



Growing Together Growing Together

Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania

DECEMBER 2020

Hi Folks,

2020 is coming to an end. Many of us are most likely looking forward to it. It has been a year for the record book. As the club moves forward, we are switching many of our events to an online venue. We have had a few meetings on ZOOM with the steering committee and they have gone very well. All you have to do is click on the link in the email that I will send you. You do not need to have the app to get into the meeting, only I do. This meeting option will allow us to do so much more with our events.

In place of having our friends' lunch in January, we will be having DJ give us a talk on shade gardening. We are looking to have another speaker in February in place of the soup luncheon. We have a few more events on the schedule but the schedule has not been finalized. There are a few we are planning that will be in person.

For one, Karen is working on a shopping trip and another we know we can do is the picnic at DJ's. We had the picnic last year; DJ has enough room for us to socially distance and have our event. We are hoping to add some more events and we will finalize the events that are not fully scheduled. We will keep you in the loop as to updates to the schedule as they happen. Karen has included a note with more details on the upcoming years events.

We will also have elections at the end of this year. However, we are looking to fill two chairs much quicker than next year.

We have been without an Education Chair for a few years. This is a position we have been wanting to fill. This person does not have to have years of knowledge but needs to be willing to learn and help teach others. We have people who are willing to teach you and help you fulfill your duties.

As we all know, we lost Len Lehman last year. No one can replace his knowledge and willingness to share his many years of learning. But we would like to find someone who could take over his seat as Daffodil Vice Chair. It is a fun hands-on position that assists the Daffodil VP. If you are interested in either of these positions or have any questions about them, feel free to email me.

Megan Danik
The President

Steering Committee

President
Megan Danik

Vice-President Hosta
Gary Gahagan

Vice-Presidents Daffodils
Bonnie Plato

Treasurer
Patty McGuire

Secretary
Susan Gahagan

Co-Chair Daffodils
Open

Co-Chair Hostas
Keith Portka

Membership
Bobbi Diller

Speaker Facilitator
Karen Schmidt

Education
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Members At Large
Matt Wilson
Steve Plato

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Looking forward to 2021!!

By Karen Schmidt

In 2021 the meetings will be done virtually, using zoom meeting. Zoom meeting is so easy to use. You just click on the link included on the email invite. A big bonus is that we can get speakers from all over that we could not previously due to cost of travel and time constraints. Hopefully we will be having Bob Solberg join us at one of our meetings.

We will be holding a Happy Hour, where the group will just get together virtually to chat, this would be a great opportunity for those that are unfamiliar with zoom meeting to practice and become familiar with using.

Since the picnic is outside, we will be holding that again. It went well in 2020 and everyone social distanced. There are other outdoor meetings/workshops in the works too. Plus the ever popular hoop house sales.

I will be planning a green-housing trip to Ohio in May, as long as there are no restrictions. I found a wonderful garden center Quailcrest Farm in Wooster, OH and we will visit several of my other favorites. We can just drive separately or wear masks in the vehicles.

We need to find the new normal for our group and meeting virtually is the current way to go. Please join us; we look forward to seeing all of you.

Get Ready for a Zoom Talk with Dennis James (aka DJ)!

Saturday, January 16, 2021

“Shade Gardening: More than just Hosta!”



The presentation will cover a variety of plant material that will complement and enhance the landscape of the shade to part sun areas of the garden. Both new and underutilized plants will be discussed.

DHSWP 2021 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

When	What	Where	Time	Website of location
Sat, Jan 9	Happy Hour	Zoom	5:00 PM	Your living Room!
Sat, Jan 16	DJ's talk on Shade Gardening	Zoom		Your Living Room!
February	Soup Lunch Talk	Zoom		Your Living Room!
May	Shopping Trip			
May 21-22	Indiana County May Mart	S&T Bank Arena		Indiana Garden Club
Sat, June 5	Hosta Show	Soergels		Soergels
June	Trough Workshop	Hoop House		
Sat, July 17	Picnic	DJ's		DJ's Greenhouse
August	Planting event	Hoop House		
Sat, Nov 6	End of season banquet	Lucianos		Lucianos

Buffalo Open Gardens

By Karen Schmidt

I went to the Buffalo open gardens in 2020 and really enjoyed myself. They have open gardens and garden walks the whole month of July.

Open gardens are on Thursday and Fridays and the garden walks are on Saturdays (a different area each week, many gardens in walking distance of each other).

This is a great opportunity to get out of the house and see some gardens and it's easy to social distance outside and keep safe.

The open gardens are located in several areas around the Buffalo area on different days. You will need to check out the website or purchase a booklet to get the locations of the gardens.

The booklet is really great with a layout of the areas, with directions and descriptions of each garden. You must preplan so you can see the areas you want to visit.

We only did the Hamburg area since it had a couple wonderful hosta gardens. You will want to make sure to visit Marcia Sully's Garden of Eden and Kathy and Mike Shadrack's Smug Gardens.



Marcia Sully's Garden of Eden



One of Marcia Sully's Garden of Eden trough collections

There are also several great garden centers in the area, I recommend Lockwood, Michael Brothers and Gullo Garden Centers but there are many others.

If you like daylilies, you will want to stop at Lasting Dreams Daylilies in Orchard Park where you can see them in bloom and they will dig them for you to purchase.

You could even go Thursday, spend the night in Niagara American side and see the falls and do other gardens on Friday.

This is also a great day trip; we were able to see several gardens/garden centers and returned home in the same day.

If you are interested check out the website <https://www.visitbuffaloniagara.com/open-gardens-buffalo/> or contact me with any questions.



Mike and Kathy Shadrack's wrote a book on mini hosta and they have many.

The Importance of Checking Your Email

By Susan Gahagan

As we move forward into the New Year, I am sure we all hope for better days in 2021. Due to the tragic Covid-19 pandemic DHSWP canceled all 2020 events.

For many of us, those cancellations made us realize how much we enjoy club activities and fellowship among our club members. Inasmuch we are hopeful the newly developed Covid-19 vaccinations will allow us to resume "normal" life, we would like to take a moment to remind you of what the club offers and why it is important for you to regularly check your emails for impromptu outings as well as sudden requests for volunteers.

DHSWP steering committee members try hard to present a calendar of events so that you can plan to participate. This involves discussions with other clubs and businesses so that we can avoid conflict with other club's events as many of us are members of several garden clubs.

Besides our regularly scheduled events, we have in the past few years added impromptu gatherings for breakfasts, outings, shopping trips, etc. We would like to put these on our published calendar of events but the fact remains there will most likely be more spur-of-the-minute outings.



Additionally, there are things we cannot plan for, like "potting parties" where we ask members to help pot new hostas or bag daffodil bulbs and we simply cannot know exactly what dates those will be as it is determined by the shipper. For all these reasons, it is imperative that you routinely check your email so that you do not miss out on the opportunity to participate in these fun activities.

In the past, we have organized some “funtastic” shopping outings which usually include several fabulous nurseries as well as visits to gardens. We form convoys with ride-sharing and we usually end the day with a dinner.



Breakfast and Butterflies. Members enjoyed breakfast at Gateway Grill in Monroeville and then went to Boyce Park to visit the massive butterfly garden on Indian Hill.

Another activity you will miss out on if you aren't checking your email is Club Breakfasts which involves us gathering at a restaurant for breakfast followed by a speaker or outing.



Additionally, we have had some Hoop House sales at the Gahagan's, where the club's hoop house is located. The sales sometimes include discounts on hostas and/or daffodil bulbs. Typically, there is a mini-picnic and people are free to come and go as they please. We truly enjoy the relaxed atmosphere while we visit.

The Gahagans reside in rural South Buffalo Twp and you just might see a Pileated woodpecker, a Baltimore Oriole or an Indigo Bunting. There is a trio of WHITE crows that reside nearby but we have not had the pleasure of seeing them at the hoop house yet.

As much as we are trying to include these in our published calendar of events, most likely there will remain impromptu events. We would love for you to participate but we simply cannot personally call every member. Check your email to stay up-to-date. Another way to stay informed is to join our Facebook group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/209078313691707>

Check this website: Garden A to Z

It is going to be a long winter! If you are interested in getting more garden information this is the place. Check out Garden A to Z website <https://www.gardenatoz.org/> Janet and Steve are very knowledgeable and have written numerous articles and books. Their website is full of all kinds of information and there is a forum on the website. They are also willing to answer garden questions if you email them.

Janet and Steve do a weekly webinar on various garden topics. The webinars they do are mostly for subscribers, but they often offer free webinars. Check out YouTube and search **janet at garden a to z** to view them or find the links on the website.

PLANT SOME BULBS!!!

By Bonnie Plato, Daffodil VP

Due to the canceled meetings and events this year many DHSWP members sadly missed out on our annual daffodil sale. We have sold a lot of bulbs, but there are some wonderful varieties left.

With all the isolation, turmoil and stress we all have experienced wouldn't it be fun to look forward to spring with the anticipation of more beautiful daffodils? They always lift my spirits watching their little green shoots start inching their way up and buds unfolding into stunning flowers!

Yes, it's late, but when we get a few warmer days and are free from this snow daffodils can still be planted in the ground. Or a few bulbs can be potted up to overwinter in an unheated garage, shed, or even a protected spot against the house.

Please consider buying some daffodil bulbs to brighten your spring. We all deserve some extra color and excitement! Generous gifts are included with every order

Contact Bonnie thru gmail (bwplato@gmail.com) or call me (412-726-7865) to make arrangements (voicemail may or may not work). It will be first come, first serve. Many varieties have sold out, but we can discuss and put together something special for you.

JUST for fun. Sent to me by a friend.

T'was a month before Christmas,
And all through the town,
People wore masks,
That covered their frown.

The frown had begun
Way back in the Spring,
When a global pandemic
Changed everything.

They called it corona,
But unlike the beer,
It didn't bring good times,
It didn't bring cheer.

Contagious and deadly,
This virus spread fast,
Like a wildfire that starts
When fueled by gas.

Airplanes were grounded,
Travel was banned.
Borders were closed
Across air, sea and land.

As the world entered lockdown
To flatten the curve,
The economy halted,
And folks lost their verve.

From March to July
We rode the first wave,
People stayed home,
They tried to behave.

When summer emerged
The lockdown was lifted.
But away from caution,
Many folks drifted.

Now it's November
And cases are spiking,
Wave two has arrived,
Much to our disliking.

Frontline workers,
Doctors and nurses,
Try to save people,
From riding in hearses.

This virus is awful,
This COVID-19.
There isn't a cure.
And no vaccine here yet.

It's true that this year
Has had sadness a plenty,
We'll never forget
The year 2020.

And just 'round the corner -
The holiday season,
But why be merry?
Is there even one reason?

To decorate the house
And put up the tree,
When no one will see it,
No-one but me.

But outside my window
The snow gently falls,
And I think to myself,
Let's deck the halls!

So, I gather the ribbon,
The garland and bows,
As I play those old carols,
My happiness grows.

Christmas isn't cancelled
And neither is hope.
If we lean on each other,
I know we can cope.

**Wishing you & your loved ones a blessed Christmas.
A happy, healthy New Year fill with great things & no COVID.
Peace, Alicia**