



Volume 13, Issue 3

April, 2012



Phyllis Weidman President
Photo by Kelly Hall

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Can you believe the weather? The hostas are up; some leafed out, now we hope there is no freeze or hail in the future. Jim and I have done everything except fertilize our hostas. We will probably do that mid-April but we don't want to encourage the plants to grow any faster until we are sure that the temperature will remain above 32 degrees. While cleaning up around the hostas, we have separated some eyes and potted them for the Missouri Botanical Garden sale and/or the Auction. I encourage you all to do the same.

It is easy to divide hostas at this time of year when they have not leafed out. Remember to use good gardening procedures while doing the dividing. Clean sterile blades are a must. Wipe the blade with a 10% bleach solution before moving on to the next hosta. It is in the spring when the hostas are growing rapidly that Virus X and other diseases can be spread.

By the way, if you were not there, Bruce Buehrig's program was outstanding. Mark your calendar for your visit to his garden on June 23rd.

Just in case you do not have enough hostas, remember that the next meeting is Vendor's Day.

Hope to see you all there with your check books.

Phyllis

2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 15** **Vendor Day and Club Plant Pick-up**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- May 19** **Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden**
Set up Friday May 18, 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Sale Open Saturday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Missouri Botanical Garden
- May 20** **Meeting with Speaker Don De Foe**
‘Using Hosta Leaves in Floral Arrangements’
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- June 2** **Work Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden**
Missouri Botanical Garden
- June 13-16** **American Hosta Society National Convention**
Nashville, Tennessee
For more information: www.hosta2012.com
- June 2** **Work Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden**
Missouri Botanical Garden
- June 23** **Garden Walk – Chick and Bruce Buehrig**
31 Bellerive Acres, St. Louis, MO 63121
6:00 PM
- July 12-14** **Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention**
Rochester, MN
For information: <http://www.soghs.org/2012mrhsconvention/>
- July 22**
Note date change **Member Plant Auction**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- August 4-5** **Bus trip to Champaign, Illinois**
- September 16** **Meeting with Speaker TBA**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- October 21** **Meeting with Speaker Larry Tucker**
“Confessions of a Hostaholic”
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
- December 2** **Holiday Party**
1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center

APRIL 15, 2012 MEETING
1:00 PM. at Creve Coeur Government Center
VENDOR DAY

The April meeting gives members an opportunity to purchase quality hostas and companion plants from three regional nurseries, unique garden art from two local artists, gardening supplies from a local hardware store and turf products from a fellow member. Bring a friend or two and of course your checkbook. An afternoon of plant and gadget shopping is the perfect way to welcome the spring gardening season.

In addition to the flurry of early season buying there will be a short business meeting. As always, club members and the vendors present will answer your gardening questions. Vendors scheduled to be in attendance are:

AVALON ACRES HOSTAS



Denny Ricketts - 2011 Vendors Day

Avalon Acres is a 10 acre hilltop nestled among hundreds of large red and white oak trees in South Central Illinois near Effingham. The family owned and operated nursery's mission is to bring you the highest quality plants at the lowest possible prices. Denny and Alicia Ricketts state on their web site that they "don't just sell hostas, but are avid collectors as well." If you don't see the hosta that you are looking for, you're invited to send them an e-mail. They have over a thousand varieties in their collection - some rare or in limited quantities.

Denny has had a sales table at our vendor day for many years, offering quality plants, both new cultivars and old standards. If you are unable to attend the April 15th meeting, they welcome visitors to their nursery, but please call ahead so they can dedicate quality time to you. They are available most evenings and Sundays from April 30 through August 25. Please call for directions or visit their web site www.aahostas.com for more information.

Meadow Sweet Gardens located in Maryville Illinois



Terry Fiebig - 2011 Vendors Day

Coming for her third year, Terry Fiebig will bring hostas, annuals, perennials and garden decorations from her Meadow Sweet Gardens nursery located just across the river at 6525 State Route 162, Maryville, Il 62062. Last year, Terry included colorful garden stakes and other garden hardscape along with numerous containers of vegetables and herbs. Of course there were also some hostas. Come see what Terry decides to display on her tables this year. It's sure to make us want to hurry home and dig in the dirt.

HOMESTEAD FARMS NURSERY



Terry Metzler and Phil Brammer checking Ron's plants - 2011 Vendors Day

Homestead Farms Nursery is a family owned perennial flower nursery located near Owensville, Mo, which specializes in field-grown daylilies, hostas, peonies and Siberian iris. They also have a nice selection of clematis and hardy ferns. The nursery, run by Ron Vitoux and his family, offer over 1200 varieties of daylilies, 350 varieties of hosta, 100 different peony cultivars and 50 Siberian iris varieties. For a number of years, Ron and his sons Kurt and Brett have brought hostas, companion plants and a wealth of gardening knowledge to our April Vendor Day event.

In May, take a leisurely drive through Missouri's rolling hills to Owensville, about 60 miles northwest, to see the field of peonies ranging in color from white to hot pink to deep red. In June, visit.

the colorful daylily beds. Of course, hostas are always available.

The Vitoux family has been busy this past winter putting together a new full-color catalog. The nursery also has an outstanding web site, www.homesteadfarms.com/, which is easy to navigate. Besides a picture inventory, the web site has hosta growing tips as well as information about the other perennials they offer for sale.

Eclectic Arts



Alaine and Chris Hinshaw

Alaine and Christopher Hinshaw are full-time teachers who started their garden art and accent business in 2006. When not teaching, they collect and create unique garden art from reclaimed materials - metal, wood, glass, ceramic, whatever appeals to their artistic eyes.

Alaine and Chris are drawn to "old, quality, American-made metal and other vintage objects whose form and color have been beautifully altered over time" which, in turn, can be made to complement the plants in our gardens. Some pieces stand alone but most are combined with other recycled materials to create one-of-a-kind garden art. For instance, register grates become doormats, small bottles and candle holders are turned into garden flowers, old metal toilet tank floats become seed pods in your pond, while glass ceiling light fixtures make unique plant containers.

A visit to their web site, www.eartsstudio.com, to see other examples of their work, the various design and consultation services offered, the location of their garden studio and contact information. Better yet, come to Vendor Day and meet this delightful couple and view some of their latest creations.



Flowers made from recycled glass globes

(Photos were taken from their web site.)

Overland Hardware



Photo from Overland Hardware website



Overland Hardware display at our 2011 Vendor Day

In 2012, Overland Hardware will proudly celebrate its 57th anniversary. Current owners, Gregg Wesche and Don Burkhardt, continue the tradition of excellent customer service established by their father and father-in-law. They state that they are an “old-fashioned” hardware store. In their minds that means “you can get in and out without having to walk a quarter mile, that someone offers to help you when you walk in the door and the person who helped you find what you needed also checks you out and helps carry it out to your car”. They stock everything from paint to birdseed.

Overland Hardware, located at 2520 Woodson Road, Overland MO 63114, is the place to go for those hard to find services. Specialties available at Overland are: cutting glass and acrylic to size, sash and screen repair, sharpening chainsaw chains, lock rekeying, chip keys for cars, cutting and rethreading pipe, sharpening lawn mower blades and lamp repair. Visit their web site, www.overlandhardware.net for more information, hours of operation and directions to their store.

Again this year, Gregg, a St. Louis Hosta Society member, is offering special prices for selected gardening items that he will bring to our Vendor Day event. On the following page is a list of products and prices. Email (greggdon@swbell.net) or call (314-427-1404) Gregg with your order and he will bring it with him on April 15th.

THE Turf Plan, LLC



Co-Founders of THE Turf Plan, Bill DiMercurio and Jeff Travers – photo from their web site

THE TURF PLAN, developed by St. Louis Hosta Society member Jeff Travers, is a series of recommendations or ‘best management practices’ for growing cool season turf grass in St. Louis. Jeff maintains that the heavy clay soils, wildly fluctuating winter temperatures, and dreadful heat and humidity of St. Louis make it a tough place to grow turf’ Jeff states that by following THE TURF PLAN he can guarantee that you’ll have a beautiful lawn.

Visit his web site, <http://theturfplan.com>, for more information about Jeff and his plan.

Jeff will have the following items for sale: numerous deer, rabbit, mole and vole repellent products (concentrate, hose-end, ready-to-spray and granules); mole traps and mole grubs; vole traps and bait; slug bait and killer; Milogranite organic fertilizer; slow release nitrogen; Merit insecticide (systemic) in quarts and 50 lb. bags (for foliar nematode control and/or suppression); Hose-end fungicides, insecticides and weed killers. These should eliminate just about all the pests that plague you, even that pesky deer.

ST LOUIS HOSTA SOCIETY VENDOR'S DAY 2012

Thanks to everyone who purchased something from me the past two years. What I've done this year is chosen some items that I use in my own hosta beds at home and marked the price down to benefit Society members as they begin to work in their own beds. All prices will include sales tax.

SNAIL AND SLUG PRODUCTS

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN BLESSED WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF SLUGS IN MY HOSTA BEDS ALTHOUGH I UNDERSTAND SOME OF YOU AREN'T. SOME ARE METALDEHYDE FORMULAS AND SOME ARE IRON PHOSPHATE PRODUCTS.

2 LB ORTHO BUG-GETA ACTIVE INGRED.: 3.25% METALDEHYDE \$8
4.25 LB ORTHO BUG-GETA ACTIVE INGRD. : 3.25% METALDEHYDE \$12
1 LB SLUG MAGIC ACTIVE INGR.: PELLETIZED IRON PHOSPHATE \$10
3 LB SLUG MAGIC ACTIVE INGR.: PELLETIZED IRON PHOSPHATE \$16.50

WEED CONTROL

ONE OF THE BANES OF ALL GARDENERS IS THE PULLING OF WEEDS, ALTHOUGH IT SOMETIMES GIVES YOU SOME TIME TO THINK OR WORK ON YOUR TAN.

5.625 LB PREEN WEED PREVENTER ACTIVE INGR.: 1.47% TRIFLURALIN \$15
17.5 LB PREEN WEED PREVENTER ACTIVE INGR.: 1.47% TRIFLURALIN \$27
16 LB PREEN W/BRILLIANT BLOOMS FERTILIZER 10-17-9 \$31
36.8 OZ ROUNDUP CONCENTRATE 18% GLYPHOSPHATE SALT \$24
35.2 OZ ROUNDUP SUPER CONCENTRATE 50.2% GLYPHOSPHATE SALT \$44

FERTILIZERS

I'M SURE EVERYONE HAS THEIR FAVORITES BUT I LIKE TO USE SOME OLD RELIABLES

10 LB OSMOCOTE OUTDOOR & INDOOR 19-6-12 \$20
10 LB OSMOCOTE VEGETABLE & BEDDING 14-14-14 \$20

GARDENER HELPERS

THESE GLOVES I RECOMMEND WITHOUT RESERVATION AND I'VE HEARD GOOD FEEDBACK FROM A NUMBER OF OUR FELLOW MEMBERS ABOUT THEM!

ATLAS NITRILE TOUGH GLOVES AVAILABLE IN SMALL, MED., LARGE AND XTRA LARGE. TOUGH AND DURABLE, BUT LIGHTWEIGHT WITH MAXIMUM DEXTERITY \$4/PAIR
FOAM KNEELING PAD 20 x 9.5 x 1 \$3
20" WHISKEY BARREL PLANTER MADE FROM A BLEND OF FIBERGLASS & CEMENT. DURABLE YET LIGHTER THAN STONE. WEATHERED OAK FINISH \$21
O'KEEFE'S WORKING HANDS - OUTSTANDING RELIEF FOR CRACKED OR SPLIT FINGERTIPS \$6

YOU CAN EMAIL OR CALL ME WITH YOUR ORDERS AND I'LL BRING THEM TO THE VENDOR DAY. THANKS

**GREGG WESCHE OVERLAND HARDWARE
2520 WOODSON OVERLAND, MO 6314
314-427-1404 OR GREGGDON@SWBELL.NET**

APRIL 15, 2012 MEETING

1:00 PM. at Creve Coeur Government Center



Rick and Joan Clarkson
2011 Vendors Day

CLUB PLANT PICK-UP

In addition to Vendor Day, this is the time to **pick up the plants** you ordered last December. For several years, Rick and Joan Clarkson have volunteered to run this event. They contact the nursery, obtain their newest catalogue, select interesting plants, place your orders, then, once they receive the plants, sort them into individual member packages. The plants come to you bare-root. Remember, as these hostas are not potted, if you are unable to attend the meeting, please designate another person to pick up your order.

Thanks to Rick and Joan for handling this event.

The St. Louis Hosta Society is delighted to **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Warren Duff of St. Louis County
Amy Frede of O'Fallon, MO
Pat Hartzke of St. Louis County
Ned Siegel of Belleville, IL

Master Gardener Sale Notice

The St. Louis Master Gardeners invite you and your society members to our 2012 and second annual Plant Sale:

Saturday, April 28, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Greenhouse at South Tech High School, 12721 West Watson Road, Sunset Hills MO 63127

Plants have been grown by Master Gardeners. They include annuals, perennials, herbs and vegetables.

Proceeds benefit St. Louis Master Gardener programs and assist with educational efforts with South Tech High School. The Culinary Arts students at South Tech learn vegetable and herb growing skills from Master Gardeners.

Any questions, call Karen Koehneman: 636-532-6630

2012 Membership Dues are Payable Now

Last Reminder – Last Newsletter if not paid

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

Cindy Michniok
14300 Quiet Meadow Ct.
Chesterfield, MO 63017



Hosta Garden Field Trip Two Days in Champaign, Illinois

Saturday & Sunday, August 4 & 5, 2012

Cavallo Buses Depart from Missouri Baptist Hospital Parking Lot
Saturday about 7:30 AM; return on Sunday about 6:00 PM

Price \$100 per person

Price includes the bus and the hotel – Hawthorn Suites.
Breakfast will be at the hotel. Lunch and Dinner will be on your own.

This trip is limited to the first 40 people who reserve by check.
Checks should be sent to Phyllis Weidman and are due no later than **July 1st**.
Members of the St. Louis Hosta Society have first choice.

If the reservations are filled, you will be notified and your name kept on a waiting list for cancellations.

-
Please sign me/us up for the bus trip.

Attached is my check payable to St. Louis Hosta Society.

Name(s)_____ E-mail_____

Phone Number_____ Number of reservations @ \$100_____

Cell Phone Number_____

Send reservation to:

***Phyllis Weidman
508 Pointe Essex Ct.
Kirkwood, MO 63122***



Bruce Buehrig

Photo by Kelly Hall

March 18
“The Elements
of Shade
Gardening”
Presented by
Bruce Buehrig



A large crowd assembled to hear Bruce's presentation.

Photo courtesy of Kelly Hall

With the mild winter behind and in the midst of an exceptionally warm March, interest in improving the look and quality of their gardens was in the minds of most members. This was demonstrated by the large turnout to hear Bruce Buehrig describe steps he has taken in creating his beautifully landscaped yard.

Bruce stressed the importance of knowing the amount and the type of light in our gardens at all times of the day. Determine which parts of your yard are suitable for “full sun” plants, those that require more than six hours of sun, and which are ideal for “part shade” plants that need less than six hours. Once the amount of light is determined, then consider the type. Bruce showed images of many of the different types of shade: dappled, filtered, partial, light, medium, dense, morning sun, high canopy, medium canopy, wet, moist and dry. The best and least expensive way to find how much shade an area has is to plant a petunia and use its success or failure to thrive as a gauge.

Trees and shrubs add structure and produce some of the best colors in a shade garden. Japanese maples, dogwoods and redbuds are good examples of color-producers. Bruce considers rhododendrons as temporary plants and has found that in St. Louis they last only two or three years. Structure can be achieved by planting yews, boxwoods, hemlocks and ginkgos. These are conifers that do well in our area. Four to six foot varieties exist if you have limited space. The Japanese Plum Yew, *Cephalotaxus harringtonia*, loves shade and provides great “bones” to your yard.

Bruce showed images of the many plants and plant combinations that thrive in his garden. Many daylilies fall into the “full sun” category but others prefer afternoon shade so that their colors don’t fade. This is especially true of the deep red and purple tones. Bears Breeches, *Acanthus spinosus*, also needs that afternoon shade. A great architectural plant, it does take time to grow. Astilbe is a marvelous plant, colorful in summer, structurally interesting in fall and winter, and best of all having the same water and light requirements as hostas. Speaking of hostas, Bruce stated that many look best when cascading over a wall or boulders. A good example is H. ‘Green Cascade’.

Need a ground cover? Forget that ivy. Try gingers, such as European ginger with its glossy leaves or *Saruma henryi* the upright Chinese ginger that can take deep shade. Try hellebores. There are new varieties that have variegated foliage, double blossoms or deep blue shades. They are difficult to divide but readily set seed. Try *Epimediums* which exhibit a wide variety of flower color and size. Try something different such as *Omphalodes*, commonly called blue-eyed Mary.

The list goes on and on – ferns, heucheras, solomon’s seal, pulmonaria, tiarella and trilliums, purple Oxalis and red bleeding hearts. Bruce’s garden is breath-taking and his presentation inspiring. Thank you, Bruce and Chick for sharing with us. See their garden in all its beauty - June 23 - garden walk at the Buehrig’s.

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

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Kelly Hall – Webmaster
skyridgegarden@att.net

Joan Poos – Newsletter Editor
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david.poos@att.net

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: Barb Schroeder
1819 Coventry Drive
Champaign, IL 61822
mrhs.treasurer@midwesthostasociety.org
Dues: Individual \$20 for two years

St. Louis Hosta Society

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

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>