



Show Me Hostas Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 1

February, 2008

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The New Year is here and so is your new slate of officers. I want to first thank Arlie Tempel, Pat Payton, and Pam Wolkowitz for jobs very well done. They have been very active in many functions and are instrumental to the success of the society. We hope that Arlie and Pat will continue to offer assistance to our new board and membership. We are lucky that Pam has accepted the role of Vice-President so we will continue to benefit from her dynamic role in the society. Your new slate of officers comes from a wide range of backgrounds or should I say "gardens". Let me introduce them to you:

Dave Poos – Treasurer. Dave gardens in Crestwood on an acre of ground. He has over 600 hosta varieties as well as 1000's of daylilies. Dave's and his wife, Joan's, garden is nothing short of an artist's palette. Dave will undoubtedly prove to be a meticulous and valuable Treasurer and Board Member.

Joan Hummel – Secretary. Joan gardens in Wildwood on 12 acres. She and her husband Larry are avid outdoors people. From wildlife to wild flowers they are a wealth of knowledge. Joan is one of the original founders of the St. Louis Hosta Society and we are honored to have her back as an officer.

Pam Wolkowitz – Vice President. Pam gardens near Hillsboro on a high hilltop. Pam and her husband, Chester, are tireless at turning rocky soil into fertile gardens. With over 600 hostas and tons of new soil they seem to have endless energy. Pam was an unfailingly reliable secretary and we will certainly enjoy her sunny nature as the Vice-President.



Jeff Hall – President. I garden on almost 3 acres in Sunset Hills. Kelly and I recently moved and we are in the process of developing new gardens. The list of projects never seems to end. I am very much looking forward to my term as your new President.

We all invite you to give us your ideas. This society is just as much about Hostas as it is about you. Let us know what is important to you with regard to meeting ideas, garden tour ideas, etc. This will be a busy year as you can see from the calendar of events. We have added a few extra events, and we may start having a few meetings at the Missouri Botanical Garden. We will also continue with the evening garden walks. If you would like to have your garden open for an evening please let us know.

As always, anyone in the society is welcome (and encouraged) to attend board meetings. I look forward to an exciting year with the St. Louis Hosta Society.

Jeff Hall

FEBRUARY POT LUCK MEETING

Sunday, February 10 at 1:00 PM
At Creve Coeur Government Center
300 N. New Ballas, St Louis 63141
(Ballas Rd. between Ladue Rd. and Olive)

The first club meeting of 2008 will be the annual Pot Luck dinner at Creve Coeur Government Center. Our hospitality chairs, Joan and Rick Clarkson, will again supply soup and beverages. If your last name begins with A – G, please bring sandwiches or hot bread; H – P, please bring desserts; R – Z, please bring a salad (pasta, lettuce, etc.)

2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 10	Annual Pot Luck Dinner
March 9	Meeting and Speaker
April 13	Vendor Day and distribution of Club plants
May 3	MBG plant sale with Horticultural Club
June 11-14	Show Time! AHS National Convention in St. Louis
July 10-12	Midwest Regional Hosta Convention
July 27	Member plant auction
September 21	Meeting and Guest speaker
October 12	Meeting, program to be announced
November/December	Holiday Party – date and location to be announced

St. Louis Hosta Society Club Plants

Enclosed with this newsletter is the 2008 order form (see page 5). All plants will be given out at the Plant Pick-up and Vendor Day on April 13th.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING PLANTS IS FEBRUARY 10, 2008

Please bring your order form and payment to the February 10 meeting or mail to:

Dave Poos
9904 Crestwood Drive
Crestwood, MO 63126

It's 2008 – June is SHOW TIME

The spotlight's on us as we show off our city, our gardens and most importantly our society to fellow hosta lovers from around the world. Success depends on you. Conventions don't just 'happen'! It takes leadership and lots of helping hands. Leadership we have; it's all those 'helping hands' that must step forward now.

What's a person to do?

Have a lot of time	or	Just a few hours
Can do a big job	or	Some small ones
Work before the convention	or	During the convention
Solicit items for 'goodie bags'	or	Help stuff the bag
Assist a leaf show judge	or	Carry vases/clean up

Sit at the registration desk, help with banquet table decorations, make phone calls, move pots around, help check in auction plants, aid a vendor, bake cookies, staff the hospitality room – **many jobs, large and small await you.**

Be part of the excitement!

Call or e-mail Nancy Tempel (314-521-2171, awtempnt@mac.com)
Pat Payton (314-962-7456, jhprimis@swbell.net)
Pam Wolkowitz (636-274-2211, lovehostas@msn.com)

now – or they will be calling you.

2008 Membership Dues are Payable Now

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 '08' appears after your name, your dues are paid through the 2008 year. Dues are \$7 annually (individual or family) or \$18 for three years. Make checks payable to SLHS (St. Louis Hosta Society) and bring to the next meeting or send to:

Dave Poos
9904 Crestwood Drive
Crestwood MO 63126

Snail Mail or E-Mail ?

In an effort to bring the newsletter to you sooner, with color hi-lights and pictures, SLHS would like to distribute your newsletter by e-mail instead of regular postal mail. Use of e-mail saves paper and will significantly reduce club printing and mailing costs. At the February 10th meeting, check the **Member List** to verify that your e-mail address is correct. If you prefer to receive the newsletter by regular mail, mark (X) in the box under the 'Don't E-Mail Newsletter' column.

SLHS Club Plant Sale – 2008



Name: _____

Telephone: _____

<u>Description</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<u>Barbara Ann</u> <L> (Muntons Microplants) Nice H. <i>sieboldiana</i> 'Elegans' sport...beautiful wide white border surrounds a nicely rounded and corrugated blue leaf with great substance...Differs from H. 'Northern Exposure'. Topped with white flowers.....\$10.00	_____	_____
<u>Dream Queen</u> <M> (Van den Top) A sport from H. 'Great Expectations' and similar to H. 'Dream Weaver' and H. 'Thunderbolt' ...thick leaves have a creamy center surrounded by a wide blue-green margin. Much better grower than its parent and topped with white flowers in early summer.....\$8.00	_____	_____
<u>Essence of Summer</u> <M> (Jan van den Top) A wonderful tetraploid sport of H. 'Warwick Essence'. Extremely thick, rounded, medium green leaves are a little darker color than the parent and topped with fragrant white flowers in late summer. Tremendous substance and fairly vigorous grower.....\$14.00	_____	_____
<u>George Smith</u> <M> (Smith) A sport of H. <i>sieboldiana</i> 'Elegans' ...leaves have a bright yellow-gold center surrounded by a wide blue-green margin and grow into a beautiful clump about 15-18" tall. Near white flowers midseason.....\$9.00	_____	_____
<u>Golden Meadows</u> PPAF <M> (Holland) New sport from H. <i>sieboldiana</i> 'Elegans' with an interesting color combination...leaves are light green with dark green margins and medium green steaks. White flowers in summer and similar growth habit to its parent except it does not grow as tall.\$11.00	_____	_____
<u>Lakeside Cupcake</u> <S> (Chastain) This is a wonderful introductions from Mary! Heart-shaped leaves have a white center surrounded by a wonderful blue-green border. Leaves are cupped and topped with pale lavender flowers.....\$10.00	_____	_____
<u>Rainforest Sunrise</u> <M> (Anderson) Great new sport of H. 'Maui Buttercups' ...bright gold leaves are framed with a dark green border and topped with lavender flowers in early summer.....\$10.00	_____	_____
<u>Red Cadet</u> <S> (Van Eechaute) Another from Danny with red petioles...H. 'Red Cadet' is a cross between H. 'Riptide' and H. 'Blue Cadet' and a nice small blue-green hosta with the same form as H. 'Blue Cadet'. Good grower and lavender flowers.....\$13.00	_____	_____
<u>Secret Love</u> <S/M> (Jan van den Top) Wonderful variegated sport of H. 'Fragrant Blue' ...H. 'Secret Love' has blue-green heart-shaped leaves surrounded by a yellow border. Leaves have great substance and the plant shows same excellent vigor as its parent. Clump will be topped with near-white flowers in early summer.....\$11.00	_____	_____
<u>Valley's Chute-the-Chute</u> <S> (Linneman) From Jeroen Linneman of Holland...H. 'Valley's Chute-the-Chute' is a low growing hosta with nice pointed leaves that are somewhat wavy and lay fairly flat to the ground. Leaves are a wonderful bronze color in spring if the plant gets direct sunlight, so give it a nice sunny location with a least 4 hours of morning sun. Leaves will change to a "Granny Smith" green as the season progresses. Lavender flowers.....\$11.00	_____	_____
TOTAL	_____	_____



Hosts Joan and Larry Hummel



Party time at the Hummel's



Jean Hudson and Rose Hall

Hosta Society Holiday Party

What an awesome sight awaited holiday revelers at the St. Louis Hosta Society's holiday party hosted by members Joan and Larry Hummel. Their home, situated on a heavily wooded lot near Rockwoods Reservation, was aglow with lights from the entrance to their lane to the upper windows of their beautiful home. An enormous Christmas tree, brushing against the 10 foot ceiling of the parlor, glistened with sparkling fish, glass balls, Santas, balloons and hundreds of other ornaments, many designed by Christopher Radko. It took Joan three days to wrap the mighty tree branches with white lights and hang the sets of ornaments - each in its own section of the tree.

Every way one turned, Joan's collections delighted the eye. From the plate ledge near the ceiling of the kitchen to the Early American corner cabinets, from the top of the mantle to every tabletop, space was overflowing with sleds and santas and carolers and trees of every size. A glance from the window revealed real deer in the side and front yards. They seemed to lament, just as we, that hosta season was still months away.

Guests enjoyed the delicious culinary efforts of their fellow gardeners. Between mouthfuls of dip, barbeque meatballs, cheeses of many varieties and delicious cookies, the talk was of hostas, the fast approaching Convention, the football playoffs and the joys of the holiday. A good time was had by all - we thank Joan and Larry for their gracious hospitality.

A Taste of Gardening in January

One hundred and fifty hearty souls braved frigid temperatures to attend the 2008 Winter Scientific Meeting in the Chicago suburb of Schaumburg on January 19. It was an opportunity to say 'hello' to new hosta lovers, say 'how've you been' to old hosta friends and listen to interesting speakers.

Glen Herold claims he's a 'bark man'. He introduced us to phloem, xylem and lenticels as he navigated through the many patterns of tree bark. We learned what's going on inside the tree that results in its groovy outside appearance. Next time you are bending over to look at that hosta leaf, note the tree behind it.

Looking for something unique for your shade areas, try arisaemas. From our native jack-in-the-Pulpit to the new Asian species, these bizarre plants are bound to elicit comments from visitors to your garden. Watch which variety you choose - its odoriferous 'fragrance' might chase all those visitors away.

Besides the arisaemas, Dave Wanninger of Klehm's Song Sparrow Farm nursery presented slides of numerous low maintenance perennials. By 'low maintenance' he meant the plant must be long lived, vigorous but non invasive, few disease problems, needing no staking and minimal dividing, deadheading and cleanup. He listed specific varieties that will perform well here in our Midwestern gardens.

Oh yes, the symposium was sponsored by a hosta club. We did hear about hostas! Doug Beilstein made it sound easy to successfully grow those seeds the bees pollinated on your prize hostas. He encouraged us to play Mother Nature and dab a bit of pollen, explaining which parents to choose, how to do it and what to expect from the offspring. He enthusiastically exhorted us to 'give it a try', 'what do you have to lose', and 'it might even be fun'.

The day long event ended with Mark Zilis' yearly selection of a 'hosta of distinction'. This year he departed from his usual selection of a plant to focus on Midwest hybridizers and their introductions. Some names, such as Don Dean and Randy Goodwin, were known to most of us but others were not.

What a wonderful way to spend a cold January weekend.

**'In the depth of winter, I finally learned
that within me there lay an invincible summer'**

Albert Camus

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

Jeff Hall- President
314-845-1551
skyridgegarden@earthlink.net

Pam Wolkowitz - Vice-President
636-274-2211
lovehostas@msn.com

Dave Poos - Treasurer
314-821-1622
dpoos@juno.com

Joan Hummel - Secretary
636-405-2584
HummelJFam@aol.com

Kelly Hall - Webmaster
314-845-1551
skyridgegarden@earthlink.net

Doug Gann – Web Administrator
636-939-9499
d.gann@sbcglobal.net

Joan Poos - Newsletter Editor
314-821-1622
dpoos@juno.com

Phyllis Weidman - Membership
314-965-7027
jpweidman@aol.com

Rick Clarkson - Hospitality
618-462-2540
hostaluv92@yahoo.com

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

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>