



Growing Together Growing Together

Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania

JANUARY 2018

Happy New Year!

It is a great pleasure for me to be stepping in for Alicia in the last year of her term as president. Alicia did a fabulous job as president. It is a great pleasure to get to keep her as our newsletter editor and she will continue to be on the board for Hosta College. Thank You Alicia!

I hope everyone had a great time at the friend's lunch. The food at Sarafino's is always amazing, and you can't go wrong with the great company that we have there. A BIG thank you to Joan and Herb Altman for coordinating the lunch!

Our next event is the Annual Soup Luncheon with PIDS at the Phipps Garden Center on February 3rd. People start arriving around 11:15, we start eating around noon, and the speaker starts at 1. This year our speaker is Philip Bauerle, speaking on "invasives on the move." See his bio below. Everyone brings a salad, sandwich or dessert to share. Please make sure to bring non-Styrofoam, reusable plates, bowls and silverware. I also like to bring some to go containers, there is always more than enough to take some yummy soup home with you!

After that, we will have our annual meeting on March 3rd at noon. We will provide pizza, coffee and tea. We ask all that attend to bring a salad or dessert to share. We will have a state of the club discussion with all of the steering committee members, where we will all discuss our plans for the year and talk a little about our duties for the club.

This year the American Hosta Society National Convention is in Philadelphia from June 20-23. This is the 50th National Convention. Attached is the information and registration form. As an extra enticement to register early, by January 31st, the AHS will reimburse two basic registration fees. I hope you plan to attend.

One more thing, membership dues are due. Membership runs from January through December. Contact Bobbi Diller, Membership Chair & renew today: jsmsam@hotmail.com

Please read over the information on all of our upcoming events and all the other information provided in the newsletter. I look forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming events!

Megan, The President

Steering Committee

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Jim Kalka
Matt Wilson

Newsletter Editor
C. Alicia Pérez

E-Mail Editor to:
Pitvp@aol.com

Yes is time for our super famous ANNUAL SOUP LUNCHEON!
 So come on down & join us! Bring a dish to share.
 Sample the soups, the salads, the desserts—It's all Yummy!
 Say Hi! to old friends, meet new ones...IT'S JUST FUN!

WHEN: Saturday, February 3, 2018
TIMES: 11:15 AM – Social Time & Set-Up
 12:00 Noon – Lunch
 1:00 PM – Speaker
WHERE: Phipps Garden Center
 (Shady at Fifth Avenue, Shadyside Area)

Speaker: Philip Bauerle, Penn State Master Gardener Coordinator

Philip Bauerle earned his degree in Biology from The College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio. He became a Master Gardener in 2012 before becoming the Interim Master Gardener Coordinator in 2013. In 2015, he earned the role of Master Gardener Coordinator. In this role, he teaches both about native plants as well as invasive plants and how they have an effect on the environment

Topic: "Invasives on the Move"



What to bring: either sandwiches, breads, salads, desserts to feed 8 people
Bring your own NON-STYROFOAM plates, silverware & cups.

(We have signed an agreement with Phipps that all plates, cups, utensils that are used at the Garden Center must be compostable and recyclable.
 Dust off your picnic basket!)

Coffee and hot tea will be provided.
 If you would like to bring a special soup - please let us know so that we can co-ordinate all of the delicious offerings.

You Should have Receive Your “Green Card”... for 2018 Hosta College, March 16-17, 2018

Each year during March, the Great Lakes Region (GLR) of the American Hosta Society hosts a garden symposium of approximately 400 enthusiastic gardeners from the Midwest and other parts of the US, Canada, and even Europe. This garden symposium is called Hosta College, and it takes place at Upper Valley Career Center in Piqua, Ohio.

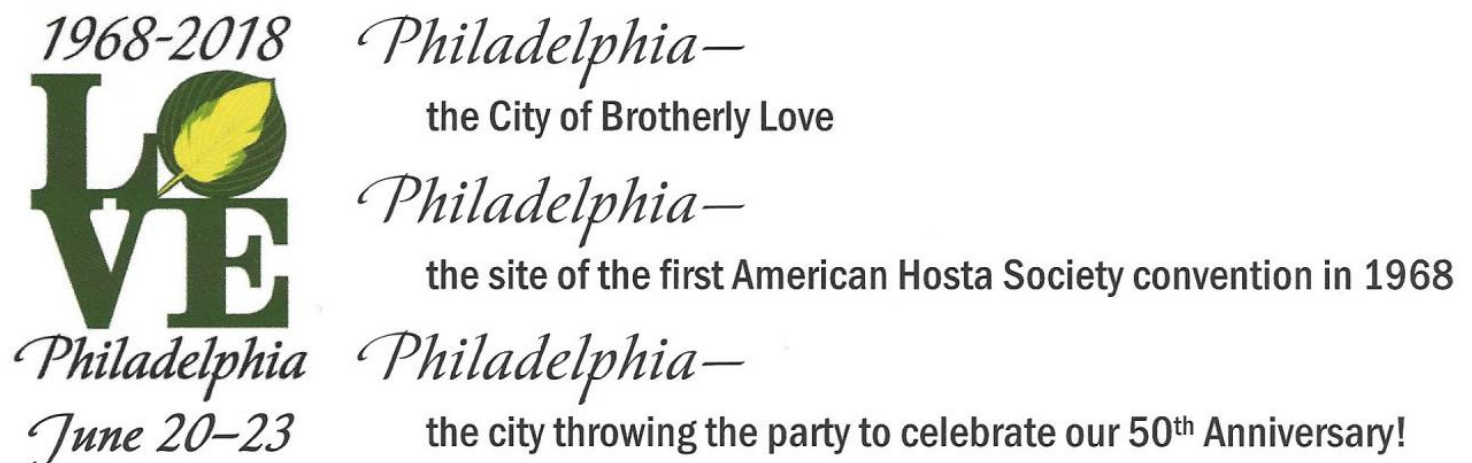
Hosta College begins on Friday night with several different activities from which participants can choose. The vending area offers a large selection of plants (even though it may be snowing outside!), garden accessories, tools, and other garden-related merchandise for shoppers. The Bookstore features gardening books at fantastic discounts and A.M. Leonard gardening tools. The auditorium and other areas provide slide presentations, talks by gardening experts, and opportunities to socialize with new and old friends from Hosta College. An auction of rare and unusual plants will be held on Friday evening.

On Saturday, following a brief period for shopping in the Vending or Bookstore, classes begin at 8:40 a.m. Students attend 5 classes they have chosen from a program of over 60 classes taught by a faculty of approximately 50 volunteers. Mid-day each student has lunch from a delicious buffet included in the registration fee. At the end of the day students take a brief break and then return for an optional banquet and talk that concludes the Hosta College experience.

***Persons who belong to one of the local societies with membership in the Great Lakes Region
receive preferential registration and a reduced registration fee.
(\$42 registration fee for members, \$55 registration fee for non-members)***

If you would like to preplan your Hosta College registration, hover over Hosta College and Click Class List. Please be advised that classes are not input into the system for the new year until approximately January 1st.

American Hosta Society National Convention, Philadelphia June 20-23



This year the American Hosta Society National Convention is in Philadelphia from June 20-23. This is the 50th National Convention. Attached is the information and registration form (last pages of newsletter.) As an extra enticement to register early, by January 31st, the AHS will reimburse two basic registration fees. I hope you plan to attend. There are always great activities and more information on Hostas than most people knew even existed!

Hosta Detectives Sift Countless Clues to Name Orphan Plants

By Larry Tucker, Memphis, TN

Reprinted from the AHS E-Newsletter Winter, January 2018

“Can you identify this hosta?”

How many times have hosta society or garden club members approached you with a limp leaf or a picture on their phone and begged for help in unearthing the unknown or long-forgotten name of their plant? Success is sometimes possible with a single leaf or a closeup photo, but you’re more likely reduced to “best guess”—the safest answer with scant information.



Another challenge for the garden detective: “I lost the marker. Can you identify this hosta?”

Even experts can be fooled with so many hosta variables and look-alikes. I’m often asked to be a detective, but my mind is defective without access to Larry’s Library or online assistance. There are so many clues to consider in sleuthing a plant’s ID. Among them are: (1) a leaf’s size, shape, color, variegation, substance, topside finish, underside bloom, texture, flat or wavy edge and vein count; (2) a clump’s height, width and growth habit; (3) petiole length, structure and color; (4) type of flower, coloration, fragrance and seasonal bloom adjusted to regional climate. Keep in mind that plant and leaf characteristics can vary by locality.

Much of the identification problem stems from how and where a gardener acquires a hosta. If you’re to succeed in identifying a nameless hosta, don’t be shy about grilling a rookie or sloppy gardener. “Did you buy the hosta and lose the tag?” “Was it a pass-along from a friend or neighbor?” “Did your child or dog pull up the marker?” Also, consider that this hosta may have shrunk after woeful watering or

being planted where any hosta would be consigned to hell.

Most hosta lovers haunt reputable nurseries and garden centers, where potted plants are identified by the growers’ plastic tags. That tag should stay with the hosta when you turf it into your garden. If you’re providing an above-ground marker for every new hosta, bury the plastic tag at the same position around each plant. If your above-ground marker disappears, you can dig up the plastic tag to jog your memory. Hosta veterans (those who have the battle scars from tours of duty in AHS Convention gardens) have seen their share of functional and funky plant markers. Though many “forget-me-not” markers are intrusive in the landscape, they provide reliable ID — especially for chaotic collectors, hopeless hostaholics or those sliding into senility.



Miniature clothes pin clips transparency with name to leaf

Most common markers are metal or plastic, while others may be stone or wood. I’ve used them all with varying success. My favorite hosta marker was discovered in a Minnesota tour garden two decades ago. Fifteen years later, it resurfaced in my murky memory, just in time for tours of the Tucker garden at the Dixie convention. These markers weren’t stuck in the ground, where they often get lost under hosta skirts. Cultivar names were laser-printed on Mylar transparencies and clipped to prominent leaves with tiny clothes pins. At season’s end, I collected these clipped markers and reused them the following year.

Names printed on tape with Brother P-Touch machines usually last several years, but they eventually peel away from the metal or fade in sun, wind and rain. With all my hostas in above-ground blue pots, I now use distinctive copper markers. I first employed a stylus to emboss IDs on these classy tags (recalling a friend's use of metal tape for heat/AC ducts), but the names weren't visible enough. I've since written hosta IDs with indelible ink of Sharpie Rub-a-Dub pens.

Gardeners who want to avoid the clutter of markers would be wise to map their horticultural collections. That means, of course, that any map would have to

be updated frequently with additions to and subtractions from the landscape. (Note to fuddy-duddies: Maps can be created in print or digital form.)

However you choose to mark or map hostas to avoid turning your garden into an orphanage, have fun and don't be disappointed if you're unable to achieve total success. The best you can do is try. My wife of 50-some years says with a scowl that this old Scot is very trying. Though Shari also speaks a bit of her ancestral tongue, she may not be aware that "success" in Norwegian is *hell*.

HAVE FUN WITH POTTED HOSTAS

Article and photos by Josh Spece

Reprinted from the American Hosta Society E-Newsletter Winter, 2017



There comes a time in most gardens when it seems impossible to squeeze in one more plant. Things are not always what they seem, though, and as you are well aware, there is always room for one more hosta!

Maybe there really is no room for another 'Empress Wu' sized plant in your garden, but I bet you have a deck, patio, front porch, or other area that could be spruced up with potted hostas.

Something I've noticed as I've visited Hosta Convention tour gardens is the increasing number of container grown hostas. Sometimes containers are necessary for avoiding problems like hungry voles and strangling tree roots. Other times containers are used to give miniature hostas a safe place where they

won't be engulfed by larger plants. Yet more and more, hosta collectors seem to be using hostas in containers strictly from a design standpoint.

Even in a crowded hosta bed, a potted hosta can be raised above the existing plants on a pedestal or other type of narrow stand. Such a stand can easily be installed without disturbing the existing plants. Elevating a container grown hosta like this brings much needed height to what can often be a very flat, one-dimensional landscape. Going vertical, whether with garden art, tall companion plants, or raised containers, brings interest and excitement to the garden.

Growing hostas in containers can serve a practical purpose, as well. Some fussy hostas are easier to grow in containers than they are in the ground. A container can be filled with high quality potting mix, ideal for growing hostas – moisture retentive, yet airy and quick draining. As an attentive gardener, you can more easily give these problematic plants the TLC they need to reach their full potential. That may mean extra fertilizer, careful and regular watering, or a location with just the perfect amount of light. Container grown hostas are portable, after all, so finding a spot with the right amount of shade and sun to suit the plant becomes easier.

My personal favorite way to incorporate containers of hostas in the garden is with miniature hostas. These pint-sized plants are incredibly popular, but they can easily get lost in a garden among larger plants.



Growing miniatures in containers allows you to draw attention to them, while keeping them safe from larger, sprawling plants. Some gardeners have trouble growing miniatures in the ground, yet find them easier to please in containers.



One of the fun things about growing mini hostas in containers is creating miniature landscapes. Just like in the rest of your garden, miniature hostas, small companion plants, stone and

other natural materials, and in-scale garden art can be combined to create an inspiring scene... in a container! These miniature gardens can be displayed just about anywhere – the front step, on the deck, on a patio table, or even indoors for a day or two.

When growing hostas in containers, the container itself is every bit as important to the display as what is in the container. The containers you choose add to your garden's unique personality. Be daring! Vibrant colors bring playful excitement to the garden. They

capture our attention, drawing us toward the focal point, or luring us further down the path.

Of course, if your garden has a more rustic, natural style to it, a stone-like trough or wooden container may be more appropriate. Hypertufa or papercrete troughs are fun projects to make and are ideal containers to hold realistic miniature landscapes.

I encourage you to be creative and think outside of the box when it comes to choosing containers. Standard flower pots are not the only suitable containers for growing hostas. Keep an eye out for objects that could be repurposed as unique containers to display a special plant or to house a magical miniature woodland garden. Garage sales and flea markets are great sources of unusual containers.

Growing hostas in containers is not difficult, but they will need a little more attention than an established hosta bed. In particular, hostas in containers will need to be monitored to make sure they don't get too dry. Since hostas are hungry plants your containers will also need fertilized. A spring application of slow release fertilizer makes this a simple, once per year job.



The biggest concern gardeners have is what to do with their container grown hostas during the winter. If you are lucky enough to garden where winters are very mild, you may not have to do anything special. For the rest of us who get to enjoy months of snow, ice, and frigid temperatures, our containers will need some protection.

I know many hosta collectors who successfully overwinter their potted hostas in an unheated garage or

shed, and this has consistently worked well for me, too. I wait until the daytime temperatures begin to hover around freezing before moving my containers in. Here in Iowa that is usually around Thanksgiving. My plants stay in the garage all winter without water. Only once I begin to see growth in the spring do I water. This works for me, but I urge you to talk to other hosta growers in your area to learn what works for them. Overwintering potted hostas has also been discussed in past issues of *The Hosta Journal*.

Whether your garden really is filled to capacity and you can't kick the hosta addiction, or you are just looking for something new to try, I hope you'll try growing a few hostas in containers.



1968-2018
LOVE
 Philadelphia
 June 20-23

Philadelphia—
 the City of Brotherly Love

Philadelphia—
 the site of the first American Hosta Society convention in 1968

Philadelphia—
 the city throwing the party to celebrate our 50th Anniversary!

The Delaware Valley Hosta Society invites you to Philadelphia not only for a convention that's full from start to finish, but also for all that the Philadelphia area has to offer.



Take some time to savor the *history* in Philadelphia, with its important place in our nation's history, and its important place in the history of the AHS! We'll visit gardens on historic properties, and you can take advantage of the optional Wednesday special tour to visit Old City (or take a few extra days at our hotel's great rate, with easy access downtown).

Philadelphia's *arts* culture may call you to visit one of the great museums. The optional Wednesday tour will include a drop-off at the Barnes Collection, where you can see treasures of impressionist art. And you'll be impressed by the hosta arts as well in the Hosta Show, where a special division will recognize hostas of historic importance.

If campus-hopping is your thing, take a stroll past one of the area's great *educational* institutions, several of which have important associated arboreta. Or save your leanings towards learning for the convention, where we'll present a full curriculum of hosta-focused presentations and discussions, and tour seven spectacular private gardens that feature not only the best in hosta cultivars but also the best in unusual companion plants.

We've stuffed our vendors' space full of the coolest shady sales folk, so *shopping* should be in your plans. For pants, not plants, just down the road is the incredible King of Prussia shopping complex. An innovative Friday schedule for the AHS auction should also keep your charge cards active.

We can't neglect the most august events of each and every AHS convention: recognition of the recipients of the three big awards: the Alex J. Summers service award, the Eunice Fisher hybridizer's award, and the Benedict garden performance award. After all, the AHS is a *society*—of people!

All this is served up with a heaping help of Philly *food* and *fun*. Check out the online meals page to see how much food is included! We'll make sure you have a good time. We're making every day, and every night, special.

And as a very special treat, we're inviting everyone to join us for a visit to the incomparable Longwood Gardens (for only a \$38 supplement). You'll have plenty of time to visit the garden from late afternoon through nightfall, when you'll see the incredible \$100 million renovated Main Fountain Gardens in a spectacle of sight and sound.



You'll definitely want to stay at the DoubleTree (Philadelphia-Valley Forge) so you don't miss a minute of the fun! Visit our website to link to the hotel's reservation system, which ensures that we get credit for your stay.

On the reverse you'll find an all-in-one registration form, or go to the website to submit your registration electronically. Invite a friend, either at for the full experience or for our half-price "Hosta Widow(er)" rate. As a special incentive, the AHS is holding a sweepstakes, rewarding two early-bird registrants with a full reimbursement of the base registration price! See the website for details, and sign up today!

Join us, for...
Phifty in Philly!
www.ahs2018philly.org



2018 AHS Convention Registration Form
June 20–23, hosted by Delaware Valley Hosta Society
DoubleTree by Hilton Philadelphia – Valley Forge
www.AHS2018Philly.org



Instructions: in Word, type in or check shaded boxes, then print or save file for emailing. Or print blank form (PDF or Word document) and complete by hand.

Each registrant must complete a separate form!

Registrant information

Name (as you wish it to appear on badge) _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address: _____

Phone: _____ ☐ Home ☐ Work ☐ Mobile* (Check one)

** If possible provide one smartphone number per travel group, capable of receiving texts, email, etc. We will keep phone and email information private.*

AHS member? ☐ Yes ☐ No Local society member? ☐ Yes ☐ No Society: _____

Registration fees: see www.ahs2018philly.org/register for detailed description of categories.

Check one Registration category (bold), plus any *additional items (italics)*. Then calculate and pay the total.

Full Registration includes: Wednesday Vendor Gala; Thursday Breakfast, Lunch; Friday Breakfast, Box Lunch and Tour Garden Buses, Dinner; Saturday Breakfast, Box Lunch and Tour Garden Buses, and Dinner Banquet. To receive early registration rate: payment by *check only*.

Partial "Hosta Widow(er)" Registration includes Wednesday Vendor Gala, Thursday/Friday/Saturday breakfasts, and Saturday Dinner Banquet.

| | | |
|---|----------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Full Registration (pay by CHECK ONLY before Jan 31) | \$ 299 | Paid by: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Registration (pay by credit card* or check) | \$ 315 | <input type="checkbox"/> Check to Delaware Valley Hosta Society |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Partial "Hosta Widow(er)" Registration | \$ 150 | <input type="checkbox"/> Credit card # _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Late Registration Penalty (after May 1)</i> | \$ 35 | Exp date _____ Security code _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Longwood Gardens supplement (worth every penny!)</i> | \$ 38 | Name on card _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Judge's handbook (see Judges' Clinics below)</i> | \$ 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> AmEx <input type="checkbox"/> Discover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Wednesday Optional Barnes/Philly bus trip</i> | \$ 30 | Note: Multiple registrations, mailed together, may be combined on a single charge if desired. |
| Total of checked boxes | \$ _____ | |

** You may pay by credit card prior to January 31 at this price, covering the cost of electronic transactions.*

Meals: see www.ahs2018philly.org/meals for menus.

Friday/Saturday boxed lunches: ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Meat options (Check one)

Saturday banquet: ☐ Short ribs ☐ Salmon ☐ Crab cake ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Will not attend (Check one)

Please note if you have any particular dietary restrictions: _____

Please contact the hotel if you have significant concerns about meeting any restrictions.

Scientific presentation, Wednesday evening: space is limited to 70 attendees.

Do you wish to attend Warren Pollock's scientific presentation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Hosta Show and Judges' Clinics

Are you an AHS judge? ☐ Provisional ☐ Senior ☐ Master (Check no more than one)

Are you willing to serve as: ☐ Judge ☐ Clerk ☐ Either ☐ Helper (Classification, placement, show docent, etc.)

I plan to attend: ☐ Clinic I ☐ Clinic II ☐ Clinic III ☐ Clinic I *first-timer* (must purchase Judge's handbook)

(Tentative schedule: Clinic I is Wednesday evening, Clinic II is Friday afternoon, Clinic III is Thursday morning)

Hotel Information: You MUST make reservations DIRECTLY with the hotel to receive convention rates.

Visit www.ahs2018philly.org/venue or call the hotel at 610-337-1200 and reserve under code AHS-2018 0619 ("Hosta Convention").

Convention room rate valid for bookings until May 29 or until the group block is sold out, whichever comes first.

Submission Information

For payment by check, mail to: Convention Registration, 1411 Deer Meadow Ln, Garnet Valley, PA 19060.

For payment by credit card, send form by mail as above or email the electronic form to the registrar at skfugate@earthlink.net.

By doing so, you authorize us to charge your credit card for the total amount above.

Refund policy

Please notify the registrar at skfugate@earthlink.net if you must cancel. Full refund offered before April 30. 50% refund between May 1 and June 9.

NO REFUNDS after June 9. Registrations may be transferred without charge up to June 9; please contact the registrar.