



Volume 18, Issue 2

March, 2017



**President Diana Plahn**

## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

It looks like we will have an early spring this year, so remember to divide some of your hostas for the MOBOT plant sale, which is Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. You can bring your potted hostas for the sale either during setup on Friday night, or early Saturday morning of the sale before it opens. Phyllis Weidman is in charge of this and also the workday at the garden, which is April 29<sup>th</sup> from 8 to about noon. If you have any questions please give her a call.

We had a wonderful potluck at the last meeting and went over some of the budget for 2017. The members voted to continue with a Christmas party/reception at a member's house instead of a Christmas banquet because of cost and the fact that the members enjoyed it. We need a volunteer for the location.

Our Members Plant Auction needs a chairman. The auction is planned for July 16<sup>th</sup>, however without a chairman, can we still hold the event? We need a volunteer for this. Duties include: putting plastic on tables, arranging plants, getting an auctioneer, arranging for volunteers to look up prices. The treasurer will collect the money. I will bring the plastic for the tables and help, but we still need a chair.

April 30<sup>th</sup> is Vendor Day. Marian Murphy is chairing this event. If you can help in any way please contact her.

Ted Piekutowski, chair of the club plant sale, extended the dead line for orders till April 15<sup>th</sup>, so please get your plant orders in to Ted as soon as you can.

Our speaker for our March meeting is Simon Warren. He is from the Botanical Garden and will be talking about how to set up a composting pile. A very useful thing to do. Hopefully, we can all learn something new or just learn the right way to compost.

See you at the next meeting!

*Diana*

## 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 19** Meeting with speaker Simon Warren  
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- April 29** Work Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden  
8 AM, Missouri Botanical Garden, AHS Display Garden beds
- April 30** Vendor Day and Club Plant Pick-up  
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- May 5-6** Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden  
Setup May 5, 4:00 PM – we are done  
Sale May 6, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Missouri Botanical Garden
- May 21** Garden Walk/Meeting  
1:00 PM, Home of President Diana Plahn
- June 7-10** AHS National Convention  
Indianapolis, IN
- June 18** Garden Walk/Meeting  
1:00 PM, Location TBA
- June 22-24** MRHS Regional Convention  
Lenexa, Kansas (Kansas City area)
- July 16** Members Plant Auction  
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- September 17** Meeting with Speaker TBA  
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- October 15** Meeting with Speaker TBA  
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- November 12** Board Meeting  
TBA
- December 3** Holiday Party  
TBA – Party at a member's home



## **March 19 Meeting**

**1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center**

**Simon Warren**

**Education Coordinator for the EarthWays Center  
Missouri Botanical Garden**

While the Garden is a botanical institution focusing on plants themselves, the EarthWays Center is concerned with what botanical researchers agree is the greatest threat to plants and the environment: people. Glenda Abney, the Center's director, states that their "focus is helping people understand how their behavior impacts plants, and in turn, how it affects the entire environment. We promote sustainability through environmental education and improving the built environment. By educating people about our dependence on plants and the natural resources that support plant communities, we are teaching adults and youth to value and protect the things that sustain our families and communities."

Simon Warren is the Education and Volunteer Coordinator for the EarthWays Center. A native New Yorker, Simon earned his bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Yale. Prior to relocating in St. Louis, Simon helped to prepare the City of New Orleans' greenhouse gas inventory and worked with biogas projects in Yunnan province in the People's Republic of China, conducted research to identify risks to the use and supply of metals, and was an 8<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher in Memphis Tennessee.

Come to the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting and learn more about this expanding division of the Missouri Botanical Garden and how we can become better stewards of our land through recycling and composting.

## **2017 Membership Dues Are Payable Now**

**If you receive the newsletter by postal mail, check the two-digit number appearing after your name on the address label of this newsletter. Your membership dues are paid through the end of the year appearing after your name. For example, if '16' appears after your name, your dues are paid through the 2016 year and are now payable for 2017.**

**If you receive the newsletter by e-mail, check the attachment for a list of all members and the year through which their dues are paid. For example, if '16' appears after your name in the attachment list, your dues are paid through the 2016 year and are now payable for 2017.**

**Dues are \$7 annually (individual or family) or \$18 for three years. Make checks payable to SLHS (St. Louis Hosta Society) and bring to the next meeting or send to:**

**Melissa Byrd  
117 Gunston Hall Drive  
St. Charles, MO 63304**

# St. Louis Hosta Society Club Plants

**Deadline extended to April 15.**

Every year the St. Louis Hosta Society Club Plant Sale chairperson compiles a list of plants that can be purchased by members at wholesale prices. A small charge is added to the price to cover shipping or pickup costs. This is one of the perks of belonging to this society.

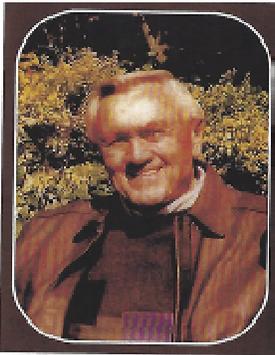
Enclosed at the end of this newsletter is the SLHS Club Plant Sale order form for 2017 and the hostas' pictures. Listed are fifteen selections from Rob Mortko's Made in the Shade Nursery. The selections include something for everyone – mini, small, medium, large and giant in combinations of green, blue and gold. If you are a postal newsletter recipient, the pictures will be at the March meeting or you can look them up at <http://www.hostaguy.com> or <http://www.hostalibrary.org>

Some plants are limited in number. Your requests will be filled in the order in which Ted receives your forms. Please fill out the form indicating the number of plants of each type that you wish to order. Total your order. Then bring the form with your money to the March meeting. **Make your check out to St. Louis Hosta Society.**

If you are unable to attend the meeting, mail the form with your check to our plant sale chairman Ted Piekutowski

**Ted Piekutowski  
1269 Brenthaven Lane  
Florissant, MO 63031**

**This year all plants will be given out at the April 30 Vendor's Day.**



*Dr. Paul A. Bonstead, D.D.S.*

## **Dr. Paul Bonstead July 19, 1938 – August 2, 2016**

It is with deep sadness that I report the death of former St. Louis Hosta Society member Dr. Paul Bonstead. Dr. Paul died only a few months after he and his wife Laj' moved to Florida last spring.

Born on an Iowa farm, Dr. Paul spent his adult life as a dentist. Besides his practice, he did charity dental work to over 230 gospel singers and many circus performers. For 22 years he traveled to third world countries to volunteer his dental skills.

His family stated that "Paul's home and garden were a reflection of his admiration for the beauty and the power of Mother Nature. It fulfilled his farm boy need to watch things grow. His love for hostas was true, as he planted over 600 and knew many by their real names. It gave him such joy!" Dr. Paul and Laj' opened their garden, named "Victory" after the large silver winged horse that dominated one hillside, to our membership on several occasions.

A memorial service will be held in St. Charles, MO in the spring.

The St. Louis Hosta Society extends sincere sympathy to Laj', his children Joshua, Matthew and Sarah and to all Dr. Paul's family.

## February Pot Luck Luncheon



What a delicious way to start the gardening season! Chairwoman Karen Frey created a sweet and inviting atmosphere with her red and white Valentine table coverings and centerpieces. Several members left with Heresy Kiss flowers skillfully crafted by Karen. Mary Jones was the lucky winner of a lovely red rose bouquet.

Members dined on deli sandwiches and a colorful assortment of side dishes prepared by their fellow hostaholics. There was a bright green spinach salad, a broccoli salad mixed with bits of bacon and raisins, pasta

with colorful cherry tomatoes and peppers, a zesty cornbread, meatballs, fresh green beans and ham. The list goes on and on. Let's not forget that dessert table teeming with enough kinds of cake to satisfy every sweet tooth.

Members enjoyed good food and the chance to be out with people who share their passions. It was a time to reminisce about the past summer, catch up on current doings and dream about the hostas about to wake from their winter sleep.



Duane and Marian



Mary Jones and her red rose bouquet.

**Thank You Karen! Great Event!**



The lunch line forms.



Catherine, Ted, Jolly Ann, Mary, Susan, Jan and Spence



Frieda, Barb, Carolyn, Nancy, Phyllis and Janelle



Mike and Sharon Schmitt

## It's March! Spring is just a thought away.

Soon your hostas will be breaking soil and unfurling their leaves. We as gardeners will then begin the spring ritual of holding our breaths and crossing our fingers whenever the weather man forecasts 'HAIL'. It's appropriate to feature the following article, written by our own Jim Weidman, which appeared in the 2016 second issue of *The Hosta Journal*. (Vol 47 No 2)

### A Disaster? Or, An Educational Moment?

By Jim Weidman Kirkwood, Missouri

Saturday, April 30, 2016, began as a beautiful day. In fact, the garden was looking the best it ever had, so Phyllis and I took pictures. We each had events we needed to attend that afternoon, but we arrived home about the same time – 5:00 pm. As it became increasingly dark, we stood at the kitchen door looking out over our deck and garden. It started to hail about nickel-sized hail, and it continued—just hail—for at least five minutes (or, an eternity in our minds). When it is just hail, it is amazing how fast it can accumulate. The whole property was covered in hail and in some places it was a foot deep.

We took a deep breath, poured a couple drinks, and surveyed the results. Litter was everywhere. Every piece of vegetation was affected, but it was interesting to observe what was least affected. Our many Japanese acers, conifers, peonies, and narrow leaved hostas, grasses, and pulmonarias would be all right. Hostas, larger than narrowed leaved minis, were a disaster. The large stately hostas like H. 'Liberty', H. 'Victory', H. 'Empress Wu', H. 'Viking Ship', H 'World Cup', and H. 'Eola Sapphire' were full of holes or shredded. Thousands of petioles were broken. Many of the mid-sized hostas such as H. 'Strawberry Banana Smoothie' and H. 'Lakeside Mom' were flattened.

What to do? We could not imagine how we could stay on the 2016 AHS Convention Tour, which was exactly 7 weeks (49 days) away. Our first decision was to make a couple telephone calls:

"Don, we just had a major hail storm. There is no way we can still be one of the gardens on tour at the AHS Convention!"

"Rob, we just had a major hail storm. There is no way we can still be one of the gardens on tour at the AHS Convention!"

Yes, we called the President of the American Hosta Society and the Executive Vice President in charge of Conventions. Phyllis and I were in tears, and, you guessed it, they had no sympathy. As if it had been rehearsed, each responded, "Everybody who raises hostas knows what hail can do. They will understand. Make it an educational experience." Everybody understands hail. That is what they all say, BUT this is us.

As a result, we decided to stay on the tour and do the best we could. Did we have a choice? We did receive sage advice from Don and Rob. We also consulted Bob Olson's great article, *Hostas in Shambles*, from a 2009 *Hosta Journal*. Do we cut them to the ground? Do we keep as much of each hosta as possible? We chose the latter knowing that there would still be holes for the tour, but we would preserve the integrity and the size that we knew we wanted and we thought the visitors to our garden would want. We also did not want the potential of smaller hostas the rest of the season and the following year.

Per Don's advice, we began by cutting off all the broken petioles. Our good friends, Joan and Dave Poos, arrived the next day to help. They agreed it was bad, but they cheered us up with a gift of H. 'Purple Heart'. By the end of the day, we had filled seven large recycle bags of just broken petioles. To keep this in perspective, our garden is not large, including approximately 375 cultivars. We also did the following:

- Began foliar feeding immediately with MiracleGro Tomato Plant Food and continued every two weeks
- Watered the hostas well
- Sprayed Bayer Advanced Disease Control Fungicide on May 6<sup>th</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Sprayed Bayer Advanced Multi-Insect Killer on May 6<sup>th</sup>
- Made sure Sluggo Plus was around each hosta
- Made an alfalfa tea—4 cups of alfalfa and one cup of Epsom Salts to five gallons of water; let it stand for four days; and put it around each hosta
- Spread three, five-gallon containers of coffee grounds throughout the garden

The goal was to apply all disease and insect preventatives and supply all the nutrients possible without doing too much. We continued with selective pruning until the day of the tour. We made signs and photos of hail and hostas before and after and then, of course, complained to everyone who came through the garden, each of whom said, "We all know about hail".

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, the bottom line was that the minis and almost all of the mid-sized hostas looked great. The large and extra-large still showed results of the hail storm but maintained their size and stature. One of the stars was H. 'So Sweet', AHGA's first winner of Hosta of the Year in 1996. It went from gorgeous to disastrous to gorgeous in seven weeks. In August, as this article is written, it is as large, or larger, than ever and ready to bloom.

It was seven weeks of hard work, none of which was on our original "to do" list, but, yes, Don and Rob, it was worth it, and it was educational as well.



**Flattened and shredded**



**Not just the hostas!**



**H. 'Paul's Glory' before the storm.**



**H. 'Paul's Glory'**

**After hail storm**



**Six weeks later**



**Imagine a long weekend in June -  
strolling through beautiful hosta gardens,  
hobnobbing with new friends who share your passion.  
broadening your knowledge about growing and landscaping with hostas**

This is the perfect year. Both the Midwest Regional Hosta Society and the American Hosta Society conventions are within easy driving distance of St. Louis. AHS kicks off its national convention in Indianapolis, Indiana June 7-10. Two weeks later, June 22-24, MRHS welcomes attendees to Lenexa Kansas. This is a southwest suburb of Kansas City. In four hours, you can experience "Hosta Hysteria" or follow the yellow brick road to the "Land of Ahhhs".

Several of our society members are making plans to attend one or the other (or both) of these events. Having just hosted an AHS convention, St. Louis is ready to kick back and let others cater to our every whim. The gardens will be superb, the seminars informative, the keynote speakers entertaining and the people gracious. Give it a thought.

Rob Mortko, co-chairman of the MRHS Convention, just sent an email blast announcing an Early Bird Bonus for everyone who registers for the KC convention by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

"Register by April 1st and receive a free copy of ***Untangled - Straight Talk from Passionate Gardeners*** (\$19.50 value), a recently published book by our hosting Johnson County K-State and Extension Master Gardeners. ***Untangled*** is a spiral-bound, 106-page collection of gardening tips, stories and secrets that will appeal to both novice and well-seasoned gardeners alike."

Rob who owns Made in the Shade Nursery, will be here in April for our Vendors Day event. If you are undecided about attending, talk with Rob. He will give you dozens of reasons why you shouldn't miss these opportunities.

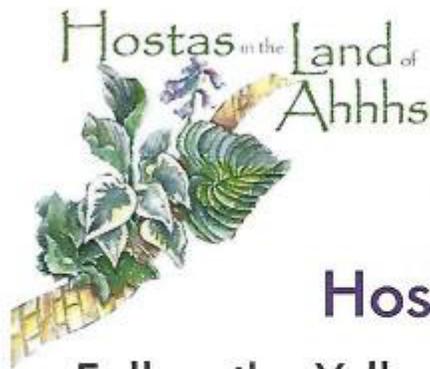
## 2017 AHS Convention: "Hosta Hysteria"



The American Hosta Society's 2017 convention, "Hosta Hysteria, is to be held Wednesday through Saturday, June 7 - 10 2017, in Indianapolis, Indiana, hosted by the Indianapolis Hosta Society.

The meeting is scheduled for the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel.

Details are published on the society's website, [www.indyhosta2017.com](http://www.indyhosta2017.com).



June 22-24, 2017  
Lenexa, Kansas

Members  
& Public  
Welcome!

## Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention

Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Kansas City

- 3 Fun Days of Activities
- 2 Host Cities : Topeka & Kansas City (Johnson County, KS)

### Your 3-Day Registration includes:

- **Educational Events:**  
**Thursday, June 22** – Two parallel tracks, six sessions featuring regional and local speakers; plus two highly acclaimed (and entertaining) dinner speakers (Thursday & Saturday).
- **Once-in-a-Lifetime Garden Tours – 9 in All:**  
**Friday, June 23 – Topeka**  
Two exceptional private estate gardens, plus Topeka's historic Ward-Meade Park Botanical Garden located on the Oregon Trail.  
**Saturday, June 24 – Johnson County, KS**  
Visit four can't-miss private gardens (one with a Japanese hosta taste-test), plus two prized demonstration gardens designed and maintained by the Johnson County Extension Master Gardeners (includes visit to the Overland Park Arboretum.)
- **Exclusive Sneak Peek:** Go behind the scenes in one of the Midwest's few hosta tissue culture labs. See "Hot Hostas of Tomorrow" before they go to market.
- **Free Convention Hosta:** Take home a free specimen of this year's exclusive 2017 Convention Hosta – not available anywhere else.
- **Hosta Leaf Show:** Back by popular demand! This American Hosta Society accredited competition showcases hundreds of hosta leaf specimens vying for Best of Show.
- **Other Must-Attend Convention Events:**  
**The Marketplace** where you can buy hard-to-find hostas, shade perennials, decorative hand painted concrete hosta leaves, fairy garden accessories and more.  
Also plan to attend the **Convention Auction** – always filled with surprises.  
And don't miss the opportunity to visit the area's many world-class **Nurseries** and **Garden Centers**.

Hosted by: Johnson County K-State  
Research and Extension Master Gardeners  
Sponsored by: Midwest Regional Hosta Society

Questions? Call 913-715-7000

For more information visit [2017kchostaconvention.com](http://2017kchostaconvention.com)

# SLHS Club Plant Sale – 2017



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Description</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<b>American Gothic</b> <Large (27"ht x 52"w)> (Russ O'Hara Hosta Society 2008) The 2010 MRHS Convention plant, this hosta has blue-green leaves with a showy wide creamy white margin. Thick substance. Moderate corrugation. .... <b>\$14.50</b>	_____	_____
<b>Angel Falls</b> <Med (16"ht x 25"w)> (Walters Gardens - NR) This semi-upright hosta, a sport of H. 'Niagara Falls', features cascading, green foliage with white centers. .... <b>\$13.00</b>	_____	_____
<b>Dancing Queen</b> <Med (18"ht x 30"w)> (Terpening 2005) This plant's bright yellow foliage is broad and wedge-shaped with a rippled edge. Leaves turn pale yellow later in the season. .... <b>\$12.00</b>	_____	_____
<b>First Blush</b> <Small (14"ht x 28"w)> (Solberg NR) This new introduction features green leaves with red petioles that extend into the leaf blade, with a thin red margin around the leaf. In spring the leaf will "blush" red from the tip of the leaf down toward the base. The leaves remain red well into June. .... <b>\$19.00</b>	_____	_____
<b>Fruit Punch</b> <Med (17"ht x 49"w)> (Dean 1999) Bright yellow leaves with wavy margins change to chartreuse by late summer. The leaf stems and flower scapes are purple-red. Deep purple flowers edged in white bloom in late summer. .... <b>\$12.00</b>	_____	_____
<b>Great Plains</b> <Large (28"ht x 50"w)> (Brincka/Petryszyn 1994) This upright hosta features powdery blue, wavy, slightly cupped foliage which turns dark shiny green later in the season. Good substance. Dense clusters of near white flowers emerge in June. A good specimen plant. .... <b>\$14.00</b>	_____	_____
<b>Hans</b> <Med (21"ht x 32"w)> (Avant NR) This hosta has blue-green leaves with stunning cream centers and a narrow green pattern between the blue and green layers. Near white flowers emerge on white scapes in mid-summer .... <b>\$14.50</b>	_____	_____
<b>Joy Ride</b> <Med (16"ht x 36"w)> (Walters Gardens NR) Very wavy, blue green foliage is accented with a distinctly folded edge which shows off the white underside. An eye-catching clump. .... <b>\$13.00</b>	_____	_____
<b>June Spirit</b> <Small (14"ht x 26"w)> (Walters Gardens 2012) A sport of H. 'June Fever', its leaf has wide deep green margins with a chartreuse center which turns yellow in summer. .... <b>\$13.00</b>	_____	_____
<b>Old Faithful</b> <Large (28"ht x 50"w)> (Brincka/Petryszyn 1991) This hosta is a large vase-shaped mound of shiny apple green foliage. Slight corrugation. Red petioles. Late summer fragrant flowers. .... <b>\$12.00</b>	_____	_____
<b>One Last Dance</b> <Med (16"ht x 38"w)> (Walters Gardens NR) A sport of H. 'Dancing Queen', its leaves have dark green centers and very wide yellow margins that have an irregular pattern creating a feathery look. The intense yellow mellows to chartreuse later in the season. .... <b>\$13.00</b>	_____	_____
<b>Rocket City</b> <Small (10"ht x 24"w)> (Goodwin 2014) A tight yellow clump with upright leaves that are narrow and folded. Bloom scapes are like rockets erupting from the clump. Vigorous. .... <b>\$14.50</b>	_____	_____
<b>Summer Music</b> <Med (18"ht x 14"w)> (Klehm 1998) This specimen plant has leaves with large creamy white centers and green margins and areas of gold between. It needs bright morning sun..... <b>\$11.50</b>	_____	_____
<b>Sun Mouse</b> <Mini (6ht x 18w)> (Avent NR) A gold form of H. 'Blue Mouse Ears', it has thick, slightly wavy golden foliage that holds its color well. Great vigor. .... <b>\$13.00</b>	_____	_____
<b>Titanic</b> <Giant (31"ht x 70w)> (Hansen/Shady Oaks Nursery 1999) A majestic sport of H. 'Sum and Substance' whose leaves have wide gold margins and dark green centers. .... <b>\$14.00</b>	_____	_____

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_



H. 'American Gothic'



H. 'Angel Falls'



H. 'Dancing Queen'



H. 'First Blush'



H. 'Fruit Punch'



H. 'Great Plains'



H. 'Hans'



H. 'Joy Ride'



H. 'June Spirit'



H. 'Old Faithful'



H. 'One Last Dance'



H. 'Rocket City'



H. 'Summer Music'



H. 'Sun Mouse'



H. 'Titanic'

## St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

**Diana Plahn** – President  
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**Karen Frey** – Hospitality

**Ted Piekutowski** – Vice-President  
314-952-1317  
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## St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

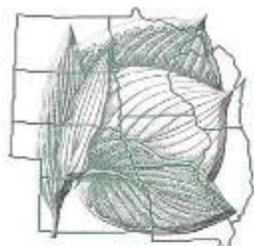
**Contact:** Melissa Byrd  
117 Gunston Hall Drive  
St. Charles, MO 63304  
[mabyrd68@gmail.com](mailto:mabyrd68@gmail.com)

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

Meetings held at **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)

**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/>