



Saturday October 19

Fall Meeting

Speaker: Don Rawson

TOP PERFORMERS IN THE RAWSON GARDEN

Tredyffrin Public Library, 582 Upper Gulph Road, Strafford, PA 19087-2052

12:30 Set Up

1:00 Hostality and Business Meeting,

1:30 Speaker

3:00 Clean-up and Board Meeting

Directions for October 19

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 the 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 for 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 on your right.



Bring your own brown bag lunch if desired.
Please bring finger food to share.





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President's Letter

Friends

I hope you had a wonderful summer. Ours was a good one, filled with lots of garden/pot watering, pruning, pinching and other garden maintenance.

We made a trip to our home state of Wisconsin and saw the amazing work of the Green and Gold Hosta Society at the Green Bay Botanical Garden. Their volunteers developed and cared for a fabulous collection of hostas in their National Hosta Display Garden.

The hostas here at home are still up, some looking much better than others. A few that remain beautiful in spite of the effects of summer heat are 'Leading Lady', 'Key West', 'Liberty', 'Paul's Glory', 'Grape Fizz' and 'Afterglow'. Hope you have some of these winners in your garden too.

At our last event, the tour of the Debby Bryan and Andy Purbrick Garden, we had a good turnout with great refreshments, a successful auction. The garden was full of beautiful large hosta specimens and was carefully protected from the rampant deer population in their neighborhood. Their drip irrigation system kept the hostas larger than usual and in great condition.

We look forward to a visit and lecture with ("data man") Don Rawson on Saturday October 19, 2024, at our usual venue, the Tredyffrin Public Library. Don was a hit at one of our last meetings when he discussed new hosta hybrids. This time, the board opted for his talk to cover the hostas in his garden. It should be a visual and verbal treat for us to see his amazing garden when our gardens are going dormant for the season.

We are considering a volunteer work party at the Barnes Arboretum National Hosta Display Garden for this fall. Stay tuned for more information on this. We look forward to seeing you at the October 19 meeting.

Marilyn

Zenport Tools

It's garden cleanup time, and what better tool to use than the Zenport sickle that DVHS sells? Use the sickle to cut down perennials, grasses, and of course hostas! Easily disinfected with Lysol wipes, dishwasher safe, and that bright orange handle makes it easy to find in the garden. Only \$10 each!

Have weeds? Don't we all. Make sure you purchase the Zenport Hori knife at the next meeting to tackle all those nasty dandelions. Also great for planting small plugs and bulbs, and dividing hostas.

Another \$10 bargain from DVHS.



The Rawson Garden

The following is copied from Don's website:
www.hostasofdistinction.com

Don and Pam Rawson live on four country acres near Grand Rapids, Michigan. Together, they grow hundreds of hosta cultivars along with an assortment of other companions. While they do not operate a nursery, the Rawsons often host tours for local garden clubs.

Don enjoys hybridizing on the side, making several thousand crosses during the summer, and growing many hosta seedlings in the winter. The first Rawson introductions include *H.* 'Rhino Hide' and *H.* 'Gabriel's Wing', followed by many others.



Don in his garden and *H.* 'Rhino Hide'
 Both photos: www.hostasofdistinction.com.

Don's subject will be: "Top Performers in the Rawson Garden." This PowerPoint will walk you through the Rawson Garden beginning in early spring and show you photos of the most outstanding hostas and perennials in our landscape. You will certainly find some beauties to add to your own personal wish list! Class notes are offered with the presentation.

How Should the Plural of a Hosta Cultivar Name Be Written?

Warren I. Pollock, Glen Mills, PA

The last issue of the *Delaware Valley Hosta Society Newsletter*, the Summer 2024 issue, on pages 6 and 7 has an interesting and highly informative article entitled "10+ Ideas for Using Hostas in the Garden." The author is Tom Lakowske, whom I do not know. (If any readers do, please contact me.) It's a reprint in total from the August 2023 issue of the *Prairie Hosta Herald*, the newsletter of Illinois Prairie Hosta Society in Champaign-Urbana area.

One nice idea, idea #6, suggests using hostas to brighten up a dark area in the garden. It reads:

"My gazebo is surrounded by holly and yews. As they matured, I trimmed the lower limbs off and planted about 20 'Gold Standards' all among their trunks and around the gazebo. ..."

Did you catch the nomenclature error 'Gold Standards'?

Article 14.1 of *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP)* states:

"Cultivar status is indicated by enclosing the cultivar epithet within single quotation marks."

We understand "cultivar name" to be synonymous with "cultivar epithet". There is no registered hosta with the name 'Gold Standards'. Simply put, one cannot pluralize a cultivar name by inserting "s" at the end of the name, because you cannot alter an existing cultivar name. *Most importantly, in pluralization you cannot alter an existing name.*

Typically, the easiest and probably best way to pluralize a cultivar name is to add a suitable accompanying noun with an "s" ending. Some examples: plants, divisions or specimens.

The error in Item #6 prompted the AHS Nomenclature Committee to compose a comprehensive article titled "Correctly Writing Hosta Names." The committee was composed of Donald A. Rawson (who will be the guest speaker at Fall 2024 meeting, Saturday October 19), and Warren I. Pollock along with AHS Registrar Gayle Hartley Alley. There will be explanatory illustrative drawings. It's intended to be published in the Fall 2024 issue of *The Hosta Journal*. Look for it.

Reader quiz: What's your thought on a correct pluralization of *H.* 'Gold Standard'?

An answer from the AHS Nomenclature Committee is at the very end of this newsletter, page 7.

4 *Hosta* 'Gold Standard', Pauline Banyai and Son Bruce

Warren I. Pollock, Glen Mills, PA

Pauline Banyai registered *H.* 'Gold Standard' in 1976. She lived in Madison Heights, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. She learned how to grow hostas from her father who was a contract grower for the original Wayside Gardens in Ohio.

She had a stand at the famous Royal Oak Farmer's Market in southeast Michigan where she featured hostas. She would display a dozen or more new variegated varieties, where local retail nurseries sold only a couple of old-fashioned types.



Pauline Banyai, Photo: The American Hosta Society

In the 1970s she ordered *H.* 'Fortunei Hyacinthina' from a wholesale nursery in the Midwest. Although this is a pure green hosta, in the package she received were variegated divisions: creamy yellow leaves with dark green margins. It was thus thought the variegated divisions were sports of 'Fortunei Hyacinthina'.

Pauline grew the variegated plants to clump size, showing them off at two AHS National Conventions. Alex Summers saw them and was so impressed, he told me that he said to Pauline, "Your hosta will be the gold standard." Accordingly, she named the hosta 'Gold Standard'. Google Search defines "the gold standard" as "the best, most reliable, or most propitious thing of its type."

Note that other hosta gurus, now departed, especially Paul Aden, claim to have been responsible for naming 'Gold Standard'. Also, the idea that 'Gold Standard' is a 'Fortunei Hyacinthina' sport has been questioned. Likely there was a mix up by the wholesaler.

Pauline passed away in 1992 at age 72.



Three views of *H.* 'Gold Standard'.

1. Original AHS registration. Photo: The American Hosta Society.
(Remember those old color photographs?)
2. In the Miller Garden. Photo: Kathy Miller
3. At Wynn Eden, Wayne Guymon's Garden in Chadds Ford, PA. Photo: Kathy Miller

Not surprisingly, Pauline's son Bruce also was a hosta enthusiastic. On receiving a chemical engineering degree from the U. of Michigan, he joined Hercules Chemical in Wilmington and lived in Hockessin, DE. He had a backyard hosta nursery, marketing mostly his mother's and his own introductions.



Bruce Banyai



H. 'Twist of Lime'. Photo: Bert Malkus via The Hosta Library

I always considered *H. 'Twist of Lime'* to be Bruce's best introduction. Bob Solberg of Green Hill Farm in North Carolina and Bruce registered it in 1991. I asked Bob about this.

"My memory," he said, "is that I got the sport from Bruce in a batch of bare root *H. 'Lemon Lime'*, the late Bob Savory's small classic registered in 1977. I wanted to give him credit as originator when I registered it, so it's co-registered. Interestingly, today it would be registered as Originator is Bruce and I am the NIR (Nominator, Introducer and Registrant)."

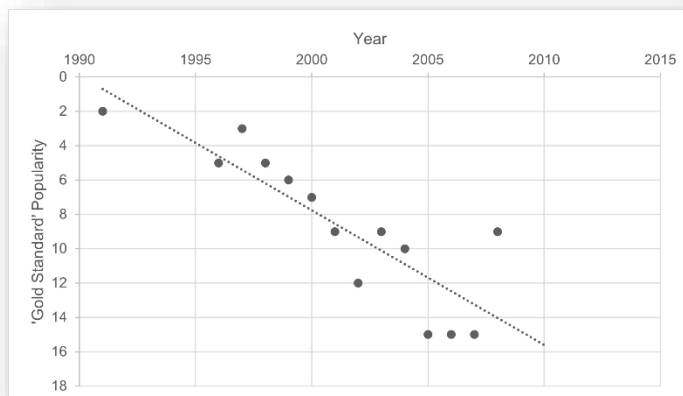
Bruce was a past president of Delaware Valley Hosta Society. He was also active in the American Hosta Society. With Bob Solberg he organized the Hosta of the Year award. He left Hercules in 2008 when it merged into Ashland, also a chemical company. Later he was employed by a bio-chemical complex near Roanoke, Virginia. Bruce died in 2017; a few months short of his 65th birthday.

The Popularity of *H. 'Gold Standard'*

Kathy Miller

"'Gold Standard' will always be at the top of my list of hosta favorites," said Mark Zilis in *The Hosta Handbook*.

Although at one time it was in great demand, it was soon eclipsed by newer cultivars. Hosta collectors continually want to show off the latest in their gardens. Once 'June' appeared and rocketed to the top, 'Gold Standard' was passé. Below shows the position of 'Gold Standard' in the American Hosta Society Popularity polls over time. Starting off at number two in 1991, it eventually plunged to number 15 and then disappeared altogether after 2010.



AHS 2024 National Convention, Boston, MA

"A Whale of a Time"

Kathy Miller

A number of our DVHS members drove to Massachusetts to attend the national convention in June. Following Marilyn's directive to sweep the Hosta Show, we did indeed do very well, winning prizes in the cut leaf, trough garden, potted hosta, seedling and sport, and big leaf contests. With Rebecca Boylan as facilitator, we hosted a late-night hospitality evening, which was so successful, we had to send in a bouncer to ask people to leave.

The whale watching cruise was a great success, with those aboard observing 15 to 20 whales in the Atlantic just east of Boston. The whale theme continued in the Artistic Design Division, with floral designs referencing various kinds of whales. I did Narwhale, which required yellow hosta leaves. Unlike previous years, I was next to last in the class instead of dead last. Progress.

I was unable to get to every tour garden, but the ones I visited were beautiful. Many of the blue hostas had that spectacular color, which can only be achieved further north. The following page shows selected photos.

6 Photos From the AHS 2024 National Convention, Boston, MA
"A Whale of a Time"

DVHS Newsletter, Fall, 2024



Above Left: Colchato Nursery and Display Garden had hostas in hanging baskets along a stony creek. Spectacular.

Above Right: The winner of the Small Section in the cut leaf show, *H.* 'Kinky Boots', grown and displayed by David Teager.

Lower Left: *H.* 'Sir Prize' in the O'Neil Garden. A sport of *H.* 'Alex Summers'. Look at that variegation!

Lower Right: *H.* 'Scituate Sunrise'. This hosta, from Randy Goodenough, really attracted me the most. It was in almost everyone's garden. Extra-large bright gold mound of perfection. *H.* 'Dancing Queen' x *H.* 'Jade Cascade' hybrid.

Big Leaf Results

June 29 - so long ago. We had 18 entries this year. The overall winner and also biggest green leaf was, once again 'Empress Wu' (21" x 16"), this time grown by Clint and Anastasia Cleaver. Running not far behind in the green division was another 'Empress Wu' (20" x 15.8") from Marilyn Romenesko's garden. Additional leaves of 'Empress Wu' were submitted by Debby Bryan and Kevin Ross.

Leading off in the yellow division was Missy Kashey's 'Sum and Substance' (18.8" x 16") followed by 'Sum and Substance' (16.8" x 16.7") from Kevin Ross. All told, we had six entries in this category, all 'Sum and Substance' except for 'Sun Power' from Dale Wade.

Blues were scarce. One unknown entry (16.3" x 14") from Missy was declared the winner, followed by a runner-up unknown (15.5" x 14") from Debby Bryan.

The largest variegated leaf was 'Victory' (16.5" x 13.7"), grown by Rebecca Boylan. Also, from Rebecca was 'Icy Halo' (16" x 13.5"), which came in second.

Thank you all for taking the time to bring your leaves. At the national convention, Debby Bryan pretty much swept the entire big leaf contest. Her prize was 'Giantland Big Bastard'. Will she blow us all away with this one? Time will tell.

Sale Hostas

The spring sale hostas are still alive. Rebecca Boylan will pot them up in the spring and they will be available at a future meeting.



Hammerhead Worms



"Hammerhead worms," also known as "broadhead planarians" are an invasive species originating in SE Asia. They are of the genus *Bipalium*. Some species prey on earthworms, while others may also feed on mollusks.

According to Wikipedia, these flatworms actually track prey.

Earthworms, when captured, become stuck to the flatworm due to sticky secretions. To feed on their prey, species often evert their pharynges from their mouths and secrete enzymes that begin the digestion of the prey. The liquefied tissues are sucked into the branching gut of the flatworms by ciliary action.

In 2014, the presence of tetrodotoxin, a very dangerous neurotoxin, was recorded in *B. adventitium* and *B. kewense*. It is the first record of tetrodotoxin in terrestrial invertebrates. Because these are flatworms, chopping them up is not an option. Pieces can regenerate into entire flatworms.

Originally found only in southern states, the USDA has identified them as far north as New Jersey. For gardeners, what should we do? First and foremost, do not touch them with your bare hands! Losing a few jumping worms and a few slugs ought not concern us, but their impact on the ecosystem as a whole is still a concern.

Reader quiz: What's your thought on a correct pluralization of H. 'Gold Standard'?

A simple pluralization is H. 'Gold Standard' plants.

DVHS MEMBERSHIP DUES. Please check your mailing label. If you see a number less than 24, you owe DVHS dues for 2024. 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 Deer 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 2024 - 25 www.delvalhosta.org

Please watch our website for more!

Saturday, October 19, 2024. Fall Meeting. Tredyffrin Library. Speaker Don Rawson.

February Meeting. 2025. TBA.

Spring Meeting. 2025. TBA.

Saturday, May 31, 2025. Garden Tour. Victor and Mary Jane Reich. Potluck. Auction. Bethlehem, PA.

June 19-21, 2025. AHS National Convention. "Hosta Double Feature."

Central Illinois Hosta Society. East Peoria, IL

Summer Meeting. TBA.

Fall Meeting. TBA

The American Hosta Society

www.americanhostasociety.org

Check out the benefits of AHS membership.

Join other hosta lovers from around the world.

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