



Growing Together Growing Together

Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania

APRIL/MAY 2021

Hi Folks,

This is a bit early but our Annual Picnic at DJ's will be our next "sort of" big event, so:

We will be restricting the *number of people to less than 40*.

You must RSVP by Tuesday, July 6, 2021 to me—Megan at mad.danik@gmail.com—to reserve your seat. This is a first come first serve basis. This will give us enough time to plan for food for the picnic on Saturday, July 17th. We are hoping to have the auction and raffle back this year

We will also be limiting the number of people per table by half, just like the restaurants are doing.

If you are not seated, you must be wearing a mask. This includes walking around DJ's greenhouses and gardens. Also, everyone must practice social distancing.

We will be having the event catered so no need to bring the usual dessert or salad. The details of that are still in progress. I will send them out once I know. You are welcome to bring your own food if you do not like what we order or have an allergy to something we are serving.

All plates and silverware will be disposable to stop the chance of spreading the virus.

The club will also provide soda and water. Feel free to bring any other beverage you may want.

Please know, if you do not feel safe coming to the event, we understand. Also, if you feel sick the day of, or recently before the event, please do not attend. We will understand. The steering committee does not want to put anyone's health in jeopardy.

Hope everyone is doing well!

Stay Safe!

Megan Danik

The Pres.

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
OPEN

Members At Large
Matt Wilson
Steve Plato

Newsletter Editor
C. Alicia Pérez

E-Mail Editor to:
Pitvp@aol.com

Matt Duddy's Daffodil Garden

By Karen Schmidt



Matt graciously opened his daffodil gardens in Volant, PA this past two Saturdays, April 10th and 17th.

He has written a daffodil book with over 500 pages that includes detailed descriptions of daffodil cultivars and I am sure the history information that he presented to us when he talked to our group in August 2019. The book is an Apple book (online) and was released at the end of March.

He also has several posts on YouTube about daffodils including hybridization, propagation and a few time-lapse of his garden and daffodils blooming.

The garden tour started by gathering in his garage with a display showing his new book and partaking of refreshments including some famous Amish donuts from Apple Castle.

We then went to the garden to see the many daffodils he has been growing for over 20 years, many that are no longer available.

He has hundreds of varieties planted on two hillsides, around a pond and a large garden plot. There was a wide variety of daffodils types with two toned, doubles and some frilly centered.



He showed us a mature plot that had reseeded sports of the original cultivar. It was interesting to see all the variations. He spent time with visitors to answer questions and to identify their favorite daffodils.

Well worth the trip to visit, if you did not make it this year, I hope you will try to go next year.

April 19 DHSWP Day Trip By Karen Schmidt



Since the spring weather was unusual, the daffodils bloomed early this year. We decided to do an abbreviated shopping trip instead of seeing daffodil gardens.

We started out by meeting at Perennial Post north of Warren, Ohio where Claire, an Amish lady, sells plants out of her yard and a small selling area. She has many unusual perennials and her prices are great. She is very knowledgeable and her gardens are beautiful.

The picture is from Perennial Post showing the members from our group with bagged purchases. If you are interested in perennials, it is best to visit several times during the growing season to see her inventory as they grow and bloom.

We then traveled to everyone's favorite garden center, DJ's Greenhouse in Transfer, PA.

His daffodil gardens were still beautiful with many hellebores mixed in. We then had fun checking out his inventory and purchasing plants. We ordered takeout from the local Carini's Italian Restaurant and Dennis joined us to eat in his new meeting building. It was nice to visit with everyone and catch up.

Remember the next day trip is Friday, May 7th and we will be shopping at several garden centers in Ohio. Hope you can join us, more the merrier.

HOSTA COLLEGE – 2021

By Chuck Olecski

The Great Lakes Hosta Society sponsored the 2021 edition of Hosta College on March 20, 2021. Unlike those annual gatherings from previous years this one was offered as a ZOOM presentation. Due to the COVID virus the 400 attendees were able to 'tune in' virtually for an all day program featuring five talented speakers. A brief description of the classes follow.

CLASS 1 – 'New Perennials', by Brock Martindale from Indiana

Brock presented a coming attraction of the new perennials coming to market. These included varieties of painted ferns, bruneria, echinacea, hibiscus, phlox, rubeckia, clematis, ajuga, lavender, and the 'Perennial of the Year' 2021, Nepata (Cat's Pajamas). Look for these newer varieties at your favorite nursery or on line.

CLASS 2 – 'THE BIGGER THE BETTER' (HOSTAS, that is), by Don Rawson from Comstock MI

Tips to raise bigger and better hostas included providing the best location (room to grow, plenty of sunlight, and ample air flow). The planting site should consider the right soil and nutrients, lots of organic matter, slightly acidic soil, and raising hostas on a mound. Additional pointers for raising bigger hostas:

1. select large cultivars
2. allow enough space
3. prevent root competition
4. mulch and fertilize – use 10-10-10, add magnesium
5. water, water, water – add Miracle Grow with water
6. safeguard against pests and diseases
7. don't transplant or divide
8. Be Patient!

Suggestions for planting larger varieties include American Halo, Polar Moon, Great Expectations, Paradigm, and Orange Marmalade.

CLASS 3 – 'HOT NEW HOSTAS – WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?', by Rob Mortko from Kansas

Rob presented an overview of the 'tissue culture' business and how it has provided many new cultivars for avid hosta growers to experience. Prior to the tissue business hostas were exchanged and shared from 'OS' original stock.

TC has made it possible to produce new hostas in greater numbers with a lower price tag. Also through the sterile process of TC, diseases can be eliminated.

Rob's pix for hot, new hostas are: are 'Empress Wu', 'Hometown Hero', 'Midnight Oil', 'Snake Charmer', 'Eden's Ruff and Tuff'. and 'Grace Wins'.

CLASS 4 - COMPANION PLANTS – HOSTAS AND THEIR SHADY FRIENDS, by Bob liames from Ohio

Hostas are friendly and welcome most companion plants for the shady garden.

Bob recommended the following plants to accompany and enhance your sun tolerant gardens.

1. hellebores *note- difficult to transplant
2. epimedium – 'Onion', 'Stoplights', 'Guiding Light'
3. pulmonaria ' Mayfair'
4. Virginia Bluebells
5. Celendine poppy
6. trilliums - *note – leave alone in nature
7. ferns – lady, Japanese, 'Ghost'
8. Liriope – 'Giant Korean'
9. Begonia grandis – pink & white
10. Gingers – Korean and native
11. Polygonatum – 'Solomons Seal'
12. arisema – "Jack in the Pulpit", Silver center
13. Toad Lily
14. Fall Crocus
15. Red buds
16. Japanese maples – many varieties
17. Dogwood – 'Kousa'

CLASS 5 - UNDERAPPRECIATED HOSTAS, by Bob Solberg from Green Hill Farms, NC

Bob indicated that certain hostas are overrated while others are under appreciated. Some hostas such as 'June', 'Blue Mouse Ears', 'Sum and Substance', 'Empress Wu' and 'Fire & Ice' have appeared on the list of favorite hostas continually.

Streaked hostas like 'Strip Tease' and tetraploids like 'Atlantis' often dominate the charts.

Bob noted that there are other hostas that are unique and deserve recognition. Hostas with red veins or petioles like 'First Blush', yellow hostas with red appearing in the leaf like 'Lemon Snap' and plantaginea for its fragrant blooms require attention.

And then there are the plain green hostas which are often passed by despite the contrast they provide with substance and texture.

While searching for hostas don't overlook leaf shapes (ruffles & ridges), white wax on the underside of blue hostas, minis, shiny green surfaces, puckering, unique flower colors and shapes, and keep a watchful eye for the unusual!

NOTE* Hosta College was, as usual well organized and attended. Kudos to those who helped implement and devoted time and energy to make it successful. Hope you can attend next year!

MY VIEW

From W NY Hosta Society, March/April 2021 Newsletter- Barb Whittemore

We have all heard that Hosta is the friendship plant, and this simple statement was proven after a recent event that happened on Facebook. In March, 2020 a group was started called "View from my Window". The start of the COVID lockdown was underway, and the idea was to connect people from all around the world. Plan was to take a photo of what you saw, through your window every day, in the hope of encouraging people who could no longer travel or see new sights. It was very successful, so much so that membership was capped at over 20 million, and a book was published at Christmas that listed all those postings. I sent in a picture in August, 2020, but never heard a word, probably due to a waiting list of pictures. In January, it was reopened for a week, and I resubmitted my picture along with an updated caption.

On 2/22/2021, my View was posted on Facebook, much to my surprise. As I write this, there have been over 25,000 "likes", and over 5,000 comments. I have heard from all over the world, from South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Turkey, Brazil, Britain, Japan, Iceland, all over Europe, Israel, Canada, Mexico, and more, along with every state in the US. Hosta was the key, so many people would say "I love Hosta" and talked about their collection. There were comments from people living in the SW of the US who had to look up what Hosta was, and then wished they could grow them. People who moved south and took their heirloom hosta's with them. They sent me pictures of their gardens, asked for advice, complained about slugs, snails and deer. I even heard from gardeners in Russia who had their collections and same problems. What a wonderful plant that we all had in common! Comments from people in Britain about gardening, their love of hosta, and problems with slugs were enjoyable, and I had fun telling them that the president of the WNY Hosta Society was a retired policeman from London!

I also heard from people who knew us, such as an elementary school friend of Dave who now lives in Oregon, relatives and friends from all over. People who had once lived in WNY were excited to see a picture from home, commented on the lack of snow in the picture, and usually ended with GO BILLS. Folks who live near Buffalo, from Cleveland, Erie, Rochester, NY City and Hamburg were all friendly and interested. I invited everyone to Open Garden's in July and if everyone comes who said they would, we will need help!

I am slowly getting through the comments and pictures. It is a pleasant chore and I am jazzed up for the upcoming gardening season. I am so proud of our association with the WNY Hosta Society as we have found new friends, learned so much, and had fun!

It is nice to know that despite everything that has happened to drive people apart this past year, a simple plant is the thing people all over the world have in common. Hosta: "The friendship plant".



Note from the Editor: Isn't it nice to receive all those e-mails from all over the world from other hostaholics? And she does have a nice view from her window. Looks like the perfect place to sit & enjoy the garden! Very nice!

MAY 7, 2021 (FRIDAY) DHSWP DAY CAR POOL TRIP

We will be meeting at 7 a.m. in the Giant Eagle parking lot behind Wendy's on Route 19 (easier to get on the turnpike that way). We will do a short stop at a rest area on the turnpike then head to our first stop at Kridler's Garden. I talked to Barry, the owner of Kridler's and he has over 100 varieties of hosta this year and many new hostas from Bob Solberg.

Many of the places we have been before, but I have added a new place I just discovered last year: Quailcrest Farms. They have a wide variety of perennials and annuals (many unusual).

We will stop after Petitti's and have lunch, I am allowing 45 minutes. I will be stopping at Raising Cane (fried chicken tenders only) which is about 1/4 mile from Petitti's, there is a grocery store Fresh Thyme Market in the same parking lot. If you do not like chicken, then you can go in there and get something (they have hot soup and pizza) or go to another fast food nearby. Regardless we will be eating in our cars and will all meet up at Rohr's.

Due to COVID, we will be driving separate or in groups, totally depends on you. I will provide each driver a list of places with addresses and an estimated time table. We should be back around 7 p.m.

Please let me know if you are interested in going. Also let me know if you are driving by yourself or are willing to have passengers. Karen Schmidt karensmq@aol.com 724-679-3818

Kridler's Gardens (annuals, perennials, shrubs, HOSTAS)

4809 Homeworth Road, Homeworth, OH <https://kridlergardens.com/Nursery>

Dehoff Greenhouse (annuals, perennials, shrubs, water plants)

3517 Beechwood Ave., Alliance, OH <http://dehoffs.com>

Petitti Garden Center (annuals, perennials, shrubs, gift shop)

5656 Dressler Road, NW, North Canton, OH <https://www.petittigardencenter.com/locations/canton/>

Rohr's Nursery (annuals, perennials, shrubs, water plants, gift shop)

7211 Portage Street NW, Massillon, OH <https://rohrynursery.com/>

Quailcrest Farm (annuals, perennials, shrubs, some unusual plants)

2810 Armstrong Road, Wooster, OH <http://www.quailcrest.com/>

Dayton Nurseries (annuals, perennials, shrubs)

3459 S Cleveland Massillon Road, Norton, OH <http://www.daytonnursery.com/>

DHSWP 2021 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

When	What	Where	Time	Website of location
Friday, May 7	Shopping Trip	Car Pool	7:00 AM	
May 21-22	Indiana County May Mart	CANCEL		Indiana Garden Club
Sat, June 5	Hosta Show	CANCEL		Soergels
Sat, June 5	Live Birds of Prey	Succop Nature Park's Barn	1:00 PM	Succop
June	Trough Workshop	Hoop House		
Sat, July 17	Picnic	DJ's	11:00 AM	DJ's Greenhouse
August	Planting event	Hoop House		
Sept 17-18	Fall Hosta Forum	Edinboro, PA		
Sat, Nov 6	End of season banquet	Lucianos	12 Noon	Lucianos



Saturday, June 5 – 1:00 PM In-Person Meeting at Succop Nature Park

Program: Live Birds of Prey

These birds have been hurt and rehabilitated to become educational birds. The staff will come around with the birds so they can be seen up close and they will tell us some interesting facts about the birds. We will learn about many of the unique features and habits that make these magnificent creatures such good hunters and why they are so important to the health of the ecosystem. The meeting will take place in a large barn, so there will be plenty of room to social distance. Hope to see you there.

Location: Succop Nature Park's Barn

185 Airport Rd
Butler PA 16002

July 9, 2021 (Friday) DHSWP Day (car pool) Trip to New York

Visiting:

Smug Creek Gardens: Mike & Kathy Shadrack - Hamburg, NY

Hidden Gardens of Eden: Marcia & David Sully – Eden, NY

Whit's End Garden: Barb & Dave Whittemore – Hamburg, NY

Plus several garden centers.

We will be driving separate or in groups, totally depends on you. Please let me know if you are interested in going and I will send you the final details. Also let me know if you are driving by yourself or are willing to have passengers.

Contact: Karen Schmidt karensmg@aol.com or 724-679-3818

SAVE THE DATE - FALL HOSTA FORUM SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2021

We have decided to hold the Forum live. There is a great line up of speakers and we will have the all favorite vendors and auctions. If you are interested and plan to spend Friday night, I would suggest you get your hotel room soon. Comfort Inn is offering our group a special rate of \$89, you will have to call the front desk to make your reservation.

Tim Boebel - Northern Hardy Hydrangeas

Tim has written two books on growing hydrangeas in our climate and he will share varieties and methods to succeed.

Noah Schwartz - From Model T to Roadster

Noah will walk us through the production of hostas from liner to consumer plant...like Ford's assembly line, the process is fascinating.

John Totten & Linda Kramer - Appalachian Forests; Cultivating Place

Stretching over 2000 miles from Newfoundland to Alabama, the Appalachian Mountain chain is one of the longest, oldest and most botanically diverse on Earth. These botanical riches have been sought after for centuries by plant explorers and including them in your woodland garden can add excitement and a sense of place.

Don Rawson - Jazz Up Your Hosta Garden

Has your garden become dull and boring? Well then, it's time to get out of the gardening rut and add some eye-popping street appeal to your landscape. Don will give you some tips to make your garden more exciting, beginning with evaluating your design, examining your selection of hostas and companion plants, and creating interest with the addition of art and humor...all in order to make your garden unique, appealing, and memorable. Let's jazz up the garden!

Virtual National Convention: REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!



WE'RE GOING
Virtual!

Join us!
JULY 15-17, 2021

AHS2021.org

AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY NATIONAL CONVENTION
KALAMAZOO, MI

You'll also learn more about all the great activities and opportunities, like:

- The convention gift Hosta 'Silly String' (mailed to each registrant)
- Schedule for speakers, workshops, judges clinics, and more
- On-demand, professionally recorded virtual garden tours
- Seedling photo competition
- And much more!

As a reminder, **registration is \$49 per household.**

More details about other activities are coming soon, so keep checking the website for updates. Don't hesitate to reserve your spot now!

Visit the convention website at www.ahs2021.org to register for the event being held July 15-17.

Looking forward to Spring
Tammy Borden
AHS Executive V.P.