



# Growing Together Growing Together

Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania

SPRING 2022

Happy Spring Folks!

Now that the nice weather has arrived it's time to get outside and get some dirt under our finger nails!

Spring is my favorite time of the year. I love watching all the plants and flowers emerge and show new signs of life. The hosta are already looking great! And huge! I know many were looking forward to getting some new ones to add to their collection at our hoop house sale this last weekend. Sorry we had to delay that day, the plants were just not quite ready to be awake yet with that last cold snap. We will reschedule and let you all know. We will be having the Hosta cut leaf show in just a few weeks and will have plants for sale there are well.

We are getting ready for the Hosta cut leaf show. We are looking for volunteers to help. We have many positions open and needing filled. We set up Friday evening and start entering leaves into the show. Saturday, people can enter leaves early in the morning. Judging starts a few hours later and by the early afternoon the show will be open to the public. As always, the plants will be for sale out front of the building.

We need help setting up Friday evening, selling plants Saturday, classifying and placing the leaves Saturday morning, and clerks to assist the judges. It is always a lot of fun and you get to learn so much about plants. Please reach out to Jim Kalka or myself if you are interested in volunteering.

Megan Danik  
The President

## Steering Committee

President  
Megan Danik

Vice-President Hosta  
Gary Gahagan

Vice-Presidents Daffodils  
**OPEN**

Treasurer  
Patty McGuire

Secretary  
Susan Gahagan

Co-Chair Daffodils  
**OPEN**

Co-Chair Hostas  
Keith Portka

Membership  
Michele Newton

Speaker Facilitator  
Karen Schmidt

Education  
Jim Kalka

Members At Large  
Teva Mayer  
Chuck Olescyski

Newsletter Editor  
C. Alicia Pérez

E-Mail Editor to:  
[Pitvp@aol.com](mailto:Pitvp@aol.com)

## JUST A REMINDER...

### HOSTA SHOW: Saturday, June 18, 2022

After two years without a Hosta Show, we will have one this year!  
So mark your calendars and plan to participate.



We also have a grooming clinic this Saturday, May 21, 2022  
at St John's Lutheran Church of the Highland  
starting at 11:30 AM  
Feel free to bring a snack or drink to share!

## HAVE FAIRIES DANCED IN YOUR GARDEN?

Reprinted from St. Louis Hosta Society Newsletter, February 2022, Joan Poos Editor

The hosta's circle of life is amazing. In a single year, the plant emerges from the ground, unfurls leaves which in a matter of weeks rapidly expand, flowers, then returns to dormancy. Year after year the cycle continues with the plants gaining in size. A large clump forms. Hostas can remain for decades and decades, undisturbed, ever growing larger.

However, you may notice in the spring that your once beautiful clump now has a hole in the middle. It is not unusual for large clumps to begin to decline over time. This phenomena is called centering-out, clump decline, center dieback, or the more picturesque name 'fairy ring'. This whimsical name was given because the problem was said to result from fairies dancing in the middle of the plant. This ring effect is not usually an indication of disease.



In the beginning, you planted a single division which each year added new buds on the outer edge of the crown. Over time, these new divisions increase the diameter of the clump. Each new division adds more new buds. The oldest part of the clump is now at the center. Eventually the middle eyes get crowded out and begin to die. Overlapping leaves may keep water and fertilizer from reaching the center of the clump acerbating the decline.

In the spring the ring might be unsightly. But, by the time the leaves have fully expanded, the ring is no longer visible. Nothing really needs to be done. However, this could be the time to rejuvenate your plant.

Some people use a shovel or sharp knife to cut out the dead center area. They then fill the hole with fresh soil and depending on the size of the hole may cut a section from the ring and place it in the center. In a year or two this part of the clump will fill in. Others like to dig up the entire clump, remove the dead center part, cut the ring into smaller divisions and replant. Loosen the roots of each

division before replanting and water thoroughly. Any extra divisions can be given to friends or donated to a hosta society for their plant sale or auction. Hint. Hint.

**Photos from <http://blog.sunsethostafarm.com> and <http://ask2.extension.org>**

## EPHEMERAL SCAPE

By Chuck O



**Blood Root**

Long before hostas perform their spring ritual of rising to greet the sun & display their treasured foliage, the woodlands & shade gardens are setting the stage for a color palette often missed by the casual observer.

I'm speaking of woodland and mostly shady characters known as ephemerals!

By definition an ephemeral plant is one that lasts only a short time...it grows, flowers, and dies. These beauties can be seen in woodlands and growing along streams and wet areas but their presence is often overlooked due to their brief life span. A nature walk through a wooded area can provide the opportunity to witness these often overlooked plants.

Our 2 acre site hosts a wooded area suited to the care & feeding of ephemerals or spring blooming plants. In an attempt to bring nature and a natural looking environment to our wooded areas, we began the process of planting & transplanting these types of plants to the semi shady & shady niches of our woods. We avoided dense shade & full sun areas attempting to emulate the natural growing conditions where these plants thrived. The pleasure of seeing these plants put on their best dressed behavior is enough to compensate for the time, expense, and energy to establish their presence.

The joy of spotting a new variety blooming while on a nature walk through one of the many pathways is enough to bring pleasure to ones encounter with nature's wonders.



**Corydalis**



**Celedine**

Listed below are some of the many varieties of ephemerals which can be found in nearby wooded areas and in our woodland gardens.

Happy Hunting!

### Ephemerals of WPA

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. blood root                 | 9. squirrel corn                          |
| 2. spring beauties            | 10. celedine poppy                        |
| 3. corydalis                  | 11. toothwort                             |
| 4. Virginia bluebells         | 12. trillium                              |
| 5. trout lily                 | 13. violets – purple, blue, white, yellow |
| 6. wild geranium              | 14. forget me nots                        |
| 7. winter aconite (buttercup) | 15. dutchman's breeches                   |
| 8. woodland phlox             |   |

Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Chuck O

## WATCH WHERE YOU STEP

Reprinted from St. Louis Hosta Society Newsletter, February 2022, Joan Poos Editor

It's the first of February and our hostas are still sound asleep. It has been a warm fall and winter. Can spring be any different? The growing season might only be 4-6 weeks away. Soon we hostaholics will commence our annual 'hosta dance'. Each afternoon we will skip outside and dance about our garden straining to catch sight of the first pips to poke through the ground.

As the temperatures warm and the days grow longer, the dormant buds of the hostas begin to swell and break through the soil. Those little pointy things that look like bullets are called pips or eyes. Each pip is comprised of tightly-wrapped sets of three or four leaves encased in a sheath. The sheath protects the tender leaves until the pip has pushed through the ground and the leaves are ready to unfold.

Some pips are pencil thin, others thick and fat. Young and small hostas may only have one or two eyes and so are hard to see. The size varies depending on genetics, age, ultimate plant size and growing conditions. Some are green, others shades of purple. If covered by thick mulch or leaves, they may even be white.

Genetics has a lot to do with which hostas break ground first. Some early risers are *H. Montana* 'Aureomarginata', *H. plantaginea* and most fragrant flowered cultivars, *H. lancifolia*, *H. 'Sagae'*, *H. 'Wolverine'* and *H. 'Sum and Substance'* and its sports and seedlings. Be prepared to protect these varieties if a late frost is forecast. Location also affects emergence. Hostas sheltered from the warming rays of the sun will be slower to emerge. Hostas in pots tend to erupt earlier than those planted in the ground.

At first, the pips will be right at the soil line or just below that thin decaying layer of mulch. Be careful! Accidentally stepping on an emerging hosta pip can have dire consequences. Bending or crushing the growing tip can tear the unfurled leaves before they even have a chance to unfold and expand, resulting in tattered leaves. That beautiful hosta that you have been waiting for all winter will spend the rest of the season sporting damaged leaves.

There are so many things, such as hail and falling tree debris that can't be prevented. But stepped-on damage isn't one of them. If the anticipation is just too much and you must dance around in your hosta beds, step very, very carefully.



*Pips emerging in spring*

Photo 1: [www.choosingvoluntarysimplicity.com](http://www.choosingvoluntarysimplicity.com)



*Bent tips of stepped-on pips*

Photo 2: [petiolejunction.wordpress.com](http://petiolejunction.wordpress.com)

Photo 3: [sproutsandstuff.blogspot.com](http://sproutsandstuff.blogspot.com)



*Resulting leaf damage*

## DHSWP DAY TRIP TO OHIO JUNE 13, 2022 (MONDAY)

For those carpooling meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Giant Eagle parking lot behind Wendy's on Route 19 (easier to get on the turnpike that way), otherwise we will meet you at the first stop (Kridler's Gardens) at 8:30 a.m. (Remember your EZPass)

We will take a lunch break after Petitti's, 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 and will all meet up at Rohr's afterwards.

**Karen Schmidt** [karensmg@aol.com](mailto:karensmg@aol.com) 724-679-3818

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

4809 Homeworth Road, Homeworth, OH 44634

<https://kridlergardensohio.com/>

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

3517 Beechwood Ave., Alliance, OH 44601

<https://dehoffs.com/>

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

5656 Dressler Road, NW, North Canton, OH 44720

<https://www.petittigardencenter.com/locations/canton/>

## **Lunch Break**

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

7211 Portage Street NW, Massillon, OH 44646

<https://rohrynursery.com/>

### **Dayton Nurseries** (annuals, perennials, shrubs)

3459 S Cleveland Massillon Road, Norton, OH 44203

<http://www.daytonnursery.com/>

## **Optional:**

### **Perennial Post** (perennials) open until 8 p.m.

7751 Ohio 534, Middlefield, OH

## DHSWP 2022 SCHEDULE

When	What	When	Where	Website	Speaker
May 21, Sat	Club Meeting/ Grooming Clinic	12 Noon	St John's Church		
June 8-11 Thur – Sat	National Hosta Convention		Minneapolis, MN	<a href="#">AHS Convention</a>	
June 13, Mon	Trip to OH & PA garden centers	8:00 am			
June 18, Sat	Hosta Show		Soergels	<a href="#">Soergels</a>	
August 7, Sun	Picnic	11:00 am	DJ's	<a href="#">DJ's Greenhouse</a>	
Sept 16-17 Fri – Sat	Fall Hosta Forum			<a href="#">Fall Hosta Forum</a>	
October 8, Sat	General Meeting			-	
Nov 5, Sat	End of Season Banquet	12 Noon	Luciano's	<a href="#">Luciano's</a>	
Dec 8, Thur	Christmas Breakfast		Eat N Park		

### WHICH IS YOUR FAVORITE HOSTA? Your hosta club wants to know!

Seriously: We really want to know which hostas work better in our area & the best way is to find out is to know which ones work for you, in your garden! We would loooved it if you would let us know which hostas you like the most in your garden & why—photos would be greatly appreciated too!

To make it easier how about when you get your hostas ready for the Hosta Show on June 18, make a list of the hostas you are bringing in for the show & rate them from favorite down. Give us the list & after we tally the lists—probably not at the show since we are working on the show—hopefully we will have a list of the best hostas for our area.

So which ones are best for you? Let us know about your favorite hostas!!

## COMING SOON - THE 2022 FALL HOSTA FORUM

# SUPERHEROES!

**September 17, 2022**

Our 25th Anniversary!

### SPEAKERS

**Dan Heims** - President of Terra Nova Nurseries

*[Heuchera and its Kissing Cousins](#)*

**Paul Zammit** - Niagara University

*[Perennials Worth the Hunt](#)*

**Tammy Borden**—VP of the American Hosta Society

*[Designing with Hostas](#)*

**David Teager** - President of Delaware Valley Hosta Society

*[Hosta 101/Things You Should Know About Hostas  
But Probably Don't](#)*

