



Volume 15, Issue 6

July, 2014



**Phyllis Weidman President**  
*Photo by Kelly Hall*

## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

June has been a very busy month for the Society. We have had many garden walks and we thank those gardeners very much for opening their gardens. It is interesting to see how everyone uses hostas in the landscape. Thanks to Pam Wolkowitz for organizing all these gardens. Joan will have more in the newsletter.

Six of us have been to the American Hosta Society National Convention in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. There was a leaf show, lectures, vendors, an auction and garden tours.

Some drove their own cars while others rode the bus to get to the tour gardens. However you got to the gardens, one could tell hostas do grow better in cooler weather areas. Most of the gardens were very large and surprisingly hilly. It is fun to be with so many people who enjoy growing hostas. It was Karen Frey's first convention so ask her. She will give you a true report.

The weather in St. Louis has been hot and humid. Keep a watchful eye on your hostas for the fungus Southern Blight. It happens fast but you can take care of it this year by drenching the hosta crown with 10% bleach solution.

I'm writing this from cool (57 degrees) Door County, Wisconsin, where the lilacs, iris, and peonies are blooming. We will be home too soon.

*Phyllis*

## 2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>July 6</b>	<b>Member Open Gardens</b> Terry & Steve Metzler Kim & Ted Piekutowski JoAnn Rawson Phyllis & Jim Weidman
<b>July 20</b>	<b>Members Plant Auction</b> 1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
<b>September 21</b>	<b>Meeting with Speaker Mark Zilis</b> 1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
<b>October 19</b>	<b>Meeting with Speaker TBA</b> 1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
<b>November TBA</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b> TBA
<b>December 7</b>	<b>Holiday Party</b> 1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center

**\*\*\* NEXT NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> \*\*\***



2013 auctioneer  
Jeff Hall

### **MEMBER PLANT AUCTION** **July 20, 1:00 PM**

**What's on your garden wish list this year?**

**Another mouse relative?**

**Minis to fill out your new trough?**

**A gold to brighten that dark corner?**

**An icy blue to compliment that gold?**

**Something to fill the holes left empty by marauding voles?**

**You're in luck! The ever popular member plant auction kicks off on Sunday, July 20 – just a few weeks away.**

**If you haven't done so, check out the plants in your garden. Divide those large hosta clumps and dig out a part of those ever-expanding perennials. Pot and label a piece. Volunteers will be ready to accept your donations.**

**Bring a friend or two and of course your checkbook to our auction. Enjoy a fun afternoon outbidding your fellow hostaholics for that plant that will make your garden the talk of your neighborhood. The annual auction is one of two events that fund our society's yearly activities such as the popular holiday party, make the publication of this newsletter possible and bring nationally known speakers such as Mark Zilis (in September) to St. Louis.**

## July 6<sup>th</sup> Open Gardens

**Terry and Steve Metzler**  
**5511 Wieland Dr.**  
**St. Louis, MO 63128**  
**Open 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**



Terry won first place in the 2013 Post-Dispatch Garden Contest. It's not difficult to see why. The view Terry submitted to the contest showcases their beautifully landscaped koi pond. Two streams with several waterfalls flow into the pond which is situated immediately behind

their backyard patio. The clock which sits on an island between the streams is a great accent piece.

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. Interesting conifers, large heuchera, grasses, and other companions compliment the hostas in her shade border. Daylilies and roses add color to sunnier sites.

### **Directions:**

- From I-270, take I-55 south to the Butler Hill exit. Turn right onto Butler Hill.
- Travel north to the second stop light which is Kerth. Turn left onto Kerth.
- Take the fourth street on the right which is Mcllroy. Turn right on Mcllroy.
- Turn right onto Wieland which is the first intersection. Terry's home is in the cul-de-sac.

**Ted and Kim Piekutowski**  
**1269 Brenthaven Lane**  
**Florissant, MO 63031**  
**Open 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

The gardens of Ted and Kim Piekutowski may be minuet in size but the 150 varieties of hosta, a rainbow of roses and lots of shade loving plants make a huge impact on the visitor. A bonus feature of the garden is Ted's bonsai collection which he has maintained for the past 18 years. Ted and Kim have been garden enthusiasts for many years. Their love of plants is one of the many things that attracted them to the other and led to their marriage last June. The shade garden and sun loving roses are a ying and yang of horticulture and makes their yard a great place to just sit, relax, and enjoy nature.



Ted at MoBot workday.

### **Directions:**

- Travel north on I-270N.
- Take the McDonnell Blvd exit
- Turn left onto James S McDonnell Blvd. which becomes Howdershell Road. After 2.7 miles Howdershell Road becomes Shackelford Road.
- After 1.5 miles turn right onto Kingsford Dr.
- Take the 2<sup>nd</sup> left onto Brenthaven Lane. Ted's home is on the left.

**JoAnn Rawson**  
**12557 Starspur Lane**  
**St. Louis, MO 63146**  
**Open 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

JoAnn's garden began about eight years ago as a container garden and then came the beds around the house. She loves foliage, choosing leaf texture and color over blooms. Her garden is filled with large ornamental grasses. JoAnn likes their architectural structure and texture and the winter



*photo by Kelly Hall*

Interest they provide. She also likes the structure of conifers and began collecting them three years ago.

JoAnn has totally designed her garden herself, hauling all the dirt and favorite "rocks" herself in her car. She says her garden is destined to become a forest because the conifers are packed tightly into a small space. She "hopes you come and enjoy a smile as you say to yourself "that should not be there"".

**Directions:**

- From I-270, take the Olive exit.
- Turn West and travel about 1.5 miles to Ross Road.
- Turn right onto Ross Road.
- After about 1 mile, turn left onto Starspur Lane.
- Turn left. JoAnn's home is in the middle of the block on the right side.

**Phyllis and Jim Weidman**  
**508 Point Essex Court**  
**Kirkwood, MO 63122**  
**Open 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

One of the dominate features of Phyllis' and Jim's garden is the sweep of hostas that flow down the hill side on the right of their home. Beautifully grown hostas vie for attention along with Japanese maples and dwarf conifers. A very, very tall column stands as if a sentry at the top of the hill.

Phyllis and Jim were quite creative in developing a gardening plan for the very difficult terrain of their back yard. A long wall retains the steep hill behind their home. Newly constructed stone stairs lead to

the sunny areas above the wall. Specimen plants, grown in pots and home-made troughs, grace their back deck, stairs and paths.



**Directions:**

- Traveling on I-270, take the Dougherty Ferry Road exit.
- Turn East onto Dougherty Ferry Road.
- After about 1.1 miles, make a slight right onto W Essex Avenue.
- Take the 3<sup>rd</sup> right, about 0.3 miles, onto Pointe Essex Court.
- Phyllis' and Jim's home is on the left.

## Garden Walks are the Highlights of Summer!



**Karen Frey's front yard – no grass! Karen is now eliminating grass in a side yard.**



**Contorted Willow in Karen's backyard**

### Karen Frey

Unusual describes Karen's garden. It is filled with plants not usually seen in local gardens, such as the contorted willow, which provides shade for hostas. Other such plants are her variegated Althea (Rose of Sharon), a Sambucus (Elderberry), Baptisia, and a Crambe crodifolia (colewort). There are also many plants which are recognizable like the sun-loving daylilies, roses, coneflowers, clematis and grasses.

Karen's yard is a riot of color for most of the year. She has inter-planted colorful annuals amongst her many perennials. What a cheerful way to start a morning!



**Koi pool built and tiled by Karen. She did most of the planting & stone laying.**



**Lotus water pot, one of many water features in Karen's garden.**



**A tricolor beech displays vibrant color**



**Many large hostas punctuate the shady border. Birdhouses abound.**

### Mary Lou Farrow

A beautiful tri-color beech greets visitors to Mary Lou's home. Large goldfish flit through the water in a pond by the side of the house. From the pond, we can view the gently sloping side yard with its wide border of hostas and other shade lovers. In June, the Asiatic lilies add a touch of color.

Behind the house, the peonies had finished their show, but the daylilies were about to burst into bloom. In their own space, Mary Lou's three chickens were nervously clucking at the intruders. But maybe they were just leery of the fox that was guarding the hen house!



**Mary Lou coaxed her brood out with the promise of a treat.**



**Japanese maples provide a backdrop for the pond and waterfall.**



**Terraced hosta beds extend across the length of the backyard.**



**Hypertufa troughs made by Kelly and Jeff line the patio retaining wall.**

## Kelly and Jeff Hall

Shortly after members began to arrive the rain stopped. Mother Nature was kind not to deprive us of a last view of Kelly's and Jeff's beautiful garden.

The many beds display their vast collection of hostas, Japanese maples and unusual conifers. Large heucheras, tiarellas, ferns and other shady companions live happily along side the hostas. An unusual plant, the shredded umbrella plant (*syneilesis aconitifolia*), caught many an eye as did their unique moss hillside.

It was a bittersweet night as we bid adieu to Kelly and Jeff and wished them well in their new home near Seattle.



**Members stroll along the paths extending from the patio to the front of the house. Just out of sight is a koi pond they built.**



**Susan Hanratty, Susan's daughter, Laurey & Marjorie King enjoy the patio.**



**The welcoming side entrance to Sharon's and Mike's lovely garden.**



**Frogs lounge on the rocks of the pond.**

## Sharon and Mike Schmitt

Passing through the garden gate, visitors pause to admire the clematis which tower over the hosta bed.

Water cascades down three waterfalls to reach the fish pond. A large frog suns on the rocks beside the bottom waterfall.

The terrace behind the patio displays a collection of colorful bird houses and the hosta cemetery. Pink lilies, columbine, pots of impatiens and begonias combine with large hostas to soften the back wall of their house.

Look what can be done with a blank canvas yard!



**The Schmitt's patio is the perfect place to relax and listen to the water.**

*Photo by Susan Hanratty*



**A large H. 'Sagae' is flanked by true lilies.**

## Missouri Botanical Garden AHS Display Garden - June 22 Meeting



AHS Display Garden plaque flanked by H. 'Victory' and H. 'Empress Wu'



Japanese maple purchase by SLHS in 2012



Newly constructed Benedict hosta bed



Catherine Mayer, Dave Poos and Ted Piekutowski discuss future Garden needs

Members met at the Missouri Botanical Garden for its June meeting. President Phyllis Weidman gave the chronology of our Society's involvement with the Garden.

In 2009, MoBot asked for help with their hosta beds. An ice storm had destroyed two crabapples, thus eliminating much needed shade. SLHS donated two crabapple replacements which are thriving.

In 2010, SLHS continued its support by purchasing 89 new cultivars and a trough for the display of minis. Phyllis organized the first SLHS spring work day.

In 2011, Garden emphasis shifted to the hosta species collection. Preservation of species plants is one of the focuses of the Garden. SLHS facilitated the donation of a number of species from Jim King and purchased five additional ones. Added to the existing plants in the Garden, the collection is about nine short.

In 2012, Kelly Hall and Phyllis Weidman selected a Japanese maple to replace one that had died.

This year, SLHS volunteers moved all the Benedict hostas into one bed. Before replanting, the soil in this bed was amended and tilled. In all SLHS has donated 251 cultivars, 3 trees, a trough, a display plaque and countless hours of labor to rejuvenate the hosta area.

MoBot staff member Darmon Williams thanked SLHS for its continued support and described the differences our help has made. SLHS members should thank Phyllis for her leadership in this project and seriously consider lending a hand at the next MoBot work day.



Melissa Byrd checking storms in the area – no threat



Crabapple purchased by SLHS in 2009 – it's thriving

## **Convention Update**

Earlier this year, SLHS members voted to host an AHS National Convention in 2016. Bruce Buehrig volunteered to be the convention chairman. Bruce has been hard at work behind the scenes. A number of members have stepped forward to be event chairmen. Bruce held a convention meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup> bringing all the chairs together for the first time.

The first order of business was to select a hotel. Diana Plahn volunteered to be the hotel liaison. She has selected the Sheratons at Westport as the convention hotel. This is the same site used for our 2008 convention. Diana is in the process of negotiating meal and services costs.

Following are areas of responsibility and the members who have volunteered to chair a committee addressing that part of the convention:

Registration: Jolly Ann Whitener

Treasurer: Cindy Michniok

Business: Dave Poos

Guest Plant Selection and Leaf Show Liaison: Phyllis and Jim Weidman

Hospitality: Karen Frimel

Tour Garden Selection: Pam Wolkowitz and Martha Lafata

Vendor Liaison: Ted Piekutowski

Publicity: Ginny Mueller

There are many positions still open. These include such activities as hotel decorations, tour maps, convention booklet, auction liaison, raffle coordinator, T-shirt sales, etc.

Each of these chairs will need helpers. It takes all our hands to host a successful convention. Contact Bruce (314-421-1173 or Buehrig31@aol.com) now to volunteer your services.

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBER!**

### **Toni Boschert of Manchester, MO**

We hope that you will join us at the July 20<sup>th</sup> auction and the September meeting with speaker Mark Zilis. For all members, new or old timers, these events are the perfect time to get to know each other.

## **More Pictures to Come**

Due to a prior engagement and stormy weather, your newsletter editor was unable to visit the gardens of Pam Wolkowitz and Karen Frimel. I plan to make arrangements to see their gorgeous gardens in the next few weeks and will post pictures in the September newsletter.

## **Lost and Found**

At the Friday May 30<sup>th</sup> Garden Walk at Kelly and Jeff Hall's home, Nancy Tempel brought a delicious appetizer to share with members. When she returned home she discovered two of her knives were missing. If anyone has found them please notify me – Joan Poos (314-821-1622 or david.poos@att.net).

## St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

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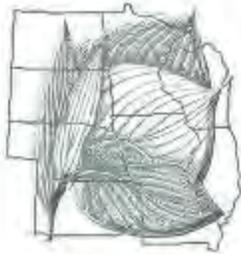
## St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

**Contact:** Cindy Michniok  
14300 Quiet Meadow Ct.  
Chesterfield, MO 63017  
[Cmichniok@gmail.com](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. 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](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/>