

Sum & Substance

Newsletter of the Greater Ozarks Hosta Society
June 2013 - Tom Lakowske, Editor



A word from your president...

What an absolutely wonderful spring we've had! Nice and cool. Plenty of rain. Hostas and everything else are flourishing. We've had great events in the Hosta Society with super turn outs from the members. Life is good.

Our Next Big Event

Friday, May 31st starting at 6:00 p.m. until dark thirty will be "An Evening in the Garden". This year we'll meet and dine at J.J. Averett's gorgeous garden in Nixa. J.J. and the Hosta Society are providing all the food, drinks, and desserts. Just bring a chair. Members and spouses are free. Guests are \$10 per person. *This is one of our biggest events of the year.* Don't miss it. Directions: on CC between 65 and Campbell immediately across from Fremont Hills Golf Course, turn north into Briarbrook subdivision on Blue Jay Way. As you enter, veer to the left to 262 Blue Jay Way (J.J.'s house). Her neighbors know the street will be crowded with cars. If you get lost, call Tom at 860-4959.

Recent Events

Thanks to all the wonderful helpers that spruced up our hosta garden recently. Everyone who helped will be entered into the drawing for a \$50 Hilltop Farms gift card. Speaking of Hilltop Farms, we had a great turnout for that event, too. Everyone had a good time and bought some great plants. After that we went to see Ray Woody's conifer and peony garden. It was absolutely stunning. The more of these events you attend, the more new friends you make.

Got Slugs?

Do you have pin sized to bb sized holes in your hostas all of a sudden? We are having a huge crop of slugs show up this year. Everyone is experiencing the problem. Here's my suggestion on what to do about them. I put down slug pellets as soon as my hostas emerge in the spring. Normally that's good enough. This year it didn't even make a dent. I put down more slug pellets. For extreme infestations, you can mix one part ammonia with nine parts of water in a sprayer. In the early evening, right after sunset, or even later is better, walk around and spray this mixture on and around your hostas. If you've got a lot of time on your hands, you can go out with a flashlight in the middle of the night and pick them off by hand. I prefer to accept a few holes in my hostas.

Top Tips To Make Gardening More Enjoyable

by: SWMOgardens.com

TOUR THE SPRINGFIELD BOTANICAL GARDENS AT NATHANAEEL GREENE/CLOSE MEMORIAL PARK. Too many area gardeners don't realize what a jewel we have here in Springfield. Gorgeous gardens are spread out over 114 acres. Strolling landscapes overflowing with hostas, daylilies, dwarf conifers, grasses, native plants, azaleas, roses, irises, peonies, perennials, and butterflies will give you loads of ideas to use in your own garden. *HINT: Pack a picnic lunch and a camera.*

BUILD RAISED BEDS. Our existing soil is a lot of clay and rock. It almost takes a pick axe to plant an annual. Raised beds solve that problem. We brought in dump truck loads of soil, mixed in compost, and edged them with a rock border. Raised beds are not only easier on you for planting, but they provide better drainage for your plants. *HINT: Raise your beds 10-12 inches high, and let them settle 2-3 inches before you plant.*

WEED WHEN YOUNG AND WET. It is much easier to pull a young weed, roots and all, before they get well-established. And, after a rain more of the roots pull out with less broken and left behind. *HINT: If your bed is totally full of weeds, cover the whole bed with cardboard or newspaper and 4 inches of mulch to smother the weeds.*

GET A FOUNTAIN. Our yard is so heavily wooded and shady that a pond would be a lot of maintenance. Our 3 fountains, however, are very easy to maintain. We keep them full, remove debris from the pump intake, and add a little bleach about once a month to control algae. Fountains add sound, sparkle, and attract birds. You will really enjoy having a nice fountain. *HINT: Store yard ornaments in the fountain when you cover it for the winter.*

JOIN FRIENDS OF THE GARDEN. We design, install, and maintain the majority of the gardens at the Springfield Botanical Gardens. You get a tremendous sense of accomplishment creating beauty for the whole city to enjoy. Plus, the people are fantastic, friendly, down-to-earth folks. Visit friendsofthegarden.org. *HINT: Don't like playing in the dirt? Support FOG with a financial donation.*

WEAR KNEE PADS. Gardeners spend a lot of time on their knees. Quality knee pads will protect your knees and let you enjoy gardening well into old age. *HINT: Buy hard plastic knee pads used by tile setters.*

MULCH IS YOUR FRIEND. The secret to preventing weeds, keeping roots moist, feeding the soil, and adding a lovely finished look to your garden is mulch. You can buy it in bags, compost your own, or get it from the yard waste center. Mulch is money, and time, very well spent. *HINT: Spread a 4 inch layer of mulch about every other year or so.*

TAKE MASTER GARDENER CLASSES. Very interesting and enjoyable, the classes cover every topic from fruit trees to landscape design to lawns to raising plants from seed. Specialist speakers on each topic will teach you absolutely everything you ever wanted to know about horticulture. You will become a better gardener. *HINT: Visit mgregreen.org for class schedules.*

ADOPT A NO BARE GROUND POLICY. The word that describes most beautiful gardens is lush. Adding ground covers and fillers around your shrubs and in your beds will make your garden more lush. We use green and variegated liriop, vinca, hostas, coral bells, and ferns. Plus, less bare ground means fewer weeds. *HINT: Use multiples, or drifts, of the same plant to create more impact.*

SIT AND ADMIRE YOUR EFFORTS. Probably the best way to make gardening more enjoyable is to just sit. Grab your favorite beverage, leave the phone inside, go to your most comfortable chair and soak in the beauty of what you have created.

Welcome to our newest members for 2013

Marilyn McCowan, Frank Shipe, Norm and Carol Hill, Patty Garrett, Lois Zerrer, and Sandra Carter.

Garden Jumbles

Eliminates what's bugging you:

IRPSD ○ ○
NTWEI ○ ○
SAEDP ○ ○
DHNERC ○ ○
EIKTPC ○ ○ ○

Hosta BFF

Vinca Minor It is a well-known plant that is extremely useful as a ground cover. It spreads to form dense plantings that remain attractive all year. Early spring showcases its sky blue flowers. In the summer it has glossy, rich green foliage. It spreads by runners, and it's perfect wherever an evergreen ground cover is needed in a shady site. It does a great job of choking out weeds. Make absolutely certain you buy Vinca Minor and NOT Winter Creeper.



Want to Win \$50?

The GOHS has a superb reputation at the Botanical Gardens because of how well we maintain our hosta garden. This year if you spend one hour either pulling weeds, or using a leaf rake to rake the paths, you will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 Hilltop Farms gift certificate. You may enter every time you spend an hour in the garden. No reservation or scheduling is needed – just go. E-mail me with your name, date, and time you spent and you will be entered in the drawing. The drawing will take place at the Saturday, August 31 hosta plant auction.

Help Find New Members

We have approximately 160 members in the GOHS. The majority of the new members joined from events and being asked. Please forward this newsletter to all your gardening buddies, societies you belong, or anyone else who enjoys growing hostas and would like to be involved with a fun group of people.



Hosta of the Month

H. El Nino Basically, a rich blue Halcyon with a thin, pure white edge. It becomes a graceful mound of attractively pointed leaves. Does best in dappled or more shade. Beautiful in a white container. Like all hostas in the Halcyon family, the thick leaves are less damaged by slugs. A gorgeous hosta.

Our Hosta Garden at Springfield Botanical Gardens

Now is the time to visit our hosta garden. It is absolutely stunning. Bring a friend and a picnic lunch. We should know by the end of June if we have been selected as an American Hosta Society national display garden.

GREATER OZARKS HOSTA SOCIETY 2013 EVENT CALENDAR

FRIDAY, MAY 31, AN EVENING IN THE GARDEN, 6-9 One of our biggest events of the year. Tour J.J. Averett's gorgeous garden, and enjoy good friends, good food, and good times. Free to members. \$10 per person for guests. RAIN DATE, SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 6-9

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 4-7, BBQ PICNIC, We'll have a wonderful time out at DON NICHOLSON'S MISSOURI EXTENSION RECOGNIZED CENTURY FARM. Enjoy a beautiful collection of clematis and large hostas. This garden is a must see, and the grills will be smokin'! RAIN DATE, SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 4-7

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 9-NOON, BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL We will have a booth.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, BOTANICAL CENTER, 3 - 6 , HOSTA PLANT AUCTION, AND SWEETS TABLE A good time will be had by everyone! Hilltop Farms and Peggy's Flowers bring dozens of assorted hostas and perennials for sale in our lively auction. While buying, satisfy your sweet tooth from a giant sweets table! Door prizes, too!

PLEASE – Mark your calendars to attend all of our 2013 events.

Have fun, and make new friends!

QUESTIONS? CALL TOM @ 860-4959

OR GO TO GOHS.ORG