

# Fall 2013

## Presentation and Business Meeting

### *The Forgotten Season: the Winter Garden*

## Saturday, November 2, 1–4:30 p.m.

Jenkins Arboretum

631 Berwyn Baptist Rd, Devon, PA 19333

**11:30 Board meeting** (In library; bring brown bag lunch)

**1:00 Arboretum visit and hostatality**

**2:00 Business meeting, with biennial election of officers**

**2:30 Presentation by Walter Cullerton**

**3:30 Mingling and clean-up**

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### Directions to Jenkins Arboretum

The arboretum is between the Main Line (Route 30) and Route 202. Note that parking is limited to 48 spaces; carpool if you can.

**From Philadelphia/North/Central NJ:** Take I-76 or the PA Turnpike West to King of Prussia/Valley Forge. Follow the signs to Route 202 South. Take 202 South to the Devon exit (Route 252 N / Valley Forge Rd), about 2.8 miles. Turn Left (headed south) at the end of the ramp onto Valley Forge Rd, crossing under the highway and crossing Swedesford Rd. Go about 0.6 miles, crossing the railroad bridge, and bear Right onto Devon State Rd. Take the next Right (only 0.1 miles) onto Berwyn Baptist Road. Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens is up the hill on the left. An iron gate and stone pillars mark the entrance.

**From the South:** Take I-95 North (from Delaware or US 322) to I-476 North to I-76 West, then follow directions above. Or use on-line directions or GPS to get to Devon State Rd via Route 30 West from I-476. (It's a little tricky if you've not done it before, and only saves you 3–4 minutes.)

**From the West or Southwest:** Take I-76 East to King of Prussia/Valley Forge, then follow directions above. Or, take Route 202 North (e.g. from Route 1) to the Devon exit (Valley Forge Rd.). Turn Right at the end of the ramp onto Valley Forge Rd (headed south), and follow directions above.

*The 46-acre Jenkins Arboretum was opened in to the public in 1976, as a living memorial to Elisabeth Phillipe Jenkins. The John J. Williamson Education Center, where we are meeting, opened in April, 2009. It is a LEED certified, "green," building. The graceful design compliments the beauty of the arboretum. Weather permitting, we know you will enjoy a stroll through the gardens. Visit the website to find out more about the plant collection and find out "What's in Bloom?" [www.jenkinsarboretum.org](http://www.jenkinsarboretum.org).*



## DVHS Officers

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#### Raffles/Special Events

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Conny Parsons, past president  
Wayne Guymon, past president  
Michael Flagg, Schwenksville, PA  
Eric Neff, Vestal, NY  
Barbara Tiffany, Point Pleasant, PA

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## President's Message

Abundant moisture in the hosta gardens this year was both a curse and a blessing. Plants were huge, and I finally had to relocate some that were being crowded out by their neighbors. In other areas where the ground was really being saturated, evil crown rot made an appearance, melting away hostas and hellebores. We either complain about not enough or too much rain—gardeners are never satisfied!

Our DVHS volunteers were busy at the Barnes Arboretum installing the second phase of what will be a National Display Garden. Conny Parsons and Marilyn Romenesko shopped, bargained, and sweet-talked their way into a wonderful selection of old standards and new cultivars, which are now winding their way around the shady perimeter of the gardens. Last year's plants have filled out nicely despite the browsing of an errant deer. Conny gave us all a lesson on proper hosta planting as the soil was dry and unamended, but my favorite part was working on the new miniature bed she designed. Luckily, I had brought my son Jake to do the heavy lifting and digging as stone was added, ferns were removed, and mini and small hostas were tucked around tree roots. This bed will definitely attract attention!

We also had the first hosta "rescue" for the display gardens. An urgent email came from Marilyn to meet her at Waterloo Gardens in Exton as they were closing and even selling all the plants (including impressive hostas) in the parking lot beds. Conny and I use our nursery beds to grow on the hostas for the display gardens, so we have room to take the plants. Conny was able to identify some useful cultivars, we tracked down the owner on the now eerily empty nursery lot, and he agreed to donate all the hostas we wanted for the gardens to the club! Luckily, Dan Romenesko was there to do the digging, as these were huge clumps (did I mention that it was at least 90°?). All are now thriving in my nursery bed and will find a home in one of our display gardens.

I'm working on more hosta companions now as I (gulp) run out of room for plants. Yes, we did extend a bed in the front, but that soil is very dry and is destined for shrubs at the moment. There's a fall epimedium order coming to plant where even the hostas couldn't survive, and I hope to sneak them in while my husband Dan is at work. I will consult the conifer guru, Walter Cullerton, to give me some suggestions for plants to add for winter interest as everything else I have there is deciduous. I'm sure that his November presentation will give you some ideas too!

— Rebecca Boylan

## Hosta-tality for November 2 meeting

Beverages will be provided.

Please do bring some snacks or sweets to keep us going through the afternoon!

Come early if you can help set up.

## 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.

Jenkins Arboretum, Devon, Pennsylvania

## The Lost Season—Winter in the Garden

After a 40-year career in the business world, Walter Cullerton started a new career in horticulture. An avid gardener, he achieved Master Gardener certification in New Jersey and also in Pennsylvania.

Walter is a co-founder of the Tri-State Hosta Society and was president for six years. He was recent Chair of the Delaware Valley Rock Garden Society, past President of the American Conifer Society, Northeast Region and recently Coordinator, Public Relations for the American Conifer Society. He is a Master Gardener in Bucks County and frequently gives talks on Conifers for the Garden, Hostas, Shade Gardening, and Garden In Winter, and has written for the *Tri-State Tribune*, other club newsletters, the American Hosta Society's *The Hosta Journal* and The American Conifer Society's *Conifer Quarterly*.

In March of 2000, Walter and his wife Emilie retired and moved from New Jersey to a three-acre plot in Pineville, Pennsylvania, closer to two of their four daughters. There, they continue to create the gardens of Oxford Gardens.

Walter prepares us for his presentation:

Though it may be cold outside, we're going to be comfy inside as we visit some wonderful gardens in winter. This is all about the sense of sight and getting rid of the winter blues and perhaps even motivating one to take that winter garden tour.

Let's take a stroll through various gardens, nurseries and arboreta. We'll look at some wonderful "Perennials" in the garden that continue to treat us even in winter. Then, as we meander through various gardens, arboreta, and yes, even nurseries, we'll look at some "Bones" in the garden, those delightful year round anchors, man made or nature given. We'll visit the "Woodies," those special plants with special form, color or bark. And lest we forget, the "Conifers"—those evergreen trees and shrubs that reward us year round and are especially prominent in winter. And finally, we'll saunter through the beauty of new-fallen snow.

Come, journey with us through *The Lost Season*.☛

## The DVHS Hosta Display Garden at The Barnes Arboretum

Conny Parsons and Marilyn Romenesko

The heat and humidity broke to create a beautiful day for the volunteer planting at the Barnes Arboretum on Thursday, August 15. An energetic group of DVHS and Barnes Arboretum volunteers gathered with staff to install plants for the second phase of our nascent National Hosta Display Garden. This planting included five compact-sized flowering shrubs as well as 156 hostas comprising 57 cultivars.

In spring of 2012 we planted 51 hosta cultivars with multiples of some of these to total 183 hostas. At that time the Hosta Display Garden began as a 170 foot long garden with the width varying from 12 to 20 feet. It weaves through a shrub border along Latches Lane within the Barnes Arboretum. Shade is provided by a collection of unique large trees nearby. Many of the hosta plantings are visible from the sidewalk and the street, outside the Arboretum fence. This year we increased the length of the border by 100 feet and added two additional beds, bringing the grand total of hostas planted to 339 with 108 different cultivars.

New this year is a display of small and miniature hostas near a gracefully aging *Paulownia* tree with an intriguing elevated root flare. A delightful collection of "mice" made their home there including *Hostas* 'Blue Mouse Ears', 'Green Mouse Ears', 'Mighty Mouse',

see *Barnes* on p. 6

## Grow Your Own Placemats

Kathy Miller

Twenty-one leaves were entered in our latest Big Leaf Contest. Contenders included: 'Colossal', 'Krugerrand', 'Azure Snow', 'Blue Angel', 'Frances Williams', 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd', 'Guardian Angel', 'Jurassic Park', 'Parhelion', 'Lady Isobel Barnett', 'Sum Total', 'Cross Stitch', 'Golden Sculpture', and of course 'Sum and Substance'. Some were surprising biggies, due perhaps to one of the wettest summers on record, and some were expected favorites. 'Sum Total' from Kay Yniguez measured 19.0 x 16.0 in., but edging it out by a fraction was 'Sum and Substance' grown by Victoria Buckley, at a whopping 18.5 x 16.75 in.☛



The tropics in your backyard. K. Miller photo



## A DVHS Ph

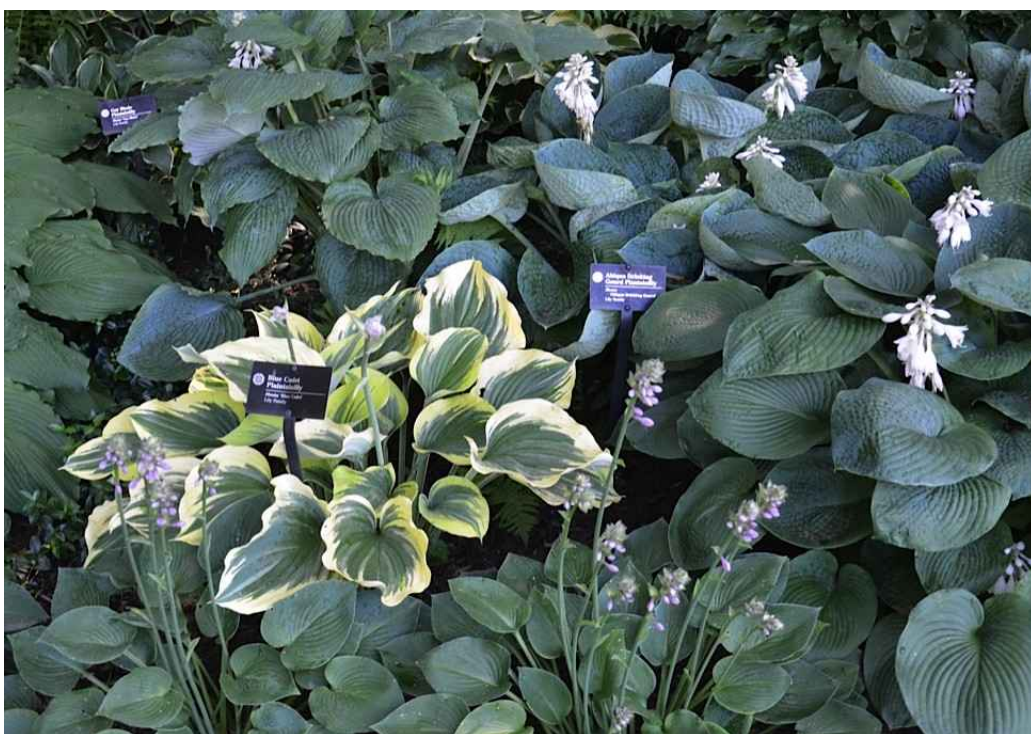
We asked you to submit pictures (the editor can always  
Group Portraits (a few clumps), and Leaf Portraits  
received, along with some shots of our display garden

Thank you for your entries. Some of your other pho



Leaf portraits (from upper left):  
'Seventh Heaven' by Kathy Miller, 'Totally Awe Sum' (in vase) by Jack English/ Bob Lavigne, 'Aurora's Glow' by Ed McHugh, 'Jane Ward' by Kathy Miller.

Group portraits (from below left and across bottom):  
'Liberty' among blue hostas at Morris Arboretum by Conny Parsons', Lib  
"Blue Border in Bloom" at Tyler Arboretum by Conny Parsons, Mini pair  
by Ed McHugh.





# Photo Collage

(use more), showing us Clump Portraits (a single hosta),  
(close-ups). Here is a selection of the photos we  
as that we couldn't fit with the accompanying articles.

Photographs may appear in future DVHS Newsletters.

Clump portraits (right):  
'Journey's End' by Ed  
McHugh, 'Triple Ripple'  
by David Teager, 'Made  
You Look' by Kathy Miller,  
and 'Orange Marmalade'  
by Marilyn Romenesko.



'Journey's End' triangle by Barry Weissman,  
'Triple Ripple' by Marilyn Kowaleski, 'June' group





## 6 Barnes, continued from p. 3

'Mouse Trap', 'Pure Heart', and 'Church Mouse'. In the same bed there is a 7' tall antique iron fire alarm which provided the theme for a group of hostas and companions including *Hostas* 'Prairie Fire', 'Magic Fire', 'Fire Island', 'Dragon Fire', and the new bright red *Heuchera* 'Fire Alarm'.

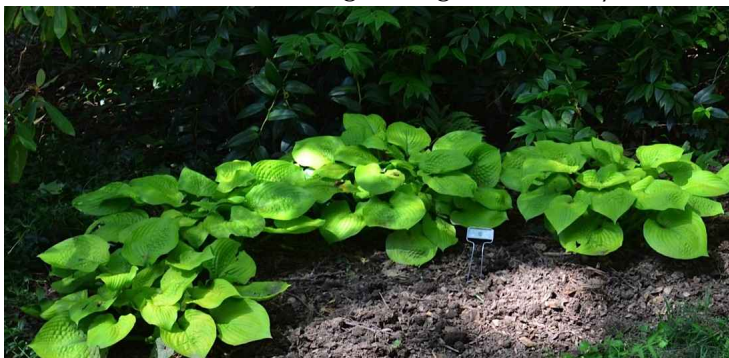
The work day began with Conny Parsons demonstrating proper planting technique for the new hostas. (Remember that the Barnes is a teaching institution.) Conny was also responsible for the selection, procurement, and holding of many plants. She ordered small hostas last fall from Q & Z Nursery and wintered them over in a holding area that she and her husband Jim prepared. Sacrificing their vegetable garden for this purpose, they amended the soil extensively and installed shade cloth to provide ideal growing conditions. Rebecca and Dan Boylan provided an additional holding area for larger hostas, held in pots. Closer to the planting date, Marilyn and Conny made several trips to Teich and McColgan Daylilies and Hostas in Chalfont, PA, returning with carloads of plants. The nursery contributed by providing a discount on many of the larger hostas.

The final planting phase is next spring, when another group of hostas and companion plants will be installed, and the Arboretum is opened to the public. We believe we will then have met all criteria for a National Hosta Display Garden. Upon approval by the American Hosta Society, this will be the only garden with this status in the mid-Atlantic states!

A big thank you goes out to all for their hard work in the planning, edging, weeding, and planting for this phase of the DVHS Hosta Display Garden. The Barnes staff included: Jacob Thomas, Curator, Drew Lehrian, Head Gardener, Kristen Ryan, Rachel Burlington, and Ann Dixon, Gardeners, Bill Rein, Living Collections Associate, and Albert Linares, Seasonal Gardener. The Barnes volunteers included: Sudie Herdman, Anne Eiswerth, Nancy Trexler, and Frank Steinmiller. After the morning session The Barnes provided a delicious lunch catered by Hymie's Deli in Merion, PA.

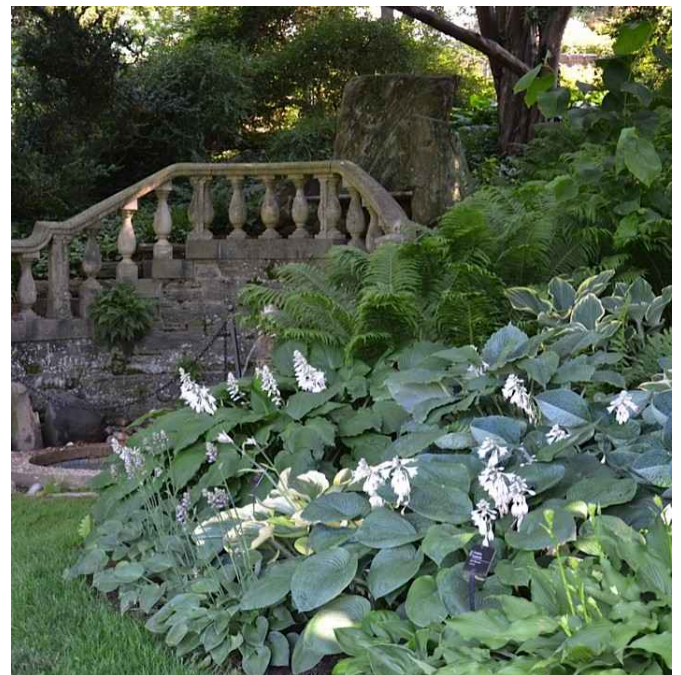
DVHS members Conny Parsons, Jim Parsons, and Inta Krombolz assembled and placed the plants in the Barnes Arboretum garden in the days before the planting date.

Hosta 'City Lights' is already a focal point at the Barnes Arboretum, shining through the nearby fence.



Kristen Ryan (Barnes) and Jake Boylan (DVHS) are preparing the bed of very small hostas. C. Parsons photos

Other DVHS members who contributed to the planting and maintenance include: Rebecca Boylan, Jake Boylan, Victoria Buckley, Chris Dambro, Gene Dambro, Middy Dorrance, Missy Kashey, Kathy Miller, Dan Romenesko, and Marilyn Romenesko. Thank you to all who donated their talent, time and plants! 🌱



The bench above this beautiful garden feature at Morris Arboretum is called "Lydia's Seat," in memory of Lydia Morris, who used this centrally located site as a garden approach with a vista along the paths down the hill from the site of the mansion. At that time, there were mixed flower, kitchen and herb gardens in the foreground. This site, with its steps flanking each side of "The Blue Pool," is made of Wissahickon schist, and was installed in 1910. Lydia later had the Rose Garden and Rock Wall terrace dug into the hillside (1924). These features and the Hosta Garden comprise the views from this site today. C. Parsons photo.

## DVHS Hosta Display Garden at Morris Arboretum Revisited

Marilyn Romenesko

On Saturday June 22, six dedicated DVHS members volunteered at the Morris Arboretum to help upgrade the DVHS Hosta Display Garden. This garden was installed by DVHS about ten years ago; we are interested in seeing some newer hosta cultivars planted there, and in keeping up the existing plantings. Along with Lucy Dinsmore, the Morris horticulturist for this area, we reviewed the hosta labeling once again, and evaluated areas for new hosta plantings near the historic bench, stairs, and fountain located on the edge of the hosta garden.

At Lucy's request, we cleared out groundcovers and thinned out numerous ostrich ferns. Then we mulched the areas that were cleared. Meanwhile, Conny and Lucy were busy mapping the garden so that the labels (which are removed each winter) can be accurately replaced each spring. This drawing will also be useful in siting additional hostas. Due to the age of the plantings, we plan to install some newer or better cultivars to provide an upgrade to the collection.

As many gardens change over time, so has this one, with the recent loss of two trees which had provided the needed shade for about a third of the hostas. We offered to provide a tree and also suggestions for new trees for this garden. A few suggestions that come to mind include *Cercis canadensis* 'The Rising Sun', *Cladrastus kentukea* (American Yellowwood), and *Magnolia virginiana* (Sweetbay Magnolia). Any suggestions from our membership for hosta-compatible tree species are welcome.

Thank you to the volunteers for their work at this garden; Conny Parsons, Missy Kashey, Middy Dorrance, Vicki Buckley, Dan Romenesko, and Marilyn Romenesko. The garden looks much better after this work. It now serves the gardening public with accurate labeling, improved spacing, and the look of a well-maintained Delaware Valley Hosta Society display garden.☺

See photo of "Lydia's Seat" at left (page 6), and pictures of DVHS display gardens at Morris and Tyler Arboretums in the centerfold collage.

## Nematode Research Update

David Teager

Research by Dr. Grewal's group continues into the fall and winter. As these things sometimes go, Dr. Grewal has moved from the Ohio State University to the University of Tennessee, but research progress was not affected.

Preliminary studies on infection pathways have shown, among several findings, that the nematode eggs do not overwinter in open soil but may overwinter in hosta leaf litter, which would encourage us to do a thorough fall clean-up if infection is suspected. Spring-emergent nematodes were found in the leaves, crowns, and soil, but, interestingly, not in the roots. (I can imagine, then, that an upside-down dunk of the crown in an appropriate chemical bath might be effective.)

Research into appropriate chemicals continues, as they find a 100% "test tube" kill rate with a number of the 25 compounds being tested. These include heavy-hitter chemicals like chlorfenapyr (Pylon) and strong doses of "organic" treatments like grapefruit seed extract, along with the expected results from oxidizing treatments like bleach, potassium permanganate, and the peroxide-based ZeroTol. Further studies will show how effective the treatments are in removing the infestations from the hostas while letting the hostas survive.

Other studies have focused on transmission of the nematodes. Sadly, but perhaps not surprisingly, infection occurred when a hosta was planted in the soil that had previously contained an infected plant. Further studies will determine if there is an effective soil drench to reduce this mode of transmission.☹

### 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

302-765-3581 and Conny Parsons 610-558-6196

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

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 2013 – 2014!

[www.delvalhosta.org](http://www.delvalhosta.org)

**Saturday, November 2, 2013: DVHS Fall Meeting**  
Jenkins Arboretum, Devon, PA. Presentation by  
Walter Cullerton: "The Lost Season: Winter in the  
Garden."

**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 6: DVHS Spring Meeting,**  
Tredyffrin Public Library, Wayne, PA  
Hosta plant sale and great hospitality  
Presentation by Clarence Falstad IV: "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) or  
<http://harshbargerhostasociety.weebly.com>.

**Saturday, July 12: DVHS Tour** of Tallwood (Betty  
and Michael Drummond garden) in Malvern, PA,  
with BIG LEAF contest and plant auction

**Date TBA: DVHS Fall Meeting**  
Location and program to be announced.

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## HOW'S YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Please check your mailing label. If you see a number 13, then your luck runs out this year, and it's time to pay 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. 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

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