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# Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society

## President's Message

Spring 2016

A quick glance at the calendar shows that Spring is approaching quickly – I do love Spring! Beginning with hardy Hellebores, the garden wakes up with a beautiful show of the large selection of blooms that grace the Springtime garden.

A special feature of Spring is our annual March meeting, when we come together to kick off this happy season. Coffee, light snacks, check-in and chatting with friends begins at 9AM, a short business meeting at 10AM and followed by our program.

Kim Dyer will be our featured speaker with a very enjoyable interactive perennial program. Kim is a Greenhouse Manager who truly loves everything about plants! She will be sharing tips we all need to know and some that will both please and surprise you!

There will be door prizes and a raffle of a hypertufa container/stand donated by Keith Wheeler. Please join us for the potluck lunch with the club providing meat, drink and table service. You may bring your favorite dish to share. Stay for Keith Wheeler's presentation of his Hypertufa Journey after lunch.

You will want to mark your calendars for May 14th and plan to attend our Annual Hosta & Shade Plant Sale. We are the elite source for the most sought after hostas this year! Three varieties of lovely Arisaemas are on order, along with ferns, heucheras and Trycyrtyis, among others. Quantities will be limited, so arrive early for best selection. The doors open at 9AM, the sale is from 9AM to 2:30PM at Faith Lutheran Church, 67th & Roe, Prairie Village, KS.

The Ron Topping family will host the Annual Members Garden Party on June 4th. There will be more information on the party in the Summer Newsletter.

This summer the AHS Convention will be within easy driving distance in St. Louis. All the information you need can be found on their website at [www.stlouishosta.org](http://www.stlouishosta.org). Registration forms, hotel info and schedule of events will be found there. Think about reserving June 15-18 for this fun event!

The Midwest Regional Convention will be in Champagne IL, July 7-9th. Go to [www.midwesthostasociety.org](http://www.midwesthostasociety.org) and check future events in the column on the left for everything you need to know.

Anyone out there who would like to find out more about the workings of the organization and assume a leadership role, please call me. The President position will be open come September, which must be filled then. If this interests you, don't be shy! We need your help.

We are looking forward to welcoming all of you on March 19th! Come and bring a friend! As always, the meeting is open to the public.

Gwen

*Spring Meeting*, Saturday, March 19, 2016 at  
Faith Lutheran Church, 4801 W. 67<sup>th</sup> St (67<sup>th</sup> & Roe) Prairie Village, KS  
Hospitality at 9 AM ~ Meeting and Program at 10 AM

Potluck will follow, you may bring a dish to share. Club provides meat, drink and utensils. There will be a raffle and door prizes. *Come and join in the excitement of Spring!* Visitors are always welcome. Information – Call Gwen 816-213-0598

# Spring Meeting

## Saturday March 19th

*Guest Speaker:* Kim Dyer, Greenhouse Manager

*Topic:* Shade Perennials

Kim Dyer is the Greenhouse Manager at Colonial Nursery in Blue Springs, Missouri and a Greater Kansas City Master Gardener. In the greenhouse, she is responsible for planning, ordering, planting, growing and selling annuals, perennials, tropicals, herbs, vegetables and other seasonal plants such as mums and poinsettias. Kim has been passionate about gardening for many years and was surprised to learn that growing and maintaining plants in a retail greenhouse is a whole new world.

Fortunately, she has a great desire to learn which means success in the greenhouse and to the one who adopts her plant babies. She enjoys sharing her hard earned lessons as well as interesting tidbits she has learned with others. Kim has instructed a variety of classes that are both fun and informative. She uses her Bachelor of Science in Fashion Merchandising and Marketing degree from the University of Missouri – Columbia, in a loose way since flowers are the clothing of the field.



*Following lunch...*

**Keith Wheeler** is a native of a small town in eastern South Dakota. Graduated from South Dakota State College with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Married his high school sweetheart (Gwen) and started his first job as a Design Engineer in the Farm Equipment Division of Allis Chalmers MFG. Company in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. After working 41 years in 6 different locations for Allis Chalmers, he retired in 2001 from the Allis Chalmers Gleaner Combine plant in Independence, Mo. One of his retirement activities is designing and making hypertufa planters for the mini hostas.

Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society - Annual Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, May 14th, 2016

9:00AM - 2:30PM

Faith Lutheran Church

4805 W 67th St (67th & Roe) Prairie Village, KS

# ANNUAL PLANT SALE

## MAY 14, 2016

There will be a great collection of newer hostas and other lovely perennials, including arisaemas, great ferns and variegated Solomon Seal, plus mini hostas, so wonderful for your troughs and Fairy Gardens.

You won't want to miss this sale! Some quantities are limited, so you will want to arrive early.

The sale is open to the public. Bring a friend!

For info - Gwen 816-213-0598

*Interested Members... The President seat is open come September! don't be shy! Call Gwen for information, 816-213-0598*

# Arresting Arisaema – Spectacular Serpents!

*Arisaema flare like the hood of the cobras for which they are named.*



A native to woodland settings, Arisaema thrive in well drained soils rich in nutrients, with dappled sunshine overhead. Whether you are planting just a few to make a striking architectural statement, or are planning an extensive grouping, be assured that these winged cobras will form a breath-taking focus for your garden.

A cool, dappled shade area under a spreading canopy of trees is ideal for growing arisaema. However, the north or east side of a building, that protects them from all day sun and heat will work as well.

While arisaema can and do thrive in an astonishing array of countries and elevations, it is critical to get the specific conditions right for them to flourish in your garden. The soil must be moist but not wet, with excellent drainage to ensure the tubers and roots do not rot. Arisaema are highly prone to rot in poorly drained conditions. The soil should also be porous – with plenty of air spaces. Work the soil well to break up any compacted areas, and incorporate leaf mold, compost and perlite to improve both the nutrition and structure of the soil. Raised beds or small hillocks will also help you to achieve the level of drainage so important for happy cobra lilies. While fussy about their drainage, arisaema will grow equally well in acidic or alkaline soils.

Plant arisaema tubers 4-6 inches deep, to give them a good opportunity to develop a healthy network of roots, and to protect from cold in the lower zones of their hardiness range.

Arisaema should be kept lightly moist, but not wet. Excellent drainage is critical to ensuring your tubers do not rot. Water in the evenings with a sprinkler or watering can when the soil is dry. A fun trick to help you in aiming for just enough, but not too much water, is to over plant your cobra lilies with achimenes tubers. When the achimenes wilt, it is time to water your arisaema. When the achimenes are lush and happy, your cobra lilies will be too. It is not necessary to water while the arisaema is dormant.

Arisaema are heavy feeders. They will benefit from both a time release granular fertilizer worked into the top soil each spring as well as a periodic feeding during active growth with a water soluble fertilizer or seaweed extract.

This is critical - Arisaema must be kept quite dry during their winter dormancy! When planted within their hardiness zones, arisaema can remain in the ground, undisturbed over the winter if you protect them from rainfall. A thick mulch of compost, leaf mold and dried grass clippings or dead leaves will provide excellent insulation as well as feeding the soil for the coming spring. Where the winter chill is severe, carefully dig the arisaema tubers, and allow to air dry just a couple of days. Then store as if planting them in pots, using a rich, soilless mix. Store cool, dark and open to air circulation. Dampen the soil mix very lightly on a monthly basis until you are ready to re-plant the following spring. Be sure to protect tender new growth from a hard frost.

As stated above, arisaema are prone to rot. This bears repeating. Take great care to provide loose soil that drains well, and do not over water. Once you are able to create the right conditions, arisaema are easy and fast to grow. They may take more maintenance and preparation than other plants – but the drama of success is worth it! Enjoy!



## 2016

### Upcoming Events

March 19, 2016

Spring Meeting

Faith Lutheran Church

May 14, 2016

Plant Sale

Faith Lutheran Church

June 4, 2016

Garden Party

September 10, 2016

Fall Meeting

Faith Lutheran Church

June 15-18, 2016

AHS National

Convention

St. Louis, MO

[americanhostasociety.org](http://americanhostasociety.org)

July 7-9, 2016

Midwest Region

Convention

Champaign, IL

[midwesthostasociety.org](http://midwesthostasociety.org)

Are your  
dues up to  
date?

Be sure  
to check

after your name  
on the mailing

label for

your expiration date.





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

## Heartland Hosta & Shade Plant Society Membership and Renewal Form

*Check at the up-coming meeting if your dues are paid in full.*

*Dues are \$10.00 per year or \$25.00 for 3 years.*

Check One:  NEW MEMBER /  RENEWAL

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Member of Am. Hosta Society?  YES /  NO

Would you like to volunteer?  Hospitality /  Plant Sale /  Other

Is your garden open to visitors?  YES /  NO

Please return this form with your email address even if your dues are paid up to:

Stephanie Hamil • 9630 State Line • Leawood, KS 66206

<http://heartlandhosta.org>