



Volume 15, Issue 9

October, 2014



Phyllis Weidman President
Photo by Kelly Hall

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Another growing season has finished. You can feel a nip in the morning air. The hostas are starting to fade, but the beautiful colored leaves are coming. The Society is staying busy. We have our upcoming meeting, our Board meeting and, of course, our Holiday Party yet this year.

I would like to talk about the Board meeting. Our By-laws state that we shall have an annual Board meeting in November. This year it is on Sunday, November 16, at 3:00 PM.

We will start with the meeting, and then have soup and sandwiches for those who wish to stay. The meeting will be held at our house:

**Phyllis and Jim Weidman
508 Pointe Essex Court
Kirkwood, MO 63122**

The Board meeting is open to every member of the Society, and we hope you come. We will be discussing the upcoming year's programs, the budget, and the convention. This is where you can put in your two cents. Everyone has ideas for the society: more or less meetings, program ideas, bus trips, fund raisers, you name it. The Society has done a lot of the same things every year. Do we want to continue them? You, the members are the only ones who can tell us what you want. Please come!

Phyllis

2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 19

Meeting with Speaker Janie Bedwell

“Trees and Shrubs, what do I need to do, especially in times of drought”
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center

November 16

Board Meeting

3:00 PM, supper to follow
Phyllis Weidman home
508 Essex Court
Kirkwood, MO 63122

December 7

Holiday Party

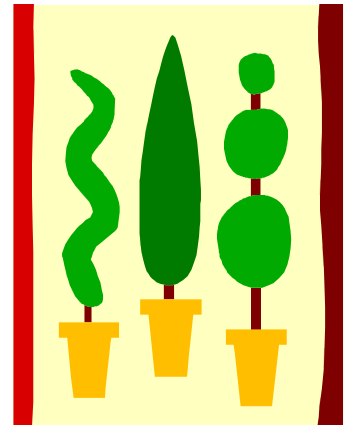
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center

October 19 meeting

Arborist Janie Bedwell

**“Trees and Shrubs, what do I need to do,
especially in times of drought”**

The weatherperson keeps telling me that St. Louis has had plenty of rain – no problem with drought this year. However, the showers have been spotty with little rain falling in my south county yard. Even with constant watering, the soil is bone dry a few inches down, an accumulation of three years of below normal rains. What can we do to ensure the survival of our most precious commodity – our trees and shrubs?



Our October speaker, Janie Bedwell, will address this concern. Janie has parlayed a hobby into a career. She is a Master Gardener, a Certified Arborist and past president of Gateway Professional Horticulture Association. She teaches Greenhouse Management and Micropropagation among other courses at the St. Louis Community College. Besides writing, developing and assisting with labs at the college, she manages their greenhouse.

In a previous life, Janie was a mental health therapist. While she's here, perhaps she can also help us with our hosta addictions!

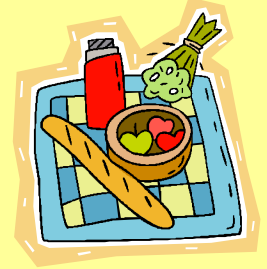
Phyllis' Hosta Tip of the Month

Many hostas will be starting to collapse and some are turning a beautiful gold. When the leaves have collapsed and dried they are easy to remove from your garden. It is a good idea to remove all the leaves and debris from your beds in the fall. Leaves of hostas, as well as leaves from trees. The old hosta leaves lying on the ground provide great places for slugs to lay eggs, or simply hide until the spring, as well as shelter for animals like voles. Tree leaves or too thick mulch will also provide cover for voles. So clean those beds and get ready for whatever type winter we have.



Fall Board Meeting

**November 16, 2014
3:00 PM meeting, followed by supper**



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

All members are invited to join our Board members at the 2015 planning meeting. Those that wish to stay after the meeting are invited to sup on a delicious soup, sandwiches and a fabulous dessert. The agenda includes such items as setting 2015 meeting dates, establishing the 2015 budget, brain-storming about possible speakers and scheduling other interesting events.

Let the Board know what you want for your Society in 2015. What did you like or not like in 2014? 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.

St. Louis Hosta Society Holiday Party

December 7th, 2014



December! Not already! It's not too early to mark your calendar and reserve a seat. October 19th is the last meeting before the luncheon. This year's cost is \$15 per person payable at the October meeting or by sending a check, made out to the St. Louis Hosta Society, to

**Cindy Michniok
14300 Quiet Meadow Ct.
Chesterfield, MO 63017**

Karen Frimel and Kim Piekutowski have planned a party with a woodland theme. What have these creative ladies conjured up for us? They ask that anyone who would like to help satisfy a member's sweet tooth to bring a dozen "sharable" morsels for the dessert table. I can taste those Christmas cookies now.

September Speaker - Mark Zilis

Welcome to the wonderful world of hostas

Mark presented a 'hosta primer', speaking about things we know, things we thought we knew but didn't, and things we should know. He spoke first about the sources of hostas – hybridization, sport selection and sport families, hosta mutations, tetraploid formations and collecting in the wild. Hosta species originated in Japan, China and Korea. In the last few years, these countries are restricting plant removal from the wild.



Mark Zilis with wife Katie signs his book for Ted and Kim Piekutowski.

Mark then moved on to hosta needs – light, soil, moisture, fertilizers and mulches. No hosta can withstand full sun, day in and out, nor do they thrive in deep, dense shade. Open shade, like that under high tree canopies, is best. We must amend our St. Louis heavy clay soil with organic matter such as sphagnum peat moss, decomposing leaves, rotted manure and dried grass clippings. More water equals more growth resulting in larger, healthier hostas. Hostas are very pH tolerant, preferring a pH around 6.5. Mark recommends removing mulch from established plantings, at least pulling it away from the crowns to prevent disease and varmint damage.

Hosta propagation occurs through manual division, seed or tissue culture. He encouraged us to try planting seed that we could harvest from our bee-pollinated plants. Just for fun. Tissue culture is the method used by most commercial growers. Mark outlined the beginnings of the tissue culture revolution and explained the steps needed to produce a new hosta.

Mark introduced us to many of the important hybridizers he has befriended along the way. We met Bob Savory who introduced *H.* 'Golden Tiara', Pauline Banyai of *H.* 'Gold Standard' fame, Peter Ruh with his incredible card file, Van Wade and his acres of hostas, Emilio Deckert who found *H.* 'Blue Mouse Ears' and started a national craze and Bob Solberg with his food-named hostas. Mark took us to Japan to meet his Oriental friends and to the Netherlands to meet the Dutch.

Of much interest to members was Mark's discussion of various hosta problems – slugs, deer, viruses, and nematodes. He mentioned methods of control for each, as there is no sure way of eradication.

What does the future bring? A red hosta – it is getting closer. Bob Solberg and others are introducing hostas with red not only in the petiole but also up into the leaves. Flowers in more striking colors – yellow and red blossoms are coming. Imagine a cross between hostas and agaves. Mark says the DNA is right. Think of the substance such a plant would have.

After the meeting, Mark visited the Missouri Botanical Garden with Phyllis and Jim Weidman. They described our continuing plans for the AHS Display Garden. He offered suggestions on improving the beds and volunteered his expertise in verifying the plants in the species bed. Thanks Mark for a most informative afternoon.



OPEN POSITION

Our Society is in immediate need of a person to fill the remaining term of our departing Secretary Kelly Hall. A new secretary will be elected in the fall of 2015.

The duties of the secretary are fairly straight forward – record the activities of the six membership meetings and the one Board meeting. Then send (email) a copy of the minutes to the Board members. The Web administrator is responsible for posting the minutes on our web site.

Come on; dip your toes in the water! This is a great way to become more active in your society. The work involved is minimal. If you are not able to attend a meeting, notify a Board member who will ask someone to cover that meeting.

Access the St. Louis Hosta Society web site, www.stlouishosta.org, then click on the Events/Meetings tab to view past minutes.

American Hosta Grower's Association 2014 Hosta of the Year

H. 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd'

After several years of variegated varieties, this year's Hosta of the Year is a solid blue one distinguished by deeply puckered leaves of heavy substance.

With what might be the most deeply cupped foliage of any hosta cultivar this is a true plant of character. A slow grower that becomes a unique specimen of medium height that spreads to 2-3 feet across. A heavy wax layer gives the leaves a powdery blue-gray appearance.



The upright stems and twisted leaves give it a sculptural appearance. The leaves resemble an old fashioned drinking ladle. Slugs avoid the thick stems and sturdy foliage. Near white flowers form on sturdy stems in mid-summer.

H. 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd' is a hybrid of H. 'Tokudama' and H. sieboldiana introduced by Chuck Purtymun of Walden West in 1989.

To help gardeners and nursery growers in selecting "just the right hosta", the American Hosta Grower's Association has selected a "Hosta of the Year" each year since 1996. To be considered a plant must be an outstanding garden plant that grows well in all areas of the country, is readily available and retails for about \$15.

Article reprinted from the Spring 2014 Newsletter of the Green and Gold Hosta Society.

**So Long
We'll miss you
We wish you the best life has to offer**

At the September meeting we bid adieu to long time hosta society members Kelly and Jeff Hall. They are trading Midwest dirt for the Pacific Northwest sparkling water and 6 inch slugs.

They have been active members almost since the club's founding. They have worn many different hats over the years. Besides being our secretary, Kelly has maintained the web site for the last eight years. Jeff served as president from 2008 to 2009. Before this they were co-editors of the newsletter.

Their garden was on tour during the 2008 AHS National Convention and has been the scene of several member tours and holiday parties.



**Secretary
Kelly Hall**



Past president Jeff Hall

**Gene Fink
1924 – 2014**

Long time St. Louis Hosta Society member Gene Fink passed away on September 26, just a few days after his 90th birthday. Gene and his companion of 30 years, Duane Cookson, were active in many gardening societies. Duane is one of the founders of the St. Louis Hosta Society.

Gene was interested in plants of many types, especially iris, daylilies and hostas. Their Troy Missouri garden was featured during the 2004 National Daylily Convention.

But it wasn't just plants that Gene loved, it was people. He never met a stranger. For a number of years he acted as a club ambassador, greeting new members in both the hosta and daylily societies and making them feel welcome.

We shall miss this dapper gentleman with his mischievous smile, ready laugh and twinkling bright blue eyes.

The St. Louis Hosta Society extends sincere sympathy to Duane Cookson and to all Gene's family.



Gene Fink
home.centurytel.net photo



Daylily 'Troy Gene Fink'
Hybridized by Duane Cookson

Let's Make It Right

Like socks in the washing machine, plant labels just seem to disappear. Our lawn mower eats some, while wheelbarrows filled with mulch flatten and bend many more. One of my winter pastimes is verifying our hosta inventory and making new labels. This winter it seems I will be making some changes to the registration information that I include on all my labels.

As your newsletter editor, I recently received the following missive sent to all AHS Newsletter Editors by Dave Teager, editor of the Delaware Valley Hosta Society. Dave wrote that the AHS Nomenclature Committee asked him to send the article that appears below and request that editors publish it in their local newsletters. The basic information appears in AHS-membership journals, but not all members of local societies are members of the national society and thus are not aware of the findings involving the registrations of Paul Aden.

Credit Where Credit Is Due: The Paul Aden Registrations

by The American Hosta Society Nomenclature Committee

In April 2012, The American Hosta Society president appointed the AHS Cultivar Origination Commission with this mission:

Investigate origins of Paul Aden's registrations and report findings to the International Registrar for the Genus Hosta for modifying the Hosta Registry.

Members were Tom Micheletti (Chair), Warren I. Pollock, W. George Schmid and Mark R. Zilis. Tom was AHS Immediate Past President and a member of the AHS Executive Council. Mark is author of the 1125-page instant classic *The Hostapedia* and the just published 428-page *Mark Zilis' Field Guide to Hostas*. George and Warren co-chair the AHS Nomenclature Committee and are members of the AHS Board of Directors. George wrote the classic reference *The Genus Hosta – Giboshi Zoku*.

The Commission's first report was published in the 2012 issue of AHS's *Online Hosta Journal*, pages 5–6. The second and final report was in the 2013 issue, pages 4–5.

The Commission found that many hostas assumed to be creations of Paul Aden, who died in 2010, were originated by Kevin C. Vaughn, now residing in Salem, Oregon, and the late Florence M. Shaw, who lived in Weston, Massachusetts, and died in 1975. Both were prolific hosta hybridizers. Widely know are Kevin's *H. 'Bette Davis Eyes'* (registered in 1987) and *H. 'Tijuana Brass'* (1988), and Mrs. Shaw's *H. 'Birchwood Elegance'* (1986) and *H. 'Birchwood Parky's Gold'* (1986).

The Commission has determined alternate originators for fewer than 50 hostas of the more than 200 that Aden registered or were registered for him. For details, please refer to the reports, which also were published by the Hosta Registrar, Kevin P. Walek, in the blue-cover *Registrations 2012* and *Registrations 2013* editions of *The Hosta Journal*.

We will only mention here a few of the altered cultivars that hosta fanciers likely have in their gardens. First and foremost is the popular *H.* 'Sum and Substance'. You'll now be noting that "(F. Shaw - 1980)" is cited after this cultivar name; the original registration date remains. Also, (F. Shaw - 1986) now marks *H.* 'Blue Angel'. Others are *H.* 'Blue Cadet' (F. Shaw - 1974), *H.* 'Big Daddy' (F. Shaw - 1976), *H.* 'Big Mama' (F. Shaw - 1976), *H.* 'Love Pat' (F. Shaw - 1978) and *H.* 'Zounds' (F. Shaw - 1978).

Kevin Vaughn now is credited as originator of *H.* 'Fragrant Bouquet', registered in 1982. We also recognize *H.* 'Fragrant Blue' (K. Vaughn - 1988), *H.* 'Fringe Benefit' (K. Vaughn - 2010), *H.* 'So Sweet' (K. Vaughn - 1986) and *H.* 'Sweetie' (K. Vaughn - 1988).

At this writing the registrar has not yet altered the registrations in the online AHS Hosta Registry. This is a huge task requiring considerable time of a computer programmer. Since many parentages stated by Aden are incorrect, changes will be considerable. We understand that the registrar plans to start the project this summer (2014).

Publications of The American Hosta Society now reflect these changes, for example in the Photo Indexes at the end of recent issues of *The Hosta Journal*. And some nurseries have modified their catalogs and lists, citing K. Vaughn or F. Shaw instead of P. Aden. But, frankly, the conversion process in the industry has been slow. Simply put, folks just are hesitant to make changes to things they've been accustomed to for years and years.

However, we hope that home gardeners will take the lead in modifying relevant plant labels and records.

If you have questions, please contact Warren Pollock at giboshiwip@aol.com or George Schmid at hostahillwgs@comcast.net

Editor's note: The above article is just the tip of the iceberg. Hostadom will probably never know the full extent of Paul Aden's deceit. For the rest of the story, access the AHS Hosta Library web site:

<http://www.hostalibrary.org>

Then click on 'The Paul Aden Story' located in the middle of the page. It is an interesting read.



***H.* 'Love Pat' - Shaw 1978**
photo www.nhhostas.com



***H.* 'Fragrant Bouquet'**
– Vaughn 1982
photo www.nhhostas.com



***H.* 'Blue Angel' - Shaw 1986**
photo www.nhhostas.com

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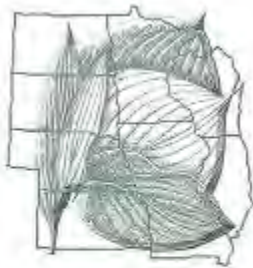
St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

Contact: Cindy Michniok
14300 Quiet Meadow Ct.
Chesterfield, MO 63017
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



Midwest Regional Hosta Society

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society represents Region 5 of the American Hosta Society that includes 9 states.

Membership in the society is \$20.00 for 2 years, which includes two issues per year of the newsletter.

Please mail a check made payable to **MRHS** to:

Barbara Schroeder,
Treasurer
1819 Coventry Dr.
Champaign, IL 61822

along with Name, Address, phone, and email (Most correspondence is by email). For questions email 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/>