



Volume 15, Issue 2

March, 2014



Phyllis Weidman President
Photo by Kelly Hall

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

When you read this, hopefully there will be a hint of spring in the air. It has been quite a winter!

Hot or cold the society is busy. The pot luck lunch was great thanks to Mike and Sharon Schmitt and all who brought food. Next year we will need more sides and vegetables, but who could ever fault having too many desserts.

Our first meeting is always busy because there are lots of things to tell the members. Dues are due, club plant sale forms need to be submitted to Ted, orders for shirts sent to Kelly.

Thanks to Kelly the shirt procedure is simple. Order and pay for your shirt or shirts, and at the next meeting you will have your order. This can be done anytime throughout the year. See additional information in the newsletter.

The most important item to decide and discuss was hosting the 2016 American Hosta Society National Convention. It was voted that we host the convention. Chick and Bruce Buehrig have agreed to be chairpersons. This will be lots of work for our group, but if everyone says "yes" to even the smallest job, we will get it done. Chick and Bruce are in the process of finding a hotel and chairs of the many committees that will be needed to hold the convention. Remember, the correct answer is "YES" when you are asked.

The year ahead is full of activities. There will be guest speakers, garden walks, vendors' sales, plant sales, work days, a plant auction, and a holiday party, all with great food and friends together. Try to attend; you may be surprised that the friendship plant can create good and lasting friendships.

Phyllis

2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 16** **Meeting with Speaker Bruce Buehrig**
“Garden Design Using Hostas”
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- April 26** **Work Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden**
8 AM, Missouri Botanical Garden, AHS Display Garden beds
- April 27** **Vendor Day and Club Plant Pick-up**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- May 10-11** **Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden**
Missouri Botanical Garden
- May 18** **Garden Walk in Member’s Garden**
1:00 PM, Home of Basil & Sandy Honaker, Jr.
Lake Saint Louis, MO
- June 11-14** **American Hosta Society National Convention**
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- June 22** **Garden Walk at Missouri Botanical Garden**
TBA
- June 26-28** **Midwest Region Hosta Society Convention**
Green Bay, Wisconsin
- July 20** **Members Plant Auction**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- September 21** **Meeting with Speaker Mark Zilis**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- October 19** **Meeting with Speaker TBA**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- November TBA** **Board Meeting**
TBA
- December 7** **Holiday Party**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center



Bruce Buehrig
photo by Kelly Hall

March 16
“Garden Design Using Hostas”
Presented by Bruce Buehrig

Bruce Buehrig, co-founder and current member of our St. Louis Hosta Society, has taught classes in hosta culture at the Missouri Botanical Garden and regularly speaks at local nurseries and garden clubs about shade gardening. Bruce and his wife Chick have created an exquisite garden on their shaded two-acre hillside. Their yard has served as a tour destination for the national daffodil, Japanese iris, daylily and hosta conventions.

At a 2012 meeting, Bruce introduced us to the “Elements of Shade Gardening”. In that program he described the many types of shade as well as particular plants and natural features that can be used to enhance the shaded areas of our gardens.

At our March meeting, Bruce will describe ways of incorporating hostas into a good garden design. He is quite familiar with this topic. His photograph of one of the water features in his own garden won in the 2012 AHS “LANDSCAPE Involving Hostas” category. The accompanying article in *The Hosta Journal* praised Bruce’s composition.

Don’t miss this peek at one of St. Louis’ finest gardens.



This photo of a large pond and waterfall in his yard was Bruce Buehrig’s award winning entry in the 2012 AHS photography contest.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Mario Carlos of Clayton, Missouri

We’re glad you came to the potluck and hope to see you at more events this year.

Hosta Finder
A Reference to Retail Prices and Locations

The 2014 *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.

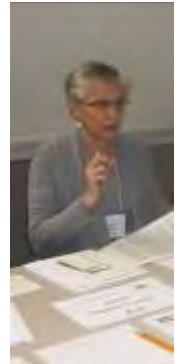
2014 Membership Dues are Payable Now

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 '13' appears after your name, your dues are paid through the 2013 year and are now payable for 2014.

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 '13' appears after your name in the attachment list, your dues are paid through the 2013 year and are now payable for 2014.

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



Did You See!

In the March 2014 issue of *St. Louis Homes and Lifestyles* is a wonderful article written by Lucyann Boston. The title, "Garden Generosity", aptly describes the personalities of two of our members, Pat Payton and Jean Hudson.

Long time members, these ladies freely give of their time, plants and gardening knowledge, not only to our society but to their community. People like Pat and Jean are the backbone of our club. We couldn't exist without their kind. Year in and year out they happily volunteer and they donate. Thanks for all you do!



This 2011 photo shows Pat's and Jean's English Tutor home. The front yard is extensively landscaped with the hostas, ferns and shade-loving plants they both dearly love.

Phyllis' Hosta Tip for the Month

With the repeated cycles of freezing and thawing, the water in the soil expands and contracts. Hostas, as well as other perennials, push and turn, heaving their crowns out of the soil. They push out of the soil breaking roots and exposing other roots which are then harmed by cold temperatures and drying winds. If you find you have this problem, cover the exposed roots with a layer of soil.

2014 Starts with our annual Potluck Luncheon



Hospitality chair
Sharon Schmitt



Members eagerly wait to sample Sharon's and Mike's barbecued pulled chicken and beef. Broccoli, carrot and pea salad, baked beans and corn were among the side dishes. The alphabet seemed a bit skewed toward desserts this year, but who's complaining.



Hospitality chair
Mike Schmitt



Jolly Ann Whitener and Bruce Buehrig talk with Diana and Craig Plahn. It seems such a long time since we've been together. There was a lot to talk about – plans for a new gardening year, newly ordered hostas, possible problems caused by the long cold winter and of course the 2016 convention.



Chester and Pam Wolkowitz catch up on society events with Phyllis Weidman and Rick Clarkson. It's good to have you back Chester!



Mary Lou Farrow, Andrea Michalak, Marian Murphy, Betty Luaders and Phil Brammer enjoy the various dishes.



Dave Poos leads a silly game of Hosta Bingo.

Our gardening season has officially started.

Hopefully Mother Nature will start cooperating.

Thanks to all who came!

How much is enough?

Glancing through the May 2011 newsletter of the Northwest Indiana Hosta Society I came across an article that is apropos at this time of year. Most of us use some form of mulch to control weeds, retain moisture and keep the soil cooler during our long, hot summers.

The American Hosta Society recommends not applying more than 2-3" of mulch. Too much can lead to vole problems by providing a covering that is warm and easy to tunnel through. Keep the mulch away from the petioles to avoid rot and other diseases.

But how do I know how much to buy? Use the following calculations.

Length in feet X Width in feet = Total square feet

Length in feet X Width in feet X Depth in feet = Total cubic feet

The most commonly sold bags contain about 2 cubic feet

27 cubic feet = One cubic yard

One cubic yard will fill roughly 1/2 a pick-up truck bed

Example: A hosta bed 10 feet by 12 feet with a 3 inch layer of mulch

$10 \times 12 \times .25 = 30$ cubic feet

Divide by 2 = 15 2 cubic foot bags

Divide by 3 = 10 3 cubic foot bags

One cubic yard will cover 160 square ft at a depth of 2"

One cubic yard will cover 108 square ft at a depth of 3"

One 2 cubic foot bag will cover 7 or 8 square feet at 3" deep

One 3 cubic foot bag will cover 10 square ft at a depth of 2"



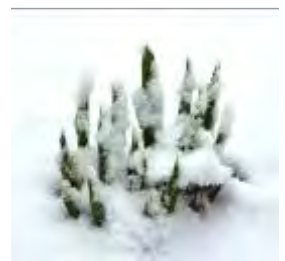
Open Position

Long time hosta society members Kelly and Jeff Hall are starting to pack up their kit and fly away to the Great Northwest. Over the years the Halls have worn many different society hats. Currently Kelly is Secretary, Web Administrator and Webmaster.

These positions do not require a lot of time, but do need a bit of expertise. If anyone has web site experience and would be willing to volunteer a bit of their time, please email Phyllis Weidman Pow1031@gmail.com or Kelly Hall skyridgegarden@att.net.

Spring in St. Louis can be balmy or it can be ... well snowy

Hard to believe right now, but soon we will be saying goodbye to the white stuff. Each day we will be glancing at our beds awaiting the emergence of those first hosta pips. While you are at it, check to see if your clumps could be divided. Consider donating a piece to your hosta society for the May MoBot plant sale or the July member auction. Can't dig – we can help you with that too. Contact Phyllis Weidman Pow1031@gmail.com and say "I've got plants for you."



H. 'Rufus Rider' 2011

Need to get away from hot, steamy St. Louis? Consider attending a national or regional hosta convention

June 11 - 14, 2014 --- AHS Convention – Cedar Rapids, Iowa

“Czech It Out”. Gather for a few days of hostas, friends, food and talk! The reason we chose the theme 'Czech it Out!' for this convention is the high percentage of Czech ancestry here in Cedar Rapids and the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library that is located in our city. There will be 9 gardens on our tour, plus Noelridge Gardens...just across the street from the hotel. We are offering one bus for those that enjoy the ride, but if you want to drive, you can do that too. More information and a registration form can be found at <http://harshbargerhostasociety.weebly.com>

June 26 – 28, 2014 --- Midwest Regional Convention in Green Bay, Ws

“Hostas by the Bay”. The lineup of activities for the three days includes tours of six outstanding private gardens, an auction of hostas of all colors, some will be our team colors of green and gold. Seminars will be quarterbacked by local and nationally recognized hosta experts. An afternoon tour of the Green Bay Botanical Garden followed by a supper tailgate party will serve as a kickoff to the Hosta Auction back at the hotel. If you don't score at the Auction, there will be ten vendors available throughout the convention to offer a wide selection of new and old favorite hosta plants, conifers and yard art. An optional tour to Door County for a fish boil is available. More information and a registration form is available at <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org/convention.html>

It's time to update our wardrobes

Our Society Board decided it's time to retire those red tee shirts from the 2008 convention and the even older but still good army green shirts from the 2003 convention.

Secretary Kelly Hall has volunteered to spearhead this project. This year two styles will be offered. One is a lime green polo shirt (the only color available), the other a long-sleeve denim blue shirt. Both styles will be embroidered with our Society logo. There will be sample shirts at the March meeting. The order form appears at the end of this newsletter.

Simply fill out the form indicating the desired type, size, quantity and cost.

Under the column “Specify Item # & Mens/Ladies”, use one of the codes listed.

- For Men's polo, use code K500, for Ladies polo, use code L500
- For Men's denim shirt, use code S600, for Ladies denim shirt, use code L600D

The ladies denim shirt is fitted, the polo is not. Sizes available are:

- Men and Ladies S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL
- Tall men ST, MT, LT, 2XLT

Bring your form and check made payable to “St. Louis Hosta Society” to the next meeting or mail to

**Kelly Hall
12473 Robyn Rd
Sunset Hills, MO 63127**

Pre-payment is required. The items will be ready 7-10 days after receipt of order and available for pick up at the next hosta meeting.

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

Phyllis Weidman – President
314-965-7027
Pow1031@gmail.com

Kelly Hall – Secretary
skyridgegarden@att.net

Sharon and Mike Schmitt – Hospitality
314-719-9305
Sharons39@aol.com

Dave Poos – Vice-President
314-821-1622
david.poos@att.net

Cindy Michniok – Treasurer
314-434-0946
Cmichniok@gmail.com

Kelly Hall – Webmaster
skyridgegarden@att.net

Joan Poos – Newsletter Editor
314-821-1622
david.poos@att.net

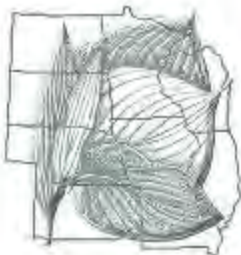
St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

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



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.



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/>