



Saturday February 17 Winter Meeting

Arrington Room
Easttown Public Library,
720 First Avenue, Berwyn, PA

Hosta Soup and Hosta Chat

*"Only the pure in heart can make a good soup."
— Ludwig van Beethoven*

Sharing warm soup with friends on a wintry day. What could be better? We ask members to bring a hosta- inspired soup. 'Clambake', 'Orange Marmalade', 'Marbled Cream', 'Silver Ladle' — probably not 'Outhouse Delight'! Members will vote and a prize goes to the best soup. We have electrical strips and will get everyone's crockpot plugged in (😊hopefully😊).

For newcomers, simply match the name of a hosta cultivar with a soup recipe (either new or a favorite), and bring enough to share. Use the Hosta Library (www.hostalibrary.org) as a resource. See the two examples of winning soups on page 3. If soup is not your specialty, bring a little something sweet; we always love desserts.

Everyone is encouraged to bring garden catalogs, or pictures of your own hostas. We will chat about our gardening plans for the upcoming season and share some short videos.

The door prize will be *H.* 'Gold Spring' a rare "oldie" from a long-ago member of DVHS.

**Come hungry at 12:30 (set-up at 12:00). Vote as you eat.
Questions? Call Ed Macfarland. 215-485-7660.**

Directions For Easttown Library

The library is off the Main Line (Route 30), not far from the Devon Horse Show grounds. The editor recommends that you check the location using on-line or GPS mapping to confirm your route.

From Philadelphia: Take I-76 or the PA Turnpike West to King of Prussia. Follow the signs to Route 202 South. Take 202 South to the Paoli exit (Route 252), about 3.5 miles. Take Route 252 South to Route 30, about 2.4 miles. Turn left at Route 30/Lancaster Ave. Go 1.7 miles to light at Bridge Ave and turn right. After a few blocks, turn left onto First Ave (Bridge Avenue becomes "no outlet" road.) The Library is on your right, about 0.4 miles after turning from Route 30.

To return, you can continue on First Ave. to Waterloo Ave, and turn left to get back to Route 30.

From the South: Take I-95 North to I-476 North to I-76 West, then follow directions above.

From the West or Southwest: Take I-76 East to King of Prussia/Valley Forge, then follow directions above. Or, take Route 202 North to the Paoli exit (Swedesford Rd.). Follow signs to Route 252 South, and follow Route 252 South about 1.3 miles to Route 30 as in directions above.



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President's Letter

Now that our "snow drought" has ended, we can't even venture into the garden due to saturated soil conditions in parts of our yard. Hearing we had over 8" of rain/snow in January further convinced us to refrain from tromping through the garden and causing soil compaction. We're hoping the many potted hostas in the shed are doing well without added water. That's an area where the soil is totally saturated. Since the weather has been fluctuating from hot to cold here, I'm hoping my potted hostas are still moist.

On the bright side, there are many hosta buying opportunities coming up with our group. There's the 15% discount we received on orders from Mason Hollow, our planned trip to Hosta Hideaway in early May, the Green Hill Farms shopping offer to our club, and the plant auction here at Talley Crest in early June. Our gardens should be filled to the brink with new hostas in 2024!

In addition, we'll be learning from one another about best hosta garden practices at our February 17 soup meeting. A few members will be asked to share their success in the hosta garden. Whether it's soil preparation, pest control, fertilizer, watering techniques, or deer exclusion, we ask that you share your hosta gardening experience with the group.

As for the soup portion of this meeting, please bring your favorite creation in a crockpot to share with our group. My favorite soup recipes have come from members at previous soup meetings. Sum and Substance soup is a favorite here. It was a creation of Jim and Conny Parsons. Thai Brass soup is another favorite and that was created by David Teager and Stephen Fugate. Hopefully, this year's meeting will bring out some more amazing can all enjoy during the meeting and afterwards (if we can persuade cooks to share their recipes.) So please bring your appetite and a hosta themed soup. There will be prizes!

Many opportunities await you at DVHS this year, including the S



'Pot of Gold' Soup

Marilyn and Dan Romenesco
Borrowed From Weight Watchers

Ingredients

3 – 3 ½ lbs. butternut squash (approx. 2 medium), seeded and quartered
2 tsp. salt
½ tsp. white pepper
3 c. vegetable broth
¼ c. honey
1 tsp. minced fresh ginger
¼ tsp. nutmeg
¼ c. sugar free maple syrup or ½ tsp. maple flavoring (preferred)
½ c. heavy cream

Preparation

Place the quartered squash onto a sheet pan sprayed with PAM. Roast for 30-35 min. or until squash is soft and tender.

Scoop the squash from the skin and place in a 6 quart pot. Add the broth, honey and ginger. Place over medium heat and bring to a simmer for 7-8 minutes. Remove from heat and let mixture cool 5-10 minutes.

Using a stick blender, purée the mixture until smooth. Stir in the heavy cream and return to a low simmer. Add salt, pepper, nutmeg and maple flavoring.

Total Time: 50 minutes Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 40 minutes Yield: 6 - 8 servings
WW points: 3-4

Impatiens

Kathy Miller



David Teager and Stephen Fugate
Borrowed From www.finecooking.com

This makes 4 servings. If you double or triple it, you'll need to do the puréeing in batches.

Ingredients:

1 large (8-oz.) white onion (preferably sweet), peeled and quartered
1 lb. cucumbers, peeled, seeded, and cut into big chunks
1 medium-size ripe avocado
1-1/2 cups plain yogurt (preferably whole-milk; Steve used Greek style)
3 Tbs. extra-virgin olive oil
1 to 2 cloves garlic, minced
3/4 tsp. ground cumin (optional, preferably toasted and freshly ground. Try it without first and see what you think.)
1 tsp. kosher salt; more to taste
1/3 cup loosely packed fresh basil leaves
2 Tbs. fresh mint leaves
2 to 3 Tbs. fresh lemon juice
1-2 cups cold water and/or vegetable broth
Freshly ground black pepper

Preparation:

Put the onion chunks in the food processor; pulse to chop finely. Scoop into a sieve, rinse under cold water, and set aside to drain. Put the cucumber chunks in the food processor; pulse to chop finely. Add the drained onion and pulse to combine. Set aside 3/4 cup of the cucumber-onion mix to stir into the soup at the end. Cut the avocado in half and scoop out the pulp into the food processor with the remaining cucumber- onion mixture. Add the yogurt, olive oil, garlic, cumin, and salt. Purée until fairly smooth. Slice the basil and mint leaves into shreds and then stir them into the soup along with the lemon juice, 1 cup cold water (Steve used vegetable broth), and the reserved cucumber-onion mixture. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Cover and chill for several hours. Before serving, check for consistency, gradually adding another 1/2 to 1 cup cold water or broth to thin the soup if necessary. Add more lemon juice and salt if needed and serve.

For many of us, impatiens are the “go-to” annuals for the shade garden. In an effort to learn more about them, I turned to Raymond J. Morgan’s book “Impatiens: The Vibrant

World of Busy Lizzies, Balsams, and Touch-Me Nots”, Timber Press, 2007. While there are probably many additional references to peruse, this one presented a very detailed account of the genus *Impatiens*. The only drawback was that it was published in 2007. I was curious about SunPatiens®, but they had not yet arrived in the marketplace when Morgan’s book was published.

According to the author, there are least 1000 recorded species in the genus *Impatiens*, but when we go shopping at the nearest nursery, there are usually only two choices: *I. walleriana* or *I. hawkeri*. – as most of you have already guessed: the regular kind or the New Guinea kind. *I. balsamina* (touch-me-not) and *I. glandulifera* (kiss-me-on-the mountain) are other possibilities, but don’t hold your breath for them.

The genus is named for the bursting seed pods. Seeds, impatient to be dispersed, explode out of their pods. These widely dispersed seeds can become a nuisance in tropical and subtropical gardens and areas set-aside for native vegetation.

The taxonomy of the genus is not really clear. In 1896, botanists Dalton Hooker and George Bentham attempted to classify all known species, but the dearth of herbarium specimens made this difficult. The plant tissue retains so much water that, once dehydrated, individual differences between species disappear. Morgan praises the botanical artists of the past for their diagrams, which modern day taxonomists depend on.

Impatiens are non-toxic for pets. Throughout history several species have been grown for their medicinal properties. I can remember myself doing some field work where we would rub jewelweed (*I. pallida*) on scratches from brush, especially nettle stings.

New Guinea impatiens have been cultivated as decorative plants by Papuans for a long time. They were originally collected by Lt. Henry Hawker of the royal Navy in 1884, and then distributed to the western world, starting with Kew Gardens. Over the years hybridization programs have produced many different cultivars.

SunPatiens were first collected from Indonesia by the Sakata Seed Company in 1990 and came onto the market in 2006. They resemble New Guinea impatiens, but they are genetically different to a certain degree. Interestingly enough, a royalty from each commercial cutting of SunPatiens is returned to the Indonesian government and used for plant conservation. (Mark Seguin, GHG News, January, 2024). While they are extremely sun tolerant as

long as they are well watered, I have found them difficult to grow in deep shade. Also many nurseries do not differentiate clearly between their New Guinea impatiens

and their SunPatiens plants. Sometimes it’s difficult to know which one you’re purchasing.



Impatiens cont'd

In 2020, the DVHS *Newsletter* (Vol. 29:0) had an article about the need for blue annuals to plant in the shade garden. I enjoy adding annuals to the shade garden because it allows for a change of pace each year. After purchasing seeds of a so-called blue impatiens (see photo below). I was hoping that the color on the envelope would turn out to be the true color of the flower.



The seeds were easy to grow. There were so many plants, I ended up discarding hundreds of seedlings. About four dozen seedlings were planted in the garden. In spite of the fact that they grew well, they were not blue. But they were a slight improvement over the traditional 'Elfin Blue' cultivar. See the images below. True colors without photo-editing.

Where are the truly blue impatiens when you need them? Unavailable. Not anymore! Take a look at *I. namcharbarwensis* from Annie's Annuals. My order is going in as we speak. www.anniesannuals.com.



Left Top: *Impatiens* 'Elfin Blue'. Photo: Kathy Miller
 Right Top: *Impatiens* 'LoGro Blue'. Photo: Kathy Miller
 Below: *Impatiens. namcharbarwensis*. Photo: Annie's Annuals.

Hosta of the Year 2024: *H. 'Mini Skirt'*

This unique sport of 'Mighty Mouse' and a descendant of 'Blue Mouse Ears' is just as perky as can be. Developed by Walters Gardens, it was registered in 2013. It's difficult to find a photo that shows all of its attributes: a mini with great substance, undulating "skirt"-like leaves, beautiful flowers and a dense mounding habit. Therefore two pictures are included here, both photos by Walters Gardens via The Hosta Library.

The American Hosta Growers Association established the AHGA Hosta of the Year in 1996. It is selected by a vote of AHGA members. Award winners are hostas that are good garden plants in all regions of the country. The hosta is usually chosen at least two years in advance to allow nurseries enough time to increase their stock. It is reasonably priced because of the expected demand.

Some previous Hosta Of The Year plants include:

2023 'Neptune'	2019 'Lakeside Paisley Print'
2022 'Island Breeze'	2018 'World Cup'
2021 'Rainbow's End'	2017 'Brother Stefan'
2020 'Dancing Queen'	2016 'Curly Fries'



H. 'Mini Skirt' Photos: Walters Gardens via The Hosta Library

Plant Shopping

This year, DVHS will offer a number of special opportunities for our members to go plant shopping for new and special hostas. The first is a deep discount on new and in-demand hostas from Bob Solberg (Green Hill Hostas). Please read all of the descriptions, look at the pictures, and decide what you'd like to order. Payment is due by the February 17th meeting, or you can mail your check and choices to Rebecca Boylan, 1200 Farmington Ave, Pottstown, PA. Make checks payable to: DVHS. Plants will be ready at the June 1st meeting.

E-mail Rebecca if you have any questions.

raboylan@comcast.net

'Alligator Rock' New, First-time introduction Medium.

This new hosta from Don Rawson has the classic look of rich deep green leaves, thick substance, and corrugation all aligned in perfect rows. White flowers provide the perfect contrast to the neat mound of foliage. It is simply just a beautiful hosta. \$20

'Ambrosia' GHF Introduction Large It checks all the boxes. It is a fastgrowing large hosta with yellow and blue variegation, has fragrant flowers and will look good in the fall garden, often having just made a new set of leaves. It is the perfect hosta to give to your new novice hosta friend but classy enough for the old pro, too. \$12

'Big Bubba' Very Large. This big blue hosta from Clarence Hanna is a little out of control. Its leaves have the same hair blown in the wind look that you do when you ride down the Interstate in the back of a pickup truck but there is something drawing you in at the same time. If you like big, tall, and blue this is the one for you. \$12

'Blueberry Parfait' New, First-time introduction Large. There is something about the icy stare of a really blue hosta with a creamy white margin. This seedling from Rod Kuenster has the look of fancy dessert plates with its cupped and ruffled rounded leaves that are nicely displayed so that their white backs are clearly visible. It is a pretty midsummer treat. \$20

'Bud Lite' Special Offering Medium This special gift from Floyd Rogers is a product of Doug Beilstein's red petiole hybridizing. It does have nice petioles but it is the outstanding flowers that make this hosta special, that and the name, too. It is a fun conversation piece, perfect in a pot. \$14

'Call Me Gorgeous' New Small. Some white-centered hostas do not transition out of tissue culture well at the nursery. They do not make good mature roots and then their leaves melt in summer's heat. But some do. This good-looking tricolored seedling from Doug Beilstein is a root maker. The light-yellow leaf centers become cream with an overlay of light green streaks and darker green margins. Nice purple flowers are produced on straight scapes in summer. \$17

'Epic Blue Wave' New, First-time introduction Large. This seedling from Charlie Kwick is a sturdy blue hosta with a lot of movement in its foliage. It rides the waves, it rocks, it rolls but always in control. The leaves have a nice H. montana look with pointed, twisted leaf tips and understated puckering. \$17

H. venusta 'Onoda' New Mini. A gift from Dr. Bob Olson, this miniature form of the species H. venusta sent from Japan makes a tight mound of rich green foliage. The leaves are folded, some almost in half, into tiny boat-shapes floating on a sea of green. \$14

'Monkey Business' Special Offering Medium. This sport of the all-yellow 'Funky Monkey' has a dark green center in its funky arching leaves creating great color contrast. It would be a huge "big market" plant except it is difficult to produce staying all green in the lab. We finally have enough to offer as a club special but only for this year. So don't monkey around, order early. \$17

'Nathan's Gift' New, First-time introduction Large. This "joyous hosta extends its leaves outward as to accept every drop of rain. The variable width margins start off a soft yellow and gradually become a beautiful soft white", according to the registration of Doug Beilstein. The leaves have deep veins, each nicely cross stitched. \$14

'Ruby Earrings' GHF Introduction, Special Offering Medium. 2021 marked the fortieth anniversary of Green Hill Farm. To celebrate true to tradition, we released a "ruby" offering! This medium hosta was one of our most popular hostas last year and is still in high demand. The yellow leaves are ear shaped and cupped with a piercing ruby red petiole extending almost half-way into the leaf. Special \$27

'Zucchini Fries' Small. From Rick Goodenough, this is a healthier version of its parent, my 'Curly Fries'. It is still fried food but full of green goodness. Its dark green, narrow, wavy foliage makes a fast-growing, flowing mound. \$12

Check out 'Epic Blue Wave' below. Truly epic!

See all these hostas at Bob's website: www.hostahosta.com.
Look For "Clubs2024".



AHS National Convention

This is an opportunity for DVHS members to attend a national convention. Only a five hour drive from Philadelphia. Beautiful tour gardens. An unbelievable hosta show, which everyone is invited to enter. Hosta vendors from all over the country.

You do not need to be a member of AHS to register.

www.hostaconvention.org



American Hosta Society Convention

June 18–22, 2024

Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel

Marlborough, Massachusetts

Speakers

Garden Tours

Hosta Show

Seedling & Sport Competition

Auction

Marketplace / Vendors

Reception & Hospitality

Local Activities

Convention Gift Hosta

Merchandise

Delaware Valley Hosta Society January 1, 2023- December 31, 2023 Financial Report- Fiscal Year End

Beginning Cash Balance 01/01/2023 \$15,150.58

Income

Membership Dues	\$730.00
Auctions	\$874.66
Plant and Merchandise Sales	\$1,194.00
Raffles	\$221.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,019.66

Expenses

News Letter	\$1,096.56
Plants and Merchandise to Sell	\$1,114.00
Meetings and Events	\$712.18
Website	\$157.94
Admin/Memberships	\$870.36
Raffles	\$71.57
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,022.61

Cash Balance 12/31/2023 \$14,147.63

NET INCOME/(LOSS) (\$1,002.95)

Stephen Fugate, Treasurer's Report for 2023

The American Hosta Society

HYPERLINK "http://www.americanhostasociety.org/" www.americanhostasociety.org

Check out the benefits of AHS membership. Join other hosta lovers from around the world.

DVHS MEMBERSHIP DUES. Please check your mailing label. If you see a number less than 24, 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 2024 www.delvalhosta.org

Please watch our website for more!

Saturday, February 17, 2024. Hosta Soup Meeting.
Easttown Public Library. Berywyn, PA.

May, 2024. TBA. Bus Trip to Hosta Hideaway. York
Springs, PA

Saturday, June 1, 2024. Tally-Crest: The
Romenesko Garden. Potluck and Auction.
Wilmington, DE

June 19-22, 2024. AHS National Convention.
Marlborough, MA.

July, 2024. TBA. Garden Tour. Big Leaf Contest.
Auction.

Saturday, October 19, 2024. Fall Meeting. Speaker
TBA.