



MINUTES – Mo Bot HOSTA GARDEN 2/13/2025

Held within Mo Bot staff office

Attendees:

Phyllis Weidman, Past President SLHS & Mo Bot volunteer

Dave Birenbaum, President SLHS & Mo Bot volunteer

Kathy Belleville, SLHS & Mo Bot volunteer

MO Bot Staff:

Kevin McIntyre - Exterior Gardens Coordinator

Emily Shelton - North Gardens Coordinator

Greta Burg - Hosta Garden, Ottoman Garden and China Garden

Matt – Supervisor of Horticulture (came in at halfway point)

Self-introductions with our connections to the Hosta Garden.

Kevin reviewed 2024 in the Garden

- The app-controlled automated sprinkling system SLHS funded was finally finished (with long-term insistence by Society members over time). Greta will be able to water anytime.
- 10 hostas were received in 2024 and 14 hostas in the garden died. Phyllis will check the incoming number and get back to Emily. A dead hosta may not mean others of the same kind do not exist elsewhere in the Garden.
- 10 cases of HVX (Hosta virus X) in the Garden. Test strips from Agdia will be purchased by the Society as needed. Phyllis discussed need to avoid planting those areas for 3 years. Staff is aware they could alternately bring in new soil.

Greta addressed 2025 in the Garden:

- She is keenly aware the mulch in the garden was historically too liberally applied. She will move over-mulch to areas as needed. She is ensuring the crowns are not covered. No new mulch will be added at this time.
- Southern Blight discussion amongst the parties. Greta will treat properly.

The redbud (bed 6) and crabapple tree (species area) will be removed. Hosta in species area will be dug and potted then replanted after removal of tree or planted somewhere else in the garden. Discussed because the species hosta will be potted, more new hostas come every year, and plants may be getting larger, changes in the design of that area may be justified. Dave discussed people have difficulty reading labels away from the main sidewalk along the

wall at Tower Grove Avenue without going into gardens; perhaps walkways need to be established. Staff added all labels could be printed larger. Redesign will be considered by Emily and Greta as they walk the garden. Consideration will be given to expanding the hosta beds into which those displaced may be planted.

Discussion of participants regarding the species hosta bed likely containing non-species plants. Staff will consider an approach to ensure naming is correct, but other things make take immediate priority. Phyllis recommended consulting the AHS Hosta Treasury of all registered hosta.

Work day for the Society will be Saturday, April 19th. Greta will decide what needs to be done on that day. Staff responded to Dave's question about the past practice: MoBot will support allowing splits and excess plants to go into the Society sale including holding any potted plants until the sale on May 10th.

The Society will again buy the Bayer Disease Control product as needed. There are 2 bottles available now. Spraying will start in April and be done every month there after until October. Greta will pay attention to the volume used so it can be replenished when needed.

Discussion of fertilizer. Soil samples will be taken and then type of fertilizer decided. Phyllis believes nitrogen is needed. Milorganite is a good organic source.

Dave questioned whether thought had been given to Eagle Scout project assistance on garden projects including the paths. Staff seemed to not have current knowledge of types of projects Eagle candidates may pursue. Dave will reach out to Scouting St. Louis Area Council.

QR codes pro and cons was discussed. No decisions to further the discussion was made; it appears Mo Bot does not have interest but stated they will consider internally.

List of hosta that the Society would purchase was passed out. Greta will look it over and let Phyllis know what the garden would like. Phyllis will then place the orders with the Society paying for the hostas but the hostas will be shipped to the garden.

Discussion over lack of signage and/or tin signs on some hosta and content of the Mo Bot database. Staff does not have resources to perform a needed plant inventory. Dave volunteered the Society to take on this challenging work, during our Thursday chores there or other days, starting with one bed. Need to inventory if plants in the database are dead or present where stated in GIS database, signage present, and tin sign present.

Dave provided Staff the Society 2025 Activity Schedule and invited their attendance.
