



Growing Together Growing Together

Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania

MARCH 2020

Fun Facts: March is named for the Roman god of war, Mars. This was the time of year to resume military campaigns that had been interrupted by winter. Vernal Equinox – Thursday, March 19, 2020, 1st day of spring

Hi Folks,

With the threat of the corona virus, many events are being canceled.

As of right now, there are only two events that are cancelled in our world of hosts. Hosta College has been canceled and so has our March 28th annual meeting. At this point, I am not rescheduling our annual meeting.

The AHS National Convention and the rest of our events are moving along as normal for the time being. There are only two general member meetings for April, at this point in time we are planning for them to go on.

We will keep you informed on the situation as it develops. For now, we must keep on keeping on. Everyone be safe.

On a bright point, its almost SPRING! I can't wait to get out and play in the dirt! The daffodils are popping up! We are planning on having a photo contest this year, so make sure you get out into your garden and take pictures of daffodils and hosts.

Megan Danik
The Pres.

Steering Committee

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Pitvp@aol.com

**Our Annual Meeting has been cancel but these events are still on the table.
Plan to join us if you can. Keep healthy!**

Saturday, April 18

Breakfast & Matt Duddy's Open Garden

8:00 AM

Will meet at Brown's Country Kitchen for breakfast (1149 W Portersville Rd, Portersville)

Then we will then travel to Volant to Matt Duddy's (daffodil speaker we had in August 2019) open garden to see his daffodil collection.

Take your time visiting the garden and then you can visit places in the area at your leisure, if you want. I will provide you with a list of Amish greenhouses and a place to get Amish donuts. There is also shops in Volant to visit.

Please let me know if you are going. Thanks, Karen: My email: karensmg@aol.com
My Cell: 724-679-3818



Saturday, April 25

Non Accredited Daffodil Show & Talk

NEW Location:

Succop Nature Park's Barn
185 Airport Rd
Butler PA 16002

Program: Live Birds of Prey

This year we will not have a credited daffodil show but we still have a show! And if you have not participated in the show before you'll have an opportunity to show your best flowers. We will have judging, ribbons, prizes...this should be a fun time to show daffodils, discuss growing/showing daffodils and ask questions re: your daffodils. So get your flowers ready.

In addition we will have a demonstration with live birds. 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.

HOSTA SNEAK PEEK NEW FOR 2020

H. Almost
H. Amalia
H. Broad Band
H. Cracker Crumbs
H. Curly Fries
H. His Honor
H. Leather and Lace
H. Liberty
H. Lucky Mouse
H. Mini Skirt

H. Peppermint Twist
H. Pete`s Dark Satellite
H. Praying Hands
H. School Mouse
H. Smiling Mouse
H. Totally Twisted
H. Viking Ship
H. Wheeee!
H. Wrinkle In Time

These will be shipped on March 30, 2020 and potted up shortly afterwards and be sold through the club with the other hostas being overwintered at the hoop house. Join us for the upcoming potting party at the hoop house and get your hands dirty and have some fun and good conversation with like minded garden friends.

Coffee, Donuts and Hostas

From Jim Kalka

The DHSWP 28th annual Hosta Show is scheduled for June 6, 2020 and as always, your show committee is on their way to another smooth-running show. So, what is with coffee, donuts and Hostas?

Randy Soergel has always extended us the courtesy of allowing us to setup and start processing entries the Friday evening before the show. This year the hall has been rented out Friday evening so we will be doing an early set up Saturday morning. A few dedicated volunteers will start at 5:00 am to make sure everything is in place for judging at 11:00.

As such instead of accepting entries at 8:00 am we will move the official time to 7:00 am. Unofficially if you want to get started as early as 5:00 am that is just fine. I know 5:00 am is awfully early, especially for anyone traveling any distance, so while we need to get started early this year, don't feel you need to be there that early. Just get there as early as you can; setup is a progressive affair requiring the most help between 8:00 to 10:30. Doing the majority of your grooming before the show, while always a good idea, would be an excellent choice this year.

So mark your calendar Saturday, June 6, 2020 at 5:00 am!

The first order of business will be to start the coffee pot and to have some donuts.

Looking forward to another first class Hosta show.

See everyone at Soergel's!

AND WHILE YOU ARE HERE, JUST A REMINDER ON REGISTRATION

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 and address twice per entry.

Hint # 2: Take the time to go to the American Hosta Society website under Hosta Judging: Show Judging <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Hosta%20Judging/Judging.htm>

Then scroll down to where the classification list is & either look at the Full or the Simplified list <http://www.hostaregistrar.org/class-lists/full-list.pdf>

Look up the Hostas you will be entering, you will need the following information: Division, Section, Class, Registered leaf length and width & Variety

Hint # 3: Copy and paste the information (for each Hosta you are entering) into a word document. Print it out and you have all the information needed for registration. Saves you time and it is an efficient way for doing multiple entries.

Hint # 4: Scroll a bit further down & you'll find a few articles you may be interested in reading:

Sample Leaf Show Preparations:

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Hosta%20Judging/SampleLeafShowPreparationHandout.htm>

Fun - Cut Leaf Pandemonium:

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Hosta%20Judging/CutLeafPandemonium.htm>

It's Show Time: <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Hosta%20Judging/ItsShowTime.htm>

PHOTO CONTEST 2020

Jim Kalka

In 2018 we had two photo contests, one for Daffodil and one for Hosta. Each one was scheduled to correspond with their respective show. Unfortunately, we were unable to repeat the photo contests in 2019.

This year we are bringing the photo contest back but in a totally different format. There will be one contest with two sections: Section I Daffodils and Section II Hosta. There will be 4 categories per section. This year all entries will be submitted digitally. Yes, right from your phone to the competition if you chose. The contest will be independent of both the Daffodil and Hosta shows.

There are still several items that the Steering Committee need to complete before this is official, but

I am sure things will be completed post haste. We will start accepting entries shortly and the final judging will be in early July with awards being presented July 18th at the annual picnic.

Just wanted to get this out to the membership because things are starting to grow and you don't want you to miss that artistic photograph of a Daffodil or Hosta breaking ground. Also, now, in light of "social distancing", you'll have time to go through those older photos while going crazy inside. Will be sending out more details and the rules for this year's contest soon.

Looking forward to lots of great submissions!

Plastic munching worms could help clean the planet but they also are a danger to bees colonies

Joshua Bote USA Today

Have you heard this before? I never heard this before. Is plain Amazing! to me.

A species of caterpillar may provide answers on how to best eradicate plastic waste, a 300 million ton per year problem.



The waxworm, researchers discovered in 2017, eats through common types of plastic, including polyethylene.

The waxworm, researchers discovered in 2017, is seemingly able to eat through common types of plastic – including polyethylene, a nonbiodegradable type of plastic that is the most commonly used worldwide. "They are voracious feeders during these larval stages," Bryan Cassone, an associate professor of biology at Brandon University, told USA TODAY.

Now researchers have offered an explanation: A study published Tuesday in the open peer-reviewed

journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B finds that the microorganisms in the wax worm's gut help them consume and metabolize plastics.

Researchers at Brandon University in Manitoba, Canada, found that wax-worms are able to "ingest and metabolize polyethylene at unprecedented rates" thanks to the microorganisms in their intestines.

"The caterpillar's gut microbiota seems to play a key role in the polyethylene biodegradation process," the researchers wrote.

Researchers found a greater amount of "microbial abundance" in the caterpillars' guts when they were ingesting plastic than when they ate a traditional diet of honeycomb. In waxworms, polyethylene metabolizes into a glycol, which is biodegradable.

Waxworms are not an end-all solution to plastic waste, however. Wax larvae are pests for bees, naturally feeding off honeycomb and running the risk of reducing their populations - and those of plants and crops.

The hope, Cassone said, is that if researchers can harness what in the gut bacteria helps caterpillars so easily break down plastic, it can be used to design better ways to eliminate plastic from the environment.

**NOTE: The Comfort Inn in Edinboro, PA is sold out. We got a block of \$99 rooms (only 15 miles away) at Courtyard by Marriott, Ambassador Center, 7792 Peach St, Erie, PA 16509
Please call the hotel directly to get the special rate 814-860-8300.**



2020 FALL HOSTA FORUM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th
Plus Salad/Sandwich Bar & Program, Friday night – 9/18/20
Edinboro University – 219 Meadville Street, Edinboro, PA



The Daffodil and Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania and Western New York Hosta Society are happy to present the **TWENTY THIRD** Annual Fall Hosta Forum. All of the Forum activities take place at the Frank G. Pogue Student Center at Edinboro University, Edinboro, PA. This site has exceeded our expectations and despite the small inconvenience of having to move between hotel and venue, for those who stay, we are thrilled with the arrangements.

Everything takes place in one enormous room – talks, vending and auctions. Some people have complained about the temperature – which is not within our control SO, we suggest that you bring jackets and sweaters that you can pile on if it's cooler than you would like.

We have worked out a deal with the Edinboro COMFORT SUITES, 1007 Market Place Drive, Edinboro, PA 16412, (814 969-7000 – select #2) to hold a block of rooms for us @ **\$89/night plus taxes (note LOWER rate)**. We will host a Hospitality Room there on Friday night for those who stay. **We suggest you book ASAP if you plan on staying.** We will again be funding hospitality with raffled "baskets 'o cheer".

This year's theme is based on the **DATE** (this being 2020), which suggests a time of prohibition, flappers and gangsters. It's a rich and freewheeling time -

The Roaring Twenties

So... for those who don't remember (or have never been), here are the details

Enclosed is the brochure and registration form that should be returned before 8/1/20 (and certainly no later than September 1st). The awesome fee for the day is \$65 – but when you donate an auction item **worth \$20 or more** (or items... remember, this benefits the Societies and helps to keep prices down), then the registration fee is only \$55! This fabulous deal includes 4 talks, lunch, access to lots of excellent vendors, and a chance to score at the auction. **NOTICE THAT WE PUSHED BACK THE STARTING TIME A TAD TO ALLOW FOLKS TO TRAVEL IN THAT MORNING IF THEY SO DESIRE.**

"So twenty three skidoo, kiddo!"

However, since so many people do come in Friday night and stay, we have added a Friday night element along with a light, sandwich and salad, dinner. **THIS WILL ALSO OCCUR AT THE UNIVERSITY.** We will then host a Hospitality Room at the Comfort Suites in Edinboro for those who have booked in there.

And don't forget the "wheelers and dealers"! We will have the usual high-quality blend of vendors with our usual array of exciting plant and garden items. This year we expect the usual suspects – Eagle Bay Hostas, Joan's Hostas, DJ's Greenhouse plus our speakers – plus and anyone else we can scoop up.

For those who attend the Friday night vendor preview, you will be receiving a \$5 voucher – redeemable at our vendors, just for being you. Make a weekend of it and get your reservations in today – space is limited! **NOTE: If you plan on Friday night, make your reservations NOW! Last year a highschool football team beat us to the rooms and they sold out early.**

And finally.... If you say you're bringing an auction item, two requests.... We're asking you to make it something **worthy of an auction**, and we're counting on you to honor your word (and to tell us in advance). We've experienced a few glitches so if you show up empty handed when we counted on you, we will ask you to ante up.....

**2020 REGISTRATION
FALL HOSTA FORUM
The Roaring Twenties**

Saturday, September 19th
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 (Friday too, add \$25 pp)

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 – 5:30 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
(if you don't know yet, just indicate you WILL donate and follow up when you have decided).







1. _____

3. _____

2. _____

4. _____

When	Time	What	Where	Website	Speaker	Topic
March 20-21	-	Hosta College	Piqua Ohio	CANCEL		
March 28	12:00	Annual Meeting	Cranberry Twp Bldg 2525 Rochester Rd Cranberry Twp PA 16066	CANCEL	Dick Barbie	How to grow hostas my way
April 4	1:00	SC Meeting	Northland Public Library	Northland Public Library		
April 18	8:00	Breakfast & Matt Duddy's	Brown's Country Kitchen and Open Garden			
April 25	12:30-5	Daffodil Event	Succop Nature Park's Barn 185 Airport Rd Butler, PA 16002	Succop		Live Birds of Prey
May 15-16 May 16th		Indiana Garden Club Sale Armstrong County Master Gardener sale				
June 6		Hosta Show	Soergel's Orchards	Soergel's		
June 10-13		Hosta National Convention	Brooklyn Park, MN	2020 AHS Convention		
July 18	11:00	Picnic	DJ's Greenhouse & Gardens	DJ's Greenhouse		
July 27-29		Bus Trip	Michigan			
August ?		Meeting	Hoop House			Trough Class
September 18-19		Fall Hosta Forum	Edinboro University, Edinboro PA			
October 17	1:00	Regular Meeting	Northland Public Library	Northland Public Library		
November 7	12:00	End of Season Banquet	Luciano's Brick Oven		Tim Choltco	
November 14	1:00	SC Meeting	Northland Public Library	Northland Public Library		
December 12	1:00	Regular Meeting	Northland Public Library	Northland Public Library		

	Steering Committee Meetings
	Regular Meetings
	Conventions
	Plant Sales
	Shows
	Special Events