



Summer 2013

Garden Tour and Auction

Saturday, July 13, 1:00–4:30 p.m.

“WynEden” Doris and Wayne Guymon, hosts
10 Lafayette Place, Chadds Ford, PA

1:00 Garden tour and brown bag lunch

2:30 Big Leaf Contest winners and any business

2:45 Auction

See page 2 for details on lunch

◆

Directions to July 13 Meeting

WynEden is near Chadds Ford, about 30 minutes north of Wilmington, 35 minutes from King of Prussia, or 45 minutes from Philadelphia. If you need further help with directions, please email dsteager@earthlink.net and I will be glad to assist.

Parking at WynEden: Lafayette Place is a sloping cul-de-sac, with parking on either side and WynEden at the bottom. Please do not pull into the driveway unless you need to drop off plants, chairs, etc.

From Wilmington: Take U.S. Rt. 202 north and cross U.S. Rt. 1. Take the angled left at the 2nd light after Rt. 1 onto Oakland Rd. After 0.7 miles turn left onto Webb Rd. Continue for 0.7 miles. Lafayette Place is the first right (after passing two roads on left).

From Kennett Square (Wilmington alt.): Take U.S. Rt. 1 north from Kennett Square (or DE/PA Rt. 100 north from Greenville to Chadds Ford, turning right onto Rt. 1). Take the next left after Rt. 100 onto Webb Rd. Go 1.2 miles to Lafayette Pl, the first left (after passing several roads on right).

From King of Prussia or West Chester: Take U.S. 202 South from the PA Turnpike or from I-76 as needed. Continue about 18 miles from King of Prussia, about 3 miles past the West Chester/High St. interchange, and turn right on Brinton's Bridge Rd. (Dilworthtown Rd. and CVS on left). Take the first left, at a 5-way intersection, onto Oakland Rd. Take the first right, after 0.6 miles, onto Webb Rd. Continue for 0.7 miles. Lafayette Place is the first right (after passing two roads on left).

From Philadelphia or New Jersey via Commodore Barry Bridge: Take I-95 south to U.S. Rt. 322 west (toward West Chester). Follow Rt. 322 and turn right from Rt. 1 (to stay on 322/202). See directions from Wilmington above, starting at Rt 1 intersection.

From southern New Jersey: Take Delaware Memorial Bridge and continue to I-95 north into Wilmington. Exit at U.S. Rt. 202 north and follow directions from Wilmington above.

From northern New Jersey (via turnpike): The best option is to take the PA Turnpike connector, and continue to King of Prussia/Rt 202.



DVHS Officers

President

Rebecca Boylan
1200 Farmington Ave.
Pottstown, PA 19464
(610) 327-8217
raboylan@comcast.net

Vice President, Program

Kathy Miller
Kennett Square, PA
(610) 444-3237
kwmille@mtco.com

Vice President, Membership

Dan Boylan

Treasurer

Christel Badey
533 Rosemary Cir.
Media, PA 19063
(610) 566-9421
hydroslim@verizon.net

Secretary

Barbara Nace
Lansdale, PA

Committee Chairs:

Publications

David Teager
Garnet Valley, PA
(610) 485-4149
dsteager@earthlink.net

Display Gardens

Marilyn Romanesko
Wilmington, DE
mromenes@pennhort.org

Plant Sales & Auctions

Charlie Seaver
Hockessin, DE
seavercharlie@gmail.com

Hostatality

Chris and Gene Dambro
Chadds Ford, PA

Raffles/Special Events

Melissa Kashey
Pottstown, PA

Advisory Board

Conny Parsons, past president
Glen Mills, PA, connyparsons1@aol.com
Wayne Guymon, past president,
Chadds Ford, PA, wbguymon@aol.com
Michael Flagg, Schwenksville, PA
Eric Neff, Vestal, NY
Barbara Tiffany, Point Pleasant, PA

All articles and photos herein are the property of the authors and the Delaware Valley Hosta Society, and are not to be reprinted without express permission.
©2013

President's Message

Whew! Where did June go? Dan and I spent the spring preparing the garden for the DVHS meeting: weeding, mulching, prepping, and planting until the sun went down, then drove out to Milwaukee for the American Hosta Society National Convention. Now it's time to weed and plant all over again!

The weather was a bit dicey for our June meeting, but the skies cleared on Saturday and the people poured in to tour the gardens, eat (a crucial part of any gathering), and spend. Our raffle brought in \$147 for the hypertufa trough of minis, and the auction delivered an amazing \$1786! Expect another raffle trough with a new set of minis to win at the July meeting.

Thank you to all of those who worked at the meeting selling tickets, garden sickles (there are only two dozen left), setting up and cleaning up the food, and giving me moral support. Yes, it was a lot of work and my body felt broken, but our gardens never looked so good. We had a week to recover, feeling much better after the trip to Wisconsin.

We decided to take Dan's Mustang for the two-days drive to Wisconsin, which limited my hosta buying potential. As the plants come in small pots, I wasn't too worried about what was coming home, though! First stop in Ohio at Perennial Plant Peddler for trough companions and ephemerals. They also had some lovely hostas in display beds and a rock garden filled with unusual treasures, including golden pokeweed and purple plantain that made me cringe! When we got back to the convertible, we found a container of just-picked sweet cherries perched on the front seat for the ride. Gardeners are nice no matter where you travel.

Despite all the road construction and traffic encountered, we arrived safely a day early in Milwaukee. This gave us the perfect opportunity to arise the next morning, check out the area, and then be on line at noon when the vendors opened! More minis for troughs, vase-shaped beauties, giants, and purple petioles. Now I just need to clear another area...

In order to keep the cost low, the convention organizers did away with tour buses, and we drove ourselves to all the gardens. This way, we could stay as long as we liked, there were no crowds at any of the gardens, and we could skip any that didn't appeal to us. One factor really stood out in all the Wisconsin gardens: no shrubs. There were just broad swaths of hostas, rarely mixed with other perennials and any small trees or shrubs. I realize that it will all be under snow in the winter, but I think I would miss the bark and outlines of the woody plants peeking through.

see **President** on p. 3

Hosta-tality for July 13th meeting

Beverages and plates, etc., will be provided.

Due to space limitations at WynEden, we suggest you bring a brown bag lunch or get lunch nearby.

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

Come early if you can help set up.

President's Message, continued from p. 2

The hostas were beautiful; big, lush leaves without a slug hole in sight. Gardeners up there don't mulch as it attracts the slugs, but that's too much weeding for me. They figure that the hosta leaves will shade out the seeds and inhibit germination. One gardener also had a moss garden with artfully placed rocks throughout his garden. Many were collected from his travels, and signage explained the rocks' origin.

Some of our club members also stood out during the convention. Charlie Seaver's hosta 'My Fine Feathered Friend' was a guest hosta in the Hosale garden. The "feathering" was just coming out in the center leaves of the large clump. [See photo below.] Roberta and Dave Chopko donated many plants to the auction, and their "Sourpuss" was the top money raiser with a bid of \$730! Maybe they can donate one to our auction?

Next year's convention will be in Iowa and has many fun activities already planned. We're not sure if we'll be going, but I know that we'll be in Raleigh, North Carolina, for the 2015 convention. I also learned about some interesting activities that other clubs in the country are doing such as a National Hosta Day to attract new members. Let me know if you have any ideas that you'd like to see the DVHS try in the future. I encourage you all to join the American Hosta Society not only to attend the national conventions but also to learn more about hostas through its journal and online resources.

I hope to see you on July 13th at the Guymon's garden to get a completely different look at hostas in the landscape.

— *Rebecca Boylan*



Charlie Seaver's 'My Fine Feathered Friend' will be featured in an upcoming article. R. Boylan photo

Ruminations of a Plain Dirt Hosta Gardener, Part 4: Rage Reigns

Elias S. Cohen

Ardmore, Pennsylvania

Believe it or not, Plain Dirt Hosta Gardeners (PDHGs) are driven by angels and devils in their ongoing quest for the hosta pleasure garden. Just to be clear, the angels and devils involved here are not those which influence or affect weather, plant health and vigor, soil state, weeds, pests, and other threats or benefits. The angels and devils that occupy our shoulders are those which drive the Plain Dirt Gardener's sensibilities, rage, and behaviors.

At the moment, the devils on my shoulder are in the ascendancy. This Plain Dirt Hosta Gardener is now in thrall to the forces feeding on my rage and dismay over the horned embodiments of Satan who have chosen this garden as their prime source of sustenance and joy. These devils egg me on to uncharacteristic alliances with the NRA on the issues of a longer hunting season and unlimited bag constraints, offers of bounties for extra kills, placement of salt licks at strategic locations, and the use of assault weapons for... deer hunting.

To be sure, the angels on my shoulder urged me to more rational and compassionate pursuits (so far as Bambi is concerned).

While the swath of destruction visited on no less than 150 plants destroyed my customary rationality and overcame any sense of animal welfare, neighborly responsibility and citizenship I may have entertained, I hesitated implementing my revenge (whatever form it might have taken). Reluctantly, I responded to their angelic imprecations urging me to visit the shrine of Athena's daughter to seek a rational humane response. St. Google did not disappoint; she seldom does.

Clearly, I was not the first to suffer the invasion and seek a solution.

Very close to 50 pages Google pages—easily over 500 references—suggested chemical, electrical, physical, patented and homemade recipes, techniques, approaches, vegetative repellants and devices. The range of suggestions was wide. One commentator suggested that if you really don't want the deer at all and cannot or will not install a fence, the best move is simply not to grow plants that deer like. It was easy to find such a list of 60 or 70 such plants ranging from *Acanthopanax* to *Vinca minor*. Some suggested that

see *PDHG* on p. 6

New Members' Corner

We welcome these new members who have joined our group since our last Newsletter.

Donna and Peter Anderson Exton, PA	Dan Litwin Newtown Square, PA
Wanda and Bill Fowler Viola, DE	Celia Malmad Quakertown, PA

DVHS Meeting, July 13, 2013

Garden Tour, Treats and Auction WynEden, Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania

WynEden sits in the rolling hills of the Brandywine Valley – Andrew Wyeth country. It is a 9.5 acre site containing over 4,000 different plants and cultivars, 15,000 hostas, 7,000 Rhododendrons & Azaleas, 3 ponds, 3 streams and 5 acres of edited woodland. The most spectacular feature is a hillside planting of thousands of hostas laid out in large bands of color leading down to two large ponds (see photo below).

In early spring, as hellebores and winter flowering shrubs start their decline, tens of thousands of bulbs burst into bloom along with thousands of bloodroots. Other spring ephemerals include hepaticas, terrestrial orchids, the *Jeffersonias dubia* and *diphylla*, many primroses, phlox, and heucheras, all blooming beneath some 40-odd dogwoods scattered throughout the property.

In summer, the sunny borders shine with daylilies, coneflowers, eupatoriums, and sunflowers. In the shade gardens the 400 plus hosta cultivars take center stage.

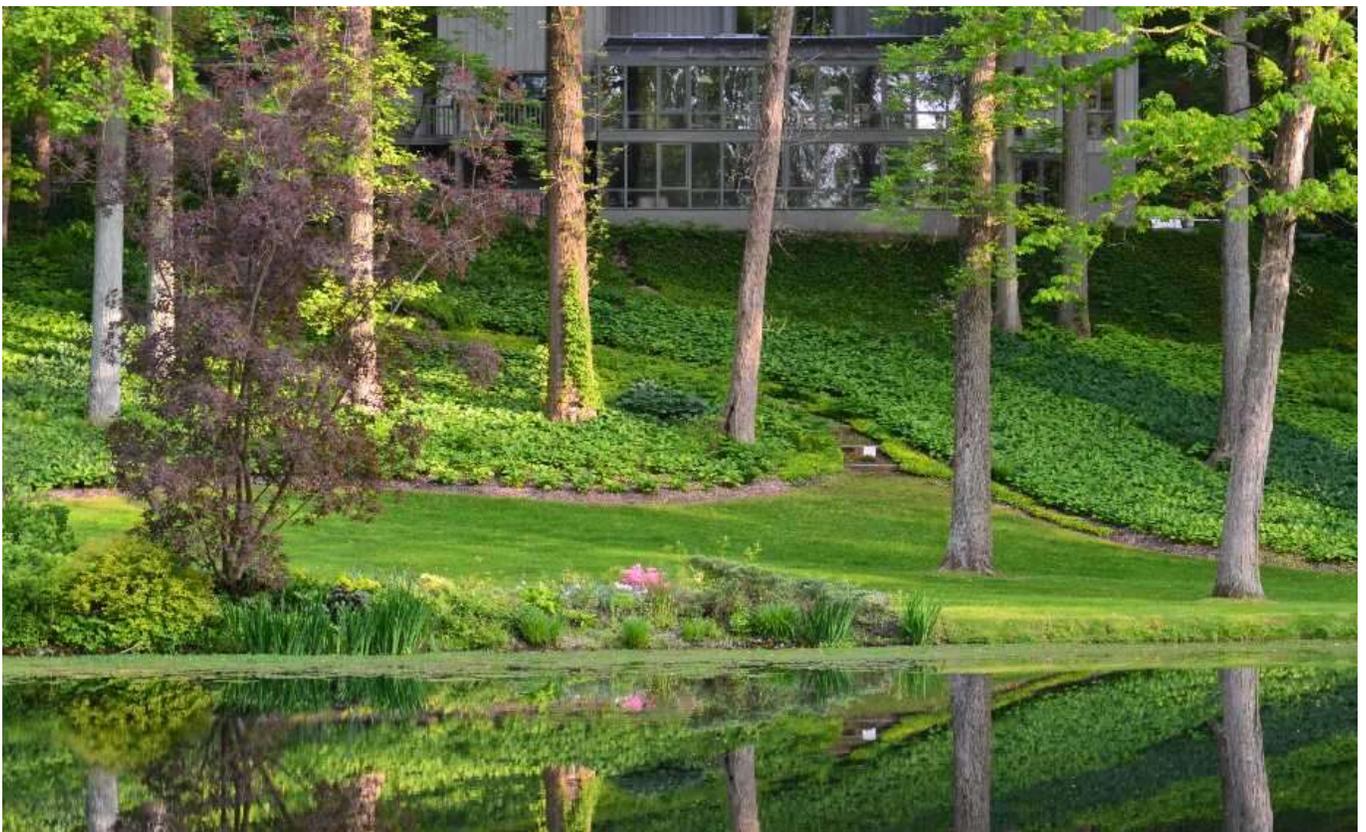
Mid-April, May through early June, the first two weeks in July and early August are the most floriferous periods, but despite the fact that the garden is conceived primarily as a foliage garden, there is something in bloom all year.

Tucked away between two ranges of low hills and surrounded by mature, native woodlands, the site itself is spectacular at any time of the year.

WynEden was one of the noted tour gardens during the 2006 National Convention of the American Hosta Society, and is featured in the Member Profiles section of the DVHS website. As well, Wayne (a past president of the DVHS) is a noted garden photographer who has been a speaker at past DVHS meetings. Wayne's wife Doris has created a beautiful website showcasing the garden and their champion standard poodle at www.wyneden.com. 🐾



Above, a hosta emerges beneath an *Acer shirawanum* cultivar. WynEden photo. Below, the tall trees reflected on a still pond. C. Parsons photo.



Dead-Heading Rhododendrons

Kathy Miller

Rhododendrons are a popular companion for the shade gardens that showcase our hostas. Until I started volunteering at Longwood Gardens, I never considered dead-heading rhododendrons. Given that the gardeners have the time, most of the rhododendrons at Longwood receive the treatment. This practice tends to promote healthier plants and more numerous blooms the following year. Not a must, but it can definitely make a difference.

So, if you are craving some extra work in the garden, here's how it's done. Grasp the flower at the junction of the horizontal brown lines and gently pinch it off. Take care not to pinch off next year's buds, which are just below this junction. Best to use fingers rather than pruners, so the flower separates at its weakest point. That's all there is to it. 🌱



Right: Note horizontal brown lines where you can pinch off the old flower.



Left: Care must be taken to maintain buds for next year.

Hostas on the Internets

David Teager

A few years ago I mentioned the revitalization of the website for the American Hosta Society (www.americanhostasociety.org, or more simply, www.hosta.org). Much of the credit, I believe, goes to the remarkable Josh Spece. He and his mother own In the Country Garden and Gifts, which sells hostas and other goodies by internet/mail order.

I don't know if Josh can take credit for the AHS Facebook page, however, which seems to have taken off in popularity this year. Many of the top hybridizers in the country are showing off their plants there, and as well many home gardeners are showing plants in their own and others' gardens.

It's a great place to get your daily "eye candy" of beautiful hostas. It's an "open group" (at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2248595978/>), so anyone can sign in with your Facebook account. 🌱

Big Leaf Contest, Now Even Bigger!

Kathy Miller

It has been an exceptional spring for rainfall, after last year's summer drought. How big are your hosta leaves? Bring your biggest to the July meeting and enter the contest.

This year, we'll award prizes in two divisions: *H.* 'Sum and Substance', or "Any other hosta." Length x width is all that matters, not condition.

All big leaves will go on display. 🌱



The large pond at WynEden on an early summer's day. WynEden photo.

6 PDHG, continued from p. 3

using such in the vicinity of deer-attracting plants served as a repellent, although my own experience with well-munched hostas surrounded by pachysandra, one of those regarded as unliked by deer, is that the deer go for the good stuff, the pachysandra notwithstanding.

The proliferation of deer deterrents leads inexorably to the conclusion that, short of death and fencing (and a few anecdotally supported claims to the contrary), nothing is guaranteed to keep the deer from decimating the hosta crop. Apart from the physical barrier, deer are motivated, positively or negatively, by: *fear*, *conditioned aversion*, *pain*, and *taste*. In my current state of mind, I opt for massive herd reduction (my euphemism for death) or for the long term (described in more detail below) behavior modification.

Home remedies abound. I have tried (and continue to try) some. There is a wide range of choices. They include—in no particular order of effectiveness, and with occasional parenthetical reference to downside elements—the following: a high-strung territorially conditioned dog (dog maintenance, vet fees, dog-sitting requirements for the gardener's vacation days, and keeping the dog urine from messing up the lawn); distributing dog hair and/or dog poop (collection from the neighborhood, tracking dogs, home furniture, neighbors' furniture, and/or the vet); surrounding the beds with wood pallets (cost, placement difficulties, appearance); a dangling distribution of Lifebuoy and/or Irish Spring Soap; "noise traps" either through motion sensors, or trip wires to topple stacks of tin cans; dried blood (serious problems in securing volunteer donors and proper drying equipment); predator urine (tracking wolves and capturing urine is very time-consuming); and various recipes for commercial or home-made deer repellent (while easy to concoct, controlling the rotten egg odor—a common element in virtually all repellents—while it is "ripening" is unpleasant, and like all chemical repellents needs reapplication periodically).

Some scientific studies show that clearly the gold standard (no, not the beloved Pauline Banyai hosta) is the physical fence. At a level of 100% effectiveness, it is used as the ultimate criterion against which chemical

see **PDHG** on p. 7



A typical drive home from an AHS convention! Dan Boylan and new hostas. R. Boylan photo

At the June DVHS Meeting



Wally Bradford sent in a link to a photo album of shots from the last meeting. Above, Barbara Bradford isn't afraid of hosta 'Komodo Dragon'. Below: love it or hate it, there's no mistaking 'White Wall Tires'.



JOIN THE AHS!

Visit www.hosta.org where you can join on-line. Members get on-line access to *The Hosta Journal* and more information about nematodes.

PDHG, continued from p. 6

deterrents are measured. However, cost and sightlines are issues attached to fencing.

Product	Protection (%) ¹
Repellex	50
Deer Solution	52
Coyote urine	53
Plantskydd	60
Deer-Off	65
Big Game	72
Chew-Not	74
Liquid Fence	78
Hinder	83
Bobbex	93
Physical Fence	100

(To these, one might add other commercial products such as Heaven Scent, Deer Out, Defence, and Shakeaway Deer Repellent Granules.)

While deterrence is all well and good, a gentle response to the vicious depredation visited upon our efforts to beautify our environment and create gardens that soothe the heart and enhance our surroundings, I respectfully suggest that we have been constrained in our approach to the Deer Plague. The problem is two-pronged: the presence of deer in the suburban and near suburban neighborhood and the “Double A” characteristics of deer, *viz.* Appetite and Attitude.

Three hundred years ago the animal plague confronting our pioneer agrarian ancestors was the wolf. That problem was solved. Wolves were effectively wiped out. Deer are today’s wolves in the Plain Dirt Hosta Gardener’s back yard. Echoing Cato the Elder, let us declare “*Odocoileus virginianus delenda est*” (that is, “The white-tailed deer must be destroyed”). Destruction, possibly through alignment with the short-term intent of hunters and the NRA (may the Deity forgive me) will solve the “appetite” issue.

Attitude is another issue: the changing landscape in North America to agricultural and non-forest usage has favored the proliferation of deer and has established among them an attitude that they own the place—an unintended consequence. I would like to suggest as an

alternative to death and destruction of the our deer: domestication, not unlike that which has taken place in Finland, Lapland, and other arctic communities which have successfully confined, virtually completely, reindeer (*Rangifer taranus*). Reindeer are cousins to our native deer. In Lapland huge herds are tagged and subsequently put to good use for meat, hides, antlers, milk, and even transportation. We can certainly do as much here in the U.S. Let a select few, I say, join Santa Claus in useful activities that bring Joy to the World.

I have no illusions about the obstacles in the path of true, sweeping effective protection of Hostas from deer depredation. However, it is clear that current namby-pamby deterrents—whether grounded in fear, conditioned aversion, pain or taste—do not work, and while fencing may keep the hostas out of deer’s reach, the cost is out of most of our reach. I suggest that we “double down” to a humane 4-D solution: Deer Deterrence, Domestication, and Destruction (i.e. Death). Protection of Hostas, the most popular perennial in America, can surely mobilize the latent army of frustrated Plain Dirt Hosta Gardeners to undertake active advocacy of the cause. Let us begin. »

¹ Ward, J.S. and Williams, S.C. (2010). “Effectiveness of deer repellents in Connecticut,” *Human-Wildlife Interactions* 4(1): 56-66. (Spring) at p. 60

As well, see: Trent, A., Nolte, D. and Wagner, K. (2001). “Comparison of Commercial Deer Repellents”, USDA National Wildlife Research Center – Staff Publications. Paper 572

Hani, A. and Conover, M.R. (1995). “Comparative Analysis of Deer Repellents,” National Wildlife Research Center Repellents Conference 1995, posted at <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nwrcrepellants/14>

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 Romanesco, Chair, 302-765-3581
- 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

www.delvalhosta.org

Saturday, February 23: DVHS Winter Meeting,
Tredyffrin Public Library, Wayne, PA
Hosta Soup and Hosta Chat

Saturday, April 6: DVHS Spring Meeting,
Tredyffrin Public Library, Wayne, PA
Hosta plant sale and great hospitality
Presentation by John Lonsdale: "Woodland Treasures:
Hardy Cyclamen"

June 7-9: FIRST LOOK 2013. Windsor Locks, CT
Visit <http://www.hostalibrary.org/firstlook/>

Saturday, June 8: DVHS Tour of Rebecca and Dan
Boylan's garden, Pottstown, PA. Potluck and plant
auction.

June 13-15: AHS National Convention in
Milwaukee, Wisconsin. www.hosta.org or
www.2013ahsconvention.com.

Saturday, July 13: DVHS Tour of WynEden (Doris
and Wayne Guymon garden) in Chadds Ford, PA,
with BIG LEAF contest and plant auction

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

HOW'S YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Please check your mailing label. If you see a number less than 13, you owe DVHS dues for 2013. 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 2013 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.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DVHS Newsletter v22.3
1200 Farmington Ave
Pottstown PA 19464-1826