

# Fall 2014

## Meeting with Guest Lecture

### Saturday, October 18, 2–4 p.m.

Community Recreation and Environmental Center  
9000 Parkview Drive, Haverford, PA 19041

**1:00 Board meeting** (or come early for set-up and site visit)

**2:00 Annual business meeting of membership**

**2:15 Presentation by Mary Ann Metz** (see page 3)

**3:15 Hostality and clean-up**

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#### Directions to October 18 Meeting

The CREC building is part of the Haverford Reserve, between Villanova and Upper Darby. It is about 30 minutes from Wilmington or Philadelphia, or about 20 minutes from King of Prussia or the I-276/476 interchange.

**From I-276:** Unless you are very local or coming from central Philadelphia/Camden, you will get to the PA-3 exit from I-276 as suggested below. Take PA-3 east, and take the first left onto Lawrence Road. Then take the next left onto Darby Creek Road. After about 1 mile, cross Marple Drive, and then turn left on Parkview Drive. (Darby Creek Rd loops back and ends at Marple.) After 0.5 miles, continue “over” the roundabout (as if going straight), and the CREC is on your left.

**From Wilmington (or New Jersey via I-295 or US-322):** Take I-95 north to I-276 north. Take exit 9 for PA-3 toward Broomall/Upper Darby. Turn right on PA-3, then follow directions above.

**From north or west (King of Prussia or PA turnpike):** Take I-76 east through King of Prussia to I-276 south, or I-276 south from the PA turnpike. Take exit 9 for PA-3 toward Broomall/Upper Darby. Turn left on PA-3, then follow directions above.

**From Philadelphia:** Take US-30/Lancaster Avenue west out of town (connecting from I-676 to I-76W as needed), then turn left on Ardmore Avenue. After 1.8 miles, turn right on Darby Road. After 0.8 miles, turn left onto Parkview Drive. The CREC is on your right after 0.4 miles.

**From NE Philadelphia or central New Jersey:** Choose between the PA turnpike (probably better) and Philadelphia options shown above.

#### About the Community Recreation and Environmental Center

The CREC is a multi-purpose educational and recreational facility, with classrooms, fitness rooms, and a walking track. The building is LEED Gold certified, with geothermal heating, stormwater management, an energy-saving roof, and many other eco-friendly features. Take some time to visit the facility and the walking trails nearby.



## DVHS Officers

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Conny Parsons  
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#### Plant Sales & Auctions

Charlie Seaver  
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#### Hostatality

Chris and Gene Dambro  
Chadds Ford, PA

#### Raffles/Special Events

Missy Kashey, acting coordinator

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Michael Flagg, Schwenksville, PA  
Eric Neff, Vestal, NY  
Warren Pollock, Glen Mills, PA  
Barbara Tiffany, Point Pleasant, PA

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## President's Message

This has been a pretty good year for hostas (and nematodes, but I'm not going there), and I've been fortunate enough to get guidance from some of our best hosta growers on what to cull, move, and purchase. Seeing a plant in another member's garden is a great way to picture it in yours, or maybe figure out a new home for it in yours, which is usually my case. Years of planting hostas close together, adding an irrigation system, and voilà—those babies sure do grow!

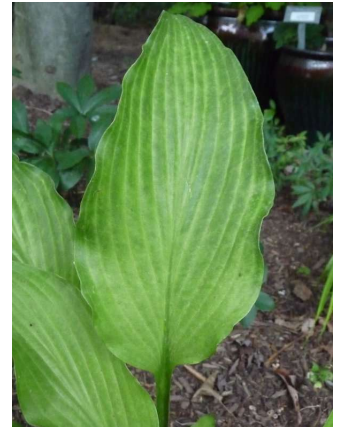
I'm also busy limbing up trees to let more light into my gardens as this growing season was also great for all the woody plants. Late summer is the best time to prune Japanese maples as their sap isn't running, and you can also see their form well with all the leaves on. I have one larger maple out front that I've been working on for years, and no matter how much I trim it, it always rewards me with more layers for the next season. It's important to limb up your trees not only so you can walk by, but to let in light for your plants as they won't thrive in the deep shade.

Those gardeners who live near me have been benefiting from all my garden revisions. I've had to move some hostas that I "discovered" embedded in a patch of *Xanthorrhiza* and potted up the extra. Troughs were reworked; I potted up the extras. Other plants made their appearance in auctions or are waiting to go into the display gardens at Barnes or Tyler. Some of the unlucky ones are plowed under in the woods...

So, keep positive while you're walking around your garden and remember that everything can be changed. We do it all the time, just not always on purpose.

— Rebecca Boylan

The leaf at right is H. 'Funky Monkey' (NR), hybridized by Altara Scheer. It has unusual coloration throughout the year (is it streaky, misty, or not?), but in late summer it shows a lightening of the veins similar to what is seen (much more strongly) in the rare cultivars 'Mito-no-Hana' and 'Amime Tachi' from Japan. Altara has created a number of interesting plants, some of which are available from Naylor Creek. D. Teager



## JOIN THE AHS!

Visit [www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org) where you can join on-line.

Members get on-line access to *The Hosta Journal* and for the first time next year, an exclusive hosta.

### Hosta-tality for October 18 meeting

Lunch is on your own, with plenty of opportunity for good eats in nearby towns.

Beverages and plates, etc., will be provided.

But please do bring some snacks or sweets to keep us going through the afternoon!

Come early if you can help set up.



CREC, Haverford, Pennsylvania

## *Landscaping with Hosta and Other Shady Characters*

**Mary Ann Metz** has worked in the field of horticulture for 30 years. She spent 20 of those years as greenhouse manager and grower at Klehm Nursery in Champaign, IL, which specialized in peonies, daylilies and hosta. For several years she was co-owner, “with a fellow plant nut,” of a small garden center. She has recently established her own landscape design and consulting business while also working in plant production and sales at Prairie Gardens in Champaign. Additional experience includes teaching community education classes at Parkland College, conducting seminars at garden centers, and making presentations to garden clubs and plant societies throughout the Midwest. Mary Ann is a member of several plant societies, including the American Hosta Society for which she is a Master Judge and a former Vice President of Member Services. As if she were not busy enough, she is also Vice President of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society.

DVHS Newsletter, Fall, 2014

### About Those Leopard Slugs

David Teager

In this year's Spring issue (23.1), I rang an alarm bell with regard to the European leopard slug (*Limax maximus*), which, while being known in this area for over 150 years, is increasing its territory across North America. It turns out there is more to this slug's story. In fact, *L. maximus* may be a good guy!

They are, as you might expect from their size, voracious eaters, but studies in Europe indicate that they prefer to eat decaying or at least damaged leaf matter, and, presumably, not your healthy hostas. They also eat fungi, rotting flesh, and, most notably, other slugs and their eggs! If you find a leopard slug following a slime trail (from a slug that *may* have been feasting on your hostas), he may have been looking for his own dinner.

It should be noted, though, that the leopard slug could be a pest when it comes to eating tender new growth, as in crop or garden seedlings, or in situations where overpopulation can occur (in a greenhouse, for instance). For this reason some agricultural schools have, perhaps without thorough research, labeled them as pests.

The challenge, then, is how we as gardeners can manage to keep good slugs around while reducing or eliminating the bad guys (the grey slug). Any slug “bait” (that is, poison) will knock out both, as would a beer bath. Hand-picking the bad guys would seem to be the best method for fully integrated pest management. And if you see a leopard slug egg mass, with translucent, almost colorless eggs (where our usual slug eggs are white and opaque), maybe you should leave them alone.

If you do have them in your garden, I would like to hear any observations you have on their eating habits. 🐸

### Fresh blood wanted!

No, it's not because David just took a vacation in Romania. The Delaware Valley Hosta Society has big plans, but it needs big help in making it happen! Contact a committee chair (see page 2) today.

### From the Editor

I offer apologies to the DVHS that this issue of the *Newsletter* is more of a bulletin. Time was just too short this summer, not only for me but also for a number of our regular contributors. Notably, Stephen and I spent time planning for, and then finally taking, a two-week driving tour of Romania (see picture of a common use of hostas there, below).

We will plan a bigger winter issue to come out late this year or early next year, with a focus on growing hostas. Send me any pictures (and stories) you would like to share with the DVHS. 🐸

Graveyard planting of *H. plantaginea* in Sighișoara, Romania. D. Teager photo



# Calendar of Events 2014

## www.delvalhosta.org

**Saturday, February 15: DVHS Winter Meeting,**  
Tredyffrin Public Library, Wayne, PA  
Hosta Soup and Hosta Chat; Presentation on DVHS  
Hosta Display Gardens by Marilyn and Conny

**Saturday, April 26: DVHS Spring Meeting,**  
Tredyffrin Public Library, Wayne, PA  
Hosta plant sale and great hospitality  
Presentation by Clarence Falstad III: "Hosta Flowers"

**Saturday, June 7: DVHS Tour** of Teagate (David  
Teager and Stephen Fugate garden), Garnet Valley,  
PA. Potluck and plant auction.

**June 11–14: AHS National Convention**  
in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Visit [www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org)

**Saturday, June 21: DVHS Hosta Show**  
Tredyffrin Public Library. Entries/judging on Saturday,  
with public display on Saturday and Sunday

**Saturday, July 12: DVHS Tour** of Tallwood (Eliza-  
beth and Michael Drummond garden) in Malvern,  
PA, with BIG LEAF contest and plant auction

**July 11–13: First Look 2014**  
Cancelled for 2014

**Saturday, October 18: DVHS Fall Meeting**  
Presentation by Mary Ann Metz, former VP of  
Member Services of the AHS, in Haverford, PA

**Saturday, October 25: Tri-State Hosta Meeting**  
Frelinghuysen, NJ, with Don Dean, AHS President

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### DUES NOTICE

Please check your mailing label. If your number is 14 or higher, we thank you for being a member in good standing. **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. It is not too soon to send in your 2015 membership fee today!

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

Mail to: Dan Boylan, DVHS Membership  
1200 Farmington Ave.  
Pottstown, PA 19464

Please provide your name and any address change.  
We would also appreciate an e-mail address so we  
can notify you of last-minute program changes.

Thanks for your continued support!

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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