

Shady Notes

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April 2025

ST LOUIS
HOSTA
SOCIETY



Volume 26, Issue 3

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Greetings, fellow gardeners

You know how everyone enjoys visiting the Missouri Botanical Garden (Mo Bot) any day of the year? Have you noticed the perfection of the many garden beds but the strange absence of a person tending them? That's because there is a cadre of staff and many more volunteers who thrill at arriving early, tidying particular garden areas, and then disappear before most visitors arrive.

Our Society has long helped plant, fertilize, and maintain the Hosta beds between the Linnean House and Spinks Pavilion. Almost unnoticed, those activities have been embraced by about 6 hard working Society members. We are seeking club members who may want to enjoy their Thursday mornings or an occasional Thursday morning assisting with non-strenuous gardening functions with Greta Berg, the new staff horticulturist. The quiet solitude of Mo Bot before the public bustle is delightful! Contact any Board member to volunteer. Please.

The Society will converge at Mo Bot on Saturday April 19 for our annual work day in the hosta garden there. That is when we move, plant, and split hostas, and get some other necessary work done beyond what the Thursday crew does. We will pot the split plants and they will reappear at our Mo Bot public plant sale on May 10 (9:00 until 5:00 or until sold out), our major fundraiser of the year. The adage "the

early bird catches the worm” is apt here. Also, now is the perfect time to pot up some splits from your garden to bring to the sale.

Then Saturday April 26 will be our visit to the bucolic wine country near Defiance, MO and Frisella Nursery. The Society has a robust schedule of activities this year – see schedule within! Please bring a friend and join us!!

- Dave



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Robert Henson of Sappington, MO
Jeanie and Michael Gleason of Edwardsville, IL



DON'T BE FOOLED BY ADS FOR HOSTAS IN BRIGHT COLORS LIKE PURPLE AND PINK; THEY DON'T EXIST. BUT IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING UNUSUAL, THERE ARE SOME IN THE RED AND PURPLE FAMILIES SUCH AS H. 'BLOODLINE' AND H. 'CHRIS' DARKEST PURPLE'.

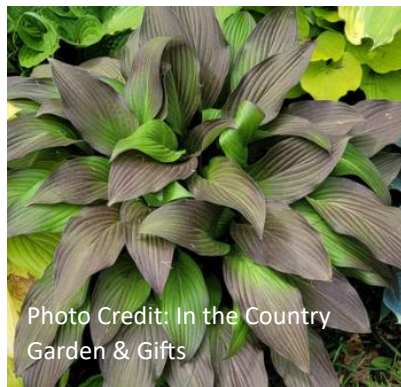


Photo Credit: In the Country Garden & Gifts



Photo Credit: In the Country Garden & Gifts

Hosta 'Bloodline' (Doug Ruff)

Hosta 'Chris' Darkest Purple (Christina Brinkmann)

We Want to See Your Garden!

If you have photos of your garden that you'd like to share, please send to Lynn.Teller@gmail.com and she'll add to the [Gallery](#) on our website.



HOSTA 101

At our March 23, 2025 meeting, former President Phyllis Weidman presented “Hosta 101” while fielding questions from the membership. Topics included soil testing, dealing with pests such as slugs and nematodes, and how to deter deer.



HOSTA GLOSSARY

TEPAL - For hosta flowers, what you may think of as a petal. Most hostas have six. A combination of "petal" (inner petal) and "sepal" (outer petal).

Definition from the Delaware Valley Hosta Society



Using Wire Baskets in the Garden



Wire baskets are one of the cheapest and most useful items for gardening. Here are just a few things you can do with them:

1. Protect pips and tender young plants from rabbits and deer (secure basket with landscaping staples)
2. Prevent burying small plants when installing mulch (also keeps mulch away from crown)
3. Make small plants visible to prevent stepping on them
4. Use as a sifter to break up clumps of soil or to filter out debris
5. Protect roots from voles by putting the hosta inside the basket and then planting them in the ground together

The baskets in these photos are the "Essential Wire Waste Baskets" from Dollar Tree and cost \$1.25 each.



Club Plant 2025 (A Membership Perk!)

This year we are offering H 'Lord Puckersheen', a new hosta from hybridizer Charlie Kwick. It is a medium to large plant with dark green leaves that are puckered, shiny, and a little bit unruly. Green hostas are necessary companions that provide contrast to all of those unusual variegated or striking colored hostas in your garden.

Plants are \$20 and will be available to pick up at the May meeting. We have ordered 20 of these so don't miss your chance to have this unusual hosta at a great price. We planted this hosta in the hosta garden at MoBot in 2024, so check it out next time you're there.

If interested call or text Phyllis Weidman (314-630-9036) or email pow1031@gmail.com.

Based on last year's offering, these plants will be smaller than the retail offering and will probably have one eye.

Hosta 'Lord Puckersheen'



IT'S NOT EASY BEIN'
GREEN...
LIKE LORD PUCKERSHEEN



The article below appears courtesy of the Upstate New York Hosta Society.

TO DIVIDE OR NOT DIVIDE...SHOULD I DIVIDE MY HOSTAS NOW??

Prepared by Dave Jennings, Master Gardener Volunteer for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County and Cofounder & Communications Chair for the Upstate New York Hosta Society

This time of year, we get lots of questions on dividing well established clumps of Hostas. Most people feel a Hosta never really needs to be divided if it's growing well where it is. They just like to sit back and enjoy it getting bigger and more beautiful each year. However, if you need to move some (for whatever reason) or just want to share them with friends, it won't be long before our Hostas will be poking their pips out the ground and be ready to be dug and divided if they aren't ready to do so yet. Most years the best time for this in our area is in mid-April but with all the warmer than average temperatures we had in mid-March you should plan to do it a little earlier this year in the warmer parts of our region.



Pips at their perfect size to be dug and divided



Recently potted Hostas with 3-4 pips per 1 GL pot

It's time now to go out to your garden as your Hostas are breaking dormancy and sending up new shoots and decide which of your favorite clumps you want to divide. The entire clump can be dug and cut in half as the new pips are emerging so you can put the first half of the clump back in your garden to grow on. You can then divide the other half up to put in pots to share with all your friends and family or plant in other areas in your garden with partial shade. Gifted plants (and even sometimes in plants bought at Garden Centers or Nurseries) can contain invasives unknowingly in the soil. Therefore, I suggest you rinse all the soil off the clump you are dividing to help eliminate any pests that may be present (especially any invasives such as jumping worms or noxious weeds) to help prevent them from being spread to areas that are not yet infested. Be sure to use either new pots or used pots you sterilize to help eliminate disease possibilities (especially HVX Virus). You also need to use new artificial growing mix for potting up divisions for the same reasons.

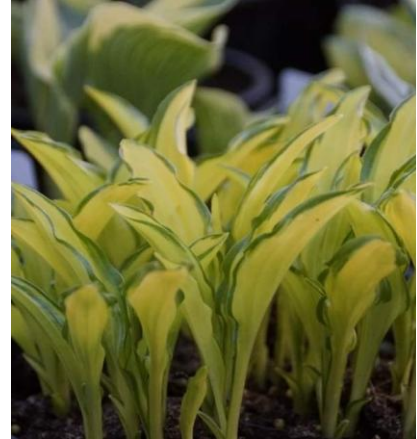
I like to just use a heavy duty medium sized knife with a serrated edge to cut the clump apart into smaller pieces with 3-4 shoots per new division. Be sure to sterilize your knife as you move from one clump to the next to help eliminate the possibility of spreading HVX Virus. You can cut them all the way down to single shoots if you so desire but it takes them several years longer to reach a good size that way. Be sure to provide adequate water to the new divisions for the entire growing season after replanting.



Look at the size of these clumps



My best serrated knife for dividing



Plants too advanced to divide well

If you have questions or want to learn more about Hostas, I suggest you join the Upstate New York Hosta Society. They currently meet with other members of the Capital District Garden Alliance at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County Office on the third Saturday of the month. Don't hesitate to send an email to the Upstate New York Hosta Society at: UNYHS@aol.com for detailed information or to ask your questions about growing Hostas.



I like to divide down to 3-4 pips



Rinse off soil for easier division



Single divisions ready to plant

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<p>Saturday April 19 8:00 am – 12:00 pm</p>	<p>Volunteer Work Day at Missouri Botanical Gardens</p> <p>Rain or Shine</p>	<p>There will be mulch to remove from crowns, fertilizing, weeding, digging and dividing and planting but it is always fun. Bring your gloves, pruners, foam kneelers, or anything else you use in your garden. Things only that you can carry in please no wagons full of equipment. We will have Lysol to clean your tools, soil, pots, and markers to create labels.</p> <p>We will meet at 8:00am at the loading dock. Facing the Visitors Center, it's on the right side of the building. (If you have brought hostas to the plant sale, that's where we load.) If you come after 8:00, Security knows we are coming so just let them know that you are with the St. Louis Hosta Society working in the garden.</p>
<p>Saturday April 26 1:30 pm</p>	<p>Field Trip to Frisella Nursery</p> <p>OPTIONAL 12:00 Lunch at Chandler Hill Vineyards</p>	<p>Open to members and friends. Staff will share how they choose, pot, and raise Hostas, and then provide a tour of their private greenhouses.</p> <p>Frisella Nursery 550 Hwy F, Defiance, MO 63341</p> <p>Before the meeting, join us at Chandler Hill Vineyards for lunch on their huge deck (in the restaurant building in case of inclement weather). Seating will be as-available. Chandler Hill has a gorgeous hillside setting overlooking a verdant valley.</p> <p>Chandler Hill Vineyards (1.3 miles from Frisella) 596 Defiance Rd, Defiance, MO 63341</p>
<p>Tuesday May 6, 11:00 am</p> <p>Doors open at 10:30 am</p>	<p>Mo Bot Speaker Series</p> <p>Here's to Hostas with Gene Pulliam (Past President of the Society)</p>	<p>LIMITED TO MO BOT MEMBERS. Free, but registration is required on Mo Bot website.</p> <p>With their ease of growth, variety of plant shapes and sizes available, and diversity of leaf color, hostas are one of the most desirable garden perennials. Join Gene for an exploration of the “queen of the shade.” Learn about selecting the right hosta for your space and how to plant, care for, and divide hostas. Following the presentation, join members of the Hosta Society out in the Garden to explore the collection and get your hosta questions answered.</p> <p>Bayer Event Center 4344 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63110</p>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<p>Saturday May 10, 9:00 am-5:00 pm</p>	<p>Annual Plant Sale</p>	<p>Hostas from Society members’ gardens and splits from Mo Bot are made available to the public. Details for donating plants will be available in the next newsletter. Proceeds benefit Society purchases of hosta and supplies for Mo Bot and function of the Society.</p> <p>Volunteers are needed for a couple hours or all day! Please sign-up at the April 19 and 26 activities or contact Coordinator Melinda Ligon at meligon@sbcglobal.net or text to: 314-749-7307</p> <p>Mo Bot Jack Taylor Visitor Center 4344 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63110</p>
<p>Sunday May 18 1:00 pm</p>	<p>Garden Walks South St Louis County</p>	<p>1:00 pm Bob Henson 6 Concord Lane, South St. Louis County 63128</p> <p>Bob’s backyard is loaded with mature Hostas, companion plants, waterfalls, koi pond, other water features, and two greenhouses.</p> <p>2:00 pm Chris and Tara Siewing 3 Fox Meadows Lane, St. Louis MO 63127</p> <p>The Siewings have one of the larger recreational ponds in St. Louis and is a showcase for their company, Nature’s Recreations. The pond features boulders set to mimic the natural environment, limestone shut-ins, waterfall, and koi.</p>
<p>Saturday June 7 10:00 am – 4:00 pm</p>	<p>Garden Vignettes East Central District Garden Tour</p>	<p>Visit up to 10 East Central District (ECD) members’ gardens in Webster Groves, Sunset Hills, Town and Country, Fenton, Oakville, and Mehlville.</p> <p>To purchase a ticket, contact Jackie Reynolds at jreynolds452@charter.net</p>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<p>Sunday June 8 1:00 pm</p>	<p>Garden Walks South St Louis County</p>	<p>1:00 Marian McCord, South St. Louis County 3775 Gumtree , St Louis, MO 63129</p> <p>This woodland garden is a tranquil retreat. Follow the walkway around the shaded Hosta garden, wander your way past the pond and stream to the gazebo where you can sit and enjoy the peaceful surroundings.</p> <p>2:00 Jamie & Lori Rockwell, 5559 Bellemeade Trail Ct, Saint Louis, MO 63129</p> <p>The main feature of this stunning backyard is the large pond surrounded by beautiful hardscaping, studded with a variety of plants and a restful patio under a large shade tree.</p> <p>3:00 Kathie Soehngen 5111 Lampglow Ct., St Louis, MO 63129</p> <p>As you enter this backyard, you'll be greeted by the koi in the pond. As you meander between the gardens, you will be surrounded by hundreds of Hostas, a pollinator garden, many perennials, annuals, and a variety of whimsical garden décor. After the tour, Kathie will host an informal gathering.</p>
<p>June 19-21</p>	<p>Convention East Peoria, IL</p>	<p>American Hosta Society and Midwest Regional Hosta Society Double Feature Convention</p> <p>Garden tours, Numerous vendors, plant auctions, Seedling Competition.</p> <p>https://americanhostasociety.org</p>

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>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 along with many companion plants that provide artfully designed foliage color and texture in mass plantings attractive all season.</p> <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>
<p>Sunday July 13, 1:00 pm</p>	<p>Annual Plant Auction</p>	<p>Member & Friends Plant Auction</p> <p>Mo Bot CBEC Building 4651 Shaw Blvd, St Louis MO 63110</p>
<p>Saturday August 2, 10:00 am</p>	<p>Garden Walk Tower Grove South</p>	<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>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<p>Sunday August 17 12:30 pm</p>	<p>Member Picnic and Walk 'n Talk</p>	<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>
<p>Sunday October 19, 1:00 pm</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>Meeting, topic TBD</p> <p>Mo Bot CBEC Building 4651 Shaw Blvd, St Louis MO 63110</p>
<p>Sunday November 9, 1:00 pm</p>	<p>Board Meeting</p>	<p>Board 2026 planning meeting. Members are welcome. Location TBD</p>

OFFICIALS

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lynn.teller@gmail.com

Secretary – Vacant

Kathie Soehngen, Hospitality

(314) 435-7471

kasoehng@sbcglobal.net

Membership Chair - Vacant



We have two open positions: Secretary and Membership Chair. If you are interested in either of these roles, please contact any of the members listed to the left.

SECRETARY

The Secretary shall record the activities of the meetings of the Society and of the Board, send a copy of minutes to the Webmaster to post, and send copies to the Board members. They shall be responsible for the general correspondence of the Society as directed by the President.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

The Membership Chair shall welcome new members via email, phone, or in person, direct them to the website, inform them of the roster password, and create and distribute name tags at meetings.

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

Check us out on Facebook

[St Louis Hosta Society](#)

Please visit our website

stlhosta.org

THE AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY



Join the American Hosta Society and get to know America's most popular perennials and those who love them.

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](#)