



Garden Tour and Auction: Holly Lane Gardens Saturday, June 6, 12:00–4:00 p.m.

Conny and Jim Parsons, hosts
1206 Holly Lane, Glen Mills, PA 19342

12:00 Garden tour and potluck lunch
2:00 Auction

Directions to June 6th Meeting

From Philadelphia/NJ via I-95 south, or from south Jersey via Commodore Barry/I-95 north: Take I-95 to I-476 ("Blue Route") north. Take Exit 5 for Route 1 South (going west to Lima). Follow Rt 1 about 4 miles; just after the highway ends, exit right for Route 352 North. Follow Rt 352 (Middletown Rd) for about 3 miles, then turn left on Sycamore Mills Rd (Locust Crest Tavern on left). Holly Lane is a cul-de-sac about 0.7 miles on the right. About 20–25 minutes from I-95.

From PA Turnpike or points NE: Take turnpike or other routes to I-476 ("Blue Route") south. Take Exit 5 for Route 1 South (going west to Lima). Follow directions from Rt 1 above.

From Wilmington/points S and W via Rt 202 N/Rt 1: Take Rt 202 North (from I-95 in Wilmington, as needed) to Route 1 North, about 7.4 miles from I-95. Turn right on Rt 1. Follow Rt 1 about 6.5 miles to Route 452 North; turn left. Turn left from Rt 452 to Rt 352 in less than 1/2 mile. Follow Rt 352 about 2 miles as above. About 30 minutes from I-95.

From West Chester/points N and W via Rt 202 S: Take Route 202/322 South to Route 3 East at West Chester. Stay on Rt 3 (West Chester Pike) about 4.5 miles. Just past the intersection for Dutton Mill Rd (north), turn right on Dutton Mill Rd (south), which becomes Valley Rd when it crosses Rt 926. Take Dutton Mill/Valley Rd about 2.5 miles to Sycamore Mills Rd; turn left. Holly Lane is a cul-de-sac about 0.2 miles on the left. About 15 minutes from West Chester.

Hosta-tality for June 6th 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 dessert

G–N bring a salad or side dish

O–Z bring a main dish.

Come early if you can help set up.

From the editor:

I have just returned from a 10-day business/pleasure trip to China (yes, I saw hostas, at least *H. plantaginea*) and am about to depart on a business trip to India, returning just in time for the June 6th meeting. I hope I can keep my eyes open for working the auction!

I look forward to putting together a full issue in June, with news and pictures from the AHS Convention. As well, please feel free to submit any pictures of hostas, or hosta gardens, that you wish to share on these pages. Thank you.



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President's Message

Spring has been usurped by summer in my garden, and the weeds are overtaking everything as we've gotten a late start on mulching and weed control this year. The only hosta to outgrow these interlopers is 'Empress Wu'; Her Highness is spreading her wings all over a back corner, and I can't relocate her neighbors fast enough. It takes a few years for the Empress to get going, but once she starts to expand, it's an incredible thing to watch!

June will host two great events for hostaphiles. We have our meeting on June 6th at the home of Jim and Conny Parsons, and then we head to Raleigh, North Carolina, for the National Convention. Dan and I like to make a vacation out of it, stopping at botanic gardens, historic sites, and nurseries on our way. Not much more room in our gardens, so our shopping really is limited at this point. The week after we come home I have a hosta presentation at a local garden shop, so there will be plenty of ideas and information in my head to pass along.

The DVHS board is looking for some new faces to come join us as either a member-at-large or in a chair position. (Don't worry: some of the sitting chairs will be glad to move along, or at least around!) Board meetings are held a few times a year either before or after general meetings, and help to form the direction of our organization. We won't grow without new members providing new ideas, so please consider joining! The new board will be installed at the October meeting; if you're interested in a position, please contact me for more information.

Hope to see you June 6th!

— 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 major hosta nerd-dom: becoming an AHS-accredited show judge! Seriously, this is a big deal, and also seriously, anyone can do it! You don't need to be a hosta guru already, able to rattle off the names of hundreds of hostas a hundred paces away. If you can use a ruler, can see spots on a leaf (I use glasses), and count to 15 (veins), you're already on your way. We just want people who are interested in hostas, and interested in learning more.

The AHS website (www.americanhostasociety.org) has this to say:

Persons who are considering becoming a Hosta Show Judge should:

- Have a good knowledge of existing hosta species and cultivars, and a general knowledge of hybridizing trends.
- Have a long-term commitment to serve as a show judge.
- Be eager to expand their knowledge. *Knowledge and desire to learn is essential.*

It goes on to say a whole lot more, but they'll cover that in the clinic. And the instructors will try to keep it interesting. This is the first level course, but it is not merely an introduction. At the completion of the class, you will be able to file your status as a Provisional Judge for the AHS. (More advanced judges should note that this clinic also serves as one of your refresher courses, required every four years.)

Clinic I outlines the contents of the Judges' Handbook, the structure and planning of a Hosta Show, and then the fun part: judging hosta leaves for the Horticulture (cut leaf) division of a Hosta Show. Those of you who have prepared leaves for shows in the past can learn a lot—about how to select, and prepare, winning leaves! (Clinics II and III, for advancing on your path to Senior and Master Judge, cover the container plant categories and special divisions.)

see *Judges' Clinic* on p. 5

DVHS Meeting, June 6, 2015

Lunch, Garden Tour, and Auction

Holly Lane Gardens, Conny and Jim Parsons, Glen Mills, Pennsylvania

Set on a 2.5-acre wedge-shaped lot on the Holly Lane cul-de-sac, our garden surrounds a central sweep of lawn, bordered by trees and planted with sunny and shady island beds and long shady borders on all sides. Over the last fifteen years, we have planted over a hundred small trees, shrubs and conifers that have either flowers, interesting bark, or colorful foliage. With wetlands on one side of the property and black walnut trees on the other side, gardening has been an ongoing challenge for both Jim and me. We like to have something blooming from early spring to late fall so we planted many dogwoods (*Cornus*), redbuds (*Cercis*), viburnums, roses and hydrangea. Japanese maples add both colorful foliage and textures. A deer fence keeps the deer at bay.

Jim doubled the size of the original deck, and built a pergola on the back of the house. Trough plantings, both for sun and shade, brighten this area. Close to the deck is a two-tiered pond, designed to maintain a natural balance using water hyacinths in the upper tier to filter the water for the larger, lower tier. I recently added a new garden to the right of the pond where a large selection of small and miniature hostas, including the mice ('Blue Mouse Ears' family), found a home. A gate opens to the side yard, which extends

to three large dawn-redwoods (*Metasequoia*). This is where we installed a fenced holding area, where there are still hostas for Barnes and other public gardens.

About two years ago we did something a little crazy: we added a swimming pool. The biggest challenge was incorporating it and the required fence into an existing landscape. We attempted to do this by including a mature bed on one side and adding a border around the outside of the fence where we planted low-growing conifers and flowering shrubs. Grass paths, a rock garden, and pebble path surround the pool instead of cement or pavers. Holly, our yellow Lab, and all our grandkids love the addition.

I almost forgot to mention a collection of about 600 hosta cultivars and many shade-loving plants and flowers. You will have to ask Jim about all the stones and stone paths throughout the garden; there's not enough room for his descriptions in this article! As we have gotten older, more benches and chairs have been added along with a Gator, an addition to our John Deere fleet. We hope you will take the time to walk back to the gazebo and sit on the rockers, where you can enjoy the feel of the smaller private garden, almost hidden from the house. 🌿



A gentle path along one side of Holly Lane Gardens. C Parsons photo.

4 Let's Celebrate our Success!

Marilyn Romensko

Over the winter we were informed by the American Hosta Society (AHS) that our case file for the National Hosta Display Garden at the Barnes Arboretum was approved! This is the only National Hosta Display Garden within 500 miles of Philadelphia, and it is one of the few located in an urban setting (being only blocks from the city limit of a major metropolitan area).

As this three-phase project comes to fruition, let's reflect on the participation of many who helped make this garden possible. Financial contributions by DVHS and AHS Region One were essential for the purchase of most of the plants for this garden, which includes over 135 hosta cultivars, several new shrubs, and new companion perennials. Members also donated hostas, as well as their time to grow them on in their nursery beds and then to plant them in the garden at Barnes.

The contributions of time and talent made by our own long-time member and past president, Conny Parsons, and her husband Jim, were significant. From well-thought garden design, to sourcing and procuring the plants, tending those that were still quite small, potting and delivering plants to the Barnes on work days, and directing volunteers in planting technique, Conny was the driving force in the development of this garden.

Barnes Arboretum director Jacob Thomas demonstrated foresight and determination in working with the DVHS to develop this garden, which took 3 years to complete. Also from Barnes were staff members Kristen and Bill, who led efforts in maintenance and labeling of the plants in this garden. Barnes and DVHS volunteers joined forces on several occasions to prepare the garden beds, plant the hostas, and to weed and edge the beds.

see *Barnes* on p. 5



AHS Convention Time!

A number of DVHS members will be attending the AHS National Convention in Raleigh, North Carolina. We'll be sporting these special buttons promoting the next East Coast convention: our own in 2018!

Attendees at this year's convention get to shop at Green Hill Farm and (I can hardly wait) Plant Delights nursery. Our own Warren Pollock is a featured speaker during the scientific session. And I'm sure we'll bring home some ribbons from the show!

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

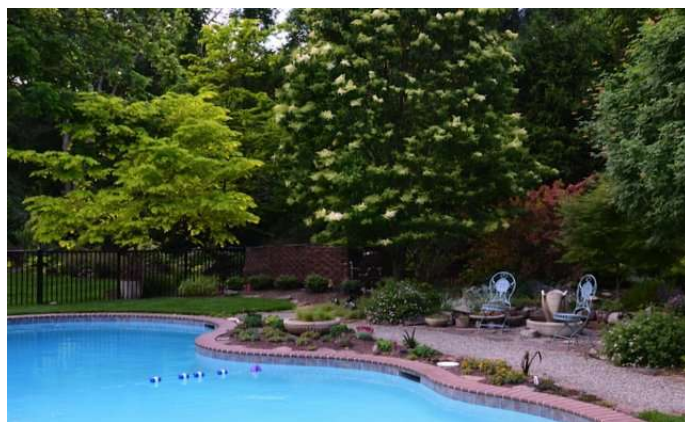
Membership: Dan Boylan 610-327-8217

Plant Sales and Auctions: Charlie Seaver

Display Gardens: Marilyn Romensko, 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. 🍷



Two views of Holly Lane Gardens: gazing at the gazebo, and an invitation to lounge by the pool.
C. Parsons photos

DVHS Financial Report for 2015

Christel Badey and David Teager

Below are the income and expense totals for the year (grouped into categories; figures rounded to nearest dollar). Last year included a Hosta Show, which boosts our meeting costs and adds to miscellaneous costs (ribbons, *etc.*). There was also additional expense and income from sale of books (*Hosta Handbook*) last year. We did not spend as much on the display gardens as planned (due to donations and well-tended plants previously purchased). For reference, income and expenses in 2013 were well-matched at about \$5,500.

Beginning balance 2014	\$ 18,432
Income	
Dues	\$ 920
Plant Sale	940
Meetings (auction, raffle)	4,252
Donations	0
Miscellaneous (books, sickles)	1,078
Total Income	\$ 7,190
Expenses	
Publications (incl. website)	\$ 1,392
Meetings (speaker, rental, etc.)	2,073
Display gardens	55
Plants (for plant sales)	1,566
Miscellaneous (incl. books)	2,399
Total Expenses	\$ 7,485
Net	\$- 295
Ending balance 2014	\$ 18,137

Again, the DVHS almost exactly balanced its income and expenses for the year. We have already purchased plants for the next two years' plant sales, but will be making some important additions to our display gardens as we ready everything for 2018. We are in very good financial position for covering any up-front costs for our upcoming convention. 🌿

Barnes continued from p. 3

This display garden is to educate of the public on the value of hostas, demonstrate their uses, and present the broad variety of foliage, form, texture, sheen, color and margin characteristics available in hostas. This is sure to be a good fit with the Barnes Foundation Arboretum and its horticulture classes and tours.

We look forward to a celebration and tour of this wonderful garden in late June or early July when we will unveil a bronze plaque identifying the garden and its sponsor. We hope you can join us for this event. Please watch the DVHS website, www.delvalhosta.org, and your email for the exact date. 🌿

Judges' Clinic continued from p. 2

This Clinic will be held at the Parsons' home, Holly Lane Gardens (see address and directions on page 1), beginning at 9:30 a.m. If you are a first-time attendee at Clinic I, you will need to purchase a Judges' Handbook for \$10. Those taking the course as a refresher need only be sure that their handbooks are up to date per the AHS website.

Register for the class by contacting Conny Parsons (connyparsons1@aol.com or 610-588-6196). Lunch will be provided; call it bribery to get you to attend! 🌿

In Memoriam

With sadness, we report the death on May 20, 2015, of

Norma P. Russell

Age 84, widow of Cliff Russell.

She is survived by her five sons, including DVHS member Alan Russell, and five grandchildren.

The DVHS Board has made a contribution in her honor to the Davisville Church Missionary Fund.

JOIN THE AHS!

Visit www.hosta.org where you can join on-line.

Members get on-line access to *The Hosta Journal* and more. Your membership helps support scientific research and cultivar registration work for the genus *Hosta*.

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.

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, you owe DVHS dues for 2015. 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

DVHS Newsletter v24.2
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