



Show Me Hostas Newsletter

Volume 10, Issue 1

February, 2009

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Jeff Hall President
Photo by Kelly Hall

Ah, a new year! Hard to believe but I am getting excited about the prospect of spreading mulch. Plant catalogs are arriving, a wish list is developing and the year's project list is expanding. Oh to be a gardener.

So far, the 2009 activities are sure to have something to please everyone. Some events on the agenda include the plant sale, tours, a field trip and a special presentation by Mike Shadrack. If you've never heard Mike speak, don't miss this informative and humorous speaker. More about that later.

Garden clubs need your help! If you know young or seasoned gardeners alike, encourage them to join a garden club of their choice. We would also like to 'cross-pollinate' with other local clubs. For instance, if you have a garden pond, join the local water garden club. If you are into daylilies, there are two societies in St. Louis. On February 22nd MoBot will be hosting a garden club day. You will be able to learn about many of the local clubs in our area. Kelly and I have discovered that the more we get involved and the more people we meet with similar interests, the more we enjoy our hobbies.

As always, remember to divide your plants and donate them to the society for the plant sale on June 6 and the auction in July. Pot up plants early so they have time to flourish in their new pots.

See you all soon at the Feb 15th meeting!

Jeff Hall

FEBRUARY POTLUCK MEETING

Sunday, February 15 at 1:00 PM

At Creve Coeur Government Center
300 N. New Ballas, St Louis 63141
(Ballas Rd. between Ladue Rd. and Olive)

The first club meeting of 2009 will be the annual Potluck luncheon at Creve Coeur Government Center. Our hospitality chair, Barb Moreland, will supply cold cuts, cheese and bread. Members please bring the following: if your last name begins A-M, desserts; N-Z side dishes or salads. A DVD presentation of the 2008 AHS National convention will be shown. Bring your club plant order form. A short business meeting will follow the luncheon.

2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 15	Annual Potluck Meeting
February 22	Plant Society Membership Information Day Missouri Botanical Garden
April 19	Vendor Day and Club plant pick-up
May 31	Member garden tour
June 6	Plant sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden
June 11-13	Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention Champaign, IL
June 24-27	American Hosta Society National Convention Lansing, MI
July 19	Member plant auction
September 13	Meeting and guest speaker Mike Shadrack
October 18	Field trip to weather center with Melissa Byrd
November/December	Holiday Party – date and location to be announced

St. Louis Hosta Society Club Plants

Enclosed with this newsletter is the 2009 order form (see page 5). Extra forms will be available at the Potluck meeting. All plants will be given out at the Vendor Day and Club Plant Pick-up on April 19th.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING PLANTS IS FEBRUARY 15, 2009

Please bring your order form and payment to the February 15th meeting or mail to:

Rick Clarkson
14 Hebner Street
Alton, IL 62002

Plant Society Membership Information Fair

Missouri Botanical Garden – February 22, 2009

The **Missouri Botanical Society** is hosting a 'fair' for Sanctioned Member Plant Societies to market their groups in an effort to recruit enthusiastic new members. The event is scheduled for **February 22, 2009 from 9 AM to 5 PM**. The Garden chose this date because it coincides with their '**Blitz Gardening Weekend**'. This is a series of two days of fun and educational classes on topics from perennials to cooking, watercolor to photography. Also featured during this time period is the **Orchid Show** and the '**Sugared and Spiced**' display of elaborate cake decoration. Visit the Garden's website, www.MoBot.com, for more information on class availability and registration.

The Garden will provide an area in its Beaumont Room with a table, chairs and signage for each participating society. The St. Louis Hosta Society, in turn, may populate its table with brochures promoting our society and our AHS affiliation, society membership information and enrollment forms, tips on growing and propagating hostas, information on upcoming events, copies of society newsletters, plus photos depicting our various activities. This has the potential to be a busy day that will bring potential members to this Plant Society Membership Information Fair area. Consider helping man this table.

Phyllis Weidman, membership chair, will be coordinating this event. More information will be presented at the February 15th meeting.

2009 Membership Dues are Payable Now

If you receive the newsletter by postal mail, check the two-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 '08' appears after your name, your dues are paid through the 2008 year and are now payable for 2009.

If you receive the newsletter by e-mail, check the second attachment for a list of all members and the year through which their dues are paid. For example, if '2008' appears after your name in the attachment list, your dues are paid through the 2008 year and are now payable for 2009.

Dues are \$7 annually (individual or family) or \$18 for three years. Make checks payable to SLHS (St. Louis Hosta Society) and bring to the next meeting or send to:

Dave Poos
9904 Crestwood Drive
Crestwood MO 63126

Snail Mail or E-mail?

In an effort to bring the newsletter to you sooner, with color hi-lights and pictures, SLHS would like to distribute your newsletter by e-mail instead of regular postal mail. Use of e-mail saves paper and will significantly reduce club printing and mailing costs. At the February 15th meeting, check the **Member List** to verify that both your e-mail address and your postal address are correct.

If you prefer to receive the newsletter by regular mail, mark (X) in the box under the 'Don't E-mail Newsletter' column.



SLHS Club Plant Sale – 2009

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

<u>Description</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<u>American Icon PPAF</u> <L> (Hansen) Striking sport of H. ‘Choo Choo Train’ with wide, rippled, gold margins on green leaves. Best grown in a shady location. Pale lavender flowers in midsummer.\$11.00	_____	_____
<u>Cathedral Windows PP17295</u> <L> (Hansen) A sport from H. ‘Stained Glass’...large 9-10” round, dome-shaped, golden leaves surrounded by 3” wide, dark green border. Topped in late summer with near-white, very large, very fragrant flowers.\$14.00	_____	_____
<u>Clovelly PPAF</u> <M> (Terpening) Plant has beautiful green leaves with fantastic piecrust edges. The leaves have superb substance and are held horizontally, creating an open and airy clump. Pale lavender flowers in July.\$13.00	_____	_____
<u>Dancing Queen</u> <L> (Terpening) A large, yellow hosta with an exceptional pie-crust edge. It starts out bright yellow and maintains good color, then turns a very pale yellow late in the season. Pale lavender flowers in midsummer.\$14.00	_____	_____
<u>Great Escape</u> <M> (van den Top) New sport from H. ‘Halcyon’ with a very wide white border. A vigorous grower with all the same attributes as its parent...good substance, holds up throughout the season and is topped with lavender flowers.\$15.00	_____	_____
<u>Hacksaw</u> <S> (Livingston) A small, rapidly growing plant with long narrow and tapered leaves that are intensely rippled and serrated. Unique look. Blooms very late in the season with lavender flowers.\$12.00	_____	_____
<u>Marrakech</u> <S> (Terpening) Small yellow hosta with lance shaped leaves that have deeply cut wavy edges. It forms a beautiful clump that grows well and shows its bright yellow color with more sun. In midsummer it sprouts a pink flower scape with pinkish buds opening to light lavender flowers.\$11.00	_____	_____
<u>Paradise Island</u> <M> (Fransen) Stunning new variegated sport of H. ‘Fire Island’...beautiful yellow leaf surrounded by striking green border held on a red petiole. The red comes up into the leaf. Topped with lavender flowers. A vigorous grower.\$14.00	_____	_____
<u>Purple Haze</u> <M> (Janssen) A very unique hosta with blue leaves held on purple petioles. The purple color continues into the veins of the leaf creating a ‘purple haze’ on the center portion of the leaf surface. This color fades as the season progresses. Good substance on nicely textured leaves that are topped with lavender flowers in midsummer.\$13.00	_____	_____
<u>The Razors Edge</u> <S> (Terpening) An elegant plant with long green leaves that are quite ruffled and have white backs. The upright clump stunningly shows off its intensely red petioles. It is a vigorous grower and will be topped with lavender flowers.\$15.00	_____	_____
TOTAL	_____	_____



Members enjoy delicious fare



Members socialize before the feast



**Jolly Ann Whitener and Melissa Byrd
enjoy lively conversation**

Hosta Society Holiday Party

On December 7, 2008 members gathered at the Creve Coeur Community Center for the last event of the year. This year, instead of an in-the-evening affair, the holiday party was held at our regular meeting location, day of the week and time. The delicious luncheon was catered by *At Your Fingertips Catering*.

Vice president Pam Wolkowitz, who planned this event, had decorated the room with festive snowmen, sleds, twinkling lights, and bright-colored garlands. She draped the tables with Christmas green cloths which contrasted sharply with the bright red napkins and white dinner ware

Rick and Joan Clarkson created beautiful centerpieces consisting of miniature sleighs carrying poinsettias and evergreen boughs.

Phyllis and Jim Weidman added to the holiday feel with a tree wrapped with red and gold ribbons, beaded garlands and bright lights.

The Society wishes to thank each of these members for their hard work in putting together a wonderful, festive party.

Judging by the amount of conversation and laughter, both before and after the luncheon, a fine time was had by all. The afternoon format seemed to be well-received.

You want me to go where and it's how cold!

On January 17, four members of the St. Louis Hosta Society braved snow, wind and subzero temperatures to trek north to the Chicago suburb of Schaumburg. These four 'hostaholics' and 140 others attended the 2009 Winter Scientific Meeting sponsored by Midwest Region Hosta Society. As usual it was an opportunity to meet new hosta lovers, catch up on the comings and goings of old hosta friends and listen to interesting speakers.

Bob Solberg took us behind the scenes to view the pursuit of the red hosta. Red pigments called anthocyanins are stored in the vacuole of the leaf cell. Whether a hosta can produce the red pigment, the hue and intensity of the red color and where that red color will appear on the plant is determined by the plant's genes. Hostas with red petioles and scapes are becoming more common in the marketplace. Breeders have been able to produce plants that have red up into the veins. One, H. 'Purple Haze', has a purple-red 'haze' in the center portion of its leaves. Bob and others are now working toward red on the leaf tips and edges. Is a totally red hosta in the future and will it survive more than one season? The answer may not be far off.

Mark Zilis continued his series of presentations titled 'Hostas of Distinction'. In the past Mark has focused on landmark hostas. Last year he changed direction and recognized 'Hybridizers of Distinction'. This year the discussion centered on patented hostas. To obtain a patent the grower must write a detailed description of the hosta explaining its unique and distinct qualities and then hire a specialized attorney to file the application with the US Patent and Trademark Office. The process is lengthy and expensive. Currently 51 hostas have been patented. The plant label will have a patent number of the form PP17313. PPAF means the patent has been applied for but not yet granted. A patent gives the owner the ability to control propagation and sales of his plant in the United States. Owners collect a royalty ranging from 5 to 50 cents. Growers can license with the patent owner to propagate and sell his plants. Gardeners can propagate hostas in their own gardens but cannot sell them.



Hosta Seed Auction

These and other presentations on hybridizing and the use of native trees with hostas were followed by three breakout sessions. Attendees chose a discussion of hosta sports, one concerning plant classification or one giving leaf show winner tips. During the day a spirited silent hosta seed auction was ongoing.

What a wonderful way to spend a cold January day.

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

Jeff Hall - President
skyridgegarden@earthlink.net

Pam Wolkowitz - Vice-President
636-285-3114
lovehostas@msn.com

Dave Poos - Treasurer
314-821-1622
dpoos@juno.com

Joan Hummel - Secretary
636-405-2584
HummelJFam@sbcglobal.net

Kelly Hall - Webmaster
skyridgegarden@earthlink.net

Doug Gann – Web Administrator
636-939-9499
d.gann@sbcglobal.net

Joan Poos - Newsletter Editor
314-821-1622
dpoos@juno.com

Phyllis Weidman - Membership
314-965-7027
jpweidman@sbcglobal.net

Rick Clarkson - Hospitality
618-462-2540
hostaluv92@yahoo.com

Membership Information

The American Hosta Society

Contact: Sandie Markland
8702 Pinnacle Rock Ct.
Lorton, VA 22079-3029
AHSMembershipSecretary@earthlink.net

Dues: Individual \$30 per year, Family \$34 per year

Midwest Regional Hosta Society

Contact: Pete Postlewaite
21172 Andover Road
Kildeer, IL 60047
mrhs.treasurer@midwesthostasociety.org

Dues: Individual \$20 for two years

St. Louis Hosta Society

Contact: Dave Poos
9904 Crestwood Drive
Crestwood, MO 63126
dpoos@juno.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

Other Hosta and Garden Web Sites

American Hosta Society – <http://www.hosta.org/>

Midwest Hosta Society – <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org>

Hosta Library – <http://www.hostalibrary.org>

Hosta Forum – questions/answers – <http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/hosta/>

Mini Hosta forum – <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/minihosta>