



# Shady Notes

Volume 24, Issue 1

February, 2023



President  
Phyllis Weidman

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

A new year awaits, but let's take a moment and look at what happened in 2022. Leaving some of the COVID restrictions behind, our gatherings were held at a lot of different places. The Des Peres Lodge, Crestwood Recreation Center, the Kirkwood Market (one will not forget the rain), and many gardens we had never visited. Some of the places will be revisited this year because we liked them so much. In addition, the Missouri Botanical Garden with its new building open will welcome us back.

The 2023 St. Louis Hosta Society year will begin February 19<sup>th</sup> with BBQ and "The Owl Man" as our program. Many have been working hard behind the scenes putting together a fantastic year. I thank them all. This year will be exciting with lots to do. If you want to learn something new, get your hands dirty, visit gardens or get new hostas, we have something for you. Always check the newsletter, Facebook (St Louis Hosta Society), or the website ([stlhosta.org](http://stlhosta.org)).

Have you checked out any of these sources of information? They help you keep up to date with the activities of the Society. When planning your calendar, go to the newsletter or the website to see the calendar of events. To see what has happened or going to happen, go to The Facebook page. It is your choice where you find out what the Society is doing, but hopefully you will try these.

Remember that everyone is welcome. Try to attend as many events as you can. I want to meet you all. See you for BBQ and owls on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 2.

*Phyllis*

## 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 19**                      **Potluck Meeting with Speaker Mark Glenshaw**  
**2:00 PM, MOBot CBEC, Room 125**  
**4651 Shaw, St. Louis, MO 63110**
- March 19**                              **Meeting with Speaker Jennifer Schamber**  
**2:00 PM, Greenscape Gardens Nursery**  
**2832 Barrett Station Rd, Manchester, MO 63201**
- April 23**                                **Vendor Day**  
**2:00 PM, Crestwood Recreation Center, Whitecliff Park**  
**9245 Whitecliff Park Ln., Crestwood, MO 63126**
- April 29**                                **Work Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden**  
**8:00 AM, Missouri Botanical Garden,**  
**AHS Display Garden beds**
- May 20-21**                              **Plant Sale**  
**9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Missouri Botanical Garden**  
**Set up May 19, time TBD**
- June 4**                                    **Garden Walk**  
**3 gardens TBD**
- June 7-10**                                **AHS National Convention**  
**Ames, Iowa**
- June 18**                                 **Garden Walk with beekeeper Mike Wagner**  
**2:00 PM, Home of Martha LaFata**  
**433 Edgar Road, Webster Groves, MO 63119**
- July 13-15**                                **Midwest Regional Hosta Convention**  
**Rochester, MN**
- July 16**                                    **Members Plant Auction**  
**2:00 PM, MOBot CBEC, Room 125**  
**4651 Shaw, St. Louis, MO 63110**
- August 20**                                **Garden Walk**  
**2:00 PM, Hostas on the Bluff**  
**1601 Pleasantview Dr., Fairview Heights, IL 62208**
- September 17**                            **Garden Walk**  
**TBD**
- October 15**                                **Meeting with Speaker**  
**TBD**
- November**                                **Board Meeting**  
**Time and location TBD**
- December**                                **Holiday Party**  
**Time and location TBD**



**February 19  
2:00 pm**

**Potluck Luncheon**

**Talk by The Owl Man**



Our hostas are still asleep, but we are not. The months away from gardening have revitalized us. Shake off those winter blues. Spring is right around the corner. What better way to kick off the new gardening season than with good friends and good food. It's been three years since we were able to break bread together. Remember the fun of that chili cook-off!

Our first meeting of 2023 will be a potluck barbecue luncheon and a fascinating talk by The Owl Man. Hospitality chairwoman, Melinda Ligon, will order the meat and sauces from Smoking Barrels restaurant. The society will provide tea, water, soda and buns for the meat, also plates, eating utensils and napkins. She is asking members to bring a complimentary side dish. What do you like to eat with your barbecue? This could be your favorite potato salad, a tossed salad, coleslaw, beans, chips, relishes and of course dessert.

The meeting location does not have a stove. However, there are places to plug in a crock pot or casserole if your item needs to be kept hot. Don't forget to bring a serving utensil if needed.

Members are asked to RSVP Melinda so that she can determine how much food to order. She is also keeping a list of what items members are bringing so that we don't have an abundance of one type of food. The sooner you RSVP, the more likely she will welcome your first choice.

**RSVP**  
**Melinda Ligon**  
**[meligon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:meligon@sbcglobal.net)**  
**314-749-7307**

The meeting location is Room #125 in the Commerce Bank Center for Science Education (commonly referred to by the acronym CBEC). This building is located a few blocks west of the Missouri Botanical Gardens main campus. The address is 4651 Shaw Blvd. There is ample parking in front of the building.

**Directions:**

Traveling on either I-44 or I-64/40 take the Kingshighway exit. Travel South on Kingshighway to Shaw Blvd. Turn left onto Shaw. Note that at this location Shaw is split into a one-way section heading East and another one-way section heading West. O'Connell's Pub sits in between the two sections of Shaw. The entrance to the parking lot for CBEC is on the West heading section. After turning East onto Shaw, travel to the end of O'Connell's Pub parking lot and then turn left onto the West heading section. The gated entrance to CBEC is on the right.



**Mark Glenshaw**



**Caring for owlets**

*Photos courtesy of Mark Glenshaw*

**February 19, 2:00 PM**  
**Commerce Bank Center for Science Education**

## **Mark Glenshaw, the Owl Man**

### **“Forest Park Owls: Hiding in Plain Sight”**

Mark Glenshaw is an award-winning naturalist who has closely observed and documented the lives of Great Horned Owls in Forest Park in St. Louis, Missouri. He is now in his 18<sup>th</sup> year of observing the owl community in Forest Park. He watches them closely enough to recognize family units and to name them.

Mark’s talk, *Forest Park Owls: Hiding in Plain Sight*, will cover how he found these owls, basic facts about the species, and the different behaviors he has been able to see and document with photos and videos to illustrate these behaviors.

Mark does extensive outreach work with the owls. Each year he conducts dozens of guided tours he refers to as “owl prowls.” He shares his work on his blog as well as Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and Facebook.

You may have heard about the owls and Mark's work with them from the regular media coverage they receive. Join your fellow members on February 19 for a lunch and learn afternoon.

## **2023 Membership Dues Are Payable Now**

If you receive the newsletter by e-mail, check the second attachment for a list of all members who owe dues this year. If your name appears in the attachment your dues were paid through the 2022 year and are now payable for 2023. If your name does not appear in the attachment, you do not owe dues.

If you receive the newsletter by postal mail, check the two-digit number appearing after your name on the address label of this newsletter. Your membership dues are paid through the end of the year appearing after your name. For example, if ‘22’ appears after your name, your dues are paid through the 2022 year and are now payable for 2023.

Dues are \$7 annually (individual or household) or \$18 for three years. Make checks payable to SLHS (St. Louis Hosta Society) and bring to the February meeting or send to:

**David Birenbaum**  
**209 Brook Lane**  
**O’Fallon, MO 63368**

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

### Laurie Duke of Byrnes Mills, MO

What a fun time to join our society. The potluck is the perfect time to get to know your fellow members. Just bring a dish to share, then sit back and relax. We encourage all our members to introduce themselves to Laurie and embrace a new gardening season.

### Need a mid-winter break from the cold of St. Louis?

Instead of a gardening meeting in the sunny South, do something different and travel north. The Midwest Regional Hosta Society is again hosting its annual Winter Hosta Symposium Meeting on Saturday February 25 in Milwaukee, WI. The first meeting was held in 1989 in hybridizer Mark Zilis' greenhouse near Chicago. Since then the event has grown in popularity and is now held in a hotel or conference center. This is a one day event devoted to hosta and shade garden education. It features national and local speakers, this year three in person and three via Zoom, a lunch and a hosta seed silent auction.

See the next page for a detailed description of speakers and topics, plus a link to the registration form and hotel registration.

### Winter in St. Louis – what next?

What fickle weather. Yesterday it was nearly 60, today it is in the 30s. So our winter has gone – days of near balmy temperatures, then plunges into the deep freeze. Feeling the itch to get outside, I strolled through my sleeping garden. Not much was going on. I did spy bright green leaves and the first white bloom of hellebore 'Double Queen'. Some strappy daffodil leaves were also pushing up. All great sights for winter-weary eyes.



Frost heaved hosta

Unfortunately I also found a few hostas resting on the top of the frozen earth. Our fluctuating temperatures have resulted in frost heave for several of my smaller and more recently planted hostas. Frost heave occurs most often when moist soil repeatedly freezes and thaws. It can happen in any type of soil, but some such as silt, loam and clay are more prone to heaving due to their ability to retain more moisture.

With below freezing conditions, the water in the soil turns into small ice particles that come together to form a layer of ice. Moisture from deeper layers of the soil migrate upward and freeze, expanding the ice particles. Pressure created by this ice buildup compacts the soil reducing airflow and drainage. Additional moisture increases the amount of ice and the pressure it exerts. Eventually this pressure creates deep cracks throughout the soil and pushes the crown and roots of the plant upward. The cracks expose the roots of the plants which then dry out and die. Alternating freezing and thawing cycles lift the plants up and out of the ground. Heavy rains can also wash away the soil from around the roots and crowns of recently planted hostas exposing them to harsh freezing conditions.

I quickly scraped surrounding dirt and mulch over these heaved hostas. It is probably too late to save some of them, but it is worth a try. Next fall after the dead foliage has been removed, I must remember to watch that a thin layer of mulch covers these vulnerable areas. But not too much, don't want to invite slugs and voles to over-winter. Maybe it is time for you to take a stroll outside and check on your little ones.

## MRHS Winter Hosta Symposium Meeting

**Saturday, February 25, 2023 - Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel**

**PLEASE DON'T WAIT – REGISTER NOW !!! BRING A FRIEND !!!**

The MRHS Board remains committed to promoting hosta education, as the society subsidizes this annual event. Despite rising hotel and food costs there is only a very nominal increase in the hotel room rate and the registration fee as compared to our last pre-pandemic conference in 2020.

**Registration Fee:** \$69 (MRHS members); \$79 (non-MRHS members). Register before Feb. 3 to avoid the late fee. A registration form can also be found on the MRHS website. (MidwestHosta Society.org)

**Hotel Rate:** \$109 per night including buffet breakfast (plus taxes) – rate applies to Fri and/or Sat night. The hotel room rate is guaranteed through Feb. 3, 2023.

**The Symposium features:**

- **Friday Evening Hostality**
- **Hosta Seed Sale and Silent Auction** featuring Jeff Moore seedlings
- **Saturday Symposium with 6 speakers** on a variety of hosta and related gardening topics:
- **Josh Spece – New Hostas for 2023...and Beyond**  
The anticipation of new hostas is a thrill for all hostaholics! We will take a look at what is new and exciting for 2023, plus see a sneak peek at a few plants coming in the near future.
- **Glenn Herold – I'm Glad You Asked**  
We have had many visitors to our garden and we seem to get asked about certain plants over and over. So that you don't have to ask next time you come to our garden, I will talk about those plants, as well as some of those that should have been asked about. Trees, shrubs, conifers, perennials, and even some hostas are included.
- **Cindy Tomashek – Jumping Worms: Know the Enemy!**  
Identifying jumping worms, understanding their life cycle and reproduction, suggestions on how to avoid introducing them, coping if you have them...less science, more observation.
- **Donald Lewis (Iowa State Professor Emeritus) – Hosta Pests and Diseases**  
This presentation will cover the life cycle, biology, and control options for the common hosta pests: slugs, cutworms, planthoppers, sowbugs, and nematodes. We will review the next invasive pest headed our way, the spotted lanternfly. It's a lot to cover, but we'll make sure to leave time for your observations, anecdotes, and questions.
- **Bob Solberg – Growing Better Hostas**  
A professional hosta grower's tips for ensuring new hosta purchases to maximize their growth potential. Yes, hosta babies and older mature divisions have different needs. Also, creating the perfect garden microclimate for your hosta collection.
- **Mark Zilis – The Past, Present, and Future of Hostas**  
Looking back on 40+ years of the hosta world and where we are headed.

**Please register early. Late registration fees start Feb. 3, 2023. The hotel room rate is guaranteed through Feb. 3, 2023.**

Use this link to make a hotel reservation online:

**[Book your group rate for Winter Hosta Symposium Meeting Feb 2023](#)**

Or phone the Sheraton at 1- 888-627-8235 and mention "Winter Hosta Symposium Meeting Feb 2023" or mini hotel code "JLU" to get the special group rate.

## St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

**Phyllis Weidman** – President  
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## St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

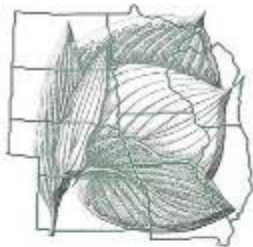
**Contact:** David Birenbaum  
209 Brook Lane  
O'Fallon, MO 63368  
[d.birenbaum@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d.birenbaum@sbcglobal.net)

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

Meetings held at **The Des Peres Lodge, 1050 Des Peres Road, Des Peres, MO 63130** (near I270 and Manchester Rd) unless otherwise noted.

Visit our Web site: [www.stlhosta.org](http://www.stlhosta.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](mailto: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/>