

Romenesko Garden Tour

Saturday, June 4, 12:00–4:00 p.m.

Marilyn and Dan Romenesko, hosts

106 Hoiland Dr.

Wilmington, DE 19803

12:00 Garden Tour and Potluck Lunch
2:00 Auction

Directions to June 4th Meeting

The sign for the Shipley Heights development marks the entrance to Hoiland Drive. The house number is on the mailbox. Auction plants can be dropped off in the driveway, but parking is on the street.

From Philadelphia/NJ via I-95 south, or from south Jersey via Commodore Barry/ I-95 south: Take I-95 south to Marsh Rd. (Del Exit 9). Exit North. Go about ¼ mi, then turn left on Baynard Blvd. Follow Baynard Blvd. about 1 mile to Shipley Rd., then turn right onto Shipley. Hoiland Dr. is less than ¼ mile ahead on the left. Follow Hoiland about 0.1 mi. The Romenesko house is on the left.

From PA Turnpike or points NE: Take turnpike or other routes to US-202 south. Follow US 202 south through Pennsylvania into Delaware. US 202 is named Concord Pike in Delaware. About 0.5 mi *north* of the Delaware line is Naaman's *Creek* Road (Rt 491). **IGNORE IT.** About 0.5 mi *south* of the Delaware line is Naaman's Rd (Rt. 92). Turn left onto Naaman's Rd. and go about 0.4 mi to Shipley Rd. Turn right onto Shipley Rd. Follow Shipley about 2.4 mi to Hoiland Rd. Turn right and follow as above.

From Wilmington/points SW via US 202 north. Take US 202 North to Foulk Rd. (Rt 261N). Exit right. In about 0.4 mi turn right onto Wilson Rd. Take Wilson Rd. about 0.1 mile and turn right on Shipley Rd. In about 0.1 mi turn right onto Hoiland Dr and follow as above.

From Pennsylvania points W. Take US 1 north to US 202. Turn south follow as above for PA turnpike.

Hosta-tality for June 4th Potluck

Beverages and plates, etc., will be provided. Come early if you can help set up.
For a balanced meal, we suggest you contribute according to the first letter of your last name:

A–F bring a salad or side dish. **G–N** bring a dessert. **O–Z** bring a main dish.



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Position open

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Position open

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President's Message

Although the hostas are leaping from the ground in this cool, drizzly weather, I sure would like to see some sun so we can do some serious work in the garden! There's only so much you can do when the ground is cold and soggy; walking around with a pair of pruners can only accomplish so much. But soon we'll be rushing to find homes for the hostas and friends already parked by the garage waiting for their turn, and with a few on the way through mail-order. Add that to the seedlings I mentioned in the last issue of the *Newsletter*, and you'll understand why I'm concerned about garden space. Bye-bye, daylilies! (Well, one planting, at least.)

Last Sunday afternoon (May 1, also cold and drizzly), Stephen and I dropped off some sedges at Marilyn and Dan's house, and got a quick in-person preview of the garden we'll be visiting next month. It truly is a suburban garden treasure, with some truly interesting plant material. Wait until you see her clumps of Asian mayapples! This will also be the site of our first (and usually biggest) hosta auction for the year. I have flagged a few divisions of special hostas in my own garden, which I can probably excise with some success even as the weather stays damp. I'll tease you with one name: 'Turnabout', a quick-growing small-ish hosta from Ran Lydell, rare in gardens.

As well, I'm mentally tagging plants whose leaves are potential ribbon-winners at our Hosta Show, to be held at the original Barnes museum. Yes, your hostas can be displayed in the same room whose walls were hung with priceless paintings by Renoir and Cezanne. As a show judge, I'm looking forward to seeing how good everything looks in this gallery space. We'll need lots of volunteers for this event; and since the arboretum itself gets lots of weekend visitors, we expect to see curious eyes when the show is open for viewing. At the garden tour meeting, we'll hold a Q&A and demonstration on preparing leaves for the show. Since Marilyn was our sweepstakes winner the last time (the most blue ribbons), perhaps we'll use her *second-best* leaves for demonstration. Pull out or download Issue 23.2 of our *Newsletter* to review the award-winning article on preparing for a hosta show.

After the Hosta Show closes, a number of DVHS members will head to the national convention in St. Louis, where we will continue promoting the 2018 event. We'll be taking notes, to make sure that our convention is the best ever!

David Teager

Answers to SPRINGTIME HOSTAS
A 'Ice Follies', B 'Great Expectations',
C 'Little Jay', D 'Neptune',
E 'Orange Marmalade'.

The Romenesko Garden

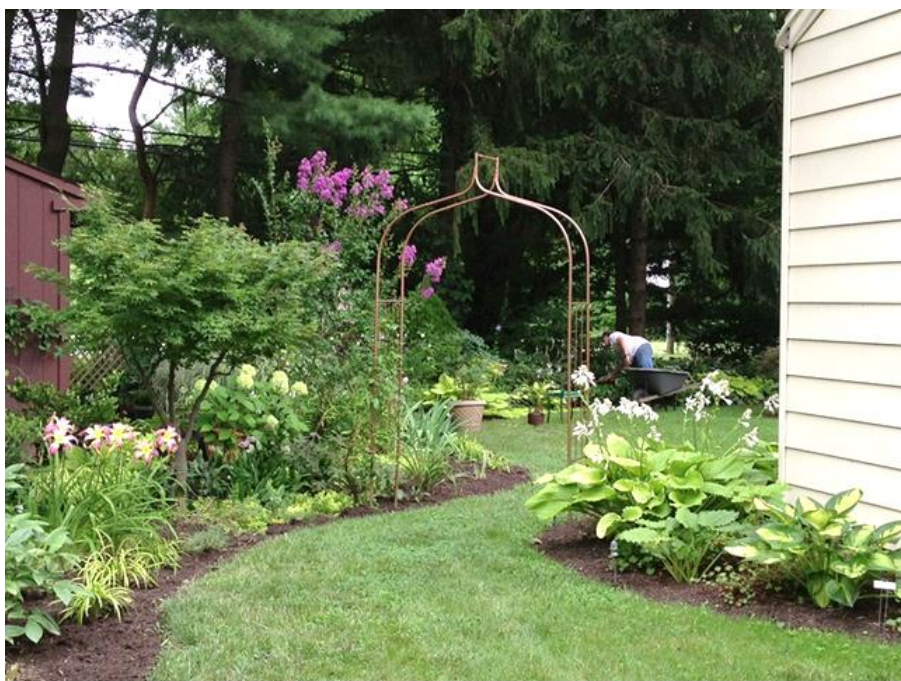
A Note from Marilyn and Dan

Please join us for the June 4th meeting at our home. Our garden is in the Shipley Heights Development of Wilmington. The property is 1/3 acre and contains approximately 230 labeled *Hosta* varieties, many of which are mature specimens.



In order to maximize the garden bed area, we developed perimeter beds many of which we gradually widened from 4 to 20 feet in width. In the 15 years we've been here, we've added 18 trees including: 5 Japanese maples, 2 redbuds, *Parrotia*, yellowwood, Kentucky coffeetree, Cherokee sweetgum, DD Blanchard southern magnolia, star magnolia, kousa dogwood, Himalayan pine, lacebark pine, 'Sekkan Sugi' *Cryptomeria* and yoshino cherry. These have provided more and more shade over the years so our beds have been in constant transition to more and more HOSTAS.

Of the hostas, don't miss the 'political' themed bed on the garage side of the house, the mature specimen of 'Tattoo' near the driveway bed and garage, and some of our mature favs including 'Sagae', 'Leading Lady', 'Squash Casserole', 'Liberty', 'Neptune', 'Grand Canyon', and 'Spring Fling'.



Prize winning *H. 'Tattoo'*
from the Romenesko garden

HOW TO PREPARE A CUT LEAF FOR THE HOSTA SHOW

One. Select the leaf, preferably the day before. It's important to understand that each named cultivar is judged on its own merits. A beautiful wide margined leaf that attracts all the attention in the garden? Or a plain old green leaf that provides background? Either could take home a blue ribbon. Look closer. Clean? Symmetrical? Good color? Free of holes and blemishes? Good size (see step 2).

Two. Fill out an entry tag for the leaf. Tags may be prepared at the show, but there is less confusion and splashing water, not to mention more time, in the peace and quiet of your home. The tag must be correct. (Tags will be available at the June 4 meeting).

See the pictured examples. All cut leaves are entered in Division I. The rest of the information can be obtained from the internet. Go to www.americanhostasociety.org. Choose Hosta Judging. Choose Show Judging. Scroll down to near the end of the page. Choose 2015 Full Classification List. The hosta in the picture is 'Katie Q'. For that hosta the Section is IV and the Class is 5b. A correct length is 7 inches and a correct width is 4 inches. Fill in the variety name. Write in your name and address, or use a mailing label. Note that the information is repeated at the end of the tag. After judging, this portion of the tag will be removed. You will receive your exhibitor number at the show. If you choose to complete the entry tag at the show, the Full Classification List is available in print form.

Three. Cut the leaf, taking as much of the stem (petiole) as possible. Some prefer to cut their leaves the day before and toss them in a bathtub full of cool water. Others cut just before rushing over to the show. Make sure the leaves are well hydrated because they will be exhibited for a long period of time.

Four. Register at the show. Obtain an exhibitor number. You will be given a sheet to record all of your entries. This sheet must be turned back in before judging begins.

Five. Prepare your entry. Recheck cleanliness. Choose an appropriate size bottle. Fill the bottle about 80 % full. Attach the entry tag (remember to add the exhibitor number). Position the leaf using cotton balls. The leaf should be as upright as possible.

Six. Enter the leaf. Take the bottle to Classification. Watch the time. Entries must be on the classification table before the cut-off time. Once a leaf is entered, you may no longer adjust it yourself.

THE AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY

DIV I SECTION IV CLASS 5b

LEAF LENGTH 7 WIDTH 4

VARIETY 'Katie Q'

NAME Audubon Kathleen Miller
ADDRESS 464 Minnow Cir.
Kennett Sq. PA 19348

CITY/STATE _____

1st 0 Award	2nd 0 Award	3rd 0 Award	4th 0 Award	Spec 0 Award
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EXHIBITOR INDENT NO. 555

DIV I SECTION IV CLASS 5b

VARIETY 'Katie Q'

NAME Audubon Kathleen Miller
ADDRESS 464 Minnow Cir.
Kennett Sq. PA 19348

Kasseler Blue	IV-4a	5.875	8	golden yellow
Kasseler Gold	IV-2	4.5	4.125	dark green
Kate's Legacy	II-3	9.5	3.75	dark blue-green
Katherine S Mahoney *	V-4b 6a	2.5	7	yellow-gold with green tints
Kathleen	III-1	8	1	creamy white with some green speck
Kathy-O	IV-1	6	6	medium green * note corrected size
Kathy's Clown	III-7	7	5	green
Katrina Jo	III-6a	8.5	6.5	streaked creamy white and green
Katie Q	IV-5b	7	4	yellow
Katrina Jo	IV-3	8	3	blue-green
Kayak	IV-2	5.5	3.13	light greenish yellow
Kayla Marie	IV-7	6	3.5	blue green
Kayleigh's Sunshine	IV-3	4	2.25	green variably streaked with white
Keel	I-2	16	13	golden yellow
Keepsake	IV-5b	3.5	3	dark slightly blue-green
Kelly	III-2	9	6	medium green

After all of your leaves are all entered, it's always a nice gesture to see if someone else needs help.
Hosta is the "Friendship Plant"!

Jean Brown's Hot Almond and Swiss Spread

- 8 oz package cream cheese
- 1/3 c. mayonnaise
- 6 oz. shredded Swiss cheese
- 2 T finely chopped green onion
(I just use the green part)
- 1/8 t. ground pepper
- 1/8 t. ground nutmeg
- 1/4 c. sliced almonds

1. Toast the almonds.
2. Soften cream cheese.
3. Beat in nutmeg and pepper.
4. Stir in mayonnaise.
5. Stir in Swiss cheese, green onions and half the toasted almonds.
6. Turn into au gratin dish or pie plate.
7. Top with remaining almonds and bake at 350 for 10 to 15 minutes. Do not over bake.

SPRINGTIME HOSTAS

In the fall they disappear. Now they're back, unfurling and slowly taking on their summer coloring. It's so nice to see them again. A brand new season lies ahead.



A



B



C



D



E

Can you name the following hostas?
See page 2 for the answers. Here are some clues.

- A. Peggy Fleming.
- B. Charles Dickens.
- C. The Lone Ranger's sidekick.
- D. Not Poseidon.
- E. Toast.

6 Foliar Nematode Research Update David Teager, Ph.D.

As we have reported previously (DVHS Newsletter issues Vol. 22:2 and Vol. 22:4), the American Hosta Society, with additional support from local societies and individual members (including the DVHS), were sponsors of a research project to investigate methods of controlling foliar nematode infestations in *Hosta*. The research was led by Dr. Parwinder Grewal, who is now at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley campus (having relocated from the University of Tennessee and prior to that The Ohio State University). This research project is now complete, and we await official publication of the results, first in summary to the AHS and the other supporting agencies, and then in an appropriate scientific journal.

The AHS has just published a brief summary of the report (*The Hosta Journal*, vol. 47:1, 2016), which did not include some specifics as the panel needed clarification on some key experiments. However, as I am a member of the scientific advisory panel within the AHS overseeing this research, I am privy to the revised draft of the final report, and pleased that I am now able to release to you some key findings of the research. The results appear to be good.

Early in the research project, Dr. Grewal's researchers tested about two dozen possible control products, based on input from *Hosta* horticulturists including Bob Solberg and Tony Avent. A number of products were found that quickly killed nematodes *in vitro* (in small Petri dishes). The best of these (along with the simple home remedy of boiling water) were tested by drenching soil that was infested with nematodes. This procedure was used to ensure the agent would work in soil. Three treatments were effective in this regard: boiling water, Pylon (a strong peroxide reagent), and NemaKill (a concoction of natural plant oils with fatty acid salts, i.e., horticultural soaps).

A further study used these latter two treatments, along with a few others which were not as effective in the soil treatment, and applied them to disks cut from leaves of nematode-infested plants. Again, Pylon and NemaKill were superior, with complete kill of nematodes *in vitro*.

Subsequently, these two treatments were applied repeatedly to healthy plants, to ensure that they remained healthy (as in a Phase I drug trial). The plants remained healthy.



Foliar nematode
under low power
microscope.

About 0.5 to 1.0 mm
in length.

These two treatments were selected for tests of residual activity in the soil: nematodes were added to soil samples, the soil treated once with the agent, and the soil was sampled for live vs. dead nematodes (measuring mortality). A few days later more nematodes were added to the same samples, and the soil was sampled for live vs. dead nematodes. Such dosing and testing was repeated until nematode mortality was zero. It was found that the toxicity to nematodes from a single treatment was still high (>70%) for about 10 days for NemaKill and about 15 days for Pylon. This would be good news indicating that two or three treatments two weeks apart would substantially control nematode populations, which have a life cycle of about two weeks.

Given that Pylon is not available to home gardeners, and may not even be available to commercial growers at this point, only NemaKill was used in the final, critical experiment: does the product kill nematodes in infested hostas? While I await some additional clarification on their experimental methodology, the results, as I hinted above, appear good. One dozen plants, previously infested with nematodes, were planted in a test plot in the fall. The following spring, while emerging from dormancy, they were treated (presumably, a single time) with NemaKill. Examination and analysis of the plants in July showed that only one plant had nematodes, and apparently at a level far below what would be expected in a control sample.

(Continued on page 7)

Step Right Up Hostality Leader Needed

Those of you who attended our meeting on April 30 noticed that we have no one in charge of hostality. Many people wanted to help, but we all milled around like sheep without a sheepdog. Just a few phone calls before each meeting would be your only responsibility. Please give it a try.

Contact any board member for details.

Foliar Nematodes, cont'd

As a scientist I can look at this research and feel reasonably satisfied with the work performed. I would certainly like to know NemaKill's mode of killing the nematodes, and what potential toxicity there is to other garden (or gardener's) life. (The handling and usage warnings on the NemaKill packaging are rather extreme, but I am accustomed to seeing such better-safe-than-sorry labeling on materials when the true hazards are not yet known.) I would like to know whether the timing of application(s) is critical.

There is anecdotal evidence among AHS gardeners that NemaKill has been effective in their own gardens, and the AHS plans on collecting additional anecdotal evidence (all the better if home gardeners do some more rigorous home experiments with control samples). One assumes that Excel Ag, who produce and sell NemaKill, also have their own evidence supporting the product's use in *Hosta*. While the official research project is complete, the final story is not yet told.

If you wish to purchase NemaKill, AHS members may do so directly through Excel Ag (www.excelag.com).

An additional note: at the April 30 meeting, I mentioned that recent study has found a *bacterial* infection in hostas that can mimic the appearance of nematode damage: browning of tissue contained between the veins of a hosta leaf. In nematode damage this brown area is dry and brittle, but in the bacterial infection the damage is more of a rot: cells bloat and turn mushy, rather than drying out and turning papery. Be sure you know which problem your hosta is suffering. We do not yet know whether standard controls for this bacterial infection are effective.

DVHS Financial Report for 2015

Christel Badey and David Teager

Below are the income and expense totals for the year (grouped into categories; figures rounded to nearest dollar). Last year, without a Hosta Show and with all sale plants bought in 2014, was a low-expense year, as we bank our income toward the 2016 Hosta Show and 2018 convention. On the other hand, auction income was lower than usual. Be sure to put plants aside this spring for our summer auctions.

Beginning balance 2015	\$ 18,137
Income	
Dues	\$ 960
Plant Sale	1,090
Meetings (auction, raffle)	1,905
Donations	100
Miscellaneous (books, sickles)	171
Total Income	\$ 4,226
Expenses	
Publications (incl. website)	\$ 1,322
Meetings (speaker, rental, etc.)	1,041
Display gardens	620
Plants (for plant sales)	0
Miscellaneous (incl. books)	777
Total Expenses	\$ 3,760
Net 2015	\$ 466
Ending balance 2015	\$18,603

Cut off and mail in or bring to 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? _____

This form may also be used to keep your contact information up-to-date

DVHS 2016 Calendar

www.delvalhosta.org

Saturday, June 4: DVHS Tour. Marilyn and Dan Romensko's garden, Wilmington, DE. Potluck and plant auction.

June 11–12: Hosta Show. Hosted by DVHS at Barnes Foundation Arboretum, Merion Station, PA

June 15–18: AHS National Convention.

St. Louis, Missouri. Visit www.hosta.org. or www.stlouishosta.org.

Saturday, July 9: DVHS Tour. Susan and Gary Yeager's garden, Wyndmoor, PA. BIGLEAF contest, plant auction, and more fun!

Saturday, November 5: DVHS Fall Meeting. Tyler Arboretum. Presentation by Carol Brashear. "Is It a New Hosta Sport Or is it a Virus?"

Saturday, October 29: Tri-State Hosta Meeting
Frelinghuysen, NJ, speaker TBA

Don't Forget the Floral Design Workshop- An NGC Master Judge will provide a hands-on design workshop from 2 pm to 4 pm at the Barnes kitchen on June 11. Participants will create small designs to interpret the theme "Sculpture". All you need to bring are conditioned miniature leaves, small flowers, clippers and your creativity. Pre-registration and \$5 materials fee required to participate. Materials provided will be copper tubing and copper wire. Backgrounds will also be a focus of the workshop. Participants may bring their own materials if preferred. Please pre-register by June 1 to Tammy Feuer at tfleur@outlook.com. After a critique by Tammy, designs will be on display at the show on Sunday.

IT'S EASY TO FORGET DUES

Please check your mailing label. If you see a number less than 16, you owe DVHS dues for 2016. Current members' renewal fees are due by the April meeting; any back dues also need to be paid in order to remain current. **You must be a current member to purchase hostas at the special sales, and to receive the Newsletter by mail.** The dues pay for the publication of this newsletter and maintenance of the website, as well as for other society activities. Use the form on Page 7.

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