A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings Fellow Hosta Lovers:

Even though it was wet and rainy, Vendors Day was a success. Thanks to our vendors who drove through rain to get here. Also thanks to all the members who came early to set up for the vendors and those that stayed late to clean up after the sale.

Our hosta sale was at the Missouri Botanical Garden on May 6th from 9-5. Setup was Friday evening. The sale was a success. It was sold out by 3pm with only about 6 plants remaining that didn’t sell because they hadn’t recovered from transplanting yet and looked a little sad. The profit from the sale was $3,096 approximately (there’s some cents on the end), so we did well. A big thanks to Phyllis Weidman and her crew at the garden for doing so well for the society and for all their hard work.

Our May meeting was a very, very short business meeting with one item. It was at our garden and was a very pleasant day. The only item of business was an announcement that David Birenbaum is hosting the June garden walk. It is from 1-3 PM approximately, at his garden on June 18th.

Father’s Day, is also that day. Nevertheless, David has generously opened his garden to those who would like to take a little time out of their day to visit and see a garden that has not been on tour yet. So stop by if you can and visit a bit with him, and, of course, check out his garden. David will have beverages, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, but asks that you bring a snack or appetizer to share.

Also remember that the Midwest Regional Hosta Meeting is June 22-24 in Lenexa, Kansas.

Happy Gardening,

Diana
## 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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<td>AHS National Convention</td>
<td>Indianapolis, IN</td>
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<td>Garden Walk/Meeting</td>
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<td>June 22-24</td>
<td>MRHS Regional Convention</td>
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### Welcome New Members

Warren Clark and Mary Westerhaus of St. Louis, MO  
Caitlin Couey of St. Louis, MO  
Jill Fennell of Pacific, MO  
Cindi James of St, Louis, MO  
Vicki North of Wildwood, MO  
Bill and Lucille Ohms of Waterloo, IL  
Lillie Porterfield of Bonne Terre, MO

Look for them at future meetings and introduce yourselves. Show them how welcoming and friendly we all are. We hope all our members, new and old alike, will attend the June Garden Walk and July member auction.
Lost and Found

Someone left a green men’s Columbia raincoat, size L, at the Creve Coeur Government Center after April’s Vendor Day. If it is yours, please contact Diana Plahn by email: dplahn@me.com or by phone: 314-346-3007.

Garden Walk
June 18, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Home of David and Anne Birenbaum
209 Brook Lane, O’Fallon, MO 63368 (314-650-5200)

David Birenbaum has graciously invited fellow members and their friends to visit his garden and stay awhile to socialize. David and Anne joined our society in 2015. This is our first opportunity to see a lovely woodland garden. David kindly sent a few pictures to give us a taste of their bit of heaven.

Looking at his pictures, a couple of questions immediately spring to mind. What plants grow well in his deep shade and more important how does he keep the deer out? We’ll find out on June 18.

June is the perfect time to be outside among beautifully grown hostas enjoying the company of others who share our interests. Bring your lawn chair and a snack to share with others. David will have beverages. Stroll around then stay and chat.

Directions:
From the intersection of I-64 and I-270, travel west on I-64 15.47 miles. Take EXIT 9 toward MO-K/O’Fallon.
Merge onto N Outer Road. After 0.43 miles turn right onto MO-K.
After 0.18 miles turn left onto Technology Drive
After 0.11 miles turn right onto Weldon Springs Road
After traveling about a mile on Weldon Spring go straight onto Brook Lane. After about 0.51 miles, 209 Brook Lane is on the left.

Who are these drowned rats!
(We shared a lot of laughs and a bit of mud)
See Work Day story – next page

Front: Carolyn Birge, Pam Wolkowitz, Barb Moreland, Andrea Michalak
Back: Toni Boschert, Pam Hardy, Joyce Fry, Jim Weidman, Ted Piekutowski, Dave Poos, Josh Jagger
Taking pictures: Phyllis Weidman, Joan Poos
Missouri Botanical Garden Work Day – April
The sun don’t shine no more, no more …

Are we crazy? It’s raining, it’s thundering, it’s, (shutter), lightning. Phyllis said “Rain or shine”, so I guess it’s going to be rain. By the time 8:00 AM arrived, the ominous sounds and flashes of light had dissipated, but not the steady rain. Thirteen adventurous members braved the elements to dig, divide, pot, move, thin, prune and weed the hosta beds in the AHS Display Garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Thank you Phyllis! Thank you volunteers! It really was a fun time!

Barb Moreland wrestles one of the many overgrown Japanese Painted Ferns to the potting area.

Andrea Michalak lifts one of the rain sodden ferns. These ferns were divided, potted and sold at our sale in June.

Toni Boschert has the unenviable job of thinning the sensitive ferns. This seems to be a yearly job.

Jim Weidman and Dave Poos dig one of many hostas that were relocated or removed, divided and potted.

Do you think Ted Piekutowski is trying to shake rainwater out of his ears?

Josh Jagger and Phyllis Weidman discuss the next task on her list.

Our Fabulous Potting Crew

It was dark and dank and damp and cramped in that tiny space, but just look at the smiles!

Carolyn Birge and Pam Wolkowitz

Carolyn Birge, Joyce Fry, Pam Hardy, Pam Wolkowitz

Pam Hardy on her bucket throne.
Vendor Day – April

A special thanks to Chairwoman Marian Murphy! Huge success!

Denny Ricketts of **Avalon Acres** writes up an order while Spence Sorenson waits his turn.

Pam Wolkowitz and Kim Piekutowski check out the hostas brought by **Hostas on the Bluff**.

Rob Mortko of **Made in the Shade** nursery drove from KC in the rain to be here.

Gregg Wesche discusses the merits of some of the products carried by **Overland Hardware**.

Janelle Criscione was one of several volunteers who helped vendors setup and cleanup. We thank all the vendors and customers who braved the bad weather to take part in our event.

Brett Vitoux helps customers at the **Homestead Farms** table.

A special thanks to Jessie Cargas of **Weld Made Art Works** for filling in at the last minute.
MOBOT Sale – May

Pricing and setup goes fast when there are lots of helping hands.

Dave Poos, Pam Wolkowitz, Phyllis Weidman, Carolyn Birge and Mary Jones price pots, then place on tables in alphabetical order.

Barb Moreland helps Pam and Phyllis look up prices in *The Hosta Finder*. A price sticker is attached to each pot.

Talking hostas - explaining their merits, sun/shade needs, planting methods and ongoing care - is an important part of the sale.

Phyllis Weidman shows a small hosta to customers. The sale featured plants that ranged in size from large *H. ‘Sum and Substance’* to mini *H. ‘Sunlight Child’*.

Jolly Ann Whitener talks with customers waiting in the checkout line. Jolly Ann was one of many members who volunteered a few hours of their time to help setup, greet and cleanup.

Ted Piekutowski and Janelle Criscione help a lady identify leaves brought from her own garden.

Pam Hardy and Martha LaFata help bag while Treasurer Melissa Byrd tallies a sale. Customers waited at the door for the 9:00 opening bell.

What an attractive alternative to the plastic bag for carrying your purchases home.
Garden Walk – May
Home of Diana and Craig Plahn

Strolling down the long driveway, one wonders what is hidden away in the woods at the bottom. The answer of course is a beautiful garden lovingly tended by Diana and Craig Plahn.

New member Vicki North and her mother (far left in the picture) gathered with Marian Murphy, Karen Frimel and Phyllis Weidman near the entrance to the garden.

An Oriental style arbor leads to a hidden room planted with daylilies and conifers. Both Diana and Craig hybridize daylilies and have registered several of their ‘babies’. Craig is especially fond of conifers. The Plahns have a vast collection of unusual evergreens, some quite large set off in the background, some used as focal points in their hosta and daylily beds, others small nestled in pots.

Phyllis Weidman follows a path that leads to a greenhouse filled with another of their loves, orchids. In their spare time the Plahns can be found judging orchid shows. Some of their cultivars hang from the branches of trees. Phyllis is surrounded by daylily beds which will be a riot of color come June.

Karen Frey and Chester Wolkowitz relax on the patio after touring the garden. It was a beautiful day to sit, sample the snacks brought by fellow members and compare impressions of this diverse garden.

Thank you Diana and Craig for inviting us in.
Van Ross Wade 1930—2017

The hostas community lost one of its great ambassadors with the death of Van Wade at the age of 86 on April 26. According to his obituary, Mr. Wade started working with his family at the Wade & Gatton Nurseries in Bellville, Ohio as a teenager. In 1962 after the death of his father, Van and his wife Shirley took over operation of the nursery. The nursery was his life. He expanded the enterprise beyond perennials, conifers, shade and ornamental trees to include 1,500 varieties of daylilies and 2,500 varieties of hostas. Try to imagine! His collection of hostas ranged from dwarf to giant types in all shapes and colors, including many of his own hybrids.

But Mr. Wade was more than a nurseryman and hybridizer. He was a generous giver. Rick Schroeder of the Illinois Prairie Hosta Society wrote that he had been involved in the annual auction at the AHS National Convention for the past six years. Each year Van Wade would bring a collection of 25 or more hostas to add to the auction. At St. Louis last year he gave some 60 plants to that auction. Each year his convention donations alone raised over $2,000 for the AHS. Each auction Mr. Wade would also give two $100 gift certificates and a catalogue. The successful bidder always received more than the $100 in hostas from him.

Danny Larson, president of the Wichita Hosta Society, wrote that when in St. Louis for the AHS Convention last year, members of their society informed Van Wade of their plans to install an AHS National Display Garden in Wichita. Upon returning to Kansas, they made an order with him and – in typical Van Wade fashion – along came dozens of extra hostas as his gift to them.

These are but two tributes to a man who shared not only his plants but his extensive knowledge. It is fitting that he loved hostas “The Friendship Plant”.

Thanks to Jim Weidman for all the photographs of the Plahn’s garden.
St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

Contact: Melissa Byrd
117 Gunston Hall Drive
St. Charles, MO 63304
mabyrd68@gmail.com

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

Visit us on Facebook, St. Louis Hosta Society

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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/