



Hosta Happenings

APRIL 2012

Vol. 16, Iss 4

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

**HOSTA DIG
SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2012
1 PM**

Vander Veer Hosta Glade

**COME AND HELP PLANT HOSTAS FOR THE
PLANT SALE!**

There is a job for everyone - diggers (just a couple),
runners, potters and labelers!!!

Bring clean gallon pots if you have any leftover!

2012 DUES ARE NOW DUE!!!

IF YOU GET YOUR NEWSLETTER BY THE U.S. MAIL, LOOK AT YOUR MAILING LABEL, IF IT HAS AN "11" BEFORE YOUR NAME, YOUR DUES ARE DUE FOR 2012.

PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECK FOR \$14 FOR TWO YEARS, OR \$7 FOR ONE YEAR TO THE TREASURER,
JIM CATO
12915 25TH ST. CT.,
MILAN, IL 61264.

H. 'Honey Pie' Raffle

Maybe you didn't order the Solberg hosta 'Honey Pie' because it was too expensive -- here is your chance to win one!! The club purchased two extra 'Honey Pie's' and Dean Piatt is going to be selling raffle tickets - \$1 each or 6 for \$5!!! The drawing for both will be at the Plant Sale on June 3rd. You won't have to be there to win either!! What a great opportunity to win a nice hosta!!!

HELP NEEDED!

We will be applying name tags to the hostas in the gardens we missed on Fluff & Buff day in the Hosta Glade.

We'll need some map readers, tag sorters, tag placers and morale support!!! We have 2-1/2 gardens to complete.

WE WILL TRY TO COMPLETE THIS AFTER WE DIG HOSTAS ON SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2012.

LOCAL PLANT SALES

Following is a list of plant sales in our local area:

- April 28-29 - Friends of VanderVeer Park Plant Sale, 28th 10 am - 3 pm, 29th 12 - 3 pm, VanderVeer Conservatory, 235 W. Central Park, Davenport
- May 5,6,12 - George Bowman Plant Sale, 9 am - 4 pm, 404 E. South St., Cambridge, IL 61238
- May 11-12- Ann DeSalvo/Kathy Wolfe's Shade Plant Sale - May 11 10am-6pm; May 12, 9 am-3 pm - 2435 Arbor Dr., Davenport**
- May 12 - Perennial Plant Sale, 9am - 2pm Illinois Master Gardeners, RI County Fairgrounds, 4200 Archer Dr., East Moline
- May 12 - Native Plant Sale, 10 am - 2 pm Black Hawk State Historic Site, 15th & 46th Ave., Rock Island
- May 13 - Mother's Day Plant Sale - 10 am - 2 pm, Davenport Horticultural Society, Duck Creek Park Lodge, Davenport
- May 17 - Liz Jansen's Hosta Sale, May 17- 3 pm-dark, May 18-19 9 am - 5 pm, 2532 Hawley St., Bettendorf
- May 19 - Iowa Master Gardner Plant Sale, 9 am - 1 pm, Iowa Ext. Ofc, 875 Tanglefoot Ln, Bettendorf
- May 19-20 - Clinton Cty Master Gardener Plant Sale - Clinton, Main Ave during Lyons Craft Show, Sat 9-4, Sun 9-1 DeWitt, Clinton Cty Fair Grounds, 328 E. 8th St., Sat 9-3, Sun 9-12N
- May 20 - Friends of Riverside Spring Plant Sale, 12N - 3 PM, Garden Center & Greenhouse, 4th Ave. & 34th St., Moline
- May 26 -2nd Annual Unusual Plant Sale, 10 am-1 pm, Bickelhaupt Arboretum, 340 S. 14th St, Clinton
- June 3 - MVHS Hosta and Companion Plant Sale, 9 am-Members Only, 10 am-1:30 pm.-General Public, Duck Creek Park Shelter#2, Davenport**

I'm reprinting this article because the paper copies weren't very clear. I was having a lot of problems with my printer, for which I apologize. It ended being the toner I was using, and I have now switched back to HP toner and everything is right with the world again for me!!!!

Carolyn

Hosta Cultivar Survey

Recently an email poll of NIHS members was conducted, with the following question:

“based on personnel experience, which hosta cultivars would you NOT recommend, and why?”

The survey yielded a variety of responses, ranging from cultivars to avoid to caveats about other cultivars. Following is a summary of those responses.

In the category of cultivars to avoid, white-centered cultivars with thin substance (such as White Christmas, Moon Struck, and Calypso) were named because the white leaf centers tend to melt out by mid-summer. Other white-centered hostas that have greater substance (and are less prone to melting out) tend to be poor growers due to the large portion of the leaf that has no chlorophyll. Named in this survey were Fire and Ice, Sea Thunder, Banana Boat, Color Parade, Eskimo Pie, Fantasy Island, and White Feather. In short, hostas with a large percentage of white in the leaf will, at best, be slow growers; and, at worst, melt out if they have thin substance.

Thin substance poses problems even with hostas that do not have white leaves. Some, like Wide Brim and the Tiara series, are particularly attractive to slugs. Others, like Brim Cup and Queen Josephine, develop tattered leaf edges by late summer. Slug bait can help control slugs, but little can be done to prevent tattered leaf edges.

Many mini hostas (such as Pandora's Box, Cat's Eyes, Cherish, Hope, Country Mouse, and Uzo-no-Mai) can be problems due to their shallow root systems. They are prone to frost heave if not mulched in winter. They can also be difficult to grow successfully in the garden because their shallow root systems make it more likely that they will dry out between waterings. Better results can be achieved if they are grown in pots or trough gardens that are filled with very well draining soil, and are located where they will get watered daily. There are also some not-so-mini hostas (such as Tattoo and Flame Stitch) that can often be problematic in the garden, but successfully grown in pots and trough gardens in the same way.

Though a long time favorite, Frances Williams has a tendency to 'bum', that is develop brown spots in the gold portion of the leaves. The cause is unknown, but this characteristic is more prevalent in some years than others, and is also present in some related hostas (such as Color Glory and Carnival). Olive Bailey Langdon is a look-alike for Frances Williams that is less likely to exhibit the burning.

There are hostas that are just naturally slow to mature. Most notable is Sagae, which can take five years to exhibit the form that made it the AHS 2010 Benedict medal winner. In the same category are Patriot, Minuteman, Thunderbolt, Ice Age Trail, Stitch in Time, and Remember Me. These are garden worthy hostas that simply require patience from the gardener. There are some hostas, however, (such as Great Expectations and Blue Moon) where patience may not lead to success. While some gardeners are able to grow excellent specimens of these plants, others (no matter how patient they are) are not successful.

Some hostas (such as *ventricosa* 'Aureomaculata' and Photo Finish) are viridescent, which means that they emerge variegated in the spring, but then turn green as the season progresses. So long as the gardener realizes that this will occur, there is no reason not to include viridescent cultivars in their garden.

Finally, a gardener's personal preference should be the guiding force in deciding whether hostas with unusual leaf or flowering characteristics should be included in the garden. Some examples are Praying Hands (upright twisted leaves), Lunar Eclipse (cupped 'drawstring' leaf effect), and Allegan Fog and Gunther's Prize (grass clipping leaf variegation). The spectacular double flowers of Aphrodite enchant many hosta gardeners with their size and fragrance, but in zone 5a, flowering is achieved in only about one year out of three (if conditions are favorable).

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, P O 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:

May 6 - Hosta Dig, VanderVeer, 1 pm

June 3 - MVHS Plant Sale

Jun 13-16 - AHS Convention, Nashville, TN

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

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

Hosta Library - <http://www.hostalibrary.org>

Hosta Forum - questions/answers - [http://](http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/hosta)

[forums.gardenweb.com/forums/hosta](http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/hosta)

Mini Hosta Forum - [http://](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/minihosta)

[groups.yahoo.com/group/minihosta](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.