



March 2007

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Hosta Happenings

M.V.H.S. MEETING

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2007

6:00 PM

**RIVERDALE FIRE STATION
RIVERDALE, IOWA**

(across from ALCOA)



**PROGRAM: JESSICA ARMENTROUT of
QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER
will talk on the Flora of Finland**

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 Dean Piatt, 2910 Telegraph Rd., Davenport, Iowa 52804.

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### **HOSTA FINDER'S ARE HERE!!!**

The 2007 Hosta Finders are now available. Dean Piatt, Treasurer, has them on hand and is taking orders. The cost this year is \$12 (which is the club's cost) and Dean will have them at the March meeting for pick up; however, if you want it mailed, please add \$2 to cover mailing costs.

Dean's email is 2910 Telegraph Rd., Davenport, Iowa 52804 or his telephone number is 563-323-8184/ Send him your check (made payable to MVHS).

The Hosta Finder is a wonderful reference and is a comparison of prices of hostas offered from approximately 50 growers.

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NEWS UPDATE

Hosta Registry Now On Line

from COHS Happenings Newsletter

Kevin Walek and Bobby Baxter have developed an invaluable resource and tool for diehard hosta enthusiasts. It is a searchable, online data base of the official registry records of the International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for the genus Hosta. This service is provided through the AHS. Currently, you can search by Cultivar Name, Hybridizer, Leaf Color, Leaf Characteristics and Parentage. Each search offers respective parameters to help target your search. The site also offers digital files of all of the Hosta Registration Publications through 2005. More features will be added as time and funds allow, including historical registration photos/drawings, the ability to complete hosta registrations on line, leaf show classification information, pictures of mature hosta clumps and individual leaves. Give this data base driven site a try at <http://www.HostaRegistrar.org>.



A toddler was found chewing on a slug. After the initial surge of disgust, the parent said, "Well...what does it taste like?" "Worms," was the reply!

UNWRITTEN RULES OF GARDENING

By David Hobson .. taken from Hosta & Friends
Garden Club newsletter

The best way to garden is to garden is to put on a wide-brimmed straw hat and some old clothes. And with a hoe in one hand and a cold drink in the other, tell somebody else where to dig.

Compost is best aged a little like fine wine. I mean, would you prefer to drink a nice '97, or something that was made last Thursday.

When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.

A week is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.

Spring does not arrive until the ice is out of the compost heap. Winter does not arrive until the ice is IN the compost. Until then, all bets are off.

Any self respecting rock will break at least one shovel before accepting its new home.

A good compost pile should get hot enough to poach an egg, but not so hot it would cook a lobster.

Gardening requires a lot of water, most of it in the form of perspiration.

AHS NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

- 2008 St. Louis, MO – June 11-14
- 2009 Lansing, MI – June 24-27
- 2010 Bloomington – Minnesota Hosta Soc.
- 2011 Boston Area – New Eng Hosta Soc.

February 11, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Our first meeting of the New Year started with a potluck dinner at the Riverdale Fire Station. President Ron Simmering called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the November 12, 2006 meeting were read and approved.

Dean Piatt brought in the plaque in memory of DeEtta Montgomery. Arrangements will be made to have the plaque mounted on a designated rock at the Hosta Glade

Joyce McDonald with the Davenport Horticulture Society asked the club if we could donate 10-15 hostas for development of their Heritage Garden at Duck Creek Park. The motion was made to approve this request and was passed.

Carolyn reminded everyone to complete the volunteer forms. They need to be turned in for the upcoming Hosta Convention. She also recommended members entering the leaf show. We would have a great showing if we all brought a leaf. Members would receive assistance cleaning the leaves. Carolyn advised Don Dean will be the Saturday night speaker at the convention. Lastly, please consider donating a hosta for the convention.

Elizabeth Jansen asked members if they could contact their gardening source or nursery to donate auction plants to the convention.

Cheryl Hird asked for a volunteer for a placement chair for the leaf show He/She would work on Thursday and Friday and be responsible for placing the leaves on the tables. Franc Freeman volunteered to serve. Ron said in order for our convention to be recognized and accredited all chair heads must be members of the American Hosta Association.

Members have until April 1st to place their orders for the club hosta plants which will be ordered from Bob Solberg. Please give your order to Shirley Waters.

The Hosta Glade at Vanderveer Park received a \$1800 donation from the Midwest Regional Convention which will be used for new labels. Volunteers at VanderVeer are making the labels and they said they didn't need any assistance; however, we will need assistance in the placement of the labels.

2007 dues are due. Checks for \$7 may be mailed to Dean Piatt.

If you don't have a nametag let Dean know and a new one will be made.

The meeting was adjourned and we enjoyed a presentation on shade plants by Jackie Arvidson.

Mary Peschang
Secretary

DON'T FORGET—APRIL 14 IS FLUFF AND BUFF AT VANDERVEER PARK HOSTA GLADE

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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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 \$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.

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

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEB SITE: mvhosta.org!