A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Well, it is official, fall is here. However, most of this summer felt like fall. It was one of the best summers for weather that I can remember.

If you missed last month’s meeting we covered a bunch of stuff. I am happy to announce that we finalized decisions for gifting some of our monies we have accumulated from plant sales and auctions over the last few years. The following ideas were unanimously approved by the members present at the meeting: Arlie Tempel’s idea of our club providing each interested member with a one-year membership in the American Hosta Society (one time only), Dave Poos’ idea of co-sponsoring a membership in the Midwest Regional Hosta Society (one time only), and Phyllis Wiedman’s and Karen Frimmel’s plan of purchasing hostas for the Missouri Botanical Garden’s hosta beds. Now that’s giving back to the society at large and the community. My hat is off to all of you! More information is in this newsletter.

We also voted in a new slate of elected officers for the 2010-2011 term. Due to my work load, I decided not to run again for another term. Arlie Tempel served as the nominating chair and the members present voted to accept his nominations as follows: Pam Wolkowitz as President, Phyllis Weidman as Vice-President, Joan Hummel as Secretary and Dave Poos as Treasurer. I am very happy with the slate of new officers. They have a ton of energy and lots of ideas. I believe the future of the society is in great hands.

Our speaker, Mike Shadrack, kept us all extremely entertained with great slides and hilarious commentary. We were fortunate to have such a well-known speaker visit us and share his knowledge about mini hostas.

The year is far from over and we still have several great events to keep your gardening interest going well into the New Year. The next two events, let’s call it a ‘Hosta weekend’, are going to be great fun. First, we are privileged to have Bob Solberg, internationally known hosta hybridizer and lecturer on hostas, and co-owner (with wife Nancy) of Green Hill Hostas, join us to give a presentation on Saturday Oct. 17 at 1:00 PM. Bring your checkbook as Bob always travels with plants. Second, when do you think you will have the opportunity again to visit the National Weather Service? Join us on Sunday, Oct 18 at 1:00 PM for a tour of the National Weather Service in St. Charles with Melissa Byrd. I think we will all learn just how difficult it is to predict the weather. You won’t be disappointed with this weekend. Third, mark your calendars for Sunday, Dec. 6 for our annual Christmas party. Pam and her committee are planning a very nice catered lunch, similar to last year’s. More information about these events is in this newsletter.

Keep the ideas flowing; remember it’s your society. If you know of something fun to do, see or visit, let us know. Now get out there and tend your garden. Clean up those leaves so the voles don’t make a vole highway straight to that $50 hosta that your spouse doesn’t know you bought. Oops, did I say that out loud??

Jeff Hall
2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 17  Special event – speaker Bob Solberg
           1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center

October 18  Field trip to weather center with Melissa Byrd
           1:00 PM, National Weather Service Forecast Office
           12 Research Park Drive, St. Charles, MO 63304

December 6  Holiday Party
           1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
           Catered lunch

Sunday, October 18, 2009, 1 PM.

National Weather Service Forecast Office
12 Research Park Drive
St. Charles, MO 63304

With member Melissa Byrd

Should I bring an umbrella to the garden tour? Can I plant hostas tomorrow or will those
wispy clouds turn black and unleash a deluge? Should I bring in that tender fern or is the first
frost another week away? And why is it so hard for that meteorologist to get it right?

Well, let’s find out. Fellow society member Melissa Byrd has invited us to tour her home
ground, the National Weather Service Forecast Office. There may be no windows in the office
walls, but there are plenty of computer windows that Melissa uses to make her forecasts. She
will explain how radar, satellite and other types of data are used to achieve the best possible
prediction. Join Melissa for what promises to be an informative afternoon.

DIRECTIONS:
From the point where I-64W/US-40 crosses I-270,
   Travel 14.4 miles on I-64W toward Wentzville.
   Take exit 11 toward Research Park Circle. (First exit after crossing Missouri River)
   After 0.2 miles, make a sharp right onto Technology Drive.
   After 0.1 miles, take the first right onto Research Park Circle.
   After 0.6 miles, turn right onto Research Park Drive.
Special event – An afternoon with Bob Solberg
Saturday October 17, 1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center


If you grow any of the hosta mentioned in the above spoof, you’ve met a part of Bob Solberg. From growing palm trees from seed as a child to creating and owning, with wife Nancy, an internationally known nursery, Green Hill Farms, Bob is as much recognized for his knowledge of hosta as for his long white hair and beard. Having earned a BS in biology and advanced study in bryophyte ecology, Bob’s expertise is not limited to hostas, although they seem to be his passion.

Bob founded and is still very active in the Carolina Hosta Society. A former editor of *The Hosta Journal* and past AHS Vice President of the Genus Hosta, he is currently the AHS Growers Group Liaison. Last year, AHS members honored Bob with the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award.

Join fellow society members in welcoming this excellent speaker to St. Louis. Bob mentioned that he will be bringing plants.

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New Officers Elected

Arlie Tempel, nominating chairman, presented a slate of candidates for 2010-2011 St. Louis Hosta Society officer positions. The membership present at the September 13 meeting unanimously approved the slate. Newly elected officers are:

**President - Pam Wolkowitz**  
**Vice President – Phyllis Weidman**  
**Secretary – Joan Hummel**  
**Treasurer – Dave Poos**

Other Society positions and Board members are appointed by the President. This will be done at the first Board meeting to be scheduled later this year.
Pam Wolkowitz and her committee have designed an afternoon of good food, lively conversation and fun. The event will again be catered by ‘At Your Fingertips Catering’ which did such an outstanding job last year. Pam asks that each person bring a wrapped garden related item for the gift exchange game.

Cost for the luncheon is $5 for members and significant other, $10 for non-members. There will be a sign-up sheet at the next meeting for those who have not yet committed to coming.

Save the Date – December 6, 2009, 1:00 PM.
St. Louis Hosta Society Christmas Party

September 13 St. Louis Hosta Society meeting

Story of the Small Hosta

Mike Shadrack began his presentation by stating that “the big Hosta has had its day”. “Replace that Frances Williams with its burnt edges with thirty to forty little hostas.” With much humor, vast knowledge and numerous informative slides, Mike made his case.

The AHS classifies hosta not by the size of the plant but by the size of its leaf. Thus a small hosta, by AHS standards, could be a very tall, wide plant. Mike prefers the common sense approach – small means a small, very small or miniature plant.

He advocates small hosta because, in general, yards are getting smaller, people have less time and money to create and maintain large gardens. Small hosta can look good staged together just as the large ones do. Indeed, his slides proved that.

Mike suggests placing these jewels somewhere special where they can be easily viewed, such as, in raised beds, in a shade rockery built over the roots of trees, in troughs, pots and alpine trays. Mike’s 10’ x 15’ deck sports more than 100 small and mini hostas in pots.

Good drainage is very important as small hosta can easily rot. Mike adds a large percent of gravel to his soil mix. Mulch is equally important as it suppresses weeds, keeps in moisture and cuts down on water splash back which leads to disease. Labeling can also be a problem, but Mike suggested burying the marker in the ground with just the point showing or writing its name on stones or broken pottery.

Mike concluded his presentation with his “5 minute slug talk”. The best way to control slugs is with slug pellets. “A handful of pellets thrown in the direction of the hosta” will suffice - not every plant needs to be covered. However, this MUST be done as soon as the snow melts and every two weeks from snow melt to September. The first year there will be little difference, but by the third year the slugs will be gone. Thank you Mike for that bit of wisdom.
AHS/MRHS Memberships Available

During the September meeting, St. Louis Hosta Society members agreed with the recommendation of the SLHS Board to offer American Hosta Society Memberships and Midwest Regional Hosta Memberships to its members at a vastly reduced price.

Benefits of joining the American Hosta Society include:
• Subscription to the exceptional magazine *The Hosta Journal.*
• An opportunity to attend national meetings and conventions which offer educational and scientific presentations, garden tours, judge's clinics, and a chance to see the latest and best Hostas in the Hosta show.
• A Biennial AHS Membership Directory.
• The privilege of visiting display gardens throughout the country, many of which are only open to AHS members.
• An invitation to exhibit your favorite Hostas and compete for recognition in various AHS national and regional cut-leaf shows.
• Developing friendships with people who share an interest in growing Hostas.
• Access to Members Only section of the AHS website.

Benefits of joining the Midwest Regional Hosta Society include:
• Subscription to the information filled newsletter, *Hosta Leaves.*
• Support of the summer three-day convention conveniently located in a Midwest state and visiting the best Hosta gardens in the sponsoring community.
• Support of the Winter Scientific Meeting featuring a solid day of topics interesting to all gardeners.
• Developing relationships and friendships with Hosta gardeners living in the Midwest.

The cost of the two memberships is typically $30 for the AHS membership ($34 for a family) and $20 for the MRHS membership. **Until December 15, 2009,** current SLHS members can upgrade their local membership to include the AHS or MRHS or both memberships for the price of $3 for AHS and $2 for MRHS. If you are currently a member of either society, your membership will be extended (Please note in your payment if you’re a current member of either AHS or MRHS). To enroll in this program, send your check to

Dave Poos, Treasurer – SLHS
9904 Crestwood Drive
St. Louis, MO. 63126

Or

Pay at the October meeting

As a reminder, this would be a great time to renew your local membership - $7 for one year, $18 for 3 years. To verify your current membership status, see the roster of current members and their expiration year listed on the next page.
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Get Those Creative Juices Flowing!
Phyllis Weidman and her committee want your input

In the spring of 2009, the St. Louis Hosta Society donated funds to the Missouri Botanical Garden for the purchase of two Crabapple trees in the hosta area to replace ones destroyed by an ice storm. These trees have been planted and are flourishing. Phase two is about to begin.

Through the efforts of Phyllis Weidman and her committee, the Garden has agreed to allow our Society to renovate two existing beds in the hosta area of the Garden. Garden personnel will prepare the beds which will be ready for planting next April or May. At the September meeting, our Society allocated $3,500 for plant materials. Letters have been sent to several nurseries that have appeared at our Vendor Day or National Convention events informing them of our project. The intent is to purchase large, multiple eye hostas, rather than the usual small one or two eye nursery plants.

On the next page is a diagram showing the location, shape and size of the two beds. The beds are labeled 05 and 09. These were chosen by the Garden because there is a water source nearby.

Bed 09 is small and out-of-the-way. It needs something that will make it really stand out. Currently it contains a Weeping White Mulberry whose branches extend almost one third of the way across the bed. The back and left side are part of a tall Taxus hedge, while the third side is one wall of the wooden structure of the pergola which adjoins the hosta space to the East. Notice the circular cutout at the right side of the picture.

Bed 05 contains two Crab Apple trees, a ring of the same hosta (which will be removed) and spring bulbs. The area is a wasteland except for the two weeks in spring when the bulbs and crabs are in bloom. Basically this bed is a blank slate of approximately 30 x 40 feet. The East side is a continuation of the tall Taxus hedge, while the rest has a nice brick edge.

While there are few restrictions, the Garden prefers just hostas, rather than mixed with companion plants or hardscape, and would like h. Empress Wu to be placed somewhere in one of the beds.

Let this be a challenge to your imagination. Join the fun of creating a design for Phyllis. Send her your ideas. Send her a list of hosta that you would like to see displayed in the Garden.

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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: Dave Poos
9904 Crestwood Drive
Crestwood, MO 63126
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

Other Hosta and Garden Web Sites

Midwest Hosta Society – http://www.midwesthostasociety.org
Hosta Library – http://www.hostalibrary.org
Mini Hosta forum – http://groups.yahoo.com/group/minihosta