



Volume 14, Issue 5

June, 2013



Phyllis Weidman President

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We have been busy.

The plant pick-up and meeting at Martha Lafata's was truly a hot one. The temperature was high and so was the humidity. Those who came were treated to a beautiful garden. Martha has been working hard. She is creating a new large bed where there was a tree and lots of ground cover. Hard work, but it is paying off with more space for great plant material including conifers and, of course, hostas. Thanks to Martha for hosting us.

We must also thank Jean Hudson. She worked closely with the "boyz" from Naylor Creek, who provided members with good plants

at a very affordable price. Jean has worked since December on selecting the plants, creating the order forms, getting the forms to members, receiving the orders, collating all individual orders and getting those orders to Naylor Creek. After all that work, one would think she'd be done. No, in May she received the total order from Naylor Creek and divided the order into the personal orders for each member. Finally, she went to Martha's and handed them out. One BIG job done extremely well! Thanks again to Jean.

The work day at the Missouri Botanical Garden was a great success. We got there and got the job done in fine fashion. Darman Williams was amazed at how fast we can work. The Garden donated lots of hostas that were dug by our members for our plant sale on June 1st and 2nd. As usual, we set up the sale on Friday night and were ready to sell Saturday morning at 9am. It is fun to share knowledge with people at the sale and encourage them to become part of our great group.

The next important event is the St. Louis Open Hosta Gardens, June 9th from 10am to 4pm. Remember these gardens are open to members and the public. So, tell your neighbors about the event. The complete list of gardens can be found on our web site, www.stlouishosta.org. Just click the square button on the upper right. Try to visit as many as you can. Some of the best in St. Louis are open to you to visit. This is a rain or shine event, so remember your umbrella.

Phyllis

2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 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
- 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

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Charles Scherrer of St. Louis, MO

We hope to see you at the exciting events planned for the rest of the year.

**OPEN GARDEN DAY
JUNE 9
10:00 to 4:00 PM**



These photos show just a sampling of the awesome views that await you on June 9th. Twelve members of the St. Louis Hosta Society are opening their beautiful gardens to the public during St. Louis' first Open Hosta Gardens Day. Some gardens are small and compact, others large and wandering; some are flat, others hilly. All are beautiful and their hosts welcoming. Spend a Sunday visiting these sites, talking with your fellow members who have created these gardens, and walk away with ideas that can be incorporated into your own piece of heaven.

The addresses of the twelve open gardens are listed on the flyer on the next page of this newsletter and also on our web site. Visit as many as you wish between the hours of 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM. Members will be in their gardens to welcome you, show you around and answer all your questions.

[See if you can identify the six gardens featured on this page.](#)



St. Louis Open Hosta Gardens

Free and open to public

Sunday, June 9th 10am-4pm

7884 Evergreen Drive, Cedar Hill, MO 63016

9255 Byrnesville Road, Cedar Hill, MO 63016

614 Hunters Ridge, Ferguson, MO 63135

31 Bellerive Acres, Bellerive, MO 63121

19 Dunleith Drive, Ladue, MO 63124

2 Bridgers Pass Court, St. Peters, MO 63376

10 Oak Hollow Drive, St. Peters, MO 63376

409 Mason Ridge, St. Charles, MO 63304

9904 Crestwood Drive, Crestwood, MO 63126

508 Pointe Essex Court, Kirkwood, MO 63122

12557 Starspur Lane, Creve Coeur, MO 63146

232 Hewlett Court, Creve Coeur, MO 63141

Visit www.stlouishosta.org Information Contact

Visit as many as you wish. 314-965-7027



Missouri Botanical Garden Hosta Work Day May 11



Fearless leader Phyllis Weidman had a work plan ready which indicated the tasks that needed to be finished during the morning.



Pam Wolkowitz prepares to plant one of the new hostas purchased by the Garden. The soil was loose and easy to dig.



Karen Frimel plants another of the new hostas. Each plant has two identifying labels, one is located under the plant, the other in front.



Ted Piekutowski helps remove hosta clumps that have grown into one another.



Jim Yochim and Jim Weidman finish planting H. 'Sugar Snap' in one of the existing hosta beds. Next year more than 30 new hostas, which are now gaining size in the green house, will be ready for planting in the beds.



Barb Moreland tries her hand with one of the smaller cultivars. The morning started a bit chilly, but soon warmed up.



Volunteers worked with MoBot staff member Darman Williams to separate large plantings of hostas which over the years had grown together.



Volunteers Karen Frimel, Janelle Criscione, Jim Yochim, Phyllis Weidman, Ted Piekutowski, Jolly Ann Whitener, Chester Wolkowitz and Karen Frey.

Volunteers from our Society spent a few hours on a Saturday morning

- planting new hostas
- removing all hostas from a bed that will soon showcase shrubs
- clearing paths between cultivars that had grown together
- cutting out hosta eyes that had reverted
- raking, weeding, pruning and general sprucing up

Thank you!

**Phyllis and Jim Weidman
Karen Frey
Karen Frimel
Jim Yochim
Martha Lafata
Ted Piekutowski**

**Pam and Chester Wolkowitz
Joan and Dave Poos
Jolly Ann Whitener
Barb Moreland
Janelle Criscione**

Club Plant Pickup – May 19 at Martha Lafata’s Garden Chair person – Jean Hudson

Jean Hudson was a popular person May 19th. Jean assumed responsibility for organizing our annual club plant sale event. In December she worked with Naylor Creek Nursery to compile a list of hostas that might be new and interesting and presented that list to our members. After members had indicated their choices, Jean collected their order forms, placed one large order with the nursery, and arranged for delivery of the plants for the second week of May. Once in St. Louis, Jean and her committee assembled the huge hosta order into individual packages which she then distributed at Martha Lafata’s garden walk.



Jean Hudson with Janelle Criscione

GREAT JOB JEAN! THANKS!!

Martha Lafata's Garden Walk May 19



A large Japanese maple cascades over large blue hostas along Martha's shady border. Golden Creeping Jenny provides contrast.



A butterfly house towers over a vivid backdrop of lavender and pink azaleas.



H. 'Blue Angel' anchors the newly cleared hillside. In another year, this bed will fill in beautifully.

The day was typical St. Louis – hot and humid. But the hostas were unfazed, displaying all those bright hues – the fresh golds, greens and blues of May.

Martha has put in a lot of hard work since last we visited with her. Most striking was a lengthy hillside that had been covered with ivy, vinca, euonymus, rocks and railroad ties. Martha painstakingly removed it all. Now the shady end is anchored by a large H. 'Blue Angel', while the focal points of the sunny end are an intersectional peony named *Bratzella* and several conifers.

Thank you Martha, for inviting us to view your piece of Eden. We hope to return in a year or two to see that hill side at its maturity.



**Intersectional peony
*Bratzella***



Michele and Gregg Wesche admire the sweeping border dotted with Siberian iris, columbine, ferns, tiarellas and hostas.



Marjorie and Lori King walk with Jolly Ann Whitener toward the upper level sunny beds.



Members socialize on Martha's patio. Drinks and snacks were provided by our hospitality chair Barb Moreland.

Companion Corner



Dicentra

Bleeding Heart

Partial shade

Zones 2 – 9



Need a showy, very easy to grow, low-maintenance plant to brighten up your shady border or bed? Then the old-fashioned bleeding hearts is the one for you. Once a mainstay in your grandmother's garden, new hybrids are appearing on the market every year.

Named for their pillow-like, heart-shaped blossoms, **Dicentra** flowers can be vivid pink, red, white or yellow. Their foliage also varies, from heavily lobed to lacy and fern like, in shades of green to gray-green and now gold.

The variety your grandmother grew, *Dicentra spectabilis*, forms a bushy, upright mound as much as 36 inches in height. The bleeding hearts hang from gracefully arching stems. The plants bloom in late spring about the same time as pulmonarias and brunneras. The flowers can last into the summer depending upon the amount of sun and heat the plant receives. Mulch to keep the soil cooler. Usually the plants yellow and go dormant in mid summer. Cut back the foliage as it becomes yellow and ratty looking. These plants attract butterflies and hummingbirds, but not deer.

If the flowers are not removed, small pods develop and drop seeds. Some will germinate, but they are certainly not invasive. The seeds can be harvested and planted indoors in pots, but need a period of freezing temperatures. So place the pots in plastic bags and store in the freezer for 6-8 weeks. The plants can also be divided after flowering (*D. spectabilis*) or in spring as they are emerging (fringe-leafed varieties). The seedlings are also easy to transplant, just augment the soil with lots of compost, hummus or peat moss. Bleeding Hearts prefer rich, moist woodland soils but will grow in most shady gardens. However, they can't tolerate heavy, wet clay soils – the roots will rot.

Some cultivars available in local nurseries or in mail-order catalogues are:

- D. *spectabilis* 'Alba' – the white blooming, old-fashioned Bleeding Heart
- D. *spectabilis* 'Gold Heart' – gold foliage with bright pink hearts, a stunning contrast
- D. *spectabilis* 'Valentine' – a dense clump of red tinged foliage with red hearts
- D. *exima* 'Luxuriant' – ferny, blue-green foliage with cherry red hearts
- Dicentra x 'King of Hearts' – ferny, blue-green foliage with long blooming, rosy-pink hearts
- D. *scandens* – a vining species with yellow blooms

Give this spectacular plant a try. Its airy, delicate foliage forms a great contrast with the bold leaves of your hostas while their dainty hearts add a bit of color to the woodland landscape.

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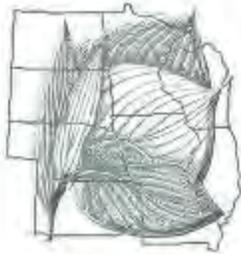
St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

Contact: Cindy Michniok
14300 Quiet Meadow Ct.
Chesterfield, MO 63017
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



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.



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/>