



Volume 14, Issue 4

May, 2013

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



**Phyllis Weidman President**

Enough of the rain and cold, we need warmth! I'm sure spring is around the corner.

Our last meeting was wonderful. Cold or not, the hostas were there to buy as well as garden art and those needed garden supplies. Spencer Sorenson, chair of the event, did an excellent job of getting vendors and organizing the day. Thanks Spencer!

The Society is heading into Hosta Season. This is the time of year our hostas look spectacular. There are many events coming up in May and June, the more you do the more fun you will have. You will be able to meet many of our incredible members and learn lots about hostas.

We start May 11 with a work day at the Missouri Botanical Gardens. We will dig hostas for our plant sale, plant new hostas and move and rearrange hostas in the beds. Remember to bring your shovel. Of course, if you see a weed you may pull that, too. If you have never volunteered at the garden just let me know and I will have the needed form for you.

May 19<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, our next meeting will be a garden meeting. It will be held at 1 o'clock, as usual, but at Martha Lafata's home in Webster. You will pick up your club plant orders at Martha's.

June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> is the Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Many have already signed up to work, but we always enjoy having more people.

June 9<sup>th</sup>, also a Sunday, will be the St. Louis Open Hosta Garden Day. We have 10 gardens that will be open to the public and, of course, to our members. A list of the gardens will appear in the next newsletter. Try to visit as many as you can from 10 am to 4 pm. All the gardens will be different and you never know where you will get a good idea for your garden.

You will be able to read more about all these events in the newsletter so turn the page and get informed.

*Phyllis*

## 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 11**                                **Work Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden**  
8 AM, Missouri Botanical Garden, AHS Display Garden beds
- May 19**                                **Garden Walk and Club Plant Pick-up**  
1 PM, Home of Martha Lafata
- June 1-2**                               **Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden**  
Set up Friday May 31, 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
Sale Open Saturday, June 1, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Sale continues Sunday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM or sold out  
Orthwein Hall, Missouri Botanical Garden
- June 9**                                 **National Open Garden Day**  
Your own garden
- June 13-15**                           **American Hosta Society National Convention**  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
For more information: [www.2013ahsconvention.com](http://www.2013ahsconvention.com)
- July 11-13**                           **Midwest Region Hosta Society Convention**  
Lisle, Illinois  
For more information: <http://mrhs2013.org/>
- July 21**                                **Members Plant Auction**  
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- September 15**                      **Meeting with Speaker Rob Mortko**  
**“Hot Hostas for the Cool Shade”**  
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- October 20**                           **Meeting with Speaker TBA**  
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- November TBA**                      **Board Meeting**  
TBA
- December 1**                         **Holiday Party**  
TBA



**Jim Yochum's ready to dig in!**



**Pam Wolkowitz and Mary Lou Farrow wrestle a really big one.**



**Kelly Hall and Mary Jones work in tandem moving a large hosta.**

## **May 11, 2013 Work Day at Missouri Botanical Garden 8:00 AM until about 11:00 AM**

Last year 13 Society members spent a Saturday morning establishing a bed dedicated to species hostas. This involved moving and dividing large clumps already existing in the Garden's various hosta beds and augmenting the collection with species plants obtained by Phyllis Weidman from sources outside the St. Louis area. The hunt continues for the few species not yet represented in our new display bed.

Saturday May 11 will be our next work day. MoBot Project chair, Phyllis Weidman, states that we will continue with our planting of newly purchased hostas and rearranging existing plants. Damon Williams of the MoBot staff has purchased a number of cultivars from Bob Solberg's Green Farm Nursery.

Of course, there's always plenty of weeding, thinning and pruning to be done. Can't dig – how about hoeing, raking or pulling weeds; can't get down on you knees – how about pruning some of the shrubs. No shortage of tasks. This is a great time to get to know other members. The work isn't that hard and the time goes fast when talking and laughing with other volunteers.

This year the Garden is permitting 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.

**Phyllis Weidman**

**314-965-7027**

**[Pow1031@gmail.com](mailto:Pow1031@gmail.com)**

## **Welcome new members!**

**Joyce Fry of St. Louis, MO  
Roy Irwin of St. Louis, MO  
Andrea Michalak of St. Louis, MO**



Look for them at future meetings. Stick out your hand and give them a hardy welcome. There are lots of exciting events and speakers scheduled this year. We hope our new members and all our old friends will join in the fun.

## **GARDEN WALK – A VISIT WITH MARTHA LAFATA MEMBER CLUB PLANT PICK UP**

**Sunday, May 19 1:00 PM  
433 Edgar Road, Webster Groves, MO 63119**



**Just behind the patio sits a large bubbling urn circled by a ring of smooth black stones. Photo by Kelly**



**A large rock along a path draws the eye to the many beautifully grown hostas, ferns and heucheras. Photo**



**Another of Martha's hosta borders, circa July, 2011.**

Society member, Martha Lafata and her husband Paul, have graciously invited us to spend an afternoon in her lovely Webster Groves garden. This is also the time to pick up the club plants that you ordered this spring. If you are unable to attend this event, please designate another member to pick up your plants for you.

This Garden Walk begins at our regular time of 1:00 PM. St. Louis Hosta Society will provide drinks and snacks. Please bring a lawn chair so that you might spend some leisurely time chatting with fellow members after touring this beautiful garden.

When we last visited Martha in July of 2011, she had major changes in mind. The most ambitious was the complete renovation of a overgrown hillside behind her home. A grassy path leads from her shady lower garden to a sunny area containing raised vegetable beds. Martha was also planning changes to her sunny border and the vegetable garden. As this was already a beautiful garden in 2011, we can but imagine into what it has evolved. Spend an afternoon in May admiring Martha's handiwork, hear about her future plants for her garden, and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow society members.

### **Directions:**

- From I-44, take the Elm Avenue exit.
- Go north on Elm Ave 0.2 miles to Big Bend Blvd.
- Turn right onto Big Bend Blvd and go 0.6 miles to Catalina Ave.
- Turn right onto Catalina Ave. and go 0.2 miles to Edgar Rd.
- Turn right onto Edgar Rd. and go 0.3 miles. 433 Edgar Rd. is on the right.



## Hosta Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden

**Set up time: Friday May 31, 5:00 PM – until done**

**Sale time: Saturday June 1, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

**Sunday June 2, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

**Location: Orthwein Room at the Missouri Botanical Garden**



Jeff Hall, Mary Lou Farrow, Phyllis and Jim Weidman, Catherine Mayer and Kelly Hall finish up the pricing & set up.



Saturday morning 2012  
open for business!



At 2012 MoBot Sale Jim Weidman gives a customer planting info.

It's almost the first of May and the hosta pups are just breaking ground. Now is a perfect time to dig and divide. For a successful MoBot plant sale, our Society needs your donations and your time. Mini and large hostas always seem to be in demand. Variegated hostas of any kind also sell well.

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 sale chairwoman Phyllis Weidman if you need help.

Please keep in mind that monies from this sale and the member auction in July pay the costs associated with meeting room rental, speakers, the website, newsletter publication, the holiday banquet and other events held throughout the year.

Plants can be dropped off at the Botanical Garden during set-up time or ahead of the June 1 sale date at any of the following member's homes. Just call to make arrangements and obtain directions.

Jeff and Kelly Hall – [skyridgegarden@earthlink.net](mailto:skyridgegarden@earthlink.net)

Dave and Joan Poos – 314-821-1622 or [david.poos@att.net](mailto:david.poos@att.net)

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

Workers are needed to help set up and price plants for sale. This occurs Friday evening May 30 starting at 5:00 PM. It doesn't take long and is a good way to become active in your society. Besides, who knows, we may decide to go out for a bite to eat after the work is done.

Workers are also needed to man the sales tables throughout the day. Like last year, our society will be sharing the room with several other garden clubs. This wide variety of plant material should translate into lots of foot traffic and potential sales.

Donate an hour or two of your time to talk and spread the word about that great plant the hosta.

## April - Another Successful Vendor Day



**Gregg Wesche of Overland Hardware might be describing a new product of his, 'Black Gold', to Sharon Schmitt.**



**Terry Fiebig of Meadow Sweet Gardens brought large heucheras, hostas, Solomon Seal and lots of garden art.**



**Kurt Vitoux from Homestead Farms Nursery tries to keep pace with his enthusiastic customers.**



**Kelly Hall's colorful and beautifully grown Japanese maples lined the entrance to the government center. Jeff and Kelly even made deliveries – that's customer service!**



**Chairman Spence Sorenson introduced the vendors and thanked his volunteers and all who came.**



**Denny Ricketts of Avalon Acres talked about a new series of hostas – the 'tinies'.**



**The large crowd took a moment from shopping to listen to the vendors describing what's new in their nurseries for 2013. President Phyllis Weidman held a short meeting outlining events scheduled for the next few months.**

As my husband and I approached the meeting room, we met Karen Frimel who was putting a heuchera as big as a turkey platter into her car. I then passed a red-leaved Japanese maple, brought by Kelly Hall, sporting a sold tag. Inside, Terry Fiebig's sales table had lots of empty places. Crowds stood elbow to elbow reaching for choice hostas brought from the Vitoux and Ricketts nurseries. I noticed the basket that had once contained Overland Hardware's large sized garden gloves was now empty. It seems all of us were ready for spring to kick old man winter aside.

Spence Sorenson and his team scored a 10!

**Thanks to all!**



## Companion Corner

### Lamium purpureum - Purple Deadnettle



**Purple Deadnettle beginning to bloom**



**Purple Deadnettle consuming an azalea**

As I shuffled into the house, stoop-shouldered and weary from a day of weeding in the yard, I groused to my husband that I had pulled enough of that purple flowered weed to feed all the starving people of Africa. I had barrels of the stuff sitting on our curb waiting for the recycle truck. The neighbors were wondering what type of crop failure we had had.

Wanting to confront my foe using appropriate language I set out on 'the net' seeking the name of this obnoxious and invasive plant. Purple Deadnettle! Was I surprised to find that this scourge is actually edible!

Purple Deadnettle and its look-alike Henbit are members of the mint family. This weed can reach heights of 16-18 inches. As is true of all mints, the stems are square. Leaves are opposite, triangular to heart-shaped, a bit hairy and have coarse, rounded teeth at the margins. The upper leaves, which appear closely stacked, overlapping and bent downward, are more purplish red in color than the lower leaves, which tend to be deep green. The leaves become smaller as they go up the plant. Purple to pinkish-purple flowers occur in whorls in the upper leaf axils. The flower blooms in April and lasts for about six weeks. A mass of deadnettle in spring, seen from afar, is actually quite pretty.

Purple deadnettle are winter annuals, which mean their seeds germinate in the fall or winter months. The seedlings emerge and grow during warm spells in winter and as temperatures warm in early spring. The weeds produce seeds in spring and the mature deadnettle plants die off as temperatures become hotter in summer. You can control purple deadnettle by applying a post-emergence herbicide during the spring or apply a pre-emergence herbicide in the fall. Or pretend you are at the gym – stoop and hand pull as you see them emerge.

Is it a nuisance weed or a beneficial plant? They are important nectar and pollen plants for a variety of bees due to their emergence early in the spring. Deadnettle are used in flower arrangements due to their structure and bright colored leaves and flowers. The stem, leaves, and flowers are all edible.

Purple Deadnettle are very nutritious being high in iron, vitamins, and fiber. Some people harvest the young shoots in spring and use them as additives to salads. Internet bloggers have tried them simmered like greens and served over a grain or dried and crumbled over dishes, added to soups, or made into tea. How do Springtime Fritters, Deadnettle and Chili Soup, or Deadnettle Beer sound? Personally, I prefer mine in recycle cans sitting on the front curb.



## Milwaukee, Wisconsin - "Escape to Wisconsin"

**June 13 – 15, 2013**

There has never been an AHS convention in Milwaukee before and the gardeners are excited to have us visit their area and their gardens. **There are many local cultural things** to do in Milwaukee either before or after the convention. In addition, we have **ten wonderful personal gardens to tour**.

This convention will follow an abbreviated schedule from previous conventions, but rest assured it will have all of the events expected from a national convention – leaf show, vending, garden tours, speakers, auctions, awards and, of course, plenty of hostatality.

**The cost for this convention extravaganza is \$139 per person.** In order to be able to offer this reasonably low cost, we will drive and carpool to the gardens. Attendees will be encouraged to carpool to gardens as parking is limited. Written directions and maps will be provided.

There is good news and bad. The **Sheraton-Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel has sold out of rooms** for that weekend, but they have come up with additional rooms at a nearby Quality Inn.

See the convention web site for more information about the scheduled activities, carpooling options, hotel accommodations and to obtain a registration form.

[www.2013ahsconvention.com](http://www.2013ahsconvention.com)



## MRHS Convention – "Hostamania!"

**July 11 – 13, Lisle, Illinois**

The Northern Illinois Hosta Society invites you to reserve **July 11 to 13** for the **MRHS Convention "Hostamania!"** in suburban Chicago. You might even want to come early and stay afterward to have enough time to visit the area's attractions. An optional tour of the Ball Seed Company's fabulous test and exhibit gardens, which are open free to the public only by appointment, is available for those who might want a break from hostas. Morton Arboretum is just five minutes from the convention hotel, and beautiful Cantigny Gardens is ten.

The convention features a tour of ten beautiful, private gardens that feature countless hostas, ten vendors offering the latest hosta varieties, a leaf show, a hosta auction and seminars. The cost of attending is quite reasonable: **A fee of \$119 covers all.**

You can make the convention hotel, **the Lisle/Naperville Hilton**, your base. It's located just off I-88 in Lisle, 25 miles west of downtown Chicago. The Hilton is giving a great **room rate of \$96** per night plus tax; full breakfast, pool, workout room, and parking are included.

For more information, access the MHRHS convention web site: <http://mrhs2013.org/>



## St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

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

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## 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/>