



# Growing Together Growing Together

Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania

SEPTEMBER 2021

Hi Folks,

Hard to believe that we are officially in September! It's been a long year with the continuation of COVID looming over our heads.

Hopefully, things will get under control and when they do, we will resume in person meetings and events again.

The goal for next year is to plan for all of our normal meetings and events. Once the 2022 schedule is finished I will share it with you all. I am looking forward to catching up with many of you that we have not seen in over a year now.

A couple weeks ago we had our summer picnic at DJ's. A massive thank you to him for letting us use his beautiful garden center as our space for the picnic. It was a lovely, albeit hot, day. There were many great friends there! I cannot list everyone but a major thank you to everyone who helped make the day successful!

Fall hosta forum is coming up in a few weeks. I know many of you attend this event each year and really enjoy it. We also have the end of the season banquet in November. We will not have awards or some of the normal parts of the banquet but it will give us a great opportunity to get together and see many of our plant loving friends.

The world of Hosta lost an icon recently. If you did not see Gary Lindheimer passed away recently. He and his partner owned and ran Naylor Creek. They had one of the best selections of hosta you could find anywhere. His partner, Jack, passed away nearly two years ago. He continued on with the business in his absence. The future of the business is sadly up in the air as of right now.

Megan Danik  
The Pres.

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## DHSWP SUMMER DAY TRIPS

By Susan Gahagan

I reflect on DHSWP events as summer comes to an end. Sadly, most of our regular club meetings had been canceled due to the pandemic. Fortunately, a Covid-19 vaccination became available and this protection permitted us to gather once again!

While we were unable to reserve some of our regular venues, we were able to get together for shopping trips which we so very much enjoy. I think most of us admit that our need for plant acquisition is an addiction, but it is relatively harmless. And as every avid gardener knows, one can never have too many plants. (At least that is what we keep telling ourselves.)

We always have a good time and honestly, I don't understand why more of you don't participate. Close friendships are being forged. Good times are being had. And at a time when we need something to smile about, the laughter we share is invaluable.

I wrote about two prior outings in the previous newsletter. Today, I will share with you trips #3 and #4.

### INDIANA, PA

Our third day trip for the summer was a repeat adventure to Indiana County. We enjoyed it so much in 2019 that we decided to do it again.

We met at Sheetz just outside of Kittanning to fuel our vehicles and gather munchies. From there, we travelled east on Rt 422 to Pike's Peak Nursery.

This summer was exceptionally busy because so many people got interested in gardening as a hobby. This is a good thing but for us it meant a rather depleted inventory for us to shop from.

Many of the trees on display were only recently brought forward from their stock and would not be available for sale until September. (I may need to return.)

Nonetheless, most of us left with something we would cherish. I was excited about some native shrubs Gary and I purchased. The manager gave us one-on-one attention, answered all our questions and even carried our selections to the check out counter. He is extremely knowledgeable and a visit with him always makes for interesting conversation.

There were so many unique specimens to look at that we overstayed the time allotted to us by Karen Schmidt, who planned the trip.

Next up was Faught's Garden Center.

Debbie Peters was excited about some annual flowers she loaded up. Faught's is best visited in the spring, as they specialize in annual flowers and vegetables. We enjoyed a nice rest under a beautiful huge Catalpa tree as we waited for everyone to finish shopping.

From there we headed to Twolick's Valley Nursery. This is one of my favorite nurseries. They specialize in Japanese Maples and in my opinion have the best varieties and very fair prices. Again, we received VIP treatment even though Mark had to juggle between us and other customers. Not only do they have a fabulous assortment of trees, shrubs, and perennials, the gift shop is outstanding.



Then we went to Burkett's Nursery. I am always amazed by the selection available in such a small space. Over the years I've found some very unique plants there that I've never seen other places. The advice given by the owner is top-notch and honest. I checked out with my selections but on the way to the truck noticed something else I HAD to have. Keith Portka found a really cool fern there. He got the last one or I would have been leaving with one, too!

Then we went to Musser Forrest Nursery. They were picked over. They used to be a great place to get perennials. Maybe we should have been there earlier in the season. I think by then we were all hungry and tired and just wanted to get to our next stop—The Black Bull Saloon.

Located in Rural Valley (or maybe Dayton, depending on which page of the menu you were reading), the Black Bull Saloon specializes in steak but also has a menu anyone would love. Unless, maybe, if you're a vegan. We were all served more than we could eat but that didn't stop Michele Newton from riding the bull before we left!



**Left to right: Lorraine Duffola, Jim Kalka, Margie Elliott, Keith Portka, Michele Newton, Susan Gahagan, Karen Schmidt, Gary Gahagan**

Karen Schmidt wanted ice cream and offered to treat everyone so even though our bellies were full we stopped at Frosty's Frozen Delights for cones. We sat at tables outside and talked and laughed while we fed our faces with HUGE cones. Seriously, even a BABY cone was more than I could eat.

### OHIO

Our forth trip was north, to DJ's Greenhouse and Perennial Post.

Located in Transfer, PA DJ's is owned and operated by DHSWP member Dennis James. This is the same location where our annual picnic is held. Dennis was conducting his Customer Appreciation Sale and I have to tell you this sale is always amazing with deep discounts. DJ's Greenhouse exceptional. It is located 90 minutes from my home but I still make the trip at least 3 times every summer and each time I come home with a truck load of plants. It is not only a greenhouse but also a destination because his beautiful display gardens are a site to behold. I could have easily spent the entire day there. And of course, it is always nice to visit with Dennis.

From there we traveled west to "the Amish lady's" place. The Perennial Post is located in Middlefield, OH and is perhaps the most unique nursery you will ever visit. Located at the home of Clara Miller, the Perennial Post is a quaint but impressive mix of nursery and backyard garden. Not only does she sell a fabulous assortment of potted plants, but as you meander through her garden you are welcome to ask her to sell you anything you see growing. If she has enough to spare, she (or one of her barefoot Amish employees) will gladly dig it up and bag it for you on the spot.



Perennial Post is always an excellent source for the unusual. She has plants I have never seen anywhere else! And honestly, even if you don't buy anything, the enjoyment of visiting her garden is still worth the trip.

It would seem like a mere two nurseries would have been a short day but we spent so much time at both locations we were eager for our next stop, which was to EAT!



Mary Yoder's Amish Kitchen is a place I will surely return to. Lorraine Duffola ordered the buffet and I think everyone else at the table ordered something different. We were all happy with our meals. There was also a nice bakery and gift shop attached and Keith Portka left with an assortment of homemade cookies. Additionally, several beautiful Amish-made quilts decorated the walls.

All-in-all both day trips were very enjoyable and I look forward for more of these trips to follow.

I hope you will join us next time!

## JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY



You've probably heard a lot about the Spotted Lanternfly, but while humans have been concerning themselves with other worries, these destructive little suckers have been preparing for another year of attacking our state's vineyards.

We're here to issue a quick explainer on the pest and to encourage you to smush every one you encounter.

### What is a Spotted Lanternfly?

The Spotted Lanternfly is an invasive species from Asia that is decimating Pennsylvania's crops, especially grapevines. For such destructive insects, they are surprisingly beautiful, boasting a yellow abdomen, black spots, patches of red, and a white band. The upside is that their unique appearance makes them easy to identify, even for non-bug experts.

### What's so bad about them?

Spotted Lanternflies feed on the sap of plants, adhering to vines, trunks, and branches, and draining them of essential liquid and nutrients. When they eat, they excrete a sugary substance called honeydew that encourages the growth of black sooty mold. These pests have been known to attack over 70 plant species, but they particularly love grapes, apples, and hop plants. The threat to our delicious adult beverages — and the small businesses that produce them — is real and growing. A study out of Penn State argued that decimation caused by Lanternflies could cost the Commonwealth economy \$324 million every year.



### Where are they found?

Last year, this colorful menace was spotted in 26 Pennsylvania counties, with most of them concentrated in

the southeastern part of the state and the Lehigh Valley. They moved west and started to impact vineyards in central PA. Swarms of Spotted Lanternflies have also been recorded in New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware, and there have been sightings in New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. They do not stick to rural areas, popping up all over Philadelphia in 2020 and 2019.

### What can I do to help?

In the spring, Spotted Lanternflies lay eggs in a tacky mass that adheres to outdoor benches, gutters, trees, rocks, or even cars. **According to the Philadelphia Inquirer**, it looks a bit like dried gum. While it's too late for this year, keep this information in mind for 2022. When you see one of these egg sacks, dislodge it using a knife or credit card, and smooch until you hear a pop. **Here's information** on the correct use of glue traps from Penn State Extension. This gruesome task is essential because each mass contains 30-50 eggs, aka dozens of future grapevine killers.



Once the insects hatch, they go through several nymph phases, growing larger and more colorful at each stage, before sprouting wings and taking to the air. One way to slay the nymphs is with homemade tree traps; **click here for a how-to guide on banding**.

When you see a Lanternfly — whether it's immature or fully grown — kill it. Then inform the PA Department of Agriculture of your sighting by either **reporting it online** or by calling 1-888-4BADFLY. This is especially important if you fall outside the state's Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Zone; **click here for the map**.

*If you want to learn more about the Spotted Lanternfly — and why controlling this pest is so important — check out these additional resources:*

**Wired.com: This Voracious, Unstoppable Bug Is Killing Off Vineyards**

**Penn State Extension: Spotted Lanternfly Management in Vineyards**

**Philadelphia Inquirer: Spotted lanternfly killing: the pandemic hobby we all need right now**

## ANOTHER EXCELLENT! DAY: IMPROMPTU BUTLER OUTING

By Susan Gahagan



On September 9, 2021 Susan Gahagan put together an impromptu outing for the club. An email was sent out only one day prior but still 12 spontaneous people joined in.

We met at Butler Farm Market at 3:30. It is a very popular smallish grocery store that specializes in perishable goods like produce, meats, dairy, and baked goods. They carry many unusual items like Amish butter, jellies & jams. We found unusual canned items like pickled Brussels sprouts and pickled asparagus. There was a very nice deli and meat counter. I suggest if you visit during warm weather, pack a cooler because you will want to take some things home that need to remain chilled. I got some stuffed pork chops I'm looking forward to eating.

Karen & Emil Schmidt, Jim Kalka & Margie Elliott, Keith Portka, Robin Kamin, Elaine Harmon, Linda Torbert, Joanne & Bob Burzese, Gary & Susan Gahagan

From there, we went next door to The Missing Link Brewery. Several of us tried some of their brews. I particularly enjoyed Firefly, which is a light ale. Almost everyone ordered something different from the menu and we all liked our meals. It is a restaurant I would definitely return to.

Next we went to Penny Pincher Perennials which is behind the brewery but you have to travel back out on the road to get to it. This business is under new ownership and is in a new location. They are temporarily operating from their home and at various venues. They are often set up at Butler Farm Market on weekends, for instance. Plantaholics as we are, we may have given them their biggest day of sales from that location. It was nice to support a local up-and-coming business. I wish them well and look forward to returning in the spring.

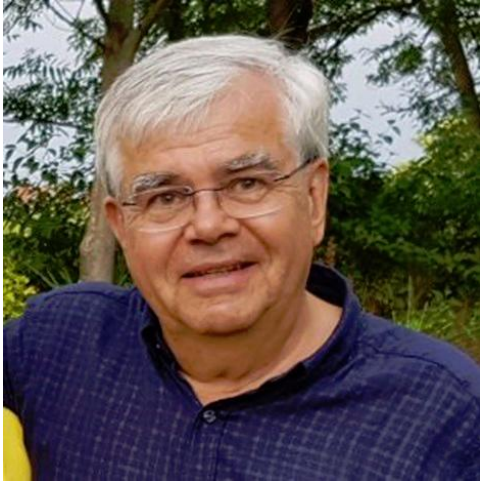


There are a couple good ice cream stands and a miniature golf course as well as another nursery and produce stand called Brenckles (who sells the best corn I've ever eaten). There is also an Agway and a Kubota dealership on the same road. The next time, when we have more time to plan a full day, we will have to include more stops. Still, we had an enjoyable, last-minute get together.

**GO HOSTAS!** Warren Pollock, Glen Mills, PA From AHS eNewsletter 12 July 2021

## **FOLIAGE DIFFERENCES: HOSTAS GROWN IN FULL SUN AND FULL SHADE**

In 2017, the keen hosta fancier Vladimir Mirka, who lives in Kladno, Czech Republic, sent me photos of hostas he had grown in FULL SUN and FULL SHADE. Due to my mis-labeling, they sat in my computer files forgotten.



Vladimir Mirka

Last April, by chance, I discovered them. They contained phenotype observations not typically noted and discussed in the usual hosta reference sources. I thought the information should be made available to hostadom right away.

So, I contacted Dr. Mirka, a retired anesthesiologist, and obtained permission to publish them in this column.

**Phenotype is all the observable characteristics of an organism that result from the interaction of its genotype (total genetic inheritance) with the environment. Examples are leaf shape and clump morphology.**

Vladimir told me, "When I started with hostas and read the available literature, I didn't understand why so much shading was recommended. My experiences with hostas were different. I sought an explanation."

Czech Republic is in Central Europe. Kladno, with about 69,000 inhabitants, is in the Central Bohemian Region of the Czech Republic. It is 33 km/20.5 miles from Prague centrum. Vladimir's garden is in Hardiness Zone 6a at an elevation of 425 m/1394 feet. Minimum average winter temperature is -10° to -5° F/-23.3° to -20.5° C.

In the United States, Zone 6 includes states like Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Virginia and Tennessee where hostas are commonly grown. Since Czech Republic is in the same zone as they are, Vladimir concluded that Hardiness Zone was not the explanation.

The likely explanation occurred to him when he came across the illustrative article "Europe vs United States Sunshine Duration In Hours Per Year". Click the following to read the full article: <https://britishbusinessenergy.co.uk/sunshine-duration/>. It disclosed that **Czech Republic has almost half the amount of sun annually than the northern half of the United States**. This is because Europe is quite a bit further north.

Some examples: Edinburgh has 1,458 hours of sunshine per year and London has 1,633 hours, while Columbus, Ohio, has 2,182 hours of sunshine per year and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 2,483 hours. Consequently, in general less shade protection is required for hostas in Vladimir's garden than in many American sites. (If you're wondering about Tokyo, Japan, I found an article that said it has 1,880 hours of sunshine per year.)

To obtain SUN/SHADE information, Vladimir initiated a set of interesting experiments in his garden with 14 cultivars, recording the findings photo-graphically. I suggest you study the photos assiduously. You'll note, provokingly, there often were significant differences in leaf shape and clump morphology grown in FULL SUN versus FULL SHADE, and sometimes in PARTIAL SHADE, also.

So you can easily compare Vladimir's photos with images of the cultivars in the standard hosta references, the "official" photos **of the hostas in Hosta Registry and Hosta Library (if unregistered) are included.**

*What conclusions did you draw? Click here [giboshiwip@aol.com](mailto:giboshiwip@aol.com) to email me your conclusions.*

**This item is a preliminary report. Vladimir has additional information. I am encouraging him to author a comprehensive article in *The Hosta Journal*.**

*Endnote:* Vladimir Mirka is a hosta hybridizer. His moniker is *Bohemia*. In 2016 he registered five cultivars; in 2017, three. *HostaLibrary* lists 17 *Bohemia* hostas. Likely *H. 'Bohemia Fatty Manzo'*, a 2016 registered sport of *H. 'Manzō'*, is the best known.

Vladimir Mirka has a handsomely designed website. Click here [www.bohemiahosta.com](http://www.bohemiahosta.com) to visit his website. Intriguingly displayed are 21 of his introductions, none registered. It's in Czech. English translation is easy using a computer translator such as Goggle Chrome's.



*H. 'Lakeside Down Sized' (M. Chastain - 2003) Left: full shade; right: full sun.*  
Photo Vladimir Mirka.



Photo Hosta Registry.

Editor's Note: I have included only one example (because of space) but there are 14 examples of hostas all with amazing contrast between full sun & full shade. If you are interested on all the examples, here is the link: <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Publications/eNewsletter/july2021/july2021.pdf> Page 9



## Annual DHSWP Picnic-2021

Forty members enjoyed good food, a fun auction, and a great raffle. Mostly, we enjoyed one another's company, laughter, and smiles. Though it was a VERY hot day, fun was had by all.

Photos courtesy of Anne O.

## DHSWP 2021 SCHEDULE

When	What	Where	Time	Website of location
<b>Sept 17-18</b>	<b>Fall Hosta Forum</b>	<b>Edinboro, PA</b>		
<b>Sat, Nov 6</b>	<b>End of season banquet</b>	<b>Lucianos, Wexford</b>	<b>12 Noon</b>	<a href="#">Lucianos</a>
<b>Friday, Dec 10</b>	<b>Christmas Breakfast</b>	<b>Eat n' Park, Wexford</b>		<b>Details TBD</b>

And don't forget: we may still have time for another "impromptu trip" maybe not to buy plants but just for fellowship or to enjoy fall colors or something like that. And please, send us your suggestion for next year!

JUST FOR FUN!

**Hosta Smitten in the Mitten, Coming to a Theater Near You! .Presented to you by Don Rawson**  
<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Publications/eNewsletter/july2021/july2021.pdf> Page 35

## We say goodbye to Gary Lindheimer, owner of Naylor Creek Nursery



Photo from left to right: Jack Hirsch, Gary Lindheimer and Marco Fransen

Gary Lindheimer, the owner of Naylor Creek Nursery passed away Friday the 6th of August 2021 at the age of 78.

Gary was a very important person for the Hosta community by making hundreds of varieties easily available for people around the world. Naylor Creek was a major supplier for DHSWP. Gary, known as a great story teller and motivator, inspired many gardeners. The way he was able to combine his experience, knowledge, people skills and foremost his humor made it a joy to read his postings on the Facebook buyer's guide and a pleasure to talk to for those who had the chance to meet him in real life. Since his partner Jack died almost two years ago he was determined to continue the nursery and, with the usual up and downs, he had been able to do that but sadly this has come to an end.

If there are any questions related to recently placed orders, please contact Marco Fransen at [info@naylorcreek.com](mailto:info@naylorcreek.com) to see if there is a way to find a solution.

### **September Tomatoes** **By Karina Borowicz**

**The whiskey stink of rot has settled  
in the garden, and a burst of fruit flies rises  
when I touch the dying tomato plants.**

**Still, the claws of tiny yellow blossoms  
flail in the air as I pull the vines up by the roots  
and toss them in the compost.**

**It feels cruel. Something in me isn't ready  
to let go of summer so easily. To destroy  
what I've carefully cultivated all these months.  
Those pale flowers might still have time to fruit.**

**My great-grandmother sang with the girls of her village  
as they pulled the flax. Songs so old  
and so tied to the season that the very sound  
seemed to turn the weather.**