



# DELAWARE VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

**INSIDE** Bus Trip Pictures  
Hosta Haiku  
Arthur Wrede Tribute

Volume 28, No. 4

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

Fall, 2019

Saturday, October 5, 2019

## Tredyffrin Library

582 Upper Gulph Rd., Wayne, PA, 19087

### “Retro(per)spectives on Gardening (Jim & Herb’s Woodlands Adventure)”

12:30 p.m. Set-Up

1:00 p.m. Hostality and Business Meeting with election of Officers

2:00 p.m. Jim Henry and Herb Burgess

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

3:30 p.m. Board Meeting

**Hosta-tality for October 5. Please bring some treats for our meeting. Beverages will be provided. Come early if you can help set up.**

### Directions to October 5 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

### President

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

### Vice President, Program

Marilyn Romenesko  
106 Hoiland Dr.  
Wilmington, DE 19803  
(302) 750-4525  
mromen9@gmail.com

### Vice President, Membership

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

### Treasurer

Christel Badey  
533 Rosemary Cir.  
Media, PA 19063  
(610) 566-9421  
christelbadey1223@gmail.com

### 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

Irene Cassidy  
Clayton, NJ  
latte\_datte@yahoo.com

#### 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

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.

©2018

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I've been told that this is my final president's message, but I've been told that before. Yes, I've really enjoyed my time leading DVHS, but it's time to pass the gavel onto someone else. Some people may not know that I was president for four years, had a year off, and then resumed the presidency when David Teager became the chair of our national convention (that was the deal). Well, now David can have the gavel back and I can go back to being only the membership chair.

Membership has had a big boost thanks to our information table at the Hardy Plant Society sale this August. We welcomed eight new members, one of whom won the raffle of a year's membership and a big pot of Hosta 'Neptune.' Thanks go out to Marilyn and Dan Romenesko, Conny and Jim Parsons, Jim and Sherry Tatro, David Teager, Stephen Fugate, and Christel Badey for sharing their friendship and knowledge at the table. Please let me know of any other opportunities where we can set up a membership table or if you'd like to join in the fun.

I also want to thank the board for all the support that they've given me these past two (six) years. We've hosted the only profitable convention since who knows when, educational and fun meetings, garden tours, and a world-class display garden. What we really need are more of our members pitching in and joining a committee or taking up a board position to get some new ideas into the mix. You don't need to be a hosta expert!

You may miss the tales of my shopping trips, but don't worry, they'll never end. We had to rip out an entire border (of boring plants) just so I could buy new things. Still shopping for others, emergency calls and texts when there's an amazing plant that I think someone can't live without, or picking up duplicates of plants others covet in my garden. Yeah, it's a sickness, but a harmless one.

I hope to see you at the next meeting when we get to see and hear how two gardeners have carved out a serene paradise in an unexpected cul-de-sac.

*Rebecca Boylan*

## Retro(per)spectives on Gardening: Jim & Herb's Woodlands Adventure

In this presentation laden with photos (and VERY brief commentary on them), we aim to promote a workshop ambience. We retrace the evolution of our home and garden and identify some influences. All the while prompting each member of the audience to reflect on their own gardening influences, the better to spark some ideas for new perspectives and paths to follow.



Photos of Jim and Herb's garden by Marilyn Romenesko. Upper right is *H. 'Lily Pad'*, a seedling of *H. yingeri* from Bob Solberg.

## Big Leaf Results

The contest continues to amaze!!! This year we had 18 entries across four divisions: green, blue, yellow, and variegated. Four unbelievable prizes! Winners were:

Green. Missy Kashey's 'Empress Wu' (20.5" x 14") beat out the opponents, 'Jurassic Park', 'Millennium', and 'Big Sam'.

Yellow. Missy's 'Sum and Substance' (18.5" x 16.75") overcame two other S&S's, and Charlie Seaver's 'Krugerrand', which he claimed was the only truly yellow contestant – probably so.

Blue, with the fewest entries. Gordon Schloatman's 'Blue Angel' (16.5" x 12") edged out another 'Blue Angel' and 'Azure Snow'.

Variegated, with the most entries. *montana* 'Aureomarginata', 'Winter Snow', 'Beauty Substance', 'Final Summation', 'Garden Party', 'Sagae', and an entry from Christel Badey, listed as 'Stefan's Pride' (17" x 15.5"), which won. Curiously, there is no such hosta. Perhaps it was 'Lady Isobel Barnett'? Looks very similar. Anyway, correct identification is not necessary. All we want to see is "bigness"!



Big Leaves. The winners: 'Empress Wu' (a trifle sun bleached), 'Sum and Substance', 'Blue Angel', and the mystery variegated leaf.



## THE RUSSO GARDEN BUS TRIP

The morning of June 29th started off hot and sunny, but the bus was cool, luxurious and comfortable. Once we were all finally aboard (!), the drive into the pinelands of New Jersey went smoothly and quickly.

DVHS Newsletter, Fall, 2019



Photo: Kathy Miller

As we stepped off the bus, the shady front garden of the Russo home welcomed us. The beautiful mature plants in the front were just a taste of the immense variety in the back garden. Gail, Dave, and some of their garden assistants welcomed us along with folks from the DelMarVa Hosta Society. After a quick photo (see below), we scattered in every direction to discover it all!

In back, thousands of rarer or newer hostas were planted in attractive patterns around water features and under a beautiful pergola. Many were in full sun, but they seemed to be doing fine due to well-prepared soil and lots of water. Everything was meticulously labelled. It was a treat to see so many of these cultivars. Although it was almost July, everything still looked good. Check out page 5 for close-ups and descriptions of some of the more eye-catching plants.

It was so nice to meet another hosta society. The heat was instrumental in getting us together in small groups in shady spots for some interesting conversations.

A very big 'Thank You' to the Russo's, for all their hard work and their generous hospitality.

An additional big "Thank You" to Dan and Marilyn Romanesko for getting the bus and arranging all the details of the trip.

Below. The Delaware Valley Hosta Society and the DelMarVa Hosta Society gather at the garden of Gail and Dave Russo. Photo: David Teager



## 'Dancing Queen' Is Hosta of the Year for 2020

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.

Registered in 2005, 'Dancing Queen' is from Kent Terpening and Altarra Sheer. Offspring include: 'Amalia', 'Dancing Darling', 'First Dance' and 'One Last Dance'.

2019 Hosta Of the Year is 'Lakeside Paisley Print'. Look for both hostas at your local garden center.



Photo: Mario Wick via The Hosta Library





Can anyone ID this  
photo-bombing lily?

## EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN: SOME DISTINCTIVE HOSTAS IN THE RUSSO GARDEN.

Clockwise from upper left. *H.* 'Sparky' is a hybrid of *H.* 'Amy Aden' x *H. pulchella*, registered by Aden in 1987. *H.* 'Ambrosia' is a waxy sport of 'Guacamole', registered by Solberg in 2016. *H.* 'Stargate' is an unregistered streaker from Van Wade. *H.* 'Patriot's Fire', registered by Summers and Walek in 1996, is a gold sport of *H.* 'Patriot' with a distinctive water mark around the edge. *H.* 'Misty Gold', is a *H.* 'Gala' hybrid registered by Dishon in 1996. *H.* 'Captain Atom' is a stabilized sport of *H.* 'Surprised By Joy', registered by Malloy in 1999. Photos: Kathy Miller



## Art Wrede

Art Wrede, age 87, of Joppa, MD., passed away on October 07, 2017. Arthur was a carpenter and avid plant lover, who turned his passion into a landscaping nursery; The Azalea Patch. He became a lifetime member of The American Hosta Society and fulfilled a dream through hybridization of his own hosta plants. Arthur is survived by his children and many grandchildren.

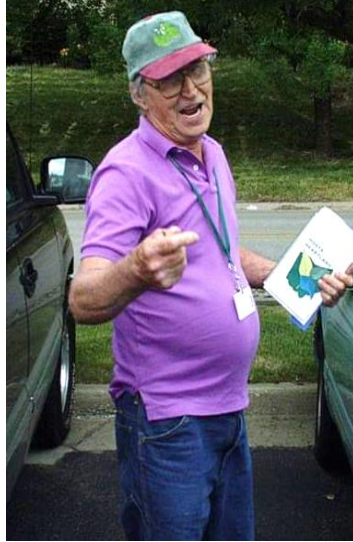


Photo: Carol Brashear

Although it has been almost two years since Art's death, we just learned of it only recently when David Teager was contacted by his daughter, Eva Jones. For those of you who are new to DVHS, Eva served impressively as our president during the 2006 national AHS convention here in Philadelphia. The gift plant for convention registrants was one of her father's red-stemmed hybrids, *H. 'Designer Genes'*.



Photo: Vanessa Chaborek via The Hosta Library

This interesting medium size hosta appears in many DVHS gardens, although it is a little difficult to grow - very pale, yellow leaves with brilliant red stems. The leaves need a lot of light but burn easily. It has been repositioned in my garden at least four times. When our society met for the summer meeting a few years ago at Teich and McColgan nursery, I was shocked to see a very large and beautiful *H. 'Designer Genes'*. Grown properly, it is spectacular!!!

Carol Brashear and Bill Meyer remember Art:

"We are so sad that we didn't know of Arthur Wrede's passing before yesterday and David's Email. Bill and Arthur were friends for years and would exchange plants for each other's program. Whenever Bill would get a red-legged seedling he would pass it along to Art. And Arthur was always generous with his seedlings in local auctions.

I got a wonderful shot of Art as he was loading up his Hosta Show entries after the 2005 AHS convention in Ohio. The next year his hosta 'Designer Genes' was the Philly convention gift plant and he had a few tissue cultured introductions to vend there.

Arthur LOVED talking hostas and those of us who knew him personally will miss him forever. He loved wearing his purple shirts at conventions and whenever I see someone in a purple shirt now, I think of Arthur and always will."

Arthur Wrede's registered hybrids include:

- 'Almost' - 2005
- 'Candy Dish' - 2003
- 'Designer Genes' - 2005
- 'Eureka Lodestar' - 2004
- 'Miss Grace' - 2005
- 'Miss Linda Smith' - 2006
- 'Miss Missey' - 2006
- 'Miss Ruby' - 2005
- 'Miss Shamim' - 2015, O: A. Wrede, NIR: E. McHugh
- 'Mr. Blue' - 2005
- 'Smokey' - 2006
- 'The Perfect Storm' - 2005
- 'Wrede, White and Blue', O - 2005

## Hardy Plant Fall Sale

Conny Parson and David Teager were among the many members who recruited for DVHS at the Hardy Plant Society's fall sale. David has revised our old Delaware Valley Hosta Society brochure. The new brochure was available at the sale. It describes many of our activities and has a simple introduction to growing hostas in the garden. Be sure to pick one up at the fall meeting.



Photo: Marilyn Romenesko

# Hosta Haiku

Kathy Miller

What is haiku? The definition is: Japanese poem of seventeen syllables, in three lines of five, seven, and five, traditionally evoking images of the natural world. While perusing the internet I came across Susan C. Willet's delightful website, [www.lifewithdogsandcats.com](http://www.lifewithdogsandcats.com). Gardeners with pets will really enjoy it. It is packed with her photos of personable dogs and cats and her witty haiku poetry. I saw the hostas in the background. I was hooked.



## Haiku by Dog: Seeking

much can be learned from  
searching and seeking – except when  
it's your ball that is lost



## Haiku by Dog: Eau

desiccated vole?  
eau de deer poo? whatever  
you're wearing smells great

Used with permission. [www.lifewithdogsandcats.com](http://www.lifewithdogsandcats.com)

Now how about haiku by hosta gardener? or by hosta? or by slug? The possibilities are endless.

## Haiku by Gardener: Desperation

hosta is so dry  
yet nematodes still appear  
will nothing kill them?

*Becca Boylan*

## Haiku by Gardener: Justifying

hosta shopping rule:  
one like this in the garden  
BUT these legs are red

*Stephen Fugate*

## Haiku by Gardener: Discovery

hosta for sale there.  
there is no room for more. WAIT!  
'Mito-no-hana'

*Stephen Fugate*

## Haiku by Gardener: Simplicity

hosta companions?  
for textural differences!  
MUST we have all that?

*Stephen Fugate*

## Haiku by Slug: Persistence

running out of slime  
ascending to the banquet  
'Empress Wu' sneers down

*Kathy Miller*

## Haiku by Hosta: Serenity

soft raindrops have cooled  
the blaze of the afternoon  
life for me is good

*Kathy Miller*

This is an invitation to write some haiku poems of your own this winter. It's not very hard. Actually, there are several on-line haiku generators (who knew?). Here is one to try.

<https://www.poem-generator.org.uk/haiku/>

IT'S DUES TIME. Please check your mailing label. If you see a number less than 19, you owe DVHS dues for 2019. 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 2019-2020 [www.delvalhosta.org](http://www.delvalhosta.org)

---

Saturday, Oct 5, 2019. Fall Meeting.  
Speakers: Jim Henry and Herb  
Burgess. Retrospectives on  
Gardening: Jim & Herb's  
Woodlands Adventure.  
Business Meeting.  
Tredyffrin Public Library.

Saturday, February 8, 2020. Winter Meeting  
and Hosta Soup Contest. Speaker:  
Conny Parsons, "Garden Art".  
Tredyffrin Public Library.

Saturday, April 18, 2020. Spring Plant Sale.  
Speaker: Barbara Tiffany, "A Preview  
of Mill Fleurs".

June 10 – 13, 2020. AHS National Convention.  
"2020 Hosta Vision"  
Brooklyn Park, MN.

Saturday, July 11, 2020. Summer Meeting.  
Tour of the Tiffany garden, Mill Fleurs.  
Point Pleasant PA.

June 2021. AHS National Convention,  
Kalamazoo, MI.

---

Seek our full calendar in the winter *Newsletter*.

---

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

Dave Coomber, Wilmington, DE   Cecylia Harper, Philadelphia, PA   Jan Herbster, Garnet Valley, PA  
Scott & Carolyn Hufnagle, Sellersville, PA   Donna Kibbie, Wayne, PA   Margaret Kinnevy, Philadelphia, PA  
Gerry Konzelmann, Wilmington, DE   Joe & Maria O'Malley, Lafayette Hill, PA  
Arlene Pfeiffer, Mt. Holly, NJ   Victor Risch, Coopersburg, PA,   Gordon Schloatman, Glen Mills, PA  
Gerald Vetter, Newtown Square, PA

---

DVHS Newsletter v28.4  
1200 Farmington Ave.  
Pottstown, PA 19464-1826  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED