



Hosta Happenings

August 2012

Vo. 14, Iss. 7

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY

ANNUAL PICNIC

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2012

3:30 PM

VANDER VEER BOTANICAL PARK

HOSTA GLADE

215 W. CENTRAL PARK

DAVENPORT, IOWA

(If the weather isn't cooperating, we can go inside the conservatory)

**PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE, A CHAIR AND YOUR OWN
TABLE SERVICE.**

THE CLUB WILL FURNISH CHICKEN AND SOFT DRINKS!!

(remember, there are no tables unless we go inside)

There will be hostas for sale at the picnic -- Ron Simmering will have "Bix Blues" and there will also be the 2012 MRHS convention plant, "Candy Kisses," for sale. If there is anyone else who would like to either trade or sell plants, please bring them!

Hosta Stamps

Did you know that you are able to buy customized USPS-approved stamps with hostas on them? Depending on the size of the stamp ordered, they cost from 95 cents to \$1.29 per 45-cent stamp, based on a minimum order of 20. These can be ordered from Zazzle (www.zazzle.com). On the website's home page, do a search (top line) for "hosta" and on the left side, under "Department," click on "Cards & Postage." Click again on "Postage" and it will display the 94 different first-class stamps they currently have with hostas. Zazzle will also help you create most any customized article: business cards, stationery, stickers, t-shirts, etc.

Thanks to the editors of the Hostas of Kentuckiana Hosta Society, *Hosta Addiction*, October 2011 edition, and the Mid-South Hosta Society *Hosta Hotline* May 2012, for this information.



from the NW Indiana Hosta Society newsletter



Does This Picture Look Familiar??

Notches on the leaves of your hostas can be caused by the black vine weevil. They are destructive in both the adult and larval forms. As adults they feed at night and hide under leaf litter or in the soil during the day. As they are unable to fly, they spread chiefly by walking or by being transported by man. The overwintering larvae feed on roots deep in the soil and pupated in May. Adults dig their way out of the ground in mid-June and feed mostly at night. Eggs are laid on the ground and several generations can be produced in a single season. Adults are apparently unable to live over the winter. The larvae survive the winter in the soil. Larval damage can be quite severe. The larvae feed on roots and can girdle the root crown. In a shade garden heuchra are quite prone to larval damage.

When signs of their damage appear, it can be confirmed by using a flashlight at night to check for the presence of the adults. When summer control is required, treatments are best directed against adults during mid-June which will kill new adults before they start laying eggs. Orthene can be applied at that time with a follow-up treatment three weeks later. Insecticide applications should be made late in the day.

A soil spray of parasitic nematodes* in the genus *Heterorhadtis* is the best control as it will kill the larvae in the soil. Nematodes can be purchased at a local garden store or through garden supply catalogues. Nematodes require adequate soil moisture and temperatures of 60 degrees F (or higher) and need to be applied when the larvae are present in mid to late summer.

Information adapted from the Cornell Cooperative Extension and Virginia Cooperative Extension

*This nematode is not the one that attacks hostas.



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY
Presents

C. H. FALSTAD III

Sunday, September 30, 2012
2:00 - 3:30 pm

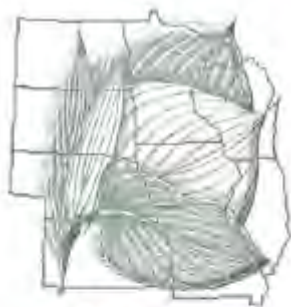
Scott County Extension Office
875 Tanglefoot Lane, Bettendorf

“Hosta Production at Walters Gardens - from Tube to Truck”

C.H. will talk about Plant Selection and all of the processes a hosta (or any other plant for that matter) goes through to get out the door to their customers!

Clarence H. Falstad, III: C.H. graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Ornamental Horticulture from the University of Illinois. C.H. has worked for over 25 years as Laboratory Director of the tissue culture facility at Walters Gardens Inc, a wholesale perennial nursery in Zeeland, MI. He served as President and Vice President of both the AHS and the Michigan Hosta Society, and also The American Hosta Society Scientific Chair and a frequent author for the Hosta Journal. C.H. has introduced over 50 hostas, among them, 'Regal Splendor' and 'Northern Exposure'.

THIS IS THE 5TH PROGRAM IN OUR EDUCATIONAL SERIES AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND THERE IS NO CHARGE! Invite your friends for a nice and informative afternoon.



Midwest Regional Hosta Society

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society represents Region 5 of the American Hosta Society that includes 9 states. Our mission is to promote education, research, development and enjoyment of Hosta.

Membership in the society is \$20.00 for 2 years, which includes two issues per year of the newsletter. This publication reports on events and information on Hostas in general.

Please mail a check made payable to MRHS to:

Kristine James
523 E Calhoun St.
Woodstock, IL 60098
along with Name, Address, phone, and email (Most correspondence is by email). For questions email MRHS.Hosta@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE FOR MILWAUKEE

June 12 – 16, 2013 is the AHS Convention in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area!! Come and experience a new twist on AHS conventions with its slightly shorter format and 'create your own tour' experience from the terrific garden options co-chairs Jack Barta and Tom Micheletti have lined up for us! We know what Lite Beer is about – now we'll discover what a Lite Convention is all about! Yes, it's true - no buses are planned. Worried about driving on your own? Take some initiative and get a group of friends together. Rent a shuttle of your own. Heck - rent a mini bus if you have a lot of friends or want to make lots of new friends! There will be help matching attendees needing rides with others willing to provide rides as well. I, for one, will not miss sitting in the back of a large bus next to the bathroom or having to leave a gorgeous garden at the sound of a whistle when I've not seen it all! If we focus more on the positive aspects of trying something new, we will all find it more enjoyable! Many of the familiar things we love remain the same – Hosta Show, Vending, Live Auction, and Hostatality. There's no way I would miss this and I hope you'll plan to be there, too

taken from AHS newsletter Feb 2012

Garden Wit: How you know you have too much Zucchini

- 10. Your neighbor finds them every morning in his mailbox.**
 - 9. You are eating it for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and desert!**
 - 8. You have a flute made out of a Zucchini. (It's actually been done!)**
 - 7. The stores pay you to take some off their shelves.**
 - 6. Even the field mice stop eating it.**
 - 5. You till under the Zucchini plants, but still have more today than you had yesterday.**
 - 4. Nightmares about a giant Zucchini wakes you in the night.**
 - 3. Your kids are using zucchini for baseball bats.**
 - 2. You spray your zucchini plants with sugar water to "attract" insects.**
- And, the number one sign that you have too much Zucchini.**
- 1. The President of the U.S. declares Zucchini growers to be terrorists.**

Many thanks to Kay Murphy who organized our June 24th garden walk to four gardens on Mississippi Avenue in Davenport. It was nice to see how gardens could be incorporated with the landscaping of the older established homes.

Also, congratulations to Donna Piatt -- she was lucky and won the Birdies for Charity car!!!

The following article was taken from Shades of Green Hosta Society of SE Minnesota newsletter:

Let's Grow Hosta

Light conditions

Hostas are shade *tolerant* plants. They grow wild in bright but cloudy overcast conditions at cool higher elevations. Here we grow them in high light shade or in dappled sunlight. Most will do well with cool early morning sun. Some will tolerate a couple of hours of late afternoon sun if kept well watered. **Avoid dark shade - hostas do need light to grow.**

Water

Hosta grows best with an ample water supply. Provide at least an inch of water a week. They do not thrive under hot dry conditions.

Keep them well watered throughout the autumn as they enjoy a second flush of growth in the later summer through fall.

Avoid planting hosta where they will have a lot of competition for water with tree roots. Areas under maple, spruce and other trees with roots close the surface of the soil should be avoided. If you cut into roots when you dig into the soil you may want to find another area to plant the hosta.

Fertilizer

Fertilizer will give a boost to plants but is not always required. Any well balanced fertilizer will do in either solid or liquid application. Apply when plants show first flush of growth and later at second flush and at 1-2 times spaced through the growing season. Or, use a long term slow release fertilizer. Do not put solid fertilizer into crown of plant as it may burn the foliage and crown.

Avoid fall feeding as you want the plants to start hardening off rather than having a growth spurt just before freezing.

Clean up: Fall or Spring?

Removal is not mandatory. However, if you have slugs, nematodes, or disease problems removal can help reduce pests and pathogens. Dispose and do not compost these leaves.

There are pros and cons for removal in fall or spring. Usually your energy level will determine which you prefer. Foliage removes easily in the spring. It can usually be raked away. In the fall you may have to cut the leaf stalks away.

Planting Your Hosta

Planting Your Hosta

Pot grown hostas can be planted at any time. High heat and drought can be plant stressors, however,

Hostas grow best in loose loamy soil with plenty of organic matter. Prepare your bed. Remove weeds. Till soil and add compost or peat moss so that you have a loose friable soil.

Hosta should be planted so that the crown, where all the new growth buds are, is at the same depth as it is in the pot or ground. The eyes should be just below the surface. The hole you dig should be a little deeper than the pot your hosta comes in but should be a least twice as big around so the roots can spread out and grow.

Turn the pot over with your hand over the surface of the pot and holding the plant in, tap the pot gently on the rim to loosen the plant. The plant should fall into your hands.

If the plant is root bound you should separate and spread the roots apart. Place plant in hole so that crown, where the roots and leaf stalks meet, is just below the soil surface. Add more soil under the plant if necessary. Spread roots laterally out into hole. Now fill in with soil and tamp

gently into place.

Water in. Add more soil if necessary.

FLOWERS

Some people like them. Some do not. If you do not want seeds, it is alright to remove the stalk at any time if you do not like them.

Dividing

Most hosta divide easily and are surprisingly tough and resilient.

Hosta can also be divided at any time but spring, just as the plants are coming up, is generally thought best. Cool overcast days will put the least stress on the plants as they reestablish their roots.

1. You may simply take your clump and cut through the root ball between the leaf petioles with a knife or shovel to separate. Try to leave a number of eyes or plant stalks in each division.

2. Another option is to take the plant and wash away most of the soil around the roots. A hose or pail of water is good for this. Then pull and twist away a clump off the main plant. You may have to hand separate some of the roots or make a small cut at the crown if it is very thick.

3. It is wise to have a 10% bleach solution at hand. You should clean knives or tools in this between cuts to avoid spreading disease. You can also dunk the root ball in this solution if cuts were made.

4. Many will cut off all the foliage about 4-6 inches above the ground if the dividing is done after the leaves are fully matured out. This will force a new flush of leaves and avoid the plant stress of trying to keep the leaves hydrated with a much reduced root system.

“There is no greater expression of art than creating a beautiful garden or more rewarding joy than sharing its delights with others.” Gretchen Harshbarger

This was the favorite saying of DeEtta Montgomery who was President of MVHS in 2005. DeEtta passed away in 2005. She was unforgettable and a good friend and I think of her often.

Carolyn Hamilton

MVHS dues are \$7 a year. Please make your check payable to MVHS (not Jim) and send to Jim Cato, Treasurer, 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 companion plant sale and many other good opportunities.

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**AHS dues** - The American Hosta Society offers participation in all national activities, including a convention, 3 issues of "The Hosta Journal." Dues are \$30/yr; \$57/2yrs. Family memberships are also available at \$34/yr and \$64/2 yrs. Make check payable to AHS and send to Membership Secretary, Sandi Markland, PO Box 7539, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948.

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MRHS dues are \$10/yr. Send your check to: Kristine James, 523 E. Calhoun St., Woodstock, IL 60098 and please include your name, address, tel. no. and email address.

WHAT'S HAPPENING:

- Sept 16, 2013** - Noon-3 pm - Riverside Park, Moline
- Oct 14, 2013** - 6 PM - Meeting, Riverdale
- Nov 11, 2013** - 2 PM - Meeting, Riverdale
- Nov 30, 2013** - Annual Christmas Party
- Jun 12-16, 2013** - MRHS Convention, Milwaukee

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Visit our MVHS Web Site: **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.

Mississippi Valley Hosta Society
909 Mississippi Blvd.
Bettendorf, Iowa