



Picnic, Shopping and Auction: Teich & McColgan Nursery Saturday, July 11, 12:30–3:30 p.m.

Robin and Roland Teich, hosts
903 Upper Stump Rd, Chalfont, PA 18914
215-249-3735

12:00 Set-up time—Please volunteer to help

12:30 Picnic and Plant-picking! Details inside

2:00 Auction and Big Leaf Contest winners

3:00 Check-out time (if you haven't already)

3:30 Clean-up time—Please volunteer

Directions to July 11 Meeting

Teich & McColgan is west of Doylestown, PA, about 1 hour from Philadelphia or 1.5 from central Wilmington (for reference). There are two approaches from the south that will work for most people, but which you choose may require some personal research. If you're coming from the north, there are many options. Let me know if you need help finding a route, or call the nursery.

From most points south (Wilmington, Philadelphia/NJ via I-95 south, or from south Jersey via Commodore Barry/I-95 north: Get to the Penna Turnpike, taking either I-95 to I-476 north, or US Rt 202 north, or I-76 to I-476. Head east (New Jersey) on the turnpike. Take Exit 339 (Ambler) for Route 309 north. After 7.5 miles, take the ramp at right to Rt 202 north. (NOTE: this is the "new" 202, which may not show on older GPS systems.) After 3 miles turn left on PA-152/Limekiln Pike. Follow PA-152 for about 3.5 miles (with right/left turns in Chalfont), then turn right onto Upper Stump Road. Follow Upper Stump Road 1.6 miles (with left/right turns at 1.4 mi) to the nursery, on the right.

Note: the route below (taking Rt 611 from turnpike) also works, but will be slower due to traffic.

From south via Penna Turnpike west, from points E or NE (or even NE Philadelphia): Get to Penna Turnpike (either from NJ or from I-95 or Rt 1 connectors). Take the turnpike to Exit 343 (Doylestown) and take US Rt 611 north. After 3.3 miles, turn left on County Line Rd. After 3.6 miles, turn slight right onto PA-152 toward Chalfont. Directions are now the same as above.

From Doylestown area: Take PA Route 313 headed northwest (e.g., from Rt 202 or Rt 611, northeast of downtown Doylestown). This is East Swamp Road. Five miles from Rt 202, turn left on Upper Stump Road. The nursery is on your left after about 2.5 miles.

Parking: As you drive down the lane, pull in head-first along both sides. Carpooling is encouraged. Robin and Roland's regular customers are mingling with us, so we'd like to save a few parking spaces for them.



DVHS Officers

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President's Message

A large contingent of Delaware Valley members braved the 100 °F temperatures in Raleigh, NC, for the national convention. We answered lots of questions about "Phifty in Philly 2018" as people saw our bright yellow buttons and needed to know more. Many people are already excited about this convention and promise to come, so this means that we need even more of our DVHS members to take a role on one of the convention committees.

Special congratulations to DVHS members who entered the Hosta Show at the national convention. All (Charlie, Conny, David, Kathy, Marilyn and Warren) came away with blue ribbons, with Warren taking a top prize for his educational display and Charlie winning "Best Newsletter Article."

Of course we didn't come back from Raleigh with an empty car. We bought only a dozen hostas, but found an equal number of shade perennials to fill the borders too. Unfortunately, the mulch pile and weeds were still here when we got home—no magic garden fairies or TLC TV crew showed up at our house while we were away—so it's back to working on the beds. We did notice that slugs haven't been a problem yet (we don't treat), and hostas are getting huge (we do irrigate).

I'm now working on my large border where we removed a 60-foot pin oak that had been afflicted with leaf scorch this winter. It was the primary source of shade in the garden. Other trees were added years ago, but there still isn't enough shade for the hostas; I'm scrambling to find suitable small trees. This is a familiar scenario: we removed pawpaws in the front yard a few years ago, erecting beach umbrellas to provide temporary shade for the blues as they were scorching. The plants won't die, but change is hard.

July's meeting is a double bonus as we not only have the opportunity to obtain special plants during the auction, but we can also shop at a premier daylily and hosta nursery. Remember to bring your shady plant donations; my pile is growing on the patio and I'm still weeding my epimediums. All proceeds benefit our display gardens and club expenses.

See you on July 11, and please join us also at the Barnes Arboretum celebrating the opening of our National Hosta Display Garden on July 23.

— Rebecca Boylan

DVHS to Host Judges' Clinic I

On **Saturday, July 18**, the Delaware Valley Hosta Society offers you the opportunity to jump on the pathway toward becoming an AHS-accredited show judge! It's not too late to sign up, but you'll need to go to the Hosta Judging section of the American Hosta Society's website (www.americanhostasociety.org) to download and print out your judge's handbook. Call Conny Parsons (610-558-6196) to let her know you're coming. The clinic starts at 9:30; lunch will be provided when the session ends.

At the convention last month, the AHS's highest honor (the Alex J. Summers Award) went to Claudia Walker, who spoke eloquently about the benefit that hosta shows provide the Society. We need you to be a part of it! 🌿

Hosta-tality for June 11 picnic

Ham, potato salad, and some beverages will be provided, along with plates, cups, etc.

Please bring side dishes, desserts, or anything else you want to share.

Bring chairs! Even tables if you want. It's a picnic, so of course picnic blankets are fine.

Come early if you can help set up.

DVHS Meeting, July 11, 2015

Picnic, Big Leaf Contest, Shopping, and Auction
Teich & McColgan Daylilies, Hostas, and Perennials
Chalfont, Pennsylvania

Let's go shopping! We will meet and picnic at the family run nursery owned by Robin and Roland Teich. This quaint little nursery has been offering hostas and daylilies since the 1980s. The daylilies will be "strutting their stuff" in time for our meeting. Roland and his crew will dig your favorites for you to take home that day. Additional plant offerings include: *Spigelia marilandica* along with other native plants, and a wide assortment of perennials, including varieties of "Hen and Chicks." Check out the extensive hosta collection on the website: <http://teichandmccolgan.com/>. A few selections from the associated on-line photo album are shown here. Do not fear the hemerocallis! 🌸



Above: H. 'Kryptonite', a shiny green 'Halcyon' sport.



Left: the daylily field in July.
Below left: one of the shade garden displays.

Below: Hemerocallis 'Ruby Spider' is a multiple award-winner.

All photos by Teich & McColgan.



BIG LEAF CONTEST (BLC). DVHS will hold its annual, hugely crass, giant hosta leaf contest. Condition, beauty, cleanliness, etc., matter not at all—just length x width. Is 'Sum and Substance' done for? Will 'Lady Isobel Barnett' again step into the winner's circle? Or, is there a newcomer waiting in the wings? The tension builds! 🌸

JOIN THE AHS!

Visit www.hosta.org where you can join on-line. Members get on-line access to *The Hosta Journal* and more, including access to next year's new AHS-only hosta cultivar, 'Sterling Medallion'.

4 Reliable Hydrangeas for the Shade Garden

Rebecca Boylan

Gardeners start growing hostas because they have a lot of shade from the surrounding trees. Some fill the space with hostas: large plants in the back, small ones in the front, and medium ones in the middle. But I like some variety in my garden, and was a collector of woody plants before hostas. I planted all the trees that have created the shade on my property, or utilized the adjacent woods. Then I added shrubs, and finally the perennials. Over time, the plant palette for shade-loving shrubs to use in the hosta garden became limited, but I've discovered that some hydrangeas fit the bill perfectly.

Hydrangeas bring to mind big balls of blue or pink flower heads, exemplified by *Hydrangea macrophylla*. *H. macrophylla* isn't always reliably hardy (or at least bloom-hardy) in my Zone 6b garden, so I tend to stay away from it. I also think that it is too coarse and overpowering to mix in with the bold leaves of hostas. I prefer its "cousin," *H. serrata*, the mountain hydrangea.

H. serrata is a 3–5 foot open shrub with lance-shaped leaves. Most of the flowers are lacecap as opposed to the mophead types of typical *H. macrophylla*. Flower color ranges through shades of pink, blue, or white. *H. serrata* is hardy to zone 6, with many hardy to zone 5b. This is a delicate shrub that can be placed in the front of the border with large hostas behind it, or in the middle of a grouping of hostas on a bank. A large grouping of *H. serrata* is spectacular.

Favorites include *H. serrata* 'Tokyo Delight', a reliable older cultivar; the corymb (flower cluster) has a ring of white sterile florets surrounding a center of light blue fertile florets. The corymbs are small, but numerous and are layered in tiers throughout the plant. A rarer cultivar but worth the search is 'Woodlander'. This small, spreading hydrangea is filled with small lacecap flowers and can be tucked into a shady nook or under a red Japanese maple for contrast as the leaves take on a purplish cast during the fall. (See picture.)

A new development in *H. serrata* is TINY TUFF STUFF™, a true groundcover hydrangea. This 18–24 inch plant blooms on both new and old wood, so even the harshest winters can't stop its blooming power. Consider TINY TUFF STUFF™ for the front of the border, repeated throughout your garden, or even in pots.

One harsh winter can destroy all of the hydrangea's flower buds, but *H. arborescens*, the smooth hydrangea, blooms on new wood and isn't bothered by these conditions. The most commonly encountered cultivar is 'Annabelle', a vigorous 3–5 foot shrub topped with 10-inch white globes of flowers. 'Annabelle' can tolerate part shade to sun and slowly spreads to form a colony. Cut the stems back nearly to the ground



The corymbs of 'Tokyo Delight' are a delightful pale blue. R. Boylan photo

in the spring to promote sturdy growth, as the plant can get top-heavy from the large flower heads.

Smaller smooth hydrangeas fit better into the hosta garden and are less likely to flop during a rain storm. *H. arborescens* 'Hayes Starburst' grows only 2–4 feet tall and sports a dome of flowers 6–8 inches across. *H. arborescens* subspecies *radiata* 'Samantha' is well-suited for the shade garden as it prefers the cooler temperatures. 'Samantha' has a 6-inch lacecap dome of florets, but the highlight if this plant is its silver-backed leaves. Site it on a hillside where you can view the undersides, or along a path to catch the breeze.

Dry shade is always a landscaping problem, but *Hydrangea quercifolia*, the oakleaf hydrangea, fits that niche perfectly. This native hydrangea has panicles of flowers that emerge white and age in colors ranging from green, pink, purple, to red. Plants range in height see *Hydrangeas* on p. 5



'Woodlander' settles into a mixed shade border. R. Boylan photo

Hydrangeas continued from previous page

from 4 to 10 feet, so there's bound to be a plant to fit your needs. *H. quercifolia* 'Snowflake' is the standard back of the border plant, or underneath limbed trees where other shrubs have difficulty growing. Panicles reach 15 inches long, and this may weigh down the branches, especially when wet. Most oakleaf hydrangeas form colonies, so give them plenty of room to grow.

Smaller *H. quercifolia* cultivars fit nicely into the middle of the shady border. 'Sikes Dwarf' tops out at about 4 feet in my garden and has white panicles that stay upright. 'Ruby Slippers' and 'Munchkin' are two recent cultivars developed by the US National Arboretum for small stature and upright panicles. The flowers start out white, quickly turn pink, and remain that color for most of the season. As with all oakleaf hydrangeas, the panicles turn brown in the fall, adding interest throughout the winter season.

A word about hydrangea pruning: hydrangeas bloom on either old or new wood, so knowing what species



'Samantha' showing its white blooms and silver-white leaf undersides. R. Boylan photo.

you have will indicate when to prune. *H. arborescens* and *H. paniculata* bloom on new wood and are pruned in the spring. Cut back *H. arborescens* to only 2 to 4 inches (a technique known as coppicing), and prune *H. paniculata* to half its height (or more if needed). Don't worry, they really will grow back!

H. macrophylla, *H. serrata*, and *H. quercifolia* all bloom on old wood, so they should be pruned, if needed, just after flowering. Any later and you risk removing next year's blossoms. Just prune

to shape or remove flower heads. I rarely prune my oakleaf hydrangeas unless there's a wayward branch. As we've had some harsh winters lately, I've waited until new growth emerges in the spring before making any pruning decisions on these species. [Editor's note: beware of deer who may do some pruning for you!]

Many of these cultivars are available at good local nurseries, arboretum plant sales, or from mail order sources. We may even see a few at upcoming auctions! 🐾

IT'S A BARNES PARTY

INVITING ALL DVHS MEMBERS

Thursday, July 23, 10:30 – 12:30

300 N. Latch's Lane, Merion, PA 19066

No dancing, but a great way to celebrate and tour the newly designated American Hosta Society National Hosta Display Garden at the Barnes Arboretum. Light snacks and drinks will be provided. DVHS Members will be available to answer questions about the hosta collection.

On the Barnes Foundation Arboretum website (www.barnesfoundation.org), you can find a seasonal bloom chart for the month as well as the hours the arboretum is open to the public and for tours of the entire arboretum.

Please drop us an email if you plan on coming so you get free access to the garden on this day: Connyparsons1@aol.com or Marilyn.Romenesko@gmail.com 🐾

Step right up!

The following is a list of committees/chairs, who are always looking for a few volunteers. EASY and FUN!

Publications: David Teager, 610-485-4149

Membership: Dan Boylan 610-327-8217

Plant Sales and Auctions: Charlie Seaver

Display Gardens: Marilyn Romenesko, Chair, 302-765-3581

Hospitality: Chris Dambro, Chair, 610-388-7743

As well, we are now seeking Convention Chairs and Team Members for the 2018 convention. Teams include: Conventioneer Interface, Program, Events, Vendor, and Garden. Other key roles are Hotel Liaison and AHS Liaison. There are many sub-team positions as well, so there can be a job for anyone. And everyone else can help simply by attending! Book it now: June 20–23, 2018. 🐾

Cut off and mail in, or bring to the meeting.

Delaware Valley Hosta Society Membership and Renewal Form

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

Mail to: Dan 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 2015

www.delvalhosta.org

Saturday, February 28: DVHS Winter Meeting,
Easttown Public Library, Berwyn, PA
Hosta Soup and Hosta Chat; Presentation on voles,
and discussion of DVHS activities.

Saturday, April 25: DVHS Spring Meeting,
Tredyffrin Public Library, Wayne, PA
Hosta plant sale and great hospitality. Guest: Marta
McDowell, on "Hostas in the Victorian Garden"

Saturday, June 6: DVHS Tour of Parsons' Garden,
Glen Mills, PA. Potluck and plant auction.

June 18–20: AHS National Convention
in Raleigh, North Carolina, hosted by Nancy and
Bob Solberg. Visit www.hosta.org or
www.2015ahsconvention.com.

Saturday, July 11: DVHS Picnic at Teich and
McColgan nursery in Chalfont, PA, with BIG LEAF
contest, plant auction, and more fun!

Saturday, July 18: AHS Judges' Clinic I hosted by
DVHS. Holly Lane Gardens. Please register.

Thursday, July 23: Barnes garden opening reception
at 10:30 a.m., Barnes Foundation Arboretum,
Merion, PA.

Saturday, October 17: DVHS Fall Meeting
At the Montgomery County 4H Center, Collegeville.
Workshop: "Shaping the Shade Garden."
Biennial election of officers.

Saturday, October 26: Tri-State Hosta Meeting
Frelinghuysen, NJ, speaker TBA.

IT'S DUES TIME

Please check your mailing label. If you see a number less than 15, your membership has expired. 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. If you want to continue hearing from us, 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.

Use the form on Page 5.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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