



# Shady Notes

Volume 18, Issue 6

July, 2017



President Diana  
Plahn

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

**Greetings Fellow Hosta Lovers:**

For those of you who could not make the Midwest Regional Hosta Convention, you missed some lovely gardens and a good time. Those that went enjoyed it, and if you were like my husband and myself, came home with too many hostas. Even though most of us said we did not need anything. I guess it's all relative.

Thanks to the Birenbaums for opening their garden on Father's Day. I'm sure it was enjoyed by all who could come. It looked lovely in the photos I saw.

Remember our next meeting is the members' auction. No-one volunteered to chair this event, so it's going to be a group effort. I have asked anyone who can help to come an hour early and help us setup. We do have an auctioneer, Chester Wolkowitz. Please bring your plants early so we can alphabetize them and look up average prices.

The weather seems changeable right now, so enjoy any cooler days and nights.

Whatever you do, remember to enjoy your garden. Sometimes we work so hard in our gardens that we forget to take the time to just enjoy it.

See you at the auction.

*Diana*

## 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>July 16</b>	<b>Members Plant Auction</b> <b>1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center</b>
<b>September 17</b>	<b>Meeting with Speaker Rob Mortko</b> <b>1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center</b>
<b>October 15</b>	<b>Meeting with Speaker TBA</b> <b>1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center</b>
<b>November 12</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b> <b>TBA</b>
<b>December 3</b>	<b>Holiday Party</b> <b>TBA – Party at a member's home</b>

**\*\*\* NEXT NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> \*\*\***

### Rodgersia

Have an area in your garden that is on the wet side? This just might be the plant for you. I saw this specimen in the Snyder Garden during the 2017 Midwest Regional Hosta Convention held last week in Lenexa Kansas. Although the garden literature I read states the plant grows well in moist woodland gardens, bog gardens or along stream banks, Mr. Snyder's bed did not appear unusually wet. This plant was nestled in a border amid his numerous conifers.



The large, crinkled, coarsely-toothed, dark green, leaves (12" or more across) with bronze tinting are usually the main reason gardeners grow this plant. From June to August, creamy white or light pink fragrant flowers bloom in large, astilbe-like, panicles rising well above the foliage. Distinctive brown hairs cover the flower stalks, stems and leaf margins of the plant.

Rodgersia is a bold, clump-forming, rhizomatous perennial that grows 3-5' tall and as wide. Its stature adds drama and definition to gardens and can be grown in full sun or partial shade. The strongly textured leaves pair well with finely-textured plants.

Rodgersia is an unusual plant that might add interest to a difficult growing area in your yard.

## MEMBER PLANT AUCTION

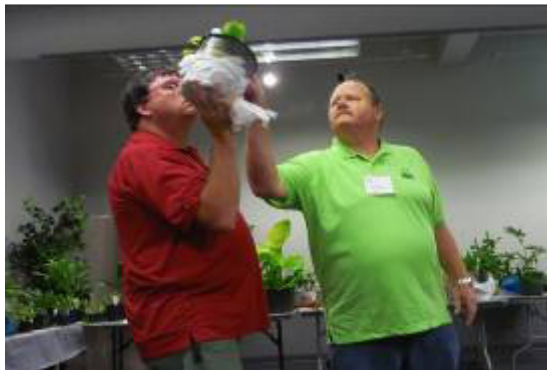
July 16, 1:00 PM

**Do you want a special hosta to create a focal point in a garden bed?  
Do you need plants to fill empty spots caused by marauding voles?  
Do you want to try your hand at growing hostas in pots or troughs?  
Do you need yellow, blue or variegation to break up a sea of green?**

You're in luck! The ever popular member plant auction kicks off at 1:00 PM on Sunday, July 16 – just a few weeks away. There's usually quite a variety of donated plants – big and small, green, yellow and blue, old reliables plus some you may not know. It's mostly hostas, but some companions are sure to be included.

If you haven't done so, check out the plants in your garden. Be a part of the action. Divide those large hosta clumps and dig out a part of those ever-expanding perennials. Pot and label a piece. Volunteers will be ready to accept your donations.

Bring a friend or two and of course your checkbook to our auction. Enjoy a fun afternoon outbidding your fellow hostaholics for that plant that will make your garden the talk of your neighborhood. The annual auction is one of two events that fund our society's yearly activities, make this newsletter possible and bring nationally known speakers such as Rob Mortko (in September) to St. Louis.



Ted Piekutowski and Basil Honaker  
2016 auctioneers.



Members checking out the 2016 auction items.

## Welcome New Members

**Jackie Reynolds of Webster Groves, MO  
Lori Wrobel of Warson Woods, MO**

What a perfect time to join our group – next event is our member auction described above. We hope that you will participate in the auction and attend our September meeting with speaker Rob Mortko of Made in the Shade Nursery.





## Garden Walk – June

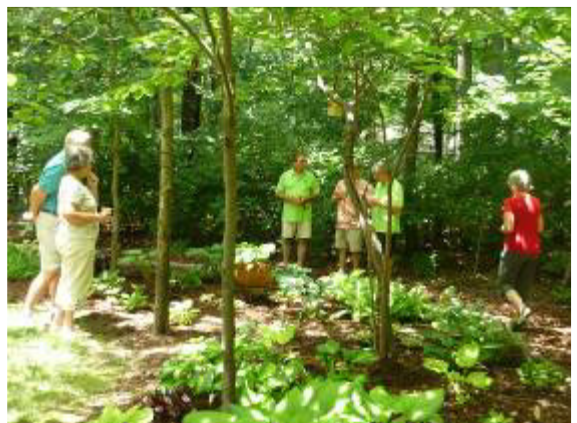
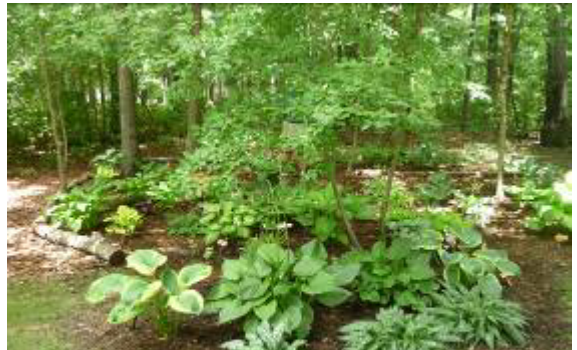
### Home of David and Anne Birenbaum

What better place to be on a balmy June day than a beautiful garden! The Birenbaum's home is nestled in the woods near O'Fallon, Missouri.

A bed of green hostas mixed with red and green caladiums flanks the entrance drive, giving a hint of what's to come. Other beds with drifts of H. 'Golden Tiara' and H. 'Emerald Charger' edge the wooded drive. In front and to the side of the entrance to their home, the Birenbaums have created colorful pollinator plant beds featuring butterfly enticing coneflowers in shades of pink, orange and white. Large metal ants march across the front porch in search of food.

While the front is ablaze in color, the back is cool and relaxed with beds of hostas edging a series of winding paths. Intermixed with their hosta collection are other woodland favorites – ferns, pulmonarias, tiarellas, Solomon Seal, hardy begonias and grasses.

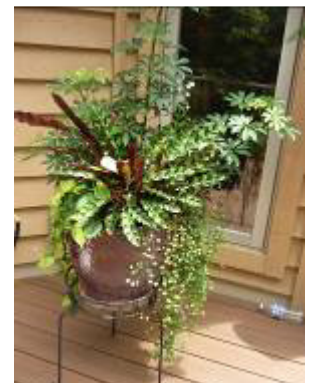
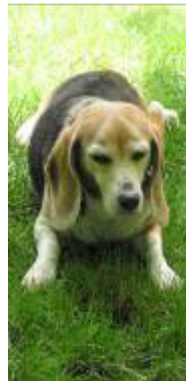
One eye-catching hosta in their garden is the bright yellow 'Delonas Smile'. It glows in the dappled shade of the many trees. Dave makes his plant labels from small tree trunks. He splits a section in half, long enough to accommodate the hosta's name and attaches it to another piece which he fashioned into a stake. Dave then burns the name onto the split section. Very creative and quite attractive.





Dave greets Chester Wolkowitz. Later Anne and Dave discuss the merits of a new cultivar with Jim and Phyllis Weidman and Pam Wolkowitz. Other members congregated on the deck to chat, eat munchies and just enjoy the serenity of this place.

Anne's creative use of plant material is evident. The railing of the deck is punctuated with planters of colorful annuals. A basket of ferns and Rex Begonias hangs on the wall while a large pot is filled with a Schefflera and other cultivars usually considered house plants. What a lovely day!



**Thank you David and Anne!**

## **Congratulations to Karen Frey**

Her entry in a recent flower show garnered her a first place blue ribbon in the artistic craft division. Titled 'Fancy Feet', Karen's design was a pair of sandals, edged with pebbles. The center contained hosta leaves and succulents. Very creative idea!



**In April the azaleas rule the garden scene.  
In May and early June hostas take center stage.  
In the heat of late June and July daylilies roll out a sea of color.**

Where hostas are shade tolerant, thriving in dappled shade and morning sun, daylilies bask in the hot sun but tolerate some shade. The dark reds and purples especially like a respite from the hot afternoon sun. Hostas are valued for their foliage, the flowers often being clipped off. On the other hand, daylily foliage is oh so boring, but the flowers bring a bit of bling to the garden.

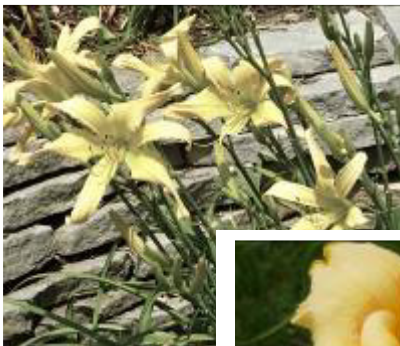
Each flower lasts but a day, hence its name the daylily. It's important to purchase plants that have a high bud count and scapes (stems) that branch. Such a plant will show color for a longer period of time and better display its blooms. Daylilies typically bloom in St. Louis from mid-June to mid-July. Some cultivars have been bred to bloom early, early or late, late. Some even re-bloom.

Like hostas they come in many sizes and shapes. They can be close to the ground like the common landscaping plant 'Stella de Oro' or reach to the heavens like the 72 inch tall 'Sears Tower'. The flowers may be less than two inches across or a whopping 12 or 14 inches.

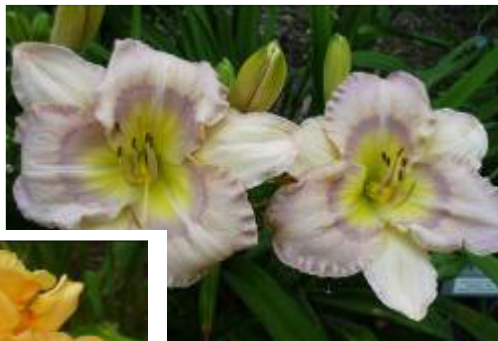
Oh the colors! Daylilies can be found in all colors except blue. Like red in hostas, hybridizers are vying to be the first to produce a true blue daylily. They're getting closer. Daylilies can be a solid color or exhibit bands of different hues around their throats. They can have interesting edges – ruffled, wavy, or toothy – in matching or contrasting colors.

Texture and form add to their allure. There are spiders with their long skinny petals, unusual forms that twist and curl, doubles that look like peonies, and the beautiful flat round shapes.

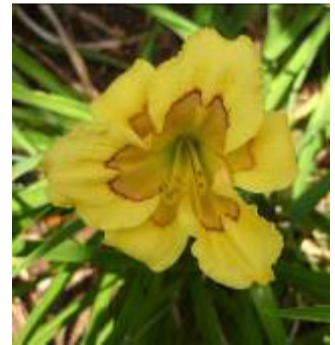
Daylilies are easy to hybridize and require only two years to bloom as opposed to the five to seven year hosta wait. My husband, like Diana and Craig Plahn, loves to hybridize. He hasn't yet found his 'holy grail' of a plant, but I think the fun is probably in the getting there. Each June he looks forward to seeing his new crop of babies.



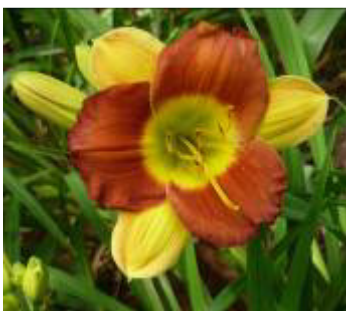
'Vino Blanco'  
unusual form



'Magnificent Rainbow'



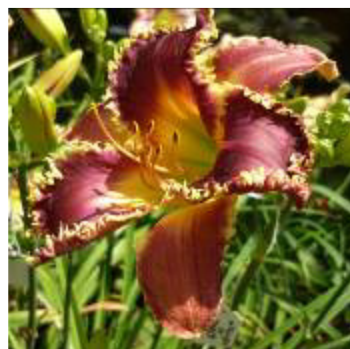
'Patchwork Puzzle'  
Small with a pattern eye



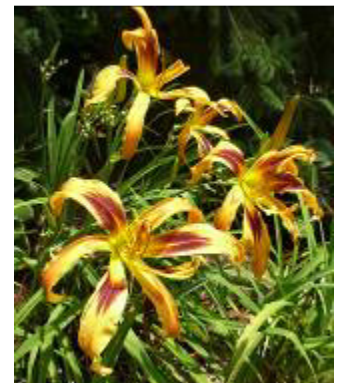
'Catspaw Sunrise Sunset'  
hybridized by Diana Plahn



'Apricot Cream Truffle'  
a double



'Venus Flytrap' - toothy edge



'Mystic Jellyfish'  
a spider



## St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

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**Karen Frey** – Hospitality

**Ted Piekutowski** – Vice-President  
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**Melissa Byrd** – Treasurer  
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## St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

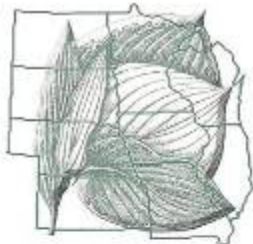
**Contact:** Melissa Byrd  
117 Gunston Hall Drive  
St. Charles, MO 63304  
[mabyrd68@gmail.com](mailto:mabyrd68@gmail.com)

**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)

**Visit us on Facebook, St. Louis Hosta Society**



### 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/>