



Hosta Happenings

Mississippi Valley Hosta Society

M.V.H.S. MEETING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2006

2:00 PM

RIVERDALE FIRE STATION

RIVERDALE, IOWA

(across from ALCOA)

GARDENING IN THE SHADE

presented by

DON MUSAK

ELECTION OF OFFICERS



OCTOBER 8, 2006 MEETING MINUTES

President Carolyn Hamilton called the October 8, 2006 meeting to order at 2:00pm. Carolyn welcomed and thanked everyone for coming.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the July 23, 2006 meeting were approved as published in the August Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Jim reported we had \$1,028.48 in the convention account, \$4,863.81 in the club account, and a CD.

New Business:

We have a web site, mvhosta.org. Sally asked that anyone who had suggestions for sites to link and constructive comments to contact her.

Carolyn passed out convention sign up sheets. We need all the club members to volunteer to do something to make the convention a success.

A slate of officers for the upcoming November election was announced:

President – Ron Simmering
Vice-President – Shirley Waters
Secretary – Mary Peschang
Treasurer – Dean Piatt

Ron stood up and said if there was anyone who had a desire to be president to talk to him.

Old Business:

The memory rock for DeEtta is in place. We have received the wording from Dean and are hoping to get the plaque made and attached to the rock before winter.

A final dig for the year was made at Forrest Johnson's. Mike reported that we have 1,500 to 1,600 plants in a field on his property. If Forrest is in agreement we will finish digging in the spring. Thanks Mike for all your help.

The next meeting will be November 12 at 2:00.

Door prizes were won by:

Sandi Fedler – Hosta Pee Dee Laughing River
Liz Jansen – mum

The meeting was adjourned followed by refreshments and an informative presentation on Conifers for the Shade by Glenn Herold.

Dear Friends,

I finally got all of my hosta leaves and perennials cut down – what a job! Now if all of the leaves would blow away I wouldn't have to rake them up.

We received an \$1800 grant from the Midwest Regional Hosta Society which I have delivered to VanderVeer. The money will be used for new signage of our hostas in the Hosta Glade which should be in place in time for our 2007 Midwest Regional convention next July.

Condolences to Ron and Teri Simmering. Teri's mother passed away last month.

Glenn Herold presented a very nice program last month on conifers. I wish we would have had better attendance.

Election of officers will be held at the upcoming meeting. I hope we get a better turnout which will show support for our new board.

Included with this newsletter is a registration form for the Winter Scientific meeting which will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2007, in Schaumburg, IL. It is always a fun event and they have a great list of speakers this year.

Also included is a volunteer sign-up sheet for our Midwest Regional Convention committees. Please, please, please sign up for one or two of the committees. We need all of your help. It takes a lot of people to put on the convention and we want to make it a good one people will remember. Please return the form to me at 909 Mississippi Blvd., Bettendorf, or to Sally Stewart, #1 Windsor Rd., Bettendorf, or bring it to the November 12 meeting.

Also, 2007 dues are due! They are still only \$7 per family – a great value considering the value you are getting.

See you November 12th.

CAROLYN



DAVENPORT'S MIDWEST CONVENTION, JULY 12-14, 2007
VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

_____ **Name**

Please check the following job descriptions and make a check mark next to the committee or committees on which you would like to work. "Many hands make light work." We need the help of everyone in our club to make our convention run smoothly and be fun. Please return this sheet or call Carolyn Hamilton (355-6973) or Sally Stewart (359-4752) ASAP as we need to get the committees formed.

- _____ **REGISTRATION COMMITTEE** – Shirley Waters, Chair
Greet people and check in, hand out "goodie bags", hand out convention hosta
- _____ **PLANT AUCTION COMMITTEE** – Liz Jansen and Ann Kerber, Co-Chairs
Pick up donated plants for auction (if that is required), receive plants during registration, record plants brought in for auction, prepare auction cards and plant tags, Auctioneers, clerks during auction, cashiers during auction. runners during auction
- _____ **FUND RAISING COMMITTEE** – Teri Simmering, Chair
T-Shirt sales, glove sales. Sit at table and sell items.
- _____ **RAFFLE COMMITTEE**
Obtain raffle items. Sit at table and sell raffle tickets for items that will be on raffle.
- _____ **FRIDAY NIGHT PICNIC** – Dean Piatt, Chair
Help set-up and tear-down tables and chairs for picnic
- _____ **VENDORS** – Don Musak, Chair
Help set-up and tear-down vendor tables
- _____ **CONVENTION BOOKLET** – Sally Stewart, Chair
Sell booklet advertising
- _____ **DECORATION COMMITTEE** – Roxanne Meyer, Pat Wohlford, Co-Chairs
Make floor displays and table arrangements for lobby
- _____ **PUBLICITY COMMITTEE** – Barb Cato, Chair
- _____ **HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE** – Sally Freeman, Sandy Fedler, Co-Chairs
Garden/bus refreshments (includes making cookies and other goodies), helping in the hospitality room.
- _____ **HOSTA SHOW COMMITTEE** – Bob and Cheryl Hird, Co-Chairs
Help set up and tear down tables



**M.V.H.S.
ANNUAL
HOLIDAY PARTY**

**STEEPLEGATE INN
Davenport**

**FRIDAY
DECEMBER 1, 2006
SOCIAL HOUR – 6:30 PM
DINNER – 7:30 PM**

**\$20 per person
BUFFET
Club will pick up balance**

Joe Seng will play piano!!!

**Your check is your reservation.
Please send your check to Jim Cato,
12915 25th St. Ct. Milan, IL 61244**

Winter Scientific Meeting of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society Hosted by the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

It's time to begin planning for winter. The Winter Scientific Meeting of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society that is. This year's big winter event will be held Saturday, Jan. 20, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Woodfield Hotel, 1800 East Golf Rd., Schaumburg, IL (800) 223-1234. They have given us an \$84.00 room rate. Please make your own reservations before January 6, and mention the Hosta Society to guarantee the rate. The Hyatt Regency Woodfield Hotel is the same great location as last year's very successful event.

Again we have an All Star line-up of speakers with interesting and timely topics:

- Glenn Herold - It's As Easy As ABCD: Artistic, Bold, Creative Design
- Dave Wanninger - New, Better, Ornamental Trees and Shrubs for Residential Gardens
- Ran Lydell - Rare and Little Used Shade Perennials
- Jim Schwarz - Hosta Gardens and Nurseries of Holland
- Bill Roston - A Different Way to Create More Hostas
- Mark Zilis - Hostas of Distinction

The cost of the winter extravaganza is only \$45.00 per person, which includes a continental breakfast and a deli buffet lunch. Please make checks payable to the Northern Illinois Hosta Society, and mail before January 6, 2007, with your name, address, phone, and the number attending, to:

Morgan Wilson
1880 N. Hennepin
LaSalle Ill. 61301
Phone (815) 224-1383

If you sign-up after Jan. 6 2007 the cost is \$55.00 per person.

Registration will begin on Friday, January 19, from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm, and Saturday, January 20 from 7:00 am - 8:00 am. The program will run from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm on Saturday. Dinner Friday and Saturday nights will be on your own at one of the many fine area restaurants. The Hospitality Suite will be open from 7:30 pm - 11 pm, both Friday and Saturday nights, for all that good Hosta fellowship. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,
Tom Micheletti
Northern Illinois Hosta Society

Name of first attendee _____	@ \$45.00	\$ _____
Name of 2nd attendee _____	@ \$45.00	\$ _____
Late fee: registration paid after January 6, 2007 is \$55.00 per person		
Total		\$ _____

Address of attendee, or contact person:

Street _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Phone () _____

Confirmation notices are not sent out. Please retain a copy of this registration form and your check if you are in doubt of registration. Please allow 5 working days for registrations to reach us before the event date. We will be unable to issue refunds after Jan. 6, 2007.

AHS FOLIAR NEMATODE POLICY STATEMENT

History

Nematodes are one of the largest families of multicellular animals on earth. They are categorized as beneficial or promoting plant health by fighting off other pests, and parasitic, or causing harm to the health of plants. Since 1991-1992, a parasitic form of nematode, the foliar nematode has been increasingly detected to infect Hosta plants. *Aphelenchoides fragariae* or the strawberry nematode, and *Ditylenchus dipsaci* the stem bulb nematode are the common culprits.

Foliar nematodes are worm-like creatures that are less than 2 mm in length and have been found to infect over 250 species of plants. It is necessary to use a 10- or 20-power magnifying lens or microscope to view the worms. They eat the tissue between the veins of a Hosta leaf and within the upper and lower epidermal layers of the leaf. This removal of the inter-cellular tissue causes the epidermal layers of the leaf to turn brown and deteriorate, leaving holes in the leaf, and exit points for the worms to be spread throughout the garden. Nematodes need moisture to survive and move on a film of water, or by splashing from one plant to another, or on a host moving from plant to plant, whether on a gardener's clothes, tools or by an animal. So any Hosta within a six-foot radius of an infected plant is subject to infestation.

Symptoms appear in Hosta plants usually beginning in June in southern states, and later in the growing season the farther north one lives. Plants may exhibit symptoms in only a few leaves per plant, to damage appearing on several to all the leaves on a plant. If one leaf displays symptoms, the entire plant is subject to infestation as the worms are distributed throughout the plant. It is recommended infected leaves be removed at the base, which will reduce populations, but will not cure an infestation.

Treatments

There is agreement that dormant nematodes over-winter in the crown of the plant and plant debris. Dr. Parwinder Grewal from Ohio State

University conducted research on foliar nematode lifecycles and concluded that the nematodes can live within the soil, existing on soil fungi. Bob Solberg from Green Hill Farm in Chapel Hill, North Carolina believes that while it may be possible for foliar nematodes to survive in the soil, in almost all cases they live in the crowns of plants. He has removed infected Hostas and planted other Hostas in the same area and not observed any damage to the newly planted Hostas. W. George Schmidt agrees the worms over-winter in or near the rhizome of a Hosta. It was first thought foliar nematodes would not survive cold northern winters, but Dr. Grewal has found they will survive temperatures of -112°F. It appears the problem is twofold, worms and eggs. Worms can survive desiccation, lying dormant for decades before rehydrating and coming back to life. Likewise the eggs can survive decades before coming to life when conditions are right.

One thing is true that both worms and eggs seem to be killed at temperatures of about 120-130°F. One remedy appears to be to the leaves and dispose of them and then immerse the roots and crown of a plant in water maintained at a temperature of approximately 125°F for about 10 minutes. This may also kill a plant, so it may only be practical as a last resort to attempt to save a valuable plant.

Another heating option suggested by Mark Zilis from Q & Z Nursery in Rochelle, Illinois, is a hot-air treatment, where plants are planted in black plastic pots, leaving as much of the crown of the Hosta exposed as possible and placing them in a sealed greenhouse for several days, keeping the plants watered. The temperature within the greenhouse should reach 110-120°F to kill the nematodes and eggs. For the gardener without a greenhouse, a closed automobile parked in the sun can readily reach these temperatures.

It may take two seasons to be sure the treatment was successful.

The best solution to remove foliar nematodes is to remove an infected plant from the garden and any plant within 3-4 feet of the infected plant and a 4-6 foot radius in a nursery setting because of irrigation. Any plant that is removed should be burned or disposed of in the trash and not composted, as the eggs and worms will survive composting.

Several gardening chemicals have been tried with limited success. While they may reduce worm populations, there is no chemical to control the eggs. These include systemic insecticides that are absorbed by a plant and distributed throughout the

plant, and impact worms feeding on that plant, translaminar chemicals, that are applied to the surface of the leaf and are distributed through the leaf to the other side, and contact insecticides, that kill on contact. All of these will have an impact on live worms, however they rarely kill all the worms and have no effect on the eggs, therefore it will be necessary to observe the plants for several years, reapplying as eggs hatch and symptoms appear. It is important to use chemical in accordance with their instructions. A very thorough article written by Warren Pollock appeared in *The Hosta Journal*, Volume 35 Number 1, on pages 70-80.

Membership Request

With this information in mind, the purpose of this policy is to persuade our members to do the following:

- A. Understand what symptoms of nematode infestation look like.
- B. Destroy any plant they have in their collection to avoid spreading foliar nematodes.
- C. Purchase plants from reputable dealers that guarantee their plants to be nematode free.
- D. Help inform others who may have infected plants so they are aware of the problem and don't spread nematodes to others.
- E. Don't bring Hostas known to be infected, suspected of being infected or growing near plants infected with foliar nematodes to auctions or sales at Hosta society meetings.

This policy discussion should be featured prominently on the AHS website and in *The Hosta Journal* and mailed to all newsletter editors, regional directors, speakers, Internet lists and others who relay information to the general membership. We also intend to work closely with the AHGA in monitoring and addressing the foliar nematode issue. The AHS will assemble a package that at least points to available information, including photos of infected plants, on the Web or in other publications and make this package available to all, either separately or as part of a unified pest and disease package.

AHS Recommendations

- It is recommended that all new Hosta plants, regardless of from where plants were obtained, be planted in an area separate from the main Hosta

garden for at least one season, preferably two seasons, before being introduced into the main Hosta garden. This will provide an opportunity to monitor the plant for a season or more being able to observe whether or not the plant exhibits the sign of nematode infestation.

- Nematode-infected hosta leaves should not be entered in a Hosta Show to be judged. Leaves that exhibit nematode characteristics should be disqualified by the show chair. However, these leaves may be entered in the educational section to educate attendees about nematode infection and what to look for, along with information on the risks associated with planting them in the garden. Leaves or live plants showing nematode infection should not be entered with other live plants to avoid their spread to non-infected plants.

- Plants exhibiting nematode infestation should not be sold at vending tables at AHS functions. Any vender selling plants at AHS functions should guarantee plants to the best of their knowledge to be free of foliar nematodes. If symptoms of foliar nematodes appear on plants purchased at an AHS event by September 1 of the same year purchased the purchaser should contact the vendor immediately to resolve the issue.

- No plants exhibiting symptoms of foliar nematode infestation will be sold at AHS auctions. Any plants donated to AHS auctions should be guaranteed to the best of the donor's knowledge to be free of foliar nematodes. If symptoms of foliar nematodes appear on plants purchased at an AHS auction by September 1 of the same year purchased, the entire plant in question should be returned to the donor and if symptoms are showing, the donor of the plant should replace the plant, or the AHS should refund the price paid for the plant if the donor is unable to provide a plant free of foliar nematode symptoms. Refund is limited to the original price paid for the plant from the auction.

- Nurseries should guarantee their plants to be foliar nematode free to the best of their knowledge. Customers should contact a nursery before purchasing plants to inquire about guarantees and what recourse there will be if a plant is found, within the same growing season, to have foliar nematodes. If plants purchased are found later that same season to show symptoms of foliar nematodes, customers should contact the nursery to see what the owner will do about replacement or a refund.

Nurseries should destroy all infected plants and those within a 6 foot radius.

- Any plants that are observed to show symptoms of foliar nematodes should be removed from the garden to avoid the spread to other plants. To be on the safe side infected plants should be destroyed and all plants within a 3 to 4 foot radius should also be destroyed. Short of digging up one's entire garden, infected plants can be quarantined to areas of the garden away from Hosta collections and attempts can be made to clean the plants of nematodes trying any chemical means or heat treatment as suggested above. Plants should remain in quarantine for several seasons to observe for reoccurrence of symptoms. It is recommended that no plants leave an infected garden for any reason, even with a warning to other gardeners that there is a problem.

- Cleanup of debris and dead Hosta plant parts should be undertaken in the fall each year to avoid over-wintering sites for nematodes and eggs.

Summary

It is important to scout plants in the garden, particularly later in the growing season, to be on the lookout for foliar nematode infested plants, and to remove all plants that show symptoms and all plants within a 3-4 foot radius of infected plants. Various treatments can be attempted to clean plants of foliar nematodes, but to date only heat treatment has been shown to clean plants of foliar nematodes, and these plants should be observed for several seasons after cleanup attempts to be sure plants are clean. Also there are no chemical treatments readily available to gardeners that have been shown to kill all nematodes within a plant or, more importantly, to kill eggs. Fortunately studies are being conducted to find better methods of control and elimination of foliar nematodes, so there is hope for the future.

Nursery owners should destroy all infected plants, and it is recommended that gardeners do likewise. Short of destroying all infected plants, gardeners should not allow any plants out of a garden infected with foliar nematodes. We all must be responsible and control ourselves to avoid spreading this pest to others.

2007 SLATE OF OFFICERS

Election of officers will be held at our meeting on November 12th. The slate presented is:

President – Ron Simmering
Vice President – Shirley Waters
Secretary – Mary Peschang
Treasurer – Dean Piatt

Nominations will be accepted from the floor; however, if there are none, a voice vote of affirmation will be accepted.

HERE'S WHAT THOSE HOSTA

NAMES MEAN!

from Great Expectations,
Central Illinois Hosta Society newsletter

Ever wonder about the definitions of all those hosta names being tossed about? Here is a primer of sorts:

clausa – closed or shut

'*Elata*' – tall

'*Erromena*' – vigours

gracillima – very slender

hypoleuca – whitish, pale underneath

laevigata – smooth

minor – small

montana – pertaining to mountains

nigrescens – becoming black

plantaginea – plaintain-like

pycnophylla – thick-leaved

rectifolia – straight, upright leaves

sieboldiana – honors Philip vonSiebold

'*Tardiflora*' – late blooming

'*Undulata*' – wavy margined

'*Ventricosa*' – one side swollen (corolla)

venusta – handsome, charming

yingeri – honors Barry Yinger

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**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 – 25<sup>th</sup> St. Ct., Milan, IL 61244.**



**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.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**NOV 12 – 2 PM, MVHS Mtg, Riverdale,  
Election of Officers  
DEC 1 – Annual Christmas Party**

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OUR NEW MVHS WEB PAGE IS:

<http://www.mvhosta.org>

Many thanks to Sally Stewart, who developed the web page and who also is our new webmaster. Call her if you have any suggestions.

