

MINUTES - ST. LOUIS HOSTA SOCIETY MEETING, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2020

Phyllis Weidman called the meeting to order at approximately 2PM. She thanked everyone for coming.

She introduced the current officers, first announcing that she has agreed to be President. Josh Jagger is Vice President, in charge of planning programs; Jolly Ann Whitener, Secretary and Dave Poos is Treasurer.

She thanked Melinda Ligon for organizing the Chili Cook Off. There were seven different chilis and none were alike. The votes have been counted and we have a tie between Phyllis chili and Dave Poos. Phyllis chose to bow out and Dave was declared the winner. He received a book on hosta and a small houseplant.

Basil Honaker reported on the Club Plant sale. He put together a list of 12 very nice hostas from Hostas on the Bluff. The form was in the February newsletter and there are copies available here. He would like to have the completed form and check by the March 15th meeting. You will be able to pick up your hostas at Vendors Day April 26. A member asked how she could get her hostas if she was unable to attend the April meeting. We will have someone pick them up for her.

Basil indicated that the next year the plans are to use another nursery. His goal is to give us an opportunity to have more variety. If you will look at Hostas on the Bluffs prices on their web site Basil negotiated a very good deal for our club.

Pam Wolkowitz is now in charge of the club shirts. Contact her if you are interested in purchasing one of the green shirts. It is nice to have them to wear at functions, such as the Mo Bot sale. It quickly identifies who are SLHS members and who can assist a potential buyer. Plus they are nice shirts.

David Birenbaum is in charge of the August Member auction. He needs an auctioneer, if anyone has a suggestion or is willing to step up and do it please let him know.

Phyllis introduced Joan Poos, our Newsletter Editor and Historian. If you have anything of a historical nature please give it to Joan.

There are a couple of positions that need to be filled. First, is Social Media, we need someone to handle that area. Second, the proposed road trip to Hornbaker Nursery in Princeton IL on July 12. Bob Solberg will be a speaker at this event. Need someone to organize this trip. It should be a lot of fun and Hornbakers has a lot of hostas and other perennials.

The American Hosta Society Convention will be held June 10-13 in Minneapolis, MN. The Midwest Regional Hosta Convention will be July 16-18 in Lisle, IL

The Society's March 15 meeting will feature Wally Cammarata, Master Gardener, who will speak on Understanding the Shade Environment, and give a powerpoint presentation.

There are sheets on the back table for members to sign up to work at the May 2 Work day at the Missouri Botanical Gardens. We start work at 8AM. Depending on how many sign up it should not take a long time to accomplish the necessary tasks in the AHS Display Garden beds. This is rain or shine. There are also sign-up sheets for the plant sale at Mo Bot. Set up Friday, May 15th, 4pm, Sales on Sat, May 16, 9-5 and Sunday, May 17, 9-5pm. There are also sign-up sheets for Vendors Day on April 26. We need people to help set up the tables and help the vendors bring in their items, and to help clean up after the sale. It is a fun time, you get to see some of the plants before they go on sale.

Phyllis mentioned that we might try to have a session to learn how to make hypertufa troughs. They are not all that hard to make, just a bit messy. But you end up with a really nice, light weight container for hostas. More on this later.

We are going to start having Hosta 101 sessions at the meetings. Five or ten minutes on something to do with the garden. We will start today with Slugs. You need to put slug bait out early, there have already been some sightings. Phyllis uses Sluggo and spreads it all under the leaves. Use about a teaspoon per square yard. It only last about two to three weeks and at that time you need to do it again. This goes on all season. Slugs are both male and female and after mating both lay about 40 eggs. It is a continuing battle. You can also use coffee grounds. You can get them at Starbucks. Phyllis takes them a 5 gal container, marked with her name and number and when it is full, they call her to pick them up. We imagine most any coffee shop might be willing to do this. They work very well, the slugs do not like them and they are good for the soil.

Following Hosta 101, we had a question and answer session. There was a question of what potting soil is best. Basil said he tried Miracle Grow with the additive to keep the soil moist. He found that it does not work well. Ted recommended Lowes Black Forest Mulch. He mixed it with bagged top soil and said it works well. The question was asked what to do when hostas heave out of the ground in the winter. It happens a lot with the small ones. It was recommended that you not push the plant back in the soil, it can break off the roots. Instead add mulch on top and wait til warmer weather, then dig up and replant.

Respectfully submitted,
Jolly Ann Whitener, Secretary