



Volume 15, Issue 9

November, 2014



Phyllis Weidman President  
*Photo by Kelly Hall*

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The frost is on the pumpkins, time to finish work in the garden. It is time for the Society to finish the 2014 programs. We have the annual Board Meeting and the Holiday Party left on the calendar.

I want to thank all of you. Each of you performs a job for the society. Maybe you have a named position or simply attend the meetings. Where ever you fit, the Society thanks you for your support.

We will be starting to work on activities for 2015. We need new ideas. Want to start a different tradition? Replace the pot luck dinner with a chili cook off? Take a field trip to buy hostas? Plant and maintain at hosta garden somewhere? You all have ideas, let's hear them. Anything is possible. Contact me at 314-965-7027 or [pow1031@gmail.com](mailto:pow1031@gmail.com)

See you at the Board Meeting,

*Phyllis*

### Phyllis' Hosta Tip of the Month

It is a good idea to remove all the dead hosta foliage following the first killing freeze. This will help control fungal disease, nematodes, slugs and voles next year.

(Editor's note: See article by Mary Chastain on page 6.)

## 2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- November 16**                      **Board Meeting**  
**3:00 PM, supper to follow**  
**Phyllis Weidman home**  
**508 Essex Court**  
**Kirkwood, MO 63122**
- December 7**                      **Holiday Party**  
**1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center**
- January 17, 2015**                **MRHS Winter Scientific Meeting**  
**Naperville, Illinois**
- June 18-20, 2015**              **American Hosta Society National Convention**  
**Raleigh, North Carolina**
- July 9-11, 2015**                **Midwest Region Hosta Society Convention**  
**Dubuque, Iowa**

**Last newsletter of 2014**  
**First newsletter of 2015 will be sent at the end of January**  
**Our first meeting will occur in February**



### **St. Louis Hosta Society Holiday Party**

**Sunday December 7**  
**1:00 PM**

**Creve Coeur Government Center**



The leaves are falling, hostas are going dormant, and soon snow will fall. It's time to end the gardening season. How else but with a party featuring good food, maybe a song or two, lively chatter and lots of laughter. The holiday party is one of the most popular events of the year. Don't miss it.

**Reservations are required. November 22 is the deadline.**

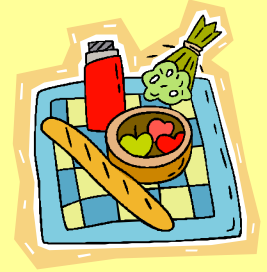
Price for this catered lunch is \$15.00 for each person attending. **Non-member spouses and friends are welcome at the same \$15.00 charge.** Please RSVP by mailing your check to:

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



## Fall Board Meeting

**November 16, 2014**  
**3:00 PM meeting, followed by supper**



**Home of President Phyllis Weidman**  
**508 Pointe Essex Court, Kirkwood, MO 63122**  
**RSVP - 314-965-7027 or [Pow1031@gmail.com](mailto:Pow1031@gmail.com).**

All members are invited to join our Board Members at the 2015 planning meeting. Those that wish to stay after the meeting are invited to sup on a delicious soup, sandwiches and a fabulous dessert. The agenda includes such items as setting 2015 meeting dates, establishing the 2015 budget, brain-storming about possible speakers and scheduling other interesting events.

Let the Board know what you want for your Society in 2015. What did you like or not like in 2014? 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. Don't worry; they won't assign you a task if you come.

**Call or email Phyllis to reserve your place at the table.**

## Coming Soon --- Winter Scientific Meeting

**When:** **January 17, 2015**; Continental Breakfast at 7:30 A.M.; Conclusion at 4:30 P.M.

**Where:** Northern Illinois University Conference Center, Naperville, Illinois  
1120 East Deihl Road, Naperville, IL **[Directions Facility](#)**

### **Hotel Accommodations:**

Hilton Hotel, Lisle, IL **[Hotel Website](#)**

Room Rate - \$79 per night (Friday, January 16 and Saturday, January 17, 2015); Deadline - 12-26-2014

### **WSM Topics:**

Glenn Herold - *Sedges and Grasses for the Shade*

Rod Kuenster - *Hybridizer's Perspective*

Tom Micheletti - *Hostas on the Small Side*

Jeff Miller - *When is Enough Enough?*

Bob Solberg - *The State of the State in Hostas*

Mark Zilis - *Hostas of the Year and their Originations*

WSM will include three plenary sessions and three breakout sessions that will be repeated twice so attendees can choose to attend two of the three breakouts. Continental breakfast, refreshments for breaks throughout the day, a hot lunch as well as a seed auction will round out the day.

For your convenience, **the registration form appears at the end of this newsletter**. For more information, see the MRHS web-site [www.midwesthostasociety.org](http://www.midwesthostasociety.org) or talk with members that have attended in the past – the Weidmans, Poos, Tempels, Mary Lou Farrow and Shirley Suntrup.

## October Speaker – Janie Bedwell

“Trees and Shrubs, what do I need to do, especially in times of drought”

Of vital importance to hostas is that tree canopy that protects them from the harsh rays of the sun. To maintain that protection, we must ensure the health of our trees starting at the bottom – their roots.

Have you driven down streets and seen donuts of mulch around the base of trees? Have you seen trees that just seem to pop straight up out of the ground? Have you seen others that appear weak or underdeveloped on one side? All can be traced back to improper planting and maintenance.



Arborist Janie Bedwell

The trees' root flair, that section of the tree that expands outward to form the uppermost roots, should be above the landscape soil. Do not plant too deep. Remove all wire cages, bindings and synthetic materials from the root ball. Synthetics in burlap do not break down. When planting, cut and spread out any roots that are encircling the root ball. This will stop girdling. New roots will grow quickly. If it is necessary to stake a young tree, make sure not to leave the straps in place more than a year. Otherwise, the bindings will dig into the trunk or limbs.

Trenching, the removal of roots on one side of a tree to make way for utility lines, will cause that side of the tree to decline and eventually the tree will die. If possible, run trenches under the tree instead of through its roots.

Improper mulching causes many trees to decline. Mulch volcanoes allow moisture and insects to invade the bark. It encourages suckering and roots to grow up into the mulch instead of down into the soil. Air needs to get down to root level. Donuts trap water inside the ring and against the bark causing rot.

St. Louis is in a pattern of above normal temperatures and below normal rainfall similar to that of the 1950s. Expect another year of this. Janie said the “real killer was low humidity, wind and high night temperatures”.

So what to do! Get water deep! When planting, water after backfilling the hole halfway, finish backfilling, then water again before mulching. Use a long screwdriver to check soil moisture levels. Trees want water, but not to drown. Do not plant in the summer. Most important, select the right tree for your soil type, ph, and wetness.

Signs of stress are wilt followed by leaf roll and/or scorch, leaf loss, then dieback. Arborvitae is our indicator for drought – when it starts to droop, get out the hoses. Trees will have less vegetative growth, less cold hardiness, more flowering, flowering at the wrong time, more fall color, and sustain summer and winter injury.

What's ahead? Janie says U.S. weather is under a moderate El Nino which suggests a regular winter. Other meteorologists are concerned about a quick increase in ice and snowfall over Siberia which could mean the same winter as last year. Let's hope for the first prediction!

Many members had questions and concerns about their trees, ranging from how to handle deer damage to problems with ash trees and wild pears. Thanks Janie for an informative and entertaining afternoon.

## Some interesting and informative web sites cited by Janie Bedwell.

**United States Drought Monitor** - <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Maps show drought conditions across the United States. A summary section gives precipitation amounts and temperatures over the last seven days. Another section gives the outlook for the next seven days. The site is updated once a week.

**NASA and NOAA Satellite Plant Stress Maps** - <http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/plant-stress.html>

Scientists with the US Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service have developed a way to use satellite data to map plant stress from low soil moisture levels. Hotter plants imply limited moisture. Plant stress information might improve existing forecasts that predict drought conditions before crops actually start to wilt.

**University of Connecticut Plant Database** - [www.hort.uconn.edu/](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/)

This data base contains the attributes, appropriate use and identification of landscape plants.

**University of Florida Horticultural Sciences** – [www.hort.ufl.edu](http://www.hort.ufl.edu)

This is an extensive database of tree, shrub and plant information.

## Kudos to Terry Metzler!

In the October issue of *This Old House* magazine is an article by Terry describing her and husband Steve's "yard redo" project.

Starting with "a dustbowl on a hill", they completely landscaped their half-acre yard. The centerpiece is a 2,500 gallon pond with a waterfall and streams that cascade down that hill. To achieve this, the two of them moved more than 8 tons of river rock uphill!



*Photo of koi pond taken by Terry Metzler*

While the pond and its colorful koi might be the dominate feature, the rest of the yard is a delight to the eye. Terry has a collection of about 250 hostas. Besides being nestled amongst the pond rocks, many fill the shade border around the grassy yard to the right in the picture above. Interesting conifers, ferns, large heuchera, grasses, and other companions compliment the hostas in her shade border. Daylilies and roses add color to sunnier sites.

Best news of all – The Metzlers will be a tour garden during our 2016 convention!

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBER!**

**Frieda Wiese of St. Charles, MO**

**We hope that you all join us at Holiday Party. This is the perfect time to get to know your fellow members. Even better have supper with us at our annual Board meeting In November.**

### **To clean or not to clean, that is the question!**

Following up on Phyllis' Tip of the Month is this timely article by Mary Chastain originator of the Lakeside line of quality hostas. This article was reprinted from the Central Illinois Hosta Society September 2014 newsletter.

Fall clean up time is just around the corner. Lately I have read articles dealing with how we should leave our hosta gardens for the winter. As in life there is no perfect way that can meet the needs of all. Some articles have been emphatic in the fact that leaving leaves on the garden is the thing to do. I agree with the idea that leaves offer protection for the plants during the winter months and that they also provide nutrients for the soil. They help keep the ground cool in the spring so that hostas are not as likely to emerge too early. This is good and I concur with those things. Other articles have dismissed this fact saying that it is better to remove all of the weeds and old foliage from the garden in the fall. At this time I wish to say, leaves may hold excessive moisture as well as fungi, both of which can be harmful to your hostas. The leaf cover provides space for a well-run hatchery for the proliferation of slugs. Leaving old plant foliage contributes to the spread of fungi and disease that may be present.

My proclamation is that what works for one is not necessarily for the good of all. If you live in a vole infested area letting the leaves remain on the garden will just about guarantee your loss of hostas over the winter. Voles prefer to move and work in a protected environment. They believe that this wonderful blanket of leaves was created just for them. Under this cover they build a network of freeways which takes them from the banquet table of your hostas to the playground where they invite their family, friends and neighbors to come enjoy the buffet. They laughingly announce that there is plenty for all.

Cleaning the garden of weeds, old foliage and leaves in the fall reduces the chance of spreading disease. It also lowers the risk of vole destruction. It eliminates many of the hiding places for voles and slugs. A clean surface allows for the early spring treatment for slugs and provides easier access for fertilizer. Keeping the slug population low during fall and winter eases your battle for control during the growing season. Removing diseased materials lowers your risk of incurring trouble next year. For example consider the possibility of leaving plants and mulch contaminated with the fungus that causes southern blight. How much more likely you are to be plagued with it the following season.

Once the garden is clean and ready for winter, a thin layer of clean new pine needles can be spread to offer some winter protection and diminish the washing of your soil. A thin cover of pine needles allows air to circulate over the ground. Though they offer some shade protection for your plants they are open enough to discourage the construction of vole freeways.

Now that we have weighed the pros and cons you must balance the scales to meet the situation in your garden. Will the value of leaves in your garden outweigh the disadvantages that they may offer?

## All Season Hostas

### What still looks good in the middle of October?

Red, yellow and brown leaves covered the beds in my garden. October was in full swing. Time to get out, rake, and say goodbye to my favorite plants. As I walked about I noticed a number that were still not ready to say goodbye to me.

'Touch of Class' still retains its blue tones, looking much as it did in May. Thick tri-colored leaves thwarted slugs and cutworms alike. 'Tom Schmid' and 'Regal Splendor', similar appearing plants, remain upright with their margins intact. Regal is a good description for both. Bringing brightness and joy to the top of a berm is 'Diva'. Being under an Oak tree canopy results in mechanical damage, but thick golden leaves resist pests. In contrast, 'Twilight Time' has leaves that become bluer and much darker as the season progresses – striking positioned next to 'Diva'. One of my favorites, 'Rainbow's End' was still putting on a show. It has incredibly variegated shiny foliage. Perhaps due to its place under a Kousa Dogwood, its center does not brighten to white.

At the Missouri Botanical Garden, 'Corkscrew' and 'Stiletto' were still blooming. Miraculously, slugs and worms had not attacked their leaves. Two others, 'Mojito' and 'Love Pat' appeared flawless. Each had retained most of their spring coloring.

Spence Sorenson praised 'Sagae'. With good reason! This large, vase-shaped, variegated hosta with blue-green leaves is # 1 on the AHS Popularity poll.

Phyllis and Jim Weidman mentioned 'Rainforest Sunrise' and 'Paradise Joyce' as having great staying power. Jim stated anything with 'Halcyon' parentage was good. Looking at this list he is right as many can be traced back to 'Halcyon'.

Pat Payton said many of hers were doing well this year, especially 'Yellow River', 'Earth Angel', 'Unforgettable', 'June' and Mary Chastain's beautiful 'Lakeside Paisley Print'.

Most of these favorites have enough substance to resist pests such as slugs and cutworms. Their edges remain strong even with some sun. While their color might change it does not fade or melt out.

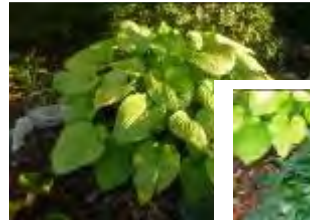
What's looking good in your garden today?



H. 'Touch of Class'



H. 'Tom Schmid'



H. 'Diva'



H. 'Twilight Time'



H. 'Rainbow's End' leaf



H. 'Corkscrew'



H. 'Mojito'



H. 'Rainforest Sunrise'

[wimastergardener.org](http://wimastergardener.org)



H. 'Paradise Joyce'

[//forums.gardenweb.com](http://forums.gardenweb.com)



H. 'Lakeside Paisley Print'

[//perennialnursery.com](http://perennialnursery.com)

**MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY  
2015 WINTER SCIENTIFIC MEETING REGISTRATION FORM**

**Sat., January 17, 2015 Northern Illinois University Conference Center, Naperville, IL and Hilton, Lisle, IL**

Hospitality will be on Friday and Saturday Night at the Hilton. Hilton Room rate is \$79.00 per night (Friday and Saturday night), see at bottom for details. Deadline for reservations is 12/26/2014.

Check in Fri. afternoon at the Hilton, from 3 to 5 PM and Sat. morning at the NIU Conference Center from 7 to 8 AM.

The Winter Scientific meeting will be held at the NIU Conference Center, just a few blocks from the Hilton. Directions will be provided at check in. Continental breakfast will be at NIU from 7:30 to 10:30 AM. The Meeting will be from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM-no food in meeting rooms.

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.** Fill out registration form completely.

Make a copy of this registration form for your records. Confirmations will be done by email.

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 MRHS?  
 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 MRHS?  
 YES  NO

**Registrations postmarked after January 10, 2015 require a \$10 late registration fee per person. Cancellations before January 3, 2015 will be sent a full refund. We will be unable to issue refunds after January 3, 2015.**

Number of members \_\_\_\_\_ X \$60= \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of non-members \_\_\_\_\_ X \$70= \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of late registrations \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10= \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO MRHS**

Mail your registration and check to:

Barbara Schroeder, MRHS Treasurer 1819 Coventry Dr. Champaign, IL 61822

Questions about registration? Contact Barbara at MRHS.HOSTA@gmail.com or phone: 217-369-0927

NIU Naperville Conference Center, 1120 East Diehl Rd, Naperville, IL 60563

Hilton Lisle/Naperville, 3003 Corporate West Drive, Lisle, Illinois, 60532, TEL: 1-830-505-0900 (Group Code CMHS or Midwest Hosta Society Winter Meeting)



## St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

**Phyllis Weidman** – President  
314-965-7027  
[Pow1031@gmail.com](mailto:Pow1031@gmail.com)

Secretary  
Position open

**Sharon and Mike Schmitt** – Hospitality  
314-719-9305  
[Sharons39@aol.com](mailto:Sharons39@aol.com)

**Dave Poos** – Vice-President  
314-821-1622  
[david.poos@att.net](mailto:david.poos@att.net)

**Cindy Michniok** – Treasurer  
314-434-0946  
[Cmichniok@gmail.com](mailto:Cmichniok@gmail.com)

**Melissa Byrd** – Webmaster  
[mabyrd68@gmail.com](mailto:mabyrd68@gmail.com)

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

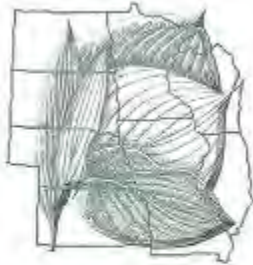
## St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

**Contact:** Cindy Michniok  
14300 Quiet Meadow Ct.  
Chesterfield, MO 63017  
[Cmichniok@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.stlouishosta.org)



### 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/>