



Hosta Happenings

April 2011

Vol. 15, Iss 3

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

ANNUAL FLUFF & BUFF SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2011 1:00 PM

Vander Veer Hosta Glade

Bring your gloves, a rake and a tool to dig weeds!

WE NEED EVERYONE'S HELP AS WE HAVE
7 GARDENS TO SPRUCE UP AND GET READY FOR SPRING

WE WON'T HAVE TO SPREAD THE MULCH THIS YEAR!
YIPEE!!

MVHS Meeting Minutes March 13, 2011

Thanks to Don Musak for obtaining another great speaker. Steve Felt, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources, enlightened us all on different kinds of soil and what trees to plant. We had a "hands-on" experience with a fresh soil sample and did we dive in! A big "thank you" to the person who handled the vacuum cleaner at the end of the presentation!

The meeting was brought to order by our President, Carolyn. The meeting minutes were approved as printed in the February 13th newsletter. She requested any outstanding bills be brought to her attention. There were none, so we proceeded to Jim Cato's financial report.

Treasurer's Report

Jim gave a short financial report which the membership voted on and accepted. An update on the sale of the 10 Hosta Finders purchased by MVHS shows all but one has been sold at the time of the March meeting.

Old Business

Carolyn informed us that our new MVHS Brochures are in and they look marvelous. As a reminder, the Solberg Hostas (list in the Feb./Mar Newsletters) order must be in to Franc Freeman by April 30. There are seats available for the bus trip to the Madison Farmers' Market and Flower Factory on Saturday, June 11 (Registration form in Feb./March Newsletters). Get these forms to Jim Cato ASAP to guarantee a seat. And another reminder, the Plant Tissue Culture Workshop (info in Feb./March Newsletters), will be held May 13, 2011, from 9 a.m. till 3 p.m. Cost of workshop: \$45.00.

New Business

We would like to welcome three new members: Marci Rodenbeck, Sally Putnam and Marcia Atchison.

Spring is just around the corner and you all are invited to attend the Fluff and Buff at the Vander Veer Hosta Glade. This wonderful hands-on experience is available on **Saturday, April 23 at 1 p.m.-- (Raindate: Saturday, April 30 at 1 p.m.)** It's a wonderful way to meet new members and beautify the Glade

. On **Saturday, April 30 at 9 .m.** we will also be identifying and placing name tags on the hostas in the Vander Veer Hosta Glade. Please come and give us a hand if you have an eye for identifying hostas. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

We have scheduled the **Hosta Dig** at the Vander Veer Hosta Glade on **Saturday, May 7 at 9 a.m.** Bring your gloves and a strong back. A few of us will also be at the **Bettendorf Childrens' Museum** to dig some of those hostas. If you are interested in joining us there it will be on **Monday, May 9 at 9 a.m.**

The long awaited **MVHS Plant Sale** will be held at **Duck Creek Park -- Sunday, May 22 -- 9 a.m.** for members and 10 a.m. for general public.

As always, we thank everyone who organizes and volunteers the refreshment area. This really helps to make our meetings very enjoyable.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
Mary Johannsen, Secretary

HELP NEEDED!!!!

We're applying name tags to the hostas in the VanderVeer Hosta Glade!

We'll need map readers, tag sorters, runners, morale support!!!!

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2011 9 AM

**REMEMBER TO ORDER YOUR
SOLBERG HOSTAS!!!
FRANC FREEMAN NEEDS YOUR
ORDER BY APRIL 30th!!!**

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY

The following people have dues that expire December 31, 2010!! **They need to be paid by April 1.** Please send your check for \$7 (**made out to MVHS**) to the new Treasurer:

Jim Cato
12915 - 25th St. Ct.
Milan, IL 61264

Better yet, renew it for two years and send a check for \$14!

Sue Anciaux
Jennifer Betker
Rita Brautigam
Brenda Bumann
Kay Collins
Joyce Corken
Shirley Cruzen
Wilmer & Helene Denker
Julie Dobbeleare-Castens
Howard & Sandy Fedler
Sandra Fleming
Joni Henri
Mary Ann Hentrich
June Hessell
Teresa Holmquist
Martha Jinks
Wes & Mary Kay Johnson
Jackie Kallenberger
Sandy Lane
Roxanne Meyer
Kris Overmann
Brian & Gail Paarmann-Nikulski
Joel & Judy Rutledge
Kim Schluenz
Dennis & Sherri Scrutchfield
John & Patty Sedlock
Joe Shindelar
Harry & Patricia Sievers
Jane Smay
Lyn Sours
Robert & Margaret Tuftee
Shirley Ullrich
Jerry & Jeanne VandeWiele
Sandra Wales

THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST
NEWSLETTER!!!!!! WE DON'T
WANT TO LOSE YOU. PLEASE
RENEW YOUR DUES TODAY!
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO COME
EARLY TO THE PLANT SALE IF
YOU AREN'T A MEMBER!

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY & GUEST!

BUS TRIP: MADISON FARMERS MARKET AND FLOWER FACTORY—STOUGHTON WI!



\$47.00

- BUS LOADS—HOBBY LOBBY, BETTENDORF IA - 6:30 AM
- TO: MADISON WISCONSIN FARMERS MARKET
- LUNCH INCLUDED—BUFFET
- FLOWER FACTORY - STOUGHTON WISCONSIN
- DRINKS & SNACKS PROVIDED—TO AND FROM
- GAMES—PRIZES
- OPTIONAL MUSEUM VISITS
- BRING A CAMERA!



SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2011—BUS LOADS 6:30 AM! - RETURNS 6:00 PM

Madison Market professes to be the largest producer market in the country, known to have 150 vendors - nearby museums if the market isn't your choice. Terrific Chinese/American buffet lunch included!

At the Flower Factory, visit their unique and beautiful gardens, then browse their huge selection of grasses, hostas, pond plants and perennials.

Send fee payable to **MYHS**, c/o Jim Cato, 12915-25th St Ct., Milan IL 61264



----- Bus to: Madison Market & Flower Factory -----

Name(s) _____

Address: _____ Phone _____

E-mail Address: _____

Special Needs: _____

(No refunds after May 31, 2011)

IMPORTANT!!!

**MVHS - SOLBERG CLUB PLANTS
2011 ORDER FORM**

ORDER NOW!!!

Please remember all plants will be bare root. Pick up date and place will be announced later. DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS APRIL 30. Send your form, along with your check (made out to MVHS) to: Franc Freeman, 20599 Utica Ridge Road, Davenport, Iowa 52804. Phone: 355-8534

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ AMT. PAID _____

'BATTLE STAR' - (G. Randy Goodwin 2006) (sport of streaked seedling) - Medium (15"x36") Great color combination of gray green leaves and yellow margins and is distinct from across the garden. Sturdy hosta has good substance, dark lavender striped flowers in June. () X \$13 \$ _____

'CRUMB CAKE' -(Solberg 2008) - ('Cinnamon Sticks' X 'Cracker Crumbs') - Small (4" X 12") This rapidly growing hosta makes a very tight flat mound of honey-gold round leaves with mahogany petioles that are shiny, wonderfully wavy, and have very good substance. Its mahogany scapes have pretty lavender flowers in July. () x \$9 \$ _____

'CURLY FRIES' - (Solberg 2008) - ('Pineapple Upsidedown Cake' seedling) - Small (5" X 16") Best grown in half a day of sun, its highly ruffled narrow leaves emerge yellow and then fade to near white. The scape is deep purple, topped with lavender flowers. It makes a great container plant or grows very well in the garden. () x \$14 \$ _____

'ELECTROCUTION' - (Avent 2005) - ('Swoosh' X H. longissima) X 'Redneck Heaven') X 'Elvis Lives') - Medium, (13" X 28") It has narrow green leaves with a yellow margin that become white in more sun. What is electric about those leaves, however, is that they are very wavy and very twisted at the same time. Lavender flowers in June. () x \$13 \$ _____

'FINAL SUMMATION' - (Solberg 2008) - (Sport of 'Sum and Substance') - Large, (20" X 60" or more) This is the dark green-edged sport of 'Sum and Substance'. It has wide green margins, superior rich colors and slightly cupped, very round, giant leaves and typical lavender flowers in July. () x \$13 \$ _____

(continued on the back)

(continued) - SOLBERG CLUB PLANTS - ORDER FORM

'NATE THE GREAT' - (Solberg 2003) - (H. nigrescens X 'Tokudama Aureonebulosa') - Large, (22" X 40") Tall and proud with large round blue-green leaves that are deeply cupped and puckered, this large upright hosta is worthy of the front of the bed. Lavender flowers on tall straight scapes top this one off in July. Named for Bob's son, Nathan.

() x \$9 \$ _____

'SUMMER SQUALL' - (Solberg 2007) - (H. sieboldiana X 'One Man's Treasure' F2 seedling) Medium, (14" X 32" or larger) Rich blue color and nicely folded leaves, this "Longiana" may be the best and bluest of the lot. It makes a strong statement in the garden, good substance and sturdy leaves and is a great breeder. It has 3 foot scapes of light lavender flowers in mid-summer.

() x \$13 \$ _____

'TICKLE ME PINK' - (B. and D. Stegeman, Hack 2006) \$ _____ SOLD OUT _____

'TINY BUBBLES' - (Solberg 2008) - ('Corkscrew' X 'Lemon Frost') - Small, (8" X 16") This bright yellow harbinger of spring has arrowhead-shaped leaves with good substance but it is the closed orchid flowers that persist for weeks in mid-summer on perfectly proportioned yellow scapes that make this a very unique hosta. It is a sturdy little plant that grows very well.

() x \$9 \$ _____

'TONGUE TWISTER' - (Solberg 2008) - ('Iwa' X 'Blue Blush' o. p.) - Small, (8" X 18") With its dark green leaves that twist upward out of the clump, this great little hosta looks as fresh in October as it does in May. It has great substance, rich color. Light purple scapes produce light lavender flowers in September and light purple pods in October.

() x \$9 \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

A GREAT PLACE TO USE YOUR HOSTA BUCKS!!!!



Battle Star



Crumb Cake



Curly Fries



Electrocution



Final Summation



Nate the Great



Summer Squall



Tongue Twister



Tiny Bubbles

The following was borrowed from the Mid-South Hosta Society's newsletter. It's appropriate because we'll be getting the Solberg hostas SOON and they come bare root.

Tips on Growing Plants from Bare Roots

From your Editors

We know everyone is excited to be picking up their club special sale hostas at the April meeting. Perhaps these tips will help the newer hostaphiles! Plant your bare root hostas as soon as possible. Soak the roots in tepid water for about 30 minutes immediately before planting. Use a rich soil mix that will drain well. You can form a small cone in your pot or hole and spread the roots over it and then add soil, packing it firmly around the roots, but not hard enough to damage the roots. Add water to prevent any air pockets near the roots. When you finish, the hosta crown should be at soil level. Water slowly but thoroughly. Do not water again until the soil becomes dry. One of the most frequent mistakes people make with bare root plants is overwatering. Remember that some plants will emerge more quickly than others. Don't overwater the slower plants because you may cause them to rot. If there is threat of frost after planting outdoors, protect new growth with an upside-down bucket or pot.



HOSTA DIG

MAY 7, 2011 9 AM

VANDER VEER HOSTA GLADE

or

BETTENDORF FAMILY MUSEUM

MAY 9, 2011 9 AM

**Come and help dig hostas for the
plant sale.**

There's a job for everyone --
diggers, runners, potters, labelers!

Bring clean gallon pots!

USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES:

www.hostalibrary.org

The hosta library contains thousands of pictures of hosta varieties with links to more detailed information about each variety. In addition there are links to gardening chat rooms, diseases & pests of hostas, how to grow, select and register your plants and so much more. If you haven't checked it out - you're missing out!

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www.americanhostasociety.org

The website for the American Hosta Society is loaded with information about national and regional meetings, AHS membership, links to local societies and so much more. Just check it out.

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<http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/hosta>

On www.gardenweb.com you can join the hosta forum (it's only one of many garden related forums), where you can post information or pictures, ask questions or just get into a discussion about your favorite topic.

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www.hostaseedlings.com

This is the hosta seed grower's forum where you share your experiences with your seedlings, post pictures, get advice, etc with folks that have lots of experience in this particular area.

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www.hostaseedgrowers.com

Just what it sounds like, but what set this site apart from the one above is that it has a large database of streaked hostas rating their fertility from 1 to 5, with 1 being infertile. This is important information to have before you go and spend \$50 - \$100 or more on a plant just to find out the darn thing doesn't set seed well. Plants are rated by hybridizers that have used the plant and they rate not only their fertility but the qualities they pass on to their seedlings, plus any important notes about the plant.

The following is a tribute to the late Mildred Seaver written by Larry Tucker, author and member of the Mid-South Hosta Society. It was published in their April 2011 newsletter, the Hosta Hotline.

Few people are recognized as royalty. Even fewer are truly deserving of accolades. However, one such person, who won the respect of gardeners coast-to-coast, was worth of the tital, Queen of Hostas. Share and I were privileged to have known Mildred Seaver, who died this past month at the age of 98. She was a treasure and, quite frankly, a pip!

If you had ever met Mildred you would have relished her quick wit and shared knowledge. Several years ago, Charlie Seaver spoke to the Mid-South Hosta Society about his mother's love of life and passion for plants and people. The program was an enlightening look into what made Mildred a legend in the hosta world. She was the only living person to have been featured on the cover of *The Hosta Journal*. Though her pest control solutions were simple (she spread lettuce leaves round her garden every night to collect slugs), her hybridizing success was exceptional (she created 90-some hostas, many with her 'Sea' signature).

Mildred, who gardened in Needham, Mass. was a recipient of the AHS's most prestigious honor, the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award. She was also the first to receive the Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Merit Award.

As hosta neophytes in the mid-1990's Shari and I attended our first AHS convention and were welcomed over lunch by Mildred Seaver and Bruce Banyai, whose mother was founder of the national organization. After subsequent visits with Herb Benedict and Warren Pollock, we understood why hosta is the "Friendship Plant." You join societies for the plants, but you stay for the people. Mildred, incidentally, won Best of Show at that convention for her frosty-blue, heart-shaped, crimped-edge 'Queen of the Seas.'

Shari and I crossed paths with Mildred at several conventions and were entertained by her keen observations and pithy remarks, but the 20-06 AHS assembly in Philadelphia was special. It turned into a Mildred Seaver celebration. Her 'Spilt Milk' was judged a garden tour winner and a division of her enormous 'Humpbacked Whale' went for a near-record \$3600 at the auction. Later, in accepting the distinguished hybridizing award, Mildred singled out 'Sea Fire' as her special merit hosta. Then she introduced her two best hybrids - twins, Charlie and Muriel. Charlie followed his mother into hybridizing (one introduction was 'Deep Blue Sea'), but Muriel's interests were distinctly different. When bidding for her mother's hosta shot past \$2000, Muriel gasped: "It's only a plant!"

In Mildred's obituary, Charlie captured her spirit perfectly: "She was a lover of nature, plants, flowers, cats, butterflies and moths, color, art and people. Mildred was creative, unorthodox, irreverent, artistic, outspoken, incorrigible, flamboyant, funny and eager to help people whether they wanted help or not. She was famous," he said "for sitting with new AHS members and sharing stories, pictures, gardening tips and other show-and-tell, and for interjecting humorous banter into the lecture, auction or conversation at hand, even if unsolicited."

Hosta colleagues tell how Mildred would place "wake-up calls" in the middle of the night to set them straight on one thing or another. Even at odd hours, her friendly advice was appreciated. How could you not answer a call from the Queen?

Charlie, whose wife Carolyn, is a native to Memphis, said Mildred attributed her longevity to gardening, blueberries and her many friends. May we all be so lucky!



After a rare division of her 'Humpbacked Whale' sold for \$3,600 at the 2006 AHS Convention, Mildred Seaver explained to the winning bidder that she always had an eye for great plants.

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. 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, PO Box 7539, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

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**Midwest Regional Hosta Society Dues** are \$10/yr. Send your check to: Barbara Schroeder, 1819 Coventry Dr., Champaign, IL 61822-5239.

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MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY DUES are \$7/YR. **Please make your check payable to MVHS (not Jim)** and send to JIM CATO, 12915 - 25TH ST. CT., MILAN, IL 61264. 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:

- Apr 23** - Fluff & Buff, VanderVeer Hosta Glade
- Apr 30** - Name Tags, VanderVeer Hosta Glade
- May 7** - **HOSTA DIG, VanderVeer**
- May 9** - **Hosta Dig, Bett. Children's Museum**
- May 16** - Silvis Garden Club Bus Trip to Rich's Foxwillow Pines
- Jun11** - Bus Trip to Madison/Flower Factory

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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>

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

Send your corrected info to JIM CATO, 12915-25th ST. CT., MILAN, IL 61264.

Jim's email is: pussbug@aol.com