



Volume 16, Issue 7

September, 2015



Phyllis Weidman President
Photo by Kelly Hall

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We have made it through another St. Louis summer. The weather is starting to cool, and by the looks, our hostas know it is time for them to start thinking of winter. We are showing lots of spring and summer burn and nematode problems. I hope the new, to hosta growers, product **NemaKill** works. We have sprayed and will let you know next year if it worked.

I want to thank Basil Honaker for being our auctioneer at the July meeting. He did a great job and our society made \$3,000 plus. Thanks again to Basil, all

the volunteers, and to all who came and purchased. It was a fun afternoon with lots of great buys to be had.

Our society is in transition; it is time for new officers. In our busy worlds it is hard to add one more thing to do, but being an officer with this group is easy. There are so many people who will help even if not asked. Past officers will help you with any questions or problems you may encounter. **We need new officers.** Four years ago, Arlie Tempel said, "Come on Phyllis you can be president!" I thought he was crazy. Low and behold, being president has been fun. But four years of Phyllis is enough. Come on, you can be president!

Phyllis

Editor's note: Ted Piekutowski is chairman of the Nominating Committee. He is looking for aspiring officers. If you are interested in joining a fun group helping direct your society's activities, please contact him at circustaz2@sbcglobal.net

2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 20	Meeting with Speaker Lee Coates 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

September 20

Lee Coates **'Japanese Maples in the Hosta Garden'**

On his blog, Lee Coates describes himself as a “semi-retired plant geek, writer, speaker and purveyor of fine Ozarkian humor”. One can add to this description, the words teacher, story-teller, potter, and fairy garden designer. Lee has a wide range of interests.

Along with his wife Peggy, Lee is owner of a wholesale perennial flower nursery named 'Peggy's Flowers'. They grow plants primarily for landscapers, but do sell retail at the Farmers' Market in Springfield, Missouri.

Both are well versed in plant horticulture. Among the many different types of plants at 'Peggy's Flowers' are large selections of lilies (asiatics, pixie asiatics and orientals), dwarf conifers, sedums, hostas and of course Japanese maples.

Lee is the founder and an active member of the Greater Ozarks Hosta Society. He is also a Board member and Speakers' Bureau coordinator of the Friends of Gardens organization located in Springfield, Missouri. Now semi-retired, Lee travels widely speaking, teaching and vending at horticultural events.

My husband and I first met Lee at a Midwest Regional Hosta Convention sitting in the vendor room surrounded by beautiful Japanese maples and pots containing mini hostas, tiny houses and fairies. Since that time, Lee has made hundreds of “papercrete” containers from recycled paper. Pictures of his creations and the recipe for his “papercrete” can be found on his web site:

<http://thepapercretepotter.blogspot.com>

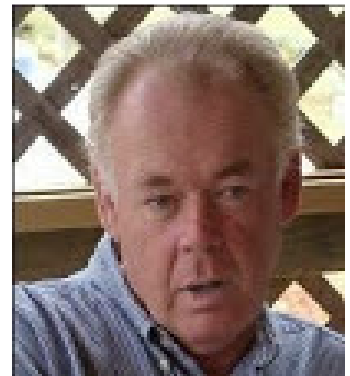


Photo from
<http://thepapercretepotter.blogspot.com/>

Did You See!

2015 Post-Dispatch Great Garden Contest Winners



First Place

Home Garden by an Amateur

Sally and Jim Wachtman

In 1998, Sally and Jim moved into their Webster Groves home. Since then, they have changed almost all of the original landscaping to reflect their own style. The newspaper photo of Sally's watering can display shows her artistic bent.

Sally states that her main love is hostas and that the yard is home to more than 250 varieties. She also loves daylilies which bask in pockets of sunlight.

All of the judges chose the Wachtman's garden as their top choice. They said the garden has "elegant design, great use of form, texture and line".

Congratulations Sally and Jim!



(both photos from the Post-Dispatch web site.)

Second Place

Home Garden by an Amateur

Martha and Paul LaFata

Members who visited the LaFata's garden during our 2013 Open Garden Day will certainly concur that this is a well-deserved honor. Since we last visited, Martha has spent countless hours transforming an overgrown hillside into a beautiful shade garden.

Just behind the patio sits a large bubbling urn surrounded by a circle of smooth black stones. The water feature seems to rest in a sea of green lirope. The urn is backed by one of their many Japanese maples. Large rocks and hostas complete the venue. A mossy path leads through a portion of one of the borders. A large rock draws the eye to the many beautifully grown hostas, ferns and heucheras. This is the view which struck the judges.

Congratulations Martha and Paul!



American Hosta Association National Convention

'Gateway to the Gardens'

St. Louis – June 13-19, 2016

Convention Update

June 2016 is less than a year away. That seems like a long way off, but time flies. Think how fast this summer has gone.

Bruce Buehrig, Convention Chairman, thanks Janelle Criscione for volunteering to oversee the raffle and silent auction. These two activities are important as this money will help our society defray convention costs. Money from the AHS Hosta Auction goes directly to AHS to help fund its yearly activities.

Janelle has already started contacting area businesses soliciting items that might attract bidder interest. She needs lots of member support. If you see a garden related item at your favorite garden shop consider purchasing and donating it. If you are a crafty person consider making something such as a birdhouse, birdfeeder, hypertufa pot made into a fairy garden, yard art, etc. Think of the possibilities; let your imagination soar. Think of the types of items on which you might be tempted to bid. If you have such items or can give Janelle a hand, talk with her or Bruce at the next meeting or email her at lambypie@gmail.com.

Bruce is still in need of a member who would be able to coordinate volunteers. The chairmen of the various committees would like to avoid calling the same people over and over. We need one person to keep track of who's doing what when. Then perhaps calling others to fill any vacancy. No digging, dividing, planting, mulching or carrying heavy boxes involved.

Signup sheets will be at all meetings. Don't wait to be asked. Volunteer early to do your part to make this the best convention possible.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

David and Anne Birenbaum of O'Fallon, MO
Mary Meisenheimer of Defiance, MO

It is exciting to have you as new members in our society. Please join us at the September meeting with speaker Lee Coats. Learn a bit about a great accent plant for the hosta garden – the Japanese maple.

July Member Auction



H. 'Prairieland Memories', donated by Arlie and Nancy Tempel, was one of many large hostas that brought high bids.



H. 'Empress Wu', donated by Jeff and Kelly Hall, measured over 32 inches tall. It was too large to transport to the auction site!



Phyllis Weidman talks with Sandy Honaker. Behind them hostas line the wall waiting their turn on the auction block.



Auctioneer Basil Honaker, Jr. elicits bids from the enthusiastic crowd.



Mike and Sharon Schmitt functioned as auction clerks, looking up plant descriptions and prices.



Ted Peikutowski and Janelle Criscione were runners, delivering plants to the successful bidders.

Thanks to all who took the time to dig and donate plants. Thanks to Basil and all who helped with auction setup and cleanup. Thanks to each member who came, who bid and who bought.

Season Enders and Extenders of the Hosta and Companion Plant World

by Mike Weber

(Reprinted from the September 2006 issue of the Prairie Hosta Herald newsletter)

That wow feeling and rush of emotion that I felt as I viewed newly emerging or blooming sights every day throughout spring and early summer has long since passed. The drudgeries of watering and weeding chores in the heat and humidity of the summer are more recent memories. Oh, did I mention battling Japanese beetles? And what do my efforts get in return from my semi and shade perennial plants by August and September? A lot of tired, stressed-out hosta or maybe even worse - they're well on their way to saying adios for the seasons!

But wait! Out of my mild despair I see several subtle signs of unique fall beauty. Before going further, a word of caution and a challenge to those hosta lovers who view every budding flower scape as a regular pruning chore! Those homely, non-variegated green to bluish green wall flower hosta are ready to strut their stuff.

It starts in early August with the *Plantaginea* family and their fragrant blooms. Are they pretty? Some are and some aren't, but my nose catches regular scents of jasmine/gardenia on those humid August evenings - a nice pick me up and reward for those endless watering chores and long days at the office! But the show really starts later in the month. Among the parade of stars comes 'Korean Snow' and the *Yingeri* group. Their sports and hybrids have multiple light blue/pink petite flowers. Then there are 'Purple Lady Fingers' and *Clausa* with their long scapes full of pink purple buds that never open. What a nice portrait for seven to ten days. Newly introduced Fujibotan sports six-foot scapes with double light blue flowers. And currently, lowly *Lancifolia* is covered, with gently nodding flower scapes covered with light bluish pink blooms. Note also that it shows no leaf burn (unless you have it in too much sun!) unlike many of its more highly prized, priced and highbrow relatives. If companioned with perennials or Angel Wing Begonia, it's as beautiful a setting and longer lasting than a bed of spring bulbs.

Also, on current display and a personal favorite is 'Raspberry Sorbet'. The red scapes are perfectly balanced above the foliage and covered with 8-10" of pinkish purple flowers that cover more than 50% of the clumps. It too has a non-burning, shiny green, wavy leaf. 'Rhapsody in Blue', 'Spritzer', 'Green Fountains', 'Ozaki Special' and the *pycnophylla* family, in general, are also very respectable contributors of late season flowers. I'm eagerly awaiting the bloom finale of 'Fall Bouquet', *Tardiflora* and 'One Man's Treasure' to give their late season "look at me!"

If, like me, you get frustrated with the heat and end of season stress exhibited by some hostas, try to identify (and/or buy) others that will finish well all the way to hard freeze. In addition to those mentioned, a partial list would include 'Sagae', 'Leading Lady', 'Liberty', most Lachman intros such as 'Torchlight', 'Crusader', 'Tambourine', 'Robert Frost', 'Brave Amherst', as well as many of the *Sieboldiana* family if grown in all day shade.

Another way to offset those early-stressed hostas (that likely put on a beautiful spring show) is to plant a lot of shade loving annuals nearby which overgrow the burned leaves so it refocuses your attention on their color. The hosta foliage provides a nice contrasting texture. Caladiums, Angel Wing Begonias and Coleus will also splash color to liven up those tired areas. And don't forget the beautiful perennial Begonia with its showy leaf and bloom right up to first frost.

In closing, a reminder that to everything there is a season. and in many autumns these tattered hosta leaves turn a golden yellow as they go dormant along with the fall leaf turn, giving us one last show before we can all rest in the winter and look forward to the spring catalogs which will arrive starting in early December!

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

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Secretary
Position open

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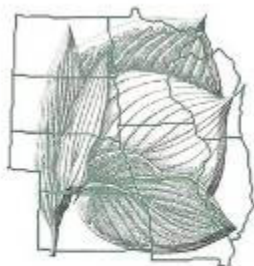
St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

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/>