



Volume 19, Issue 4

May, 2018



President Diana Plahn

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello Fellow Hosta Lovers:

I hope your gardens are starting to look like normal for this time of year. It seems we are catching up fast with growth even though it was a very strange winter and late spring. We saw our first brown tree frog two days ago. So far he/she is the only one we've seen and heard so far. Need to get our waterlily tubs filled up with water to provide a spawning area for our frogs.

The hostas are coming up nicely. Lots of fun watching the eyes break through the earth, get fatter, and then unfurl their leaves. Always so exciting to see the day to day change.

With the hard winter, some hostas didn't make it this year. Don't have a complete list yet, as it has just gotten nice enough to work outside. We lost several zone 6 Japanese Maples, crepe myrtles (which are "iffy" anyway in this zone), and some conifers. The long drought, cold weather, and constant wind, took quite a toll on our trees. The conifers desiccated really easily with the wind, even though they were sprayed prophylactically. This has been really disappointing to us, but you can't fight the weather.

I hope everyone had fun at Vendors Day last month. Jolly Ann Whitener has really stepped up to help the club out by serving as chair of Vendors Day, and volunteering to take on the secretary position which opened up unexpectedly. Thanks for your service, Jolly Ann.

Our May meeting is a block of three open gardens with refreshments planned. This is thanks to the Poos, the Weidmans, and Josh Jagger who is a new member that has opened his garden up. Check the newsletter for further details.

Hope to see you at the next meeting, the open gardens.

Diana

2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 4-5	Plant Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden Setup May 4, 4:00 PM – We are done Sale May 5, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Missouri Botanical Garden
May 20	Garden Walk/Meeting Jagger, Poos and Weidman Gardens
June 17	Garden Walk/Meeting Time and location TBA
June 20-24	AHS National Convention Philadelphia, PA
July 12-14	MRHS Regional Convention Peoria, IL
July 15	Members Plant Auction 1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
September 16	Meeting with Speaker Mark Glenshaw: Owls 1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
October 21	Meeting with Speaker Anne Kirkpatrick: Hydrangea 1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center
November 11	Board Meeting 2:00 PM, home of President Diana Plahn
December 2	Holiday Party TBA

Welcome new member!

Susi Junge of Eureka, MO

We hope that you will join us on May 20 for our Garden Walks. This is the perfect time to meet some of your fellow members and for us to meet you. May is a beautiful month to be in a garden – everything is bright and healthy and uneaten.



**IT'S TIME!
Dig, Divide, Donate!**

St. Louis Hosta Society Plant Sale

Missouri Botanical Garden, Beaumont Room

**May 4 – 4:00 PM until we are done
May 5 - Sale time 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

The plant sale is one of our Society's biggest fund raisers. Monies from this sale pay the costs associated with publishing the society newsletter, maintaining its website, speakers, facilitating community projects such as MoBot hosta bed enhancements, plus our many other activities.

For a successful MoBot plant sale, **your Society needs your donations and your time.** Our hostas are finally breaking ground. Now is the time to cut off a few eyes, pot them and let them grow so they are beautiful for the sale. Chairwoman, Janelle Criscione, is hoping every member could give at least 5 plants. Mini and large hostas were especially in demand last year. Variegated hostas of any kind always sell well. If you need help dividing those large clumps in your yard, digging crews are available.

Bring your plants to the garden on Friday evening May 4th at 4:00 PM, Saturday morning May 5th at 8:00 AM, or contact one of the co-chairwomen for transport.

Janelle Criscione - lambypie@gmail.com or 314-324-4380

Phyllis Weidman - pow1031@gmail.com or 314-965-7027

The Joys of May



H. 'Viking Ship'



Brunneria



Solomon Seal



Emerging ferns



H. 'Saint Elmo's Fire'



Epimedium



Native trillium

Not one, not two, but three!

May 20 Garden Walks

On Sunday May 20th three members will open their gardens for your enjoyment. Being able to visit beautiful, well-maintained gardens is one of the reason we belong to a garden society. This is your opportunity – don't miss it.

The tour will commence at 1:00 PM at the Kirkwood home of Phyllis and Jim Weidman. After 45 minutes, we will all travel south to the Crestwood home of Joan and Dave Poos. Again we will spend 45 minutes viewing their yard and then continue on to the Webster Groves garden of Josh Jagger. The three gardens are situated fairly close together.

This is meant to be a social event - lovely gardens, lots of mingling with hosta friends and of course food. There may be a very short business meeting. The Weidman and Poos gardens will have water, ice tea or lemonade available. As is usual with garden walks, please bring a snack or appetizer to share and an adult beverage if you so choose. The plan is to hold all the food until we reach Josh Jagger's home. He will have plenty of tables and chairs where we can sit, nibble and chat comfortably until he kicks us out.

Here and on the following page are addresses, phone numbers, directions and a bit of information about each of the gardens.

Phyllis and Jim Weidman
508 Pointe Essex Court, Kirkwood, MO 63122
314-965-7027 or pow1031@gmail.com



Our afternoon begins at 1:00 PM at the Weidman home. Pulling up to the front of the house one is immediately beset with questions, questions, questions. How does one garden on such a steep hillside? How does one wheelbarrow mulch from the curb to the top and make it stay there during St. Louis rains? How does one keep Bambi and all her friends at bay? How do they grow such large, beautiful specimens? Spend about 45 minutes inspecting the newly renovated front yard, wander along the dry creek, climb to the sitting area at the top of the ridge, or relax on the back deck and admire the many potted plants.

Directions: From the intersection of I-64 and I-270, travel South on I-270 to the Dougherty Ferry Road exit (Exit 8). At the end of the exit ramp, turn **left** on Dougherty Ferry Rd toward Kirkwood. Travel 1.09 miles, then make a **slight right** onto W. Essex Ave. (W. Essex Ave is 0.1 miles past Lindeman Rd.) Travel 0.29 miles, then turn **right** onto Pointe Essex Court. (If you pass Kirkwood High School, you have gone too far.) 508 Pointe Essex Court is at the end of the street on the left.

Joan and Dave Poos
9904 Crestwood Drive, Crestwood MO 63126
314-821-1622 or david.poos@att.net



We will arrive at the Poos garden around 2:00 PM. Contained within their $\frac{3}{4}$ acre property is a maze of paths meandering among the 775 varieties of hosta nestled under oak, birch, and understory trees. Adding variety to the display are specimens of Epimedium, Heuchera, Ginger, Solomon Seal, Trillium, Hellebores, Hardy Begonia, ferns, viburnum, azaleas and hydrangeas. In sunny areas, 890 varieties of daylily add color during summer months.

Directions: Go north on Pointe Essex Court. Turn **right** on W. Essex Ave. Travel 0.59 miles. Turn **right** onto N. Geyer Rd. Travel 2.44 miles. After crossing over I-44, turn **left** onto MO-366/Watson Road. After 1.17 miles, turn **right** onto Sturdy Drive. After one block, turn **left** onto Crestwood Drive. 9904 Crestwood Dr. is on the circle at the end of the street.

Josh Jagger
8548 Big Bend Blvd., Webster Groves MO 63119
573-822-1777 or nemojosh82@yahoo.com



The last stop of the day is the home of Josh Jagger. We should arrive about 3:00 PM. Josh is a newer member of our Society and this is the first time his garden has been on display. Judging by Josh's pictures, it is relatively new, but well on its way to becoming spectacular. I'm looking forward to seeing it and listening to Josh's future plans. He is quite enthusiastic about hostas and is already thinking about changing beds around. Break out the food and drink, sit a spell, and get to know Josh. There's no need to hurry home.

Directions: Go west on Crestwood Dr. and take the first **right** onto Sturdy Dr. At the end of the street, turn **right** onto Watson Rd/MO-366. Travel 2.07 miles. Turn **left** onto S. Elm Ave. After 1.28 miles turn **right** onto Big Bend Blvd. Travel 0.28 miles. 8548 Big Bend Blvd is on the right (just past Plant Ave.)

April's Vendor Day

April 2018 came in like a lion and stayed that way almost to the end. Vendor Day was chilly and blustery, but that didn't stop members and their friends from attending. Thank goodness hostas are hardy. They can live quite comfortably in their pots until Mother Nature decides to wake up the sun and warm our gardens.



Ron Vitoux and his two sons Brett and Kurt, from **Homestead Farms Nursery** brought a large assortment of beautifully grown hostas, ferns and clematis.



Erica Kniffen of **Hostas on the Bluff** helps Melissa Byrd with a selection. We thank them for returning to our Vendor Day line-up.



Rob Mortko of **Made in the Shade Gardens** is surrounded by numerous eager customers.



Gregg Wesche from **Overland Hardware** brought items to beautify and help maintain our gardens.



Melissa Byrd helps Ted Piekutowski package pre-ordered Club Plants.



We wish our long-time vendor Denny Ricketts of **Avalon Acres** the best of luck. Denny was unable to attend because a tornado touched down in Effingham causing him damage. In addition, his web-site is experiencing difficulties. We hope to see him again next year.

Missouri Botanical Garden Work Day – April

Spring at last - a beautiful, sunny morning!



The tools of our trade await us.



Pam Hardy is getting her marching Orders from our leader, event chairwoman Phyllis Weidman.



Janelle Criscione is putting on her gloves, ready to start the morning.



Dave Poos reshapes overgrown hosta clumps. Extra plants go to our sale.



Carolyn Birge and Barb Moreland attack another large clump.



Martha LaFata and Pam Belloni carry extra divisions to the potting area.



Mary Jones and Jolly Ann Whitener organize the potting area.



Phyllis Weidman brings divisions to the potters. How many plants can one woman carry?



Pam Wolkowitz and Martha LaFata identify and label extra plants for next week's sale.



Pam Hardy and Pam Wolkowitz potted the new divisions for use in next weekend's sale.



Hostas destined to our plant sale were moved to MOBot Garden's greenhouse for storage until next weekend.



After Joan Poos spread fertilizer Carolyn Birge raked it into the soil.



Mary Ann Hatlelid cultivates around plants raking in the fertilizer spread by Martha.



Ted Piekutowski broadcasts Slugo across each bed.



Barb Moreland applies NemaKill to protect the hostas from nematodes.



The Crew: Janelle Criscione, Martha LaFata, Carolyn Birge, Phyllis Weidman, Jolly Ann Whitener, Mary Ann Hatlelid, Barb Moreland, Jim Weidman, Mary Jones, Ted Piekutowski, Pam Wolkowitz, Pam Hardy, Pam Belloni and Dave Poos

What a great day!

Thanks to each and every one for coming! The work was done in record time with nary a drop of rain.

Thank you Phyllis for organizing such a fun and productive day. The hosta beds are looking better and better because of all your hard work.

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

Diana Plahn – President
314-346-3007
dplahn@me.com

Jolly Ann Whitener – Secretary
jawhit6@gmail.com

Karen Frey – Hospitality

Martha LaFata – Vice-President
314-961-7163
mvelafata@gmail.com

Melissa Byrd – Treasurer
mabyrd68@gmail.com

Melissa Byrd – Webmaster
mabyrd68@gmail.com

Joan Poos – Newsletter Editor
314-821-1622
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St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

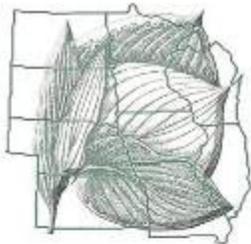
Contact: Melissa Byrd
117 Gunston Hall Drive
St. Charles, MO 63304
mabyrd68@gmail.com

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

Visit us on Facebook, St. Louis Hosta Society



Midwest Regional Hosta Society

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society represents Region 5 of the American Hosta Society that includes 9 states.

Membership in the society is \$20.00 for 2 years, which includes two issues per year of the newsletter.

Please mail a check made payable to **MRHS** to:

Barbara Schroeder,
Treasurer
1819 Coventry Dr.
Champaign, IL 61822

along with Name, Address, phone, and email (Most correspondence is by email). For questions email MRHS.Hosta@gmail.com.



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/>