



DELAWARE VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

INSIDE Miller Garden
Watermarks
Photos For Fun

Volume 30, No. 2

www.delvalhosta.org

Summer, 2021

Garden Party

Kathy and Steve Miller Garden

464 Mimosa Circle
Kennett Square, PA

Sunday, July 18, 2021

RSVP Necessary (mimosa464@verizon.net)

1:00 p.m.: Set-Up

1:30 p.m.: Refreshments, Garden Discovery

2:30 p.m.: Hosta Hopscotch

3:30 p.m.: Clean-Up

Masks, social distancing, and party hats are encouraged.

DIRECTIONS

Note: These directions try to avoid US Rt. 1, which will probably be under construction.

From Philadelphia/NJ via I-95S, or from south Jersey via Commodore Barry/I-95N: Take I-95 to Exit 8, Rt. 202N. In 0.5 mi. bear right to Rt. 141S. In 3.5 mi. bear right to exit Rt. 141S to Rt. 52N. Continue on Rt. 52N about 8 mi. to US Rt. 1. Turn left. In 1 mi. bear right to take Longwood Gardens exit, but do not enter the parking lot. Instead, turn left onto Longwood Rd. At the stop sign turn right onto Conservatory Rd. Proceed through the light at Rt. 926 (Street Rd.). Go about 1 mi. on Doe Run Rd. to Wisteria Dr. Turn left (caution, blind turn) and then an immediate right on Mimosa Circle.

From PA Turnpike or points NE: Take turnpike to King of Prussia exit. Follow signs for Rt. 202S to West Chester. Proceed through West Chester to Rt. 926 westbound (Street Rd.) Turn right and continue about 7.5 mi. to Doe Run Rd. Go about 1 mi. on Doe Run Rd. to Wisteria Dr. Turn left (caution blind turn), and then an immediate right on Mimosa Circle.

From Delaware Memorial Bridge and points S: Take I-295S or I-95N to Rt. 141N. Continue about 7 mi. then exit to Rt. 52N. Follow Rt. 52N as above.

From points W: Take US Rt. 1 to the Kennett Square Rt. 82 exit. Turn N on Rt. 82. In about 1.5 mi. turn right onto Rt. 926 (Street Rd). After 1.0 mi., turn left into Primrose Dr. (Traditions at Longwood). Turn right at first stop sign, right at second, straight at third. At fourth stop sign, Mimosa circle is on the left.

Parking is allowed on the street, but no parking once you reach the circle.



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President's Letter, June 2021

“O” stands for “Other” - or maybe “Offbeat”, or “Odd”, or “Outstanding?”

I am a huge fan of Hugo Philips's database at www.myhostas.be. The “dot be” means he's in Belgium. When people ask me how I know so much about hostas, I give a lot of credit to Hugo.

In the “sport family” section of his database he ascribes a code, usually two letters, to describe a hosta's colors. The first letter is the center color: “g” for green, “b” for blue, “y” for yellow/gold, “c” for cream, “w” for white. The second letter is for the edge color, so an all-green hosta is “gg” and a yellow-edged blue hosta is “by”. And then there is “o”, Hugo's catch-all for “other”. These are the special hostas, perhaps like the ones Kathy features in the “watermarks” article on page 4. Or the streaked breeders like ‘Ice Age Trail’, or misted hostas like ‘London Fog’. Or the chameleons in the ‘Striptease’ family, including oddballs like ‘Hanky Panky’ that actually flip their variegation during the year.

I had an “Oh!” moment in the garden this spring when it came time to work through a set of streaked seedlings, separating “o” from the rest. In my little breeding program, I was hoping to find interesting smaller hostas, and had a container of maybe-mini siblings in their third year. Standing out was this one leaf from one good division of a seedling that had more all-green leaves than not. I pulled out the iPhone and framed it up. Snap! I have given it the title “Outstanding.” And I'll be tossing this picture (page 3) into the ring for display on our website. Maybe I'll do a little touch-up work on it for that speck of dust in the lower right, but as is, it's not too bad. And maybe I'll bring one of its “o” siblings for the Hosta Hopscotch event at the Miller home.

After a year when so many memories didn't get made, I hope you took the chance to take pictures, so you can look back happily on *good* things that happened. Moments of beauty, moments where you could recognize what you have accomplished. All those “Kodak times of your life.” So sit quietly on that favorite seat, with your camera (or phone) at your side, and put some beauty into those memory banks. Save up some Vitamin “O”.

David

Slugology Update

The last *Newsletter* discussed the toxicity of Sluggo® due to its EDTA content.

Taken from various advertisements, here is some information about Sluggo Plus®. Unlike original Sluggo, it does not contain EDTA. Instead, it contains a natural material called spinosad, which is a mixture of two compounds produced by certain soil bacteria. In addition to slugs, Sluggo Plus kills, snails, pill-bugs, cutworms, sowbugs and earwigs – other hosta pests.

The toxicity of spinosad varies. It is non-toxic to moderately toxic to fish depending on the species. It is slightly to moderately toxic to aquatic invertebrates. However, spinosad is very highly toxic to eastern oysters. Spinosad is non-toxic to slightly toxic to birds. It is moderately toxic to earthworms. Spinosad is very highly toxic to bees.....So what to do?

Continue on page 3

Kathy and Steve's Garden

We moved to Traditions At Longwood retirement community in 2005, after living for 35 years in Bloomington, Illinois, where we were members of the Central Illinois Hosta Society. Leaving a garden of about 300 hostas behind, we dug up 35 and brought them along. Our Mimosa Circle home was one of the last to be constructed in the development. We chose it, sight unseen, for its large, north facing lot. What could be more important than a place for hostas?

When we arrived we found that our side lot consisted of nothing but backfill. No trees. Only a few spindly crab grass plants. After wading through all the community permits, we were finally able to construct a small garden. We planted magnolias and the hostas that were brought with us. Over the years, I've found that magnolias go pretty well with hostas. They do have roots, but hostas don't seem to mind. Magnolias also don't mind getting their feet wet. Until the trees grew big enough, we stuck children's parasols into the soil to protect the plants from the blazing sun. After each windy storm, most blew away, but our thoughtful neighbors knew where they belonged and brought them back to the crazy people from Illinois.

Today the garden is a little bigger and much shadier. The number of hostas is now 108, squeezed in as best we can. A number of years ago I asked Barbara Tiffany for design suggestions. She thought using containers might allow us to work in more plants and she was correct. Some hostas now live on the "mezzanine" level. The pandemic was the start of my begonia-mania. So during the summer, many begonia cultivars vacation in the hosta garden.

While working as a volunteer at Longwood, I weeded out a *Magnolia macrophylla* seedling, which my supervisor let me take home. Survival was tenuous, but it finally took root and this year, we had a magnificent blossom, which was photographed from our second story bedroom (see photo).

The garden is still very small compared to other gardens DVHS has visited. Therefore, this is just a garden party, not a garden walk. Please enjoy.

Instead of our traditional auction we will be playing hosta hopscotch – don't worry, no real hopping involved. For a \$10.00 ticket you can participate to choose from a variety of plants, either potted up from our garden or a few newbies from Naylor Creek. So take a chance and see what you go home with.

Don't forget to RSVP. mimosa464@verizon.net or kwmille@mtco.com. Steve needs to know how many cucumber sandwiches to make. It may be a tight squeeze, but all are welcome.



Slugology Update *continued*

One answer might be to try Vitax Slug Gone wool pellets, from the UK. Made from the left over bits of wool that accumulate during shearing, these are available now in the US from on-line garden centers like ARBICO Organics. Evidently slugs and snails dislike the scratchy feeling of wool and go elsewhere.

Perhaps many of us already have some old, scratchy, moth-eaten wool lying around in the bottom drawer. Will it work? Who knows? Desperation breeds ingenuity.



“O”
is for
“Outstanding”

4 Hostas With Watermarks



H. 'Tattoo'. Tony Avent 1998. Photo: Kathy Miller

It probably wasn't hostas that the staff at Merriam-Webster were thinking about when they created their definition of "watermark". It is "a marking in paper resulting from differences in thickness usually produced by pressure of a projecting design in the mold or on a processing roll and visible when the paper is held up to the light".

Nevertheless the term is often applied to a certain type of hosta leaf variegation. For some cultivars it doesn't always show up on every leaf and for others it comes and goes throughout the season.

Donald Rawson, author of the web page "The Hosta Lists", gives us a list of watermarked hostas. Many are pictured here. Perhaps the most well-known watermarked hosta is *H. 'Tattoo'* (above) with its "maple leaf" mark. Marilyn Romenesko's perfectly marked plant is by far the most photographed watermarked hosta in the Delaware Valley, having won many awards.



H. 'Moonlight'. Pauline Banyai 1977. Photo: Kathy Miller

H. 'Aurora's Glow'
E. McHugh
2012
Photo: Ed McHugh
via The Hosta Library



H. 'Gentlemen Prefer Blonds'
Alex Malloy
NR
Photo: Carol Brashear
via The Hosta Library



H. 'Xanadu Dlanor'
Brian Skaggs
NR
Photo: Brian Skaggs
via The Hosta Library



H. 'Fire Opal'
Kim Larsen
2003
Photo: Kim Larsen
via The Hosta Library



H. 'Total Eclipse'
Brian Skaggs
NR
Photo: Brian Skaggs
via The Hosta Library



DVHS Photo Feature: The Music is You



There's a short ditty by John Denver which says:

“Music makes pictures and often tells stories
All of it magic and all of it true
And all of the pictures and all of the stories
All of the magic, the music is you.”



Tell us a story, and sing us a song. We'll provide some titles (categories) for inspiration, and you provide the pictures! We're not having an actual contest with winners (a recent decision by the board), but want to post featured photos by our members on the popular DVHS website, and use the photos in newsletters. They don't have to be pictures from this year, so look through your collection. For those of you who attended the presentation from Karl Gercens (available on our website), put his good advice to good use in taking pictures this year. Make use of photo-editing software or image filters as you wish, but regular photos are fine.

Just submit your photos by email (address below), and the webmaster will select some (or all?) for the website galleries (depending on how many we get). All pictures will be made available to the *Newsletter* editor. Give your picture a title if you want (the name of any hosta would be appreciated). They'll be posted with your name, unless you request not to be named.

Send photographs to dsteager@earthlink.net. One at a time, please. State the category and title of the submission. Ideally, photos should be 600 Kb to 6 Mb, and in JPEG/JPG format (not proprietary formats). You may enter up to five pictures in each category. You may enter the same photo in more than one category, if appropriate.

If this event is successful, we may turn it into an actual contest in future years. For now, just have fun!

Submission information: Anyone may enter, but preference for publication goes to DVHS members. The deadline for submissions is September 1, so that the webmaster can build the display gallery in time for our fall meeting. DVHS will retain all rights for their use, but will allow rights of the American Hosta Society to supersede if you decide to enter any of your photos in their photo contest.

Categories:

1. “You've Got a Friend.” Feature a hosta with some friend: animal, vegetable, or mineral. Hostas with companion plants (even “buddy” hostas), insects, bunnies, garden art, etc.
2. “Stormy Weather.” Wet leaves or atmospheric affects.
3. “Close to You.” Focus in close to feature a hosta or part of a hosta (including flowers).
4. “Night and Day.” Karl Gercens enticed us to take advantage of special lighting: dawn, dusk, shadows. Be artistic!
5. “She's Got Legs.” Karl also suggested we get down and dirty! Give us some racy pictures, perhaps from underneath the hosta!

DVHS MEMBERSHIP DUES. Please check your mailing label. If you see a number less than 21, you owe DVHS dues for 2021. The dues pay for the publication of this newsletter and maintenance of the website, as well as for other activities.

Cut off and mail in.

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? _____

Calendar of Events 2021 www.delvalhosta.org

Please watch our website for more!

Saturday, February 27, 2021. Zoom Meeting.
June Colley. "Hostas in Japan".

Tuesday, April 20, 2021. Zoom Meeting.
Karl Gercens. "Photography in the
Garden".

Saturday, June 5, 2021. Spring Meeting.
Garden walk, Plant Sale, Auction.
Parson Garden.

July 15 – 17, 2021. AHS National Convention.
On-Line. See AHS website for
information www.hosta.org.

Sunday July 18, 2021. Summer Meeting.
Garden Party. Miller Garden. Hosta
Hopscotch.

Saturday. TBA. Fall Meeting. Election of
officers. Barnes Arboretum.

June 2022. AHS National Convention.
Minneapolis, MN.

The American Hosta Society

www.americanhostasociety.org

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