



Volume 23, Issue 1

February, 2022



President
Phyllis Weidman

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Welcome to 2022. We all thought we would be done with the Covid problem, but it is still here. Covid will rule all decisions made for this year as it has in the past. Meetings and events are being planned but it is the safety of members that is our greatest concern. We have a great newsletter, web site and Facebook page. These are the places to check for the latest information on the meetings. Our usual February gathering will be skipped this year. Our first meeting will be indoors, in March, at The Des Peres Lodge. Hopefully by then the holiday surge will be over.

Until March, when we get to see each other, we certainly have lots of things we can do. Spring is just around the corner. Now is the time to check all the supplies. Do you have enough deer and rabbit spray, fertilizer, mulch or anything you need for your garden start up? Those eyes will be coming up before you know it. Last year I was leafed out by the end of March.

You should also check that all your tools are clean and ready to use. Also don't forget to do a few exercises to get your body ready. Spring time in the garden is hard work. You may also want a new hosta, so get your list together and plan to attend Vendor Day in April at Whitecliff Park in Crestwood.

There is so much to look forward to in 2022 and the Hosta Society meetings are one of them. Remember that everyone is welcome so bring a friend or tell someone about us. We want to share our knowledge.

Phyllis

2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 20** Meeting with Speaker Abby Lapides
2:00 PM, 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 TBD** 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, 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

It's a new season, let's make it the best ever!

Even though it doesn't feel like it with snow on the ground and the wind whistling down the chimney, spring is right around the corner. It's time to snap out of our winter doldrums. Get up, get out and get moving! Make a New Year's resolution to attend our meetings.

Unfortunately, putting member safety first, the Board decided to omit the always enjoyable February Pot Luck. But there are lots of other activities scheduled this year. Find your calendar and mark our meeting dates – right now before you forget. The schedule is on page two of this newsletter.

As was the case last year, most of our events will be held outside in members' gardens. However, as it is a bit nippy in St. Louis in March and October, these two meetings will be inside at a new location. The Creve Coeur Recreation Complex is no longer available on Sunday afternoon, so our meetings will be at The Des Peres Lodge located near the intersection of I270 and Manchester Road. Directions will be given in the March newsletter.

April will herald the return of our popular Vendor Day event which will be held in Crestwood this year. Four vendors have been contacted and intend to bring their wares. Get your wish lists together. You just might find that elusive hosta or needed garden supplies on one of the sales tables.

May and June are beautiful months in St. Louis. This is the ideal time to visit a garden. Two members, Gene Pulliam and Kathie Soehngen have graciously opened their beautiful gardens for our enjoyment. At Gene's, master gardener Kim Gamel will get us excited about container gardening while at Kathie's, members will have a chance to take part in a hosta leaf show. In August, members are invited to visit with Bruce and Chick Buehrig in their award winning garden. Bruce will give tips on incorporating hostas into your garden design.

Dave and Joan Poos will host the July member auction in their Crestwood garden. If Mother Nature should rain on our parade, a large basement area is available. When you are dividing plants this spring, set aside a division or two for the auction.

Our annual fund raiser, the public MOBot Hosta Sale, has been scheduled but the Board is still looking for a suitable location. Due to ongoing construction, MOBot is not available. A date for the MOBot Work Day is also pending.

Plan to come to these events, consider helping with the MoBot Hosta Sale or the Member Auction. Donate plants to the auction and sale. Be an active member of your society.



Phyllis helping customers at the MOBot Hosta Sale.



Customers checking out the merchandise at Vendor Day



Work Day at MOBot

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 Members

Beth Buchanan and Laurie Santen of O'Fallon, MO
Ed Burnett of Ellisville, MO
Alan and Rita Funke of Manchester, MO
Angela Melton of St. Charles, MO

What a fun time to join our society. There are lots of events planned for this year. We encourage all our members to introduce themselves to our new members.

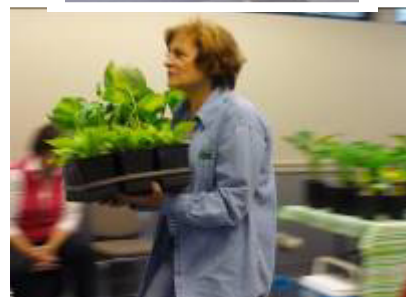
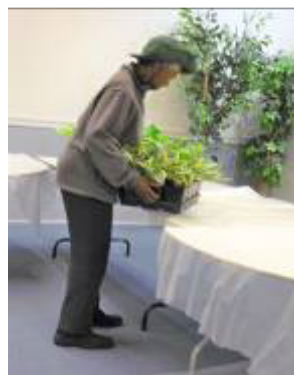
Volunteers needed - April Vendor Day Setup

Vendor Day Chairwoman Jolly Ann Whitener is in need of a few members to arrive early and help vendors unload their merchandise - just carry boxes or pots from their vehicles to the tables within the recreation center.

This event is scheduled for April 24 at Whitecliff Park in Crestwood. Set up time will be between 1:00 and 2:00 PM with the sale scheduled to run from 2:00 to 5:00. Directions and details about the event will appear in the April newsletter.

If you can come early and help, please contact Jolly Ann or sign up at the March meeting

Jolly Ann Whitener
636-240-5068
jawhit6@gmail.com



Watch where you step

It's the first of February and our hostas are still sound asleep. It has been a warm fall and winter. Can spring be any different? The growing season might only be 4-6 weeks away. Soon we hostaholics will commence our annual "hosta dance". Each afternoon we will skip outside and dance about our garden straining to catch sight of the first pips to poke through the ground.

As the temperatures warm and the days grow longer, the dormant buds of the hostas begin to swell and break through the soil. Those little pointy things that look like bullets are called pips or eyes. Each pip is comprised of tightly-wrapped sets of three or four leaves encased in a sheath. The sheath protects the tender leaves until the pip has pushed through the ground and the leaves are ready to unfold.

Some pips are pencil thin, others thick and fat. Young and small hostas may only have one or two eyes and so are hard to see. The size varies depending on genetics, age, ultimate plant size and growing conditions. Some are green, others shades of purple. If covered by thick mulch or leaves, they may even be white.

Genetics has a lot to do with which hostas break ground first. Some early risers are *H. montana* 'Aureomarginata', *H. plantaginea* and most fragrant flowered cultivars, *H. lancifolia*, *H. 'Sagae'*, *H. 'Wolverine'* and *H. 'Sum and Substance'* and its sports and seedlings. Be prepared to protect these varieties if a late frost is forecast. Location also affects emergence. Hostas sheltered from the warming rays of the sun will be slower to emerge. Hostas in pots tend to erupt earlier than those planted in the ground.

At first, the pips will be right at the soil line or just below that thin decaying layer of mulch. Be careful! Accidentally stepping on an emerging hosta pip can have dire consequences. Bending or crushing the growing tip can tear the unfurled leaves before they even have a chance to unfold and expand, resulting in tattered leaves. That beautiful hosta that you have been waiting for all winter will spend the rest of the season sporting damaged leaves.

There are so many things, such as hail and falling tree debris that can't be prevented. But stepped-on damage isn't one of them. If the anticipation is just too much and you must dance around in your hosta beds, step very, very carefully.



Pips emerging in spring

www.choosingvoluntarysimplicity.com/



Bent tips of stepped-on pips

Photo: <https://petiolejunction.wordpress.com>



Resulting leaf damage

Photo: <http://sproutsandstuff.blogspot.com/>

Have fairies danced in your garden?

The hosta's circle of life is amazing. In a single year, the plant emerges from the ground, unfurls leaves which in a matter of weeks rapidly expand, flowers then returns to dormancy. Year after year the cycle continues with the plants gaining in size. A large clump forms. Hostas can remain for decades and decades, undisturbed, ever growing larger.



However, you may notice in the spring that your once beautiful clump now has a hole in the middle. It is not unusual for large clumps to begin to decline over time. This phenomena is called centering-out, clump decline, center dieback, or the more picturesque name 'fairy ring'. This whimsical name was given because the problem was said to result from fairies dancing in the middle of the plant. This ring effect is not usually an indication of disease.



Examples of 'fairy ring'

In the beginning, you planted a single division which each year added new buds on the outer edge of the crown. Over time, these new divisions increase the diameter of the clump. Each new division adds more new buds. The oldest part of the clump is now at the center. Eventually the middle eyes get crowded out and begin to die. Overlapping leaves may keep water and fertilizer from reaching the center of the clump acerbating the decline.

In the spring the ring might be unsightly. But, by the time the leaves have fully expanded, the ring is no longer visible. Nothing really needs to be done. However, this could be the time to rejuvenate your plant.

Some people use a shovel or sharp knife to cut out the dead center area. They then fill the hole with fresh soil and depending on the size of the hole may cut a section from the ring and place it in the center. In a year or two this part of the clump will fill in. Others like to dig up the entire clump, remove the dead center part, cut the ring into smaller divisions and replant. Loosen the roots of each division before replanting and water thoroughly. Any extra divisions can be given to friends or donated to a hosta society for their plant sale or auction. Hint. Hint.

Photos from <http://blog.sunsethostafarm.com> and <http://ask2.extension.org>

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

Phyllis Weidman – President
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Joan Poos – Newsletter Editor
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St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

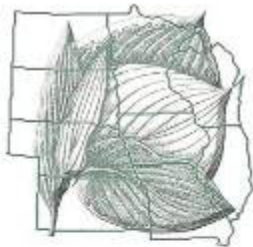
Contact: David Birenbaum
209 Brook Lane
O'Fallon, MO 63368
d.birenbaum@sbcglobal.net

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.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/>