



Shady Notes

Volume 19, Issue 7

Sept, 2018



President Diana Plahn

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Hostaholics:

I was at the Midwest Hosta Meeting and could not get back in time for the members plant sale. I was told we had lots of plants and about 30 people who showed up to bid.

Everyone has said it went well. Thanks to Ted Piekutowski for chairing this event and for all the volunteers that helped him. Also, thanks to all of you who donated divisions of your hosta plants for the sale. It is certainly appreciated.

The Midwest Hosta Meeting was in Peoria, Illinois, and showcased many lovely gardens with examples of both old and new hosta cultivars. It's always interesting to see how other people work with hostas in their gardens, and see all the other companion plants and garden art that they have there also. Meeting old and new friends is always an added plus.

Our next meeting is on September 16th. Our speaker is Mark Glenshaw, also known as "the owl man". I'm looking forward to an entertaining presentation about these beautiful raptors. Hope to see you there.

Diana

2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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



Mark Glenshaw, the Owl Man



The owls in Forest Park
Photos courtesy of Mark Glenshaw

September 16, 1:00 PM
Creve Coeur Government Center

Mark Glenshaw, the Owl Man

“Forest Park Owls: Hiding in Plain Sight”

Mark H.X. Glenshaw is an award-winning amateur naturalist who has closely observed and documented the lives of Great Horned Owls in Forest Park in St. Louis, Missouri. He is now in his 13th year of observing the owl community in Forest Park. He watches them close enough to recognize them, name them and conduct guided tours he refers to as “owl prowls.” He conducted 90 prowls just last year.

Mark’s talk, *Forest Park Owls: Hiding In Plain Sight*, will cover how he found these owls, basic facts about the species, and the different behaviors he has been able to see and document with photos and videos to illustrate these behaviors.

You may have heard about the owls and Mark’s work with them from the regular media coverage they receive. Join your fellow members on September 16 to learn more about the owls in person.

July Member Auction

Despite the intense heat that has plagued most of the Midwest this year, members found the time and energy to dig and donate hostas for our annual auction.

There was plenty of time before the auction for members to examine each and make their bidding lists. My, what to choose! Am I in need of a bright gold to highlight a dark corner, a silvery blue to compliment that gold or one of those snazzy blue, green and gold combinations? Do I want a plant that is an upright urn or one that hugs the ground? Is there room for a large or giant? Maybe I need that cute little H. 'Popo' to place in a pot. There was something to suit everyone's taste.

Ted Piekutowski, our auctioneer, kept the show moving. Volunteers looked up the average retail prices for each hosta as listed in the last *Hosta Finder* available. This gave a starting point for the bidding process. One coveted item wasn't a hosta but a birdhouse featuring a living roof crafted by Barb Moreland. Several of our newer members joined the fun, waving their paddles, and were rewarded with some very good buys.

Melissa Byrd and Barb Moreland noted the bidder's number, the name of the plant and its selling price. At the end of the auction, they tallied purchases and accepted payment.

Thanks to each and every one who took the time to dig and donate. Thanks to Ted and all who helped with auction setup and cleanup. A special thanks to each member who came, who bid and who bought.



Dave Poos and Janelle Criscione



Carolyn Myers, Spence Sorenson, Pam Belloli



Melissa Byrd and Barb Moreland

It was "Playin' in Peoria"

MRHS Convention - July



Pergola in Smith garden



McConnell's front walk



Hosta gorge behind Baldini home



Amdall's conifer and hosta mix

Summer began in St. Louis in early May when temperatures jumped from the 50s to the upper 80s. By July we were ready to take a break from our own garden. We threw our sunhats and sandals in the car and moseyed down the highway to nearby Peoria.

What a treat! Festivities began Wednesday evening with a visit and barbeque dinner at Hornbakers, a beautifully maintained nursery which had hundreds of hostas planted in display areas and others filling sales tables.

The following two days were filled with garden tours, several educational seminars, an auction, a Hosta Show, two banquets and numerous visits to the vendor tables. The trunk and back seat of the car were filled with foliage on the return trip home.

All of the gardens have outstanding features that reflect their owners' personalities and interests. An impressive pergola sits at the top of a terraced slope that spills down to a small lake on the Smith property. In contrast, a sweeping border of variegated hostas invite visitors to the McConnell's front door. The Baldini's backyard is quite a surprise. A deep gorge! One side is extensively planted with hostas. A bridge crosses the small creek that sits at the bottom. The Baldinis are now landscaping the far side of the gorge.

Absolutely beautiful describes Carol Kock's garden. Whether in the sun or shade each plant compliments its neighbor. The gold of *H. 'Fat Cat'* mirrors the golden margins of *H. 'Goodness Gracious'*. The colors of cone-flowers and daylilies blend perfectly. In contrast, the Amdalls seem to love texture. Their yard is studded with conifers, Japanese maples, hostas and sedums. John even supplied a description sheet for his conifers.



Kock garden sun ...



and Kock garden shade

You've Got Personality

Garden accents are not limited to such things as bird houses and feeders whose purpose is attracting wildlife to your garden. This is where the fun begins. This is where you can show your personality and thus that of your garden. It doesn't matter if it's a found antique, a crafted piece or a decorative item. They all reflect your personality and brighten your garden 365 days a year.

Some pieces are big and bold and serve as focal points while others, tucked away under foliage and flowers whisper for our attention. Pictured below are items displayed in Peoria's beautiful gardens.



These plastic wavy disks attached to tall stakes found at Hornbaker Gardens seem to glow in the dark.



Glass spikes pop up in the back yard of the Streitmatter-Ewalt's lovely Arts and Crafts home.



Numerous old English chimney pots anchored the hosta beds in the Smith garden.



Ernesto Salgado places many of his vast collection of dwarf conifers in pots. Here he makes good use of a cracked birdbath.



The Grangloff's have added a cushion of sedum to a discarded metal chair.



An arbor invites visitors in the Roth garden to enter and view the daylilies that lie beyond.



An old stone wall is topped with a concrete church and houses in the Powers' garden. The display reflects the style of their Victorian homestead.



Some garden accents are big and bold. Bigfoot races across the Cantrell's yard. I hope he hasn't stepped on any hostas.



An old plaster planter holds impatiens which add a splash of color to one of the Smith's tiered hosta beds.



A bench sits next to a small pond in the Nance's back yard. A fishing net and pillow with a fish motif add the finishing touches to this charming vignette.



A decayed tree was sliced into rounds which then became focal points in a clearing beside the Baldini's garden path.



This charming fellow resided in the grandchildren's garden at the McConnell home.

There were lots of wee people in Peoria

We all need a little magic and good luck in our lives. Fairy gardens are quite in vogue now. Most such spaces are designed to let your imagination and your green thumb work together. Besides fairies, these gardens include buildings, patios, bridges, benches, tables, chairs and all the items a human garden might contain. Fairy gardens contain greenery – small plants pruned to resemble trees, hedges and flowers. The most important part of fairy gardening is to have fun. Enjoy the magic, whimsy and charm.

Imagine an entire yard devoted to the tiny creatures. Such a scene greeted attendees at the Jones garden – a hillside studded with tiny houses, farms and castles. All were winter woodworking projects for Don Jones. Fairies scampered in and out of the numerous hostas, peeked from the forks of trees and nestled in swings. Whimsy and charm indeed.



What's a convention without a Hosta Show?

Congratulations to Craig Plahn!



Two of Craig's seedlings won Best of Class and Best of Section. A third entry won a blue ribbon. Maybe someday Craig will register them and we'll be able to enjoy them in our gardens too. Job well done!

Welcome New Member

Melinda Ligon of St. Louis

We enjoyed meeting and spending time with you at Regional. Join us in September and give other Society members an opportunity to meet you. The owl man promises to be quite entertaining and educational.

Heard at Regional



Rob Mortko was one of the seminar speakers in Peoria. Society members should recognize Rob as a vendor at our last two Vendor Day events. His nursery also supplied plants for our last three Member Plant Sales. He is an entertaining speaker who has shared his knowledge and humor with our members on several occasions. In Peoria he informed attendees that early in 2018 he sold his retail business ***Made in the Shade Nursery***. However, Rob is not leaving the hosta world. He plans to concentrate on his tissue

culture business. A mother plant enters his lab, tissue cultured plantlets leave. Rob then sends these to Bob Solberg who will grow them to saleable size and ship them. It is hard work, but just imagine being able to see what's coming to the retail scene several years in advance. Best of luck Rob!

Rob is also on the Board of Directors of the American Hosta Growers Association (AHGA). This is a trade organization for nurseries that specialize in the growing and sale of hostas. Its purpose is "to foster interest in hostas through marketing and educational programs, to disseminate information on cultural practices and pest problems of hostas, and to help standardize hosta nomenclature". AHGA is currently amassing registration information and photographs of as many hostas as they can. This free on-line data base will include the nurseries that sell the particular cultivar and its price. This will be similar to the paperback ***Hosta Finder*** which was discontinued a few years ago. Rob announced that this service should become available this fall. Stay tuned!



Barry Ankney, President of the Midwest Region Hosta Society, announced that next year's regional convention will be combined with the American Hosta Society's national convention. This joint extravaganza, called '**Hostaffinity**', happens in Green Bay, WI on June 12-15, 2019. Information and registration forms can be found at <https://www.ahs2019event.org/>

Conventions are a lot of fun. This is your opportunity to visit numerous gardens that never looked better, hear interesting speakers with knowledge to share, shop till you drop from hosta vendors galore, and meet hundreds of people who love hostas as much as you do. Remember how hot it was in St. Louis this past June? Think how nice it might be to spend some time in cool north central Wisconsin.



Jack Barta with his favorite plant. Photo from his web site: www.jackshostas.com

Each year the MRHS presents the "**DeEtta Montgomery Outstanding Service Award**". It acknowledges a person's or a local society's contribution to benefit the Midwest Region. This year's recipient is Jack Barta. Jack is a long-time grower, seller and hybridizer of hostas. Many of you probably met Jack at the St. Louis AHS convention. He has been a vendor of beautiful big hostas and an entertaining seminar speaker at numerous regional and national conventions. Jack loves hostas, his Chihuahua traveling companion and talking with people. Congratulations Jack!

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

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St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

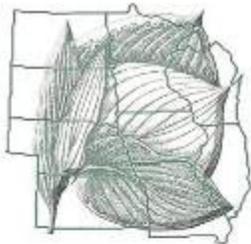
Contact: Melissa Byrd
117 Gunston Hall Drive
St. Charles, MO 63304
mabyrd68@gmail.com

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/>