



# Summer 2014

## Garden Tour and Auction

### Saturday, July 12, 1:00–4:30 p.m.

“Tallwood” Elizabeth and Michael Drummond, hosts  
4 Chowning Drive, Malvern, PA

**Time TBA: board meeting (brief)**

**1:00 Garden tour and brown bag lunch (see page 2)**

**2:30 Big Leaf Contest winners and any business**

**2:45 Auction**

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### Directions to July 12 Meeting

Tallwood is near south of Malvern and east of West Chester, about 35 minutes from central Wilmington, 25 minutes from King of Prussia, or 45 minutes from Philadelphia. If you need further help with directions, please email [dsteager@earthlink.net](mailto:dsteager@earthlink.net) and I will be glad to assist.

**Parking at Tallwood:** You may pull into the driveway if you need to drop off plants, chairs, etc., but otherwise plan to park on the street (outside the gates) and walk into the gardens.

**From Wilmington (or New Jersey via Del Mem Br):** Take U.S. Rt. 202 north toward West Chester and take the highway (bypass) as you get to town. Exit to Route 3 (West Chester Pike) east, which is a right turn at the bottom of the ramp. After 1 mile, turn left onto East Strasburg Rd (West Chester Pike curves to the right). After 2.8 miles, turn left on Dutton Mill Rd. Stay right at the first fork and continue on Dutton Mill about 0.5 miles, then turn left onto Chowning Drive. (Note: if you go left at that fork on Dutton Mill Rd., then Chowning will be on your right.)

**From King of Prussia:** Take U.S. 202 South from the PA Turnpike or from I-76 as needed. Continue about 4 miles from King of Prussia, and take the exit for PA-252 toward Paoli. After about 2 miles, turn right on Lancaster Ave (Rt 30), then left after about 0.5 miles onto Paoli Pike. Continue on Paoli Pike for about 2.5 miles, then turn left on Sugartown Rd. After 1.6 miles, turn right onto Dutton Mill Rd. Chowning Drive is the first right.

**From Philadelphia or New Jersey via northern route:** It is probably best to head to King of Prussia by your preferred route, and continue from the directions above.

**From Philadelphia or New Jersey via southern route (e.g. Commodore Barry Bridge):** Take I-95 to I-476. After 5 miles, take the exit to Rt 1 south (Media bypass). Exit (turn right) to PA-252 north. Follow PA-252 (note: not the shortest route, but easiest) to Newtown Square, and turn left on Rt 3 (West Chester Pike). After 5.6 miles, turn left on Dutton Mill Rd. Cross E Strasburg Rd, then Chowning Drive is on your left (see directions from Wilmington for details).



## DVHS Officers

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## President's Message

The heat and humidity have arrived, and with it all thoughts of a brutal winter are now in the past. I may be the only person who didn't lose hostas over the winter, although I did lose a number of Japanese maples in troughs and in the ground. I think that the snow cover boosted the hosta growth as they're lush and filling out the garden nicely. This doesn't mean that I don't have room for any more as I'm expanding into new territories and removing plants that don't excite me anymore.

Many of my ideas for new plants came from our hosta leaf show last month. I seem to gravitate toward the hostas of two extremes: giants and minis. The back of one of my borders is lined with giant hostas that are finally filling out, so now I'm looking for more shady companions and other giants. My mini-obsession continues, but there's no more trough space! Guess I'll be revving up the mixer and making another batch of troughs for myself this time!

The hosta show was a great time to introduce the "other" hostas to the general public. Most non-members didn't realize that there was more to the hosta world than the green one, the green and white one, or the blue one. Thanks to everyone who worked on the show, entered, or came to enjoy the displays. We signed up three new members and handed out a lot of club literature.

I'm so looking forward to our July 12th meeting as I've got some special surprises for the auction. The Drummonds have been doing some major garden expansions, so if you haven't been there for a while, you'll be pleasantly surprised! See you there!

— *Rebecca Boylan*

## Field Guide to Hostas and Sickles Still Available

The new, garden-friendly version of Mark Zilis' hosta compendium is here, and we still have some for DVHS members at discounted \$40 each. As well we have some more of the Zenport sickles we sold last year, available at the wholesale price of \$7.00 each. See the last issue of the Newsletter for details on each.

If you won't be at the next meeting but would like to reserve a book or a sickle, contact Rebecca Boylan (raboylan@comcast.net). 🍷

## Big Leaf Contest 2014

Kathy Miller

A cold winter, a cool wet spring... How big are your hosta leaves? Bring your biggest to the July meeting and enter the contest. Again this year, we'll award prizes in two divisions: H. 'Sum and Substance', or "Any other hosta." Length x width is all that matters, not condition. All big leaves will go on display. 🍷

### Hosta-tality for July 12th meeting

Beverages and plates, etc., will be provided.

Due to logistics at Tallwood, we suggest you bring a brown bag lunch or get lunch nearby.

But please do bring some snacks or sweets to keep us going through the afternoon!

Come early if you can help set up.

## A “Dewey” Hosta Morning (After)

Kathy Miller and Conny Parsons, show chairs

We can turn the page on another great hosta show. Eighteen exhibitors provided 172 entries. Of those, 156 were cut leaves and the remainder potted hostas and container gardens. Although many of those who viewed the show were already DVHS members, we had a number of walk-ins who were pleasantly surprised by the beauty and variety of our plants. Perhaps we inspired them to add hostas to their own gardens.

Competition in the cut-leaf show was strong. For those of you not familiar with how this works, hosta leaves are classified by size (Section) and then within each section by color/pattern (Class). Hosta leaves are rated on a point scale: if a leaf is awarded 90 points or more (that is, fewer than 10 points deducted), it is awarded a blue ribbon. Leaves deserving 95 points are then considered for best of Class, and those winners are then nominated for best of Section. The five best of Section winners are moved to the head table, and all the judges score them (remembering that they *all* deserve 95 points or more) to pick the Best in Show. Talk about splitting hairs!

After all this judging and voting, Best in Show was awarded to ‘Emerald Ruff Cut’, exhibited by Kathy Miller. Best Seedling was exhibited by Barbara Tiffany. Best Container Grown (single hosta) was ‘Moonstruck’, exhibited by Kathy Miller. Best Container Garden was exhibited by David Teager. Best of Section ribbons went to ‘Millennium’ (Giant), exhibited by Beverly Keefer; ‘Embroidery’ (Large), exhibited by Kathy Miller; ‘Emerald Ruff Cut’ (Medium); ‘Tattoo’ (Small), exhibited by Marilyn Romenesko; and ‘Alakazaam’ (Mini), exhibited by David Teager. Two seedlings exhibited by Barbara Tiffany and one exhibited by Charlie Seaver also were also awarded blue ribbons with Best of Section



Section winners above; ‘Emerald Ruff Cut’ in upper right. Ready for judging, below left. The winning trough, below right. K. Miller, D. Teager photos.

distinction. Marilyn Romenko took the Sweepstakes Award for receiving the most blue ribbons. See the website for more pictures of these prize-winning entries.

Best of Class was awarded to: (alphabetical order) ‘Abba Dabba Do’, ‘Alakazaam’, ‘Abiqua Drinking Gourd’, *H. clausa*, ‘Crispula’, ‘Embroidery’, ‘Emerald Ruff Cut’, ‘Ginsu Knife’, ‘Grand Canyon’, ‘Guardian Angel’, ‘Jaws’, ‘Little Miss Sunshine’, ‘Made You Look’, ‘Millennium’, ‘Miss Linda Smith’, ‘Mustang Sally’, ‘My Fine Feathered Friend’, ‘Platinum Tiara’, ‘Queen of the Seas’, ‘Sea Gulf Stream’, ‘Spring Fling’, ‘Sun Power’, ‘Tattoo’, and ‘Tongue Twister’. What a great shopping list!

Not only was the show fun and eye-catching, but it also served an important function. American Hosta Society judges must judge shows periodically to maintain credentials. Do you want to be a judge? Ask us how!

Many thanks to the judges: Warren Pollock, Janet Skidmore (from Virginia), Charlie Seaver, Conny Parsons, Jeff Tucker (Williamsport, PA), David Teager (who also served as Classification chair), and Kathy Miller; and to the clerks: Melissa Kashey, Kay Yniguez, Jim Sheley, Marilyn Romenesko, Doug Thayer and

Stephen Fugate. Adding to the party was a great sandwich board that Chris and Gene Dambro put together for anyone who spent the morning entering, placing and judging leaves. Rebecca Boylan and Ed McFarland hosted the visitor’s table, and handed out free hostas (‘Grand Tiara’ and ‘Lemon Frost’) to anyone who stopped by; a few lucky volunteers got divisions of ‘Royal Tiara’ as well. I’m sure we’ve forgotten to thank someone; thanks to all who participated! 🍷



# DVHS Meeting, July 12, 2014

Brown Bag Lunch, Garden Tour, Big Leaf Contest and Auction  
Tallwood, Malvern, Pennsylvania

**Michael and Elizabeth Drummond's** garden is one of the area's true estate gardens, a multi-acre property with large open spaces, woodland paths, vegetable and herb gardens, and a large pond with dock and gazebo.

The woodland gardens at Tallwood were developed prior to the AHS National Convention held here in 2006, with extensive new plantings starting three or more years before featuring the Hosta Heritage Walk. This is a special garden feature honoring DVHS members' hosta introductions. Art Wrede, Maria Plater-Zyberk, Mildred Seaver and her son Charlie, Alex Summers and more... they're all here. We last visited Tallwood in 2009, and since then many of the original plantings have grown to significant size.

Michael and Elizabeth have kept up with the ever-changing landscape (trees grow up, trees fall down). One large tree, originally surrounded by lawn, is now ringed with stone and the interior space holds a number of large hypertufa troughs planted with miniature hostas. Michael has been extending woodland space to showcase a growing collection of Japanese maple cultivars. Rampant hellebores have been rooted out to make room for more hostas in the Asian-influenced

front garden, which already contained one of the largest plantings of *H. 'Spilt Milk'* in the country.

Look also for different hosta theme gardens, including the "monster" garden and the "cocktail" garden. 'Gin and Tonic', anyone?

We will be holding an auction at Tallwood as well. We hope you have reserved some plants to bring, and have reserved some cash to spend! There may be some nice selections from the Tallwood plantings in the auction mix. As well, the DVHS board hopes to pick up some newer selections from the offerings at Russell Gardens; remember that DVHS members can shop at this wholesale nursery, whose management (particularly Alan Russell) has been very kind to DVHS over the years. 🐾



A portion of the hostas in the Heritage Walk are guarded by these Chinese fu dogs. D. Teager photo.

Below: hosta troughs find a home at the base of some tall wood. D. Teager photo.



Hostas frame many of the long views of the Tallwood gardens. D. Teager photo.

## To Patent, or Not to Patent: That is the question.

Charlie Seaver, Sea Made Hostas, Hockessin, DE

Once in a blue moon, a hosta hybridizer comes across a seedling or sport that is truly unique and unlike anything ever seen before. A few years ago, I was fortunate to find such a plant, which I have named 'My Fine Feathered Friend' (C. Seaver 2012; photo below).

Often the proverbial advice given is "You should patent that plant!" The US Patent Office grants three kinds of patents: (1) Utility: my "thingamajig" does something new or better, (2) Design: my "doohickey" is different from everything else and (3) Creation: my newly created animal or plant (e.g., a discovered sport or newly germinated seedling) has a feature or trait never seen before. The granting of a Plant patent is more like a Design patent application process. The "inventor" says that the appearance is unique and shows exactly what it looks like. The person applying for the patent does not have the burden of showing that no other hosta, for example, looks exactly like this one and the patent office does not have to examine pictures of all registered and non-registered hosta plants and compare to approve it.

One of the first plant patents, number PP2467, was granted to the fragrant hybrid *Hosta* 'Royal Standard' back in 1965. In the early days, *H.* 'Solar Flare' was about the only other hosta cultivar that was patented (PP7046) and to me it was just one of several large yellow-leafed plants. A couple of more recent cultivars that have been patented include Tony Avent's *H.* 'Tattoo'

*see Patent? on p. 7*



'My Fine Feathered Friend', showing its unique center and edge variegation patterns. C. Seaver photo

## A Misty Morning at the Barnes Foundation DVHS Hosta Garden

Marilyn Romenesko

After postponing a volunteer work day at the Barnes Arboretum Hosta Garden the previous Thursday, a dedicated group of DVHS members assembled there in spite of the light rain on the morning of June 12, 2014. Some of the gardeners worked to edge and weed existing beds, and others worked to prepare a new bed (removing weeds and some sizeable roots from a previously removed locust tree). Lucky members then got to plant 25 additional hostas in the expanding display bed. The following 17 Hosta cultivars were added to the beds on this work day: 'Silver Load', 'Allen P. McConnell', 'Rhapsody In Blue', 'Corkscrew', 'Hollywood Lights', 'Tidewater', 'Lakeside Paisley Print', 'Revolution', 'Neptune', 'Heat Wave', 'Lakeside Prophecy', 'Green Sparkler', 'Hirao Majesty', 'Lakeside Hazy Morn', 'Alligator Shoes', 'Potomac Pride', and 'So Sweet'. The species *Hosta clausa* var. *clausa* was also added. There are still 15–20 additional cultivars in the Parson's

*see Barnes on p. 6*

The bed of minis, mulched in pine needles, is growing well at the Barnes Arboretum. D. Teager photo



## Press Release: Barnes Foundation Arboretum Re-Opens To The Public

Highlights include newly-renovated tea house, hosta display garden, medicinal plants, fern walk and 30 State Champion Trees

May 4, 2014, Philadelphia, PA

Beginning May 9, 2014, the Arboretum of the Barnes Foundation will be open for public visitation Fridays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. General admission tickets are \$5; tickets are free for Barnes Foundation members. Guided tours are available Fridays at 11 a.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 1 p.m. Tours are \$15 for the general public—\$12 for members—and include admission. Book tickets or tours online at [www.barnesfoundation.org/visit](http://www.barnesfoundation.org/visit) or call 215.278.7200. The Barnes Arboretum is at 300 Latch's Lane, Merion. 🐾

## 6 Barnes continued from p. 5

holding bed, which will be added at the Barnes later this year. We hope you can attend this final work day of the 2014 season at the Barnes.

The garden is filling in nicely from previous hosta plantings, and it is developing character, showing how hostas can be utilized in a residential setting. Because there is significant space in the arboretum to fill, the garden gets maximum impact through the use of groups of 3–5 Hostas of one species or variety. The transitions from one cultivar’s color, size and/or leaf pattern to another in these groups of groups idealizes the use of these endlessly variable ornamental plants. There are already labels (mostly typical garden types) to identify the hosta species and cultivars, now that the arboretum has re-opened to the public; they are set to be replaced with new arboretum-quality labels prior to application for National Hosta Display Garden status through the American Hosta Society.

Kristen Ryan and other Barnes gardeners assisted us along with a few of the regular Barnes volunteers. The DVHS volunteers include: Middy Dorrance, Chris and Gene Dambro, Cristal Badey, Conny Parsons, David Teager, and Marilyn Romenesko.

After the garden work was nearly completed the rain came down harder and Arboretum Director, Jacob Thomas treated us to pizza. In spite of the rain it was a fun and productive day at the Barnes Arboretum. Thank you to all who attended, and to the Barnes staff for their ongoing support of this garden. 🌱



Conny and Marilyn enjoy a moment of mirth. Is it the thought of ‘Spring Fling’ nearby? D. Teager photo

## Plant Bath for Fresh Hostas

Ed McFarland

[From the editor: at the winter meeting, Ed McFarland gave a brief presentation on the benefits of using a cheap disinfectant bath for newly-purchased plants.]

When receiving new hostas that are bare root clumps or divisions, I would suggest soaking the hosta specimens in a solution of plain water and some Listerine-type mouthwash (amber-colored; I get a knock-off brand from the Dollar Tree store). Fill a 5 gallon bucket three-fourths full of plain water. Add about one-fourth to one-third of the bottle of mouthwash, and soak the specimens for 24 to 36 hours; let air dry a bit before planting. This “bath” will help to kill off any parasites or other soil-borne critters. [Editor's note: activity against foliar nematodes is not known.] The active ingredient in the mouthwash is phenol, which is an excellent disinfectant and modestly active insecticide/insect repellent. I soak all my plants, bareroot or not—roses, hostas, perennials, etc.—in this solution. This is far better than using bleach solutions.

If you have further questions, call Ed at 215-576-1436 or 215-485-7660. 🌱



There is (there are?) some ‘Hanky Panky’ happening at the Barnes Arboretum. C. Parsons photo

## New Members’ Corner

The DVHS welcomes new members Deanna Campbell Villanova), Marianne Hooper (Wayne), and Carla Johnson (Newtown Square).

All of these joined us while visiting the Hosta Show!

## JOIN THE AHS!

Visit [www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org) where you can join on-line.

Members get on-line access to *The Hosta Journal* and for the first time next year, an exclusive hosta.

## Patent? continued from p. 5

for its first-discovered maple leaf watermark variegation pattern, Bob Solberg's *H.* 'Orange Marmalade' for its bold yellow center that is darker-truly almost orange-than anything else, and Bill Meyer's *H.* 'Whee!' (patented, but not registered) with its truly distinctive twirling foliage. To date at least 83 hostas have been patented; new PP numbers are up above 24,000.

Many more hostas could have been patented due to uniqueness but were not. John Machen's *H.* 'Striptease', the first of a long line of a white pencil-line demarcated color boundaries, was not patented. Mildred Seaver's hosta, *H.* 'Spilt Milk' was not patented even though George Schmid declared it was in its own class of variegation.

My mother, Mildred Seaver, was very much against hosta cultivars being patented. She would get on her soapbox and state "Hosta is the friendship plant. How can you take a great new hosta cultivar and patent it and make it illegal to cut off a division and give it to your friend? How very unfriendly!"

What do you get for your patent? According to the U.S. Patent and Trademark office:

Grant of a patent for a plant precludes others from asexually reproducing or selling or using the patented plant. [...] A plant patent expires 20 years from the filing date of the patent application. As with utility applications, when the plant patent expires, the subject matter of the patent becomes public domain.

In reality, you don't have the ability to prevent others from producing and selling your patented cultivar. What you have is the legal standing and right to sue any infringer and recover compensatory and punitive damages. Even so, if the infringement is one grower or hobbyist selling a few plants, then the cost of enforcing your patent by hiring a lawyer is not justified financially.

If the uniqueness of the plant can be maintained throughout the asexual reproduction of the cultivar through tissue culture, and the projected sales of the cultivar are in the tens of thousands, then patent protection might be wise.

So what am I supposed to do with 'My Fine Feathered Friend' with its unique character: no two leaves are alike, yellow feathering and yellow edge on a green background. I exhibited it at First Look several times and got confirmation of its uniqueness but it did not win but lost out to less unique but flashier competition. I gave it to Ken Hosale to exhibit at last year's convention and it did not win. I invited Walter's Garden to consider tissue culturing the plant but they declined, citing it was collector material. More importantly, I suspect that another negative is that small TC plants might not exhibit the trait, so culling off-type sports would be impracticable.

I feel that the plant is most valuable as a breeder. It will produce seed but many of my crosses last season did not take, due most likely to a combination of July bloom peak and 90° days in Delaware in July. I did get a much higher seed set from a secondary rebloom that occurred in late August when temperatures had moderated. Few seedlings have shown feathering but that could be again related to the fact that the trait is somewhat washed out in full sun or indoor light; shade tends to strengthen the contrast.

I have received some collector interest and the feedback suggests that \$200–\$300 dollars is not unreasonable. So what will I do? For me, because I would rather honor my mother's opinion and not pursue infringers, the answer to the question above is: No Patent. I will offer a plant to the AHS on line auction and I expect it to go for at least \$200. I have over 50 divisions and will offer the plant to the public in 2014. 🍷

### Step Right Up!

The following is a list of committees/chairs, who are always looking for a few volunteers. EASY and FUN!

**Publications:** David Teager, 610-485-4149

**Membership:** Dan Boylan 610-327-8217

**Plant Sales and Auctions:** Charlie Seaver

**Display Gardens:** Marilyn Romenesko, Chair, 302-765-3581

**Hospitality:** Chris Dambro, Chair, 610-388-7743

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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: Dan 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 2014

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

**Saturday, February 15: DVHS Winter Meeting,**  
Tredyffrin Public Library, Wayne, PA  
Hosta Soup and Hosta Chat; Presentation on DVHS  
Hosta Display Gardens by Marilyn and Conny

**Saturday, April 26: DVHS Spring Meeting,**  
Tredyffrin Public Library, Wayne, PA  
Hosta plant sale and great hospitality  
Presentation by Clarence Falstad III: "Hosta Flowers"

**Saturday, June 7: DVHS Tour** of Teagate (David  
Teager and Stephen Fugate garden), Garnet Valley,  
PA. Potluck and plant auction.

**June 11–14: AHS National Convention**  
in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Visit [www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org)

**Saturday, June 21: DVHS Hosta Show**  
Tredyffrin Public Library. Entries/judging on Saturday,  
with public display on Saturday and Sunday

**Saturday, July 12: DVHS Tour** of Tallwood (Eliza-  
beth and Michael Drummond garden) in Malvern,  
PA, with BIG LEAF contest and plant auction

**July 11–13: First Look 2014**  
Cancelled for 2014

**Saturday, October 18: DVHS Fall Meeting**  
Presentation by Mary Ann Metz, former VP of  
Member Services of the AHS, in Haverford, PA

**Saturday, October 26: Tri-State Hosta Meeting**  
Frelinghuysen, NJ, with Don Dean, AHS President

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## DUES NOTICE

Please check your mailing label. If your number is 14 or higher, we thank you for being a member in good standing. **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. It is not too soon to send in your 2015 membership fee today!

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

Mail to: Dan 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.

Use the form on Page 7.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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