



Volume 15, Issue 5

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Phyllis Weidman President

Photo by Kelly Hall

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The Missouri Botanical Garden is one of the premiere gardens in our country. For the last five years, our society has been helping the Garden improve the Hosta area. Many of you have helped on our annual work day and others have been weekly volunteers. It has made a big difference. Our next meeting will be held at 1:00 pm on June 22nd at the Garden so you can see first-hand the work that has been done. We shall gather in the Missouri Classroom located in the Ridgeway Center. Because our meeting is at the Garden, there will be no fee to get into the garden, so plan to spend time and visit areas you have not seen lately.

June is the month of Conventions. The American Hosta Society Convention will be held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and the Midwest Regional Conference will be in Green Bay, Wisconsin. At these conventions you meet and hear from experts in the field of hostas. Hybridizers will be discussing the crosses they have made; the tissue culture people will be talking about problems in the lab; growers will be presenting which hostas are hot in the market; and, of course, everyone will be talking about the leaf show and buying hostas from the many vendors. The highlights are usually the visits to the many superb gardens.

You can ask questions about almost anything related to hostas and get an answer and probably much more. It is also a great time to rekindle friendships from previous conventions and make new ones. You should all consider attending a convention. It means setting aside the time and money, but if you want to learn about hostas, it is the place to go. As you know, in 2016 we will be hosting the AHS convention. It will help if many of us have some first-hand knowledge of what happens at a convention.

If you did not make it to our May Garden Walk, you missed something special. Thanks to Basil and Sandy for opening their garden and showing us around. It was a beautiful day to be in their exquisite garden.

Phyllis

June 7th Open Gardens

Mary Lou and Al Farrow
10574 Sonata Dr
St. Louis, MO 63123
Open 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Mary Lou has been gardening since she and husband Al bought their home 33 years ago. First, they rehabbed the house, raised their sons, and then got serious about the yard. The field of weeds had to go. Mary Lou has planted every tree, shrub and most plants in her beautifully landscaped corner lot. What started as a tiny border in the small back yard grew out into the extra lot on the side. There are numerous hostas, peonies, irises, daylilies and other perennials. Also, one bonsai (thanks Ted) and a pink daylily named especially in her honor.

The Farrow household includes two dogs, a cat and three chickens besides several gold fish in her pond. Every tree sports a birdhouse.

The Mehlville Garden Club recently presented a State Beautification Citation and Yard of the Month Award to Mary Lou. Her attractive garden reflects Mary Lou's enjoyment of "being outside, playing in the dirt".

Directions:

- From I-270 take the MO-21 (Tesson Ferry Rd.) exit.
- Travel East on Tesson Ferry Rd. 2.0 miles. Turn left onto Green Park Rd. After 0.05 mile Green Park Rd. becomes Musick Rd.
- After 0.1 mile, turn right onto Sonata Drive. Mary Lou's home is on the corner.



Karen Frey
2 Bridgers Pass Ct
St. Peters, MO 63376
Open 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Karen says she is "a nut about gardening". A stroll along her brick-edged wood chip paths quickly divulges Karen's desire to try anything different or unusual.

Her yard is a riot of color. Although generally planting

perennials, Karen mixes annuals in her borders and numerous pots. A raised pond featuring a mosaic depicting colorful koi romping in a bright blue sea hints at Karen's enjoyment of water gardening. Her biggest passion is for hostas, daylilies and clematis. Karen is close to her goal of having no grass, only garden plants.

Directions:

- From I-270 N take the exit for I-70 W toward Kansas City.
- After 11.7 miles take the Mid Rivers Mall Dr exit, EXIT 222. Merge onto Mid Rivers Mall Dr.
- After 1.3 miles, turn left onto Dubray Dr. Dubray Dr. becomes Grand Teton Dr.
- After 0.1 mile, turn right onto Dubray Dr. Karen's home is just past Martha St.



Karen and Greg Frimel
19 Dunleith Drive
St. Louis, MO 63124
Open 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM



Removing extensive areas of invasive honeysuckle, then adding under-story trees such as Japanese maples, dogwoods, tri-color beeches and wolf eye dogwoods transformed the natural woods behind Karen and Greg Frimel's beautiful West County home.

Strategically placed plantings of azaleas, hydrangeas, ferns, astilbe and over 200 varieties of hosta create a colorful and scenic place to stroll. Artistically placed antique pots, troughs and "found objects" border the winding woodland paths, providing a touch of whimsy. Iron gates and fences separate the yard into rooms and provide hiding places for Karen's frogs.

Directions:

- Take Hwy 40/64 to the S. Lindbergh exit. Turn south on Lindbergh Blvd. Go approximately 1 mile to the U-turn lane on the left (past Shriner's Hospital). Use the U-turn lane so you can cross to the East side of the concrete divider on Lindbergh. You will then be heading North on Lindbergh. Dunleith Drive is on the right (East side of Lindbergh). On Dunleith Drive, bear left to #19 which is on the left.
- OR
- Take Manchester Road to Lindbergh Blvd and turn north. Go approximately 1.25 miles to Dunleith Drive on the right. On Dunleith Drive, bear left to #19 which is on the left.

Sharon & Mike Schmitt
39 Saint Nicholas Court
O'Fallon, MO 63366
Open 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Not only are our hospitality chairs good cooks, but they also have a very nice garden. They started with a half-acre blank canvas. Their backyard borders natural woods, which offer total privacy to anyone relaxing on the patio under the pergola.

Embedded in the hillside is a 4,000 gallon pond with waterfall and tiered gardens. The pond is surrounded with both sun and shade loving plants. Included are many varieties of hosta, daylilies, columbines, astilbe and ferns. Occasionally, for good or bad, wildlife pass through.

Directions:

- From I-270 N, take the exit for I-70 W toward Kansas City.
- After 16.1 miles, take the MO-M exit, EXIT 217, toward MO-K/O'Fallon.
- After 0.2 mile, turn right onto S Main St/MO-M. After 0.03 miles, take the 1st left onto E Terra Ln
- After 1.3 miles, turn right onto Elaine Dr. After 0.7 mile, take the 1st right onto Saint Joachim Dr.
- After 0.1 mile, turn right onto Saint Gemma Dr. Saint Gemma Dr becomes Saint Nicholas Ct.



Missouri Botanical Garden Walk – June 18 1:00 PM, Missouri Room

The St. Louis Hosta Society's next meeting will be at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Members will meet at 1:00 PM in the Missouri Room which is located in the Jordan Education Wing to the right of the ticket counter in the Ridgeway Visitor's Center. There is no need to purchase a ticket.

Phyllis Weidman will recount the history of our Society's involvement with the Missouri Botanical Garden and our efforts to improve their hosta beds. After the meeting we will tour the hosta areas which are now an official AHS Display Garden.

Come see how much our crabapples have grown!



2009 photo showing one of the two crabapple trees donated that year by our Society. Since 2009, the hosta beds have been redesigned, new hostas planted and old ones divided, moved and rejuvenated.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

**Staci Stinson of St. Louis, MO
Janet Glarner of Webster Groves, MO**

Look for them at future meetings and introduce yourselves. Show them how welcoming and friendly we all are. We hope all our members, new and old alike, will attend the June and July garden walks and the July member auction. These events are the perfect time to get to know new members.

Mark Your Calendars!

There are four more open gardens scheduled for this year. Reserve July 6 for visits to the beautiful gardens of Terry and Steve Metzler, Kim and Ted Piekutowski, JoAnn Rawson and Phyllis and Jim Weidman. Details and driving directions will be in your July newsletter.

It's not too late!

As you are busy in your gardens rearranging those ever growing clumps of hostas, think about separating out a couple of eyes for your member auction scheduled for July 20. Many plants have portions growing off to a side that can easily be removed. There is still plenty of time for your division to recover before the sale.

Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden



Kelly Hall prices plants as they arrive. She uses the prices listed in the *Hosta Finder* as a guide.



Joyce Fry places the priced plants in order. Two long rows of tables were filled with hostas – small, medium and large in various shades of green, gold and white.



Mary Lou Farrow helps Jim Weidman set up a leaf display.



Barb Moreland and Pam Wolkowitz check the number of eyes in the pot. This helps determine the final price.



The checkout table was a busy place.



Karen Frimel created a unique Mother's Day gift. She planted mini hostas in glass cylinders from a chandelier. Ingenious!



Jeff Hall arranges plants at the start of the sale.



Ted Piekutowski's little red wagon was the envy of many a shopper.



By noon Sunday, there wasn't much left.

Thanks to all who dug, divided, donated, worked and shopped!

May Garden Walk –Thank You Basil and Sandy Honaker, Jr.



Beautifully grown hostas rolled across the hillside behind the Honaker's home. Several large H. 'Frances Williams' can be seen in the background of this picture taken by Kelly Hall.



Phyllis Weidman, Jolly Ann Whitener and Martha Lafata admire one of the hosta beds. This picture by Kelly Hall captures the rich blue of the sunny border.



Sandy and Basil have interspersed their shade lovers with lots of colorful sun perennials. Many hued columbine edge one path. In another corner of the garden a fringe tree looked like cotton candy.



Jim Weidman and Basil stroll along one of the grassy paths. The beds are studded with interesting hardscape – a plow leans against a tree, mushrooms peek from under hosta leaves, bird baths and birdhouses everywhere.



Martha Lafata and Sandy Honaker walk past a pergola built by Basil. Two large trees had died – so instead of removing the trunks, Basil erected a slatted roof between them, giving needed shade to the hostas below. This shows what can come from adversity with just a bit of imagination and some sweat equity.



Phil and Carol Brammer relax with the Hall's dog Jobey. They found the best seat in the house! Kelly Hall photo.

Nematode Research Update

Both the May **AHS eNewsletter** and the spring **AHS Hosta Journal** featured articles by Cindy Deutekom giving an update on the AHS Foliar Nematode Research Project. Our society contributed \$1,000 to help fund a study to find ways to control this hosta pest. Dr. Parwinder Grewal was commissioned to first study the nematode life cycle, their seasonal movement from plant to soil and their plant infectious periods. Once these facts are known, he will begin to develop and test methods to manage nematodes and thus reduce plant damage.

Stage 1 of the study determined that foliar nematodes infect plant leaves and only return to the soil to over winter. In the spring they migrate back to the foliage as plants emerge from their winter dormancy. Once inside the leaf they feed and multiply leaving behind those characteristic brown streaks between the leaf veins. The study found nematodes in the soil, leaves and crowns (buds), but not in the roots. Nematode eggs were not found in the soil, suggesting that the eggs likely over winter in leaves. Researchers also found that the foliage of clean plants in direct contact with an infected plant could become infected with overhead watering. Also clean plants that came in contact with nematode infected soil could become infected.

Cindy reports some very encouraging results from the Stage 1 testing. A variety of products including Clorox, ZeroTol, NemaKill, Pylon and Ammonia proved 100% effective with direct contact. However, these chemicals are not systemic and are believed to need direct contact with the nematodes to be effective. In Stage 2, the best of the products used in Stage I will be used. Cindy states "Two experiments will be done in the next 3 months. The first will apply treatment to soil and crowns to prevent foliar nematodes from migrating upwards and producing leaf symptoms. The second experiment will be to evaluate the selected chemicals to prevent nematode infection from occurring."

Help may be within reach for the home gardener. We await the results of Stage 2.

Hosta Virus X (HVX) Update

Our society also contributed to an AHS sponsored study of HVX. The AHS recently completed this project which was designed to answer the home gardener's questions about HVX. Their recently updated brochure discusses the method of HVX transmission and spread so that the home gardener can take steps to protect his plants from this virus.

HVX can be transmitted during normal cultivation via tools and in soil infected with HVX plant debris. The virus is not spread by insects, mites, fungi, nematodes, seeds or pollen. It is spread by infected plant sap entering a healthy plant through a wound or by propagation of an infected plant. HVX will remain on tools and in the soil for more than two years. Broken roots can infect new plants. All infected debris must be removed before reusing the soil.

Tools, pots, gloves and hands must be decontaminated. These must be scrubbed free of dirt not just dipped in a solution. Dawn detergent, 70% isopropyl alcohol or a 10% solution of household bleach proved effective.

The infection rate depended on the stage of plant growth. The virus was most easily transmitted prior to flowering and when the plant was growing in spring.

The best way for home gardeners to test for HVX is ELISA testing through certified labs. The rapid test strips are reliable and portable.

For more information, visit www.hosta.org/HostaVirusX.html

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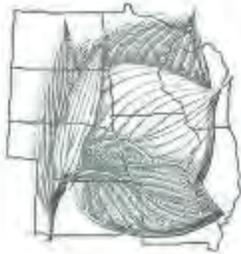
St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

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/>