



# Growing Together Growing Together

Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania

WINTER 2023

Hi Folks,

2023 is starting with quite a bang! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season! It's been an odd winter. It's been very warm, with exception of right before Christmas. Did you know most Hosta require 30 days of temperatures below 43 degrees F. Most of the outdoor, hardy, plants have some requirement of cold dormancy. However, not all Hosta do. As Bob Solberg told us a few years ago when he gave a talk to us on Hosta.

We have a lot of great events and trips planned for this year. I implore everyone to attend some of Karen's day trips. She does a great job at finding really neat, different places to go. All who attend will have a great time!

You will notice when looking at the schedule that we are still not having a Daffodil show. We need someone to step up and control that side of the club. We have plenty of resources and support to offer to this person. Please think if you have a love of daffodils and a little spare time about being this person. We also need someone to step up and take over the Hosta show. Jim has been doing this for many, many years. These events will be lost if we can't get people to help. I can tell you that Jim has made the Hosta Show into a well oiled machine. He is even more than willing to walk you through and help all along the way. It's the sad truth about many of these beloved garden clubs. If people don't volunteer they get lost. Please consider if you are able to help, or even have some other friends who love gardening and get them involved!

Chuck has put together a Hosta Popularity Poll. It has been a few years since we have done one. I really encourage everyone to take the two minutes and fill one out. It really does help the club in many ways. One it's just kind of fun to know what everyone likes. It also helps us know what type of plants you all are interested so we can order plants to sell accordingly.

I messaged with Sue yesterday about Gary. Here is her response:

"We are still seeing improvement but it is frustratingly slow. He saw another specialist... a neurologist who specializes in strokes at the Neurology Institute at AGH. He doesn't think the stroke and the previous problems with cerebellar ataxia are related. The stroke was in the brain stem and the ataxia is in the cerebellum. However, the symptoms are similar. The doctor agreed that all the damage was confined to motor functions. Which is good.

We get out once in a while. Just short jaunts to the store or to grab a pizza and bring it home. We ate out a few times on days we had doctor appointments. It is nice to start to get back to some normalcy.

## Steering Committee

President  
Megan Danik

Vice-President Hosta  
Gary Gahagan

Vice-Presidents Daffodils  
**OPEN**

Treasurer  
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Secretary  
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**OPEN**

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Speaker Facilitator  
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Members At Large  
Teva Mayer  
Chuck Olescyski

Newsletter Editor  
C. Alicia Pérez

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

We actually considered attending the Friends Luncheon but I was afraid that would still be a little much for him right now. I don't know...maybe it would have been good for both of us. We've started doing jigsaw puzzles. It helps to fill the day and also provides him with some dexterity rehab. Tell everyone we miss them and are looking forward to getting together with them hopefully sometime in the near future."

I can't wait to see you all soon! Have a great start to the year!

Megan Danik  
The Pres.

## HOLIDAYS GATHERINGS

Submitted by Chuck O

The DHSWP family of hosta friends met at the Eat N' Park Restaurant in Wexford, on Dec. 8th for their annual Christmas Breakfast. The second annual get together proved to be entertaining as well as educational.

A gift exchange game provided fun and surprises as the wrapped gifts were to be opened and viewed one at a time. As the members took turns selecting gifts they were permitted to either select a newly wrapped gift OR select a gift already opened and owned by another member. Imagine the surprise whenever a gift previously owned by someone was taken in lieu of a newly wrapped present. The game was played out in good spirits and everyone seemed to enjoy their presents.

Educationally speaking...There was quite a lively discussion about hostas (what else?) as well as a variety of topics ranging from bird feeding to raising chickens to deer hunting.

Megan, our Prez, expressed the woes of selling Xmas trees at the nursery and having to lift a 200 # tree onto the roof of a large SUV. Other club experts spoke about their gardening and homesteading experiences... the exchange of information was welcome and timely.

All too quickly the time passed, but the memories made will be shared for years to come.

The annual Christmas Breakfast is a final salute to 2022. Season greetings were exchanged with well wishes for a blessed New Year, peace and prosperity to all!

Then to start the year a new venue brought 23 DHSWP members together for the Annual Winter Friend's Luncheon on January 14th.

The Glass House at Quality Gardens provided the perfect back drop for members to gather and banish the 'winter blues'.

The Bloom Café, situated next door to Quality Gardens, provided a variety of breakfast and luncheon options. Folks seemed pleased with both the quality and quantity of the food.



The greenhouse atmosphere of plants and garden decor promoted discussion on a wide range of topics including 'what's new in plants for 2023', local wild life, and plans for this year's field trips.

Members were eager to browse and shop for plant and garden items. The well stocked greenhouse gave members the opportunity to indulge in their addictions and folks were eager to add to their own personal 'green zoos'.

Many thanks to the staff of Quality Gardens and The Bloom Cafe for their hospitality. Looking forward to spring and a happy and prosperous 2023!

# DHSWP Zoom

## Bob Liames; creating design in the collector's garden



Bob Liames, Jr. is a member of the American Conifer Society, Ohio Valley North American Rock Garden Society, and is past president of the Miami Valley Hosta Society. Bob has provided continuing education to many Ohio and Indiana, Master Gardener Volunteers, as well as Miami Valley Green Industry Professionals. He has spoken to numerous garden clubs, plant societies, the Great Lakes Region Hardy Plant Society, the Federation of Garden Clubs, Ohio Association of Garden Clubs, local garden centers, and at Hosta College.

**Zoom Meeting  
Feb. 4th, 2023**

1pm

Let me know you'll be participating. Send me an RSVP to: [mad.danik@gmail.com](mailto:mad.danik@gmail.com)



# SOUP LUNCHEON



## Join us for our annual joint Soup Luncheon with PIDS

Yes, is time for our super famous ANNUAL SOUP LUNCHEON!

So come on down & join us! Bring a dish to share.

Sample the soups, the salads, the desserts—It's all Yummy!

Say HI! to old friends, meet new ones...IT'S JUST FUN!

Indiana Township Community Center 3710 Saxonburg BLVD, Pittsburgh PA 15238, Feb 18 2023

11:15 Setup and Social Time, 12:00 lunch, 1:00 Speaker

**What to bring: either sandwiches, breads, salads, desserts to feed 8 people**

**Bring your own NON-STYROFOAM plates, silverware & cups.**

Coffee and hot tea will be provided.

If you would like to bring a special soup - please let us know  
so that we can co-ordinate all of the delicious offerings.

**Michelle Wright** - As a television news anchor, Michelle reported on Colony Collapse Disorder which was causing honeybees to mysteriously disappear. She became fascinated by the complex inner- workings of the hive and the vital importance of honeybees to our environment. She eventually became heavily involved in beekeeping and began selling honey and lotion.

Michelle frequently talks to groups about the importance of honeybees and the health benefits of honey. Michelle relies on Jim Fitzroy for his expertise and is eternally grateful for his patience and knowledge. She maintains dozens of beehives in five different yards. She extracts the honey and beeswax twice a year and sells pure honey to local grocery stores, specialty shops and online. She also produced, wrote and edited an online beginner beekeeping class called B2U Beekeeping; Lessons From Our Bees to You!

*She named her honey Chapel Valley Honey after the historic chapel she bought in Tarentum called Tarenbee and renovated the commercial kitchen along with renting the chapel for weddings and bridal showers and baby showers.*

*Her many awards for beekeeping include: 2016 Best in Show for honeycomb in the PA State Farm Show and 2017 1st place for beeswax in the PA Farm Show.*

*Michelle is an Emmy award-winning news anchor and reporter for WTAE-TV. She has reported from the scene of the region's biggest news stories including: The Flight 93 crash on 9/11, the Quecreek Mine rescue, and the G-20 Summit. Michelle serves as the spokesperson, board member or emcee for Race for the Cure, Project Bundle Up, The Emmaus Community, National Alliance for Mental Health (NAMI), the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and Achieva.*



## DHSWP HOSTALARITY POLL 2021

Before we begin the all important task of voting for our 'favorite' hosta it might be best to discuss the pros and cons of conducting polls and the value of their results.

What is attractive to one person may differ from another. Let's consider the matter of subjectivity vs objectivity. Subjectivity may be considered simply as 'beauty in the eye of the beholder', where objectivity relies on a set of criteria for judging the subject.

Consider selecting the Top Ten cars, or songs, or sports teams. Factors may be greatly influenced by our familiarity with the subject matter that one is judging. Points to consider when judging hostas may be:

1. Are we novices or well trained in this field?
2. Are we mostly influenced by color, size, texture, form, or style?
3. Does our age or background have any bearing on our tastes?
4. To what degree does our budget influence our decisions?
5. What influence do family and friends have?
6. Growing conditions...site, space, soil, light, temperature, rainfall climate, zone?

To gain a better perspective of the hosta poll let's look at how and why the Hosta Poll exists.

**THE ORIGIN** – The origin for assessing the relative popularity of cultivars began circa 1975 and has become an annual activity of the AHS since 1992.

**PURPOSE** – The purpose of the hosta poll is to help determine the relative popularity of hosta cultivars. Members are polled and asked to fill out a form naming their 'top' hostas. Entries are ranked and tabulated and results are published for members to see.

**RESULTS** – There's more to be learned here than just what's popular. Consider what trends or patterns can be learned...

1. Is there a preference for solid or variegated plants?
2. What plants appear most frequently and why?
3. Does a plant's status indicate it's hardiness, durability?
4. Will hostas with red petioles or leaves become a staple?
5. Are fragrant hostas gaining in popularity?

These and many other issues have a bearing on decisions of what we purchase and grow in our gardens. Perhaps just as important is the direction that hosta hybridizers will take in their hybridizing breeding grounds.

**IT'S UP TO YOU** – So before you take pencil to paper and write the names of your 'favorite' hostas, please consider the knowledge and education we can gain and share from participating in a Hosta Poll.

PLEASE complete the DHSWP HOSTALARITY POLL for 2021.

Thank you for your participation. Chuck O



# DHSWP 2021 HOSTALARITY POLL

Rank in order of most like (1) to least favorite.

*Favorite* **Hostas**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

*Favorite* **Minis**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_



**PLEASE VOTE TODAY!**

Email responses to [cvoaao@zoominternet.net](mailto:cvoaao@zoominternet.net)  
or mail to Chuck Olescyski, Box 14, Mars, PA 16046.

You may also bring your survey to any DHSWP sponsored meeting!

Submit by Feb 16 to be eligible for MEMBERSHIP DRAWING

## 2023 DIXIE REGIONAL HOSTA MEETING “CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE” CARY, NC MAY 4-7, 2023

It will not be long before spring is here and the hostas are jumping out of the ground. This year the Dixie Regional will try to take advantage of the excitement of early May to have our annual meeting. It will be hosted by Bob Solberg, Regional Director and Beth Barnes, Regional Treasurer centered in Cary, NC. The dates are May 4-7 at the Comfort Suites Regency Park, 350 Asheville Avenue, Cary, NC 27518.

The meeting will have a new and fun format. It will be a “Choose Your Own Adventure”. Attendees will choose from a too long list of world class botanical gardens, excellent nurseries, and local gardens to visit in their own vehicles on Friday and Saturday. Of course, we suggest carpooling, so you make new hosta friends or catch up with old ones. Suggested lists will be provided for both days, emailed to all registrants before they arrive so they can start to plot their adventure ahead of the meeting.

There will be hospitality at the hotel on Thursday and Friday nights with an educational presentation Friday night after dinner on your own. Saturday night we will have our Annual Meeting, pizza party, and fun auction after we return from touring.

Some of the attractions include the J. C Raulston Arboretum, Sarah P. Duke Gardens, WRAL Azalea Gardens, and the NC Farmers Market. Plant Delights will be open that weekend as well as Green Hill Farm on Saturday as well as many, many local nurseries. There will also be some private gardens to visit featuring hostas and a variety of gardening styles. Check the schedule for suggested days to visit each of these.

Registration is easy and very affordable, just \$35.00. Please copy and mail the registration form to Beth Barnes with your check. You can register for the hotel online at this link:

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/SW24E8> or call the Hotel (919) 852-4318 and mention the Group is the Dixie Regional Hosta Society and the code is SW24E8. The rate is \$124.00 for King or Double Room plus State and local tax.

We hope we can be part of your hosta adventure this spring and you will choose to come and see us in May. Questions? Contact Bob Solberg, [HostaBob@gmail.com](mailto:HostaBob@gmail.com).

## Fields of Hosta Dreams AHS National Convention June 7–10, 2023 | Ames, Iowa

### What can you expect at the nation’s largest hosta convention?

- A First Inning welcome reception with better-than ballpark hospitality, including live music and a light dinner
- Bases-loaded garden tours
- Out-of-the-park educational sessions
- Home Run AHS sanctioned Hosta Show
- Batter-up Hosta auction
- Big League ‘Hostatality’ social events
- Vendors! And we don’t mean peanuts

### The Story Behind Our Theme

Iowa is home to the famed baseball ballpark that was built in a cornfield and featured in the 1989 film, *Field of Dreams*. It still stands today, near Dyersville in eastern Iowa, and has become a tourist destination for many. Our theme is a nod to this attraction, but also recognizes the efforts of our gardeners who dream of the ultimate hosta garden. We hope you enjoy your time in our community during the convention!



AHS  
2023  
FIELDS OF  
HOSTA  
DREAMS  
AMES, IOWA

# Join Us!

American Hosta Society  
National Convention

June 7–10 | Ames, Iowa  
Gateway Hotel & Conference Center

LEARN MORE



## LANDSCAPE FABRIC 'WORKOUT'

From Tri-State State Hosta Society of NY, NJ & CT Newsletter, Fall 2022

The pros and cons of using landscape fabric to control the spread of weeds in a garden has been the subject of debate among gardeners for years. Many opinions have been expressed, yea and nay, but none as eloquent and humorous as that of Betty Alfaro, who contributed the following recently in a post to the post to the AHS Facebook Group on Hostas Enjoy!

"The upside of NOT listening to those that say do not use landscape fabric. You didn't know there was an upside? Well, this is what I learned the last 2 days of removing what seems like miles of fabric.

1. You get an incredible workout. It's much harder coming up than laying it down.
2. Covered with a couple of inches of dirt? No problem. Just pull harder. Use those muscles!
3. As you are ripping the stuff over the tops of the unsuspecting hostas you are automatically dividing some of them. Along with other companion shade plants. That's a win win!
4. Those weeds you've been trying to keep from growing? Well, they just pull right up with the fabric since now they are growing on top of the fabric.
5. You discover lots of nature. Watch all those ants as they race to save the eggs. It's fascinating. Discover lots of inedible mushrooms.
6. You get to work alone because, well, no one wants to hear language like that.
7. You discover hostas that have reverted, sported, or don't know what they are anymore.
8. Finding labels that have come apart. Putting one in your pocket and forgetting it's there as you wash a load of clothes. It's amazing how clean Paw Paw Everlast labels become. Who knew?
9. Knowing you've only done 4 gardens and you still have, I don't know, maybe like 8 left. Well, your muscles need these workouts!
10. At the end of the day, you relax and have a margarita, knowing that the gardens you worked on look a lot better.



Yes, there are lots of reasons to lay down landscape fabric. Miles of it. Because everything is so much better after you rip it out!"

<b>DHSWP 2023 PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE</b>			
When	What	Where	Website
February 11	General Meeting	Zoom	
February 18	Soup Luncheon	Indiana TWP Building	<a href="#">Indiana TWP</a>
March 17-18	Hosta College		<a href="#">Hosta College</a>
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	<a href="http://hostaconvention.org/">http://hostaconvention.org/</a>
June 17	Hosta Show	Soergels	<a href="#">Soergels</a>
July 27, Thursday	Nature Walk	North Park Meadows	
August 6, Sunday	Picnic	Dj's	<a href="#">DJ's Greenhouse</a>
August 25, Friday	Ernst Conservation Seed Co tour		
September 15-16	Fall Hosta Forum		<a href="#">Fall Hosta Forum</a>
October 7	General Meeting		
November 4	End of Season Banquet	TBD	
December 7, Thursday	Christmas Breakfast	Eat N Park, Wexford	