



Shady Business

Newsletter of Potomac Hosta Club, Inc.

Volume 22, Number 2, June 2008

Hosta Garden Tour Edition

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President's Letter

Starting spring clean-up in my garden I have noticed the squirrels have been at it again—digging up the Hosta garden tags they think is either a place to plant a nut or dig a hole to look for one. This year's garden tour at my house will be the "Hosta Magical Mystery Tour" or "Name that Hosta."

Many of the tags have been relocated, and those that the squirrels left alone have lost their writing. I suppose it could be worse, at least my Hosta's are still there and have not been eaten by deer or other hungry critters.

The next big event is the Hosta Garden Tour, which will be coming-up shortly on Saturday, June 14th, with the list of gardens and their details covered in this newsletter. In July, the Club will host the Hosta Bingo on Sunday, July 20th, at Behnke's Nursery in Beltsville, Maryland.

I hope all of you have received the *Dixie Doin's* Newsletter listing two events in our region of interest. There is also The 2008 American Hosta Society Convention, on June 11-14th in St Louis, MO.

I want to thank all of your well wishes for my husband's eye surgeries in recent months and condolences for the unexpected death of my Mother in December.

- Susan
703-866-2211

THE 2008 POTOMAC HOSTA CLUB “HOSTA GARDEN TOURS”

Peg Bier’s Garden

1951 Horseshoe Drive, Vienna, VA

Peg Bier, Horticultural Advisor for Merrifield Garden Center, has a garden paradise. She has many hostas along with a wide variety of other plants and is in constant dispute with deer on who will enjoy them more. Her garden has been the Highlight garden on many tours. When you enter her garden you will realize that you’re in a garden paradise.

Directions to Peg’s:

1951 Horseshoe Drive, Vienna, VA

From Tyson’s Corners: Take Rt. 123 South toward Vienna, past Old Courthouse Road, make next left on Horseshoe Drive.

Jim Barth’s Garden

6456 Woodridge Road, Alexandria, VA

A VERY brief history of my enjoyment of various plants starts when I was in high school in Florida and started collecting cactus and other succulents. I soon added ferns and palms.

About 20 years ago I discovered Hostas and really fell in love with them. Since then, I have enjoyed making Hosta gardens and have a fair number of different varieties spread about my yard.

Directions to Jim’s:

6456 Woodridge Road, Alexandria, VA

From Route 236: Take either Braddock Road or Old Columbia Pike To Woodridge Road (about a half mile) from Route 236. Woodridge Road ONLY goes between Braddock Road and Old Columbia Pike. Go about one quarter mile to 6456 Woodridge Road and you are there.

From Lincolnia Road: Take either Braddock Road or Old Columbia Pike going toward Route 236, for less than one-quarter mile and there find Woodridge Road.

Eleanora Byrne’s Garden

5920 Woodfield Estates Drive, Alexandria, VA

Eleanora lives in the end-unit townhouse, so her space is limited to the front, side and back porch. She has about 60 hosta, a couple dogwood and Japanese maples. The hosta are starting to bloom already, so June is a perfect time.

Directions to Eleanora’s:

5920 Woodfield Estates Drive, Alexandria, VA

Her house is located between Interstate 495 and Franconia, right off South Van Dorn Street on the east side. She is on a horseshoe shaped drive with two entrances. The south entrance is marked “Woodfield Estates” and the north entrance is marked “Willow Wood.” Her house is closer to the “Willow Wood” entrance, but the drive wraps around so it is easy to find.

Susan Colby Hedrick’s Garden

9453 Lapstrake Lane, Burke, VA

Now that the weather is warming up it is time to show off our gardens. Well in my case this term barely qualifies by winter’s end. So what would I call my yard?

“More excuses than Carters has pills!” - You know the usual - arthritic spine, sciatica, asthma, husband having 4 eye surgeries, youngest son’s first year in college with an emergency appendectomy, two sick dogs with one having to be put down, and my Mom dying in December. I will stop the past 16 months of excuses on that note.

Or, *“This is our presidents garden. I am not sure if one of Sandy’s Stone Spirits could help?”* – Of course we all know her stone sculptures always help!

Or, *“I cannot believe the homeowners association has not fined or sued her garden and yard?”* - Hopefully by the time of the showing the collapsing deck (20” off the ground) has been replaced and the rotting logs from two trees that fell 5 years ago will also be history.

Or, “*A magical mystery garden tour - name that plant!*” – We may not have a deer problem but the squirrels and rabbits...the squirrels use the plant markers as a sign to DIG HERE to bury nuts and the tag goes flying. This year rabbits have acquired a taste for the leaves, but at least not every hosta. Also the tweens that helped me remove over 40 bags of yard debris raked up what few tags were still there. (The yard is less than a third of an acre).

Or, “*Wow this is much better than her description. They must have put in a lot of hours! But it is a good thing she can cook the snacks are great as usual. It is not half bad but I do think they should...*” Please make any and all recommendations and name that plant. I will provide so called permanent markers and popsicle sticks for your votes of plant names and note cards for improvement comments.

If you have not been convinced to join the tour this year please sign up for next year. Your yard and garden does not have to be perfect. Come look at mine and join in the excitement and fun.

Directions to Susan's:

9453 Lapstrake Lane, Burke, VA

From the Beltway/I-495:

- Merge onto OLD KEENE MILL RD/VA-644 W via the ramp on the LEFT toward VA-617 S.
- Turn LEFT onto LEE CHAPEL RD/VA-643
- Turn LEFT onto GOLDFIELD LANE.
- Turn LEFT onto LAPSTRAKE LANE.

Coming from the south on I-95:

- VA-7100 N/ FAIRFAX COUNTY PKWY
- Turn RIGHT onto LEE CHAPEL RD/ VA-643 N.
- Turn RIGHT onto ONION PATCH DRIVE.
- Turn LEFT onto SPANKER DRIVE.
- Turn LEFT onto LAPSTRAKE LANE.

Shelly McAllister's and Peter Hadley's Garden

500 Park St NE Vienna VA

Heavy shading from large oak trees provides an ideal setting for Shelly's favorite plant: The

Hosta. When we moved here 10 years ago, the property had four hostas and a lot more lawn. Now the number of hostas (and peonies and ferns) has gradually expanded (and shall remain uncounted!), and the lawn has been reduced to a token patch.

We installed terraced beds to make more room for hostas and then installed a drip irrigation system. Now we can spend less time watering and more time enjoying. Last summer we had two paved walkways installed so now many of the hostas can be enjoyed with morning coffee and house slippers. What a great way to start the day!

Most hostas are clearly labeled (even those from "hosta rescues"). Now that we have completed the hardscaping and figured out how to keep these thirsty plants watered, there is more time to ponder the next hosta acquisition!

Light lunch fare will be provided between 11:00 and 1:00, so bring your appetite.

Directions to Shelly's:

500 Park St NE Vienna VA

From I-66: Take exit 62 (Nutley) towards Vienna and go about 1.8 miles (4 signals) and then turn right onto Maple Avenue (123 North). Continue north on Maple for about 1 mile. Just past Whole Foods on your right, turn left at the traffic light onto Park St NE and go for five blocks until Park ends in a cul-de-sac.

From Outer Loop of Beltway/I-495: Take exit 46-A towards Tyson's Corner and Vienna. This puts you on Chain Bridge Road (also 123 South and becomes Maple Avenue). Continue south for about 2.8 miles. Go past Outback Steakhouse and Giant on left. Just past Safeway on your left, turn right at the traffic light onto Park St NE and go for five blocks until Park ends in a cul-de-sac.

From Inner Loop of Beltway/I-495: Take exit 49-C (left exit) onto I-66 west and follow directions for I66 above.

Patricia Myler's Garden

3313 Quesada Street, NW, Washington, DC

This traditional brick colonial, with a simply landscaped front yard, hides a hidden treasure in the backyard. There you will find an urban garden containing at least 148 Hosta varieties. We tend to collect the smaller varieties to allow for many Hostas in a small yard. Many of the hosta are in pots located along our large patio and flagstone walkways. There is a combination of older mature hosta and younger plants as we continue to expand our collection. The hosta are interspersed with a variety of perennials. The perennials include a ferns, Solomon's seal, Trillium, Columbine, Turtlehead, Penstemon, and Mexican Evening Primrose, Bachelor's Buttons, Daisies and more. The garden is a 4-season garden with something of interest for every season, including a lovely Harry Lauder's

Walking Stick (Contorted Filbert), Variegated Red Twig Dogwood, Pyracantha, and Climbing Japanese Hydrangea. Many of the Hosta are located under the boughs of a magnificent old Red Maple tree which forms a canopy over a beautiful brick patio. Lovely stone walls border the beds on 2 sides forming a nice backdrop for the beds.

Directions to Patricia's:

3313 Quesada Street, NW, Washington, DC

From Beltway/I-495: take Connecticut Avenue South toward Washington. Go around Chevy Chase circle $\frac{3}{4}$ way (NE), Right onto Western Avenue, there will be a large white apartment building on the right. Make first Right onto Quesada Street, go $2\frac{3}{4}$ blocks, house is on left, 3313. If you see the Tennis Courts, you went too far.

Potomac Hosta Club, Inc.

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