



Saturday August 5  
Garden Visit  
To  
Andy Schenck's  
“Look Again Garden”

612 Sugartown Rd. Malvern, PA

**Note Early Starting Time**

11:00 Set-up  
11:30 Hospitality and garden tour  
1:00 **Big Leaf** awards  
2:00 Clean-up

Directions for August 5

**From the South and Southwest.** Take Rte. 202N to Paoli Pike. East on Paoli Pike for 4.8 mi. Turn right on Sugartown Rd. Andy's home will be on your immediate right. Please park across the street at Sugartown Elementary School.

**From the East and Southeast.** Take I-95S to I-476 (ex 7). Take I-476 for 4.5 mi. Exit to US Rte. 1 (ex 5) toward Lima/Springfield. In 1.3 miles exit to Rte. 252N. In 0.2 mi. turn left onto Providence Rd. Continue on Providence Rd. for 7.5 mi. to Sugartown Rd. Turn right. In 1.5 mi., Andy's home will be on your left. Please park across the street at Sugartown Elementary School.

**From the North and Northeast.** Take I-276 to King of Prussia. Exit to Rte.202 S toward West Chester. In 3.3 mi take the exit for Rte. 252S toward Paoli. In 2.1 mi., turn right on East Lancaster. In 0.5 mi., turn left on Paoli Pike. Continue on Paoli Pike for 2.6 mi. Turn left on Sugartown Rd. Andy's garden will be on you immediate right. Please park across the street at Sugartown Elementary School.

Bring your own brown bag lunch if desired.

Please bring finger food to share.

Don't forget to bring a chair.

No Auction this time.





## DVHS Officers

### Retired President

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

### Interim President and VP, Programs

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

### Vice President, Membership

Debby Bryan-Purbrick  
341 MacKenzie Dr.  
West Chester, PA 19380  
610-639-6528  
deborah.l.bryan@comcast.net

### Treasurer

Stephen Fugate  
1411 Deer Meadow Ln.  
Garnet Valley, PA  
(610) 485-4149  
skfugate@earthlink.net

### Secretary

Missy Kashey  
460 Halteman Rd.  
Pottstown, PA 19465  
(610)-310-0096  
mjkashey@gmail.com

### Committee Chairs:

#### Display Gardens

Marilyn Romenesko  
Debby Bryan-Purbrick  
Conny Parsons  
Glen Mills, PA  
connyparsons1@aol.com

#### Hostality

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

#### Plant Sales & Auctions

Ed MacFarland  
Glenside, PA  
edmacfarland818@gmail.com

#### Publications

Kathy Miller  
Kennett Square, PA  
kwmille@mtco.com

#### Raffles

Rebecca Boylan  
Pottstown, PA  
raboylan@comcast.net

#### Website

Kim Kelter Neu  
Philadelphia, PA  
kkelter@philasd.org

### Advisory Board

Warren Pollock, Glen Mills, PA  
Barbara Tiffany, Point Pleasant, PA  
Christel Badey Media, PA  
Rebecca Boylan, Pottstown, 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.  
©2023

# The Garden

By

Andrew Marvell

How vainly men themselves amaze  
To win the palm, the oak, or bays;  
And their incessant labors see  
Crown from some single herb, or tree,  
Whose short and narrow-vergéd shade  
Does prudently their toils upbraid;  
While all flowers and all trees do close  
To weave the garlands of repose.

.....

How well the skillful gardener drew  
Of flowers, and herbs, this dial new;  
Where, from above, the milder sun  
Does through a fragrant Zodiac run;  
And, as it works, the industrious bee  
Computes its time as well as we.  
How could such sweet and wholesome hours  
Be reckoned but with herbs and flowers!

Andrew Marvell, 1621 to 1678, was tutor to Lord Fairfax daughter, the Duchess of Buckingham. He lived in the spacious Fairfax country home, Appleton House. It was there that he wrote the garden poetry for which he became immediately famous. The Garden is considered to be one of his most expressive "nature poems". Above are the first and the last of seven stanzas.

It's interesting to think that almost 400 years ago, during a the English civil war, someone could express the same pleasure in gardening that we have today.

A. 'Blue Ivory' : Registered VP 9-11  
B. 'Queen Of the Seas' : Registered VP 11  
C. 'Designer Genes' : Registered VP 6

# Look Again Garden

Andy Schenck



The Garden is over 20 years old and started with muck, more lawn, and open areas where my children used to play. Slowly, more and more turf was removed and more plants kept being added.

It is a collector's garden and graced with many "drifts of one". I have a passion for all things

green and am constantly searching for new plants – rare, unique, variegated and ones that are pushing hardiness (after all plants don't read, so may as well try!) It was here in the garden that I found a few gold leaf Metasequoia seedlings, one of which ended up being an amazing plant and I now have a patent on it.

My garden is in constant ebb and flow – new plants come old ones go, I limb some trees up so I can plant underneath as well as pollard others to keep them shorter and provide dramatic leaf size and color. I grow many tropical and annual flowers that are integrated into the garden for color all Summer long.

A few years ago my good friend and plantsman David Culp was at the Garden and I told him I was trying to think of a name for the garden, He said, "That's easy...Look Again Garden." I hope you enjoy a stroll through the garden and enjoy "looking" at the collection of plants that grace it !

A little about me. I was inspired about gardens and the outdoors by my mom and grandmother at a young age. When I began my college career at University of Delaware in Ornamental Horticulture, all things clicked and I knew this was what I wanted to do with my life!

I worked at retail garden center for a few years before landing at Sam Browns Wholesale Nursery- almost 25 years later. It was one of the best decisions I ever made. I recently purchased the business and continue to enjoy selling cool plants helping green the plant as best we can !



*Metasequoia 'Soul Fire'*

<https://plantsnouveau.com/plants/trees/metasequoia-soul-fire>

## Don't Forget The **Big Leaf** Contest

After a long pause, the contest will reappear at the August meeting. Instead of just one winner, we will have four categories: Green, Blue, Yellow/Gold, and Variegated. It's length x width of the leaf that counts. You've allowed the leaves to grow all summer long, so the condition and cleanliness of the leaf doesn't matter. We have buckets to display the leaves. When you bring your leaves, remember to sign them in. We would like to know the name of the hosta if possible.



# 4 Have Fairies Danced In Your Garden?

Original article from "Shady Notes" v.23:1, a publication of the St Louis Hosta Society.

DVHS Newsletter, Late Summer, 2021

The hosta's circle of life is amazing. In a single year, the plant emerges from the ground, unfurls leaves which in a matter of weeks rapidly expand, flowers then returns to dormancy. Year after year the cycle continues with the plants gaining in size. A large clump forms. Hostas can remain for decades and decades, undisturbed, ever growing larger.



However, you may notice in the spring that your once beautiful clump now has a hole in the middle. It is not unusual for large clumps to begin to decline over time.

This phenomenon is called centering-out, clump decline, center dieback, or the more picturesque name 'fairy ring'. This whimsical name was given because the problem was said to result from fairies dancing in the middle of the plant.

This ring effect is not usually an indication of disease. In the beginning, you planted a single division which each year added new buds on the outer edge of the crown. Over time, these new divisions increase the diameter of the clump. Each new division adds more new buds. The oldest part of the clump is now at the center. Eventually the middle eyes get crowded out and begin to die. Overlapping leaves may keep water and fertilizer from reaching the center of the clump exacerbating the decline. Examples of 'fairy ring' In the spring the ring might be unsightly. But, by the time the leaves have fully expanded, the ring is no longer visible.

Nothing really needs to be done. However, this could be the time to rejuvenate your plant. Some people use a shovel or sharp knife to cut out the dead center area. They then fill the hole with fresh soil and depending on the size of the hole

may cut a section from the ring and place it in the center. In a year or two this part of the clump will fill in. Others like to dig up the entire clump, remove the dead center part, cut the ring into smaller divisions and replant. Loosen the roots of each division before replanting and water thoroughly. Any extra divisions can be given to friends or donated to a hosta society for their plant sale or auction. Hint. Hint.



Photos: Upper left. source unknown  
Lower left and upper right. Lemons into lemonade. A fairy ring can be used as a natural garden feature. Wisconsin Hosta Society

## Repels Deer? Maybe....

It's pretty well established that deer will not eat *Cleome*, commonly called spider flowers. Is it the bitter taste? The skunky smell? The spines?

The question is whether deer actually are repelled by spider flowers, or just avoid them while chowing down on the rest of the garden. The outer periphery of the garden seems like the best place to try planting them. Note that there are many cultivars of *Cleome* on the market today. If you are trying it out as a deer repellent, look for one that's spiny. *Cleome* likes full sun, but will grow almost anywhere, although their alkaloid content might be lower in the shade, and therefore not quite as effective.



Photo: Kathy Miller

## *Hosta* 'Ultramarine'

What's the difference between a portrait and a photo? Grab a picture frame for this beautiful photograph from David Teager. Perfection in the garden. Where was he standing to capture it?

*Hosta* 'Ultramarine' was registered in 2003 by Mark Zilis and Mary Beth Vanous. This medium size, mounding cultivar is a hybrid of 'Sea Lotus Leaf' x *kikutii* f. *leuconota*. Leaves are 9" long by 6" wide and a rich bright blue with smooth texture and thick substance. It inherits its brilliant blue foliage color from 'Sea Lotus Leaf' but resembles *H. kikutii leuconata* in mound habit, leaf texture and blade shape.

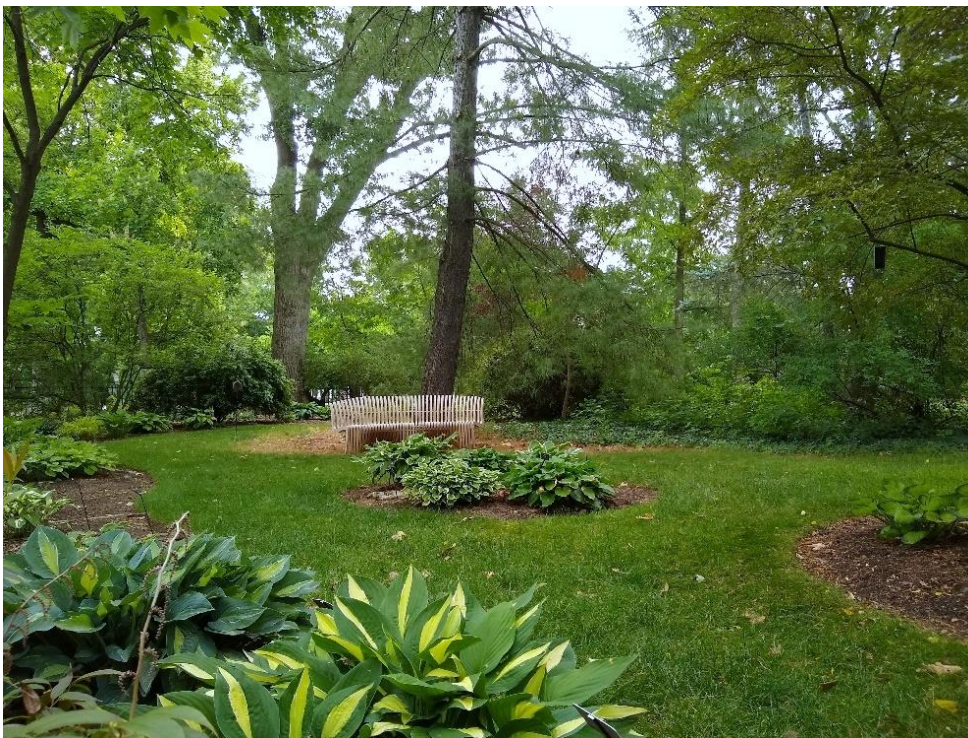
So where does the name 'Ultramarine' come from? Nothing to do with hostas. According to Wikipedia:

"Ultramarine is a deep blue color pigment which was originally made by grinding lapis lazuli into a powder. Its lengthy grinding and washing process makes the natural pigment quite valuable—roughly ten times more expensive than the stone it comes from and as expensive as gold.

The name ultramarine comes from the Latin for "beyond the sea". It was imported by Italian traders during the 14th and 15th centuries from mines in Afghanistan. Ultramarine was the finest and most expensive blue used by Renaissance painters. It was often used for the robes of the Virgin Mary and symbolized holiness and humility."

The RGB formula for true ultramarine is 4, 55, 242, which is the color of the break line below.

For the chemists among you, lapis lazuli is predominantly composed of the mineral lazulite. The deep blue mineral is surprisingly not a copper ore, but crystalline ( $\text{Na}_{8-10}\text{Al}_6\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{24}\text{S}_{2-4}$ ). The blue in the pigment is due to the  $\text{S}_3^-$  radical anion.



The Pollock bench in position  
at  
The Barnes Hosta Display  
Garden.  
Photo: Jennifer Jacoby

# 6 Hosta Identification: Why We Care About Vein Pairs

Judith Artley, NEHS Editor

Reprinted from the *New England Hosta Society Leaf Letters Newsletter Vol. 11, No. 3.*

DVHS Newsletter, Late Summer, 2023

Veins are the circulatory system of the leaf, carrying water and nutrients between the roots and leaves. In hostas, veins run from the base of the leaf to the tip and are parallel (the veins do not cross). Veins may divide, terminate or merge. There are more complex veining patterns not covered here. The midrib is the vein in the center of the leaf. Most hostas have matched sets (pairs) of veins on either side of the midrib.

Counting the number of these vein pairs (VP) is helpful in identifying a hosta cultivar. The leaves of some varieties emerge with a finite number of vein pairs and other varieties develop more pairs as they mature.

George Schmid writing in “The Genus *Hosta*” about the variability in VP said: a cultivar “displays some variability in the number of veins, and so the count given in the descriptions is the average maximum number of principal veins normally seen in that cultivar. Occasionally, this number may be exceeded by one or two, while the younger summer leaves may produce fewer veins. It is best to make a count on several mature vernal leaves and then take the average.” He continues, “One significant point must be made: The outermost vein or veins are often abbreviated and do not extend to the leaf tip but usually terminate at the leaf margin between a third and halfway up from the petiole intersection. Although these veins end at the margin and are thus incomplete, they must be counted.”

To count VP, choose a mature leaf. Veins are more prominent on the back of the leaf, so flip the leaf over. Count from the center toward the edge (do not count the midrib). Repeat on the other half of the leaf. Count the veins on a few other leaves and take the average. Examples of stating the vein pair count are: “VP is 10”, or “average VP is 10,” or “VP is 10-11” or “average VP is 10-12.”

As an example, here is the complete registration data for leaves of *H. ‘Red October’*, introduced by R. Herold and registered in 2009 by Kevin Walek

- Leaf Color : medium green
- Leaf Length: 20.3 cm
- Leaf Width: 10.8 cm
- Vein Pairs: 11
- Margin Appearance: slightly rippled
- Petiole Characteristics: deep red
- Leaf Texture Top: dull
- Leaf Texture Bottom: glaucous bloom
- Leaf Appearance: smooth
- Leaf Shape: elliptic
- Leaf Base: tapered

### References:

American Hosta Society.  
[http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Education/Hosta Dictionary.htm](http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Education/Hosta%20Dictionary.htm)

American Hosta Society.  
[http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Registering Hosta/ Registering Hosta.htm](http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Registering%20Hosta/Registering%20Hosta.htm)

De Mink, Andrea. “ID Tip of the Day: Counting Vein Pairs” Hosta ID Facebook Group post, May 12, 2021.

Schmid, W. George. *The Genus HOSTA*. p 25. Portland, Oregon: Timber Press, Inc, 1991.



Try your skill at counting vein pairs for each hosta. Answers on Page 2.

# 20 Years of Popularity. from *The Hosta Journal*, a publication of The American Hosta Society.

## HOSTA POPULARITY POLL 2001

1. 'Sum and Substance'
2. 'Sagae'
3. 'Great Expectations'
4. 'June'
5. 'Paul's Glory'
6. 'Guacamole'
7. 'Patriot'
8. *montana* 'Aureomarginata'
9. 'Gold Standard'
10. 'Regal Splendor'
11. 'Frances Williams'
12. 'Blue Angel'
13. 'Krossa Regal'
14. 'Fragrant Bouquet'
15. 'Whirlwind'
16. 'Love Pat'
17. 'Halcyon'
18. 'Sun Power'
19. 'Inniswood'
20. 'Striptease'
21. 'On Stage'
22. 'Spilt Milk'
23. 'Fire and Ice'
24. 'Pandora's Box'
25. 'Elegans'

## HOSTA POPULARITY POLL 2021

1. 'June'
2. 'Lakeside Paisley Print'
3. 'Liberty'
4. 'Sagae'
5. 'Rainbows End'
6. 'Goodness Gracious'
7. 'Halcyon'
8. 'Sum and Substance'
9. 'Autumn Frost'
9. 'First Frost'
11. 'Paradigm'
12. 'Victory'
13. 'Great Expectations'
14. 'Earth Angel'
15. 'Guardian Angel'
16. *montana* 'Aureomarginata'
17. 'Dancing Queen'
18. 'Key West'
19. 'Brother Stefan'
20. 'Kiwi Full Monty'

Did anybody leave behind a large glass salad bowl & stainless serving spoons?

Clint Cleaver 215-780-0510  
fccleaver@gmail.com

**The American Hosta Society**

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

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

### Board Members, please check too!

**DVHS MEMBERSHIP DUES.** Please check your mailing label. If you see a number less than 23, you owe DVHS dues for 2023. The dues pay for the publication of this newsletter and maintenance of the website, as well as for other activities. Note that the return address is not the same as in the past. Stephen, who is our Treasurer, will forward your form to Debby, who is our Membership Chair.

-----  
Cut off and mail in.  
-----

### Delaware Valley Hosta Society Membership and Renewal Form

Dues (household membership) are \$10 per year.

Mail to: Stephen Fugate, DVHS Treasurer  
1411 Dear Meadow Lane  
Garnet Valley, PA 19060

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 2023 [www.delvalhosta.org](http://www.delvalhosta.org)

## Please watch our website for more!

---

Saturday, June 3, 2023. Late Spring Meeting.  
Garden Walk and Auction.  
Carole Verhake Garden. Berwyn, PA.

June 7 – 10, 2023. AHS National Convention.  
"Fields of Dreams". Ames, IA.  
[www.hostaconvention.org](http://www.hostaconvention.org)

Saturday, July 8, 2023. Summer Meeting.  
Garden Walk, Potluck and Auction.  
Clinton and Anastasia Cleaver Garden  
Rydal, PA

July 13-15, 2023. Midwest Regional Hosta  
Society Convention. Rochester, MN.  
[www.midwesthostasociety.org](http://www.midwesthostasociety.org)

Saturday, August 5, 2023. Summer Meeting.  
Garden Tour and **Big Leaf** contest.  
Andy Schenck Garden. Malvern PA.

Saturday, October, 2023. TBA. DVHS Fall  
Meeting

June 19-22, 2024. AHS National Convention.  
Marlborough, MA

---

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

Bruce and Carol Zeidman, Sinking Spring, PA    Cheryl Wardle, Exton, PA