



# DELAWARE VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

**INSIDE**

The Buckwalter Garden  
Hostas in the Sky  
Convention Update

Volume 26, No. 2

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

Late Spring, 2017

## Buckwalter Garden Tour

Saturday, June 3, 2017

500 WEST MAIN ST  
LANDISVILLE, PA 17538

12:00 p.m. Garden Tour and Potluck Lunch  
2:00 p.m. !!! Super Auction !!!

### Hosta-tality for June 3<sup>th</sup> Potluck

Beverages and plates, etc., will be provided. Come early if you can help set up.  
For a balanced meal, we suggest you contribute according to the first letter of your last name:  
**A–F** bring a main dish. **G–P** bring a salad or side dish. **Q–Z** bring a dessert.

### Directions to June 3 Meeting

Landisville is slightly west of Lancaster on PA-283. It is about 1 hr. and 10 min. from King of Prussia. Some of the following directions involve toll roads. By using US-30, these tolls can be avoided, but travel time is considerably greater.

**From Philadelphia or New Jersey:** Take I-76, or I-276 to King of Prussia/Valley Forge. Get on the Turnpike and continue about 40 miles west to Exit 286. Take US-222 toward Lancaster. In 15 miles keep right to remain on US-222. Follow signs to US-30W/PA-283W. Keep left to take PA-283W. In 3.5 mi, take PA-722 toward Landisville. Exit right on Yellow Goose Rd. In about 0.4 miles bear right onto Harrisburg Pike, which becomes Main St. 500 W. Main is ahead about 0.4 mi. on the left.

**From the South:** Take US-1 to the Lincoln University/Rte. 896 exit. Continue north through Georgetown, Nickel Mines and Strasburg up to US-30W. Continue on US-30W for about 7 miles. Keep left to take PA-283 and follow the directions above. Alternatively, take US-1 to the Avondale/Chatham exit. Continue north on Rte. 41 up to US-30W.

**From the West.** Take PA-283E to PA-722 in order to avoid city center. Exit right and follow the directions above.

**Parking.** There are a few places on Main in front of the house for drop offs. Anywhere along Parkview Drive. Or across the street in front of the cemetery, but please no parking in front of the house next to the cemetery.



### Share Your Garden



So many of you have gardens that make you happy, but the rest of us never get a chance to see them.  
In the next few weeks garden features will be at their peak. Please take some pictures.

During the dark days of winter we will publish as many as we can.

Just attach the files to an e-mail and send to the *Newsletter* at [mimosa464@verizon.net](mailto:mimosa464@verizon.net). If you feel inspired, share a few words about the garden.



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#### Raffles/Special Events

Position open

### Advisory Board

Parsons, past president 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

I'm taking a break as I write this, not from gardening, but from preparing the massive PowerPoint demonstration that the DVHS will present next month at the American Hosta Society convention in Indianapolis. I hesitate to spoil too many surprises by saying too much here (as our Newsletter is distributed nationwide through the network of newsletter editors), but I can say that they are going to LOVE it! Perhaps we can share it with the DVHS membership at our fall meeting.

Speaking of LOVE, you'll note that we updated our "Hosta Love" convention logo shown below. We'll be embroidering it on shirts and printing on anything we can think of. Who wants a new tattoo?

Planning for the convention is continuing at a good pace. Of course we still need to assemble a squadron of volunteers, whether you will be attending the full convention or not (but we hope you will). The buzz is already building about what a great time this is going to be. As to the garden at Teagate, we're mostly in fine-tuning mode, not planning to undertake any major projects so that it's all on a happy plateau next year.

As you know, the weather this spring has been a bit... odd. I was smart, I hope, to leave the purchased tomato plants in their pots so we could shuttle them in and out of the garage to avoid these cool nights. The hostas are just fine, although Warren Pollock suspects that this cool spell may stunt the reach of our hostas this season.

Our garden host for June, Steve Buckwalter, dodged an even cooler bullet this week; my weather app shows the Lancaster area got to 36°F earlier this week. I'm really looking forward to seeing his garden, as we all know how that rich Lancaster county soil is so good for farming. Steve's hostas will look great! As timing would have it, I'll be dashing off to Alexandria, Virginia, right after the meeting to sing a repeat performance of the concert I sang right after our April 29 meeting. The auction at the Buckwalter house should give my voice plenty of warm-up.

One last note: I am considering writing some pieces for our newsletter for gentle forays into the technical side of hostas and hybridizing, following up on the kinds of things our speaker, Roger Smith, said in his talk last month. Our website has what I hope is a nice page for hosta lingo and some other topics. I hope you all have reviewed that at some point, and make reference to it when you need to. (Our "Dirty Dozen" hosta ID page remains a popular feature.) If a "tech talk" column would be interesting to you, let me know and I can lay out a plan.

*David Teager*





# The Buckwalter Garden

Steve writes .....

The home and garden sit on a 1½ acre property, which, according to the deed, is part of what once was a 400 acre parcel owned by two Penn brothers – presumably related to William Penn. The house was built in 1830, according to the engraved keystone on the front.



Photo from Google Earth

My parents bought the property in 1969 and we maintained a sizeable vegetable garden. However, aside from some dogwoods, lilacs, and a couple of other shrubs and peonies, ornamental vegetation was sparse. After my father died in 1996, I assumed the role of groundskeeper. Over the years, I've planted hundreds of perennials, trees and shrubs – many of them around the borders to decrease the influence of traffic and neighboring properties. Five years ago, my interest in hostas and more uncommon plants was accelerated by a neighbor's nicely planted hosta garden. She encouraged me to join the Susquehanna Hosta Society, which then led to the DVHS.

About 60 of the approximately 275 different hostas in the garden are, what I would consider, mature. The rest are fairly new acquisitions.



H. 'Marilyn Monroe' steps out of the shower. Photo by Marilyn Romenesko

My favorites include: 'Goodness Gracious', 'Seducer', 'Kiwi Full Monty', 'Atlantis', 'Majesty', 'Eola Sapphire', 'Thunderbolt', 'Lakeside Cindy Cee', 'Deep Blue Sea', 'Dab-a-Green', 'Jetstream', and 'Mr. Blue'.

Filling in the spaces around the hostas are about three dozen types of ferns, and a dozen types of Asiatic and Oriental lilies. Also, several types of *Carex*, *hakonachloa*, and other shade tolerant grasses. Additional shade plants include: *disporums*, *epimediums*, *polygonatums*, *sedums*, *cimicifugas*, *lamiums*, *toad lilies*, *ajugas*, and others.



*Xanthosoma albo marginata* 'Mickey Mouse' in the Buckwalter garden. Photo by Marilyn Romenesko.

Mature black walnuts, black locust and Norway maples make up most of the shade. Not the best trees to garden under, but they definitely lower the temperature in the summer heat. A completely hand-built treehouse, with nice architectural details, is suspended just overhead in a small grove of tall black locusts, giving a nice view of the back yard garden.

## Warning: Ugly Picture!!

In contrast to Steve's beautiful garden, here is a plant that Rebecca Boylan recently found for sale in a local nursery. Beware of Hosta Virus X!!!





## 4 Hostas In the Sky



From Top:  
*H.* 'Touch of Class' accompanies colorful annuals.  
*H.* 'Liberty' looks down on the courtyard.  
*H.* 'Mini Skirt' peeks over the edge. It's a long way down!!



When Ali and Warren Pollock moved to Maris Grove, they gave up their extensive collection of hostas. At first, they enjoyed their new high-altitude home so much, they didn't miss them.

But, it wasn't long before nostalgia set in. Soon, a new hosta garden appeared on their patio. The collection now includes *Hosta* cultivars: 'Liberty', 'Touch of Class', 'Wheee!', 'First Frost', 'Blue Ivory', 'Sun Mouse', 'School Mouse', 'Mini Skirt', 'Blue Mouse Ears', 'Pandora's Box', 'Cameo', and 'Giantland Sunny Mouse Ears'. The white wall-to-wall carpeting in the living room serves as their potting bench!

When all the work is done, it's nice to sit back, relax, and enjoy the garden ambiance with a glass of wine.



# Longwood Gardens Fountain Project

Kathy Miller



Photo by Kathy Miller

On May 4, Longwood volunteers attended a Fountain Preview Party. Although the weather was cold and rainy, we were warmed by the wine and cocktail fare, as well as a wandering brass band. It was a treat to see the fully revitalized fountains for the first time. Although Longwood bills them as “The Most Significant Fountain Collection in the United States,” this is an understatement. They are really spectacular!

The original fountains were built 1921-1936 by Pierre DuPont. He and his wife, Alice, had travelled extensively in Europe and were fascinated by the beautiful fountains they visited there. These European fountains inspired the original design of the main fountain garden at Longwood.

After construction, the formal gardens were added and the project was completed in 1936. In 1958, a severe snowstorm decimated the boxwoods, which never fully recovered. By 1990, deterioration of some of the water features caused them to be abandoned for safety's sake.

For more information, visit [www.longwoodgardens.org](http://www.longwoodgardens.org)

The revitalized and repaired fountains are accompanied by a totally new formal garden, which duplicates much of the original design. The Norway maple allée has been replaced with a linden tree allée. The number of boxwood shrubs is inconceivable. A new feature grotto beneath the main fountains is a popular draw, as well as the Pump House Plaza, which is adjacent to the historic pump house.

At least half of the new construction is underground. 1400 linear feet of tunnels house the hydraulics and electronics. 9000 cubic yards of concrete and 51 tons of copper wire were used in the engineering.

Our planned visit to Longwood Gardens ought to be a big drawing card for the American Hosta Society's national convention here in 2018. Buses will be timed so that all attendees will have an opportunity to see the scheduled fountain shows.

**IT'S DUES TIME.** Please check your mailing label. If you see a number less than 17, you owe DVHS dues for 2017. 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 activities.

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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 2017 [www.delvalhosta.org](http://www.delvalhosta.org)

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Saturday, June 3, 2017. Meeting. Garden Walk, Potluck and Auction. The Steve Buckwalter Garden. Landisville, PA

June 7-11, 2017. AHS National Convention. Indianapolis, IN

June 23-25, 2017. First Look. Taunton, MA.  
[www.hostalibrary.org/firstlook](http://www.hostalibrary.org/firstlook).

Saturday, July 15, 2017. Meeting. Garden Walk and BIG Leaf Contest. Bruce Gangawer's Paxson Hill Farm. New Hope, PA

Saturday, September 16, 2017. Fall Hosta Forum, Edinboro, PA. Barbara Tiffany is one of the speakers.  
[www.wnyhosta.com](http://www.wnyhosta.com).

Saturday, October 14, 2017. Fall Meeting. Speaker: Jeff Jabco. Wister Education Center of the Scott Arboretum.

June 20-23, 2018. AHS National Convention. Philadelphia, PA

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

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

Susan Lock, Lansdale, PA   Ruth Aumann, Feasterville, PA   Jenny Rose Carey, Ambler, PA  
Kris Butterfield, Phoenixville, PA   Sue Howard, Oxford, PA  
Linda Pajor, Lansdale, PA   Paul Pezzotti, Phoenixville, PA

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