



Show Me Hostas Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue 2

April, 2010

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Pam Wolkowitz President
Photo by Kelly Hall

Spring is officially here! As I walk in the woods, I see sprouts of various plants poking their heads up as well as trees starting to bud out. The birds seem to be singing louder, so I guess they're right. I'm sure everyone has been out in their gardens looking for that first hosta that comes up and puts a smile on our faces. Most days have been gorgeous which certainly inspires us all.

I have compiled my "To Do List" which seems to get longer every year. We're even talking about putting in a rock garden after we heard our last speaker, Mr. Spurgeon. I know a lot of you have already been out mulching your gardens, so the gardening year is under way.

It's always exciting to pick up our club plants and add some new members to our gardens. Thanks again to Rick Clarkson for the terrific choices.

As we start this new gardening year, my wish for you is:

**Violets are blue,
Roses are red;
May your gardens spring up,
With no hostas dead!**

Pam Wolkowitz

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 18** **Vendor Day and Club Plant Pick-up**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- May 16** **Leaf Show**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- June 5** **Work Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden**
Missouri Botanical Garden
Exact starting time yet to be announced
- June 18** **Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden Setup**
5:00 - 7:00 PM, Missouri Botanical Garden
- June 19** **Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden**
9:00 – 5:00 PM, Missouri Botanical Garden
- June 23-26** **American Hosta Society National Convention**
Bloomington, Minnesota
- July 8-10** **Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention**
Des Moines, Iowa
- July 18** **Member Plant Auction**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- August** Possible bus tour – TBA
- August 15** **Meeting and Speakers Joan and Larry Hummel**
1:00 PM, Shaw Arboretum, Gray Summit, MO
- September 19** **Meeting with Speaker Bill Ruppert**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- October 17** **Meeting with Speaker Dave Wanninger**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- November 21** **Meeting with ‘Show St. Louis Hosta Society’ DVD**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- December 5** **Holiday Party**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center

APRIL 18, 2010 MEETING

1:00 PM. at Creve Coeur Government Center

VENDOR DAY and CLUB PLANT PICK-UP

The April meeting gives members an opportunity to purchase quality hostas and companion plants from three regional nurseries, unique garden metal art, and gardening 'stuff' from a local hardware store. Bring a friend or two and of course your checkbook. An afternoon of plant and gadget shopping is the perfect way to welcome the spring gardening season.

This is also the time to pick up plants ordered in February. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please designate someone to pick up your order.

In addition to the flurry of early season buying there will be a short business meeting. As always, club members and the vendors present will answer your gardening questions. Vendors scheduled to be in attendance are:

AVALON ACRES HOSTAS



Denny at our 2008 Vendor Day

Avalon Acres is a 10 acre hilltop nestled among hundreds of large red and white oak trees in South Central Illinois near Effingham. The family owned and operated nursery's mission is to bring you the highest quality plants at the lowest possible prices. Denny and Alicia Ricketts state on their web site that they 'don't just sell Hostas, but are avid collectors as well.' If you don't see the Hosta that you are looking for, you're invited to send them an e-mail. They have over a thousand varieties in their collection - some rare or in limited quantities.

Denny and Alicia have had a sales table at our vendor day for several years. If you are unable to attend the April 18th meeting, they welcome visitors to their nursery, but please call ahead so they can dedicate quality time to you. Please call for directions or visit their web site www.aahosta.com for more information

HOMESTEAD FARMS NURSERY



Kurt and Brett Vitoux at our 2009 Vendor Day

Homestead Farms Nursery is a family owned perennial flower nursery located near Owensville, Mo, which specializes in field-grown daylilies, hostas, peonies and Siberian iris. They also have a nice selection of clematis and hardy ferns. The nursery, run by Ron Vitoux and his family, offer over 1200 varieties of daylilies, 350 varieties of hosta, 100 different peony cultivars and 50 Siberian iris varieties.

For a number of years, Ron and his sons have brought hostas, companion plants and a wealth of gardening knowledge to our April Vendor Day event.

In May, take a leisurely drive through the rolling hills of Missouri to Owensville, about 60 miles, to see the field of peonies ranging in color from white to hot pink to deep red. In late June, visit the colorful daylily beds. Of course, hostas are always available.



Chickadee cedar birdhouse
photo from web site

During the winter months, bird nesting boxes are made of rough-cut Eastern Red Cedar by son Kurt using plans his uncle drew when attending architectural school in the 1920s.

Visit their web site www.homesteadfarms.com to learn more about their nursery and see tips for selecting the right hostas for your own gardens.

Heinecke Welding



Paul and Bonnie Heinecke
photo from web site

Paul and Bonnie Heinecke create custom metal art pieces, made from your photographs, your ideas or your artistic ability. They can fashion anything that will fit on a 4' x 20' sheet of steel, aluminum or stainless steel. Among the many items are ornamental gates with artwork inserted, ornamental fencing, fireplace screens, fire pit rings, screen door covers, headboards, window valances, chandeliers, yard ornaments and Christmas ornaments. "We weld everything but the crack of dawn and a broken heart."

Visit their web site, www.heineckeweldingllc.com , for more information about their company and pictures of their numerous custom pieces. Better yet come meet them on April 18th.

Overland Hardware



photo from web site

On July 1, 2010, Overland Hardware will celebrate its 55th anniversary. Current owners, Gregg Wesche and Don Burkhardt, continue the tradition of excellent customer service established by their father and father-in-law. They state that they are an 'old-fashioned' hardware store. In their minds that means 'you can get in and out without having to walk a quarter mile, that someone offers to help you when you walk in the door and the person who helped you find what you needed also checks you out and helps carry it out to your car'.

Among the hard to find services available at Overland are: cutting glass and acrylic to size, sash and screen repair, sharpening chainsaw chains, lock rekeying, sharpen lawn mower blades lamp repair. Visit their web site, www.overlandhardware.net for more information and directions to their store. But remember they will be bringing some of their garden wares to our Vendor Day.

Meadow Sweet Gardens located in Maryville Illinois

Terry Fiebig will be bringing hosta, annuals, perennials and garden decorations from her nursery just across the river in Maryville. This is the first time Terry's had a sales table at our event. Let's welcome her.

2010 Membership Dues are Payable Now

Last Reminder – Last Newsletter if not paid

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 '09' appears after your name, your dues are paid through the 2009 year and are now payable for 2010.

If you receive the newsletter by e-mail, check the second attachment for a list of all members and the year through which their dues are paid. For example, if '2009' appears after your name in the attachment list, your dues are paid through the 2009 year and are now payable for 2010.

Dues are \$7 annually (individual or family) or \$18 for three years. Make checks payable to SLHS (St. Louis Hosta Society) and send to:

**Dave Poos
9904 Crestwood Drive
Crestwood MO 63126**

Coming attraction

St. Louis Hosta Society Leaf Show

Chaired by Jim Weidman

Be a part of the fun by bringing leaflets from your own hostas.

Learn how to clean, display and classify a leaf for a show.

Hear the reasoning behind the judges' choices.

Why did my leaf rate a red ribbon while my husband was awarded a blue!

The date – May 16; the time - setup 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, judging 1:00 PM

Stay tuned! Additional information, including a sheet giving general show rules will appear in your May newsletter.

In Memoriam

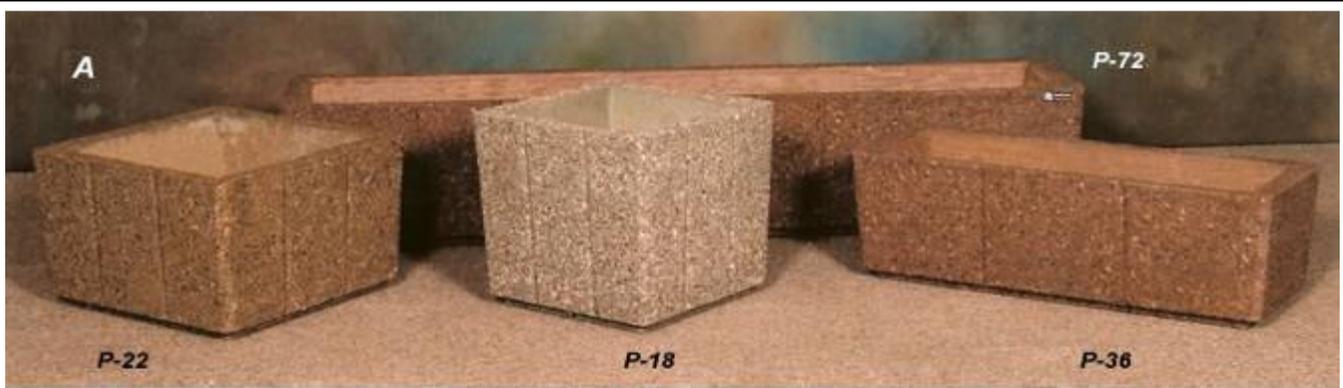
We are deeply saddened by the death of fellow Society member Gloria McGrath. After a long illness, Gloria passed away on January 2, 2010. Gloria loved her hostas and was always willing to help out our society in any way she could. She worked the phones, organizing people to work at the MoBot sales and past regional and national conventions. Several times Gloria volunteered to audit the Society's fiscal records.

Besides gardening, she enjoyed teaching Sunday school, weaving baskets and making miniatures. Her sister said that after their mother died, Gloria made a miniature of a room filled with things that were important to her mother, including a tiny sewing machine and Stix Baer and Fuller shopping bag.

On behalf of the Society, we extend our sympathies to her husband Bob and their family. She will be missed.

Missouri Botanical Garden Project

The excitement is growing! Phyllis' enthusiasm is contagious. Just ask the horticultural staff at the Missouri Botanical Garden. On March 8, Phyllis met with Jim Cocos, vice president of horticulture, Jason Delaney, senior horticulturist, and Darman Williams to discuss the purchase and placement of a trough to display mini hostas. The MoBot staff is excited about having a better place to display smaller hostas and recommended placing the trough along the walkway into the Hosta Garden. The location is perfect – very noticeable to all entering the garden, plus a near-by sprinkler system. The 72" x 16" x 15" sized trough should hold a nice collection of minis.



Planter selected by the Garden is P-72. The aggregate finish blends well with the sidewalk.

Photo from http://www.fsindustries.com/more_info/home_and_commercial_planters/home_and_commercial_planters.shtml

The Garden staff's excitement extended way beyond troughs. They talked about new signage for the whole hosta garden which would include information about our society and the AHS. They would like to recognize the hosta of the year, the Benedict Award winners, and individual hostas at the top of the AHS popularity poll. In general, they want to make the hosta area better, with more information that will help the public. At some time in the future, they would even like to see the area become an AHS Display Garden!

The **MoBot Work Day** is scheduled for **June 5**. By that date, all bulbs currently residing in the beds will have been removed and the beds made ready for planting. All ordered plants should have arrived at the Garden by that week-end.

Get involved! Get your hands dirty! Help your fellow Society members make a fallow garden bed come alive! Work for a botanical garden described as one of the best in the world! The Garden needs a list of people who will be there so that they can issue volunteer id passes.

Contact Phyllis Weidman

314-965-7027

Pow1031@gmail.com

FEBURARY POTLUCK

GOOD FOOD, GOOD FRIENDS



Socializing before lunch - it's been a long winter



Puttin' on the Ritz – food tables are filling up

Barb Moreland, hospitality chair, brought trays of ham and chicken salad sandwiches she had assembled earlier in the day. St. Louis Hosta Society members filled in around the trays with their favorite salads and desserts. The choices were abundant and quite tasty. The noise level in the room soon climbed as members chatted with each other after the long winter hiatus. Talk passed from descriptions of holiday fun and the doings of children and grandchildren to hopes that what seems like a never-ending winter would soon be over. Thank you Barb, for organizing an enjoyable winter afternoon.

President Pam Wolkowitz and Vice President Phyllis Weidman described the activities, events and speakers scheduled for the coming year. Pam noted that the society would have a meeting each month this year enabling us to hear more speakers and try some new activities. Phyllis updated members on the Missouri Botanical Garden Project (see article elsewhere in this newsletter.), after which Jim Weidman generated enthusiasm with talk of a May member leaf show. More information will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

Jim talked about his new position as AHS Vice President Member Services, explaining its functions, its needs and his aspirations. He requested our help in conveying to him what we would like to see come from AHS as well as what we dislike about our national organization. Jim is a tremendously talented organizer and wonderful 'people person'. We applaud his decision to volunteer and encourage all to offer constructive comments.

The afternoon concluded with a slide show put together by Arlie Tempel featuring the gardens he and Nancy toured during the 2009 AHS National Convention in Lansing Michigan, plus a promotional DVD for the 2010 National Convention in Minnesota. The pictures of the Wilkins garden in Michigan were particularly breathtaking. Attendance at a National or Regional Convention is a wonderful way to spend a vacation giving a unique opportunity to view some of the best gardens in the land. Talk with Arlie and Nancy and you'll understand why conventions continue to be popular.



Van Spurgeon

March meeting

‘Garden on the Rocks’

Master Gardener Van Spurgeon, filling in for friend Jim Hoefener whose wife was ill, introduced members to a new craze - rock gardening. Why is this the hot new topic? Why would one want to take a portion of their yard and change it into a rock garden? Van suggested several reasons. A rock garden can create a new focal point in a yard and allows one to explore different plants.

Establishing such a garden is sufficiently challenging, but once in place maintenance tasks are generally light and agreeable.

The rock garden can be situated on a slope which is popular in Europe. It can be placed in a raised bed which is usually 2-3' high by 4-6' wide by 8-15' long. Keep in mind curved borders are more aesthetically pleasing than a simple rectangle. The most important consideration is adequate drainage. Placing the rock garden on a berm allows more design freedom, but berms usually require larger rocks and paths. If your area is small, create a mini rock garden in a trough or small container.

Design your garden on paper first, drawing it to scale, including rock placement and water features. A water feature could be a dry or flowing stream, a pond, a waterfall or even a fountain. When selecting plants, consider their size, color, texture, formal or informal form, and sun or shade loving. Plants can be annuals, perennials, bulbs, trees or shrubs – hosta even. There are many dwarf varieties available for troughs.

The creation of the rock garden can be challenging depending on its size. Large rocks are placed on the bottom and dug into the ground for stability. Rocks placed above the base should be slanted back and in an asymmetrical arrangement. Fill in the crevices with a mixture of soil, peat and scree. Mulch with gravel or stone chips before the first frost. If drought tolerant plants are selected watering is minimal. The biggest chore is keeping the area weed free. Cut back leggy plants, deadhead and divide. Don't let your garden become overcrowded.

Thanks Van for giving us a glimpse into a whole different world of gardening.

Welcome new members

The Society is delighted to welcome new members for 2010:

Ed and Mary Martel of Webster Groves

Virginia and Ray Mueller of Florissant

Look for them at future meetings and give them a big smile and hearty welcome. There are lots of exciting events and speakers scheduled this year. We hope our new members and all our old friends will join in the fun.

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

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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: Dave Poos
9904 Crestwood Drive
Crestwood, MO 63126
dpoos@juno.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>