



Volume 15, Issue 4

May, 2014



**Phyllis Weidman President**

*Photo by Kelly Hall*

## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

We have had the April showers. Now it is time for those hostas to grow!

Spring is always a busy time for our society. Twenty people showed up for work day at the Missouri Botanical Garden. We lifted all plant material from one area of the hosta walk, added fertilizer and Turface, and tilled it all together. We then replanted the hostas and companion plants in hopes they will grow better and be more interesting to the visitors of the garden. This area now contains an example of each of the five

American Hosta Society (AHS) Benedict Award winning hostas. This award recognizes hostas that demonstrate superior garden performance across the country. They are H. 'June', H. 'Sagae', H. 'Blue Mouse Ears', H. 'Niagara Falls' and H. 'First Frost'. Thanks to all who came out to work!

Over sixty people signed the register for Vendors Day. It went off without a hitch, thanks to Spencer. I hope you found and purchased the plants you wanted, and had a good time visiting with the vendors. These vendors are special! It was also the day to pick-up your Club plants. They looked wonderful! I trust that each of you who ordered this year will make sure to do it next year. We are planning to use Made in the Shade Nursery again. Thanks to Ted for all his hard work.

The month of May is still busy for the society. Not only do you have your own garden to work, but you can help at the Botanical Garden for the plant sale. It is Mother's Day week end. Plan to bring your plants to put in the sale and then help sell. The Garden is beautiful at this time of year.

May also brings our first Garden Walk. It will be at the home of Basil and Sandy Honaker. Call a hosta friend, car pool, and plan to have fun. We will see you there.

*Phyllis*

## 2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 10-11**                      **Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden**  
Missouri Botanical Garden – Orthwein Floral Display Hall  
Setup May 10 at 6:00 AM., sale begins 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM.  
Sale May 11 begins 9:00 AM. until plants are all sold
- May 18**                              **Garden Walk in Member's Garden**  
1:00 PM, Home of Basil & Sandy Honaker, Jr.  
Lake Saint Louis, MO
- June 11-14**                      **American Hosta Society National Convention**  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- June 22**                              **Garden Walk at Missouri Botanical Garden**  
TBA
- June 26-28**                      **Midwest Region Hosta Society Convention**  
Green Bay, Wisconsin
- July 20**                              **Members Plant Auction**  
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- September 21**                      **Meeting with Speaker Mark Zilis**  
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- October 19**                      **Meeting with Speaker TBA**  
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- November TBA**                      **Board Meeting**  
TBA
- December 7**                      **Holiday Party**  
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center

### Phyllis' Hosta Tip of the Month

It is time to divide your hostas. The leaves emerge from buds formed last year; they unfurl; then the root system takes over to develop new roots. That makes this time of year the best time to dig and divide. Also, even if you think it is too early, the slugs are ready and waiting for the tender leaves to emerge. Take precautions now!



First the work! At the 2013, sale Barb Moreland and Kelly Hall start setting out the plants in alphabetical order, then pricing them.



Mary Lou Farrow and Diane Sherrillo help Jim Weidman set up the leaf display.



Word was getting around. In 2013 there were customers waiting for the doors to open at 9:00. Members were on hand to explain how to plant and care for hostas and to answer any questions.

## St. Louis Hosta Society Plant Sale

Missouri Botanical Garden, Orthwein Room

**May 10 - Set-up time 6:00 AM**  
**Sale time 9:00 – 5:00**  
**May 11 - 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.** 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 or bring them to the Garden on Saturday morning before between 6:00 AM and 9:00 AM.

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](mailto:pow1031@gmail.com) to volunteer an hour or two of your time.



## Garden Walk

May 18  
1:00 PM

**Basil & Sandy  
Honaker**



Basil's and Sandy's garden has an array of flowers, bushes, and trees from Missouri natives to non-native plants in an attempt to have color and texture all year round. It is a work in progress that started over ten years ago with the goal of having a variety of plants that will produce a soothing display for the eye during leisurely walks through the yard. Their desire for more sun loving plants has led to a new garden called the Overflow. It is home to plants divided from their parent plant, seedlings, and for whatever needs to be moved because it has out grown its original space.

With the purchase of their home there were many wooded areas that presented challenges to find a variety of plants that can produce a glow in a shade type garden. The local woodland inhabitants believe the flower beds are a great place to dine which has led to the need of critter resistant plants and keeps Basil on the hunt to explore new techniques to maintain balance between plants, wild life, and him. While they are blessed with viewing deer, rabbits, turkeys, possums, skunks, raccoons, and an array of birds; the plants are not as appreciative of these visits. Some trees have been cut down, some lost, and many have been planted to produce a mix of color, texture, and balance between power lines, lay of the land, and the plants around them.

While the garden is still a work in progress and will be forever, Basil and Sandy invite you to enjoy the labors of their work. Thank you Basil for sending the photos and description of your garden. I'm looking forward to seeing it in May.

**DIRECTIONS:** Basil & Sandy Honaker, Jr.  
1632 Westshyre Drive, Lake Saint Louis, MO 63367

Head **west** on I-64W/US-40W/US-61N. Travel 24.6 miles from the intersection of I-270 and I-64W.

Take **Prospect Road. Exit 1C.**

After 0.2 miles enter the roundabout and take the third exit onto **Prospect Road.**

After 0.05 miles turn **slight left** to stay on **Prospect Road.** Pass through roundabout.

After 0.4 miles **Prospect Road** becomes **Duello Road.**

After 0.06 miles turn **right** onto **Heather Glen Drive.**

Take the first **left** onto **Westshyre Drive.** (If you reach Heather Glen Ct you have gone too far.)

**1632 Westshyre Drive is on the left.**

## Missouri Botanical Garden Work Day – April 26



Jim Weidman spraying a Bayer product to control Southern Blight. Be proactive.



Allen Fassero planting H. 'Sagae' in one of the beds that members had just rejuvenated.



Jeanine Fassero carries buckets of H. 'Krossa Regal' that were divided and relocated.



Jolly Ann Whitener removes hostas from a bed scheduled to be tilled, then replanted.



Ted Piekutowski divides ferns.



Phyllis Weidman and Mary Lou Farrow confer with MBG staff member Darmon Williams. They are amending the soil in one of the East beds before replanting.



Mario Carlos spreads a layer of Turface which Darmon then tilled in. This will improve the drainage in this bed.



Jeff Henrich removes some of the overgrown patches of companion plants. Large clumps of heuchera were divided.



Barb Moreland and Karen Frimel head up a weeding detail.



Sharon and Mike Schmitt relocate a large patch of H. 'Krossa Regal' to fill the back corner of one of the existing hosta beds.



Marian Murphy and Andrea Michalak weed around the Hosta Display Garden sign.



Spence Sorenson chats with Pam Wolkowitz. We know who did the work - look at those knees!



Remove it all  
Amend the soil  
Divide the big  
Add a few new  
Put it all back  
**What a difference!**



### **Phyllis' MoBot Work Crew**

**Front: Barb Moreland, Karen Frimel, Mario Carlos, Martha Lafata, Phyllis Weidman, Joan Poos, Dave Poos**

**Middle: Pam Wolkowitz, Sharon Schmitt, Marian Murphy, Jolly Ann Whitener, Andrea Michalak, Jeanine Fassero, Allen Fassero, Jim Weidman**

**Back: Spencer Sorenson, Mary Lou Farrow, Jeff Henrich, Ted Piekutowski, Mike Schmitt**

### **Two Member Plant Sales in May**

Arleie and Nancy Tempel are downsizing their vast collection of hostas and companion plants. They will have a sale at their north county home on Saturday May 17 from 9:00 AM to Noon. The Tempels live at:

**614 Hunters Ridge  
St. Louis, MO 63135**

Pat Payton and Jean Hudson are having a sale of divisions from their Webster Groves garden on Saturday May 31 from 9:00 AM to Noon. There will be peonies, ferns, many types of sun and shade perennials as well as hostas. You will find Pat and Jean at:

**361 South Maple  
Webster Groves, MO 63119**

### **Ops! Is someone missing two plants?**

A bag containing two hostas was left behind at last Sunday's Vendor Day event. If you purchased H. 'Mini Skirts' and H. 'Baby Booties' but they are now missing, it wasn't the result of very active voles. Give Phyllis Weidman a call; she has your plants.

## Vendor Day - 2014



**Don Burkhardt of Overland Hardware displays a wide selection of fertilizers, pest repellants, soil additives and of course the ever popular Atlas gloves.**



**Denny Ricketts of Avalon Acres writes up a sales slip. He brought hostas of every size and color. H. 'Lionheart' took my eye.**



**Kim Piekutowski browses through Terry Fiebig's Meadow Sweet Garden selections of herbs, vegetables and bedding plants.**

People were certainly tired of the long cold winter. More than sixty people turned out for our annual Vendor Day event. Three nurseries, Avalon Acres, Homestead Farms and Meadow Sweet Gardens brought a variety of plants for our shopping pleasure. There were hostas galore, but also herbs, vegetables and both shade and sun companion plants.

Overland Hardware Store brought products to amend our soils and control the weeds. There were also products to chase off all the pesky varmints and rodents that plague our yards. Canisters held the Atlas gloves that are so tough but comfortable to wear.

A big round of applause goes to Spencer Sorenson and his helpers for a very successful event. Our vendors were appreciative of all the setup and cleanup help Spence and his crew provided.



**Mary Lou Farrow talks with Kurt Vitoux of Homestead Farms. Brother Bret and father Ron finish their setup.**



**The large crowd settles in for a brief business meeting which was followed by more shopping. Over sixty people signed in. All of the vendors experienced brisk sales.**

### A Job Well Done!



**Our youngest member plays with the Hall's dog Jobey while mom shops.**



**Melissa Byrd plans to take home one of Polly Deck's sand castings.**

## Club Plant Pickup

In conjunction with Vendor Day, members were able to pick up the plants that they had ordered back in February. This year's chairman Ted Piekutowski obtained hostas from Rob Mortko's *Made in the Shade Nursery*.

Ted boxed each member's order. As you can see from the picture, Rob's plants were large enough for immediate transplanting in our gardens.

**Thanks Ted for another successful event!**



Member orders awaiting pickup

## We're ready for a party!

Pam Wolkowitz is in the process of organizing our social calendar. She is looking for members who would be willing to open their garden for an afternoon or evening Garden Walk or who would be willing to be part of a one day garden tour.



Garden Walks are fun – people bring lawn chairs, the beverage of their choice and a snack to share with others. The hosts supply a table for food and a garden - big or small, sunny or shady, established or in progress. We admire your flowers and toast your achievements.

Interested? **Contact Pam 636-285-3114 or [lovehostas@msn.com](mailto:lovehostas@msn.com)**

## It Was a LONG, HARD WINTER

Last fall Ted Piekutowski demonstrated the art of Bonsai. His Alberta Spruce creation was won by Mary Lou Farrow. Ted was to care for the plant during the winter, then return it this year to demonstrate root pruning. Unfortunately, old man winter had other ideas – it did not survive. During the Vendor Day meeting, Ted presented Mary Lou with a replacement Alberta Spruce. Let's hope for a milder winter!



## Be Proactive – Start your controls early

**Southern Blight:** Bayer Advanced All-In-One Rose and Flower Care or Bayer Advanced Disease Control for Roses, Flowers and Shrubs – 3 systemic products in one that control insects, diseases and fertilizes. This is an excellent product to use to control Southern Blight on hostas. Read the label to make sure one of the active ingredients is Tebuconazole.

**Slugs: Deadline** - a very hard little turquoise pellet which contains yeast (to attract the slugs) and Metaldehyde which causes them to stop feeding and kills them. **OR Sluggo** - a blend of an iron phosphate based ingredient and bait additives. The bait additives are attractive to snails and slugs and lure them from their hiding places. Once snails or slugs ingest **Sluggo**, they stop eating plants and die within 3-6 days. Pellets, which are not ingested by snails or slugs, will biodegrade and become part of the soil in your garden. **Sluggo** is approved for organic gardening. Do this now; don't wait until holes appear on your hosta leaves.

## St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

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

**Kelly Hall** – Secretary  
[kellyh@iconmachinetool.com](mailto:kellyh@iconmachinetool.com)

**Sharon and Mike Schmitt** – Hospitality  
314-719-9305  
[Sharons39@aol.com](mailto:Sharons39@aol.com)

**Dave Poos** – Vice-President  
314-821-1622  
[david.poos@att.net](mailto:david.poos@att.net)

**Cindy Michniok** – Treasurer  
314-434-0946  
[Cmichniok@gmail.com](mailto:Cmichniok@gmail.com)

**Kelly Hall** – Webmaster  
[kellyh@iconmachinetool.com](mailto:kellyh@iconmachinetool.com)

**Joan Poos** – Newsletter Editor  
314-821-1622  
[david.poos@att.net](mailto:david.poos@att.net)

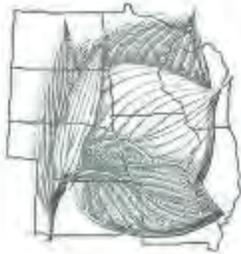
## St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

**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/>