



# Shady Notes

Volume 24, Issue 5

June, 2023



President  
Phyllis Weidman

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We made it through the plant sale. MoBot was, as always, an ideal place to have a sale. We had lots of customers and many questions about growing hostas. We also got many new members whom we need to get to know. I must thank all who helped **in any way** and, of course, **Barb Moreland** the chair of the sale.

You might ask where does the money go? Well first into the treasury. We will spend the money to pay Society bills like room rentals, hospitality, speaker fees or anything the Society needs. In the past, money has been spent on new

hostas for the MoBot Hosta Garden, chemicals for the garden, and a part of a sprinkler system. The Society would like to continue to do this. We are holding in reserve money so, if needed, we can pay for more of the sprinkler system or a new walkway in the hosta area. There is discussion among the staff who should pay for these improvements, but the Society has funds to help if needed. Thanks again to all members for their help.

The month of June has garden tours and the American Hosta Society Convention in Ames, Iowa. The garden tours on June 4 and June 18 always give us ideas. It is fun to see how other people can grow hostas and use them in their landscape. You will hear people saying mine is bigger or I didn't know it got that big. You can talk to other members about garden problems or successes. Fun times in a garden. There will also be speakers on garden related subjects so mark your calendar now.

The American Hosta Convention is in Ames, Iowa. If you have never been to a convention, it is 4 days filled with speakers, garden tours, auctions, vendors, meetings, a leaf show, food and a chance to meet and re-meet friends from all over the country. I have gone to many conventions; each has its own feel. Sometimes it will rain, sometimes it is very hot, sometimes the gardens are very large and sometimes small but rarely everything is perfect.

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## 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>June 4</b>	<b>Garden Walk with speaker Annie Kuhn</b> <b>“Floral Bouquets using Hosta Foliage”</b> <b>2:00 PM, Home of Janelle Criscione</b>
<b>June 7-10</b>	<b>AHS National Convention</b> <b>Ames, Iowa</b>
<b>June 18</b>	<b>Garden Walk with beekeeper Mike Wagner</b> <b>2:00 PM, Home of Martha LaFata</b> <b>433 Edgar Road, Webster Groves, MO 63119</b>
<b>July 13-15</b>	<b>Midwest Regional Hosta Convention</b> <b>Rochester, MN</b>
<b>July 16</b>	<b>Members Plant Auction</b> <b>2:00 PM, MOBot CBEC, Room 125</b> <b>4651 Shaw, St. Louis, MO 63110</b>
<b>August 20</b>	<b>Garden Walk</b> <b>2:00 PM, Hostas on the Bluff</b> <b>1601 Pleasantview Dr., Fairview Heights, IL 62208</b>
<b>September 17</b>	<b>Meeting with Speaker Dean Gunderson</b> <b>2:00 PM, Des Peres Lodge</b> <b>1050 Des Peres Rd., Des Peres, MO 63130</b>
<b>October 15</b>	<b>Meeting with Speaker</b> <b>TBD</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b> <b>Time and location TBD</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Holiday Party</b> <b>Home of Melinda Ligon - Time and location TBD</b>

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This year we have several members of the St. Louis Hosta Society going. It is another way to get to know members you don't know so well. You do not have to be a member of the AHS to attend, but if you win big in the leaf show you will be asked to join. Think about going next year when the convention will be in Marlborough, MA. It could be part of your vacation!

However, now is the time to be digging and potting something special for our annual auction. July is Auction time. You could have a chance to win that special hosta from another member's garden.

*Phyllis*

## June 4 Garden Walk and Speaker Annie Kuhn

2:00 PM, Home of Janelle Criscione

640 Locksley Place, Webster Groves, MO 63119

314-324-4380 or [lambypie@gmail.com](mailto:lambypie@gmail.com)

Janelle Criscione has graciously volunteered to open her garden for our enjoyment on Sunday June 4. Secluded in the heart of Webster Groves, this hidden jewel was one of the gardens featured during the 2016 AHS Convention.

An expanse of green grass draws one to Janelle's home which is surrounded on three sides by shady beds. Nestled under the canope of numerous Japanese maples, conifers and other shade trees are hostas, hydrangeas, ferns, Itoh peonies, heuchera and other shade lovers. In sunnier areas look for Janelle's thriving crop of garlic. Peeping out from the hosta leaves are giant mushrooms, curious rabbits and winsome ladies. Wander around back and admire Janelle's late husband Jim's beautiful retreat and a chicken coop with beveled glass windows.

Our featured speaker for the day is Annie Kuhn, owner of Verde Designs. This is a Glendale-based business specializing in floristry and porch pot design. Annie's gardening career began as a young teenager when she turned her parents' postage

stamp-sized backyard of mulch into a woodland garden. She has been gardening for fun ever since. She says "There are always new things to learn and plants to share!"

She began doing yardwork and garden design for clients and quickly realized how much she loved arranging flowers and designing porch pots for people. Annie grows cut flowers for use in her designs which have a whimsical and garden-fresh vibe. "Floral arrangements bring so much joy to people!" Let's see what Annie can create incorporating hosta leaves.

Seating is limited so please bring your own lawn chair.

**Directions:** From the I-64/I-270 interchange, travel South on I-270 toward Memphis. After 6.56 miles **merge onto I-44 E via EXIT 5A** toward St. Louis. Travel 2.47 miles, then take the **Big Bend Rd exit, EXIT 278**.

Keep right to **Merge onto Big Bend**. After 1.49 miles, turn **left** onto **S. Rock Hill Rd**. Travel 0.13 miles and turn **left** onto **W. Frisco Ave**. You will pass over I-44 and train tracks. Take the **first right** onto **Locksley Place**. 640 Locksley Place is on the right.





## June 18 Garden Walk and Speaker Mike Wagner

**2:00 PM, Home of Martha LaFata**  
**433 Edgar, Webster Groves, MO 63119**  
**314-961-7163 or [mvelafata@gmail.com](mailto:mvelafata@gmail.com)**

Society member Martha LaFata has graciously invited us to spend an afternoon in her lovely Webster Groves garden. Martha's garden was on tour during the 2016 AHS National convention, was selected as a display garden for a Missouri Botanical Garden Tour and was featured in the August 2019 issue of *St. Louis Homes and Lifestyles*.

Wide heavily wooded garden beds encircle the yard. Standing on the patio or the lush lawn it's hard to believe that the house is located on a busy street. The thick vegetation buffers urban noise and screens the yard from view.

Martha spent countless hours removing invasive vines, ivy and over-grown shrubs to create areas filled with hostas and their shade loving companions.

Wander up a slope to the sunnier portion of Martha's yard. Here the border features daylilies, grasses and conifers that prefer a bit more sun. Nestled deep in the sun border is an active bee colony.

Our featured speaker is beekeeper Mike Wagner who is in charge of mentor programs with the Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association. Mike will tell us everything we need to know about bees and their habits. Please bring a lawn chair for Mike's presentation as seating might be limited.

Gardens are always in a state of evolution. It will be interesting to see how Martha's has changed in the years since the Society last visited.

### Directions:

- From I-44, take the S Elm Avenue exit.
- Go north on S Elm Ave about 0.2 miles to E Glendale Rd (1<sup>st</sup> traffic light after Big Bend Blvd).
- Turn right onto E Glendale Rd. and go 0.6 miles to Edgar Rd.
- Turn left onto Edgar Rd. and go 0.5 miles. 433 Edgar Rd. is on the left across from the park. Parking is available in the driveway and on the east side of Edgar Rd.



## May – Missouri Botanical Garden Hosta Sale

The fun began on Friday night as members dropped off their donations for our annual sale. It was delightful to be back at MOBot after a three-year sabbatical due to renovations at the Garden. Plants had to be schlepped from the Garden's loading dock, onto a freight elevator, then through a maze of corridors to arrive at our sales room off the main lobby. There were many helping hands loading, unloading, pricing and placing hostas on the sales tables. The work was so fast and furious that there was no time for photographs until the task was complete. At that time, the set-up crew adjourned to O'Connell's Pub for a burger and a beer.



There were several hypertufa troughs made by Barb Moreland and Phyllis Weidman.



And birdhouses with vines attached to their roofs, assembled by Barb. Next to the houses are pots of dwarf Solomon Seal donated by a member.



Hostas were arranged by size. There were tables of small...



Many, many mediums...



Followed by the medium to large...



And finally, the large to giant. Guess which size sold out the fastest.





Cashier Jane Hogg and Chairwoman Barb Moreland help relieve Melinda Ligon of her money.



Lynn Teller answers a customer's question while Jane Hogg and Janelle Criscione wait to tally up her tab.



Saleswoman extraordinaire Janelle Criscione helps potential customers.

It had been an absolutely gorgeous weekend in St. Louis. The skies were clear and temperatures mild. People flocked to the Missouri Botanical Garden. Visitors wanted to see the new look of the Garden's entrance lobby and beds, wanted to see the Chihuy glass display and, of course, wanted to buy large pots of hostas.

The sale was a great success. By 1:00 on Sunday, every last hosta had found a new home!



By Sunday morning, selections were limited.

The Society thanks all the members who took the time to dig and donate plants from their gardens, who gave of their time to set-up, man sale and information tables and stayed to help cleanup. How wonderful it was to see so many of our newer members participate.

A special THANK YOU to event chairwomen Barb Moreland and Phyllis Weidman.



## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

**Melissa Anderson of Paola, KS**  
**Kathy and Doug Belleville of St. Louis, MO**  
**Carmen and Gwen Christopher of St. Louis, MO**  
**Patrick Crider of Ballwin, MO**  
**Rick Funcik of St. Louis, MO**  
**Leslie Granger of Wildwood, MO**  
**Angela Johnson of St. Louis, MO**  
**Roger McFarland of Collinsville, IL**  
**Dan and Laura O'Brien of Highland, IL**  
**Ted and Kim Piekutowski of Florissant, MO**  
**Laura Wedekemper of Carlyle, IL**  
**Stephen Williamson of Springfield, IL**  
**Lauren Winely of St. Louis, MO**  
**Paul and Shvetha Zarek of St. Louis, MO**

It is exciting to have you as new members in our society. Many of you enrolled at our annual Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Sale. This is but one of many events scheduled throughout the year. Join fellow members at a garden tour this coming Sunday at the home of Janelle Criscione. I'm sure you met her at the plant sale.

## **Fertilizer – yes or no**

One of the tasks listed for the work crew at the MOBot Work Day event was fertilizing the hosta beds. Dave Poos asked the obvious questions. Do the beds need fertilizer? What is the pH level of the soil? What did your soil test indicate? Not surprising, the Missouri Botanical Garden had not had the soil in the hosta beds analyzed. This is a task that is frequently overlooked by large organizations as well as the home gardener.

All gardeners should be intent on improving their soil. In addition to adding nutrients, adding organic matter and correcting pH are equally important. These three actions improve the soil by increasing water holding capacity, fertility, tilth, and encouraging beneficial organisms. Healthy soil equals healthy plants.

What will a soil test tell you? It will give the pH (acidity or alkalinity) of the soil and recommend how much lime or sulfur to apply (some gardens don't need either) for the plants you have specified. It gives the amounts of phosphorus, potassium, calcium and magnesium that are currently in the soil as well as the percentage of organic matter. The higher this percentage, the less fertilizer you are going to need. The test will then give specific recommendations on how much nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium to add to augment the chosen area. Most importantly, if you have any questions, the number of your local extension specialist is listed on the bottom of the soil test report.

This is what my husband did before we rejuvenated a bed containing mostly hostas. He removed the first two inches of soil from an area, then dug a six- to eight-inch-deep hole and put the soil in a pail. This is the depth where roots grow. He sampled two or three different areas of the same bed. This soil was then mixed and allowed to dry. He put about two cups of the mix



into a plastic bag and took it to the MU Extension office in Kirkwood. The sample was then sent to a lab for analysis. The cost for processing was \$25. Results are mailed or emailed to you within two weeks. Below is the report he received.

The very first item on the left is the pH value. Soils less than 7 are considered acid, those above 7 are alkaline. Most plants prefer a pH between 6 and 7. Hostas grow best in a soil with a pH of 6.5 to 7.5. The chart also shows this bed is high, very high even excessive in all the tested components and has 13.7 % organic matter. It recommends that nothing be added. **Don't add fertilizer** as phosphorus and potassium levels are already high. Unfortunately, the report did not give steps to decrease these high levels. Dave is researching what steps he can take to lower the phosphorus and potassium levels and increase the amount of organic matter.



## Soil Test Report for Lawns and Gardens

Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory  
23 Mumford Hall, MU  
Columbia, MO 65211  
(573) 882-0623

### FIELD INFORMATION

Field ID: HOSTA BED	Sample no: 1
Acres:	Last Limed: 3
Irrigated: False	Last Crop:

### SAMPLE INFORMATION

Serial No: H128662H	Lab No: C2312361
County: St. Charles	Region:
Submitted: 05/08/2023	Processed: 05/23/2023

Report prepared for:

DAVID POOS  
9904 CRESTWOOD DR  
CRESTWOOD, MO 63126  
[DAVID.POOS@ATT.NET](mailto:DAVID.POOS@ATT.NET)

Sample submitted by:

MU Extension in St. Louis Co. County  
132 E. Monroe Avenue  
Kirkwood, MO 63122

Soil Test Information		Rating	Soil Test Information		Rating
	Value	Rating		Value	Rating
pHs (salt PH)	7.5	Very High	Manganese (Mn)		
Phosphorus (P)	162.0 lbs/A	Very High	Iron (Fe)		
Potassium (K)	469 lbs/A	Excess	Copper (Cu)		
Calcium (Ca)	8075 lbs/A	High	Boron (B)		
Magnesium (Mg)	514 lbs/A	High	Total C		
Sodium (Na)			Total N		
Sulfur (So4-S)			Total P		
Zinc (Zn)			Total K		
Organic Matter	13.7%	Neutralizable Acidity	0.0 meq/100g	Cation Exch. Capacity	22.9 meq/100g
pH in water		Electrical Conductivity	mmho/cm	Soil Texture:	
Nitrate(NO3-N)	ppm	Ammonium(NH4-N)		Sand % Silt % Clay %	

### Nutrient and Lime Requirements (lbs/1000 sq ft)

Cropping Options	Nitrogen (N)	Phosphorus (P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> )	Potassium (K <sub>2</sub> O)	Zinc (Zn)	Sulfur (S)	Lime
9 - Perennial bedding plants	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0

- Some herbicide labels list restrictions based on soil pH in water. Use the estimated pH in water of 8.0 as a guide to the label. If you wish to have soil pH in water analyzed, contact your dealer or local Extension specialist listed below.
- The soil should be tested every 2 to 3 years to determine the effects of your fertilization practices and to develop a new set of fertilizer and limestone guidelines.

Field Specialist in Horticulture; [Elihu Isele](#) Phone: 314-400-7632

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

**Phyllis Weidman** – President  
314- 630-9036 Cell  
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**Jolly Ann Whitener** – Secretary  
[jawhit6@gmail.com](mailto:jawhit6@gmail.com)

**David Birenbaum** – Treasurer  
314-650-5200  
[d.birenbaum@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d.birenbaum@sbcglobal.net)

**Melinda Ligon** – Hospitality  
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[meligon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:meligon@sbcglobal.net)

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## St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

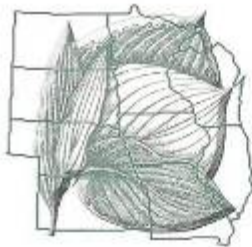
**Contact:** David Birenbaum  
209 Brook Lane  
O'Fallon, MO 63368  
[d.birenbaum@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d.birenbaum@sbcglobal.net)

**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](http://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](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:

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/>