

Winter Meeting

Saturday, February 16

Easttown Public Library
720 First Ave., Berwyn, PA19312

Hosta Soup and Hosta Chat

Come hungry!!

12:00, Set-Up

12:30, Soup sampling and voting as you eat

1:30, (or thereabouts) Presentations

2:30, (or thereabouts) Soup contest and door prizes

3:00, (maybe) DVHS Board Meeting

"I live on good soup, not on fine words." Moliere

We continue with our February tradition of preparing and sharing hosta soup. Basically, it's a great time to get together and chat about our up-coming garden plans. It's also a great time to stay indoors and eat something hot and delicious.

Now for those who are new, we need to explain that hosta soup is soup going by the name of a hosta cultivar, not soup prepared from hostas. Some examples from previous years include: a creamy mushroom soup, *H.* 'Silver Ladle'; a cold cucumber soup, *H.* 'Cool As A Cucumber'; and a hearty beef and barley soup, *H.* 'Big Daddy'. Check out The Hosta Library (www.hostalibrary.org) as a helpful resource. The two strategies for concocting soup seem to be either choosing the name of a hosta and coming up with a recipe that fits; or, choosing a recipe and then perusing the list of hostas in the library until one seems just right.

If you are not a soup person, desserts are always welcome. We have a wonderful program for you this year. Beautiful pictures from the AHS national convention tour gardens, and a taste of the Russo garden, which we will have an opportunity to visit this June.

Directions to Easttown Public Library

The 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. Follow the signs to Rt. 202 South. Take 202 South to the Paoli exit (Rt. 252), about 3.5 miles. Take Rt. 252 South to Rt. 30, about 2.4 mi. Turn left at Rt. 30/Lancaster Ave. Go 1.7 mi. to light at Bridge Ave. Turn right. Go 0.2 mi. and turn left onto First Ave. The library is on your right.

To return, on exiting, turn right. Continue on First Ave. to Waterloo Ave. Turn left to return to Rt. 30.

From the South: Take I-95 North to I-476 North to I-76 West, then follow directions above.

From the West or Southwest: Take I-76 East to King of Prussia/Valley Forge, then follow directions above. Or, take Rt. 202 North to the Paoli exit (Swedesford Rd.). Follow signs to Rt. 252 South. Follow Rt. 252 South about 1.3 miles to Rt. 30 as in directions above.



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Raffles/Special Events
Position open

Advisory Board

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Ed MacFarland, Glenside, PA
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Barbara Tiffany, Point Pleasant, PA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Global warming continues for us here in Southeastern PA as we have fluctuations in temperatures and the wettest year in memory. Still raining in 2019, and if you haven't learned the importance of "soil enrichment," you have now. Our shady gardens tend to be dry shade during the growing season as all of the surrounding trees suck up the moisture before the hostas and other understory plants can, but if that soil is clay, it can turn our coveted plants to mush over the winter. Hopefully, you've amended with compost or mulched over the years so the water drains, or planted "high" or on berms. We really won't know until the little pips peak out in the spring....

I'm trying to control myself over the bleak winter as the e-temptations are great. Yes, I've placed a few plant orders already, including some Martagon lilies from Soules Gardens after reading the wonderful article in the AHS journal about adding height to the hosta garden with these statuesque perennials. Then there was the end of the season order of conifers from Conifer Kingdom after Conny Parsons and I returned from a conifer conference and saw some lovely conifers that we could grow in the shade; luckily, these plants won't come until spring. Of course some more clematis from Brushwood Nursery now that a neighbor's tree fell down and opened up some sunlight.....Now, do I place that order or not for the shade perennials I've had my eye on at Far Reaches Nursery?

Notice that I haven't ordered any hostas. That's because we've got some premium hostas growing at Alan Russell's nursery for our April members' plant sale. Most of these are new varieties that you'll want to have in your garden. Look for a complete list in the next newsletter.

Hope to see you at our "Soup and Chat" meeting to talk hostas, companions, and learn what's new in the world of plants.

Rebecca Boylan

The American Hosta Society

www.americanhostasociety.org

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

Gail and Dave Russo Garden Preview

By Marilyn Romenesko.

You won't want to miss this February Meeting! In addition to our usual soup cook-off, we'll have guests from Cedarville, NJ to give us a preview of their garden which we'll visit on June 29, 2019. We've invited the Delmarva Hosta Society to join us there. Hopefully, we can get to know all of these folks better during this visit.

Gail and Dave Russo began gardening at their Cedarville residence in 1992 when they bought their home and 5.5 wooded acres. Now, several years later, they've improved the house and developed 3.5 acres of this site, doing all of the construction, planting, and maintenance themselves.

There are numerous features in the garden including six ponds with two waterfalls and a bog garden. In addition, there is a gazebo, several seating areas, numerous raised beds, a few sheds, and an 80-foot-long semicircular pergola. Even the bricks used as the base for the pergola were hand-made by Gail!

In the spirit of sustainability, the Russo's also built a solar array with 190 panels to offset the energy they use to maintain the garden features.

Then there are the plantings:

Beginning with planting a variety of understory trees and shrubs, they've also added numerous shade-loving perennials with over 200 varieties of day lilies, and over 2000 varieties of hostas! About half of the perennials are labeled, and all the named varieties of hostas are labeled.

The Russos will discuss their plant collections and their garden features. They will also share some of the challenges they've encountered and how they've overcome them. Hopefully, they'll share the secret of how they got the energy to do all of this while they raised two children and worked full time!



Photos. Top row: the Russo garden pergola; *H.* 'Stitch in Time', *H.* 'Splashed Leather'. Bottom row: *H.* 'Tattoo', *H.* 'Bullfrog', *H.* 'Snake Eyes'.

H. 'Marilyn Monroe' and Her Offspring

By Kathy Miller

The blogger Hannah Ross writes about photographer Sam Shaw and "Monroe's Flying Skirt"....

<https://sites.psu.edu/hannahirossblog/2015/10/29/monroes-flying-skirt/>.

"...in 1954, Billy Wilder was filming *The Seven Year Itch*, starring Marilyn Monroe and Tom Ewell. Sam was asked to be the still photographer for the film, and luckily so.... As the script goes, Marilyn and Tom leave a theater and as a subway passes by underground, the breeze lifts Marilyn's skirt. "Isn't it delicious?" Marilyn says, breaking every rule of 1950's modesty and concealment. Sam knew this scene would draw attention, and he wanted to get to use the image for promotional posters."

"Standing on Lexington Avenue between 52nd and 53rd in NYC at 1 AM, Wilder shot the scene surrounded by very loud bystanders and press. The crowd (100 photographers and somewhere between 2,000 and 5,000 spectators) had been invited to the shoot to increase hype for the movie, but the front row was reserved specifically for Sam Shaw. It took three hours to film the scene 14 times, and every time Marilyn's skirt flew up, the (predominantly male) crowd responded with very loud cheers. The only man who seemed to disapprove of the scene was Joe DiMaggio, who was married to Marilyn..."

"The crowd was so loud that all 14 takes were useless. They could only be used in promos. The scene was reshot in an LA studio closed to the public and press. The only photographer allowed inside was Sam, who later published one of the most famous photos in history...."

Thank You, Hannah Ross.



Photo: Sam Shaw



Photo: Jeroen Linneman via Hosta Library



Photo: Pol Foerier via Hosta Library

Photos. Top row: The actress Marilyn Monroe in the famous scene from *The Seven Year Itch*; *H. 'Marilyn Monroe'*; *H. 'Jessica Alba'*. Bottom row: *H. 'Sharon Stone'*; *H. 'Skywriter'*; *Hosta longipes* var. *latifolia*.



Photo: Rik Desmedt via Hosta Library



Photo: Dan Wols via Hosta Library



Photo: Kathy Miller

(Marilyn Monroe, continued)

In 2005 Jim Hawes along with Pete and Jean Ruh registered *Hosta* 'Marilyn Monroe'. Veins:10. Leaf Size, 7 x 6 in. Leaf Color, light green. Rippled, cupped, twisted and wavy. The registration states that the parentage is unknown. However, the Hosta Library has additional information - a seedling of *Hosta longipes* var. *latifolia* 'Urajiro Hachijo'. Sister seedling to Alex Summers' *H.* 'Smokey'.

According to the Hosta Library, progeny include:

'Effervescence' = PP x ('Neptune' x 'Designer Genes')

'Frisian Ruffles' = PP x 'Sky Dancer'

'Holar Red Sea Shell' = PP x 'Maya Kingsnake'

'Jessica Alba' sport

'Marilyn Monroe Streaked' sport

'Marilyn's Fest Dress' sport

'Misty Marilyn' sport

'Prehensile' = PP x 'Ringtail'

'Sharon Stone' sport

'Skywriter' = PP x ('Neptune' x 'Smoke Signals')

'Valley's Favorite Muse' = PP x 'Maya Kingsnake'

'Valley's Frozen Rum' = PP x *pyncnophylla*

'Valley's Green Chute' seedling

'Valley's One of a Kind' seedling

The Root Slayer

I just ordered the Radius Root Slayer Nomad, which is a mini version of the regular size Root Slayer. I think it will be good for dividing hostas and other perennials.

There is also a Root Assassin – love the name, but too big for the job.

I'll let you know how effective it is. Sure beats getting down on my hands and knees with an old butcher knife!!

Kathy Miller



Step Right Up

We can always use your help!

Plant sales

Raffles

PUBLICATIONS

Hostatality

(yes, it ought to be hospitality)

or in some other capacity

Please contact any board member.
(We're listed on page 2)

IT'S DUES TIME. Please check your mailing label. If you see a number less than 19, you owe DVHS dues for 2019. 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?

Saturday, February 16, 2019. Winter Meeting.
Hosta Soup.
Speakers: Wayne Guymon and Gail Russo.
Easttown Library. Berwyn, PA.

Friday, Saturday, March 15-16, 2019. Hosta College.
Upper Valley Career Center, Piqua OH.
www.ihostohio.org/glhc/.

Saturday, April 27, 2019. Spring Meeting. Plant Sale.
Speaker: Jim Gears, "Hosta Companions – Native
Azaleas."
Jenkins Arboretum, Devon, PA.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, May 3 – 5, 2019. Dixie Regional
Hosta Convention. Rehoboth Beach DE.
info@delmarvahostasociety.org.

Saturday, June 1, 2019. Early Summer Meeting.
Garden Walk, Picnic and Auction.
Conny and Jim Parsons Garden. Glen Mills, PA.

Saturday, June 29, 2019. Bus Trip.
Gail and Dave Russo Garden., Cedarville, NJ.

Saturday, August 3, 2019. Late Summer Meeting.
Garden Walk, Auction and **Big** Leaf Contest.
Wayne Guymon Garden. Chadd's Ford, PA.

Saturday, Oct/Nov, 2019. Date TBA. Fall Meeting.
Speaker and Business Meeting.
Location, TBA.

June, 12-15, 2019. AHS National Convention, "Hostaffinity".
Green Bay, WI.

June, 2020. AHS National Convention. Minneapolis, MN.

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

Marianne Hooper, Wayne, PA

Carol Verhake, Berwyn, PA