



Volume 16, Issue 9

November, 2015



**Phyllis Weidman President**  
*Photo by Kelly Hall*

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

Fall has come and it is time to start all the fall activities in the garden. Clean out the tree leaves, remove hosta leaves, move potted hostas to an unheated garage or the like, and make sure everything is ready for the cold air to come –hopefully not too cold. It is a big job but boy it pays off in the spring, and we know 2016 is going to be a special year.

Our Society is getting ready for next year as well. We have elected new officers, congratulations to them. They will start planning future activities. They will need your help. As I and some other famous people have said, “It takes a village.”

**Thanks to each and every one of you for your help over the years. See you at the Holiday Party!**

*Phyllis*

### **Tis the Season to Give Thanks - A Time to Count Our Blessings**

Thanks to our retiring officers, Phyllis Weidman, Dave Poos and Cindy Michniok, for hours of hard work organizing activities, securing speakers and keeping our finances in order. Thanks to Barb Moreland who stepped into the Secretary position when Kelly Hall moved. Thanks to new officers – Diana Plahn, Ted Piekutowski, Kim Piekutowski and Barb Moreland. We know our ship is in good hands.

Thanks to Spencer Sorenson, Ted and Kim Piekutowski, Mike and Sharon Schmitt, Melissa Byrd, Phyllis Weidman and Karen Frimel for chairing committees. Our activities don't just happen, they require planning and organization.

Thanks to Sharon and Mike Schmitt and Phyllis and Jim Weidman for opening their gardens for our enjoyment.

A special thanks to each of you who participated in the various activities. Our year began with a scrumptious pot luck and will end with a delicious holiday party. In between were sales, auctions, workdays, garden walks and meetings with entertaining and knowledgeable speakers. None of these would have been successful without you.

## 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>November 14</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b> 5:00 PM, supper with meeting to follow Phyllis Weidman home 508 Essex Court, Kirkwood, MO 63122
<b>December 6</b>	<b>Holiday Party</b> 1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
<b>January 16, 2016</b>	<b>MRHS Winter Conference Meeting</b> Naperville, Illinois
<b>June 15-18, 2016</b>	<b>American Hosta Society National Convention</b> St. Louis, Missouri
<b>July 7-9, 2016</b>	<b>Midwest Region Hosta Society Convention</b> Champaign, Illinois

**Last newsletter of 2015**  
**First newsletter of 2016 will be sent at the end of January**  
**Our first meeting will occur in February**

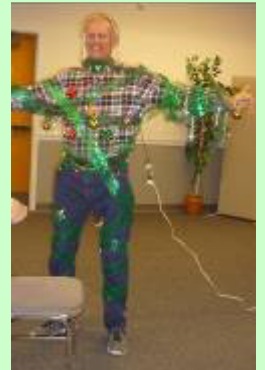


### St. Louis Hosta Society Holiday Party

**Sunday December 6**  
**1:00 PM**

**Creve Coeur Government Center**

The last event of our gardening year is fast approaching! Once again Kim Piekutowski and Karen Frimel have teamed up to bring us a party featuring good food, maybe



a song or two, lively chatter and lots of laughter. Kim has engaged the same caterer as last year. Remember that delicious chicken and brisket with all the trimmings. While we're thinking turkey, Karen will be putting together table and room decorations. Remember our unique Christmas trees – good sports Karen Frey and Mark Michniok. The holiday party is one of the most popular events of the year. You don't want to miss it.

**Reservations are required. November 22 is the deadline.**

Price for this catered lunch is \$15.00 for each person attending. **Non-member spouses and friends are welcome at the same \$15.00 charge.** Please RSVP by mailing your check to:

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

## **Fall Board Meeting**

**November 14, 2015**

**5:00 PM supper, followed by meeting**

**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 at the 2016 planning meeting. Come early at 5:00 for a delicious supper and a fabulous dessert. The meeting agenda includes such items as setting 2016 meeting dates, establishing the 2016 budget, brain-storming about possible speakers and scheduling other interesting events.

Let the Board know what you want for your Society in 2016. What did you like or not like in 2015? Meet your new officers. Get to know all 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.**

## **2016-2017 Officers**

At the October meeting, nominating committee chair Ted Piekutowski presented a slate of candidates for the four elected officers of our society. There being no additional nominations from the floor, members approved the slate as presented. Our membership thanks each of these members for their willingness to lead our society for the next two years.

***President: Diana Plahn***

***Vice-president: Ted Piekutowski***

***Secretary: Barb Moreland***

***Treasurer: Kim Piekutowski***

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBER!**

**Ken McKelvie of Kirkwood, MO**

We hope that you join us at the Holiday Party. This is the perfect time to get to know your fellow members. Even better have supper with us at our annual Board meeting In November.



## American Hosta Association National Convention

**'Gateway to the Gardens'**

**St. Louis – June 15-18, 2016**

### Convention Advertisers

Please patronize these fine businesses. When there, thank them for their support of our organization. When talking with your friends in other gardening societies, mention these fine gardening outlets.

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[www.sherwoods-forest.com](http://www.sherwoods-forest.com)

Sugar Creek Gardens  
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Thank you

**Janelle Criscione**  
**Martha LaFata**  
**Bruce Buehrig**

for visiting these  
retailers and obtaining  
their support for our  
2016 convention.

## Take a break from gloomy January!

### Midwest Regional Hosta Society Winter Conference January 16, 2016

An article in the recent MRHS newsletter announced the date and changes for the MHRHS regional Hosta meeting previously known as the Winter Scientific Meeting. Organizer Lou Horton writes that the conference will again be held at the Northern Illinois University Conference Center in Naperville, IL. This year, members can stay at the Hampton Inn directly across the street, an easy walk to the Conference Center, or at the Lisle Hilton a five minute drive away.

In the past this one-day event has featured speakers well-known in our hosta community. There are usually three or four main speakers with three break-out sessions from which attendees may choose two. Included is a continental breakfast and a deli buffet lunch.

Besides the name change, this event is undergoing other tweaks. Lou Horton writes "Other changes include a little less emphasis on the technical aspects of raising and hybridizing hostas. For example one of the three breakout sessions will include a presentation on basic hosta culture including fertilization, siting for the various types, dividing, etc. We will also draw from the wealth of expertise available from Extension educators more than we have in the past. Of course, fans of Bob Solberg and Mark Zilis can rest assured that they will be on hand to inform and entertain us with their hosta expertise."

More information on other speakers and their topics will become available in the coming months. Check <http://midwesthostasociety.org/events.shtml> for updates.

For your convenience, the **registration form** for **The Winter Conference Meeting** is included at the end of this newsletter. Several members of the St. Louis Hosta Society have attended, namely, Arlie and Nancy Tempel, Jim and Phyllis Weidman, Dave and Joan Poos, Mary Lou Farrow and Shirley Suntrup. Ask any of these members **about this welcome break from the doldrums of winter.**

## October – Fall & Winter Containers

### Sally Barrett of Sugar Creek Nursery



Sally started with this.



Then she did some magic.



And voila, it ended up like this!

At our October meeting, Sally Barrett shared her gardening passion and design expertise with us. An avid gardener, Sally likes working with texture and color in both her garden beds and in pots that highlight our spaces.

In fall, summer pots are beginning to look tired and faded. The same could probably be said for us gardeners. A shot in the arm is what is needed. Sally showed us many plants that do just that.

Red boar kale is an upright plant that grows taller and taller over the fall and winter months. Use it as the “thriller” in your pot. Shorter, squatter plants such as rosette cabbage, ‘EverColor’ carex, caramel-colored heuchera, ornamental pepper and varieties of bok choy become the “fillers”. Creeping jenny, ‘Burgandy Glow’ ajuga and variegated ivy are inserted as trailers. Slip in a few pansies for happy, fun color and your pot is complete.

Sally designed containers that were great for the coming holidays. A Halloween themed pot featured succulents, small pumpkins, moss, creeping thyme and a number of ghostly accents.

A Christmas container can use small conifers such as ‘Golden Spice’ arborvitae or a Norway spruce. There are many boxwoods that make great “thrillers”. Add darker green packysandra and lirope. Then mix in golden balls or ornaments for color.

Note the contrasts in colors and textures of these plants. Think of contrasting colors that bounce off each other. The idea is to keep color going right through the winter.

WOW! Congratulations to members who won the two beautiful containers pictured at left and a hosta named ‘First Blush’. Don’t you wish you had come!

Thanks Sally for all the great tips.

# **Sally Barrett's Steps to Constructing a Pleasing Container**

## **Step 1 – Choose your container.**

- Select a color that will coordinate with other features of the pot's surroundings, such as a house trim, a door color or nearby plantings. Bold colors help to brighten shady areas.
- Bold plants, larger tropicals, shrubs and small trees work best in large pots. These also need to be watered less often.

## **Step 2 – Find an inspiration color to 'echo'.**

- The container's color scheme can be inspired by plants or objects in the nearby landscape such as the red leaves of a Japanese maple, your house color or even a painted fence or furniture.
- A favorite plant with multiple colors could be a starting point.

## **Step 3 – Always start with a good potting mix.**

- Roots need a potting mix that allows space for air as well as water.
- Mixes that are coarser are often a good choice for containers. Too much peat or pore spaces that are too fine can lead to root rot.

## **Step 4 – Choose the plants.**

- Design principles call for a 'thiller' for height, 'fillers' for bulk and 'spillers' to soften the hard edge of the container.
- Don't forget texture. It can be as visually exciting as color contrasts.
- Don't forget the foliage. Color in veins, stems and the undersides of leaves can help pull the whole design together.
- Use plants that have the same moisture requirements.

## **Step 5 – Plant the container.**

- In order to decrease the weight and quantity of potting soil required, stuff the bottom of the container with filler such as crushed aluminum cans, old plastic milk jugs or upside-down plastic pots. A good rule of thumb is to maintain a depth of potting mix that is at least one half of the width of the container.
- Leave one to one and a half inch lip of the pot exposed to allow for watering.
- Keep plants at the same soil level as they were growing in their original pots.
- Loosen or rough up the roots of a plant before inserting it in the pot. This encourages new root growth.
- Don't forget to feed. Work a slow release fertilizer into the top few inches of soil.
- Water the container thoroughly.

## **Step 6 – Maintenance.**

- Proper watering is important. For average plants only water when they need it; when the soil feels dry over one inch below the soil line.
- If the plants are getting too large or you would like a fuller look, pinch back the plants to a node where the leaves meet the stem.
- Plants that are heavy feeders may benefit from an additional application of a liquid fertilizer when watering, applied at half of the normal application rate.

**MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY  
2016 WINTER CONFERENCE MEETING REGISTRATION FORM**

**Sat., January 16, 2016 Northern Illinois University Conference Center and Hampton Inn, Naperville, IL**

Hospitality will be on Friday and Saturday Night at the Hampton. Hampton Room rate is \$74.00 per night (Friday and Saturday night), see at bottom for details. Deadline for reservations is 12/25/2015.

Check in Fri. afternoon at the Hampton, from 3 to 5 PM and Sat. morning at the NIU Conference Center from 7 to 8 AM.

The Winter Conference meeting will be held at the NIU Conference Center, just across the street from the Hampton. Continental breakfast will be at NIU from 7:30 to 10:30 AM. The Meeting will be from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM-no food in meeting rooms.

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.** Fill out registration form completely.  
Make a copy of this registration form for your records. Confirmations will be done by email.

Note that MRHS memberships are family memberships, so individuals in the member's household are also MRHS members.

**ATTENDEE 1:**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  MRHS member  Non-MRHS member  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ If a non-MRHS member, would you like  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ your \$10 surcharge applied to a  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ 1 year FAMILY membership in the MRHS?  
 YES  NO

**ATTENDEE 2:**  Address same as Attendee 1

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  MRHS member  Non-MRHS member  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ If a non-MRHS member, would you like  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ your \$10 surcharge applied to a  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ 1 year FAMILY membership in the MRHS?  
 YES  NO

**Registrations postmarked after January 9, 2016 require a \$10 late registration fee per person. Cancellations before January 3, 2016 will be sent a full refund. We will be unable to issue refunds after January 3, 2016.**

Number of members \_\_\_\_\_ X \$60= \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of non-members \_\_\_\_\_ X \$70= \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of late registrations \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10= \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO MRHS**

Mail your registration and check to:  
Barbara Schroeder, MRHS Treasurer 1819 Coventry Dr. Champaign, IL 61822

Questions about registration? Contact Barbara at MRHS.HOSTA@gmail.com or phone: 217-369-0927  
NIU Naperville Conference Center, 1120 East Diehl Rd, Naperville, IL 60563  
Hampton Inn, 1087 East Diehl Road, Naperville, Illinois, 60563, TEL: 1- 630-505-1400 (when calling mention MRHS or code HOS to get the discounted rate).



## St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

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

Secretary  
**Barb Moreland**

**Sharon and Mike Schmitt** – Hospitality  
314-719-9305  
[Sharons39@aol.com](mailto:Sharons39@aol.com)

**Dave Poos** – Vice-President  
314-821-1622  
[david.poos@att.net](mailto:david.poos@att.net)

**Cindy Michniok** – Treasurer  
314-434-0946  
[Cmichniok@gmail.com](mailto:Cmichniok@gmail.com)

**Melissa Byrd** – Webmaster  
[mabyrd68@gmail.com](mailto:mabyrd68@gmail.com)

**Joan Poos** – Newsletter Editor  
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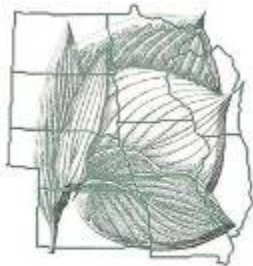
## St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

**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.

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](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/>