



DELAWARE VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

INSIDE The Plants!
The Presentation!
The Winning Soup Recipe!

Volume 26, No. 1

www.delvalhosta.org

Spring, 2017

Spring 2017

Hosta Meeting and Plant Sale

Saturday, April 29, 2017

Tredyffrin Library

582 Upper Gulph Rd., Wayne, PA, 19087

Roger Smith, Speaker

“Some Observations on *Hosta* Hybridization”

11:00 Board Meeting (bring your lunch)

1:00 Gathering for Hosta Hospitality
(Dessert/munchies)

1:30 Business Meeting and Feature Presentation

2:30 Plant Sale — over 100 Hostas!

3:30 Chat and Clean-up

Hosta-tality for April 28. Please bring some treats for our meeting. Beverages will be provided. Come early if you can help set up.

Directions to April 29 Meeting

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 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 on your right.



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Position open

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

That darned groundhog! No, not the one that shows up in our garden every year to eat the ornamental sweet potatoes and any sunflowers I try to grow, but the one who told us in early February, despite all indications to the contrary, that we were due for another six weeks of winter. While I'm tempting spring in the basement with a new crop of hosta seedlings, outside the early-emerging *H. montana* 'Aureomarginata' is trying to stay asleep under a heat-preserving bucket, and the poor sleet-pummeled hellebores ... Well, gardeners are eternal optimists. There's always next year!

Still, spring will arrive despite the calendar, and the DVHS has another full calendar for the year. Kathy Miller and Marilyn Romenesko worked through the programming job transition last year, and now Marilyn has us off and running.

First up, our plant sale offers a nice mix of plants that you won't want to miss. For the first time in a few years, our spring meeting features a speaker who will be talking about hosta hybridizing. If you're interested in seeing the exciting directions that breeding is taking, there are a few Facebook groups of folks showing their latest babies.

Summer's garden visits are also noteworthy. You'll hear more about these later, although we got a preview of Steve Buckwalter's garden during February's Soup & Chat meeting. Some of us will be on the road to the National Convention, where we'll be pitching for everyone to join us here in 2018. (June 20-23. Don't forget those dates!)

Here at Teagate we don't have plans for big changes in the garden this year—but don't we say that every year? We need to put one more bed into the edge of the woods, as I have to have somewhere to trial the seedlings I'm growing, with plans to mix them in with hostas moved elsewhere. I really think that hosta beds do well if you move the hostas around from time to time, even (especially) when they don't need to be divided. It gives you a chance to enrich the soil when you replant, and gives you a chance to shuffle the deck to create new views. Every move will be geared toward making our garden look its very best for the convention.

David Teager

FIRST LOOK

Join some of our members who are going to First Look, June 23-25, in Taunton, MA. See the newest of the new hostas in competition and on display. Enjoy some beautiful garden tours. Listen to state of the art educational speakers. Participate in the auction and other amusing activities. Chat with other hosta people from around the region.

Go to: www.hostalibrary.org.

Then choose "First Look" for registration forms and additional information.

Guest Speaker: Roger Smith

Roger Smith, a retired U.S. Air Force member with 25 years of service and now a Department of Defense executive, has always had a garden in his life. From planting oak and pine trees as a kid to growing peppers on the window ledge during an unaccompanied tour in Korea, there's always been time for a garden. When he and his young family moved to Severn, Maryland in the mid 80's, a lot of shade came in the form of a giant sycamore and red maples in the yard, thus the hosta bug was started.

After 10 years of believing he had all three hosta types (the green, green-white, and the blue one), he found a local nursery that carried more than 50 cultivars including *H. 'Liberty'*. That started his desire to find and grow more hosta types. After moving to a larger house and yard with many mature oaks, he decided that he now had enough room to really "make his own" types from seed and started some hosta hybridizing efforts.



Roger Smith. Photo: Potomac Hosta club.

Those growing efforts often start with more than 6,000 seeds each fall that are grown in a sun room under lights. These seedlings are then culled down to about 5% by the following spring and the plants that make the cut are then grown on for two to three years to see what they'll do.

So far, Roger has registered two hostas of his own and has a few others that may make this high status in the future. The two registered are 'Baltimore Blues' and 'Tamiami Blue'. The extra seedlings that grow well are often donated to auction events or as gift plants.

He, along with some close friends across the states, is currently working on advancing red into the hosta leaf surface. His presentation will cover hosta hybridization observations, how one can think about size and colors when selecting hostas for breeding goals, and touch upon some results in both leaf shapes and flower colors.

Roger is a member of the Potomac Hosta Club, the American Hosta Society and is currently the American Hosta Society Education Outreach Chair.



H. 'First Blush'. Bob Solberg. Staff Photo.

DVHS Spring Plant Sale, 2017

Membership must be up to date.

All plants subject to availability.

Here are the rules for the day:

- Please bring a small plastic lined box, basket or bag to put your purchases in.
- Pick a number from the hosta bucket at the membership table (entrance door).
- Plant sales will run on a lottery rotation (based on your lucky number), giving everyone a chance to pick two plants with each rotation. After a few rotations, remaining hostas left will be up for sale to anyone still buying!
- Check out will be at the membership table at the end of the meeting. Bring your hostas to the table.



H. 'Royal Wedding'
Medium
Registered in 2014 by Walters Gardens. Wide-margined sport of *H. 'Diana Remembered'*. Large, fragrant white flowers.

H. 'Rhino Hide'
Large
Registered in 2007 by Don Rawson. PP23665. Extremely thick leaves that feel like plastic, much thicker than any other hosta. Parentage unknown.



H. 'Merlin'
Medium
Registered in 2003 by D. & J. Ward. A hybrid of *H. 'Pinstripe'*.

H. 'Fashionista'
Medium
Registered by Mark Zilis in 2011. A white-margined sport of *H. 'Designer Genes'*.



H. 'Cotton Candy'
Small
Registered by Mark Zilis in 2009. Heavily misted sport of *H. 'Pathfinder'*.

H. 'Sioux'
Medium Large
Not registered. Van Wade introduction. One of the Indian Tribe series. Unruly, blue-green leaves.



H. 'Mini Skirt'
Mini
Registered by Walters Gardens in 2013. Wide creamy margin on small, round, wavy leaf with heavy substance. Sport of *H. 'Mighty Mouse'*.

H. 'Framed'
Medium
Not Registered. Beilstein introduction. Wide yellow margin turning white later in the season.



H. 'Waiting in Vein'
Large
Not Registered. Beilstein introduction. Slightly wavy gold, heavily veined.

H. 'Strawberry Yogurt'
Small
Registered by Mark Zilis in 2009. Hybrid of *H. 'Raspberry Sorbet'* × *H. 'Shining Tot'*. Attractive flowers on red scapes.



Still
Waiting

Upcoming Gardens

Right

A rainy day in the Steven Buckwalter Garden.

We will visit June 3.

Photo by Marilyn Romenesko.



Left

A peacock shows off in the Bruce Gangawer Garden.

We will visit July 15.

Photo by Kathy Miller.



Do you know who this man is?

Hint: His name appears from time to time in our *Newsletter*.

See answer on page 7



Hosta 'Rosaleen'

Beautiful flower. Exceptional photography by Madelon Gilligan of Winchester, New Zealand. This unregistered, white-margined cultivar is a hybrid from Bill Nash, named in memory of his deceased wife.

Madelon's photographic skill clearly differentiates the pure white female structure (pistil) from the yellow, pollen-laden male structures (stamens). Hybridizers often remove stamens to prevent the plant's own pollen from landing on the pistil. Then, pollen from another plant is gently applied to the tip of the pistil, the stigma. Fertilization occurs when the pollen travels down the pistil to the ovary. Pollen can be stored in a refrigerator, so that the parents of a hybrid cross do not need to be in bloom at the same time.

HOSTA SOUP AND HOSTA CHAT

A delicious assortment of soups was present at the February meeting. 'Blue Ivory' borscht, 'Puddles and Bumps' sausage and lentil, 'Red October' lentil and spinach, 'Cool as a Cucumber' avocado and cucumber, 'Golden Rajah' spicy cauliflower, 'Mariachi' black bean, 'Flower Power' cauliflower, 'Smooth Sailing' cream of parsnip, and an unregistered hybrid of parsnip x leek. Also some fine desserts, which were a necessity after all that soup.

As we milled about tasting the entries, Steven showed us pictures of his historic home and hosta garden. Those who make the trek in June will be well rewarded. Rebecca Boylan then presented pictures and helpful information about companion plants for the hosta garden.

And, as you will deduce from the following recipe, the winner was the cold and creamy cucumber soup from Stephen Fugate. Good soup as well as nice looking hosta!

'Cool as a Cucumber'

From www.finecooking.com

(note: the cumin is optional; try it without first and see what you think.)

This makes 4 servings. If you double or triple it, you'll need to do the puréeing in batches.

Ingredients:

1 large (8-oz.) white onion (preferably sweet), peeled and quartered

1 lb. cucumbers, peeled, seeded, and cut into big chunks

1 medium-size ripe avocado

1-1/2 cups plain yogurt (preferably whole-milk; Steve used Greek style)

3 Tbs. extra-virgin olive oil

1 to 2 cloves garlic, minced

3/4 tsp. ground cumin (optional, preferably toasted and freshly ground)

1 tsp. kosher salt; more to taste

1/3 cup loosely packed fresh basil leaves

2 Tbs. fresh mint leaves

2 to 3 Tbs. fresh lemon juice

1–2 cups cold water and/or vegetable broth

Freshly ground black pepper

Preparation:

Put the onion chunks in the food processor; pulse to chop finely. Scoop into a sieve, rinse under cold water, and set aside to drain. Put the cucumber chunks in the food processor; pulse to chop finely. Add the drained onion and pulse to combine.

Set aside 3/4 cup of the cucumber-onion mix to stir into the soup at the end. Cut the avocado in half and remove the pit. Scoop out the pulp into the food processor with the remaining cucumber-onion mixture. Add the yogurt, olive oil, garlic, cumin, and salt. Purée until fairly smooth. Slice the basil and mint leaves into shreds and then stir them into the soup along with the lemon juice, 1 cup cold water (Steve used vegetable broth), and the reserved cucumber-onion mixture. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Cover and chill for several hours. Before serving, check for consistency, gradually adding another 1/2 to 1 cup cold water or broth to thin the soup if necessary. Add more lemon juice and salt if needed and serve.



H. 'Cool as a Cucumber'. Walters Gardens, 2012. Photo Walters Gardens.

ACTUALLY COOKING HOSTAS

Can you really make hosta soup? Probably, but For those brave gardeners out there, here is something new to try. The following YouTube Videos describe how to cook hostas. Good Luck!

WARNING. Never eat hostas that have been treated with a pesticide of *any* kind. Chemicals may still be present in the soil around the plant and on the plant surfaces. Some are absorbed into the plant tissues. Washing the leaves will not remove the toxic effects.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=po97m94C5PQ>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmG_KjsLdF0

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvHvIRjhW9s>

DVHS Financial Report 2016

Christel Badey and David Teager

Below are the income and expense totals for the year (grouped into categories; figures rounded to nearest dollar). Last year's Hosta Show had lower costs than usual, thanks to the generosity of the folks at the Barnes Arboretum. As well, we spent no funds on our display gardens last year. Other expenses and income were comparable to 2015. We have made the first large payment toward the 2018 convention; from 2017 onwards these will be under separate accounting.

Beginning balance 2015	\$ 19,019
Income	
Dues	\$ 1,090
Plant Sale	990
Meetings (auction, raffle)	2,055
Donations and miscellaneous	112
Total Income	\$ 4,247
Expenses	
Publications (incl. website)	\$ 1,350
Meetings (speaker, rental, etc.)	1,120
Hosta show	481
Display gardens	0
Plants (for plant sales)	0
Miscellaneous (incl. books)	215
Total Expenses	\$ 3,167
Net 2016	\$ 1,080
Convention hotel deposit	\$ 5,000
Ending balance 2016	\$15,099

Meet Our New "Hostatality" Chair

Irene Cassidy has graciously volunteered to coordinate "Hostatality", our hosta-lovers take on hospitality. Chris and Gene Dambro always did such a wonderful job. If anyone can fill their shoes, it's Irene. She's hard working, enthusiastic, and could use a hand from time to time.

Please contact her to volunteer your help.

latte_datte@yahoo.com.

Welcome to the team, Irene!



Answer to question on page 5.
 Nicolas Thomas Host. Born 1761; died 1834. The genus *Hosta* was named for him. He was an Austrian botanist and personal physician of the Holy Roman Emperor Francis II. His botanical works include *Synopsis plantarum* and the four-volume *Austriacorum Icones et descriptiones graminum* – the grasses of Austria. He was also the first director of the botanical garden at Vienna's Belvedere Palace.

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.

 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

Saturday, February 25, 2017. Winter Meeting. Hosta Soup and Hosta Chat. Speaker: Rebecca Boylan. Wister Education Center of the Scott Arboretum.

Saturday, April 1, 2017. Tri-State Hosta Society meeting. Frelinghuysen, NJ

Saturday, April 29, 2017. Spring Meeting and Plant Sale. Speaker: Roger Smith. Tredyffrin Public Library.

Saturday, June 3, 2017. Garden Walk, Potluck and Auction. Steven Buckwalter Garden. Landisville, PA

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

June 23-25, 2017. First Look. Taunton, MA.

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

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

June, 2018. AHS National Convention. Philadelphia, PA.

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

Welcome to our new Members

Jack Barta, Cedarburg, WI Donna Donelon, Quakertown, PA Kate Kauffman, Downingtown, PA

Paul & Sue Kuntz, Montrose, PA Mary Rodgers, Wilmington, DE Bess Shannon & Reid Smith, Oreland, PA

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