



Volume 16, Issue 8

October, 2015



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

### **A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Fall has officially arrived with shorter days and cooler temperatures. Some hostas are already going dormant. The Society is definitely not going dormant. We have our October meeting, the annual Board Meeting, and our Holiday Party.

The October meeting will be great fun with lots of door prizes. Lee Coates, September's speaker, gave three containers as October door prizes because our speaker will be talking about fall and winter container planting. Thanks Lee.

We will be having our annual Board Meeting on November 14 at 5 o'clock; **all members** of the society are invited to attend the board meetings. We will be working on plans for next year. There will be a light dinner and then the meeting. Come one and all. Just let me know so I have enough food. It will be at my house, 508 Pointe Essex, Kirkwood. The coming year will be exciting with our society hosting the AHS National Convention, plus our regular meetings.

Finally, we have the Holiday Party on December 6th. It will cost you \$15, but I can assure you that you will have fun and get plenty of food. Please come and meet more hosta friends. When you host a party at your home, it is the little details that make your guests feel at home and welcome. That feeling is what we are trying to find at every meeting, but especially at the December party

*Phyllis*

## 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>October 18</b>	<b>Meeting with Speaker Sally Barrett</b> <b>“Designing Containers for Fall/Winter Interest”</b> 1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
<b>November 14</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b> 5:00 PM, Home of Phyllis Weidman
<b>December 6</b>	<b>Holiday Party</b> 1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
<b>June 15-18, 2016</b>	<b>American Hosta Society National Convention</b> <b>ST. Louis, MO</b>

### October 18

#### **Sally Barrett** **Horticulturist at Sugar Creek Nursery**

#### **“Designing Containers for Fall/Winter Interest”**

Sally inherited her love of plants from her father and uncle. She recalls them swapping both plants and gardening lore. As a child growing up in Southern California, Sally’s father gave her a plot of land for herself for flowers and later a

larger one for vegetables. A horticultural class at a community college was the launch pad for her fascination with growing plants. Each home that she’s lived in she’s learned to landscape.

Sally’s greatest challenge was moving from zone 9/10 of southern California to our zone 5/6. She was forced to learn about clay soils, overwintering plants, raised beds, contending with what she calls the “sweet creatures of the woods” and of course new shrubs, trees and flowers.

Sugar Creek Nursery in Kirkwood Missouri offer interesting and colorful seasonal containers. Would you like to know how it’s done? Join us on October 18<sup>th</sup> as Sally gives us design tips for creating new fall and winter containers or just rejuvenating our tired old summer pots. She will be creating two containers which will be given away as attendance prizes.



*photo from [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)*

## September – Lee Coates



Lee Coates, center, talks with Ted Piekutowski and Arlie Tempel.



Selection of Japanese maples, dwarf conifers and ginkgoes brought by Lee.



Some of Lee's smaller papercrete pots.



Sharon Schmitt's delicious cake!

Lee Coates, our September speaker, surmised that most gardeners are always on the lookout for that “other” plant, something different, that will highlight what they already have growing in their gardens. He contends that Japanese maples are such plants.

Japanese maples are excellent transition plants between the sun and shade areas of our yards. Many can tolerate almost full sun if given enough water – just like hostas. They can be used alone as specimen plants or nestled with other plants creating a vignette. Use these trees as an architectural element. Some grow almost columnar and can be used as a backdrop to hide unsightly areas. Others, such as “Red Sentinel” have limbs that start close to the ground and can be used as screens to create garden rooms.

Japanese maples add texture and color. Choices span the full color spectrum, except for blue. There’s now a red hosta, so maybe someday there will be a blue maple. Their leaves are always in a color transition from spring into fall, maybe starting green then gradually turning bright red, yellow or orange. In autumn when the garden is looking tired, Japanese maples often show their brightest colors.

Leaf texture ranges from the fine to full and bold. ‘Mikazuli’ has long, narrow leaves like a set of fingers wiggling in the breeze. ‘Amber Ghost’ has veins that are a different color than the leaf. ‘Sagara Nishiki’ is beautifully variegated with a gold edged green leaf.

Lee listed items that Japanese maples need to thrive. They will grow in sun, part sun or dappled shade given ample moisture. Never let the soil completely dry out. They need protection from drying winter winds. This is not usually a problem in St. Louis. These trees do not like a lot of fertilizer. Use an organic mulch instead.

Japanese maples work well in containers. Lee uses a 50/50 mix of good potting soil and pine bark. Add some **Osmacote** as potting soil has no nutrients. Maples suffer root damage when the temperature is below 15 degrees. Bring the container into a garage or give it some insulating protection in deep winter. Do not prune these trees the first few years so growing energy will mass in their roots. After that prune when the tree is dormant.

Thanks Lee for an enjoyable and informative afternoon!



## **American Hosta Association National Convention**

**'Gateway to the Gardens'**

**St. Louis – June 15-18, 2016**

Convention Chairman Bruce Buehrig has visited numerous nurseries and garden centers asking if they would be willing to advertise in our 2016 convention booklet. The response has been very positive. The businesses listed below have submitted ads. The revenue generated by these ads will pay for the printing of the booklet.

Please patronize these fine businesses. When there, thank them for their support of our organization. When talking with your friends in other gardening societies, mention these fine gardening outlets.

Ann's Gardens and Greenhouses  
5130 Mexico Road  
St. Peters, MO 63376  
636-244-5533

Greenscape Gardens & Gifts  
2832 Barrett Station Road  
Manchester, MO 63021  
314-821-2440

Summer Winds Nursery  
54 Clarkson Road  
Ellisville, MO 63011  
636-227-0095

Crabapple Cove Nursery  
6961 Telegraph Road  
St. Louis, MO  
314-846-4021

Gringo Jones Imports  
4468 Shaw  
St. Louis, MO 63110  
314-664-1666

Daniel's Farm and Greenhouse  
352 Jungermann Road  
St. Peters, MO 63376  
636-441-5048

Jaeger Greenhouses  
2369 Creve Coeur Mill Road  
Maryland Heights, MO 63043  
314-739-1507

Dauster's Greenhouse  
1751 Creve Coeur Mill Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63146  
314-469-3938

Naturescapes Nursery  
1674 N. Bluff Road  
Collinsville, IL 62234  
618-344-8841

Effinger Garden Center  
720 South 11<sup>th</sup>  
Belleville, IL 62220  
618-234-4600

Sandy's Back Porch  
2004 West Blvd.  
Belleville, IL 62221  
618-235-2004

Greenery  
1021 W. Delmar  
Godfrey, IL 62035  
618-466-8475

Sherwood's Forest  
2651 Barrett Station  
St. Louis, MO 63021  
314-966-0028



Phyllis, Ted, Dave and Spence chat after the work was done.

## Friends helping friends

President Phyllis Weidman announced at the September meeting that fellow member Catherine Cornett was in the process of simplifying her gardening life. Unable to properly care for large hostas and their companions, Catherine recently elected to grow African violets in a newly built gorgeous greenhouse.

If members would come dig, the society could have many of her hostas for use in our 2016 MoBot plant sale. Several members answered Phyllis' call and spent a couple hours one Sunday afternoon removing hostas, epimedium and ferns. The picture at left shows but a part of the bounty. Not to worry, Catherine is not hosta-less. She kept a number of her favorites.

## Thank you Catherine for your generosity!

Thanks also to members Phyllis and Jim Weidman, Ted Piekutowski, Spence Sorenson, Marian and Mike Murphy and Dave and Joan Poos for their help.

## We Need You!

Normally every two years our society elects new officers at the September meeting. However, this year Ted Piekutowski, chairman of the Nominating Committee, announced that he did not yet have a full slate of nominees. Although he had asked numerous members, no one had agreed to fill the positions of President and Vice-president.

Please consider stepping up. The President, with the help of the Board, sets the year's agenda, appoints chairmen for the various events and conducts meetings. The Vice-president arranges speakers for our four meetings. Our officers do not work in a vacuum. There is great expertise within our organization and many willing hands to help.

If you are interested in joining a fun group helping direct your society's activities, please contact Ted Piekutowski at [circustaz2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:circustaz2@sbcglobal.net)

Have you ever found yourself in a different city with unscheduled time and a yearn to explore? Would you like to visit gardens in other cities or even in different parts of your own city? Would you like to meet enthusiastic gardeners from other parts of the country?

The American Hosta Society has an idea that might appeal to you. It is currently compiling a directory of private gardens located around the country that might be open for visits at a time convenient to you.

If you would be interest in having your garden included in such a list, contact Phyllis ([Pow1031@gmail.com](mailto:Pow1031@gmail.com) or 314-965-7027) for more information.



## Fall Board Meeting

November 14, 2015

5:00 PM supper, followed by meeting

Home of President Phyllis Weidman  
508 Pointe Essex Court, Kirkwood, MO 63122  
RSVP - 314-965-7027 or [Pow1031@gmail.com](mailto:Pow1031@gmail.com).



All members are invited to join our Board members at the 2016 planning meeting. Come early at 5:00 for a delicious supper and a fabulous dessert. The meeting agenda includes such items as setting 2016 meeting dates, establishing the 2016 budget, brain-storming about possible speakers and scheduling other interesting events.

Let the Board know what you want for your Society in 2016. What did you like or not like in 2015? 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.

**Call or email Phyllis to reserve your place at the table.**

## St. Louis Hosta Society Holiday Party

December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015

I know! I know! We haven't had Halloween or Thanksgiving yet! But the holidays will be here in the blink of an eye. It's not too early to mark your calendar and reserve a seat. October 18<sup>th</sup> is the last meeting before the luncheon. This year's cost is \$15 per person payable at the October meeting or by sending a check made out to the St. Louis Hosta Society to:

Cindy Michniok  
14300 Quiet Meadow Ct.  
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Kim Piekutowski is working on a savory menu while Karen Frimel is designing snazzy table decorations. What have these creative ladies conjured up for us this year? End your gardening year with a delicious meal shared with all your hosta friends.

## Speaking of Christmas

Contact Barb Moreland ([Bmore433@aol.com](mailto:Bmore433@aol.com))  
if you would like Santa to leave a monogrammed  
St. Louis Hosta Society polo shirt under your tree!



# PAPERCRETE

by Lee Coates - *Greater Ozarks Hosta Society*  
A HYPERTUFA ALTERNATIVE  
Mudpies for Big Kids!

In any given year a little over 55 % of paper created in the United States is discarded. That amounts to 48 million tons or the equivalent of **720 million trees** that are used once and then buried in a landfill. Here is an idea that you can use to turn discarded paper into something useful! By using a simple recipe of paper pulp, Portland cement, and various other ingredients you can create weatherproof containers for planting or a variety of sculptures.

The supplies you will need to complete this project are paper, Portland cement, a container to soak paper and mix ingredients in, and a mold. Newsprint is by far the best type of paper to use but junk mail, phone books, magazines, cardboard or other scrap paper will work if it can be soaked long enough to turn into pulp easily.



Begin by tearing newsprint into strips or running it through a shredder-if you are lucky enough to have one. Into a bucket that is 3 gallon or larger, add 1 gallon of water and put in strips of paper by the handful until you have as much in the bucket as the water will soak up. I leave the paper to soak a minimum of 24 hours but 48 hours or longer will make it easier to turn into pulp. After the paper is well soaked, I use a paint mixer attachment in an electric drill to pulp the saturated paper. I would suggest using the mixer

outside since an occasional splash-or worse-happens especially when you first start to mix!



To the freshly pulped paper I add most of a 34 ounce coffee can full of Portland cement plus half of a 34 ounce coffee can of perlite. You could use many other things as filler such as sand or vermiculite. The ingredients are not set in stone but I have found that 3 parts paper, 2 parts Portland and 1 part filler work extremely well. It makes a mix that holds up well, is easy to mold and finish, and is easy to remember. Use your mixer and add water a little at a time as necessary. You should be able to squeeze a little moisture from the mix with your hand when ready. This mix will remain workable for a couple of hours or more so you will have plenty of time to get it into or on the mold.

Molds are easy to find, just go to the nearest big box or dollar store and something will catch your eye. Remember you can mold to the inside or the outside of a container. I tend to use plastic dish pans, Sterlite storage containers, and assorted planters as molds. Be sure to use some form of mold release on whatever you use as a mold. I assure you it will make what

you have constructed easier to remove from the mold. I use cooking spray but any thin coat of vegetable oil will work. Before you start building your project put on either latex or vinyl gloves. The Portland cement in the mix will dry your skin quickly. To mold on the inside I like to spread a



layer on the bottom and then use a finger to make drainage holes to check the thickness of that layer. On a span of 18 inches or less, the thickness of the mix should be approximately 3/4 inch.

Once you have established a thickness standard, begin building any further structure of your object by pressing subsequent layers into the previous layers well and repeatedly until you are comfortable with the adhesion. This process I call *mushing and patting*. I mush to the point of distorting the two layers then resort to patting to create the final shape of the object. To create a smooth surface on your object, firmly pat the surface of the moist mix. If you try to rub the surface to create a smooth finish you will find that it is nearly impossible to do with this recipe. 'Papercrete' can easily be molded into shapes and can be worked for an extended period of time. After your first couple of tries you will find techniques that work well for you. This is a very inexpensive project so a few failures will not harm your budget.



Most projects can be turned out of their molds after sitting at room temperature for 24 hours but will be fragile for another 24 hours. My only failures have been when I tried to unmold objects before they had sufficiently cured. Once they have been removed from the mold, give them a week to completely dry and harden. When dry, you can use a utility knife or 100-grit sandpaper to smooth rough edges. I allow finished items about 3 weeks in a dry space to cure and then move them outside to the weather. Allowing the project to weather will help leach out the excess lime in the Portland cement. The lime is very alkaline and may affect any plants you might want to pot.



Recipes for a mix can be adjusted as long as the 3-2-1 mix is maintained. While nothing is set in stone, I can assure you that this recipe will result in a superior finished product. If you would like to experiment you can substitute many ingredients for filler. In place of perlite you might try sand, vermiculite, or similar ingredients. Don't be afraid to experiment since ingredients are cheap. If you want to experiment consider making small batches to play with first then expand your recipe to match your projects. If your project requires more than one batch of mix to complete, do not worry you will have enough time to mix a second batch and work the two together to complete the project. You will need to have plenty of paper soaked up and ready to pulp since that is the only time sensitive item in the recipe.

Holes in the bottom of planters to be used as molds can easily be patched with small squares of duct tape. Molds should have a slight amount of taper from bottom to top to allow the project to release easily. In summary, gather all necessary material before you start, wear old clothes, wear protective gloves, experiment, be creative, and use your imagination. This project should be fun!!

This information can be shared as you see fit. Papercrete technology has been in existence for decades I have only gathered the information and placed it into this document along with commentary of my experiences using this material. You may also access this document at: <http://www.gohs.org/papercrete.pdf>

## St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

**Phyllis Weidman** – President  
314-965-7027  
[Pow1031@gmail.com](mailto:Pow1031@gmail.com)

Secretary  
Position open

**Sharon and Mike Schmitt** – Hospitality  
314-719-9305  
[Sharons39@aol.com](mailto:Sharons39@aol.com)

**Dave Poos** – Vice-President  
314-821-1622  
[david.poos@att.net](mailto:david.poos@att.net)

**Cindy Michniok** – Treasurer  
314-434-0946  
[Cmichniok@gmail.com](mailto:Cmichniok@gmail.com)

**Melissa Byrd** – Webmaster  
[mabyrd68@gmail.com](mailto:mabyrd68@gmail.com)

**Joan Poos** – Newsletter Editor  
314-821-1622  
[david.poos@att.net](mailto:david.poos@att.net)

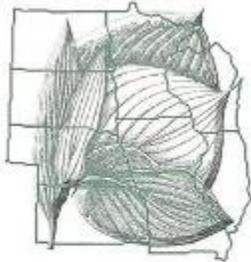
## St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

**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.

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/>