



Show Me Hostas Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 5

June, 2011

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Pam Wolkowitz President
Photo by Kelly Hall

Hello Fellow Gardeners!

The weather continues to play havoc with us. The hostas love the rain, but the hail and falling twigs are leaving holes in our once beautiful hosta leaves. The only task I have been able to do a little work on is mulch, which is being done a lot later than usual.

We all had a wonderful time at our first garden walk at Barb Moreland's house. I hope we will have others open their gardens to this activity which we all enjoy so much. Thanks, Barb, for starting off the season with your great garden and warm hospitality.

Just an additional reminder to bring plants to the Mo Bot Plant Sale and have fun talking hostas with people and hopefully getting them "hooked" on our favorite plant.

Happy Gardening,
Your President,

Pam

Please note on the 2011 Calendar of Events that the Tour of Chesterfield Valley Nursery, scheduled for June 18, has been cancelled.

2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 4** **Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden**
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Missouri Botanical Garden
(7:00 – 9:00 AM Plant drop off and sale set up time)
- June 11** **Club Garden Tour – 5 member gardens**
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- June 18 (Saturday)** **Tour of Chesterfield Valley Nursery**
THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED
- June 22-25** **American Hosta Society National Convention**
Marlborough, Massachusetts
For more information: <http://www.hosta2011.com>
- July 7-9** **Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention**
Madison, Wisconsin
For more information: <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org>
- July 17** **Member Plant Auction**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- September 18** **Meeting with Speaker Don Dean**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- October 16**
(Note location change) **Meeting with Speaker Mike Curran**
1:00 PM, Summer Winds Garden Center
- December 4** **Holiday Party**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center

IT'S NOT TOO LATE **Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention** **Hosted by the Wisconsin Hosta Society**

All hosta enthusiasts are invited to the annual Midwest Regional Hosta Society convention next **July 7, 8, and 9** in **Madison, Wisconsin**. Many members across the mid-western states have never been to a hosta convention.

There are educational activities centered on the genus Hosta. Convention attendees gather ideas and examples of ways to improve their gardens and learn more about this most popular perennial plant. These activities include: tours of five hosta gardens, a Leaf Show, vendor plant sales, silent and live auctions, judging clinics, a Friday night Pig Roast, breakout and banquet speakers and of course, hostality.

For more information, visit: www.wihostasociety.com and click on the **2011 Convention symbol**. The convention schedule and registration form are available on-line. You may also register online and pay by credit card. If you have questions contact Irwin Johnson (262) 786-1758 or irwinjohnson@wi.rr.com

June 4 is just a few days away!
Come join the fun – volunteer a bit of your time!
Share your enthusiasm for our great plant - The Hosta!
Hosta Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden



Set up time: 7:00 – 9:00 AM

Sale time: 9:00 – 5:00 PM

Location: Orthwein Room at the Missouri Botanical Garden

For a successful MoBot plant sale, the Society needs your donations and your 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, the newsletter publication, the holiday banquet and many more events held throughout the year.

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

Jeff and Kelly Hall – Sunset Hills - skyridgegarden@earthlink.net

Dave and Joan Poos – Crestwood – 314-821-1622 or david.poos@att.net

Phyllis and Jim Weidman – Kirkwood - 314/965-7027 or pow1031@gmail.com

Heather Anderson – Wildwood - 636-273-6860 or maple_leaf_to@yahoo.com

Workers are needed to help set up and price plants for sale. This occurs from 7:00 to 9:00 AM on June 4. Please bring extra plastic grocery bags. Workers are also needed to man the sales tables throughout the day. Donate an hour or two of your time.

This is a great time to get to know other members of your society. The work's not hard, you don't need to be knowledgeable about plants (Phyllis, Pam and Arlie are usually around to ask), and you'll meet a lot of very nice gardeners. Share some laughs, talk about what's going on in your garden, swap "war" stories about storm damage or vole and deer attacks. In general, just have a good time.

To volunteer, contact Heather:

Heather Anderson
636-273-6860 or maple_leaf_to@yahoo.com

St. Louis Hosta Society Member Garden Tour

Saturday June 11, 2011

Five gardens will be open Saturday June 11 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM for member visits. It's been a tough spring in St. Louis but hopefully the rain, hail and tornado gods have been good to each of them and spared their gardens. Visit these gardens in any order that you wish. Bring a friend or two and make a day of it!

The Illinois Prairie Hosta Society of Champaign Illinois will be visiting the St. Louis area on June 11-12. They will have a bus load of enthusiastic hosta lovers joining our member tour. If you cross paths with them, tell them how delighted we are that they chose St. Louis as their 2011 destination.

Kelly and Jeff Hall: 12473 Robyn Rd., Sunset Hills, MO 63127

Kelly and Jeff moved to their Robyn Road home in 2007 and spent an exhausting year removing wild honeysuckle trees, designing and preparing paths and beds then replanting huge conifers, hostas and companion plants salvaged from their previous home. They have over 400 varieties of hostas, over 35 varieties of Japanese maples and numerous conifers, dogwoods and other companion plants. They've recently expanded (twice the size, I hear) their koi pond which can be viewed from the many large windows of their home. Don't miss the moss hillside and the many troughs Kelly and Jeff have designed, constructed and planted.

Directions:

- From I-44 take the Lindbergh Blvd exit.
- Go South on Lindbergh about 1.5 miles to Robyn Road
- Turn right on Robyn and continue to 12473 Robyn which is on the right.
- Please use the downhill end of the circle drive to enter and the uphill end to exit. If the driveway is full please park on Black Oak Drive (at the stop sign at the top of the hill) and walk down Robyn Road.

Jean Hudson and Pat Payton: 361 South Maple, Webster Groves, MO 63119

Pat Payton and Jean Hudson have completely landscaped a long and narrow suburban lot. Pat and Jean have a love of ferns, hostas and shade companion plants which dominate the front and side yards. Their backyard is a riot of color as sun loving plants reach to the sky. Nestled in a corner of the backyard is a waterfall and pond which is home to several brightly colored goldfish. New to their 1920s English Tudor home is a screened back porch, a lovely place to relax with a glass of wine and bask in the beauty around them.

Directions:

From I-44 take the Elm Ave exit.

Go north on S. Elm Ave about 0.3 miles to E. Jackson Road.

Turn right on E. Jackson Road and go 0.1 miles to S. Maple Ave

Turn left onto S. Maple Ave and continue to 361 which is on the left.

Dave and Joan Poos: 9904 Crestwood Dr., Crestwood, MO 63126

A series of paths weave around the many beds containing 750+ hosta cultivars mixed with many varieties of epimedium, heuchera, ferns, hydrangeas and other companion plants. Mature oaks, conifers and Japanese maples add bones to the beds and complement the hundreds of azaleas that provide early spring color. In areas that escape the shade, you will find daylilies just starting to burst into color. Beyond the arbor, one finds a mass of daylilies (typically 2,000 plus) which represent a very active Hemerocallis hybridizing program. Continue past the tool shed to see a vegetable garden, strawberry patch and raspberry bed. There's something to interest everyone in this beautiful garden.

Directions:

- From I-44 take the Lindbergh exit.
- Go south on Lindbergh 0.2 miles to Watson Road. NOTE: Watson Rd passes over Lindbergh so you must take the ramp to the right to access Watson Road.
- Turn left on Watson Road and continue 0.6 miles to Sturdy.
- Turn right onto Sturdy and go one block to Crestwood Drive.
- Turn left on Crestwood Drive and continue to the end of the street. 9904 is on the circle on the right.

Nancy and Arlie Tempel: 614 Hunters Ridge, St. Louis, MO 63135

Walking around to the back of Nancy and Arlie's rustic contemporary home, you will be struck by dramatic changes in elevation. A deep ravine divides the full sun garden on the top of the hill from the shady terraces below the deck. Those unable to navigate the hills can sit on the patio or deck and enjoy the overall view. A variety of paths take you through the terraced hillsides from which you can view Arlie's favorite plant the hosta. Unusual ferns and other shade lovers intermingle with the hostas. The paths emerge on top of a hill covered with daylilies, sun loving plants and numerous Tempel designed structures including an unusual rectangular pond. Visit this garden and learn the art of creating a beautiful garden space on a steep incline.

Directions:

- From I-270 N take the Washington St/Elizabeth Ave exit.
- Go South onto N Elizabeth Ave about 0.9 miles to Hunters Ridge Dr.
- Turn right onto Hunters Ridge Dr and continue to 614 which is on the left.

Phyllis and Jim Weidman: 508 Essex Point Ct, Kirkwood, MO 63122

Ever wonder where all those beautiful leaves that Phyllis and Jim bring to Society leaf shows and events grow? Come see for yourselves! Years of amending the rocky and clay soil of their suburban home has resulted in a stunning garden. Their large hosta collection, now exceeding 300 varieties, lives happily under and amongst the huge trees, dwarf conifers and Japanese maples. A dry creek, flanked by hostas and a variety of perennials, meanders down the hillside to the right of their home. The sun portions of their steep backyard garden are home to several varieties of coneflowers and other sun lovers. The Weidman's are not biased, loving everything hosta, from their mini collection to those residing in homemade hypertufa troughs to the huge specimens along the back path.

Directions:

- From I-270 take the Dougherty Ferry Road exit.
- Go east on Dougherty Ferry Road about 1.1 miles to W Essex Ave
- Turn right on W. Essex Ave and continue about 0.3 miles to Pointe Essex Ct.
- Turn right on Pointe Essex Ct and continue to 508 which is on the right.

A Garden Walk with Barb Moreland



Welcome!

May 20 dawned dark and stormy. Forecasters predicted the worst. But this is St. Louis – the evening was beautiful, as was Barb Moreland's Webster Groves oasis. After walking past a bed of tall, bright blooming iris, we were greeted by a grinning pig. He knew what surprises awaited us around the corner.



The iris put on a show



Barb's back yard

There's no need for a lawn mower in Barb's fully landscaped back and side yards. Beautifully grown hostas vie for attention with hydrangeas, ferns, astilbes, impatiens and other shade lovers. A planting of Heavenly Bamboo shrubs softens the side of her storage shed. A large redbud and several conifers provide the bones.



Golden Meadows lights up the side yard



Corner venue

Flamingos dance amongst the pink delphiniums, white peonies and purple iris. The peonies were just finishing their color show while the daylilies lay in wait for their turn in June. Barb inherited her gardening genes from her father. She has fond memories of the two of them planting the Henry Lauder Walking Stick that dominates the back of her house.



Mary Lou and Al Farrow talk with Kelly and Jeff Hall and Joan Hummel.

Rounding the corner of the house the pea gravel path forms an oval around Barb's magnolia tree. Tall ferns, bright hostas, an unusual variegated New Guinea Impatien and a lovely blossom-shaped birdbath lay under the tree.



Barb's side yard oasis

A second table was needed to hold all the delicious snacks brought by society members. What a relaxing evening – good food, good friends and a beautiful garden!

Thank you Barb!



Gathering around the snack table

Work Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden – May 21

Amazing what a couple hours work and a few helping hands can do!



Chester Wolkowitz, Dave Poos and Darmon Williams remove resurrection lilies while Pam Wolkowitz and Barb Moreland add new hostas to the bed.

It was a beautiful day to work in a garden! Overcast but no rain, cool but no jacket needed. Eight Society members spent a few hours sprucing up the hosta beds at the Missouri Botanical Garden. A bushel of surprise lilies were removed. New hostas were planted in barren areas. Overgrown patches of Solomon Seal and May Apples were divided. Lilacs were pruned and suckers removed from the stately magnolias. And, of course, there was a lot of weeding.

This was a perfect opportunity to get outside, get some exercise, talk and laugh with fellow gardeners. The time flew by.

Thanks Phyllis for getting us organized.



Mary Lou Farrow divides overgrown perennials.



Pam and Barb get rid of those suckers!



Jim Weidman weeding - there's never an end to it.



Work crew – Front: Barb Moreland, Dave Poos, Jim and Phyllis Weidman, Joan Poos. Back row: Mary Lou Farrow, Pam and Chester Wolkowitz. Picture taken by MoBot staff member Darmon Williams.



David Robson speaking with Jon Topp

May 15 Meeting **Ferns in the Landscape**

David Robson, University of Illinois Extension Educator

David's love affair with ferns began with house plants. Then, after traveling to the Pacific Northwest where the ferns grow really large, his love evolved to encompass those winter-hardy in the Midwest.

Ferns are usually shade loving and non-invasive, have bold to soft textures, 12 to 36 inches in height and typically green. Now ferns displaying silver, gray and red tones are appearing on the market.

Ferns like highly organic soil augmented with compost, composted manures or leaf mold, but will adapt to other types. They are water loving but do not like wet feet. Fertilizer is seldom needed, in fact, too much nitrogen causes spindly growth. They reproduce by spores which are spread by wind, rain, animals and even human shoes. Their biggest predator is the Japanese beetle although rabbits and deer also enjoy the tender fronds of some varieties. More destructive are the man made insecticides.

David introduced us to 20 different varieties of fern from the difficult to establish Maiden Hair Fern to the most popular Japanese Painted Lady Fern. Some were quite unusual such as the Walking Fern which favors rock and moss gardens and the Banana Fern with its strap-like leaves. Some are quite tall such as the three foot Ostrich Fern, while others, like the Polypodium, live close to the ground. We met the easy-to-grow Lady Ferns and the elegant Male Fern, some of which have crested tips.

It's not me, it's the fern. I love Tassel and Tatting Ferns but have trouble growing them. The reason, David says, is that they are not reliably hardy in our area. If the winter is mild or there is a good snow cover, success; otherwise, it's back to the local nursery to select another one.

David was an excellent speaker often mixing humor in with valuable growing information on a number of our favorite ferns. Think of the fun trying to track down a *Woodsia ilvansis*.

What do you get when you order by mail?

Show and tell with Phyllis Weidman

At the May meeting Phyllis Weidman displayed the results of an experiment of ordering on the Web the same hosta from four different nurseries. She used h.'Kaleidochrome', a 2009 registered cultivar and used sources listed in *The Hosta Finder*.



Her results showed that plant prices varied as did the added cost of shipping and handling. The final price ranged from approximately \$45 to \$56. Shipping times also varied. Klehm's Song Sparrow, a northern grower, experienced bad weather and will not be able to send the plant until August. Another sent the plant two weeks earlier than requested. Some nurseries sent bare-rooted plants while others sent theirs in small pots. One web site did not work, so the order had to be faxed. Another accepted the order on-line but did not return a confirmation. One of the four included a gift plant. Phyllis' experiment showed the pros and cons. To obtain that special hosta, it might be worth taking the chance. Just be aware.

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

Pam Wolkowitz - President
636-285-3114
lovehostas@msn.com

Phyllis Weidman – Vice-President
314-965-7027
Pow1031@gmail.com

Dave Poos - Treasurer
314-821-1622
david.poos@att.net

Joan Hummel - Secretary
636-405-2584
HummelJFam@sbcglobal.net

Kelly Hall - Webmaster
skyridgegarden@earthlink.net

Karen Frimel – Membership
cckmf@aol.com

Barb Moreland – Hospitality
314-961-4191
Bmore433@aol.com

Joan Poos - Newsletter Editor
314-821-1622
david.poos@att.net

Membership Information

The American Hosta Society

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

Midwest Regional Hosta Society

Contact: Barb Schroeder
1819 Coventry Drive
Champaign, IL 61822
mrhs.treasurer@midwesthostasociety.org
Dues: Individual \$20 for two years

St. Louis Hosta Society

Contact: Dave Poos
9904 Crestwood Drive
Crestwood, MO 63126
david.poos@att.net
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

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>