



Show Me Hostas Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 9

November, 2008

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



President Jeff Hall
Photo by Kelly Hall

Well, fall is here and the trees are looking marvelous. It's time to put those hostas to bed and take a rest ourselves. Wow, what a year! We all need a break from the political commercials and a crazy stock market. No matter what happens in the world, you can always rest assured that spring will come. However, we may be changing climate zones due to all the pollution we are emitting. Now that fall and winter are upon us, it's a good time to think about your composting efforts, plant more trees to help fight pollution (and to give you more shade for hostas), and think of greener ways of living. Here are a few thoughts:

- Make your own compost. You'll save money on yard waste pick up and have rich compost to add to your garden.
- Purchase locally-made compost. Don't waste your money on mulch that is hauled in from unknown places. They may contain unknown and unwanted pests and chemicals.
- Use Milorganite or Nature Safe fertilizers. Try using vinegar as a weed killer. Think organic. You will avoid build-up of toxic chemicals in your soil.
- Change to drip irrigation. You'll save money on your water bill by watering only the plants that need it.
- Manage your trees, care as much for them as you do your garden. You can buy native trees from the Missouri Department of Conservation for next to nothing.
- Control invasive plants like honeysuckle and other non-natives. They are choking out our forests and native plants.
- Give gifts of donations to environmentally friendly groups. Think globally.
- Reuse or recycle your plastic pots. You can drop them off in bins at MoBot any time.
- Save coffee grounds to spread in your garden. It will help amend soil and deter slugs. Even better, go to Starbucks with a 10 gallon tub. They'll fill it with grounds for free and it will keep the waste out of landfills. (It smells great too!)

Okay, I am done being a tree hugger (for now).

I sure hope to see all of you at the Christmas party. So far, we have a good list going of people who are coming so it will be lots of fun. This will be a nice, catered lunch so it should be a festive, relaxing afternoon with friends. Don't forget to make your reservations!

Now is the time to finish getting your yard ready for winter and get ready for a great list of activities for 2009. Happy Holidays

Jeff Hall

2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 7

Holiday Party – Catered lunch

1:00 PM at the Creve Coeur Community Center

Have a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year

**Last chance to reserve your place!
Don't miss ringing in the holidays with your hosta friends!**

DECEMBER 7, 2008 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

1:00 PM at Creve Coeur Community Center

The last event of the year, the St. Louis Hosta Society's holiday party, has been scheduled for **Sunday, December 7, 1:00 PM at the Creve Coeur Community Center**. This year the Society is trying something different. Instead of in the evening, this year's event will be held at our regular meeting location, day of the week and time. A luncheon will be catered by *At Your Fingertips Catering*.

Since this will be a catered meal, the Society must have an accurate count of members and guests who plan to attend. **Reservations are required**. The cost is \$5.00 for members and significant other. Non-members cost is \$10.00 each. An **RSVP** with a check for the appropriate amount of money must be mailed to Pam Wolkowitz by November 14:

**Pam Wolkowitz
6434 Oak Crest
Hillsboro, MO 63050**

**WANT A TASTE OF SPRING AND SUMMER IN THE DEAD OF WINTER?
NEED A PICK-ME-UP AFTER THE FUROR OF THE HOLIDAYS HAS PASSED?
HAS CABIN FEVER STARTED TO SET IN?**

Back by popular demand is the 'Winter Scientific Meeting of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society'. Hosted by the Midwest Regional Hosta Society, this popular winter event will be held Saturday, January 17, 2009 at the Marriott Hotel in Schaumburg Illinois.

It's a day to greet old hosta friends and make new ones. It's a day to recharge your gardening batteries. It's a day packed with outstanding speakers with interesting topics. The announced speakers and their topics are:

Bob Solberg – Are Red Hostas Just Right Around the Corner?

Mark Zilis – Hostas of Distinction

Doug Beilstein – Tardiana Grex – And What's Your Line?

Kunso Kim – Trees and Shrubs that are Good Neighbors for Hostas

In addition, there will be a series of three concurrent breakout sessions covering the following topics:

Session A: Hosta Sports, their Origin, Identification and Selection (by Bob Solberg and Mark Zilis)

Session B: Family Matters, an Explanation of Botanical Classification and Nomenclature (by Glen Herrold)

Session C: Leaf Show Winner's Tips – Selection and Preparation of Leaves (by Doug Beilstein)

The cost of the event is \$45 per person for MRHS members and \$55 for non-members, and includes a continental breakfast and a deli buffet lunch.

Reservations must be mailed before January 5, 2009. Additional information about hotel accommodations, the meeting and copies of the registration form are available on the www.midwesthostasociety.org web site. If you do not have access to the web site, contact Joan Poos, the newsletter editor, or one of the Society's officers. We'll be glad to answer questions and send you a copy of the registration form.



GROSS GARDEN CONTEST

AND THE WINNER IS ...

Should we really offer congratulations to someone whose garden is infested with the biggest, grossest slugs imaginable?

Do we congratulate someone who sends her husband to pick up her prize?

Do we really believe that not only does she have the biggest slug, but it also appears to read the comics!

Yes we do! Congratulations Karen Frimel

Future Regional and National Events

Winter Scientific Meeting – Jan 17, 2009 – Shaumburg, Illinois

Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention – June 11-13, 2009 – Champaign, Illinois

American Hosta Society Convention – June 24-27, 2009 – Lansing, Michigan

Hosta College – Mar 20-21, 2009 – Piqua, Ohio

American Hosta Society Convention – 2010 – Bloomington, Minnesota Hosta Society

Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention – 2010 – Des Moines, Iowa

Friends Helping Friends



Pat Payton, Jean Hudson, Dave Poos



Potters Phyllis Weidman and Joan Poos



Potter Jim Weidman

Pam and Chester Wolkowitz have decided to downsize and move from their current hilltop home. When a group of hosta friends heard that Pam was overwhelmed by the thought of moving their magnificent gardens, they jumped in with both psychological and physical help. Pam just couldn't bear to leave all 'her babies' behind.

The first step is always the hardest. Once the first hosta was out of the ground and into a pot that will be its home until spring, Pam was feeling better. It didn't take long to create a system of digging, dividing, potting, labeling and storing. Soon the wide driveways were filled with pots of hosta, fern and astilbe, large and small. Tree peonies, Japanese maples and hydrangea joined the menagerie. Two days of work got Pam well on her way.

Pam and Chester will be moving in the spring to a location closer to her children. Already their Society friends are planning a 'planting party' at the new place. In the spring, Pam plans to have a sale of plants that won't fit in her new beds. *(photos by Pam Wolkowitz)*



Pam's driveway covered with pots



A hosta that lives up to its name
November and still looking great

'Touch of Class'

Answers please!



On October 12, St. Louis Hosta Society members welcomed guest speaker Mike Miller. Among his many activities, Mr. Miller is the host of KMOX radio's Garden Hotline. The first portion of Mr. Miller's presentation was the history of the Missouri Botanical Garden's famous Climatron.

The Climatron, using R. Buckminster Fuller's geodesic dome principles, was built in 1960. The Garden was in trouble, attendance down. It needed an attention grabber, something new and exciting. The crumbling Palm House originally sat on the desired location. It was all torn down except a portico which ended up on the center of the new structure.



The Garden directors also wished the palms from the Palm House to be incorporated into the flora within the dome. As the palms were too large to move, the dome had to be constructed over them. The work had to be finished in nine months or the palms would perish in the St. Louis winter. Unfortunately, the work took longer and none of the original palms survived.

In the early days, many social functions were held in the Climatron. There were ventilation problems – clouds formed inside. There were also lots of birds. However,

people were frightened when the birds swooped down upon them. So they had to be removed. Recent renovations have solved the ventilation problems. The original portico was also removed because it was made of wood and found to be riddled with termites.

The Climatron is truly the attention-grabber the Directors envisioned. The geodesic dome can be seen from nearby highways, rising above the walls and trees of the Garden.

Mr. Miller spent the last half of the evening answering member questions. He mixed humor with practical information when answering. Mr. Miller wonders why gardeners don't embrace weeds such as poison ivy and Virginia creeper – they're so easy to grow! He stated earthworms are responsible for the spread of ragweed which is why he stomps on every one he sees (just kidding, of course).

Mr. Miller left us with the admonitions 'Life is a Marathon', it's important to try to have fun and work in something you truly enjoy. 'You just can't beat the outdoors.'

For more information on the Climatron, visit web site: www.mobot.org/hort/gardens/Climatron

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618-462-2540
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Membership Information

The American Hosta Society

Contact: Sandie Markland
8702 Pinnacle Rock Ct.
Lorton, VA 22079-3029
AHSMembershipSecretary@earthlink.net
Dues: Individual \$30 per year, Family \$34 per year

Midwest Regional Hosta Society

Contact: Pete Postlewaite
21172 Andover Road
Kildeer, IL 60047
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
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

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>