



# Show Me Hostas Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue 5

July-August, 2010

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



**Pam Wolkowitz President**  
*Photo by Kelly Hall*

Hi Everyone!

This weather is absolutely wonderful. After returning from the AHS National Convention, we are inspired and ready to work. The gardens were outstanding, the hostas were plentiful at the vendors and you could talk hostas with anyone you bumped into.

Even though we have not been able to start the hosta garden at our new home yet, I purchased a few new hostas to put in when we do.

Minnesota had a fun game at the Convention. Fill in the blank---

**“You know you’re a hostaholic when...”**

Hope they will give you a chuckle as you work in your gardens, knowing that you probably agree.

**You know you’re a hostaholic when** you plan your vacation to include all the nurseries along the way.

**You know you’re a hostaholic when** you provide for your hostas in your will.

Hope everyone’s garden is doing well.

*Pam*

## 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>July 8-10</b>    | <b>Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention</b><br>Des Moines, Iowa                               |
| <b>July 18</b>      | <b>Member Plant Auction</b><br>1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center                              |
| <b>August 15</b>    | <b>Meeting and Speakers Joan and Larry Hummel</b><br>1:00 PM, Shaw Nature Reserve, Gray Summit, MO |
| <b>September 19</b> | <b>Meeting with Speaker Bill Ruppert</b><br>1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center                 |
| <b>October 17</b>   | <b>Meeting with Speaker Dave Wanninger</b><br>1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center               |
| <b>November 21</b>  | <b>Meeting with 'Show St. Louis Hosta Society' DVD</b><br>1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center   |
| <b>December 5</b>   | <b>Holiday Party</b><br>1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center                                     |

**NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL ARRIVE AT THE END OF AUGUST**

### JULY COMING EVENT

#### **St. Louis Hosta Society Member Auction** **July 18, 1:00 PM.**

Members Martha and Lamar Karlovetz, who permanently relocated to Florida last fall, generously donated many of their hostas and companion plants to the Society's Member Auction. Alas, hostas do not grow in Florida, even with Martha's green thumb. After a harsh winter and copious amounts of spring and summer rains, an inventory of their plants shows fewer survived with name tags intact than expected. **So, in order to have a lively auction, more plant donations are needed.**

While the blistering hot weather has abated a bit, walk through your garden beds checking for candidates for the auction. Bring some of your extras or a piece from some of your favorites so that they might find a home in other members' yards. But most important, bring yourself and your checkbook. Remember, monies from this event help defray the costs associated with Society events.

## **St. Louis Hosta Society Meeting – Speakers Joan and Larry Hummel**

**August 15, 1:00 PM.**

### **Shaw Nature Reserve, Gray Summit, MO**

How about something different! Our August meeting will be held in the Shaw Nature Reserve at the Whitmire Wildflower Garden, located behind the Bascom House (manor house). That area has both woods and shade and plenty of benches. Next to it is the prairie. Scott, the horticulturist at Shaw, has been working on some new areas to show people how to use natives as ground covers. The prairie changes constantly as different methods of planting are used. Joan and Larry will tell us everything we ever wanted to know about native plants and their habitat.

We will meet at the Visitor's Center. Admission is free with Missouri Botanical Garden membership. Otherwise, the cost is \$3 (\$2 for seniors). The Society will pay all admission fees. From the Visitor's Center, we will drive the short distance to the Whitmire Garden. There are restroom facilities available, plus the nearby, air-conditioned manor house is open if case anyone needs to get cool.

Joan states we will be meeting outside and you need to wear walking shoes and perhaps bring mosquito spray. There are great paths through the garden and the prairie.

#### Directions

SNR is on I-44 in Gray Summit, MO, approximately 22 miles west of the I-44/I-270 interchange. The Gray Summit I-44 exit is # 253, just two exits west of Six Flags (Allenton/Eureka).

- Westbound I-44 from exit ramp, turn left, crossing over I-44. Turn right at the intersection (at the Phillips 66) and go 50 yards to the large iron gates on the left side of the road. The Visitor's Center is at the entrance to the Reserve.
- Eastbound I-44, from exit ramp #253, turn right at top of ramp and then another right at intersection (at the Phillips 66) and go 50 yards to the large iron gates on the left side of the road. The Visitor's Center is at the entrance to the Reserve.

[View Map with driving directions from St Louis to Shaw Nature Reserve](#)

## June 5, 2010 Work Day at Missouri Botanical Garden



**This**



**Became this**



**Members check Phyllis' organization chart for plant placement.**

The work crew arrived with gloves in hand ready to transform hosta bed # 05 into a work of hosta beauty. Darman Williams, the Missouri Botanical Garden staff member in charge of the hosta beds, arrived with the merchandize.



**Darman Williams and Dave Poos unload the pots.**



**Barb Moreland & Heather Anderson**

Following a placement chart, designed by Phyllis Weidman, the crew quickly began setting the pots in their assigned spots. Hosta 'Empress Wu' was placed toward the back corner, while h.'Peanut' was front and center.



**Jolly Ann Whitener**



**Pam Wolkowitz and crew finishing up the planting**

Once all plants were properly positioned, the real work began. The bed had already been prepared so that digging was a breeze. Many hands made the work go fast. Mike Schmitt quickly had the minis safely tucked in the newly purchased trough.



**Mike Schmitt planting the trough**



**In go the last ones**

Once all the plants were in the ground, each hosta was given a dose of fertilizer and a shower of water.

The Missouri Botanical Garden had labels made for the hostas that our Society had purchased.

Jim Weidman drew the short straw and was commissioned with the final task of the day – spray each plant with a chemical to keep all those hungry rabbits at bay,

Our members will now watch with pride as hosta bed # 05 flourishes. We look forward to expanding our planting in this bed and perhaps to the adjoining bed next year.



**Sharon Schmitt fertilizing the plants**



**Chester Wolkowitz and Dave Poos give each Plant a sprinkle of water**



**Heather Anderson finds the correct MoBot label**



**Work crew - Dave Poos, Jolly Ann Whitener, Heather Anderson, Barb Moreland, Darman Williams, Jim Weidman, Phyllis Weidman, Chester Wolkowitz, Pam Wolkowitz, Sharon Schmitt and Mike Schmitt. Photo by Joan Poos**



**Jim Weidman applies 'rabbit be gone'**





**June 11, 2010**

**Garden Walk**

**Hosted by**

**Karen & Greg Frimel**

**It is indeed a  
Dream Garden**



**Back yard entrance way**

The rains took a day off and the hot, sticky weather abated a bit. But it wouldn't have mattered, for the garden of Karen and Greg Frimel is a place of beauty and joy.



**One of Karen's many whimsical frogs**



**Hangin out by chicken feeder trough**

The garden teems with beautifully grown hostas, unusual ferns, bright plumed astilbe and perfectly placed trees. The winding paths are bordered by artistically planted antique pots, troughs and a collection of sprinkling cans. Iron gates and fences separate the yard into rooms and provide hiding places for Karen's frogs.



**Several members found a shady nock**



**Greg Frimel and Kelly Hall  
conversing on the back patio**

Laughter and lively conversation spilled over from the patio. This was a relaxing way to end a week of gardening in the heat.



**What was the name of that place?**

Thank you Karen and Greg for allowing us to share your dream.

## St. Louis Hosta Society Plant Sale – June 18



A group of Society members arrived at the Missouri Botanical Garden Friday night, June 17, to receive donated plants and set up the tables for Saturday's sale. The tables held various kinds of hosta, from very small to medium large. Several tables held companion plants such as astilbe, ferns, primrose, monarda, even a climbing hydrangea.



Rick Clarkson's arrangement on the front table enticed people into the room. The event had been publicized and buying was brisk. By 10:30 the inventory was greatly depleted. Potential buyers were asking for very small and very large hostas. Most of what remained was mid-sized. Remember when digging for next year to include those minis and large ones.



Phyllis Weidman set up a display showing the multitude of sizes, shapes, colors and variegations that exist within the genus hosta. This was a popular stopping point. We wish that h.'Sum and Substance', the large gold leaf in the picture, had been in our inventory. It generated many oohs and aahs.



**Thanks  
to all  
who  
worked  
or  
donated  
plants.**



## COMPANION CORNER



*photo taken in Poos garden*

### **Chinese Wild Ginger**

**Family: Aristolochiaceae**

**Genus: Asarum**

**Species: A.splendens**

**ZONE: 5-9**

Known as ‘The Splendid Ginger’, *asarum splendens* was introduced from China around 1978. This species is a superb foliage plant for the shady woodland garden or border. It forms a 6 to 8 inches tall clump with thick, leathery, arrowhead-shaped leaves that grow about 6 inches long. The leaves are marbled with large, irregular patches of silver on a green background making them quite striking in woodland shade. Another common name, ‘Little Brown Jug’, refers to the insignificant purplish brown cup-shaped flowers that appear at ground level hidden amongst the leaves in the spring. The common name, wild ginger, refers to the fact that the stems and roots of many have a spicy odor similar to that of culinary ginger.

Ginger plants should be placed in a well prepared organic soil that can be watered during the summer. They are usually not bothered by disease or insects, except possibly slugs. All types of wild ginger can be easily grown in containers where their foliage can be appreciated and their unique flowers more easily viewed.

This evergreen ginger is a perfect landscape plant for our gardens because it is low growing, spreading by short rhizomes, has easily restrained growth and thrives in light to moderate shade. It’s a showy specimen when mixed with hostas and other shade-loving perennials.

## **Welcome new members**

The Society is delighted to welcome new members for 2010:

**Karen Halla of Webster Groves, MO**

**Patti Laffoon of Troy, MO**

**Karen Erickson of Kirkwood, MO**

**Cheryl Parsons of Glendale, MO**

**Janelle Criscione of Webster Groves, MO**

**Martha Lafata of Webster Groves, MO**

**Mary Sparks of Webster Groves, MO**

**Cynthia Francis of Oakville, MO**

Look for them at future meetings and the many exciting events scheduled for July, August and the rest of the year. Introduce yourselves and show them how friendly we really are. We hope our new members and all our old friends will join in this year’s fun.

## St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

**Pam Wolkowitz** - President  
636-285-3114  
[lovehostas@msn.com](mailto:lovehostas@msn.com)

**Phyllis Weidman** – Vice-President  
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[Pow1031@gmail.com](mailto:Pow1031@gmail.com)

**Dave Poos** - Treasurer  
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[dpoos@juno.com](mailto:dpoos@juno.com)

**Joan Hummel** - Secretary  
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**Kelly Hall** - Webmaster  
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**Karen Frimel** – Membership  
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**Barb Moreland** – Hospitality  
314-961-4191  
[Bmore433@aol.com](mailto:Bmore433@aol.com)

**Joan Poos** - Newsletter Editor  
314-821-1622  
[dpoos@juno.com](mailto:dpoos@juno.com)

## Membership Information

### The American Hosta Society

Contact: Sandie Markland  
8702 Pinnacle Rock Ct.  
Lorton, VA 22079-3029

[AHSMembershipSecretary@earthlink.net](mailto:AHSMembershipSecretary@earthlink.net)

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

### Midwest Regional Hosta Society

Contact: Barb Schroeder  
1819 Coventry Drive  
Champaign, IL 61822

[mrhs.treasurer@midwesthostasociety.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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>