



Growing Together Growing Together

Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania

AUGUST 2017

OMG! In a few weeks is going to be Labor Day! Where did my summer went? Ay Caramba!

Fortunately we still have some activities coming up.

First is going to be our last hosta sale of the year on Saturday September 9, 2017 from 10 AM – 2 PM. And members will get a 20% off. So if you are still looking for a special hosta, be there & buy a few...LOL

Then is time for the Fall Hosta & Garden Forum on Saturday, September 16, 2017 at the Frank G. Pogue Student Center at Edinboro University, Edinboro, PA. Once again, we have four excellent speakers along with the vendors, silent auction & live auction of hostas. Plus you get lunch, continental breakfast, snacks...is all in there. You'll find the registration form later in the newsletter.

Then it will be the last regular meeting for this year: Saturday, October 14, 2017 at Northland Library. We will have Bonnie, Steve & Lenny talking about daffodils & bulbs & we will also have a bulb sale. You'll receive a listing later—Bonnie & Gary are working on it.

Then is time for our banquet & you may recall that we present the Service Pin Award at that time. So if you have not send me your nominations, you'll have until October 14 to send it in!

And yes! We were able to plant all the 150 new hostas that Gary got—this was on Saturday, August 12—Susan made food for an army plus we had wine!...It was a really nice time that went really fast because of the fellowship—maybe also the wine??? LOL!

So super big THANKS to the people who helped with our latest Potting Party: Robin Kamin, Alicia Perez, Steve & Bonnie Plato, Jim Kalka, Margie Elliott, Liz & Emil Low & for sure Gary & Susan Gahagan!

And our Educational Chair, Sandy E. wants to know which are your favorite Hostas—including minis—which are the best in your garden. You'll find the form later in the news. And that photo? Is from Audrey! She made that beautiful Hosta Lover Tire!

So keep reading for more information, Alicia the Pres

Steering Committee

President
Newsletter Editor
C. Alicia Pérez

Vice-President Hosta
Megan Danik

Vice-Presidents Daffodils
Steve & Bonnie Plato

Treasurer
Patty McGuire

Secretary
Susan Gahagan

Co-Chair Daffodils
Lenny Lehman

Co-Chair Hostas
Gary Gahagan

Membership
Bobbi Diller

Speaker Facilitator
Karen Schmidt

Education
Sandy Ellenberger

Members At Large
Jim Kalka
Matt Wilson

E-Mail Editor to:
Pitvp@aol.com

Service Pin Award: NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

In 2015 the Steering Committee decided to establish an award to recognize those members who have demonstrated exceptional volunteerism to the club. These are members who always turn up early, set the chairs, make the coffee, know where to find the keys, clean up, volunteer even when there is rain or snow & always welcome members—new & old—with a smile...

We are now accepting nominations for the award. The award will be presented at the banquet at the end of the season. Below are the recipients from 2015 & 2016.

2015 Honorees:

- Joan & Herbie Altman
- Jim & Sandy Ellenberger
- Bob Danik (posthumous)
- Lenny Lehman
- Lorraine Duffola
- Dennis James
- Clarence & Audrey Rauch

2016 Honorees:

- Susan & Gary Gahagan
- Jim Kalka
- Claire Mc Conaha.
- Chuck & Anne Olescyski
- Bonnie & Steve Plato
- C. Alicia Pérez



FINAL HOSTA SALE OF THE SEASON

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2017

10 AM TO 2 PM

at the Club's Hoop House

105 White Rock Rd

Freeport PA 16229

724-604-0355

DHSWP members will receive 20% OFF TOTAL ORDER.

This includes old and new stock.

Cash, checks and hopefully credit cards will be accepted.

TWENTY-FIFTH HOSTA SHOW AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

Red/Purple Petiole	Ann Olescyski	One Man's Treasure
Best Large Leaved: Sections II & XI.....	Susan Gahagan	Ivory Coast
Best Novice Entry: Sections I-V & XI.....	Susan Gahagan	Pandora's Box
Best Medium Variegated Leaved:		
Sections III & XI Class 4 thru 8.....	Megan Danik.....	Sweet Standard
Best Blue: Sections I - V & XI, Class 2.....	Sandy Csikari.....	Awakening Angel
Best in Show Division I Sections 1-V and Section XI....	Sandy Csikari.....	Awakening Angel
Best Hosta of The Year Selections.....	Chuck Olescyski	Victory
Sweepstakes:	Susan Gahagan	
Danik Memorial Ruffler Edge Hosta	Sandy Stupar	Emerald Ruff Cut
Best Large Variegated Leaved: Sections II & XI.....	Susan Gahagan	Ivory Coast
Danik Memorial Best Opposite.....	Sandy Csikari.....	Electrocution
Best Miniature Leaved: Sections 5 & XI	Susan Gahagan	Pandora's Box
Best Trough Division III Sections I to IV	Lorraine Duffola	

The Shadier Side of Hostas - Dispelling the Myths

By Rob Mortko

Reprinted from the American Hosta Society E-Newsletter Winter, 2017

Hostas are king of the shade and continue to reign as the most popular of all perennials. But why are hostas so popular? That's a really good question. Gardeners will invariably mention easy to grow, low maintenance, attractive foliage, and shade tolerance as compelling reasons. But think about this one. How many of us grow a perennial for the 2-3 week period where we get great blooms, and then simply tolerate the foliage the rest for the year? With hostas it's just the opposite. We tolerate the blooms for 2-3 weeks but we get great foliage the entire growing season.

Hostas are herbaceous perennials, meaning they die back to the ground each winter, but reemerge the following spring. Hostas grow from a rhizome (not a bulb) and emerge from winter dormancy between early April and mid May depending on variety and growing location. From a single rhizome one or more eyes emerge in the spring. Ideally the rhizome grows larger during the growing season yielding additional eyes and a larger clump the following year. All hostas bloom at some point during the growing season. Depending on variety they may bloom as early as June or as late as September. Some varieties also have fragrant blooms.

Hostas offer a seemingly limitless selection of foliage colors, shapes, sizes and textures. Given their considerable growing range (from zone 3 to 8), maybe it should be no surprise that there is a

considerable amount of confusion and misinformation regarding the successful cultivation of hostas. Let's try to separate fact from fiction.

Myth #1: "Hosta are shade loving plants."

Fact: Hostas are shade tolerant plants

- A fine but important distinction
- Maximum vigor in full sun, but foliage will tend to burn
- Balance morning sun and afternoon shade
- Yellow hostas brighten with some morning sun
- Blue hostas better in shade to retain wax

White centered varieties generally need some morning sun to thrive

Myth #2: "Some hostas can be grown in full sun."

Fact: It depends on where you live and which cultivar you're growing

- Sun won't kill a hosta, but will burn the foliage
- More northerly climates can get away with more sun and not burn
- All bets are off in a really hot summer, no matter where you live
- Fragrant flowering varieties will generally tolerate the heat better
- More sun, more water => more water, less foliage burn

Myth #3: “Like many perennials, hostas need to be divided every 3 to 5 years.”

Fact: Hostas rarely (if ever) need to be divided

- Hostas as the “Friendship Plant” (dividing to share with your friends)
 - Divide only to create more plants
 - With proper initial spacing, never need to divide
 - One chance to do good soil prep
- Easiest to divide in spring, optimum time in fall.



Myth #4: “Hosta bloom scapes and seed pods should be removed.”

Fact: Suit yourself.

- Small amount of energy expended in flowering and seed set
- Won't harm the plant either way
- Develop an appreciation for hosta flowers – fragrance and color

Use spent bloom scapes as plant marker the following spring during bed cleanup

Myth #5: “I’ve tried slug baits and they don’t work.”

Fact: Some cultivars are more slug tolerant, but slug baits will work when properly applied.

- Substance = leaf thickness; more substance=> more slug resistance
- Weather (rain and cloud cover) impact on slug activity
- Timing for maximum impact – start in the fall, early in spring
- Keep at it – one application won't do it
- Metaldehyde vs iron phosphate baits (both will work, follow labeled application rate, don't over apply)

Various home remedies – consider your level of effort vs the effectiveness

Myth #6: “Rabbits and deer love my hostas and the spray-on repellents don’t work.”

Fact: Persistence pays off. You can win the battle.

- Rabbits are fairly indiscriminate, generally only chew off the petiole
- Deer really do love hostas
- Properly applied (and reapplied) spray-on repellents do work

Testimonials from AHS convention garden tour sites

Myth #7: “Space your hostas about 24 to 36” apart.”

Fact: It all depends on the cultivar.

- Do your homework before you buy
- Check on the mature dimensions of the plant
- 12” spacing could be right; 96” spacing might be right
- Allow 5 years for maturity

Myth #8: “Hostas will adapt to a dry shade.”

Fact: Hostas love water

- The single most important key to success in growing hostas
- Smaller hostas this year are generally due to a lack of water last summer

Grow the rhizome and everything else will take care of itself.

Myth #9: “Hostas are heavy feeders and require plenty of fertilizer.”

Fact: Skip the fertilizer and focus on good soil prep and plenty of water

- See Myth 8 above.
- Water, water, water
- To push growth=> fertilize, but then even more water is required

Only fertilize if you're committed to watering

Myth #10: “Growing hosta from seed will yield a nice mix of variegated seedlings.”

Fact: You will only get solid colored (green, blue and some yellow) seedlings

- Only streaked hostas yield a large percentage of variegated seedlings

Growing hosta seeds – still a great winter time activity

Coming in the Part 2:

One Final Myth - “I've already got that one. In fact I've got all four varieties - the green one, the blue one, the yellow one and the variegated one.”

2017 FALL HOSTA AND GARDEN FORUM

Sponsored by: Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western PA and Western NY Hosta Society

SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

at the Frank G. Pogue Student Center at Edinboro University, Edinboro, PA.

Edinboro, PA



PEACE, LOVE, PLANTS

Keynote: Jonathan Hogarth
London, England

Full day of talks, lunch, vendors, silent auction, raffle,
live auction, fun and camaraderie.

Bonus night Friday, 9/15/17
with light dinner, entertainment
hospitality and vendor preview

FOUR SPEAKERS

Jonathan Hogarth—London, England
Growing and Showing Mini Hostas in England

Barbara Tiffany—The Gardens at Mill Fleurs
Designing a Spectacular Hosta Garden

Paul Zammil—Director of Horticulture,
Toronto Botanical Gardens
*Gardening Without Flowers: Fantastic Foliage,
Garden Ornaments & Creative Containers*

Karen Perkins—Garden Vision Epimediums
Collecting and Growing Epimediums

2017 REGISTRATION FALL HOSTA FORUM PEACE, LOVE, PLANTS

Saturday, September 16th
8:00 am – 4:30 pm



Complete and return with check payable to: **FALL HOSTA FORUM**

Karen Schmidt, Registrar
Fall Hosta Forum
111 N. Benbrook Road
Butler, PA 16001 (karensmg@aol.com)

Name #1 (list additional persons below) Address

City/State zip

Area code/phone number e-mail

Name #2
Enclosed please find \$ _____ for _____ registrations (add \$25 pp for Friday dinner/voucher)

NOTE: US CASH OR CHECK ONLY – PAYABLE TO FALL HOSTA FORUM

Check here if you are bringing an item (INTRIGUING hosta or other interesting item) valued at **\$20 or more** (one per attendee – *AND PLEASE, WE DO COUNT ON YOU!*)
Registration is \$65 per person UNLESS you bring an item as above... then \$55 per person

Please let us know if you will be arriving Friday night for vendor preview plus pizza & salad*, so that we can make the necessary reservations and arrangements – 6:30 pm dinner (\$25 pp, reservations REQUIRED). *Note - \$25 price includes only our costs: food, room rental, staff and voucher *note: no refunds after September 1st due to our own obligations*

DONATIONS

Please list donations so that we can prepare an auction list in advance

1. _____ 3. _____

2. _____ 4. _____

DHSWP 2017 HOSTALARITY POLL

Rank in order of most like (1.) to least favorite.

Favorite Hostas

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Favorite Minis

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



PLEASE VOTE TODAY!

RETURN TO SANDY ELLENBERGER EITHER BY:

E-MAIL: sandyle@zoominternet.net

OR AT THE NEXT MEETING ON OCTOBER 14TH.

UP-COMING EVENTS

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Northland Library¹ on Saturday Nov 18, 1:00 PM

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 with Bonnie, Steve & Lenny talking about bulbs with Q&A for all your concerns PLUS Bulb Sale.

Saturday, November 4

12 Noon

End of Season Luncheon, with speaker Chris Wilson from Hallson Gardens talking about the Hosta Virus X PLUS Bulb Sale

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