



Show Me Hostas Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 3

July 2007

Join us for the
St. Louis Hosta Society
Hosta Auction

Sunday, July 22, 2007 at 1:00 p.m.

At the Creve Coeur Govt. Center

300 N. New Ballas, 63141 (between Ladue Rd. and Olive)

2007 Calendar of Events

July 22

Hosta Auction - Guest Auctioneer Jeff Hall

September 16

St. Louis Hosta Society Meeting
Special Guest Speaker: Rob Mortko
Election of new officers

November/December

St. Louis Hosta Society - Holiday Party

Special Guest Speaker: Rob Mortko

“Hosta Propagation thru the Ages”

Please join us on Sunday, September 16, 2007 at 1:00 pm to welcome our special guest speaker, Rob Mortko, owner of Made in the Shade Gardens in Olathe, KS (<http://www.hostaguy.com/>). Rob will also bring plants to sell to satisfy our fall hosta shopping fix. Don't miss it – mark your calendars!

Topic:

How are new hosta cultivars developed and brought to market? We'll explore how hostas sport/mutate as well as how new hybrids are developed. Then we'll look at the various methods of propagating hostas - from common root division, to bud cutting and finally the more modern tissue culture process. We'll also address the growing concern regarding Hosta Virus X (HVX) that is showing up in garden centers across the country.

Biography:

By day, Rob is a chemical engineer with Black & Veatch in Kansas City and is currently Vice President of Process Technology. His passion for shade gardening and hostas has grown over the past 22 years since he and his wife Sheri moved into their shaded woodland home in Olathe, Kansas (a Kansas City suburb).

Their shade gardens have been featured on various public garden tours, on local TV, and in “Kansas City Homes and Gardens Magazine”. Rob's “spare time” is now devoted to Made in the Shade Gardens – a home-based, retail business specializing in hostas. Made in the Shade Gardens offers over 400 varieties of hostas. More information can be found on their website at: www.HostaGuy.com.

In 2000 Rob registered and introduced his first hosta cultivar named ‘Heart and Soul’. His latest introduction named ‘Stitch in Time’ has been awarded a U.S. plant patent.

Rob is a Johnson County Extension Master Gardener. He is also a member of the Wichita Hosta Society, the American Hosta Society, the Western Nursery and Landscape Association, and the American Hosta Growers Association. He is also the Newsletter Editor Coordinator for the American Hosta Society.

As a reminder of Meeting/Event dates and times, please save the front page of this newsletter. You can always cut out the Calendar of Events and place it on your fridge.

BALANCE THE SCALES

by Mary Chastain, Lakeside Acres

(This article has appeared in several other local hosta society newsletters. The editors thought that our readers would find it informative at this time of year.)

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?

Garden Walk

Friday July 27th 6:30 'til 9:00

10643 Roanna Court, St. Louis, MO 63128

(314) 832-4669

For the perfect finish to a long hot week, please join your friends from the St. Louis Hosta Society at the home of Dianne Sherrillo. After strolling through Dianne's shaded garden featuring over 250 hostas and a host of companion plants, you are invited to linger on the deck next to the fish pond and discuss your favorite gardening topics with friends. Everyone is asked to bring their favorite beverage, a snack or dessert to share, and to insure comfortable seating, a lawn chair. We hope to see everyone there.

Directions:

From I-270 and Gravois (Southwest County): Take Gravois northeast (towards St. Louis) for approximately 0.8 miles. Turn right onto Lindbergh Blvd (at Sunset Ford) and go 0.4 miles to Sappington Road. Turn right onto Sappington Road and go 0.8 miles to Roanna Lane. Turn right onto Roanna Lane and go 200 yards to Roanna Court. Turn right onto Roanna Court and go 50 yards to 10643 Roanna Court.

HELP WANTED

We need volunteers who would be willing to contact people and companies for donations of items that we can use in the "Welcome Bags" for people attending our Convention.

We'll need tablets, pens, pencils, rain slickers, Tums, aspirin, and any other appropriate item that would fit in a 12" X 16" bag. Give Pam (1-636-285-3114) or Phyllis (1-314-965-7027) a call.

Thanks!

A Note from the President

The days are flying by and we will be meeting for our annual auction July 22. I know you all had time to pot some things up.

The sale at MBG was well attended and we sold a lot of plants. Thanks for donating, working and buying. This is a yearly event and very important to our society as a fund raising event and an opportunity to meet new people and get new members.

The St. Louis Hosta Society member's garden tour was a big success. Thanks to Dr. Paul and Laj' Bonstead, Karen & Greg Frimel, Johanna and Bob Dunn, Phyllis and Jim Weidman for sharing their gardens and allowing us to destroy their lawns. And yes, it rained.

The National Convention was well attended by a very large contingent of St. Louis Hosta holics (the list included the Weidman, Wolkowitz, Poos, Plahns, Schmitt, Karlovetz, Tempel, Mary Lou Farrow, Shirley Suntrup, Anita Holtz, and Steve Pozaric). The days were long and we saw a lot of gardens. And yes, it rained.

We will have returned from the Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention by the time you receive this note. We are looking forward to our sale and seeing you all at our auction.

The Convention Planning Committee is hard at work on our 08 convention. T-shirt sales were brisk at the National Convention. Planning meetings are ongoing. Volunteers are needed.

The September 16 meeting will be a Surprise Meeting.

Arlie

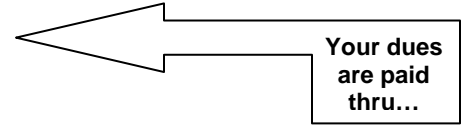
**Arlie Tempel, President
St. Louis Hosta Society**





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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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Are Your Dues Due?

To determine if your St. Louis Hosta Society membership dues are due, check the four 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 “2007” appears after your name, your dues are paid through the 2007 year. Membership dues are due before January 1st of each year. To renew your membership, please send your check (payable to St. Louis Hosta Society) to Pat Payton, 361 S. Maple, Webster Groves, MO 63119-3841.

Membership Information

The American Hosta Society

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

Dues: Individual \$25 per year, Family \$29 per year

Midwest Regional Hosta Society

Contact: Pete Postlewaite
 21172 Andover Road
 Kildeer, IL 60047

Dues: Individual \$20 for two years

St. Louis Hosta Society

Contact: Pat Payton
 361 S. Maple
 Webster Groves, MO 63119-3841

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