



Show Me Hostas Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 5

November 2005

Hosta Holiday Party

Saturday, November 12th
at 7:00 PM

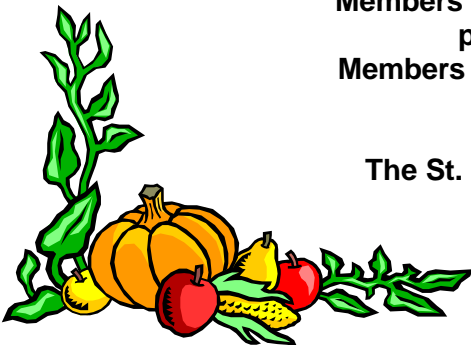
Hosted by Karen and Greg Frimel

(see the map included in this newsletter)

Members with last names beginning with the letters A-M
please bring hors d' oeuvres to share.

Members with last names beginning with the letters N-Z
please bring a sweet treat to eat.

The St. Louis Hosta Society will provide beverages.



**Look for the
2006 Calendar of Events
In the First Newsletter of 2006**

All St. Louis Hosta Society meetings are held at 1:00 PM
at the Creve Coeur Govt. Center,
300 N. New Ballas, 63141 (between Ladue Rd. and Olive), unless noted.

Review of Kim Larsen's Presentation on Preparing for a Cut Leaf Show

By Mary Lou Farrow

For those of us that attended the August 21 Hosta meeting we were greeted by Kim Larsen, a woman who wears many hats (literally). If you've been to any Hosta National Conventions or Midwest Regional meetings you know Kim by her many hats. But she also wears many hats in life, a wife, Architect, Gardener, AHS Garden Judge, the AHS Treasurer, and Speaker on the subject of Cut Leaf Shows. Kim came from her home in Minnesota to talk to our club on the subject of Cut Leaf Shows. She's extremely knowledgeable, interesting, energetic, and her enthusiasm is contagious. Kim shared so much information and knowledge. She started her presentation by showing some slides of past shows, and explained how to display leaves (this is called staging), how to fill out the show entry form, and how to pick the right leaf to show. As she explained the importance of selection, we were enlightened to not just try to pick a flawless leaf, which is important, but one that most matches the description of that particular class. If it is a mini, the leaf should be mini, if it is an extra large variety, the leaf should also match that description. The edging on the leaf, the color variation, the size, the length of the petiole are all important, and part of the judging process. We learned how to make the leaf stay fresh, the cleaning process, how to stage, and the importance of correct information on the label was explained. You may receive help on how to classify your selection at the show, but one important rule to follow is that the leaf should be grown by the entrant. We got to experience how a show is conducted. All of us that wanted to participate in a mini leaf show had the opportunity to pick a leaf from the leaves that were provided, clean it, stage it, and have it judged by Kim. It was a very interesting, informative, and fun presentation. Kim shared so much information and knowledge; I think those that participated will always look at Hosta leaves with a more educated perspective. Kim has set high goals for herself, although she has won numerous ribbons and even the coveted "Best of Show" over the years. Her goal now is to win "Best of Show" at National and enter only one leaf. I think she can do it!



New Elected Officers for 2006 & 2007

The St. Louis Hosta Society nominees selected as officers for 2006 and 2007 were:

Arlie Tempel - President
Jeff Hall - Vice-President
Pam Wolkowitz - Secretary
Pat Payton - Treasurer



***Check out the new look of our website at
www.stlouishosta.org***

Fall Tips for Controlling Foliar Nematodes in Hostas

By Jeff Travers

Those of you that toured my garden two seasons ago may recall serious nematode infestations in some areas. I had been treating the afflicted plants as though they had a fungal disease, but lucky for me, Arlie Tempel identified the nematode.

I began treating my garden with various insecticides that were mentioned in the Hosta Journal, taking a “multi-pronged” attack using several insecticides (thus, several different modes of action). The good news is that I have not spotted any nematode symptoms on any plants this year, including those that were completely dried down by mid-August last year. The bad news is that I don’t know which of the various applications the critical one was.

It’s an important distinction that the insecticides used must be systemic. That is, they are translocated into the plant, by entry via the roots or the leaves, and then moved about the plant in its vascular tissues. Contact insecticides are worthless when it comes to control of foliar nematodes (such as malathion). It is not too late to apply insecticides to your hostas, in an attempt to reduce the population or severity of foliar nematodes.

The product you should use as soon as possible is “Bayer Advanced Lawn Complete Insect Killer”. There are two active ingredients in this product—we only really want the imidacloprid, but the second is beta-cyfluthrin. The ingredient that provides some control of the foliar nematode is imidacloprid, more commonly known as Merit™. Imidacloprid needs to be taken up by the roots of the hosta plant, so it’s important to apply it and then water for 10 minutes or so. Alternatively, you can apply it before a rain. All perennials are storing carbohydrates in their crowns and rhizomes right now (as we speak) and it’s my speculation that fall-applied imidacloprid might accumulate in the crown along with the sugars and nutrients. A bunch of accumulated imidacloprid might make the crown an inhospitable home for foliar nematodes, which are known to over winter there, too. The second ingredient in the product is a synthetic pyrethroid (a derivative from the *Chrysanthemum*). It is not systemic but it provides immediate knockdown of other insects.

Complete Insect Killer comes as a concentrate or a granule. The concentrate needs to be mixed with water and applied with a hose-end sprayer. If you use the concentrate be sure to use 3 to 4 gallons of water per 1,000 sq. ft. of hosta garden. The 10 lb bag of granules treats 5,000 sq. ft. of turf, but I recommend that you “double-up” and use this product on 2,500 to 3,000 sq. ft. of hostas. You can dribble the granule into the whorl of the hosta plant.

A second mode-of-action that has been reported to have activity against foliar nematodes is the systemic organo-phosphate insecticide class. A common example is Orthene™ with the active ingredient of acephate. This is an easy insecticide to apply with a hose end sprayer. It mixes well with soluble fertilizers, so my recommendation is to use both modes of action, with a day or two between this application and the imidacloprid application. Treat your hostas with some soluble fertilizer along with the acephate. Find a soluble fertilizer with micro-nutrients for an extra special treat. The nutrients might help your crowns in the event that you were deficient in some area. Apply this product in at least 3 gallons of water per 1,000 sq. ft. of hosta garden. This is a pretty thorough drenching.

Another systemic organo-phosphate is granular Dylox (active ingredient is trichlorfon). This is a product used to control grubs in turf, but it is nice for hostas because you can easily administer a tablespoon or so to the whorl of the hosta plant. It won’t harm the crowns, and as water hits the granule (a finely ground corn cob) the insecticide is leached off, making it available for root uptake. Another trick is to broadcast it on wet leaves. The active ingredient will penetrate the foliage and move to the crown, hopefully killing the nematodes along the way, as it moves from the leaf downward to the crown.

As with any pesticide application, be careful when you apply them. Despite the relative safety of imidacloprid you should still wear safety glasses, long sleeves and long pants. Be careful around wildlife and especially careful to keep it out of ponds and lakes. While these products are reasonably safe to humans and the environment, allowing use by homeowners, they are most toxic to fish.

Good luck



St. Louis Hosta Society

668 Woodstream Dr.
St. Charles, MO 63304

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Are Your Dues Due?

To determine if your St. Louis Hosta Society membership dues are due, check the two-digit number appearing after your name on the address label of this newsletter. Your membership dues are paid through the end of the year appearing after your name. For example, if "05" appears after your name, your dues are paid through the 2005 year. Membership dues are due before January 1st of each year. To renew your membership, please send your check (payable to St. Louis Hosta Society) to Pat Payton, 361 S. Maple, Webster Groves, MO 63119-3841.

**St. Louis Hosta Society
Officials**

Arlie Tempel - President

Jim Weidman - Vice-President

Pat Payton - Treasurer

Pam Wolkowitz - Secretary

Marla Gann - Newsletter Editor

Phyllis Weidman - Membership

Rick Clarkson - Hospitality

www.stlouishosta.org

Membership Information

The American Hosta Society

Contact: Sandie Markland
8702 Pinnacle Rock Ct.
Lorton, VA 22079-3029

Dues: Individual \$25 per year, Family \$29 per year

Midwest Regional Hosta Society

Contact: Scott Hildebrandt
1020 Redwood Dr.
Norwalk, IA 50211

Dues: Individual \$10 per year

St. Louis Hosta Society

Contact: Pat Payton
361 S. Maple
Webster Groves, MO 63119-3841

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