



National Hosta Display Garden At Barnes Arboretum Bill Rein

Assistant Director of Living Collections and Horticulture Programs
Saint Joseph's University

Zoom Presentation
Saturday, October 9, 2021
?:00 PM

DIRECTIONS

While some of our generation may still remember the Saturday morning “Zoom” TV series (seven seasons on PBS starting in 1999), Zoom has a different sense today. Many of you may already be “fluent” in Zoom, from even before the pandemic, but for those of you who aren’t, don’t worry. Here’s what you need:

- **Email address:** I will send out the Zoom link, with instructions, a few days before the meeting. For security reasons, we won’t include this in the newsletter, our website, or on Facebook. *If you haven’t been receiving emails from us already, use the Contact form on the website to send us an update or e-mail Rebecca Boylan (p. 2) to update.*
- **A computer, tablet, or smart phone** that will let you see the presentation. You *do not need a camera* for this, as we won’t need to see you, you just need internet/WiFi.
- **An app that lets you use Zoom:** you can download the “Zoom desktop client” from whatever app (application) store works on your system, or go to www.zoom.us to download the app. You do not need to create an account, just installation of the app.

If you have not used Zoom on this device previously, you should either do the download in advance at your convenience, or simply “join” the meeting via the link early enough to let your computer/tablet/phone do the set-up in time. If you have questions about using Zoom, go to support.zoom.us, where there are guides and videos to help you.

During the meeting, you may want to ask questions. Zoom has a button you can click for “Chat,” which lets you type in a comment that the moderator can then ask the presenter. (The button may be in different places depending on your system, but will always look like the cartoon “word bubble.”) We will keep everyone but the host, moderator, and presenter on “mute” during the presentation. Chat is the *only* way you will be able to communicate. We know that this will limit discussion, but it’s the only way to manage.

To enter the door prize drawing, get a number from David when you sign on.
As always, the winning number will be drawn at the end of the meeting.



DVHS Officers

President

David Teager
1411 Deer Meadow Ln.
Garnet Valley, PA
(610) 485-4149
dsteager@earthlink.net

Vice President, Program

Marilyn Romenesko
106 Hoiland Dr.
Wilmington, DE 19803
(302) 750-4525
mromen9@gmail.com

Vice President, Membership

Rebecca Boylan
1200 Farmington Ave.
Pottstown, PA 19464
raboylan@comcast.net

Treasurer

Stephen Fugate
1411 Deer Meadow Ln.
Garnet Valley, PA
(610) 485-4149
skfugate@earthlink.net

Secretary

Missy Kashey
460 Halteman Rd.
Pottstown, PA 19465
(610)-310-0096
mjkashey@gmail.com

Committee Chairs:

Publications

Kathy Miller
Kennett Square, PA
kwmille@mtco.com

Display Gardens

Marilyn Romenesko &
Conny Parsons
Glen Mills, PA
connyparsons1@aol.com

Plant Sales & Auctions

Position open

Hostatality

Irene Cassidy
Clayton, NJ
latte_datte@yahoo.com

Advisory Board

Conny Parsons, Glen Mills, PA
Ed MacFarland, Glenside, PA
Warren Pollock, Glen Mills, PA
Barbara Tiffany, Point Pleasant, PA

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President's letter

!!! SPECIAL NOTICE !!!

As your editor, I know that this has nothing to do with hostas, but it is something I recently learned the hard way. You cannot dial 911 directly on a cell phone – it's something to do with locating the phone using GPS.

Most cell phones must first be put in the emergency mode. Then call for help using the phone's emergency system.

Some probably already know this, but most do not. Obviously you cannot practice dialing 911, but you can practice putting the phone in the emergency mode so you are ready when the time comes.



AHS Hosta Display Garden at The Barnes Arboretum

Bill Rein

In 2012, members of DVHS began planting a display garden for over 180 hosta species and cultivars at the Arboretum of the Barnes Foundation in Merion, PA. It seemed a perfect fit. There was no National Hosta Display Garden to visit within hundreds of miles of Philadelphia, despite the region's being home to thirty-plus public gardens and a national hub for horticulture.

The Barnes Arboretum provided deep topsoil under a large grove of mature trees - a number of which were over one hundred years old. These provided high shade but lacked visual interest at ground level during late spring and summer. Hostas seemed a perfect fit. They would thrive in the sunlight and soil conditions, and the beds would come alive with a tapestry of season-long foliage color and complementary bold foliage textures.

The leadership of the Arboretum welcomed the collaboration when it was proposed. DVHS would design and guide the planting of the best of the hostas; while the Barnes would maintain the collection and provide access to the public, and perhaps a brand new audience for hostas.

In 2017, about five years after the first plantings of the hosta collection got into the ground, neighboring Saint Joseph's University received from an alumnus, James Maguire, a significant donation. It was the largest single gift in the history of SJU! A portion was directed toward the establishment of a new museum in the former Barnes gallery building, which had hosted the world-famous art collection and educational foundation established on the site by Albert Barnes in 1925.

A long-term lease agreement, signed by the Foundation and SJU in 2018, included the twelve acre Arboretum as well as the gallery and all other buildings. The University became manager of the property as well as the long-established Barnes Horticulture Certificate program.

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Photo: Bill Rein

4 Display Garden continued from p.3

The University employs all arboretum staff, including me as Assistant Director of Living Collections and Horticulture Programs and Jennifer Walker as Head Gardener. Former Director Dr. Jacob Thomas, who spearheaded the original agreement with DVHS and oversaw the development of the Hosta Display Garden is retiring this October after twenty years of Barnes Arboretum leadership.

This year we welcomed as our new Director Dr. Clint Springer, who is Associate Professor of Biology (Environmental Science) and Director of the Institute for Environmental Stewardship at SJU.

The Arboretum's evolution definitely has advanced as sustainability has been more fully integrated into its living collections management. Educational opportunities are blossoming as well as the Arboretum and its programs are now integral to the larger University community. Activity and liveliness seems to have shifted more attention to the arboretum (including higher visitor numbers) than it had received in the previous hundred years of its existence.

Sampling the Garden



H. Kryptonite. K. Trampusch. R. 2009. Award-winning, stunning, all-green sport of *H. 'Halcyon'*.



Delaware Valley Hosta Society celebrates the opening of the display garden. The garden of mini's is in the foreground.



H. 'Dancing In the Rain'. Waters Gardens. R. 2004. A medium sized sport of (what else?) of course, *H. 'Blue Umbrellas'*. White center remains though-out the season.

Beautiful hosta border.
Photo: Bill Rein



H. Lakeside 'Ninita'. Mary Chastain. R 1993. *H. 'Hydon Sunset'* seedling. A perky little gold/lime mini. Holds onto its color throughout the season. No tilde, for some reason.

Your Photographs

A big
“Thank You” to
 those who contributed the
 photos.

We are always in need of your
 pictures for the newsletter.
 Please keep them coming!



Hosta Flowers.

Arrangement and photo by Barbara Nace



'Marrakech' coleus with coral impatiens. Photo: Marie Cartwright.



Perched in our backyard honeysuckle shrub a juvenile Cooper's Hawk surveys his surroundings. Hawk identified by Richard VanAken. Photo: Marie Cartwright.

Ed. note: organic vole control.

To the right:

Clinton and Anastasia Cleaver share a photo of their garden in Rydal PA. The picture includes: (clockwise from upper right) *H.* 'Neptune', *H.* 'White Feather', *Brunera* 'King's Ransom', *H.* 'Ko Mame', *H.* 'Shiny Penny', *Taraxacum officinale*, *H.* 'Blue Mouse Ears', *H.* 'Green Eyes', additional *H.* 'White Feather', and *H.* 'Fire Island'.

The stunning *H.* 'White Feather' is a sport of *H.* 'Undulata'. It was introduced and registered in 2005 by Gerard Heemskerk. After emerging pure white, it slowly becomes, mottled green with green veins as the season progresses. *H.* 'Zebra Stripes' and *H.* 'White Wall Tires' are similar but not quite as striking initially.



Status of Our Hosta Display Gardens

Marilyn Romenesko

There have been several DVHS sponsored Hosta Display Gardens installed over the past 20 years. These have been a main source of education for our members and the public about the genus *Hosta*. The gardens are located at Longwood Gardens, Awbury Arboretum, Morris Arboretum, Scott Arboretum, Tyler Arboretum and Barnes Arboretum. There are remnants of each of these gardens at each location, some in much better condition than others.

As with home gardening, there are always changes in the garden conditions which cause us to change the character and nature of our gardens. One of the most impactful changes is with the trees that provide the shade needed to satisfy hosta light and root area conditions. Loss of key shade trees or the invasion of tree roots both have a great impact in the garden. Another is the unmitigated browse of deer and other vertebrates, slugs and nematodes. A third is the sale or transfer of the property from one owner/garden manager to another. While there are other changes, like aging of the gardeners and their subsequent garden downsizing, the first three changes are likely the ones that most affect private gardens.

The same is true for public gardens. While agreements are made when these gardens are planned and installed, conditions change over time and as do these gardens. The first DVHS Hosta Display Garden developed by DVHS was done at Longwood Gardens in 1987 in advance of the AHS National Convention held in Philadelphia. The garden was planted in the shade of a River Birch tree and over the years, the tree's roots competed with the hostas more and more. Many of the original hostas have been relocated.

Three of our other public Hosta Display Gardens have been impacted by loss of shade, deer browsing and change of management. These include Awbury, Morris Arboretum and Scott Arboretum.

Our most recent and intensive installation is the National Hosta Display Garden at Barnes Arboretum. This is the finest of these gardens at present. It was developed by DVHS members Conny Parsons, myself and several volunteers from our group, as well as the staff of the Barnes Arboretum. Then Director, Dr. Jacob Thomas and Assistant Director, Bill Rein were very instrumental in coordinating these efforts with us.

The major changes in the Barnes Arboretum management (i.e., new Director, new Head Gardener, and the lease of property by St. Joseph's University), provide new challenges for the preservation and maintenance of our

National Hosta Display Garden. Volunteers were eliminated due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the maintenance of the gardens was subsequently affected. We look forward to connecting with the new staff and becoming involved in the management once again soon. We hope to resume our volunteer work days at the National Hosta Display Garden in the spring of 2022.



DOOR PRIZE FOR FALL MEETING

H. 'Blazing Saddles'. Tony Avent. Hybrid from *H.* Beatrice x *H.* Blue Umbrellas. R. 2000. Medium. Dark green with extra wide cream border.



AHGA HOSTA OF THE YEAR 2022

H. 'Island Breeze'. Walters Gardens. Sport of *H.* Paradise Island. R. 2014. Medium. Vigorous grower. Red Petioles contrast well with the cheerful yellow and green leaves. Watch for it at your local nursery.

The American Hosta Society

www.americanhostasociety.org

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

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 2021-22 www.delvalhosta.org

Please watch our website for more!

Saturday, TBA, 2022. Spring Meeting. Garden walk, Plant Sale, Auction. Boylan Garden. Pottstown, PA.

Saturday, TBA, 2022. Summer Meeting. Garden walk. Auction. BIG LEAF CONTEST. Kashey garden. Pottstown, PA.

Saturday, October 9, 2021. Zoom Meeting. Bill Rein. "National Hosta Display Garden at Barrnes Arboretum"

June 2022. AHS National Convention. Minneapolis, MN.

The Delaware Valley Hosta Society has been growing and would like to welcome the following new members who have recently joined our group:

Mike & Phyllis Bullins, West Grove, PA Nancy Curran, Media, PA Sally Farmer, New Berlin, PA

Ivy Fasko, Morgantown, PA Gail L. Neiman, Wayne, PA Charlie Rowland, Cherry Hill, NJ

Sherry Seasholtz, Pottstown, PA Janice Sisemore, Wayne, PA Damon G. Smith, Aberdeen, MD

Mary Sweeney, Centreville, VA Barry Weissman, Millsboro, DE
