



# *Show Me Hostas Newsletter*

Volume 11, Issue 8

November, 2010

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



**Pam Wolkowitz President**  
*Photo by Kelly Hall*

Greetings to Everyone!

I think our fall weather is upon us and the possibility of frost is near. We have been blessed with a lot of nice weather which has allowed Chester and me to work on our new garden and get some of our hostas in. We have a lot to do, but hope to have you all out next summer. I trust you all have had a good gardening year, as we even learn through our mistakes and failures.

The year is winding down and I have enjoyed being your President and trying to bring you lots of information that you can use in your gardens. The thing I have enjoyed most is getting to make some new “hosta friends” and talking garden with them. We have some exciting things for next year, too, so stay tuned.

And what better way to end the year than with our Annual Christmas Party. There is always lots of good food, a couple of games for laughs and plenty of hosta talk as we share our dreams for the New Year.

Hope to see you all there.

*Pam*

## 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>November 15</b>	<b>Board meeting</b> <b>6:00 PM, Phyllis Weidman home</b>
<b>November 21</b>	<b>Meeting with 'Show St. Louis Hosta Society' DVD</b> <b>1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center</b>
<b>December 5</b>	<b>Holiday Party</b> <b>1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center</b>

**LAST NEWSLETTER OF 2010**  
**NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL ARRIVE AT THE END OF JANUARY 2011**

### **Coming Event – November**

#### **'Show St. Louis Hosta Society'** **Phyllis Weidman**

**St. Louis Hosta Society**  
**November 21, 1:00 PM.**

In the past, several members of the St. Louis Hosta Society have received requests from other garden societies for someone from our group to present a program about hostas. During the past year, Phyllis Weidman, Pam Wolkowitz and Kelly Hall combined their talents to create a presentation that meets this need.

The program consists of a DVD plus a written script. Any member of our Society could present this program, practically stress free. One would start playing the DVD, stop at the appropriate time and read from the script, then restart the DVD. Sounds simple!

Phyllis, Pam and Kelly will demonstrate just how simple it is. The DVD runs approximately 20 minutes, which leaves plenty of time for questions. Let's see how they put it together and what's involved in giving the presentation to another organization to which we belong.

In addition to the DVD another 'Hosta Show and Tell' is on tap. Ever have the urge to see what would result if you harvested and planted some of those seeds hanging from hosta scapes at this time of year? Don't quite know how to get started? Come to the November meeting where Jim Weidman will tell us how to plant and care for those tiny black seeds. I'm sure there's more to it than just sticking them in the ground.



**Tim Cancila whipping up the feast**



**Members chatting after Tim's feast**

## **HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR RESERVATION?**

### **THE LAST EVENT OF THE YEAR**

### **THE ST. LOUIS HOSTA SOCIETY ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY**

**Sunday, December 5 at 1:00 PM**

**Don't miss out on the fun! Karen Frimel is putting together a FUN afternoon guaranteed to put you in the holiday mood. Karen and Tim Cancila from 'The Gas House Grill' have corroborated on a menu sure to put a bulge in our waists. Tim catered last year's successful party. We loved his good food, his excellent service and the fact there were no dirty dishes to wash and dry.**

**Reservations are required. November 21 is the deadline. Price is \$10.00 for each person attending. Please RSVP by paying at the November meeting or by mailing your check to:**

**Dave Poos  
9904 Crestwood Dr.  
Crestwood, MO 63126**

## **ST. LOUIS HOSTA SOCIETY BOARD MEETING**

**November 15, 6:00 PM**

In November of each year, the Board meets to set the meeting schedule for the coming year, to formulate and review the list of programs and activities planned for the new year, and to discuss past and future concerns of the Society. All Society members are invited to attend this meeting and are encouraged to offer their ideas, suggestions and opinions. Let the Board know your wishes. Get to know your officers.

This year's meeting will be held at the home of our Vice-president **Phyllis Weidman**. Let her know you are coming and she'll gladly add another chair to the circle.

**508 Pointe Essex Court  
Kirkwood, MO 63122  
314-965-7027 or pow1031@gmail.com**

## October 21 meeting

### Dave Wanninger presents 'Plants for a Shady Garden'



**Dave Wanninger interacts with members during his presentation.**



**Members helping Dave package his gift peonies.**



**Dave swapping information with members Carol and Phil Brammer, Pat Payton and Jean Hudson.**

In October, members met a most affable, enthusiastic and gregarious speaker, Dave Wanninger. Although he has his special loves, - indeed, coming to us from Klehm's Beaver Creek and Song Sparrow Nurseries, how could he not love peonies and hosta - Dave was quite knowledgeable about a wide range of plant cultivars suited to our shade gardens.

Dave's criteria for a good plant include interesting foliage color, leaf variegation, leaf texture, good form, long life and above all low maintenance. He likes plants that 'grow gracefully old just like us'.

Dry shade, which most of us have in abundance, presents a challenge. Usually in such situations, plants must compete with tree and shrub roots for moisture and nutrients. Tree canopies provide the shade plants love but at the same time often present a physical barrier to falling rain. Gardeners can overcome dry shade by keeping plants well watered, by occasionally spade-cutting encroaching tree roots and then applying compost. Compost supplies nutrients, improves drainage, helps hold moisture and promotes healthy soil.

While listing many plants which are strong growers in the Midwest, Dave also gave hints about the best cultivars, their growth habits and some of their quirks. Black Snakeroot, takes shade very well, but its purple color fades in the shade. So give it a little light. Astilbe is a shade favorite but needs good moisture. However, the chinensis and x arendsii varieties are more dry tolerant. Try the beautiful, dwarf pink 'Perkeo'. Speaking of color, look for the bright gold Bleeding Heart 'Gold Heart'. The contrast of gold leaf and bright pink flower is stunning.

There are many new seed strains and a new hybrid Helleborus. The "Metallic Blue Lady Strain" is dark blue, while the "Double Queen Strain" is a dainty pink. The new hybrid 'Ivory Prince' has upright white blooms. Did you know these plants can take a substantial amount of sun and that in heavy shade the plant shape flops? Heucheras also like a bit of light, especially the green and purple leaved ones.

Want a shrub with great fall color - look for Fothergilla major 'Blue Shadow'. Interested in a pink 'Annabelle' Hydrangea - watch for 'Bella Anna' in 2011.

Thanks Dave for an enjoyable Sunday afternoon. I can't wait to track down that dark blue Helleborus.

## October Hosta Show and Tell



**Pam Wolkowitz holding mystery scape brought in by Carol and Phil Brammer. Members decided that it came from *h. nigrescens*.**

This month Pam Wolkowitz shared her thoughts and practices relating to closing down your hosta garden for the winter. Among gardeners there is a difference of opinion about whether to clean off or not to clean off withered hosta foliage. Pam feels if there is any chance your hostas might harbor fungal or nematode disease, then definitely clean off dead foliage and send to a landfill not your compost pile. Also if you are plagued with voles, they love to tunnel under fallen leaves. Pam likes to wait until March to put down mulch.

Now is the time to check tags, replacing the missing and mangled. Why does that keep happening? Tags seem to be like the missing socks in the laundry. Where do they go?

Pam covers her pots with a double sheeting of frost cloth with leaves over that. She brings her minis into the garage and gives them about a shot glass of water in Jan. Jeff and Kelly Hall stated they stack their pots on top of each other in the garage and don't water them at all. They bring them in after the first hard freeze. Jean Hudson and Pat Payton store their pots outside under the eaves of their house so they don't get a lot of water. They all suggest tilting pots and troughs to make sure drain holes are not against the ground and water doesn't pool in the pots.



Fall is a time for retrospection and thanks giving. First there was an abundance of water – how many of us were ready to build arks - then there was none. Some plants didn't survive the colder winter, but that just made room for new varieties. The MoBot sale and member auction gave us ample opportunity to fill those newly vacant holes.

That barren hosta bed at the Missouri Botanical Garden looks much better already. The labels jutting about the bed give a hint of what's to come. Just wait until spring!

We were educated this year. My wish list of shade companion plants lengthened after talks by Bill Ruppert and Dave Wanninger. The trip to Shaw Nature Reserve opened our eyes to native plants that can become inhabitants of our own gardens. A garden walk at Karen and Greg Frimel's offered ideas on unique ways to mix hardscape, hostas and companion plants.

What would a garden club be without good food. Our year began with a delicious pot luck luncheon and ends with more good food, our annual Christmas Party. In between, Barb Moreland sat a beautiful table each and every meeting. Hopefully lots of garden bending and stooping helped melt those gained pounds away.

Thanks to ALL who gave of their time to ensure another successful and satisfying gardening year.

## UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

### The Midwest Regional Hosta Society once again sponsors the popular Winter Scientific Meeting

- Date: **Saturday, January 22, 2011**
- Location: Wyndham Hotel, 3000 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL, 877-999-3223  
If you plan to stay overnight, please make your own hotel reservations, and mention the "Midwest Regional Hosta Society Winter Scientific Meeting" to guarantee the special room rate of \$79.00.
- Time: Registration at the hotel will begin on Friday, January 21, from 3:00 - 6:00 pm, and Saturday, January 22 from 7:00 - 8:00 am. The program will run from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm on Saturday. Dinner Friday and Saturday nights will be on your own at one of the many area restaurants.
- Featured Speakers: Bob Solberg – What Ploidy Really Means to the Hosta Grower  
Mark Zilis - Hostas of Distinction  
Kevin Walek - The World from the Point of View of the Hosta Registrar  
Glenn Herold – Major Minor – Utilizing hardy bulbs in the garden
- The program includes a series of 3 concurrent breakout sessions. Each session is presented twice so attendees can attend two of the three sessions. Presenters and their topics are:
- Session A: So You Want to get Your Photo Published in the Hosta Journal (by Ken Harris)  
Session B: What's New with Hydrangeas (by Dave Wanninger)  
Session C: Hybridizer's Perspective-Are Our Hostas Going to the Dogs? (by Ron Livingston)

The cost of this winter extravaganza is \$50 per person for Midwest Regional Hosta Society members and \$60 for non-members and includes a continental breakfast and a deli buffet lunch. At their option, non-members can apply the \$10 difference in the registration fee to a one-year membership in the MRHS. Please make checks payable to MRHS, and mail before January 10, 2011 (after Jan 10, a \$10 late fee is added), with the registration form to:

**Kristine James, 523 E. Calhoun Street, Woodstock IL, 60098**

The Registration Form with is included within this Newsletter (Postal recipients) or as the second attachment (Email recipients). More information and the registration form are available on the MRHS website:

[//www.midwesthostasociety.org](http://www.midwesthostasociety.org)

### Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention

**July 7 – 9, 2011**

**Madison, Wisconsin**

Remember all those sweltering days last July? Did you feel that you just had to get away from the heat, if only for a few days? The Wisconsin Hosta Society is offering you that opportunity next July. MRHS Convention Chairman, Irwin Johnson, sent newsletter editors a letter giving a glimpse of the activities planned for next summer's event.

Attendees will tour five private gardens. The Convention will include the ever popular leaf show, vendors from the four corners of the United States selling hostas, conifers, companion plants and other garden related merchandise, and both a live and silent auction.

Friday night's feast will be a Pig Roast overlooking beautiful Lake Monona and the state capitol building. A buffet breakfast Saturday morning and a box lunch Saturday midday is included with your registration.

It's not too early to plan a July vacation. More information and registration forms will appear in a spring issue of this newsletter. If you wish more information now, contact

**Irwin Johnson**

**262-786-1758 or [irwinjohnson@wi.rr.com](mailto:irwinjohnson@wi.rr.com)**

## St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

**Pam Wolkowitz** - President  
636-285-3114  
[lovehostas@msn.com](mailto:lovehostas@msn.com)

**Phyllis Weidman** – Vice-President  
314-965-7027  
[Pow1031@gmail.com](mailto:Pow1031@gmail.com)

**Dave Poos** - Treasurer  
314-821-1622  
[dpoos@juno.com](mailto:dpoos@juno.com)

**Joan Hummel** - Secretary  
636-405-2584  
[HummelJFam@sbcglobal.net](mailto:HummelJFam@sbcglobal.net)

**Kelly Hall** - Webmaster  
[skyridgegarden@earthlink.net](mailto:skyridgegarden@earthlink.net)

**Karen Frimel** – Membership  
[cckmf@aol.com](mailto:cckmf@aol.com)

**Barb Moreland** – Hospitality  
314-961-4191  
[Bmore433@aol.com](mailto:Bmore433@aol.com)

**Joan Poos** - Newsletter Editor  
314-821-1622  
[dpoos@juno.com](mailto:dpoos@juno.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: Barb Schroeder  
1819 Coventry Drive  
Champaign, IL 61822  
[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>

# 2011 Winter Scientific Meeting Registration Form

Make a copy of this registration form for your records. If you would like confirmation of your registration, list a valid email address or enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Please **PRINT CLEARLY**. Fill out registration form completely.

Note that MRHS memberships are family memberships, so individuals in the member's household are also MRHS members.

## ATTENDEE 1:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Member of MRHS  Non-member

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ If a non-member, do you want your \$10 surcharge applied to a one-year FAMILY membership in the Midwest Regional Hosta Society?

State: \_\_\_\_\_  YES  NO

Zip : \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  Please confirm my reservation by email

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## ATTENDEE 2: Address same as Attendee 1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Member of MRHS  Non-member

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ If a non-member, do you want your \$10 surcharge applied to a one-year FAMILY membership in the Midwest Regional Hosta Society?

State: \_\_\_\_\_  YES  NO

Zip : \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  Please confirm my reservation by email

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registrations postmarked after January 10 require a \$10 late registration fee per person.**

**Cancellations before January 10 will be sent a full refund.**

**We will be unable to issue refunds after Jan. 10, 2011.**

Number of Members \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Non-Members \_\_\_\_\_ x \$60 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Late Registrations \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to MRHS.**

**Questions about registration? Contact Kristine: email [dankrisj@mc.net](mailto:dankrisj@mc.net) or phone 815-337-4621**

**Mail your registration to:**

**Kristine James  
523 E Calhoun Street  
Woodstock IL 60098**