



Growing Together Growing Together

Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania

MAY 2018

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Daffodil Show incredibly successful! We had lots of very beautiful flowers on display upstairs coordinated by the Platos. This was the first year we had entries in the photo contest. After a lot of revamping by John Powell, we received many, many stunning entries.

Now it's time to get ready for the hosta show, which is just about 2 weeks away. The show will be Saturday June 2nd. The set up will be Friday June 1st starting at 5pm and finishing whenever we are finished. We will start Saturday morning at 8am, with plant sales starting at 10am and judging starting at 11am.



We encourage everyone to come Friday evening to enter your leaves and then returning Saturday to view the show. Keep in mind you can enter leaves, containers, troughs, education displays and arrangements. If you have any questions on the show, reach out to Jim Kalka.

It is the time of year when many members open their gardens up friends and fellow club members. If you wish to do so, please send me any information, including your name, address, and if you wish it to be by appointment or any time over a period of days. We all love walking through gardens, so I hope you consider opening your gardens up to the club.

Hope to see you all at the show!
Megan, The President

Steering Committee

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Megan Danik

Vice-President Hosta
Gary Gahagan

Vice-Presidents Daffodils
Steve & Bonnie Plato

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Education
Sandy Ellenberger

Members At Large
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Matt Wilson

Newsletter Editor
C. Alicia Pérez

E-Mail Editor to:
Pitvp@aol.com

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 leafs dimensions (length X width) as this is a new requirement for this years 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.

See you at the DHSWP Hosta Show on June 2nd 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/2018_show_classification_full_list.pdf

under the Hosta Judging tab, Show Judging. Look up the Hostas you will be entering, you will need the following information: Division, Section, Class, Registered leaf length & width & Variety. (You may need to copy-paste the link to get the document.)



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
Fun - Cut Leaf Pandemonium
It's Show Time

Good luck, see you at the show
Jim Kalka

NOTE From Sandy Ellenberger ALSO Consider Entering An Educational Display!

It would be nice to see more educational displays at the Hosta Show this year: June 2, 2018. There were 3 entries last year that showed some original ideas for you to build on.

Displays may be based on any idea that would be of educational help for club members and visitors. They are judged on educational value which includes a theme, originality, and the materials used. Also, staging is a factor: arrangement, attractiveness, and neatness.

So, give it some thought and come up with some new ideas!

Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania

Hosta Photography Contest

DHSWP Hosta Show June 2, 2018

Soergel Orchards – Franklin Park

Photo Submission Rules:

- Contest is open to members and non-members of DHSWP. There is no entry fee.
- Photos may be submitted Friday evening June 1 or Saturday morning June 2 before 9:00 a.m.
- Entries must contain images of one or more hostas, hosta leaves, partial hosta leaves, hosta flowers, or hosta scapes; and meet the criteria of one of the Hosta Competition Categories.
- Submitted photos must be at least 8"X10" and not larger than 16" X 20" printed on glossy paper. Photos may be landscape or portrait.
- Photos must be securely mounted to foam core, mat board, or gator board. Submissions may *not* be framed and/or matted.
- Cultivar identification of the hosta is appreciated, but not required.
- Photos should not contain any names, copyright marks, or other information that will identify the photographer.
- Participants may submit up to 3 photos per category.
- Photos may not have been previously submitted to any DHSWP competition.
- Photos may not include children.

Hosta Competition Categories

- I. Close-up photo of a partial or single leaf, several leaves, flower(s), or scape(s) emphasizing texture, color, edging, etc.
- II. Photo of a clump or partial clump including stems and leaves
- III. Photo in which hostas are mixed with other plants, garden sculptures, and/or other outdoor structures/hardscape
- IV. Abstract or digital special effects incorporating hosta or hosta elements.
- V. Photo which does not meet the criteria of any other four categories.

DHSWP reserves the right of publication of all submitted photos. Copies of the photos may be used by DHSWP for publicity or fund raising.

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	Chuck & Anne Olescyski	\$30.00
Best Blue: Sections I - V & XI, Class 2	Megan Danik	\$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

Hostas and Associates: The Chinese Hostas, Part 1

Glenn Herold, Cedarburg WI, AHS E-Newsletter, March 2018

The number of hosta species that exist has been debated for a long time. The International Plant Names Index, adhered to by the Hosta Library, lists 46 plus additional subspecies or varieties. Wikipedia lists as few as 24. The discussion will likely go on forever.

Hostas are native to just three countries - Japan, China, and Korea. Recently I wrote a series of four articles for the Hosta Journal which describes the eight-species found in Korea, their characteristics, and how they have been used in hybridizing. Specifically, they are *Hosta capitata*, *H. clausa*, *H. jonesii*, *H. laevigata*, *H. minor*, *H. tsushimensis*, *H. venusta*, and *H. yingeri*. In this article I will talk about *Hosta albofarinosa* and *H. ventricosa*, which are two of the four species found in China. In a future article I will discuss *H. plantaginea* and *H. clausa* var. *ensata*.



H. albofarinosa Photo by W. George Schmid
AHS eNewsletter - March 2018

Hosta albofarinosa was discovered in the early 1980's in the Yellow Mountains, about 260 miles west of Nanking, China. It was found growing on steep slopes with thin soil layers. Despite this siting, it is not considered drought resistant. Since then other populations have been found, some of them occurring in open areas competing with aggressive grasses. It has yet to make its way to the West.

Hosta albofarinosa forms a clump about 6 to 8 inches tall and 8 to 12 inches wide, similar to *Hosta longipes* in Japan. The leaf blade is ovate to narrow, 5 to 12 inches long by about 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 inches wide. It is powdery white on both sides, but heaviest on the back of the leaves, the only Chinese hosta to exhibit this characteristic. Flowers of *H. albofarinosa* are white with purplish streaks, blooming in June. Flower morphology is similar to that of *H. sieboldii*.

As stated earlier, *H. albofarinosa* has not been imported in significant numbers to the US, or Europe for that matter. It does have some qualities that makes it desirable to hybridizers, however. The compact size and white coloration on the back side of the leaves are both advantageous characteristics. Its ability to compete with grasses is another trait that is worth looking into. Despite having many enviable characteristics, to my knowledge no hybrids or selections have been made from *Hosta albofarinosa*.

The history of *Hosta ventricosa* goes back to at least 1790. At that time, it was brought to England, one of the first hostas to make its way to Europe. Unlike any other hosta it is a naturally occurring tetraploid and will produce clonal seed, a trait called pseudogamous apomixis. In its native China, it is found in forests, grassy slopes, and hillsides. It is one of the easiest hosta species to grow and will adapt to most environmental conditions, including full sun.



H. ventricosa, Photo by G. Herold

Hosta ventricosa is a medium to large plant with an expected height of 20 inches and spread of 32 inches. Leaves are dark green, slightly rippled, and very glossy. Flowers are medium to dark purple, and bell shaped with distinctive striping. They are

produced from mid to late July into September. Scapes may be over 40 inches long. It is a heavy seed producer, with virtually all the seedlings being identical to the parent. Since fertilization must take place for seed to form, however, an occasional variant is sometimes found. Examples of this which have been introduced into the trade are 'Holly's Honey' (G Holly, 1986), which has glossy green rippled foliage and dark purple flowers, and 'Lakeside Black Satin' (M Chastain, 1994) which boasts exceptionally dark green foliage.

Two variations of the species have been in collections for many years. 'Aureomaculata' has been cultivated in the Netherlands since 1856. It has gold-centered, green-margined foliage and is viridescent, meaning that it gradually changes to green through the summer. 'Aureomarginata,' another sport of *H. ventricosa*, is the opposite of 'Aureomaculata.' It has a green center with an irregular margin that changes from creamy yellow to creamy white during the summer. Both cultivars have produced sports and

have been used in breeding. 'Fury of Flame,' an all-yellow seedling of 'Aureomaculata' introduced by Mark Zilis in 1985 is viridescent like its parent.

Hosta ventricosa is rarely used as a pollen parent because of its apomictic character but makes an excellent pollen parent. Two of the notable hybrids are 'Slick Willie' (J Hadrava, 1996), a cross with 'Invincible' that has shiny green foliage and lavender flowers, and 'Sunny Disposition' (F Nyikos, 2001.) This cross with 'Birchwood Parky's Gold' is lutescent gold, meaning that it changes from chartreuse to gold through the summer. Grow it in more sun than usual for best color.

Both *Hosta albofarinosa* and *Hosta ventricosa* have many desirable characteristics that should have hosta hybridizers salivating. Only *H. ventricosa* has made its presence felt in the industry, however, and maybe even it has fallen somewhat out of favor. It is time to look at it again and add *H. albofarinosa* to the mix as well.

UP COMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 2		Hosta Show & Sales at Soergels. Sales start at 10 AM, Show opens to the public around 1:30 PM (after judging)
Sat – Sun, June 16 - 17		Whispering Pines Hosta Sale
Thur – Sat, June 20 – 23		AHS National Hosta Convention, Philadelphia, PA
Saturday, July 21	11:00 AM	Picnic & Hosta Auction at DJ's Greenhouse
Saturday, August 4	1:00 PM	Regular Meeting, Northland Library with Mark Brady on Japanese Maples
Saturday, August 18		Garden in the Parks Field Day
Saturday, Sept 8	1:00 PM	Regular Meeting, Northland Library With Marcia Sully, "Let's Talk Hosta - What Works in the Garden for Me"
Fri – Sat, Sept 14 - 15		Fall Hosta & Garden Forum, Edinboro PA
Saturday October 6	1:30 PM	Regular Meeting Northland Library with Bob Solberg on Hostas
Saturday, November 3	12:00 Noon	End of Season Luncheon, with Gordon Vujevic on Bulbs
NOVEMBER 17	1:00 PM	STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 1	Pending	Christmas Gathering to introduce the Club to the South Hills. Bridgeville Library¹

¹ Bridgeville Public Library, 505 McMillan St, Bridgeville PA 15017, 412-221-3737

2018 DJ's Greenhouse & Gardens Schedule of Events

1004 East Lake Rd, Transfer PA 16154

724-962-1230

www.djsgreenhouse.com

APRIL

- 3rd Create your own Fairy Garden**
\$35..... All Materials Included
6:30..... Reservations Required
- 5th Herbal Tea Container Class**
\$22..... All Materials Included
6:30..... Reservations Required
- 10th Vegetable Gardening Class**
6:30..... When can we Plant?
Planting a Lettuce bowl Demo!
- 14th Opening Day**
9-5 Stop by for Refreshments and Cookies
- 21st New Plants Class**
10:30
Join us as we walk the Greenhouse discussing
new plants for the season.

MAY

- 15th Gardening to attract Hummingbirds**
6:30..... Guest Speaker Paula Shacklock
- 17th Gardening to attract Butterflies**
6:30..... Guest Speaker Donnajean Enyeart
- 22th Vegetable Gardening Class**
6:30..... Is it time yet?
Planting a Veggie Pot Demo!
- 31st Container Class**
\$25..... All Materials included
6:30..... Reservations Required
Be creative!

JUNE

- 2nd Breakfast with DJ**
You name it we discuss it!
9:00..... Reservations Required
No Charge!
- 9th Cooking Demo-Class**
10:00... with Joyce Lee from Sugary & Savory
Catering
No Charge
- 19th Create your own Fairy Garden**
\$35..... All Material Included
6:30..... Reservations Required
- 26th Vegetable Gardening Class**
6:30..... Now that it's growing
how do I keep it going?

JULY

- 7th Breakfast with DJ**
Fertilizer! What's That?
9:00Reservations Required
- 10th Create your own Fairy Garden**
\$35All Materials Included
6:30Reservations Required
- 17th Create your own Terrarium!**
\$35All Material Included
6:30Reservations Required
- 20th Evening in the Garden**
\$26Garden Party
6-9Reservations Required
Great Food and Good Music!

AUGUST

- 4th Breakfast with DJ**
You Did What, to your plant?
9:00Reservation Required
- 14th Vegetable Gardening Class**
6:30
Yes you can still plant a Fall Garden!
- 16th TBA**
- 18th Customer Appreciation Day**
9-5Refreshments and Specials

SEPTEMBER

- 1st Breakfast with DJ**
It's not over yet!
9:00Reservations Required
- 11th Create your own Fairy Garden**
\$35All Material Included
6:30Reservations Required
- 18th Hyper-Tufa Class**
\$ 25Create your own Planter
6:30Reservations Required!
- 22nd Fall Garden Walk**
10:00 ...Getting your garden ready for winter!
A tour of the gardens.

**WE ARE OPEN UNTIL MID-LATE OCTOBER.
OUR HOURS OF BUSINESS ARE LISTED ON THE WEB-SITE
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**