



Volume 13, Issue 1

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Phyllis Weidman President
Photo by Kelly Hall

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As we begin 2012, our society begins a year with new officers. We all hope that 2012 will be filled with familiar activities as well as some new and exciting events.

Dave has secured the dates at the Creve Coeur Government Center. We will again do our pot luck lunch in February. There will be the vendors day, plant sale and auction as usual. Dave is busy contacting speakers on a variety of subjects. Any speakers or topics you would like, let him know.

As the saying goes “Many hands make light work”. This is true for the society as well as our lives. We will be asking you all to help make the meetings and events easier for all. We will need people to do the big jobs (being in charge of the auction) and small jobs (calling new members to remind them of the upcoming meeting). I hope when I call, you will say, “Yes, I can do that”.

I again thank you for electing me as your president and I thank Dave Poos, Kelly Hall and Cindy Michniok for serving as my fellow officers. Let’s make this another great year for the St. Louis Hosta Society.

Remember to check your hostas for heaving because of these crazy temperature fluctuations.

Phyllis

2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 19** **Annual Potluck Luncheon**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- March 18** **Meeting with Speaker Bruce Buehrig**
‘The Elements of Shade Gardening’
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- April 15** **Vendor Day and Club Plant Pick-up**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- May 19** **Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden**
Missouri Botanical Garden
- May 20** **Meeting with Speaker Don DeFoe**
‘Using Hosta Leaves in Floral Arrangements’
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- June 2** **Work Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden**
Missouri Botanical Garden
- June 13-16** **American Hosta Society National Convention**
Nashville, Tennessee
For more information: www.hosta2012.com
- July 12-14** **Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention**
Rochester, MN
For information: <http://www.soghs.org/2012mrhsconvention/>
- July 15** **Member Plant Auction**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- September 16** **Meeting with Speaker TBA**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- October 21** **Meeting with Speaker TBA**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- December 2** **Holiday Party**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center

**Pull out your favorite recipe
Shake off the cold and think about spring**

FEBRUARY POTLUCK LUNCHEON MEETING

Sunday, February 19 at 1:00 PM, doors open at 12:30 for socializing

At Creve Coeur Government Center
300 N New Ballas, St Louis 63141
(N New Ballas Rd. between Ladue Rd. and Olive)

The first Society meeting of 2012 will be our annual Potluck Luncheon at Creve Coeur Government Center. Our Hospitality Chair, Barb Moreland, supplies a cold cut and cheese tray with bread and condiments. Members please bring the following: if your last name begins A-M, desserts; N-Z, side dishes or salads.

Stay for a short business meeting during which our new president Phyllis Weidman will give a preview of all the exciting events scheduled this year.

2012 Membership Dues are Payable Now

If you receive the newsletter by postal mail, 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 '11' appears after your name, your dues are paid through the 2011 year and are now payable for 2012.

If you receive the newsletter by e-mail, check the attachment for a list of all members and the year through which their dues are paid. For example, if '11' appears after your name in the attachment list, your dues are paid through the 2011 year and are now payable for 2012.

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:

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

We're not just about Hostas

At the fall Board meeting, members discussed changing the name of the St. Louis Hosta Society newsletter to reflect the full scope of our interests. Over the years, our society has evolved from one whose prime interest was finding and group-purchasing new and unusual hostas to one that is interested in the development of the garden as a whole. While our emphasis is still on hostas, they are not the only plants we embrace.

We wish to entice other shade-loving gardeners to join our society. Those who love conifers, Japanese maples, ferns, heuchera, hydrangeas or any one of the other numerous hosta companion plants bring knowledge that will compliment and expand our own view of shade gardening.

'*Shady Notes*' was selected as the new newsletter name. Kelly Hall designed a masthead that can be used in the newsletter, on our web site and as a letterhead for all correspondence. Kelly also gave our Society's logo an updated look by changing its script and adding more detail to the hosta leaves.

Thanks go to Kelly for all her imaginative work on this project.

Let's Go Green - Give E-mail a Try

In an effort to bring the newsletter to you sooner with color pictures and hi-lights, 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 19th meeting, check the **Member List** to verify that your e-mail address, your postal address and telephone number are correct.

If you prefer to receive the newsletter by regular mail, mark (X) in the box under the 'Don't E-mail Newsletter' column. If you would now prefer an e-mail copy instead of a postal copy make sure your e-mail address is on the **Member List**. If at any time, you change your e-mail address or wish to change your e-mail status, just send an e-mail to SLHS Newsletter Editor Joan Poos at david.poos@att.net.

Coming in March

St. Louis Hosta Society co-founder Bruce Buehrig will take you on a guided tour of his garden as he presents his program 'The Elements of Shade Gardening'.



Holiday Party

No one seemed to notice the rain pouring outside. It certainly didn't damper the spirited talk as our members gathered to bid adieu to another soul-satisfying gardening season.



Following the social hour, members dined on beef covered with cherries and pork glazed with pineapple served by Tim Cancila of "The Gas House Grill". A colorful cake decorated with our society logo satisfied our sweet tooth cravings.

A spirited game of "rob your neighbor" completed the afternoon. A copper mushroom and the iron hose guards proved to be prized items. Despite all the "robbing" that went on, we still left as friends.

Many thanks to Karen Frimel and Martha Lafata for organizing the joyful event, to Rick Clarkson for colorful centerpieces and to all that helped set up and take down.



Members chat during the social hour preceding the delicious lunch catered by 'The Gas House Grill'.



Party chairwoman Karen Frimel and husband Greg talk with Jane Bastien prior to lunch.



Lucky Gail Abernathy – no one managed to rob her of the bright sun/moon plaque.



Members were sure Nancy Tempel could find a place for this cute bird feeder.



Sharon Schmitt was worried about her prize which was in a box labeled "mouse bait".

What's doin' in other hosta societies?

The American Hosta Association has a Local Newsletter Coordinator who, among other duties, collects the email addresses of all local newsletter editors. This information is, in turn, sent to each local editor. This enables local editors to distribute their newsletters to other societies.

Some societies publish a newsletter each month, while others might do two a year. The frequency and timing vary a great deal. I usually receive copies from about 20 different societies. The purpose of a newsletter is to keep local societies abreast of events occurring within their own group. Sometimes these newsletters contain interesting and informative articles which I am free to reproduce within our own newsletter.

A number of years ago when Kelly and Jeff Hall produced the newsletter, they provided a service to members who received the newsletter via email. They compiled a mailing list of members who would like to receive these other newsletters. I will reinstate this service for members who wish it. Whenever I receive a newsletter, I will forward it to members in this special email group. I do not currently send our newsletter to other societies, but will probably do so in the future.

If you would like to receive newsletters of other hosta societies, please send an email to that effect to david.poos@att.net. If at anytime you wish to be removed from the mailing list just send an email to me asking to be deleted.

Species in the Garden

Do we have our mother's blue eyes, our father's left-handedness, or our grandmother's red hair? These are traits that we inherit from those that have gone before us in our family. In plants, genes work in the same way. If we know a hosta's parentage, perhaps we can better grow it in our own garden.

As part of the rejuvenation of its hosta beds, the Missouri Botanical Garden would like to collect and display the 42 different hosta species. Nineteen currently reside in various places in the Garden. Recently the Garden received a donation of an additional twelve from Jim and Barb King of Batavia Illinois. The hunt is on for the remaining eleven. Phyllis Weidman is in talks with Garden staff to develop a plan to display these hostas.



H.nigrescens
photo taken
from AHS
web site

Mark June 2 on your calendar. During our annual work day, we will help locate and plant this important addition to the Garden's hosta collection.

“The President’s Wall”

The St. Louis Hosta Society recently received an email from Mike Shadrack the AHS Vice President Awards and Honors. His message said in part:

“The President and Board of the American Hosta Society would like to honor those members of local hosta societies who have given of their time, skills, energy and enthusiasm over the years – ensuring that their club has run smoothly and efficiently. These are the folks who always turn up early, the people who set out the chairs, who make sure the kettle is switched on, who keep the books in order, know where to find the key, volunteer even when it is raining and always welcome new members with a friendly smile.”

“The American Hosta Society is asking each local Society to nominate a maximum of two such members (per year) to be honored. The nominated person does not have to be a member of the AHS.” “Each year, following the June Board meeting, the AHS will send your Society a signed Certificate of Appreciation that can be presented locally however you wish. Additionally the recipient’s name will appear on the “President’s Wall” on the AHS web site.”

The members who become officers, chair events, volunteer at work days, open their gardens, or always say “Yes, I can” are the backbone of our society. Take a few minutes to think of members in our society who should be so recognized. Email, mail, call or just mention your choices to:

St. Louis Hosta Society President Phyllis Weidman
508 Pointe Essex Ct., Kirkwood, MO 63122
Pow1031@gmail.com or 314-965-7027

If it’s January, it must be the MRHS Winter Scientific Meeting

The forecast of nine inches of snow didn’t keep six members of the St. Louis Hosta Society snug in their southern homes. “How long did it take you to travel those last 30 miles?” started many a conversation. But seeing old hosta friends in the midst of winter, meeting new ones who share our passion and listening to interesting and informative presentations was worth the drive.

Bob Solberg took us behind the scenes, following the path of a hosta from inception to market. He explained the steps involved in creating a new hosta, selecting the best hosta be it seedling or sport, then determining whether that hosta is marketable. It’s quite a journey.

Mark Zilis also took us behind the scenes, giving us insight into the workings of a tissue culture lab. He first stepped back in time to tell of his early work at the University of Illinois and how the process and chemicals used have changed. The views of a modern lab and the extremes taken to insure there was no contamination were impressive.

Roy Klehm talked about his favorite garden plants. Just a glimpse of his beautiful catalog shows he has quite a list. There were spring bulbs, flowering trees, unusual conifers and lots of peonies.

Hour long breakout sessions gave us insight into the steps involved in building a water feature, types of trees best suited to hosta gardens and one hybridizer’s perspective to creating his dream hostas. All in all a delightful way to spend a cold January day.

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

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skyridgegarden@att.net

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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: Barb Schroeder
1819 Coventry Drive
Champaign, IL 61822
mrhs.treasurer@midwesthostasociety.org
Dues: Individual \$20 for two years

St. Louis Hosta Society

Contact: Cindy Michniok
14300 Quiet Meadow Ct.
Chesterfield, MO 63017
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

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>