



Volume 23, Issue 2

March, 2022



President
Phyllis Weidman

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

March is almost here. The March 20 meeting will be at The Des Peres Lodge. Note the time is 2:00 pm. The Lodge was not available for us before that time. It is fairly easy to find. You can find directions in this newsletter or, of course, on any Maps app on your phone. We may have to wear masks, but that is a small discomfort verses not meeting at all. We are having a guest speaker, so come one, come all. This is a good time to invite interested friends.

My hostas are awakening in the garden, but this is a difficult time for them and for me. The weather is very changeable; some days it is spring and then it falls below freezing. All I can say is have those coverings available for those early emerging hostas like *H. montana* 'Aureomarginata' or *H. 'Wolverine'*. These are my early risers. I use frost cloth to cover my plants, but you can use anything that is not too heavy. You do not want to break or bend those eyes. If you use black plastic pots or sheets, remember it is important to remove them before the sun gets on them. The black plastic heats up fast.

Now is the time to be checking your garden almost daily. This part of spring is fun for me – to see what is coming up and waiting for all the others to do their thing. We too must do our thing by spreading the word about our Society. Spread the word about the Vendor Day event in April. That is a great way to introduce people to the world of hostas.

Phyllis

2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 20** Meeting with Speaker Abby Lapides
2:00 PM, The Des Peres Lodge
1050 Des Peres Rd., Des Peres, MO 63130
- April 24** Vendor Day
2:00 PM, Crestwood Recreation Center, Whitecliff Park
9245 Whitecliff Park Ln., Crestwood, MO 63126
- May 7** Work Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden
8:00 AM, Missouri Botanical Garden,
AHS Display Garden beds
- May 15** Garden Walk with Speaker Kim Gamel
1:30 PM, Garden of Gene Pulliam
822 Brownell Ave., Glendale, MO 63122
- May 21-22** Plant Sale – Location and time TBD
- June 8-11** AHS National Convention ‘Hosta Visions’
Minneapolis, MN
- June 19** Garden Walk and Leaf Show
1:30 PM, Home of Kathie Soehngen
5111 Lampglow Ct., St. Louis, MO 63129
- July 14-16** Midwest Regional Hosta Convention
Lisle, IL
- July 24** Members Plant Auction
1:30 PM, Garden of Dave and Joan Poos
9904 Crestwood Dr., Crestwood, MO 63126
- August 21** Garden Walk with Speaker Bruce Buehrig
1:30 PM, Home of Chick and Bruce Buehrig
31 Bellerive Acres, St. Louis, MO 63121
- September 18** Garden Walk
TBD
- October 16** Meeting with Speaker Rob Mortko
2:00 PM, The Des Peres Lodge
1050 Des Peres Rd., Des Peres, MO 63130
- November 11** Board Meeting
Time and location TBD
- December 11** Holiday Party at a member’s home
Time and location TBD

March 20 Meeting

'New and Exciting Plants for 2022' Abby Lapidès of Sugar Creek Gardens Nursery

Starting in early January, seed and plant catalogues began arriving in my mailbox. January's delight – sitting in front of a roaring fire browsing the booklets, looking for something new to add to my garden. The glossy pictures pique my interest and get the gardening juices flowing. But wait. Will that new plant grow in St. Louis? Will it look as gorgeous in my garden as it does in the magazine? Does it deserve all the hype it is getting?



Abby Lapidès

Photo: Sugar Creek Gardens

Abby Lapidès, owner of Sugar Creek Gardens, knows the answers. Her presentation, 'New and Exciting Plants for 2022', is sure to start us dreaming about the new gardening season ahead. Abby has degrees from the University of Missouri and is a writer for the *Gateway Gardner*, *The Healthy Planet* and *Kirkwood Lifestyles*.

Sugar Creek Gardens began in 1990 by Abby's mother Ann Lapidès at the Kirkwood Farmers Market with just a garden umbrella, cash box and a couple hundred plants grown in her backyard and basement. In 1994 the nursery moved to 1011 N. Woodlawn Avenue in Kirkwood on property where cut flowers were grown for the 1904 World's Fair. Although the deteriorated greenhouses had to be removed, the original farmhouse remains, now housing a gift shop and offices.

Sugar Creek Gardens is a diverse garden center, specializing in rare and unique perennials and native Missouri plants, offering creative classes, garden consultations and design services. It was voted #1 Best Garden Center in St. Louis. They have it all.

Abby carries on the traditions established by her mother. When not working, Abby loves managing her menagerie of one dog, three cats and numerous chickens.

Directions:

From the intersection of I-44 and I-270:

- Travel north on I-270 toward Chicago.
- After 2.8 miles, take Exit 8 for Dougherty Ferry Road
- Turn left onto Dougherty Ferry Road
- Travel 0.3 miles and turn right onto Des Peres Road/Old Des Peres Road
- Travel 1.2 miles. The Des Peres Lodge is on the right.

From the intersection of I-64/40 and I-270:

- Travel south toward Des Peres
- Take Exit 9 for MO-100 W/Manchester Rd
- Keep right at the fork, follow the signs for MO-100W/Manchester Rd W
- Merge onto MO-100W/Manchester Rd
- After 0.2 miles, take the Des Peres Rd exit.
- Turn right onto Des Peres Rd
- After 0.4 miles, The Des Peres Lodge is on the left.

2022 Membership Dues Are Payable Now

If you receive the newsletter by postal mail, check the two-digit number appearing after your name on the address label of this newsletter. Your membership dues are paid through the end of the year appearing after your name. For example, if '21' appears after your name, your dues are paid through the 2021 year and are now payable for 2022.

If you receive the newsletter by e-mail, check the attachment for a list of all members and the year through which their dues are paid. For example, if '21' appears after your name in the attachment list, your dues are paid through the 2021 year and are now payable for 2022.

Dues are \$7 annually (individual or family) or \$18 for three years. Make checks payable to SLHS (St. Louis Hosta Society) and bring to the next meeting or send to:

**David Birenbaum
209 Brook Lane
O'Fallon, MO 63368**

Welcome New Member

Enita and Joe Dugan of St. Louis, MO

What a fun time to join our society. It's just the beginning of a new gardening season. There are lots of events planned for this year. We encourage all our members to introduce themselves to Enita and Joe.

In Memoria Lori Wrobel – 1936-2021

It is with sadness that I announce the passing of member Lori Wrobel on December 15, 2021. Following is a beautiful tribute written by Lori's granddaughter Grace and sent to me by her son David. Lori was truly loved and will be missed.

My Nana, Lorraine Louise Wrobel, loved a few things and loved them with all her heart. Her kids and grandkids, baseball and hockey, entertaining and gardening were her life. Gardening was not just something she enjoyed every once in a while. Not only was her backyard a wonderland that deer loved to prance around in, she also brought the outdoors inside as she included wildflowers in her salads plated on her favorite butterfly and floral China set, took us on cousin field trips to the local butterfly house all year round and was very involved in the local gardening club. She especially loved hostas and believed they added the perfect lush blanket to her backyard oasis. She shared her bulbs with her family and friends and we all got our own start in gardening that way. We will be spreading her ashes in the garden come spring, when the birds and the butterflies can join us in celebrating her colorful life!

The St. Louis Hosta Society extends its deepest sympathy to Lori's family.

The slugs are coming!

Time to Be Pro-active!

In the next month and a half, we avid gardeners will be taking frequent strolls through our gardens. What will be the first hosta pip poking up through the soil? We've been waiting all winter for this moment. But don't sit back and just marvel how nature continuously renews itself. Sometimes Mother Nature needs a helping hand. All those holes that appear in our hosta leaves during the growing season can be eliminated. But now is the time for action.

Garden slugs are brown or gray in color, slimy and soft-bodied, without any legs. In St. Louis they are generally small – one-fourth to one inch in length. Each slug is capable of laying hundreds of eggs in its lifetime. The eggs are laid in moist soil, under mulch, rocks or garden detritus. Now, as winter weather abates, all those overwintering slug eggs begin to hatch and any slugs that have survived the winter begin to feed regularly



photo from Missouri Botanical Garden



There are some non-chemical controls that can be tried and may work if you are tenacious and persistent. Slugs crawl everywhere. Their soft bodies do not like to crawl over anything that irritates their skin. Things like coffee grounds, wood ashes, sand, crushed eggshells and diatomaceous earth can be used as barriers around a plant. Slugs like to live and lay eggs in garden debris. Destroy their homes by removing old decayed foliage and leaf litter from your beds. Pull mulch away from the crowns of your hostas. Slugs are a favorite food of snakes, toads, frogs, beetles and other beneficial insects. Encourage these predators to stay in your garden.

There are two primary types of chemical slug baits, those with metaldehyde as the primary ingredient and those with iron phosphate. Brand names include Sluggo, Slug Magic, and Garden Safe Slug and Snail Bait. Both types also contain additives such as yeast to lure the slugs and snails to the bait. Either works well and neither, **when used as directed**, constitutes significant danger to pets and wildlife.

For metaldehyde and iron phosphate baits, all that is necessary is to evenly apply the bait over the infested area at the rate recommended on the product label. More is not better. In about two or three weeks, apply the bait again. This will take out many of the slugs hatched from eggs after the first application. Applied properly, more treatments will probably not be necessary until late fall when a final application should be applied to knock down the slug population prior to onset of winter.

Whether you use slug baits or non-chemical controls such as spun wool, hair, beer, garlic spray or ammonia and water, **the key is to get started early**, just as the pips are emerging from the soil. Waiting until holes appear is much too late – many generations of slugs are already thriving in your garden.

Another spring task

Spring is the time to give your hostas some TLC. In the last article you improved their quality of life by eliminating those pesky slugs. Now give them another boost with a shot of fertilizer. But this raises all kinds of questions: What kind? Liquid or solid? When and how often?

The following article was written by Bob Solberg, an internationally known hosta hybridizer and nurseryman. It appeared in the March 2019 issue of '*Hosta Happenings*', the newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society. I am reprinting the first half of his article as it answers these questions.

What Kind of Fertilizer Do You Use? By Bob Solberg

Whenever I give a talk to a hosta group, the question always comes up, "What kind of fertilizer do you use." I'm never quite sure if they believe that growers like me have some kind of magic plant food that we use to grow our hostas bigger and better or that if they really want to know what, when and how to fertilize their hostas.

In the garden hostas need light, water, and nutrients for healthy growth. Any fertilization program must take all these, as well as soil type, into account and balance the needs of the hosta. If you water a lot, you will need to fertilize more often during the season as watering leaches nitrogen away from the plant (and/or garden). If your garden is very shady, over fertilization will not necessarily produce bigger hostas because of the lack of light. Sandy soils will leach nutrients faster than clay soils. Get to know your garden.

There are organic and inorganic fertilizers. Both contain the same nutrients (chemicals), but they come from different sources. At the cellular level, hostas "see" these nutrients identically. Organic fertilizers tend to have lower analysis numbers than inorganic ones and thus tend to burn less, but you will need to apply them in larger amounts to apply the same amount of nutrients, making them often more expensive in time and money. They may also attract rodents (code word, voles) since several of the materials used as sources of nitrogen in organic fertilizers, like cottonseed meal and alfalfa meal, are used as animal feeds. Manure is a good cheap organic fertilizer that should not burn if properly composted.

Both types of fertilizers come as a liquid feed, a granular and a slow release. Liquid fertilizer, Peter's 20-20-20, Miracle-Gro, Fish Emulsion, etc., can be used as a drench into the soil or sprayed on the leaves only as a foliar spray. (If this is the only type of fertilizer you use then a drench is more effective.) Liquid fertilizer needs to be applied to hostas at least once every two weeks during the growing season, if not weekly, since it remains in the root zone for only a short period of time.

Standard inorganic granular fertilizers like 10-10-10 are quite inexpensive and remain in the garden 4-6 weeks depending on the amount of rainfall. Thus two to three applications are necessary, beginning as the hostas emerge and ending when their growth slows in the heat of summer. Beware! Formulations with a high percentage of urea will release their nitrogen in a short period of time in periods of high rainfall and, at best, be washed from the garden or, at worst, burn your plants.

Slow release fertilizers like Osmocote and Nutricote release nutrients over time dependent on temperature and rainfall and have the advantage of only needing to be applied once a year. They come in a variety of formulations with hostas preferring a nitrogen number of 18-21. Choose a time of release, 3 months to 9 months, which matches the active growing season for your hostas. Many bagged organic fertilizers release their nitrogen slowly also and can be treated as slow release fertilizers and applied just once a year.

Which fertilizer you choose probably has more to do with you than your hostas. What kind of gardener you are and how often you want to feed your hostas. If you enjoy preparing snacks for your hostas and want to shower them with tender loving care, then liquid fertilizers once a week during the growing season is the way for you to go. If you are a lazy gardener like me or one just pressed for time, then you should choose a 9 month slow release formula and fertilize once a year when your hostas first start emerging from their winter's nap. The important thing is to have nutrients available when your hostas are actively growing, from emergence to fall.

Probably the best way to fertilize is a combination of the two. Apply an organic or inorganic slow release fertilizer in early spring. Then supplement this with foliar applications of a high nitrogen liquid fertilizer with Epsom salts (18-24 nitrogen) maybe twice, a couple of weeks apart while the hostas are growing at their most rapid rate. For us (North Carolina) that is around the first and fiftieth of May. An application or two of 10-10-10 liquid fertilizer can also be applied in August when the hostas make their "little flush" of new foliage, especially if all the slow release nitrogen has been released by high summer temperatures and rainfall. This diet is sure to fatten up your hostas.

Tips to remember:

1. Use a foliage feed as a supplemental feed especially for magnesium (Epsom salts 50ppm) and trace elements when your hostas are actively making new leaves.
2. Hosta roots do not grow during the winter. They stop growing when the plant goes dormant and begin only after the soil has warmed in the spring. New roots are not made until after the first flush of foliage has unfurled. Winter fertilization for added root growth is unnecessary.
3. You can test your soil throughout the season to measure the available nutrients in the soil. It may be more fun to test your hosta leaves for their nutrient content. Hosta leaves can be tested by most State Labs to determine the amount of nutrients that actually are available in the plant not just in the soil.





GREAT LAKES REGION HOSTA COLLEGE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for **HOSTA COLLEGE!**
March 19, 2022 from 9am-3:30pm ET



Hosta College 2022 will be a virtual Zoom Event and is **FREE** to all participants. You can enjoy the sessions from the comfort of your home on a PC, laptop, Smart Phone, Tablet, or screen share on a TV. Find a hostaholic or gardening friend who has a big screen TV and view the sessions together for more fun!



Speakers and Schedule – All Times are Eastern Time

9:00	Welcome
9:00-9:50	<u>Chris Wilson</u> - Hosta Diseases: Bacterial Infections vs Nematodes
10:00-10:50	<u>Steve English</u> - Home Landscaping for Wildlife
11:00-11:50	<u>Sandy Wilkins</u> - The Arctic and Antarctic: To the Ends of the Earth
12:00-12:30	LUNCH
12:30-1:20	<u>Noah Schwartz</u> - Hosta from Bare Root and Tissue Culture Liner
1:30-2:20	<u>Bob Solberg</u> - Grow Hostas in Containers from Nursery to Garden
2:30-3:20	<u>Gale Martin</u> - Incorporating Natives into Existing Hosta Gardens
3:30	Thank You and Closing



Register on-line at hostacollege.org. You can find additional information on the website. All registrants will receive an email link to the Virtual event prior to Hosta College day.



AHS National Convention '2022 Hosta Vision'

June 8-11, 2022

Minneapolis Marriott NW in Brooklyn Park MN



The Minnesota Hosta Society is delighted to be the host for the AHS 2022 convention. Our membership is excited to have you join us in fellowship and share our passion for gardening with hosta. Our theme, Hosta Vision 2022, reflects not only the year, but also the ever expanding use of hosta in the garden. Hostas continue to be America's number one perennial due to their versatility in the landscape.

As part of this year's convention we have added a philanthropic element. In keeping with our theme, we request you bring used eyeglasses for donation to Lions Clubs International. For 80 years, Lions clubs have collected old, unwanted eyeglasses for redistribution to the poor in developing countries.

Attendees will tour multiple private and/or public gardens (by bus or drive your own car); attend six educational seminars; compete in the accredited Hosta Leaf Show; attend Hosta Judges Clinics; shop vendors featuring the latest and greatest hosta additions, companion plants or garden-themed accessories; bid in the AHS auction for that unique "must have" hosta; and best of all, get together with old friends and make new ones in hostatality.

For additional convention and hotel information and registration forms, visit the convention web-site <https://hostavision2022.com>

Midwest Regional Hosta Society (MRHS)

July 14-16, 2022

"THE COVID-CURSED CONVENTION" first planned and postponed for 2020, then 2021, is now officially back on the MRHS schedule for July 14-16, 2022 in Lisle, IL.



As originally planned, *Hostas Chicago Style* will be hosted by the Northern Illinois Hosta Society (NIHS) which is preparing a warm Chicago-style welcome for you while trying to make this convention unique: Speakers you haven't heard before to educate and excite you. Fabulous gardens where other distinctive plants and unique designs share top billing with hostas. Two new cultivars from Bob Solberg as choices for a gift hosta. An evening garden visit. A Chicago-style pizza party, and much more.

Of course, the features you've always expected at hosta conventions remain part of this one. Reunions with hosta friends. Vendors with the newest hosta cultivars, companion plants and other items for your garden. Hosta leaf show. Seedling display. Good old-fashioned Midwestern hospitality.

For additional convention and hotel information and registration forms visit the Midwest Regional Hosta Society web site www.midwesthostasociety.org/.

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

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St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

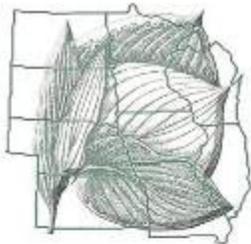
Contact: David Birenbaum
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d.birenbaum@sbcglobal.net

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.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.



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/>