



 **DUES?** 

Are you up to date on dues? It's only \$10.00 per year.  
Check your mailing label. It ought to read 25 or greater.

Many of us prefer to pay when we attend a meeting. Perhaps you have been unable to make recent meetings. It's kind of old-fashioned, but it's still possible to pay by writing a check and mailing it in to our treasurer. See the form on page 7. We are looking into a secure way to pay on-line, but until something like this is established, please mail in your dues. We don't want to cut anyone from our membership. Continue to receive your newsletter and e-mail announcements. Today's newsletter will be the last for those with 23 or earlier on the mailing label.

## Spring Meeting April 26, 2025

Barnes Arboretum at St. Joseph's University  
50 Lapsley Lane, Merion, PA 19066  
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

## Speaker: Rebecca Boylan

### "Pruning the Shade Garden"

#### Directions to April 26 Meeting

##### Two Cautions:

**First.** US Rt.1 has various names, depending on where you are. Lincoln Highway or City Avenue or N. State Street are common names. Baltimore Pike is synonymous with US Rt.1 out west, but then veers off. US Rt.1 is always what you want.

**Second.** The old way of entering the Barnes has changed. **It is now entered through Lapsley Lane, not Latches Lane.** Sometimes GPS is not up to date on this. The parking lot holds about 50 cars. If you need to, you also can park on Latches Lane.

From West and Southwest: Take US Rt.1 north to St. Joseph's University. Turn left onto Lapsley Lane. Proceed to the parking lot. Or take I-95N to I-476N. Then exit I-476N to Us Rt.1 north and proceed as above.

From South Jersey or downtown Philly: Take I-76N to exit 341(Montgomery Dr). Go west about 0.4 mi. Turn right onto Belmont US-1 Alt Truck. In about 2.0 mi turn left, following US-1 Alt Truck. In about 0.1 mi turn left onto City Avenue. Go about 1.0 mi and turn right into Lapsley Lane. Proceed as above.

From North or Northwest: Take US Rt.202 to I-76 S. Take I-76S to exit 338(Belmont Ave). Turn right. Take Belmont south for 1.0 mi. Turn right onto E. Levering Mill Rd. In about 0.5 mi. E. Levering Mill Rd turns south. Continue for another 0.5 mi. and then merge onto Old Lancaster Rd. In about 0.75 mi turn right onto Lincoln Highway or City Avenue or US Rt.1 or whatever they're calling it now. Go about 0.2 mi to Lapsley Lane and turn right. Proceed as above.

From Northeast: Follow I-95 to I-676 (exit 22). Take I-676 west. In about 1.5 mi, merge onto I-76N. In about 2 mi, take exit 341(Montgomery Dr), and follow as above for South Jersey or Philly.



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## A Note from the *Newsletter* Editor

### Friends

The board members of the Delaware Valley Hosta Society are currently in slight disarray due to Marilyn Romenesko's recent health problems. We are holding it together, but anything you can do to help would be greatly appreciated.

We are all keeping Marilyn in our thoughts and prayers, with the hope that she will be able to join us for our summer meetings. Until then we will miss her timely and interesting letters.

This issue of the newsletter is filled with additional pictures from last year's national convention, as well as an informative piece by Don Rawson on Erythroniums. I'm sure many of us will consider planting these delightful little bulbs in our gardens.

Check out the calendar on page 8 for more information about this year's meetings. We have some very interesting opportunities lined up for you.

Our spring meeting will be held at the Barnes Arboretum on April 26. Come and see our wonderful Hosta Display Garden emerge from its winter rest. If you have not visited the arboretum before, this is a great opportunity to explore. In addition to the Hosta Display Garden, it comprises many other extensive feature gardens. Grab some lunch before you come. We will have very limited refreshments. Check out the parking instructions on page 1.

Past President Rebecca Boylan will share some of her expertise about pruning. Keeping a healthy garden cut back properly is truly an art.

Hope to see you then,

Kathy Miller



## Tick Bait Boxes

One of the questions in the latest issue of the "Garden Gate" magazine (February 2025), concerned the effectiveness of tick bait boxes. It was explained that they can be highly effective in lowering the number of ticks in the garden.

Although Lyme disease is the primary concern, other tick-borne diseases in the eastern United States include: Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (yes, it's not just out west!), anaplasmosis, and babesiosis.

The idea behind bait boxes is that they provide permethrin saturated nesting material for rodents. Mice or voles bring the material back into their nests. Ticks are eliminated from the nesting colony. Although there are still the rodents themselves to contend with, disease-carrying ticks are eliminated.

Bait boxes can be purchased from Amazon and other garden supply stores.

Another option is to assemble them yourself, using permethrin spray, cotton balls and the cardboard tubes from paper towels or toilet paper.



# Pruning the Shade Garden

Rebecca Boylan

Pruning is a daily process in our garden, especially with over 125 Japanese maples, over 250 conifers, and hundreds of other trees and shrubs. Most of the major pruning is accomplished during the winter dormant season, but don't be afraid to snip off a branch that offends you during the growing season too. Dead wood can and should be removed whenever it's seen and is the first cut to make when you start to prune.

Hosta gardeners seem to have several hydrangeas in the garden too as they thrive in the same conditions and provide a woody contrast to all those leaves. There's a trick to learning the timing of pruning the different species of hydrangeas and those new cultivars that bloom all season long.

August is actually a great time to prune Japanese maples as sap isn't running as it is in the winter, but I prefer to see the structure of the plant without leaves to make my cuts. I do prune all year round when I see an errant branch, and a few of my larger trees get more work done to them in August, too.

Tools are an essential part for any pruning job, so we'll dive into my tool bucket and go over pruners, saws, and specialty items. I learn from others and have picked up some nifty gadgets too.

Bring your pruning questions to the April 26th meeting. I might even mention a clematis or two!

In addition to hostas, Rebecca's garden contains a wide range of plants, trees, and shrubs. A tiny portion is pictured in the photos below.

# 2025 Hosta of the Year

'Skywriter'

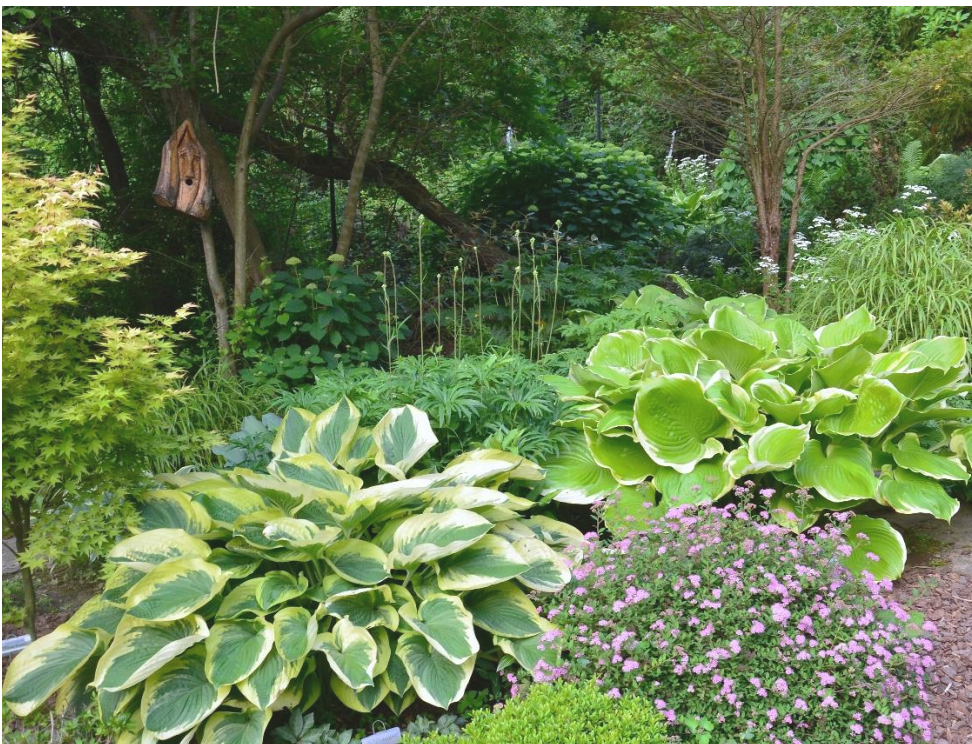


Photo: Noah Schwartz via the H

Look for this beautiful, unregistered plant from Dan Wols at your local nursery. Medium size, upright, and strikingly blue with a symmetrically ruffled edge.

A hybrid from 'Marilyn Monroe' x ('Neptune' x 'Smoke Signals'), it has lavender flowers. The leaves are held up on deep purple petioles. The petioles and the white backs of the leaves are easily seen, creating a stunning visual.

DVHS Newsletter, Spring, 2025

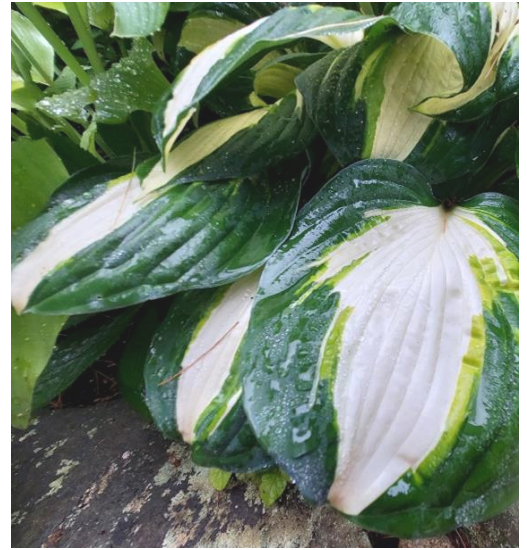




# 4 More Photos from the 2024 AHS Convention, Marlborough MA

Kathy Miller

DVHS Newsletter, Spring 2025



Above: The weather for most of the garden tours was cool and rainy. This beautiful pathway accented a steep hillside that showed off a wide variety of cultivars. The garden was only a few years old, so none of the plants had reached full maturity. I'm sure the gardener will have some difficult decisions to make in the future when overcrowding begins. Note that there is very little shade, so colors are bright.

Top right: 'Vulcan'. A magnificent tri-colored cultivar, which at least at this point in the season, shows off its pure, unblemished white center.

Middle right: 'Milkmaid'. Looks like 'Spilt Milk' but is a seedling from an unknown source. Much smaller, much more substance, much more "milk".

Bottom right: 'Don't Stop Believin'. Beautiful heart-shaped leaves. This spring foliage color gradually darkens to a greenish blue over the summer.

## Hostality for April Meeting

We want to help keep the Barnes mansion clean and tidy. Therefore, we are asking you not to bring any food.

We will be serving water, lemonade and cookies.

*additional photos next page*





Top left: 'Volcano Island'. Careful. Looks like we might have to swim to safety.

Middle left: 'June'. Up north, the cooler nights and longer days brought out the gorgeous blue coloration. In contrast to the yellow center, it almost appeared purple.

Middle left: 'Siberian Tiger'. Grrrr-r-r.

Lower left: 'Emerald Eyes'. A sport of good old 'Undulata Albomarginata'.

Above: 'Jimmy Crack Corn'. Note the subtle variegation on the large leaves. This one inspired two different corn chowders in our recent Hosta Soup Contest.



## Hosta Soup and Hosta Chat

On February first, members met at the Tredyffrin library to sample a variety of delicious soups and chat about the latest AHS popularity poll. Reviewing the top twenty hostas of 2023, there was discussion about what makes any particular cultivar popular.

Once the soup was sampled and a vote taken, the winner was 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd', a tasty bean soup prepared by Mary Jane Risch. We will present her with the Soup Prize at the spring meeting. In second was 'Pot of Gold', a curried zucchini soup prepared by Debby Bryan.

A big "Thank You" to those who brought soup, and an additional thanks to those who brought dessert.



## Unusual Woodlanders for the Shade Garden: *Erythronium*

Don Rawson

*Local hosta societies share newsletter articles. Here are some excerpts from a lengthy piece that our friend Don Rawson wrote for the Michigan Hosta Society*  
[www.HostaHappenings.com](http://www.HostaHappenings.com)

*The original had many beautiful photos that required permission to reproduce. Therefore, this current article uses photos from nursery catalogs instead.*

The genus *Erythronium* offers such beauty to the shade garden that I can say it is absolutely one of my favorite spring wildflowers. While single plants can add a lot of charm to a small space, when found in drifts their collective elegance completely captivates me. The flowers themselves are stunning, and I cannot help myself from lifting them for closer inspection. While they all are very attractive, the ones with spotted and mottled leaves are the best and certainly this interesting foliage adds greatly to their overall appearance....

About 20 species of *Erythronium* are found worldwide. Most occur in forests and meadows throughout western North America from California north to British Columbia, and Eurasia. As members of the Liliaceae family, the genus is closely related to *Tulipa*, which is most obvious if you turn an *Erythronium* flower straight up....

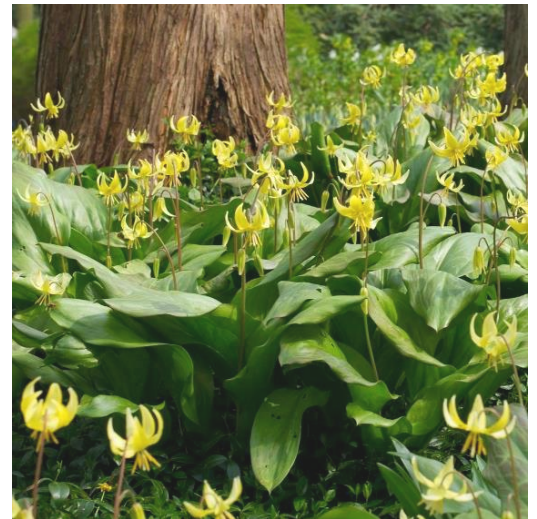
The plant has multiple common names including adder's tongue, trout lily, fawn lily, glacier lily, and dog-tooth violet. The name adder's tongue is in reference to the shape of the flowering stem as it emerges in spring. Furthermore, the flower resembles the open mouth of a snake. The name trout lily is in reference to the mottled leaves that are speckled like a trout, as well as the springtime appearance of the flowers during trout fishing season. The name fawn lily refers to the resemblance of the spotted foliage to the coat of a young deer, and the two-leaved plant as it emerges resembles the upright ears of a fawn. The names glacier lily, avalanche lily, and snow lily are appropriate since some species are found at higher elevations near the edge of receding snow banks. The name dog-tooth violet indicates the resemblance of the tiny bulb (from which the plant grows) to a dog's tooth, and its flower somewhat resembles a violet. This name, however, is quite misleading because it is not a member of the violet family....

This endearing woodland plant blooms in early spring with one to three nodding, bell-or lily-shaped flowers that are borne upon a slender stem sheathed by two glossy, tongue-shaped basal leaves. The flowers range from shades of yellow, cream and white, to pink and

*continued following page*



Photo: Swanson's Nursery, Seattle



*Erythronium* 'Pagoda'. Photo: White Flower Farm



Dog's Tooth Violet. Photo: Breck's

*Unusual Woodlanders continued*

mauve. The petals are generally reflexed, and the anthers are often yellow to brown, but occasionally bear white or even purple pollen. The leaves of some species and cultivars are mottled or speckled with brown and purple. The stunning foliage, coupled with the delicate flowers, make these plants a spring garden highlight. Erythroniums typically grow 4 to 12 inches tall. Some species with plain green leaves are found in mountain meadows and thickets, producing flowers in summer and then going dormant in winter...

For an overview of the various species and cultivars, the best resource is an eBook by Ian Young titled Erythroniums in Cultivation. It can be printed off for personal use. The book is posted at

[www.scribd.com/document/547551112/Erythroniums-in-Cultivation-2016-IanYoung](http://www.scribd.com/document/547551112/Erythroniums-in-Cultivation-2016-IanYoung)

Erythroniums combine well with other spring-flowering, shade-loving plants such as hepaticas, bleeding hearts, columbines, twinleaf, and trilliums. They look great in my own garden where I have them planted among hellebores, ferns, and hostas. They will naturalize in moist soils in shaded areas and will grow well upon pond or stream banks and in shady areas of rock gardens where their bulbs can stay cool during summer. Erythroniums will gradually multiply and spread over the years if left undisturbed. They can even be used as a ground cover. They look superb when grown *en masse*, as found in nature....

Erythroniums are fully hardy and are fine outdoors throughout winter without frost protection. Erythroniums generally are resistant to deer and rabbits, making them an ideal choice for gardens that typically have such damage...

All *Erythronium* species are very beautiful and garden worthy, but here are some of my favorites:

- E. revolutum*
- Erythronium* ‘John Brookes’
- Erythronium dens-canescens* ‘Lilac Wonder’
- E. oregonum*
- E. hendersonii*

**Availability**

- Bluestone Perennials, <https://www.bluestoneperennials.com/>
- Breck’s, <https://brecks.com/>
- Brent and Becky’s Bulbs, <https://www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com/>
- Far Reaches Farm, <https://www.farreachesfarm.com/>
- Fraser’s Thimble Farms, <http://www.thimblefarms.com/>
- Hansen Nursery, <https://hansennursery.com/>
- John Lonsdale (Edgewood Gardens), <https://www.edgewoodgardens.net/>
- K. van Bourgondien, <https://dutchbulbs.com/>
- Keeping It Green Nursery, <https://www.keepingitgreennursery.com/>
- Lithuanian Rare Bulb Garden, <https://lrbgshop.com/lrbg/>
- Phoenix Perennials, <https://www.phoenixperennials.com/>
- White Flower Farm, <https://www.whiteflowerfarm.com/>

**DVHS MEMBERSHIP DUES.** Please check your mailing label. If you see a number less than 25, you owe DVHS dues for 2024. The dues pay for the publication of this newsletter and maintenance of the website, as well as for other activities. Note that the return address is not the same as in the past. Stephen, who is our Treasurer, will forward your form to Debby, who is our Membership Chair.

Cut off and mail in.

**Delaware Valley Hosta Society  
Membership and Renewal Form**

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

Mail to: Stephen Fugate, DVHS Treasurer  
1411 Dear Meadow Lane  
Garnet Valley, PA 19060

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? \_\_\_\_\_

# Calendar of Events 2025 [www.delvalhosta.org](http://www.delvalhosta.org)

## Please watch our website for more!

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Saturday, February first. Soup Meeting. 2025.  
Tredyffrin Library.

Saturday, April 26, 2025. Spring Meeting. Barnes  
Arboretum. Speaker: Rebecca Boylan.  
“Pruning the Shade Garden”.

Saturday, May 31, 2025. Garden Tour, Potluck and  
Auction. Victor and Mary Jane Risch.  
Coopersburg, PA.

June 19-21, 2025. AHS National Convention.  
“Hosta Double Feature.”

[www.hostaconvention.org](http://www.hostaconvention.org)  
Central Illinois Hosta Society. East Peoria, IL

Saturday, July 19, 2025. Garden Tour and Auction.  
Dave and Roberta Chopko.  
Boonton, NJ.

Saturday, October 4, 2025. Fall Meeting.  
Speaker: Jenny Rose Carey.

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## The American Hosta Society

[www.americanhostasociety.org](http://www.americanhostasociety.org)

Check out the benefits of AHS membership.

Join other hosta lovers from around the world.

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