

Pennsylvania Nursery Trip - Wednesday, April 12, 2017

Potomac Valley Chapter ARS and Friends

It is time to buy more flowers to brighten up the spring and summer garden! In past newsletters, we listed the date for our annual trip to Amish nurseries in Pennsylvania as April 20. At our last PVC meeting, some of us discussed other options due to schedule conflicts and we have decided on Wednesday, April 12, instead. We wanted to let others know in case you want to join us. These nurseries grow beautiful plants, carry varieties we rarely see, and their prices are very reasonable. It is also a great excuse for a fun outing with good friends.

Below are the locations and target times. If you decide to go, let Don or Bob know so we can keep an eye out for you.

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Don Hyatt's Typical Nursery Field Trip Haul

Groff's Plant Farm: 9:30 – 11:00 AM (travel time from I-495 / I-95 in MD, 1 hr. 40 min)
6128 Street Rd., Kirkwood, PA 17536 717-529-3001
www.groffsplantfarm.com

Groff's has a wide selection of annuals, perennials, wildflowers, hostas, and shrubs. The nursery does not open until late March, but after that time they start moving plants from nearby hoop houses to their main sales area. They do have a few rhododendrons and azaleas but the rich variety of other plants they offer is the real attraction. They arrange perennials by sun and shade requirements, and have greenhouses for annuals and herbs. They do not take credit cards so payment must be made by cash or check. This nursery is closed on Sundays.

Lunch in East Earl: 11:45 AM – 1:00 PM (travel time from Groff's, 45 minutes)

We often eat lunch in East Earl, PA which is close to the last two nurseries. Restaurants vary, but the Shady Maple Smorgasbord is a popular option since the huge facility has the largest all-you-can-eat buffet in the eastern US and great food. Their incredible 200-ft long buffet includes Pennsylvania Dutch and other cuisines, salad bar, grill, carving station, and desserts. We may skip lunch and eat dinner there. Wednesday's feature is Prime Rib!

Shady Maple Smorgasbord
129 Toddy Dr, East Earl, PA 17519
www.shady-maple.com/smorgasbord

Conestoga Nursery: 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM (travel time from East Earl, 3 minutes)
310 Reading Road, East Earl, PA 17519 717-445-4076

Conestoga Nursery is a smaller outlet that carries choice trees and shrubs. They have an excellent selection from container plants to larger specimens, and often have rare conifers, unusual woodies, and some perennials like the Itoh hybrid peonies and tree peonies at reasonable prices. They are closed on Tuesdays and Sundays.

Black Creek Greenhouses: 2:35 – 4:30 PM (travel time from Conestoga, 4 minutes)
211 E. Black Creek Road, East Earl, PA 17519 717-445-5046

Black Creek Greenhouses offers an enormous selection of bedding plants, house plants, vegetable starts, and various other annuals and perennials. The number of varieties is amazing! Look for old favorites as well as the latest releases. Most of their plants are sold in market packs, full flats, or individual pots up to gallon sizes but they do have some larger things. Prices are very reasonable so be sure to save room in your car for this final stop!