



Growing Together Growing Together

Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania

NOVEMBER 2022

Hi Folks,

Another year is coming to an end. The cold weather has really hit us hard. Thankfully, the sunshine has melted away all of the ugly white stuff that came down hard on Wednesday. If you can't tell I dislike this time of year. Mainly because I am sitting in my work office staring at all the hanging Christmas trees that I have to lug around and heave on top of people's cars while being very cold. Lol

We had another great season this year. The Hosta show went better than any of us expected after missing the last two years. We had a lot of lovely leaves there to look at. We desperately need some members to step up and fill in some steering committee positions to keep these great events going. Some of us have been running things too long and need a break. It's also great to get some new blood involved to keep things fresh. We need someone to chair the Hosta show for next year. There are many experienced people that will guide you through the steps.

We also need to fill in the Daffodil positions. Without someone willing to step up we will be unable to host a show. Again, we have people to help get through the learning process. Please reach out to me if you think you can help fill any of the voids.

We have two great events coming up. The Christmas Breakfast and the Friends lunch. You can read more about them in this newsletter. Hope to see you all there!

Megan Danik
The Pres.

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**Mark your
calendars for the
third annual
Holiday Breakfast
Get-together
and Gift
Exchange!**

Where?

**Eat 'n Park Restaurant
2650 Brandt School Rd,
Wexford, PA 15090**

When?

**Thursday, December 8th
9:30 AM**



**Bring a wrapped, garden theme gift worth \$30.
Breakfast is self-pay.**

Please RSVP to Megan by Dec 3rd mad.danik@gmail.com

We had so much fun last year we decided to do it again.

Come eat breakfast, drink coffee, laugh, and visit with each other.

We will exchange gifts with a fun, competitive gifting game.

From the W-NY Hosta Society November Newsletter

Mike Shadrack, President

I wish that I knew, as I write this, whether or not there would be heavy frosts, or even a big snow fall, before this newsletter reaches its readers. At the moment I am working hard to winterize our hostas to be sure that they emerge beautifully next spring. If there has already been frost and snow before you read this, much of what I am about to say will be redundant.

A working party recently put the hoop house hostas to bed for the winter. A white plastic cover has been put over the hoop house shade cloth. Our small working party made a good job of it this year. Thank you all for braving the elements. The idea behind the plastic cover is not simply to protect our plants from the worst that winter can throw at them but also to maintain an equal temperature throughout the season. We don't want our hostas to think that spring has arrived if we have a week of warm bright weather in February. The cover will help do that.

The hosta garden is a different proposition. We can't cover the gardens. Luckily our hostas are extremely hardy perennials and those in the ground will normally survive all that even a Buffalo winter can throw at them without much help from us. The small and very small will need a little more attention. They have small shallow roots and constant frost and thaw, warmer and colder temperatures, can cause them to 'heave'. The action of the weather can literally pull them out of the ground. The exposed roots can then be easily damaged by the frost and snow and the plant can die. To prevent this, they need to be covered with some form of mulch before the freezing temperatures and the snowfall arrive. Over the years I have successfully used ground pine bark, compost, a thick layer of leaves, 'Yellow Bag' top soil and pea gravel. Whatever you choose to use, it is a good idea to mix some Milorganite in with the mulch.

Hostas in pots need a little help to make sure they enjoy their dormancy. Simply moving larger pots, gallon size and larger, to a sheltered area close to a wall or fence is all that is required but those in smaller pots might need a little more.

We used to mulch all the smaller pots under cedar wood mulch. The mulch was packed tightly around and between the pots as well as a layer a couple of inches thick over the top, to deter foraging voles. Nowadays we don't mulch nearly so many, putting most of them in nursery trays and stacking the trays in a cold garage.

Some of our potted hostas are planted in ceramic and terracotta pots. Whilst the hosta is hardy such pots might not be. These are therefore stacked on temporary shelving in the same cold garage. (The truck in out in the elements).

There are two very important facts to remember when putting potted hostas (and other plants for that matter) away for the winter. The first is to resist the temptation to water the dried-out pots until the plants break dormancy and begin to emerge in the spring. If there are no leaves the plant cannot transpire and the root ball will simply rot. The second issue is that of vermin. We have learned that waiting until after the first few heavy frosts or snowfall, before mulching or putting away the pots, will mean that the mice and voles have already found their snug winter quarters and will not find a convenient place to nest between your pots and the ready winter banquets that they contain.

January 14, 2023
1pm in the glasshouse
Bloom Cafe/ Quality
Gardens

BYOB

Rsvp

Mad.danik@gmail.com

by January 1, 2023



*Join us for
our friends
lunch!*

DHSWP 2023 PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE			
When	What	Where	Website
January 14	Friends Lunch at Bloom Café	Quality Gardens	https://bloomcafeggi.com/
February 11	General Meeting	Zoom	
February 18	Soup Luncheon	Indiana TWP Building	Indiana TWP
March 17-18	Hosta College		Hosta College
March 25	State of the Union	St John's Church	
April 27, Thursday	Shopping trip to Indiana, PA		
April 29-30	Joe Hamm's Daffodil Show	99 Maple Rd. Hopewell	
May 22	Hoop House Sale		
May 24, Wednesday	Trip to Erie, PA	Private gardens & Garden centers	
June 2, Friday	Shopping trip to Akron, OH		
June 7-10	AHS National Hosta Convention	Ames, Iowa	http://hostaconvention.org/
June 17	Hosta Show	Soergels	Soergels
July 27, Thursday	Nature Walk	North Park Meadows	
August 6, Sunday	Picnic	Dj's	DJ's Greenhouse
August 25, Friday	Ernst Conservation Seed Co tour		
September 15-16	Fall Hosta Forum		Fall Hosta Forum
October 10	General Meeting		
November 4	End of Season Banquet	TBD	
December 7, Thursday	Christmas Breakfast	Eat N Park, Wexford	

NOTE from Editor

Came across a Hosta Blog, suggested by the **Shady Choice Hosta Society, Omaha** on Hostas & other garden topics (but mainly hostas) & the lady blogger offer a detailed "*Hosta - Seasonal Calendar of Care*" that I thought you may want to check out. Below is just a paragraph of her blog...

Sunset Hosta Farm.com Blogs by *Susan Marie*.

https://www.pinterest.com/Sunset_Farm_Ohio/sunset-hosta-farmcom/

Sunset Hosta Farm.com Blogs related to anything gardening! Hostas are a popular blooming perennial plants for shade or sun gardens. Landscape design ideas for back yard walkways, beds, borders; front yard curb appeal. Pots, planters, containers. Low maintenance, easy care, dividing, splitting. Great blooms and foliage in blue, green, yellow, chartreuse and variegated. Zones 3-9. Add to your wish list. If you love hostas like we do, please visit us at SunsetHostaFarm.com.

Hosta - Seasonal Calendar of Care

One of the reasons that hostas continue to be so popular is the fact that they're a very low maintenance perennial. That being said, if you follow a few basic steps to care for them, you can keep your hostas looking healthy and beautiful throughout the season, whether they're snug in the ground or in pots. Learn what to do to care for hostas each season, including growing hostas, planting hostas, transplanting hostas, fertilizing them for maximum beauty and health...