



# Show Me Hostas Newsletter

Volume 10, Issue 3

May, 2009

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



**Jeff Hall President**  
*Photo by Kelly Hall*

Greetings! What a great spring for growing hostas; cool, wet and overcast. It doesn't get any better!

Gardening events and chores are in full swing. Activities too many to mention are happening all around us, hardly enough time to sit and enjoy the garden. Well, I better mention a few very important gardening events such as our hypertufa through building demonstration by Kelly Hall and yours truly, the plant sale at MoBot, and a whole list of cool events (check the calendar portion of this newsletter, or the website for exact dates and locations).

Speaking of events, our Vendor's Day was a blast! We had a fantastic turn out of about 80 people, and some new vendors. All appeared to have had a very successful day. Thank you to our vendors who made the day a success. Thanks also go to Rick and Joan Clarkson for doing such a great job ordering and distributing our club plants this year.

We are trying a modified way of doing club garden tours this year. Instead of one day with multiple open gardens, we are scheduling garden walks at individual gardens throughout the spring and summer. We ask that garden owners open their gardens for a garden walk (usually in the evening) so we will have time to stroll and visit with friends at just one garden at a time. So far we have a couple of garden walks scheduled. If you would like to open your garden, please let us know. In case you have not been to a garden walk yet, we ask that you bring an appetizer to share and your favorite beverage. It's also not a bad idea to bring a lawn chair and an umbrella because we gardeners are not afraid to sit down or walk in the rain.

Have any of you been to a garden center lately? It's busy out there. What bad economy? Keep up the good work everyone, spend those dollars, make the world a greener place, plant more trees to reduce your carbon footprint, grow your own vegetables, and compost and recycle. Isn't it funny we gardeners have been doing this for years? I bet you didn't think of yourselves as trendsetters.

Now get out there and get dirty!

*Jeff Hall*

## 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>May 31</b>            | <b>Garden walk/trough demonstration</b><br>Jolly Ann Whitener's garden, St. Peters, MO |
| <b>June 6</b>            | <b>Plant sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden</b>                                     |
| <b>June 11-13</b>        | <b>Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention</b><br>Champaign, IL                      |
| <b>June 20</b>           | <b>Garden walk, 6 PM</b><br>Phyllis and Jim Weidman, Kirkwood, MO                      |
| <b>June 24-27</b>        | <b>American Hosta Society National Convention</b><br>Lansing, MI                       |
| <b>July 5</b>            | <b>Garden Walk, 5 PM</b><br>Jean Hudson and Pat Payton, Webster Groves, MO             |
| <b>July 19</b>           | <b>Member plant auction</b>  |
| <b>September 13</b>      | <b>Meeting and guest speaker Mike Shadrack</b>   |
| <b>October 18</b>        | <b>Field trip to weather center with Melissa Byrd</b>                                  |
| <b>November/December</b> | <b>Holiday Party – date and location to be announced</b>                               |

### **St. Louis Hosta Society Plant Sale** Missouri Botanical Garden, Orthwein Room **June 6, 9 AM. to 5 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, facilitating community projects such as MoBot hosta bed enhancements, covering partial costs of a holiday party, plus our many other activities.

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 or bring them to the Garden on Saturday morning between 7AM. And 9 AM.

Sale is open from 9am to 5pm. Please contact Pat Payton (volunteer coordinator) [ppayton@swbell.net](mailto:ppayton@swbell.net) or 314-962-7456 to volunteer an hour or two of your time.

## UPCOMING GARDEN WALK



Sunday May 31, 1:00 PM

**Jolly Ann Whitener**  
**10 Oak Hollow Drive**  
**St. Peters, MO 63376**

Enjoy a relaxing, social afternoon in Jolly Ann's garden. Bring a lawn chair, the beverage of your choice and a snack to share with others. See Jolly Ann's own 'piece of paradise'. If you've admired all those hypertufa troughs in

the Hall and Weidman gardens, sit back and learn how to construct your own. A trough building demonstration will be given by member Kelly Hall.

### **DIRECTIONS to Oak Hollow Drive from Jolly Ann:**

If you are coming via I-70, take exit 220 (next exit after Mid Rivers Mall Drive), turn left and proceed south on Salt Lick Rd. , you will cross Mexico Road and the name changes to Birdie Hills. At Oakridge West turn right, the first street on the left will be Oak Hollow. Turn left and we are the 5th house on the right. It is easy to spot the intersection of Birdie Hills and Oakridge West; there is a very large building with blue roof, The Church on the Rock.

If you come via I-64/US40, exit at Highway 94, go right (I call it North, they may call it East). Take 94 to Mid Rivers Mall Drive, turn left. You will go through several stop lights. At Ohmes Rd. (signal) make a left and follow Ohmes, cross Birdie Hills and the first street on left is Oak Hollow, turn left and we are 5th house on the right. Coming this way you will pass St. Charles County Community College on the left. It is a large campus, easy to spot.

Get lost, call 636-240-5068 or cell phone 636-485-9537



Saturday, June 20, 6:00 PM

**Phyllis and Jim Weidman**  
**508 Pointe Essex Court**  
**Kirkwood, MO 63122**

If you think Phyllis and Jim look a bit eccentric in this photo from their 2008 Convention publicity tour, ask them about traveling hundreds and hundreds of miles, getting up before the crack of dawn, in sub-freezing

temperatures to watch a flock of birds take off. Phyllis and Jim are graciously opening their garden for an evening of conversation, laughter and good-natured banter. Bring your beverage of choice and a snack to share with others. Point Essex Court crosses Essex Avenue just West of Kirkwood High School. Need directions, call 314-965-7027 or e-mail them [pow1031@gmail.com](mailto:pow1031@gmail.com).

## UPCOMING GARDEN WALK



photo by Kelly Hall

Sunday, July 5, 5:00 PM

**Pat Payton and Jean Hudson**  
**361 S. Maple Avenue**  
**Webster Groves, MO 63119**

Finish your 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend celebrating with fellow hosta lovers in Pat's and Jean's beautiful garden. Whether you love it on the sunny or shady side of the path, you don't want to miss this opportunity.

## MEMBER PLANT SALES

### HOSTA and MORE!

Pat Payton, Jean Hudson, Arlie and Nancy Tempel have scheduled a second sale of plants dug from their respective gardens. They've found lots of stuff that still needed dividing. A major renovation is underway in their back yard. The important information is:

**Saturday, May 30, 9 AM to 2 PM**  
**Jean Hudson/Pat Payton garden**  
**361 S. Maple Avenue**  
**Webster Groves, MO 63119**

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### ATTENTION ALL HOSTAHOLICS!!!!

You know you need just one more hosta!! We are here to help you with your addiction! Due to the fact that we are moving, I have divided most of "my babies" and am having a SALE on:

**Saturday, June 27, 9 AM to 3 PM**  
**Pam and Chester Wolkowitz**  
**6434 Oak Crest Rd**  
**Hillsboro, MO 63050**

There will be some of the "tried and true" from days of old as well as ones for collectors. Something for everyone. Come early to get a good selection.

Directions: Take Hwy 30 (Gravois) west from Hwy270. Approx. 18 miles until you come to Hwy BB. Turn left and go 4 miles to Oak Crest Road on the right. Turn right, go straight over the bridge and up the hill til you see to our home on the left.





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## **MoBot Hosta Bed Enhancements - Update**

At the April meeting Phyllis Weidman gave a progress report on our Society's offer to help the St. Louis Botanical Garden enhance their hosta beds. Phyllis and Karen Frimel met with Darmon Williams and Jon Sweeney to address their most pressing needs.

Because the Garden lost several trees in the hosta area during the last ice storm, the horticulturalists feel replacement trees must precede plant purchase. The Garden would like to enhance its current collection of crabapples. Therefore, Darmon and Jon prefer to buy two crabapple hybrids: Malus 'Orange Crush' and Malus 'Royal Raindrops'. Native crabapples were not selected as these trees are viewable at the Shaw Arboretum. The purchase, digging and transporting costs are about \$600.00 apiece.

Hostas will be purchased at a later date when the trees are able to provide sufficient shade. The Society hopes to make this an ongoing project

## **Keep the Society in Mind – Member Auction coming in July**

Doing spring clean-up or rearranging beds? Are those big hostas too big? Consider setting aside plants or divisions for our Society's member auction in July. It's much more pleasant to be digging and potting now when the air is mild, the lawn is newly green and plants are just poking their heads above the ground, then in hot, humid St. Louis July. Your donation does not need to be a hosta or even shade-loving. No plant is turned away.

## **PAM'S MOVING**

Have you been thinking about moving a little further out?

Would you like to have gardens for your hostas and flowers plus a view overlooking a valley?

You might want to come take a look at our home that we are selling, as we are moving closer to family. We have spent 15 years working on our yard and gardens and would love for a fellow gardener to continue to enjoy them.

**Pam and Chester Wolkowitz**

**Contact: Realty Executives of St. Louis  
Tony and Sandy Brown  
314-221-1515**



## COMPANION CORNER



photo taken in Poos garden

### Bloodroot

*Sanguinaria Canadensis*

Poppy family (Papaveraceae)

Common Name: Indian paint,  
Puccoon, Redroot

Height: 8-12 inches



This early spring wonder pushes out of the ground a thick 6- to 8-inch stem which reveals a leaf tightly rolled around a large flower bud. When unfurled, the light green leaf is 4 to 8 inches wide and generally rounded in shape but with an irregular margin and wavy edges. The single tiny flower is white with yellow stamens and lasts only a few days. However, the foliage remains attractive until the entire plant disappears in late summer. The most

desirable variety is 'Multiplex' which produces pure white, double flowers that last much longer than those of the species.

Bloodroot derives its name from the blood-red sap of the rhizomes. This liquid was used as war paint by Native Americans. It has also been used as a fabric dye which produces a yellow-orange color that is quite fade resistant. In olden days, the sap was used to treat skin problems such as warts and polyps. Indians also used the dye as a love charm applying it to their palms then shaking hands with the woman they desired. Within days the woman would be willing. Somehow wart-cure and love charm don't seem to go together.

Bloodroot prefers moisture-retentive, humus-rich soil, but grows fine in ordinary woodland soil. It needs sunlight only in the spring; thus the plant grows well in the shade formed by deciduous trees. Once established it needs no special care, spreading abundantly. If the soil dries out, the plants go dormant early.

Propagate by rhizome divisions in late summer. The plant also self seeds. Because its red sap is somewhat toxic, wear gloves when handling this plant and wash your hands afterward. Bloodroot is listed as a poisonous plant, even though no reports of human or animal poisoning have been reported in the United States.

For more information visit: [www.holoweb.com](http://www.holoweb.com), [www.2bnthewild.com](http://www.2bnthewild.com), [www.easywildflowers.com](http://www.easywildflowers.com)



## St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

**Jeff Hall** - President  
[skyridgegarden@earthlink.net](mailto:skyridgegarden@earthlink.net)

**Pam Wolkowitz** - Vice-President  
636-285-3114  
[lovehostas@msn.com](mailto:lovehostas@msn.com)

**Dave Poos** - Treasurer  
314-821-1622  
[dpoos@juno.com](mailto:dpoos@juno.com)

**Joan Hummel** - Secretary  
636-405-2584  
[HummelJFam@sbcglobal.net](mailto:HummelJFam@sbcglobal.net)

**Kelly Hall** - Webmaster  
[skyridgegarden@earthlink.net](mailto:skyridgegarden@earthlink.net)

**Doug Gann** – Web Administrator  
636-939-9499  
[d.gann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d.gann@sbcglobal.net)

**Joan Poos** - Newsletter Editor  
314-821-1622  
[dpoos@juno.com](mailto:dpoos@juno.com)

**Phyllis Weidman** - Membership  
314-965-7027  
[pow1031@gmail.com](mailto:pow1031@gmail.com)

**Barb Moreland** - Hospitality  
314-961-4191  
[Bmore433@aol.com](mailto:Bmore433@aol.com)

## Membership Information

### The American Hosta Society

Contact: Sandie Markland  
8702 Pinnacle Rock Ct.  
Lorton, VA 22079-3029  
[AHSMembershipSecretary@earthlink.net](mailto:AHSMembershipSecretary@earthlink.net)  
Dues: Individual \$30 per year, Family \$34 per year

### Midwest Regional Hosta Society

Contact: Pete Postlewaite  
21172 Andover Road  
Kildeer, IL 60047  
[mrhs.treasurer@midwesthostasociety.org](mailto:mrhs.treasurer@midwesthostasociety.org)  
Dues: Individual \$20 for two years

### St. Louis Hosta Society

Contact: Dave Poos  
9904 Crestwood Drive  
Crestwood, MO 63126  
[dpoos@juno.com](mailto:dpoos@juno.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)

## Other Hosta and Garden Web Sites

American Hosta Society – <http://www.hosta.org/>

Midwest Hosta Society – <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org>

Hosta Library – <http://www.hostalibrary.org>

Hosta Forum – questions/answers – <http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/hosta/>

Mini Hosta forum – <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/minihosta>