



Shady Notes

Volume 22, Issue 1

February, 2021



President
Phyllis Weidman

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

2020 will be a year to remember. Let us not forget the good and the bad. Some of the bad was wearing masks everywhere, not being able to hug a friend, losing a loved one, and not seeing all of you. The simple ability of jumping in your car to pick up something or to have dinner at a restaurant was missed.

One of the goods was my garden. The hostas grew and were their beautiful selves. In fact, they seemed to be bigger than ever thanks to the spring rain. I did my

usual maintenance, but best of all was just sitting in the garden and enjoying being out of doors - learning about myself and what all I can do.

The Society is also learning. We had a board meeting via Zoom. New to many of us. 2021 will be the year of leaning a new way of doing things. We will miss the usual potlucks, but meetings will be in the warmer weather and outdoors. We will use local experts to teach us or remind us of good gardening practices. We will bring our own drinks and refreshments will be individually wrapped. We still will not be able to give that warm welcoming hug, but just being able to see each other will warm our hearts.

The Newsletter, the Web site, and Social Media will keep you informed. Remember to check our Web site and Facebook page. That is where you will find all the latest. Stay informed about what is happening. Call another member for advice or invite them to your garden. It is easy to social distance in a garden. Remember hosta is the friendship plant. We need it now more than ever.

Phyllis

2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 16	Garden Walk/Meeting 1:30 PM, Home of Josh Jagger
June 10-13 Postponed to 2022	AHS National Convention Minneapolis, MN
June	Garden Walk/Meeting Time and location TBA
July 8-10	Midwest Regional Hosta Convention Lisle, IL
July	Garden Walk/Meeting TBA
September 20	Meeting with Speaker TBA 1:30 PM, TBA
October 18	Meeting with Speaker TBA 1:30 PM, TBA
November	Board Meeting Time and location TBA



Visit our Web site:

www.stlhosta.org

or

www.stlouishosta.org



With all the cancellations, postponements and last minute adjustments to schedules, you can follow our society doings on our web site, Facebook page and Instagram. We have Mike Schmitt, Lynn Teller and Diane Mallow to thank for our presence on these media formats. Post your comments, observations and photos. Others will compliment you on your beautiful pictures and remark on your observations. Ask questions. Others may not always have the answers, but someone will offer suggestions on how to deal with your problem. Besides it is fun to see what is happening in other gardens. If we can't meet face-to-face, we can stay in touch through our web site and these two platforms.

Photos wanted

By now all of you have had an opportunity to check out our new web site design. Besides displaying the calendar of yearly events and a page of links to other hosta related sites, our web site is the depository for our Society's newsletters and meeting minutes.

Take a moment to check out the '**Photo Albums**' page. This is a gallery of pictures of members' gardens. Currently, just five are featured. The goal is to showcase each of your gardens. The new software allows plenty of space. It's easy. As you walk around your yard this year, use your phone or camera to take pictures. Do you have a particular hosta that you love - take a picture. Do you have a combination of plants that you find pleasing - take a picture. Do you have troughs of minis or a pot with a giant guacamole - take a picture. Have you incorporated hardscape to accent your beds - take a picture. Have you landscaped a hillside or around a water feature - take a picture. Maybe you already have some from previous years.

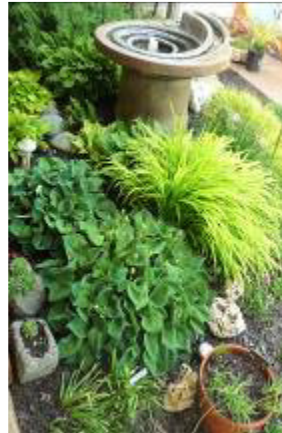
Email them to our Web Master Lynn at lynn.teller@gmail.com. She will handle the rest. If you don't have the ability to email pictures, call Lynn (314-306-1478) and make arrangements to mail them. Better yet, call our Vice President Josh Jagger and offer to open your garden for a 'Garden Walk'. Then your Newsletter Editor will take photos for you



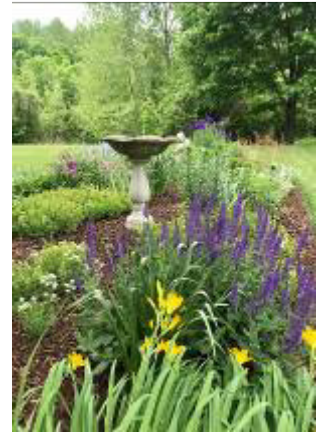
Marian Murphy hosta bed



Karen Frimel container



Basil Honaker, Jr.



Toni Boschert

Welcome New Member

Don Stuewe of Ballwin, MO

We hope that you will join us in May for a tour of St. Louis gardens. We would be interested in your comparisons of gardening in Missouri and Minnesota.

Can't Find That Special Hosta

Have you ever visited a fellow member's garden or perhaps the AHS Hosta Display Garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden and spotted a hosta to die for and wondered where you could purchase it? While you are checking out our web site, click on the tab labeled "**Links**". On this page you will find a list of nurseries that specialize in hostas. Just click on the nursery name and the link will take you directly to that nursery's web site. Once there you can search their catalogues for your cultivar.

If you don't wish to spend time checking each nursery, use the online **Hosta Finder** feature located on both the American Hosta Growers Association (AHGA) and the AHS Hosta Treasury web sites. On the AHGA site, [AHGA \(hostagrowers.org\)](http://hostagrowers.org), click on the "**Hosta Finder**" tab on the left side of the home page. On the Hosta Treasury site, [American Hosta Society Online Registry and Hosta Plant Database \(hostaregistrar.org\)](http://hostaregistrar.org), first search for a particular cultivar then click on the "**Hosta Finder**" tab.

Member Roster

Included with this month's newsletter is a membership roster. The roster contains each member's name, address, email address and phone number. This is a handy document to have in case you are invited to visit a fellow member's garden and need an address or to call ahead.

**** 2021 Membership Dues Are Payable Now ****

The Board decided at its last meeting that because Covid-19 has drastically reduced Society events, dues would be waived for membership year 2020. This means if you were a member in 2020 your membership will be extended by a year. Anyone whose membership expired at the end of 2019 and did not renew by April 2020 will owe dues in 2021.

If you receive the newsletter by postal mail, check the two-digit number appearing after your name on the address label of this newsletter. If '20' appears after your name, your dues are now payable.

If you receive the newsletter by e-mail, check the attachment for a list of all members who owe dues in 2021. If you do not renew by the end of March, your name will be removed from the newsletter mailing.

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

David Poos
9904 Crestwood Drive
Crestwood, MO 63126

Landscaping Tips for Backyard Gardeners: Part I

These cold winter months are a perfect time to contemplate changes that you might wish to make to the design of your garden. As you stand by the window and look at the expanse that is your yard, you know that you want to make changes, maybe liven things up a bit, maybe insert a bit more order, but you just don't know where to start.

To achieve any worthwhile goal, the hardest part is that first step. Spend some time thinking about that goal. Consider the scope of your venture. Do you just need to tweak a few things or does the whole space lack cohesion. Determine the amount of money you want to invest. You certainly want to maximize impact while staying within your budget. How much time do you want to spend both in achieving your goal and then in maintaining that goal? Big is not always better. Keep your project manageable. A neat garden is more impressive than a large messy one. Would you rather not be outside weeding, deadheading or pruning in hot humid July and August? Do you spend the cold months in warmer climates so that winter interest is not important? How do you use your garden? Is it strictly for your own enjoyment and relaxation or do you have a collection of plants to showcase? Do you want a section of yard for children or Fido to play? Do you want a section for growing vegetables?

Another consideration is style. In reviewing the topics of discussion of many garden clubs, I've noticed the trend toward native plants, raingardens, habitats for birds and butterflies. In my mind's eye I see lots of chaotic plantings and a riot of color. This creates an informal, natural look. I remember reading about a homeowner who planted her whole front yard in native plants. Her neighbor called the city complaining that the weeds were not cut and the yard was attracting varmints. Is the neighbor right?

On the flip side of this coin are manicured beds where plants grow in their own space not touching one another, maybe even heavily pruned. Visualize sheared boxwoods and azaleas, symmetrical plantings, long borders of the same plant. This is a more formal look. Do you find this appealing or a bit too stogy?

Below are two pictures I took on the 2011 Missouri Botanical Garden Tour. Both gardens, located near each other on Portland Place, illustrate these two radically different styles.



These are two extremes. Most of us are somewhere in between. But it is important to determine which way you lean. The layout of your beds, the choices of plants you make and the hardscape that you add all depend on your philosophy. Let's focus on us "in betweeners".

Your design will consist of three parts: the shape, placement and composition of the garden beds; the selection of plant material; and finally the addition of hardscape (non-plant material).

When laying out garden beds and paths or reshaping edges, avoid straight lines and small circles. Delicate French curves are more interesting and pleasing to the eye. The curves should be sweeping as opposed to wiggly lines. Continuous flowing lines feel comfortable, not fussy. Sharp angles and tight curves appear awkward, are hard to mow around and create small areas that restrict planting. Meandering lines and curves pull the eye forward to a place not yet seen. What's around that bend? This adds a sense of mystery.

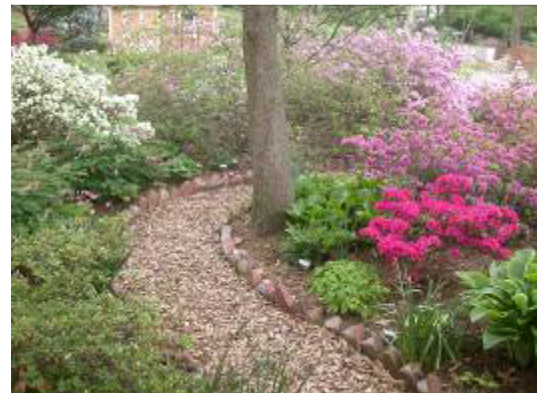
The best way to lay out beds or change the contour of existing beds is to use a garden hose. Lay out the hose in your work area, push it into curves that you think are appealing, then step back and look at it. Leave it for a day or two. Kick it here and there making the curves more or less deep. Eventually the shape will be just right. Only then is the spade brought out. Keep a neat edge on all your beds. This can be achieved with commercial edging, rocks, bricks or just the sharp blade of a shovel. Untidy borders remind me of a man wearing a shirt that has not been ironed.

The placement of beds can create garden rooms. Each area can have its own focal point and feel – a gem that may not be seen from all parts of the yard. Perhaps that curving path leads to an area that has an oriental feel. Maybe it leads to a sunny part of the garden that is planted with pollinators in mind or maybe it is the way into your vegetable beds.

When creating new beds or changing contours, take into consideration any drainage problems. A bed created directly in the path of rain water flow from adjoining properties or even your own roofs and



French curves draw your eye forward



Where does that brick edged path lead?



Triangular shaped berm with curved sides breaks up an expanse of yard.



Long, narrow berm raises daylilies to eye level.

driveways may be overrun during heavy spring rains. All that mulch you so laboriously applied will be washed into the adjoining grass. It may be necessary to build a dry creek through the bed or install a drain under the soil to allow the water to pass through.

Think and design three-dimensionally. Go up. Incorporate a berm in one or more of your beds. Flat expanses can become boring, so injecting a vertical element makes a space more interesting. It also raises plants closer to eye level so that viewers can appreciate them more fully. As a practical matter, plants situated on a berm have better drainage than those on a flat surface that may have standing water.

The berm's slope should be gradual and much wider than tall. This is a more natural look and also helps prevent erosion. Berms are more interesting if they are shaped like kidney beans or crescent moons. Circles and squares are fine, but result in a more formal look. Avoid putting the highest peak in the center of the berm. The back of the berm can be supported by a retaining wall. One side of the wall holds back the soil and the other side forms a backdrop for other plantings. Rocks embedded in the berm add to the design, help with erosion and look great with small plants spilling over or in front of their surfaces.

Keep in mind that no garden is ever complete. How boring would that be! Reconstruction is always going to be part of your gardening life. Tastes change. Trees die. Your collection of plants multiplies. As you grow older, joints grow stiffer. Create a garden for yourself, one that makes you happy. Gardening keeps us youthful and energetic.

The next issue of the newsletter will feature how to decide what to put in those newly created or renovated beds.



On the left of the border is the entrance to a dry creek built with rocks picked up from a road construction site. The creek bisects two flower beds and allows rain water to flow to a catch basin.



A berm adds interest to a flat hosta bed. The soil is held in place by a stone retaining wall.



Back of the berm shown in the above picture

AHS eNewsletter – check it out

In the January edition, Glenn Herold gives the back story on *H. 'Paul's Glory'* and its offspring. Hosta guru Warren Pollock asks “what is the best hosta name ever”. He explains why he suggests ‘Blue Mouse Ears’. Other gardeners voted in favor of ‘Spilt Milk’ and ‘Wheee’. What’s your favorite? St. Louis was lucky last year not to have had to endure the bizarre weather that hit the Northeast. An interesting article by Gail Russo of New Jersey tells how her hostas survived last year’s killer frosts. Hopefully we will not experience Gail’s tribulations this spring. This issue’s “Book Notice” column gives a review of Mark Zilis’ hefty tome **The Hostapedia An Encyclopedia of Hostas**. This is a classic that you might want to add to your library.

The best part of this publication is that it is FREE – you do not need to be a member of AHS to receive a copy. To subscribe to the American Hosta Society eNewsletter, go to: <http://www.americanhostasociety.org>, click on the Publications tab, then on the E-Newsletter tab. Enter your name and email address in the spaces provided. You will be sent an email confirmation. You must respond to that email to be placed on the email distribution list. You will then automatically receive all future AHS eNewsletters. You may unsubscribe at any time by going to the same above link.

To view the AHS eNewsletter archive, open hyperlink:

http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Publications/enews_archive.htm



Is your wardrobe lacking a comfortable, good-looking polo shirt or a denim long sleeve shirt?

How about one embroidered with our logo?

Two styles of shirt are offered. One is a lime green polo shirt (the only color available) made of 65%polyester, 35% cotton pique fabric for comfort and easy washing. The other is a stonewashed blue denim long sleeve shirt of 100% cotton. Each is available in Women and Men’s sizes S-3XL. Both styles will be embroidered with our Society’s logo.

Look around at the next meeting. You are apt to see several members sporting these good-looking shirts. In cooler weather or the frigid temperatures of the summer air conditioner, it is nice to slip on the denim shirt over the polo.

See Pam Wolkowitz at the next hosta meeting for size and price information. She will take your order and have your shirt available at the next society event.

Pam Wolkowitz – 636-285-3114 or lovehostas@msn.com

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St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

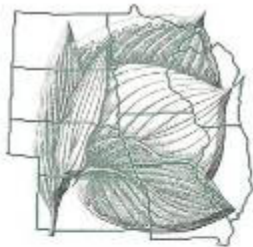
Contact: Dave Poos
9904 Crestwood Drive
Crestwood, MO 63126
david.poos@att.net

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

Meetings held at the **Creve Coeur Government Center, 300 N. New Ballas, 63141** (between Ladue Road and Olive), 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:

Sandie Markland, AHS Membership Secretary
P O Box 7539
Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

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/>