



Volume 16, Issue 3

April, 2015



Phyllis Weidman President
Photo by Kelly Hall

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Spring is around the corner. It is that time of year when we wonder how we can do it all, our garden work and all those hosta meetings. Vendor Day – how can one miss that with all those garden things? Work Day at MoBot – can you imagine digging in the famous Botanical Garden? Plant Sale at the MoBot – who donated all those plants?

This society is busy doing its job to promote knowledge of and interest in the genus hosta. This year seems busier than ever, but really it is not. We always run into the

problem of time. Hostas grow and look the best in the spring in our area. Therefore, everything must take place now. Can you imagine having a hosta plant sale in August?

I encourage you to do as many events as possible. You will be surprised how good you feel; how much you learn; how many friends you meet.

See you at Vendor Day!

Phyllis

2015 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**

2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 19** **Vendor Day and Club Plant Pick-up**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- April 25** **Work Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden**
8 AM, Missouri Botanical Garden, AHS Display Garden beds
- May 2-3** **Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden**
Missouri Botanical Garden
Setup: TBA - may be Fri May 1 at 5:00 or early Sat morning
Sale: Sat and Sun 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- May 17** **Garden Walk in Member's Garden**
Home of Sharon and Mike Schmitt
- June 18-20** **American Hosta Society National Convention**
Raleigh, North Carolina
- June 28** **Garden Walk in Member's Garden**
Home of Phyllis and Jim Weidman
- July 9-11** **Midwest Region Hosta Society Convention**
Dubuque, Iowa
- July 19** **Members Plant Auction**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- September 20** **Meeting with Speaker TBA**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- October 18** **Meeting with Speaker TBA**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- November TBA** **Board Meeting**
TBA
- December 6** **Holiday Party**
TBA
- June 13-19, 2016** **American Hosta Society National Convention**
ST. Louis, MO

APRIL 19, 2015 MEETING
1:00 PM. at Creve Coeur Government Center

CLUB PLANT PICK-UP



H. 'Blueberry Waffles'



H. 'Mike Shadrack'



H 'Zebra Stripes'

In addition to Vendor Day, this is the time to **pick up the plants** you ordered last February. Ted Piekutowski again volunteered to chair this event. This winter, while other members were purchasing Christmas gifts, Ted was busy contacting Rob Mortko at *Made in the Shade Nursery* to obtain his newest catalogue and to select plants that might be appealing to our members. In April, Ted and his wife Kim obtained our large order from Rob's nursery in Olathe Kansas and then sorted it into individual member packages.

The plants will be in four inch pots. If you remember Rob's plants from last year, all were well grown and some were fairly large.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please designate another person to pick up your order.

Many thanks to Ted and Kim for handling this member-only event.

Hosta Finder

A Reference to Retail Prices and Locations

The **2015 *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.



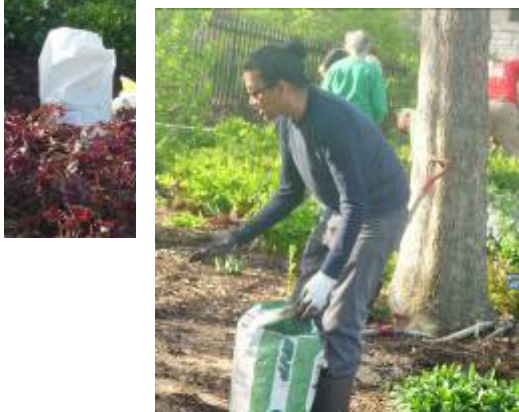
Spring is here – summer is close by

**Is your wardrobe lacking a comfortable, good-looking polo shirt?
How about one embroidered with our Society's logo?**

See **Barb Moreland** at the next hosta meeting. She will take your order and have your shirt available at the next society event. See Barb for size and price information.

April 25, 2015

**Work Day at Missouri Botanical Garden
8:00 AM until about Noon**



Saturday April 25, 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 rearranging beds, planting new hostas and pruning. Last fall, two existing beds were joined. This area needs planting.

There's never a shortage of tasks. Can't dig – how about hoeing, raking or pulling weeds; can't get down on your 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, Mario Carlos spreads Turface on a newly planted bed while others divided clumps and weeded. After the work was done, members gathered for a group picture.

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.

**March Meeting – The Dirt on Soil
Connie Goss from the Master Gardener's Speakers Bureau**

Connie gave an informative presentation about the makeup of soil and the techniques we can use to improve our soil, resulting in healthy, vigorous plants. After describing the different types of soil and the three essential nutrients, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, Connie explained how to collect a soil sample. Testing the soil is vital to determining what, if any, nutrients are lacking. A soil test also provides the ph value. Some plants, like azaleas, are fussy about the soil's ph. Know your plants and your soil.

Mycorrhizae fungi are beneficial elements in soil that aid in a plant's ability to absorb water and nutrients. Mycorrhiza can be encouraged by avoiding soil disturbance, soil compaction and the use of fungicides.

Also beneficial is a 2-3 inch layer of mulch. If used under trees, make sure the mulch does not touch the trunk or form a high donut where water might stand against the trunk. Besides suppressing weeds and controlling erosion, mulch adds organic matter to the soil, increases air spaces, helps maintain moisture levels and cools soil in our hot summers.

APRIL 19, 2015

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, unusual glass garden art from a new vendor 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. 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 19th 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.

Meadow Sweet Gardens located in Maryville Illinois



Terry's angel metal cutout from 2014 Vendor Day sale.

Returning for another 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.

Sometimes, Terry includes whirligigs, whimsical garden stakes and other garden hardscape along with numerous containers of shade companions and herbs. Of course there are also some hostas. Last year, bright pink petunias edged with green beckoned members to her tables. Come see what surprises Terry decides to display this year. It's sure to make us want to hurry home and dig in the dirt.

HOMESTEAD FARMS NURSERY



Mary Lou Farrow chats with Kurt, Bret and Ron Vitoux during the 2014 sale.

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/, 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



Overland Hardware display 2014

Overland Hardware is celebrating its 60th 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 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) or call (314-427-1404) Gregg with your order and he will bring it with him on April 19th.

Polly Deck Sand Casting



New last year 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.

Last year, Polly brought numerous stepping stones decorated with garden flowers, birds, frogs and inspirational sayings. Her sand castings ranged from very large elephant leaves to smaller hosta leaves. These can be used as bird baths, water catchers or even as table decorations.

Visit with her on April 19th to learn more about her techniques. Like Melissa Byrd, in the photo at left, you might find a pretty addition to your garden's décor.

Artsy Garden – Heather Krapf



Heather Krapf is a new vendor this year. The owner and designer of Artsy Garden, she lives, works and creates in St. Louis, MO. Artsy Garden offers a unique collection of handcrafted glass garden art, bird feeders and outdoor candle holders.

Heather's inspiration comes from her love of beautiful gardens and vintage glassware. She enjoys creating simple and sophisticated pieces that catch the rays of the sun and provide that perfect little touch of sparkle.

Visit Heather's display table to view her glistening pieces. Comments or questions can be directed to her at hkrapf@yahoo.com.



Joy Fry helping arrange plants for our 2014 sale.



Jim Weidman and Mary Lou Farrow set up the 2014 hosta leaf display.



For our 2014 sale, which occurred Mother's Day weekend, Karen Frimel placed mini hostas in glass cylinders. Many a special mom received one of these unique gifts.

ONLY A MONTH AWAY!

St. Louis Hosta Society Plant Sale

Missouri Botanical Garden, Beaumont Room

May 1 – not yet determined

May 2 - Sale time 9:00 – 5:00

May 3 - 9:00 AM until sold out

The plant sale is one of our Society's biggest fund raisers. Monies from this sale pay the costs associated with publishing the society newsletter, maintaining its website, facilitating community projects such as MoBot hosta bed enhancements, covering partial costs of the holiday party, plus our many other activities.

For a successful MoBot plant sale, our Society needs your donations and your time. Mini and large hostas were especially in demand last year. Variegated hostas of any kind always sell well. Now is the time to dig and divide. A few of my hostas are already poking their noses through the mulch. If you need help dividing those large clumps in your yard, digging crews are available. Other members will help dig, label, transport your plants or just supply moral support. Contact sale chairwoman Phyllis Weidman if you need help or can help.

Be generous with both your hosta or companion plant divisions and with your time. Drop off your plant donations at any society officer's home in advance. At this time it is not known whether sale setup will be Friday after 5:00 PM or Saturday between 7:00 and 9:00 AM. Exact times will be given at the April meeting, on our web site and in the May newsletter.

Our hosta society will be sharing room space with the Bonsai Society. Not only can you promote our favorite plant the hosta but you have an opportunity to learn something about Bonsai.

So get into the action; enjoy the camaraderie; talk about your favorite plants. Contact **Phyllis Weidman 314-965-7027**, pow1031@gmail.com to volunteer an hour or two of your time.

Overland Hardware Vendor Day 2015 Price List

Thanks to everyone who purchased something from me the past five 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.

At the March meeting, there was interest in Cotton Burr Compost and a request about Milorganite. For the Vendor Day Meeting, I will take **preorders only** for 36# Milorganite or 2 Cu. Ft. BacktoNature Cotton Burr Compost for \$9 a bag for pickup on April 19. I will **not** be bringing additional bags to the meeting and I will need preorders by **April 11th**.

SNAIL, SLUG & DEER PRODUCTS

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN BLESSED WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF SLUGS IN MY HOSTA BEDS.

- 2 LB ORTHO BUG-GETA ACTIVE INGRED.: 3.25% METALDEHYDE \$8
- 4.25 LB ORTHO BUG-GETA ACTIVE INGRD. : 3.25% METALDEHYDE \$14
- 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 WEED PREVENTER PLUS PLANT FOOD 9 -12 -9 \$29
- 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
- 8 LB OSMOCOTE VEGETABLE & BEDDING 14-14-14 \$18
- 20 LB BONE MEAL 0-10-0 \$17
- 16 QT EARTHWORM CASTINGS - A GREAT FERTILIZER/SOIL AMENDMENT! \$9

And 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/SPLIT FINGERTIPS \$6
- **NEW THIS YEAR! VALUE SIZE O'KEEFE'S TWICE THE SIZE \$10**
- 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**

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

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

Secretary
Position open

Sharon and Mike Schmitt – Hospitality
314-719-9305
Sharons39@aol.com

Dave Poos – Vice-President
314-821-1622
david.poos@att.net

Cindy Michniok – Treasurer
314-434-0946
Cmichniok@gmail.com

Melissa Byrd – Webmaster
mabyrd68@gmail.com

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

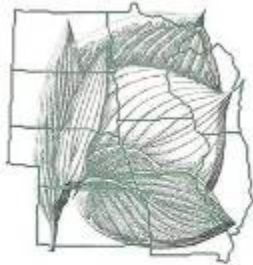
St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

Contact: Cindy Michniok
14300 Quiet Meadow Ct.
Chesterfield, MO 63017
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



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/>