



Hosta Happenings

October 2012

Vo. 14, Iss. 8

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY

FALL MEETING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2012

6:00 PM

RIVERDALE FIRE STATION

(ACROSS FROM ALCOA)

Program:

Barrett & Lynn Stoll

Daylilies

Fall Garden Chores

To Do or Not to Do? That is the Question

Becki Lynch, Linn County Master Gardener
from ROHS Fall Newsletter

Lawns

Aerate - September/October

Lawn aeration is the secret weapon in making your lawn healthy. Aeration involves making holes in the lawn either by pushing a rod into it or by "coring", extracting a plug of soil. By aerating your lawn you provide the following benefits to your lawn and its root system:

☒ Oxygen gets to the roots and the soil allowing it to "breathe"

☒ Organic fertilizers and nutrients get access to the root system

☒ Water is able to better soak the soil and reach the root system

☒ Helps to break up thatch

Tight, compacted soil is loosened up allowing the root system to grow. Opinions are mixed regarding aeration during a drought.

Fertilize - September/October/November

Plenty of established lawns do just fine without fertilizing if the soil is healthy. However, if needed, early Fall is best if fertilizing only once per year, or late Fall if you follow a fertilization program. The best time to control weeds such as dandelion and other broad leaves is during September/October. In drought, DO NOT fertilize lawns that have gone dormant.

Establish New Lawn or Overseed –

Late August/September

Key is to follow directions and keep consistent moisture on new areas. Unless drought has significantly broken, and trend has changed, would not do any new lawns or seed this fall.

Continue to Water and Mow Until Frost

If the lawn is dormant, do not mow. Water 1/4 to 1/2 inch once every two weeks to maintain minimal health of lawn. May choose only important sections of lawn and allow periphery and maintenance areas to go dormant

Shrubs and Trees Plant and Move – September/October/November

Fall is generally the best time to transplant most plants, and trees/shrubs are no exception. Fall weather is usually cooler and wetter, making the moves easier on the root system and allowing a period of root growth and establishment before the first hard frost. However, in drought conditions, do not attempt to move anything, as they will have the best chance for survival by leaving the roots undisturbed.

Prune –

October/November through Winter

Based on the habit of the tree or shrub, pruning would occur after flowering, or in the fall/winter/early spring. However, in drought, do not disturb the tree/shrub as it is already in stress.

Wrap Tender Trees & Shrubs

Use burlap or wire cages to protect your fruit trees, tree seedlings and tender shrubs from rabbits and deer. These toothy critters nibble without rhyme or reason. Drought will cause wildlife to be even more aggressive in finding food throughout the winter.

Water - Until Frost

Because trees and shrubs are the backbone of your landscape, watering should be a high priority for any that are new up to about 7 years in age. Conifers are particularly susceptible when they are young and should be watered as long as temperatures permit. Most want consistent moisture and well-drained soil. In drought conditions, the general guideline for watering young trees is 10 gallons per inch diameter of trunk of tree every 10 days to 2 weeks. Go ahead and apply directly below canopy around trunk as root system is concentrated there.

Perennials

Move & Divide Plants - September/October

Fall is an excellent time to move spring & summer-blooming perennials like daisies, lilies and phlox. Fall weather is wet enough to make the move easy on the root systems and allow the plant to get comfortable before the cold weather hits. Grab a shovel, dig them up, split them in half using the sharp edge of a shovel, and replant.

(continued from page 2)

Plant Bulbs - August through Frost

It takes minutes in the fall to enjoy weeks of colorful blooms in the spring. Grab a trowel, dig a hole 3 times the bulb's height, drop them in pointy side up. You can buy your bulbs from mail order catalogs, online, or at most lawn and garden centers. If you've planted bulbs that aren't blooming well anymore, chances are they need dividing. Dig up your bulbs, break them apart, replant the extra bulbs in new spots.

Cut Back Foliage and Deadhead - N / A

Leaving flower seed heads alone will provide a winter food source for the birds and an interesting view when the garden is snow-covered. Most eco-gardeners prefer to cut back and clean up in the springtime. By leaving plants alone in the fall, you also provide a layer of insulation to protect roots from cold winter weather.

Continue Watering - Until Frost

In drought conditions, it is important to continue to provide moisture for the non-dormant plants until the first hard frost. Because of cooler conditions, not as much watering should be needed.

Annuals and Containers

Lift Tropical Bulbs - Up to Frost

Tropical plants such as Canna and Caladium, as well as such sensitives as Gladiolas and Dahlias can be lifted from the ground. They are cleaned/stored until the next spring.

Enjoy Annuals - Frost

Annuals are usually the most robust and colorful just as perennials are dying back in the hot August weather. Some are drought resistant, but those that are not will need to be regularly watered with the perennial beds.

Empty and Clean Containers - Frost

Be sure to empty containers with annuals and store for the winter. DO NOT use the same potting mix/soil for the next year. Clean pots with bleach solution to eliminate any remaining pests from previous year.

Garden Chores

Mulch Your Leaves - September on

Rake them into your garden beds (you should cover per **General** enials with 3-5 inches of mulch for winter protection). Compost the leaves in your vegetable garden. DO NOT leave them by the curb for city workers to collect.

Prep New Beds/Do Not Till – September on

Tilling kills valuable microorganisms and worms and hurts your soil's health. Walk away from the tiller. Go do something else.

Exception:

Vegetable beds where you've encountered squash bugs. Those nasty buggers require fall tilling if you don't want to find them again next spring. To prep a new bed, a 5-page thick layer of wet newspapers and a few inches of mulch will kill everything beneath and prepare a garden bed for spring planting.

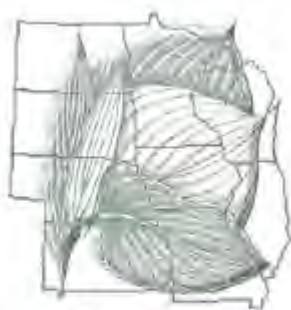
Clean, Sharpen, and Store Tools - Ongoing

Tools should be cleaned in a 100/0 bleach solution, as are containers, to disinfect and ready for storage. Sharpening can occur over the winter - A simple method to keep tools clean throughout the growing season and over winter is: 5 gallon bucket - fill at least 8-12 inches of sand. Place oil in sand (can be motor or mineral oil) and stir so it is evenly distributed. Wipe off and place gardening tools into the bucket so handles stick up. This simple storing method keeps rust and other debris from building up.

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### **SAVE THE DATE**

November 30 is the date for our annual Christmas party. It will again be held at The Outing Club in Davenport. Details on the menu will be in the November newsletter!!



## 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](mailto:MRHS.Hosta@gmail.com).

### Publications Standard Originator Credits After Cultivar Names

All American Hosta Society publications, whether written or online, shall follow this standard.

For articles, credit after a cultivar name shall be the person or persons who originated the cultivar as recorded in the AHS Registry. If originator is not given in the registration or the cultivar is not registered, the AHS Nomenclature Committee shall determine to whom credit is given. When deemed required, credits will be amended and altered by the Nomenclature Committee.

The first time a hosta cultivar name appears in an article it shall be written: 'Cultivar Name' (Originator's Name - Year of Registration). Originator's name or names shall include the initial or initials of the given name or names as recorded in the registry. Year of registration is written out, e.g., 2011. If the hosta is not registered, "NR" is used instead of registration year. When a cultivar name appears more than once in an article, further references to it may be just 'Cultivar Name'.

Award hostas, such as Summers, Fisher and Benedict; plants in Hosta Shows; photo credits; Popularity Polls and lists of hostas may have only the cultivar name and registration date or "NR," or just cultivar name, as considered best for each situation by the author and editor.

*This standard has been approved by the AHS Nomenclature Committee, W. George Schmid and Warren I. Pollock.*

## 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

### IT'S ELECTION TIME AGAIN

It's election time again - not only for the general elections - but for our club officers as well.

Ron Simmering will be filling a slate of officers in the coming weeks and we will be voting on the new officers at the November 11th meeting.

New officers will take office on January 1. So -- if Ron calls for your help in filling an office, please say yes!

Also, we will be needing ideas for programs! If you have been to any good programs or have any ideas for programs, please call Carolyn Hamilton at 563-355-6973.

## Hellebores: Prelude to Spring

By Anne Randall, MVHS Member

Most hellebores are native to mountainous regions of Europe, in open oak and beech woodlands, scrub areas, grassy meadows and on rocky slopes. They are best viewed on a hillside but even on flat land, they can be greatly enjoyed. They are shade loving evergreen perennials that bloom in early spring.

Hellebores are happy with other shade-loving perennials including ferns, hosta, gingers, short shade grasses, snowdrops, aconites, wood-land phlox, primroses and hepaticas. They are grown in sandy or clay soils as long as plenty of humus is added when planted. Freezing and thawing do not usually damage the flowers.

Hellebores likely arrived in North American shores early in the continent's colonial history. The earliest cultivation may have been for use as an insecticide to treat other plants rather than ornamentals in their own right. John Bertram first mentioned them in his writings. Interest in hellebore was strong after WWII and they were valued for their foliage, flowers and ease of culture.

In late winter, the flowers emerge from the barren ground to provide a prelude to spring. Elizabeth Strongman states in *The Gardeners Guide to Growing Hellebores*, 1993, "The Christmas Rose and Lenten Rose are nature's gift to gardeners in the dismal months after Christmas when the weather is cold and discouraging and spring seems a long way off. At a time when few other flowers brave the elements, only Snowdrops in their prime whiteness and fascinating variety of forms can compete with the hellebores." They bloom for two months or more – longer when spring arrives slowly and nights stay cool. Elegant simplicity describes their fantastic foliage, precocious bloom and beautiful flowers, singles, doubles and anemone centered in many lush colors.

Once new foliage emerges in February–March, cut away carefully last year's foliage so plants look tidy and display flowers to the best advantage. By and large, hellebores are pest free. Do not plant hellebore too deeply nor bury the crown of the plant. They come close to being the perfect perennial with long-lasting blooms, hardiness, durability and a few are fragrant.

Mature clumps may be divided but both the old and new divisions are slow to recover from transplant shock. A mother plant produces many seedlings that, after a year, may be pricked out (best done in the fall) and planted to check their worthiness in flower shape and color. Do not allow seedlings to stay by the mother plant too long as they can be smothered by her foliage.

Honey bees, bumble bees and other small bees are the primary pollinators of hellebore. Pollen from one flower fertilizes another on the same plant. Cross fertilization from one plant to another occurs freely.

Buy plants in bloom for the exact color desired. Great Britain has done much in crosses and seed strains of hellebores. Most of the best hybrids available in America today are seed strains, some developed by making controlled crosses, while others come more or less true from open pollinated plants. Henry Ross at Grandview Horticultural Park in Strongsville, OH began growing seedlings in 1950 and did so for 50 years.

The first hellebore I saw was 20 years ago: *H. niger*, Christmas Rose with its white pristine flowers and I have been smitten ever since. There are many classifications for hellebore. The most familiar are *niger*, hybridis (Lenten Rose), *orientalis* and *foetidus*. Those hybridizing and propagating hellebore include Sam and Carleen Jones of Picadilly Farm in Bishop, GA, and Judith and Dick Tyler of Pine Knot Farm in Clarksville, VA. Both farms have Spring Open Hellebore Days – a treat to attend and you can purchase blooming plants. Judith Tyler and C. Colston Burrell's book *Hellebores (A Comprehensive Guide)* is an excellent source for all the plant knowledge for beginning and advanced gardeners, and includes listings of those actively hybridizing today.

Presently hellebore are being developed to have up-facing flowers, doubles, combinations, stronger stems, foliage that remains clean and healthy and color on reverse of the flowers.

Float short stem blooms in a shallow dish for a beautiful display. Sear the stems of longer blooms and display in a short vase for enjoyment in-doors.

So begin now...buy a hellebore plant, enjoy its beauty and you also may be smitten by this near perfect perennial.

*Anne Randall gardens with her husband Mike at "The Planted Place" in Greenville, OH.*

*A garden is a friend you can  
visit any time.*

Anonymous

## **Winter Scientific Meeting**

### **Sponsored by the Midwest Regional Hosta Society**

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society is once again sponsoring the Winter Scientific Meeting. This popular winter event will be held Saturday, January 19, 2013 at the Wyndham Hotel, 3000 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL. The hotel has given us a \$79.00 room rate. Please make your own reservations by calling 877-999-3223, and mention the “Midwest Regional Hosta Society Winter Scientific Meeting” to guarantee the rate. You can also make your hotel reservation online by clicking on the link below:

[http://www.wyndham.com/groupevents2012/ORDLI\\_WSM/main.wnt](http://www.wyndham.com/groupevents2012/ORDLI_WSM/main.wnt)

Speakers scheduled for 2013 include:

- Olga Petryszyn
- Rob Mortko
- Jeff Miller
- Bob Solberg
- Glenn Herold
- Mark Zilis.

Topics for each speaker's presentation will be announced on the Midwest Regional Hosta Society website as they are finalized. The program will include a series of three concurrent breakout sessions. These breakout sessions will be presented twice, so attendees will be able to attend two out of the three sessions.

Again this year, there will be a hosta seed silent auction, proceeds of which will be used to underwrite a portion of the cost of the meeting.

The cost of this winter extravaganza is only \$55 per person for Midwest Regional Hosta Society members and \$65 for non-members, and includes a continental breakfast and a deli buffet lunch. At their option, non-members can apply the \$10 difference in the registration fee to a one-year membership in the MRHS. Please make checks payable to MRHS, and mail with the registration form to:

Kristine James  
523 E. Calhoun Street  
Woodstock Ill. 60098

Registrations postmarked after January 7 require a \$10 late registration fee per person.

Questions? Contact Lou Horton (630-293-7735) or email: [lehorton85@ameritech.netone](mailto:lehorton85@ameritech.netone)

## 2013 WINTER SCIENTIFIC MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Make a copy of this registration form for your records.  
If you would like confirmation of your registration, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.** Fill out registration form completely.

Note that MRHS memberships are family memberships, so individuals in the member's household are also MRHS members.

**ATTENDEE 1:**

|         |  |                                                                                                                                       |
|---------|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NAME    |  | <input type="checkbox"/> MRHS member <input type="checkbox"/> Non-MRHS member                                                         |
| ADDRESS |  |                                                                                                                                       |
| CITY    |  | If a non-MRHS member, would you like your \$10 surcharge applied to a 1 year FAMILY membership in the Midwest Regional Hosta Society? |
| STATE   |  |                                                                                                                                       |
| ZIP     |  |                                                                                                                                       |
| PHONE   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO                                                                              |
| EMAIL   |  |                                                                                                                                       |

**ATTENDEE 2:** \* Address same as Attendee 1

|         |  |                                                                                                                                       |
|---------|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NAME    |  | <input type="checkbox"/> MRHS member <input type="checkbox"/> Non-MRHS member                                                         |
| ADDRESS |  |                                                                                                                                       |
| CITY    |  | If a non-MRHS member, would you like your \$10 surcharge applied to a 1 year FAMILY membership in the Midwest Regional Hosta Society? |
| STATE   |  |                                                                                                                                       |
| ZIP     |  |                                                                                                                                       |
| PHONE   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO                                                                              |
| EMAIL   |  |                                                                                                                                       |

**Registrations postmarked after January 7, 2013 require a \$10 late registration fee per person.  
Cancellations before January 7, 2013 will be sent a full refund.  
We will be unable to issue refunds after January 7, 2013.**

|                              |       |       |       |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Number of members            | _____ | x55 = | _____ |
| Number of non-members        | _____ | x65 = | _____ |
| Number of late registrations | _____ | x10 = | _____ |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                 | _____ |       | _____ |

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO MRHS**

Mail your registration and check to:  
Kristine James  
523 E Calhoun Street  
Woodstock IL 60098

Questions about registration? Contact Kristine at [MRHS.HOSTA@gmail.com](mailto:MRHS.HOSTA@gmail.com) or phone: 815-337-4621

**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:**

- Oct 14, 2013** - 6 PM - Meeting, Riverdale Fire Station
- Nov 11, 2013** - 2 PM - Meeting, Riverdale Fire Station
- 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