



Hosta Happenings

August 2013

Vol. 17, Iss. 8

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY

**ANNUAL PICNIC
SUNDAY, SEPT. 15, 2013
3:30 PM**

**VANDER VEER BOTANICAL PARK
HOSTA GLADE
215 W. CENTRAL PARK
DAVENPORT, IOWA**

(If weather isn't cooperating, we can go inside the conservatory)

**PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE, A CHAIR AND YOUR OWN TABLE SERVICE.
THE CLUB WILL FURNISH THE MEAT AND SOFT DRINKS!**

(Remember, there are no tables unless we go inside)

2014 Hosta College

from The Shady Business newsletter

Dates for the 2014 Hosta College, hosted annually by the Great Lakes Region, have been published. It will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 14th and 15th in Piqua, Ohio.

The Class List for 2014 will be available on January 1st, 2014 at the following web link: ihostohio.org/portal/glhc/college.asp. Registration can be done on-line and costs \$55 for non-members of the Great Lakes Region. Payments should be mailed to: Great Lakes Region Hosta Society, P.O. Box 43205, Cincinnati, Ohio 45243.

The registration fee covers the Friday night "hostatality" get together (including an auction), five classes, lunch on Saturday and a gift plant. Did I mention VENDORS!!!

Who is going to sign up to share their garden next year in 2014 for the MVHS garden tour? Perfection is NOT expected; all gardens are enjoyed and appreciated.

MANY THANKS TO FRANC FREEMAN AND SALLY STEWART FOR OPENING THEIR GARDENS FOR OUR 2014 GARDEN WALK.

We had a very nice "happy hour" with several good spreads and dips. Following are a couple:

Cucumber Dip (from Ann DeSalvo)

1 8oz. package cream cheese
2 Tablespoons mayonnaise
½ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
½ teaspoon celery salt
½ teaspoon onion salt
Dash paprika
½ large or 1 small cucumber (I use burpless, if I can) Chopped into small pieces, let drain for a while to let some of liquid drain off.

White Bean Dip from Kay Downing

1 can (15 oz.) cannellini beans, drained and rinsed
2 cloves of garlic (If you really like garlic, you could add another ½ clove.)
2 Tblsps. Fresh lemon juice
1/3 cup olive oil
1/4 cup fresh Italian parsley leaves (lightly chopped)
Salt and pepper to taste

In a food processor place the beans, garlic, lemon juice, oil, and parsley. Pulse until coarsely chopped. (I usually like to make it a bit creamier.) Season with salt and pepper. Put in small, lidded container. Refrigerate. Taste improves if made in advance.

Homemade Pita Chips

6 pitas
4 Tblsps. Olive oil (I use my mister instead.)
1 teaspoon dried oregano
Fresh ground pepper
Salt

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.
Cut each pita in half and then into eight wedges. I separate the wedges so I get 16 from each pita. Arrange the pita wedges two large baking sheets. Brush with olive oil or mist with olive oil. Sprinkle with the oregano, pepper, and salt. Bake for 8 to 12 minutes, or until toasted and golden in color.
Serve pita chips warm or at room temperature beside the bean dip.
Store the chips in a resealable plastic bag.

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Jim Cato has Diffuse Large B Cell Lymphoma and is receiving chemo treatments in Iowa City. He goes to Iowa City every 21 days and stays 5 days each time and this routine is until December. In case you want to send a card his home address is: 12915 25th St. Ct., Milan, IL 61264.

# **Mississippi Valley Hosta Society**

presents

## **Don Dean**

President of the American Hosta Society



**Sunday**

**September 22, 2013**

**2:00pm to 3:30pm**

**Scott County Extension Office  
875 Tanglefoot Lane, Bettendorf, IA**

Don is an avid hybridizer with over 50 plants registered. Don will share his presentation, "My Path", that follows his gardening experience from a blank slate and gardening in full sun to hybridizer of the most popular shade tolerant plant, hosta. He will take us through a photographic journey of gardens from the earliest beginnings of the growing season to frost and finish with a peek at some future plants yet to hit the retail lists. Expect something to relate to in your own experience and/or spark your interest whether you are a beginner or old pro.

**Free Open to anyone**



“Vote early, vote often.”

–Bob Olson

## The American Hosta Society Popularity Poll 2013

Please rank in order of preference from most liked (1)  
to least favorite.

### Favorite Hostas

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) \_\_\_\_\_

### Favorite Minis

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_

**Article ideas for  
*The Hosta Journal:***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City/ State \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Pls mail completed ballot to:** Bob Olson, AHS Popularity Poll, 2840 Glenhurst, St. Louis Park MN 55416

**Or Email to :** [TheHostaJournal@hotmail.com](mailto:TheHostaJournal@hotmail.com)

**Or Vote Online:** [www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org)

**Note:** Only current members of the American Hosta Society may vote.

## Grand convention in Milwaukee was full of Mid-South surprises

By Larry Tucker from Mid-South Hosta Society newsletter

For one who has been to 15 American Hosta Society Conventions, this past June's "Escape to Wisconsin" was both a grand experiment and grand experience.

Compared to past years, the Milwaukee convention was not only a day shorter, it was many dollars cheaper – with little difference in quality. Convention co-chairmen Tom Micheletti and Jack Berta instituted various cost-cutting measures to benefit AHS and convention attendees, including the replacement of tour buses with car-pooling on well-mapped routes. Ten outstanding tour gardens ranged from small city yards to large country estates. Another attraction was Boerner Botanical Gardens, home to one of the society's National Hosta Display Gardens.

In addition to horticultural lectures, meetings, banquets and vending, the silent auction and the national auction earned thousands of dollars for AHS publications and activities. *Hosta* 'Souppass', a 'Lemon Meringue' sport from Dave and Roberta Chopko, drew the highest bid of \$730. The next highest take was \$625 for half of Olga Petryszyn's original 'Memphis Blue'. This year's Dixie Regional Hosta Society gift plants were tissue culture from that same stock.

Olga, who spoke to MSHS in 2011, was honored with the annual Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Award. She singled out 'Brother Stefan' as her distinguished merit hosta. The convention's top honor went to Micheletti, recipient of the 2013 Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award. Tom, a former AHS president, officiated at the dedication of our AHS garden in 2007 and will be addressing MSHS again Oct. 17. In accepting his award, Tom chose 'Thank You', one of his introductions, as the distinguished merit hosta.

The Benedier Medal, as chosen by AHS garden performance judges, went to 'First Frost'. Accepting the award for originator Patricia Scolnik was Bob Solberg, who named, introduced and registered the plant. The creamy edged sport of the intensely blue 'Haleyon' was the American Hosta Growers Association's 2010 Hosta of the Year.

For the second consecutive year, Bill and Janet Ferrell won Best Newsletter award for the Mid-South's *Hosta Hotline*; this time for their March 2012 edition. And, much to my surprise, my "Hey, Little Darling, It's Time to Wake Up" was judged Best Newsletter Article.

Don Dem was elected AHS president. Don, a life member of AHS and recipient of its top award in 2008, for years directed the Online Auction. Most recently, he has been in charge of the new Online Journal. He's also a hybridizer of merit. As you may remember, Don spoke to MSHS in 2011.

Others elected to the AHS board were Executive VP Cindy Tomashek, VP for Judging and Exhibitions Greg Peterson, VP for Genus Hosta Cindy Dentekom, VP for Member Services Rob Martko, VP for Publications Barb Schroeder, VP for Awards and Honors Mike Shadrack, Recording Secretary Marcia Sully, Membership Secretary Sandie Markland, Treasurer Judy Felman and Immediate Past President Doug Beilstein.

The 2014 AHS Convention, scheduled June 11-14 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, will be another great opportunity to see gorgeous gardens, learn more about hostas and meet fabulous friends.

Left: One tour garden had hostas prominently displayed on stone-edged terraces. Right: A clever sign guides hostaphiles through another tour garden.



Handy closeup of 'Lakeside Meadow Ice'



## 1, 2, 3 . . . 53, 54, 55!

### Should we cut those flower scapes?

By Larry Tucker

Arguments have raged for years about whether and when to remove your hosta flower scapes. Some gardeners trim the scapes before they bloom. And some leave the scapes for most of the growing season. If you listen to pros and cons, there are good reasons in both camps. Leaf-lovers want to remove the distraction of blooms while hybridizers want to wait for pollinated seed pods.

I stand between the two, satisfied with a happy medium. I prefer to cut the flower scapes from most of my hostas shortly after they've shown their fascinating form and paraded their colors. That way I get to enjoy the aerial show and avoid the fallout of short-lived and often-sticky flowers, which tend to plaster the leaves in the prime of their lives.

With a few exceptions, hostas in the Mid-South bloom for two to three weeks from May to October. If you're like me, you are of running and let those life-scarping scapes go dormant with foliage at season's end. The bloom period for the greatest number of my hostas is in June. Hence, I

liberate hostas of their scapes prior to Independence Day. Though most of the ones with fragrant flowers put off bloom until later in July or early August. I'm always impressed with earlier-blooming varieties. The flowers that festoon these favorites come in vivid shades from purple to lavender and in varying shapes, from bells to bouquets. Some of my leafy lovelies are unimpaired with only a few spikes while others catch my attention with dozens of sparklers.

Imagine my surprise when I came upon 'Birchwood Parley's Gold', one of my earliest acquisitions. As a cultivar of *nothana*, a species common to Korea and Japan, BDG has always been beautiful bloomer. This year, however, an unusually cool and wet spring swelled my 20-year-old clump to almost 4 feet wide and capped it with an immense shower of flowers. The contrast of lavender over gold was spectacular! I hated to lop the blooms, but it was time to trim.

As I cut, I counted and counted and counted. I've never had a single clump with more than three-dozen bloom scapes, let alone four dozen. To be exact, I counted 55! That compares with 96 removed from a drift of four flattererous 'Ushidate' clumps across the front of our house.

Bob Olson, editor of *The Hosta Journal*, cited 'Birchwood Parley's Gold' years ago as one of the finest flowering hostas because of its dense foliage and multiple scapes well above the leaves. "It makes a great floral centerpiece," he said. Other descendants of *nothana* also rank high in flower power. Notable are 'Blue Comet', 'Golden Tara' and 'Sweet Blue Chicago'.

Once the early summer blooms were history, I waited in anticipation for the arrival and aroma provided by my *plumaginea* descendants, including such favorites as 'Royal Standard', 'Fragrant Bouquet', 'Sign and Cream', 'So Sweet', 'Grassmole' and 'Arcade'. I love the double blooms of my 4½-foot-wide 'Aplandite', but she hasn't bloomed the past two years because I moved her to a protected corner of the patio that doesn't get enough direct sunlight. Next year, I'll give the old girl a coming out party.

Later blooming non-fragrant varieties are equally enjoyable, particularly 'Urajiro Hachijo', a mutation from the Japanese wild that offers purple-streaked flowers on blue-green scapes over wavy-edged green leaves. Her name in English should be "Gorgeous!"

My recommendation on when to cut the scapes echoes Bill Saffery's advice. Don't interrupt the plant's growth cycle by cutting the scapes too early, he says, because hostas perform best when they're allowed to fulfill their purpose of flowering for pollination and setting seed for propagation. Scapes contribute to the plant's photosynthesis, so let them grow, welcome the blooms, wait for the plant set a few seed pods. *Then* cut the stalks. That way you and the bees can enjoy the floral show. And, once you remove the scapes, your hosta can move on to its next phase, directing energy toward root growth.



The list of 55 scapes cut from a shower of flowers over 'Birchwood Parley's Gold'

## YOU CAN MAKE MORE PLANTS BY DIVIDING YOUR PERENNIALS

from Quad City Times Newspaper and  
Iowa State University Extension

Herbaceous perennials - as opposed to "woody" kinds - are commonly divided for three reasons: to control size, to rejuvenate plants and to make more plants.

The best time to divide perennials varies with the different plant species. Here are guidelines from Iowa State University Extension & Outreach.

~~**ASTER** (Aster species) - Divide every 2 or 3 years in spring.

~~**ASTILBE** (Astilbe species) - Divide every 3 or 4 years in spring.

~~**BABY'S BREATH** (*Gypsophila paniculata*) - Division is difficult. Carefully divide in spring or late summer/early fall.

~~**BASKET-OF GOLD** (*Aurinia saxatilis*) - Divide in late summer/early fall. Basket-of-gold also can be propagated by stem cuttings in spring or late summer.

~~**BEE BALM** (*Monarda didyma*) - Divide every 2 or 3 years in spring.

~~**BLANKET FLOWER** (*Gaillardia x grandiflora*)  
Divide in spring.

~~**BLAZING STAR** (*Liatris* species) - Divide in spring.

~~**BLEEDING HEART** - Best done in spring, but also can be Divided in late summer/early fall.

~~**BUTTERFLY WEED** (*Asclepias tuberosa*)  
A taproot makes division difficult. However, butterfly weed is easily propagated by seeds.

~~**CHRYSANTHEMUM** (*Chrysanthemum x morifolium*) - Divide mums every 2 or 3 years in spring.

~~**COLUMBINE** (*Aquilegia* species) - Many species and varieties are short-lived. Division is difficult, carefully divide in late summer.

~~**CORAL BELLS** (*Heuchera* species) - Divide in spring or late summer/early fall.

~~**COREOPSIS** (*Coreopsis* species) - Divide in spring or late summer/early fall.

~~**CORNFLOWER** (*Centaurea* species) - Requires division every 2 or 3 years in spring.

~~**DAYLILY** (*Hemerocallis* species) - Divide in spring or late summer/early fall.

~~**DELPHINIUM** (*Delphinium* species) - Usually short-lived, division is seldom necessary.

~~**EPIMEDIUM** - A fall division. If you absolutely must dig and divide, make sure to dig a large clump with the largest rootball you can keep intact. Then replant or pot up ASAP and make sure it is watered well.

~~**FALSE INDIGO** (*Baptisia australis*) - Division is difficult because of its long taproot. Plants can be started from seed.

~~**HARDY GERANIUM** (*Geranium* species) Divide in spring or late summer/early fall.

~~**HOSTA** (*Hosta* species) - Plants can be left undisturbed for years. If additional plants are desired, divide clumps in spring or late summer/early fall.

~~**IRIS, BEARDED** (*Iris* hybrids) - Divide every 3 to 5 years in July or August.

~~**IRIS, SIBERIAN** (*Iris sibirica*) - Divide after blooming in early summer.

~~**LILY OF THE VALLEY** (*Convallaria majalis*)  
A rapidly spreading ground-cover. Divide in spring.

~~**LUNGWORT** (*Pulmonaria* species) Divide in spring after plants have flowered.

~~**OBEDIENT PLANT** (*Physostegia virginiana*)  
Plants spread rapidly. Divide plants every 2 or 3 years in spring.

~~**ORIENTAL POPPY** (*Papaver orientale*) Divide when plants die back in mid to late summer.

~~**ORNAMENTAL GRASSES** - Spring is the best time to divide ornamental grasses. Also can be divided in late summer/early fall.

~~**PEONY** (*Paeonia* hybrids) - Peonies are long-lived and can be left undisturbed for many years. If additional plants are desired, divide clumps in September. (Side note from editor - peonies do not like to be disturbed. It will take several years to come back.)

~~**PERENNIAL SALVIA** (*Salvia* hybrids) - Divide plants in spring.

~~**PHLOX, GARDEN** (*Phlox paniculata*) Divide every 3 or 4 years in spring or late summer/early fall.

~~**PURPLE CONEFLOWER** (*Echinacea purpurea*) - Divide every 3 or 4 years in spring.

~~**SHASTA DAISY** (*Leucanthemum x superbum*)  
Tends to be short-lived. Divide plants in spring.

~~**SPEEDWELL** (*Veronica* species) - Divide in spring or late summer/early fall.

~~**SPIDERWORT** (*Tradescantia virginiana*) - Spiderworts are rapidly spreading plants. Divide every 2 or 3 years in spring.

~~**STONECROP** (*Sedum* species) - Divide in spring.

~~**YARROW** (*Achillea* species) - Many of the yarrows spread rapidly. Divide every 2 or 3 years in spring.

**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.

Mississippi Valley Hosta Society  
909 Mississippi Blvd.  
Bettendorf, Iowa

**WHAT'S HAPPENING!!**

**Sept 15** - MVHS Picnic, VV

**Sept 22** - Educational Series, Don Dean IOWA Ext. Ofc.

**Oct 13** - 6 PM - MVHS Meeting, Riverdale Fire Station

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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.**

**Jim's email is [pussbug@aol.com](mailto:pussbug@aol.com).**