



Volume 19, Issue 9

November, 2018



President Diana Plahn

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello Hosta Society Members:

It was good to see more members at the last meeting. Our speaker was Anne Kirkpatrick, who spoke to us about hydrangeas. She particularly emphasized what to pick for our St. Louis area conditions, then explained how to maintain them and keep them healthy. She was a gracious and entertaining presenter.

There is a board meeting at my house at 5pm on November 18th. Any member is welcome to attend while we do our work. Please bring an appetizer and a beverage of your choice to share if you plan to come, and remember you have to walk down the long driveway to get to our house. Parking is on Westview Avenue. If you would like to attend I would appreciate an RSVP so I have enough seating available. My email is dplahn@me.com. My home phone is 314-965-5007.

Our next true group activity is the Christmas reception at Martha LaFata's home starting at 4pm on December 2nd. For those of you who have trouble driving at night, perhaps you could carpool with someone else. This is an appetizer and adult beverage reception, so bring your special dish with a little something else to go with it. It would be great to see everyone there, although I know you have other commitments on your time during the holiday season. It's great to all get together and socialize.

I hope you have been enjoying our Indian summer and getting your garden ready for winter. Remove old hosta leaves once they fall down, plant those bulbs you ordered for the spring, bring your tropicals or tender perennials that you want to overwinter, indoors, and generally get ready for those cold temperatures. Hopefully, we'll get a better winter and spring than last year.

Diana

2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 18

Board Meeting

5:00 PM, home of President Diana Plahn

December 2

Holiday Party

4:00 – 7:00 PM, home of Martha and Paul LaFata

NOTE: This is the last newsletter for 2018. Next newsletter will be issued at the end of January. Enjoy all the holidays.



**Fall Board Meeting
November 18, 2018
5:00 PM**

**Home of President Diana Plahn
1911 Westview Ave
Kirkwood, MO 63122**

All members are invited to join Board members for our annual planning meeting. The agenda includes such items as setting the 2019 meeting dates, establishing the 2019 operating budget, brain-storming about possible speakers and scheduling other interesting events. Topics up for consideration are the feasibility of moving the meetings to a different day and time or even location, how to create programs that are more interesting to you, and how to find engaging speakers that more closely relate to shade gardening.

Let the Board know what you want for your Society in 2019. What did you like or not like in 2018? 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.

If you are unable to attend, please email, mail or call any of the officers listed on the last page of this newsletter about your wants, concerns and especially ideas.

Diana asks that you park on Westview Avenue and walk down the long concrete drive. Her home is at the bottom on the left. Just look for hostas, daylilies and lots of conifers.

Everything goes smoother with good food. Bring a favorite appetizer to share with others. Call or email Diana if you need directions or have questions - [314-346-3007](tel:314-346-3007) or dplahn@me.com.



IT'S RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

THE ST. LOUIS HOSTA SOCIETY HOLIDAY PARTY

Sunday, December 2 at 4:00 – 7:00 PM

**Home of Martha and Paul LaFata
433 Edgar Road
Webster Groves, MO 63119**

The leaves are beginning to turn, trick or treaters are donning their costumes, soon the turkey will be in the oven and we will know it is time to bid adieu to the 2018 garden season. But we can't say good-bye to our hosta friends without one last hoorah.

Martha and Paul LaFata have again graciously offered to host our society members at a Sunday afternoon "happy hour" at their Webster Groves home. Members are asked to bring an appetizer and drink of their choice to share with other party goers. Coffee will be provided by the LaFatas. The festivities begin at 4:00 PM and continue until we all go home.

No business meeting. No speakers. No cost. Come and mingle. Laugh and smile. Reminisce about your gardening successes and of course your failures. Share the joys of the coming holidays with your hosta friends. We hope that our numerous new members will consider coming. This is a really fun time to get to know one another.

Parking is available in the LaFata's large driveway or along the east side of Edgar Road.

For directions or more information call or email Martha:

mvelafata@gmail.com or 314-961-7163

Welcome New Member

Lynn Teller of Crestwood, MO

Join us at our last event of the year, the festive holiday party. This year it is being held in Webster Groves, just a short drive from Crestwood. Meet some of your fellow hosta lovers and let us get to know you.

October – Hydrangea



arboreascens - 'Annabelle'



macrophylla - 'Nikko Blue'



macrophylla –
'Lady in Red'



serrata - 'Tiny Tuff Stuff'



quercifolia - 'Alice'



paniculata - 'Limelight'



anomola petiolaria - climbing

At our October meeting, Master Gardener Anne Kirkpatrick introduced us to the five types of hydrangea that grow well and are readily available in the St. Louis area. These range from the native arboreascens, your grandmother's hydrangea, to the delicate lacecaps (macrophylla and serrata), the ponderous panicles (paniculata), the woody oakleaves (quercifolia) and the sturdy late blooming climber.

While they differ in size, bloom type, bloom time and pruning methods, they share similar cultivation needs. All require steady moisture but will rot if their roots are constantly wet. Most varieties thrive in part sun/part shade locations. That's right, mixed in with your hostas. Some, such as 'Annabelle', tolerate full sun if well-watered and planted in good soil with good drainage.

Anne recommended fertilizing your plants twice during the growing season. First time when the plants are just breaking dormancy, then again when in full bloom. Don't feed in the fall. Anne uses Holly-tone fertilizer for acid loving plants. This product also lowers the ph levels. Hydrangeas like a ph in the 5.0 to 6.0 range. If your plant is not doing well, get a soil test to determine if the ph is off.

Hydrangeas are shallow rooted plants and thus relatively easy to transplant. Late winter to early spring is the time to do this chore. Have the hole where you wish to move the plant or division already dug and amended with organic material. Use Turface to breakup our heavy clay soil. Scoot the root ball on a tarp so the ball does not fall apart. Plant, water well and mulch about two to three inches deep. Hydrangeas can also be propagated with cuttings or by layering.

Here's the ins and outs of pruning. The macrophylla, serrata and quercifolias bloom on old wood and should be pruned as the flowers begin to fade. Arboreascens and paniculata bloom on new wood and should be pruned in late winter or early spring before new growth begins. These can even be cut to the ground. Prune the climbers just to maintain size and shape.

Thank you Anne for taking some of the mystery out of growing one of our favorite shrubs. *(all photos from the web.)*

Upcoming AHS and MRHS Events

Besides the two local society events occurring before the end of 2018, there are three MRHS and AHS events that might be of interest scheduled in January 2019. Am I really talking about 2019? That's like putting the Christmas tree up before Thanksgiving.

- **2019 MRHS Winter Symposium:**

MRHS has decided to revive the Winter Conference for 2019 in a new venue. This is a one day event, packed with speakers presenting topics of interest to the hosta community. The MRHS Winter Symposium will be held Saturday February 2nd in the Milwaukee suburb of Brookfield. The Milwaukee-Brookfield Sheridan Hotel has a special room rate that will be available for Friday and Saturday nights (Feb 2-3). A full buffet breakfast is included in the hotel cost (\$104 + tax). Classrooms for the six Saturday presentations will be located within the hotel. A buffet lunch is included in your registration fee of \$55.00. **You must register by January 19, 2019.** The registration form is available on the MRHS website at <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org>

- **2019 AHS Online Auction:**

The AHS On-Line Auction raises funds for the society's publication The Hosta Journal. **Held each winter in mid to late January**, the auction offers that winter respite we all so need. Home gardeners offer pieces of their prized hostas, businesses display their new offerings, and hybridizers introduce their newest creations, all to help raise funds and draw attention to the plants we all love. Items, posted with descriptions and photos, include plants, seeds and garden related treasures. Donors and bidders from all over the country and overseas are represented.

This is strictly an on-line auction that runs for only 7 to 10 days. A live link is typically placed on the AHS Home Page near the middle of the month prior to the auction beginning (December). News is distributed via email notices and on the AHS website. Enter the AHS website, www.americanhostasociety.org, click on the Activities tab on the top. Then click on the Auction tab in the drop down window. There is an explanation of how the auction works and how to register.

- **2019 Combined MRHS Regional and AHS National Convention:**

As mentioned in the September newsletter the first ever joint MRHS and AHS convention will be held in Green Bay, Wisconsin, with the Green and Gold Hosta Society of Northeastern Wisconsin serving as hosts. If you have never attended an American Hosta Society convention, this is your chance to experience an amazing event. Nationally recognized speakers and an expert panel of hybridizers and growers are slated to provide you with the latest information about your favorite plant. Of course there will be a Hosta Show, numerous vendors and gardens, gardens, gardens.

Convention dates are June 12-15, 2019. You may obtain more information by going to the convention website, <https://www.ahs2019event.org/>. A printable registration form is posted on the website. You can register and pay online or print out the registration form and mail it in with your check. **There is an Early Bird price of \$189 for those who register before January 31st, 2019.**

MRHS newsletter reports AHS Hosta Registry Website update Complete

The **Hosta Registry Website** is a service provided by the American Hosta Society (AHS) in its capacity as the International Cultivar Registration Authority for the Genus *Hosta*. For over two years, various AHS members have been working to upgrade this valuable resource.

Over 10,000 photos have been scanned and added to the website by Barb and Rick Schroeder. When available, the original photographs that were submitted to the registrar at the time of registration of a cultivar are displayed as a part of the registration detail page. In many cases, additional photos of the clump, leaf, and flower, and when applicable, any seasonal variations in the plant are also shown.

As mentioned at the MRHS Convention this past summer, a new feature was funded by the American Hosta Growers Association (AHGA). The AHGA obtained permission from Steve Greene to use the name **Hosta Finder** to provide a free online resource that identifies the availability and pricing of hostas carried by member nurseries of the AHGA.

You do not have to be a member of AHS to access this data site. Access the **Hosta Registry**, through the home page of the American Hosta Society by clicking on the tab at the top labeled '**Registering Hostas**'. Follow the resulting links to the **AHS Hosta Registry** or use this web address directly <http://www.hostaregistrar.org/>. Click on the **Search** tab at the top of the page.

When a cultivar is searched for on the Registry site, three tabs appear on the search results page. They are green tabs to the right of the name of the hosta. The first tab is **Registration Details**, which includes all of the photos of the cultivar, along with all of the details about the plant, leaf size, flower color, etc. The second tab is **Show Classification**, which lists the section and class for the cultivar for leaf show entry. The third tab is the **Hosta Finder**.

If you click on the **Registration Details** tab, photos and registration information displays. You may enlarge the photos simply by clicking on any one of the photos. You can scroll through the larger sized photos by clicking on the right side of the photo to advance to the next photo or clicking on the left side of the photo to go back to the previous photo. To go back to the registration details page, just click the X at the lower right of the photo or click anywhere outside of the photo.

From the **Registration Details** page, you can jump to the **Show Classification** page by clicking the **Show Classification** tab, just under the photos, at the center of the page. Doing so will bring up the **Show Classification** page. This lists the Section Class, Leaf Length, Leaf Width, and Leaf Color for judging classification.

To go to the **Hosta Finder** section, simply click on the **Hosta Finder** tab. This displays the AHGA member nurseries that are selling the cultivar, listed in order by price, lowest to highest, with an average price also calculated. Each nursery listed has a link to their website, so you can jump directly to the website to make a purchase, if desired. The current pricing shown is for the 2018 year. Early next year, pricing for the 2019 season will be posted. If no AHGA Vendor is offering a particular cultivar, the **Hosta Finder** page will have no listings of vendors. Both registered and non-registered hostas are included in the **Hosta Finder** listings.

On those upcoming cold winter nights check out this invaluable resource. Play around with the different search tabs. Check on other cultivars available from your favorite hybridizers. Have a hosta but you are not sure of its name, look it up and compare pictures. Enjoy hostas year round.

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

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Karen Frey – Hospitality

Martha LaFata – Vice-President
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St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

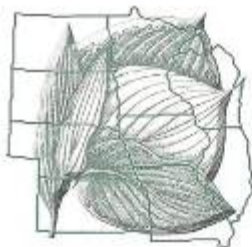
Contact: Melissa Byrd
117 Gunston Hall Drive
St. Charles, MO 63304
mabyrd68@gmail.com

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

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.



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/>