



Volume 20, Issue 4

May, 2019

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



**President  
Diana Plahn**

Hi there Hosta Lovers:

Our last event was Vendors Day on April 28<sup>th</sup>, a Sunday. Everything went well. Thanks to Jolly Ann Whitener for putting it all together.

The society received a very nice thank you letter from The Missouri Botanical Garden that read:

“I want to thank you and the St. Louis Hosta Society on behalf of the Missouri Botanical Garden Horticulture Division, for the generous donation of \$2700.00. It will be used solely for the directional boring that would automate irrigation in the Hosta Garden at Missouri Botanical Garden.

Please extend our appreciation to all of the members of the St. Louis Hosta Society.”

Signed, Jim Cocos, Senior Manager, Horticulture.

Thanks to Phyllis for bringing this matter to the Society’s attention. It seemed to be a good use of some of our extra funds.

Remember that the work day at the Botanical Garden is May 4<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am, rain or shine. Phyllis leads this project and it’s thanks to her and the people that volunteer for this that we get hosta divisions from the garden for our plant sale.

Our Plant sale is on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Missouri Botanical Garden. See this newsletter for specific setup times, and when the sale starts. Also bring any of your own divisions to the sale to help raise money for the society. Any plants are appreciated, but especially newer cultivars. Also we always need volunteers to help out. Thanks to Phyllis Weidman for her dedication to this event for many years. This is her last year as chairperson. Thanks to Janelle Criscione and Barb Moreland for helping Phyllis this year in setup and planning the event.

(Continued on the bottom of page 2)

## 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>May 4</b>                                 | <b>Work Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden</b><br><b>8:30 AM, Missouri Botanical Garden,</b><br><b>AHS Display Garden beds</b>                                      |
| <b>May 11</b>                                | <b>Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden</b><br><b>Setup May 11 7:00 – 9:00 AM</b><br><b>Sale May 11, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM</b><br><b>Missouri Botanical Garden</b> |
| <b>May 31</b>                                | <b>Garden Walk/Meeting/Demonstration</b><br><b>6:00 PM, Home of Dave and Joan Poos</b>  |
| <b>June 12-16</b>                            | <b>AHS National Convention</b><br><b>Green Bay, WS</b>  |
| <b>June</b>                                  | <b>Garden Walk/Meeting</b><br><b>Time and location TBA</b>  |
| <b>July 21</b>                               | <b>Members Plant Auction</b><br><b>1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center</b>   |
| <b>September 18</b>                          | <b>Meeting with Speaker TBA</b><br><b>7:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center</b>  |
| <b>October 20</b><br><b>NOTE DATE CHANGE</b> | <b>Meeting with Speaker Tom Michelletti</b><br><b>1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center</b>  |
| <b>November</b>                              | <b>Board Meeting</b><br><b>Time and location TBA</b>  |
| <b>December</b>                              | <b>Holiday Party</b>  |

### President's Message continued

Lastly, on May 31<sup>st</sup> at 6pm in the evening, the Poos have opened their garden to us for a garden walk and educational Hosta culture meeting and demonstration. Their garden is lovely, so it should be a good meeting. I hope to see you at some or all of the above events.

And before I sign off, I would like to thank Joan Poos for her dedication to the newsletter. It's always enjoyable to read, and informative as well. Again she has done this for many years, so we need to make sure we realize what a great job she does every month. Thanks again Joan.

*Diana*

**May 4, 2019**  
**Work Day at Missouri Botanical Garden**  
**8:30 AM until about Noon**

Saturday May 4, rain or shine, will be our next work day in the AHS Display Garden located at the Missouri Botanical Garden. The hosta beds have come a long way since 2009 when our Society, under the direction of Phyllis Weidman, became involved in their rejuvenation.

It started with the planting of two crabapple trees. Since then each year members volunteer their time to dig, divide, move, hoe, prune, spray, mulch and do the myriad of little jobs necessary for a well-kept garden.

There's never a shortage of tasks. Can't dig – how about hoeing, raking or pulling weeds; can't get down on your knees – how about pruning some of the shrubs or spreading fertilizer and slug bait. This is a great time to get to know other members. The work isn't that hard and the time goes really fast when talking and laughing with other volunteers.

We pot all divided or discarded plants and take them to our Society's MoBot Plant Sale the following week-end.

The Garden permits us to bring our own gear. Have a favorite shovel, hoe, trowel, or pruner, bring it with you. Don't forget the gloves unless you like the feel of dirt on your hands and under your fingernails. Ask anyone who has been at the work day how much fun you can have getting dirty.

We will meet at 8:30 AM, rain or shine, in the AHS Display Garden hosta beds located in the northeast section of the Garden. If this is your first time, notify Phyllis so that she can help you fill out a MoBot volunteer form - [pow1031@gmail.com](mailto:pow1031@gmail.com) or 314-965-7027.



Phyllis Weidman  
our leader



Ted Piekutowski  
the Sluggo man



Carolyn Birge  
raking in fertilizer



Dave Poos  
digging hostas

**Welcome New Member**

**Sandra Chinnici of St. Louis**

We hope you'll join us at the three events scheduled for May. All are great times to get to know your fellow members.

**It's hard to believe, but May 10th is right around the corner!  
What's happening on May 10th you ask.**



## **Hosta Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden**

Set up time: 7:00 – 9:00 AM

Sale time: 9:00 – 5:00 PM

Location: Orthwein Room at the Missouri Botanical Garden

For a successful MoBot plant sale, the Society needs your donations and your help. Dig and pot now while the weather is mild and the hostas are just emerging from their winter sleep. Mini and large hostas are always in demand. Any kind of variegated hosta sells well. Please keep in mind that monies from this sale and the member auction in July pay the costs associated with meeting room rental, speakers, the website, the newsletter publication and many more events held throughout the year.

Plants can be dropped off at the Botanical Garden during set-up time or ahead of time at any of the following member's homes. Just call to make arrangements and obtain directions.

Dave and Joan Poos – Crestwood – 314-821-1622 or [david.poos@att.net](mailto:david.poos@att.net)

Phyllis and Jim Weidman – Kirkwood - 314/965-7027 or [pow1031@gmail.com](mailto:pow1031@gmail.com)

Workers are needed to help set up and price plants for sale. This occurs from 7:00 to 9:00 AM on May 10. Workers are also needed to man the sales tables throughout the day. Donate an hour or two of your time to spread the word about that great plant the hosta.

## **Hosta 101 – Planting a Hosta**

During Vendor Day, Bruce Buehrig gave several tips about planting and growing hostas. When planting dig a hole wide enough to spread out the roots without folding or bending them, but not too deep, about six inches. Make a small mound of dirt in the center, place the hosta's crown on top of the mound and spread out its roots. Add Turface or pea gravel to the soil used to fill the hole. This ensures good drainage. Water well, but don't over-water or crown rot might occur. Mulch with some material such as pine bark that allows oxygen and water to penetrate. Try to keep mulch off the crown to prevent rot. Don't place your hostas too close together as good air circulation is important.

**Garden walk and Demonstration**  
**Friday, May 31, 6:00 PM until everyone goes home**

**Home of Dave and Joan Poos**  
**9904 Crestwood Drive, Crestwood MO 63126**



May is the perfect time to have an outside meeting and social time. On Friday evening Dave and Joan Poos are opening their beautiful Crestwood garden for our enjoyment. Bring a snack to share with other members and your beverage of choice.

Dave will demonstrate several ways to dig and divide hostas. Dividing techniques depend on the reason for the dividing, the amount of time you have to spend on the task and your temperament.

Starting its transition in 2001, the Poos garden has evolved from a typical suburban yard with a few perennial beds on the property's border to its present form. Anchored by a mature oak grove, a series of paths weave around the many beds each containing their allotted share of the 780 hosta varieties. Conifers, Japanese Maples, redbuds and dogwoods add bones to the beds and complement the hundreds of azaleas that provide early spring color. In areas that escape the shade, you will find daylilies which burst into color in June. Beyond the arbor, is a bed of daylilies representing an active Hemerocallis hybridizing program plus the vegetable garden. For hosta companions, walk under the arbor and continue on the wood chip path. Along this shaded walk and throughout the garden, you will find many varieties of epimedium, heuchera, wild and European ginger, bloodroot, Solomon Seal, toad lilies, trillium, hellebores, ferns, hydrangeas and small trees and bushes that form an understory to the larger trees.

Wander the garden, then sit a spell and talk with Dave, Joan and your fellow members.

Directions: From the intersection of S. Lindbergh & Watson Road (old Route 66), take Watson Road east 0.6 miles to Sturdy. Turn right onto Sturdy. Drive one block to Crestwood Drive. Turn left onto Crestwood Drive. Travel four blocks to the end of the street. 9904 Crestwood Drive is on the cul-de-sac.



## Vendor Day – April

A special thanks to Chairwoman Jolly Ann Whitener! Huge success!



Barb Moreland cuddles a small gourd decorated as a bluebird. The **Gourd Sisters** brought horns, toys, birdhouses & feeders, all made from gourds.



It was good to see Denny Ricketts of **Avalon Acres** back at our event. He hasn't let little things like tornados and a hacked web site get him down.



Erica Kniffen of **Hostas on the Bluff** helps customers make selections from the large number of hostas she brought to our event.



Diane Sauer of **Trellis Art Designs** brought plant stakes, trellises and wreaths made of metal leaves, flowers and even one with snails.



Gregg Wesche of **Overland Hardware** brought lots of garden necessities – everything from pruners and gloves to fertilizers and weed killers.



Dave Poo and Basil Honaker compare notes while Brett Vitoux of **Homestead Farms** waits on other customers.

## St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

**Diana Plahn** – President  
314-346-3007  
[dplahn@me.com](mailto:dplahn@me.com)

**Jolly Ann Whitener** – Secretary  
[jawhit6@gmail.com](mailto:jawhit6@gmail.com)

**Karen Frey** – Hospitality

**Martha LaFata** – Vice-President  
314-961-7163  
[mvelafata@gmail.com](mailto:mvelafata@gmail.com)

**Melissa Byrd** – Treasurer  
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**Joan Poos** – Newsletter Editor  
314-821-1622  
[david.poos@att.net](mailto:david.poos@att.net)

## St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

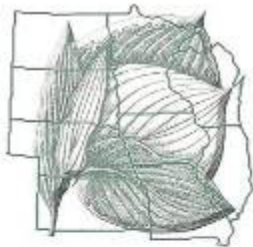
**Contact:** Melissa Byrd  
117 Gunston Hall Drive  
St. Charles, MO 63304  
[mabyrd68@gmail.com](mailto:mabyrd68@gmail.com)

**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](http://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](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:

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/>