



Volume 16, Issue 6

July, 2015



Phyllis Weidman President
Photo by Kelly Hall

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Just back from the American Hosta Society Convention in Raleigh, NC. We missed all the rain, but we had temperatures in the 100° range. I don't know which is worse. I can tell you touring gardens in that kind of heat is not easy.

St. Louis was well represented, eleven in all. Most importantly, we advertised the 2016 convention in St. Louis. If anyone asked where we were from, we responded with an invite to come to St. Louis in 2016.

Ted Piekutowski wore a sandwich board and did a presentation the last night inviting all to attend our convention. We received lots of favorable comments. Hope all those turn into attendees here.

Of course, there were the traditional tour gardens, the dinner at Plant Delights (too bad it was sooo HOT), a visit to Green Hill Farms for hosta buying, a plant auction that made \$13,000, vendors to buy more hostas, and the hosta leaf show. It was a busy three days, but we all had fun.

The next event is the Midwest Regional Convention in Dubuque, Iowa, a 6 hour drive up the river. There will be more hosta buying, but most importantly more ways to learn about our favorite plant. Think about making the trip.

July 19th is the auction. Come, bid, and have fun getting some great hostas for your garden.

Phyllis

2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 9-11	Midwest Region Hosta Society Convention Dubuque, Iowa
July 19	Members Plant Auction 1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
September 20	Meeting with Speaker Lee Coats 1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
October 18	Meeting with Speaker TBA 1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
November TBA	Board Meeting TBA
December 6	Holiday Party TBA
June 13-19, 2016	American Hosta Society National Convention ST. Louis, MO



Auctioneer Basil Honaker, Jr.



JULY COMING EVENT

St. Louis Hosta Society Member Auction **July 19, 1:00 PM.**

Auctioneer Basil Honaker Jr. is ready to kick off this popular event. The annual auction is one of two events that fund our society's yearly activities such as the popular holiday party, make the publication of this newsletter possible and bring nationally known speakers like Lee Coats (in September) to St. Louis.

There's still time to walk your garden, take an eye or two off that big clump, pot and label it and bring it with you on July 19th. See what hostas you need to add that special oomph to your garden.

So bring your wish list and of course your checkbook. Be ready to outbid your fellow hostaholics. That plant that you've been dying to have your whole life may be there waiting for you. But most of all socialize, get to know our new members, share your recent convention experiences and join your fellow society members for an afternoon of fun.

June Garden Walk

Phyllis and Jim Weidman

What a perfect day to be outside viewing a gorgeous garden and visiting with friends from near and far. Mother Nature gave us a beautiful Sunday, cool for late June with nary a drop of rain.

A large stone edged bed filled with beautifully grown hostas, shady companions, conifers and Japanese maples dominates the Weidmans' hilly side yard. The bed is bisected with a dry creek which has been quite useful this spring, channeling water from the upper terraces to the street below. The picture center bottom shows the weeping conifer which stands sentry at the base of the creek.

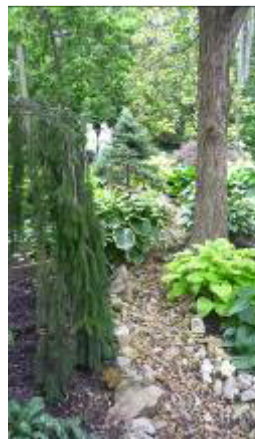
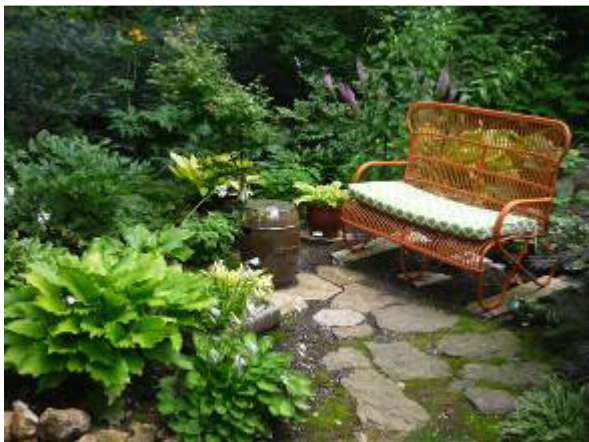
The pathway from the deck into the side yard is lined on both sides with huge hosta clumps. The orange ball contrasts with the greens of the large *H.* 'Paul's Glory' and *H.* 'Edge of Night'. On the opposite side is an equally large *H.* 'Liberty'.

An orange bench beacons visitors to come sit a spell. A lavender astilbe, seemingly on steroids, lilies, Japanese maples and of course hostas in yellows and green complete the scene.

Equally enticing is the seating arrangement at the top of the terraced back hillside. The wind caused a large chime suspended in a nearby tree to send out deep tones across the comfortable patio.

Members who gathered to share food, drink and talk were surprised by a visit from former members Kelly and Jeff Hall. Life is good in the Pacific Northwest.

Thanks Phyllis and Jim for a delightful day!





American Hosta Association National Convention

'Gateway to the Gardens'

St. Louis – June 13-19, 2016

Plans are well underway for a fun time in St. Louis next summer. Numerous committees have been set up and all have enthusiastic chairs. Preliminary work, such as convention schedule and theme, hotel and meal arrangements, and tour garden selection, has been completed.

Member Kim Tappana incorporated our theme 'Gateway to the Gardens' into a snazzy design which will appear on all convention publicity. Great design Kim! Thanks for your creativity and hard work.

However, many tasks remain. At the July meeting, convention chairman Bruce Buehrig will bring us up to date on convention happenings. Right now Bruce is in need of a member to volunteer to oversee the raffle. A successful raffle will help offset some of the costs of hosting a top notch convention.

The convention wagon is starting to roll. June 2016 is less than a year away. In the coming months committee chairmen will be asking for your help. Signup sheets will start to appear at all meetings. Convention updates will appear in your newsletter.

Don't wait to be asked. Volunteer early to do your part to make this the best convention possible.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Jeanie and Michael Gleason of Edwardsville, IL
Nancy Lewis of St. Louis, MO

It is exciting to have you as new members in our society. Please join us at the July member auction and our September meeting with speaker Lee Coats. For all members, new or old timers, these events are the perfect time to sit and chat and get to know one another.

2015 AHS National Convention, Raleigh North Carolina



Eleven members of the St. Louis Hosta Society traveled to Raleigh North Carolina to partake of a bit of southern hospitality, to visit interesting and unique gardens, to buy a hosta or two or three and to discover new companion plants we would like to try in the Midwest. Along the way we made new friends and renewed friendships with others we've met at other events.

The unofficial leader of our merry band had to be Ted Piekutowski. Ted spent one afternoon walking about wearing a sandwich board which he had devised, inviting fellow attendees to come to St. Louis in 2016. Ted attracted a lot of attention and probably made more new friends than the rest of us combined.



Karen Frey and her mother Frieda Wiese win the prize for visiting the most gardens. Before heading to Raleigh, they had attended the National Daylily Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. As Karen likes unusual plants, this was definitely the place for her. Tony Avent's Plant Delights Nursery specializes in the unusual. Associated with the nursery is Juniper Level Botanic Garden. After viewing some of these unusual plants in this garden, we searched Tony Avent's many hoop houses to see if any were offered for sale.



The last item on the agenda at the closing banquet is always a presentation by the hosta society hosting the next national convention. Ted Piekutowski created the character 'Ted the Garden Guy' who invited all attending to come to St. Louis in 2016. Chick Buehrig created a Power Point presentation containing pictures of St. Louis attractions and the ten tour gardens. Ted then fashioned a very creative script to accompany the Power Point presentation. He certainly held everyone's attention in his imaginative and colorful outfit.



Have you ever looked at your hostas and thought how perfect the leaves were only to pick one and hold it up to the light? Invariably it is studded with pinpricks. So then, how did Jim Weidman have a whole pot of leaves without holes? Jim's container of *H. 'Tiny Tears'* won the Grand Award, Division II, Best Container Grown Hosta.



Jim also garnered blue ribbons for a number of other entries. Leaves from hostas 'Whee', 'St. Paul' and 'Lakeside Paisley Print' were just a few. Anyone who attended the Weidman's Garden Walk last Sunday can attest to their ability to grow beautiful hostas. Congratulations Jim!



Of course there were gardens. Perhaps the most unusual were the Titus and Spain yards. Peggy Titus' garden featured a vine covered pergola containing a dining table set for dinner with white linen, crystal and blue china. A bridge connected this area with an octagon shaped gazebo on stilts.

David Spain's entire side yard is clothed in moss. Numerous trees, hostas, rocks and woodland plants are strategically placed to compliment the soft green moss. A bubbling brook and piped in music added to the feeling of serenity. It seems to whisper 'Life is good'.



**Thanks,
Bob and Nancy
We all had a
great time!**

Members who attended are Jim Weidman, Martha Lafata, Pam Wolkowitz, Phyllis Weidman, Ted Piekutowski, Joan Poos, Kim Piekutowski and Chester Wolkowitz. Absent from the picture were Karen Frey, Frieda Wiese and Dave Poos.

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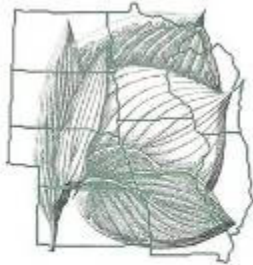
St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

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.

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.



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/>