

Shady Notes

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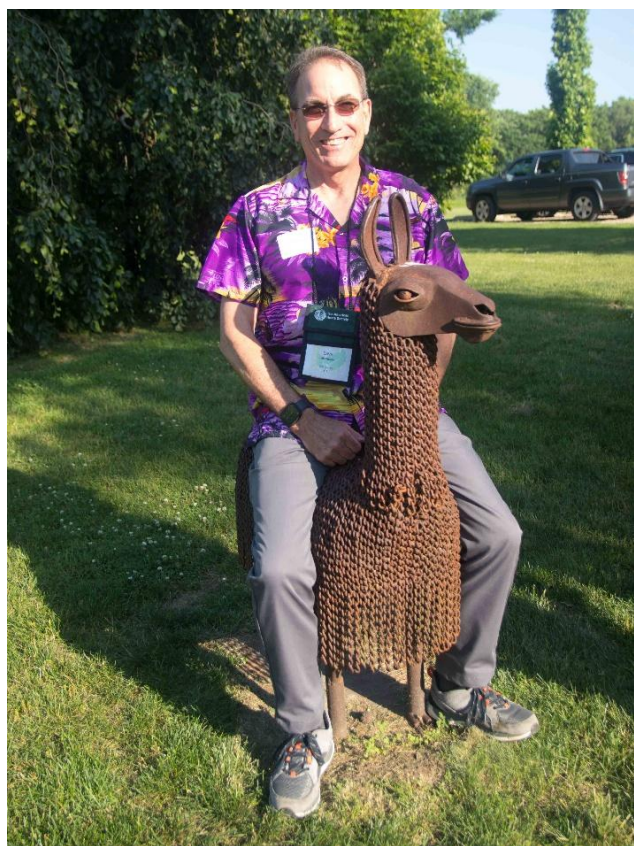
July 2025

ST LOUIS
HOSTA
SOCIETY



Volume 26, Issue 5

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Greetings, Fellow Gardeners

April showers bring May flowers. Sure. How about when it rains April and May and June? In the past, I planned my time to spend in the garden, mow and trim the grass, and weed. Perhaps you are like me - seems this year I have to *go between the flow* and dash outside between rain drops to accomplish any outdoor activity!

I have momentary thoughts complaining to myself about our weird weather and those rainy day blues preventing me from tending to my hosta beds. Then I have to shake it off. The hosta don't care!! If they could talk, they'd tell us they are enjoying the heck out of this growing season. It's been perfect damp weather similar to their native environment in China, Korea, and Japan.

Except for the hail. This is the first year I've got my share. But what can you do about that? To not lose my sanity, the answer must be shrug it off and move on. Which is what I'm doing literally this weekend as I write. It's the annual American

Hosta Society and Midwest Regional Hosta Society co-Convention in Peoria, IL. (Editor's Note: Convention was held June 19-21, 2025.) How can you not enjoy visiting lush well-tended gardens not too far away; acquiring new vigorous, gorgeous, redder plants; attend the judged plant and leaf shows (how can *anyone* grow such perfect plants?); learn about our friend the hosta and new varieties coming on the market; meet new human friends who are anxious to share bits of knowledge; and participate in the best hosta auction anywhere.

Know that the second best hosta auction is our Society auction, scheduled for July 13 (details within). Please consider bringing potted splits from your favorite hosta. Time to pot them up today, weather permitting. Some of the plants at the auction have a history of growing at the Missouri Botanical Garden (which has been generous by allowing us to sell splits). The auction is a great way to share the more rare varieties with members and those that perhaps had their beginnings as a convention gift plant in years past or originated in the garden of a long-time current or past member. I know there will be some of those.

Members asked via our survey last year to hold activities on alternative days and times than the usual Sunday afternoon. Our next event will be two garden walks the day before the auction, Saturday July 12 starting at 10:00. See you there.

— Dave

PIP'S TIPS



Keep weeds under control with a scuffle hoe. This tool allows you to easily remove groups of small weeds with a gentle push pull motion that cuts roots under the surface. (Great if you have bad knees!)



Photos from acehardware.com

A VISIT TO BOB HENSON'S GARDEN

The St. Louis Hosta Society kicked off the season's series of Garden Walks on May 18, 2025 with a visit to the home of Bob Henson, Master Gardener, President of the St. Louis Water Garden Society, and new member of the St. Louis Hosta Society. Visitors were delighted by the lush display of hostas and companion plants among multiple water elements, statues, fountains, and a carnivorous plant bog. Bob designed and built each element of the garden almost entirely by himself. The major projects are behind him, so he's finally in the "maintain and enjoy" phase that all gardeners aim to achieve. Now it's time to relax, right Bob?



Bob Henson in his dream garden



This fantastic golfing octopus guards the pond



Unique flowers had everyone asking "What is THAT?" Lupine (left) and carnivorous Pitcher Plant (right)



Charming water features at every turn



Janelle Criscione and Jane Hogg enjoy one of several cozy nooks



Another lovely seating area

Want more of Bob's garden? Check out these links:

[Garden-Lou visits the Garden of Robert Henson](#)

[St Louis Homes and Lifestyles](#)

PARADISE IN SOUTH COUNTY

Most of the gardens we visit have us thinking, “Hey, I could do that with a little time and effort!” (OK... maybe a *lot* of time and effort). But caring for Chris and Tara Siewing’s huge recreational pond is a full time job - literally. As the owner of [Nature’s Re-Creations](#), Chris designs and builds next level water features for a living, and his own backyard serves as a showroom for his business as well as a retreat for his family and friends.

After walking along the pathways, bridges, and rocks, members gathered under the gazebo to hear Chris passionately explain filtering systems, choosing the perfect diving rock, “swimming with the fishes”, and adding a pair of chaise lounges to a shallow section of water, just like what his wife loved on vacation. Not your average garden tour, but members loved the mini getaway and perhaps purchased a few lottery tickets on the way home.



The view from the chaise lounge



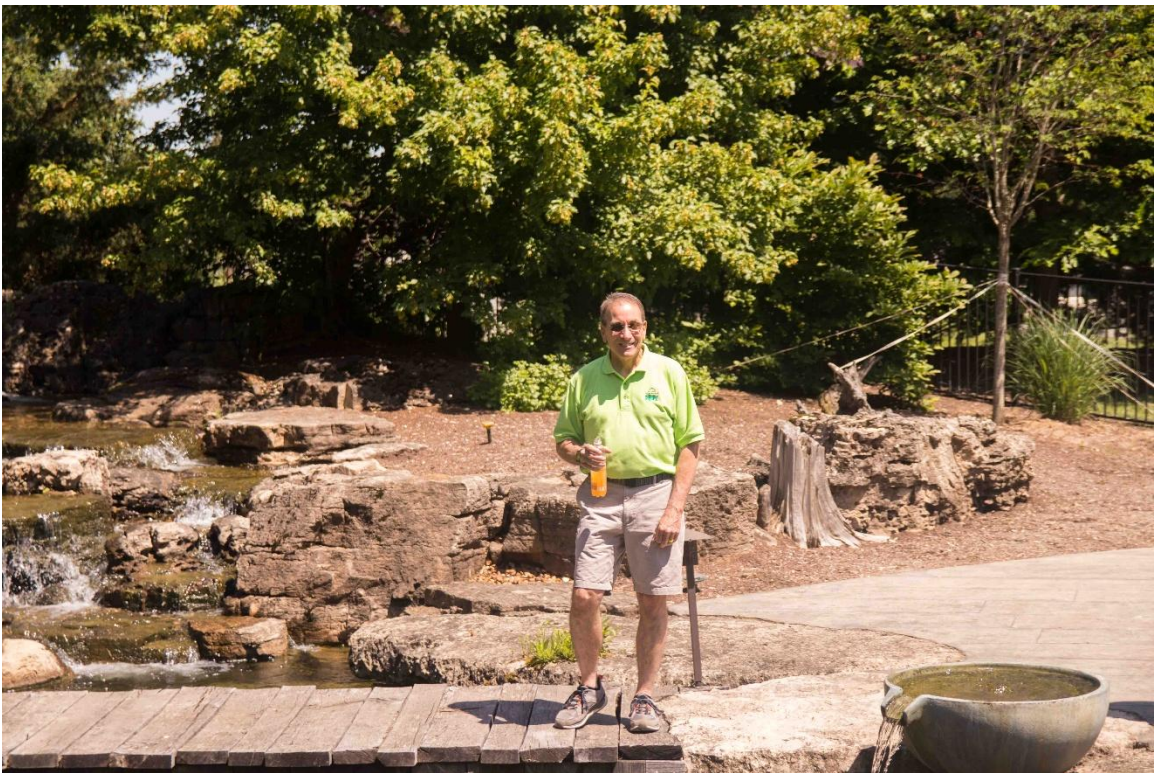
Barb Moreland and Kathie Soehngen wonder where the pool boy is with their cocktails



These vibrant fish were coy with visitors



It takes a tremendous amount of planning and effort to make something look so natural



Dave Birenbaum regrets not packing his swim trunks



Oh yeah, there were hostas there too!

HELP WANTED THURSDAY MORNINGS



Front Row: Dave Birenbaum, Janelle Criscione, Lynn Teller, Carmen Christopher

Back Row: Mike Teller and Phyllis Weidman

If you would like to volunteer in the hosta garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden on Thursday mornings, please contact Phyllis at (314) 630-9036.

We perform basic maintenance tasks including weeding and deadheading, starting around 7:30 am. (And we have fun doing it!)

HOSTA VIRUS X: A CAUTIONARY TALE

Hosta Virus X (HVX) can infect the most carefully tended landscapes, even the world-renowned Missouri Botanical Garden. HVX, the incurable virus that causes deformed or collapsed tissue, pattern bleeding, and/or discoloration is spread by infected sap coming into contact with an open cut on a healthy plant. This can occur due to poor tool hygiene - when a gardener uses a tool such as a pruner, knife, or shovel on multiple hostas without disinfecting it between plants.

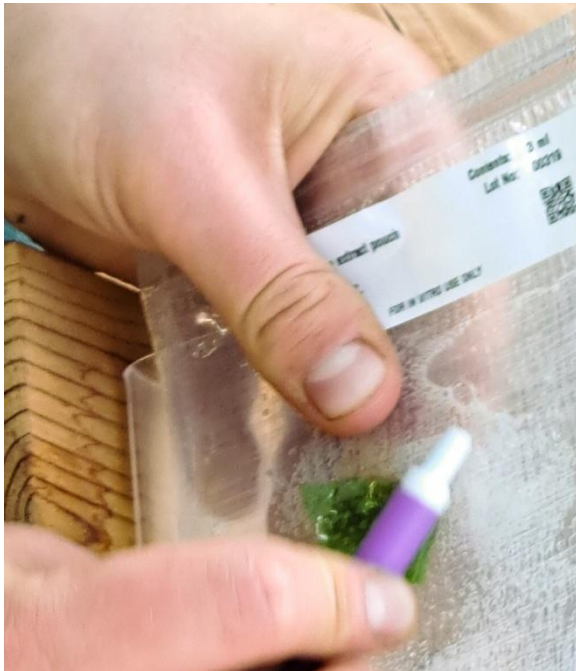
We suspect this is what happened to *H. 'Beet Salad'* as it showed signs of infection shortly after a nearby hosta tested positive for HVX. Here is the process we followed to test it. (Test kits are available online from [Agdia](#).)



H. 'Beet Salad' showing unusual puckering



Missouri Botanical Garden Horticulturist Greta Berg carefully cuts open the sample extract bag



Greta added an approximately 1" square section of a leaf to the sample extract bag then activated the test solution by rubbing the tissue with a pen.



Once the solution turned green, Greta set the test aside for 3 minutes then added the test strip.



After 30 minutes, 2 lines = positive for HVX

SO NOW WHAT?

There is no cure for HVX, so an infected plant must be disposed of in the trash, not added to yard waste or a compost pile. The virus may still be present in the soil, so it's safe to replace with any other species, just not another hosta.

To learn more about HVX, please visit the excellent FAQ section on the Delaware Valley Hosta Society's website.

[Link to HVX FAQs](#)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<p>Saturday July 12, 10:00 am</p>	<p>Garden Walks Manchester MO</p>	<p>10:00 am George Lynn 1607 Forestview Ridge Lane, Manchester MO 63021</p> <p>Note: there is a slightly sloping walkway and a few steps into garden, but otherwise accessible once in the garden.</p> <p>The Lynns' garden personifies the ideal shaded oasis and provides a sense of cool, restful seclusion with mature oak and pine trees providing shade for more than 300 varieties of Hosta. Companion plants including several varieties of Aroids, Japanese Maples, and Solomon Seal provide artfully designed foliage color and texture in mass plantings attractive all season.</p>  
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday July 12, 11:00 am		<p>11:00 am Bill & Shelli Handy 1611 Forestview Ridge Lane, Manchester MO 63021</p> <p>For the past three years, Bill and Shelli have been restoring this woodland garden after removing more than 40 invasive honeysuckle trees, and installing 1,000+ plants over a few growing seasons. Still in its infancy, this garden features native plants for shade and forest edges, along with a rain garden to capture storm runoff. You won't find any hostas here, but you might stumble across a few ideas for adding plants that are beneficial to wildlife and the environment, many of which would make excellent companions to hostas.</p>
Sunday July 13, 1:00 pm	Annual Plant Auction	<p>Member & Friends Plant Auction</p> <p>Mo Bot CBEC Building 4651 Shaw Blvd, St Louis MO 63110</p>
Saturday August 2, 10:00 am	Garden Walk Tower Grove South	<p>Jesse Gilbertson 3667 N Utah Pl, St. Louis, MO 63116</p> <p>This is our first peek into this garden! Jesse has been Director of Horticulture for U City in Bloom for 12 years. His garden is a delightful mix of 75+ bonsai specimens displayed with hosta and other bedding plants in a dapple shaded yard made for a gardener's enjoyment.</p>
Sunday August 17 12:30 pm	Member Picnic and Walk 'n Talk	<p>12:30 pm Member picnic, bring your own 2:00 pm Walk 'n Talk Mo Bot's Mike Saxton will lead an interesting discussion regarding elimination of invasive honeysuckle</p> <p>Shaw Nature Reserve, 307 Pinetum Loop Road, Gray Summit, MO 63039</p>
Sunday October 19, 1:00 pm	TBD	<p>Meeting, topic TBD</p> <p>Mo Bot CBEC Building 4651 Shaw Blvd, St Louis MO 63110</p>
Sunday November 9, 1:00 pm	Board Meeting	<p>Board 2026 planning meeting. Members are welcome. Location TBD</p>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 10 – 13, 2025	National Convention	American Hosta Society Convention in Dublin, OH
July 19 – 11, 2025	Regional Convention	Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention in Madison, WI

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St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

Application is available on our [website](#) or contact [Lynn](#)

Dues: \$10 per year,
\$20 for three years

Membership term is January - December

Please visit our website

stlhosta.org

Check us out on Facebook

St Louis Hosta Society

THE AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY



Join the American Hosta Society and get to know America's most popular perennials and those who love them. Memberships range from \$30 - \$40/year with multi-year discounts.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Full-color print issue of The Hosta Journal mailed twice each year
- Unique digital edition of The Hosta Journal emailed once each year
- Access to "Members Only" section of the website
- Access to display gardens throughout the country, many of which are only open to AHS members
- Eligibility to purchase a member-only hosta
- Exclusive invitation to exhibit hostas and compete for recognition in AHS-sanctioned Hosta Shows
- Updates on speaker programs, events, awards, plant auctions, news, and more!

FIRST-TIME MEMBERS ALSO RECEIVE

- \$15 voucher for use at participating nurseries
- Option to receive an exclusive gift hosta (additional \$10 to cover shipping)
- Hosta Adventure—A Grower's Guide, a primer on hostas outlining what every gardener should know
- Hosta of the Year Booklet, a full-color publication featuring the American Hosta Growers Association Hostas of the Year

Join Today at americanhostasociety.org

THE MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY



Membership in the society is \$20.00 for two years for both an individual or family membership. A family membership includes the primary member and his/her significant other. Members receive two issues per year of the society's newsletter, *The Hosta Leaves*. **First time members receive a voucher for \$10.00, good for purchases at our participating Hosta Vendors.**

In addition there are two meetings held annually. The Winter Symposium is held in the Milwaukee area in early February. It is a one-day event with an assortment of speakers that present the latest information pertaining to Hostas and gardening with them. All of this is offered in an enjoyable and down-to-earth format with something for everyone interested in gardening and learning more about Hostas.

In the summer, an annual convention, hosted by a local society, is held in different locations throughout the region. This three-day extravaganza features garden tours, a show of Hosta leaves, vendors selling the newest in Hosta plants, an auction of plants, a banquet, and informational speakers.

Send your completed membership application and check to:

Mona Keehn, Treasurer
1635 Chippewa Drive NW
Rochester, MN 55901

[Printable MRHS Membership Form](#)