

Saturday, November 5

Presentation and Business Meeting

Carol Brashear, Speaker
"Is It a New Hosta Sport Or Is It a Virus?"

Tyler Arboretum
515 Painter Road, Media, PA

11:30 Board meeting
1:00 Arboretum visit and hostality
2:00 Business meeting
2:30 Presentation by Carol Brashear
3:30 Mingling and clean-up

Directions to Tyler Arboretum info@tylerarboretum.org

Directions from the Blue Route (Route 476): Take the Blue Route to the Route 1 – Springfield/Lima exit (Exit #5). Take Route 1 Southbound to Route 352. Turn right onto Route 352 North, which goes past the remains of Granite Run Mall. Follow Route 352 North to the first intersection after the Mall and turn right onto Barren Road. Follow Barren Road past Penncrest High School (on the right). Turn left at the next intersection (small intersection with four-way stop signs) onto Painter Road. Follow Painter Road about one mile to the Arboretum entrance, located on the right.

From Media and Springfield: Take Baltimore Pike South to Route 352 North. Proceed as above.

From Philadelphia and Northern Areas: Take City Line Avenue (Route 1) South to Route 352 North. Proceed as above.

From Delaware and Southern Areas: Take I-95 North to Marcus Hook/Route 452 exit. Exit on the right and turn left onto Route 452 North. Stay on Route 452, crossing over Routes 1 and 352. Route 452 changes into Barren Road after crossing Route 352. Proceed as above.

From Newtown Square and Broomall: Take Route 3 South to Route 252. Follow Route 252 towards Media. Turn right onto Rose Tree Road. Follow Rose Tree Road to Painter Road. Turn right onto Painter Road and follow about 2 miles to the Arboretum parking lot on the right.

From Delaware (Alternate), Chadds Ford and Kennett Square: Take Route 202 North to Route 1. Follow Route 1 North to intersection of Route 452. Turn left onto Route 452. Stay on Route 452, crossing over Route 352. Route 452 changes into Barren Road after crossing Route 352. Proceed as above.



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Raffles/Special Events

Position open

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President's Message

The cooler autumn weather is settling in, and we've scaled back our efforts in staving off the effects of drought by dragging hoses to and fro. Most of the hostas will survive, even if they went dormant too soon, but it is gratifying to note the ones that sailed through the drought period looking pretty darn good. Some newer cultivars like 'Snow Bunting' and 'Cold Heart' are still standing tall, while some others may be looking for a home in our "penalty box" next spring.

In truth the "penalty box" is really a hospital bed: one of a series of beds around our shed that are filled with varied mixtures of good garden soil, sand and/or perlite and potting soil. Some plants staged here, after struggling in a garden spot or suffering some other indignity, have returned with a flourish. Our 'Niagara Falls', having fallen the victim to our one (and only, I hope) vole attack, spent a season in the hospital and has now been returned to a new spot in the garden, where it is coming along nicely. On the other hand, the perennially under-performing 'Lakeside Cupcake' didn't even bother to come up this year, leaving a forlorn garden tag tombstone as the only reminder of what it once promised.

Other sections of the penalty boxes hold a few streaked plants that I have grown on to do a bit of hybridizing. Dabbling, really, as I don't have the space in my seed-growing area to churn out literally thousands of seedlings each winter; a few dozen is enough for me. Having these special plants in a raised bed does make it easier to watch for the blooms, and, in a new twist this year, to twist on colored wires marking each pollinated bloom with an indicator as to the pollen donor. Soon, this year's seedling crop, planted last February, will need to find room in these beds, while I carefully gather and store the seeds to start next February.

The largest area of these boxes, though, is devoted to temporary holding space for those plants we just had to have but don't yet have an idea where they're going in the garden. This happens to all of us, right? Some choice variegated shrub that was a smaller rooted cutting than we expected, or the hostas we bought at the auctions or national convention, or something discovered at those end-of-season sales... We can't resist our plant addictions.

I'm sure I'm "preaching to the choir" on this, as we all suffer in our own ways. But I wonder if you've come across other people who really like plants but haven't gotten the hosta bug yet. Don't you think it's time you invited someone to a DVHS meeting? We'll be looking for new members as we gear up for the 2018 convention, which is gearing up to be something big indeed. So, share your garden bug with others. Keep some pictures of your favorite hostas on your phone to show off your babies. Keep sending people to our website. And we'll keep working to make you happy about hostas.

David Teager

Is It a New Hosta Sport Or Is It a Virus?

Carol Brashear

With lots of photo examples of new sports and various *other* new types of variegation in hostas, we'll have a bit of show-and-tell, along with audience participation, on the topic.

Now, more than ever, it is important to be vigilant about what and where you buy plants for your hosta garden. We all had hoped that by now *Hosta virus X* (HVX) would no longer be a concern, but more and more infected plants are being sold to an unsuspecting public.

Armed with the latest information and interactive discussion about today's hosta marketplace, we hope this presentation will better prepare you for future purchases.

This is not a "Woe Is Me" class with slide after ugly slide. It is a "Let's Try To Evaluate This New Variegation Pattern To See If We've Discovered **The Next Hot Hosta Sport!**"

And by request, if time permits, there will be a brief virtual tour of the Brashear/Meyer garden. The variety and varied plants are the result of two plant nuts combining their love of gardening into one jam packed garden in middle of Connecticut.

Carol Brashear is the Region One director of the American Hosta Society and has been the meeting chair of First Look since its inception in 2000. First Look is a new seedling and sport competition that showcases the work of hybridizers and invites hosta enthusiasts to seek out new hosta sports in their own gardens and to look for the unusual while shopping for new hostas each spring. Have you found a



H. 'Gunther's Prize' in the Tilger garden. Beautiful and stunning variegation in a healthy hosta. Staff photo.

hosta sport that isn't on the market? First Look encourages you to enter it in the competition and maybe take home a big prize and introduce it into the marketplace.

After nearly 40 years in the aviation field, Carol now is enjoying every minute of every day in retirement, filling her days with gardening, photography, cooking and navigating life with Bill and their current house rabbit, Griffin.

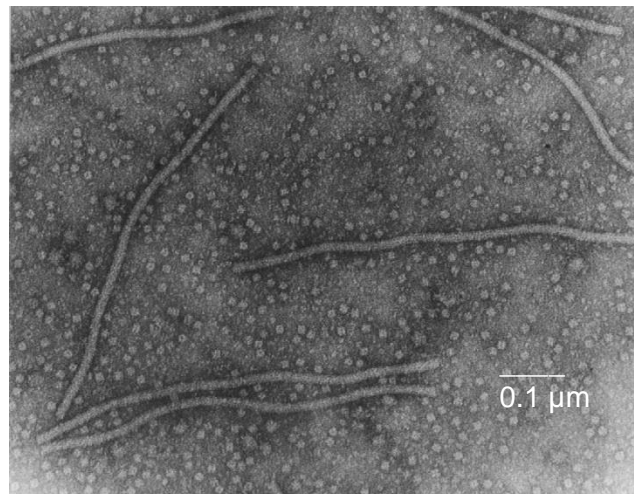
More About HVX

Editor's Note

Hosta Virus X is a *Potexvirus*. Viruses in this classification are all similar to the *Potato X Virus*, hence the name *Potex*. Along with all other members of this category, HVX is a Group IV, ssRNA positive strand virus.



Large yellow hosta seedling infected with HVX. Staff Photo



Potato X *potexvirus*
Photo from "Plant Viruses Online"

4 **BIG** Leaf Contest

The competition for largest hosta leaf, regardless of condition, was held in Susan Yeager's beautiful garden. Under dark and threatening skies there was no time for a picture. Contestants included 'Sour Puss', 'Lady Isobel Barnett', 'Sum and Substance', 'Empress Wu' and a variety of others. Congratulations to all who entered.

The tape measure worked fast and furiously, as thunder rumbled in the distance. Finally, the results were announced. In third place, was 'Sum and Substance', grown by Merle Kohn. Length x width calculated to be 313.5 in². Coming in second was that formidable lady,

'Empress Wu', at 316.0 in², grown by Marilyn Romenesko. Taking first place, once again, was 'Sum and Substance', grown by, once again, Missy Kashey. A gigantic 374.1 in². The leaf was a "real pro," traveling to First Look, where it also took the Big Leaf Prize in the Yellow Division.

Missy graciously offered an immense portion of the parent plant for the auction, so that others could grow a piece of the big-leaf action. After some discussion about cutting it apart, it was decided to auction the behemoth as a whole. Charlie Seaver, with assistance, took it home. Perhaps we will see an even tighter competition in 2017.

Hosta of the Year

The American Hosta Growers Association established the AHGA Hosta of the Year in 1996. It is selected by a vote of AHGA members. Award winners are hostas that are good garden plants in all regions of the country, are widely available in sufficient supply, and retail for about \$15.00 in the year of selection. The hosta is usually chosen at least two years in advance to allow nurseries enough time to increase their stock.

Hostas of the Year have included 'So Sweet'(1996), 'Sum and Substance'(2004), and 'Blue Mouse Ears'(2008.)

For a complete list of Hostas of the Year, go to the Hosta Library (www.hostalibrary.org) and check out "LISTS."

The 2017 selection is 'Brother Stefan', registered by Olga Petryszyn in 1998. The mature plant is 35" x 22". The leaf is 11" x 10" wide, yellow with a slightly rippled medium green margin, and dull on top with a glaucous bloom on the underside. It is deeply corrugated and slightly cupped. The leaf has a "maple leaf" variegation pattern..

Hosta Display Garden At Barnes

On September DVHS volunteers assisted with planting additional large sized hostas in the National Hosta Display Garden at Barnes Arboretum. A wide swath of pink flowered lily-of-the-valley made way for new hostas including five each of *H. 'Humpback Whale'*, *H. 'Vulcan'*, *H. kikutii*, and *H. 'Gypsy Rose'*. In addition, four *H. 'Bridal Falls'* and 13 more hosta cultivars were added bringing our total number of hosta cultivars to 160.

In other areas, we transplanted a few hostas to relieve crowding. Yes, the hostas we planted in 2012 through 2014 have grown substantially.

Bill Rein, DVHS member and Barnes employee, prepared the area and we dug out the roots of the original

groundcover. In spite of the droughty conditions, the soil was surprisingly moist. Bill assisted with the planting and edging of the newly planted area across from the hostas planted in Phase 2 of the initial plantings. Deputy Director of the Barnes Arboretum, Jacob Thomas was present for the morning installations.

The plants were grown on from 4" pots in the Parson's nursery bed, tended, harvested, and delivered by Conny and Jim Parsons. A big THANK YOU to them and to other DVHS volunteers including; Rebecca Boylan, Christel Badey, Middy Dorrence, Catherine Mazauskas, and Marilyn and Dan Romenesko.



Left. *H. 'Brother Stefan'*. Photo by Olga Petryszyn.
Right. *H. 'Lovepat'* displaying vibrant fall color. Staff Photo.

Combatting Foliar Nematodes: Suggested Protocol Using NEMAKILL®

Warren I. Pollock
Glen Mills, Pennsylvania

The American Hosta Society Foliar Nematode Research Project is now completed. Two articles on the studies and findings were published this year in *The Hosta Journal* (THJ). Cindy Deutekom and Rob Mortko, the current and previous AHS Vice President of the Genus Hosta, respectively, who have been directly associated with the studies, authored a progress report in the Spring 2016 issue (47[1]:10-11). And Prof. P.S. Grewal and Dr. R. An, the principal researchers at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville (now at Univ. of Texas Rio Grande Valley), authored a final project report in the Fall 2016 issue (47[2]).

For most gardeners, probably the most important findings of the studies are the following:

- Foliar nematodes (*Aphelenchoides fragariae*), microscopic worm-like animals, overwinter as juveniles and adults in the soil, dry leaves and on dormant buds (crowns) of a hosta. They do not overwinter in the crown or roots, nor do they overwinter as eggs.

As the soil warms in spring, under humid/wet conditions, overwintering nematodes move upward in thin films of water on the outer surfaces of petioles and leaves, eventually invading leaves. Once inside leaves, they feed on tissue, resulting in first yellow, then brown and finally black lesions (scars) between veins. They can exit the leaf at ruptured scar tissue and spread to other plants nearby by rain/overhead watering.

- Treatment of dormant hosta buds while the plant is in the ground with either boiling water or NEMAKILL solution in the spring can significantly reduce foliar nematode infection in the leaves in the subsequent and fall seasons.

Hot water has been a recommended treatment for many years. Several THJ articles in the past discussed submerging an entire infected hosta clump—roots, crown and leaves—in 120°F water for 15-20 minutes. Unless done exactly and with extreme care, the live plant can be badly damaged, even killed.

NEMAKILL

NEMAKILL is an organic liquid containing 32% cinnamon oil, 8% clove oil, 15% thyme oil and 45% inert ingredients such as fatty acid salts, i.e., horticultural soaps, and water. It is manufactured by ExcelAg, Miami, FL (www.excelag.com). The distributor for the smallest size container, 1-quart, is The CISCO Companies in Indianapolis.

www.ciscoseeds.com/grow7

1-800-888-2986 X310: Kathie Lawrence

NEMAKILL is a contact nematicide. It is not a systemic nematicide. That is, NEMAKILL is not appreciably absorbed by the plant and therefore does not kill nematodes inside the leaves. So, if you apply NEMAKILL to hosta leaves already containing foliar nematodes, these nematodes will not be killed because the nematicide is not in contact with them. Effective treatment with NEMAKILL occurs when the hosta is dormant and nematodes on the dormant buds are exposed to the nematicide.

For treatment of hostas, a dilute solution of NEMAKILL is applied. Instructions on the container are: 1 tablespoon (0.5 fluid ounce) per 1 gallon water. However, this makes a solution slightly less than 5% (v/v)—which is the concentration Grewal and An used in their studies. To make a 5% solution, mix 4 teaspoons NEMAKILL per 1 gallon water.

The 2016 THJ articles do not describe a comprehensive protocol for applying NEMAKILL. Based on discussions with DVHS president David Teager, a member of the project's scientific committee, and DVHS member Eve Thyrum, who is test treating a severely infected hosta, the following is suggested. (Note the procedure requires repeated applications during the year and treatment for several consecutive years.)

APPLICATION PROTOCOL

1. **LATE SUMMER.** If foliage has unsightly nematode scarring, remove and carefully dispose of all infected leaves as well as surrounding mulch. **Do not** use for compost; discard as trash. Thoroughly clean hands and tools with hot water and soap.

Then DRENCH CROWN and SOIL around it with NEMAKILL solution.

2. **FALL.** Thoroughly clear the ground of all dried-up foliage, plant debris and any mulch. **Do not** use for compost; discard as trash. Keep the ground clean throughout winter and early spring.

After clean-up, DRENCH DORMANT CROWN and SOIL around it with NEMAKILL solution.

3. **NEXT YEAR.** Depending on the weather, in late WINTER or very early SPRING, **before buds emerge from the crown**, DRENCH DORMANT CROWN and SOIL around it with NEMAKILL solution. Also, thoroughly soak any pips.

4. **TWO WEEKS LATER.** Depending on the weather, DRENCH CROWN and SOIL again with NEMAKILL solution. Also, thoroughly soak pips and any petioles and leaves.

5. **TWO WEEKS AFTERWARD.** DRENCH CROWN and SOIL again with NEMAKILL solution. Also, thoroughly dose pips, petioles and leaves.
6. **LATE SUMMER and FALL.** Repeat steps 1 and 2.
7. **NEXT YEAR.** Starting in late WINTER or very early SPRING: Repeat steps.
8. **FOLLOWING YEAR.** Repeat steps.

HANDLING NEMAKILL

The manufacturer's instructions recommend applying NEMAKILL early in the morning or in late afternoon.

The dormant crown and surrounding soil must be thoroughly soaked with NEMAKILL solution. This means saturating the ground to perhaps one-inch depth. This may require 1/3 gallon or more of NEMAKILL solution for each hosta.

If the plant is in a container, pour NEMAKILL solution on soil until it runs out the drainage hole. Repeat after 10-15 minutes. Or submerge the container in a vessel containing NEMAKILL solution for one minute.

The label on the container says NEMAKILL is "slightly toxic." Frankly, I don't know what this means. I recommend NEMAKILL be considered a potentially harmful chemical. Proper safety goggles—better yet full face shield—and thick nitrile/rubber gloves—preferably with long sleeves—should be used. Avoid contact with skin, eyes and clothing. Contaminated clothing should be washed before reuse. Unless wearing special boots, avoid stepping or standing on soil or pavement wet with NEMAKILL.

EFFECTS OF NEMAKILL

It is important to note what Grewal and An claimed: NEMAKILL can significantly reduce nematode infection. They do not claim that NEMAKILL can 100% eliminate foliar nematodes in hostas growing in the ground or in containers.

In other words, though nematode infection in a hosta can be significantly reduced with NEMAKILL treatment, remaining nematodes in the plant may still result in leaf scarring. Nematodes reproduce extremely rapidly. Several treatments of the dormant crown may be needed to significantly reduce the infection so there is no noticeable leaf damage that year. Even so, there still may be nematodes that overwinter. So in the next year and year after, without treatment there may be leaf scarring again. That is why the protocol requires treatment for several years.

If your hosta foliage criterion is aesthetics, that is, no visible foliage damage, this probably is attainable, but likely requires repeated NEMAKILL treatments. But, if your criterion is a nematode-free hosta (or perhaps even "nearly" nematode free)—and the plant previously was heavily infected and leaf scared, the bar may be too high for a contact nematicide.

Cindy Deutekom (cindydeutekom@gmail.com) is collecting NEMAKILL experiences. Please supply her with details of what you did when and what you observed when. She has a list of questions that need answering; please contact her for details. I suspect a report will be issued when a sufficient number of field experiences are documented. Examination of the information might indicate fewer drenches are needed.

Comments on this article and the suggested protocol are welcome.

My email address is giboshiwip@aol.com.

DVHS 2017 Calendar

www.delvalhosta.org

**February 25, 2017. Hosta Soup.
Speaker TBA.**

**April 29, 2017. Spring Meeting and Plant Sale. Speaker TBA.
Tredyffrin Public Library.**

**June 3, 2017. Garden Walk, Potluck and Auction. Steven Buckwalter Garden.
Landisville, PA**

**July 15, 2017. Garden Walk and BIG Leaf Contest. Bruce Gangawer's Paxon Hill Farm.
New Hope, PA**

June 7-11, 2017. AHS National Convention. Indianapolis, IN.

June, 2018. AHS National Convention. Philadelphia, PA.

June, 2019. AHS National Convention. Green Bay, WI.

**Delaware Valley Hosta Society
is now on Facebook!!**

As of November 5, 460 days and counting.....

At long last, we have reached an agreement with a hotel for *hosting the National Convention!* Barring unforeseen circumstances, we will be at the DoubleTree Valley Forge from June 19 to June 23 in 2018.

A big group of DVHS members met in July to do some powerful brainstorming. And, as in any good brainstorming session, we came up with a novel idea or three that will make our convention extra special. I'm not sure if you've been to meetings like this, but I like to include a big notepad or whiteboard to use as a "parking lot," where interesting ideas get jotted down when it looks like it would disrupt the agenda to dig too deep right away. (I also like to stick to an agenda, even during brain-storming!) But early in the meeting, an idea got put up on the parking lot board: what if, instead of having attendees push through two long days of garden tours, we broke the tours into shorter routes over three days?

Of course, with this shiny new idea sitting in that parking lot, it came up again and again as a way to bring innovation to our convention. For those of you who have attended a previous national convention, you can imagine how this idea puts stress on some of the other convention "must-dos." At a time when many organizations are down-sizing events like this, we'll be going a bit super-size. But I'm convinced we're going to make it work! It's the AHS's 50th birthday, after all.

Activity will continue this winter; 20 months away is really not very far! Our big marketing push will begin with the convention in Indianapolis next year, which you should note is a few weeks earlier than usual. I hope a good number of you can plan to attend to help us build up interest. The "Hosta Hysteria" folks have put up a nice website at www.indyhosta2017.com. We'll definitely be building on their apparent technical savvy, as I also want to add some gentle technical innovation to 2018's event.

Thanks again to Rebecca and Dan for hosting the brainstorming, and to Barbara, Tiff, Conny, Warren, Missy, Kathy, Susan, Christel, Alan, Marilyn, Dan and Stephen for attending. (I hope I remembered everyone.) I don't know how often we'll have big-group brainstorming like this, but let me know if you want to be added to a list of invitees or what special aspects of the convention you would like to work on. Leaders are needed for registration, publications/promotions, and volunteer coordination. We'll also need help down the road with decorations, garden assistants and bus captains.

The DVHS board will be meeting on November 5, where we will, of course, devote some time to convention planning. All members are welcome to attend and contribute.

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 below.

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? _____

Step Right Up !!!

Would you like to get more involved?
The Delaware Valley Hosta Society can always use
your help.

Help with hospitality

Help with plant auctions

Help with meetings and programming

Help with our display gardens

Contact any board member. We'd love to hear
from you.

Hostatality for Fall Meeting

**Please bring snacks, nibblies,
cookies, etc. to share.**

**Ice water and lemonade will be
provided.**



A hearty welcome to new members:

Anthony and Rebekah Doyle

Zoray and Larry Speilvogel

Dale and Jean Wade

Beverly Agard

Jim Oehlert

Barbara Vogel

Donna Donelon

Richard Schoeniger

Mary Tipping

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