



Shady Notes

Volume 18, Issue 3

April, 2017



President Diana Plahn

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello Hostaholics:

Everyone thought we were going to have an early spring and bloom out everything too early, but Mother Nature surprised us with a couple of cold snaps. Those cold snaps took out a few things getting ready to bloom, and burned some tree leaves and other plants that came out with the really warm temperatures we were having.

We lost our magnolia buds, both the early pink and the later blooming yellow, along with some mushy hosta leaves from plants that came up too exuberantly. Most of our hostas were okay. We dragged pots of Japanese Maples into and out of the garage every day. I'm sure everyone reading this had the same or similar problems.

I hope everyone enjoyed the last meeting on composting. There seemed to be interest in the people that came to the meeting, as there was a lively question and answer period.

Our next meeting is our Vendor Day on April 30th, which is a shift from our normal meeting time. We could not get our regular room at Creve Coeur Government Center on our normal Sunday. You will also pick up club plants if you ordered them from Ted.

Have a great April and hope to see all of you at our Vendor Day. We have a new garden art vendor this year. Come check them all out.

Diana

2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 29** **Work Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden**
8 AM, Missouri Botanical Garden, AHS Display Garden beds
- April 30** **Vendor Day and Club Plant Pick-up**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- May 5-6** **Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden**
Setup May 5, 4:00 PM – until we are done
Sale May 6, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Missouri Botanical Garden
- May 21** **Garden Walk/Meeting**
1:00 PM, Home of President Diana Plahn
- June 7-10** **AHS National Convention**
Indianapolis, IN
- June 18** **Garden Walk/Meeting**
1:00 PM, Location TBA
- June 22-24** **MRHS Regional Convention**
Lenexa, Kansas (Kansas City area)
- July 16** **Members Plant Auction**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- September 17** **Meeting with Speaker Rob Mortko**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- October 15** **Meeting with Speaker TBA**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- November 12** **Board Meeting**
TBA
- December 3** **Holiday Party**
TBA – Party at a member's home

2017 Membership Dues are Payable Now

Last Reminder – Last Newsletter if not paid!

VENDOR DAY
APRIL 30, 2017, Sales 1:00 – 3:00 PM.
Creve Coeur Government Center

This April's meeting gives members and their friends an opportunity to purchase quality hostas, companion plants, garden supplies and yard art. Chairwoman Marian Murphy has assembled a full house of six vendors – three favorites from previous years and three first time vending. This event is open to the public. 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.

Wear your hosta shirt and help spread hospitality to potential new members! If you can help be a greeter near the door for 30 minutes, call Marian 314-849-1964

AVALON ACRES



Martha LaFata talks with Denny Ricketts at the 2016 Vendor Day event.

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, 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 17th 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.

HOSTAS ON THE BLUFF



Hostas on the Bluff hosta beds.

Hostas on the Bluff is a specialty hosta farm and display garden. The new small family owned business, the brain child of Brian and Erica Kniffin, is situated on the French Village bluffs overlooking the St. Louis skyline and river valley near Fairview Heights, Illinois.

Currently hostas can be purchased online through their website - <https://hostasonthebluff.com/>. Their first hosta sale and open house is planned for the weekend of May 13-14. Stop and talk with Brian to learn more about his new St. Louis area enterprise.

HOMESTEAD FARMS NURSERY



Debbie Reisinger discussing hostas with Ron and Brett Vitoux.

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, offers 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.

For a special treat 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.

MADE IN THE SHADE GARDENS



Rob and Sheri Mortko

Photo <http://www.hostaguy.com>

Made in the Shade Gardens is a home based business founded in 2000 by Rob and Sheri Mortko in Olathe Kansas. In addition to their retail hosta enterprise, is an exquisite woodland garden. Grass paths wind through their ¾ acre backyard, passing by hundreds of different perennials and clumps of mature hostas.

The gardens also include a number of viburnums, hydrangea, daphne, dogwood and other shade tolerant shrubs. At its heart is a water lily pond. The gardens, which are open to all their customers, have been featured on many local garden tours and will be one of the tour gardens for this summer's Midwest Regional Hosta Convention.

Rob's name should be quite familiar to our members. For the last three years, Made in the Shade Gardens has been the source for our member's club plants. Many of you will be picking up his plants that you ordered earlier this year. Rob will also be our featured speaker at the September meeting.

In addition to maintaining a beautiful garden, running a retail hosta business and operating a tissue culture lab, Rob is an AHS officer and co-chairman of the MRHS Convention to be held in the Kansas City area June 22-24. If you are thinking about attending the convention and have questions be sure to stop by his table and have a chat.

If you are looking for a particular hosta, check Rob's website <http://www.hostaguy.com>. Send him an email and he will be happy to bring it with him.

OVERLAND HARDWARE



Gregg Wesche with helper
2016 Vendor Day

Overland Hardware owners, Gregg Wesche and Don Burkhardt, continue the long 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 30th.

SPOON ART

Metal spoons are the medium for St. Peters artist Annette. She handcrafts discarded spoons into beautiful flowers, butterflies and insects. Annette is a first time vendor for our event. Stop by her table for some unique pieces to highlight a corner of your garden.





Kim and Ted Piekutowski package members' plant orders.

APRIL 30, 2017 MEETING

CLUB PLANT PICK-UP

1:00 – 3:00 PM

Creve Coeur Government Center

In addition to Vendors Day, this is the time to pick up the plants you ordered last February and March. Event chairman Ted Piekutowski selected plants that might be appealing to our members from Rob Mortko's Kansas *Made in the Shade Nursery* catalogue.

The plants that members ordered have been obtained by Ted and sorted into individual member packages. Remember, if you are unable to attend the meeting, please designate another person to pick up your order. Many thanks to Ted for handling this member-only event.



April 29, 2017

Work Day at Missouri Botanical Garden

8:00 AM until about Noon

Saturday April 29, rain or shine, will be our next work day in the AHS Display Garden located at the Missouri Botanical Garden. The hosta beds have come a long way since 2009 when our Society, under the direction of Phyllis Weidman, became involved in their rejuvenation.

It started with the planting of two crabapple trees. Since then each year members volunteer their time to dig, divide, move, hoe, prune, spray, mulch and do the myriad of little jobs necessary for a well kept garden.

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.

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 your fingernails.

We will meet at 8:00 AM 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 - pow1031@gmail.com or 314-965-7027.



IT'S TIME! Dig, Divide, Donate!

St. Louis Hosta Society Plant Sale

Missouri Botanical Garden, Beaumont Room

May 5 – 4:00 PM until we are done

May 6 - Sale time 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

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, speakers, facilitating community projects such as MoBot hosta bed enhancements, 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.** Due to that early tease of spring, many hostas are already poking their noses through the mulch. Look at your emerging hostas to see if there is an edge that can easily be removed and potted for the sale. 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 Diana Plahn 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.

So get into the action; enjoy the camaraderie; talk about your favorite plants. **Contact Diana (314-346-3007 or dplahn@me.com) to volunteer an hour or two of your time.**



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Gwen Christopher of Des Peres, MO
Josh Jagger of St. Louis, 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.

Mary Mother Church Garden Tour “One More Thyme”

Mary Mother Church, 5901 Kerth Road 63128 (Near HWY 55 and Butler Hill Road)

June 17, 2017, 9:15 AM

Member Nancy Lewis would like to invite you to a wonderful garden tour called “One More Thyme”. This is the third year for this popular event which will be held, rain or shine, on Saturday June 17 starting at 9:15 AM. Price, which includes breakfast, is \$15.00.

There will be four gardens on tour and two speakers talking about hostas and herbs. The Poos garden will be on tour and our own Phyllis Weidman will be one of the speakers. A continental breakfast is served while the speakers present their topics. A raffle offers items, such as baskets and a wreath.

If interested, please call member NANCY LEWIS, AT 894-8522. She will be happy to bring tickets to our Vendor Day event or mail tickets to you.

St. Louis Earth Day 2017 Festival

April 22-23, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

The Muny in Forest Park

Our March speaker, Simon Warren, recommended the Earth Day activities as a fun way to learn more about the importance of conservation and recycling.

The slugs are coming!

This is the time that overwintering slug eggs begin to hatch and that those slugs that have survived the winter begin to feed regularly and lay even more eggs. There are two primary types of slug baits, those with metaldehyde as the primary ingredient and those with iron phosphate. Both types also contain additives such as yeast to lure the slugs and snails to the bait. Either works well and neither, when used as directed, constitutes significant danger to pets and wildlife.

For metaldehyde and iron phosphate baits, all that is necessary is to evenly apply the bait over the infested area at the rate recommended on the product label. More is not better. In about two or three weeks, apply the bait again. This will take out many of the slugs hatched from eggs after the first application. Applied properly, more treatments will probably not be necessary until late fall when a final application should be applied to knock down the slug population prior to onset of winter.

Whether you use slug baits or organic controls such as spun wool, hair, beer, garlic spray or ammonia and water, the key is to get started early, just as the pips are emerging from the soil. Waiting until holes appear is much too late – many generations of slugs are already thriving in your garden.

Now is the Time to start controlling nematodes NemaKill Organic Pesticide



The AHS Foliar Nematode Research Project has been completed. Findings have been published in *The Hosta Journal* and other publications.

Foliar nematodes are microscopic worm-like organisms which overwinter in the soil, on dry leaves and on (not in) the crowns of hostas. In the spring when the soil warms and humid wet conditions prevail, the overwintering nematodes move upward in thin films of water on the outer surfaces of the petioles and leaves, eventually entering the leaves. Once inside, they feed on the tissue between the leaf's veins. The tissue dies resulting in the characteristic yellow and brown streaks. The nematodes spread to other near-by plants by rain or overhead watering. Nematodes return to the soil in the fall and winter by riding down on the dying foliage.

AHS research found that treatment of the dormant hosta buds while the plant is in the ground with either boiling water or the organic pesticide NemaKill can significantly reduce infection. Since boiling water is not a practical remedy in our garden of over 750 hostas, my husband and I are trying NemaKill.

NemaKill is a liquid Minimum Risk Pesticide based on the combination of three active ingredients; thyme oil, cinnamon oil, and clove oil. It can be safely used around pets and children. It is not absorbed by the plant but kills by contact. It is manufactured by ExcelAg, Miami FL (www.excelag.com). The distributor for the smallest size container, 1-quart, is The CISCO Companies in Indianapolis, IN. (www.ciscoseeds.com/grow7, 1-800-888-2986 x 310).

In a pressure sprayer, mix 0.5 (1/2) ounce of NemaKill concentrate per one gallon of water. Four ounces of NemaKill concentrate will make eight gallons of spray. A little goes a long way!

The recommended application is as follows:

1. **Apply directly on the emerging hosta and soil to thoroughly wet the plant and soil.** Application is most effective if the soil is moist, as in following a rainfall. If the soil is not wet, watering the soil first will aide in NemaKill penetrating the soil surface. It is important to apply the initial treatment when the pips are emerging from the ground. The nematodes will not break their dormant state until there is a food source in the emerging plant. The first treatment will kill the adults as they rehydrate and become active.
2. **Following the initial application, repeat with a second application in 10 days.** Again, wet the underside of the foliage, which will have leafed out more, concentrating on spraying the underside of the leaves and wetting the soil surface. The second and third treatments will kill the adults that rehydrate and become active later. The nematodes enter the hosta plant on the underside of the leaf, through the stomata, the tiny holes that allow air and moisture to enter and leave the leaf. That is why spraying the underside of the foliage in the second and third treatment is important.
3. **In another ten days, repeat the application as in 2 above.**

My husband has just finished our initial spraying. Now if we can just be conscientious about number 2 and 3. We'll let you know in the fall if we can see a marked difference in the number of plants infected and the severity of the infections.

Overland Hardware Vendor Day 2017 Price List

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

For the April Vendor Day Meeting, I will take **preorders only** for 36# Milorganite for \$10 a bag. I will **not** be bringing additional bags to the meeting and I will need preorders by **April 15th**.

SNAIL & SLUG 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 (Old Formula – limited)
- 2.5 LB HI-YIELD SLUG & SNAIL BAIT INGREDIENTS: METALDEHYDE & BITREX \$9
- 1.5 LB SLUG MAGIC ACTIVE INGR.: PELLETIZED IRON PHOSPHATE \$10
- 4.4 LB DIATOMACEOUS EARTH (FOOD GRADE) \$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 \$14
- 16 LB PREEN WEED PREVENTER ACTIVE INGR.: 1.47% TRIFLURALIN \$26
- 16 LB PREEN WEED PREVENTER PLUS PLANT FOOD 9 -12 -9 \$28
- 30 OZ SPECTRACIDE CONCENTRATED WEED/GRASS KILLER – MAKES UP TO 10 GAL \$18
- 35.2 OZ ROUNDUP SUPER CONCENTRATE 50.2% GLYPHOSPHATE SALT \$48

FERTILIZERS & AMENDMENTS

- 8 OZ SCHULTZ 10-15-10 LIQUID PLANT FOOD WITH DROPPER \$6.50
- 8 LB OSMOCOTE OUTDOOR & INDOOR 15-9-12 \$19
- 8 LB OSMOCOTE FLOWER & VEG 14-14-14 \$20
- 20 LB BONE MEAL 0-10-0 \$18 2.75 LB BLOOD MEAL \$7
- 16 QT EARTHWORM CASTINGS - A GREAT FERTILIZER/SOIL AMENDMENT! \$9
- 1 QT ALASKA FISH FERTILIZER 5-1-1 ORGANIC WON'T BURN \$6

And For The Hardcore Gardener:

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

GARDENER HELPERS

- THESE GLOVES I RECOMMEND WITHOUT RESERVATION! ATLAS NITRILE TOUGH GLOVES AVAILABLE IN SM, MED., LARGE AND XLARGE. TOUGH AND DURABLE, BUT LIGHTWEIGHT WITH MAXIMUM DEXTERITY. 7 COLORS AVAILABLE \$4/PAIR
- IS YOUR PRUNING SHEARS DULL AND/OR WORN OUT? FISKARS ALL STEEL BYPASS \$10 OR GILMOUR COMMERCIAL BYPASS CAST ALUM \$20
- FOAM KNEELING PAD 20 x 9.5 x 1 \$4
- O'KEEFE'S WORKING HANDS - OUTSTANDING RELIEF FOR CRACKED/SPLIT FINGERTIPS \$6
- VALUE SIZE O'KEEFE'S TWICE THE SIZE \$11 **NEW** 3 OZ SQUEEZE TUBE \$6
- POP-UP GARDEN BAG 27"H X 22"DIA LIGHTWEIGHT BUT DURABLE, COLLAPSES FOR EASY STORAGE OR TRANSPORT, GREAT FOR CLEANUP & WEEDING \$16

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

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St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

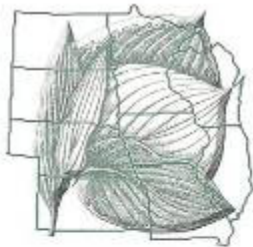
Contact: Melissa Byrd
117 Gunston Hall Drive
St. Charles, MO 63304
mabyrd68@gmail.com

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

Visit us on Facebook, St. Louis Hosta Society



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/>