



Volume 16, Issue 1

February, 2015



Phyllis Weidman President
Photo by Kelly Hall

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Welcome to the beginning of another year of the Hosta Society.

The newsletter, so wonderfully written by Joan Poos, is your way of knowing what is happening. There you will find helpful hints and answers about growing hostas and other shade loving plants. You can find out about upcoming meetings. All the activities of the society are there. Take the time to read it.

You can also check the web site for valuable information www.stlhosta.org.

The plant catalogs have arrived and your planning for 2015 has begun. Make sure to include some of the hostas that the Club Plant Sale offers. The list is in the newsletter and must be returned to Ted by the February 15th meeting. The hostas are again being ordered from Made in the Shade Gardens. There are some very good plants to choose from – oh, just order them all. The plants are a good size and ready for the garden. Thanks to Ted for organizing the sale.

The first meeting of the year is the Pot Luck Lunch. What better way to find out what your hosta friends have been doing over the winter than with a plate of great food. Come join us for the fun.

Phyllis

2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| February 15 | Annual Pot Luck Luncheon
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center |
| March 15 | Meeting with Speaker Connie Goss
“The DIRT on Soil”
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center |
| April 19 | Vendor Day and Club Plant Pick-up
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center |
| April 25 | Work Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden
8 AM, Missouri Botanical Garden, AHS Display Garden beds |
| May 2-3 | Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden
Missouri Botanical Garden |
| May 17 | Garden Walk in Member’s Garden
Home of Sharon and Mike Schmitt |
| June 18-20 | American Hosta Society National Convention
Raleigh, North Carolina |
| June 28 | Garden Walk in Member’s Garden
Home of Phyllis and Jim Weidman |
| July 9-11 | Midwest Region Hosta Society Convention
Dubuque, Iowa |
| July 19 | Members Plant Auction
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center |
| September 20 | Meeting with Speaker TBA
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center |
| October 18 | Meeting with Speaker TBA
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center |
| November TBA | Board Meeting
TBA |
| December 6 | Holiday Party
TBA |



At the 2014 Potluck, members queue for lunch.

KICK OFF TIME

No, not the Super Bowl!

The 2015 Hosta Season!



Make sure to save room for dessert!
2014 Potluck dessert table

**The gardening magazines have started to arrive.
It's official – the gardening season has begun!
It's time to shrug off the cold**

Join your fellow hosta lovers for an afternoon of delicious food, lively chatter and talk of upcoming hosta happenings.

FEBRUARY POTLUCK LUNCHEON MEETING

Sunday, February 15 at 1:00 PM, doors open at 12:30 for socializing
Creve Coeur Government Center
300 N. New Ballas, St Louis 63141
(N New Ballas Rd. between Ladue Rd. and Olive)

The first Society meeting of 2015 will be our annual Potluck Luncheon at Creve Coeur Government Center. Our Hospitality Chairs, Sharon and Mike Schmitt, supply roast beef, chicken and beverages. Members please bring the following: if your last name begins A-P, salad or side dish; Q-Z, dessert.

Then stay for a short business meeting during which our president Phyllis Weidman will give a preview of all the exciting events scheduled this year.

University of Illinois Extension's Weekend Gardener Event

February 21, 2015 in Belleville, Illinois

The Weekend Gardener Event is a one day program which is divided into four different educational sessions. Attendees have 16 different classes from which to choose four. Lunch is included in the \$40 fee. For more information, see <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mms/downloads/56716.pdf>

The sponsor of the event, The University of Illinois Extension's Madison-Monroe-St. Clair Unit, provides resources and programming to the community. Areas of program focus are: Horticulture, Community and Economic Development; and 4-H and Youth Development. Their web site is <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mms/>

2015 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 '14' appears after your name, your dues are paid through the 2014 year and are now payable for 2015.

If you receive the newsletter by e-mail, check the attachment for a list of all members and the year through which their dues are paid. For example, if '14' appears after your name in the attachment list, your dues are paid through the 2014 year and are now payable for 2015.

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:

Cindy Michniok
14300 Quiet Meadow Ct.
Chesterfield, MO 63017



Let's Go Green - Give E-mail a Try

In an effort to bring the newsletter to you sooner with color pictures and hi-lights, 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 16th meeting, check the **Member List** to verify that your e-mail address, your postal address and telephone number 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. If you would now prefer an e-mail copy instead of a postal copy make sure your e-mail address is on the **Member List**. If at any time, you change your e-mail address or wish to change your e-mail status, just send an e-mail to SLHS Newsletter Editor Joan Poos at david.poos@att.net.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Beve and Vern Creely of Troy, Missouri
Pam Hardy of St. Louis, Missouri
Ed and Sandy Parker of St. Louis, Missouri

Join us at our annual Pot Luck Luncheon. It's the perfect time for us to get to know you.

Christmas Party 2014



Potluck food chairmen, Kim and Ted Piekutowski serve members a delicious lunch of brisket, chicken, and all the trimmings.



Members were asked to bring a small sharable dessert. They did not disappoint. The table groaned under plates of cakes and festively decorated cookies. Our sweet tooth was satisfied!



Pam Hardy places her raffle tickets by her favorite prize.



While waiting for lunch, Dave Poos and Duane Cookson chat with new members Pam Hardy, Beve and Vern Creely.



Dianne Sherrillo and Dolores Shaumberg catch up on events with Nancy Tempel.

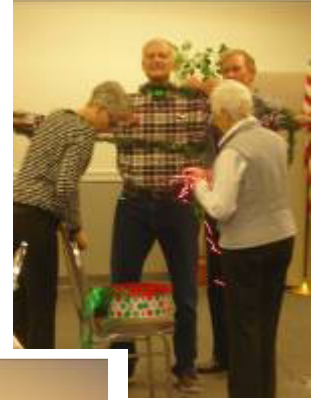


Phyllis Weidman, Pam Wolkowitz, Freida Wiese, Karen Frey, Catherine Mayer and Spence Sorenson discuss the club plant sale offerings.



To get everyone in the holiday mood, co-chairman Karen Frimel devised a contest for the best dressed Christmas tree. Karen Frey and Mark Michniok were good sports, volunteering to be trees.

Pam Wolkowitz, Ted Piekutowski and, Barb Moreland decorated the laughing Karen, while Cindy Michniok, Greg Frimel and Nancy Tempel adorned Mark.



St. Louis Hosta Society Club Plants

Each year the St. Louis Hosta Society compiles a list of plants that can be purchased by members for wholesale prices. This is one of the perks of belonging to this society. Enclosed at the end of this newsletter is the SLHS Club Plant Sale order form for 2015. Listed are twelve selections from Rob Mortko's Made in the Shade Nursery. The selections include something for everyone – mini, small, medium and large, in combinations of green, blue and gold. There will be pictures at the February meeting or you can look them up at <http://www.hostaguy.com> or <http://www.hostalibrary.org>

Please fill out the form indicating the number of plants of each type that you wish to order. Total your order. Then bring the form with your money to the February meeting. Make your check out to St. Louis Hosta Society.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, mail the form with your check to our plant sale chairman Ted Piekutowski. Deadline is February 15.

Ted Piekutowski
1269 Brenthaven Land
Florissant, MO 63031

This year all plants will be given out at the April 19 Vendor's Day.

SLHS Club Plant Sale – 2015



Name: _____ Telephone: _____ Check #: _____

<u>Description</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Blueberry Waffles <Giant (30"ht x 68"w)> (Brown 2008) This cross of 'Spilt Milk' and 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd' was the "Hot New Hosta" of the 2009 AHS Convention in Michigan. The huge round, corrugated blue leaves do remind you of waffles. White flowers emerge in early summer. \$12.50	_____	_____
Cherry Tart <Mini (6"ht x 15"w)> (Scheer NR) This hosta has attractive light yellow foliage with rich red petioles that extend well into the underside of the leaf blade. The effect is enhanced by the upright character of the mound. Pale purple flowers open in early August. \$10.50	_____	_____
Doubled Up <Med (20"ht x 24"w)> (Solberg 2011) This fully tetraploid sport of H. <i>plantaginea</i> has one of the world's largest hosta flowers. It is simply spectacular in bloom! Six inch long, pure white blooms are also extra wide. The leaves are a rubbery, glossy green. Like H. <i>plantaginea</i> , it loves the heat. \$11.50	_____	_____
Fruit Punch <Med (17"ht x 49"w)> (Dean 1999) This cross of 'Urajiro Hachijo' and 'Crested Surf' features bright yellow leaves with a wavy margin that changes to a chartreuse color by late summer. Leaf stems and flower scapes are purple-red. Deep purple flowers edged in white bloom late summer into September. \$11.00	_____	_____
Grape Fizz <Med (18"ht x 40"w)> (Solberg 2011) A cross of 'Rhapsody in Blue' and H. <i>plantaginea</i> , this hosta has long, thick bright shiny green leaves. But it is grown for its striped purple flower buds that open to large 3" fragrant flowers in August. Vigorous. \$11.50	_____	_____
Light Everlasting <Small (13"ht x 24"w)> (Shady Oaks NR) This sport of 'Eternal Flame' has excellent substance and blue-green leaves with very wide creamy-white margins that turn white during the growing season. A slow grower that would look great in a pot or the front of your hosta garden. Lavender flowers in mid-summer. \$12.00	_____	_____
Mike Shadrack <Med (17"ht x 36"w)> (Kuk 2001) This striking cultivar, a cross of 'Great Expectations' and 'Rock and Roll', has broad ovate-shaped, cupped and slightly corrugated, blue-green leaves with a creamy to white margin. Vigorous growth rate. Near-white flowers bloom in dense clusters from late June to July. \$12.00	_____	_____
Mouse Capades <Mini (7"ht x 18"w)> (Mortko 2013) A sport of 'Mighty Mouse', this variegated mouse can also "dance". Bluish green leaves have creamy white margins that are wavy and twisted at the tip. Heavy substance. Pale purple flowers on short scapes in mid-summer. \$13.50	_____	_____
Pewterware <Small (10"ht x 30"w)> (Dean 1999) A cross of 'Urajiro Hachijo' and 'Blue Moon', this hosta features wonderful unique, intensely waxy blue, heart-shaped leaves. The blue color holds well through the growing season. Good substance. Lavender flowers in late summer. \$11.00	_____	_____
Raucous Ruffles <Small (13"ht x 35"w)> (Dean 2008) This distinctive plant, a cross of ('Color Fantasy' x 'Love Pat') x 'Fluted Fountain', roars "look my way". Cupped, twisted, folded, wavy and puckered foliage - this beauty offers a little of everything. The distinctive blue-green foliage also exposes a white underside. Midseason brings strong scapes with lavender flowers. WOWSER !!! \$14.00	_____	_____
Slim and Trim <Mini (5"ht x 12"w)> (Benedict NR) A seldom encountered "Herb" Benedict seedling of 'Purple Verticulated Elf'. The 1" by 5" long leaves form a dense clump of wavy, blue-green foliage. Purple flowers on short scapes top the vigorous clump in late summer. \$11.00	_____	_____
Zebra Stripes <Small (10"ht x 28"w)> (Avent 2005) This hosta, from Tony Avent's 'Outhouse Delight' breeding line, emerges in the spring pure white before the veins turn green and the entire leaf becomes lightly misted with green by fall. The white foliage color holds best with morning sun. \$13.50	_____	_____

TOTAL _____

A Good Winter Project!
MAKING A HYPERTUFA TROUGH
KELLY & JEFF HALL



Arlie Tempel garden

Hypertufa is a mix of Portland cement, peat moss and vermiculite, which when it's dry, looks like weathered, crumbly stone. You'll need a trough-shaped mold, such as a plastic dishpan or a heavy cardboard box, to work with. Wear rubber gloves to protect your hands and a dust mask to prevent particle inhalation.

Choose a flat work space where you can leave the completed trough undisturbed while the cement cures. Cover the work surface with a sheet of plastic.

Recipe: 3 parts Peat Moss
3 parts Vermiculite
2 parts Portland Cement

Use whatever measuring device you want (bucket, coffee can, etc.), but use the same device for measuring all the parts.

Remember do not use concrete! Use Portland Cement (cement is an ingredient in concrete). Concrete contains gravel; Portland Cement is a very fine powder with no gravel.

In a wheelbarrow or other large container, mix together 3 parts peat moss, 3 parts vermiculite and 2 parts Portland Cement. Add just enough water to make the ingredients malleable. Mix them together well. An approximation would be if you use a quart size container to measure, the mixture will make enough to cover a 14" pot.

You can shape the trough using either the inside or the outside of the mold. For a rough exterior and a smooth interior, use the outside of the mold. For a smooth exterior and a rough interior, pat the mixture into the mold's interior.

Place the mold upside down (for a rough exterior) or right side up (for a smooth exterior) on the plastic covered work surface. Cover the mold with a sheet of plastic, tucking the edges firmly around or underneath the mold. This is an important step because if you do not line your mold with plastic, the mixture will adhere to your mold and it WILL NOT, I repeat WILL NOT be removable (without destroying either your mold or the trough or both!), just speaking from experience!

Scoop up a handful of moistened mixture, and starting at the bottom and working toward the top, press it firmly to the mold, building up a layer about 1 ½" to 2" thick.

Wet your gloves and pat the exposed surface to smooth it. To create drainage holes, insert two or three wood dowel pieces, ¼ - ½ inches in diameter and a few inches long, into the trough bottom and leave them until the trough is cured. Loosely cover the mold with another sheet of plastic and allow the mixture to cure for a week or longer. The slower the cure, the stronger the trough; to slow the curing process, mist the mixture. Twist the dowels occasionally so they don't stick when you remove them.

After the cement has hardened, remove the plastic cover and carefully slip the trough off the mold. If desired, gently scuff the edges with a whisk broom or wire brush for a natural look. Allow it to set for another week or two to dry completely. Spray the trough with a hose to remove any white lime deposits on the surface. Allow the trough to cure thoroughly for a month before planting as the lime may leach into the soil.

If desired, brush the trough with buttermilk, or yogurt thinned with water to the consistency of buttermilk, to encourage the growth of algae and moss.

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

Phyllis Weidman – President
314-965-7027
Pow1031@gmail.com

Secretary
Position open

Sharon and Mike Schmitt – Hospitality
314-719-9305
Sharons39@aol.com

Dave Poos – Vice-President
314-821-1622
david.poos@att.net

Cindy Michniok – Treasurer
314-434-0946
Cmichniok@gmail.com

Melissa Byrd – Webmaster
mabyrd68@gmail.com

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

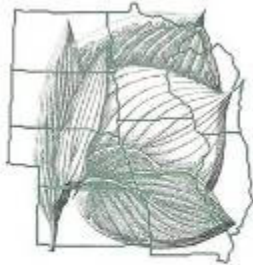
St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

Contact: Cindy Michniok
14300 Quiet Meadow Ct.
Chesterfield, MO 63017
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



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/>