



Volume 13, Issue 7

October, 2012



**Phyllis Weidman President**

*Photo by Kelly Hall*

### **A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Fall has officially arrived with shorter days and cooler temperatures. In the last few weeks the rains have come as well. The hostas should be loving it. Some hostas are already going dormant.

It is a good time to start cleaning up your garden. Remove all dead leaves, flower scapes, look for damaged plants. It may be a good time to lift those hostas and rework that garden bed. If you do, examine the hosta clumps for soft, mushy

crown tissue. If you find soft tissue, cut it off with a clean sharp knife, rinse the firm crown in 10% bleach solution and replant back in the bed or in a pot if the crown is small. Reworking a bed is a tough job, but now is a perfect time to add fresh organic material and remove invasive roots. In the spring you will be rewarded.

We will be having our annual Board Meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. All members of the society are invited to attend the board meetings. We will be working on plans for next year. If you have ideas for programs, activities or wish to help organize one of our events, please let us know.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting at the Creve Coeur Government Center on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Our speaker, Larry Tucker, will be very informative and entertaining.

*Phyllis*

## 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**October 21**

**Meeting with Speaker Larry Tucker  
“Confessions of a Hostaholic”**

1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center

**November 2**

**Board Meeting**

6:00 PM, Weidman home, RSVP Phyllis Weidman

**December 2**

**Holiday Party**

1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center



Cover of Larry's book  
*Made in the Shade*

**October 21, 2012**

Nationally known author, speaker, columnist and self  
acclaimed Hostaholic **Larry Tucker** presents:

**“Confessions of a Hostaholic”**

For many years, Larry's column “Made in the Shade” was the centerpiece of the Mid-South Hosta Society's newsletter. It was filled with his and his beloved wife Shari's gardening adventures in their shady Memphis Tennessee urban garden.

The columns also chronicled his move from an established shady local to a smaller suburban plot with nary a tree. He spoke of his trials as well as his triumphs, offered tidbits of shade garden advice and wisdom, and often just ruminated on the vagaries of life in general and gardening in particular.

Larry is passionate about hostas. He was the primary founder of the Mid-South Hosta Society and worked diligently to establish the Hosta Trail at the Memphis Botanic Garden, which in 2007 was designated an American Hosta Society National Display Garden. A retired newspaper editor, Larry was the editor of ***The Hosta Adventure: A Growers Guide*** which all of you received in your new member packets. For four years he was Vice President/Publications on the AHS Executive Board. Although now retired from his monthly newsletter column, Larry continues to write articles for ***The Hosta Journal*** and other magazines plus traveling the country sharing what he calls his “shady shenanigans” with other hosta lovers.

***Made in the Shade*** is now in its second edition. All proceeds from the sale of the book are placed in an endowment fund used to maintain the Memphis Botanic Garden's Hosta Trail.

Come October 21 and meet Larry and Shari. They're sure to elicit a chuckle or two and leave you with a smile on your face.

**Fall Board Meeting  
November 2, 2012 – 6:00 PM**

**Home of President Phyllis Weidman  
508 Pointe Essex Court, Kirkwood, MO 63122  
RSVP - 314-965-7027 or [Pow1031@gmail.com](mailto:Pow1031@gmail.com).**

All members are invited to join our Board members for a delicious supper, a fabulous dessert and a spirited meeting. The agenda includes such items as setting 2013 meeting dates, establishing the 2013 budget, brain-storming about possible speakers and scheduling other interesting events. Let the Board know what you want for your Society in 2013. What did you like or not like in 2012? Get to know your Board members - they're really a lot of fun to be around, are enthusiastic about gardening, hostas and your Society, and are quite generous with their time and expertise. Don't worry, they won't assign you a task if you come. Call or email Phyllis to reserve your place at the table.

**UPCOMING - SAVE THE DATE!**



**St. Louis Hosta Society  
Holiday Party  
December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012  
1:00 PM**

**Creve Coeur Government Center**

**Please join us for a Catered Lunch with Cash Bar  
\$12.00 per person, Reservations required  
Bring a gift for the exchange (10.00 value)**

**Send checks to:  
Cindy Michniok  
14300 Quiet Meadow Ct.  
Chesterfield, MO 63017**

## The Workings of a Community Garden – September meeting Special Tour of Bell Demonstration Garden

Gateway Greening was established in 1984 by a group of people who had a passion for gardening. The organization was meant to be a tool to transform city vacant lots into something positive – food production, community involvement, neighborhood improvement, self sufficiency, all of which foster pride in one's self and one's community.

Gateway Greening provides funds, materials, expertise and education. Individuals wishing to establish a community garden should submit a proposal. This document must furnish details about three items. First, a plot of land suitable for gardening, that is having such things as sufficient sunlight, water and legal access must be specified. Second, enough people with enough energy to create and maintain the size of the garden proposed must be available. And third, a plan must have been developed which includes not only the physical design and layout of the plot but also details how the group will function – who is the leader, how the garden will be maintained once it's created, how the food will be distributed, etc. Currently, there are over 200 active gardens situated throughout the city of St. Louis and the north county suburbs.

The Bell Demonstration and Community Garden was purchased in 2001 by the Gateway Greening organization with the “goal of providing educational workshops and gardening materials to community gardeners to help them grow more food and invest in their neighborhoods.” The garden, comprised of 22 vacant lots, is maintained by the Gateway Greening staff and volunteers. Bell Garden shows how to get the most out of small spaces. It displays what food crops are currently in season and which variety of a plant performs well in the St. Louis area. Food from the demonstration gardens is delivered to a local soup kitchen. Bell Garden offers workshops for educators, forums, how-to guides, leadership training and participates in the Great Perennial Divide.

Besides being a public demonstration garden, Bell has also been an active community garden for over 20 years. Family members tend plots that allow them to grow fresh vegetables in an economical way. They share their knowledge with other family members and friends. Vegetable and ornamental plants and seeds and some tools, if needed, are provided by Gateway Greening.



*Carolyn's Garden displays flowers and a Japanese maple in addition to her many vegetables.*



**Jim and Jeanne Yochim and Martha Lafata admire the Mexican Bush Sage grown by one of Bell's resident gardeners pictured on the left.**



**Brahma chicken**

We were greeted with the friendly cheeping of the newest addition to Bell Gardens. These particular breeds were chosen because they are winter hardy and excellent layers. Each day volunteers collect and distribute the various colored eggs.



**Plymouth Rock, Black Australorp and Rhode Island Red chickens**



The two hoop houses are used to grow seedlings and over-winter potted plants and donations from local nurseries. The houses are equipped with a furnace and tubing filled with warm water to maintain correct temperatures. There is also an automatic irrigation system.



Holes are cut in black garden cloth for donated plants that are waiting distribution to community gardens or for sale at the Great Perennial Divide event. In September, the area was mostly barren.



Raised beds sit side by side, extending to a small orchard in the distance. Along with vegetables that we all recognize were others seen less often.



What a great day – friendly people and chickens, garden beds still producing and looking good in September and an informative tour given by Hannah Reinhart.

Thanks to all who came!



**Swiss chard**



**Okra**



**Kohlrabi**



**Dinosaur Kale**



**Watermelon**

## Did You See

In the latest issue of *The Hosta Journal* (Volume 43 Number 2) which, if you are a member of the American Hosta Society arrived on your doorstep last week, is an article about the Missouri Botanical Garden's new AHS Display Garden. The article was penned by our president Phyllis Weidman, with pictures taken by Jim Weidman.

Phyllis describes our Society's involvement in the renovation of the hosta beds at the Garden. A long time MoBot volunteer, Phyllis spearheaded this movement. She works closely with Garden staff bringing order to what had become chaotic and overgrown beds. Organized work days for our Society members have been held for the last three years. Members helped reduce in size large patches of hostas and companion plants, pruned existing trees and shrubs, relocated existing plants and added many new cultivars and of course pulled weeds. Our Society has purchased three trees to help supply badly needed shade. See the article below for a view of our latest acquisition.

This year, MoBot expressed an interest in establishing a species bed. Phyllis corresponded with hosta authorities across the nation to compile an accurate list of known species. She then determined which species already existed in the Garden. Through generous donations by AHS members Jim King and Barry Yinger 13 more species were obtained. Phyllis states in her article that another five species are now on order, leaving only six yet to be found. Hopefully, through her article, other AHS members will be able to locate the missing varieties. Last May, following Phyllis' direction, Society members planted the species bed.

It was through Phyllis' hard work and endless energy that the Missouri Botanical Garden has been designated an AHS Display Garden. That didn't "just happen". It's up to us to help Phyllis keep her vision alive. To tell her **Thank You** volunteer at the next work day she organizes.



*Photo by Jim Weidman*

### Making its debut in the AHS Display Garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden: Japanese maple 'Suminagashi'.

Phyllis Weidman and Kelly Hall traveled to a nursery in Springfield Illinois to purchase this specimen for the Garden. 'Suminagashi' is indeed a beauty. Its leaves are red when it foliates in the spring, then turns burgundy in the summer. After transitioning through green, the leaves turn bright red crimson in fall. This variety of Japanese maple has shown strong winter hardiness. Because of its beautiful coloration and up-right, open branching growth habit, 'Suminagashi' is a great addition to the Garden's hosta landscape.



## HOT PLANTS FOR A COOL SEASON

(Reprinted from the Central Illinois Hosta Society  
September 2011 newsletter)

There are so many beautiful plants that exhibit color and interest in the fall. Below is a list of those that you might consider this fall. In addition, fall is one of the best times to plant and many nurseries have clearance sales this time of year.

### **Plants that exhibit noteworthy Fall Color:**

Bald cypress, Beech, Birch, Black Gum, Dogwood, Flowering Pear, Ginkgo, Honey Locust, Kentucky Coffee Tree, Maples, Oaks, Sassafras, Serviceberry, Barberry, Bottlebrush Buckeye, Burning Bush, Chokeberry, Cotoneaster, Oakleaf Hydrangea, Spirea, Sumac, Viburnum, Rugosa Rose, Witchhazel, Big Blue Stem, Bluestar, *Epimedium*, *Bergenia*, *Euphorbia*, Hosta (especially *H. sieboldiana*, *H. fortunei* or *H. tokudama*), Peony, Solomon's Seal, Prairie Dropseed, Switch Grass, Little Bluestem, Purpleleaf Wintercreeper, Virginia Creeper and Boston Ivy.

### **Plants that are late-flowering or bear persistent, long-lasting flowers:**

Common Witchhazel, Annabelle Hydrangea, Panicle Hydrangea, Oakleaf Hydrangea, Autumn Joy Sedum, Mums, Aster, Goldenrod, Fall blooming Crocus, *Colchicum*, False Aster, False Sunflowers *Heliopsis*, *Helianthus*, Salvia, Japanese Anemone, Anise Hyssop *Agastache*, White Snakeroot *Eupatorium rugosum* and Russian Sage.

### **Plants that bear fruit & seed displays in the fall:**

Alder, Hawthorn, Feather Reed Grass, Flowering Crab, Sumac, Bittersweet (male & female are needed for fruit), Chokeberry, Barberry, Bayberry, Plume Grass, Pyracantha, Rugosa Rose, Viburnum, Beautyberry, Baneberry and Solomon's Plume.

## Useful and Informative Web Sites

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

The web site of the St. Louis Hosta Society contains information about its purpose, bylaws, organization and membership. A calendar listing dates and a description of meetings and events along with copies of past newsletters can be found there. The site also supports links to the American Hosta Society, the Midwest Regional Hosta Society and to the home pages of many hosta nurseries.

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

The web site of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society provides information pertaining to MRHS programs and membership. There are tabs which link to pages giving information about two major regional events: the annual regional convention and the Winter Scientific Meeting.

[www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org) or [www.americanhostasociety.org](http://www.americanhostasociety.org)

The web site of the American Hosta Society is packed with informative articles and answers to common questions about all phases of hosta gardening. For this type of information, click on the “About Hostas” tab under the “Horticulture” category. You can find articles about judging hostas, book reviews, hosta popularity poll results, upcoming national and regional conventions descriptions and registration forms as well as links to other local hosta societies, display gardens and nurseries.

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

The Hosta Library is an independent site operated by fellow hosta enthusiasts. The thousands of photos can be used in identifying hostas or viewing new hostas that you may be interested in obtaining. It is a resource for the beginner to the most serious hosta grower. As noted on the opening page of the Hosta Library it is comprised of photos, which are donated and a few could possibly be wrong. In addition to the photos, there are links to disease and pest issues, chat rooms, how to grow and select hostas and a wealth of other information.

<http://hostaregistrar.org/>.

As a service provided by the American Hosta Society, Kevin Walek and Bobby Baxter developed a searchable, online database of the official registry records for the genus hosta. You can search by Cultivar name, Hybridizer, Leaf Color, Leaf Characteristics and Parentage. More features will be added as time and funds allow, including historical registration photos/drawings, the ability to complete hosta registrations online, leaf show classification information, pictures of mature hosta clumps and individual leaves.

<http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/hosta/>

This is a great place to get questions answered or check out the new hostas on the market. You can post your photos or check out those that are posted by other hosta lovers.



## St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

**Phyllis Weidman** – President  
314-965-7027  
[Pow1031@gmail.com](mailto:Pow1031@gmail.com)

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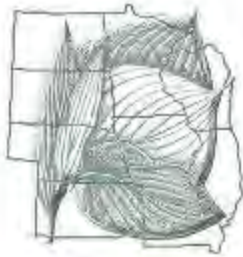
## St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

**Contact:** Cindy Michniok  
14300 Quiet Meadow Ct.  
Chesterfield, MO 63017  
[Cmichniok@gmail.com](mailto:Cmichniok@gmail.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)



### Midwest Regional Hosta Society

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society represents Region 5 of the American Hosta Society that includes 9 states. Our mission is to promote education, research, development and enjoyment of Hosta.

Membership in the society is \$20.00 for 2 years, which includes two issues per year of the newsletter. This publication reports on events and information on Hostas in general.

Please mail a check made payable to MRHS to:

Kristine James  
523 E Calhoun St.  
Woodstock, IL 60098

along with Name, Address, phone, and email (Most correspondence is by email). For questions email [MRHS.Hosta@gmail.com](mailto:MRHS.Hosta@gmail.com).



### AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY

Members receive three issues per year of The Hosta Journal, which includes color photographs of hostas, reports on national conventions, scientific information concerning current research pertaining to hostas, and advertisements of interest to hosta families.

Membership checks should be made out to "AHS," and mailed to:

Sandie Markland, AHS Membership Secretary  
P O Box 7539  
Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

Dues for one year are \$30 for an individual and \$34 for a family. For more information, visit the AHS website: <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/>