



January 2007

Vol. 11, Iss. 1

Hosta Happenings

M.V.H.S. MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2007

1:00 PM



POTLUCK

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

PROGRAM: JACKIE ARVIDSON will talk on shade gardening

RIVERDALE FIRE STATION

RIVERDALE, IOWA

(across from ALCOA)

2007 DUES ARE DUE!!!! If there is an "06" printed before your name on the mailing label, your dues are due. Dues are still only \$7 per family. Please send your check to Jim Cato, 12915 – 25th St. Ct., Milan, IL 61244.

START EARLY TO CONTROL NEMATODES

from New England Hosta Society News

According to a talk given by hosta grower and breeder, Ran Lydell, you should start in the spring to control nematodes:

SPRING: First application – Disyston, as in Bayer (brand) Advanced Rose and Flower Care, with fertilizer at 12-15-6. It's a granular systemic product that he gets from Home Depot.

MID AND LATE SUMMER: Second and third applications – Zeritol (1T. per gallon of water).

FALL: 4th application – Household bleach at 25% concentration.

The order of application makes sense; fertilize in the Spring and bleach in the Fall. Ran says he is not sure which product is more effective or if any one treatment is sufficient, but after this treatment, the affected hostas show no noticeable damage.

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**BIX BLUES BLIPS!**

If you haven't returned your yellow volunteer form for the convention in July, it's not too late to do so! We need all of the help we can get – taking a shift at the registration table **or** selling our shirts and garden gloves **or** baking cookies for the hospitality committee or etc. etc. etc.!!! Send it to either one of us!

Don Dean is going to be our speaker at the Saturday banquet. We know you'll all enjoy his program.

We are also going to have a Judge's Clinic II. For those who have completed Clinic I, this will be a good opportunity to go one and become a judge at our leaf show.

Speaking of the Hosta Show (cut leaf show) we hope you'll enter a leaf or two. It is such fun and a great learning experience.

*Carolyn and Sally*

Dear Friends,

A new year and new officers! I wish them well. I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last four years. I think we really accomplished a lot, besides having a good time:

--we designed and constructed a garden at the Symphony in Bloom garden shows in 2003 and 2004.

--we have maintained the VanderVeer Hosta Glade and also created gardens there with Bob Solberg and Eunice Fisher hostas.

--the VanderVeer Hosta Glade was designated an America Hosta Society display garden, one of 15 in USA and Canada.

--we created a garden at VanderVeer in memory of DeEtta Montgomery, using some hostas from her garden.

--Norma Bond graciously donated her hosta garden and there was a hosta dig and replanting of those hostas at a new memorial garden (for Carolyn Anderson) at the Bettendorf Children's Museum

--we have had very successful plant sales each year

--we have had wonderful bus and car pool trips, local garden walks and great programs.

--we have had several hosta digs at Forrest Johnson's, who graciously donated all of his hostas to our club. We sold a lot of them at our 2006 plant sale and many are still planted out at Mike Carstensen's, waiting to be dug and repotted in 2007.

--we now have a web-page (created and maintained by Sally Stewart) – **mvhosta.org**.

A special thank you to my board – Shirley Waters, Sally Stewart and Jim Cato, and thanks to Don Musak (program), Nancy Moler (who created such a wonderful scrapbook), Ann Lucas (keeper of our name tags), and to Cheryl Channon, for taking care of refreshments at all of the meetings!!! I hope I haven't forgotten anyone! It takes the whole club to make it successful – and not just the board. A lot of people pitched in and helped on all of the projects. It's been great! I know you'll give your new board as much support.

Sincerely,  
**CAROLYN**

## **2007 SCHEDULE – MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY**

**JANUARY** – NO MEETING – Winter Scientific Meeting – Jan. 20

**FEBRUARY 11** – 1 PM – Pot Luck, Riverdale Fire Station  
Speaker, Jackie Arvidson

**MARCH 11** – 6 PM – Meeting, Riverdale Fire Station

**APRIL 14** – 1 PM - FLUFF & BUFF, VANDERVEER HOSTA GLADE  
(Rain date is April 21)

**APRIL 28-29** – Hosta Dig at Mike Carstensen's

**MAY 19** - 9:30 AM – Car pool to Sunnyfield Nursery, Galva, IL

**JUNE 3** – Plant Sale, Duck Creek Shelter #2

**JUNE 10** – Dubuque Hosta Festival

**JUNE 20-23** – AHS Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana

**JULY 12-14** - MRHS Convention, Davenport, Iowa

**AUGUST 11** – Convention Thank You Party

**SEPTEMBER 9** – Annual Picnic, VanderVeer Hosta Glade

**OCTOBER 14** – 6 PM – Meeting, Riverdale Fire Station

**NOVEMBER 11** – 2 PM – Meeting, Riverdale Fire Station

**DECEMBER 7** – Annual Christmas Party

**MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY CLUB PLANTS  
2007 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, 2007.** Send your form along with your check, made payable to MVHS, to:

**Shirley Waters, 3519 – 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Moline, IL 61265, phone 797-5379.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ AMT PD \_\_\_\_\_

1. 'BLUE MOUSE EARS' (E & J Deckert 2000).....( ) x \$10 \_\_\_\_\_  
(may be 'Blue Cadet' tetraploid) – mini-small (5"x12") Maybe the hottest hosta today. It makes a tight mound of round, very thick, blue "mouse ear" shaped leaves. Slow growth rate but increases well. Lavender flowers on very short scapes in July. Cute as its name!
2. 'JOURNEY'S END' PP#16,895 (H.Hansen/Shady Oaks Nursery 2004)..( ) x \$22 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Sport of 'Choo Choo Train') large (30"x66") It is the dark green ruffled margin on a background of yellow-gold that catches your eye. It has a vigorous growth rate, making a large, airy mound quickly. Light lavender flowers in June. Looks as great in the garden as it does in a leaf show, the winner of Best of Show more than once.
3. 'KIFUKURIN HYUGA' (Japan, P. Ruh 2002).....( ) x \$10 \_\_\_\_\_  
Medium (17"x33") An interesting Japanese hosta with moderately twisted, folded and undulating green leaves with an irregular border of chartreuse and cream variegation. Light lavender flowers in September. A *H. kikutii* form that will surely draw attention.
4. 'SPINACH SOUFFLE' NEW (Solberg 2006).....( ) x \$17 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Sport of 'Golden Treasure', tetraploid?) Medium (14"x30") Color is why we collect hostas and this one is all about great, bright color. Almost round, rich green leaves with a very bright 2" gold margin grace this heavily subtended hosta. Slow growth rate to a mature clump but looks great in a pot as a young plant. Near white flowers in June.
5. 'ST. PAUL' (Tom Goad) .....( ) x 14 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Sport of Paul's Glory') Large (22"x40") This hosta just screams substance. The large heart-shaped leaves have a wide, dark blue margin and yellow center, infused with green. It makes a spectacular clump when planted in shade. Light lavender flowers in July.
6. 'SUN WORSHIPER' NEW (SOLBERG 2006).....( ) x \$14 \_\_\_\_\_  
( 'Whiskey Sour' self) Small-Medium (10" x 22") This spring shocker is bright yellow with red, not purple petioles. The yellow color holds well all season and can be bleached to white in sunnier locations. It favors its *H. yingeri* grandparent with its glossy ovate leaves and good substance. Nice rich lavender flowers appear in August.
7. 'COOKIE CRUMBS' (Solberg, Zilis 2002).....( ) x \$12 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Sport of 'Tiny Tears') Mini (5"x10") Finally a clean white-margined true mini reminiscent of *H. venusta*, A very flat mound of green heart-shaped leaves with a surprisingly wide margin. Purple flowers in June.

# 2007 MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY CONVENTION

"BIX BLUES" - Hosted by the Mississippi Valley Hosta Society  
JULY 12-14, 2007 --- DAVENPORT, IOWA

Please print information – Use one form per person (copies accepted)

## 1. Name as you wish it to appear on convention badge

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 2. Registration Fee

Registration fee is \$125.00 before June 15<sup>th</sup>. After June 15<sup>th</sup> registration is \$175.00

Registration fee includes **four** meals (Friday evening picnic, Saturday: deluxe continental breakfast, lunch buffet, and evening banquet). Fee also includes Hosta Show, speaker, buses for garden tours, hospitality room, vendors, and the Hosta Auction. Cancellations must be made prior to June 15<sup>th</sup>. Schedule and map will be published and available on the MVHS web site: [www.mvhosta.org](http://www.mvhosta.org)

Mail check and this form to: **Jim Cato**  
12915 – 25<sup>th</sup> St. Ct.  
Milan, Illinois 61264  
309-787-3651

Make checks payable to: **Mississippi Valley Hosta Society (MVHS)**. Your cancelled check is your receipt. I plan to arrive on (Please Circle): Thursday Friday Saturday

## 3. Hotel Reservations

Make your reservation with the Radisson Quad City Plaza Hotel at 111 E 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Davenport, Iowa by calling 563-322-2200 or [www.radisson.com/davenportia](http://www.radisson.com/davenportia). Rates are \$99.00 per night. Mention the Midwest Regional Hosta Convention.

## 4. Related Information

I will attend the Friday night picnic. (Please Circle): **Y** **N** (No buses provided: limited transportation)

Saturday breakfast and lunch (Please Circle): **Y** **N**

I will attend the Saturday Evening Banquet (Please Circle): **Y** **N**

Saturday Banquet (Please Circle): **Chicken Oscar** **Maple Lacquered Salmon** **Special Diet**

(please specify dietary need) \_\_\_\_\_

I will donate potted plants for the Saturday Afternoon Auction (Please Circle): **YES** **Number** \_\_\_\_\_

I will attend Judging Clinic II on Friday afternoon (Please Circle): **Y** **N** (A Fee of \$10 due at clinic)

Do you wish to judge (Please Circle): **YES**

I will participate in the Hosta Show (Please indicate number of anticipated entries): **Cut Leaf** \_\_\_\_\_

**Design** \_\_\_\_\_ **Seedling and Sport Show** \_\_\_\_\_ **Container Grown** \_\_\_\_\_ **Trough/Container** \_\_\_\_\_

**Educational Display** \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any special needs not addressed above, please attach a separate sheet.

A list of attendees will be published including name, city & state (Please Circle):

**Include me** **Do Not Include me**



**Mississippi Valley Hosta Society  
Hosts**

**BIX BLUES**

**Midwest Regional Hosta Convention  
July 12 – 14, 2007  
Davenport, Iowa**

Beautiful gardens, the mighty Mississippi, good friends, and Midwest hospitality are just a few of the things you'll encounter at the 2007 Midwest Regional Hosta Convention, Bix Blues, to be held July 12 –14 in the Quad Cities. The convention is being hosted by Mississippi Valley Hosta Society and will be centered at the Radisson Hotel located at 111 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Davenport, Iowa. Our convention, Bix Blues, got its name from Bix Biederbecke a jazz musician from the 1920s and a Davenport native.

Friday will feature the Cut Leaf Show and an evening cookout at Vander Veer Botanical Park. The Cut Leaf Show is always an attraction and 2007 is no exception. Midwest Preview featuring new seedlings and sports will be a part of the show. Vander Veer is home to the Hosta Glade, which has been named an AHS National Display Garden. It also features a conservatory, Rose garden, Daylily collection, lagoon, and the Grand Allee leading up to the recently restored stone fountain. Stay until dusk and you're in store for a spectacular light show.

Saturday starts with a deluxe continental breakfast followed by five gorgeous gardens; Joe and Arlene Schindelar, Howard and Sandy Fedler, Jim and Ellen Kelley, Rick and Teresa Holmquist, and Chub Harper. In addition to hundreds of Hostas the gardens include conifers, water features, companion plants, perennial sun gardens, and beautiful garden art. The buses will return to the hotel in time for lunch. Immediately after lunch is the ever exciting and unpredictable auction. Who knows what great plants will be donated. It's never too early to start planning your strategy. The day will finish with a banquet and awards ceremony along with a guest speaker.

Hosta vendors will be selling Thursday through Saturday featuring dealers from coast to coast. They always have the newest and most desirable plants on the market.

A Hostatality Suite is also planned for Thursday through Saturday. It's a great place to greet old friends and make new ones.

Come join us for, Bix Blues, the 2007 Midwest Regional Hosta Convention in Davenport, Iowa. We look forward to meeting you.



## 2007 CONVENTION SCHEDULE

| <b>THURSDAY, JULY 12</b> |                                                                   |                                      |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Time</b>              | <b>Activity</b>                                                   | <b>Location (Room Name)</b>          |
| 12:00-4:00 p.m.          | Vendor set up                                                     | Moline, E. Moline, Scott             |
| 4:00-6:00 p.m.           | Hosta Show set up                                                 | Bettendorf                           |
| 2:00-8:00 p.m.           | Registration                                                      | Hallway                              |
| 4:00-9:00 p.m.           | Auction plants received                                           | Davenport                            |
| 4:00-9:00 p.m.           | Preparation and receipt of Hosta Show and Midwest Preview entries | Boardroom, Bettendorf                |
| 4:00-?                   | Vendor sales                                                      | Moline, E. Moline, Scott             |
| 6:00-12:00 a.m.          | Hostality                                                         |                                      |
|                          | Dinner on your own                                                | Area Restaurants                     |
| <b>FRIDAY, JULY 13</b>   |                                                                   |                                      |
| 8:00-11:00 a.m.          | Preparation and receipt of Hosta Show and Midwest Preview entries | Boardroom, Bettendorf                |
| 9:00-5:00 p.m.           | Registration                                                      | Hallway                              |
| 9:00-5:00 p.m.           | Auction plants received                                           | Davenport                            |
| 8:00-5:00 p.m.           | Vendor sales                                                      | Moline, E. Moline, Scott             |
| 1:00-11:30 a.m.          | Luncheon for Judges and Clerks                                    | Atrium                               |
| 11:30-2:30 p.m.          | Judging Hosta Show and Midwest Preview                            | Bettendorf                           |
| 2:30-5:00 p.m.           | Hosta Show and Midwest Preview open for viewing                   | Bettendorf                           |
| 3:30-5:00 p.m.           | Hosta Show, Midwest Preview, and vendors open to public           | Bettendorf, Moline, E. Moline, Scott |
| 3:30-?                   | Judges Clinic II                                                  | Boardroom                            |
| 5:30-6:00 p.m.           | View Hosta Glade                                                  | Vander Veer Botanical Park           |
| 6:00-8:00 p.m.           | Picnic                                                            | Vander Veer Botanical Park           |
| 8:00-10:00 p.m.          | View Hosta Show                                                   | Bettendorf                           |
| 8:00-?                   | Vendors                                                           | Moline, E. Moline, Scott             |
| 8:00-12:00 a.m.          | Hostality                                                         |                                      |

**SATURDAY, JULY 14**

|                 |                                       |                          |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 6:00-6:45 a.m.  | Registration                          | Hallway                  |
| 6:00-7:00 a.m.  | Deluxe Continental Breakfast          | Ballroom                 |
| 6:30-7:00 a.m.  | Load buses                            |                          |
| 7:00-12:00 p.m. | Bus tour host gardens                 |                          |
| 12:00-1:00 p.m. | Deli Buffet Lunch                     | Ballroom                 |
| 12:30-1:30 p.m. | Hosta Show tear down                  | Bettendorf               |
| 12:30-1:45 p.m. | Vendors                               | Moline, E. Moline, Scott |
| 2:00-5:00 p.m.  | Auction                               | Davenport, Rock Island   |
| 6:00-7:00 p.m.  | Social hour with cash bar             | Davenport, Rock Island   |
| 7:00-9:30 p.m.  | Awards banquet with featured speaker: | Davenport, Rock Island   |
| 9:30-?          | Vendors                               | Moline, E. Moline, Scott |
| 9:30-12:00 a.m. | Hostatality                           |                          |

**SUNDAY, JULY 15**

|                |                       |  |
|----------------|-----------------------|--|
| 8:00-5:00 p.m. | Optional garden tours |  |
|----------------|-----------------------|--|



THE GREATEST  
*Spectacle in*  
**HOSTA**  
  
INDIANAPOLIS 2007

American Hosta Society  
National Convention  
hosted by the  
Indianapolis Hosta Society

**June 20 - 23, 2007**

Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel & Suites  
(Connected by skywalk to the Keystone Fashion Mall)

- WEDNESDAY- Optional Afternoon Tour of Retail Nurseries:  
Soules Garden • Miller's Manor Gardens
- THURSDAY- Seminars • Hosta Show • Afternoon Garden Tours  
Garden Reception Buffet • AHS Gala Auction
- FRIDAY- Garden Tours • Box Lunch  
Banquet at the Indianapolis Children's Museum with  
Guest Speaker Barry Sligh • Hosta Show Awards
- SATURDAY- Garden Tours • Lunch at Avon Perennial Gardens  
Closing Banquet at Hotel • Hosta Hat Contest • Prizes

VENDORS • HOSTALITY • GOODIE BAGS & SOUVENIRS  
1 OF 3 CONVENTION HOSTAS (other 2 available for purchase)

Tour Gardens: Ammons, Bryson, Carter, Daniels, Gahwiler, Goodwin,  
Keating, Kelley, Klein, Lee/Zitterbart, Miller, Park, Romine and Williams

For additional information and registration forms, visit:  
[www.Hosta2007.org](http://www.Hosta2007.org)

REGISTRATION: Ann Ammons  
(317) 849-1208  
hosto2007@comcast.net

VENDORS: Bob Whitmore  
(765) 344-0103  
dogwoodfarm@hostogarden.com

CO-CHAIRS: Dorothy Miller  
(317) 873-3601  
Ron Williams  
(317) 842-6097  
lwilliams@insightbb.com

PUBLICATIONS: Aleesa Drennen  
(765) 969-7628  
aleesa@oakleafmarketing.com

PUBLICITY: Norma Jean Bosworth  
(317) 784-6934  
bosworth13@comcast.net

### HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Make room reservations directly with convention hotel, mention "American Hosta Society" for \$101 single or double room rate. For special rate, reservations must be made by 5 PM, May 28, 2007.



#### Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel & Suites

8787 Keystone Crossing  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240  
(317) 846-2700  
Fax (317) 574-6775

**Special offer from Sheraton:** the 207th Full Convention Registration fee received will win a FREE 2-night stay at the hotel.

[www.Hosta2007.org](http://www.Hosta2007.org)

# AHS 2007 National Convention Registration Form

June 20 - 23 • Indianapolis, Indiana • Hosted by the Indianapolis Hosta Society

THE GREATEST  
*Spectacle in*  
**HOSTA**  
INDIANAPOLIS 2007



For quick, easy registration and instant confirmation, register online at [www.Hosta2007.org](http://www.Hosta2007.org)

## 1 One Form for Each Person - PLEASE PRINT.

Name (as you want it on your name badge) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Country (if outside the United States) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

## 2 Select One Option Only (Refunds made thru April 30, 2007, less \$100 administration fee. No refunds made after that date.)

**\$270 - FULL REGISTRATION** (Postmarked by April 30, 2007)  
Includes all activities Wed. evening thru Sat.: coach garden tours - Thurs., Fri. & Sat., lunches - Fri. & Sat., Thurs. buffet and Fri. & Sat. banquets, seminars, Convention handbook, souvenirs and one of the three exclusive Convention hostas free. (Does not include optional tours, Thurs. lunch or lodging.)

**\$325 - LATE FULL REGISTRATION**  
May 1 - May 18, 2007 Postmark (Full registrations only)

**\$100 - BANQUETS ONLY REGISTRATION**  
Includes Fri. & Sat. banquets only. (NOTE: You must provide your own transportation to Friday banquet at the Children's Museum.) Must be postmarked by May 18.

## 3 OPTIONAL TOURS

**\$35 - RETAIL NURSERIES**  
Half-day tour of retail nurseries: Soules Garden and Miller's Manor Gardens

**TBA - INDY MOTOR SPEEDWAY** Check box to indicate your interest in this tour only. (Details and pricing available at [Hosta2007.org](http://Hosta2007.org) after February 1, 2007. Reservations and payment for this tour to be made at time of check-in.)

## 4 CONVENTION SHIRTS - Convention Pick-up

3-button polo with 5-color embroidery in prewashed, breathable 100% cotton pique.

Check Box and Circle Shirt Size and Color



**\$26 - SIZE: S - M - L - XL**      COLOR: Black - Blue - Yellow

**\$29 - SIZE: 2XL**                      COLOR: Black - Blue - Yellow

**\$29 - SIZE: 3XL**                      COLOR: Black - Yellow

## 5 JUDGES CLINICS - (Please note which clinics you will attend.)

**Clinic I** (Wednesday 6-10PM)       **Clinic II** (Wednesday 6-9PM)       **Clinic III** (Thursday 9:45-11:45AM)

**JUDGES HANDBOOK** If attending a judges clinic, you must bring a current judges handbook. Download it free at [hosta.org](http://hosta.org)

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

## 6 HOSTA SHOW - (Limit of 25 entries in Division I, Sections I - XII. Show Schedule will be available online at [Hosta2007.org](http://Hosta2007.org))

Please note if you plan to:

Enter       Judge       Clerk

Please check planned entries and anticipated number of entries in each:

Containers Div. II \_\_\_\_\_       Troughs Div. III \_\_\_\_\_  
 Educational Div. IV \_\_\_\_\_       Artistic Div. VI \_\_\_\_\_

## 7 VEGETARIAN MEALS

Check here for vegetarian meals

## 9 SEND FORM AND CHECK - in US Dollars Payable to IHS/AHS Convention

Ann Ammons-Registrar, 7014 Lantern Road, Indianapolis, IN 46256

For information/questions: (317) 849-1208 or [hosta2007@comcast.net](mailto:hosta2007@comcast.net)

8 TOTAL AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Add Sections 2, 3 & 4

10 HOTEL RESERVATIONS - Must be made by May 28, 2007 (see other side)

# TC (Tissue Culture) vs. OS (Originator's Stock)

by Ray Rodgers

*Editor's Note: Ray Rodgers is a member of the Central Illinois Hosta Society. This article originally appeared in their March 2004 newsletter and is reprinted with Ray's permission.*

Have you ever looked at a hosta price list and wondered what the "TC" and/or "OS" meant in some of the hosta descriptions? Occasionally one would even see two prices for the same plant, the lower price being for TC (Tissue Culture) and the more expensive price for OS (Originator's Stock).

TC references plants which have been propagated via tissue culture. In very simple terms, these are chemically energized test tube babies started from small shavings of the parent plant's meristem (the central growth point of a hosta crown).

Compared to increasing the number of plants through manually dividing garden plants, tissue culturing results in rapid reproduction. Tissue culturing must be performed in a sterile lab type environment. This is a tedious, exacting, repetitious process that must be monitored very closely. Except for a few serious hobbyists, tissue culturing is better left up to the professionals. The resulting plants are typically wholesaled in multiple quantities to retail outlets.

The OS designation basically means the plant being offered is a division of the original named hosta. This hosta could have been derived through hybridization (seedling) or sporting\*, which is not uncommon with hostas. If an OS plant was purchased and a division was given to another person, who in turn eventually gave a division of their plant to yet another person, all these plants would still be considered originator's stock. On price lists, the OS designation is most often used for newer or rare plants. Originator's stock plants can help to validate exactly what was originally registered and ensure the direct lineage of the original plants are not lost.

Are originator's stock hostas better and should they demand a premium price? The newer the plant and the more unique it is, the more likely an OS division is worth the extra money. Some of the truly unique hostas are not replicated easily via tissue culturing. With these plants, a TC lab may develop a high percentage of babies not possessing the same characteristics of the parent. This inability unquestionably drives the price of these varieties up. Luckily for us consumers, most hostas can be TCed with a high degree of success.

Responsible wholesalers and retailers will typically guarantee their plants to be true to name. This starts with the TC labs' commitment to cull (throw away) or give a new name to hostas not meeting specific criteria. Since it is not always possible to know for sure if small tissue cultured

plants will look like their parents in subsequent years, a small percentage of untrue hostas do reach nurseries and other retailers. Since responsible retailers typically grow TC plants on for at least one full season prior to selling them, some additional variants may be caught.

It is the untrue forms that slip through the cracks that generate some of the unfavorable comments about tissue cultured hostas. Usually such comments are used to justify the price of OS plants. Certainly people should expect to receive what they pay for. Some variants are not as attractive or as good of a grower as the named variety. But, some variants are actually better than the original plant. As an example, in a batch of tissue cultured H. 'Great Expectations', some wider-margined plants were discovered. These plants were given the name H. 'Dream Weaver'. The additional green leaf surface allows this hosta to produce more chlorophyll than H. 'Great Expectations', making it a better grower.

Tissue culturing has also accelerated the popularity of "Sport Hunting". This is the act of hosta enthusiasts searching through nurseries for hostas that are different from their published descriptions. These plants may vary in a variety of ways, including variegation pattern (including Instability\*\*), coloration, plant size and leaf shape. For those interested in hybridizing or just growing open pollinated seed, finding an otherwise desirable plant with some degree of splashing could be a significant find. Except for somewhat rare occasions, it requires an unstable pod parent (mother plant) to produce variegated seedlings. Whether the found plants turn out to be better than the named variety or not, it is occasionally worth the purchase price to the hunter to have something a little different to display in their garden.

Make no mistake; tissue culture plants have fueled the popularity of hostas by rapidly increasing the availability of many newer varieties of hostas at affordable prices. The elevation of hosta to the rank of most popular perennial from almost obscurity can directly be linked to the early 1980s when plant tissue culture was in its infancy.

Tissue culture and originator's stock plants both have their place in the hosta world. Whether purchasing OS plants is a good value depends largely on the specific hosta variety, but the ultimate decision rests with each individual buyer.

\* A Sport is a hosta arising from another hosta, possessing different characteristics.

\*\* In hosta, Instability is a plant that does not maintain its solid or variegated pattern, resulting in a Splashed pattern (formerly referred to as Streaked, also known as Striated). Splashed hostas have many non-connected light and dark variegated sections. Splashed hostas typically stabilize into a solid colored or variegated plant over time.

**Dues for the Mississippi Valley Hosta Society are \$7 per year. Please make your check payable to MVHS and send to JIM CATO, Treasurer, 12915 25<sup>TH</sup> St. Ct., Milan, IL 61264.**

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The **American Hosta Society** offers participation in all national activities, including a national convention, three issues of "The Hosta Journal", and a directory. They also have a web page - www.hosta.org. Dues are \$25/yr, \$47/2 yrs and \$500 life for an individual. Family memberships are also available at \$29/yr and \$52/2 yrs. Make your check to American Hosta Society and send to the AHS Membership Secretary, Sandie Markland, 8702 Pinnacle Rock Ct., Lorton, VA 22079.

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Dues for **Midwest Regional Hosta Society** are \$10/yr. Send your check to AUDRA WILSON, 1789 Hwy #92, Ackworth, IA 50001.

**If you have an email address, will you please send me an email so I can start capturing the email addresses of our members. Also, let me know if you would like to get your newsletter via email. My email is: [cbhamilton@pobox.com](mailto:cbhamilton@pobox.com).**

Printing and postage are really getting expensive and it would save the club some money (and help keep the dues down) if I could send it electronically. If you would rather have it sent, as in the past by US mail, I will continue to do that.

Carolyn