



# Growing Together Growing Together

Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania

MAY 2019

## JUST A REMINDER:

**ANNUAL HOSTA SHOW**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2019**  
**AT SOERGER ORCHARDS FARM MARKET**  
**WEXFORD, PA**  
**FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**ENTRIES ACCEPTED:**  
**FRIDAY MAY 31, 2019, 5:00 - 8:00 PM**  
**SATURDAY JUNE 1, 2019, 8:00 - 10:30 AM**  
**PLANT SALES BEGIN AT 10:00 AM**

Isn't this growing season off to a wonderful start? Here we are at the already May, the Hostas are leafing out with some of the bigger ones standing 18 inches tall already. As long as we don't get a freak late spring cold snap we will have a wonderful selection of cut leaves for the Hosta show June 1st at Soergel Orchards. **Yes! The show is only three short weeks away not too early to start looking for that near perfect leaf to enter.**

Now that you have your eye on the perfect leaves to bring to the show, what is the next step?

There will be a meeting at Northland Public Library May 25, 2019: our guest speaker will be Paul Kamenar talking about the tick problems a lot of us have been experiencing. I think this is one presentation we all need to attend. Afterwards, we will do a short presentation on selecting and grooming your entries for the show: an introduction to showing leaves for the novice (there is an award for the best novice entry) and a refresher for the rest of us.

Look forward to seeing you on May 25th and at the show on June 1st. Any questions feel free to contact Megan or me.

Jim Kalka Chairperson  
 Megan Danik Vice-Chair

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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 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 1st 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/2019\\_simplified\\_classification.pdf](http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Hosta%20Judging/2019_simplified_classification.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!

## 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
<b>Red/Purple Petiole</b>	C. Alicia Pérez	\$30.00
<b>Best Large Leaved: Sections II &amp; XI</b>	Gary & Susan Gahagan	\$40.00
<b>Best Novice Entry: Sections I-V &amp; XI</b>	Chuck & Anne Olescyski	\$25.00
<b>Best Medium Variegated Leaved: Sections III &amp; XI Class 4 thru 8</b>	Chuck & Anne Olescyski	\$25.00
<b>Best Blue: Sections I-V &amp; XI, Class 2</b>	Megan Danik	\$30.00
<b>Best in Show Division I Sections 1-V and Section XI</b>	DHSWP	\$50.00
<b>Best Hosta of The Year Selections</b>	C. Alicia Pérez	\$30.00
<b>Best Seedling or Sport Sections: VI-X</b>	DHSWP	\$25.00
<b>Sweepstakes</b>	DHSWP	\$50.00
<b>Danik Memorial Ruffler Edge Hosta</b>	Megan Danik	\$30.00
<b>Best Large Variegated Leaved: Sections II &amp; XI</b>	DHSWP <b>Tom Tindall Award</b>	\$30.00
<b>Danik Memorial Best Opposite</b>	Friends	\$30.00
<b>Best Miniature Leaved: Sections 5 &amp; XI</b>	Margie Elliott & Jim Kalka	\$25.00
<b>Best Trough</b>	NARGS	\$25.00 Sorgel's GC



## April 2019 Daffodil Day Trip: A Report

By Karen Schmidt

The eight members that went on the day trip enjoyed a beautiful sunny day to see the daffodils. We visited four gardens and saw many daffodils and other spring bloomers. We had a bonus stop at the main Petitti Garden Center and ended the day with an awesome meal at The Tavern restaurant in New Wilmington where we were joined by the Altmans and Dennis.



### **Daffodil Hill at Lakeview Cemetery - Cleveland, Ohio** (above photo)

The Lakeview Cemetery is a beautiful and well maintained place. There were many spring flowering trees in bloom and cemetery historical stonework. The daffodil hill was good sized and in full bloom.

### **Gardenview Horticultural Park - Strongville, Ohio**

Henry Ross established his acres of English cottage gardens as a park for public viewing. There were a few daffodils in bloom, but it would be best viewed later in the year when most of the perennials are in bloom. It was interesting to hear about the history and how it came about from one man's dream.

### **Dennis James Gardens - Transfer, PA**

Dennis James the owner of DJ's Greenhouse in Transfer and long time DHSWP member has beautiful display gardens that include over 22,000 daffodils and many hostas. The display beds were overflowing with daffodils in bloom and he also had

some spring trees in blooming. His location is so peaceful and includes chairs, a gazebo and garden art.



In addition to hosting DHSWP annual picnic, he has also helped the club over the years getting plant material, growing plants, doing presentations, taking care of vendors at the Fall Hosta Forum and many other duties.

Hope you can attend the July 13 picnic and visit his gardens and greenhouse.

### **Joan and Herb Altman's Gardens - New Wilmington, PA**

Joan and Herb are the owners of Joan's Country Garden in New Wilmington and long time DHSWP member. Their gardens are situated around a historical house and includes lots of beautiful daffodils with many rocks and stonework throughout. The hosta beds are awesome later in the year and they sell many of the current and fresh on the market hostas.

The Altmans have helped the group over the years in many ways, they have hosted judging training, judged shows and many other duties over the years.

*Hope you can join us in our next Spur of the Moment Trip! Thank you Joan, Herb and Dennis for sharing your gardens for our day trip*

## Notes & Such

**Note:** Though out the year Susan Gahagan and Karen Schmidt will be visiting member's gardens and putting the garden information & pictures in the newsletter. Hope if you are contacted you will be willing to share your garden.

**Don't forget!**

**If you have a question on anything garden, send me your question & see the answer on the next newsletter under: *ASK LENNY!***

## FALL HOSTA FORUM Saturday, September 14, 2019 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

The Fall Hosta Forum, it is an annual fall seminar we have been hosting along with the Western NY Hosta Society for over 20 years. It was previously held at Cambridge Springs and when we outgrew that location several years ago we moved to the Edinboro University campus. The room we rent in the Frank Pogue Student Center allows for us to keep expanding and plenty of room for the vendors.

The event starts Friday night for those that are driving a distance and want to spend the night. We have a new deal with Comfort Inn and the rooms will be \$89 this year, please reserve your room soon. For an additional \$25, your evening includes: a sandwich/salad dinner; short activity or presentation; first shot at shopping with several vendors including two of the speaker that are also vending (Friday night attendees will receive a \$5 voucher toward purchases) and an awesome evening back at the hotel. The hospitality at the hotel includes all kinds of drinks and snacks in the meeting room or outside on the patio. Great way to visit with old and new friends.

If you do not want to spend the night and rather drive in Saturday morning, we have a later start time to allow for that with the first speaker starting at 9:30, but please be there earlier to register.

This year we have another great line up of international speakers:

**Chuck & Sue Anderson - Mason Hollow Nursery**, Mason, NH will do a pictorial look at hostas from their original beginnings until now.

**Ted Hildebrant - Coldwater Pond Nursery**, Phelps, NY will do a presentation on grafting for fun. Ted will show us some of the more interesting things that can be done and with a live demo show how to graft in your own home garden.

**Hugo Phillips, Belgium** will let us know the newest and best plants coming out of Europe.

**Paul Zammit - Director of the Toronto Botanical Gardens** will do an energetic presentation on creating eye-catching and lasting containers. Highlighting many of his favorite plants, combinations and accents for every changing season.

In addition to the speakers we will have a full hot meal for lunch, raffle (this offsets the cost of Friday night's hospitality), several vendors and awesome silent and live auctions.

You will not want to miss this event, so mark your calendar and get your reservation/registration done. Check out our website [www.DHSWP.com](http://www.DHSWP.com) for more information and the registration form (also below).

Hope to see you there, if you have any questions please contact me:  
Karen Schmidt [karensmq@aol.com](mailto:karensmq@aol.com) or 724-679-3818.

**2019 REGISTRATION**  
**FALL HOSTA FORUM**  
**Sgt. Peppers**  
**Happy Hosta Band**  
 Saturday, September 14th  
 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)

**REGISTRATION  
 MUST BE RECEIVED  
 BY 9/2/19**

Name #1 (list additional persons below)

Address

City/State

zip

Area code/phone number

e-mail

Name #2

Enclosed please find \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ registrations

**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 sandwich & 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

*Sorry! no refunds after September 1<sup>st</sup> due to our own obligations*

**DONATIONS**

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

## DHSWP 2019 SCHEDULE

### STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Northland Library<sup>1</sup> on Saturday, Nov 16 at 1:00 PM

Fri - Sat, May 17 – 18		Indiana Garden Club May Mart, Hosta Sale
Saturday, May 25	1:00 PM	<b>Regular meeting at Northland Library with Paul Kamenar</b> , who will be talking on ticks. Keep in mind that Western PA leads the <b>nation</b> in reported Lyme disease cases. See more information on Paul at the end of this list.
Saturday, June 1		<b>Hosta Show &amp; Sales</b> at Soergels. Sales start at 10 AM, Show opens to the public around 1:30 PM (after judging)
Wed – Sat, June 12 – 15		AHS National Hosta Convention, Green Bay, WI
Sat – Sun, June 15 – 16		<b>Whispering Pines Hosta Sale</b>
Fri – Sun, June 21 – 23		Great Lakes Region Hosta Tailgate, Bay Village, OH
Saturday, July 13	11:00 AM	<b>Picnic &amp; Hosta Auction</b> at DJ's Greenhouse
Saturday, August 17		Garden in the Parks Field Day
Saturday, August 24	1:00 PM	<b>Regular Meeting</b>
Fri – Sat, Sept 13 - 14		Fall Hosta & Garden Forum, Edinboro PA
September 21	1:00 PM	<b>Regular Meeting</b>
Saturday, October 26	1:00 PM	<b>Regular Meeting</b>
Saturday, Nov 2	12:00 Noon	<b>End of Season Luncheon</b>
Saturday, November 16	1:00 PM	<b>STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING</b>
DECEMBER	Pending	

**Paul Kamenar, Southwest Region/Beaver** – A certified instructor for the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Hunter-Trapper Education, Successful Bowhunting, and Successful Turkey Hunting Courses. He has also coordinated programs for various suburban Pittsburgh municipalities to safely manage the white-tailed deer populations in those communities. Building on his experience as a seminar speaker after contracting Lyme disease in the Spring of 2017, Paul became involved in the Dare 2B Tick Aware Program as a Facilitator.

<sup>1</sup> Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Rd, Pittsburgh PA 15237, 412-366-8100