



Volume 17, Issue 5

June, 2016



President Diana Plahn

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The big convention is almost here!

In roughly two weeks we hope to put our best foot forward and entertain the visitors at the American Hosta Society's National Convention hosted by our society. Your attendance is requested at the National. For those who are new to the society, it's quite an honor to host a National Convention. The last and only time our society has had that honor was in 2008, which was a very successful convention.

We are planning an even more successful convention this year. Even though our numbers are lower than expected, please do your best to show everyone who attends, our St. Louis Hospitality.

It has taken us a lot of hard work and time to get to this point and I want to thank everyone who has had a part in helping us get here. Everyone on the Convention Committee has put in hours and hours of time on this project and they should be commended. I also want to thank again our garden hosts, and our volunteers. Give yourselves a big pat on the back for a job well done. Just keep smiling and tell yourself you can rest when it's over.

We saw the tour gardens on Saturday and they all looked lovely, so we should have a good showing for the attendees. Between those gardens, our open gardens, and the events planned, everyone should leave with a smile. So enjoy seeing old friends and making new ones.

*Diana*

## 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>June 15-18</b>	<b>American Hosta Society National Convention</b> <b>St. Louis, MO</b>
<b>July 7-9</b>	<b>Midwest Region Hosta Society Convention</b> <b>Champaign, IL</b>
<b>July 17</b>	<b>Members Plant Auction</b> <b>1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center</b>
<b>September 18</b>	<b>Meeting with Speaker TBA</b> <b>1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center</b>
<b>October 16</b>	<b>Meeting with Speaker 'The Gourd Sisters'</b> <b>1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center</b>
<b>November TBA</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b> <b>TBA</b>
<b>December 4</b>	<b>Holiday Party</b> <b>TBA</b>
<b>January, 2017</b>	<b>Winter Conference Meeting</b> <b>Naperville, IL</b>

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

**Bryan and Vicki Boeckelman of St. Louis, MO**  
**Tracy Hufford of St. Louis, MO**  
**Eric Jenkins of Lincoln, IL**  
**R. Randall Neumann of Greenville, IL**  
**Jerry Riggs of Barnhart, MO**  
**Nickolas and Alicia Sorensen of St. Louis, MO**  
**Bob and Jane Wibbenmeyer of Eureka, MO**

**We hope that you take part in some of the AHS convention activities and join us at the Member Auction in July. This is the perfect time for us to get to know each other.**

## Convention News

The 2016 American Hosta Society National Convention is fast approaching. Three years of work by St. Louis Hosta Society members comes to fruition June 15 through June 18. The convention will be held at the Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel, 191 Westport Plaza Drive, St. Louis MO 63146.

Members not registered for the convention are encouraged to participate in events that are open to the public. Vendor sales, live and silent auction, and the Hosta Show are free and open to the public. This is a great opportunity to purchase hosta and companion plants that may not be readily available at local nurseries. Following are the event times:

### June 15 – Wednesday

Vendor Sales	3:00 - 10:00 PM
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### June 16 – Thursday

Vendor Sales	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Hosta Show	4:00 PM– 6:00 PM
	10:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Silent Auction	Noon - 6:00 PM
Live Auction	7:30 PM - 11:00 PM

### June 17 – Friday

Vendor Sales	3:30 PM – 5:00 PM
	10:00 PM – Midnight
Hosta Show	3:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Silent Auction	3:30 PM - 10:00 PM

### June 18 – Saturday

Vendor Sales	2:15 PM - 4:00 PM
Hosta Show	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Silent Auction	12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

## It's not too late! Member Auction Coming in July

As you are busy in your gardens admiring and rearranging those ever growing clumps of hostas, think about separating out a couple of eyes for your member auction scheduled for July 17. Proceeds from this event help pay for your society's speakers, holiday party and newsletter.

Many plants, such as H. 'Sunspot' pictured at right, have portions growing off to a side that can easily be removed with a shovel.

For some reason, when H. 'Scooter' emerged this spring, it appeared to be four distinct plants. Three of these divisions can be dug and potted, making the remaining plant more distinctive and giving it more room to grow.

H. 'Wylde Green Cream' has expanded beyond its boundaries and is infringing on the space of its neighbor. Use a shovel or two garden forks to sever and remove a section from the left side of this plant. It is not necessary to dig the entire plant out of the ground. Removing a portion will not affect the growth of the parent plant and will give your bed a tidier appearance.

There is still plenty of time for your division to recover before the auction. Place the newly potted pieces in a shady location and keep watered until July 17. One of the perks of belonging to a garden club is being able to obtain cultivars that aren't readily available in local nurseries. Think about sharing a piece of a beloved hosta with your fellow hostaholics.



*H. 'Sunspot'*



*H. 'Scooter'*



*H. 'Wylde Green Cream'*

## Convention Tour Garden Signs

Pre-convention tour garden hosts as well as the regular tour garden hosts need to **bring back** their Tour Garden signs to the hotel by Saturday's evening banquet. If you are not planning to attend the banquet, make arrangements with someone to return your signs. Representatives from Indianapolis will take the signs home with them for use during their 2017 convention.

## Companion Corner

When visiting our convention tour gardens last Saturday I noticed that the Kousa Dogwoods (*Cornus kousa*) were still in bloom, while the blossoms of the more common Flowering Dogwoods (*Cornus florida*) have come and gone. Dogwood trees make excellent ornamental plants because of their beautiful spring blooms, their attractive foliage, red berries and interesting winter bark.

The kousa variety, sometimes called Chinese or Japanese Dogwood, adds a toughness and disease resistance lacking in its cousin the Flowering Dogwood. The kousa grows to 15 to 20 feet, has flakey tan and brown bark at maturity, and long-lasting white flowers. Actually, the flowers are quite small. The white “petals” are modified leaves called bracts that surround small, greenish-yellow insignificant flowers. These “flowers” appear after the tree leafs out and seem to rest on the top of the horizontal branches. The flowers are followed by pinkish red raspberry-like fruit which the birds love.

The kousa begins life with an upright form as in the picture upper right. As the tree matures its branches begin to droop growing out horizontally, giving the tree a spreading look. Under the canopy is a wonderful place to plant hostas.

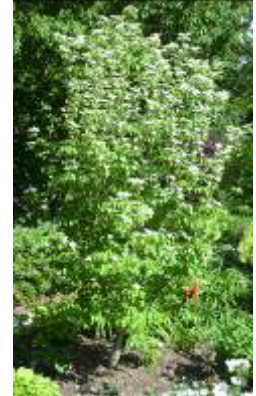
The kousa variety is more resistant to the dogwood anthracnose disease, spot anthracnose, powdery mildew and bores than the flowering dogwoods.

The “Wolf Eyes” specimen I saw was stunning. Its gray-green leaves were accented with ivory along wavy margins. The ruffled texture of the foliage created an illusion of movement. Showy white star-shaped flowers covered the tree and with their bright green centers almost appeared to be staring back at you. It provided a flash of light in a darker corner of the garden. This variety is happiest in partial shade and moist, well-drained soil.

“Celestial Shadow” has the same dazzling white flowers, but the leaves emerge green with a generous margin of yellow. The foliage turns shades of orange and red in fall. This variety is a mutation of a cross between the flowering and kousa dogwoods.

“Venus” is a new hybrid Dogwood which is known for its fast growth and exceptionally large white flowers. The huge flowers are show stoppers, often exceeding six inches in diameter. The deep green foliage turns red to purple red in autumn. Besides its spectacular blooms, the tree is highly disease resistant, heat and humidity tolerant, demonstrates fine winter hardiness and is drought tolerant. Sounds perfect for our St. Louis climate.

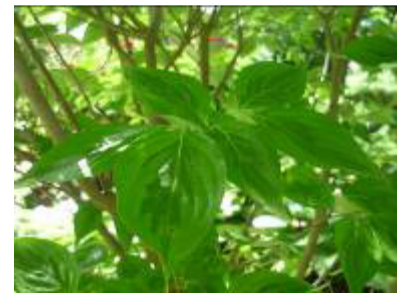
Next time you’re thinking of adding a dogwood to your garden, give the kousa a look.



Young Kousa Dogwood



'Wolf Eyes'



Leaf of 'Celestial Shadow'



Blossom of 'Venus'

photo from [about-garden.com](http://about-garden.com)

## TIPS FOR SELECTING THE RIGHT HOSTA FOR YOUR GARDEN

The use of blue hostas next to light yellow hostas adds contrast. Planting one specimen hosta in an unexpected site provides a unique touch. Warm colors, such as gold and yellows are thought of as coming forward, while cool colors such as green and blue recede. Thereby, placing yellow and gold cultivars in front of blue hostas create an illusion of greater depth.

Yellow hostas are used to brighten up a dark corner or area of your garden. They are used to draw the visitor's attention to that spot. Hostas can solve that bare spot or eyesore in the shady part of your yard or next to the deck that gets very little sun.

The use of bolder variegated hostas at the back of the garden seems to bring that area closer. Hostas offer continuity to the garden by being planted with and among ferns, Siberian iris, astilbe, etc. Hostas perform better (more pest resistant and sun tolerant) and become more beautiful each year. Hostas make great container plants on the patio. Place deeply variegated and highly fragrant hostas close to the viewer so that they can appreciate those characteristics more acutely. Generally, hostas grown in shade have fewer but larger leaves. Hostas are a perfect addition to the rock garden. In time their roots search out available soil. Just give them a little help the first year with some extra watering.

In choosing green hostas, keep in mind that green shades blend well with all other colors and are considered a 'cool' color. You'll find greens with leaves that are shiny, powdery, light and dark green, round, lance shaped, heart shaped, oval, etc.

The blue hostas are also considered as 'cool' shades and are easy to blend with most any color. They add a good contrast when placed next to yellow hostas. To hold their deep blue color they need to be planted in shady areas. A blue hosta planted in a sunny area will tend to turn green by late summer.

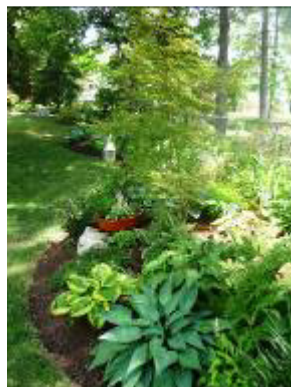
Yellow to gold shades will really brighten up a dark area of your garden. In fact it will draw your garden visitor's eye to that spot. Don't overdo the use of yellow though, as too many seem to clutter up and confuse an otherwise beautiful garden. The yellow cultivars blend in well with all colors especially the blues and gold margined types.

Both the gold and white margined hostas produce variety when planted with the solid colors. The combinations and patterns of the variegated types planted with solid colors are subject to no limitations. Finally we have a grouping with unique variegations such as leaves with dark margins and lighter centers, or those with variegations in the spring turning to solid green by summer.

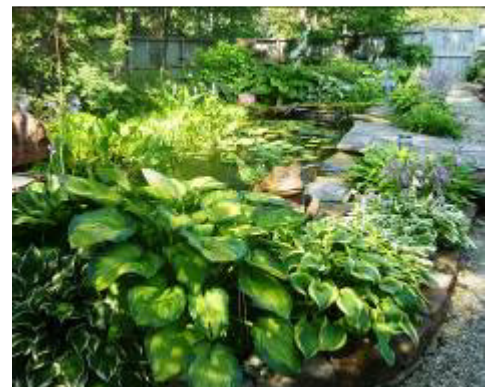
*(Reprinted from the Miami Valley Hosta Society Newsletter 'Hosta News Scapes', August 2007.)*



**Karen Frimel garden**



**Terry Metzler garden**



**Pam & Chester Wolkowitz garden**



## American Hosta Association National Convention

**'Gateway to the Gardens'**

**St. Louis – June 15-18, 2016**

### Convention Advertisers

Please patronize these fine businesses. When there, thank them for their support of our organization. When talking with your friends in other gardening societies, mention these fine gardening outlets.

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and  
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[www.bugstore.com](http://www.bugstore.com)



## 2016 Midwest Regional Hosta Convention

July 7 – 9

Champaign Illinois

The Illinois Prairie Hosta Society is proud to host the 'Grand Prairie Hostas' 2016 Midwest Regional Hosta Convention in Champaign, Illinois, July 7th to 9th. The convention location is the Hawthorn Suites, Champaign, IL 61820.

The convention includes all the expected activities such as national vendors, live auctions, garden tours, banquet, hospitality suite, and optional garden tours on Sunday. New events include a Thursday evening Wine and Cheese party, and educational seminars on Friday and Saturday.

For more information and to register go to the MRHS website,

[midwesthostasociety.org](http://midwesthostasociety.org)

click on the "MRHS Future Events" tab, then follow the links to the convention.



## St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

**Diana Plahn** – President  
314-346-3007  
[dplahn@me.com](mailto:dplahn@me.com)

**Barb Moreland** - Secretary  
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[Bmore433@aol.com](mailto:Bmore433@aol.com)

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

**Ted Piekutowski** – Vice-President  
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[Circustaz2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Circustaz2@sbcglobal.net)

**Kim Piekutowski** – Treasurer  
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[kimberlypiekutowski@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlypiekutowski@gmail.com)

**Melissa Byrd** – Webmaster  
[mabyrd68@gmail.com](mailto:mabyrd68@gmail.com)

**Joan Poos** – Newsletter Editor  
314-821-1622  
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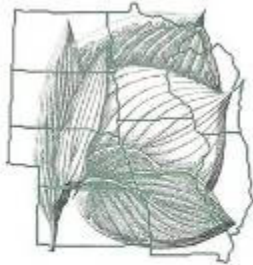
## St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

**Contact:** Kim Piekutowski  
1269 Brenthaven Lane  
Florissant, MO 63031  
[kimberlypiekutowski@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlypiekutowski@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.

Membership in the society is \$20.00 for 2 years, which includes two issues per year of the newsletter.

Please mail a check made payable to **MRHS** to:

Barbara Schroeder,  
Treasurer  
1819 Coventry Dr.  
Champaign, IL 61822

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/>