



Volume 14, Issue 2

March, 2013



**Phyllis Weidman President**

*Photo by Kelly Hall*

## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

If you were not at the last meeting, you missed a great time. We had good attendance, great food, and a fun hosta trivia game. How many of you know a hosta named for a Jerome Kern musical or a hosta named after the food demonstration given by a WareEver sales person? Dave Poos did a wonderful job.

March is already here. It is time to start thinking of spring. Soon the hosta eyes will be peeking out of the ground. We will have many sore muscles from the first work of the year in the garden. That is the way it is every year.

The catalogs are arriving and we are deciding what to put in our gardens. Hosta gardeners want to know which hostas to buy. They all look and sound so great in those catalogs. There are some of us who would remind you how difficult it is to grow those white-centered varieties in our climate, or how long it takes to get a large clump of H. 'Great Expectations' - if one ever does. For this reason I would like our society to put together a list of hostas that grow well in the St. Louis area. I am asking each of you to give me a list of 5-10 hostas that you are growing that don't come up so early you have to worry about frost; that have little slug damage; that survive the heat and still look good (from a distance) in the fall. In our garden one of these would be H. 'Paradise Joyce'. You have your choices.

Part of our mission is education and what a great tool this would be for a new member. This should not take you a long time to do. Take a break from reading those catalogs and think about which hostas you look forward to seeing in your garden. Please send your list to me at [pow1031@gmail.com](mailto:pow1031@gmail.com), or bring it to the next meeting. I will then combine the lists to create a St. Louis Area List.

At our next meeting there will be a guest speaker, Oscar Cross. See article about him in the newsletter. Come early and meet and greet him and the other Society members.

*Phyllis*

## 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>March 17</b>     | <b>Meeting with Speaker Oscar Cross<br/>“Shade Garden Companion Plants”</b><br>1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center |
| <b>April 21</b>     | <b>Vendor Day</b><br>1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center   |
| <b>TBA</b>          | <b>Work Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden</b><br>8 AM, Missouri Botanical Garden, AHS Display Garden beds          |
| <b>May 19</b>       | <b>Garden Walk and Club Plant Pick-up</b><br>Home of Martha Lafata  |
| <b>June 1-2</b>     | <b>Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden</b><br>Missouri Botanical Garden                                       |
| <b>June 13-15</b>   | <b>American Hosta Society National Convention</b><br>Milwaukee, Wisconsin   |
| <b>July 11-13</b>   | <b>Midwest Region Hosta Society Convention</b><br>Lisle, Illinois   |
| <b>July 21</b>      | <b>Members Plant Auction</b><br>1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center  |
| <b>September 15</b> | <b>Meeting with Speaker Rob Mortko<br/>“Hot Hostas for the Cool Shade”</b><br>1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center  |
| <b>October 20</b>   | <b>Meeting with Speaker TBA</b><br>1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center   |
| <b>November TBA</b> | <b>Board Meeting</b><br>TBA   |
| <b>December 1</b>   | <b>Holiday Party</b><br>TBA   |



**Oscar with a favorite garden companion.**

*Photo from the Hilltop Farm website.*

## March 17 Oscar Cross

### “Shade Garden Companion Plants”



**Oscar at his Hosta College vending booth.** *Photo obtained from the Russ O’Harra Hosta Society newsletter July 2011.*

Oscar Cross, the owner with wife Amy, of Hilltop Farm Nursery, has a deep love of all God’s creations. Okay, maybe not slugs. Hilltop Farm opened its doors for business in 1983 as a small retail greenhouse operation. It now contains 12 greenhouses, an acre of cold frames and outdoor production areas, a huge hosta display garden, and land to expand. Plenty of room for those companion plants. Hilltop Farm, located near Springfield MO, offers a wide selection of perennials for shade or sun, as well as exotic tropical plants, orchids, annuals, herbs, and hanging baskets. The shade house is home to hundreds of hosta cultivars, astilbe, bleeding hearts, ferns, hellebores and other shade lovers. Areas within and between the greenhouses are filled with flats of annuals, herbs and other sun lovers. One greenhouse is crammed with tropical plants including about thirty types of beautifully grown Rex Begonias.

February and March are very busy times for the Cross family. They grow 99% of the plants sold. Thousands of unrooted cuttings arrive at their door during these months. Each cutting is dipped in root hormone solution, poked into flats of potting soil, placed on heating benches and kept misted for weeks. Amy puts together hundreds of hanging baskets and pots using small liner plants. By the time the nursery opens for business in the spring, these plants are ready for transplanting into customer yards.

Oscar loves people as much as he loves plants. He is one of the founding fathers of the Greater Ozark Hosta Society, has a spot on the Board of the American Hosta Society and is often a teacher at Hosta College in Ohio. As a vendor at many regional and national hosta conventions as well as local gardening events, Oscar shares his knowledge with new as well as old gardening friends.

Join us on March 17<sup>th</sup> and hear about a companion plant that’s perfect for your garden.

## **Hosta Finder** **A Reference to Retail Prices and Locations**

The 2013 **Hosta Finder** is now available. This publication lists hostas that are currently offered for sale by a number of different growers. Each hosta entry gives a list of nurseries where the plant can be bought and its price. Also given is the Originator/Namer/Introducer/Registrant of the hosta, its registration year and some characteristics of the plant. Information about the nurseries, including mailing addresses, website addresses and telephone numbers is printed in the back.

The cost of the book is \$15 and can be obtained from our treasurer Cindy Michniok. If not sold out, copies will be available at our March meeting.

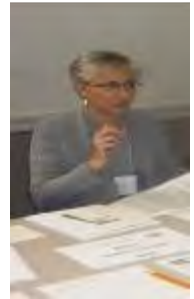
## 2013 Membership Dues are Payable Now

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 '12' appears after your name, your dues are paid through the 2012 year and are now payable for 2013.

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 '12' appears after your name in the attachment list, your dues are paid through the 2012 year and are now payable for 2013.

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**



## WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

**Louis Runkles of Troy Missouri**

We're glad you joined. There are lots of exciting events and speakers, such as Oscar Cross and Rob Mortko, scheduled this year.



## National Hosta Open Garden Day

At the February meeting, Phyllis Weidman discussed the idea of participating in a National Hosta Open Garden Day scheduled for sometime in early June. The idea originated with Bob Solberg, a speaker at the Winter Scientific meeting in January. Its purpose would be to generate more enthusiasm for growing hostas. AHS would help promote the event nationally and our society locally.

Any member with hostas in their yard is asked to open their gardens on that day to friends and neighbors. All you have to do is be home and welcoming. Your garden does not need to be pristine. This is meant to be a fun, relaxing day. You can be working in your garden or sitting on the porch with a glass of lemonade. Just show off your plants and share your knowledge.

Think about participating. More details and a firm date will be forthcoming.

## Foliar Nematode Study

In January, Phyllis Weidman received a letter from the AHS Vice President Genus *Hosta* Rob Mortko requesting contributions for nematode research. This troublesome pest is of great concern to hosta enthusiasts in climates, such as ours, with long growing seasons. AHS wishes to commission a two year project at Ohio State University under the direction of Dr. Parwinder Grewal who has done prior nematode research.



missouribotanicalgarden.org photo

The study purposes to:

- Document other shade perennials that are affected by foliar nematodes – those that would normally be grown in close proximity of hostas.
- Define the entire nematode life cycle and their seasonal movement – how, when, why and where do they move.
- Document when and where eggs are laid and how long they are viable.
- Do efficacy testing of treatments and existing available pesticides.

AHS needs \$100,000 in total but has received a matching grant of \$50,000 from OSU. In the past our society has monetarily supported AHS' HVX research. Nematode control is equally important to us as home gardeners. After member discussion, a motion to donate \$2,000 was made, seconded and approved by the membership. Our treasurer, Cindy Michniok, will issue a check for the contribution.

## President's Wall

Last year the American Hosta Society started a program called the President's Wall "to honor 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".

St. Louis Hosta Society requested that **Nancy and Arlie Tempel** be our first recipients of this honor. Signed "Certificate of Appreciation" were presented to the Tempels at our December Christmas Party. Their names appear on the "**President's Wall**" on the AHS web site.

AHS is asking each local Society to nominate a maximum of two such members to be honored in 2013. The nominated person does not have to be a member of the AHS.

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 either:

**St. Louis Hosta Society President Phyllis Weidman**  
**508 Pointe Essex Ct., Kirkwood, MO 63122**  
[Pow1031@gmail.com](mailto:Pow1031@gmail.com) or 314-965-7027

Or

**Newsletter Editor Joan Poos**  
[david.poos@att.net](mailto:david.poos@att.net)



**So many dishes to choose from!**

## **If it's February, It must be a potluck!**

Members were ready to shed their winter cocoons and start thinking about spring. The February potluck luncheon is always a very popular event. Our hosta gardeners are good cooks and love to eat.



**What are this year's activities?  
Volunteers needed?**

The buffet table was anchored by plates of beef brisket and chicken salad sandwiches put together by our Hospitality chair Barb Moreland. A vast array of salads and side dishes followed in line. A delicious lettuce salad with lots of goodies sat next to two colorful, fluffy jello salads. An unusual and very tasty curried cauliflower paired with a scoop of wild rice studded with dried cranberries filled in the gaps on my plate.

Most members saved room for dessert. This decision was hard – there was too much to try one of each. Would it be that moist chocolate cake topped with toasted coconut or maybe a chocolate chip cookie or one of those macaroons? That berry pie looked tempting. As we munched on our sweets, Phyllis discussed the various events scheduled for this gardening year.

During the luncheon, a slide show created by Kelly Hall played in the background. The hosta pictures were wonderful, but I can't say the same for those black snakes hanging from the tree branches.

The afternoon concluded with a short hosta trivia game, put together by our Vice President Dave Poos. Some of the questions we should have known while others were just plain silly. It was all meant to be fun. However, competitive juices flowed and the scores were close until the last round when table 3 pulled ahead. Everyone had a good time even if they couldn't guess the hosta name that was the same as an Elvis Presley movie.



**Joan and Larry Hummel and the Redecker clan – Kevin, Harry, Ellen and Mara -mull over trivia questions.**



**The winning table, Mellisa Byrd, Karen Frimel, Jolly Ann Whitener, Marian Murphy, Kelly and Jeff Hall Jim and Phyllis Weidman, check their prizes - \$10 coupons for more hostas!**

## St. Louis Hosta Society Club Plants

Each year the St. Louis Hosta Society compiles a list of plants that can be purchased by members for wholesale prices. This is one of the perks of belonging to this society. Enclosed at the end of this newsletter is the SLHS Club Plant Sale order form for 2013. Listed are fifteen selections from Naylor Creek Nursery. The selections include something for everyone – mini, small, medium and large, in combinations of green, blue and gold. You can look them up at either of these web sites: <http://www.naylorcreek.com> or <http://www.hostalibrary.org>

Please fill out the form indicating the number of plants of each type that you wish to order. Total your order. Then bring the form with your check to the March meeting. Make your check out to St. Louis Hosta Society.

If you are unable to attend the March meeting, mail the form with your check to our plant sale chairwoman, Jean Hudson. **Deadline is March 17.**

**Jean Hudson**  
**361 South Maple**  
**Webster Groves, MO 63119**

This year all plants will be given out at the May 19 Garden Walk at Martha Lafata's home. More information will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

### Looking for that special hosta?

Maybe it's H. 'June'



or H. 'Sagae'



or popular H. 'Blue Mouse Ears'



At the February meeting, our president Phyllis Weidman started a hosta wish list for the membership. Members can write down hostas that are on their wish lists in hopes that someone will bring those plants to the auction. Members donating plants for the auction or for the MoBot sale can then check this list and include

some of those plants if they have them in their yards. The list will be at every meeting prior to the date of the auction scheduled for July 21.

# SLHS Club Plant Sale – 2013



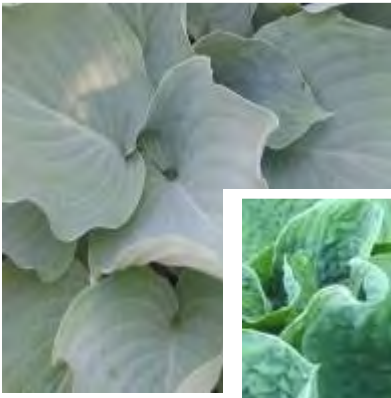
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Description</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<b><u>Astral Bliss</u></b> <M> (Dean) Very intense blue-green leaves are held upright, creating a low mound (12") with lots of "flare". Its blue color holds late into the season on both sides of the thick, wavy pointed leaves, which arrange themselves in a layered star pattern. Lavender flowers in August. .... <b>\$10.00</b>	_____	_____
<b><u>Bam Bam Blue</u></b> <L> (Schulz) Very blue corrugated dinner-sized leaves display some cupping and a little waviness. This hosta forms an upright clump and holds its color late into the season. White flowers in late June. .... <b>\$10.00</b>	_____	_____
<b><u>Ben Vernooij PPAF</u></b> <M> (Fransen/Vernooij) Striking tetraploid form of H. 'First Frost'. Unbelievably thick blue leaves have a very wide feathered creamy-yellow border. Large lavender flowers. Named for the deceased brother of Paul Vernooij of Holland, a donation will be made to the Cancer Foundation for each plant sold. .... <b>\$9.00</b>	_____	_____
<b><u>Curly Fries</u></b> <S> (Solberg) Interesting plant with extremely ruffled narrow leaves that emerge yellow and slowly turn to near-white. Best grown in a half day of sun. Deep purple scapes topped with lavender flowers. .... <b>\$9.00</b>	_____	_____
<b><u>Dancing Mouse</u></b> <Mini> (Fransen) A H. 'Blue Mouse Ears' sport with thick blue-green leaves that have a wavy yellowish-green border that darkens to pale green as the season progresses. Topped with lavender flowers. .... <b>\$9.00</b>	_____	_____
<b><u>Golden Meadows PPAF</u></b> <M> (van Elderen) This sport of H. sieboldiana 'Elegans' has an outstanding color combination –light green leaves with dark green margins and medium green steaks between the two colors. Super substance and white flowers in summer. .... <b>\$9.00</b>	_____	_____
<b><u>Happy Dayz</u></b> <M> (Naylor Creek Nursery) A sport of H. 'Orange Marmalade' with thick leaves having a bluish-green border and bright yellow leaf center that fades to a parchment color. A unique and interesting hosta. .... <b>\$10.00</b>	_____	_____
<b><u>Frisian Pride</u></b> <M> (Bate Aukema) This hosta will make you want to buy gold! Long, rippled yellow-gold leaves reach upward, outward and back down to the ground creating a dense mound that can be seen from across the garden. Best color when the plant gets some late afternoon sun. Pale lavender flowers. .... <b>\$11.00</b>	_____	_____
<b><u>Frisian Waving Steel</u></b> <M> (Bate Aukema) This outstanding hosta, a hybrid from H. 'Grand Slam' and H. 'Sky Dancer' has extremely thick blue-green leaves with radically rippled margins. The elegant leaves layer on top of each other creating a tight mound. Lavender flowers in midsummer. <b>Limited</b> . .... <b>\$18.00</b>	_____	_____
<b><u>Irish Luck</u></b> <L> (LaLonde) This stunning plant makes a large vase-shaped clump of very SHINY (on top and underneath) dark green leaves with deeply impressed veins and rippled edges. Fragrant, lavender flowers. .... <b>\$9.00</b>	_____	_____
<b><u>Neptune PPAF</u></b> <M> (Hansen) Cascading, wedge-shaped blue-green leaves with a wonderful rippled margin are topped with lavender flowers in August on arching scapes. .... <b>\$9.00</b>	_____	_____
<b><u>Parisian Silk</u></b> <M> (Dean) Makes a silky smooth neat mound of nearly round hearts. Intense blue color with a concentration of silver wax in the center of the leaf gives a faint halo effect. Rose scapes. <b>Limited</b> .... <b>\$18.00</b>	_____	_____
<b><u>Rhino Hide PPAF</u></b> <M> (Rawson) The leaves are deeply cupped, have lots of puckering and so thick they feel like plastic. Strong petioles hold leaves having bright green centers framed with a wide blue border. .... <b>\$10.00</b>	_____	_____
<b><u>Tongue Twister</u></b> <S> (Solberg) Shiny dark green leaves twist upward and outward always maintaining a fresh appearance. Good substance. Vigorous grower. Pale lavender flowers in early fall. .... <b>\$10.00</b>	_____	_____
<b><u>Volcano Island PPAF</u></b> <M> (Fransen) This tetraploid form of H. 'Paradise Island' has thick upright leaves which showoff the cherry red petioles. The color reaches up into the leaves. Lavender flowers. .... <b>\$10.00</b>	_____	_____

**TOTAL**

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**Astral Bliss**



**Bam Bam Blue**



**Ben Vernooij**



**Curly Fries**



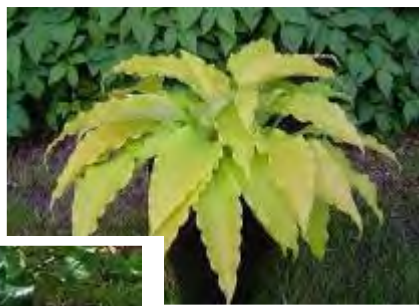
**Dancing Mouse**



**Golden Meadows**



**Happy Dayz**



**Frisian Pride**



**Frisian Waving Steel**



**Irish Luck**



**Neptune**



**Parisian Silk**



**Rhino Hide**



**Tongue Twister**



**Volcano Island**

## St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

**Phyllis Weidman** – President

314-965-7027

[Pow1031@gmail.com](mailto:Pow1031@gmail.com)

**Kelly Hall** – Secretary

[skyridgegarden@att.net](mailto:skyridgegarden@att.net)

**Karen Frimel** – Membership

[cckmf@aol.com](mailto:cckmf@aol.com)

**Barb Moreland** – Hospitality

314-961-4191

[Bmore433@aol.com](mailto:Bmore433@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)

**Kelly Hall** – Webmaster

[skyridgegarden@att.net](mailto:skyridgegarden@att.net)

**Joan Poos** – Newsletter Editor

314-821-1622

[david.poos@att.net](mailto:david.poos@att.net)

## St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

**Contact:**

Cindy Michniok

14300 Quiet Meadow Ct.

Chesterfield, MO 63017

[Cmichniok@gmail.com](mailto:Cmichniok@gmail.com)

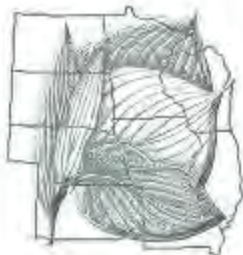
**Dues:**

\$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. Our mission is to promote education, research, development and enjoyment of Hosta.

Membership in the society is \$20.00 for 2 years, which includes two issues per year of the newsletter. This publication reports on events and information on Hostas in general.

Please mail a check made payable to MRHS to:

Kristine James  
523 E Calhoun St.  
Woodstock, IL 60098

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/>