



Shady Notes

Volume 20, Issue 6

July, 2019



**President
Diana Plahn**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Club Members:

I hope all of you enjoyed your visit to David and Anne Birenbaum's garden for the picnic recently. It was certainly nice of them to open their garden and home to us.

This month's event is the members' hosta auction. No one volunteered to chair the event, so that left me to take care of it. Setup is at noon. Please help if you can and hopefully, we'll have some divisions of plants for members to bid on in spite of the rainy weather.

Martha LaFata has been working on booking national hosta speakers for the September and October meetings. Our speaker for September is Bob Solberg. The date at Creve Coeur was changed to fit his schedule. The meeting has changed from Wednesday, 9/18/19, to SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2019. PLEASE NOTE THIS IN YOUR RECORDS. Martha and I are speaking to another AHS speaker and hope he can arrange something for October.

It was suggested that we have a Christmas potluck. For that to happen, I NEED A VOLUNTEER NOW TO CHAIR THIS EVENT. I also need a date chosen immediately by that chair so I can try to get a date with Creve Coeur.

That's all my news. Have a great month and remember us at the member's auction.

Diana

NOTE: Next newsletter will be September 1.

2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 21	Members Plant Auction 1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
September 22 NOTE DATE CHANGE	Meeting with Speaker Bob Solberg 1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
October 16	Meeting with Speaker TBA 7:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
November	Board Meeting Time and location TBA
December	Holiday Party

MEMBER PLANT AUCTION JULY 21, 1:00 PM

The ever popular member plant auction kicks off at 1:00 PM on Sunday, July 21. There's usually quite a variety of donated plants – big and small, green, yellow and blue, old reliables plus some you may not know. It's mostly hostas, but some companions are sure to be included. This year auctioneer Rod Cooper will join us. He knows a lot about conducting a fun auction, but not too much about hostas. It should be a good time teaching him about pips, eyes, petioles and scapes.

If you haven't done so, check out the plants in your garden. Surely the rain will stop soon and we'll be able to do a bit of digging and dividing. Be a part of the action. Pot and label a piece. Volunteers will be ready to accept your donations.

Bring a friend or two and of course your checkbook. 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, make this newsletter possible and bring nationally known speakers to St. Louis.



Members checking auction items donated for the 2017 auction.



Ted Piekutowski and Basil Honaker acted as auctioneers in 2016

May Garden Walk



Members and their friends chat in the shade of a large Japanese maple.



Dave Poos chats with Greg Frimel and Chester Wolkowitz.



Melinda Ligon and neighbor talk with Dave and Greg next to the pond.



Unbelievably the rain gods had mercy and stopped shedding their bounty long enough for Dave and Joan Poos to welcome fellow members to their beautiful garden. This lovely evening was the highlight of a difficult spring and early summer.

The hostas and daylilies have loved the cool temperatures and over-abundance of rain. But so have the pests. Cutworms have been more active this year than in the past. Even non-gardeners are complaining about the mosquitoes and gnats. Southern Blight is rearing its ugly head. Two hostas in the Poos garden have been treated and are on their way to recovery.

Nearly 800 cultivars of hostas intermixed with various types of ferns, astilbe, heuchera and other shade loving plants call the Poos garden home. Flagstone paths and wood chip walks allow visitors a close view of the various plants.

In the sunnier portions of the yard, grass paths weave between beds containing hundreds of daylilies ready to burst into color. What a funny gardening year. A Kousa dogwood was still in full bloom even as an early daylily was about to break bud.

Several of our members brought friends with them. It was great to meet new people and introduce them to our favorite plant. After wandering through the garden many friends, old and new, ended up on the patio by the pond chatting and nibbling on the appetizers brought to the party.

Many thanks to Dave and Joan for opening their special space for our enjoyment.



June Garden Walk

David and Anne
Birenbaum



Oh no! The rain gods struck again. The Saturday morning of the garden walk and picnic at Anne and David Birenbaum's home started with wicked black clouds and heavy rain. But by early afternoon the storm had passed, the skies cleared and bright sunshine warmed the chilly day. I could just picture David standing in his back yard shaking his fists at Mother Nature's shenanigans. The gods must be gardeners for the late afternoon and evening were delightful.



Anne loves to garden in the sunny portions of their yard. Colorful pots and railing boxes liven the front and back porches. Beds of coneflowers, irises, daylilies and other sun lovers welcome guests to their home.

A wood chip path winds along the edge of the woods behind the house. David has used tree trunks to delineate the walking path. Beds of hostas intermixed with ferns and other shade loving plants lie on both sides of the meandering walkway.



Each plant has a beautifully fashioned tag. Dave makes his plant labels from small tree trunks. He splits a section in half, long enough to accommodate the hosta's name and attaches it to another piece which he fashioned into a stake. Dave then burns the name onto the split section. Very creative and quite attractive.



Dave Poos, on right, chats with Anne and David.



A bed along the drive showcases H. 'Whee' and H. 'rainforest Sunrise'.



Barb Moreland and Melinda Ligon.



Thank You for inviting us to your garden. We had a wonderful time walking in the woods, meeting your delightful neighbors and eating fried chicken and all the fixings.



Did you see?

In the June/July issue of **St. Louis Homes + Lifestyles** is a ten page article featuring the beautiful garden of Chick and Bruce Buehrig. There are numerous pictures of Bruce's prize conifer collection and Chick's beloved daylilies. If you look closely you may spot some of their 900 hostas.

It all started around 1973 with a "welcome to the neighborhood gift" of a hosta. Like many gardens it evolved. To solve erosion problems they created a 200-yard rock-filled dry creek to channel runoff water. A flagstone path was added to make traversing the steep incline easier. Conifers were added for winter interest and color. Then came ponds and waterfalls.

Bruce became enthralled by hostas and was the co-founder of our society. Chick fell in love with the colorful daylilies. She has been an officer of the West County Daylily Society for many years. To read the entire article see **stlouisshomesmag.com** and select the June/July issue.



2019 Benedict Medal of Honor for Garden Performance Award

The Benedict Medal is the highest Garden Performance Award given by the American Hosta Society. It is presented at the AHS National Convention each summer. The Benedict Medal identifies the very best hostas - those found to be not only beautiful plants, but ones that also perform well in gardens in all parts of the country.

Selection is a three year process. Cultivars are first nominated by the plants' originator or the AHS Board of Directors. AHS Garden Performance Judges from across the country vote on the plants on this list. If a plant receives sufficient votes, it is awarded the Honorable Mention Award. In the next year's voting, only Honorable Mention plants are eligible for the Award of Merit. Approximately ten hostas make this list. Finally, the following year from the Award of Merit winners a single plant is chosen to receive the Benedict Medal. Quite a rigorous test!

For the first time, the 2019 voting resulted in a tie. The winners, announced at the AHS National Convention held two weeks ago in Green Bay Wisconsin are *H.* '**Sharp Dressed Man**' and *H.* '**World Cup**'. Both cultivars are sometimes available in local nurseries and are excellent candidates for inclusion in your gardens.



photo from hosta-store.com

Developed by Bob Solberg, *H.* '**Sharp Dressed Man**' is a seedling from *H.* 'Francee'. It is named for Bob's son Michael. The leaves of this medium sized plant (15" x 36") are very thick with wide green margins and pure white centers. Most leaves have a lot of white at the base of the leaf with the white color running down the petiole. An uneven chartreuse streak forms between the green and white. It grows very well, never melting out or burning.



photo from nhhostas.com

Truly an outstanding plant, *H.* '**World Cup**' was previously selected by the American Hosta Growers Association as its 2018 Hosta of the Year. Supposedly Mark Zilis chose this seedling out of Doug Beilstein's seedling patch after winning an auction with the right to choose 20 seedlings. What an eye. 'World Cup' stands 28 inches tall and 39 inches wide at maturity, tall and upright, sports rich gold foliage that is distinctly cupped, wavy and corrugated. A cross of 'Komodo Dragon' and 'Super Bowl', it displays the best of both parents.

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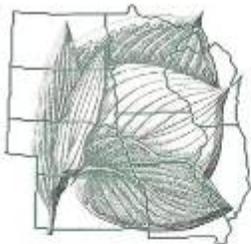
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Dues: \$7 per year, \$18 for three years
Family or Individual

Meetings held 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:

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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/>