



Growing Together Growing Together

Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania

DECEMBER 2023

Hi Folks,

2023 is coming quickly to an end. It has been a very busy year for the club with tons of events and speakers. I do hope everyone has enjoyed this past season! We owe thanks to so many members of our club that have made all of these events happen! Like every holiday season, I say thank you to everyone who has helped with the continuing success of our group of plant lovers!

As every holiday season, someone is asking for help! We need your help to continue the success of our group. There are several positions of the steering committee that need to be filled at the latest of January 2025, sooner is fine.

Gary and Susan have decided it is best for them to not continue on the steering committee moving forward. They filled VP-Hosta and secretary. 2024 will be my 7th, and final, year as president of the club. I will have served two consecutive three year terms and filled in for one year of the previous president's term after resignation. It is vital that we get some new blood on the steering committee to liven things up! Please consider volunteering for any one of the previously mentioned positions or any other position as we can sometimes shuffle people around. None of the positions on the committee are hard and I guarantee that you would have plenty of help from myself and the rest of the committee members.

Please take a minute and read through the job descriptions and see if you can help with any one of them. (At the end of Newsletter) As with elections, I need a nominating committee to arrange for the nominations of our future leaders, really just one person. The job consists of recording nominations and presenting the ballots at next year's End of the Season Banquet to be voted on. I am more than willing to help!

As 2024 is the third year of my second term, it is time for an audit of the club. I am seeking three individuals who could look through our receipts and accounting this upcoming summer. It is not a hard job. Just a matter of a few hours comparing transactions to make sure all of our boxes are checked. Please let me know if you would be willing to help with this. I would rather not recruit, but am more than willing to call names! lol! But I need a committee of three people to do this.

The definition of gar-dening by Henry Beard & Roy McKie: 1. *n.* the art of killing weeds and bugs to grow flowers and crops for animals and birds to eat.

See you all in the new year!
Megan Danik
The Pres.

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



Friends Luncheon

Join us for the annual DHSWP Friends Luncheon.

Saturday, January 13th, 2024

Noon

Hotel Saxonburg

220 W Main St, Saxonburg, PA 16056

[RSVP Karen Schmidt by January 9th](#)

Karensmg@aol.com



TNT...TIME AND TALENT SURVEY!

By Chuck Oleescyski

We need your help and support...time and talent too!

Approximately 1/3 of the DHSWP members have already participated In the TNT (Time N Talent) search. (See summary below.)

Of the 31 members who were present at the End of the Year Luncheon at Luciano's Italian restaurant, 21 members indicated their willingness to share their talent and time by selecting items from a list of 51 ways to help your club.

Your club is eager to know how you might lend your TNT to further assist in promoting the education of hostas and daffodils.

Please consider completing the TNT Survey enclosed in this Newsletter and return to Chuck Oleescyski by Dec. 31, 2023.

Thank you for your time and talent...it is appreciated!

TIME AND TALENT SURVEY RESULTS - BY THE NUMBERS!

This first report or summary will attempt to identify areas where responders are tallied according to numbers recorded via the survey sheets.

Thirty one (31) surveys were passed out to DHSWP members and guests at the End of Year Banquet on November 4th 2023.

Twenty one (21) surveys were completed while 10 surveys were returned with no responses as to areas of interest or attention.

Category I. VOLUNTEERS - Members are needed to assist with these 18 activities throughout the year. Members checked 96 areas where they are willing to help. These areas appeared most often...while 6 or less not counted.

- Plant sales - 8
- Dividing/Planting pots - 7
- Providing Snacks - 12
- Donating to Raffles - 10
- Setting up Shows/Events - 8
- Serving as Clerks for Shows - 9

Category II - STANDING COMMITTEES - serve as a member of the Steering Committee. These

11 positions available and elections are held every 3 years. 15 responses were noted. 4 members expressing an interest in the Member at Large position. 2 members checked the following areas - Membership, Treasurer, and Education. *NOTE - tabulator notes not much interest in this category!

Category III - HOSTA/DAFFODIL COMMITTEES

- Placement - 5
- Clerks - 10
- Classification - 5
- Judges - 5

Category IV - OTHER SPECIAL COMMITTEES -

- Annual Picnic & Auctions - 6
- Fall Forum - 8

Note Bellum - Areas less than 6 tallies generally not recorded. A follow up representing specific interests of members will allow committees/individuals to encourage these members/volunteers to sign up!

Thank you for your time attention to this matter...Chuck O

DHSWP—TIME AND TALENT!

NAME _____

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>_____ plant sales</p> <p>_____ transportation of plants</p> <p>_____ dividing/potting plants</p> <p>_____ donating to raffles</p> <p>_____ provide food/snacks for meetings</p> <p>_____ setting up for shows/events</p> <p>_____ submit surveys when requested</p> <p>_____ write/submit articles to the newsletter</p> <p>_____ serve as a greeter at meetings</p> <p>_____ assist with distributing handouts at meetings</p> | <p>_____ serve at a 'welcome table'</p> <p>_____ serve as a clerk for shows</p> <p>_____ serve as a judge for shows</p> <p>_____ serve on a hosta show committee</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">*see Special Committees</p> <p>_____ serve on a daffodil show committee</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">* see Special Committees</p> <p>_____ assist/contribute to web site</p> <p>_____ assist/contribute to face book</p> <p>_____ willingness to do a presentation or serve as a speaker</p> |
|--|--|

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.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>_____ President</p> <p>_____ Vice-President Daffodils</p> <p>_____ Co-Chair Daffodils</p> <p>_____ Vice-President Hosta</p> <p>_____ Co-Chair Hosta</p> <p>_____ Membership</p> | <p>_____ Speaker Facilitator</p> <p>_____ Treasurer</p> <p>_____ Education</p> <p>_____ Secretary</p> <p>_____ Members At Large</p> <p>_____ Newsletter Editor</p> |
|--|--|

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>_____ Show Chair</p> <p>_____ Judges</p> <p>_____ Vice-Chair</p> <p>_____ Publicity</p> <p>_____ Awards Table</p> <p>_____ Clerks</p> <p>_____ Classification</p> | <p>_____ Properties/Staging</p> <p>_____ Plant Sales</p> <p>_____ Placement</p> <p>_____ Artistic Design</p> <p>_____ Membership</p> <p>_____ Schedule</p> <p>_____ Hospitality</p> |
|--|---|

Other Special Committees include:

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

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

A GIFT FROM AUDREY

By Jane Powell, December 16, 2023

This fall, I received a gift from Audrey—two handmade planters filled with sedums.

I met her daughter in my sophomore year of college, and we became instant best friends. When I would travel home with her for long weekends, her parents were always kind.

Her dad would check my brakes, tires, and other parts of the car he knew I would neglect. The car inspection was always followed by a lecture about safety and car maintenance, but I was a young college gal who pumped gas and didn't think much more about auto care.

Audrey was cheerful yet a bit anxious – well, she did raise six kids, so I'll give her the tendency to be a bit high-strung. Her plate was full.

As they were becoming empty nesters, the once busy parents stepped outside and began to garden. It became a passion.

The front yard pride was a Korean Fir tree and the purple-colored pine cones it would produce. Other perennials filled beds.

The back garden was a series of raised beds with a stone pathway and concrete stepping stones the couple created. The beds were filled with perennials. At one time, there was even a koi pond to add to the garden's serenity.

Lenten roses – hellebores - were favorites. Ferns created borders under shade trees. There were coneflowers and hibiscus mixed with other summer-blooming perennials. It was their private oasis.

As their free time increased, so did their interest in hostas and succulents. Trips to nurseries and weekend festivals filled their weekends. They became members of the Hosta Society. Soon, their gardens were filled with many different varieties.

Audrey and her husband took classes during these weekend getaways and learned to make hypertufa planters. Using a mixture of cement, perlite, and peat moss, they would fill molds of different shapes to create custom containers. The last count was over fifty planters filled the back garden. Many were planted with her beloved succulents.

It is these planters that her daughter shared with me. Audrey and her husband are now in their 90s, and the intricate designs of the garden have become too

much to manage. This year also brought new health challenges.



This Christmas holiday will be the first time the couple married sixty-seven years will not be home. After 60 of Christmas mornings in their split-level living room, they have moved to be provided with more care. The family has worked to maintain the gardens, but with six children spread across the country, each busy with their children and careers, it is hard.

Landscapers have been careless, and weeds continue to grow despite valiant efforts from family. I hope to visit in the early spring. I'm sure memories of college weekends and car repairs will come flooding back.

I expect by this time next year a new family will be making memories in the kitchen and living room. Let's hope they are gardeners who appreciate the carefully planned landscape.

For now, I will cherish my gift of a handmade plant container created by the hands of someone I know. Like all handmade crafts, it is original and one of a kind, much like the matriarch of the family who grew her family and her garden to give and provide beauty to all who visit.

Jane Powell is a longtime West Virginia University Extension Service master gardener through the Kanawha County chapter. She is a member of the Charleston Municipal Beautification Commission and the city Tree Board. Find her blog, "Gardening in Pearls," at gardeninginpearls.com. Contact her at janeellenpowell@aol.com.

AHS HOSTA POPULARITY POLL 2022, A Commentary

Submitted by Chuck O

Having received the latest copy of the AHS Journal (Volume 54 Number 2) I was somewhat dismayed at recent developments concerning the Popularity Poll.

As most folks know the survey allows members to cast their votes for their favorite hostas. Based on member input, hybridizers and nursery owners take their cues for what's hot, and what's not, and we in turn can benefit by what they offer in their hosta productions.

Just 52 people sent in ballots. I need to question if this is a fair representation from the hundreds of AHS members. But rather than dwelling on reasons why so few folks responded to this year's ballot, let's review a few results.

Perhaps the most startling find is that H. 'June' has been dethroned! Since 2011 'June' has maintained its long run as the standard bearer only to be ousted by Hosta 'Lakeside Paisley Print'. It's definitely a 10 footer. (10 footer – describes a hosta that wows from a distance of 10 feet or more.)

New to the poll are 'Coast to Coast' (ranked at number 8) and 'On Stage'. The number 1 mini is...H. 'Blue Mouse Ears'. Hmm...guess the 'mice' hostas devoured the H. "Cat Eyes'.

For further results you can consult the AHS. To participate in the survey you can join the AHS and vote to help validate the results.

NOTICE: February 24, 2024 Zoom meeting

Mary Albrecht from Knoxville, TN, a retired professor from the University of Tennessee, Institute of Agriculture, will be presenting by zoom on Saturday, February 24th at 1:00 EST "**What Other Plants Work with Hosta**"

Many other garden plants are great companions to our love, Hosta. She will cover an array of species from A to Z, both annual and perennial, that can be added to bring some highlights to the garden and expand the season!

Please join us, the week of the meeting you will receive an invitation and all you will need to do is click on the link to join the meeting. If this is the first time to attend a zoom meeting, you will need to download Zoom software beforehand.

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!

WHEN: Saturday, February 17, 2024

TIMES: 11:15 AM – Social Time & Set-Up

12:00 Noon – Lunch

1:00 PM – Speaker

WHERE: Indiana Township Community Center
3710 Saxonburg Blvd
Pittsburgh PA 15238

Heading south on Saxonburg Blvd. pass 910 and the community building is located just after the white church. The community center is at the back of the building by the three flag poles. The doors at the back building will be unlocked.

Speaker: Dan Higgins from Michael Brothers Nursery
Topic: Pollinator Gardening



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

Please bring your own plates, bowl and utensils.

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

2024 DHSWP SCHEDULE

When	What	Time	Where	Speaker	Website
January					
13	Friends Lunch (pg 2)	12	Saxonburg Hotel		https://www.hotelsaxonburg.com/
27	Steering Committee Meeting		TBD		
February					
17	Soup Lunch (pg 6)		Indiana Township Building	Dan Higgins	Indiana Twp
24	General Meeting (pg 5)	1-4		Mary Albrecht	
March					
9	Pizza Party/ General Meeting	1-4pm			
15-16	Hosta College		Piqua, OH		Hosta College
April					
	Joe Hamm Daffodil Show				
13	Steering Committee Meeting	1-4	Gary Ball's House		
May					
18	Hoop House Sale		105 White Rock Rd, Freeport, PA 16229		
May 31- June 1	Dixie Regional ¹		Tennessee		
June					
1	Hosta Show	All Day	Soergel's Orchards		Soergel's
7-9	Hosta Tailgate		Indianapolis, IN		
18-22	AHS National Convention		Marlborough, MA		AHS National
July					
20	Regular Meeting	1-4pm			
August					
4	Picnic at DJ's Greenhouse	11-3	DJ's Greenhouse		DJ's
September					
20-21	Fall Forum		Edinboro, PA		
October					
19	Regular Meeting	1-4pm			
19	Steering Committee Meeting	before or after			
November					
2	End of Season Banquet		TBD		
December					
5	Christmas Breakfast		TBD		

¹ [Middle Tennessee Hosta Society](#) had agreed to host the 2024 Dixie Regional. It will be May 30-June 1 in [Brentwood, TN](#). The convention will take place May 30th through June 1st, 2024 in the Hilton Garden Inn, 217 Centerview Drive, Brentwood, TN. (near Nashville)

DAFFODIL AND HOSTA SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONSTITUTION

Article VI – Duties Of The Officers

Section 1. The President shall preside at meetings of the Society, shall appoint all other needed Committee Chairpersons, and shall be ex-officio member of all committees. The President shall report annually on the state of the Society and present a proposed calendar and budget for the forthcoming year.

Section 2. The Vice-Presidents shall assume the responsibilities of the President in the absence of the President, and shall assume primary responsibility for their respective divisions.

Section 3. The treasurer shall keep charge of all Society funds and be responsible for the disbursement of all obligations of the Society. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and expenditures and shall prepare an annual financial report.

Section 4. An audit will be held during the third year of each three year term or more often if deemed necessary by the Steering Committee.

DHSWP By-Laws

Section 1. The Steering Committee shall meet at least twice a year or more as needed to perform its responsibilities. Minor decisions can be made via phone or e-mail as appropriate.

Section 2. The President

- Presides at business and Steering Committee meetings
- Prepares the calendar for the approval of the Steering Committee
- Works with the treasurer to prepare an annual budget for approval by the Steering Committee
- With the 2 VPs, arranges for a location for our shows
- Appoints an audit committee
- Maintains the responsibility for finding appropriate storage for the society's properties
- Appoints a nominating committee
- Assigns a member who agrees and is qualified to oversee the societies website
- Verifies that the society's insurance is adequate and up to date
- Verifies that the society has a space to hold each meeting, the picnic and the banquet
- Oversees any necessary revisions to the constitution and by-laws
- Writes articles for the newsletter
- Assists other members of the Steering Committee as needed
- Sets dates for meetings of the Steering Committee
- Appoints committees and chairperson as needed for society's affairs
- Keeps necessary records and acts as a resource to assist the next person who fills the position

Section 3. The Vice-Presidents of Daffodils and Hosta (2)

- Presides over meetings in the absence of the president
- Makes arrangements for programs
- Assumes responsibility for the annual shows
- Assists with calendar and budget preparations
- Arranges for the purchase of plants for sales and auctions
- Solicits the donation of palnts and other materials for sales and auctions
- Maintains auction and sales records as needed
- Promotes the educational goals of the society
- Encourages members to join the national organizations and to attend regional and national meetings
- Encourages members to attend judges clinics and to vote in popularity polls
- Writes articles for the newsletter and/or selects articles for reprinting in our newsletter

- Arranges for the purchase of club gift awards
- Arranges for the sale of hosta and daffodil related items to the members
- Works with the member at large to attract and keep new members
- Keeps necessary records and acts as a resource to assist the next person who fills the position

Section 5. Secretary

- Attends Steering Committee meetings and records minutes
- Attends Membership meetings. Record minutes and present minutes from prior meeting to membership
- Send copies of minutes to the President, Newsletter Editor, and other designees as the president/SC deems appropriate. Arrange to have newsletter editor publish minutes in newsletter.
- Send Thank You card to the person/place where meeting was held to thank them for their hospitality.
- Send thank You card to any speakers that have attended our meetings thanking them for their presentation
- Send appropriate cards or flowers to members who are ill or who have had a death in the family
- Receive reports from Chairpersons and keep them on file
- Keep copies of the current Constitution and By-Laws at meetings for reference and ensure that proper procedure is followed for filing/passing a motion.
- Have a current membership list on hand for purposes of communication