

## Minutes of the St. Louis Hosta Society – 02/19/06

Following a delicious potluck lunch, the meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm by President Arlie Tempel.

Arlie reported on the Winter Scientific meeting held Jan 21 in Chicago and encouraged others to consider attending next year. The meeting is held the same time each year. Last meeting's minutes were available on the back table for member reading. If there are no objections this will continue to be the practice. Pat Payton presented the treasurer's report. The club has a cash balance of \$21,571.68. Pat has ordered 10 Hosta Finders at a cost of \$11 each. The booklet will be available in March. Gloria McGrath has audited the 2005 financial books. If the label on your newsletter said 2005, your membership dues are due and payable to Pat. Arlie explained the purpose of the Hosta Finder and showed members a copy. See Pat if you are interested in purchasing a copy.

Arlie thanked Kelly Hall for her work on the web site – [www.stlouishosta.org](http://www.stlouishosta.org). He then introduced other club chairman: Membership – Phyllis Weidman, Newsletter – Marla Gann, Web Administrator – Doug Gann, Hospitality – Rick Clarkson, Garden tours and walks – Dave Poos. If any members are interested in hosting a tour garden or garden walk, please contact Dave Poos. The club is also considering inviting other clubs to participate in our tours.

A new activity 'Ask the Expert' was explained. Forms are at the entrance table on which members can pose questions for the membership. There was one question for this meeting: What kind of mulch is best for hostas, what kind of fertilizer, when and how to apply. Arlie's answer to the first part of this question was that anything seems to go. Some people don't mulch at all, others say mulch but leave the crown free, still others cover the whole plant. His preference is to cover the area so that the garden looks neat and weed-free, but doesn't cover the crown. Jeff Travers replied to the fertilizer portion of the question. Jeff uses 'Blue Chip' which is a slow release nitrogen. It is similar to Osmocote, but cheaper. He uses about one cup around large hostas and ½ cup around smaller ones. G.R. Robinson in Olivette is a distributor of Blue Chip. His number is 432-0300.

The membership list will be sent out with the next newsletter, mid-April. April 23 is Vendor day and June 14-17 is the National convention in Philadelphia. Unfortunately, National again conflicts with the Hort sale at the Botanical Garden.

Arlie asked if anyone was interested in chairing a committee involved in having a leaf-show. As there didn't appear to be much interest and there was no one in the club who is a judge the item was tabled for now. Arlie read a report written at the first meeting of this club, held 12/12/92. He then related other happenings through the years. He is interested in having a club historian to organize all these old bits of information. Joan Poos volunteered for the position. Attendance prize winners were Jim Weidman, Marty Meagher and Jean Morris. Three new members were introduced and welcomed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25.

Following the business meeting was a slide show of the gardens toured during the 2005 National Convention in Cleveland. Tom Peters with help from his wife took a slide disk purchased by Arlie and put together a show. Tom made note of each event that occurred in Cleveland and compared it to the activities that we would be doing in 2008. The Cleveland attendance was around 400-500

and needed 12 buses to transport people. This is what St. Louis should expect. He showed pictures of the optional tour gardens, of the vendor sales areas and of the leaf show. Tom stated the vendor sales area would be in much larger rooms in St. Louis. The leaf show had over 1,000 entries. In the tour gardens were clumps of hostas designated at best green, best gold, best blue, etc. Attendees voted on their favorite and the winners were recognized at one of the banquets. The 'welcome' function was held in a member's garden in Cleveland. In St. Louis this will be held at the hotel.

The slides of Cleveland were followed with a promotional show for Philadelphia, June 14-17. The optional tours are of Longwood Gardens and of Philadelphia historical sites. Philadelphia will also have 'First Look' which features a new plant display. This is an event St. Louis might consider.