



Volume 15, Issue 3

April, 2014



**Phyllis Weidman President**

*Photo by Kelly Hall*

### **A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Hopefully, March will go out like a lamb and April will be beautiful and warm. Let those spring bulbs and trees bloom!

Hostas are starting to wake up and pop through the soil. Look carefully at all the bullets, pips or eyes, whatever you call them, and find those that can be easily removed. Pot them up and save them for the Missouri Botanical Plant Sale, April 26, or our July 20<sup>th</sup> Auction. If you cannot do this simply give me a call or e-mail me, I will be there to help.

If you were not at the last meeting, you missed a great speaker. Bruce Buehrig, one of our members, showed slides of his garden. Wow! We saw areas close up and then he panned back and we got the total view. Thanks for getting us even more eager to get out into our own gardens.

Bruce and his wife, Chick, are chairs for the 2016 AHS Convention. Mark your calendars June 15-18, 2016. Hosting will demand many people to work together. We have proven we can do this. When Bruce or any one calls you to ask for help, the only correct answer is YES.

April 26<sup>th</sup> is the Work Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Over the last 5 years, we worked one morning in the hosta area. We plant new plants, move plants to new locations, remove reverted eyes from plants, reduce the size of perennial plantings, prune trees and scrubs and weed. It is always fun and the work goes quickly with friends to talk to as you work. If you want to join the crew, just let me know. We meet at 8am and are usually done by noon. This is a rain or shine event.

Next meeting is Vendors Day. Spencer, who has been the chair before has again done a superior job. The vendors always bring great items and are happy to be at the event. Remember this event is open to the public so tell you friends and neighbors. Don't forget your check book!

*Phyllis*

## 2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

### Phyllis' Hosta Tip of the Month

Some hostas are eager to begin to grow, like H. Montana 'Aureomarginata'. If a late frost is predicted (this year, who knows), you should be prepared to protect the emerging eyes. Some people use mulch, top soil, frost cloths, old sheets or a plastic pot. If using plastic pots or sheets of plastic, you must remove it as soon as the frost risk has passed or other damage will occur.

Now is a good time to mulch your garden – no big leaves in the way. It seems like everyone uses their favorite type: shredded hardwood, shredded leaves, or pine needles. Remember do not mulch deeper than 2-3 inches. Over mulching can lead to vole problems by providing a nice warm medium that is easy to tunnel through.

**APRIL 27, 2014**

**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 concrete stepping stones from a local artist and gardening supplies from a local hardware store. Bring all your friends and of course your checkbook. An afternoon of plant and gadget shopping is the perfect way to welcome the spring gardening season.

As usual, 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 Ricketts**

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." They have had a sales table at our Vendor Day event for many years, offering quality plants, both new cultivars and old standards.

If you are looking for a particular hosta, you're invited to send them an e-mail. They have over a thousand varieties in their vast collection - some rare or in limited quantities.

You may also place a pre-order. Individual orders can be emailed to [sales@aahostas.com](mailto:sales@aahostas.com). Include your name, phone number, items ordered and state that you will pick-up your order at the St. Louis Hosta Society's Vendor Day. Do not place your order online.

If you are unable to attend the April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Ricketts welcome visitors to their nursery. Please call ahead (217-536-9443) so they can dedicate quality time to you. They are available most evenings and Sundays from April 30 through August 25. For more information, visit their web site [www.aahostas.com](http://www.aahostas.com).

### **Meadow Sweet Gardens located in Maryville Illinois**



**Terry Fiebig at 2013 Vendor's Day**

Returning for a fifth 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 whirligigs, whimsical garden stakes and other garden hardscape along with numerous containers of shade companions 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 Vitoux helping members select plants at our 2013 Vendor Day event.**

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 for over 25 years, 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, a vast number of container grown hostas and ferns are always available.

Homestead Farms Nursery also has an outstanding web site, [www.homesteadfarms.com/](http://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. If there is a particular plant that you would like, call or send Ron an email and he will bring it with him.

## Overland Hardware



**Gregg Wesche helps Sharon Schmitt select supplies at our 2013 event.**

Overland Hardware is fast approaching its 60<sup>th</sup> 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 Italian granite paint for countertops to numerous blends of birdseed and rabbit chow.

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](http://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. Later in this newsletter is a list of products and prices. Email ([greggdon@swbell.net](mailto:greggdon@swbell.net)) or call (314-427-1404) Gregg with your order and he will bring it with him on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

## Polly Deck Sand casting

New to our Vendor Day event is Polly Deck. Polly uses real hosta leaves as molds to create her concrete bird baths and stepping stones. Since the leaf is destroyed in the process, each creation is unique. The sculptures can be left plain, painted or decorated with tiles or rocks. Her sand castings can be used as bird baths, water catchers or even as table decorations.

Below are two pictures of some of Polly's work. Visit with her on April 27<sup>th</sup> to learn more about her techniques. You might find a pretty addition to your garden's décor.



## APRIL 27, 2014 MEETING

1:00 PM. at Creve Coeur Government Center

### CLUB PLANT PICK-UP



In addition to Vendor Day, this is the time to **pick up the plants** you ordered last February. This year Ted Piekutowski volunteered to chair this event. In January Ted contacted Rob Mortko at *Made in the Shade Nursery* to obtain his newest catalogue and select plants that might be appealing to our members. Ted and his wife Kim picked up your orders from Rob's nursery in Olathe Kansas and sorted them into individual member packages.

The plants will be in four inch pots. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please designate another person to pick up your order.

Thanks to Ted and Kim for handling this event.

# ST LOUIS HOSTA SOCIETY VENDOR DAY 2014

Thanks to everyone who purchased something from me the past four years. Most of these items I use in my own hosta beds at home and I've marked the price down to benefit Society members as they begin to work in their own beds. Email me if you have special requests. Prices include sales tax.

## SNAIL, SLUG & DEER PRODUCTS

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN BLESSED WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF SLUGS IN MY HOSTA BEDS. I'VE INCLUDED SOME DEER ITEMS THIS YEAR.

- 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
- 128 oz. DEER OFF CONC. \$100 \* 128 oz. DEER OFF RTU \$31 \* 64 oz. RTU W/BATT. SPRAYER \$24

## 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 \$25
- 35.2 OZ ROUNDUP SUPER CONCENTRATE 50.2% GLYPHOSPHATE SALT \$45

## FERTILIZERS & AMENDMENTS

- 8 LB OSMOCOTE OUTDOOR & INDOOR 15-9-12 \$18
- 10 LB OSMOCOTE VEGETABLE & BEDDING 14-14-14 \$21
- 20 LB BONE MEAL 0-10-0 \$15
- 16 QT EARTHWORM CASTINGS \$9 A GREAT FERTILIZER/SOIL AMENDMENT!

### FOR THE HARDCORE GARDENER:

- 4 LB SUPERPHOSPHATE \$5 \* 4 LB MURIATE OF POTASH \$6
- 4 LB ALUMINUM SULFATE \$5 \* 3 LB COTTONSEED MEAL \$5 \* 4 LB COPPERAS (IRON SULFATE) \$5

## 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
- 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 \$15

**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](mailto:GREGGDON@SWBELL.NET)**



**April 26, 2014**  
**Work Day at Missouri Botanical Garden**  
**8:00 AM until about Noon**

Saturday April 26, rain or shine, will be our next work day. MoBot Work Day chairwoman Phyllis Weidman, pictured at left directing her troops, states that our main emphasis this year will be creating a new hosta bed and moving existing plants.



There's never a shortage of tasks. Can't dig – how about hoeing, raking or pulling weeds; can't get down on you knees – how about pruning some of the shrubs or spreading fertilizer and slug bait. This is a great time to get to know other members. The work isn't that hard and the time goes really fast when talking and laughing with other volunteers. In the picture at left, Jim Yochim and Jim Weidman situate new plants. In the lower picture, members work together clearing a path through a large swatch of overgrown hostas.



The Garden permits us to bring our own gear. Have a favorite shovel, hoe, trowel, or pruner, bring it with you. Don't forget the gloves unless you like the feel of dirt on your hands and under fingernails.

We will meet in front of the Ridgeway entrance at 8:00 AM. If you come after 8, join us in the hosta beds located in the northeast section of the Garden. If this is your first time, notify Phyllis so that she can help you fill out a MoBot volunteer form.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

**Sheila and Greg Brown of Gerald, MO**  
**Jeff Heinrich of St. Louis, MO**  
**Vicki Rees of Kirkwood, MO**

Look for them at future meetings and introduce yourselves. Show them how welcoming and friendly we all are. We hope all our members, new and old alike, will attend the April Vendor Day event.

**2014 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**



**Bruce Buehrig**  
*photo by Kelly Hall*

## March meeting – Bruce Buehrig

### “Garden Design Using Hostas”

An art museum is a space for displaying visual art such as sculptures, pictures and decorative arts. It consists of galleries show casing different styles and mediums. Bruce thinks of a garden as a hosta museum. A garden should show case our plants in an artistically appealing way.

Our gardens should reflect ourselves. Everyone has his own taste. Bruce’s philosophy is “If you like it, plant it”. He suggests planting in groups of three or five or in mass if you have the room. But, most important, do what appeals to you, not what others think is appropriate.

Bruce uses trees, conifers and shrubs as a backdrop for his hostas and to break up large areas. For this purpose he uses many types of hemlocks, yews, spruces, Japanese maples and boxwoods. Particularly showy in one of Bruce’s slides was *Tsuga canadensis* ‘Summer Snow’.

Hostas look appealing when framed by other plants such as Autumn Fern, Pulmonaria, Astilbe, Heuchera, Bleeding Heart, Chinese Ginger and other shade lovers. Some eye catching varieties featured in Bruce’s pictures were a Bleeding Heart named ‘Gold Heart’, a Pulmonaria labeled ‘Bertram Anderson’, Heuchera ‘Autumn Bride’ and ‘Snow Angel’ and, new to St. Louis, hardy camellias. Hostas that tolerate more sun look wonderful mixed with colorful daylilies, coneflowers and Rudbeckia.

Groundcovers can also frame hostas adding to the overall design. Bruce’s slides showed some unusual ones such as *Bletilla striata* (Chinese Ground Orchid), *Saruma henryi* (Chinese Ginger), *Mukdenia* and *Carex* ‘Evergold’.

Hardscape and rocks break up the masses of green. Bruce tucks small sculptures under the edges of hostas. A blue gazing ball catches the eye nestled amongst the plants. Strategically placed statues draw the eye back into the garden. Hostas of all sizes work well planted in spaces around rocks.

Bruce recommends the American Hosta Society website and journals. They hold a wealth of information and photos of hostas and garden settings. He encouraged us to look at the AHS Popularity Polls and the AHGA Hosta of the Year lists to find specimens that grow well.



## St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

**Phyllis Weidman** – President  
314-965-7027  
[Pow1031@gmail.com](mailto:Pow1031@gmail.com)

**Kelly Hall** – Secretary  
[kellyh@iconmachinetool.com](mailto:kellyh@iconmachinetool.com)

**Sharon and Mike Schmitt** – Hospitality  
314-719-9305  
[Sharons39@aol.com](mailto:Sharons39@aol.com)

**Dave Poos** – Vice-President  
314-821-1622  
[david.poos@att.net](mailto:david.poos@att.net)

**Cindy Michniok** – Treasurer  
314-434-0946  
[Cmichniok@gmail.com](mailto:Cmichniok@gmail.com)

**Kelly Hall** – Webmaster  
[kellyh@iconmachinetool.com](mailto:kellyh@iconmachinetool.com)

**Joan Poos** – Newsletter Editor  
314-821-1622  
[david.poos@att.net](mailto:david.poos@att.net)

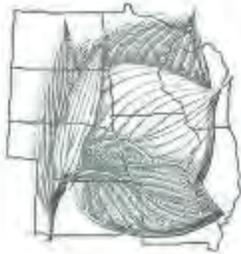
## St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

**Contact:** Cindy Michniok  
14300 Quiet Meadow Ct.  
Chesterfield, MO 63017  
[Cmichniok@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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/>