



Show Me Hostas Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 4

December 2006

St. Louis Hosta Society

Holiday Party

**Saturday, December 16th
at 7:00 pm**

Date: Saturday, December 16th at 7:00 PM

Location: Joan and Larry Hummel's Home (see map on next page)
17524 Melrose Road
Wildwood, MO 63038

Phone: (636) 405-2584

The St. Louis Hosta Society will provide beverages (if there's something special you'd like to drink, you're welcome to bring it). If you wish to bring a dessert and/or an hors d'oeuvre we will try to fill your evening with hosta talk.

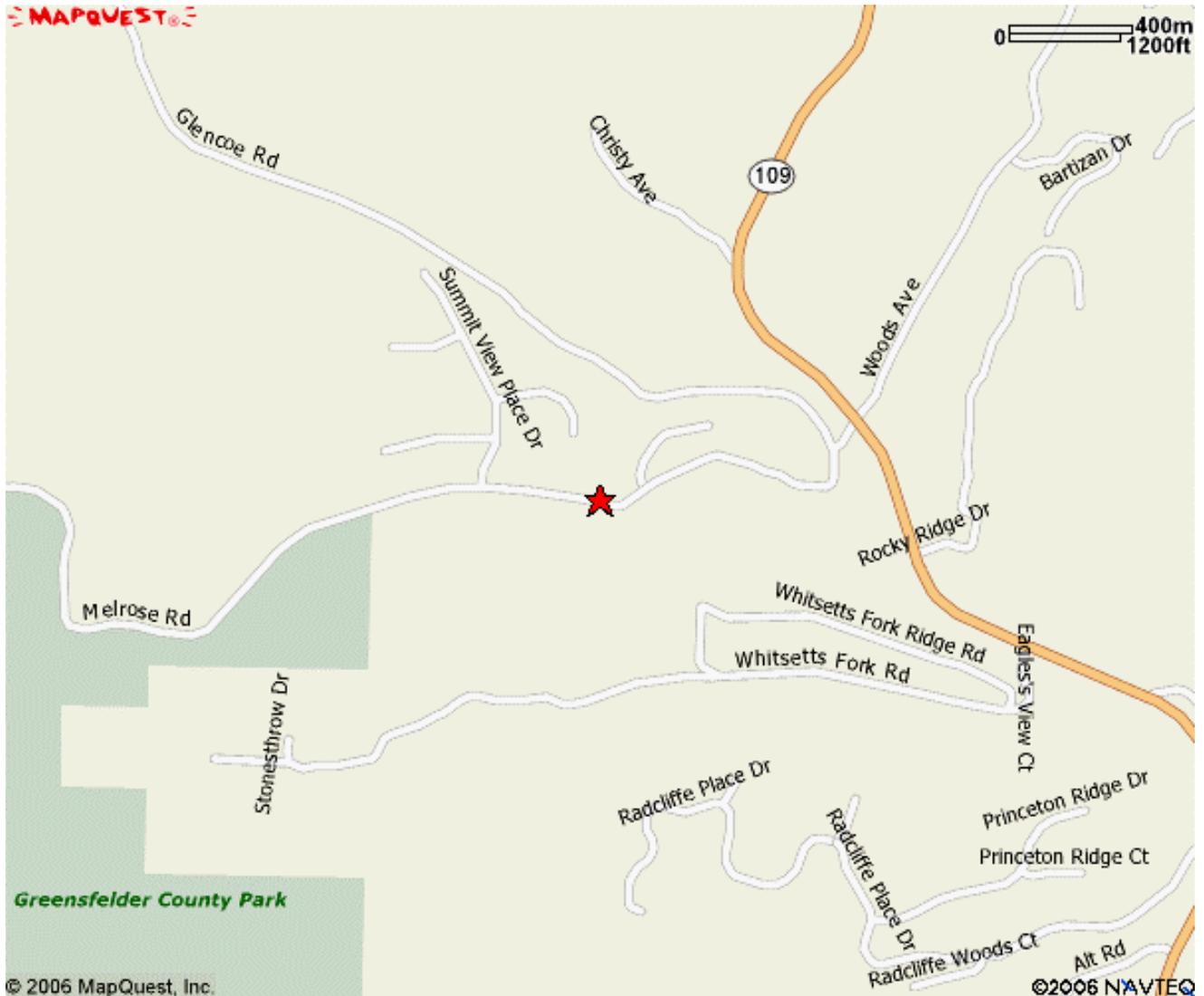
Directions:

Take Hwy. 44 North to (right on) Hwy. 109. Go 3 miles, then turn left (west) on Woods (entrance to Rockwood Reservation). Continue on Woods to dead end. Turn left on Melrose Rd. at dead end. Continue approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile on Melrose Rd. Turn left into the first concrete driveway on the top of the hill.

From Hwy. 100 (Manchester Rd.), go south on Hwy. 109 for approximately 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Turn right (west) on Woods (entrance to Rockwood Reservation). Continue on Woods to dead end. Turn left on Melrose Rd. at dead end. Continue approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile on Melrose Rd. Turn left into the first concrete driveway on the top of the hill.

Parking: Park perpendicular on left side of driveway (on grass). Some parking available on top of hill.

Map to the Holiday Party at Joan and Larry Hummel's Home



AHS National Convention Gift Plant List

Please help us to compile a list of AHS national convention gift plants. If you know the name of the gift plant for any given year, please let us know. Our goal is to acquire a plant from each year and have them potted and on display at the 2008 national convention in St. Louis. The plants will then be auctioned off to benefit the AHS. If you have a plant to donate, please contact Jeff or Kelly Hall (skyridgegarden@earthlink.net). Visit http://www.stlouishosta.org/gift_plant.htm to watch the progress of this project. Thanks!

Growing Hostas from Seed

by Rob Mortko

Everyone seems to have their own technique for planting hosta seed, and yet there is general agreement on a number of key points.

Start the seeds in flats with a clear plastic dome (or similar high humidity setup). Wash the flats and use a sterile soilless mix to minimize fungal problems. Cover the seed lightly to a 1/8" to 1/4" depth. Germination typically occurs in 12 to 15 days. Target an air temperature of about 75 deg F. Heating mats can be useful when working in cooler basement settings. And don't forget to label if you are planting various hybrid crosses!

Timing on starting seed is a variable with some starting in October or November while others wait until February

Lighting is critical when gardening indoors (although not relevant to seed germination). Use supplemental lighting (cool-white fluorescent tubes) to give 16-24 hours of daily lighting. Maintain the lights about 2" above the dome or (later) 2" above the plants.

Never let the seedlings dry out. Keep the soil moist but not soggy. Grow until the tops of the plants touch the dome. Then transplant (typically at the 2 or 3 leaf stage) and begin using a water soluble fertilizer. How much water soluble fertilizer you use will depend on how much you want to push the process.

Culling can be a painful process but most seedlings will be rather plain looking. Unfortunately many characteristics (other than color) take time to develop. Balance your culling habits with the number of seedlings you are managing.

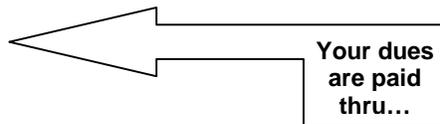
Before moving seedlings to the spring garden, don't forget to harden them off - just like a tomato plant that was started inside.

Seed is available from a number of commercial sources. Seed can be stored in plastic photo film canisters and placed in the freezer until ready for planting.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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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 "06" appears after your name, your dues are paid through the 2006 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.

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: Pete Postlewaite
21172 Andover Road
Kildeer, IL 60047
Dues: Individual \$20 for two years

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