



Show Me Hostas Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 2

March, 2008

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Counting the days until spring and counting the remaining items on my winter to-do list; both are coming along slowly. Well, we are off to a good start for the year. We have a lot of momentum and great ideas from our officers and a good solid plan for the future of the society. Speaking of plans, now is the time to plan to dig, divide and donate plants for our club auction (July 27), MO Bot plant sale (May 3) and the national convention auction (June 12). As I said during our potluck meeting, spring is a great time to divide out a few eyes from your hostas. Look at your clumps just as they emerge and I'm sure you will find a few eyes just outside of the clump. Simply take a sharp knife and make a pie shaped cut straight down to free a few eyes from the clump. Removing an eye or two will not be noticeable at all once the leaves emerge. You may improve the growth and vigor of older clumps with this method. I have also simply dug up the entire clump, divided it into four or more pieces, put one piece back into the hole with some rich compost, and potted up the rest. Your hostas will thank you.



We need more folks willing to open their gardens for our evening walks. Last year they were a blast! Drinking, eating, telling lies, what could be better? It's a come-as-you-are event, and that goes for your garden as well. Maybe you are in mid-construction, even better. We all like to see the before and after views. This is If you're not sure which plant is right for each event, no worries – let us decide. We need all we can get! Potted, labeled plants can be dropped off Friday evening, May 2 at the Missouri Botanical Garden or sooner at any board member's home. Please contact Pat Payton at 314-962-7456 or ppayton@swbell.net for more info or to volunteer a couple of hours at the sale.

It has also come to my attention that a few people have not paid their dues. If you suddenly stop getting our e-mails and newsletters that means we are talking about you. Just kidding. Our membership dues are very inexpensive and really just cover the cost of mailings, printings and the meeting room rentals. Our largest expenditures are covered by the proceeds from our sales and auctions.

I also mentioned at the potluck meeting the need to have some new faces in our society as well as more sets of hands helping out. Don't be bashful, tell us what you're good at, tell us how much time you have to offer, simply speak up because we need you! We also need you to spread the word about the society to help grow our membership. We will soon have a membership brochure that we would like everyone to keep on hand ready to post on your local nursery bulletin board and give to your friends. You never know, you might have someone just down the street that has the same sickness as the rest of us.

Lastly, going to be "Great 08"! I think we can feel it as we anticipate the warmer weather. Get out there, get dirty, wake up those muscles and have fun. See you all in March!

Jeff Hall

Calling All Gardens

The club garden tours this year will be in conjunction with the open gardens on the Sunday after the national convention (June 15). We are looking for anyone who is interested in having their garden open to our club and out-of-town convention attendees as they depart St. Louis. Please contact me as soon as possible so that we can add you to the list. Most gardens will be open from 8am to 4pm, but you may specify any hours that work with your schedule. Please call, e-mail, or snail mail me your brief garden description, driving directions, and any other important information no later than April 1, 2008. My contact info is on the back of every newsletter. A flyer listing the open gardens will be inserted into the info packet for the national convention attendees and will also be mailed/e-mailed to the paid members of the society.

Thanks for your "hostality"! We look forward to visiting your garden!

Jeff Hall

2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 9	Meeting and Guest speaker Van Spurgeon
April 13	Vendor Day and distribution of Club plants
May 3	MBG plant sale with Horticultural Club
June 11-14	Show Time! AHS National Convention in St. Louis
July 10-12	Midwest Regional Hosta Convention
July 27	Member plant auction
September 21	Meeting and Guest speaker
October 12	Meeting, program to be announced
November/December	Holiday Party – date and location to be announced

Don't forget, it's time to renew

If the date on your address label is '07' or earlier, your membership has expired! If you receive the newsletter by e-mail, at the next meeting check the [Member List](#) to verify your dues are paid.

March 9, 2008 MEETING

1:00 PM. at Creve Coeur Government Center



Van Spurgeon

Does your landscape design lack pizzazz?

Does your garden bed need a facelift?

Does your yard reflect your style and personality?

On March 9, Master Gardener Van Spurgeon will explain the steps needed to develop a comprehensive and personalized design for our garden beds. Topics covered will include the types of information you need to gather, the various phases in creating working plans, preparing a timeline, cost considerations and how to ensure a unity in your design.

Mr. Spurgeon is an educator, entrepreneur, businessman and 10 year volunteer with the Missouri Botanical Garden. He is currently chairperson for the Garden's Speakers Bureau. Mr. Spurgeon is also a Landscape Garden Advisor for the Shriners Hospital for Children and is a volunteer with the Flora Conservancy of Forest Park. The latter organization provides horticultural services that include everything from seed collecting to planting and maintaining the flower beds throughout Forest Park.

Spring is fast approaching. Join us on March 9 and take home new ideas that you can incorporate into your own yard.



HELP WANTED – AUDITOR

Your Society desperately needs someone with an accounting background to audit the SLHS books for 2007. To simplify the process, we now have written procedures on what should be done. But now we need someone to review the SLHS checkbook and the corresponding files. Your help will be appreciated

If you would be interested in assisting your Society, please contact Jeff Hall at skyridgegarden@earthlink.net or (314) 845-1551.



Chefs Rick and Joan Clarkson



Soups On!

**Rick's Chicken Tortilla Soup
Tasty and easy too!**

1 can cream of chicken soup
1 can fiesta nacho cheese soup
1 can green enchilada sauce
1 can pepper jack cheese soup
Several cans of milk
Tortilla chips (for topping)
Cooked chicken meat (1-2 lbs.)
Chicken broth (1 qt.)

In saucepan, heat chicken broth. Add soups and milk; heat, on low, adding chicken and enchilada sauce last. Extra cheese can be added to thicken. Put crushed tortilla chips on top of soup. You can garnish with sour cream if you like.

Good Friends, Good Food A New Season Begins

Laden with pots of steaming soup, Joan and Rick Clarkson, hospitality chairs, arrived to start the party. The table, adorned with vases of pink tulips, was soon covered with a variety of foods – plates piled high with chicken, ham and crab salad sandwiches – bowls of coleslaws and potato salads – more bowls of lettuce, spinach and broccoli salads. The dessert table featured enough cookies and cakes to satisfy every sweet tooth.

Between bites, friends caught up on the doings of other members. Talk of the comings and goings of children and grandchildren, remembrances of the holidays past and hopes that Mother Nature would be friendlier this spring filled the room. Members discussed their club plant selections, comparing their choices with those of friends.

Our appetite for an early hosta summer was whetted by Kelly Hall's slide show featuring her pictures taken of gardens on display during the National Hosta Convention in Indianapolis and the Midwest Regional Convention in Davenport, Iowa. Kelly's shows are a delight – fabulous pictures synchronized with music.

A business meeting and convention presentation followed. (See article "Meet me in St. Louis".) Jeff talked about club goals for the coming year and Pam Wolkowitz, our new vice-president, solicited ideas about types of speakers, events and presentations the members would like scheduled for the coming year. Pam had some great suggestions – it's going to be an exciting year.

MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS

June 11 – 14, 2008



As members digested all the delicious food brought to the club's February 10 Pot Luck, Phyllis and Jim Weidman presented their 2008 National Hosta Convention publicity skit. Dressed in period costumes, Phyllis and Jim took us on a verbal and visual tour of St. Louis neighborhoods, entertainment attractions and cultural venues. A short video meshed pictures of our convention gardens with all the wonderful sights and sounds of St. Louis.

The energetic Weidmans have visited numerous hosta clubs and gardening events in St. Louis and in the states surrounding Missouri. Our ambassadors have spent a great amount of time publicizing our event. As a result almost fifty people have sent in reservations and it's only February.

**IT'S GOING TO BE A BIG PARTY!
GET INVOLVED!
ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY!
BE PART OF THE NATIONAL SCENE**

Call or e-mail

Nancy Tempel (314-521-2171, awtempnt@mac.com)

Pat Payton (314-962-7456, ppayton@swbell.net)

Joan Clarkson (618-462-2540, hostaluv92@yahoo.com)

to be part of the excitement. You're needed, volunteer today!

COMPANION CORNER

What's a gardener to do when the poinsettia drops all its leaves and the philodendron begins to look ho-hum? I pulled on my snow boots and trudged down the garden path in search of the harbinger of spring in our garden. There it is – not quite in bloom, but soon. Hellebores, commonly known as Christmas or Lenten Rose, are the stars of the late winter garden.



Hellebores in snow
'Royal Heritage' strain

This 2005 'Perennial Plant of the Year' sports open-wide, colorful flowers held high above thick, shiny-green toothed foliage. Most of the new hybrids are crosses of *Helleborus orientalis* which are now available in a vast range of colors from blushing pinks and dusty roses to smoky purples. The *helleorus* 'Brandywine' strain displays unusual color combinations which include bicolor, freckled and picoteed forms in ivories, yellows, greens and apricot. *Helleorus* 'Silver Lace' features pewter-silver leaves, instead of green, with 20 inch tall clumps of green flower while the 'Heronswood Yellow' series boasts yellow-flowered forms each highlighted with red blotches. **'Plant's Delight Nursery'** offers several double-flowered strains.

Hellebores are easy to grow in a variety of soils, although well-drained organic soils are preferred. They thrive in lightly-shaded areas under deciduous trees – maybe next to your favorite hostas. They are deep-rooted, stout plants which become amazingly drought-tolerant with age. Ours happily reside under a redbud and various oaks.

Hellebores are a 'made for St. Louis' plant – highly resistant to heat, humidity, cold and drought and, best of all, **left alone by rabbits and deer.**

Gaining in popularity during the last decade, a variety of species and hybrids are now available in local nurseries as well as catalogues such as **'Wayside Gardens'**, **'Plant's Delight Nursery'** and **'Klehm's Song Sparrow Nursery'**. Visit www.hellebores.org for more information on this great hosta companion plant. Discover how to grow this plant from seed and how to propagate it; learn more about the various species and view pictures of newer hybrids.

A bit of St. Louis Hosta Society history

It all began with a small group of hosta enthusiasts ... and they're still hosta enthusiasts. Their idea was to form a consortium to buy and trade the latest hostas that were not commonly available at that time. They would pool their source information and increase their buying power.

The organizational meeting of the St. Louis Hosta Society was held on December 11, 1992 at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Official meetings began in 1993 with events which included a May garden tour of the Cookson and Shanker gardens followed by an auction. Members brought lawn chairs, folding tables, a bag lunch and a minimum of three hosta or companion plants for the auction. \$200 was raised to fund upcoming club activities. The first officers were President and Newsletter Editor - Brad Shanker, Vice-president – Duane Cookson, Treasurer - Joan Hummel, Membership – Arlie Tempel and Board member at large – Bruce Buehrig.

The club soon grew in popularity. A pot luck lunch was added to the agenda in 1993 and is still the most popular event on the calendar. By 1995 tours of local gardens were a mainstay, but trips to out of town nurseries and the hosta regional and national conventions were included. Well known speakers were scheduled, paid for by the well attended auctions.

Many of the original officers and members were in attendance at the 2008 Pot Luck lunch. They are still active in our society, still sharing their gardening expertise, still displaying the same enthusiasm.



Left to right

Duane Cookson
Craig Plahn
Diana Plahn
Arlie Tempel
Nancy Tempel
Joan Hummel
Bruce Buehrig

Still a member, but missing from the photo, is Brad Shanker, the club's first president.

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

Jeff Hall - President

314-845-1551

skyridgegarden@earthlink.net

Pam Wolkowitz - Vice-President

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Dave Poos - Treasurer

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Joan Hummel - Secretary

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314-965-7027

jpweidman@sbcglobal.net

Rick Clarkson - Hospitality

618-462-2540

hostaluv92@yahoo.com

Membership Information

The American Hosta Society

Contact: Sandie Markland
8702 Pinnacle Rock Ct.
Lorton, VA 22079-3029

AHSMembershipSecretary@earthlink.net

Dues: Individual \$30 per year, Family \$34 per year

Midwest Regional Hosta Society

Contact: Pete Postlewaite
21172 Andover Road
Kildeer, IL 60047

mrhs.treasurer@midwesthostasociety.org

Dues: Individual \$20 for two years

St. Louis Hosta Society

Contact: Dave Poos
9904 Crestwood Drive
Crestwood, MO 63126

dpoos@juno.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

Other Hosta and Garden Web Sites

American Hosta Society – <http://www.hosta.org/>

Midwest Hosta Society – <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org>

Hosta Library – <http://www.hostalibrary.org>

Hosta Forum – questions/answers – <http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/hosta/>

Mini Hosta forum – <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/minihosta>