



Growing Together Growing Together

Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania

JANUARY 2019

Here we are nearing the end of January - the middle of winter. We find ourselves browsing the latest catalogs; dreaming and planning new garden adventures. Our daffodils and Hostas lie dormant waiting for spring to burst out of the ground...

The gardens may be dormant, but your steering committee has been busy planning next year's activities. The schedule has been finalized for our normal activities; meetings, shows, picnic and end of year banquet. There have also been discussions on additional informal activities. These will at times be spur of the moment so watch your e-mail for details.

The year started off with the annual friend's luncheon at Sarafino's; always a nice way to spend an afternoon with friends old and new. Our next event will be the soup luncheon at Phipps; the details are in the newsletter.

The two annual shows are scheduled, and as always, a full complement of volunteers will be needed. The daffodil show will be April 27, 2019 at Shadyside Academy. Contact Steve and Bonnie for details if you want to enter and or help with the Daffodil show.

The Hosta Show will again be at Soregels Orchards June 1, 2019. This will be our 27th annual show accredited by the American Hosta Society. The show booklet and registration form has gone out, so we are just waiting for approval from the AHS. The committee chair positions have been filled and we will need the usual team of volunteers.

Set up for this year's show will be a little different. Friday we will be able to set up the main party room, but because the patio will be in use Friday evening, plant sales will need to be set up first thing Saturday morning. This will require some thought on staging the plants for a quick early morning set up.

Our newest members of the steering committee have already taken an interest in the workings of the club. Keith Portka will be organizing the team of clerks for the show. This is a new endeavor for him so I would like to thank him for taking on the task. Also, a thank you to Marsha Smith for taking over the responsibilities of education chair for the club and for this year's Hosta Show. Marsha is already working on an interactive display for the show. More details to come. Maybe we could get a test run at one of the future meetings? If you have any ideas for an education entry for the show contact either Marsha Smith or Jim Kalka for details.

Remember there are many tasks and skills needed to make the show run smoothly. If there is an aspect of the show you are interested in, let me know and I will put you in touch with the committee chair responsible.

Steering Committee

President
Megan Danik

Vice-President Hosta
Gary Gahagan

Vice-Presidents Daffodils
Bonnie Plato

Treasurer
Patty McGuire

Secretary
Susan Gahagan

Co-Chair Daffodils
Lenny Lehman

Co-Chair Hostas
Keith Portka

Membership
Bobbi Diller

Speaker Facilitator
Karen Schmidt

Education
Marsha Smith

Members At Large
Matt Wilson
Steve Plato

Newsletter Editor
C. Alicia Pérez

E-Mail Editor to:
Pitvp@aol.com

If you are interested in exploring what it takes to manage the show go to the AHS website for the details at <https://www.americanhostasociety.org/Hosta%20Judging/Section%20II%20-%20Shows.pdf>

The website has a wealth of information for growing, maintaining and information on the latest cultivars, not only for showing Hostas. Take a minute and check it out.

We are looking for someone to coordinate the Photography contest that will be held the same time as the show. Last year was our first contest and it was a great success so the ground work has been done for this years' event. We had an excellent turn out last year of over 50 entries and hope for even more participation this year. The coordinator will oversee the registration and display of the entries with help from last year's committee members.

Even though your garden is dormant, it will not be long before the Hellebores bloom followed by the spring bulbs then the Hostas leafing out in their spring foliage. The show is only four short months away, so it is not to early to start planning. The show is not just about the entries, it is a time to compare notes with your fellow gardener friends and to work with other members to make the show a special event. Every year your show committee works to improve the quality of the show; sometimes there are glitches, but we work through them. It is because of this comradery that the show keeps growing. I will have more information in the future to keep everyone up to date. If you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact me.

Jim Kalka

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You Should have Receive Your "Green Card" ... for 2019 Hosta College, March 15-16, 2019

Each year during March, the Great Lakes Region (GLR) of the American Hosta Society hosts a garden symposium of approximately 400 enthusiastic gardeners from the Midwest and other parts of the US, Canada, and even Europe. This garden symposium is called Hosta College, and it takes place at Upper Valley Career Center in Piqua, Ohio.

Hosta College begins on Friday night with several different activities from which participants can choose. The vending area offers a large selection of plants (even though it may be snowing outside!), garden accessories, tools, and other garden-related merchandise for shoppers. The Bookstore features gardening books at fantastic discounts and A.M.Leonard gardening tools. The auditorium and other areas provide slide presentations, talks by gardening experts, and opportunities to socialize with new and old friends from Hosta College. An auction of rare and unusual plants will be held on Friday evening.

On Saturday, following a brief period for shopping in the Vending or Bookstore, classes begin at 8:40 a.m. Students attend 5 classes they have chosen from a program of over 60 classes taught by a faculty of approximately 50 volunteers. Mid-day each student has lunch from a delicious buffet included in the registration fee. At the end of the day students take a brief break and then return for an optional banquet and talk that concludes the Hosta College experience.

As a member of DHSWP you are also a member in the Great Lakes Region and as such you receive preferential registration and a reduced registration fee: (\$42 registration fee for members, \$55 registration fee for non-members) Registration starts on January 26 & ends on February 23. But classes fill out rather quickly so register now so you can have a better chance at your primary choices.

Visit: www.ihostohio.org/glhc/

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 9, 2019
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: Steve Piskor, Phipps Master Gardener for 20 years
 Penn State Master gardener for 2 years
 Retired research chemist

Topic: Garden Tool Maintenance



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!)

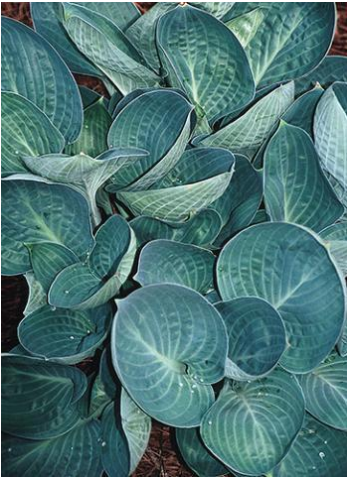
Coffee and hot tea will be provided.
 If you would like to bring a special soup - please let us know
 so that we can co-ordinate all of the delicious offerings.

2019 Hosta Myths

by Tony Avent

Hosta Myth 1: If you fertilize Hostas they will turn green.

Reality: We see many consumers that still believe this. Obviously, this was perpetuated when H. 'Undulata' was the prevalent Hosta sold and nurseries didn't understand the process of viridescence. Hostas are actually very heavy feeders.



H Dixie Cups

Hosta Myth 2: Hostas are very drought tolerant.

Reality: Hostas hate dry soils. While they might last through one drought, a continuing drought will result in an irreversible decline and often a dry rot or disintegration of the crown. A Hosta that continues to grow well in what seems like dry soil has actually sent roots deep enough to find extra moisture.

Hosta Myth 3: Hostas need to be regularly divided like daylilies.

Reality: This myth is probably perpetuated by neighbors who simply want divisions for themselves

Hosta Myth 4: You can get rid of foliar nematodes by picking off the leaves that show damage.

Reality: I've had several nurserymen try to pass this one off as true. I guess you can convince yourself of anything if you want to believe it bad enough. The fact is that plants can be filled with nematodes and show no visible symptoms. The plants will still spread nematodes to other nearby plants...usually within 3 feet. The display of symptoms is cultivar specific. The only way to be sure that a particular plant is clean is with a nematode test.

Hosta Myth 5: Hostas can only be divided in spring.

Reality: In fact, many commercial growers perform most of their dividing chores in the summer.

Hosta Myth 6: Hostas prefer shade.

Reality: While a few wild Hosta species actually grow in shade, the majority prefer some sun. In the wild, most Hosta grow either on rock cliffs or in sunny meadows...often with daylilies.

Hosta Myth 7: When I have a mutation on a hosta, I should give it a name and introduce it.

Reality: Ideally, Hostas should only be named and introduced if they are an improvement. A green reversion of a variegated Hosta is almost never an improvement. Such introductions serve only to confuse the public and dilute the Hosta trade with junk.

Hosta Myth 8: The myth of Originator's Stock (OS) as a different or better plant.

Reality: This is a brilliant marketing gimmick, where Hosta vendors have convinced customers that one particular division is worth 10 times another identical looking division. This "con" is based on the premise that the size of knife used to divide the clump somehow makes the clump better or different. Even normally intelligent people buy into this one. It doesn't matter if 100 different people handle or divide the clump. Either the plant being sold is the correct cultivar as named by the introducer or it is not.

Hosta Myth 9: Tissue culture Hostas are inherently bad.

Reality: Nothing could be further from the truth. Without tissue culture, we would only have a fraction of the cultivars that are available today. Tissue culture is one of the best methods for cleaning up a Hosta with foliar nematodes. Just like with garden divisions, all reverted shoots must be removed and discarded. Obviously there are going to be more reversions in tissue culture, so attention to detail is critical. The bad reputation of tissue culture is due to labs that had poor quality control procedures.



H Autum Frost

Hosta Myth 10: I like hostas, so I should start a Hosta nursery and make lots of money.

Reality: This one sounds really good in theory, but if an accountant took a look at the books of most small Hosta nurseries, they would recommend that you instead consider a passbook savings account or an extra job flipping burgers. The profit margins that seem huge to H Autum Frost

the public simply don't exist...especially now that the days of \$200 Hosta introductions are long gone. If a Hosta is grown to a quality size, it will be one of the least profitable perennial crops that you can grow.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE BIRDS IN YOUR BACKYARD?

1. **How does the american robin locate earthworms?**

- A. Sight and sound
- B. Taste
- C. Smell
- D. Touch



2. **What is the most commonly reported bird at feeding stations in North America?**

- A. Cardinal
- B. Junco
- C. Goldfinch
- D. Downy woodpecker

3. **What aggressive and noisy bird was introduced to North America in the 19th century as part of one man's mission to introduce all of the birds in Shakespeare's works to New York City's Central Park?**

- A. House Finch
- B. Blue Jay
- C. European House Sparrow
- D. European Starling

4. **What proportion of sugar to boiling water should you use when making hummingbird food?**

- A. One part water to one part sugar
- B. Two parts water to one part sugar
- C. Four parts water to one part sugar
- D. Ten parts water to one part sugar

5. **How often should you clean your hanging feeder?**

- A. Once a year
- B. Once a month
- C. Once every two weeks
- D. Every day

6. **What bird has a black or gray cap, white underside and is the only bird that creeps down tree trunks head first looking for food it's stashed in crevices?**

- A. Black-capped chickadee
- B. White-breasted nuthatch
- C. Hairy woodpecker
- D. Brown creeper

7. **About how many birds do out door and feral cats kill each year in the United States?**

- A. 4,000
- B. 400,000
- C. 4,000,000
- D. 4,000,000,000

8. **What bird is completely dependent on human-created nesting structures?**

- A. Eastern Bluebird
- B. Wood Duck
- C. Purple Martin
- D. Barred Owl

9. **How many caterpillars does a pair of chickadees need for the 18 days it takes to raise a family?**

- A. 1,000 to 2,000
- B. 2,000 to 3,000
- C. 3,000 to 5,000
- D. 6,000 to 10,000



10. **What bird weaves the silk from spider's webs into their nests?**

- A. Ruby-Crowned Kinglet
- B. Ruby Throated Hummingbird
- C. Evening Grosbeak
- D. Purple Finch



11. **What birdseed is preferred by the majority of birds?**

- A. Black-oil Sunflower
- B. Cracked Corn
- C. In-shell Peanuts
- D. Safflower

12. **What color attracts baltimore orioles:**

- A. Red
- B. Orange
- C. Blue
- D. Yellow



ANSWERS:

1. A----When you see a robin hopping around the yard and cocking its head, it is using a combination of auditory and visual cues to find its prey, including insects, earthworms and grubs.
2. B----Look for dark-eyed juncos (commonly called snowbirds) on the ground beneath your feeders. They prefer to forage for millet, sunflowers seeds and cracked corn that has fallen from the feeder.
3. D----In 1890 Eugene Schieffelin released 60 European starlings into New York City's Central Park (and another 40 in 1891). Today, 31% of the world's 150 million starlings make the United States their home.
4. C----This mix of plain white table sugar and water very closely mimics the chemical composition of natural nectar.
5. C----Clean hanging feeders once every two weeks or more often if heavily used. Immerse feeders in a solution of one part bleach to nine parts warm water for two to three minutes.
6. B----Like other nuthatches, the white-breasted nuthatch characteristically walks head downward on large branches and tree trunks, probing crevices for large seeds and nuts it's stashed that other birds will miss.
7. D----Between 1.4 and 4 billion birds lose their lives to cats each year in the United States. In addition, billions more small mammals succumb to the predators. So be sure to keep domestic cats indoors and trap, neuter and release feral cats, which will eventually help reduce feral cat populations.
8. C----If humans were to stop supplying martins with housing, they would likely disappear as a breeding bird in eastern North America. Conventional martin houses have multiple levels with different compartments for each bird family and are mounted on poles. A collection of birdhouse gourds are also frequently used.
9. D----Chickadee parents need to find 350 to 570 caterpillars every day, depending on the number of chicks. Multiply that by the 16 to 18 days it takes a fledgling, and that's a total of 6,000 to 9,000 caterpillars to bring a clutch of chickadees to maturity. Ninety percent of caterpillars eat only native plants, so planting natives will encourage moth and butterfly caterpillars.
10. B----Hummingbirds build velvety, compact, cup-shaped nests with spongy floors and elastic sides that stretch as the hatchlings grow. They weave together twigs, plant fibers, bits of leaves and lichen, and use spider silk—gathered from webs around your house and garden—as threads that bind their 1 1/2 inch nests together and anchor them in trees 10 to 90 ft. high.
11. A----Black-oil sunflower seeds have a high meat-to-shell ratio, they are nutritious and high in fat, and their small size and thin shells make them easy for small birds to handle and crack. When using blends, choose mixtures that contain sunflower seeds, millet and cracked corn—the three most popular types of birdseed. Try to buy seed that is as fresh as possible (sniff for strong or musty odors, a sign of mold or mildew, and look for signs of unwanted dampness).
12. B----Orioles are attracted to the color orange (and the taste of oranges), so look for sugar-water feeders specifically designed for orioles. Offer orange halves on a branch or feeder.

HOW WELL DID YOU DO?

0 CORRECT Time for you to get outside with a bird field guide and get to know your neighborhood birds. Birds make great subjects for nature photography, so grab a camera or your phone and start taking some bird photos!

1 TO 4 CORRECT Not too shabby! You've done some homework, but there is still much more to find out. Time to hand up a bird feeder or place a birdbath in your garden and grab a pair of binoculars.

5 TO 8 CORRECT Impressive. Now consider joining a local birding group and be sure to sign up for a field trip to meet other bird-lovers. Keep a journal for the birds you see in your garden.

9 TO 12 CORRECT Have you considered becoming an ornithologist? Be sure to share your love of our feathered friends with young people to inspire the next generation of bird-lovers!



JOIN US FOR THE 26TH ANNUAL GREAT LAKES REGION HOSTA COLLEGE

A Garden Symposium Friday & Saturday, March 15–16, 2019

Upper Valley Career Center, 8811 Career Dr, Piqua OH 45356

Friday evening auction, raffle, vendors and bookstore.

Friday evening is open to the general public at 6:00 PM.

Saturday registered 'students' receive: breakfast, classes, lunch, door prizes, a souvenir hosta, raffle, vending and bookstore.

Saturday Evening Banquet with guest speaker is an optional offering.

New this year: Hosta College for Kids, ages 10 – 15, pre-registration required

Login to Hosta College: <https://www.ihostohio.org/glhc/>

Register to join over 350 plus garden enthusiasts who take part annually!

2019 Hosta College Souvenir Plants (One per registered attendee)



H. 'Wiggles and Squiggles'



H. 'Diamonds are Forever'

Registration opens for **Great Lakes Region Hosta Society Members** January 26 for only \$42

For Non-GLR Hosta Society Members, opens on February 2 for \$55

Registration closes February 23 at midnight

Login to preview and register for Hosta College: <https://www.ihostohio.org/glhc/>

If you are new to Hosta College, click on "Registration" first, then "Site Registration" to set up your password.
To view class lists, click on "Hosta College," then "Class List".

Preview some of the 2019 classes and vendors attending Hosta College.

Classes Offered (Select five classes and one lunch period for Saturday)

All About Hostas	Hybridizing Tips, Tricks, and Secrets
Not Your Grandma's Japanese Maples	Proper Installation and Monitoring of Bluebird Nest
Things That Work For Me	The Meaning of Botanical Latin names
Bonsai Workshop 1- 2, 2 periods class	Rock Painting
Secrets of Shade	Two Old Friends; My Garden and Me
Advanced Hosta Hybridizing 2019 Breeding for the Market or Not!	Cool Tools and Accessories for the Gardener
Let's Talk Hosta - The Big Picture	Daylilies: The Essential Perennial
Alpine and Miniature Gardening	Soil Tests
French Dirt	Hungry Eyes
Native Trees and Shrubs for the Landscape	Ohio Native Bees in Your Garden
Creating a Living Flower Arrangement	The Hosta Gardening Calendar
How to Prepare a Winning Cut Leaf Exhibit	Growing Hostas Successfully in Containers
Butterfly Gardening: Beyond the Pollinators'	Hybridizing for Leaf Substance in
Perennials	Papercrete Advanced Molding
Colored Pencil Hosta	Tips to Improve Your Garden/ Nature Photography
Growing Hosta From Seed	The Magic of Plant Propagation - 2 Periods Class
Basic Papercrete	Getting Started in Grafting - 2 Periods Class
Tall Bearded Iris	Margaret's Miscellaneous Minutiae
Conifers for Modern Gardeners	New and Improved Perennials
Pond Building – 2 Periods Class	Bald Eagles, An American Success Story
How to Compete in a Hosta Show	Tropical Terrarium Gardens I
The History of Botanical Latin	Trees: The backbone of the landscape, the top
Secrets of Shade	'100' species for the Midwest
Doug's Hybridizing 2018 Style	365 Days of Bloom / Plants that Reliably Bloom in
Easy-to-grow Natives for a Sunny Area	the Late Fall and Winter
Composting with Earthworms	Backyard Bats
Humane Solutions to Living with Wildlife	Tropical Terrarium Gardens II
The Monarch Butterfly	Tip Toes Through the Garden
Travels With Bob: The Search for	Miniature Hosta Gardening
Hosta sieboldiana in Japan	So You Want to Go into the Hosta Business
You've Had a Garden Catastrophe, what can you	Trillium: More Than Just the White One
do so save your Garden?	The Ins and Outs of Rain Water Collecting
Diversify Your Landscape	Practical Pruning for the Home Landscaper
Color in the Garden	Costa Rica - A Bird Watcher's Paradise
	Color in the Garden

Vendor Information (Open to the Public 6 pm, Friday March 15)

Benedict's Nursery	Esther/Martha Benedict	Nappanee, IN
Dannaher Landscaping Inc	Dave/Leslie Dannaher	Galena, OH
Green Hill Farm	Bob Solberg	Franklinton, NC
Hollywood Bob's Hosta Farm	Mike Kreuger	Evansville, WI
Jack's Hosta	Jack Barta	Cedarburg, WI
Nature's Art	Debbie Hurlbert-Minard	Howard, OH
Peggy's Flowers	Peggy & Lee Coates	Highlanville, MO
Pine View Nursery	Kevin Collard	Leitchfield, KY
Sandy Miller Pottery	Sandy Miller	Painesville, OH
Soules Garden	Chris Wilhoite/Cynthia Miller	Indianapolis, IN
Stone Petal Gardens	Kathleen L. Zien	Oxford, OH
The Natural Alternative	Fred Williams	Greenville, OH
Uniquely Hostas	Marlene Rosenberg	Elroy, WI