



Saturday, June 1 Talley Crest

Garden of Marilyn and Dan Romenesko

Garden Tour, Potluck, Auction

106 Hoiland Dr., Wilmington, De, 19803

Directions:

From Shipley Road turn onto Hoiland Drive and follow it to the left for 1 ½ blocks. We are at 106 and the number is on the mailbox. Auction plants can be dropped off in the driveway, but parking is on the street.

12:00 Set-Up
12:30 Garden Tour
1:30 Potluck
2:30 Meeting and Auction
3:30 Clean-Up

HOSTATALITY FOR THE POTLUCK

In order to get a good variety of dishes, we ask that you bring something along the lines of the following:

Members A-F, Salad Members G-M, Entree Members N-Z, Dessert

Don't forget to bring a chair. Don't forget to pick up Greenhill plants.

Do We Have Your Correct E-Mail Address?

We have been sending e-mail reminders about meetings and activities. Are you receiving them? We hope so. Wouldn't want to miss anyone. Currently we are missing addresses for the following members:

Ruth E Aumann, Carol & Ray Dougherty, Sue Hudson, Candy Curry, W. David Russell, Gordon Schloatman

Please send an e-mail to Debby Bryan, so that she can add your address to the database. Also, if you have changed your address, please do the same. She will check it against our records.

deborah.l.bryan@comcast.net



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President's Letter

Hi All,

Such a busy time of year for all of us gardeners! Our beloved hostas are starting to unfurl at various rates and many are already gorgeous!

I'm especially excited about two of my large blue ones,

H. 'Wind Beneath My Wings' and *H.* 'Diamond Lake'. A newer variegated variety *H.* 'Blue Jeans Bling' is looking especially fine right now as well. I hope to share these and others in the garden with you when you're here for the tour on Saturday, June 1 at 12PM.

In group hosta news, the bus trip to Hosta Hideaway promises to be a great time with at least 22 members on board tomorrow May 4. We hope to find a few large plants for the National Hosta Display Garden at Barnes Arboretum.

Then on Monday May 6 a group of volunteers will be helping out at the Barnes Arboretum. While there is currently an issue there with the weedy lesser celandine (see below), the arboretum has hired an invasive weed specialist to work on this.

At the National Hosta Convention in Marlborough, MA, our group will be providing a night of "hostality" to be arranged by Rebecca Boylan.

Hopefully our members will bring home some blue ribbons from the leaf show too. Looking forward to a good turnout there from DVHS.

Finally, the June 29 tour of the Debby Bryan and Andy Purbrick's is not to be missed. With her drip irrigation system, we'll see some humongous labeled hostas of many varieties!

Look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Marilyn



Tally Crest

Our garden is an example of a smaller (1/3 acre) suburban lot packed full of woody and herbaceous plants of all kinds.

We are in our 24th year here and we started with a relatively clean slate for landscape plants. While we had to take down several large trees for various reasons, we've planted over 35 additional trees for the backbone of the garden.

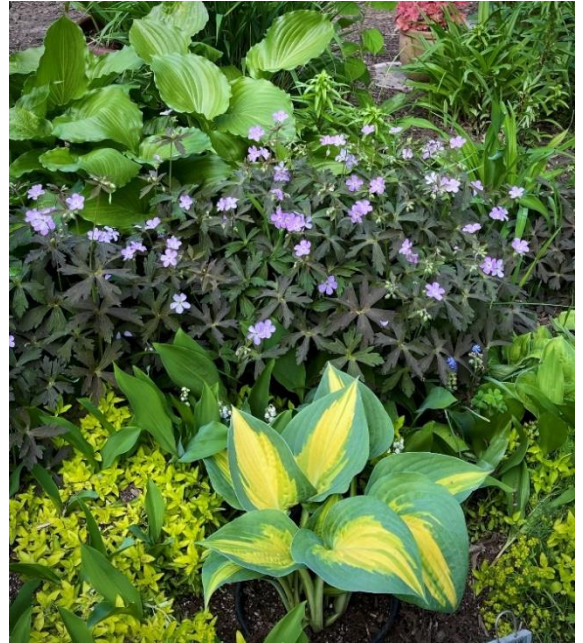


Recently, our neighbors removed three very large trees in their back yard. These provided lots of shade for us, and we are now in transition from shade to sun on two sides of the lot. The other side had some extremely vigorous 'Shasta' viburnums which also had to go. As we have a habit of potting all sorts of woody plants, there are lots of these potted viburnums that we are now using to provide shade in areas where it is needed. We will eventually plant them when we have the time and locations for them.

Our hosta collection too, consists of many potted plants. One reason is that we like to grow them larger before placing them in the ground. Another is that many do better in large pots above ground since there is less root competition than when they are in the ground. In addition, many of the hostas in the ground are in double pots which



we sink into the ground to help prevent tree root competition. This works for a few years but the tree roots find their way in eventually.



Because of all the pots, much of our time is spent watering. This provides an opportunity to look over the entire garden and find new locations for plants! It is also a time to do light pruning and deadheading.



We also have sizable collections of conifers, Japanese maples, redbud trees, peonies, irises, clematis and many other perennials. Marilyn has been selling potted perennials for over ten years and will have several potted hostas and as well as other plants available in a separate sales area. She and a friend, Jamie O'Sullivan, have recently started a small venture called Plates Abloom, and several pieces of their garden art will also be available for sale.

We look forward to sharing our garden with all of you this coming June 1. Hope to see you here!

CHARLIE SEAVER, AGE 80, HOSTA CONNOISSEUR, PASSED AWAY MARCH 18, 2024

A Tribute by Dr. Warren I. Pollock, Glen Mills, PA



Charlie Seaver's mother was Hosta legendary Mildred Seaver of Needham Heights, Mass. Captivatingly, Charlie called her MOTHER -- which to my ears had slight linguistic emphasis of initial uppercase "M" sound. In numerous conversations with Charlie over the years, I never heard him say "my mother" nor any other nomenclature for her other than MOTHER.

Like his famous mother, Charlie was a highly respected hybridizer in hostadom. He was interested in educating AHS members about items he had discovered in his own hosta collection, coming to AHS national conventions with large hand-made posters for entry in the educational division. Further, for six or so years he exhibited posters, supplemented with live plants, about the genus *Hosta* at the huge annual exhibit of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society in downtown Philadelphia. For our Delaware Valley Hosta Society, he was a consistent contributor to its operations, especially plant sales and auctions.

Born in Boston, Charlie grew up in Connecticut and Massachusetts. His father was a highly regarded engineer in New England, and Charlie followed in his technical footsteps obtaining a Chemical Engineering degree from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in 1965. He was enrolled in the school's ROTC program. Then, after three years' naval service, he went to work at DuPont's Chattanooga, Tennessee nylon plant. Most of his hosta cultivar names have maritime implications.

In 1985 Charlie was transferred to DuPont's activities in Wilmington, Del. His first residence was on Mt. Lebanon Road in northern Wilmington. At that time, I too lived in northern Wilmington just some 15 city blocks from him.

I didn't know Charlie when he moved to Delaware, nor that Mildred Seaver even had a son. (She also had a daughter, a twin of Charlie's, Muriel Seaver Brown who lives in Florida and survives him.) Mildred and I were active pen pals for "eons" sending greeting cards to each other on birthdays and holidays. She was a talented artist, even designing and totally crafting some cards.

Charlie and I became great friends quickly. Whenever his mother came to visit him, he invited me to come to his home to visit her. She always had great stories to tell about hostas and hosta people. She knew -- or had known -- everyone. I'm sorry I didn't record their stories.

I need to mention that Mt. Lebanon Road was a byway I took to and from my employment. I also worked for DuPont but in its Engineering Department building in Newark (pronounced New Ark -- two strong words), Delaware. In springtime I would drive past Charlie's house very slowly observing his hostas near his front yard unfurling. In 2000 Charlie moved to Hockessin (pronounced Ho Kessin), Delaware. That ended my routine annual spring examinations!

In 2001 Mildred moved to Delaware and lived in an assisted-living facility, Charlie often brought her to Delaware Valley Hosta Society meetings, and she was the center of attention there, basically the old Mildred Seaver. She passed away in 2011.

Likely *H.* 'Deep Blue Sea' (1994) is Charlie's best introduction. But *H.* 'The Big Five-oh' (2017) likely is his best known; note "oh" is in lowercase preceded by a hyphen.

Charlie was a bird watcher. He named *H.* 'My Fine Feathered Friend' (2012) after his hobby. Some polychromatic leaf areas appear to be bird feather-like!

As for his mother's best, Charlie himself would put *H.* 'Spilt Milk' (1999) in the top category. Should it have been "Spilled"? Not necessarily since "Spilt" and "Spilled" have the same meaning, the past tense of the verb "to spill." "Spilt" is British. He once told me he was puzzled how his mother ever came up with "Spilt".

Ed. Note. Mildred Seaver was honored at the 2006 AHS convention in Philadelphia. When asked to name her favorite introductions, she replied "Muriel and Charlie."



'Compass Point'



'Amethyst Blue'



'My Fine Feathered Friend'



'Starboard Light'



'Reefed Sails'



Charlie Seaver Introductions

Photographer

Amethyst Blue (1996)	Victoria Serafin
Compass Point (2004)	David Husband
Crow's Nest (1995)	
Deep Blue Sea (1994)	Marilyn Romenesko
Monkey Fist (1999)	
My Fine Feathered Friend(2012)	David Teager
Reefed Sails (1994)	Tim Saville
Sailor's Warning (1995)	
Smiling Sailor (1996)	
Spinnaker (1994)	
Starboard Light (1994)	Charlie Seaver
Striped Canvas (1996)	
Tentacles (1996)	
The Big Five-oh (2017)	Charlie Seaver
Undertow (2012)	

All photos courtesy of the Hosta Library



Photo: Kathy Miller

Condolences From Region One AHS

Hello Region One Newsletter Editors

Sad news for the newsletter and the society. I just heard this morning that Charlie Seaver has passed away.

I've attached a photo we have of Charlie and Mildred at First Look 9, in 2009. And another that I took in 1994 during the 1994 Atlanta AHS convention bus tours, 30 years ago this June. You are welcome to use it if you would like.



In addition to his devotion to his mother Mildred Seaver and her hosta introductions, Charlie also hybridized and introduced his own line of hostas, many of which had a nautical theme. One of his introductions was chosen as the gift plant for the 50th anniversary of the society at the 2018 AHS convention in Philadelphia, *Hosta* 'The Big Five-oh', and probably his most widely sold and unusual introduction was *H.* 'Deep Blue Sea'.

Ed. Note. A big "Thank-You" to Carol Brashear and Bill Meyer from Region One of the American Hosta Society. Bill and Carol are in charge of The Hosta Library.

www.hostalibrary.org

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 Deer 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. Berwyn, PA.

May 4, 2024. Bus Trip to Hosta Hideaway. York
Springs, PA

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

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

Saturday, June 29, 2024. Garden Tour. Debby Bryan
and Andy Purbrick. Big Leaf Contest. Auction.
West Chester, PA

Saturday, October 19, 2024. Fall Meeting. Tredyffrin
Library. Speaker Don Rawson.

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