



Volume 21, Issue 5

September, 2020



President
Phyllis Weidman

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

You may think that Covid-19 is the news of the year and it certainly has changed our lives. Through it all members of our society have been working. Many worked organizing meetings only to have all their work scraped. Large groups of people were prohibited, speakers were forced to cancel and meeting rooms became unavailable.

Other members have been working on new ways to connect. We have a new web site thanks to Lynn Teller and her friend Emma. Posting on social media has been facilitated thanks to Mike Schmitt and Diane Mallow. Remember to check. Give them a try. Thanks to Joan Poos who keeps everyone informed with the newsletter and email blasts. The society is also grateful to Bruce Buehrig who found our September meeting location. Our September 20th meeting will be held outside under the shade canopy at Timberwinds Nursery. The mantra of the day will be wear a mask and stay 6 feet apart. We can do that. It will be wonderful to see the eyes of so many friends.

It has been an interesting year for us and for our hostas. My garden was beautiful in the spring with all the rain. The hostas were bigger than ever, ready for deer, rabbits, fungus and nematodes to visit. The garden may not look its best, but it has been a source of freedom this year. I would guess many of us have used our gardens to survive this pandemic, but it is time to get together **safely**. See you soon.

Phyllis

2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 20

Meeting – Q and A session plus a mini auction

1:30 PM, TIMBERWINDS NURSERY

54 CLARKSON RD, ELLISVILLE, MO 63011

WWW.TIMBERWINDSNURSERY.COM

October 18

CANCELLED

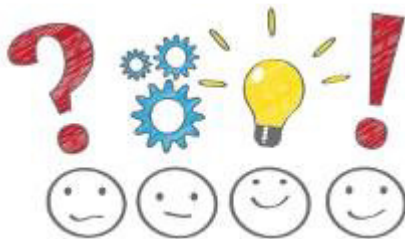
Meeting with Speaker TBA

1:30 PM, TBA

November

Board Meeting

Time and location TBA



September 20 Meeting

**Got a question?
Someone's sure to have an answer!**

**Question and Answer Session
Mini Auction**

I've seen some hostas that have the name SHADOWLAND in front of the cultivar name. Is it part of the hosta's name like LAKESIDE or ABIQUA? What does that mean? What do the letters PPAF or PP with a number after the cultivar name mean? What is causing all these holes in the leaves? Why does my *H. 'June'* look different than the one in my neighbor's garden? Besides a pellet gun, what can I use to rid my garden of deer, rabbits, voles, armadillos, you-name-it? Why are my plants smaller this year than last? What's the answer?

With the 'stay-at-home' orders that we have all been following, this has been a good time to get down and personal with your plants. Each of us has probably noticed something about our gardens that we never before took the time to examine. Maybe it is just the fragrance of that one hosta or the brilliant purple of a hosta's bloom. If you have ever wondered why, now is the time to ask your fellow gardeners. Much can be learned from the experiences of others.

Bring your questions, concerns, opinions and knowledge to our September meeting. Creve Coeur Government Center, our normal meeting location, is not available. Fellow member Bruce Buehrig arranged with Mike Curren, owner of Timberwinds Nursery, to hold our meeting under the outdoor shelter at his nursery. We will be sheltered from sun and rain. Masks are required. Seating will be socially-distanced. There will be no refreshments supplied by the society. Please bring your own beverage or snack.

The question and answer session will be followed by a mini auction of 13 plants. For details, read the article later in this newsletter.

The meeting begins at 1:30 PM. Timberwinds Nursery is located at 54 Clarkson Rd, Ellisville, MO 63011. This is about one block north of the intersection of Manchester Road and Clarkson Road in Ellisville.

We Have a New Look!

Our virtual house has been redecorated. There is new wallpaper, new pictures on the walls, new passageways and a rearrangement of rooms. All the functionality and items from our old site remain.



Society member Lynn Teller and her friend Emma Wilson teamed to replace the site's outdated software with its costly and cumbersome maintenance and updating functions. Our original web site was created in the early 2000s and has functioned well for us over the years. However, it was becoming increasingly difficult to maintain which required expertise that few of us possess.

With Lynn's design capabilities and Emma's technical knowledge, we now have a site that will work for many years to come and can be maintained by us mere mortals. Lynn has volunteered to be our new Webmaster.

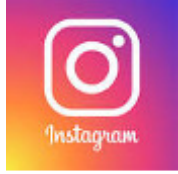
For reasons above my pay grade to know, a new web site address was needed. But don't stress, you do not have to change a thing. Due to Lynn's magic, access is available from the old address (www.stlouishosta.org) or the new address (www.stlhosta.org).

The new site is easy to use. There are tabs across the top of the screen instead of down the side for the various categories. And there are buttons! On the Home page, note a new button labelled '**Latest News**'. Click to learn of most recent changes, such as a meeting cancellation or change of time or location.

Click on the '**Link**' tab at the top. This page contains links to other web-sites. The first two are direct links to the American Hosta Society and to the Midwest Regional Hosta Society. Besides society doings, a wealth of information about hosta is contained on these two sites. Next are links to a number of well-known nurseries located across the nation. At the bottom of the list are links to the **Hosta Library** and **The Hosta Treasury**. The **Hosta Library** contains thousands of photos of hosta cultivars plus articles as diverse as one on dividing hosta to another on hosta genetics. Great winter time reading. **The Hosta Treasury** also contains pictures but also all the registration information and a list of nurseries that sell a particular cultivar and its price.

Take a moment to check out the '**Photo Albums**' page. This is a gallery of photos of members' gardens. Currently just four are featured. The goal is to fill the page and showcase each of your gardens. The new software allows plenty of space. In the future, perhaps we can also add pictures of the display gardens at the Missouri Botanical Garden. It's easy. Use your phone or camera to take pictures of your garden. Maybe you already have some from previous years. Email them to 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, offer to open your garden for a 'Garden Walk' and your newsletter editor will take photos for you.

Take a look and you will like what you see. Many thanks to Lynn Teller for taking on this monumental task.



With all the cancellations, postponements and last minute adjustments to schedules, you can also follow our society doings on Facebook and Instagram. We have Mike Schmitt and Diane Mallow to thank for our presence on these media formats. Post your comments, observations and photos. If we can't meet face-to-face, we can stay in touch through our new web site and these two platforms.



October 25 Meeting Cancelled

The pandemic continues to curtail our Society's activities. Creve Coeur recently notified Phyllis that all room rentals are cancelled for September. There is no reason to expect that October will be any different. While an outside meeting is possible for September that is not the case for October. The Board decided to cancel this meeting rather than trying to find an inside location that is large enough for social distancing. We will regroup in 2021.

Please be aware that the September meeting might also need to be cancelled. You will be notified if that is the case. Let us hope that the opening of schools occurs without problems and the area does not suffer another spike in cases.

Our By-laws specify that a Board meeting occur in November. This year the meeting may not be face-to-face, but rather using Zoom, conference calls or emails. The Board may even postpone it until after the start of 2021. A final decision has not yet been made.

Membership Extended

2020 started with a calendar filled with exciting events. A new decade was starting. Enthusiasm was in the air. Then a pandemic hit. Slowly, one by one, these events had to be cancelled. As a result, there was no MOBot Work Day, no MOBot hosta sale, no Vendor Day, no trip to Hornbaker's,



no hosta conventions, no tours of members' gardens and only one meeting with a speaker.

In light of this, the Board has voted to extend all memberships for another year. No dues will be collected in 2021.

Welcome New Members

Janet McKean of Rolla, MO
Gene Pulliam of Glendale, MO
Emily and Drew Vandas of St. Louis, MO

We hope that you will consider joining us for the September meeting at Timberwinds Nursery. Behind all the masks will be fellow gardeners excited about meeting you.

Maybe 13 will be your lucky number September 20th meeting - Mini auction

Following what promises to be informative and lively discussion during our Question and Answer session will be a mini auction of 13 hosta cultivars. One of the purposes of our annual member auction is to find new homes for donated plants that may not be so readily available in local nurseries or the big box stores. There is an assortment of sizes and colors, textures and form, but all are good growers in the St. Louis region. Pictures of the actual plants, descriptions and average price for a single fan as listed on **The Hosta Treasury** follow this introduction.

This will be an informal auction. No bidding plates, just raise your hand. Anyone in attendance can talk about the growing habits of the particular plant. The treasurer will write down the name of the successful bidder after the name of the plant. To keep personal contact to a minimum, payment will be by check only. No one wants to handle cash or our un-sanitized Square credit card reader.

Come join the fun. It's not too late to plant hostas in the St. Louis area.

Auction Plants



Allegan Fog – K. Herrema - 2000
18" x 40" – avg. price \$14.50

This is a unique misted hosta that has white centered leaves with shiny dark green margins. The creamy white center, which turns greenish as the season progresses, is liberally dotted with green flecks and streaks. Slightly wavy and twisted at the tip, the foliage is very attractive and distinctive.



Candy Dish – A. Summers - 2003
12" x 24" – avg. price \$16.33

An attractive hosta with glossy dark green leaves with heavily rippled margins. The heart-shaped leaves are thick in substance and slightly cupped. Pale purple flowers appear in late summer on reddish-purple scapes. A distinctive plant.



Darwin's Standard – Klinkhamer - nr
18" x 48" – avg. price \$13.67

This hosta forms an attractive mound of thick gold leaves with a contrasting dark green margin which often streaks towards the midrib. The leaves are fairly shiny and heavily corrugated. Located in a bright sunny location, the center of the leaf will become more creamy-white. A look-alike for *H.* 'Paradigm'.



Ebony Towers – D. Dean – 2005
20” x 45” – avg. price \$17.67

This hosta is a sun-lover that develops into a dense vase-shaped mound of glossy, wavy green foliage. It has speckled red-purple petioles, black-purple scapes of 40+” in late August and giant black-purple seed pods.



First Frost – P. Scolnik – 2002
14” x 36” – avg. price \$14.80

This plant is prized for its foliage which remains attractive until first frost. The heart-shaped blue-green leaves have wide gold margins in spring, gradually maturing to creamy-white. This is the AHGA 2010 Hosta of the Year.



Frozen Margarita – R. Solberg – 2003
28” x 49” – avg. price \$14.80

Large shiny leaves are greenish-yellow framed with a pure white margin. The leaves have good substance and the plant is a vigorous grower. It gets its brightest and best color when grown in some sunlight. This has been in a shade house.



Golden Sculpture – K. Anderson – 1982
33” x 72” – avg. price \$13.00

This is a giant vase-shaped hosta with leaves which emerge chartreuse then brighten to a rich gold. At maturity, leaves are heavily corrugated with a slightly wavy margin. Sun tolerant and slug resistant. This particular plant is more greenish because it has been in a very shady site.



Lakeside Dot Com – M. Chastain – 1999
3” x 11” – avg. price \$25.00

I love this little plant. Its dark green leaves have a near white center that does not melt out. The foliage becomes more and more puckered as it matures. A vigorous grower, it is larger than its registered size. I have one in the ground and another in a trough – both grow well.



Leola Fraim – W & E Lachman – 1987
22” x 51” – avg. price \$10.00

This hosta features very dark green rounded leaves with very wide creamy white margins. As the leaves get older, they display a beautiful cupping and the corrugation becomes very pronounced. A good grower.



Luna Moth – B. Meyers – NR
18” x 30” - avg. price \$17.40

Dark green, heart-shaped leaves emerge with light green margins which brighten to a limey-gold color in summer. This hosta grows quickly to form a nice symmetrical medium sized clump. Easy to grow and quite distinctive.



Minuteman – J Machen, Jr – 1994
23” x 50” – avg. price \$11.67

Among the showiest of hostas with its attractive, wide, lightly cupped foliage. Satiny green leaves are surrounded by creamy white margins. Large, funnel-shaped flowers are dark lavender. The thick foliage resists slugs. Tolerates a bit more sun than others.



Royal Tiara – M Zilis – 1988
8” x 17” – avg. price \$14.00

This is a unique hosta known for its different, gnarled, white striped centered foliage. It has a pure, crisp, white center with a yellow-green margin that varies in width. The leaves twist and turn. A good grower and quite distinctive in the garden.



Vulcan – H Hansen – 2007
17” x 28” – avg. price \$16.00

‘Vulcan’ grows quickly to an impressive mound. Large, broad white leaves have a dark green margin. Random gold streaks occur along the interior margins. Its light colored center will not melt out. Its vigorous growth rate and impressive substance makes it a shade standout.

Hosta in Full Sun? Oh my, no!

One of the questions I am frequently asked is “What hosta do you have that will grow in my very sunny yard?” In the past I have repeated snippets of information I have gleaned from books, **The Hosta Journal** and the internet. Unfortunately my husband and I now have firsthand knowledge of this subject.

Last December we watched a giant crane slowly dismantle our dying 80 year old shingle oak, a tree that anchored a large part of our shade garden. This spring we were astounded by how much area that tree’s canopy covered. More than 150 hosta were suddenly stripped of their protective covering. Almost all were in all day sun! As you know, full sun in St. Louis is brutal. We spent the pandemic months moving our precious plants.

While none of these plants went unscathed, some fared better than others. Some cultivars benefit from periods of sun exposure to keep their foliage vibrant and colorful, but it is not recommended that any remain in full sun all the time as the leaves may burn and turn brown. Too much sun exposure may also cause foliage to fade. We found all this to be true.

Characteristics that may influence the ability to withstand the sun’s intensity are color, fragrance and substance. Yellow and gold, solid or variegated have more of a chance than others. As expected all of the blue hosta quickly lost their wax coating and turned green, faded and lackluster. Some such as ‘Wishing Well’ started to turn crispy. Others, like ‘Skywriter’, only lost their blue color. The same was true of the golds. ‘Tijuana Brass’ looked like someone had spilled bleach on it. To its immediate right was ‘Regal Splendor’ which lived up to its name, losing only its beautiful color. ‘Golden Sculpture’ lasted until the first part of August before the edges and tips burned badly turning to lace.

Many hosta with fragrant flowers fall into the sun tolerant group. These usually have descended from *Hosta plantaginea* which is a sun tolerant Chinese native. Indeed, ‘Fragrant Bouquet’ and ‘Guacamole’ do quite well in our garden having some sun protection, but not much.

Supposedly, plants that tolerate sun generally have thicker leaves. ‘Sum and Substance’ and ‘June’ did well, but ‘Rhino Hide’ which has very thick almost plastic leaves, burned quickly. ‘June’ changed colors, going from dark blue-green to light shades of green. Not nearly as striking in my opinion.

The nice thing about hosta is that they can be moved at any time. Try your plant in the sun and see how it fares. If you see signs of stress like brown leaf edges, dull color or faded spots on leaves, move it. Most important of all, don’t forget to water, water, water.

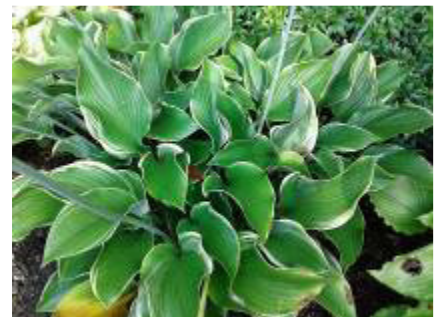
Some other plants in our yard that handle more sun than most: ‘Sum and Substance’, ‘Moon Waves’, ‘Paradigm’, ‘Crocodile Rock’, ‘Leola Fraim’, ‘Green Acres’, and ‘Krossa Regal’.



H. 'Wishing Well'



H. 'Tijuana Brass'



H. 'Regal Splendor'

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

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St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

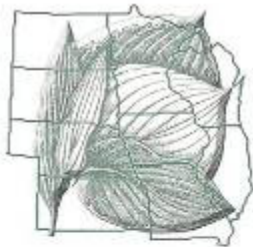
Contact: Dave Poos
9904 Crestwood Drive
Crestwood, MO 63126
david.poos@att.net

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.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.



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/>