



Spring 2016

Hosta Meeting and Plant Sale

Saturday, April 30, 2016

582 Upper Gulph Rd., Wayne, PA, 19087

Warren Pollock, Speaker

“Sporting in *Hosta*”

11:00 Board Meeting (bring your lunch)

1:00 Gathering for Hosta Hospitality (Dessert/munchies)

1:30 Business Meeting and Feature Presentation

2:30 Plant Sale — over 100 hostas!

3:30 Chat and Clean-up

Hosta-tality for April 30. Please bring some treats for our meeting. Beverages will be provided. Come early if you can help set up.

Directions to April 30 Meeting

The Tredyffrin Public Library is off the Main Line (Route 30), not far from the Devon Horse Show grounds.

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 Rt 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 Rt 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 on your right.



DVHS Officers

President

David Teager
1411 Deer Meadow Ln.
Garnet Valley, PA
(610) 485-4149
dsteager@earthlink.net

Vice President, Program

Marilyn Romenesko
106 Hoiland Dr.
Wilmington, DE 19803
(302) 765-3581
mromen9@gmail.com

Vice President, Membership

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

Treasurer

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

Secretary

Missy Kashey
460 Halteman Rd.
Pottstown, PA 19465
(610) 469-0096
mjkashey@gmail.com

Committee Chairs:

Publications

Kathy Miller
Kennett Square, PA
kwmille@mtco.com

Display Gardens

Marilyn Romenesko &
Conny Parsons
Glen Mills, PA
connyparsons1@aol.com

Plant Sales & Auctions

Charlie Seaver
Hockessin, DE
seavercharlie@gmail.com

Hostality

Position open

Raffles/Special Events

Position open

Advisory Board

Conny Parsons, past president
Glen Mills, PA
Wayne Guymon, past president,
Chadds Ford, PA,
Michael Flagg, Schwenksville, PA
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President's Message

Meet the new boss, same as the old boss!

Although this election season may have you feeling “We won’t get fooled again,” the truth is that you shouldn’t see many changes in DVHS this year. On behalf of the whole society, I offer thanks for the capable leadership of Rebecca Boylan these last four years. The board will be working on some new initiatives to increase our membership, but you should expect the same schedule of meetings, garden tours, and the like for the time being.

You will see some changes in the *Newsletter*, as I’m sure that Kathy Miller will want to put her stamp on it as she takes over. While I didn’t manage to match Conny Parsons’s notch of editing for an incredible ten years, I am grateful for the time I served in the role. I am also sure that Kathy will be happy to publish the work of our members, as we have done with running columns by Warren Pollock and Eli Cohen. While we have talked about having some manner of online blog, I’m honestly still happier with the old-school means of sharing gardening stories.

A number of us are beginning to refine the stories of our own gardens, as the DVHS prepares to host the 2018 National Convention of the American Hosta Society. I really encourage you all to join the AHS. As a teaser, the latest issue of *The Hosta Journal* should be in members’ hands before you read this, with some great information about the nematode control research project. Although I’m a member of the scientific advisory board overseeing the project, I’m not at liberty to share the results until the lead sponsor does. (The DVHS was a contributing sponsor.)

Once again the winter had me taking some far-flung travel; on one trip I got to swim with penguins on the coast of South Africa! But I also occupied my time with growing some special hosta seeds, hoping for some wonderful offspring I can call my own. This year I’m using what seems to be a favorite seed-growing method of the big-time breeders: disposable plastic party cups with clear cups as humidity domes, one pod of seeds per easily labeled cup. I certainly have no plans to become a big-time breeder, but is sure is fun to see how the babies turn out. Maybe one will get a featured garden spot for the 2018 tours.— David Teager

The Winter Meeting: Hosta Soup and Hosta Chat

Kathy Miller

Someone give Campbell’s Soup a heads up! Our delectable hosta-inspired creations are ready to take over! ‘Spinach Patch’, ‘Blueberry Tart’, ‘Mama Mia’, ‘Paradigm’, ‘Ghost’, ‘Lemon Zest’, ‘T. Rex’, and ‘Purple Passion’. All delicious! After the vote, Chris Dambro’s ‘Mama Mia’ (an Italian wedding soup) bested Victoria Buckley’s ‘Paradigm’ (a deliciously different vegetarian vegetable) by just one vote.

It was great to see a preview of the Romenesko garden, along with some of the history of the plants. We can’t wait to see Dan and Marilyn’s garden in person at the June meeting. Stay tuned for more in the next newsletter.

April 30, 2016

Hosta Meeting and Plant Sale

Guest Speaker Warren Pollock

Sporting in *Hosta*: Blame It On the Chromosomes and Cells In the Meristem

An elementary discussion explaining various sporting mechanisms in hostas, such as:

- solid-colored leaves changing to variegated leaves
- multi-colored leaves changing to single-colored leaves
- diploid changing to (partly and fully) tetraploid and aneuploid.
- tetraploid changing to diploid

Tissue culture propagation is reviewed.

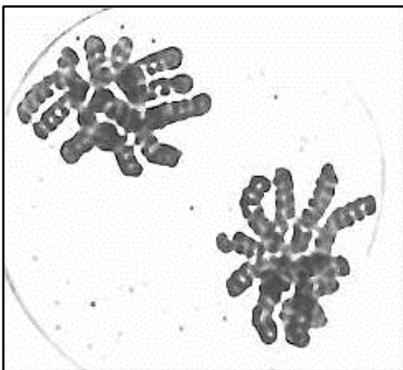
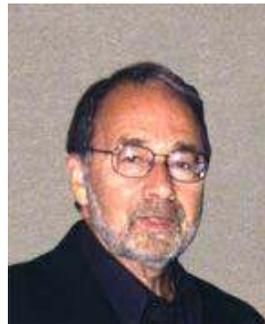
Also, new findings on *H.* 'Blue Mouse Ears' are highlighted, time permitting.

NO BOTANICAL BACKGROUND REQUIRED.

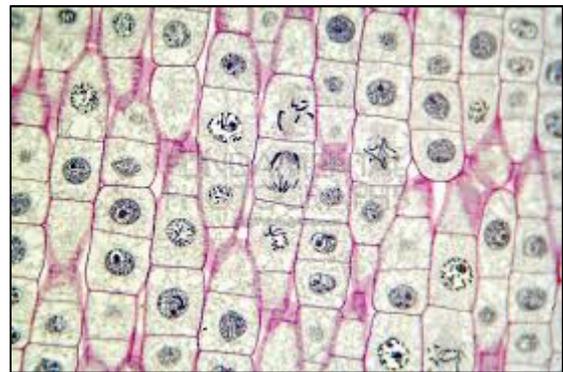
The intent is a classroom-like presentation using PowerPoint slides with photos and descriptions,

augmented with illustrations sketched on a dry-erase board. There are no handouts. (Bring pad and stylus or perhaps iPad for note taking.)

Warren Pollock is a founder of the Delaware Valley Hosta Society. For more than 25 years he has written "What's in a Hosta Name?" and other columns in The American Hosta Society's *The Hosta Journal*. Since 2010, he has carried out hosta chromosome and sporting studies with Dr. Ben J. M. Zonneveld in the Netherlands, a world authority on plant genetics



Trillium chromosomes separate during cell division



Onion chromosomes become distinct in dividing cells

DVHS Spring Plant Sale, 2016

All plants subject to availability. The weather.....

Here are the rules for the day (subject to revision):

- Please bring a small plastic lined box, basket or bag to put your purchases in.
- Pick a number from the hosta bucket at the membership table (entrance door).
- Plant sales will run on a lottery rotation (based on your lucky number), giving everyone a chance to pick two plants with each rotation. After a few rotations, remaining hostas left will be up for sale to anyone still buying!
- Check out will be at the membership table at the end of the meeting. Bring your hostas to the table. Hostas will be priced at \$15. Cash or check only.

Descriptions adapted by David Teager from various online sources. This was a bit challenging this year, as most of these plants came from the now defunct Q and Z Nursery. Most pictures came from Q and Z.

American Fashion (Wade NR) Medium-Large

Van Wade is as American as it gets, and many of his hostas are named for native American tribes, or simply tagged with "American." He discovered this gold-centered sport of H. 'Fortunei Aoki', a selection or close relative of 'Fortunei Hyacinthina'. So that makes this not quite a 'Gold Standard': the margin should be wider. Grow them both and compare!



Blue Tooth (Doug & Mardy Beilstein, 2011) Medium



A Beilstein Blue, to be sure, arising from the cross of 'June' with 'Azure Snow', which is a seedling of wax-backed H. hypoleuca. So that makes it blue on top and blue underneath, all packed into lance-shaped leaves with closely-spaced veins. Perhaps surprisingly, it is more compact than either parent.

Chart Topper (Zilis NR) Medium-Large

Back in the olden days, Wayside Gardens released a hosta they called 'Perry's True Blue' (from Pete Ruh? Registered 1981). Probably a seedling of 'Sieboldiana', it grew patiently until the sport 'Paul's Glory' brought it fame. Two or three sporting cycles later, Mark Zilis released this back-to-blue beauty, with thick leaves and lavender flowers. Maybe its chromosomes doubled along the line?



Enterprise (Zilis 2009) Medium

Should you be surprised that this is related to 'Vulcan'? Both are sports of 'Captain Kirk', having white centers. I would say that 'Enterprise' has wider green margins, so it should grow better. Coming from 'Gold Standard', it will have similar lavender flowers (with little or no seed set).

Hearts Galore (Beilstein NR) Small

A cute widdle hosta, green with white edges, selected from seedlings of the streaked 'Splish Splash'. There is ONE picture of this baby on the Internet, so you'll have to see this in person.



Jaws (Scheer NR) Small-Medium

This toothy treasure comes from the garden of Alttara Scheer, who creates some funky plants (including 'Funky Monkey'). So this one is green, but even from some distance you can see it is special. And dangerous! I bet this will show up in some breeding programs.

**Mingo** (Wade 2007) Large-Very large

The Mingo people were a sub-tribe of the Iroquois living in Ohio (where Van Wade is), but may have originally come from the mid-Atlantic. If you have ever visited Wade and Gatton Nursery, you'll know he grows a lot of green plants, many with historical significance related to the earliest American hosta hybridizers. 'Mingo' is a selection of unknown parentage, with medium green leaves and heavy flower heads.

**Pie à la Mode** (Zilis 2010) Medium-Large

This slice of pie is a stable form from the streaked 'Color a la Mode', which resulted from the old-time streaker 'Color Fantasy' crossed with white-backed *H. hypoleuca*. The heart-shaped leaves emerge with a clear yellow margin, which turns near white later in the season. Very new to the trade. Serve me up a piece!

**Sacramento** (Zilis 2010) Medium-Large

Another new one, this is the green-edged form of the large, corrugated gold hosta 'Sutter's Mill'. The parentage includes Mildred Seaver's 'High Noon'. I sense a Western Theme bed in your future.

**Scarlet and Gray** (Pete & Jean Ruh 2010) Medium?

Not much is known about this one, but the scarlet refers to the petioles (leaf stems). And of course it comes from O-HI-O! White flowers on this one. If you can find a picture, you're doing better than I am.

**Splendid Sarah** (Dick & Jane Ward 2005) Medium

This one is a sleeper: not new, but looks like a beauty. A seedling selection out of the classic Kevin Vaughan streaker, 'Pin Stripe Sister'. Should have pale lavender flowers.

**T N T** (Zilis/Vanous 2010) Large

Another newbie, and another Zilis sport out of 'Orange Marmalade'. This one has much wider green margins, which makes for stronger growth. Caution: may spontaneously combust, or at least burn a hole in your wallet! It's hard to search for (note the spaces in 'T N T'), so I could only find one picture.

**Winter Warrior** (Goodwin 2005) Medium-Large

Could be one of the best white-edged hostas in a while, with a wide creamy-white margin that laughs at the sun. Depending on who you ask, this could be another newer plant from a classic breeder, Florence Shaw's 'Fascination'. Near-white flowers with pale lavender stripes.



HOSTA SHOW JUNE 11-12, 2016

“HOSTAS CELEBRATE THE FINE ARTS”

Hosted by the Delaware Valley Hosta Society

A unique opportunity to visit the Barnes Arboretum and our AHS National Hosta Display Garden, with a show in the original museum gallery!

300 N. Latch's Lane, Merion, PA 19066

Cut Leaves



Potted Hostas



Trough Gardens

We need your entries! Plenty of help available for those entering for the first time.

Everyone who enters will receive a free hosta!

Come see our newest display garden!

Interested in learning more about floral design using hosta leaves?

Our floral design expert, Tammy Feuer, will provide demonstration designs for all five classes in the 2016 Hosta Show.

Afterward, she will hold a short clinic on Saturday June 11 from 2 to 4 pm. The focus will be on mini leaves. To register for the clinic, or for more information, please contact Tammy Feuer (tfleur@outlook.com) or Conny Parsons (connyparsons1@aol.com). Cost is \$5.00.



“Welcome to My Garden”. A winning arrangements using miniature hosta leaves for our 2010 hosta show.

Fall Meeting 2015 Shaping the Shade Garden

The Montgomery County 4H Center was the site of our meeting, which was sponsored graciously by Master Gardeners.

Becca Boylan showed us some great suggestions for understory plantings in shade gardening. Sometimes we hosta fanatics fail to notice the space between our plants and the tree tops towering over them. Conny Parsons showed us how to relate the various classifications of hosta leaf color to garden design. Some beautiful examples of planting ensembles were presented. Kathy Miller (me) reminded everyone that light is important in the shade garden. Use of a light meter (smart phone app) in darker areas can be helpful. Good vegetative growth requires 15,000 to 50,000 lux.

From Stephen Fugate:

Semolina Rosemary Pignoli Cookies

Extra Virgin (Gabriele Corcos and Debi Mazar, 2014)

Tuscany-inspired treats, great with coffee (or anytime). This is a "chilled dough" recipe that you can make ahead and bake the next day (or when desired)

- ½ c pine nuts
- ½ lb butter (2 sticks) at room temperature
- 1 c sugar
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1 ¾ c all-purpose flour
- ½ c fine semolina flour
- ¼ t salt
- 2 t fresh rosemary, finely chopped
- 1 t grated orange zest

1. In a small skillet, lightly toast the pine nuts over high heat until they just begin to color, 3–4 minutes. Do not burn. Transfer to a bowl to cool.

2. Using a mixer, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add egg and mix until well combined.
3. Combine flour, semolina flour, salt, rosemary, and orange zest. With mixer on low speed, add this to butter/egg mixture and stir to form a stiff cookie dough. Add toasted pine nuts and mix to combine.
4. Divide the dough into two pieces. Roll each into a log, 1 ½ to 2 inches in diameter. Wrap each in plastic wrap and refrigerate at least one hour. (Can store overnight or several days, at least, until ready to bake.)
5. Preheat oven to 350°F.
6. Lay a sheet of parchment or Silpat on a cookie sheet. Unwrap dough logs, and slice into ¼ inch rounds. Transfer to sheet, leaving 1 ½ inches of space between cookies (they will spread more than you think). You should fit 15 or 20 to a sheet. Each log should make one sheet.
7. Bake until cookies look crisp on edges, about 12 minutes, rotating the pan half-way through cooking as needed. Let cool on sheet for a few minutes, then transfer to rack to cool completely. Makes about 30–40 cookies, depending on thickness of dough log.

New Members

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

- Karen Anderson, West Norriton, PA
- Laura Axel, Wyndmoor, PA
- Stephanie Bennett, Ambler, PA
- Mary Pat Boyle, Flourtown, PA
- Judith Groben, Gwynedd Valley, PA

- Sally Hilderbrand, Collegeville, PA
- Linda Hoade, West Point, PA
- Merle Kohn, Wyncote, PA
- Paul & Sue Kuntz, Montrose, PA

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 2016 www.delvalhosta.org

Saturday, March 5: DVHS Winter Meeting.

Easttown Public Library, Berwyn, PA. Hosta Soup and Hosta Chat; Preview the Romensko garden, and discussion of DVHS activities.

Saturday, April 30: DVHS Spring Meeting.

Tredyffrin Public Library, Wayne, PA. Hosta plant sale and great hospitality. Presentation by Warren Pollack "Blame it on the Chromosomes".

Saturday, June 4: DVHS Tour. Marilyn and Dan Romensko's garden, Wilmington, DE. Potluck and plant auction.

June 11–12: Hosta Show. Hosted by DVHS at Barnes Foundation Arboretum, Merion Station, PA

June 15–18: AHS National Convention.

St. Louis, Missouri. Visit www.hosta.org. or www.stlouishosta.org.

Saturday, July 9: DVHS Tour. Susan and Gary Yeager's garden, Wyndmoor, PA. BIGLEAF contest, plant auction, and more fun!

Saturday, November 5: DVHS Fall Meeting.

Tyler Arboretum. Presentation by Carol Brashear. "Is It a New Hosta Sport Or is it a Virus?"

Saturday, October 29: Tri-State Hosta Meeting

Frelinghuysen, NJ, speaker TBA.

IT'S DUES TIME

Please check your mailing label. If you see a number less than 16, you owe DVHS dues for 2016. 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 2016 membership fee today! Use the form on Page 7.

Dues (family membership) are \$10 per year.
Mail to: Rebecca 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.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DVHS Newsletter v25.1
1200 Farmington Ave.
Pottstown, PA 19464-1826