



Volume 14, Issue 3

April, 2013



Phyllis Weidman President

Photo by Kelly Hall

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The Society is heading into its busiest time of year. I know all of you are eager to get into your gardens to see what survived the long hot summer of 2012 and the 12 inch spring snowfall. We are noticing lots of damage on evergreens. That heat was just too much and now the snow has bent some to the ground.

However, with hints of spring starting to appear, I would encourage you to walk through your garden. Soon we should see the eyes of the hostas starting to come up. Look for eyes that, if they were allowed to develop, would grow into another plant or over a sidewalk.

Those are the eyes you could dig and donate to the Missouri Botanical sale and our July auction. It is easy in the spring. Simply insert a clean spade or knife into the ground and cut off those eyes. Pot them up and label them. It is amazing how a few eyes can make a beautiful pot of hosta. Remember one of the times that disease can spread is in the spring when the hostas are growing rapidly. Clean the spade or knife with a 10% bleach solution between each plant.

Which hostas to donate to the MoBot Sale? We have learned over the years that hostas that are variegated, big, or small sell the best. It appears the general public will not buy medium green hostas, no matter how great you think they are.

We would prefer interesting hostas as well for our July auction. We have started a wish list of hostas other members would like to have in their garden. This list will be at all meetings until the auction on July 21st. Make sure you add your wishes.

April 21 is Vendors Day. Remember to tell friends and neighbors.

Phyllis

2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| April 21 | Vendor Day
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center |
| May 11 | Work Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden
8 AM, Missouri Botanical Garden, AHS Display Garden beds |
| May 19 | Garden Walk and Club Plant Pick-up
Home of Martha Lafata |
| June 1-2 | Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden
Missouri Botanical Garden |
| June 9 | National Open Garden Day
Your own garden |
| June 13-15 | American Hosta Society National Convention
Milwaukee, Wisconsin |
| July 11-13 | Midwest Region Hosta Society Convention
Lisle, Illinois |
| July 21 | Members Plant Auction
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center |
| September 15 | Meeting with Speaker Rob Mortko
“Hot Hostas for the Cool Shade”
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center |
| October 20 | Meeting with Speaker TBA
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center |
| November TBA | Board Meeting
TBA |
| December 1 | Holiday Party
TBA |

What's best for St. Louis' fickle weather?

Many gardeners would like to know which hostas and shady companions do well in their part of the world. Those tags attached to the pots give guidelines at best. We've heard that it's difficult to grow those white centered beauties – they melt in the St. Louis heat and humidity. We've heard that H. 'Great Expectations' is quite striking, but enjoy it the first year because it becomes smaller and smaller until finally disappearing. We've also heard that H. *montana* 'Aureomarginata' comes up so early in St. Louis that it often suffers frost damage if not protected. So, what's the real scoop?

President, Phyllis Weidman, would like our society to put together a list of hostas that grow well here in the St. Louis area. She's asking each of you to give her a list of 5-10 hostas that you are growing that don't come up too early so you have to worry about frost, that show some resistance to slugs, that survive our heat and humidity, and still look good (from a distance) in the fall. In the Weidman garden, one of these would be H. 'Paradise Joyce'. In the Poos garden, two would be H. 'June' and H. 'Touch of Class'. What are your choices?

Please send her your list at pow1031@gmail.com or hand it in at the registration table at any meeting. Phyllis will then combine the selections and create a St. Louis Area List. Part of our mission is education and this would be a great tool for all of us, old-timers as well as those new to the joy of growing hostas. Take a break from your work and think about spring and which hostas you look forward to in your garden.

2013 Membership Dues are Payable Now

Last Reminder – Last Newsletter if not paid

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

Cindy Michniok
14300 Quiet Meadow Ct.
Chesterfield, MO 63017

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 April meeting.

APRIL 21, 2013

1:00 PM. at Creve Coeur Government Center

VENDOR DAY

The April meeting gives members an opportunity to purchase quality hostas and companion plants from three regional nurseries, unique glass garden art from a local artist, gardening supplies from a local hardware store and Japanese maples from a fellow member. 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.

Club members and the vendors present will be happy to answer any gardening questions. Vendors scheduled to be in attendance this year are:

AVALON ACRES HOSTAS and MORE



Denny at 2012 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 many years, offering quality plants, both new cultivars and old standards.

If you are unable to attend the April 21st meeting, they welcome visitors to their nursery, but please call ahead so they can dedicate quality time to you. They are available most evenings and Sundays from April 30 through August 25. Please call for directions or visit their web site www.aahostas.com for more information.

Meadow Sweet Gardens located in Maryville Illinois



Terry Fiebig sits behind her sales table, ready for business, at our 2012 Vendor Day.

Coming for her fourth year, Terry Fiebig usually brings hostas, annuals, perennials and garden decorations from her Meadow Sweet Gardens nursery located just across the river at 6525 State Route 162, Maryville, IL 62062.

Last year, Terry included colorful garden stakes and other garden hardscape along with numerous containers of vegetables and herbs. Of course there were also some hostas. Come see what Terry decides to display on her tables this year. It's sure to make us want to hurry home and dig in the dirt.

HOMESTEAD FARMS NURSERY



Kurt and Ron Vitoux help members at our 2012 Vendor Day event.

Homestead Farms Nursery is a family owned perennial flower nursery located near Owensville, Mo, which specializes in field-grown daylilies, peonies and Siberian iris. They also have a nice selection of container grown clematis, hardy ferns and of course hostas. In business since 1987, 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 Kurt and Brett 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.

The nursery has an outstanding web site, www.homesteadfarms.com/, which is easy to navigate. Besides a picture inventory, the web site has hosta growing tips as well as information about the other perennials they offer for sale.

Overland Hardware



Gregg Wesche setting up his display at our 2012 Vendor Day

In 2013, Overland Hardware will proudly celebrate its 58th 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.

Overland Hardware, located at 2520 Woodson Road, Overland MO 63114, is the place to go for those hard to find services. Specialties available at Overland are: cutting glass and acrylic to size, sash and screen repair, sharpening chainsaw chains, lock re-keying, chip keys for cars, cutting and rethreading pipe, sharpening lawn mower blades and lamp repair. Visit their web site, www.overlandhardware.net for more information, hours of operation and directions to their store.

Again this year, Gregg, a St. Louis Hosta Society member, 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 21st.

Deepfriedglass

Hand Blown Glass Outdoor Art



Photo is from web site deepfriedglass.com

Chris Dowdy and Dan Kern are two local St. Louis artists who have been producing glass art for about ten years. Several years ago they started making glass that was specifically designed for outdoor use. This yard art can be used in the garden to accentuate or highlight certain areas.

They use traditional glass blowing tools, pipes, punties and puddles. Molten glass is gathered from a furnace, then quickly shaped into spikes, spirals and flowers. To learn about punties, puddles and gathering, visit their display at Vendor Day, March 21st.

Skyridge Gardens

Kelly Hall

Japanese Maples



Kelly Hall



Some of Kelly's Japanese maples

Japanese maples are versatile trees that can grow in the ground or in pots. They add a special touch to a hosta bed and can be used as a focal point in your shade garden.

Kelly began collecting Japanese maples around 2000. She was always seeking rare and unusual grafted maples at local nurseries but had more luck locating them on E-bay. She bought a few “whips”, which are usually one-year old grafts, and started growing them. Later, she discovered a wholesale nursery in Oregon and placed an order. Shipping trees, even small ones, is tricky. Kelly found the best way was to ship them via Southwest Air Cargo. The grower would send her an e-mail saying “your trees are on the 6 am flight and should arrive in St. Louis in a few hours”. Kelly would then drive to the Southwest Air Cargo facility at the airport and pick up her boxes of trees. She says the best part was the smell when opening the boxes; ahhh, Oregon soil and live trees!

2008 was the last year that Kelly placed an order. Since then she has been growing and selling the 100 trees from that order. Only a few dozen remain. Kelly will have photos of the trees that are too large to bring to Vendors Day. These, mostly 3 to 5 feet tall, will be available for pick up at their garden in Sunset Hills.

ST LOUIS HOSTA SOCIETY VENDOR'S DAY 2013

Thanks to everyone who purchased something from me the past three years. What I've done this year is chosen 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
- 1.5 LB SLUG MAGIC ACTIVE INGR.: PELLETIZED IRON PHOSPHATE \$10

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 \$15
- 16 LB PREEN WEED PREVENTER ACTIVE INGR.: 1.47% TRIFLURALIN \$27
- 16 LB PREEN W/BRILLIANT BLOOMS FERTILIZER 10-17-9 \$31
- 36.8 OZ ROUNDUP CONCENTRATE 18% GLYPHOSPHATE SALT \$24
- 35.2 OZ ROUNDUP SUPER CONCENTRATE 50.2% GLYPHOSPHATE SALT \$44

FERTILIZERS & AMENDMENTS

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

- 10 LB OSMOCOTE OUTDOOR & INDOOR 19-6-12 \$20
- 10 LB OSMOCOTE VEGETABLE & BEDDING 14-14-14 \$20
- 20 LB BONE MEAL 0-10-0 \$15

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 SM, MED., LARGE AND XLARGE. TOUGH AND DURABLE, BUT LIGHTWEIGHT WITH MAXIMUM DEXTERITY. 7 COLORS AVAILABLE \$4/PAIR
- FOAM KNEELING PAD 20 x 9.5 x 1 \$3
- 20" WHISKEY BARREL PLANTER MADE FROM A BLEND OF FIBERGLASS & CEMENT. DURABLE YET LIGHTER THAN STONE. WEATHERED OAK FINISH \$21
- O'KEEFE'S WORKING HANDS - OUTSTANDING RELIEF FOR CRACKED OR SPLIT FINGERTIPS \$6
- POP-UP GARDEN BAG 27"H X 22"DIA LIGHTWEIGHT BUT DURABLE, COLLAPSES FOR EASY STORAGE OR TRANSPORT, GREAT FOR CLEANUP & WEEDING \$14

**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**

Save the Dates of these Coming Events

Sign up now to participate --- more details in future newsletters



May 11, 2013 Work Day at Missouri Botanical Garden
8:00 AM until about noon



Hosta Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden
Set up time: Friday June 1, 5:00 PM – until done
Sale time: Saturday June 2, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM



July 21, 2013 MEMBER PLANT AUCTION
1:00 PM at Creve Coeur Government Center

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Kim Tappana of Webster Groves, MO

When you see Kim at future meetings and events, introduce yourself and welcome her to our society.

National Hosta Open Garden Day June 9, 2013

At the March meeting, Phyllis Weidman discussed the idea of participating in a National Hosta Open Garden Day. 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 June 9th from about 10 AM to 4 PM. Open gardens will be listed on our web site – just addresses, no names or contact information. A sign publicizing the event will be given to you to place in your yard. 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. Tell your neighbors and friends to come on over.

If you are interested in formally participating, add your name to the sign-up sheet at Vendor Day or contact our President Phyllis Weidman at pow1031@gmail.com.



Member Warren Duff deep in conversation with Oscar Cross. Oscar brought a collection of hellebores with him.

March 17th Meeting

Oscar Cross from Hilltop Farm Nursery “Shade Garden Companion Plants”

Beginning his 31st year growing and selling annuals and perennials in his Ashgrove Missouri nursery, Oscar Cross told members he still didn't know what he wanted to do when he grew up. Oscar's love of plants and people was quite apparent as he discussed his gardening philosophy, the trials, tribulations and joy of running a family nursery in central Missouri and the pros and cons of some of his favorite shade lovers. Oscar works in partnership with his wife Amy and until recently their children Peter, Emily and Lindsay. As children are wont to do, they are now grown with careers of their own.

Oscar states that gardening is a contact sport. We should all take the time to get to know our garden and all its microclimates. Only then will we begin to know which plants will grow successfully in our little piece of Eden. He cautioned us to not be suckered by the word “native” that now appears on so many plant labels. Buying a plant just because it's native to our area doesn't make sense. That doesn't mean it will automatically grow well in our garden.

Oscar sprinkled his talk with humorous references to “Bob”. Bob is the know-it-all neighbor that every gardener has. He thinks that he is the best of the bunch and his knowledge is the gospel. Bob's always looking over your shoulder, critiquing your techniques and telling you what you are doing wrong. Bob buys all the natives for his yard.

Oscar talked about a number of plants that work well in his central Missouri garden. Chances are that they will do equally well in St. Louis. Here are a few of the ones he mentioned.

- Astilbe: Oscar's tip is to buy American grown plants and to buy them when in bloom. That is the only way to be sure of the plant's color.
- Brunnera: These plants are deer-resistant “water pigs” that will get brown edges if allowed to get too dry. Oscar says don't worry about the correct pronunciation of plant names. Just say it with confidence and say it fast. No one else knows what is correct either.
- Pulmonaria: Oscar's tip is that in mid summer when the foliage begins to look nasty, just cut it all off. In a couple of weeks new foliage will emerge and the plant will look great.
- Clematis: Because our growing season is longer and hotter, Oscar has had success cutting the vines down to 10 inches in March, irregardless of the pruning method suggested on the plant tag. Grow several different colors together and plant them six inches deeper than they were in their pot.
- Hellebores: Great plants that grow when it's cool; so fertilize in fall and in February not summer. The plants tend to reseed, but the new plants may not be the same color as mama.

This spring or summer, take a day trip to Ashville, Mo. Hilltop Farm is a well run nursery, featuring large collections of well-grown plants, a hosta display garden and knowledgeable, friendly people.

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

Phyllis Weidman – President

314-965-7027

Pow1031@gmail.com

Kelly Hall – Secretary

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Barb Moreland – Hospitality

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Joan Poos – Newsletter Editor

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St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

Contact:

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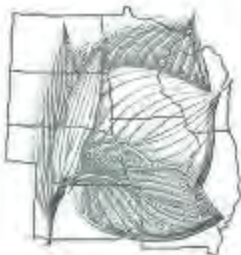
Dues:

\$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/>



St. Louis Hosta Society

Vendors Day

Creve Coeur Government Center

300 N. New Ballas Road

Sunday April 21, 1-4pm

Avalon Acres (hostas)

Deep Fried Glass (garden décor)

Homestead Farms (hostas)

Meadow Sweet Gardens (plants and décor)

Skyridge Gardens (Japanese Maples)

Overland Hardware (gardening needs)

Visit our web site, www.stlouishosta.org
