



Hosta Happenings

March 2009

Vol. 13, Iss. 2

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!!!!**

**ANNUAL FLUFF & BUFF
VanderVeer Park Hosta Glade**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18
1:00 P.M.**

(Rain date is April 19)

Bring your gloves and a rake!

We need everyone's help - there will be a job for everyone! "Many hands make light work!"

MVHS MEETING MINUTES

March 15, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Shirley Waters after the presentation on "Pruning for Landscape Health & Perennial Maintenance Practices" by Alec Schorg of "Aunt Rhodie's".

Dean Piatt gave the financial report. Checking account has a balance of \$6477. We have five Hosta Finders still available at \$13.00 each. Contact Dean for these. There are still about 30 members who need to renew their membership

The club's By-Laws changes were discussed by Sandy Fedler. The updated By-Laws will be printed in the Sept. 2009 newsletter and then voted on in the October 2009 meeting.

Our new Incentive Plan was explained by Sally Stewart. This incentive plan is to encourage members participation in club activities. Sally explained how the "Hosta Bucks" can be earned and how they can be turned in for club purchases. More info is included in this newsletter.

Dean and Donna Piatt have developed new membership cards which include the club's annual schedule and the member's club expiration date. Please present the card at the plant sale in order to participate in the early sale for members only.

April 1 is the deadline for placing your hosta order for Bob Solberg's Club plants. The committee is Franc and Sally Freeman. Please send orders with check to Shirley Waters.

Saturday, April 18, starting at 1 PM is Fluff & Buff at VanderVeer. Rain date is April 19 or 25 depending on weather. Remember you can earn "Hosta Bucks". The Hostapedia Books will be available for pick-up at Fluff & Buff date for those who ordered them,

April 27 we will place name tags at VanderVeer Hosta Glade. 10:00 a.m. Again "Hosta Bucks"!

Sandy Fedler discussed the new embroidery logo that will be available soon. More info on the logo to be included in the newsletter.

Mark Zilis is our November speaker. Sally Freeman will chair the committee and Lyn Sours volunteered to assist. It is hoped we can have the Extension Office and make it a big presentation and open to the public, such as last year's talk with Bob Solberg.

Lyn Sours volunteered to be our "correspondence" secretary, which includes sending thank you cards, notes, sympathy cards, or other correspondence pertaining to members good will. Her telephone number is 563-388-0608 and her email is: msours6790@aol.com. Members should let her know of any cards which need to be sent.

Donna Piatt made new name tags for club members.

A new club brochure is being printed and will be available soon for distribution.

Following are some other activity dates:

--May 2 at 1:00 p.m. is the hosta dig at VanderVeer.

--May 31 is our plant sale at Duck Creek Park, Shelter #2. 8:00 a.m. is set up and pricing. 9:00 a.m. is member plant sale. 10:00 is open to public. Remember you can earn "Hosta Bucks". Also bring your potted plants for the sale. Please dig them about two weeks prior to sale to avoid shock and put the name on the plant, if known, either on a tag or on the pot itself. The plants will be priced by the committee at the park that morning.

Ron brought in some of the signs used for the plant sale and feels we need new ones. Liz Jansen offered some of her plant sale signs to borrow. Donna Piatt also offered to make a few new signs.

--June 11 - 13 is the Midwest Regional Hosta Convention, Champaign, Il..

--June 20 is a hosta leaf display at the Botanical Center in Rock Island. Don Musak will do a presentation on shade gardening, there will be hosta pictures and members can answer questions. Plan on helping to promote the society and membership to our club. Shirley is looking for pictures to use so if you have some great hosta pix, please email them to Shirley. Carolyn suggested using the journal pictures, too. More information will follow.

--June 20 is the VanderVeer garden walk. Sally Stewart's garden is on this walk.

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

--DATE CHANGE Our garden walk and picnic at Lois Beasley's in West Branch will be June 21. More on this in the newsletter. Club will provide the soda and water. Bring an appetizer to share; Lois is providing other goodies.

--June 24-27 - AHS National Convention, Lansing, Michigan.

--July 12 - Bus trip to Peoria. The trip will include a private home garden, Ludy's Kikapoo Creek Saloon for lunch, Luthy Botanical Gardens, and Greenview Nursery. Extra bus trip flyers can be picked up and handed out at your clubs if needed.

--July 25 - we will have a tent at the Bix Fest at VanderVeer Park. More info later.

Carolyn Hamilton moved for adjournment; Joe Shindelar seconded. All approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy, Fedler, Secretary

PRESIDENT MESSAGE- Shirley Waters

Welcome to the year of 2009 gardening. We have many good programs for this season. Our first two speakers left us with much more knowledge. Glenn Herold from Illinois College in Peoria shared his knowledge on 'What's New With Hydrangeas'. Alec Shorg, from Aunt Rhodies, instructed us on perennials that can be cut back during the growing season. The plants will put out a new flush of foliage and sometimes blooms in a short time so our garden can look great all season. Alec also told us to clean our pruners in alcohol instead of bleach.

In this newsletter is our new Incentive Program. Study this program and come make some 'Hosta Bucks'. The rewards are great!

We will be serving barbeque pork for lunch during our Fluff and Buff at VanderVeer on April 18th. We'll need all the help we can get! We have many other work dates so come and join us in April and May. Check the Calendar for these different dates.

Don't forget to look into attending one of our conventions. The Regional is close to us in Champaign, IL on June 11-13. The AHS convention is in Lansing, Michigan June 24-27/ If you've never been to a convention before, this is a good time to attend since they are both so close.

Please remember to forward pictures of your gardens for our scrapbook. You can mail them to **Donna Piatt at 2910 Telegraph Rd. Davenport, Iowa 52804, or you can email them to Donna at ima_4t9erdpi@machlink.com.**

HOSTA COLLEGE

by Sally Stewart

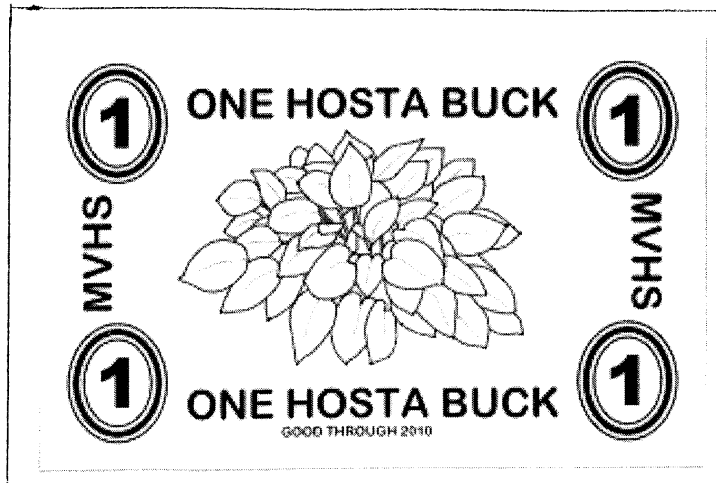
Hosta College is sponsored by the Great Lakes Region (GLR) of the American Hosta Society and is located at Upper Valley Joint Vocational School in Piqua, Ohio. This year it was March 20-21 It attracts approximately 500 gardeners wishing to learn more about everything garden related.

The doors opened Friday at 6:00 pm, each attendee picked up a badge and received H. 'June Fever' as a gift hosta. Vending and the bookstore were open and there were lots of raffle tickets for sale by the different clubs within GLR. Some hosta vendors you may be familiar with were Jim Schwarz, Bob Solberg, and Jack Barta. Trees and shrubs, companion plants, and garden art were also for sale. The bookstore featured gardening books on every subject at a reduced price, society clothing, and a few garden tools. Later, Friday evening there was an auction of rare and unusual plants.

At 8:00 Saturday morning after a short time to do some more shopping, classes began. There are anywhere from 60 to over 100 different classes to choose from and the variety of classes is endless, from sun to shade, pests to diseases, garden art to photography. Each student chooses 5 classes and a lunch period. The hard part is deciding which class to take each period because there is always more than one that interests you. The vendors were also open during lunch and for a short time after classes were over. Hosta College ends with a banquet Saturday night and this year's speaker was Mark Zilis.

Hosta College is a great place to meet new people who are interested in hostas and gardening. You also pick up tips on making your garden better.

This year Liz Jansen, Sally Stewart, Bob Hird, and Jim Schwarz attended from MVHS. If you have any questions any of them will be happy to talk to you. It's a long trip, but very rewarding and lots of fun. Just be sure you take a good map and turn the headlights on!



HOSTA BUCKS!! - **NEW INCENTIVE PROGRAM** - HOSTA BUCKS!!

MVHS has decided to implement something new in the club, an incentive program. This program is intended to encourage more member involvement.

Here's how it works: You will receive Hosta Bucks for activities you participate in. Differing values have been placed on each club activity. This list is not all-inclusive as items come up within the club they will be considered. If it is determined they qualify, a buck amount will be assigned to them. The work activities are based on 1 buck per hour with a maximum of 4 bucks.

- 1 Attend a club meeting (February, March, October, November) (February 2009 excluded since the program was not in place at that time)
- 1 Bring a snack item to a meeting (Potlucks are not included)
- 1 Sign up a new member
- 2 Chair a committee
- 1-4 Fluff and Buff
- 1-4 Plant Sale
- 1-4 Place nametags at VanderVeer
- 1-4 Pot hostas for plant sale (group potting party)
- 4 Write an original article for the newsletter
- 6 Give a talk where the request comes through the club
- 10 Open your garden to club

The Hosta Bucks can be applied to the purchase of any item the club sells. This includes Solberg plants, plant sale, membership dues, Christmas party, etc. The bucks earned this year can be applied to items this year or next year since you may earn some too late to spend this year. If they are not used by the end of the following year they are no longer valid. If you have any questions contact Sally Stewart at 359-4752 or [sstewart@mvhosta.org](mailto:ss Stewart@mvhosta.org).

NEW VIRUS MYTHS by C. H. Falstad

(originally posted on the Hosta library site)

***NEW* MYTH** - HVX spreads easily/HVX is difficult to spread.

FACT - Which is it? Dr. Lockhart, who is credited with discovering HVX has said it is difficult to spread, while others say it is easy to spread. It depends on the point of view. A virologist considers it difficult compared to other viruses which can spread more easily because they are transmitted by insects or other vectors. Gardeners and nursery owners on the other hand feel that it spreads easily because it is easy to spread it while doing the things they normally do with the plants, like cutting flower scapes, damaged leaves, or dividing. In this case there is no myth because both are true.

***NEW* MYTH** - Some hostas are immune.

FACT - The basis for this myth (and it is a dangerous myth at that) is a study done by Dr. Lockhart. In this study several varieties were not infected despite numerous tries. The report on this study in *The Hosta Journal* did unfortunately use the word "immune" to describe these plants. Testing for this "immunity" was not exhaustive, and the use of the word was clearly a case of jumping the gun. Since this study, one of the "immune" cultivars has tested positive (not the actual plant from the study), and this should be taken as evidence that these cultivars are not to be considered truly immune unless further testing proves them so. In a sidelight, articles mentioning this "immune" list have started adding plants that were not in the original study. One included 'Gold Standard', which is one of the most easily and heavily infected in the marketplace. No hostas should be considered immune at this time.

MYTH - Plants infected with a virus may recover.

FACT - Viruses do not just disappear, nor does a plant "fight off" an infection. The virus is permanent and will be with the plant until it dies. For practical purposes in the garden and nursery, there are no cures for viruses.

MYTH - Hostas from Tissue Culture will not have viruses.

FACT - If a hosta has a virus before going into tissue culture, the virus will be propagated along with the plant. Many infected hostas in the marketplace were tissue-cultured. Plants that were clean after the tissue culture process may also be infected when being grown on. Labs are beginning to test all propagating material so in the near future tissue cultured hostas from those labs will be clean.

MYTH - All hosta cultivars will exhibit the same symptoms if infected with the same virus.

FACT - Symptoms can vary considerably with the same virus, and different strains of a virus may cause different symptoms.

MYTH - All mottled foliage in hostas is caused by viruses.

FACT - Mottling patterns in hostas can have a variety of causes, some of them environmental, and many have causes which we do not yet understand. 'Xanadu Paisley' has been repeatedly tested and despite its similarity to HVX symptoms has yet to be shown to be infected with any diseases. Old plants like 'Cynthia' and 'Filigree' also have no known cause for their mottled appearance and have never been known to pass this trait to other plants.

MYTH - Viruses will kill, or at least severely inhibit growth of the host plant.

FACT - Eventually, some deterioration in the health of the plant can occur, but a plant may survive for many years when infected with a virus. Different viruses affect the plant's health at different rates, but some effects may go unnoticed.

MYTH - If symptoms disappear after showing up in a previous year the plant has either cured itself or didn't have a virus in the earlier year.

FACT - The expression of virus symptoms can disappear, but this does not mean the plant is cured. The virus is still present in the plant and still able to infect other plants.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

MYTH - Symptoms of Hosta Virus X look attractive.

FACT – Actually, this is not really a myth. The effects of HVX on some hostas can be attractive to many, thus heightening the risk of introducing the virus into the home garden. In addition to the mottling, these symptoms can include making the infected plant more compact and more glaucous. Nursery professionals and home gardeners alike have actually named HVX-infected hostas and offered them as new varieties.

MYTH - Virused hostas are worth more money than healthy hostas.

FACT – Well, does this really make any sense? If you buy a hosta for \$5 and infect it with a disease as common and widespread as HVX, how could it possibly be worth more? When infected with an incurable disease, it should be thrown away because it is no longer worth anything. Putting a different name on it once it is infected doesn't really change this.

MYTH - If we pretend the virus doesn't exist it will go away.

FACT – If we ignore the presence of Hosta Virus X in our gardens or nurseries, it will continue to spread until many more plants have it. In time, the number of infected plants will increase beyond any hope of eliminating the virus. It is irresponsible to keep the virus around, because it can infect other plants and spread itself. All plants exhibiting HVX symptoms must be destroyed immediately to prevent further infection, and in nurseries all plants in a batch that had symptomatic individual plants must be also considered infected and likewise destroyed.

MYTH - Talking about HVX and other diseases will ruin hosta gardening.

FACT – While it may be unpopular in the short term, allowing incurable diseases to run unchecked through nurseries and gardens will certainly cause worse problems down the road. The long-term impact of disease-filled gardens on their owners will surely be a negative one and far outweigh any short-term effects of facing our problems now. A healthy garden is a source of joy to the gardener, but a garden full of diseases and other problems will never provide the same enjoyment, and if it gets worse every year we will lose our enthusiasm.

MYTH - People don't want to know about HVX.

FACT – It is not a pleasant subject, but as adults we all understand that life isn't perfect. The world contains many harmful organisms, and some of these do affect hostas. We can face the issues of plant health when we need to. We understand that sometimes there are outbreaks of a particular disease that require our special attention. We don't really want to know, but we have to know to keep our plants healthy. We don't want that information kept from us when the time comes that we need it.

MYTH - Viruses are a "grower problem" and not a cause for concern among gardeners.

FACT – Hostas infected with HVX or other viruses ceased to be simply a "grower problem" when the retailers sold them to gardeners. Thousands of virus-infected plants have already been sold at the retail level, and many gardens now harbor virus-infected hostas. All gardeners should be aware of HVX and other viruses and be careful to avoid spreading them to other plants and to other gardens.

FOR THE BALANCE OF THIS ARTICLE PLEASE VISIT www.hostalibrary.org/firstlook/HVXMyths.htm

2009 DUES ARE DUE!!! IF THERE IS AN "08" BEFORE YOUR NAME ON THIS MAILING LABEL, YOUR DUES NEED TO BE PAID! WE DO NOT WANT TO LOSE YOU. YOU ARE IMPORTANT TO THIS CLUB!!!

**LYN SOURS IS NEW
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

Lyn Sours, one of our newer members, has volunteered to be our “correspondence” secretary, which includes sending thank you cards, notes, sympathy cards, or other correspondence pertaining to members good will.

Her telephone number is 563-388-0608 and her email is: msours6790@aol.com. Please let her know of any cards which need to be sent.

ANNUAL HOSTA SALE - MAY 31

Our annual hosta and plant sale will be held May 31 from 8 AM until 2 PM at Duck Creek Shelter #2.

Members should bring their plant donations to the park at 8 AM on that Sunday. MEMBERS' ONLY SALE WILL BE FROM 9-10 AM (be sure to bring your new membership card) and the public will be able to start buying at 10 AM. If you are unable to bring your plants on Sunday morning, please call Carolyn Hamilton, 355-6973, for different arrangements.

Please have your plants named, if possible. We will have a crew of people there to price and to arrange plants on tables. We'll accept any and all Hosta varieties, as well as any and all companion perennial plants.

Please dig and pot your plants at least a week ahead of time, to give the plant time to adjust to “pot living”.

We will need volunteers that morning to help with set-up and during the sale. Please call Carolyn or Sally Stewart, 359-4752, if you can help. It's a lot of fun and you'll see many people you know and you'll earn hosta bucks!!!

Also, start saving cardboard boxes and flats!

~~~~~

**POTTING PARTY - SUNDAY, MAY 3rd**

We need a few volunteers to help pot the 100 hostas we ordered from Naylor Creek! We will be potting at Carolyn Hamilton's home, 909 Mississippi Blvd., Bettendorf, on Sunday afternoon, May 3rd, at 1 PM.

**Please call Carolyn, 355-6973, first - we'll take the first 4 volunteers!!!**

**HOTLINE HELPER**

from the Mid-South Hosta Society newsletter

**Q. Almost every spring, my *montana* 'Aureo-marginata' gets nipped by the frost. What can I do to protect these early risers?**

**A.** The frost date for Zone 5 is April 15; Unfortunately, early warming in our winters tricks many plants into thinking it's time to wake up. Your *montana* is among the most vulnerable and sensitive. It emerges as soon as the garden soil reaches 40 degrees F. Hosta *plantaginea* also doesn't wait for the all-clear signal. Both invariably suffer frost damage. **What can be done?** Ray Rodgers, a central Illinois hostophile, was written extensively on the subject. He recommends you check the garden now and scrape extra soil, mulch or dried leaves over any exposed hosta buds. Early emerging hostas - even those with unfurled leaves - can withstand a brief cold snap to 28 degrees. But he prefers protective cover to be safe. Among myriad options, he suggests plastic pots, cardboard boxes, trash cans, bushel baskets, frost cloth (from nursery supply companies), burlap, light blankets, bed sheets, bath towels, even newspaper. Plastic bags and polyethylene film should be avoided because buildup of condensation can increase the chance of harm to hosta leaves. If your hostas are hurt by frost, Rodgers says, cut off the most significantly damaged tissue, preserving as many leaves and petioles as possible so the hostas can produce food. The damage may be replaced by a second flush of leaves from smaller buds or dormant buds.

# **BUS Trip!!!!**

## **Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>**

Offered through: **Mississippi Valley Hosta Society (M V H S)**

**Bus Departs: 8:30 am, Hobby Lobby lot**

**2121 Kimberly Rd, Bettendorf, IA**

**Bus Returns: 6:30 pm (approx)**

**To: Horticulture Arboretum at ICC, East Peoria**

*AHS (Hosta) Display Garden, Conifers, All American Selections Garden, etc...*

**Private Home Garden tour in East Peoria**

**Lunch: Ludy's Kikapoo Creek Saloon, Edwards, (on your own)**

**Luthy Botanical Gardens – Peoria, plus Greenview Nursery**

(conservatory admission included)

**Plan on:**

**Treats upon entering the bus.. rolls/fruit/drink**

**Games aboard the bus – with prizes**

**Snacks and drinks on the return trip home**

**Cost - \$35 per person.. make checks payable to: M V H S**

**Send check to: Dean Piatt, 2910 Telegraph Rd, Davenport, IA 52804**

(no refunds after June 30<sup>th</sup>)

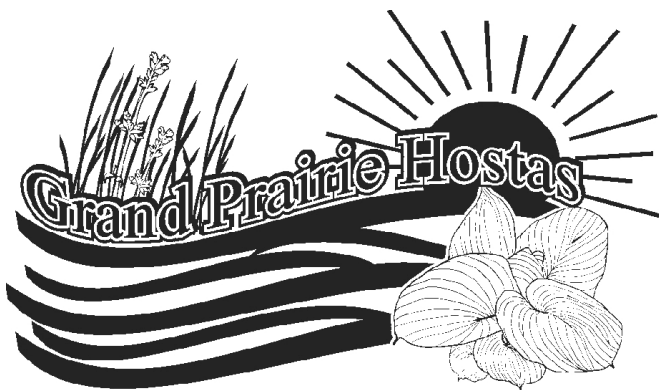
----- Bus to: Horticultural Arboretum East Peoria -----

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate if special accommodations are necessary: \_\_\_\_\_





## 2009 MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA CONVENTION

Hosted by  
Illinois Prairie Hosta Society  
June 11-13, 2009

I Hotel and Conference Center  
1900 South First Street Champaign, IL 61820

### 1. One Form for Each Person – Please Print

Name (as you want it on your badge): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Publish in Convention attendee list  Do not publish in Convention attendee list

### 2. Judges Clinic and Handbook

I will attend the Judges Clinic I - Friday, 8-11 AM. A current Judges Handbook is required.

I will download the free handbook in advance at [www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org).

I will purchase the official handbook and binder at the clinic. Fee of \$10 payable at clinic.

### 3. Hosta Leaf Show

Check if you plan to:  Judge  Clerk

Check your entries in each division:

Cutleaf (Limit 25 entries)  Educational Display  Artistic Design  
 Container Grown Hosta  Non-competitive Exhibit  Specialty Division  
 Trough/Container for Effect

### 4. Auction

I will donate plants or garden items for the Friday night auction. Approximate number: \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Reservations – Refunds through May 11, less \$25 processing fee

Registration Fee includes four meals: Friday banquet, Saturday breakfast, BBQ lunch, and banquet. Fee also includes: Thursday evening cocktail party, convention hosta and handbook, auction, vendors, hosta leaf show, garden tours, educational seminars and hospitality room.

Contact the I Hotel directly for room reservations at (217)819-5000 or [www.stayatthei.com](http://www.stayatthei.com) and mention attendee code AHOS. The group rate of \$109 plus tax is available through May 11, 2009.

- Full Registration (by May 11) **\$135.00**  
 Late Full Registration (after May 11) **\$160.00**  
 Request vegetarian meals  
 Plan to attend Thursday evening alfresco cocktail party with educational speaker.  
 Send more information about optional golf outings on Friday and Saturday at an additional cost of \$65 payable on arrival.

### 6. Send Form and Check

Mail to: Siska Kallio, Registrar  
201 Sherwin Circle  
Urbana, IL 61802  
[siskak@isp.com](mailto:siskak@isp.com)

Total Registration Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: Illinois Prairie Hosta Society

For additional information, schedules or questions, see [www.mrhs2009.com](http://www.mrhs2009.com).

**AHS DUES:** The American Hosta Society offers participation in all national activities, including a convention, 3 issues of "The Hosta Journal", and a directory. They also have a web page - [www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org). Dues are \$30/yr, \$57/2 yrs and \$600 life for an individual. Family memberships are also available at \$34/yr and \$62/2 yrs. Make your check to AHS and send to the Membership Secretary, Sandie Markland, 8702 Pinnacle Rock Ct., Lorton, VA 22079.

~~~~~

Midwest Regional Hosta Society Dues are \$10/yr. Send your check to: Peter Postlewaite, Treasurer, 21172 Andover Rd., Kildeer, IL 60047.

~~~~~

**MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY DUES** are \$7/YR. Please make your check payable to MVHS and send to Dean Piatt, Treasurer, 2910 Telegraph Rd., Davenport, IA 52804. We offer 8 newsletters a year, reduced prices on hosta offerings, garden walks, first opportunity to buy plants at our annual hosta and plant sale and many other good opportunities.

Mississippi Valley Hosta Society  
909 Mississippi Blvd.  
Bettendorf, Iowa 52722

**WHAT'S HAPPENING!**

**APRIL 18 - 1 PM - FLUFF AND BUFF,**  
VanderVeer Hosta Glade

**APRIL 27** - 9 AM - Apply Name Tags to  
hostas in VanderVeer Hosta Glade

**May 2** - 9 AM - Hosta Dig, VanderVeer

**MAY 3** - 1PM - Hosta Potting Party

**Visit our MVHS WEB SITE**  
**[mvhosta.org](http://mvhosta.org)**

Other hosta and garden web sites:  
American Hosta Society - <http://www.hosta.org>  
Midwest Hosta Society - <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org>  
Hosta Library - <http://www.hostalibrary.org>  
Hosta Forum - questions/answers - <http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/hosta>  
Mini Hosta Forum - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/minihosta>

~~~~~

**LET US KNOW!!! IF YOU HAVE MOVED
or HAS YOUR EMAIL CHANGED?**

**Send your corrected info to DEAN PIATT,
2910 TELEGRAPH RD., DAVENPORT, IA
52804.** His email is: dpiatt@mvhosta.org

2009 DUES ARE DUE!