



Volume 20, Issue 3

April, 2019



**President
Diana Plahn**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello Hosta Lovers:

I hope you enjoyed our speaker last month and getting together for the first time after winter. Vendor Day should be enjoyable for all. Jolly Ann has worked hard to get us some good hosta vendors along with an assortment of other vendors. Many thanks for all her hard work on this project.

We went over several things at the last meeting. We needed volunteers to chair the MOBOT Hosta Sale if we are to continue having it past this current year. We needed a chair to take over the acquisition and job involved with getting club plants for 2020 if we wanted to do that also. Please check the newsletter for the dates.

Phyllis Weidman said she would chair the MOBOT Plant Sale this year with Janelle Criscione and Barb Moreland helping her. I do not know if anyone will volunteer to chair this event in the future. In any case, the Society would like to thank all three of them for working on that fundraiser for the club this year. Basil Honaker, Jr., said he would chair the Club Plant Sale event for 2020 and that he would serve as the auctioneer for the Members Plant Auction in July, which is being chaired by Ted Piekutowski.

Since the potluck had to be canceled because of weather in February, David Birenbaum volunteered his home and garden for a June picnic (date to be published later). We will also be going to visit the Hosta gardens at the MOBOT that we sponsor and help take care of sometime in June. Again, this will be on a date to be published later. Phyllis is arranging this for us. Martha LaFata and I are trying to make arrangements to get a nationally recognized speaker for either the September or October meeting. I will keep you posted. There is \$2500.00 budgeted for speakers this year.

I finally forced a bill from Creve Coeur for the year 2018. It was for \$200.00. So that situation is closed. I do not know what 2019 will bring. The item is in the budget for \$1000.00 for rent.

Our speaker for the March meeting was Bruce Buehrig, who spoke on "Woodland Wonders". His presentation was primarily on placing conifers and trees in the garden to provide good structure for the other plants, such as hostas, that will be placed under them. It was an informative presentation with lots of material presented in the form of handouts and other information. Bruce brought miniature and dwarf conifers as attendance prizes. Too bad I forgot to sign Craig and me in! Thanks to Bruce for an interesting program (and his wife Chick, for manning the computer).

Phyllis presented Hosta 101, which was on what you should be doing right now with your hostas. She provided two handouts. One listed Hosta web sites, and the other listed Hosta resources, both local and mail order that she has used for plant purchases.

(Continued on the bottom of page 2)

2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 28	Vendor Day 1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
May 4	Work Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden 8:30 AM, Missouri Botanical Garden, AHS Display Garden beds
May 11	Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden Setup May 11 before sale, time TBA Sale May 11, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Missouri Botanical Garden
May 31	Garden Walk/Meeting/Demonstration 6:00 PM, Home of Dave and Joan Poos
June 12-16	AHS National Convention Green Bay, WS
June	Garden Walk/Meeting Time and location TBA
July 21	Members Plant Auction 1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
September 18	Meeting with Speaker TBA 7:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
October 16	Meeting with Speaker TBA 7:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
November	Board Meeting Time and location TBA
December	Holiday Party

President's Message continued

Another item of importance was the request from the MBG for a donation from the society for all or part of the cost of the directional boring that would be required to automate the irrigation system in the Hosta Garden. The total estimated amount was \$2700.00. Upon a motion duly made, seconded, and voted on, the Society voted to donate \$2700.00 to the MBG for this purpose.

We also had two new members and one guest at the meeting.

Our next event is Vendor Day on April 28th at 1pm. This is a Sunday afternoon at the Creve Coeur Community Center (our usual meeting place). I hope to see all of you there. Please come early to help setup the tables and cover them with plastic or to help the vendors unload.

Have a great spring,

Diana

VENDOR DAY
APRIL 28, 2019, 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 Jolly Ann Whitener has assembled a full house of six vendors, four favorites from previous years plus two new. 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 vendors carry in their merchandize or be a greeter at the door, let Jolly Ann know.

AVALON ACRES



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 stated on their old 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.

2018 was a wicked year for the Ricketts. The Effingham area was hard hit with tornadoes which affected their business and caused them to miss last year's Vendor Day event. Plus their web site has been hacked and still is not operational. However, if you are interested in a particular hosta and want to inquire if they have it and can bring it to the April event or if you wish to visit their nursery, call them at [217-536-9443](tel:217-536-9443).

HOSTAS ON THE BLUFF



Hostas on the Bluff is a specialty hosta farm and display garden. This 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. We are pleased to welcome them back for a third year.

Currently **Hostas on the Bluff** is still closed for the winter, but plants can be ordered online or

appointments made to visit through their website - <https://hostasonthebluff.com/>. Their first hosta sale and open house of 2019 is planned for the weekend of May 3-5. Stop and talk with Brian and Erica to learn more about their St. Louis area enterprise and their upcoming open house.

HOMESTEAD FARMS NURSERY



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 you would like, call or send Ron an email and he will bring it with him. (573-437-4277).

OVERLAND HARDWARE



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 15th

THE GOURD SISTERS



photo: gourdartenthusiasts.ning.com



Lindy Hoffman and Ann Beninato, who bill themselves as ‘**The Gourd Sisters**’, are artists who use gourds instead of glass, metal or canvas as their medium. They met when their daughters became kindergarten classmates and quickly became fast friends.

Their passion for gourd art arose in 2002 when they attended their first Show Me Gourd Festival in Sedalia, Missouri. They were amazed by what master artisans from all over the country were creating. Thus began their love affair with gourds. While other artists must buy their canvases, Ann and Lindy grow their own.

Since 2002, Ann and Lindy have exhibited their collection at numerous shows and events. They also love teaching workshops and educating others about this unique art form.

This is the first time these artists have displayed their wares at our Vendor Day event. Their creations range from whimsical creatures, drums and toys to utilitarian birdhouses. All are beautifully crafted and painted.

TRELLIS ART DESIGNS



Garden stake, created by Diane Sauer, presented to St. Louis members whose gardens were on tour during the 2016 AHS convention.

According to her web-site www.trellisartdesigns.com/ in 2000, avid gardener and artist Diane Sauer realized the possibilities for making trellises and stakes for her garden at the machine shop, run by her husband, Warren Sauer.

Using computer aided design programs and the help of the skilled people at the machine shop, Diane began bringing her ideas to life in the form of simple and elegant trellises, gates, mailbox stands and other decorative art.

The Gateway Gardener editor Robert Weaver, wrote in a July 2011 article that “Diane produces some of the area’s most beautiful custom-designed gates, fences, trellises, mailbox posts and wall art. Diane creates designs for stock items, and works with clients to create custom-designed items for their gardens and homes.”

This is the first time Diane has displayed her art at our Vendor Day Event. She might have a piece of unique garden art perfect for your yard.

Overland Hardware Vendor Day 2019 Price List

Thanks to everyone who purchased something from me the past nine 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. **Please 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 \$11 a bag. I will **not** be bringing additional bags to the meeting and I will need preorders by **April 8th**.

SNAIL & SLUG PRODUCTS

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

- 2.5 LB HI-YIELD SLUG & SNAIL BAIT, INGREDIENTS: METALDEHYDE & BITREX \$10
- 1.5 LB SLUG MAGIC, ACTIVE INGR.: PELLETIZED IRON PHOSPHATE \$10
- 4.4 LB DIATOMACEOUS EARTH \$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 WEED PREVENTER PLUS PLANT FOOD 9 -12 -9 \$29
- 31.3 LB PREEN WEED PREVENTER \$39
- 30 OZ SPECTRACIDE CONCENTRATE WEED/GRASS KILLER – MAKES UP TO 10 GAL \$16
- 35.2 OZ ROUNDUP SUPER CONCENTRATE 50.2% GLYPHOSPHATE SALT- UPTO 23 GALS \$50

FERTILIZERS & AMENDMENTS

- 8 QT BAG EARTHWORM CASTINGS BLEND \$6
- 8 OZ SCHULTZ 10-15-10 LIQUID PLANT FOOD WITH DROPPER \$5
- 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 \$8
- 1 QT ALASKA FISH FERTILIZER 5-1-1 ORGANIC WON'T BURN \$7

And For The Hardcore Gardener:

- 4 LB SUPERPHOSPHATE \$5.50 4 LB MURIATE OF POTASH \$6.50
- 4 LB ALUMINUM SULFATE \$5.50 3 LB COTTONSEED MEAL \$6
- 4 LB COPPERAS (IRON SULFATE) \$5.50

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 PRUNER \$20
- FOAM KNEELING PAD 20 x 9.5 x 1 \$4
- O'KEEFE'S WORKING HANDS - OUTSTANDING RELIEF FOR CRACKED/SPLIT FINGERTIPS \$6.50. VALUE SIZE O'KEEFE'S - TWICE THE SIZE \$11 **NEW** 3 OZ SQUEEZE TUBE \$6.50
- 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

March – Bruce Buehrig “Woodland Wonders”



If your idea of a conifer is the pyramidal Christmas tree that graces many a living room in December, were you in for a treat. At our March meeting, Bruce Buehrig gave a presentation titled “Woodland Wonders”. The talk focused on the use of conifers and understory trees in the design of your garden. All the pictures were taken in the Buehrig’s beautiful yard.



Conifers are the bones of their garden. Functioning as focal points, hedges, screens and ground covers, they define different spaces within their large yard. Conifers come in a vast variety of sizes, textures, form and color. Familiar are the tall Canadian Hemlocks, but not so much the dwarf Hemlock ‘Little Joe’ that grows only 6” tall and 10” wide. Some conifers have stiff sharp needles while others are soft and ferny such as the Dawn Redwood ‘Schirrmann’s Nordlight’. Did you know that the Ginko *biloba* is actually a conifer? Tall columnar yews are used as screens, spreaders cover the ground and drape over rocks, spruces, pines and cedars let their pendulous branches weep to the ground.



Perhaps the most striking aspect of Bruce’s scenes was the range of color exhibited by his vast collection of conifers – all the colors of the rainbow. Besides the various shades of green, there were blue atlas cedars and bright gold yews. Some varieties sport gold or white tips in the spring before turning green, while others pass from the greens of summer to gold, bronze and orange in the fall or winter. Pine cones aren’t just brown.

Used in conjunction with the conifers in Bruce’s design are understory trees and shrubs: dogwoods and Japanese maples, azaleas and crape myrtles, tree peonies and hydrangeas. Perennials that we love, both sun and shade tolerant, such as hostas, ferns, daylilies, dicentra and anemones, mix well in a woodland setting. One picture showed Liliun ‘Black Beauty’ in front of a stand of tall conifers – a beautiful juxtaposition.

Bruce gave tips about what grows well in St. Louis’ heat and humidity as well as those to avoid. The pictures of Bruce’s and his wife Chick’s stunning yard are testament to their plant knowledge and growing expertise. Thank you both for sharing with us.

(photos taken of Buehrig garden at 2016 AHS convention)

Hosta 101 with Phyllis Weidman

This year the Board would like to devote a bit of time, about ten to fifteen minutes, at every meeting to what is being called Hosta 101. This will be a short talk about aspects of hosta and shade gardening important at that specific time of year. At the March meeting Phyllis Weidman addressed activities that could be done during this pre-spring period.

March is an unpredictable month – most days are cold, windy and rainy, with just enough warmth to let us know spring is coming. It is a good time to sit back and plan your gardening season. Do you want to expand a bed or even put in a new one? Where is that ideal spot? Consider the soil composition, the water and sun requirements before putting a shovel in the dirt. Do you need to move or divide plants because they have outgrown their area? Have some new sites in mind.

Check your supplies. Do you have all the potting soil, peat moss, and fertilizers you will need? Is that box of slug killer about empty? Spring is the time to treat for Southern blight and nematodes. Are you ready? Do you need new garden gloves or a pruner? Vendor Day is the perfect time to stock up on the essentials.

The winter weather and hard rains have caused some problems in the St. Louis area. Walk through your garden and take note of any hostas that have been heaved out of the ground by freeze and thaw cycles. Push them back down and cover with mulch. Also note recent rains have been so heavy and fast that in some places the top soil has been stripped from the beds leaving the poor hostas above ground hanging onto their places by tiny roots. Soil and mulch should be spread around these exposed roots. Then pray they survive.

Phyllis handed out a sheet listing resources for obtaining hosta plants and good web-site addresses for information about hosta cultivation. She has personally had good luck with all the businesses and web sites listed.

Mark your Calendars

Two events occur early in May, our annual **Work Day** at the Missouri Botanical Garden on **May 4** closely followed by our **Hosta Sale** on **May 11**. Both events are a lot of fun, do not require more than a couple hours of your time and are a good way to get to know your fellow members. These get-togethers afford excellent opportunities to ask others questions about their gardening practices or what they think you should do to solve some problem that has been vexing you.

Right now as winter holds on it may seem that it will never happen, but those hostas are just waiting for a few warm days before poking their pips above ground. When they do note which ones might be divided, potted and donated to the upcoming hosta sale or the member auction held in July. If each of us would take a moment to donate a couple of our babies both the sale and auction would be outstanding events filled with a wide variety of plants.

Mark both events on your calendars. Think about joining the fun. More information will appear in the May newsletter.

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

Diana Plahn – President
314-346-3007
dplahn@me.com

Jolly Ann Whitener – Secretary
jawhit6@gmail.com

Karen Frey – Hospitality

Martha LaFata – Vice-President
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St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

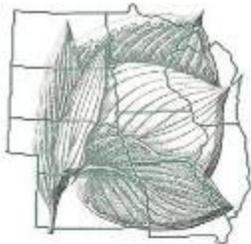
Contact: Melissa Byrd
117 Gunston Hall Drive
St. Charles, MO 63304
mabyrd68@gmail.com

Dues: \$7 per year, \$18 for three years
Family or Individual

Meetings held at 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/>