



Volume 20, Issue 9

November, 2019



President
Diana Plahn

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Hosta Lovers:

Time is running out to winterize your garden. I hope you have had lots of time to get this done and that the hosta predators are leaving you alone.

Thanks to all of you for the last four years. I appreciate your help with the society's projects. I'm sure Phyllis will be asking for your help in the next year. Do try and help where you can, since the Society depends on all of us to keep it going.

Don't forget the board meeting at the Poos home or our Holiday Get together at Janelle Criscione's. Dates are in the newsletter.

Best wishes to all of you,

Diana



I was just sittin' here enjoyin' the company. Plants got a lot to say if you take the time to listen.

Eeyore



Photos taken in the beautiful gardens of Karen Frimel (left) and Barb Moreland (right).

2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- November 10** **Board Meeting – Home of Dave and Joan Poos**
Door opens at 9:00 AM, brunch and meeting at 9:30
9904 Crestwood Drive, Crestwood, MO 63126
- December 8** **Holiday Party – Home of Janelle and Jim Criscione**
2:00 – 5:00 PM
624 Locksley Place, Webster Groves, MO 63119
- February 1, 2020** **Midwest Regional Hosta Society**
Winter Hosta Symposium
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- June 10-13, 2020** **American Hosta Society National Convention**
Minneapolis, Minnesota
- July 16-18, 2020** **Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention**
Lisle, Illinois



Fall Board Meeting
Sunday, November 10, 2019
9:30 AM

Home of Dave and Joan Poos
9904 Crestwood Drive
Crestwood, MO 63126

All members are invited to join Board Members for our annual planning meeting. The agenda includes items such as setting the 2020 meeting dates, establishing the 2020 operating budget, brain-storming about possible speakers, a bus trip, garden walks, a chili luncheon or possibly an ice cream social.

Let the Board know what you want for your society in 2020. What did you like or not like in 2019? 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.

Bring your ideas but also your appetite! Brunch is Dave's favorite meal and you are invited. The menu might include Crème Brule French Toast, scrambled eggs, waffles with fruit sauce, home-made coffee cake and of course bacon. Door opens at 9:00, brunch served at 9:30. We know it is a Sunday morning which interferes with church, but it was the only time the full Board could meet.

If you are coming please email or call Dave and Joan to reserve your place at the table:
david.poos@att.net or 314-821-1622.



THE ST. LOUIS HOSTA SOCIETY HOLIDAY PARTY

Sunday, December 8 at 2:00 – 5:00 PM

**Home of Janelle and Jim Criscione
624 Locksley Place
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 2019 garden season. But we can't say good-bye to our hosta friends without one last hoorah.

Janelle and Jim Criscione have graciously offered to host our society members at a Sunday afternoon party in 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 Janelle. The festivities begin at 2:00 PM and continue until 5:00 PM.

No business meeting. No speakers. No cost. Come and mingle. Laugh and smile. Reminisce about the never-ending winter, the constant rains, all your gardening successes and hopes for next year. 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.

For directions or more information call or email Janelle:

lambypie@gmail.com or 314-324-4380

2020 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 Online Auction tab in the drop down window. There is an explanation of how the auction works and how to register.

**Last newsletter of 2019
First newsletter of 2020 will be sent at the end of January
Our first meeting will occur in February**

The AHS President's Wall

In 2012 the President and Board of the American Hosta Society devised a way to “honor members of local hosta societies who have given of their time, skills, energy and enthusiasm over the years – ensuring that their club has run smoothly and efficiently”.

This year our society selected **Barb Moreland** and **Karen Frimel** as our recipients of this honor. Certificates, signed by the AHS President and the Awards and Honors V.P., were presented to them at the October meeting. Their names will appear on the ‘President’s Wall of Honor’ that is now a part of the AHS website at www.Hosta.org.

Karen has graciously opened both her garden and her home for our enjoyment. She and husband Greg have hosted several Garden Walks and Christmas parties. Their garden was on tour during the 2016 AHS National Convention. Her artistic flair was in evidence in the centerpieces she created for our Christmas parties and the quilt she donated to the Convention raffle.

Barb works tirelessly for our society. In the past, she served as Secretary and Hospitality Chair. Barb worked many years pricing and selling plants at our annual MOBot Hosta Sale. This year she volunteered to chair the event. Need a new SLHS polo shirt, see Barb. We met Barb’s canine and fowl menagerie when she opened her garden for a Garden Walk. It was also an optional open garden for the 2016 AHS National Convention.

Whatever the event, be it a meeting, a garden party, an auction, a sale or wallowing in the mud at a MOBot work day, these two members can be sighted. They are the bedrock of our society, ever present, up for anything and everything.



Karen's chicken feeder plant container



Barb at MOBot Work Day



Barb's beautiful garden



Karen's beautiful garden



Drill bits as flowers



A border planting in Barb's garden

October Meeting

“The Big World of Little Hostas” Josh Spece



Josh Spece talking with Spence Sorenson and Chester Wolkowitz.

During his presentation at our October meeting, hybridizer and hosta lover Josh Spece introduced us to the world of mini hostas. He stated that people seem to like the extremes – very large and very small. The trend for the last 15 years has been toward miniaturizing gardens. This is perfect for small and miniature hostas. Since hostas are so addictive, especially the cute small ones, more

can be squeezed into urban yards or they will easily fit in a variety of creative containers. One can have a nice garden even if the only space available is a deck or balcony.

The American Hosta Growers Association classifies mini hostas as those having a leaf area of six square inches or less and a height in our more Southern region of up to seven inches. Small hostas have a leaf area of six to 30 square inches and a height of eight to eleven inches.

Like all hostas, the little ones are shade tolerant and heat intolerant. They like bright and dappled shade, not deep dark shade. Since they are small and don't have big reserve areas in their root, they need lots of water. Their short roots reside in the upper levels of soil that dry out fast. They like loose dirt and don't need a lot of fertilizer.

It is important to watch for tree root contention and winter heaving. Because of their small root system, winter's freeze and thaw cycles easily push them out of the ground allowing the crowns to freeze and die. Now is the time to add a layer of mulch or shredded leaves over them.

Josh showed many pictures of creative ways to display minis. Small areas by patios, small areas where paths come together, rock gardens, fairy gardens, raised beds and containers are ideal. Containers can be moved to an unheated garage or shed or along the North side of the house out of the sun for the winter. Josh does not water any of his containers during the winter. If left outside, cover your pots with leaves for added insulation.

There are some amazing new minis about to be introduced to the retail trade. I've added several to my 2020 summer wish list. Many thanks to Josh. Visit his web site for more hosta information and a catalogue of his offerings: www.inthecountrygardenandgifts.com



H. 'Hideout'



H. 'Dragon Tails'



H. 'Mighty Mouse'



LOOK WHAT'S COMING JULY 16 – 18, 2020

Mark your calendar now for **HOSTAS CHICAGO STYLE**, next year's MRHS Convention in the Chicago western suburb of Lisle. Your hosts from the Northern Illinois Hosta Society (NIHS) are planning a warm Chicago-style welcome for you.

This convention is going to be unique - speakers you haven't heard before, fabulous gardens where hostas share top billing with other distinctive plants and unique designs, an evening garden visit, Chicago style pizza, and more.

Features you've always expected at hosta conventions will still be part of the event: Reunions with hosta friends. Vendors with the newest hostas, companion plants and other garden-related items. Two new cultivars from Bob Solberg as gift hostas. A leaf show. Speakers who will educate and excite you. Gardens that will enthrall you. Good old-fashioned Midwestern hospitality.

Headquarters for this do-not-miss event will be the Doubletree by Hilton, well-located near the Lisle/Naperville exit on I-88. For more information or a registration form, visit www.midwesthostasociety.org



JUNE 10 – 13, 2020

Your host for the AHS 2020 convention is the Minnesota Hosta Society. We are proud to once again host the convention. Our membership is excited to have you join us in fellowship and education as well as share our passion for

gardening with *Hosta*. Our theme "Hosta Vision 2020" reflects the ever expanding use of *Hosta* in the garden as one of the top perennials of choice due to their versatility in use and form in the landscape.

Convention Summary:

- June 11, 12 and 13th, 2020 formal convention dates:
 - Seven Meals Include Breakfast (Fr/Sat), Lunch (Th/Fr/Sat) & Dinner (Th/Sat)
 - Six Educational speakers (Thursday and Saturday afternoons, 3 each day)
 - Garden Tours (Fri and Sat morning) – ride a bus or drive on your own
 - Hosta Show
 - Judges Clinics – Clinic 1, Clinic 2 and Clinic 3
 - Hospitality
 - AHS Auction Friday afternoon
 - Vending
- June 10 add on optional tour to SE MN/Rochester. Limited to 100. Cost \$50 per person and includes a breakfast and box lunch. Tour includes a minimum of 5 lovely gardens. Shades of Green Hosta Society hosting
- See www.HostaVision2020.com for more information and a registration form.

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

Diana Plahn – President
314-346-3007
dplahn@me.com

Jolly Ann Whitener – Secretary
jawhit6@gmail.com

Karen Frey – Hospitality

Martha LaFata – Vice-President
314-961-7163
mvelafata@gmail.com

Melissa Byrd – Treasurer
mabyrd68@gmail.com

Melissa Byrd – Webmaster
mabyrd68@gmail.com

Joan Poos – Newsletter Editor
314-821-1622
david.poos@att.net

St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

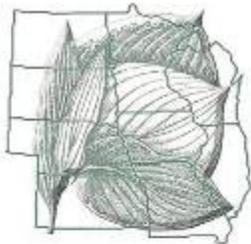
Contact: Melissa Byrd
117 Gunston Hall Drive
St. Charles, MO 63304
mabyrd68@gmail.com

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

Meetings held at 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/>