DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC Form DFAN14A September 09, 2014

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A (Rule 14a-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant o

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant x

Check the appropriate box:

- o Preliminary Proxy Statement
- " Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule14a-6(e)(2))
- " Definitive Proxy Statement
- x Definitive Additional Materials
- o Soliciting Material Under Rule 14a-12

DARDEN RESTAURANTS, INC. (Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

STARBOARD VALUE AND OPPORTUNITY MASTER FUND LTD STARBOARD VALUE AND OPPORTUNITY S LLC STARBOARD VALUE AND OPPORTUNITY C LP STARBOARD LEADERS DELTA LLC STARBOARD LEADERS FUND LP STARBOARD VALUE GP LLC STARBOARD PRINCIPAL CO LP STARBOARD PRINCIPAL CO GP LLC STARBOARD VALUE A LP STARBOARD VALUE A GP LLC STARBOARD VALUE R GP LLC JEFFREY C. SMITH MARK R. MITCHELL

PETER A. FELD BRADLEY D. BLUM CHARLES M. SONSTEBY ROBERT MOCK CRAIG S. MILLER BETSY S. ATKINS MARGARET SHÂN ATKINS JEAN M. BIRCH JAMES P. FOGARTY CYNTHIA T. JAMISON WILLIAM H. LENEHAN LIONEL L. NOWELL, III ALAN N. STILLMAN (Name of Persons(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- x No fee required.
- " Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

- (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
- (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
- (3)Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

" Fee paid previously with preliminary materials:

" Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the form or schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount previously paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

Starboard Value LP, together with the other participants named herein, has made a definitive filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission of a proxy statement and accompanying WHITE proxy card to be used to solicit votes for the election of a slate of director nominees at the 2014 annual meeting of shareholders of Darden Restaurants, Inc., a Florida corporation.

The following materials were posted by Starboard Value LP to www.shareholdersfordarden.com: