



# Hosta Happenings

May 2008

Vol. 12, Iss. 4

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!

Because of the late season, and the hostas are just popping up at VanderVeer, we've revised several dates, as follows:

MAY 4 - PLACE NAME TAGS AT VV, 10 AM

MAY 17 - HOSTA DIG AT  
VANDER VEER, 2 PM

We really need help on MAY 17!!!

THERE'S A JOB FOR EVERYONE - RUNNERS, POTTERS,  
AND TAGGERS!

RECYCLE YOUR GALLON POTS AND  
BRING THEM ALONG - WE'LL USE THEM!

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY  
ANNUAL  
**HOSTA SALE**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2008**

9 AM - MEMBER'S ONLY SALE  
10 AM - 1:30 PM - PUBLIC SALE

**DUCK CREEK PARK SHELTER #2**  
Davenport, Iowa

HOSTAS, HOSTAS, HOSTAS  
and COMPANION PLANTS

Please start digging the plants you are going to donate NOW so they will be adjusted to pot living by sale time.

**Please bring your plants to the sale location at 8 AM** and have them named, if possible. We will price them! If you are unable to get them there on Sunday, call Carolyn Hamilton at 355-6973, to make other arrangements.

We could also use boxes for customers to use!!!

FLUFF AND BUFF THANK YOU!!!

Many thanks to the following people who helped edge and spread mulch on the gardens at the VanderVeer Hosta Glade on Saturday, April 19:

Mike Carstensen, Carolyn Hamilton, Mary Johnansen, Mary Peshang, Dean Piatt, Ron & Teri Simmering and Sally Stewart

The weather didn't look too good at the start but it turned out to be a nice day and these eight people did yeoman's work getting all the gardens done and looking beautiful!!!

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GARDEN TIP FOR CREEPING CHARLEY

Mix 10 oz. of 20 Mule Team Borax (laundry soap) with 2-1/2 gallons of WARM water. Mix very well. Use a sprinkling can and put on when the weather is 75 degrees or higher with no rain in forecast for at least 24 hours.

If mixed properly, this will not kill the grass. Test other areas around other plants to make sure it won't hurt them.

The grass may turn yellow, but recovers in a day or two, AND CREEPING CHARLEY IS HISTORY!!!

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Have you visited the new American Hosta Society Web Site? It has a whole new look, and it is great!! Go to: [www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org). You will find information about the AHS as well as links to other hosta societies, information about buying hostas, hosta show updates and much, much more. Check it out!!

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APOLOGIES TO THOSE PEOPLE WHO SHOWED UP AT VANDER VEER ON APRIL 26 TO HELP DIG! The hostas aren't far enough along to know what to dig yet!

'BLUE MOUSE EARS' HOSTA OF THE YEAR

The American Hosta Growers Association has named H. 'Blue Mouse Ears' as the Hosta of the Year for 2008. This is the smallest hosta to ever receive this award. It is generally categorized as a dwarf (or mini), growing only 6-7" tall and around 12" in diameter. Its small, round, heart-shaped leaves have extremely thick substance, making it resistant to slugs, and, therefore, one of the most rugged dwarf hostas on the market.

'Blue Mouse Ears' was just registered in 2000, and has had a meteoric rise in popularity due to its attractive blue-green color, heavy substance and nice form. Its lavender flowers rise in perfect proportion to the plant. Even its name is cute!!!

I LOVE THOSE MINIS!

Excerpts from an article by Joe Haber, Centerport, NY in the Michigan Hosta Happenings newsletter

Gardening on a small piece of property with a steep hillside in my backyard, I must confess that mini and small hostas have become my favorites. These little guys look great in containers and my favorite containers are troughs which can be filled with many different plants including dwarf conifers, small succulents and, of course, mini hostas.

I grow mini and small hostas in a variety of containers and even have 'Lemon Lime' growing in a tree stump. I mix hostas with companions like ajuga, tating fern and even small annuals.

Slugs are a bigger problem for small hostas than large ones. My way of combating the "damn slug" is by spreading a topping that forms a barrier. My formula for this very successful topping is a mixture of grown egg shells, ground sea shells and chicken grit. An occasional sprinkling of Sluggo also helps.

In closing I will quote Bob Solberg: "Miniature hostas are cute, little babies that will grow in a thimble. They often run in herds thru rock gardens, around ponds or along the edge of a path. They are especially happy in containers, strawberry pots, troughs or even whiskey barrels. Hundreds can live comfortably along a driveway, just give them water."

Dues for the Mississippi Valley Hosta Society are \$7 per year. Please make your check payable to MVHS and send to DEAN PIATT, 2910 Telegraph Rd., Davenport, IA 52804.

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AHS DUES. 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](http://www.hosta.org). Dues are now \$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 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: Pete Postlewaite, Treasurer, 21172 Andover Rd., Kildeer, IL 60047-8604.

Mississippi Valley Hosta Society  
909 Mississippi Blvd.  
Bettendorf, Iowa 52722

### WHAT'S HAPPENING!

MAY 4 - Hosta Name Tags, VanderVeer  
MAY 17 - Hosta Dig, VanderVeer. 2 PM  
JUN 1 - PLANT SALE, DUCK CREEK PARK  
JUN 11-14 - AHS Convention, St. Louis  
JULY 10-12 - MRHS Convention, Chicago  
OCT 3 - Bob Solberg here

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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>

**THIS WILL BE THE LAST NEWSLETTER  
FOR THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE  
NOT RENEWED THEIR DUES!**