



Volume 13, Issue 8

November, 2012



Phyllis Weidman President
Photo by Kelly Hall

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The end of the year is speeding toward us. I want to thank you all for saying yes to make our Society great - saying yes to help on a specific task or by coming to the meetings.

This year's attendance has been wonderful. Maybe that is due to our great programs but also due to the friendliness of the group attending. I congratulate you all.

The Annual Board Meeting Is November 2nd at my house. We will be planning activities for next year. Have an idea? Let me or another board member know what you want to hear, see, or do. We want all ideas. So don't just sit there, click on my e-mail (pow1031@gmail.com) address and tell me your thoughts.

On the calendar next, we have the Holiday Party on December 2. Do plan to come! There is good food and much fun. What a good way the start the holiday season.

Phyllis

2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 2

Board Meeting

6:00 PM, Weidman home, RSVP Phyllis Weidman

December 2

Holiday Party

1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center

January 19, 2013

MRHS Winter Scientific Meeting

Wyndham Hotel

Lisle, Illinois

June 13-15, 2013

American Hosta Society National Convention

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

July 11-13, 2013

Midwest Region Hosta Society Convention

Lisle, Illinois

Last newsletter of 2012

First newsletter of 2013 will be in January with our first meeting occurring in February



**Join in the fun
Be a part of the action
Make your wishes known
See what happens behind the scenes**

**Fall Board Meeting
November 2, 6:00 PM**

**Home of President Phyllis Weidman
508 Pointe Essex Court, Kirkwood, MO 63122
314-965-7027 or Pow1031@gmail.com.**

All members are invited to join our Board members for a delicious bowl of soup, a fabulous dessert and a spirited meeting. The agenda includes such items as setting 2013 meeting dates, establishing the 2013 budget, brain-storming about possible speakers and scheduling other interesting events. Let the Board know what you want for your Society in 2013. What did you like or not like in 2012? Get to know your Board members - they're really a lot of fun to be around, are enthusiastic about gardening, hostas and your Society, and are quite generous with their time and expertise. Call or email Phyllis to reserve your place at the table.



2011 dessert table starring a festive cake decorated with the society logo.

St. Louis Hosta Society Holiday Party

**Sunday December 2
1:00 PM**

**Creve Coeur
Government Center**



Members socialize during the 2011 Holiday Party.

The gardening year began with a potluck, a time to sample good food and renew friendships. Now it's time to end the season in the same manner, a party featuring good food, plenty of gardening talk and lots of laughter. The holiday party is one of the most popular events of the year.

Martha Lafata is putting together a FUN afternoon guaranteed to get all of us in the holiday mood. What does she have planned? There's bound to be holiday music playing in the background, linen tablecloths sporting colorful centerpieces, maybe a Christmas tree or reindeer decked in twinkling lights and, of course, a table laden with delicious food, drink and sweets.

Tim Cancila from 'The Gas House Grill' will again be catering our party as he has the last several years. Members love his good food, his excellent, friendly service and the fact he does the dishes.

If you wish to partake in the Gift Exchange (what kind of game will it be this year?), please bring a wrapped gift of approximately \$10.00 value.

Reservations are required. November 17 is the deadline.

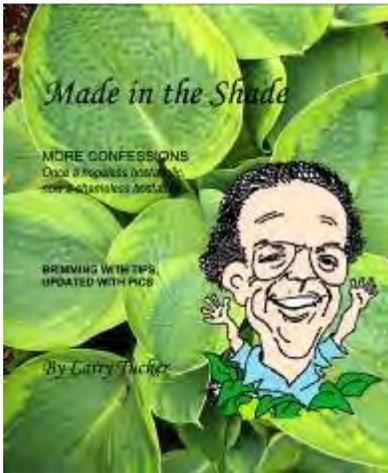
Price for this catered lunch is \$12.00 for each person attending. A cash bar will be available. Please RSVP by mailing your check to:

**Cindy Michniok
14300 Quiet Meadow Ct.
Chesterfield, MO 63017**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Ralph and Patricia Merola of Creve Coeur, MO

We hope you will join in the fun at our annual holiday party. It's the perfect opportunity to make new friends and talk about one of your favorite topics – shade gardening.



Cover of Larry's book
Made in the Shade

In October, nationally known author, speaker, columnist and self acclaimed Hostaholic **Larry Tucker** presented:

“Confessions of a Hostaholic”

Larry came to love hostas through his wife Shari who comes from a long line of Swedish nurserymen. It began as a means to reduce stress from his job as a newspaper editor faced with never-ending deadlines. It soon became both an “affliction and an addiction”.

Once afflicted, Larry was off and running. Talking with area nurserymen and other like-minded souls, together they founded the Mid-South Hosta Society. In two years membership topped 200 and now maintains a steady 300.

His writing skills were put to good use by AHS as he spearheaded the writing, editing and publication of ***The Hosta Adventure: A Growers Guide*** which all of you received in your new member packets. Larry continues to write articles for ***The Hosta Journal*** and other magazines plus traveling the country sharing what he calls his “shady shenanigans”.

Like our own president, Phyllis Weidman, Larry threw his energies into establishing an AHS National Display Garden at the Memphis Botanic Garden called The Hosta Trail. Besides giving physical labor, he works tirelessly raising funds to establish an endowment dedicated to the maintenance of this garden. Indeed, the proceeds from the sale of his book ***Made in the Shade*** and his speaking remunerations are donated to this fund.

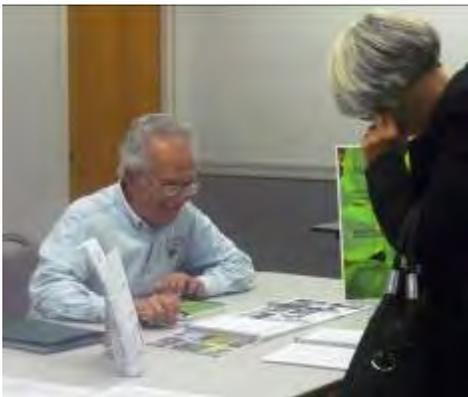
The gist of his talk was the importance of having fun in your garden. Don’t take yourself too seriously; laugh at one another – it’s what keeps one sane. If you’re given lemons, make lemonade. Shari and Larry moved from an oak studded urban lot to the sun-drenched burbs. Larry used old bricks to build a wall around their small yard to keep the critters at bay. Until newly planted trees threw some shade, he built a series of lattice screens and planted his vast hosta collection between them. A dry stream alleviates drainage issues. All hostas are grown in pots. His pictures showed that any container that holds dirt can grow hostas – pig troughs, crocks, bathtubs and sinks, wheelbarrows, metal milk boxes and even WW II ammo boxes.

Some of Larry’s favorite signs left us with a chuckle and a smile:

“Old Gardeners Never Die, They Just Spade Away”

“Danger Men Gardening” (maybe Shari’s favorite?)

“Stampeding Slugs”



Larry reflects on humorous columns from his book with members who enjoyed his presentation.



This plaque designates the Memphis ‘Hosta Trail’ as an AHS National Display Garden. The trail’s purpose is to show where hostas originated and how they developed around the world.

COMPANION CORNER



Toad Lily

Family: *Liliaceae*
Genus: *Tricyrtus*
Species: *hirta*
Zone: 4 - 8
Size: 1 – 3 feet



The fall chores had begun. All the garden benches were tucked out of the weather under the deck. My collection of knickknacks was safely stored on basement shelves. It was time to pull the rakes from their summer rest in the shed. Everywhere were shades of red, orange and yellow, until I happened upon the toad lilies.

Six inch lance-shaped leaves alternate on two-foot fuzzy stems that arch over my garden path. Numerous flowers about the size of a quarter spring from the leaf axils. A toad lily! What a horrid name for such an unusual and attractive flower. Actually, "toad" refers to the blotches and markings on the flowers. The genus name, *Tricyrtus*, is from the Greek for "three" and "convex" because the three outer petals have tiny bags or swellings at the base. The commonest variety, *T.hirta*, has creamy white flowers with purple-spotted petals and centers that resemble pieces of chenille. Some people say the shape reminds them of miniature orchids. Other species and newly developed cultivars bloom in shades of pinkish blue and yellow.

Tricyrti are herbaceous plants that grow from a rhizomatous rootstock with fibrous outer roots. They are easy to propagate by cuttings or division of the roots in early spring. As they put out roots at their nodes, be sure to have at least one node in each division. They're also easy to grow from seed.

These beauties grow naturally at the edge of forests, preferring shade or part shade and consistent moisture, but well-drained soil. They don't like wet feet and will experience rot in standing water. Not much chance of that this past summer. In my garden they aren't fussy and, besides an annual layer of mulch, receive very little care. Blooming when most other flowering plants have finished, they are wonderful companions to other shade-loving foliage plants like hostas, hellebores, ferns and epimediums. These all have the same growing requirements, which makes group plantings that much easier to maintain. With a mix like this, your shade border can have a long blooming season. As the flowers of this exotic plant are best appreciated close up, plant them at the edge of the border or along a path, where fall visitors to your garden can admire the tiny but profuse flowers.

"There is always music amongst the trees in the garden, but our hearts must be very quiet to hear it."

– MINNIE AUMONIER

Winter Scientific Meeting of the Midwest Regional Hosta

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society is once again sponsoring the Winter Scientific Meeting. This popular winter event will be held **Saturday, January 19, 2013** at the Wyndham Hotel, 3000 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL. The hotel has given us a \$79.00 room rate. Please make your own reservations by calling 877-999-3223, and mention the "Midwest Regional Hosta Society Winter Scientific Meeting" to guarantee the rate. You can also make your hotel reservation online by clicking on the link below:



Speakers scheduled for 2013 include:

- **Olga Petryszyn** - Experiences and Experiments on Moving a Mature Garden (You Don't Have to Say Goodbye to Your Old Friends)
- **Rob Mortko** - Tissue Culture for Dummies ... Like Me
- **Jeff Miller** - So you want a shade garden - building a shade garden do's and don't's
- **Bob Solberg** - What Makes a Great Hosta
- **Glenn Herold** - The Korean Hostas and their Contributions to the Hosta Garden
- **Mark Zilis** - Hostas of Distinction - Part 12

The program will include a series of three concurrent breakout sessions. These breakout sessions will be presented twice, so attendees will be able to attend two out of the three sessions.

Again this year, there will be a hosta seed silent auction, proceeds of which will be used to underwrite a portion of the cost of the meeting.

The cost of this winter extravaganza is only \$55 per person for Midwest Regional Hosta Society members and \$65 for non-members, and includes a continental breakfast and a deli buffet lunch. At their option, non-members can apply the \$10 difference in the registration fee to a one-year membership in the MRHS. Please make checks payable to MRHS, and **mail with the registration form** to:

Kristine James
523 E. Calhoun Street
Woodstock, IL 60098

Registrations postmarked after January 7 require a \$10 late registration fee per person. Questions? Contact Lou Horton (630-293-7735) or email: lehorton85@ameritech.net

For your convenience, the **registration form** for **The Winter Scientific Meeting is included on page 8 of this newsletter**. Several members of the St. Louis Hosta Society frequently attend, namely, Arlie and Nancy Tempel, Jim and Phyllis Weidman, Dave and Joan Poos, Mary Lou Farrow and Shirley Suntrup. We usually drive to Lisle on Friday afternoon, meet at a local restaurant for dinner, then relax with other attendees back at the hotel. Ask any of these members about this welcome break from the doldrums of winter.



2013 Midwest Convention in Lisle, IL

July 11, 12 and 13, 2013

The Northern Illinois Hosta Society invites you to go to your calendar right now and reserve July 11-13, 2013, for next year's MRHS Convention "Hostamania!" in suburban Chicago.

You might even want to come early and stay afterward, because three days of immersing yourself in hostas won't leave enough time to visit the area's attractions. But you're probably interested mainly in the hostas, so let's talk first about what MRHS 2013 will have for you. At press time it looks like at least 10 vendors will be here, and 10 outstanding gardens will be on the tour. Of course there will be an auction and a leaf show. Seminars and side trips are in the planning stage; one of the latter takes advantage of the wealth of public gardens near the convention site: An optional tour of the Ball Seed Company's fabulous test and exhibit gardens, which are open free to the public only by appointment, is already on the books for those who might want a break from Hostamania!

More details about Hostamania! are available on the website, MRHS2013.org. Check back from time to time for updates such as the schedule, registration form, show rules, speakers, and anything else we can dream up. NIHS looks forward to welcoming all you Hostamaniacs next July!



AHS Convention 2013

Plan your Escape to Wisconsin now!

Beautiful gardens, good friends, great food,
and many local attractions await you.

See you **June 13-15, 2013** in Milwaukee, WI

Registration for this convention is \$139 per person.

Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel
\$105 per night includes hot breakfast buffet

Gardens will be toured by carpooling. Every effort will be made to arrange rides to gardens for attendees that fly in to the convention.

More information and details www.2013ahsconvention.com

2013 WINTER SCIENTIFIC MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Make a copy of this registration form for your records.
If you would like confirmation of your registration, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. Fill out registration form completely.

Note that MRHS memberships are family memberships, so individuals in the member's household are also MRHS members.

ATTENDEE 1:

NAME _____ MRHS member Non-MRHS member
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE _____
ZIP _____
PHONE _____
EMAIL _____

If a non-MRHS member, would you like your \$10 surcharge applied to a 1 year FAMILY membership in the Midwest Regional Hosta Society?
 YES NO

ATTENDEE 2: Address same as Attendee 1

NAME _____ MRHS member Non-MRHS member
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE _____
ZIP _____
PHONE _____
EMAIL _____

If a non-MRHS member, would you like your \$10 surcharge applied to a 1 year FAMILY membership in the Midwest Regional Hosta Society?
 YES NO

Registrations postmarked after January 7, 2013 require a \$10 late registration fee per person.
Cancellations before January 7, 2013 will be sent a full refund.
We will be unable to issue refunds after January 7, 2013.

Number of members _____ X55 = _____
Number of non-members _____ X65 = _____
Number of late registrations _____ X10 = _____
TOTAL _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO MRHS

Mail your registration and check to:
Kristine James
523 E Calhoun Street
Woodstock IL 60098

Questions about registration? Contact Kristine at MRHS.HOSTA@gmail.com or phone: 815-337-4621

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

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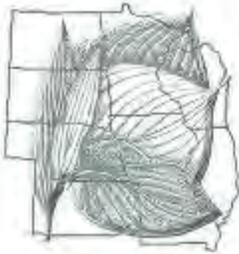
St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

Contact: Cindy Michniok
14300 Quiet Meadow Ct.
Chesterfield, MO 63017
Cmichniok@gmail.com

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

Meetings held at 1:00 PM 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



Midwest Regional Hosta Society

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society represents Region 5 of the American Hosta Society that includes 9 states. Our mission is to promote education, research, development and enjoyment of Hosta.

Membership in the society is \$20.00 for 2 years, which includes two issues per year of the newsletter. This publication reports on events and information on Hostas in general.

Please mail a check made payable to MRHS to:

Kristine James
523 E Calhoun St.
Woodstock, IL 60098

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/>