



Hosta Happenings

January 2010

Vol. 14, Iss. 1

M.V.H.S. MEETING

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2010
1:00 P.M.**

POTLUCK

Bring a dish to share and your own table service. Club will furnish meat and drink.

PROGRAM:

“Rock Gardening”

**Sally Stewart, ISU Scott County
Master Gardener**

**Riverdale Fire Station
(across from ALCOA)
Riverdale, Iowa**

2010 SCHEDULE - MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY

January 23 – Winter Scientific Meeting, Schaumburg, IL.

February 14 – 1:00 p.m. Pot Luck at Riverdale Fire Station.
Will have a Valentine Theme.

March 14 – 2:00 p.m. Meeting at Riverdale Fire Station.

April 24 – 1:00 p.m. Fluff and Buff at Vander Veer Hosta Glade (rain date – April 25)

May 1 – 9:00 a.m. Apply plant name tags at Vander Veer Hosta Glade

May 8 – 9:00 a.m. Hosta Dig at Vander Veer Hosta Glade

May 23 – Plant Sale at Duck Creek Park Shelter #2

June 6 – Dubuque Hosta Festival at Dubuque, IA. Arboretum

June 13 – MVHS Garden Walk

June 23-26 – American Hosta Society Convention in Bloomington, MN.

July 8-10 – Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention in Des Moines, IA.

July or August – Bus Trip. Ideas were to go to Hidden Gardens in Hinsdale or maybe to Trudy Temple's home.

September 19 – Annual Picnic at Vander Veer Hosta Glade.

October 10 – 6:00 p.m. Meeting at Riverdale Fire Station

November 14 – 2:00 p.m. Meeting at Riverdale Fire Station

December 3 – Annual Christmas Party

**2010 MIDWEST REGIONAL
HOSTA CONVENTION**

“AMERICAN GOTHIC”

**Hosted by
Russ O’Harra Hosta Society
July 8-10, 2010**

**Renaissance Savery Hotel
Downtown Des Moines, IA**

The **Russ O’Harra Hosta Society** is excited and proud to host the “**American Gothic**” 2010 Midwest Regional Hosta Convention in Des Moines, IA, July 8-10, 2010. The Convention is located in the newly renovated and restored Renaissance Savery Hotel, a National Register of Historic Places historic hotel in the heart of Des Moines. The Convention will have all the exciting activities participants have come to expect: national and local vendors, accredited hosta leaf show, live auction, raffles, banquet, and of course the Garden Tour! A Thursday evening chance to meet the Garden Hosts, chance to see the Better Homes and Gardens test garden, and other activities will fill the Convention schedule.

The metro Des Moines area boasts museums, Botanical Gardens, a Riverwalk, new \$20Million Sculpture garden, restaurants, garden centers, historical sites, shopping and many other sites and activities. Many activities are within walking distance of the hotel, and getting to the Renaissance Savery and around town is easy with interstate highways, clearly marked streets and free public transportation.

2010 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

THURSDAY: The convention begins on Thursday when the vendors open and Cut Leaf Show participants prepare leaves for the early Friday morning judging. Judges Clinic will be in the afternoon and convention attendees can attend the party to meet the Tour Garden Hosts. Cut Leaf preparation and the open hospitality suite will offer the chance to make and renew friendships.

FRIDAY: The day opens with judging of the Cut Leaf Show at 7:30am (**there will not be a chance to prep leaves Friday morning, all prep is scheduled for Thursday afternoon and evening**). The Cut Leaf Show will open to the public in the late morning, along with the vendors. An optional tour of the Better Homes and Gardens Test Garden is scheduled for noon. Ample time will offer chances to see the Des Moines area, additional gardens, visit the raffle offerings and patronize the vendors. The Banquet and Live Auction will follow cocktails and the hospitality suite will conclude the evening.

SATURDAY: Breakfast will be served early and then the tour of five gardens in the Des Moines area will begin. Returning for a late lunch will give everyone a last chance to visit the vendors and Cut Leaf Show and then we load on buses again and travel to Ames, IA, for a BBQ Picnic in the beautiful garden setting of our last Tour Garden. The evening will conclude with the hospitality suite open.

SUNDAY: Before leaving be sure to visit the optional gardens, the Riverwalk w/ Japanese garden, the Botanical Center, or one of the many public gardens or parks.

**Please join us July 8-10, 2010 for “American Gothic, The Tour”
Visit our site www.rohs.org to plan your convention experience!**

2010 MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY CONVENTION

“AMERICAN GOTHIC”
Hosted by Russ O’Harra Hosta Society
July 8-11, 2010

Renaissance Savery Hotel, 401 Locust, Des Moines, IA 50309

1. One registration form for each person – Please print

Name(as you want it on your badge)_____

Address_____City_____State_____Zip_____

Home Phone_____E-mail_____

Publish my name in Convention attendee list Yes_____ No_____

2. Judges Clinic and Handbook-Thursday July 8 from 3:00 to 6:00 PM

I will attend the Judges Clinic 1 Yes___No___. A current Judges Handbook is required.

I will download the free judges handbook at www.hosta.org. Yes___No___

I will purchase the official handbook and binder at the clinic. Yes___No___ Cost \$10.00

3. Hosta Leaf Show-Preparation time Thursday 10:00 AM to 9:30 PM

Check if you plan to: _____Judge _____Clerk

Judging will begin on Friday, July 9, 2010 at 7:30 AM

Check if you plan to have entries in each division:

___Cutleaf (limit 25 entries) ___Educational Display ___Artistic Design
___Container Grown ___Non-competitive Exhibit ___Specialty Division
___Trough Container for Effect _____Seedling and Sport Award (limit 5 entries)????

4. Auction

___ I will donate plants or items for the Friday night auction. Approximate number _____

5. Reservations-Refunds through June 7, 2010 less \$25.00 processing fee

Convention registration fee includes four meals: ___ Full registration (by June 7, 2010) \$170.00

Friday banquet, Saturday breakfast, lunch, and ___ Late Full Registration (after June 7, 2010)

\$190.00

barbeque. Fee also includes: garden tours and ___ Vegetarian meals

entrance to all activities including the Thursday Bash.

___ Yes, I will attend the Thursday Bash.

Hotel room reservations for the event may be made by individual attendees directly with Marriott reservations

at 800-514-4706, and asking for MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY CONVENTION or

by visiting www.renaissancesavery.com and entering the group code HOSHOSA. Reservations

must be received on or before Thursday, June 17, 2010. Group rate is \$92.00 plus tax per day through June 17, 2010.



American Hosta Society Convention

Stars
of the
North

June 23-26, 2010
Bloomington, Minnesota

Hosted by the Minnesota Hosta Society

Join in on...

**Fabulous Garden Tours, Vendors,
Hostality, AHS Auction, Hosta Show,
Raffles, Silent Auctions, Speakers,
Classes and Demonstrations**

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ben Lockhart

June 23: Optional garden tours: Incredible Rochester, Minnesota gardens

June 24-26: Convention and tour gardens: Bair and Filister, Busson,
Carley and Mosiman, Dean, Larsen, Olson, Venero, Wafler

Registration form will be included with next mailing of *The Hosta Journal*.

Hotel Accommodations

Make reservations directly with Convention hotel, mention "American Hosta Society" by 6/8/10 for \$99.00 single, double, triple or quad rate. Phone: 866-837-4278. Reserve a room online: <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/book/amerhosta2010>. Sheraton Bloomington Hotel, 7800 Normandale Blvd., Bloomington MN 55439.

Hosta Contest: "You know you're a hostaholic when _____"

Fill in the blank and submit to www.TheConventionContest@starsofthenorth.net by 6/20/10, and include name and phone number. Or bring your entry to the Convention; entries will be taken at registration. Deadline to enter is 6/24/10. Entries will be read throughout the Convention.

For Convention questions contact:

Mary Schwartzbauer nschwartzbauer@aol.com 651-437-8899
or Connie Linder connielinder@mchsi.com



Visit the convention website at: www.starsofthenorth.net

AHS 2010 Convention Registration Form
June 23 – 26, Sheraton Bloomington Hotel
Hosted by the Minnesota Hosta Society



Register online and pay by credit card at: www.starsofthenorth.net
 or send in *one form per person* with payment. Please print.

Name (as you would like it on your name badge) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____
 Email ** _____ Phone (day/evening/cell) _____
**** Registration confirmations will be sent via email only.**

Please select: (Any refunds subject to \$100 administration fee)

\$199 Early Full Registration (postmarked by May 16) includes all activities and garden tours Wednesday evening through Saturday, Welcome Dinner Thursday evening; lunch Friday and Saturday; and banquet Saturday evening.

\$249 Full Registration (postmarked after May 17)

\$140 Meals Only (postmarked by June 1) includes name badge, Welcome Dinner Thursday evening; lunch Friday and Saturday; and banquet Saturday evening.

Vegetarian Meals

\$35 Optional Tour Wednesday, June 23; coach tour to Rochester, Minnesota, including 5 private gardens, 1 public garden (Mayowood), lunch, and 1 nursery with buying opportunity.

\$35 Botanical Painting Class Thursday, June 24. This all day (9am-4pm) class includes all materials needed.
 Class size limited to 16- sign up early!

****There will be several other classes, demonstrations and speakers throughout the convention- a nominal fee may apply, payable at the door.** See website for further information.**

Judges Clinics – please indicate which clinics you will attend

Clinic I (Thurs. 2-5 pm) **Clinic II** (Thurs. 5-6 pm) **Clinic III** (Thurs. 9-10 am)

Judges Handbook – If attending a judges clinic, you must bring a current handbook. Download free at hosta.org

Check this box to receive the official handbook and binder at the clinic. (\$10 fee payable at the clinic)

Hosta Show (limit of 25 entries in Division I, Sections I-XII. Show Schedule will be online: starsofthenorth.net)

Do you plan to:	Please check planned entries & number of entries in each:
<input type="checkbox"/> Enter <input type="checkbox"/> Judge <input type="checkbox"/> Clerk	<input type="checkbox"/> Containers Div II _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Troughs Div III _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Educational Div IV _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Artistic Div VI _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Specialty Div VII _____

\$ _____ TOTAL FEES (including Optional Day and Class Fee) **Payment in U.S. funds (Check or Card):**

By Check: AHS 2010 Convention, c/o Desyl Peterson P.O. Box 193, Maple Plain, MN 55359

By Card: \$8.95 convenience fee per person will be added to your total.
 (circle) VISA/MC/Discover/Amex # _____ Expiration: __/____

Signature _____

HOTEL: Reserve by June 1, 2010 for convention rate: Sheraton Bloomington Hotel
<http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/book/amerhosta2010> 866-837-4278

Information/questions: Mary: nschwartzbauer@aol.com or 651-437-8899 OR Connie: connielinder@mchsi.com

2010 DUES ARE DUE!!!

A list of members who get email and whose dues are due are included with this newsletter and if you get your newsletter by US Mail, your due date is on the mailing label. If yours is due, please send your renewal check of \$7 a year to Dean Piatt, 2910 Telegraph Road, Davenport, Iowa 52804.

If you have a computer and have email capability and are presently receiving your newsletter by mail, please consider having it sent by email. We are trying to keep the cost of dues as low as possible and it is getting expensive to send a letter by U. S. Mail (printing and postage keep increasing in price). Please send your email address to cbhamilton@pobox.com.

HOSTA OF THE YEAR

With the increasing number of hosta cultivars being introduced each year it is increasingly difficult for nurserymen and gardeners to choose just the right hostas for their sales areas and gardens. To this end the American Hosta Growers Association established the AHGA Hosta of the year in 1996. It is selected by a vote of AHGA members. Award winners are hostas that are good garden plants in all regions of the country, are widely available and in sufficient supply and retail for about \$15 in the year of selection.

Following are the AHGA Hosta of the Year winners:

- 1996 - H. 'So Sweet'
- 1997 - H. 'Patriot'
- 1998 - H. 'Fragrant Bouquet'
- 1999 - H. 'Paul's Glory'
- 2000 - H. 'Sagae'
- 2001 - H. 'June'
- 2002 - H. 'Guacamole'
- 2003 - H. 'Regal Splendor'
- 2004 - H. 'Sum and Substance'
- 2005 - H. 'Striptease'
- 2006 - H. 'Stained Glass'
- 2007 - H. 'Paradigm'
- 2008 - H. 'Blue Mouse Ears'
- 2009 - H. 'Earth Angel'
- 2010 - H. 'First Frost'**
- 2011 - H. 'Praying Hands'

Club sympathy to the following members:

Dorothy Wilson husband, Bev, passed away on January 4, 2010. Dorothy's address is:
704 S. Illinois St., Room 104, Geneseo, IL 61254

Ron and Teri Simmering. Ron's mother passed away December 26, two months and 2 days after his dad passed away. Simmering's address is 5155 Crestview Dr., Bettendorf, IA 52722.

Shirley Waters' father passed away January 8. Her address is: 3519 38th St., Moline, IL 61265.

2010 HOSTA FINDER

Dean Piatt is now taking orders for the 2010 Hosta Finder. It will cost \$15 this year and if you want it mailed, it will cost \$19.25. The books will be available at the March meeting.

To pre-order, please send a check (made out to MVHS) to Dean at 2910 Telegraph Rd., Davenport, IA 52804. His email is: dpiatt@mvhosta.org.

The Hosta Finder is a wonderful reference and is a comparison of prices of hostas being offered from approximately 50 growers.



This is a photo of Carolyn Hamilton's H. 'Aphrodite' that bloomed in 2009! Conditions must have been right last year, because "she" doesn't bloom very often....had to be all of the rain we received!!!

Following is a list of members who get this newsletter by email and whose dues are due. Please send your check for \$7/year (made out to MVHS) to Dean Piatt, 2910 Telegraph Rd., Davenport, Iowa 52804. If we have made a mistake in our bookkeeping, please advise.

Lois Beasley
Jim and Barb Cato
Harry and Linda Cockrell
Melenie Deroo
Kira Durbin
Sandra Fleming
Bonnie Grebner
Bob and Cheryl Hird
Brian Hunter

Donna Luritsen
Sue McDevitt
Clair Odell
Kris Petersen
Jean Redmond
Jim Schwarz
Ken and Paul Senger
Rip and Pat Shemek
Lyn Sour
Lynn Tavener
Shirley Waters

Mary Buczek
Pete and Jo Clark
Dennis and Gloria Creen
Deb Doolittle
Howard and Sandy Fedler
Susan Foster
Mary Ann Hentrich
Mary Hughes
Anne Kerber
James King
Vida Luth
Jean Mercer
Nick and Mary Peschang

Joel Rutledge
Dennis and Sherri Scrutchfield
Ryan and Jackie Shemek
Ralph and Linda Soderholm
Chris Stoltenberg
Sandra Wales
Kris Whalen

A New Tree for the Hosta Glade

by Dean Piatt

Lisa Montgomery Lofgren (DeEtta Montgomery's daughter) and a friend, Mo Hart, made a trip up to Rich Eyre's Foxwillow Pines Nursery in Woodstock, Illinois last fall. They were looking for a tree to replace one that had been planted (*Chamaecyparis Nootkatensis* 'Glauca Pendula) in the DeEtta Montgomery Garden in the Hosta Glade at Vander Veer and had died back. Lisa wanted it to honor Chub Harper, since he had a hosta connection to Vander Veer. (Chub was one of our most avid club members.)

So it goes, Lisa had Chub over for dinner one evening and during conversation that night he brought up that Susan, Director of Vander Veer, had asked him to come to the park and look at a tree that was dying and she wanted his opinion if it could be saved. (It had been planted too deep and it was too late to do anything to fix it.)

If you knew Chub, You inevitably heard about his belonging to the BEBC. (BEBC means Blue Eye Beauty Club and I believe he was the founding member). BLUE was very special to Chub. His eyes were 'blue', his car 'blue', beautiful women, of course, had 'blue' eyes --- you get the idea.

While Lisa was talking with Richie at Foxwillow, and relating the BEBC thing, his eyes lit up and said, "How fitting would a 'blue' tree be?" They found 'Blue Cloak' and Richie said "that's him." It is an *Abies concolor* 'Blue Cloak', which is a slow-growing blue fir. It was perfectly located and planted late last fall very close to De Etta's stone and dedication plaque. Quite fitting, as Chub and DeEtta were great friends.

Chub gave big collections of conifers to Hidden Lakes in Michigan, the Bickelhaupt Arboretum in Clinton, Iowa and to the Quad Cities Botanical in Rock Island. Yet, while he still had conifers left over, it opened up his yard to, yep, you guessed it, Hostas!

Once Chub took to liking a variety of a plant, it was like the plant became him. He would dig in and find out everything about what made it tick. Ask him about its preferences: did it need shade or part shade, what soil type, drainage, zone, Latin name, origin, leaf color and plant size, or was it fragrant, he knew or would know before the end of the day. He was a stickler for detail. I am not sure if he coined the phrase "taken host-age" or "hosta-holic", but he used them in everyday living. When our club hosted the 2007 Midwest Regional Hosta Convention, he made sure his garden was one of the premier visits. A few years ago, he let me get cuttings of an ivy he had growing in his greenhouse for centerpieces used at my daughters wedding reception. Was ivy among Anna's (his wife) plant favorites? His greenhouse was filled with it.

For those who may not be familiar with RichIE and Foxwillow Pines Nursery, Chub was instrumental with him and several others in the founding days of the Conifer Society. Chub was one of the early Presidents. They were very close friends and often mentored each other over the years.

Thank you Lisa, Mo and Richie for this contribution to the Hosta Glade and Vander Veer.

Also, in checking Richie's webpage, you will find a 1990 picture of Chub. Rich Eyre has long been a benefactor to Vander Veer's Rare Garden Affair auction. To find his nursery, here is a link, <http://www.richsfoxwillowpines.com/>. Well worth the visit for that specimen conifer or a hosta from his mother, Margaret.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY - SOLBERG CLUB PLANTS
2010 ORDER FORM

Please remember all plants will be bare root. Pick up date and place will be announced later.
DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS APRIL 1, 2010. Send your form along with your check (made payable to MVHS) to: Shirley Waters, 3519 - 38th St., Moline, IL 61265. Phone 309-797-5379.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ AMT. PAID _____

AWAKENING ANGEL (F. Nyikos 2005) (Large) Very waxy, blue hosta with flat, spear-shaped leaves fortified with the strength of many deeply impressed veins. The clump is perfectly laid out in a large, very flat, flowing rosette. Pale purple flowers in July and August. It makes a large, low spreading mound, perfect next to a rock or at the end of the hosta bed.

() x \$12 \$ _____

CUP OF GRACE (Beilstein 2009) (Medium) Very dark green with white flowers, upright habit and highly cupped leaves. Very well proportioned and exhibits classic grace. Striking as the focal point in a mixed container.

() x \$17 \$ _____

HIDEOUT (Leonard Jones) (Mini) Very curly, white-centered, narrow dark green leaves that appear to be in constant motion. Fast growing hosta that favors some cool sun and plenty of water. A great container plant, it blooms in June and July with lavender flowers.

() x \$10 \$ _____

LITTLE MISS MUFFET (W. Zumbar) (Mini) A classic *H. venusta* with little chartreuse heart-shaped leaves and pretty good substance. Little lavender flowers in June. It is a miniature 'Gold Edger' for the trough or that special mini garden bed.

() x \$8 \$ _____

SPARTACUS (Shady Oaks Nursery/H. Hansen 2007) (Large) Wonderfully ruffled yellow margin with a dark green leaf center, (bluish in spring). Pale lavender flowers in June.

() x \$14 \$ _____

SUMMER LOVIN (Q & Z Nursery 2004) (Medium) This hosta has a certain glow about it. The rich gold margins contrast well with the almost round, dark green centers of leaves that have substance and shine. Lavender flowers appear in July. As attractive in spring as it is in summer.

() x \$12 \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

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 \$900 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 or payment can be made via the web site: www.americanhostasociety.org.

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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 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!

Jan 23 - Winter Scientific Mtg, Schaumburg, IL
Feb 14 - Meeting and Pot Luck, 1 PM
Riverdale Fire Station

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 DEAN PIATT, 2910 TELEGRAPH RD., DAVENPORT, IA 52804.** His email is: [dpiatt@mvhosta.org](mailto:dpiatt@mvhosta.org)

**2010 dues are due!!!!**