



Shady Notes

Volume 24, Issue 3

April, 2023



President
Phyllis Weidman

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hostas are coming up in our gardens. Now is the time to look to see if they need to be moved or divided. Remember to put a few eyes in a pot for the May 20th Plant Sale. You can always find the details of events in the newsletter or on the website.

But for now, let's talk about April's two major events. The first is Vendor's Day. But what is it? The Society has had a Vendor's Day forever. The event is a service to our friends, members and vendors. The Society does not make any money from this event. It is a community awareness event.

Each year the president finds a chairperson. This year and several previous years, Jolly Ann Whitener has been the chairperson. The job starts by finding a date and location. She then finds all the vendors that want to participate. This year among the vendors you will find hosta growers, garden supplies, garden related décor and food. Jolly Ann does a layout of the room, deciding how many tables and chairs are needed, covering those tables and the floor with plastic, advertising the event, answering questions and then smiling for a whole day. This is an enormous job. There is no entrance fee, you only have to come. Tell all you know, the more the merrier.

The other event is the work day at the Missouri Botanical Garden. For years people have volunteered to help weekly at the garden, but the Society has also had one special work day (morning) at the garden. This is a rain or shine event so hope for sun. Darman William, the gardener of the Hosta Area, will be there to direct us. All the things you do in your home garden need to be done at MOBot. There will be jobs for all depending on what you want or can do. There will be hostas to dig and divide, so we will need potters and labelers. These divided hostas are given to us by the Botanical Garden to be sold at the May plant sale. The Botanical Garden helps us and we help them. All your needs will be provided, but you may wish to bring your own gloves, pruners, or that special shovel. It is a fun way to get to know other members. See you at 8 am on Saturday, April 29.

What a great month for the Society.

Phyllis

2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| April 23 | Vendor Day 2:00 PM, Crestwood Recreation Center, Whitecliff Park 9245 Whitecliff Park Ln., Crestwood, MO 63126 |
| April 29 | Work Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden 8:00 AM, Missouri Botanical Garden, AHS Display Garden beds |
| May 20-21 | Plant Sale 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Missouri Botanical Garden Set up May 19, time TBD |
| June 4 | Garden Walk with program “Floral Bouquets using Hosta Foliage” 2:00 PM, Home of Janelle Criscione |
| June 7-10 | AHS National Convention Ames, Iowa |
| June 18 | Garden Walk with beekeeper Mike Wagner 2:00 PM, Home of Martha LaFata 433 Edgar Road, Webster Groves, MO 63119 |
| July 13-15 | Midwest Regional Hosta Convention Rochester, MN |
| July 16 | Members Plant Auction 2:00 PM, MOBot CBEC, Room 125 4651 Shaw, St. Louis, MO 63110 |
| August 20 | Garden Walk 2:00 PM, Hostas on the Bluff 1601 Pleasantview Dr., Fairview Heights, IL 62208 |
| September 17 | Garden Walk TBD |
| October 15 | Meeting with Speaker TBD |
| November | Board Meeting Time and location TBD |
| December | Holiday Party Home of Melinda Ligon - Time and location TBD |

VENDOR DAY
APRIL 23, 2023, Sales 2:00 – 4:30 PM.
Whitecliff Park, Crestwood MO

This April's event gives members and their friends an opportunity to purchase quality hostas, companion plants, jewelry, garden supplies, art inspired by nature and even munchies from a local bakery. Chairwoman Jolly Ann Whitener has assembled a full house of six vendors, some favorites from previous years, others new to us. This event is open to the public. This is not a fund raiser. Vendors are not charged to participate and all profits are theirs. Bring all your friends and of course your checkbook. An afternoon of plant and gadget shopping is the perfect way to welcome the spring gardening season.

Wear your hosta shirt and help spread hospitality to potential new members! If you can help vendors carry in their merchandize or be a greeter at the door, let Jolly Ann know.

AVALON ACRES



Avalon Acres is a 10-acre hilltop nursery nestled among hundreds of large red and white oak trees in South Central Illinois near Effingham. The family owned and operated nursery's mission is to bring you the highest quality plants at the lowest possible prices. Denny and Alicia Ricketts state on their web site that they "don't just sell hostas, but are avid collectors as well." They have had a sales table at our Vendor Day event for many years, offering quality hostas - both new cultivars and old standards.

If you are interested in a particular hosta and want to inquire if they have it and can bring it to the April event, send them an email at sales@avalonacreshostas.com or call them at 217-663-2347. If you are unable to attend on April 24th, the Ricketts welcome visitors to their nursery. Please call ahead so they can dedicate quality time to you. They are available most evenings and Sundays from April 30 through August 25. For more information, visit their web site www.avalonacreshostas.com.

HOSTAS ON THE BLUFF



Hostas on the Bluff is a specialty hosta farm and display garden. This small family-owned business, the brain child of Brian and Erica Kniffin, is situated on the French Village bluffs overlooking the St. Louis skyline and river valley near Fairview Heights, Illinois. They offer more than 150 varieties of hostas plus daylilies and other companion plants. We are pleased to welcome them back for a fifth year.

To order hostas online or to schedule an appointment to visit, contact them by email support@hostasonthebluff.com or calling 618-830-5929. For more information about their facility and services, visit their web site at <https://hostasonthebluff.com/>.

Betty Shew Paper Art



Betty Shew worked as a graphic designer for many years until she discovered the joy of paper-casting. She creates intricate original molds from live flowers, ferns and other nature objects. These molds capture all the detail, texture and beauty of the original object. Her unique three-dimensional embossed paper castings use pulp made from 100% cotton and natural fibers. Each piece is made completely by hand and finished with acrylic paint using a watercolor technique.



Betty's husband John is an artist and illustrator. John spent over twenty years as an illustrator for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch creating sketches ranging from the humorous to the more serious. Now retired, he has more time to devote to his art.

The Shews show their art at many local art shows. To see examples of Betty's beautiful art work, learn more about her technique or to contact her, please visit her web site at: [Artwork • Betty Shew Paper Art](#)

OVERLAND HARDWARE



Gregg Wesche and helper from Overland Hardware.

Overland Hardware owners, Gregg Wesche and Don Burkhardt, continue the long tradition of excellent customer service established by their father and father-in-law. They state that they are an "old-fashioned" hardware store. In their minds that means "you can get in and out without having to walk a quarter mile, that someone offers to help you when you walk in the door and the person who helped you find what you needed also checks you out and helps carry it out to your car". They stock everything from Italian granite paint for countertops to numerous blends of birdseed and rabbit chow.

Overland Hardware, located at 2520 Woodson Road, Overland MO 63114, is the place to go for those hard-to-find services. Specialties available at Overland are: cutting glass and acrylic to size, sash and screen repair, sharpening chainsaw chains, lock re-keying, chip keys for cars, cutting and rethreading pipe, sharpening lawn mower blades and lamp repair. Visit their web site, www.overlandhardware.net for more information, hours of operation and directions to their store.

Again this year, Gregg, a St. Louis Hosta Society member, is offering special prices for selected gardening items that he will bring to our Vendor Day event. Later in this newsletter is a list of products and prices. Email (greggdon@swbell.net) or call (314-427-1404) Gregg with your order and he will bring it with him on April 23.

ConArtist Jewelry – Connie Copley



Please welcome **Connie Copley**, a new participant to our annual Vendor Day event. Connie writes on her web-site that “Old things with character and charm draw me to them. I love VINTAGE! **ConArtist Jewelry** is a reflection of that passion. My art leans to Bakelite, Celluloid, and Lucite—the early plastics in such forms as dress buckles, game pieces, and shoe clips. No longer fashionable nor in demand, these relics, repurposed in my studio, find new lives in the forms of pins, necklaces, and bracelets.”

Connie titles each piece and gives a description of the vintage parts used in its construction. You will be purchasing an original, one-of-a-kind art piece. Pictured are two of her designs. For more information and pictures of other pieces of her work, visit her web site: [The ConArtist, LLC \(conartistjewelry.com\)](http://TheConArtist,LLC(conartistjewelry.com))

Laughing Bear Bakery



Founded in 2015, **Laughing Bear Bakery** is a labor of love. Kalen McAllister combined her love of baking with her desire to help men and women ex-offenders become self-sufficient and successful in their lives when they return to the St. Louis community. She and her Board of Directors have turned her dream into a viable business. This 501(c)(3) non-profit organization provides valuable on-the-job, paid training and work experiences.

The bakery offers mouth-watering, made-from-scratch fresh-baked products. Now being featured are cookies, cakes, pies, muffin tops, biscotti and delicious bear candy.

Currently open Tuesday through Saturday, 8:00 – noon, **Laughing Bear Bakery** is located at 4001 Utah, St. Louis MO 63116. For more information about the bakery, check out its web-site: [Laughing Bear Bakery](http://LaughingBearBakery.com)

All photos by J Poos or from artists web-sites.

Directions to Crestwood Community/Recreation Center Whitecliff Park

- From the intersection of I-270 and MO 366W/Watson Road, take MO 366W/Watson Road east. Travel 2.6 miles to Pardee Lane. If you reach Grant Road you have gone too far. You can turn right onto Grant Road and take it to Pardee Road.
- Take Pardee Lane south until it T-intersects with Pardee Road (0.5 miles).
- Turn right onto Pardee Road.
- Travel 250 feet and turn right onto Whitecliff Park Lane.
- The Community Center is located at the top of the hill (0.3 miles).

April 29, 2023
Work Day at Missouri Botanical Garden
8:00 AM until about 11:00 am

Saturday April 29 will be our next work day in the AHS Display Garden located at the Missouri Botanical Garden. The hosta beds have come a long, long way since 2009 when our Society, under the direction of Phyllis Weidman, became involved in their rejuvenation and designation as an official AHS Display Garden.

It started with the planting of two crabapple trees. Since then, each year, members volunteer their time to dig, divide, move, hoe, prune, spray, mulch and do the myriad of little jobs necessary for a well-kept garden. There's never a shortage of tasks. Can't dig – how about hoeing, raking or pulling weeds; can't get down on your knees – how about pruning some of the shrubs or spreading fertilizer and slug bait. This is a great time to get to know other members. The work isn't that hard and the time goes really fast when talking and laughing with other volunteers.

The Garden permits us to bring our own gear. If you have a favorite shovel, hoe, trowel, or pruner, bring it with you. Don't forget the gloves unless you like the feel of dirt on your hands and under your fingernails. Ask anyone who has been at the work day how much fun you can have getting dirty.

We will gather at 8:00 AM, rain or shine, in front of the Missouri Botanical Garden entrance building. Look for people in lime green polo shirts. From there we will proceed to the AHS Display Garden hosta beds located in the northeast section of the Garden. If you arrive after 8:00, catch up with us in the hosta beds. For more information contact Phyllis - pow1031@gmail.com or 314-630-9036.



Moving pots to a location with more sun.



Barb Moreland removing excess mulch

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Arlene Miller of St. Louis, MO
Leslie Saali of Oakland, MO
Julie Wilkison of Ballwin, MO

It is exciting to have you as new members in our society. For all members, new or old timers, the events scheduled for this year are the perfect time to sit and chat and get to know one another.

March meeting

Blustery March winds blew, but it took just a few minutes inside the bright, warm greenhouse and heavy coats and scarves were quickly shed. It felt like spring! What a perfect setting for a talk about flowering trees and shrubs.

Jennifer Schamber, General Manager of Greenscape Gardens Nursery, explained that there is a lot more required to grow a long-lived, healthy tree that picking one we like off the internet, digging a hole and plopping it in. Consider the tree's environment. St. Louis is in the middle of the country. It is too hot and humid in summer for many northern trees, but too cold in winter for those grown in the south. Fall in love with a cultivar that will thrive in our climate. Jennifer stated that most trees and shrubs offered for sale at her nursery come from growers in Oregon. So, take the information listed on the tag with a grain of salt. The same plant in St. Louis will not get as big as it would in Oregon. Talk with Craig, the nursery man in charge of trees and shrubs at Greenscape, about how your selection will fare here

Trees arrive at a nursery either as 'ball and burlap' or in a container. Greenscape has found that container grown plants do better and are easier for customers to handle. Some growers use a burlap that retards growth plus the tree spade used to dig and lift the tree from the ground for bagging cuts and damages small roots.

As we gardeners have quickly discovered, St. Louis soil consists of heavy clay and rocks. Jennifer recommends augmenting the soil with a turface-like product that helps break up the clay and add porosity. Greenscape uses Espoma Soil Perfector. A root stimulator and fertilizer such as Organic Bio-tone Starter gets the tree off to a good start. Greenscape believes in this product so much that the company will extend the length of your tree's warranty if it is used.

Jennifer and Craig, with some kibitzing from John Loyet owner of Greenscape, talked about the many new cultivars of our favorite flowering trees. They like the coral bark maples for their all-season appeal. New dogwoods include yellow-flowered 'Saffron Sentinels', large-flowered 'Venus' and the crosses between native cornus florida and cornus kousa which produce large flowers and a later blooming period. Favorite redbuds included 'Rising Sun', 'Merlot', 'Ace of Hearts' and the spectacular 'Flame Thrower'.

Thanks Jennifer and company for an enjoyable and informative afternoon.



Jennifer Schamber



Jennifer assisted by tree man Craig



Members listen and learn



Redbud 'Flame Thrower'

Dig, Divide and Donate

Right now as winter still holds on it may seem that it will never happen, but those hostas are just waiting for a few more warm days before poking their pips above ground. One or two of mine are already visible. When they do, note which ones might be divided, potted and donated to the upcoming May hosta sale or the member auction held in July. Look for side shoots that can easily be removed. If each of us would take a moment to donate a couple of our babies both the sale and auction would be outstanding events filled with a wide variety of plants. If you need help digging, give Phyllis a call and she will arrange a digging crew to help you.

Spring Chores

Have you spread your slug control? Have you fertilized your beds? Now's the time. It is also a good time to mulch your beds. Everyone uses their favorite type: shredded hardwood, shredded leaves or pine needles. Just remember do not spread the material deeper than 2-3 inches. Try to keep the mulch off the crown of your hostas. Over mulching can lead to vole problems by providing a nice warm medium that is easy to tunnel through.

Don't Let Mother Nature Fool You

Spring is a time of anticipation and excitement for gardeners. But our excitement must be tempered with the realization that freezing temperatures are always a possibility. The average last frost date in St. Louis is April 10, but can occur as late as May 10.

Some hostas are eager to begin to grow like *H. montana* 'Aureomarginata'. If shoots are a few inches or more tall, yet the leaves have not started to unfurl and temperatures below 30 degrees F are forecasted, some protection should be applied. Additional mulch or dried leaves can be piled around and over the emerging pips. If leaves have started to unfurl other types of coverings to consider are frost cloths, old sheets, cardboard boxes, bushel baskets, garbage cans, newspapers or plastic pots. Avoid using plastic bags or polyethylene sheets as condensation can build up on the inside and increase the likelihood of damage to hosta leaves. If plastic pots are used, remove them as soon as the frost risk has passed. Once the sun comes out, heat can build up rapidly damaging the emerging plants.

Protecting hostas from low temperatures is certainly a hassle. Each of us has to determine if it is worth the effort. We must always be aware of the possibility of a frost or hard freeze and be ready to spring into action to preserve the beauty of our gardens.

April Fool – from the internet

Why did the gardener quit?
His celery wasn't high enough.

What do you call a homeless snail?
A slug

What do you call a nervous tree?
A sweaty palm.

Overland Hardware Vendor Day 2023 Price List

Thanks to everyone who purchased something from me in the past. Most of these items I use in my own hosta beds at home and I've marked the price down to benefit Society members as they begin to work in their own beds. **Please email me if you have special requests.** Prices include sales tax.

For the April Vendor Day Meeting, I will take **preorders only** for 32# Milorganite for \$12 a bag. I will **not** be bringing additional bags to the meeting and I will need preorders by **April 9th**.

SNAIL & SLUG PRODUCTS

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN BLESSED WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF SLUGS IN MY HOSTA BEDS.

- 2.5 LB HI-YIELD SLUG & SNAIL BAIT, INGREDIENTS: METALDEHYDE & BITREX \$14
- 1.5 LB SLUG MAGIC, ACTIVE INGR.: PELLETIZED IRON PHOSPHATE \$13
- 4 LB DIATOMACEOUS EARTH (Food Grade) \$14

WEED CONTROL

ONE OF THE BANES OF ALL GARDENERS IS THE PULLING OF WEEDS, ALTHOUGH IT SOMETIMES GIVES YOU SOME TIME TO THINK OR WORK ON YOUR TAN.

- 5.625 LB PREEN WEED PREVENTER, ACTIVE INGR.: 1.47% TRIFLURALIN \$18
- 16 LB PREEN WEED PREVENTER, ACTIVE INGR.: 1.47% TRIFLURALIN \$34
- 16 LB PREEN WEED PREVENTER PLUS PLANT FOOD 9-12-9 \$42
- 31.3 LB PREEN WEED PREVENTER \$47
- 40 OZ SPECTRACIDE CONCENTRATE WEED/GRASS KILLER – MAKES UP TO 10 GAL \$20
- 35.2 OZ ROUNDUP SUPER CONCENTRATE 50.2% GLYPHOSPHATE SALT- UP TO 23 GALS \$54

FERTILIZERS & AMENDMENTS

- 8 QT BAG EARTHWORM CASTINGS BLEND \$9
- 8 OZ SCHULTZ 10-15-10 LIQUID PLANT FOOD WITH DROPPER \$7
- 8 LB OSMOCOTE OUTDOOR & INDOOR 15-9-12 \$27
- 8 LB OSMOCOTE FLOWER & VEG 14-14-14 \$29
- 20 LB BONE MEAL 0-10-0 \$30 3 LB BLOOD MEAL \$12
- 1 QT ALASKA FISH FERTILIZER 5-1-1 ORGANIC WON'T BURN \$11

And For The Hardcore Gardener:

- 4 LB SUPERPHOSPHATE \$11 4 LB MURIATE OF POTASH \$9.50
- 4 LB ALUMINUM SULFATE \$11 3 LB COTTONSEED MEAL \$9
- 4 LB COPPERAS (IRON SULFATE) \$13

GARDENER HELPERS

- THESE GLOVES I RECOMMEND WITHOUT RESERVATION! ATLAS NITRILE TOUGH GLOVES AVAILABLE IN SM, MED., LARGE AND XLARGE. TOUGH AND DURABLE, BUT LIGHTWEIGHT WITH MAXIMUM DEXTERITY. 7 COLORS AVAILABLE \$4/PAIR
- IS YOUR PRUNING SHEARS DULL AND/OR WORN OUT?
FISKARS ALL STEEL BYPASS \$14 OR CORONA BYPASS PRUNER \$16
- FOAM KNEELING PAD 20 x 9.5 x 1 \$5
- O'KEEFE'S WORKING HANDS - OUTSTANDING RELIEF FOR CRACK/SPLIT FINGERTIPS \$8.
VALUE SIZE O'KEEFE'S - TWICE THE SIZE \$14 3 OZ SQUEEZE TUBE \$8
- POP-UP GARDEN BAG 27"H X 22" DIA LIGHTWEIGHT BUT DURABLE, COLLAPSES FOR EASY STORAGE OR TRANSPORT, GREAT FOR CLEANUP & WEEDING \$23

YOU CAN EMAIL OR CALL ME WITH YOUR ORDERS AND I'LL BRING THEM TO THE VENDOR DAY. THANKS

**GREGG WESCHE, OVERLAND HARDWARE
2520 WOODSON, OVERLAND, MO 63114
314-427-1404 OR GREGGDON@SWBELL.NET**

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

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St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

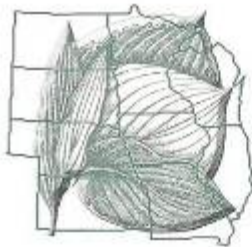
Contact: David Birenbaum
209 Brook Lane
O'Fallon, MO 63368
d.birenbaum@sbcglobal.net

Dues: \$7 per year, \$18 for three years
Family or Individual

Meetings held at **The Des Peres Lodge, 1050 Des Peres Road, Des Peres, MO 63130** (near I270 and Manchester Rd) unless otherwise noted.

Visit our Web site: www.stlhosta.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.



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:

Barry Ankney, AHS Membership Secretary
1104 Oxford Ct
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

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/>