



Volume 21, Issue 2

March, 2020



President
Phyllis Weidman

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

What a great beginning. I never thought chili came in so many different tastes and looks. Thanks to all who made the chili and to all who came to eat it. Just when you thought you had had enough chili you had to try the salads, side dishes and desserts. We are a group of excellent cooks. Thanks to all.

It is the time of year to get a spring itch. The warmer days make you want to get out and start gardening, but as we all know winter is not over yet. Patience is the word for now.

However, you can make sure all equipment is ready to go, cleaned and serviced if necessary. Have all your supplies ordered or purchased. I spend time outdoors picking up sticks, racking leaves that have collected in corners and checking the beds for moles, voles or hostas that have heaved. Be ready!

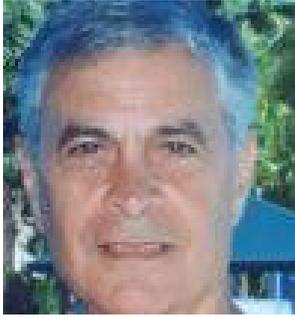
Moles usually don't bother with hostas but they do make a mess of your beds. Moles are looking for worms and grubs to eat. I have been told that voles sometimes use the mole tunnels to get to the hosta roots. I feel that voles do very well at getting to the hostas even if you don't have moles. If voles are a problem in your garden and have attacked a hosta, weather permitting, simply dig up the hosta, remove all badly damaged root and replant the hosta. I usually replant out of sight because it could take many seasons before the hosta looks as great as it did.

Spring will come. The society has lots of events to help you. Come to the meeting! Get friendly help from the members. Don't be afraid to ask!

Phyllis

2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 15** Meeting with Wally Cammarata
‘Understanding the Shade Environment’
1:30 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- April 26** Vendor Day
1:30 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- May 2** Work Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden
8:00 AM, Missouri Botanical Garden,
AHS Display Garden beds
- May 15-17** Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden
Setup May 15, 4:00 PM
Sale May 16-17, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Missouri Botanical Garden
- May** Garden Walk/Meeting/Demonstration
Time and location TBA
- June 10-13** AHS National Convention
Minneapolis, MN
- June** Garden Walk/Meeting
Time and location TBA
- July 12** Bus trip to Hornbaker Gardens Nursery
Pick-up time and point TBA
- July 16-18** Midwest Regional Hosta Convention
Lisle, IL
- August 16** Members Plant Auction
1:30 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- September 20** Meeting with Speaker Gene Bush
‘Hosta Buddies’
1:30 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- October 18** Meeting with Speaker TBA
1:30 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- November** Board Meeting
Time and location TBA



Wally Cammarata

missouribotanicalgarden.org

March 20 meeting

1:30 PM Creve Coeur Government Center

Wally Cammarata

‘Understanding the Shade Environment’

Shade occurs in our gardens whenever some object comes between the sun and our plants. That object could be the dense canopy of an oak or elm tree, the airy branches of a honey locust or birch, the wall of a house or the shade-cloth over a pergola.

But more is going on than just the blockage of that direct, scorching sunlight. Shade changes the micro climate in the shaded area making the air cooler and more humid. We’ve all noticed this when a cloud temporarily floats in front of the sun or we walk on the shady side of the street. This change in temperature in turn allows the soil to retain a more constant level of moisture.

We have heard that hostas are shade-tolerant or even shade-loving plants, but they actually need a bit of sunlight to thrive. Exactly what kind of shade is required and how much. Wally Cammarata from the St. Louis Speakers Bureau will explore the shade environment at our March meeting and have answers to these questions.

A Master Gardener since 2003, Mr. Cammarata volunteers at the Butterfly House teaching butterfly biology during the winter and at the St. Louis Botanical Garden Kemper Center’s outside gardens during the summer. His hobbies include experimenting with new plantings around his home and a weekly golf game. He admits his horticultural skills are better than his golf.

In a past life, Wally was a New York Yankee minor leaguer for five years. We promise not to hold that against him! An MBA graduate of St. Louis University, he worked in operations for McGraw-Hill Book Co and was a part-time consultant for a plastic firm - quite a varied career.

**** 2020 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 ‘19’ appears after your name, your dues are paid through the 2019 year and are now payable for 2020.

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 ‘19’ appears after your name in the attachment list, your dues are paid through the 2019 year and are now payable for 2020.

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:

David Poos
9904 Crestwood Drive
Crestwood, MO 63126

Member Plant Sale

The St. Louis Hosta Society Club Plant Sale Chairman, Basil Honaker, has compiled a list of plants that can be purchased by members at discounted prices. This is not a fund raiser, but 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 2020. Listed are 12 selections from Brian Kniffin's *Hostas on the Bluff* nursery. The selections include something for everyone – mini, small, medium, large and giant in combinations of green, blue and gold. The hostas are at least two years old and will be potted. The large and x-large will be in one gallon pots. Each plant should have from two to four eyes.

The deadline for plant orders is March 15. If any of the plants are in limited quantities, your requests will be filled in the order in which Basil receives your forms. 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 money to the March meeting. **Make your check out to St. Louis Hosta Society.**

If you are unable to attend the meeting, mail the form with your check to our Plant Sale Chairman Basil Honaker, Jr. Any questions, contact Basil

Basil Honaker, Jr
1632 Westshyre Drive
Lake St Louis, MO 63367
honabn@charter.net or 636-332-1726

This year, all plants will be given out at the April 26 Vendor Day event.

April Vendor Day Update

Jolly Ann Whitener, Vendor Day Chairwoman, reports that there is room at the event for two more vendors. This is always a popular event and an opportunity for some crafter to present their wares to the public. Their products do not need to be plants but they should have some garden theme items available. Normally three hosta/plant nurseries, a hardware store that sells garden supplies and a crafter or two make up the vendors. This is a Sunday afternoon event. There is no charge to the vendors for their space or to the public for admittance.

If you know of someone or have seen someone at a local craft show that you think might be a fit for our event, send the vendor's name to your Newsletter Editor or to Jolly Ann. Jolly Ann will be delighted to contact the seller.

Jolly Ann Whitener, Chairwoman **jawhit6@gmail.com** **636-240-5068**

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

FEBRUARY - SOUP AND CHILI LUNCHEON



What a choice! Seven chilies were entered into the competition. There was traditional hamburger and bean, creamy buffalo chicken, Mexican crockpot chicken, vegetarian, slow-cooked chili with sausage, spicy white chicken and Budweiser (I wonder what the secret ingredient is). To compliment your soup was a spinach salad with red peppers, a colorful cabbage slaw, cornbread, savory crackers, grapes and delicious cookies, brownies and pies.



First there was the tasting. Pot Luck Chair, Melinda Ligon, supplied small sampling cups. Members took a bit of each soup, then compared their taste sensations with others. Each person placed their voting tally in the blue glass in front of each chili pot. Hard to believe, but there was a tie – Dave Poos' traditional Hamburger and Bean and Phyllis Weidman's Buffalo Chicken were the 'People's Choice'.

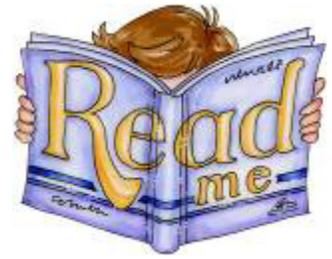


Lunch was followed by a brief meeting in which new President Phyllis Weidman outlined the events scheduled for this gardening year. After the formal meeting, Phyllis presented 'Hosta 101', a short discussion of garden topics that are relevant at this time of year. This afternoon, Phyllis talked about the importance of attacking our slug problems head on, right now. Because of our mild winters, these pests are already stirring. Several questions posed by the members were answered. Rhoda Parker won the door prize, a birdhouse made by Basil Honaker.

Many thanks to Melinda Ligon for organizing this fun afternoon!

Magazine and Book Exchange

On chilly evenings or dreary rainy afternoons or even a sunny day after all the work is done, it's nice to curl up in a comfortable chair with a good book or magazine. How many of us have beautiful and inspirational gardening magazines and books that we read once and then discard in the recycle box?



A member suggested, and the Board agreed, that we ought to institute a magazine/book exchange. Bring in your old copies of ***Fine Gardening, Birds & Bloom, The Hosta Journal, Horticulture, Garden Gate*** or any other such reading material, place on the lending table, then take something that looks interesting to you. We'll set aside a table at each meeting for this purpose. This is stress free – no need to subscribe, no need to return if you don't wish. Enjoy informative and educational articles, how-to tips or just look at the pretty pictures and dream.

We are in need of ...

A person savvy in social media activities. Our web-site needs an overhaul. It was created years ago using software that is now obsolete. The Board would like to update/replace it with a product that is more user-friendly. We would also like to establish a presence on Instagram. Do you speak the jargon? Do you possess the skills? Do you know someone who does? Please contact Phyllis or any other officer. Phone numbers and email addresses are on the last page of the newsletter



We would like to have ...

An auctioneer for our annual Member Auction which this year will be held at the Creve Coeur Government Center on August 16. Are you or someone you know enthusiastic and have a good sense of humor. Knowledge of hostas is a plus but not necessary as there are plenty of people in our society that can comment on the growing traits of most cultivars. If you can help, please contact Chairman David Birenbaum at: 314-650-5200 or dbirenbaum@sbcglobal.net



"We joined for the plants, we stayed for the people." So often we hear this saying. But it's true. The hosta is called the 'Friendship plant'. Although I hate admitting this, us older members are growing older. Our younger members may lack knowledge. So, let's extend the hand of friendship to each other. If you are in need of a little help in your garden or need some garden advice, reach out. Members of the Board will try to match you up with someone who can help. Bring your questions to our meetings. Someone is bound to know the answer or how to find it. If you have a suggestion for a 'Hosta 101' topic, pass it along to Phyllis.

Friendship



It'll Be Exciting! Sunday July 12 Bus Trip to Hornbaker Gardens

Established in 1987, Hornbaker Gardens started as a wholesale nursery owned and operated by Rich and Kathy Hornbaker. Today, a retail business, it's still family owned and operated by Rich, son David and daughter Molly. This wondrous place specializes in hostas, perennials, daylilies, irises, aquatic plants, grasses, traditional Illinois trees, and shrubs. Over the years it has grown into more than just a business; it's a destination. In addition to a sales center, it is home to thriving, beautiful gardens with walking paths, benches, ponds, bridges, gazebos and locally made garden sculptures.

On Sunday July 12, Hornbaker Gardens is hosting an event featuring hosta expert Bob Solberg of Green Hill Farm in North Carolina. Bob spoke at our September 2019 meeting. Hosta hybridizing has been a passion of Bob's for almost 30 years. He has introduced about 100 hostas to date. You may have 'Guacamole', 'Orange Marmalade', 'Frozen Margarita' or 'Curly Fries' in your garden.

On this particular Sunday, Hornbaker's will be open from 10 am to 5 pm. The schedule for their special event is:

- 10 am to noon – A Meet and Greet with Bob Solberg in the garden center
- 11:30 – 12:30 – Lunch in the event center
- 1:00 pm - 'Growing Hostas in Containers at Home and in Japan' – a presentation by Bob Solberg.

In addition, there will be door prizes, a photo contest, \$2.00 off all hostas, a floral arrangement contest featuring one or more hosta leaves, and more.

Hornbaker Gardens is located in Princeton, Illinois about a three hour drive from St. Louis. Our society is planning to charter a bus for this all day event. The Board needs to know if you are interested. **We need some volunteers to help with the planning and execution of this trip.** Bus trips are a lot of fun. It is a great time to get to know other gardeners, plus visiting an exceptional hosta nursery. Just think, none of the stress of driving and plenty of room to bring back lots of plants or even a tree or two.

Contact any officer – their email/phone information is at the end of this newsletter. Talk with any Board member at the March meeting.



Hosta glade path



Mature hosta clumps in the glade



Hosta and perennials for sale.

Welcome New Member

Adam Leigh of Webster Groves MO

We're glad you have joined and hope to see you at the March meeting,

It's That Time of Year – They're Back!

The forecast for this coming weekend is for temperatures in the 60s, a virtual heat wave for the first of March. We avid gardeners have been waiting for months for this moment. But we are not the only ones waiting. Slugs! All those overwintering slug eggs are now hatching and any slugs that have survived the winter are beginning to feed regularly and lay even more eggs.



photo: missouribotanicalgarden.org

As Phyllis Weidman explained in her February 'Hosta 101' presentation, now is the time to go through your pest deterrent compounds and chemicals. There are a number of natural controls that can be used against slugs such as egg shells, coffee grounds, garlic spray, hair, spun wool, diatomaceous earth, ammonia solutions and beer. Slugs do not like crawling over sharp surfaces. Like many of their human predators, they are attracted to beer and will crawl into a container and drown. The effectiveness of all these depends upon your conscious and continuous efforts.

There are two primary types of chemical slug bait, those with metaldehyde as the primary ingredient and those with iron phosphate. Both types also contain additives such as yeast to lure the slugs and snails to the bait. Either works well and neither, when used as directed, constitutes significant danger to humans, pets and wildlife. A commonly used brand is SLUGGO and recently introduced SLUGGO PLUS. SLUGGO PLUS contains an added substance called spinosad. This is a substance derived from a bacterium found in the soil and is effective in killing sowbugs, cutworms, thirps and other insects.

Spinosad is an ingredient in many sprays used by farmers and orchard to control crop pests such as thirps and fruit flies. Numerous studies have been done to test the toxicity of spinosad to bees. According to several internet articles on the subject, the collective evidence from these studies indicates that once spinosad residues have dried on plant foliage, generally three hours or less, the risk to honeybees is negligible. The majority of studies conducted have indicated that spinosad does not adversely affect honeybee behavior, brood or queen. When used according to the approved product label recommendations, it would be safe to foraging worker bees, queen and brood. Note that SLUGGO PLUS is not a spray, but a granular substance that is scattered on the ground.

For metaldehyde and iron phosphate baits, all that is necessary is to evenly apply the bait over the infested area at the rate recommended on the product label. More is not better. In about two or three weeks, apply the bait again. This will take out many of the slugs hatched from eggs after the first application. Applied properly, more treatments will probably not be necessary until late fall when a final application should be applied to knock down the slug population prior to onset of winter. This must be done each year.

Whether you use slug baits or organic controls, **the key is to get started early**, just as the pips are emerging from the soil. Waiting until holes appear is much too late – many generations of slugs are already thriving in your garden.

SLHS Club Plant Sale – 2020



Name: _____ Telephone: _____ Check #: _____

<u>Description</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<u>Age of Gold</u> <Large (28"ht x 79"w)> (H. Hansen 2018) This hosta forms a giant clump of large, round, slightly corrugated gold leaves. It looks like someone placed the sun in your garden. Plant in morning sun or filtered shade for best gold color. White tubular flowers on 4 foot stalks in mid-summer. \$17.00	_____	_____
<u>Blueberry Muffin</u> <Med (14"ht x 36"w)> (B. Meyer - NR) This excellent new blue hosta is a strong grower and reliable performer. It forms a medium sized mound of large, blue rounded leaves that are rugose and puckered in unusual patterns. Late in the season the leaves transition to green. Attractive light mauve speckles appear in the petioles. \$13.00	_____	_____
<u>Colored Hulk</u> <Med (16"ht x 24"w)> (G. Heemskerk 2011) A medium variegated hosta with chartreuse leaves with wispy dark green margins. The leaves are thick and slightly cupped and their bright color will surely draw admirers. Lavender bell-shaped flowers appear in mid-summer. \$16.00	_____	_____
<u>Emma Rose</u> <Giant (33"ht x 69"w)> (Miller/Kniffin NR) A beautiful giant with bright wide yellow-green leaves. New to the market. A Jeff Miller seedling, it was grown by Brian Kniffin of 'Hostas on the Bluff' and named for his daughter. This one-of-a-kind is a true eye catcher. \$32.00	_____	_____
<u>Fire Island</u> <Med (14"ht x 30"w)> (B. Brincka 1998) A small to medium hosta with brilliant yellow leaves that emerge on red petioles. The blush of the petioles even seeps into the leaves. The broadly ovate leaves are slightly corrugated and have distinctly rippled margins at maturity. \$13.00	_____	_____
<u>Grecian Vase</u> <Large (18"ht x 53"w)> (J. Schwarz NR) This hosta features a medium-large mound of chartreuse foliage. Each leaf blade is broadly ovate with a deeply lobed base, slightly rippled margin, long curled tip and thin underside bloom. Pale lavender flowers on long scapes. \$16.00	_____	_____
<u>Guardian Angel</u> <Large (24"ht x 36"w)> (C&R Thompson 1995) A sport of H. 'Blue Angel'. it has large, thick, blue-green leaves that begin with a white center in early spring which slowly mist over with a unique green. Lavender flowers bloom in mid-summer. \$17.00	_____	_____
<u>Louie Louie</u> <Small (13"ht x 42"w)> (D. Dean 2014) Another great hosta from Don Dean with lots of movement to the clump. Its smooth green leaves are lightly twisted with a thin white deeply wavy edge. Saturated burgundy scapes contrast with their creamy green bracts. Lavender flowers. \$21.00	_____	_____
<u>Munchkin Fire</u> <Mini (3.5"ht x 9"w)> (G.R. Goodwin 2009) This vigorous yellow miniature is the perfect size for troughs and fairy gardens. Short narrow leaves hold their bright yellow color all season long. The leaves seem to taper to become part of the petiole. Lavender flowers in mid-summer. \$12.00	_____	_____
<u>Waterslide</u> <Med (14"ht x 32"w)> (H. Hansen 2018) H. 'Waterslide' has wavy, ruffled leaves with heavy substance that hold their blue color well into the summer season. Lavender flowers appear in late summer. This medium-sized hosta is a perfect companion to H. 'Wheee' and suitable for landscapes and containers alike. \$17.00	_____	_____
<u>Wiggles and Squiggles</u> <Small (10"ht x 24"w)> (Walters Gardens NR) A unique looking hosta that lives up to its fun name! Bright yellow leaves are very long and thin and notable for their incredibly wavy margins. It forms a low, wide habit that really highlights the "wiggly" edges. Leaves will be more chartreuse in more shade. For best yellow color, plant in morning sun and afternoon shade. \$16.00	_____	_____
<u>Wu-La-La</u> <Giant (42"ht x 66w)> (Walters Gardens NR) Wu-La-La is a sport of Empress Wu. Another giant, this hosta has blue-green leaves with margins of apple green. This hosta has good substance and is a fast grower. It takes about five years to reach its full size potential. Lavender flowers \$19.00	_____	_____

TOTAL _____

Member Plant Sale Selections
(Photos from *Hostas on the Bluff*)



***H.* 'Age of Gold'**



***H.* 'Blueberry Muffin'**



***H.* 'Colored Hulk'**



***H.* 'Emma Rose'**



***H.* 'Fire Island'**



***H.* 'Grecian Vase'**



***H.* 'Guardian Angel'**



***H.* 'Louie Louie'**



***H.* 'Munchkin Fire'**



***H.* 'Waterslide'**



***H.* 'Wiggles and Squiggles'**



***H.* 'Wu-La-La'**

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

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St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

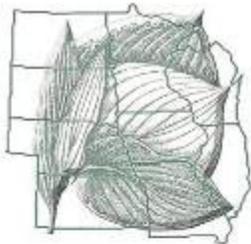
Contact: Dave Poos
9904 Crestwood Drive
Crestwood, MO 63126
david.poos@att.net

Dues: \$7 per year, \$18 for three years
Family or Individual

Meetings held 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

Visit us on Facebook, St. Louis Hosta Society



Midwest Regional Hosta Society

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society represents Region 5 of the American Hosta Society that includes 9 states.

Membership in the society is \$20.00 for 2 years, which includes two issues per year of the newsletter.

Please mail a check made payable to **MRHS** to:

Barbara Schroeder,
Treasurer
1819 Coventry Dr.
Champaign, IL 61822

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/>