



# Shady Notes

Volume 20, Issue 5

June, 2019

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



**President  
Diana Plahn**

Hello Fellow Hosta Lovers:

I bet your Hosta's are loving all this rain. Although I'm tired of the rain, it seems our Hosta's aren't. They are thrilled with it and our rainy winter. Summer seems to have entered our area with a rush of hot temperatures too. Watch out for Southern blight. Conditions look to be ready for this scourge to appear. So if you have to reduce some of those massive clumps, divide and save some of the newer things for our members' auction on Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, at 1pm.

This month we have the combined regional and national conventions in Green Bay, Wisconsin. This should be a beautiful convention. I hope many of you get to go.

I'd like to thank the Poos for their open garden event on May 31<sup>st</sup>. As usual, the garden was lovely. And immaculate!

*Diana*

"Summer is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces up, snow is exhilarating; there is no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather."

- John Ruskin

## 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>June 12-16</b>                            | <b>AHS National Convention</b><br><b>Green Bay, WS</b>                                       |
| <b>June 22</b>                               | <b>Garden Walk/Meeting</b><br><b>4:30 PM, Home of David and Anne Birenbaum</b>               |
| <b>July 21</b>                               | <b>Members Plant Auction</b><br><b>1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center</b>                |
| <b>September 18</b>                          | <b>Meeting with Speaker TBA</b><br><b>7:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center</b>             |
| <b>October 20</b><br><b>NOTE DATE CHANGE</b> | <b>Meeting with Speaker Tom Michelletti</b><br><b>1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center</b> |
| <b>November</b>                              | <b>Board Meeting</b><br><b>Time and location TBA</b>   |
| <b>December</b>                              | <b>Holiday Party</b>   |

### Seeing Holes?

Like you, I am seeing more hostas with large irregular holes in the middle of leaves or along the edges. Poor *H. 'Regalia'* located in a front bed has been unmercifully attacked.

In an article printed in the Central Illinois Hosta Society June newsletter, hosta grower Rob Mortko writes "Chances are this is the result of a caterpillar (most likely cutworms or armyworms). Most tend to be active after dark (like slugs), so it can be difficult to spot them at work. The good news is that these pests are easier to deal with than slugs. Sevin (carbaryl) is listed for control of these critters and will not harm hosta foliage. Simply follow the labeled directions. Note that some slug baits also contain Sevin for control of both slugs and caterpillars."



Mutilated leaves of  
*H. 'Regalia'*



Hostas at home in the woods behind the Birenbaum home.



One of Anne's colorful flower boxes.



Members socialized during David's 2017 garden walk.

## **Garden Walk and Picnic Saturday, June 22, 4:30 PM**

**Home of David and Anne Birenbaum  
209 Brook Lane, O'Fallon, MO 63368  
(314-650-5200)**

It's going to be a picnic! David Birenbaum has graciously invited fellow members and their friends to visit his garden and stay awhile to socialize. June is the perfect time to be outside among beautifully grown hostas enjoying the company of others who share our interests.

David and Anne will provide the meat course. Members please bring an appetizer, a salad, side dish or dessert to round out the meal. If you would like a beverage other than water or tea, feel free to bring it. You also might want to stick a lawn chair in your car.

David gardens in the shade while Anne enjoys the bright sun. Nestled in the woods in front and behind their home are hundreds of hostas and companion plants. In a location at the entrance to their home, Anne's sun lovers greet visitors with a riot of bright colors – pinks, oranges, yellows and purples. When we first visited in 2017, Anne had created colorful flower boxes which straddled the railing around their deck. The hosta garden was young in 2017. It'll be fun to see how it's grown.

Directions: From the intersection of I-64 and I-270, travel west on I-64 15.47 miles. Take EXIT 9 toward MO-K/O'Fallon. Merge onto N Outer Road. After 0.43 miles turn right onto MO-K. After 0.18 miles turn left onto Technology Drive After 0.11 miles turn right onto Weldon Springs Road After traveling about a mile on Weldon Spring go straight onto Brook Lane. After about 0.51 miles, 209 Brook Lane is on the left.

## **Welcome New Members**

**Janet Lowe of Chesterfield, MO  
Glorian McGuire of Creve Coeur, MO  
Rhoda Parker of High Ridge, MO  
Staci and Rick Stinson of St. Louis, MO**

Please join us at the Birenbaums. This is the perfect time to meet and get to visit a beautiful garden and get to know many of your fellow gardeners.

## May – Work Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden



The cleaning crew! Barb Moreland sets about removing all the yellowing foliage of spring bulbs that share the hosta beds. Dave Poos, center picture, and Mike Schmitt were kept busy removing daffodil bulbs that had expanded beyond their allotted space.



The planting crew! Melissa Byrd plants *H.* 'Curly Fries' in one of three large pots arranged in a bed under a crabapple tree. Phyllis Weidman is ready for the next specimen. Some large clumps were divided, while others which were duplicates were removed. These were potted by Jolly Ann Whitener and Pam Wolkowitz then sold at the following week's sale.



It was a cold, rainy day as attested by Barb's muddy shoes and shovel. But it could have been worse – no snow or lightning. We managed to fill the Cushman. The hosta beds look fantastic! Special thanks to Phyllis Weidman for organizing this worthwhile event.

## May – Missouri Botanical Garden Hosta Sale



Janelle Criscione, in blue, helps customers find just the right hostas for their garden.



Setup complete, members Phyllis Weidman, Pam Wolkowitz, David Birenbaum, Barb Moreland and Martha LaFata wait for the doors to open.



Jolly Ann Whitener, Pam Wolkowitz and Steve Passig help customers in the checkout lane.

It was another dark and dreary day. The never ending rains of 2019 pelted the glass roof of the sales room. We were worried that no one would come on such an ugly day. But the rains didn't stop people from visiting the Missouri Botanical Garden and stopping in to see our merchandise.

A few of the plants came from the hosta beds within the Botanical Garden, but most were donated by members of our society. Members took the time to dig, divide and pot plants grown in their own yards. That was not an easy task this spring. The constant rains have made garden beds muddy, not the best situation for digging plants.

There was a large selection of hostas - large and small, green, gold and blue and many variegated. Another table contained companion plants which ranged from large healthy forsythia bushes to tall slender Solomon's seal to vivid blue iris and shiny European ginger.

By the end of the day, eight lonely plants remained. Over \$1,600 was raised which will pay for our speakers and other activities. A big round of applause for co-chairs Phyllis Weidman, Barb Moreland and Janelle Criscione – job well done!



Treasurer Melissa Byrd is open and ready for business at check-out.

## Thank you from Phyllis Weidman

Even on a rainy cold day you came to work. Thanks to all of you who donated plants, accepted and priced plants, organized the room, helped customers with your knowledge, bagged and checked out our buyers, and gave support to the Missouri Botanical Garden Hosta Plant Sale. It was a long day, but I happily report we made \$1654. It is fun to meet the public and encourage them to grow hostas. It is part of our mission.

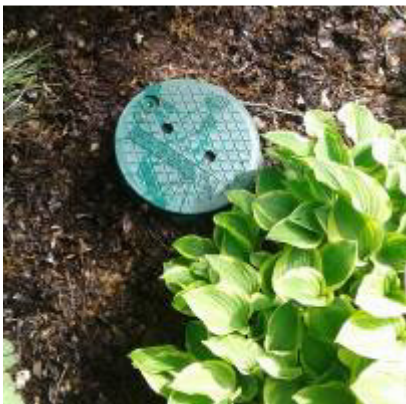
### Editor's Note:

It's not Phyllis who should be thanking us, but we who should be thanking Phyllis. The success of the Missouri Botanical Garden Work Day and the subsequent Hosta Plant Sale is due to all of her hard work, time commitment and most of all enthusiasm. Phyllis has been successfully spearheading these two activities for a number of years. There are lots of members who help but she is the guiding force. She makes it fun. Thank you Phyllis for all your service to our Society!

## Where our money went

It doesn't look like much but it cost \$2,700! Several months ago, the Missouri Botanical Garden asked our Society to help fund an automated irrigation system that would greatly benefit the hosta beds. At that time each circuit of the irrigation system had to be manually turned on and off. This was time consuming and erratic. Our monies paid for trenching and hookup of electrical wiring so that this process could be automated.

All garden visitors see are cylinders embedded in the hosta beds. Inside is a valve that regulates water flow. These valves are now activated by the control box mounted on the wall by the Spink Pavilion. One control point, just the push of a button and the hostas are watered.



## St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

**Diana Plahn** – President  
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**Jolly Ann Whitener** – Secretary  
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**Karen Frey** – Hospitality

**Martha LaFata** – Vice-President  
314-961-7163  
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[mabyrd68@gmail.com](mailto:mabyrd68@gmail.com)

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314-821-1622  
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## St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

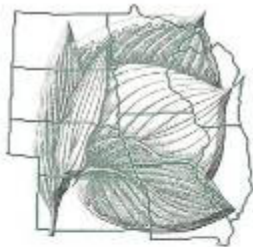
**Contact:** Melissa Byrd  
117 Gunston Hall Drive  
St. Charles, MO 63304  
[mabyrd68@gmail.com](mailto:mabyrd68@gmail.com)

**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](http://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](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/>