughts On Volunteering

By Bonnie Plato

The DHSWP, like all club organizations, exists for it's members and by it's members and because it's members enjoy a common ground and bonds. These groups are for, and can only exist, because of their members efforts and support. We concentrate on Daffodils and Hostas, but we all enjoy gardening and learning through expert speakers, open gardens, group discussions and private conversations, bus trips, and with working together on various projects.

We want and wish every member to become involved, to become an active member, to participate, to volunteer. There is so much to learn and so much fun in being a part of this club. Please become an active part, support your DHSWP as often and in as many ways as possible. It will not only enrich your club, it will enrich your own life in so many ways. We have a great many activities and events throughout the year and we desperately need more members to volunteer and support these many activities. We need new members to become active and long-time members to become more active.

Gary and Susan Gahagan have voluntarily taken on the monumental task of maintaining our plants in the Club's new hoop house. That is, among several other important tasks that they handle. They keep us informed and updated on all current activities there. More volunteers are definitely needed each time plants are loaded into vehicles for transport to Shows and Sales. Plants also need unloaded, or re – loaded, at both ends of those trips! At the hoop house and at the venue! Please make a commitment to follow through on our original arrangements to help use and manage this hoop house.

All work should be shared by all members, not just Gary and Susan. A large amount of work is actually involved for just two people. Currently Gary and Susan order hosta stock, document and price our hostas, water, arrange and re-arrange pots, and move plants in and out of the hoop house, design and implement new ideas to efficiently manage our stock of hostas and the daffodils that we wintered over at the hoop house. They have coordinated the big potting-up activities, but often handle the smaller shipments by themselves. They have implemented membership sales. All data is meticulously

recorded and maintained for analyzing orders, sales, gifts and special projects' successes. There are a great many details in organizing, ordering, potting, and caring for the club's plants. Gary and Susan also create the comprehensive price lists, or catalogs, of the Sales and Auction plants with gorgeous photos of the Hostas. Volunteers are really needed to help out more. Maybe we need to spend a day volunteering to help them weed or something to make up for just some of the time they devote to the club plants while ignoring their own garden.

Remember these volunteer activities are also lots of FUN, in addition to contributing to club activities and often eating together. The camaraderie is priceless!

Now, the hoop house certainly isn't the only place or way to get involved and support your club. All activities and events take lots of planning time and co-ordination to be successful. The Daffodil Show, the Hosta Show, each and every Hosta and Daffodil Sale, the Picnic, the Speakers, Fall Forum, Hosta College, open gardens, many other activities, and the Garden in the Park Field Day at both North Park and South Park (coming up very soon - Saturday, August 19th!) - so many ways to volunteer!

Our next event, the Picnic (Saturday, July 15th at DJ's Greenhouse), alone combines a well-planned and exciting collection of Hostas to bid on in the Auction, and an extensive Raffle in addition to a delicious picnic of foods supplied by the club with members wonderful sides and desserts.

The Auction is coordinated by Gary and Susan, the Raffle by Bonnie, the grounds and set-up by Dennis, and the overall Picnic coordinated by Stephen and Bonnie. Many volunteers are helping these individuals. Are you? Remember to bring a food to share and to help clean up if necessary. Hosta donations for the Auction

are welcome, but please let Gary know so it can be included in the descriptive list and you can check on what criteria to follow. Can you help show the Auction plants and deliver to winners? Raffle donations are also welcome. Bringing anything special to share, give away or sell? - please let us know.

Remember we are starting early – 10:30 AM.

And very important - Megan doesn't have to be stuck cooking and can enjoy more of the festivities! Tell her thanks for all she has done. Dennis will be coordinating the foods the club is providing.

If you can, please call and remind a couple members to come, and invite a new member to attend. Prepare to relax and enjoy the day.

Many of our Member "Perks" are at the Picnic. It's time to reap some of your member rewards and to think of how you can contribute to your club by volunteering. The 2017 Hosta of the Year, H. 'Brother Stefan', will be given out to each membership attending the Picnic.

Even when you can't come out to volunteer at an activity you could write a Newsletter article or send Megan an article or information for DHSWP's Facebook page.

Please volunteer in as many ways and as often as you can. The work truly is easier and faster with more volunteers - and just too hard for two or three people alone. If you arrive at an event and think there are too many volunteers - think again. We may need shifts, or breaks, or be able to check out the event without putting the other volunteers in a bind. We may need help packing up. Ask the person coordinating the DHSWP presence there.

See you at the Picnic - and at many up-coming events.

## Directions to DJ's

**From Pittsburgh:** take I-279 N....13.42 miles  
I-279 N becomes I-79 N, go 45.10 miles

Merge onto I-80 W via EXIT 116B toward SHARON  
& go approximately 15 miles West on I-80.

Take Hermitage Exit, 4B, towards Route 18 North.  
Travel approximately 9 miles on PA Rt 18,  
North Hermitage Road.

You will drive over the Shenango River Lake, and turn IMMEDIATELY after crossing this lake on to East Lake Road.\*\*\***GO SLOW THE FIRST 100** yards, road is rough!

Travel beside Shenango Lake, on your right, about 2.02 miles to 1004 E Lake Rd to DJ's on your Right

### Some Picnic "stats..."

- Saturday July 15 around 10:30 AM
- Rain or shine
- Bring a dish to share
- Bring your plate, utensils: think RRR!
- Ready to bid at the Auction
- Ready for the Raffle
- Ready to wander about the gardens
- Ready to enjoy the afternoon

## Frequently asked Questions about our Summer Picnic

1. **Is DJ's Greenhouse and Nursery located north of Route 80, near Hermitage/Sharon, PA area?**  
YES, he's actually in Transfer, PA. We have directions in this newsletter for you and his phone number, if you need them.
2. **Is this a Free event for members of DHSWP?**  
YES, it is free, but we ask you to bring a dish to share. We'll provide chicken, ribs, soft drinks & water.
3. **Should I bring my own tableware, wear comfortable clothing?**  
Yes, dress casually, for a summer picnic, and plan to stroll about DJ's beautiful gardens, AND his retail nursery. AND, picnic time...when the eating and socializing begins! Bring a lawn chair, if you like, but there will be chairs available. Just be sure to bring along your reusable tableware. Think Reuse, Reduce, Recycle!
4. **Will this also be the Hosta Show Awards presentation?**  
YES! We will take this time to honor the winners from the Hosta Shows.
5. **Is this about a 90 minute drive from Pittsburgh?**  
Yes, this should take you about 1 1/2 hours to travel from the Pittsburgh area.
6. **What time does all of this take place?**  
Picnic begins at 10:30 AM. But Dennis says come on up whenever you like. Rain or Shine, pretty much!
7. **Is it really worth the trip this far for a picnic?**  
Whaaaat? Are you kidding me? Of course! This is one of our best event of the calendar year! AND IT'S FREE! It is well worth the drive, and the Gardens and DJ's nursery will assure you of future trips!

**SEE YOU THERE!**

### UP-COMING EVENTS

#### STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Northland Library on Saturday Nov 18, 1:00 PM

Saturday, July 15	10:30 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 & Bulbs Sale
Saturday, November 4	12 Noon	End of Season Luncheon, with speaker Chris Wilson from Hallson Gardens talking about the Hosta Virus X & Bulbs Sale
NOVEMBER 18	1:00 PM	STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER		<i>Merry Christmas &amp; Happy New Year!</i>

### 2017 Bus Trip to Western New York

By Gary Gahagan

We just got back from another DHSWP bus trip from the Western New York region. It was another fantastic bus trip put together by Karen Schmidt.

Our first stop was at the garden of Mike & Kathy Shadrack. Mike greeted us at the top of his driveway and the bus driver backed us down his driveway to his hidden house in the woods. He invited us to explore his gardens. He had potted hostas on his deck that overlooked Smug Creek (which also goes under his home) and a large garden behind his garage that had paths through it. It had predominantly hostas growing in it (or at least that's the ones I noticed).





Shadrack's



Their yard had several hosta beds loaded with big, beautiful hardy looking hostas as well as beds for mini hostas. They also offered hostas, books and garden plants for sale. Mike and Kathy graciously offered their bathroom facilities. We explored and enjoyed the Shadrack gardens for about 2 hours. We then headed to Marcia & David Sully's garden.



Sully's



At the Sully's garden we were met with beautifully manicured garden beds outlined with stone. The rain, which began before we got there it didn't dampen anyone's spirit of exploring these gardens to the fullest extent. Highlights included a hypertufa potted garden, fern garden and succulent garden. They had many unique hostas that I haven't seen anywhere else. We also enjoyed lunch here. After everyone had their fill we headed to Dave & Barb Whitmore's garden.

By the time we got to the Whitmore's garden the rain stopped.



Whitmore's





The Whitmore's garden is mainly in their small backyard (for now) but they managed to cram in a whole lot in the space they have. Lots and lots of hostas and the main focal point is a running train setup in the middle of it all and a pond. In fact this garden was so interesting it brought our bus driver back to look over things. He is the man in the blue jacket in the photo above. After this garden he started to come and look at the rest of the gardens we toured. When we were about to leave it began to rain again. We went to a first rate nursery before we headed to our hotel rooms at Niagara Falls. The bus was filling with plants. We were on our own once we got to the hotel and settled in. Some went to the falls, while others went to eat at on of the many restaurants in the area and some headed to the casinos.

The next morning we had breakfast at the hotel and headed off to Jim Ecker's garden. The sun was out and it was a beautiful day. Jim's garden was full of lush hostas, two ponds and water falls, unique statuary and potted perennials. He also had hostas for sale. He had the best looking First Blush (first red hosta) I've seen outside of Bob Solberg's pictures.



Ecker's

We got on the bus and headed to Jerry Kral's garden. I was not prepared for what I was about to see there. Mr. Kral doesn't garden like most of us. His garden has to be seen to be greatly appreciated.



Kral's

There is so much to see here that 2 hours wasn't enough time even though the garden is only on a couple of city lots. It's the biggest little garden I've ever saw. If I heard correctly, he has a half a mile of blue stone paths weaving throughout the garden but you never seem to be in the same place twice.

We got back on the bus and made way to the last garden, saving precious time by eating lunch enroute. The last garden was that of Susan Buckner. Susan explained she recently lost some of her shade trees so some of her hosta beds were in full sun. But, as she gave us a tour of her gardens, she showed us all the new trees she planted to create new shade for her hostas. Besides hostas and her new trees, she showed us many



unique and beautiful perennials she has throughout her garden. She also had hostas and birdhouses for sale. She also had 2 of the cutest little dogs you ever saw. They greeted us as we got off the bus.



Buckner's

Next up was another premier nursery. When done shopping we had a hard time finding space for all the plants. Smaller luggage was moved to the overhead compartments on the bus to make room. Sadly, it was now time to head home. On the way home we stopped to get something to eat and drink. Everyone seemed to have a great time and was already looking forward to next year's trip. Again, I want to thank Karen for a great trip she planned. Things couldn't have gone any smoother.



SEE YOU AT THE PICNIC  
And  
Don't forget to register for Fall Forum!