



Volume 18, Issue 9

November, 2017



**President Diana Plahn**

## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Dear Fellow Hosta Lovers:

My, how the weather has changed, and how fast it did so! One day we're in the eighties and the next we are getting our winter coats out. We have been moving the tropical plants we want to keep into the basement and greenhouse, and trying to get everything squared away for winter in an accelerated time frame. I noticed a shipment of bulbs to plant when I got home from work today. Surprise, surprise. Since it was so warm, we thought we would have more time. I guess we all need to remember that Mother Nature can be capricious.

If you are still planting, remember to put stones or bricks on the sides of your hosta to try to keep it from heaving with the freeze/thaw cycle. Once it freezes and the hosta leaves go to 'mush', remove them and put them in the trash. Do not compost, as you will spread any nematodes or other diseases present throughout the mix. Everyone has their own way of winterizing their garden, but it looks like we should get to it sooner rather than later.

We have two more events coming up this year. The first is the November Board Meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup>, starting at 2pm at my home at 1911 Westview Avenue. The Board has several things that have to be taken care of at this meeting, but it is open to the society at large. If you plan to come please bring an appetizer to share, and if you have a special drink bring it too. Please park on Westview Avenue and walk down the driveway to the house at the bottom if you can come.

Our Society's Christmas Party is a reception hosted by Martha LaFata. Please save the date: December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4-7pm. Bring an appetizer to share and your beverage of choice. Plan to stay and socialize awhile with other members before the holiday season gets too busy.

Best wishes to all of you and happy holidays. Until next year, stay warm and dry. Enjoy those gardening catalogs we all get to browse this winter, and make your plans for your garden next spring.

*Diana*

## 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**November 12**

**Board Meeting**

**2:00 PM**

**Home of Diana and Craig Plahn**

**1911 Westview Avenue**

**Kirkwood, MO 63122**

**December 3**

**Holiday Party**

**4:00 – 7:00 PM**

**Home of Martha and Paul LaFata**

**433 Edgar**

**Webster Groves, MO 63119**

**June 20-23, 2018**

**American Hosta Society National Convention**

**Philadelphia, PA**

**July 12-14, 2018**

**Midwest Region Hosta Society Convention**

**Peoria, IL**

**Last newsletter of 2017 – Enjoy all the upcoming holidays!  
First newsletter of 2018 will be sent at the end of January  
Our first meeting will occur in February**

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

Thanks to our retiring officers, Ted Piekutowski and Barb Moreland, for organizing activities, securing speakers and keeping track of who said what at member and Board meetings. Thanks to new officers – Diana Plahn, Martha LaFata, Melissa Byrd and Marian Murphy. We know our ship is in good hands.

Thanks to Phyllis Weidman, Marian Murphy, Pam and Chester Wolkowitz, Karen Frey and Ted Piekutowski for chairing committees. Thanks to Martha and Paul LaFata for offering to host our soon-to-be holiday party. Activities don't just happen, they require planning and organization.

Thanks to Anne and David Birenbaum and Diana and Craig Plahn for opening their gardens for our enjoyment. This is what we are all about – lovely gardens and hosta friends.

Thanks to Karen Frey for keeping us hydrated and well fed and Barb Moreland for keeping us nattily clothed.

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 joyful 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.



**Fall Board Meeting  
November 12, 2017  
2:00 PM**

**Home of President Diana Plahn  
1911 Westview Ave  
Kirkwood, MO 63122**

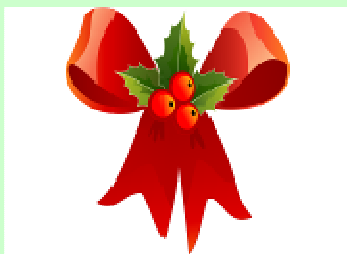
All members are invited to join Board members for our annual planning meeting. The agenda includes such items as setting the 2018 meeting dates, establishing the 2018 operating budget, brain-storming about possible speakers and scheduling other interesting events. This year we will also be discussing a document call Standing Rules. This lists procedures that relate to the administration of the Society and help ensure operational continuity from year to year.

Let the Board know what you want for your Society in 2018. What did you like or not like in 2017? 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.

Diana asks that you park on Westview Avenue and walk down the long concrete drive. Her home is at the bottom on the left. Just look for hostas, daylilies and lots of conifers.

Everything goes smoother with good food. Bring a favorite appetizer to share with others and a drink of your choice. Call or email Diana if you need directions or have questions - [314-346-3007](tel:314-346-3007) or [dplahn@me.com](mailto:dplahn@me.com).

## **IT'S RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER**



### **THE ST. LOUIS HOSTA SOCIETY HOLIDAY PARTY**

**Sunday, December 3 at 4:00 PM**

**Home of Martha and Paul LaFata  
433 Edgar Road  
Webster Groves, MO 63119**

Martha and Paul LaFata have graciously offered to host our society members at a Sunday afternoon "happy hour" at their Webster Groves home. Park in their driveway or along Edgar Road. Members are asked to bring an appetizer and drink of their choice to share with other party goers. Coffee will be provided by the LaFatas. The festivities begin at 4:00 PM and continue until we all go home.

No business meeting. No speakers. No cost. Come and mingle. Laugh and smile. Share the joys of the coming holidays with your hosta friends.

For directions or more information call or email Martha:

[mvelafata@gmail.com](mailto:mvelafata@gmail.com) or 314-961-7163

## October Meeting

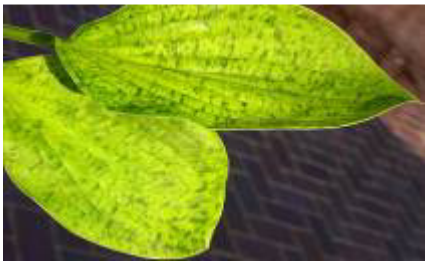
### Questions, questions, questions!



What's eating my hostas!



Southern Blight



Hosta Virus X



Nematodes

At the regular October meeting, Ted Piekutowski moderated a question and answer period. The questions ranged from recommended fall cleanup practices and plant dividing to diseases, insects, varmints and what to do about them all.

Carolyn Birge brought in hosta leaves exhibiting unusual black spots. After a lot of inspection and discussion, the group concurred that it was probably the droppings of insects prevalent in that particular part of her garden. Carolyn will keep a watchful eye next year to see if this reoccurs.

This led to a lively discussion of hosta diseases. Phyllis Weidman reported that the Missouri Botanical Garden had great success this year controlling their Southern Blight problem. The Garden applied Bayer Disease Control systemic product. The secret was to drench the crown of the plants just as the pips are breaking ground. The Pooses reported similar success with Bayer 3 in 1 Rose and Flower Care. Make sure the product contains Tebuconazole.

Phyllis also reported that a product called NemaKill seemed to help with nematodes. Again the problem needs to be addressed early. Drench the crown and surrounding soil as soon as you see the pips. This is when nematodes begin to become active.

Several members extolled the virtues of that old elixir castor oil to discourage voles and moles. Spence Sorenson combines the oil with Dawn detergent and sprays everything, beds and grass. Stay out of his way!

Everyone, even the seasoned gardeners, went home with a bit more knowledge. Neonicotinoids were new to me.

*(Hosta photos from the Missouri Botanical Garden website.)*



NemaKill



Bayer 3 in 1 Rose and Flower Care  
or Bayer Disease Control



Castor Oil





## American Hosta Growers Association

### Hosta of the Year

Strollers through the AHS Display Garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden this fall will see new signage. You will notice attached to the hosta's name plate a second sign that designates that hosta as an AHGA Hosta of the Year award winner. What does this mean? Why should that interest me?

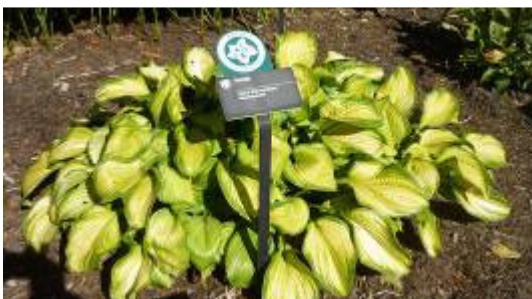
The American Hosta Growers Association (AHGA) is a trade organization for nurseries that specialize in the growing and sale of hostas. Its membership ranges from local and mail-order retail hosta vendors such as our Vendor Day participants Avalon Acres and Homestead Farms to larger enterprises such as Walters Gardens and Rob Mortko with their tissue culture labs and wholesale and retail sales.

The AHGA website states that "a few of its purposes are to foster interest in hostas through marketing and educational programs, disseminate information on cultural practices and pest problems of hostas, and help to standardize hosta nomenclature."

With this in mind, in 1996 the American Hosta Growers Association established the AHGA Hosta of the Year program. Each year a hosta is selected by a vote of all AHGA members. Award winners are hostas that are good garden plants in all regions of the country, are widely available in sufficient supply, and retail for about \$15.00 in the year of selection.

These are tried and true plants that should grow well in our St. Louis gardens. There is a wide range of hosta types on the list - large and small, green, blue, yellow and variegated. Visit the Garden and check out the plants displaying the distinctive AHGA symbol.

2018 World Cup	2006 Stained Glass
2017 Brother Stefan	2005 Striptease
2016 Curly Fries	2004 Sum and Substance
2015 Victory	2003 Regal Splendor
2014 Abiqua Drinking Gourd	2002 Guacamole
2013 Rainforest Sunrise	2001 June
2012 Liberty	2000 Sagae
2011 Praying Hands	1999 Paul's Glory
2010 First Frost	1998 Fragrant Bouquet
2009 Earth Angel	1997 Patriot
2008 Blue Mouse Ears	1996 So Sweet
2007 Paradigm	



**2006 AHGA Hosta of the Year, H. 'Stained Glass'**

This picture was taken October 26 at the Missouri Botanical Garden. The plant has held its coloration well and displays little insect or slug damage. Usually available at local nurseries, it is a flashy plant bound to elicit oohs and aahs from visitors to your garden.



## The Benedict Garden Performance Award

In 2006, the American Hosta Association created the Benedict Garden Performance Award which is quite similar to the AHGA Hosta of the Year Award. The Benedict Medal identifies the very best hostas - those found to be not only beautiful plants, but ones that also perform well in gardens in all parts of the country.

Selection is a three year process. Cultivars are first nominated by the plants' originator or the AHS Board of Directors. Plants on this list are voted upon by AHS Garden Performance Judges from across the country. If a plant receives sufficient votes, it is awarded the Honorable Mention Award. In the next year's voting, only Honorable Mention plants are eligible for the Award of Merit. Approximately ten hostas make this list. Finally, the following year from the Award of Merit winners a single plant is chosen to receive the Benedict Medal. This is presented at the AHS National Convention. Whew what an ordeal!

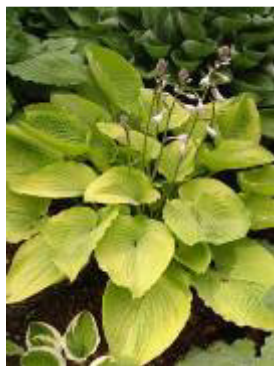
Phyllis Weidman mentioned at the September meeting, that at the 2018 MoBot Work Day, volunteers will be moving these award winners to a special bed. The sign pictured above will be placed in that bed. The sign tells the public that these hostas are "garden-worthy plants that have passed the test of time, exhibit cultural superiority and can be appreciated in the landscape from a distance and under close observation."

Again, if you are looking for great cultivars to add to your garden, consider selecting one from this list. You can't go wrong with any of these.

2017 Victory	2012 Niagara Falls
2016 Blue Angel and Sun Power	2011 Blue Mouse Ears
2015 Sum and Substance	2010 Sagae
2014 Leading Lady	2009 June
2013 First Frost	



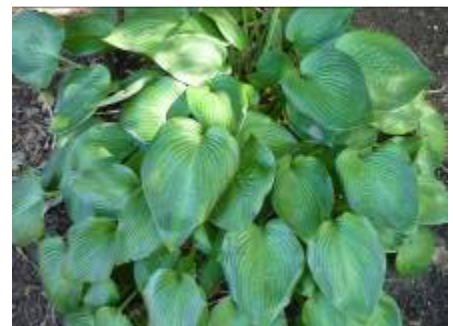
*H. 'Blue Mouse Ears'*



*H. 'Sun Power'*



*H. 'First Frost'*



*H. 'June'*  
photo taken Oct 25 at MoBot





## You're still looking good!

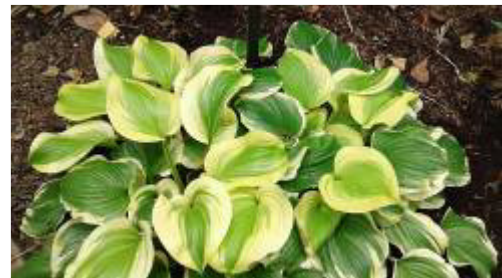
Visiting the Missouri Botanical Garden last week, I was taken by the number of hostas that still present a neat appearance. I mentioned at the October meeting how nice I thought MoBot looked and several members were interested in which plants piqued my interest. Talking with our new secretary Marian Murphy last week, we were lamenting the end of the gardening season. The conversation evolved into a discussion of which plants still looked good in our gardens.

It is interesting that most of the plants that we both mentioned are on the Hosta of the Year list. Marian delights in looking out her kitchen window at 'First Frost'. It still maintains its form and beautiful coloring. Marian also mentioned 'Paradigm', 'Regal Splendor', 'Brother Stefan', 'Krossa Regal' and 'Queen of the Seas'. 'Krossa Regal' and 'Queen of the Seas' are the only ones not yet designated as a HOY. Maybe next year.

Below are snapshots of cultivars holding up well this late in October. I've also added a few to my wish list.



**H. 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd'**



**H. 'Sweet Innocence'**



**H. 'World Cup'**



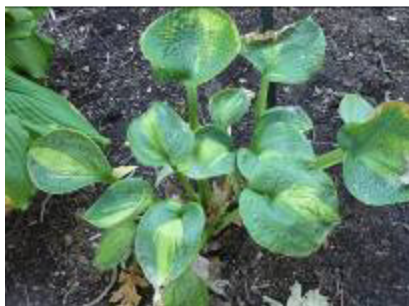
**H. 'Striptease'**



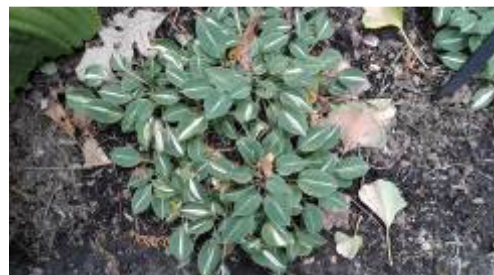
**H. 'Victory'**



**H. 'Lemon Zest'**  
Added to my wish list,  
still bright yellow



**H. 'Rhino Hide'**



**H. 'Pandora's Box' - on my wish list**



## St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

**Diana Plahn** – President  
314-346-3007  
[dplahn@me.com](mailto:dplahn@me.com)

**Barb Moreland** - Secretary  
314-961-4191  
[Bmore433@aol.com](mailto:Bmore433@aol.com)

**Karen Frey** – Hospitality

**Ted Piekutowski** – Vice-President  
314-952-1317  
[Circustaz2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Circustaz2@sbcglobal.net)

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

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

**Joan Poos** – Newsletter Editor  
314-821-1622  
[david.poos@att.net](mailto:david.poos@att.net)

## St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

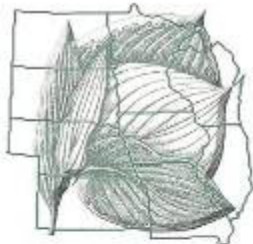
**Contact:** Melissa Byrd  
117 Gunston Hall Drive  
St. Charles, MO 63304  
[mabyrd68@gmail.com](mailto:mabyrd68@gmail.com)

**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)

**Visit us on Facebook, St. Louis Hosta Society**



### 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/>