



# DELAWARE VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

**INSIDE** Protecting Hostas from Frost  
Benefits of Bees!  
July Pictures!

Volume 27, No. 4

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

Fall, 2018

Saturday, October 6, 2018

## Tredyffrin Library

582 Upper Gulph Rd., Wayne, PA, 19087

### “From Flower to Bee to Honey: Beekeeping and Beyond”

Dan and Rebecca Boylan

12:30 p.m. Set-Up

1:00 p.m. Hostatality and Business Meeting

2:00 p.m. Presentation by Dan and Rebecca Boylan

3:00 p.m. Chat and Clean-Up

3:30 p.m. Board Meeting

**Hosta-tality for October 6. Please bring some treats for our meeting. Beverages will be provided. Come early if you can help set up.**

#### Directions to October 6 Meeting

**From Philadelphia:** Take I-76 or the PA Turnpike West to King of Prussia/Valley Forge. Take Route 202 South to the Swedesford Rd exit just after King of Prussia mall. Take the first left onto Swedesford Rd, then the next left onto Old Eagle School Road. Follow Old Eagle School Road 2 miles to traffic light at Upper Gulph Road, and turn left. The Library is 0.2 mile on the right.

*Or take I-476 South (or North) to Rt. 30 and use the directions “from the South” below.*

**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 Rte. 1) to West Valley Road. Turn right at the traffic light onto West Valley Road. Follow West Valley about 2 miles up a long hill and down to a stop sign. Turn left onto Upper Gulph Road, and proceed through the traffic light about 0.3 mile. The Library is on the right.

**From the South:** Take I-95 North to I-476 North to Rt. 30 (Villanova/St. Davids) West. Take Rte. 30 (E Lancaster Ave.) 2.5 miles to Old Eagle School Rd. Turn Right, and go 0.7 miles to Upper Gulph Rd. Turn Right, and the library will be ahead on the right.

### The American Hosta Society

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

Check out the benefits of membership.  
Join other hosta lovers from around the world.



## DVHS Officers

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#### Hostality

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#### Raffles/Special Events

Position open

### Advisory Board

Conny Parsons, Glen Mills, PA  
Michael Flagg, Schwenksville, PA  
Ed MacFarland, Glenside, PA  
Warren Pollock, Glen Mills, PA  
Barbara Tiffany, Point Pleasant, PA

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We should all be recovered from the months (years) of planning and prepping our gardens for the National Convention and basking in the success of our efforts. Future conventions now worry how they're ever going to live up to what Philly put on, and they should be scared! Our small group gave over 375 people gardens like no others, non-stop education, nights of parties, and even parties while they shopped. Thanks go out to all the DVHS members, family, and friends who came out and helped us perform this amazing feat.

Now it's back to gardening. After all the non-stop action in our garden, it's taken a long time to want to do anything, and the weather hasn't helped either. If it's not hot and humid, it's raining. Great for nematodes, but not this gardener. Just another excuse for a plant shopping road trip! Rip out some things I don't like (thank goodness for the Kubota) and plant some new ones. Only way to do it when you're at garden max.

My husband Dan is now back to full beekeeping mode after helping get the garden in order for the tour. He harvested over 1000 pounds of spring honey after the convention, and will harvest the darker, fall honey at the end of September. You'll hear all about an introduction to beekeeping, key pollinator plants, and products of the hive (tastings!) at our next meeting when we present "From Flower to Bee to Honey: Beekeeping and Beyond."

Hope to see you there

*Rebecca Boylan*

## Step Right Up!

The DVHS Display Gardens need periodic maintenance. DVHS members volunteer their time. If you would like to help, contact Marilyn Romenesko.

Phone: 302 750-452

Email: mromen9@gmail.com



It is difficult to schedule these activities in advance due to garden calendars and weather. When it's time for action, she will contact you.

The smallest registered hosta is 'Tiny Tears', 1.0" x 0.5"

# From Flower to Bee to Honey: Beekeeping and Beyond

## Dan and Rebecca Boylan

Join us to learn from local beekeeper Dan Boylan and avid gardener, teacher, and current DVHS President Rebecca Boylan to learn how important bees are. How to attract them to your garden. What plants they like best. How honey is made.

We will also learn how widely honey is used in products we use and consume, how it can help us medicinally, and why the flavor of honey varies so much. When processing their honey, Dan and Rebecca collect the beeswax (a natural emollient) to use in handmade creams and lotions. While Dan will cover the basics of beekeeping in this class, it is meant for anyone interested in bees, how beekeepers manage them, and how essential bees are to a healthy ecosystem. You may not choose to have hives on your property, but you can choose plants that give honey bees what they need.

We will get to taste honey as well as experience how it makes other foods and drinks (like cake and mead) taste delicious! The Boylans will also bring their creams and lotions for you to try!

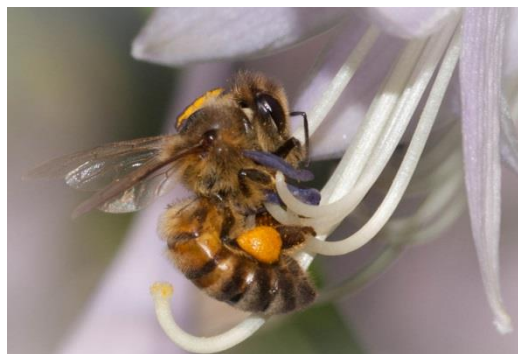


Photo: bythedrop.com



Photo: scottarboretum.com

## Big Leaf Results



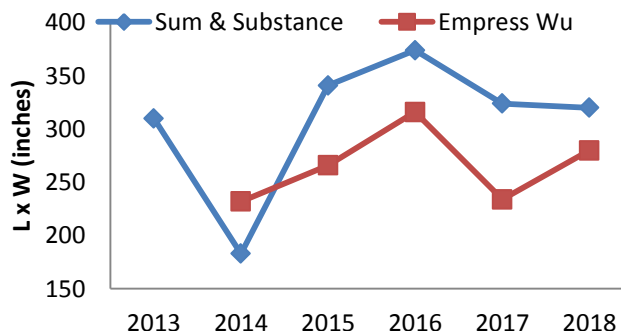
Big Leaves. The winning 'Sum and Substance' at left with 'Empress Wu' at center; 'Margie's Angel' and 'El Capitan' below. Staff Photo.

Once again we had a showdown between Missy Kashey's winning 'Sum and Substance' and Marilyn Romenesko's second place 'Empress Wu'. However, the competition was fierce, making this the closest contest yet. Other big leaf growers included Debby Bryan, Cathy Mazauskas, Michelle Pudder, Jenny Rose Carey, Betty Bradford, and Jeff Lepp. It was great to see so many big leaves, with 'Margie's Angel' and 'El Capitan' entering the fray. And, as usual, it was raining!

Warren Pollack observed that the registered leaf size for 'Empress Wu' is enormously overestimated at 28" x 25". A check of the AHS Hosta Registry reveals that the registered leaf size for 'Sum and Substance' is underestimated at 18" x 15". Many of our 'Sum and Substance' entries are significantly larger than that.

It is interesting to see how leaf size varies with year in the DVHS **Big Leaf** contest. Certainly weather must play some role, as both cultivars almost rise and fall together. Currently there is an upward trend for 'Empress Wu'. Will she ever live up to her potential?

### Leaf Size



Can you name the smallest registered hosta? Ans. p.2.



## JULY CELEBRATORY MEETING

Been there! Done that! Whew. It's over! Thanks to the hard work of so many of our members, we not only survived, but even triumphed as hosts of the AHS national convention. Too many of you to thank properly, so we all got together at Jenny Rose Carey's beautiful Northview Gardens for a stylish party. Cloth napkins and real silverware for the potluck!!

DVHS Newsletter, Fall, 2018



Jenny Rose Carey leads us through her gardens. A great big **Thank You** to her!



Left: *Hosta* 'Pineapple Ripple'

All photos: Kathy Miller



## WARREN POLLOCK RECIEVES AWARD



Another highlight of the American Hosta Society Convention was the presentation of a Lifetime Achievement Award to Warren Pollock. Warren is pictured here with his wife Ali and Greg Peterson, current President of the AHS.

## 'LAKESIDE PAISLEY PRINT' HOSTA OF THE YEAR FOR 2019



Photo: Kathy Sisson

The American Hosta Growers Association established the AHGA Hosta of the Year in 1996. It is selected by a vote of AHGA members. Award winners are hostas that are good garden plants in all regions of the country. The hosta is usually chosen at least two years in advance to allow nurseries enough time to increase their stock.

### Previous Hostas Of The Year:

1996 – 'So Sweet'	2008 – 'Blue Mouse Ears'
1997 – 'Patriot'	2009 – 'Earth Angel'
1998 – 'Fragrant bouquet'	2010 – 'First Frost'
1999 – 'Paul's Glory'	2011 – 'Praying Hands'
2000 – 'Sagae'	2012 – 'Liberty'
2001 – 'June'	2013 – 'Rainforest Sunrise'
2002 – 'Guacamole'	2014 – 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd'
2003 – 'Regal Splendor'	2015 – 'Victory'
2004 – 'Sum and Substance'	2016 – 'Curly Fries'
2005 – 'Striptease'	2017 – 'Brother Stefan'
2006 – 'Stained Glass'	2018 – .....
2007 – 'Paradigm'	

## CONVENTION PICTURES

We are in the process of producing a DVD with many pictures from the convention and the garden tours. Come to the February meeting to see the finished product. Meanwhile, a picture or two from the Hosta Show and the Auction.

### BEST OF SHOW

*Hosta* 'Whirlaway', winner of the Small section award, won Best Of Show. It outdid all other section winners:

- Giant (*H.* 'Elegans')
- Large (*H.* 'Crispula')
- Medium (*H.* 'Sails Ho')
- Mini (*H.* 'Hidden Cove').

Grown by John Smead of Cattaraugus, NY, and registered by J. Murray in 2004, *H.* 'Whirlaway'

is a sport of *H.* 'Whirlwind'.



### THE *H.* 'JOAN ALTMAN' STORY

*Hosta* 'Joan Altman' was introduced and registered by Bob Kuk of Brecksville, OH in 2011. Its unusual, bright, ombré coloring has made it a show stopper. Joan and Herbie Altman, New Wilmington, PA, graciously donated the plant to the AHS auction. After some highly competitive bidding, it sold for well over \$100.00.

When Michael Shadrack stepped up for his turn as auctioneer, to the surprise of many, another *H.* 'Joan Altman' appeared on the block. It sold for \$110.00.



After Michael auctioned off a few more hostas, *H.* 'Joan Altman' appeared yet again. "ANOTHER ????" asked Michael with his best British accent. "How much did this go for the last time?" Debby Bryan shouted out "\$110.00". 'Sold!!!', shouted Mike. "No. No. No. Wait. Wait. Wait," yelled Debby. "I was just answering your question!" After much laughter, the auction proceeded. Debby was off the hook. And, surprisingly, *H.* 'Joan Altman' sold again for \$110.00.



Relax, Debby!!  
It's not yours.  
Charlie and  
Carolynn Seaver  
offer support

## 6 Protecting Hostas From Frost Damage. by Clarence Falstad III

*This article has appeared in other societies' newsletters. It is published here through the AHS Newsletter Exchange.*

AHS Hostas are amazingly resilient hardy perennials, but as many know their foliage can still succumb to occasional poorly timed frosts. The damage can leave them unsightly and vulnerable to disease. Symptoms from late spring or early fall frosts are similar. Most hostas are less susceptible to frosts in fall than in spring, and it is easier to protect against early fall frosts. There are several steps we can take to protect hosta plants from frost.

Unlike some tender annuals, hostas can take up to a few days to show symptoms from frost damage, but evidence may also start appearing the night of the frost. The first sign might be stiff, darkened, almost brittle leaves. Indications the following morning can be more extreme. Once thawed you may see limp clumps with very dark, crinkled, frozen-lettuce-like leaves.

Expanded but still tightly rolled foliage is more resistant to frost than foliage that is completely unfurled. The tight buds that emerge early in the spring may still be able to withstand temperatures of much less than 32 °F (0 °C).

Because of the tolerance of hosta leaves, light frosts may not be noticed for a week or more, but could appear as burned leaf margins, leaf tips, or just the higher portion of unfurled leaves. Frost could affect just the surface of a leaf without penetrating to the lower cells. They may show small yellow droplet-sized spots from water freezing on leaves, or just cold water sitting on foliage. In these minor cases the symptoms will manifest as darkened tissue, eventually becoming lighter yellow followed by brown and dried.

Understanding what occurs to the leaf is helpful in knowing what to do about it. As temperatures drop below freezing, water inside the plant cells begins to crystallize and expand. These water crystals are sharp, and the added pressure can rupture the cell membrane and wall. Once this perimeter barrier becomes perforated cell moisture leaks out and the cell dies from dehydration.

The trick to avoiding damage is to prevent cellular water from freezing. Since water with a higher salt concentration freezes at a lower temperature, it's an advantage to establish plants with sufficient cellular moisture. The plant can move water around from the interior of the cells to the exterior, and in so doing protect the cells from desiccation burning or rupturing.

Nutrition is also critical. Although excess nitrogen creates plants with soft growth that is more susceptible to frost, higher concentrations of potassium and phosphorus have proven to be an advantage in frost and winter tolerance. Potassium is also needed to control cell moisture and build strong cell walls.

Healthy established plants can tolerate temperatures of 28 °F (-2 °C) for short periods of time. Longer periods of several hours at the same temperature injure leaves.

### Steps to prepare plants for frost damage

Prevent damage by selecting less susceptible hostas. Some early emerging hostas varieties are notoriously prone to late spring frost damage, i.e., 'Lancifolia', *montana* 'Aureo-marginata' and 'Sagae'. Many gardeners have also noted that plants with lighter colored foliage are more susceptible to frost.

Select protective garden locations. Do not plant in low garden elevations that collect cold air. Areas where the soil may warm up faster and hostas may emerge earlier such as an open, south facing hillside are more likely to be hit by late spring freezes. Locate susceptible early-emerging hostas in micro-environments that do not get direct sunshine in the early spring. This will prevent the sun from warming the soil, thus slowing emergence and unfurling of foliage until air temperatures can be more easily maintained above the freezing point. If direct shade like that of a building is not possible, loose mulch spread liberally around the area will have about the same effect. The mulch can be removed once the leaves are poking through it.

Hostas in above ground containers tend to emerge earlier since the soil in the pot will warm up earlier with air temperatures. Keep plants mulched in early spring whether in pots or directly in the ground. Pots submerged in soil or mulch are less prone to the earlier warming.

Keep the plant well fertilized with phosphorus (the second number in a fertilizer sequence) and especially potassium (the last number). Do not use excessive nitrogen fertilizer later in the season; in most gardening regions fertilizers with the first number higher than 3 after July 15th would be excessive for what is necessary for healthy plants.

### Steps to avoid forecasted frost

Lay a cover directly over the plants. Preferably it should not be in contact with the leaves. Leaf tissue directly touching the cover is more prone to frost damage, especially if using plastic. Staking may be required to keep the cover from contacting leaves, or to keep it from crushing young tender spring foliage.

The purpose of this covering is to prevent the loss of radiation cooling, or the heat in the ground from going up and away from the plant tissue. The cover will trap the warmth of the soil that is usually greater in the fall than early spring before the soil temperatures have had an opportunity to elevate.

Cold air generally comes from higher in the atmosphere and drops down on calm nights. Drape the cover to meet snugly with the ground in order to prevent the cold air from invading the trapped warmer air underneath, and weight it down to prevent the cover from blowing off overnight. Heavier coverings such as blankets, and even lighter weight layers when there is a chance of their getting wet, may require extra staking, especially for softer hosta leaves in the spring. Wooden stakes, lawn chairs or inverted, extra-large, plastic pots selectively placed over favorite hostas for additional protection make effective

structures for supporting insulation. In the fall, taller scapes, or even very tall bent over scapes can help support covers.

Reemay® cloth is a very light and effective commercial frost cover. One of its advantages is that it allows enough light transmission to be left on hosta plants for a few weeks with no apparent detrimental effects. This spunbonded material is also thin enough so not to hold water, and because it is a polymer it will not hold moisture and become moldy. Normally a single cover layer can provide 2 to 7 degrees of protection. Covers of plastic tarps or sheeting are not as efficient as newspaper, which is not as good at insulating as woven material such as bed sheets. Cardboard boxes make excellent frost armor, but metal cans are not advised. Plastic pots used in container-growing plants can also be used. Those pots with drainage holes may need to be plugged with newspaper for additional protection.

Two layers, such as a large plastic pot with an additional top layer of burlap, may guard against even lower temperatures. If plants are not too tall a few handfuls of dried tree leaves can provide yet more protection when covering the foliage.

Water is also effective in many ways. Keeping your garden well watered early the morning before a frost may actually allow for greater radiation warming from the sun (if your hosta beds get direct sun). A dry garden will hold less heat than a wet garden. Irrigating during low temperature hours can also help. The warmth in the water can warm the foliage and surrounding air. Although evaporation of water takes energy and will cool the surrounding area, water releases a tremendous amount of heat as it freezes. Since hostas can tolerate (especially mature fall foliage) some temperatures below freezing, the heat given off during the freezing process can provide additional warmth as well. If you are not able to water your garden continuously during forecasts of frost, even short intermittent periods of a few minutes irrigation during the most critical period will help by keeping water on the foliage.

If your hostas are damaged by early fall frosts it is usually not critical, and you may just be able to do a normal fall clean up. If the frost is quite early however, it may affect next year's growth. John Kulpa (Detroit, MI) discovered that mowing off foliage early to get a jump on his

fall cleaning caused his plants to be smaller than they had ever been the following season. The danger here is that the plants would normally be sending the nutrients and starches from the leaves back into the crown for winter storage. If leaves are damaged, frozen or removed too early it may prevent the plant from stowing its needed reserves.

Plants injured by late spring frosts are more devastating but seldom are life-threatening for the clump. Most older plants have secondary eyes or secondary flushes that can develop if the entire first flush is destroyed. However, plants will not be as large as they would if the first flush was undamaged. The larger concern is not the actual frost damage but some secondary bacterial or fungal infection that may begin in the damaged tissue and not be arrested before the entire clump is killed.

To protect against secondary diseases the foliage should be cleaned down to healthy tissue if the injury is extensive. Some hosta growers cut the damaged leaves off at the ground or even run over them with a lawn mower. When cutting damaged tissue be careful not to spread other diseases or hosta viruses. The foliage can be picked off by hand, but tends to be rather slimy. Leaving extensively damaged frozen leaves on clumps to dry can restrict the new flush of leaves from emerging causing trapped or distorted growth. If the injury is limited to the tips of the leaves or small spots and the foliage has not fallen down on the ground, you may allow the foliage to dry up on its own and just monitor the plant for other diseases.

We are still learning about frost or cold tolerance differences among hosta cultivars. Plants pre-conditioned to cold are frequently better adapted to survive early fall frosts with less injury. Spring tolerance can be the result of how emerged growth is. However, in general, hostas with lighter colored foliage and those white or yellow portions tend to be more susceptible to frost. Even so, we can still take several actions to ensure a healthy and happy hosta garden.

*Clarence Falstad III, is involved with licensing and protection of plant material for Walters Gardens. DVHS was privileged to have him speak here a few years ago on hosta flowers.*

IT'S DUES TIME. Please check your mailing label. If you see a number less than 18, you owe DVHS dues for 2018. The dues pay for the publication of this newsletter and maintenance of the website, as well as for other activities. 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: Rebecca 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 2018-2019 [www.delvalhosta.org](http://www.delvalhosta.org)

Saturday, October 6, 2018. Speakers: Dan and Rebecca Boylan, "From Flower to Bee to Honey: Beekeeping and Beyond". Tredyffrin Library.

Saturday, October 27, 2018. Tri-State Hosta Society 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. 12:00 p.m. Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown, NJ.  
[www.tristatehosta.org](http://www.tristatehosta.org)

June, 2019. AHS National Convention. Green Bay, WI.

June, 2020. AHS National Convention. Minneapolis, MN.

Check out the February *Newsletter* for a complete schedule of next year's activities. Details are still in the works at press time.

*Coming Up*

**Plant Sales!!!**

**Great Garden Tours!!!**

**Noteworthy Speakers!!!**

**Hosta Soup!!!**

and more, more, more...

The Delaware Valley Hosta Society has been growing and would like to welcome the following new members who have recently joined our group:

Welcome!!!

Louis De Siena, Philadelphia, PA

Antoinette Mamrak, Sicklerville, NJ

Marilyn Stewart, Northfield, NJ

Anna Magazzeni, Perkiomenville, PA

Mark & Laurie Prince, Ambler, PA

Sarah Trama, Pottstown, PA

Welcome!!!

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