



Show Me Hostas Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 3

April, 2011

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Pam Wolkowitz President
Photo by Kelly Hall

HAPPY SPRING EVERYONE!

Well, kinda. Again the Missouri weather mixes things up. It was nice to have some days to clean up some leaves and be outside and enjoy the warm temps. Guess we're now going to have to deal with a little more winter.

I am recovering quite well from my knee surgery. I was able to walk out in the garden to see how many hostas were up and if any would need covering. Remember if the hosta "bullets" are tight you can just pull a little mulch up around them like a warm scarf.

We always look forward to our April meeting and getting our Club Plants. We never tire of buying hostas from the vendors, even if it's only one (yeah, right!). It will be great to see you all. I sure hated missing the last meeting. Thanks for all the cards and words of encouragement. It truly meant a lot.

Your President,

Pam

APRIL 17, 2011 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 and gardening supplies 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 last December. 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 17th 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.aahostas.com for more information

HOMESTEAD FARMS NURSERY



Ron Vitoux at the 2010 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 Missouri's rolling

hills to Owensville, about 60 miles northwest, to see the field of peonies ranging in color from white to hot pink to deep red. In June, visit the colorful daylily beds. Of course, hostas are always available.

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.

Meadow Sweet Gardens located in Maryville Illinois



Terry Fiebig at 2010 Vendor Day

Coming for a second year, Terry Fiebig will be bringing hostas, annuals, perennials and garden decorations from her Meadow Sweet Gardens nursery located just across the river in Maryville. Last year, Terry included containers of vegetables and herbs along with her collection of hostas. Come see what Terry displays on her tables this year. It's sure to make us want to hurry home and dig in the dirt.

Overland Hardware



Photo from Overland Hardware Web site

In 2011, Overland Hardware will celebrate its 56th 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'. They stock everything from paint to birdseed.

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, chip keys for cars, cutting pipe, sharpening lawn mower blades and lamp repair. Visit their web site, www.overlandhardware.net for more information and directions to their store.

Gregg is offering special prices for selected gardening items that he will bring to our Vendor Day event. On the following page is a list of products and prices. Email (greggdon@swbell.net) or call (314-427-1404) Gregg with your order and he will bring it with him on April 17th.

ST LOUIS HOSTA SOCIETY VENDOR'S DAY

Thanks to everyone who purchased something from me last year. What I've done this year is to chose some items that I use in my own hosta beds at home and marked the price down to benefit Society members as they begin to work in their own beds. All prices will include sales tax.

SNAIL AND SLUG PRODUCTS

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN BLESSED WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF SLUGS IN MY HOSTA BEDS ALTHOUGH I UNDERSTAND SOME OF YOU AREN'T. SOME ARE METALDEHYDE FORMULAS AND SOME ARE IRON PHOSPHATE PRODUCTS.

2 LB ORTHO BUG-GETA ACTIVE INGRED.: 3.25% METALDEHYDE \$8
4.25 LB ORTHO BUG-GETA ACTIVE INGRD. : 3.25% METALDEHYDE \$12
9 LB LILLY MILLER SLUG PELLETS ACTIVE INGR. : 3.25% METALDEHYDE \$21
1 LB SLUG MAGIC ACTIVE INGR.: PELLETIZED IRON PHOSPHATE \$7
3 LB SLUG MAGIC ACTIVE INGR.: PELLETIZED IRON PHOSPHATE \$14

WEED CONTROL

ONE OF THE BANES OF ALL GARDENERS IS THE PULLING OF WEEDS, ALTHOUGH IT SOMETIMES GIVES YOU SOME TIME TO THINK OR WORK ON YOUR TAN.

5.625 LB PREEN WEED PREVENTER ACTIVE INGR.: 1.47% TRIFLURALIN \$13
17.5 LB PREEN WEED PREVENTER ACTIVE INGR.: 1.47% TRIFLURALIN \$25
16 LB PREEN W/BRILLIANT BLOOMS FERTILIZER 10-17-9 \$25
36.8 OZ ROUNDUP CONCENTRATE 18% GLYPHOSPHATE SALT \$24
35.2 OZ ROUNDUP SUPER CONCENTRATE 50.2% GLYPHOSPHATE SALT \$42

FERTILIZERS

I'M SURE EVERYONE HAS THEIR FAVORITES BUT I LIKE TO USE SOME OLD RELIABLES

10 LB ALL-PURPOSE MIRACLE GRO 24-8-16 \$17.75
10 LB OSMOCOTE OUTDOOR & INDOOR 19-6-12 \$19
10 LB OSMOCOTE VEGETABLE & BEDDING 14-14-14 \$19

GARDENER HELPERS

THESE GLOVES I RECOMMEND WITHOUT RESERVATION AND I'VE HEARD GOOD FEEDBACK FROM A NUMBER OF OUR FELLOW MEMBERS ABOUT THEM

ATLAS NITRILE TOUGH GLOVES AVAILABLE IN SMALL, MED., LARGE AND XTRA LARGE. TOUGH AND DURABLE, BUT LIGHTWEIGHT WITH MAXIMUM DEXTERITY \$3.50/PAIR
THE OLDER I GET, THE LESS SQUATTING I CAN DO.
FOAM KNEELING PAD 20 x 9.5 x 1 \$3

YOU CAN EMAIL OR CALL ME WITH YOUR ORDERS AND I'LL BRING THEM TO THE VENDOR DAY. THANKS

GREGG WESCHE
OVERLAND HARDWARE
2520 WOODSON OVERLAND, MO 63114
314-427-1404 OR GREGGDON@SWBELL.NET

2011 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 '10' appears after your name, your dues are paid through the 2010 year and are now payable for 2011.

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 '2010' appears after your name in the attachment list, your dues are paid through the 2010 year and are now payable for 2011.

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

Ah, Spring in St. Louis



h.'Little Miss Magic'

While you're busy brushing off the snow, check if that emerging hosta can be divided.

Consider donating a piece to your hosta society for the June MoBot plant sale or the July member auction.

Contact our MoBot Plant Sale chairwoman Heather Anderson at [maple leaf to@yahoo.com](mailto:maple_leaf_to@yahoo.com) and say 'I've got plants for you'.



h.'Rufus Rider'

April's the time to vote

Have you joined the fun and handed in your popularity poll?

What's your favorite? What grows best?

It's not too late!

Bring to the April meeting, email, or mail Phyllis Weidman a list of your favorite hostas. Pick your favorite green, blue, white/yellow margined, green/blue margined and streaked/mottled hostas in each of the following sizes: mini, small, medium, large, giant.

Phyllis Weidman
Pow1031@gmail.com
508 Pointe Essex Court, Kirkwood, MO 63122

The Hosta Gardening Calendar

Spring – Foliage emergence begins: March-April
by Bob Solberg

As the ground warms under spring's ever increasing light intensities, the dormant buds of the hostas begin to swell and break through the mulch, looking like bullets coming out of the ground. The small bud scales that protect the true leaves open and recurve allowing a cigar-shaped flush of usually three to four leaves to emerge well above the ground. Soil temperature and moisture seem to affect the timing of the emergence of hostas the most. In very dry winters the emergence of hostas will be delayed unless the garden is irrigated. As the new hosta leaves expand, ample water is also needed for them to gain maximum size.

Labeling: Check for lost labels and replace as needed.

Light: Full sun, moderate intensity, usually no shading necessary.

Nutrients: Apply slow release fertilizer (e.g. Osmocote, Nutricote, organic fertilizers) or 10-10-10 granular fertilizer around clumps as the hostas emerge. If you only use a liquid fertilizer, then apply weekly beginning as the first leaves start to unfurl.

Pests: Begin slug control before hosta leaves emerge. The slugs will be active on warm nights before the hostas will. Try to limit their populations before they hide in the hosta foliage. If early attacks by deer are a problem, spray a repellent. Little is needed at this time but it may need to be repeated every 10 days as the hostas enlarge. Stay on vole patrol.

Protection: Finish your spring clean-up of fallen branches, old hosta foliage and scapes. Last chance to mulch. Pull mulch away from emerging hosta shoots to reduce the risk of petiole rot, especially if hardwood bark is used as mulch. Protect from late freezes with frost cloth, nursery pots, boxes, lightweight bed sheets or newspaper. Hostas with unfurled leaves can be protected by covering with mulch.

Propagation: Hostas may be divided in half or quarters as they begin to emerge. Be prepared to provide them with extra water and care as they will have oversized leaves for their recently reduced root system. New roots will not begin forming until the first set of new leaves is almost fully expanded, several weeks after division. Save drastic division for late summer.

Water: Keep the soil evenly moist. Fresh hostas are mostly water; make sure plenty is available as they expand. Beautiful spring days with bright light, low humidity and brisk winds dehydrate new hosta leaves quickly, do not be afraid to irrigate generously.

Fun! This is the best hosta season of the year! Go out several times a day and watch your hostas spring from the earth. You can almost see them grow! Count the number of new shoots and calculate how much your hosta investment has increased. A one division hosta purchased for \$25 last fall, with its three new shoots, has now tripled in value to \$75. Drag your neighbors over to see your hostas do their magic act. This is the time of year when everything is right in the hosta world

Finally - go to a local hosta meeting.

(reprinted from *The Prairie Hosta Journal*, March 2011)

START EARLY TO CONTROL NEMATODES

According to a talk given by hosta grower and breeder Ran Lydell, you should start in the spring to control Nematodes.

- SPRING. First application. – Disyston as in Bayer (brand) Advanced Rose and Flower Care, with fertilizer at 12-18-6. It's a granular systemic product that he gets from Home Depot.
- MID and LATE SUMMER. 2nd and 3rd applications - Zeritol (1T. per gallon of water).
- FALL. 4th application - Household bleach at 25% concentration.

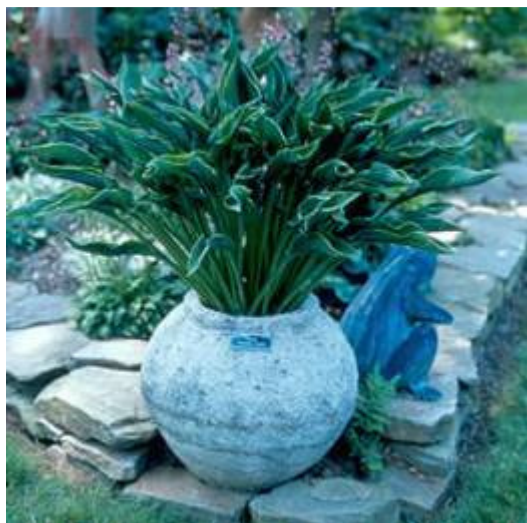
Ran says he is not sure which product is more effective or if any one treatment is sufficient, but after this treatment, the affected hostas show no noticeable damage.

(Reprinted from Hoosier Hosta Herald, 2/2006

AHS Website offering – the Hosta Forum

Have questions or need some hosta advice? Wondering what new 'hot' hostas are? Want to see or share hosta photos? Just want to talk hostas. The forum is the place to be! Visit the AHS website and click on the Forum tab or go directly using

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/forum/index.php>



H. 'Praying Hands'

Photo from AHS Website

2011 Hosta of the Year

Each year the American Hosta Growers Association (AGA) selects a 'hosta of the year'. Award winners are hostas that are good garden plants in all regions of the country, are widely available in sufficient supply and retail for about \$15.00 in the year of selection. Past winners include

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2010 'First Frost' | 2002 'Guacamole' |
| 2009 'Earth Angel' | 2001 'June' |
| 2008 'Blue Mouse Ears' | 2000 'Sagae' |
| 2007 'Paradigm' | 1999 'Paul's Glory' |
| 2006 'Stained Glass' | 1998 'Fragrant Bouquet' |
| 2005 'Striptease' | 1997 'Patriot' |
| 2004 'Sum and Substance' | 1996 'So Sweet' |
| 2003 'Regal Splendor' | |

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

Pam Wolkowitz - President
636-285-3114
lovehostas@msn.com

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

Dave Poos - Treasurer
314-821-1622
david.poos@att.net

Joan Hummel - Secretary
636-405-2584
HummelJFam@sbcglobal.net

Kelly Hall - Webmaster
skyridgegarden@earthlink.net

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cckmf@aol.com

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314-961-4191
Bmore433@aol.com

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

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
david.poos@att.net

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>