



Growing Together Growing Together

Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania

JUNE 2019

***GET READY...IT'S TIME FOR A PICNIC
...THE DAFFODIL AND HOSTA SOCIETY
ANNUAL PICNIC!***

**SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2019
FROM 10:30 AM
DJ GREENHOUSE**

1004 EAST LAKE RD, TRANSFER, PA 16154

724-962-1230

DJSGREENHOUSE@VERIZON.NET

Hi Folks!

As spring is coming to a close and summer is fast approaching, I am reminiscing on the season we have had already. We had a lovely daffodil show in conjunction with the Penn State Master Gardener's Symposium. Earlier this month we had the 27th annual hosta show and sale. Both shows had some very lovely exhibits and winners. Thank you to everyone who has not only volunteered their flowers and leaves but have volunteered their time to make both of the shows a success.

Coming up (this weekend) is the Great Lakes Region Tailgate. I hope you have made your reservations. If you attend, I ask that you share some pictures with me so I can share them with the club!

After that we have our annual picnic at DJ's Greenhouse on July 13th at 10:30 AM. As always, the club provides drinks and entrees. We ask that the club members bring the sides and desserts to share. As always, we have the auction where we will have some fantastic plants to bid on. We also have the raffle. We are asking for members to bring donations for the raffle. If we can get everyone to bring something to raffle, we will have a wonderful selection to earn some money for the club! More information later in this newsletter.

I hope to see you all at our upcoming events!

Megan Danik
The Pres.

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Pitvp@aol.com

Our Visit to Sandy Csikari Garden

By Karen Schmidt and Susan Gahagan

On June 1 we had a chance to visit the garden of Sandy Csikari, a long time member and a Penn State Master Gardener. The front of her house was previously in the shade, but since two of her trees were lost during the winter it is now in the sun. She is in the process of changing the area to more sun loving plants to compliment her stone walls. As we moved to her back yard the side yard opened up to a beautiful planting of hostas and shade loving perennials where an open iron gate welcomed us to her back yard. We were greeted by a beautiful tricolored beech tree.



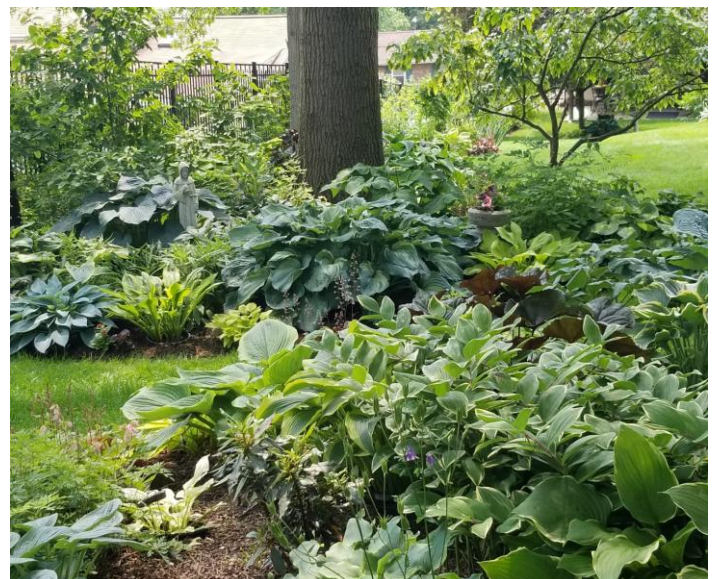
Her yard is on a slight upward slope and the lower part is her sunnier area with many sun loving perennials including many daylillies. This area also includes several hosta beds under smaller trees with a large display of mini hostas. We then continued up stone steps and under a wooden and metal trellis filled with Clematis. The upper part of the yard, which is shaded by large trees, has many planting beds underneath filled with mature hostas mostly in themes, such as Beach Party, Angels and Tea Party. She also has many shade loving perennials mixed in, such as ferns, Brunnera, jack-in-the-pulpits, Solomon seal and ginger.

To safeguard against deer Sandy installed an attractive six foot metal fence to enclose her property. With the cooperation of her neighbor she was able to extend her fence to his property and then remove the fence separating them. This allows for the borrowed view of his lovely garden to make it appear to be one continuous garden. Good neighbors can some times be a blessing.

Sandy has also found a great way to protect her hostas from vole attacks by planting them in containers in the ground. This involves extra work at the time of planting, but ensures a long lasting, safe and happy hosta in the long run. She uses a container larger than the plant was in when purchased and lines the bottom with gravel for drainage. She has been experimenting with different potting mixes over the years, but from the size and health of the many hostas she is deficiently doing something right.

Thanks to her and the many other volunteers for making the Hosta show a success by helping with set up and showing so many hosta leaves.

The garden is only a few minute away from Soergel's and the Northland Library and she welcomes visitors. Please contact her if you would like to view her garden.



Hail Storms and Hostas

by Susan Gahagan

Seems this year the country has seen an unusual number of hail storms and it got me wondering, "What should you do when your hostas are decimated by a hail storm?" First things, first; Fall to your knees. Weep. Curse the sky. After that, you will probably consult the Great All-Knowing Google only to find out the internet is filled with a plethora of conflicting misinformation. I took some time to sort thru the information and consulting what I think are the most reliable sources, came up with the following advice.



I found reference to an article published in The Hosta Journal, 2010, Volume 41, No. 1, entitled, "Hail and Hearty" by Patrick L. Coleman. The author tested different methods of dealing with hail damage. He described his [scientific] method of determining the best way of dealing with seemingly catastrophic damage to his hostas following a hail storm. He formed four test groups.

Test Group A: Mow all the leaves down

Test Group B: Remove only the damaged leaves

Test Group C (control group): Do nothing (to damaged leaves)

Test Group D (control group): Do nothing (to undamaged leaves)

Here are his results:

A: Hostas mowed down sprouted with new leaves but with Summer color instead of colors seen in new Spring growth. These plants remained smaller than usual.

B: Hostas that only damaged leaves were removed displayed a combination of mature and young leaves. These plants were considerably larger than Group A and almost the same size as Groups C and D. They had a superior display quality compared to Group C.

C: Doing nothing, surprisingly, did not result in the leaves drying up and dying and fared better the following year.

The bottom line; it is best to manually remove only the damaged leaves. Second best; do nothing.

Here is the science behind it.

Any part of the leaf or stem not damaged will process sunlight and create energy for the roots. Roots store energy, they do not make it. The leaves, through photosynthesis convert energy from the sun by taking carbon dioxide and combining it with hydrogen and oxygen to make sugars and starches. That energy combines with minerals, etc taken up by the roots from soil and makes proteins, fibers, plant oils and of course leaves.

Without the leaves, the roots starve and will not have enough energy to flush new leaves. If all the leaves are mowed over the plant will probably hold on this year with it's new flush of leaves but will most likely suffer greatly next year because the energy stored within its roots has been depleted.

Therefore, the best thing to do this year is to do what is necessary to save next year's plant. That is, just deal with the fact that this year your garden is probably not going to be of show quality. It is best to be your hostas' nursemaid this year. Pamper it with good water soluble fertilizer rather than relying only slow release since without leaves (and adequate photosynthesis) the roots will need assistance gathering energy.

Later in the summer, when the hostas have again leafed out, you can cut back on the water soluble fertilizer. Be especially careful about watering. Hosta leaves shade their own roots and reduce evaporation. Without the leaves, the soil will certainly dry quicker. Be sure to mulch well.

Lastly, while it seems the plant will be unaffected by allowing it to flower, you should probably deadhead it before it goes to seed as this will also conserve energy.

This advice could be applied to any storm damage, not just hail damage. Here's hoping you don't need it!

Have a safe summer.

Celebrate National Pollinator Week this June 17 - 23, 2019!

From Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's Plant Industry Bureau

National Pollinator Week June 17-23, 2019 is a great time to take a few steps that will make your yard a good home for the insects that are so vital to our food supply.



“If you have even a tiny lot in the middle of the city, you can help,” says Brian Kuhn, director of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's Plant Industry Bureau. “You can create an environment that provides nesting and feeding habitat, not just for honey bees, but for other insects that are just as important, or even more important, for pollinating our crops.”

Major commodity crops such as corn and soybeans don't rely on insects for pollination, but our fruit crops do. Wisconsin leads the nation in cranberry production. Without pollinators, state cranberry growers would lose three-quarters of their crop. In 2017, that would have cost them \$133 million. Apple growers would lose 80 percent of their crop, and cherry growers would lose 60 percent, without pollinators. In 2017, that would have added up to \$22.3 million loss.

Many people think of honeybees when they think of pollinators, and they are important. But Wisconsin also is home to about 400 species of native bees, including about 20 species of bumblebees. One of those is the rusty patched bumble bee, which is on the federal endangered species list. Many of the native bees are small and most people would not recognize them as bees. Monarch butterflies and some native fly species also help pollinate crops.

Vegetable gardens, fruit trees and shrubs, flower gardens and even your lawn can all provide habitat for both honeybees and native pollinating insects.

Wisconsin's Pollinator Protection Plan offers tips for helping you help the pollinators in your yard:

Plants

Choose plants that suit your soil, drainage, slope and sunlight. Try to have at least three species of flowers, herbs, fruits, vegetables, trees or shrubs blooming from early spring to late fall.

Include native plants, which tend to attract and support more pollinators. Hybridized flowers, including common plants like petunias and impatiens, often have little nectar or pollen.

Remove invasive plants and weeds that can take over. Pollinators need plant diversity.

Let dandelions, clover and other flowers bloom in your lawn to provide pollen and nectar early in the season. Pollinators don't visit common early bloomers like tulips and daffodils.

**Over 75%
of all
flowering
plants are
pollinated
by animals.**

Nesting

Leave some areas of your yard uncultivated and a little messy. Wild bees like to nest in old rodent burrows, tree cavities, abandoned bird nests, and downed logs.

Before you destroy what looks like an anthill, check to see who is occupying it – it may be a bee nest.

Pesticides

Remember, the label is the law. More is not better. Look for the “bee advisory box” on pesticides that pose a particular risk to pollinators.

Mow your lawn to remove clover or dandelion blooms before applying pesticides. Wait until flowering plants have finished blooming before applying systemic pesticides that you apply to the soil around the plant.

Before you use products to destroy pests or diseases, be sure you know what the pest is and whether it's harmful. You may not need to use any treatment at all.

There are many online resources for gardeners and home owners, along with opportunities for them to become involved as citizen scientists. You can find web addresses and more detailed advice for making your yard a haven for pollinators in the Wisconsin Pollinator Protection Plan. Visit datcp.wi.gov and search for “pollinator”.

**GET READY...It's time for a Picnic
...the Daffodil and Hosta Society Annual Picnic!**

Those of you who have not been there, or are new members, you want to be there! DJ's is a great place with fantastic gardens and a great selection of plants for sale. You'll enjoy great food: the members always bring enough for everyone & then some. We'll have fun with the auction & a raffle & things in between.

**SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2019
FROM 10:30 AM
DJ GREENHOUSE
1004 East Lake Rd, Transfer, PA 16154
724-962-1230 ~ djsgreenhouse@verizon.net**

Frequently asked Questions about our Summer Picnic

1. **Is DJ's Greenhouse and Nursery located north of Route 80, near Hermitage/Sharon, PA area?**
YES, he's actually in Transfer, PA. We have directions in this newsletter for you and his phone number, if you need them.
2. **Is this a Free event for members of DHSWP?**
YES, it is free, but we ask you to bring a dish to share. We'll provide chicken, ribs, soft drinks & water.
3. **Should I bring my own tableware, wear comfortable clothing?**
Yes, dress casually, for a summer picnic, and plan to stroll about DJ's beautiful gardens, AND his retail nursery. AND, picnic time...when the eating and socializing begins! Bring a lawn chair, if you like, but there will be chairs available. Just be sure to bring along your reusable tableware. Think Reuse, Reduce, Recycle!
4. **Will this also be the Hosta Show Awards presentation?**
YES! We will take this time to honor the winners from the Hosta Shows.
5. **Is this about a 90 minute drive from Pittsburgh?**
Yes, this should take you about 1 1/2 hours to travel from the Pittsburgh area.
6. **What time does all of this take place?**
Picnic begins at 10:30 AM. But Dennis says come on up whenever you like. Rain or Shine, pretty much!
7. **Is it really worth the trip this far for a picnic?**
Whaaaaat? Are you kidding me? Of course! This is one of our best event of the calendar year! AND IT'S FREE! It is well worth the drive, and the Gardens and DJ's nursery will assure you of future trips!

Directions to DJ's

From Pittsburgh: take I-279 N....13.42 miles
I-279 N becomes I-79 N, go 45.10 miles

Merge onto I-80 W via EXIT 116B toward SHARON
& go approximately 15 miles West on I-80.

Take Hermitage Exit, 4B, towards Route 18 North.
Travel approximately 9 miles on PA Rt 18,
North Hermitage Road.

You will drive over the Shenango River Lake, and turn IMMEDIATELY after crossing this lake on to East Lake Road. *****GO SLOW THE FIRST 100 yards, road is rough!**

Travel beside Shenango Lake, on your right, about 2.02 miles to 1004 E Lake Rd to DJ's on your Right

Some Picnic "stats..."

- Saturday July 13 around 10:30 AM
- Rain or shine
- Bring a dish to share
- Bring your plate, utensils: think RRR!
- Ready to bid at the Auction
- Ready for the Raffle
- Ready to wander about the gardens
- Ready to enjoy the afternoon

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 you calendar and get your reservation/registration done. Check out our website 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 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)

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 1st 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 Library¹ on Saturday, Nov 16 at 1:00 PM

Fri – Sun, June 21 – 23		Great Lakes Region Hosta Tailgate, Bay Village, OH
Saturday, July 13	11:00 AM	Picnic & Hosta Auction at DJ's Greenhouse
Saturday, August 17		Garden in the Parks Field Day
Saturday, August 24	1:00 PM	Regular meeting at Northland Library with Matt Duddy — Grower and Student of Daffodils, The Genus Narcissus — Learn about the biological and mythological origins of the genus, how to maximize flowering performance, hybridization methods, and stunning results.
Fri – Sat, Sept 13 - 14		Fall Hosta & Garden Forum, Edinboro PA
September 21	1:00 PM	Regular meeting at Northland Library with Eric French who will talk on Shade Gardening, including soil preparation, irrigation and site location selection for shade gardens.
Saturday, October 26	1:00 PM	Regular Meeting
Saturday, Nov 2	12:00 Noon	End of Season Luncheon
Saturday, November 16	1:00 PM	STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER	Pending	



FUN FACTS ABOUT POLLINATORS

**THERE ARE MORE THAN 17,500 RECORDED
BUTTERFLY SPECIES AROUND THE WORLD, 750
OF WHICH CAN BE FOUND IN THE U.S.**

¹ Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Rd, Pittsburgh PA 15237, 412-366-8100