



# Show Me Hostas Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 5

July, 2008

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



**President Jeff Hall**

I am writing this letter from the comfort of my lounge chair on the deck. We almost forgot how to relax.

The convention is over (Yeah!), and what a convention we had. It was a ton of work by a host of people, but in my opinion, it was well worth it. We made so many new friends and made better friends with people in our area. I had a chance to visit with many people during the convention and heard the same comments repeatedly. And that is how well we planned this convention and that this was definitely the best run convention ever! Even the vendors said that they had the best showing ever! On behalf of the St. Louis Hosta Society, a big thank you

to all the volunteers for your time and efforts.

It's time to move forward. We still have plenty of events planned for the year. As you can see on our schedule, the next event is the auction on July 27. We will have some rare hostas at the auction this year so don't miss out. Every year I am amazed at the quality of the plants and the low prices they sell for at our auction. I urge everyone to get out there and dig an eye or two and bring them to the auction. You can always drop off the plants at one of the officers' homes if you can't make it to the auction. Companion plants are also welcome. Make sure the plants are labeled. Don't forget to bring a friend and your checkbook.

Congratulations are in order for a few of our members. The Pooses won first place in the professional garden division in the Fox St. Louis Channel 2 garden contest, and the Bonsteads were runners-up in the amateur garden division. After these awards and the convention publicity, the St. Louis Hosta Society should now be better known in the area!

Well, it looks like my rest is over. No sign of rain in the forecast so it's time to start watering. The Japanese beetles are back, crab grass and nut grass are everywhere, and those pesky weeds. Oh, to be a gardener.

See you all July 27 at the Auction!

*Jeff Hall*

## ***2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS***

<b>July 10-12</b>	<b>Midwest Regional Hosta Convention</b>
<b>July 27</b>	<b>Member plant auction</b>
<b>September 21</b>	<b>Meeting.</b> Guest speaker to be announced.
<b>October 12</b>	<b>Meeting.</b> Author and radio personality <b>Mike Miller</b>
<b>November/December</b>	<b>Holiday Party</b> – date and location to be announced

### **JULY 27, 2008 MEETING MEMBER PLANT AUCTION**

**1:00 PM. at Creve Coeur Government Center**

Have some empty spots in your garden?  
Looking for something new?  
Does your hosta long for a companion?  
Is that clump too big?

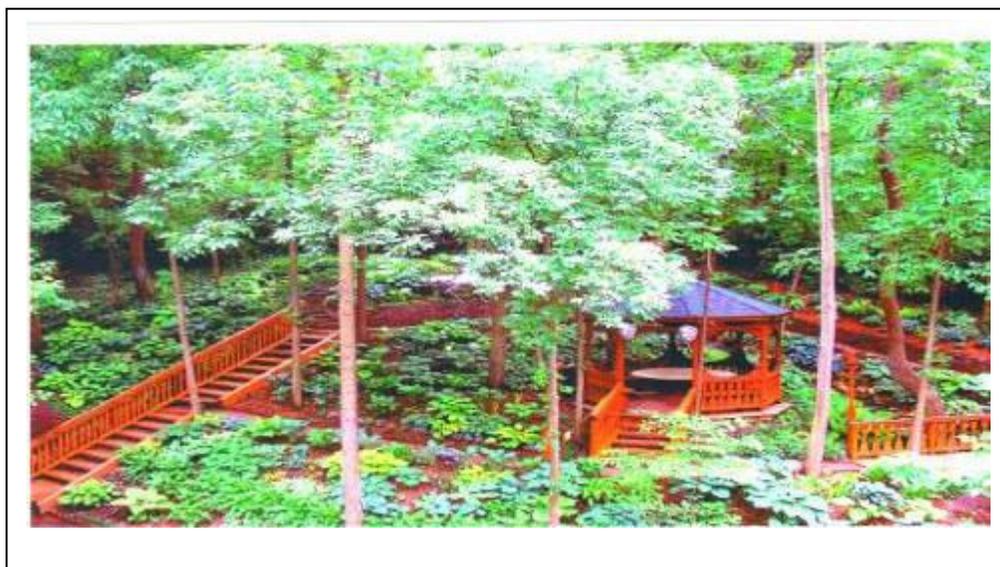
Now is the time to address all these concerns and support your club at the same time. The annual auction is one of two events that fund our society's yearly activities and make the publication of this newsletter possible.

Divide that large hosta clump and dig out part of those ever expanding perennials. Pot a piece, insert a label and bring it with you to the Society's July 27<sup>th</sup> auction.

Bring your checkbook. Bring your friends. Be the highest bidder. Take home a plant that you've been wanting. But most of all socialize, share your convention experiences and join your fellow society members for an afternoon of fun.

**DID YOU SEE ----**  
**AWARD WINNERS IN THE CHANNEL 2 (KTVI) 2008 GREAT GARDEN CONTEST**

Congratulations to Paul and Laj Bronstead for their second place finish in the Best Garden by an Amateur division. The Bonsteads' garden has numerous hostas gracing the slopes around their Creve Coeur home. A beautiful Blue Atlas Weeping Cedar frames the front entrance to their house. Rose and topiary gardens, grasses, a variety of daylilies and two flowering walls add to the garden's beauty. A 125' waterfall cascades through several ponds with two walking bridges and 625' of sidewalks. A beautiful wooden gazebo, a 6' stallion, an eagle with a 5' wing span and a large mobile art sculpture anchor the unique 'River of Stone' garden area. - truly a garden worthy of selection. *Photo by Paul Bonstead.*



Congratulations to Dave and Joan Poos for their first place win in the Best Garden with some Professional Help division. The Poos garden is an acre of landscaped perennial beds. A series of paths weave around the many beds each containing their allotted share of the 650 hosta varieties. Conifers add bones to the beds, azaleas provide early spring color, daylilies brighten hot July days and feed Dave's hybridizing yen, and a large vegetable garden provides good eating all year around. *Photo by Dave Poos.*



## NOT FOR THE SQUEAMISH

### GROSS GARDEN CONTEST instigated by Jeff Hall

Well they say if you can't beat them join them, or at least take their picture and profit from them.

Kelly and I like to visit the Pacific Northwest and while we are hiking there we always come across gigantic slugs. We have seen them exceed 6 inches in length. Thank goodness we do not have those here. But I started to wonder, just how big do they get in this area? This gave me an idea. We should have a **SLUG PHOTO CONTEST!**

The next time you come across a large slug in your garden, take its photo next to a ruler before you dispose of it (our koi love that part). Bring your best picture to the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, where, as a group, we will vote on the largest slug. Pictures must be from your garden only. Winner gets a **\$25.00 gift certificate** to Avalon Acres in Effingham, IL. See sample photo below.



## HATS OFF TO ALL OF THEM

A round of applause for all our members who displayed leaves, artistic designs or educational items in the Convention Hosta Show. Many won ribbons of various colors, but all had a wonderful experience.

**LAJ' BONSTEAD   ELAINE FIX   JEAN MORRIS   ARLIE TEMPEL**  
**SHARON & MIKE SCHMITT   JEFF TRAVERS   PHYLLIS & JIM WEIDMAN**

## CONVENTION NOTES

The hosta is known as the 'friendship plant'. That was definitely the undercurrent at the 40<sup>th</sup> annual American Hosta Society convention held in June and hosted by the St. Louis Hosta Society. From developing a process to facilitate the registration of our European friends to granting a last minute request by a speaker to change the complicated convention schedule, the committees worked tirelessly to accommodate each conventioneer's needs. All the hard work, extensive planning and attention to detail paid off. AHS Board members, convention speakers, vendors and individual attendees praised the volunteers' friendliness, accommodating spirit and efficiency.



Attendees were greeted in the lobby of the hotel with a depiction of the St. Louis Arch surrounded by pots of hostas grown magnificently by Rick and Joan Clarkson.



In honor of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Hosta Society, Phyllis Weidman researched then collected pictures of all the AHS presidents. Included on a second poster were pictures of men and women who greatly influenced the development and popularity of the hosta.



The Hosta Show preparation room was a busy place as attendees primped their leaves for display. Participants praised the amount of space, abundance of supplies and the efficiency of Martha Karlovetz and her volunteers.



Attendees admired the hundreds of flawless leaves displayed in the Hosta Show. Entries included individual leaves, pots, containers and artistic designs.



The vendor room was a popular place with attendees. Hostas of all sizes and colors, companion plants, garden art, T-shirts and more were available – all in one spacious room. Arlie Tempel and crew made vending a pleasant and rewarding experience.



Seven members opened their gardens for the attendee's enjoyment. Countless hours were spent preparing for this event. Seven additional gardens were graciously open on the Sunday following the convention for viewing by our own society members.

Along with tours of beautiful gardens, conventioners were able to attend seminars ranging from the technical to the aesthetic, from the humorous to the serious.

Numerous awards were presented to Hosta Show winners, to photographers and to newsletter editors. The Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award is given to a member of the Society in recognition of having given 'outstanding service to the Society or the development of the genus Hosta or both'. This year's recipient was Don Dean who in turn selected 'Silver Bay' as his choice of a hosta with distinguished merit.

The Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Merit Award recognizes an individual who is a widely acknowledged hybridizer with an advanced knowledge of hosta and has demonstrated a willingness to share his knowledge with others. This year's recipient was Bob Solberg who in turn acknowledged 'Ginsu Knife' as his favorite introduction.

The success of this convention can be attributed to the months of hard work of Convention Chairman Jim Weidman and his committee chairs. However, a few people cannot achieve this level of success. It required each and every member of the St. Louis Society. Take a moment to pat yourselves on the back –

**JOB WELL DONE**

## St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

**Jeff Hall**- President  
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**Rick Clarkson** - Hospitality  
618-462-2540  
[hostaluv92@yahoo.com](mailto:hostaluv92@yahoo.com)

## 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: Pete Postlewaite  
21172 Andover Road  
Kildeer, IL 60047  
[mrhs.treasurer@midwesthostasociety.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](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>