



**Fall 2011**  
**Arboretum Visit & Lecture**  
**Saturday, November 5, 1:00–3:30**  
**Tyler Arboretum**

515 Painter Rd, Media, PA 19063  
610-566-9134 🐾 www.tylerarboretum.org

- 1:00 Hosta-tality and arboretum walks (on your own).**
- 2:00 Presentation on Tyler Arboretum's new hosta walk.**
- 2:15 Business meeting: election of officers.**
- 2:30 Guest Lecture: Pandora Young of Longwood Gardens**  
*"Pierce's Woods: Using native plants in a shade garden"*

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**DIRECTIONS to Tyler Arboretum**

**From the Blue Route (Route 476):** Take the Blue Route to the Route 1 - Springfield/Lima exit (Exit #5). Take Route 1 South to Route 352. Turn right onto Route 352 North, which goes past Granite Run Mall.

🐾 Follow Route 352 North to the first intersection after the Mall and turn right onto Barren Rd.

🐾🐾 Follow Barren Road past Penncrest High School (on the right). Turn left at the next intersection (small intersection with four-way stop signs) onto Painter Road. Follow Painter Road about one mile to the Arboretum entrance, located on the right. Enter at the Barn, and tell them you are with DVHS.

**From Media and Springfield:** Take Baltimore Pike South to Route 352 North. Proceed from 🐾 above.

**From Philadelphia and Northern Areas:** Take City Line Avenue (Route 1) South to Route 352 North. Proceed from 🐾 above.

**From Delaware and Southern Areas:** Take I-95 North to Marcus Hook/Route 452 exit. Exit on the right and turn left onto Route 452 North. Stay on Route 452, crossing over Routes 1 and 352. Route 452 changes into Barren Road after crossing Route 352. Proceed from 🐾 above.

**From Delaware (Alternate), Chadds Ford and Kennett Square:** Take Route 202 North to Route 1. Follow Route 1 North to intersection of Route 452. Turn left onto Route 452. Stay on Route 452, crossing over Route 352. Route 452 changes into Barren Road after crossing Route 352. Proceed from 🐾🐾 above.

**From Newtown Square and Broomall:** Take Route 3 South to Route 252. Follow Route 252 towards Media. Turn right onto Rose Tree Road. Follow Rose Tree Road to Painter Road. Turn right onto Painter Road and follow about 2 miles to the Arboretum parking lot on the right.



## DVHS Officers

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#### Raffles/Special Events

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## President's Message

This has been an interesting and—according to the weatherman—a historic summer, for the hottest July and the wettest August and September in the history of the Philadelphia area. And then there was the earthquake! It was not the most ideal three months for gardening (an understatement). I write this knowing that many DVHS members experienced damage from flooding, winds and fallen trees. Hopefully this fall the sun will keep shining and we will all dry out, with any damages on the mend.

Over a hundred DVHS and TriState members had a great time at Russell's Gardens in August. The Russell family cooked up a great barbeque and everyone brought dishes to share. Lots of plants filled up cars and everyone had happy faces. Alan Russell donated several really interesting plants for the auction. I got one called *H. 'Gunther's Prize'* which has been on my wish list for quite a while and not readily available. (See photo on page 5.) Many participated in the "Largest Hosta Leaf Contest." I also want to welcome the twelve new DVHS members who joined that day. Many thanks to the Russells for hosting this fun-filled day. I also want to thank Rebecca Boylan and Mary Tilger for holding a trough-making workshop in the morning. Eighteen members from both societies took home their own hand-constructed troughs.

Mark your calendar: **FIRST LOOK**, June 2, 2012, Saturday at Concordville Inn, Concordville, Pa. This event really starts on Friday with vendors coming in from as far away as New Hampshire. Local private gardens will also be open on Friday and Sunday. New Hosta Sports and Seedlings, planted in containers, will be on exhibit after being judged by AHS judges and all the attendees. Also on exhibit (just for fun and display) will be different cultivars of hostas grown in containers as well as trough gardens. We are hoping that many of you will participate in this part of the show. If you don't have hostas potted up, next spring is a good time to do a little digging. Troughs can be in anything from wicker to old tin buckets. Hostas do not need to be mature or even named, and other plants and props can also be used.

We are in the process of gathering ideas for future speakers and garden hosts. If you would like to volunteer to open your garden and host a DVHS potluck and auction, please inform a DVHS officer (at left). Also let us know if you would like to speak on a subject at the winter or fall meeting or know of someone you would like to hear. Many of you may also have ideas on subject matter for either speakers or newsletter articles.

*continued on page 5*

## From the Editor:

We bring you an abbreviated Newsletter this season. As Conny notes above, it has been a crazy season! Stephen and I are just back from a long vacation in Spain, where, if you can believe it, we saw hostas (likely 'Royal Standard') growing in a hanging planter in a tiny Andalusian hill town. After 12 days of warm, sunny weather we returned to the reality that yet another 1.5 inches of rain had fallen in our absence. At least the new plantings we made before we left hadn't suffered.

Next year should bring some changes for the DVHS. Our next meeting includes election of officers. (You all remember approving the updated by-laws at our meeting last fall, don't you?) Is it time for *you* to serve? Please let Conny know as soon as possible, so the board can fill out the slate.

We hope to have some new writers for the Newsletter, and I will continue as editor until I can find a replacement. Volunteers are always needed, so submit pictures, articles, or anything else you can to help out!

One more way to help out: Join the AHS. Our local organization needs the support of a strong national society. You won't regret it.

— David Teager

## 'Halcyon' and 'Krossa Regal': Backbones of the new display at Tyler Arboretum

David Teager

When Marilyn Romenesko (our chair of display gardens) began discussions with Tyler Arboretum about establishing a hosta display, she fielded what, to us hosta collectors, seemed a strange request: what hostas could Tyler use to make a groundcover?

When DVHS approached them, Tyler Arboretum was already in the process of renovating its display of the its "Wister collection" of rhododendrons. Dr. John Casper

Wister was an eminent horticulturist, already serving as director of Scott Arboretum (at Swarthmore College) when he was named Tyler's first director in 1946. When Dr. Wister cleared the overgrown woods of the arboretum, he made room for rhododendrons, both those he had collected and those he hybridized himself. When the rhododendron display was installed in 1959, the collection comprised over 700 cultivars and species.

Beginning in 2004, after garnering financial support, the arboretum began a program of assessing the collection, with work now well underway to properly display this horticultural treasure. Could a hosta display fit in with their plans?

Rhododendrons and azaleas are woodland plants, benefiting from high shade and ample moisture. Hostas, then, seem an ideal companion, presenting beautiful foliage during the spring bloom peak and maintaining a pleasing look long thereafter. In this part of the garden, though, hostas did not need to be the star attraction. To complement the flowers and foliage of the rhododendrons, a mass of blue hostas would work well.

Tyler came to us with this request, wondering how many blue hostas they would need to plant to cover a significant square footage of garden space. Marilyn and Conny convinced them that really, they couldn't do this with just a single cultivar, given how many possibilities there are. Both parties recognize this as "Phase I" of a more extensive hosta display garden, as Tyler continues to renovate this part of the arboretum.

Choosing the hostas was the next step. The choice, though, couldn't have been easier, with all parties involved agreeing on 'Halcyon' and 'Krossa Regal'. Both are readily available (at a good price), are proven growers, and complement each other in the garden (one with a mounding form and the other with an upright form). And both hostas have a history in keeping with the historical plantings at Tyler.

Hosta 'Krossa Regal' honors Gus Krossa, who imported a number of hostas from Osaka, Japan, in the 1950s. Gus called it "Krossa No. A-3," but it was Alex Summers who registered it in 1980 with its current cultivar name. While the parentage of 'Krossa Regal' is unknown, it undoubtedly has *H. nigrescens* in its background. The cultivar is sterile, and so of little use in breeding, but it has given rise to a number of notable sports, including 'Regal Splendor' and 'Tom Schmid'. 'Krossa Regal' was selected as the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Hosta in 2001, and also has an award of garden merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.



A mass planting of 'Halcyon' in the Adams garden at the AHS convention.

The word "halcyon" (pronounced "hal-see-un") generally means calm, tranquil, or carefree, but can also refer to water-loving kingfishers, which are often colored a steely blue. Both connotations fit *H. 'Halcyon'*. It is, without a doubt, one of the finest hosta hybrids ever created, deserving its perennial placement in the AHS Popularity Poll by virtue of its elegant form and outstanding color.

The story of 'Halcyon' plays a key role in the history of modern hosta breeding. In the late 1950s, English plantsman Eric Smith was astute in making a cross between the late-blooming *H. 'Tardiflora'* and a reblooming *H. sieboldiana* (likely 'Elegans'). 'Tardiflora' (once considered a species, but it is not found in the wild) is a small, dark green hosta with lance-shaped leaves. *H. sieboldiana* is large, with heart-shaped leaves. From this single cross, Smith selected a number of seedlings, including the plants later named as 'Dorset Charm' and 'Halcyon'. He rebred these plants to produce the complex of cultivars (often referred to as the "Tardiana grex"), which includes other notable blue hostas such as 'Blue Wedgwood', 'Hadspen Blue', and 'Hadspen Heron'. 'Halcyon' itself was also selected as the Summers Award-winning hosta in 1987, and is notable as well for its gold-centered sport, the very popular 'June'.

Tyler is fortunate to begin its hosta display with these venerable cultivars. The DVHS will be working with them in years to come to fill out the display. ♡

### Hosta-tality at Tyler

You may want to bring food for lunch, or just something for a mid-afternoon snack. We're sure it will be delicious!

We'll be providing drinks, plates and napkins.

# DVHS Meeting, November 5, 2011

Arboretum walk, business meeting, and garden presentations

## Tyler Arboretum

Longwood Gardens is, without a doubt, one of America's finest public gardens. We are fortunate to have this treasure in our own back yard, and fortunate that Pandora Young is coming to us to speak about Longwood's historic shade garden, Pierce's Woods.

Here is what Longwood's web site says about this Pierce's woods:

This seven-acre area has been developed as an "art form" garden that brings together the most ornamental characteristics of the eastern deciduous forest. Under the high branches of oak, ash, maple and tulip trees, sweeps of native shrubs and native ground cover plantings carpet the woodland floor, punctuated by flowering understory trees. Various "rooms" have been created within the woods, with emphasis on native deciduous azaleas blooming from early spring to summer. The concept of using native plants to create the woodland garden as an art form is one of the first such projects in any public garden.

Join us for this informative talk.



The tapestry of spring-blooming groundcover perennials in Pierce's Woods includes tiarella, columbine, and creeping phlox.

Longwood Gardens photo.



One of the oldest arboreta in the northeastern United States, Tyler Arboretum encompasses 650 acres of renowned plant collections, champion trees, historic buildings, and 20 miles of hiking trails through woodlands, wetlands, and meadows. The Arboretum offers workshops, classes, and tours for adults and children throughout the year.

In 1681, William Penn signed a "lease and release" agreement with Thomas Minshall, an English Quaker, for property now occupied by the Arboretum. Between 1681 and 1944, the property was home to eight generations of the same Minshall/Painter/Tyler family.

The Arboretum itself began as the private collection of two brothers, Jacob and Minshall Painter. The brothers were fascinated by the popular 19th century study of natural history. In 1825, the brothers set aside some of their land to begin the systematic planting of more than 1,000 varieties of trees and shrubs. More than 20 of the original Painter Plants still survive, including the Giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*), a state champion and the majestic symbol of Tyler Arboretum.



In addition to its status as a notable collection of plant specimens (including the famed Wister collection of rhododendrons, featured along with the DVHS-sponsored hosta display) Tyler Arboretum is renowned for its educational efforts and outreach to families and especially children. Once again this year the arboretum features a spectacular display of one-of-a-kind treehouses, including the two seen here, along with a bridge spanning a troll's humble abode.



C. Parsons photos

## President's Message continued from p. 2

This will be my last Newsletter article as president. Jim and I have really enjoyed getting to know many of you and look forward to many more DVHS events. Looking back, the rewards gained—in friendship, knowledge and just having fun—far out-weighed the few volunteer hours. The DVHS board has been exceptional in leadership, hospitality and organization. Kathy Miller has brought new ideas for events (including the large leaf contest), chaired a hosta show, and brought in great guest speakers. Rebecca Boylan updates all the nametags, is a real DVHS advocate for membership and has brought forth great ideas in organizing. Christel Badey keeps the treasury books, pays the bills, established a not-for-profit tax status, and deposits all monies for membership, auctions and plant sales. Barbara Nace records all board meetings and keeps our memories legal. David Teager has produced four outstanding Newsletters annually! He edits (not an

A leaf of 'Gunther's Prize', a streaked form of 'Sum and Substance'.

easy task), mails the NL and also updates the DVHS website. Marilyn Romenesko chairs our display gardens program, ran a workday at Morris Arboretum and implemented the hosta groundcover bed at Tyler Arboretum. What would DVHS do without Gene and Chris Dambro? Our hospitality chair, Chris, has the table set, the coffee on and everything set for our meetings. I even saw her tending the grill at Russell's. Mary Tilger has brought in really interesting raffle items at our meetings...including many of her troughs. Jim now has his own trough which he won! I also want to thank Charlie Seaver, Mike Flag, David Teager, Carol Brashear, and Stephen Fugate for helping at the different auctions and plant sales. Stephen has also helped with the editing and mailing of the Newsletter. DVHS operates through a team effort. Please contact us if you can spare a few hours of volunteer time, working on a committee or chairing an event. It has been a great four years!

— Conny Parsons



## Board Meeting

The DVHS Board will meet at the Parsons house (for supper and planning) following the November 5 program meeting and business meeting of the general membership. All members are invited to attend; just call or email Conny to let her know.

### JOIN THE AHS!

- » Read their fabulous journal!
- » Win big prizes at Hosta Shows!
- » Be a Hosta Judge!
- » Come to the National Conventions!

Visit [www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org).

Cut off and mail in, or bring to the meeting.

### Delaware Valley Hosta Society Membership and Renewal Form

Dues (household membership) are \$10 per year.

Mail to: Rebecca Boylan, DVHS Membership  
1200 Farmington Ave.  
Pottstown, PA 19464

Please use this form also to update your records for address **and e-mail**, or to offer your garden for a potential meeting or tour. Thanks!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Would you consider opening your garden for a members' tour? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you in the nursery trade? \_\_\_\_\_



The new Hosta and Wister Rhododendron planting at Tyler Arboretum. C. Parsons photo.

## **Stay tuned for our 2012 Calendar of Events**

**[www.delvalhosta.org](http://www.delvalhosta.org)**

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### **Are you Due for Dues?**

**You must be a current member to purchase hostas at the special sales, and to receive the *Newsletter* by mail.** The dues pay for printing the newsletter and maintenance of the website, as well as for other society activities. If you got this newsletter by mail, that means you are current. Come to our fall meeting and pay for 2012!

Dues (family membership) are \$10 per year.

Mail to: Rebecca Boylan, DVHS Membership  
1200 Farmington Ave.  
Pottstown, PA 19464

Please provide your name and any address change.  
We would also appreciate an e-mail address so we can notify you of last-minute program changes.

Use the form inside to keep everyone current.

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