



## June 2014

### Garden Tour and Auction: Teagate

**Saturday, June 7, 12:00–4:00 p.m.**

Stephen Fugate and David Teager, hosts  
1411 Deer Meadow Lane, Garnet Valley, PA 19060

**12:00 Garden tour and potluck lunch (see page 2)**

**2:00 Auction**

### Hosta Show: A “Dewey” Hosta Morning Saturday and Sunday, June 21–22

Tredyffrin Public Library  
582 Upper Gulph Rd., Wayne, PA, 19087

**Saturday: Entries, judging, and public display**

**Sunday: Public Display breakdown (See schedule inside)**

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#### **Directions to June 7 Meeting**

Teagate is near the Booth's Corner Farmers market in Garnet Valley (Boothwyn in many GPS units), just north of the Delaware state line from North Wilmington. It is about 15 minutes from the Rt 202 exit from I-95 in Wilmington, or from the Rt 322 exit from I-95 in Chester, or from the intersection of Rt 202 and Rt 1 (Concordville, near Kennett Square). If you need further help with directions, please email [dsteager@earthlink.net](mailto:dsteager@earthlink.net) and I will be glad to assist.

**Parking at Teagate:** The driveway is long, forking partway to serve two houses; Teagate is on the left. Please do not drive off the edge, as you may sink, and please do not use the neighbor's fork of the drive. You may drive up to the house to drop off food or plants, but then please park on the wide part of the drive or, better yet, back on Deer Meadow Lane.

**From Delaware:** Arrive at the intersection of Foulk and Naamans Roads by your preferred route. Take Foulk Road north, passing Booth's Corner (the intersection with Naamans Creek Road). Deer Meadow Lane is the 2nd right after Booth's Corner.

**From Pennsylvania (or, by extension, New Jersey):** Take Rt 322 either west from I-95 (Philadelphia or New Jersey) or east from intersection of Rts 1 and 202 (from points north and west). Foulk Rd (Rt 261) is 4 miles from either of those points. Take Rt 261 south 1.3 miles to Deer Meadow Ln, on the left just past the school zone.



## DVHS Officers

### President

Rebecca Boylan  
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Wilmington, DE  
Conny Parsons  
Glen Mills, PA

#### Plant Sales & Auctions

Charlie Seaver  
Hockessin, DE

#### Hostatality

Chris and Gene Dambro  
Chadds Ford, PA

#### Raffles/Special Events

Missy Kashey, acting coordinator

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Eric Neff, Vestal, NY  
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Barbara Tiffany, Point Pleasant, PA

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## President's Message

I just read an article in *Philadelphia Magazine* about how the biggest medical condition we're all facing right now is stress. Stress from the job, family, traffic, and life in general. This stress leads to depression, ulcers, migraines, and a host of other medical conditions. Of course the article didn't mention all the stress that we serious gardeners go through, especially when our season is messed with like this one.

My stress is caused by late mulching. I can't relax because we haven't gotten even a third of the mulching completed and the weeds are coming on fast. Migraines are a daily event, but maybe this is from the unhealthy levels of pollen we've been experiencing? At least the bees are finally happy and Dan is adding more colonies to the growing apiary (another reason why the mulching isn't finished).

It will all get done, and then maybe I can enjoy the gorgeous hosta leaves that I never thought would grow. I hope the slugs will leave them alone so I can enter some in our Hosta Show on June 21–22. Plants that I had to pop back in the ground are putting on amazing growth from all the rain, and the troughs are starting to fill out too. Check out all the hints about entering your leaves and plants within this newsletter.

I've also been busy ordering some goodies for our members to take advantage of at discount prices. Information about the garden sickles and the new hosta guide is in the newsletter. Buying in bulk means that we can pass the savings on to our DVHS members. Our members also get to take part in an amazing auction at our summer meetings; my back yard is already full of hostas and companions waiting for a new home—could it be yours?

See you at the June meeting!

— Rebecca Boylan

## Hosta-tality for June 7th potluck

Beverages and plates, etc., will be provided.

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–O bring a main dish

P–Z bring dessert.

Come early if you can help set up.

## From the Editor:

### Hostas on the Internets, redux

David S. Teager

The new website will be ready soon, I promise! I've been working very hard on it; we're down to choosing the pictures to best show what DVHS is all about. Keep checking for when it goes LIVE.

The Don Rawson "Hosta Lists" website I mentioned in the last issue now has a new home: its very own URL at [www.hostalists.org](http://www.hostalists.org). Much easier to remember! 🐝

## New Members' Corner

The DVHS welcomes new members Deborah Bryan & Andrew Purbrick of West Chester, Pennsylvania.

The Hosta Show is a great way to attract new members. Attend the show, and bring a friend!

## Field Guide to Hostas Available

Rebecca Boylan

The new, garden-friendly version of Mark Zilis' hosta compendium is here, and we've ordered 25 copies at a significant discount for club members. The guide retails for \$44.95 plus \$7.00 shipping, but we're selling them to club members for \$40 each. We'll have copies at the June meeting. Here are some of the highlights of the new guide:

*Mark Zilis' Field Guide to Hostas* is a totally revised and expanded version of the immensely popular *The Hosta Handbook* (originally printed in 2001, and long out of stock).

Inside the *Field Guide to Hostas* you will find:

- 428 pages.
- 272 hostas completely described, including the latest introductions, ones that are commonly seen, significant species, important breeding plants, and hostas with extensive sport families.
- 2300 more hostas listed or described in lists of similar types, hosta sports, sport families and seedlings.
- 1200 photos including ones of each main listing, sports, seedlings, hostas in the wild, companion plants, several problems, and more.
- New views of hosta species with an examination of natural habitats and other plants associated with them in the wild and how all this relates to growing hostas in our gardens.
- An Appendix comprised of charts that rate the compatibility of trees, shrubs, and vines with hostas in shade gardens, recommended companion plants for hostas, starter collections, and a list of patented hostas.
- A thorough analysis of how to grow hostas, including a greatly expanded "Hosta Problem Solving Guide" detailing the characteristics, symptoms, prevention, control, and general discussion of each problem.
- Updated discussion of hosta propagation, including a detailed look at tissue culture, mutation selection, and polyploid (tetraploid) formation.
- A list of hosta facts and anomalies.

This laminated soft cover ring bound book measures 7 1/2" by 8 7/8".

I've already taken it outside to play "match the tags" as the tree trimmers moved some tags while doing some major pruning. This will be a great guide to have at our plant auctions as hauling around the large tome is back-breaking! If you want a copy, please email me (raboylan@comcast.net) to let me know. I would like to hand these out at the next meeting as we only have 24 now; I have heard from a few people so far and will start a list. The book *must* be paid for before you can take it home. 🐾

## DVHS Financial Report for 2013

Christel Badey and David Teager

Below are the income and expense totals for the year (grouped into categories; figures rounded to nearest dollar). An exceptional item of expense was a one-time contribution of \$1000 to the American Hosta Society in support of the nematode research project (under Miscellaneous).

<b>Beginning balance 2013</b>	<b>\$ 18,745</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Dues	\$ 940
Plant Sale	1,584
Meetings (auction, raffle)	2,561
Donations	50
Miscellaneous (incl. sickles)	413
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 5,548</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Publications (incl. website)	\$ 1,141
Meetings (speaker, rental, etc.)	867
Display gardens	1,030
Plants (for plant sale)	837
Miscellaneous	1,624
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 5,499</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ 49</b>
<b>Ending balance 2013</b>	<b>\$ 18,794</b>

As you see, the DVHS almost exactly balanced its income and expenses for the year. The board anticipates slightly higher expenses for the display garden for 2014, as well as the expense of producing a hosta show. 🐾



Do you have the right stuff? Hosta leaf winners from our 2010 hosta show. D. Teager, photo.

### 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



# DVHS Meeting, June 7, 2014

## Lunch, Garden Tour, and Auction Teagate, Garnet Valley, Pennsylvania

It is hard to imagine that it has been six years since DVHS, as a group, visited Teagate (the garden of David Teager and Stephen Fugate). It was a sweltering day in 2008: so hot we cut the auction short to let visitors escape the heat. The garden was also open for First Look attendees in 2012, so we are becoming accustomed to getting everything ready and properly labeled. Truth be told, the labels are necessary for our own purposes in trying to remember what plant lives where!

The property, set back a hundred yards or so from the road, comprises two acres of woodland, lawn, and meadow, into which we have added a number of garden borders and islands. Raised beds with natural rock walls flank a path through the front woods, showing off hostas and woodland companions. The front foundation planting features numerous mature hosta specimens, several of which came with us when we moved here 16 years ago. A berm planting along the driveway hosts a whisper of a pinetum, anchored by a Nootka cypress and now underplanted with more hostas. The oldest berm in the back yard, populated originally with young *Amelanchier* selections and daylilies, is now a prime spot for hostas under the open canopy of those native fruit trees (mind the hungry birds, who will likely be swooping in for their Juneberry treats). The daylilies still hold their place at the sunny end.



Hostas hobnob with sun-loving perennials in the Juneberry bed. D. Teager photo.

There is now a true sunny perennial berm in the back yard, with more daylilies and fragrant lily hybrids. Beyond this bed is our native meadow: native, in that we didn't put it there. It is the result of years of annual mowing (and now burning) of a strip of land atop buried gas lines. Our cold winter and late spring has disrupted the usual meadow bloom calendar, but I'm sure that something will be blooming on June 7.

Another section of the gardens is what I call the lemonade bed. Our house is in a wetland with a high water table, and we created a wetland garden, using mostly native plants, to deal with the outflow of the sump pump. An elbow of the "creek" that resulted incorporates a small peat bog; the pitcher plants may still be in bloom when you visit.

In 2008 I wrote that we were approaching the mark of 150 hosta cultivars. I expect that we've blown well past the 250 mark by now. We're sure you'll find something you'll like. 🌿



H. 'Jim Hawes' draws attention in one of the raised rock beds. D. Teager photo.

### Sickles are Back!

We had such a great response to our Zenport sickle sale last year that we're selling them again at the wholesale price of \$7.00 each. The sickle has a 6-inch stainless steel, serrated blade with an orange plastic handle, making it easy to locate in the garden. The entire tool can be disinfected without damaging it, but best of all, it makes quick work of all your garden clean-up.

At \$7.00 each, you may want to pick up more than one. We'll have them at our June meeting and until the supply runs out.

If you won't be at the next meeting but would like to reserve one or more sickles, contact Rebecca Boylan (raboylan@comcast.net) to reserve your tool. 🌿



## It's Show Time!

Eva Jones

Editor's note: This article was originally printed in our June, 2008, newsletter. That year it was awarded "best local society newsletter article" at the AHS convention. I have updated it for reprint.

Remember all the fun we had with our last show, in 2010? Or at the National Convention in 2006? I really hope that you do, so that you'll participate and encourage someone you know to join us on June 21st.

It is time to get serious about those *extra special* hostas that you have been watching. Maybe you would like a little advice about how to get started. Here are a few suggestions. Simply put, these are the things that the judges are looking for in order to score your entries. The leaf color and pattern—compared to the perfect specimen of that hosta in the judges' minds—are the most valuable, worth 25 points out of the 100-point total. The remainder of the points are then awarded based on the leaf matching the *registered* form, size, texture, and substance of the leaf, and the condition and grooming of the leaf (that's your job).

In selecting your leaves, look for the most mature leaves on the specimen with the truest color and even pattern and of course without any obvious flaws. Remember that you should try to choose the best *typical* leaf, not the one that might be the most interesting. This is especially true with variegated leaves. In most cases, that means look for the most even pattern (symmetrical) you can find. Also, think about the hostas that might be a little more unusual to help your chances to be the best in that class. It's a fine line: if the judges have *never* seen the hosta, they might have a hard time seeing how outstanding your leaf is, but then you can trust that the judges have seen a *lot* of hostas. Recognize also that there are still some well-known hostas that aren't registered; these all get lumped into one class, making that a difficult division to win. You may want to look up the registered information on the American Hosta Society's website, [www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org); scroll down for show classification list. You'll need this class information when you register your leaves, and it's much easier to match them up in advance rather than at the show. If you're not sure, there

will be a registry book (or laptop with internet access) available, and show assistants to help you.

As well, you are invited to bring in brand new (unnamed) hostas, either sports or seedlings. This can be one of the most exciting parts of a Hosta Show. You know we have some excellent hybridizers in our midst!

Now that you've chosen the perfect leaf, wait until at least the night before to cut it. Handle it as little as possible. Cut the petiole as long as possible. Treat your leaves like cut flowers and stand them immediately in water so that they can absorb it. You may want to dunk them in cool water for a few minutes to pre-clean them. Keep their cut ends in water until the show. A good way to travel with them is in a cooler. For this show we have a limit of 25 entries per person, but that's a lot of hostas to clean and prepare!

Specimen cleanliness is the first attribute that a judge notices. Take care to properly clean leaves of all exhibits prior to entering them in the show. An entry should have no dirt or other debris, insects, or spider webs anywhere on the leaf surface or on the petiole. Pay particular attention to the point where the leaf meets the petiole where trash often becomes lodged.

Carefully wash the leaf in cool water but do not scrub. A very mild dish detergent may be used to help dislodge dirt from the leaf surfaces. Often on smooth surfaced leaves, you only have to gently swish the leaf in the water and the dirt falls off. On leaves with quilted surfaces, you may use a moistened cotton swab (Q-Tip), small soft paint brush, or a cotton ball to remove dirt from the valleys and creases. Be very careful not to damage the leaf surface in any way. Be sure to rinse leaves if detergents are used to clean them.

Blue leaves are especially hard to clean and prepare for show because the delicate glaucous coating on the leaves is easily damaged. Be very careful when cleaning those blue leaves. On blue leaves with very rough surfaces, it is almost impossible to remove all the dirt without causing damage. The judges would prefer a little dirt than damaged surfaces in this case.

Don't forget the other divisions. You may enter container-grown hostas that are grown alone and centered in the pot (Division II), or troughs (Division III) as long as hostas are the predominant plant.

At the show there will be members to help guide you through the entry and final

*continued on p. 7*



Properly prepped leaves.  
D. Teager photo

## 6 Credit where Credit is Due: the Paul Aden Hosta Registrations

Warren I. Pollock, Glen Mills, Pa.

In April 2012, The American Hosta Society president appointed the AHS Cultivar Origination Commission with this mission:

*Investigate the origins of Paul Aden's registrations and report findings to the International Registrar for the Genus Hosta for modifying the Hosta Registry.*

Members were Tom Micheletti (Chair), W. George Schmid, Mark R. Zilis and me. Tom was AHS Immediate Past President and a member of the AHS Executive Council. Mark is author of the 1125-page instant classic *The Hostapedia* and the just-published 428-page *Mark Zilis' Field Guide to Hostas*. George and I co-chair the AHS Nomenclature Committee and are members of AHS Board of Directors. George wrote the classic reference *The Genus Hosta - Gibōshi Zoku*.

The Commission's first report was published in the 2012 issue of AHS's *Online Hosta Journal*. The second and final report was in the 2013 issue.

The Commission found that many hostas assumed to be (and registered as) creations of Paul Aden, who died in 2010, were originated by Kevin C. Vaughn, now residing in Salem, Oregon, and the late Florence M. Shaw, who lived in Weston, Massachusetts, and died in 1975. Both were prolific hosta hybridizers. Many readers probably know Kevin's 'Bette Davis Eyes' (registered in 1987) and 'Tijuana Brass' (1988), and Mrs. Shaw's 'Birchwood Elegance' (1986) and 'Birchwood Parky's Gold' (1986).



*H. 'Blue Angel'* (F. Shaw, 1986) at lower left, and *H. 'Fragrant Bouquet'* (K. Vaughn, 1982) at right. Photos courtesy of Hallson Gardens.



The Commission has determined alternate originators for fewer than 50 hostas of the more than 200 that Aden registered or were registered for him. For details, refer to the reports, which also were published by the Hosta Registrar, Kevin Walek, in the blue-cover *Registrations 2012* and *Registrations 2013*. [Editor's note: here's another reason to join the AHS!]

I'm only going to mention a few of the altered cultivars that members likely have in their gardens. First and foremost is the popular *H. 'Sum and Substance'*. You'll now be noting that (F. Shaw - 1980) is cited after this cultivar name; the original registration date remains. Also, (F. Shaw, 1986) now marks *H. 'Blue Angel'*. Others are *H. 'Blue Cadet'* (F. Shaw, 1974), *H. 'Big Daddy'* (F. Shaw, 1976), *H. 'Big Mama'* (F. Shaw, 1976), *H. 'Love Pat'* (F. Shaw, 1978) and *H. 'Zounds'* (F. Shaw, 1978).

Kevin Vaughn now is credited as the originator of *H. 'Fragrant Bouquet'*, registered in 1982. Also, it's now *H. 'Fragrant Blue'* (K. Vaughn, 1988), *H. 'Fringe Benefit'* (K. Vaughn, 2010), *H. 'So Sweet'* (K. Vaughn, 1986) and *H. 'Sweetie'* (K. Vaughn, 1988).

At this writing the registrar has not yet altered the registrations in the online AHS Hosta Registry. This is a huge task requiring considerable time of a computer programmer. Since many parentages stated by Aden are incorrect, changes will be considerable. Kevin Walek tells me he plans to start later in the summer.

Publications of The American Hosta Society now reflect these changes. Note the Photo Index in the latest issue of *The Hosta Journal*, Spring 2014, pages 81–82. Some nurseries have modified their catalogs and lists, citing K. Vaughn or F. Shaw instead of P. Aden. But, frankly, the conversion process in the industry has been slow. Simply, folks just are hesitant to make changes to things they've been accustomed to for years and years.

What about home gardeners? Yes, they too should modify relevant plant labels and records.

This year AHS Region One's **First Look 14** in Marlborough, Massachusetts, July 11–13, will honor Florence M. Shaw with a Lifetime Achievement Award. 🌿

**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 more information on the Aden registrations.



# A "DEWEY" HOSTA MORNING

June 21–22, 2014

Tredyffrin Public Library  
582 Upper Gulph Road  
Strafford PA

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Open for Public Entries

9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Saturday, June 21

### Judging

12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### Open for Public Viewing

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday, June 21

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Sunday, June 22

### Dismantling

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, June 22

Accredited by the American Hosta Society

Show Chair: Kathy Miller 610-444-3237

Show Co-Chair: Conny Parsons 610-500-1286

For detailed rules, visit [delvalhosta.org](http://delvalhosta.org) and download the rules from the Newsletter page.

Rules in a nutshell: Entry is open to anyone (even non-DVHS members), but **higher awards are limited to AHS members**. If your entry is eligible for such an award, you'll be given the opportunity to join the AHS.

Follow the schedule above: allow yourself time to complete your entries by noon at the latest! Do your homework on the proper information for your entry tags.

Cutleaf rules (Division I): No more than 25 entries per exhibitor, with no more than one entry of the same cultivar per exhibitor. Registered cultivars: enter 1 leaf; seedlings/sports: enter 2 leaves.

Container-grown hostas (Division II): Only registered cultivars permitted. Please wipe down your container. The plant should be centered in the pot.

Container gardens arranged for effect (Division III): These are your troughs and mini-gardens. We're hoping to try something a little different this year, splitting the entries between "decorated" miniature gardens and containers displaying "very small hostas" (with no more than one non-natural decorative accessory). So plan (and plant) according to your taste. Best of Division, of course, will be the top point winner regardless of whether your container is one of the decorated ones or not. We'll see how this goes.

You may bring an Educational Display (Div. IV) or a non-judged item or items of interest: blooms, oddities, etc. (Div. V). No Artistic Displays (Div. VI) for this show.

Be sure to attend, whether you enter or not! 🌿

### Show Time!, continued from p. 5

grooming with cotton swabs and balls in hand for last-minute cleaning. Allow yourself several minutes per entry (at least 10 if you're new at this); plan to finish by 11:30 on Saturday, as judging starts promptly at noon. It is up to you to fill out the entry cards, with the proper judging section, division and leaf classification.

**Tip:** please bring return address labels, two per entry, if you have them. This saves you the trouble of writing it (twice!) on every entry card. It is very important to stick to the schedule. Please do not come late!

The show will stay on display through Sunday, so if you want your leaves you will need to come back for them at take down on Sunday. All ribbons will be saved for all awarded members just in case you can't return to pick them up. Mailing envelopes for your ribbons will be provided when entering.

Hosta Shows are a terrific time to build club membership. We'll be giving the public a good opportunity to see how diverse and beautiful our favorite perennial is. Don't miss this chance to show off your beauties! It's not too late to get involved in putting on the show either. We can never have too much help.

[Editor's note: if you want more information on selecting and preparing leaves for a hosta show, see "How to Win Cut-Leaf Show Awards" by Warren Pollock in the Spring 2010 *DVHS Newsletter*.] 🌿

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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 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 (Betty  
and Michael Drummond garden) in Malvern, PA,  
with BIG LEAF contest and plant auction

**July 11–13: First Look 2014**  
in Marlborough, MA. Visit [www.hostalibrary.org](http://www.hostalibrary.org)

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

**Saturday, October 26: Tri-State Hosta Meeting**  
Frelinghuysen, NJ, with Don Dean, AHS President

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### IT'S DUES TIME

Please check your mailing label. If you see a number less than 14, you owe DVHS dues for 2014. 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 2014 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 7.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DVHS Newsletter v23.2  
1200 Farmington Ave  
Pottstown PA 19464-1826