



# Show Me Hostas Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue 4

June, 2010

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



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

Hello Everyone!

Where did spring go? The temperatures were cool and the hostas loved the rain. Now it's summer in Missouri. Maybe Mother Nature will slip a few more nice days in somewhere.

We are in our new home and still have a few more boxes to unpack. OK! A lot of boxes! But we are starting to work outside anyway. Chester

is building a set of steps down the side of the house. I will start filling in beds next to the house for planting. The grass will be planted in September. Hope I can put up with 'the bare look' until then.

I'm excited about being a part of the planting at Missouri Botanical Gardens. Giving information about our beloved hostas and having different varieties for the public to see is what it's all about. Hope a lot of you have signed up for the fun.

*Violets are blue,  
And roses are red;  
My mind is a blank now,  
So no more can be said.*

Happy Gardening,

*Pam*



## June 5, 2010 Work Day at Missouri Botanical Garden



Missouri Botanical Garden hosta bed 05

**This is what it looks like now!**

**Picture in you mind this bed at the end of the day on Saturday, June 5.**

You can help the Missouri Botanical Garden project chairwoman Phyllis Weidman fill this desolate, featureless landscape with hostas!

The existing circle of hostas and all the daffodil bulbs have been removed; the bed prepared; the impressive trough for minis installed. All that remains is for Society workers to plant the eighty-six cultivars that Phyllis ordered. The hostas await us at the Garden.

Workers should meet in front of **Ridgeway Center at 9:00 AM**. Just bring yourself and gloves if you so desire. Shovels and planting materials will be supplied by the Garden's staff. But remember that Phyllis must have your name ahead of time so that the Garden can issue name tags. This is required. If you have not done so, contact her:

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



2009 Hosta Society sale at MoBot

**St. Louis Hosta Society Plant Sale**  
Missouri Botanical Garden, Beaumont Room  
**June 19, 9 AM. to 5 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, facilitating community projects such as MoBot hosta bed enhancements,

covering partial costs of the holiday party, plus our many other activities.

Be generous with both your hosta or companion plant divisions and with your time. Drop off your plant donations at any society officer's home in advance or bring them to the Garden on Friday night between 5 and 7 PM or Saturday morning before 9 AM.

Get into the action; enjoy the camaraderie; talk about your favorite plant, the hosta. Set up is Friday June 18, 5 to 7 PM; the sale is open June 19, 9 AM to 5 PM. Contact **Pam Wolkowitz 646-285-3114**, [lovehostas@msn.com](mailto:lovehostas@msn.com) or **Phyllis Weidman 314-965-7027**, [pow1031@gmail.com](mailto:pow1031@gmail.com) to volunteer an hour or two of your time.

## ***Garden Walk***

**Friday June 11, 6:00 'til they kick us out  
Karen and Greg Frimel  
19 Dunleith Drive, St. Louis, MO 63124**

For a perfect finish to a long hot week, please join your friends from the St. Louis Hosta Society at the home of Karen and Greg Frimel. The natural woods behind their beautiful West County home have been transformed by removing the extensive areas of invasive honeysuckle and adding over 200 varieties of hosta. Strategically placed plantings of azaleas, dogwoods, Japanese maples, hydrangeas and daylilies have created a colorful and scenic place to stroll, while remaining comfortable, even on the hottest summer day. If you thought Karen's award winning trough was awesome, wait until you see the others scattered throughout her garden. As usual, please bring your favorite beverage and a snack or dessert to share.

### **Directions:**

Take Hwy 40/64 to the S. Lindbergh exit. Turn south on Lindbergh Blvd. Go approximately 1 mile to the U-turn lane on the left (past Shriner's Hospital). Use the U-turn lane so you can cross to the East side of the concrete divider on Lindbergh. You will then be heading North on Lindbergh. Dunleith Drive is on the right (East side of Lindbergh). On Dunleith Drive, bear left to #19 which is on the left.

OR

Take Manchester Road to Lindbergh Blvd and turn north. Go approximately 1.25 miles to Dunleith Drive on the right. On Dunleith Drive, bear left to #19 which is on the left.

## **Welcome new members**

The Society is delighted to welcome new members for 2010:

**Lou and Jack Holverson of Collinsville, IL**

**Connie Holverson of Fairview Heights, IL**

Look for them at future meetings and the many exciting events scheduled for June and the rest of the year. Introduce yourselves and show them how friendly we really are. We hope our new members and all our old friends will join in this year's fun.

## Wow! What a day!

Who had more fun, Heather or her parents visiting from Vancouver, Canada!  
Who crawled around in the rain Saturday morning looking for the perfect leaf!  
Who skipped their Saturday night bath because the tub was full of soaking hosta leaves!  
Who took home all the marbles, or in this case, the most blue ribbons!  
Who was awarded a ribbon bigger than a dinner plate!

### St. Louis Hosta Society Leaf Show May 16, 2010

Members started arriving around 11:00 AM laden with buckets of cut hosta leaves. Rick Clarkson muscled into the room several of his large containers. It took both Karen and Greg Frimel to carry in their pig trough filled with small hostas, rocks, a conifer and even a frog.



Leaf Preparation area



Classification clerks - photo by Pam



First step was registration. Karen Frimel, Registration Clerk, assigned each person an exhibit number and explained how to fill out the entry form and tally sheet.

From there, it was on to preparation. Each entry had to be thoroughly cleaned. This meant the top and bottom of the leaf plus its petiole. Imagine how much time Rick spent cleaning his container grown hostas! All cleaning supplies and the display vases were supplied by the Society. Phyllis and Jim Weidman, Leaf Show Chair, carried in large boxes of q-tips, cotton, scissors, vases large and small, everything needed to get the job done.

Once cleaned and properly identified, the entry passed to Kelly Hall and Joan Poos, Classification Clerks. It was their job to verify that the leaf was listed with the correct name, division and section numbers and contained the exhibitor's assigned number, name and address. They then folded the entry card so that a judge could not see the exhibitor's personal information. No playing favorites.

Placement Clerks, Sharon and Mike Schmitt and Nancy and Arlie Tempel, moved the entries to their correct location on the display tables. Entries were separated by division, section and class. The leaf show rules, printed in the May newsletter, listed the various sections and classes. Most were divided by size of the leaf, its coloration and its registration. Registered and non-registered cultivars are in different sections as are seedlings.



**Clerks Melissa Byrd & Jolly Ann Whitener  
Judges Craig Plahn, Phyllis Weidman and  
Diana Plahn.**



**Judges explain their grading decisions.**



**Leaf table embellished with ribbons**



**Sweepstakes winner, Craig Plahn**

Now the fun begins. Judges, Diana and Craig Plahn and Phyllis and Jim Weidman set to work. They were ably assisted by clerks Melissa Byrd and Jolly Ann Whitener.

Judges are not allowed to touch an entry. It is the job of the clerk to lift and turn the leaf for the judge. Melissa did the heavy lifting, while Jolly Ann stapled the correct ribbon to each entry card. Jolly Ann jokingly stated that the hardest part of her job was 'not talking'. Clerks must remain silent and do what they're told.

Throughout the judging period, the judges would stop and explain why certain leaves were graded higher than others. In this case, Phyllis displays a leaf that is of the correct size and coloring. Diana holds one from the same cultivar but which was smaller and darker in color. They explained that perhaps the darker leaf was taken from under the plant in hopes it had no damage.

Judges assign points for form, size, color and pattern, texture, substance and condition and grooming. The number of points amassed by the leaf determines the color of the ribbon or whether it deserves a ribbon at all.

Once all entries are judged, the blue ribbon winners in each class are judged to determine which is the best of its class. These are given a green ribbon signifying their importance.

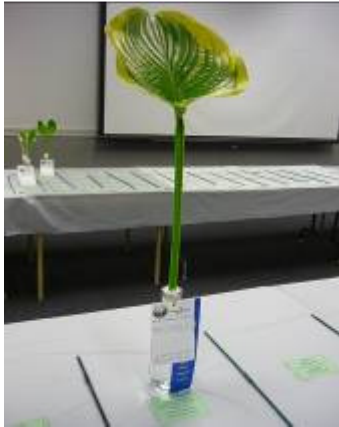
After all classes have been judged, the green ribbon winners in each section are judged to determine which is the best of its section. These entries are given an additional fancy blue and yellow ribbon.

Finally, the section winners are judged to determine the 'best of show'. Normally, the judges would pick the winner. However, for our show, the voice of the people ruled with members voting for their favorite.

The last award announced was the 'Sweepstakes Award' winner. This special blue and white ribbon was given to the entrant winning the most blue ribbons. Our winner was Craig Plahn. However did he find so many perfectly grown (and of course perfectly groomed) leaves?

Our hats off to Jim Weidman for providing a day of education and spirited, good-natured competition.

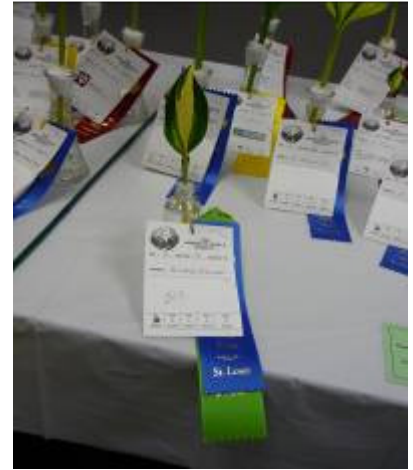
**And the winners are**



**Victory**  
Best of Class and Section  
**Best of Show**  
**Jim Weidman**



**Kalamazoo**  
Best of Class and Section  
**Craig Plahn**



**Little Treasure**  
Best of Class and Section  
**Diana Plahn**



**Valley's Top**  
Best of Class and Section  
**Craig Plahn**



**Ghost Spirit**  
Division II - Container  
**Rick Clarkson**



**There were no losers**

**Congratulations to all who  
tried something different,  
learned a lot and had fun  
in the process!**



**Division III**  
Best Trough/container arranged for effect  
**Karen Frimel**

## COMPANION CORNER



Newly emerged plant –  
picture taken April 6

### Shredded Umbrella Plant

**Family: Asteraceae**  
(Ass-ter-AY-see-ee)

**Genus: *Syneilesis***  
(sin-eel-ES-is)

**Species: *aconitifolia***  
(a-kon-eye-tih-FOH-lee-uh)



Mature plant with insignificant flowers  
not yet in bloom – picture taken May 28

This woodland beauty, native to the dry hillsides of Japan and Korea, is one of those eye-catching foliage plants that always grab the attention of visitors to our garden. Similar in appearance to May Apples, but in the aster family, the fuzzy, gray-green leaves emerge in early spring. The engaging common name aptly describes this plant – the woolly leaves look like shredded umbrellas after a fierce hurricane.

By June, the plant is generally 15 to 18 inches tall. Gradually, the leaves flatten out to about 8 inches across and lose their fuzzy silver cast. In June, they send up flowering stems typically 24 to 30 inches tall, topped with small white blooms.

Be patient, the rhizomes spread slowly, taking a good five to seven years to form a 2-foot-wide mound. However, the fantastic textural quality of this woodland wonder is well worth the wait. Shredded umbrella plant enjoys part sun to shade and is hardy in Zones 4 to 8.

## COMING EVENT

**St. Louis Hosta Society Member Auction**  
**July 18, 1:00 PM.**

While you're cleaning up your garden beds after this last set of thunderstorms consider setting aside a plant or division for our Society auction. Due to the generosity of members Martha and Lamar Karlovetz, only a few plants are needed. Bring one of your favorites so that it might find a home in another member's yard. Most important, bring yourself and your checkbook. Remember, monies from this event help defray the costs associated with Society events.

## 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  
314-965-7027  
[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>