



# Show Me Hostas Newsletter

Volume 10, Issue 6

October, 2009

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



**Jeff Hall President**

*Photo by Kelly Hall*

Well, it is official, fall is here. However, most of this summer felt like fall. It was one of the best summers for weather that I can remember.

If you missed last month's meeting we covered a bunch of stuff. I am happy to announce that we finalized decisions for gifting some of our monies we have accumulated from plant sales and auctions over the last few years. The following ideas were unanimously approved by the members present at the meeting: Arlie Tempel's idea of our club providing each interested member with a one-year membership in the American Hosta Society (one time only), Dave Poos' idea of co-sponsoring a membership in the Midwest Regional Hosta Society (one time only), and Phyllis Wiedman's and Karen Frimmel's plan of purchasing hostas for the Missouri Botanical Garden's hosta beds. Now that's giving back to the society at large and the community. My hat is off to all of you! More information is in this newsletter.

We also voted in a new slate of elected officers for the 2010-2011 term. Due to my work load, I decided not to run again for another term. Arlie Tempel served as the nominating chair and the members present voted to accept his nominations as follows: Pam Wolkowitz as President, Phyllis Weidman as Vice-President, Joan Hummel as Secretary and Dave Poos as Treasurer. I am very happy with the slate of new officers. They have a ton of energy and lots of ideas. I believe the future of the society is in great hands.

Our speaker, Mike Shadrack, kept us all extremely entertained with great slides and hilarious commentary. We were fortunate to have such a well-known speaker visit us and share his knowledge about mini hostas.

The year is far from over and we still have several great events to keep your gardening interest going well into the New Year. The next two events, let's call it a 'Hosta weekend', are going to be great fun. First, we are privileged to have Bob Solberg, internationally known hosta hybridizer and lecturer on hostas, and co-owner (with wife Nancy) of Green Hill Hostas, join us to give a presentation on Saturday Oct. 17 at 1:00 PM. Bring your checkbook as Bob always travels with plants. Second, when do you think you will have the opportunity again to visit the National Weather Service? Join us on Sunday, Oct 18 at 1:00 PM for a tour of the National Weather Service in St. Charles with Melissa Byrd. I think we will all learn just how difficult it is to predict the weather. You won't be disappointed with this weekend. Third, mark your calendars for Sunday, Dec. 6 for our annual Christmas party. Pam and her committee are planning a very nice catered lunch, similar to last year's. More information about these events is in this newsletter.

Keep the ideas flowing; remember it's *your* society. If you know of something fun to do, see or visit, let us know. Now get out there and tend your garden. Clean up those leaves so the voles don't make a vole highway straight to that \$50 hosta that your spouse doesn't know you bought. Oops, did I say that out loud??

*Jeff Hall*

## 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**October 17**

**Special event – speaker Bob Solberg**  
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center

**October 18**

**Field trip to weather center with Melissa Byrd**  
1:00 PM, National Weather Service Forecast Office  
12 Research Park Drive, St. Charles, MO 63304

**December 6**

**Holiday Party**  
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center  
Catered lunch



**Sunday, October 18, 2009, 1 PM.**

**National Weather Service Forecast  
Office  
12 Research Park Drive  
St. Charles, MO 63304**

**With member Melissa Byrd**

Should I bring an umbrella to the garden tour? Can I plant hostas tomorrow or will those wispy clouds turn black and unleash a deluge? Should I bring in that tender fern or is the first frost another week away? And why is it so hard for that meteorologist to get it right?

Well, let's find out. Fellow society member Melissa Byrd has invited us to tour her home ground, the National Weather Service Forecast Office. There may be no windows in the office walls, but there are plenty of computer windows that Melissa uses to make her forecasts. She will explain how radar, satellite and other types of data are used to achieve the best possible prediction. Join Melissa for what promises to be an informative afternoon.

### DIRECTIONS:

From the point where I-64W/US-40 crosses I-270,

Travel 14.4 miles on I-64W toward Wentzville.

Take exit 11 toward Research Park Circle. (First exit after crossing Missouri River)

After 0.2 miles, make a sharp right onto Technology Drive.

After 0.1 miles, take the first right onto Research Park Circle.

After 0.6 miles, turn right onto Research Park Drive.

## Special event – An afternoon with Bob Solberg

Saturday October 17, 1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center



photo from  
[www.hostahosta.com](http://www.hostahosta.com)

As the ‘September Sun’ shone down on my ‘Garden Party’, the ‘Sun Kissed’ sky brightened a table piled high with ‘Pineapple Upsidedown Cake’, ‘Christmas Cookies’, ‘Fried Banana’, ‘Fried Green Tomatoes’ and ‘Tortilla Chip’ smothered in ‘Guacamole’. An empty jar of ‘Orange Marmalade’ sat beside the stained ‘Ginsu Knife’ amid the ‘Cracker Crumbs’. Although the pitchers of ‘Frozen Margarita’, ‘Whiskey Sour’ and ‘Lime Smoothie’ edged with a ‘Twist of Lime’ were nearly empty, a ‘Corkscrew’ lay beside an unopened bottle of wine. There was still time to bask in the ‘Sweet Sunshine’.

If you grow any of the hosta mentioned in the above spoof, you’ve met a part of Bob Solberg. From growing palm trees from seed as a child to creating and owning, with wife Nancy, an internationally known nursery, Green Hill Farms, Bob is as much recognized for his knowledge of hosta as for his long white hair and beard. Having earned a BS in biology and advanced study in bryophyte ecology, Bob’s expertise is not limited to hostas, although they seem to be his passion.

Bob founded and is still very active in the Carolina Hosta Society. A former editor of *The Hosta Journal* and past AHS Vice President of the Genus Hosta, he is currently the AHS Growers Group Liaison. Last year, AHS members honored Bob with the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award.

Join fellow society members in welcoming this excellent speaker to St. Louis. Bob mentioned that he will be bringing plants.

## New Officers Elected

Arlie Tempel, nominating chairman, presented a slate of candidates for 2010-2011 St. Louis Hosta Society officer positions. The membership present at the September 13 meeting unanimously approved the slate. Newly elected officers are:

**President - Pam Wolkowitz**  
**Vice President – Phyllis Weidman**  
**Secretary – Joan Hummel**  
**Treasurer – Dave Poos**

Other Society positions and Board members are appointed by the President. This will be done at the first Board meeting to be scheduled later this year.

**Save the Date – December 6, 2009, 1:00 PM.  
St. Louis Hosta Society Christmas Party**



**Members social before  
2008 Christmas Party**

Pam Wolkowitz and her committee have designed an afternoon of good food, lively conversation and fun. The event will again be catered by *'At Your Fingertips Catering'* which did such an outstanding job last year. Pam asks that each person bring a wrapped garden related item for the gift exchange game.

Cost for the luncheon is \$5 for members and significant other, \$10 for non-members. There will be a sign-up sheet at the next meeting for those who have not yet committed to coming.



**Mike signing copies of his book**

**September 13 St. Louis Hosta Society meeting**

**Story of the Small Hosta**

Mike Shadrack began his presentation by stating that “the big Hosta has had its day”. “Replace that Frances Williams with its burnt edges with thirty to forty little hostas.” With much humor, vast knowledge and numerous informative slides, Mike made his case.

The AHS classifies hosta not by the size of the plant but by

the size of its leaf. Thus a small hosta, by AHS standards, could be a very tall, wide plant. Mike prefers the common sense approach – small means a small, very small or miniature plant.

He advocates small hosta because, in general, yards are getting smaller, people have less time and money to create and maintain large gardens. Small hosta can look good staged together just as the large ones do. Indeed, his slides proved that.

Mike suggests placing these jewels somewhere special where they can be easily viewed, such as, in raised beds, in a shade rockery built over the roots of trees, in troughs, pots and alpine trays. Mike's 10' x 15' deck sports more than 100 small and mini hostas in pots.

Good drainage is very important as small hosta can easily rot. Mike adds a large percent of gravel to his soil mix. Mulch is equally important as it suppresses weeds, keeps in moisture and cuts down on water splash back which leads to disease. Labeling can also be a problem, but Mike suggested burying the marker in the ground with just the point showing or writing its name on stones or broken pottery.

Mike concluded his presentation with his “5 minute slug talk”. The best way to control slugs is with slug pellets. “A handful of pellets thrown in the direction of the hosta” will suffice - not every plant needs to be covered. However, this **MUST** be done as soon as the snow melts and every two weeks from snow melt to September. The first year there will be little difference, but by the third year the slugs will be gone. Thank you Mike for that bit of wisdom.

## AHS/MRHS Memberships Available

During the September meeting, St. Louis Hosta Society members agreed with the recommendation of the SLHS Board to offer American Hosta Society Memberships and Midwest Regional Hosta Memberships to its members at a vastly reduced price.

Benefits of joining the American Hosta Society include:

- Subscription to the exceptional magazine *The Hosta Journal*.
- An opportunity to attend national meetings and conventions which offer educational and scientific presentations, garden tours, judge's clinics, and a chance to see the latest and best Hostas in the Hosta show.
- A Biennial AHS Membership Directory.
- The privilege of visiting display gardens throughout the country, many of which are only open to AHS members.
- An invitation to exhibit your favorite Hostas and compete for recognition in various AHS national and regional cut-leaf shows.
- Developing friendships with people who share an interest in growing Hostas.
- Access to Members Only section of the AHS website.

Benefits of joining the Midwest Regional Hosta Society include:

- Subscription to the information filled newsletter, *Hosta Leaves*.
- Support of the summer three-day convention conveniently located in a Midwest state and visiting the best Hosta gardens in the sponsoring community.
- Support of the Winter Scientific Meeting featuring a solid day of topics interesting to all gardeners.
- Developing relationships and friendships with Hosta gardeners living in the Midwest.

The cost of the two memberships is typically \$30 for the AHS membership (\$34 for a family) and \$20 for the MRHS membership. **Until December 15, 2009**, current SLHS members can upgrade their local membership to include the AHS or MRHS or both memberships for the price of **\$3 for AHS** and **\$2 for MRHS**. If you are currently a member of either society, your membership will be extended (Please note in your payment if you're a current member of either AHS or MRHS). To enroll in this program, send your check to

**Dave Poos, Treasurer – SLHS**  
**9904 Crestwood Drive**  
**St. Louis, MO. 63126**

Or

**Pay at the October meeting**

As a reminder, this would be a great time to renew your local membership - \$7 for one year, \$18 for 3 years. To verify your current membership status, see the roster of current members and their expiration year listed on the next page.



**CURRENT MEMBERS FOLLOWED BY THEIR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION YEAR**

Abernathy	09
Ahrens	09
Anderson	10
Baker	10
Baltz	09
Barker	10
Barringer	09
Bastien	09
Berry	09
Bilderback	09
Bonstead	09
Bourisaw	10
Bradshaw	10
Brammer	11
Brown, Martha	09
Brown, Sheila	11
Buchheit	10
Buehrig	09
Buhr, Brady	11
Byrd	09
Cammarata	09
Canelos	10
Clarkson	10
Cobb	09
Colvin	10
Cookson, Fink	13
Cornett	12
Cormman	09
Czamopys-White	10
DeCaro	11
Dickhaut	09
Dorris	10
Durbin, Anne	09
Durbin, Jim&Mary	09
Edwards	10
Eisenreich	10
English	11
Evertowski	09
Farrow	11
Felly	10
Fix	11
Frimel	10
Fritz	09
Fry	09

Gann	11
Gerry	09
Graven	09
Gray	10
Haddock	10
Hall, Jeff&Kelly	11
Hall, Rose	09
Haner	09
Hanratty	09
Hansen	09
Hauf	10
Hemberger	10
Henderson	10
Hennigh	11
Hilliker	09
Holst	09
Horstmann	10
Hulen	11
Hummel	09
Jones	11
Karlovetz	10
Keyser	10
King	09
Kohn	09
Korb	09
Kraus	09
Lammi	10
Langerak	09
Lee	09
Leonard	09
Lynn	09
Mathews	09
Mayer	09
McClarren	10
McGrath	11
Michniok	10
Moore	10
Moreland	11
Morgan	09
Morris	11
Odom	09
Pantano	10
Payton, Hudson	09
Plahn	11

Poos	10
Pozaric	09
Prater	12
Procasky	10
Redecker	12
Riehn, Goeders	10
Roston	Life
Salamon	09
Schaumburg	09
Schmaeng	09
Schmidt	11
Schmitt	09
Schneiderjohn	09
Schwarz	11
Shanker	10
Sherrillo	11
Shore	09
Sifrig	10
Simmons	09
Sorenson	10
Squire	09
Steppig	09
Stutz	09
Suess	11
Suntrup	11
Tempel	11
Tocco	09
Travers	10
Unverfehrt	11
VanDeven	09
Vitale	09
Vitoux	09
Wachtman	09
Waite	10
Wehrman	09
Weidman	09
Wesche	10
West	10
White	10
Whitener	10
Wittig	10
Wolkowitz	09

**Get Those Creative Juices Flowing!**  
**Phyllis Weidman and her committee want your input**

In the spring of 2009, the St. Louis Hosta Society donated funds to the Missouri Botanical Garden for the purchase of two Crabapple trees in the hosta area to replace ones destroyed by an ice storm. These trees have been planted and are flourishing. Phase two is about to begin.

Through the efforts of Phyllis Weidman and her committee, the Garden has agreed to allow our Society to renovate two existing beds in the hosta area of the Garden. Garden personnel will prepare the beds which will be ready for planting next April or May. At the September meeting, our Society allocated \$3,500 for plant materials. Letters have been sent to several nurseries that have appeared at our Vendor Day or National Convention events informing them of our project. The intent is to purchase large, multiple eye hostas, rather than the usual small one or two eye nursery plants.

On the next page is a diagram showing the location, shape and size of the two beds. The beds are labeled 05 and 09. These were chosen by the Garden because there is a water source nearby.



Bed 09 is small and out-of-the-way. It needs something that will make it really stand out. Currently it contains a Weeping White Mulberry whose branches extend almost one third of the way across the bed. The back and left side are part of a tall Taxus hedge, while the third side is one wall of the wooden structure of the pergola which adjoins the hosta space to the East. Notice the circular cutout at the right side of the picture.

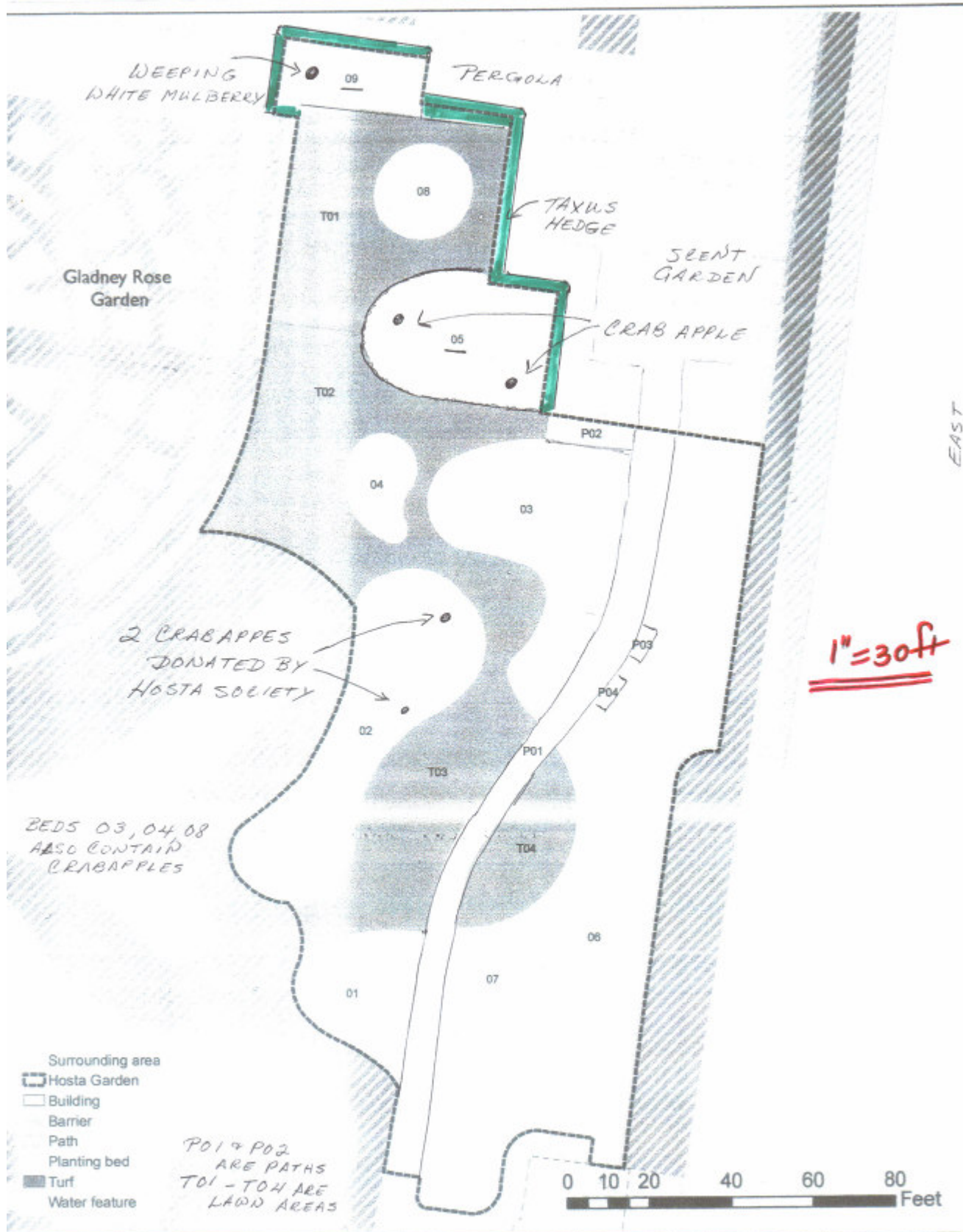


Bed 05 contains two Crab Apple trees, a ring of the same hosta (which will be removed) and spring bulbs. The area is a wasteland except for the two weeks in spring when the bulbs and crabs are in bloom. Basically this bed is a blank slate of approximately 30 x 40 feet. The East side is a continuation of the tall Taxus hedge, while the rest has a nice brick edge.

While there are few restrictions, the Garden prefers just hostas, rather than mixed with companion plants or hardscape, and would like *h. Empress Wu* to be placed somewhere in one of the beds.

Let this be a challenge to your imagination. Join the fun of creating a design for Phyllis. Send her your ideas. Send her a list of hosta that you would like to see displayed in the Garden.

**Phyllis Weidman**  
**508 Pointe Essex Ct.**  
**St. Louis, MO 63122**  
**314-965-7027**  
**[pow1031@gmail.com](mailto:pow1031@gmail.com)**





## St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

**Jeff Hall** - President  
[skyridgegarden@earthlink.net](mailto:skyridgegarden@earthlink.net)

**Pam Wolkowitz** - Vice-President  
636-285-3114  
[lovehostas@msn.com](mailto:lovehostas@msn.com)

**Dave Poos** - Treasurer  
314-821-1622  
[dpoos@juno.com](mailto:dpoos@juno.com)

**Joan Hummel** - Secretary  
636-405-2584  
[HummelJFam@sbcglobal.net](mailto:HummelJFam@sbcglobal.net)

**Kelly Hall** - Webmaster  
[skyridgegarden@earthlink.net](mailto:skyridgegarden@earthlink.net)

**Doug Gann** – Web Administrator  
636-398-4349  
[douggann17@gmail.com](mailto:douggann17@gmail.com)

**Joan Poos** - Newsletter Editor  
314-821-1622  
[dpoos@juno.com](mailto:dpoos@juno.com)

**Phyllis Weidman** - Membership  
314-965-7027  
[pow1031@gmail.com](mailto:pow1031@gmail.com)

**Barb Moreland** - Hospitality  
314-961-4191  
[Bmore433@aol.com](mailto:Bmore433@aol.com)

## Membership Information

### The American Hosta Society

Contact: Sandie Markland  
8702 Pinnacle Rock Ct.  
Lorton, VA 22079-3029  
[AHSMembershipSecretary@earthlink.net](mailto:AHSMembershipSecretary@earthlink.net)

Dues: Individual \$30 per year, Family \$34 per year

### Midwest Regional Hosta Society

Contact: Barb Schroeder  
1819 Coventry Drive  
Champaign, IL 61822  
[mrhs.treasurer@midwesthostasociety.org](mailto:mrhs.treasurer@midwesthostasociety.org)

Dues: Individual \$20 for two years

### St. Louis Hosta Society

Contact: Dave Poos  
9904 Crestwood Drive  
Crestwood, MO 63126  
[dpoos@juno.com](mailto:dpoos@juno.com)

Dues: \$7 per year, \$18 for three years  
Family or Individual

Meetings held at 1:00 PM at the **Creve Coeur Government Center, 300 N. New Ballas, 63141** (between Ladue Road and Olive), unless otherwise noted.

## Visit our Web site

[www.stlouishosta.org](http://www.stlouishosta.org)

## Other Hosta and Garden Web Sites

American Hosta Society – <http://www.hosta.org/>

Midwest Hosta Society – <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org>

Hosta Library – <http://www.hostalibrary.org>

Hosta Forum – questions/answers – <http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/hosta/>

Mini Hosta forum – <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/minihosta>