



Board of Directors

President:

Riley Cook
913-638-1184
drileycook@aol.com

Vice President Program Coordinator:

Gayle Alley
816-697-2007
jpagha@gmail.com

Secretary:

Aleta Cress
816-729-6007
aletajane47@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Troy Vratil
913-832-7240
tvratil@msn.com

Hospitality:

Sandy Harris
816-254-4168
jharris3401@comcast.net

Leslie Milby
816-836-9094
lmilby@att.net

Fundraising:

Charlene Wendel
816-313-2907
gramcracer@hotmail.com

Membership:

Stephanie Hamil
913-648-2082
user01595@aol.com

Newsletter:

Cady Pembroke
816-206-7553
cljfp@gmail.com

Plant Sales:

Keith Wheeler
816-228-9308
kagwheeler@aol.com

Website Administrator:

Craig White
816-988-7139
heartlandhostaweb@gmail.com

Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society

President's Message *Spring 2018*

Another year is underway and we're struggling through some really dynamic weather conditions and a rough flu season. Here's hoping that this newsletter finds our members healthy and looking forward to digging back into their gardens once Spring weather finally arrives. And talk about a welcome to the start of Spring! I hope everyone had an opportunity to enjoy the Super Blue Blood Moon at the end of January. It's not often that these events all happen at the same time.

2018 is shaping up to be a year for change in the club. We've recently migrated our web page to a new server that offers better control and simpler management. We've also created an official page on Facebook. We look to share more dynamic content with the club via these pages. Check them out to see the additional content that we will be posting in an effort to create interest in Hostas and other shade tolerant plants.

<http://www.heartlandhosta.club>

<https://www.facebook.com/HeartlandHostaAndShadePlantSociety/>

Another big change for 2018 is our effort to go green! As discussed in the Spring 2017 meeting, we want to reduce the amount of paper we use and the general membership responded positively to that initiative. So this newsletter will be the last large mailing from the club. The newsletter is already available on our web page. With this change we will email an electronic copy to all current members as well as link it to our Facebook page. If you have an issue accessing it, please feel free to contact me and we'll see what we can work out. The second benefit of this change is that the money we were spending on printing and mailing can now be applied to one of the club's most important purposes, which is supporting the gardening community by donations to support local gardens.

Make sure to *check the expiration date of your membership next to your name on the address label*, so that you will continue to receive member benefits. Membership dues are \$10/year and are payable annually and due at the beginning of the calendar year. Membership provides the benefits of voting on club business, a discount on plants purchased at our plant sale, an invitation to our members only garden party, as well as communication from the club. If your membership has expired you can send payment to Stephanie Hamil. (Stephanie Hamil- 9630 State Line Rd – Leawood, KS 66206)

Riley

Spring Meeting

Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society

Saturday, March 24, 2018

Location~ First Lutheran Church 6400 State Line, Mission, Kansas

Registration 9:00AM Hospitality: 9:30AM Meeting: 10:00AM

The doors will open at 9AM for check in at registration, followed with hospitality, a brief meeting, and the program at 10AM. Presenting our Spring program is our guest speaker, Tom Micheletti. There will be door prizes and our Spring raffle, with some exciting gifts. Raffle Tickets are available at registration from Charlene, \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

Following our program, there will be a *potluck lunch* with the Society furnishing the meat and members bringing a favorite dish to share. There will be great food and a chance to catch up with friends. Join us in the fun and bring a friend. Everyone is welcome!

For more info – call Riley at (913) 638-1184 or Gayle at (816) 697-2007.

Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society *Spring Program*

Guest Speaker: Tom Micheletti



Tom is a retired Middle School Industrial Arts teacher and having summers off enabled him to pursue his interest in gardening. Tom became involved with hostas when he was given the green hosta, then the one with the white edge, and finally the one with the white center. He had them all! When Tom was scanning through some mail order catalogs and realized that he didn't have them all, he set out to acquire as many as he could.

Tom told us, "In 1990 I saw an ad in *Horticulture* magazine advertising the American Hosta Society. I joined and attended my first convention in Minneapolis where I was overwhelmed by all of the

colorful varieties available. Shortly after that, I found there was a Midwest Regional Hosta Society, which I joined. That not being enough hosta immersion, in 1992 I founded the Northern Illinois Hosta Society and was its first President. I have served in various capacities on the board of the AHS for 14 years including 4 years as President. I also served for 6 years as President of the MRHS, and I organized its Winter Scientific Meeting for 16 years. I have also served on the board of the American Hosta Growers Association. In 2013, I was the recipient of the Alex J. Summers Award for distinguished service to the AHS, its most prestigious award."

About the same time as Tom joined the AHS, he began selling plants at garage sales each spring to supplement his passion for plants. This soon became so successful that he transitioned to selling hostas mail order through his website www.hostapatch.com. The Hosta Patch was a seasonal business that kept Tom involved in hostas through growing many different varieties while allowing him time to travel and speak to garden clubs, Master Gardener's groups and hosta societies. Tom has now retired from selling hostas, he and his wife have moved to southwest Missouri to spend time with their new Grandson.

Calling all Gardens!

Do you have a garden that you'd like to share with the other club members? We're looking for a location to host our 2018 Summer members only garden party. It's usually held on a Saturday afternoon sometime in June and the club provides the main dish, with members bringing along potluck items to share. A small army is at your disposal to help with set-up and breakdown of the event, so it's a great opportunity to show off your treasured garden with likeminded shade plant lovers.

Spring Raffle Gifts

The Hostapedia: An Encyclopedia of Hostas retail price \$80
A Desert Steel Coneflower Bird Feeder – retail price \$80
A hypertufa pot with stand – retail price \$30

Tickets \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00

MAY 12, 2018

Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society
Annual Spring Plant Sale
First Lutheran Church 6400 State Line

*A great collection
of hostas and other shade perennials.*

Toads are Green Too!

Admit it - cute frogs get all the publicity.

Often overlooked, frequently avoided but infinitely worth having in the garden, is the handsome toad.



Toads are a type of frog distinguishable by their dry, bumpy skin, smaller hind-legs and stout bodies. All toads are frogs (but not all frogs are toads) and both are beneficial to farms and gardens. Their appetite for pests like insects and slugs makes them handy allies that keep pest populations down without pesticides and thus improve the overall health of your garden.

Mainly nocturnal, toads hide during the day and emerge around dusk to feed. The average toad eats 50-100 insects every night – that can add up to

20,000 insects throughout a gardening season! Toads are strictly carnivorous. They feed on mosquitoes, insect larvae, caterpillars, spiders, centipedes, millipedes, snails, beetles, slugs, crickets, flies, ants and other invertebrates and, if large enough, they even eat small rodents and snakes. All toads will try to eat anything they can pull into their mouths and swallow. When it comes to natural pest control, a healthy toad population is one of your best options.



There is an ecological benefit to sheltering toads (and frogs) in your garden as well. Toads are extremely delicate and sensitive to environmental changes and pollutants. Since they breathe and drink through their skin, they are highly vulnerable to environmental toxins. Their skin readily absorbs pesticides and chemical fertilizers. If exposed to unhealthy levels of these pollutants toads cannot survive. If you have toads in your garden, this is a good indicator that your garden environment is a healthy one.

Given suitable conditions, toads can live 4-15 years. To attract toads to your garden, provide a safe place for them to hide - one that's in a shady place, a bit humid and out of the wind. Try digging a shallow depression in the soil and cover it with a board or add a terra cotta pot half buried in the dirt. A birdbath at ground level provides just the right amount of water. Toads don't drink the water, but rather sit in it and absorb it through their skin. Adding a low voltage light close to the toad house will attract insects for the toad to dine on, right at his front door!

Transplanting toads (and frogs) is tricky. Tadpoles from supply houses are often bullfrogs, which prey on other frogs and even birds. You could transplant tadpoles from a nearby pond, but its best to leave the adults alone. Adults have already decided where they want to live, and would likely just desert your garden. Frogs and toads are good dispersers and its best if they find your garden and colonize it themselves. If you really want them to settle in and raise a family, consider adding a water garden or small pond. Once they move in, they will stay for years.



2018

Calendar of Events

March 24, 2018

9AM Spring Meeting
First Lutheran Church
6400 State Line Rd

May 12, 2018
Plant Sale

Doors open 9AM
First Lutheran Church
6400 State Line Rd

June 2018

Garden Party, TBA
Are you interested?

September 8, 2018

9AM Fall Meeting
First Lutheran Church
6400 State Line Rd

AHS
americanhostasociety.org

Midwest Region
midwesthostasociety.org

HH&SPS
<http://www.heartlandhosta.club>
<https://www.facebook.com/HeartlandHostaAndShadePlantSociety/>

Are Your

HHSPS

Dues Up

to Date

Check at registration.



Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society
Stephanie Hamil . 9630 State Line . Leawood, KS 66206

☞ Heartland Hosta and Shade Plant Society ☞ Membership and Renewal Form

Dues are \$10.00 per year.

Check One: NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

Name:		Street Address:	
City, State, Zip		Home Phone:	
E-Mail Address:		Member of American Hosta Society?	
Would you like to volunteer?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality	<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Sale	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Is your Garden open to visitors?

Return this form and your dues to:
Stephanie Hamil
9630 State Line, Leawood, KS 66206