



Growing Together Growing Together

Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania

SEPTEMBER 2023

End of Summer 2023

While it is not the end of gardening for the season, it is time to start thinking about fall clean up, planting spring bulbs and planning for next year's changes to the garden. So far, 2023 was an extremely busy year.

The club had another successful show, a picnic, a Judges Clinic, and a tour of Ernst Conservation Seed Co. We also had a tour of the demonstration gardens at North Park followed by a guided tour of the North Park Meadow, and, as usual, Karen Schmidt planned numerous and fun-filled shopping excursions. To finish the year, we have an October general meeting, an end of season banquet and a Christmas Breakfast to look forward to.

The Club has an exciting opportunity for this year. Gary Ball was able to acquire a variety of Daffodil bulbs from a collector's garden. The bulbs have been cleaned and packaged for sale this fall. This will be an assortment of bulbs not readily available, some of which are considered historic. All of these would be a wonderful addition to your spring garden.

It had been a long time since DHSWP sponsored a Judges Clinic. Chuck Olescyski and Jim Kalka held Clinics I and II at Quality Gardens, July 15, 2023. The clinics were attended by 8 individuals who completed the clinics and just need to complete some basic requirements to become Provisional Judges for future shows. Marylin Ruff and Margaret Elliott have already completed the requirements and are now Provisional Judges. Congratulations to Margaret Elliott, Gary Gahagan, Susan Gahagan, Robin Kamin, Michele Newton, and Marilyn Ruff. We congratulate all the new and pending judges and look forward to their participation in local and regional shows. Kudos to Senior Judges Megan Danik and Anne Olescyski for their participation in updating their credentials.

For the remaining year, we look forward to all the educational and food-filled activities and encourage members to support them. It has been a busy post-COVID year, and we look forward to an equally busy 2024!

Jim Kalka, Education Chair

Steering Committee

President
Megan Danik

Vice-President Hosta
Gary Gahagan

Vice-Presidents Daffodils
Karen Schmidt

Treasurer
Patty McGuire

Secretary
Susan Gahagan

Co-Chair Daffodils
Gary Ball

Co-Chair Hostas
Keith Portka

Membership
Patty Reigh

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

ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

DHSWP

October 7 @ 11am-4pm
Tim Choltco speaking about native Orchids!

Where:

St John's Lutheran Church
311 Cumberland Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

**SEND YOUR RSVP BY
OCTOBER 1 TO:
MAD.DANIK@GMAIL.COM**





DOES IT TAKE A VILLAGE TO SUCCESSFULLY RAISE HOSTA AND DAFFODILS?

The obvious answer to this question is YES!

If you are a devout gardener with great expectations and want to produce the best looking hosta/daffodils you can possibly grow...well then, yes.

If you want to share the knowledge you've gained from other expert hosta/daffodil growers...then yes.

If you feel the need to further the cultivation and spread the fame of both genera in the landscape then you've come to the right village, or organization.

The DHSWP is a devoted organization to hosta and daffodils with individuals having varying talents and interests, many of which lend themselves to the promotion of these prized plants.

You may feel that while working (or playing) in your gardens at home you've given enough time and talent to this hobby...BUT...it shouldn't stop there. You've got the know how or expertise to raise your own prize garden but what about helping others?

Soooo...having established the fact you've got the talent to teach others and spread the good word of these species it now becomes a matter of finding the

time to pitch in and help promote them. Attending meetings is a good beginning but the next step involves giving some time to helping out with the task of promoting the knowledge of and interest to the genus hosta and the genus daffodil. How little or how much time you can give to helping the club is up to you. There are many ways to contribute.

Looking over the T&T survey (next page) there are 3 categories to choose from...some may involve a simple one time venture while others may require more of your time and talent. Please help your club, the general public, and yourself to grow by giving your Time & Talent to promote the growth and usefulness of both genera.

Many hands lighten the task of running our organization...your village starts here with other like minded members who cherish working together to encourage the education and knowledge of hostas and daffodils. Let's join hands and hearts to accomplish our mission!

Thank you for listening, and signing up!

Chuck O

DHSWP—TIME AND TALENT!

NAME _____

I. VOLUNTEERS: *Members are needed to assist with these activities throughout the year. Please consider helping!*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> plant sales <input type="checkbox"/> transportation of plants <input type="checkbox"/> dividing/potting plants <input type="checkbox"/> donating to raffles <input type="checkbox"/> provide food/snacks for meetings <input type="checkbox"/> setting up for shows/events <input type="checkbox"/> submit surveys when requested <input type="checkbox"/> write/submit articles to the newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> serve as a greeter at meetings <input type="checkbox"/> assist with distributing handouts at meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> serve at a 'welcome table' <input type="checkbox"/> serve as a clerk for shows <input type="checkbox"/> serve as a judge for shows <input type="checkbox"/> serve on a hosta show committee *see Special Committees <input type="checkbox"/> serve on a daffodil show committee * see Special Committees <input type="checkbox"/> assist/contribute to web site <input type="checkbox"/> assist/contribute to face book <input type="checkbox"/> willingness to do a presentation or serve as a speaker |
|---|--|

II. STANDING COMMITTEES: *Serve as a member of the Steering Committee. There are 11 positions available and elections are held every 3 years. Next election is November 2024.*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President <input type="checkbox"/> Vice-President Daffodils <input type="checkbox"/> Co-Chair Daffodils <input type="checkbox"/> Vice-President Hosta <input type="checkbox"/> Co-Chair Hosta <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Speaker Facilitator <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary <input type="checkbox"/> Members At Large <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Editor |
|---|---|

III. SPECIAL COMMITTEES: *These are short term commitments designed to assist with a specific event during the year. Individuals are needed to chair these various committees.*

Hosta/Daffodil Show Committees

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Show Chair <input type="checkbox"/> Judges <input type="checkbox"/> Vice-Chair <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity <input type="checkbox"/> Awards Table <input type="checkbox"/> Clerks <input type="checkbox"/> Classification | <input type="checkbox"/> Properties/Staging <input type="checkbox"/> Plant Sales <input type="checkbox"/> Placement <input type="checkbox"/> Artistic Design <input type="checkbox"/> Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality |
|--|---|

Other Special Committees include:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Soup Luncheon with PIDS <input type="checkbox"/> Hosta College <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Picnic/Auction <input type="checkbox"/> Hoop House Sales <input type="checkbox"/> Bus Trip | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden in the Parks <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Judges Clinics <input type="checkbox"/> Fall Forum <input type="checkbox"/> End of Year Luncheon |
|---|--|

Please submit to Chuck Olescyski either via email: cvoaao@zoominternet.net
 or mail to: Box 14, Mars, PA 16046
 Thank you for your participation!!

2023 DHSWP DAY TRIPS RECAP

This was a busy year with all the day trips we did. I hope if you did not attend, you will think about going next year. It is always fun to see others in the group, see some great gardens and SHOP!!



April – Shopping trip to Indiana, PA was planned early, which backfired on us but we still had fun. We went at the end of April to the garden centers that we go to each year (Pike's Peak Nursery, Faught's Garden Center, Twolick's Valley Nursery, Burkett's Nursery and Musser Forests) and as a bonus Deb Peters found us a couple Amish Greenhouses to visit too. It was really cold and since it was too early there was not much of an inventory at a couple of places. We found a restaurant Homemade and had some great home cooked food. Keith had the Dill pickle soup, never heard of it, he said it was good.

May – A trip to Erie, PA was planned. We stopped at Scotland Yards Greenhouse, then onto Karen and Chas Wagner's garden in Northeast. They had a unique location, it had been a textile mill and the ruins were a great structural item in the garden. They had many hostas and a large rhododendron collection (which were in bloom). We shopped at Stan's Garden center in Erie and then went to a private botanical garden Creekside Gardens. The grounds were beautiful with many plantings to walk around. Many dwarf conifers and other specimen trees, other perennials and a large lake with plantings.



June – The always popular shopping trip to Ohio was in early June. We visited Kridler's Gardens, Dehoff Flowers, Petitti Garden Center, Rohr & Sons Nursery and Dayton Nursery.

August – We visited Ernst Conservation Seed Company for a plant and field tour. The guide was very informative and we got to see how all the seeds are packed and stored. We then visited a couple of fields of stock plants in full bloom. We then went to the Silver Shores Restaurant on Conneaut Lake and had lunch.



Hope to see you on one or more of next year's day trips.
If you have any suggestions, please let me know.
Karen Schmidt: Karensmg@aol.com



2023 DAFFODILS



We started out the year with a visit to Gary Ball's (Co-chair Daffodils) daffodil garden in April. It was a really cold day, but several of us went to see his daffodil display. What a great variety.

Gary was contacted by a family of a daffodil collector that had passed away. They offered daffodils to the club and Gary visited several times to label and dig up the bulbs. We then bagged them up and our first sale was at the Fall Hosta Forum where we sold over 100 bags. The remaining bulbs will be for sale at our next regular meeting on October 7th, the catalog will be sent out ahead of time. Most of these are not available on the market today and are historical, so come out and check out these gems.

Thank you, Susan Gahagan for making the planting instructions brochure, photos for sales table and the color catalog, those that helped bag up the bulbs and Patty Reigh/Lorraine for selling them at the Fall Hosta Forum and a special thank you for Gary identifying, digging and cleaning the bulbs.

Karen Schmidt, Vice-President Daffodils

END OF THE SEASON LUNCHEON

Saturday, November 4, 2023

12:00 Noon

Luciano's Brick Oven

161 Scharberry Lane

Mars PA 16046

724-687-0480

**The cost for the meal will be \$15.00 per person.
There will be a cash bar.**



The menu includes:

Appetizers, Soup or Salad, Bread, Coffee, Hot Tea or Iced Tea.

Once you get to Luciano's you'll have a choice of Entrée:

Chicken Parmesan, Lasagna, Chicken Salad

=====cut here=====cut here=====

Please, make reservations before October 20, Thanks:

Name (s) _____

Total Enclosed at \$15 per person _____

**Make check payable to
DHSWP
685 Harrogate Rd
Pittsburgh PA 15241**

10+ IDEAS FOR USING HOSTAS IN THE GARDEN

By Tom Lakowske

As Eye-Stopping Focal Points

A giant 'Sum and Substance' in a field of variegated lily turf will grab your eye from across the yard. I use 'Touch of Class', 'Gold Standard', 'Regal Splendor' and 'Sagae' at transition areas in my garden; where two paths meet or at the entrance to a garden room, for example. A good focal point will slow people down and let them know something special is happening here.

In Containers

A large, vase shaped Hosta, like 'Krossa Regal' makes the perfect thriller" plant in a half barrel. Use Palace Purple Coral Bells or Japanese Painted Ferns as "fillers," and Vinca major as a "spiller." I put Hostas in brass, copper, wood, plastic, and concrete containers, then use them to decorate garden rooms. Try 'Dark Star', 'Fatal Attraction', 'Ice Cream', 'Praying Hands' or 'Fire Island'. (Tip them on their sides on the north side of your house for the winter.)

To Compliment Other Plants

When the chartreuse, lacy leaves of a Seiryu Japanese Maple lay on the big leaves of an 'Old Glory' Hosta, it is just gorgeous. A gold 'Sun Power' or 'August Moon' will make the color of a Royal Purple Smokebush or Bloodgood Japanese Maple look richer. Plant a 'June' next to a dwarf Blue Spruce to enhance the blue. A circle of 'Blue Moon' around a Crimson Queen Japanese Maple puts the maple on a pedestal.

To Provide Entertainment

I have three large ventricose 'Aureomarginata' planted in front of a rocker. When they are in bloom, I enjoy watching the bumblebees buzz from flower to flower. A big container, with a bunch of mini hostas becomes a crowd pleaser when you add a family of small gnomes and their house.

To Brighten a Dark Spot

My gazebo is surrounded by Holly and Yews. As they matured, I trimmed the lower limbs off and planted about 20 'Gold Standards' all among their trunks and around the gazebo. The bright Hostas lit up what had become a dark spot.

As Groundcover

Large quantities of 'So Sweet' make a lovely groundcover. And, they keep weeds to a minimum. A midsize all blue, or a green with a slight white variegation looks the best. Plain green H. lancifolia is a classic groundcover.

To Hide the Uglies

I planted a 'Blue Angel' to cover the entrance to my crawlspace. Hostas work well to hide the legs of Clematis vines, too. A striking specimen, 'Liberty', will draw the eye away from the wheelbarrow stored across the path. Plant Hostas over Daffodil bulbs to hide the Daffodil foliage after the flowers are gone.

Have a Family Reunion

Sports, seedlings, and their parents are a winning combination because their colors naturally match so well. The cream and blue edge of 'June' looks fabulous with all blue 'Halcyon'. Add three 'Regal Splendor' in a group of 'Krossa Regal' around a large tree. Scatter 'Guacamole', 'Stained Glass' and H. plantaginea in a long shrub border to tie the border together in eye pleasing harmony.

For Edging

A row of 'Patriots' on each side of a shady path is absolutely beautiful. I use 'Golden Tiara' as a small, subtle edger. Matching trios of 'Halcyon' line the entrance to my backyard. Try defining the edge of a garden room by using Hostas. One combination I particularly like is 'Halcyon', 'Hadspen Samphire' and 'Devon Green'. It makes a striking blue, yellow, and green wall. H. lancifolia lining a path looks beautiful when in bloom.

A Theme Garden

Biblical, sports, love, animal, regional – you name it – there are Hostas for it. My favorite is a collection featuring the winning Hosta of the year. Theme-garden Hostas do need labels, so visitors can appreciate the concept.

The Best Idea - for using Hostas is to make new friends. I keep several Hostas in one- gallon pots to give to guests and friends as they visit our garden. Hostas are the friendship plant.

Reprinted from Illinois Prairie Hosta Society newsletter, August 2023. Originally from Alta Birdsong Garden @ SWMOgardens.com



Fourth Annual Holiday Breakfast and Gift Exchange

Eat N' Park
2650 Brandt School Rd, Wexford

Thursday, December 7th at 9AM

Bring a wrapped, garden theme gift worth \$30.
Breakfast is self-pay.
Please RSVP to Karen at karensmg@aol.com

Come eat breakfast, drink coffee,
laugh, and visit with each other.
We will exchange gifts with a fun,
competitive gifting game.



HOW LATE IS TOO LATE TO PLANT HOSTA IN THE FALL?

By Bob Solberg

August is a great time to plant hostas almost anywhere in the country. You can safely plant them all month in the Midwest and North and the latter half of the month in the South.

My standard rule is you want to get them in the ground 4-6 weeks before the first frost. (In Wheaton, IL Sept 13 is 4 weeks before the average first frost date of October 11. Editor) This allows them to make some new roots while the soil is still warm and then have some time to prepare for winter.

Most of us, though, have planted hostas in the ground later than that with good success. I have planted them as late as the first week of November without any noticeable ill effects. You do run a risk with late planting however...

So, How late is too late to Plant Hosta in the Fall?

Hostas are completely dormant during the winter, and they will not produce new roots until after they have made new foliage in the spring. They literally sleep through the winter. Late planted hostas may rot over the winter if

- 1) the ground is frozen and stays frozen shortly after they are planted,
- 2) they are very dry when the ground freezes,

- 3) the soil stays too wet because of poor winter drainage or
- 4) heaving occurs during cycles of the soil freezing and thawing. Snow cover or a covering of mulch will help with all these situations.

Remember, blue hostas, as well as many gold hostas, with *H. sieboldiana* and *H. 'Tokudama'* parents as well as some *H. longipes* types are the most susceptible to winter kill. Miniature hostas may also completely heave out of the ground, resulting in cold damage to the crown.

So, with late hosta planting, first make sure the plants are full of water when the first hard frost hits. Then try a little mulch to protect the hosta crowns and moderate soil temperatures. (Beware! Deep mulches may entice mice and voles to make their winter homes in your hosta garden.)

With a little luck from the winter weather you can probably extend your planting season another month or so, even after the first frost.

Originally published in the newsletter of the Delmarva Hosta Society. Reprinted from the August 2023 issue of the Central Illinois Hosta Society.

Here are some tidbits about hostas:

- **Watering:** Newly planted hostas need to be watered daily for the first two weeks
- **Soil:** Hostas like moist, well-drained soil
- **Sunlight:** Most hostas prefer to be out of direct sunlight and can tolerate morning sun, but need shade during the hot afternoon
- **Variegated varieties:** Variegated hostas need some direct sun for best coloring
- **Blue varieties:** Blue hostas need protection from hot sun to maintain their blue color
- **Fall care:** Hostas require very little care in the fall
- **Size:** Hosta varieties range from tiny miniature types to gargantuan types
- **Origin:** Hostas originated in Japan, China, and Korea—we have no native hostas

2023 Fall Hosta Forum



The Fall Hosta Forum was a success again this year with 96 attending. Our joint seminar in Edinboro, PA that we put on with Western NY Hosta Society had 4 great speakers. Bob Solberg talked about Hostas, Tammy Borden on Landscaping, Michael Vaughn on unusual woodland plants and Chris Baker on Coleus.



There were several vendors selling perennials, mini hostas, woodland plants, trees/shrubs and daffodil bulbs. The live auction had over 70 hosta and the silent auction had over 30. A big thank you goes out to Dennis, Keith and Patty Reigh; I really appreciated the help and willingness to do whatever necessary to make this event a success. Thank you for those that attended to support the event and those that helped out where needed.

The committee is getting up in years and several volunteers were off due to illness, so if you are interested in helping next year please let me know. I hope you will attend next year and support our event.

Karen Schmidt
Fall Hosta Forum VP