

Fall 2015

Workshop and Business Meeting

Shaping the Shade Garden

Saturday, October 17, 1–4 p.m.

A joint meeting with the Montgomery County Master Gardeners
Montgomery County Farm, Home & 4-H Center
1015 Bridge Road, Collegeville, PA 19426

- 11:30 Board meeting** (bring brown bag lunch)
- 1:00 Set-up, hostality, and favorite tool display**
- 1:45 Workshop Sessions 1 and 2 (details inside)**
- 2:30 Business meeting, with biennial election of officers**
- 3:00 Workshop Session 3**
- 3:30 'Shady Affair' hosta dividend and clean-up**



Directions to MontCo 4-H Center

The center is located in the old Skippack Elementary School on Rt. 113, one mile south of Rt. 73 in the village of Skippack (but Collegeville mailing address).

□ **From Philadelphia/North/Central NJ:** Take I-76 West to King of Prussia/Valley Forge. Follow the signs to Route 422 West. Proceed on Rt. 422 to Rt. 29 / Collegeville. Exit on Rt. 29 and go North toward Collegeville. Follow 29N signs (road makes several turns). At light in Rahns, turn right onto Rt. 113. Go approximately 2 miles. 4-H Center will be on the left.

From the West: Take I-76 East to King of Prussia/Valley Forge, then follow directions □ above.

□ **From the North:** Take NE Extension of PA Turnpike south to Lansdale exit. After going through toll booth, turn right onto Sumneytown Pike. Go approximately 4 miles to intersection of Rt. 113. Make a left onto Rt. 113. Go about 5 miles and you will come to intersection of Rt. 73. Go straight at the light (stay on Rt. 113). It is one mile from that light on the right.

From the South: Take I-95 North (from Delaware or US 322) to I-476 North on NE Extension to Lansdale exit, then follow directions □ above. Or take US-202 north to Route 422 West and follow directions □ above.



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

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President's Message

This is my final "President's Message" for the DVHS newsletter. In four years, I've rattled on about my dogs, bees, family, and favorite plants. I hope that I've also passed along some information about great plant sources, plant culture, other shady plants (Epimediums!), and my love of baking. Yes, I will still be here at DVHS as the Membership VP, so don't worry, the baked goods won't go away.

Many milestones mark my past four years, but *I will not* take credit for any of them; this has been a board effort. I'm not singling out anyone for fear of missing someone, but you know who you are. Key accomplishments include our National Hosta Display Garden at the Barnes Arboretum, the Hosta Display Garden at Tyler Arboretum, our new website, and our future 2018 National Convention. Many DVHS members have also worked on these projects, and I again thank you all!

I have many hopes for the future of DVHS that I hope our members will join me in making come true. As Membership VP, I'd love to see people pay their \$10 dues by the spring meeting; our dues are among the lowest of any hosta society and it would make bookkeeping so much easier! We also need more members. DVHS is more than hostas. I'm a shade gardener out of necessity as I've planted many ornamental trees and shrubs which have created shade. There are more than hostas in my garden, and you'll find the same situations in most of our member's gardens. Invite your shady-gardener friends to join DVHS and they'll enjoy our auctions and garden tours too!

We need members to take a proactive role in the society. This isn't brain surgery. Yes, it's an over-used cliché, but the board doesn't have all the ideas and welcomes new ones. The pay is great (cookies), and the comradery even better. Right now, there's an open position for a hospitality chair as Chris Dambro has had to step down. This position involves setting up the refreshments at meetings and receiving the food at our summer meetings when we have pot luck meals. There are always others around to help, but you would be the chair. We gardeners like our food, so this is an important role!

Volunteer for a convention committee. This will be a lot of work, but the more people we have helping, the smoother the convention will run. We live in the hotbed of gardening and need to show the hosta community how it's done. A great convention with our great members is what we will have!

So thank you all for giving me four years with a supportive board and wonderful membership. I hope to see you at our October meeting when we discuss "Shaping the Shade Garden."

— Rebecca Boylan

JOIN THE AHS!

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

Hosta-tality for October 17

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.

Fall Workshop—Shaping the Shade Garden

Our fall meeting will be something different this year: a gathering with not one, but three (or more!) shorter presentations and discussion sessions. We are holding this meeting in conjunction with the Master Gardeners training program in Montgomery County; master gardeners-in-training will receive credit for soaking in all the hosta knowledge we can squeeze out.

The first two presentations are by Rebecca Boylan and Kathy Miller, who will present the topics “Understory Plants and Shrubs,” and “How Much Shade is Too Much?”, respectively. After a break for some business, Conny Parsons will give a slightly longer presentation

titled “Color Your Way Through the Shade Garden—With Hostas.” Most of you know that Conny is a fine painter, who brings her eye for art to garden planning and execution.

A special treat this year will be a DVHS member’s dividend: a pot of *H.* ‘Shady Affair’. Stick around for the end of the meeting to get one.

We’ll kick off the meeting with some hostality and a discussion of your favorite garden tools. It’s also a great time to bring pictures (in print or on laptops/tablets) of your favorite hostas, or of your most perplexing garden challenges, to share with others. 🌿

DVHS Year in Review

David Teager

Here are a few pictures from the year’s activities: Judges Clinic I led by Conny Parsons and Warren Pollock, plants for auction at the June meeting, dining around the auction plants at the July meeting, and gathering for the dedication of the Barnes garden in July. 🌿



That’s a Lot of Leaf

Kathy Miller

We had some really big hosta leaves this year. Last year, Betty Drummond won with a leaf from ‘Princess Wu’, with a size rating (length x width in inches) of 232. This year, five leaves surpassed that: #5 ‘Kruggerand’, submitted by Charlie Seaver; #4 ‘Sum and Substance’, by Becca Boylan; #3 ‘Princess Wu’, also from Becca; #2 ‘Lady Isobel Barnett’ by Charlie; and #1 (drum roll please) ‘Sum and Substance’, by Missy Kashey measuring in at a whopping 341 rating. Congratulations to Missy! 🌿



H. ‘Sum and Substance’ (L) and *H.* ‘Lady Isobel Barnett’ (R) loom over *H.* ‘Liberty’ (10.5" x 11.25") submitted by our host, Roland Teich. K. Miller photo



Photos by D. Teager, J. Parsons and C. Parsons

A DVHS Photo Collage

Here is a selection of the photos from the year in hostas, many submitted by loyal DVHS members. Thank you for your entries. Some of your other photographs may appear in future DVHS Newsletters.



The hosta border in the Bradford garden. W. Bradford photo.



Portraits of 'Ringtail' (above, D. Teager) and 'Squash Casserole' (below, M. Romensko).



A 'Designer Genes' bud. D. Teager photo.

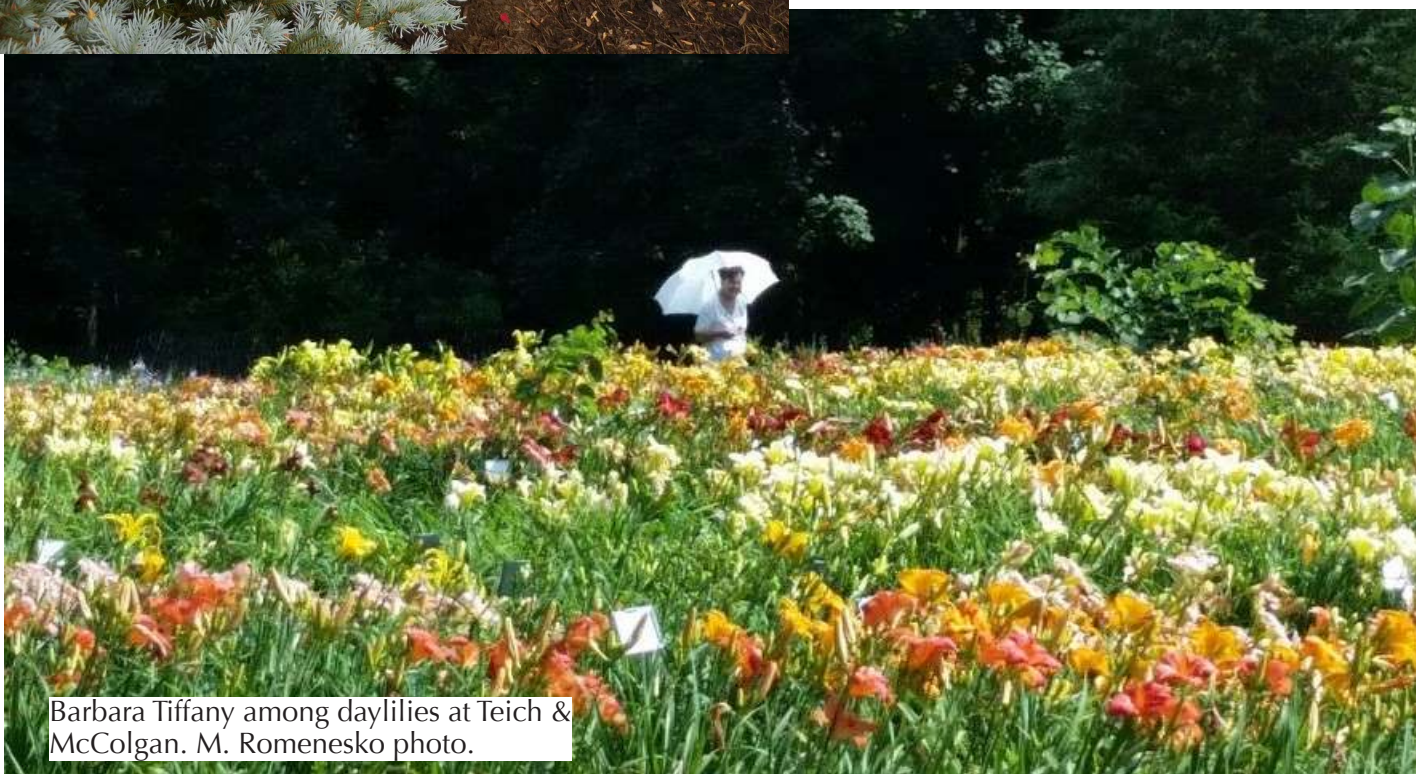




Above, 'Neptune' anchors a grouping of hostas (see more of 'Neptune' on next page). Below, 'Dress Blues' dresses up a dwarf blue spruce. (D Teager photos) At right, a grouping in Irma Reinhold's garden.



Below, 'Lakeside Symphony' sings in the Parsons garden (D Teager photo).



Barbara Tiffany among daylilies at Teich & McColgan. M. Romenesko photo.

6 A love letter to H. 'Neptune' and DVHS

David Teager

In 2008, DVHS offered H. 'Neptune' (H. Hansen, 2006, PP 19674) in its spring plant sale. I'm not sure if Kathy Miller and Marilyn Romensko both bought their 'Neptunes' that spring, but they each submitted lovely pictures for this issue. I add to theirs a leaf close-up that I took this spring (at right).

Hans Hansen crossed a hybrid of 'Maekawa' and 'Halcyon' with 'Salute', selecting (and patenting) 'Neptune' for its obvious appeal. While most hosta growers are familiar with 'Halcyon' (the all-blue parent of 'June'), and many are familiar with the "at attention" habit of blue-grey 'Salute', *H. 'Maekawa'* is less familiar.

It is, in fact, a selection of the Japanese species *H. hypoleuca*, famed for its white leaf backs; it happily passes this trait on to its offspring. 'Maekawa' couples this foliage character with nice rippling edges, which is, in this case, passed forward to 'Neptune'.



K. Miller photo

'Neptune' is certainly not the bluest hosta in the hosta garden, but its rather unique color will certainly attract attention. Marilyn displays the cascading leaf form to great effect by growing hers in a pot.

If you don't have 'Neptune' in your hosta garden, it is one to seek out. Do recognize that because of its patent protection, it is not to be divided and sold: plants must come through licensed propagation.

And so I take a bit of space here to say a few words in my last issue as editor of the DVHS Newsletter. Kathy

'Neptune' in a pot. M. Romenesko photo



Miller will be taking over next year as I move on to new jobs with DVHS (and perhaps someday, the AHS). It has, after all, been eight years! I shouldn't complain: Conny Parsons did it for ten.

Why have I served, and why will I continue to serve, the Delaware Valley Hosta Society? The pictures on this page tell the story: Would *H. 'Neptune'* be in our garden had we not been given the chance to buy it, when it was still quite new (and for only \$20)? Would I have been invited to enjoy these plants in Marilyn's and Kathy's gardens? Would I have learned how to judge this leaf, or this plant in a pot, at an AHS Leaf Show had it not been for DVHS? I think the answer is obvious. Thank you all for being part of DVHS. 🍷

The dirt on dirty hostas

Conny Parsons

This photo was taken late September and shows only about 25% of the dirt, actually sooty mold, which was on the leaves throughout the summer. Two other hostas next to it were also infected. The second flush looked a little better by maybe 50%. Constant sprinkling and watering along with an occasional rain removed some but not all.



Sooty Mold on H. 'Eternity'. C. Parsons photo

This blackish mold growing on hosta leaves is due to the sticky honeydew secreted by aphids (and other insects) living in overhead trees. The hostas in this area are under a crabapple, a maple, and not far from a black walnut tree. The aphids infect the new growth

see **Dirty hostas** on p. 7

DVHS Calendar 2016: First Glance

Please check the website for updates.

Saturday, March 5, Easttown Library. Hosta Soup, Hosta Chat, and Garden Preview.

Saturday, April 30, Tredyffrin Library. Warren Pollock, "Blame it on the Chromosomes." Annual Plant Sale to members.

Saturday, June 4, Wilmington. Marilyn and Dan Romanesko garden. Potluck and Auction.

Saturday, June 11 and Sunday, June 12, The Barnes Arboretum. **Hosta Show**. This will be a unique opportunity to visit the original museum gallery space as well as show off the Barnes display garden.

June 15–18, AHS Convention, St. Louis, Missouri

Saturday, July 9, Wyndmoor. Sue and Gary Yeager garden. Big Leaf Contest and Auction.

Saturday, November 5, Location TBA. Carol Brashear, "Is It a New Hosta Sport Or Is It a Virus?"

Dirty hostas, continued from p. 6

on many trees. The liquid they secrete as they feed is called 'honeydew.' This sugary substance is extremely sticky and clings to surfaces, including hosta leaves, windows and cars. Various molds then grow in the honeydew, creating a blackish appearance on hosta foliage.

The only information/solution about sooty mold on hosta leaves we found was in Mark Zilis' "Field Guide to Hostas" pages 366–367. Spray the foliage with water as honeydew appears; or (of course) move hostas to locations where they will not be subject to honeydew. Early spray with a mild detergent and water followed by sponging the leaves may help.

Googling "sooty mold on plants" produced several other potential treatments for application early in the season. Spray with neem oil (2 T. per gallon) weekly while the problem persists. A simple baking soda spray is often effective at preventing fungal spores from settling onto vulnerable plants (1 teaspoon into 2 quarts of water, with a drop of liquid soap). Spray foliage once a week with this solution and after heavy rainfalls. 🌿

Fresh Salmon Pasta Salad

Jim Tatro

This salad was a hit at the spring DVHS meeting.

Ingredients:

2 lb. salmon filet
1 box whole wheat pasta shells
1 or 2 diced red peppers
4 stalks chopped celery
1 medium red onion, diced
1 can Niblets corn, drained
2 lbs. asparagus
2 bunches of fresh dill tops, chopped
1 jar capers, drained
juice from 2 or 3 large lemons
3/4 cup mayonnaise
1/2 tsp of smoked paprika
salt to taste

Preparation:

Sauté salmon filet on both sides until brown and skin is easy to remove. Remove skin and discard. Scrape grey membrane from salmon and discard. Sauté underside until browned.

Complete cooking salmon in 375 degree oven until just done. Do not overcook. Center should still be translucent.

Refrigerate salmon to cool, overnight preferred.

Prepare pasta according to box instructions for *al dente*. Add cold water to stop cooking. Drain and cool pasta.

Prepare peppers, celery, onions and corn.

Break fibrous ends from asparagus then snap into small pieces. Steam or blanch asparagus until tender crisp, do not overcook.

Combine all ingredients, except salmon, in large bowl to mix.

Break salmon into medium size pieces and blend into pasta mix trying not to break salmon up too much. 🌿

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 Mike Shadrack.

DUES NOTICE

Please check your mailing label. If your number is 15 or higher, we thank you for being a member in good standing. **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. It is not too soon to send in your 2016 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

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