



Volume 13, Issue 5

July-August, 2012



**Phyllis Weidman President**  
*Photo by Kelly Hall*

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

What a June it has been!

It started with a wonderful evening at Cindy and Mark Michniok's garden. It is a young garden but the potential is incredible. The gardens were neat and well organized. Getting to visit with other Society members is what makes garden walks so great. Thanks Cindy and Mark!

Work Day at the Missouri Botanical was June 2<sup>nd</sup>. It seems like it was forever ago. There were thirteen volunteers from the Society who worked from 8-11:00am. We moved and planted over 60 hostas and created a new area which contains only species hostas. It is amazing how fast and effective these gardeners were. I had

hoped to get only part of the project list completed but they whipped it out totally and were looking for more to do. Next year! With the help of Kelly Hall, the Society will purchase a Japanese maple to plant in one of the hosta beds to add interest and shade. We plan to obtain and plant the tree this fall.

Many of us have returned from the American Hosta Society Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. It is always fun to attend to see friends, exhibit leaves, attend lectures and visit tour gardens. Don't let anyone tell you that you cannot grow hostas in the South. The gardens were beautiful and all very diverse.

Then on the 23<sup>rd</sup> we visited Chick and Bruce Buehrig's garden. As always it was astounding. Many members came with snacks to share, but the star of the evening was the garden. Thank you very much.

We made it through June and now it is on to our July 22<sup>nd</sup> members' auction. Mike Schmitt has worked to get us organized and is ready for the big day. Remember, we would like to auction good quality hostas and other plants. We do not need 10 pots of lancifolia or undulata albomarginata. They have their place and if you need to get rid of them just bring a sign that you have them. See you there.

Hope it rains soon!

*Phyllis*

## 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**July 12-14**

**Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention**

Rochester, MN

For information: <http://www.soghs.org/2012mrhsconvention/>

**July 22**

**Member Plant Auction**

1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center

**September 16**

Note location change

**Gateway Greening Bell Demonstration Garden Tour**

1:00 PM, 3871 Bell Avenue, St. Louis MO 63108

**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



Spencer Sorenson and Mary Sparks check items before the 2011 member auction.



2012 co-chairman Mike Schmitt and Mary check plant labels before the 2011 sale.

### MEMBER PLANT AUCTION

July 22, 1:00 PM

**Have the voles left empty spots in your garden?  
Does your garden need a wardrobe update?  
Are your hostas longing for companions?  
Are your clumps just too big?**

Auction co-chairs, Mike and Sharon Schmitt, are ready to kick off this popular event. Mike is tuning his auctioneer's voice and Sharon and her helpers are ready to accept your donations.

If you haven't done so, check out the plants in your garden. Divide those large hosta clumps and dig out a part of those ever-expanding perennials. Pot and label a piece. Bring a donation or two and of course your checkbook to our July 22<sup>nd</sup> auction. Enjoy a fun afternoon outbidding your fellow hostaholics for that plant that will make your garden the talk of your neighborhood.

The annual auction is one of two events that fund our society's yearly activities such as the popular holiday party, make the publication of this newsletter possible and bring nationally known speakers such as Larry Tucker to St. Louis.

## Welcome new members!

**Fred and Carol Michaelis of St. Louis**  
**Ted Piekutowski, Jr. of Florissant MO**  
**Bonnie Samuelson of St. Genevieve MO**  
**Wendy Sondov of St. Louis**  
**Gwin Stewart of Webster Groves MO**

Look for them at future meetings. Stick out your hand and give them a hardy welcome. We hope our new members and all our old friends will join in the fun at our member auction on July 22

## Don Defoe designs with hosta leaves

In May, florist Don Defoe demonstrated how easy it is to make unique arrangements using hosta leaves and companion plants. Almost any container, from candlesticks to children's toys, can be used. Form a base with floral foam, cutting its corners to form more planes in which to insert stems, and build from there. Start at the bottom with large leaves to establish the design's width and height. To make the container and arrangement to appear as one, bend the large leaves over the container's edge instead of having them stick straight up.

Put flower blossoms face down in water to revive. They draw up water through their petals. Cut the stems at a sharp angle to make it easier to insert into the foam. Don used all sizes of hosta leaves in his designs, adding lamb's ear, boxwood, Japanese maple stems, spruce boughs and even bamboo and curly willow branches. Flowers included hydrangeas which are especially pretty this year. He then added finishing touches such as pebbles.

A more few of Don's tips are: never reuse the floral foam as it might contain bacterial growth which will ruin future arrangements; use double-sided tape or staples to secure rolled-up leaves; use a product called Quickdip on stems to open pores in the plant and make them last longer; add Crystal Clear, a sugar-based flower food, to the water which acts as a fungicide and antibacterial agent.

It doesn't have to be a special occasion to have an attractive arrangement gracing your table. You can do it yourself any day of the week. Just look to your own gardens.



## St. Louis Hosta Society Plant Sale – June at the Missouri Botanical Garden



Jeff and Kelly Hall with Jim and Phyllis Weidman check plant prices and labels. Other members wait for the opening bell.

**THANKS**

**to all who:**

**Donated  
plants!!!**

**Helped  
setup**

**Labeled and  
priced**

**Took their  
turn at the  
sales tables**

**Helped  
cleanup**

**Purchased  
plants**

**THANKS**

**To each and  
everyone!**



Nancy Tempel and Pam Wolkowitz arrange plants on the sales tables.



Cindy Michniok's ready at check-out.



Hosta leaf display by the Weidmans



Open for business!



Jim Weidman answers questions.

## Work Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden – June 2



Sharon and Mike Schmitt and Jolly Ann Whitener plant the new species bed. Species found in other MoBot beds were moved to this specially created area.

**Many hands  
make light  
the work.**

**Thanks to all  
who gave of  
their time.**



Chester Wolkowitz keeps track of hostas that have been moved or newly planted. Lisa White carries a newly dug plant to its new location.



Pam Wolkowitz and Mary Lou Farrow tackle one of the larger plants that need to be moved



Jim Yochim awaits his next task.



Kelly Hall and Mary Jones dig a hosta to be moved to a new location in the species bed.



Phyllis Weidman oversees the project's progress as Dave Poos and Lisa White prepare to remove a plant.



Barb Moreland tries to locate an elusive hosta.



13 Society members spent a June Saturday morning rearranging existing hostas and planting newly donated plants in the Missouri Botanical Garden's hosta bed.

## OH THOSE FABULOUS GARDENS!

Summer began in May with a visit to Pam and Chester Wolkowitz's new garden in Cedar Hill. It's hard to believe that just two years ago, this beautiful plot of ground housed a double-wide trailer and all the plants were in pots hidden behind orange construction netting. Just look at it now!



A tall wooden fence protects this paradise from browsing bands of deer. Large doors swing open to let the visitor get a glimpse of the beauty hidden within.



A large oval pond graces the center of the garden. Already large hostas dot the edges.



Many paths, edged by Pam and Chester with stones transported from their previous house, allow visitors a close-up view of the many plants.



Scattered amongst the hostas and ferns are many other companion plants and pieces of hardscape. Touches of blue pull the areas together.



The large patio, actually the old trailer's resting pad, is ideal for relaxing.

We hope Pam and Chester invite us back in a few years to see this garden in its maturity.



**Thank you Pam and Chester**

## Just look what can be done with a condo!

The beautiful condo home of Cindy and Mark Michniok is flanked by an equally beautiful garden. A brick edged front bed planted with large hostas, heuchera, golden lirope, boxwoods and Japanese maples invites the visitor to linger and browse. Along the flagstone path that winds around the left of the house are drifts of hostas, ferns and European ginger. A pink lace-leaf hydrangea in full



bloom was a focal point. Several hypertufa troughs, a winter project of Cindy and her sister Jane, display minis and their companions.

Members gathered on the backyard patio which has a bit of an Oriental feel. Japanese maples and confers, planted in the ground and in pots, provide the bones of the space. One bed has large elephant ears, grasses and small conifers backed by two beautiful wood trellises. The front patio bed features a spherical bubbler accented with smooth black stones. The covered passageway between house and garage enhances the entertainment area of the patio.

Cindy's and Mark's garden is in its infancy. When the hostas gain their maturity this will be a wonderland.

**Thanks Cindy and Mark for a truly enjoyable, relaxing evening.**



**A Peek into a woodland paradise  
A picture is worth a thousand words!**



**A bit of the whimsical, Chick's brightly colored fish and chickens greet visitors near a back door.**



**One member of Bruce's extensive conifer collection. The Buehrig hillside is studded with unusual confers of all sizes and shapes.**



**Daylilies, Chick's love, bask in the sun at the foot of the various paths.**



**Pat Payton tries to capture the beauty and scope of this garden as Jean Hudson and Carol Brammer point out unusual plants.**



**A small peaceful pond lies secluded among the conifers. The birds are but two of many sculptures waiting to be discovered along the paths.**



**Doug and Vicky English share their impressions.**



**Members socialize on the Buehrig's patio.**

**Thank you Chick and Bruce for showing us your incredible garden**

## St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

**Phyllis Weidman** – President  
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## 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: Cindy Michniok  
14300 Quiet Meadow Ct.  
Chesterfield, MO 63017  
[Cmichniok@gmail.com](mailto: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](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>