



Volume 22, Issue 7

August, 2021



President
Phyllis Weidman

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The weather was wonderful. The garden walks were more wonderful. What can one say about Karen Frey's garden but incredible! She does all the gardening herself with a little help on some hardscape. She had hostas, but so much more. Thanks to Karen for sharing her garden.

Then everyone moved on to David Birenbaum's garden. A vastly different garden than Karen's. David's main beds are at the edge of a woods. The garden is principally hostas and companion plants with interesting labels David makes himself. Large specimens and small all grow well in this shade garden. Thanks to David and Anne.

It is so great to see how others garden with hosta. I should dig out everything and start over but I am too old and lazy to do that. So, my garden will remain as is. Right now, I am recording which hosta have nematodes, removing reverted eyes, and pulling weeds. Always pulling weeds.

It is time for nematodes to show themselves. This tiny worm kills the tissue between leaf veins leaving the tissue dead and brown. It will not kill the hostas, but it makes them look less attractive. It is also time for southern blight, now called petiole rot. Heat and humidity cause the fungus for southern blight in the soil to start to grow. The bottom of the petiole rots and leaves fall to the ground. The chemical tebuconazole or a 10% bleach drench will kill the fungus. This too will not kill the plant, but could make it weaker and less vigorous in the spring.

You can read all about these two problems by going to Hostalibrary.org. Hosta Library is a great source for all kinds of information. We all need to know how to grow healthy hostas and have beautiful gardens to share with friends.

Phyllis

2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 15	Garden Walk/Meeting 1:30 PM, Home of Martha and Paul LaFata 433 Edgar, Webster Groves, MO 63119
September 19	Meeting with Speaker TBA 1:30 PM, TBA
October 24 Note change of date	Meeting with Speaker TBA 1:30 PM, TBA
November	Board Meeting Time and location TBA

Is it time to update your wardrobe?

Is your wardrobe lacking a comfortable, good-looking polo shirt? How about one embroidered with our Society's logo? Treat yourself to an early Christmas present.

Two styles are available. One is a lime green polo shirt (the only color available), the other a long-sleeve denim blue shirt. Both styles will be embroidered with our Society logo.

The ladies denim shirt is fitted, the polo is not. Sizes available are:

- Men and Ladies S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL
- Tall men ST, MT, LT, 2XLT

The polo shirt chairwoman is Pam Wolkowitz. See Pam at the next hosta meeting or contact her at:

Pam Wolkowitz
lovehostas@msn.com
636-285-3114

She will answer all your questions and take your order.



Welcome New Member

Gloria Mahoney of Affton, MO

Thank you for joining our society. We hope you are able to join us at the upcoming meeting and garden walk scheduled for August 15 near you in Webster Groves. This is the perfect time to meet some of your fellow members and for us to meet you.

GARDEN WALK – A visit with MARTHA and Paul LAFATA

August 15, 1:30 PM.

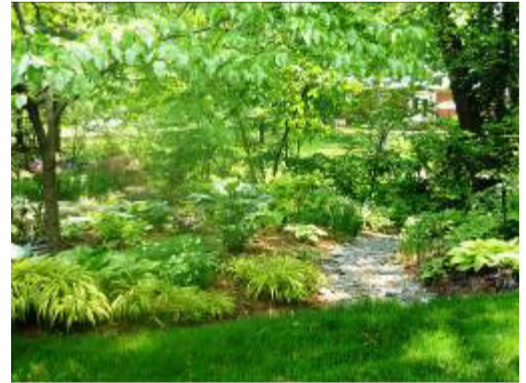
433 Edgar, Webster Groves, MO 63119

314-961-7163 or mvelafata@gmail.com

Society member, Martha LaFata and her husband Paul, have graciously invited us to spend an afternoon in their lovely Webster Groves garden. Martha's garden was on tour during the 2016 AHS National convention, was selected as a display garden for a Missouri Botanical Garden Tour and was featured in the August 2019 issue of *St. Louis Homes and Lifestyles*. Currently a video of her garden can be seen as a feature of the Outdoor Living Showcase at stljewishlight.org.



Wide heavily wooded garden beds encircle the yard. Standing on the patio or the lush lawn it's hard to believe that the house is located on a busy street. The lush vegetation buffers urban noise and screens the yard from view.



Martha spent countless hours removing invasive vines, ivy and over-grown shrubs to create areas thick with hostas and their shade loving companions.

Wander up a slope to the sunnier portion of Martha's yard. Here the border features daylilies, grasses and conifers that prefer a bit more sun.



Bring a lawn chair, a snack to share with others and your drink of choice. Martha will have water available. Spend the afternoon strolling through this beautiful area, relaxing on their charming patio and chatting with your hosta friends.

Photos were taken during our 2013 Garden Walk at Martha's. Let's see what has changed.

Directions:

- From I-44, take the S Elm Avenue exit.
- Go north on S Elm Ave about 0.2 miles to E Glendale Rd (1st traffic light after Big Bend Blvd).
- Turn right onto E Glendale Rd. and go 0.6 miles to Edgar Rd.
- Turn left onto Edgar Rd. and go 0.5 miles. 433 Edgar Rd. is on the left across from the park. Parking is available in the driveway and on the east side of Edgar Rd.

July 18 Garden Walk – at home with Karen Frey

Wow, there was no mistaking Karen's home! A blast of pink, red and blue filled the front yard. The mass planting of petunias, begonias and salvia blazed in the afternoon sunlight. Mixed in were yellow, red and pink daylilies, purple coneflowers and black-eyed susans. A large white hibiscus anchors a corner of the porch entrance. Dark green grasses flank the garage door.

The side yard is a maze of paths edged with shade loving plants. Numerous hostas are intertwined with ferns and pots of colorful annuals. Oak leaf hydrangeas and a unique bush clematis with dainty blue flowers form a backdrop.

The sunny back yard is home to Karen's collection of daylilies. A focal point is a large pool with mosaics adhered to the sides was built by Karen. The side of her garage is faced with tall banana trees which Karen takes in each year. Thanks you Karen for brightening our day.



Karen greets Carolyn Myers & Judy Schneider.



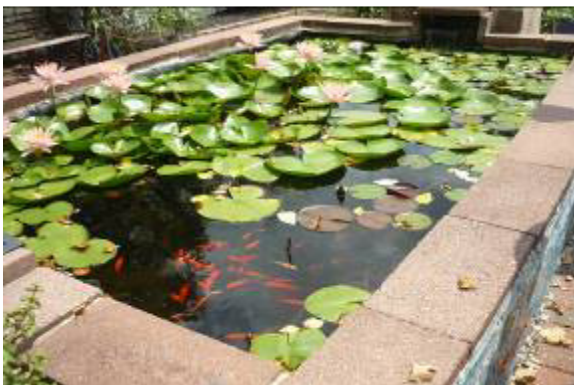
A riot of color in Karen's front yard!



Hostas line the shady paths in the side yard.



No grass in Karen's side yard!



Goldfish frolicked in a pool Karen built.



Banana trees cover the garage side.

July 18 Garden Walk – a stroll with David and Anne

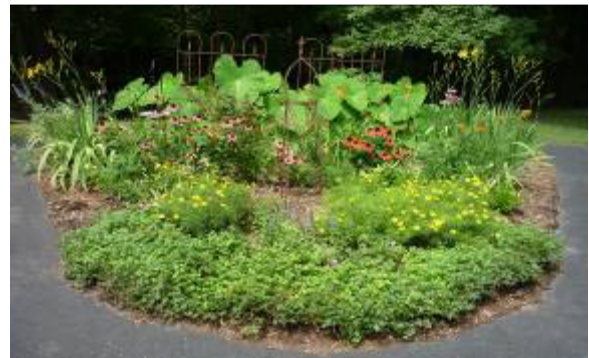
David Birenbaum graciously invited fellow members and their friends to visit his garden and stay awhile to socialize. In front and to the side of the entrance to their home, the Birenbaums have created colorful pollinator plant beds featuring butterfly enticing coneflowers in shades of pink, orange and white. Yellow tickseed adds another splash of color. Elephant ears provide a backdrop.

.A wood chip path winds along the edge of the woods behind the house. David has used tree trunks to delineate the walking paths. Beds of hostas intermixed with ferns, astilbe and other shade loving plants lie on both sides of the meandering walkways. *H. 'T Rex'* and *H. 'Stained Glass'* stand out in David's collection. A pot positioned on a stump picks up the color of a large clump of *H. 'Blue Cadet'*. Each plant has a beautifully fashioned tag. David makes his plant labels from small tree trunks. He splits a section in half, long enough to accommodate the hosta's name and attaches it to another piece which he fashioned into a stake. David then burns the name onto the split section. Very creative.

We enjoyed relaxing on your back deck nibbling fudge bars and getting to know some of our newer members. Thank you for opening your garden for our enjoyment.



Colorful pots adorn the front porch.



Elephant Ears form a backdrop for coneflowers.



Carolyn Myers and Judy Schneider admire hostas.



The blue of the pot compliments the hosta.



Jeanne & Jim Yochim found a quiet place to relax.



H. 'T Rex' is gaining stature.

Kudos to Kalamazoo

Out of concern for the safety of attendees and the uncertainty of whether large gatherings would be allowed in this time of COVID, the American Hosta Society and the 2021 convention committee in Kalamazoo, Michigan cancelled the in-person convention. Instead the team in Kalamazoo decided to put on the first-ever virtual AHS convention. They hit a home run!

From the comfort of our favorite recliners, we were able to hear three interesting keynote speakers and listen to 10 workshop presentations. We were able to ask questions through a chat feature. At our leisure, we could participate in an on-line auction, view a leaf and seedling competition and vote for our choice of winning entries. Of course there were garden tours - ten on-demand, professionally recorded virtual tours, unmarred by rain, heat or bugs.

Looking for a “hot new hosta”? Rob Mortko introduced us to a slew of lesser known hybridizers and some of their current and future introductions. Bob Solberg explained the Hosta of the Year program. The 2021 HOY is *H.* ‘Rainbow’s End’ and selected for 2022 is *H.* ‘Island Breeze’. Bob Liames simplified the topic of garden design, discussing how to create a cohesive look in our hosta gardens through the use of color, texture, shape and form. Beautiful pictures demonstrated how to put it all together. Hybridizer Hans Hansen took us on his life-long journey with hostas including a peek at the inner workings of Walters Gardens.

The workshops were quite informative. Topics ranged from an excellent presentation on HVX and another on how to test for it. Others focused on slugs, worms and four-legged vermin. There were tips on container planting, what fertilizers to add to that pot and then the joys of photographing that beautiful container or your own garden spaces. Ever hear of aeroponic propagation? I have now. Questions and comments were welcomed.

The crème-de-crème. Fabulous garden tours. Imagine spending 45 minutes strolling through a magnificent garden with the home owner at your side. An interviewer became our stand-in, asking the questions that we would have asked had we been there. The format was superb and the videos extremely well-done. The interviewers were relaxed and asked questions and made comments that kept the tour moving in an orderly fashion. The home owners gave us personal insights into the evolution of their gardens, inspired us with the beauty of their spaces and conveyed their joy in having us visit. For home owners, the pay back for all the hard work and time required to prepare a garden for a national tour is the reactions of the attendees. Just know that we were “ohing and ahing” from our recliners.

We thank the Kalamazoo convention team for not giving up. All their hard work and creativity paid off. Please take a bow.



Karen's *H.* 'Raucous Ruffles'



Karen's bush clematis



David's *H.* 'Stained Glass'

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

Phyllis Weidman – President
314- 630-9036 Cell
Pow1031@gmail.com

Jolly Ann Whitener – Secretary
jawhit6@gmail.com

Melinda Ligon – Hospitality
314-749-7307
meligon@sbcglobal.com

Vice-President – open position

Dave Poos – Treasurer
314-821-1622
david.poos@att.net

Lynn Teller – Webmaster
314-306-1478
lynn.teller@gmail.com

Joan Poos – Newsletter Editor
314-821-1622
david.poos@att.net

St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

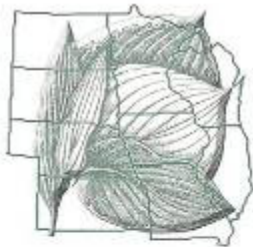
Contact: Dave Poos
9904 Crestwood Drive
Crestwood, MO 63126
david.poos@att.net

Dues: \$7 per year, \$18 for three years
Family or Individual

Meetings held 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:

Barry Ankney, AHS Membership Secretary
1104 Oxford Ct
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

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/>