



Hosta Happenings

April 2009

Vol. 13, Iss. 5

We have postponed this event because the hostas are late emerging and difficult to identify!!!

ANNUAL HOSTA DIG

(for plants for our Plant Sale)

VanderVeer Park Hosta Glade

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2009

10:00 A.M.

**We'll need diggers, runners, potters and labelers -- so there is a job for everyone!!!
Bring your gloves!!!**

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We will be putting out the name tags on Monday, May 11th, 9 AM



We now have the ability to put the Mississippi Valley Hosta Society logo on your shirt! To place an order, please contact Karen Wulf at wulfsden@netins.net or 563- 843-2080.

Four sizes of the logo are available and you must provide your own shirt.

<u>SIZE</u>	<u>COST*</u>
2 x 3	\$8.00
• 3 x 4	\$11.00
• 4 x 5	\$14.00
• 6 x 8 ½.	\$20.00

- If the pocket or other part of the shirt must be removed to put on the design there will be additional costs. Minimum of \$5.00
- If you would want just a patch the cost would be the same. The only patches available would be the 2x3 and the 3x4 sizes
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BUS Trip!!!!

Sunday, July 12th

Offered through: **Mississippi Valley Hosta Society (M V H S)**

Bus Departs: 8:30 am, Hobby Lobby lot

2121 Kimberly Rd, Bettendorf, IA

Bus Returns: 6:30 pm (approx)

To: Horticulture Arboretum at ICC, East Peoria

AHS (Hosta) Display Garden, Conifers, All American Selections Garden, etc...

Private Home Garden tour in East Peoria

Lunch: Ludy's Kikapoo Creek Saloon, Edwards, (on your own)

Luthy Botanical Gardens – Peoria, plus Greenview Nursery

(conservatory admission included)

Plan on:

Treats upon entering the bus.. rolls/fruit/drink

Games aboard the bus – with prizes

Snacks and drinks on the return trip home

Cost - \$35 per person.. make checks payable to: M V H S

Send check to: Dean Piatt, 2910 Telegraph Rd, Davenport, IA 52804

(no refunds after June 30th)

----- Bus to: Horticultural Arboretum East Peoria -----

Name(s) _____, _____

Address: _____, _____ Phone _____

Indicate if special accommodations are necessary: _____

**MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY
ANNUAL
HOSTA SALE**

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2009

9 AM - MEMBERR'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 your 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 on sale date and have them named, if possible. We will price them. If you are unable to get them there on Sunday, call Carolyn, 355-6973, or Sally, 359-3752, to make other arrangements.

LIGHT by Bob Solberg APRIL 2009

Hostas are shade plants. Hostas like sun. There is a raging controversy in hostadom, and I must admit that I frequently flip-flop from side to side. Often the focus is on garden location rather than what hostas need to grow best. From my point of view, hostas grow best in a nursery not a garden anyway! The reality is that hostas like light but do not perform well in hot sun. Like many forest understory trees, like dogwoods and redbuds, hostas in nature are shade plants but in a garden setting with extra care, they flourish in much more sunny locations. Too much of a good thing however, will result in leaves with sun scorched surfaces and burned margins.

So how do you determine how much light is the right amount of light? Well, where do you live? Yes, latitude matters. While day length in summer is longer in the Northern latitudes, the light intensity never approaches that in the sunny South. Less intensity means "cooler" light. If you live in Washington state, Minnesota, Michigan, New York or Massachusetts, hostas can be happy in almost full sun. If you live in the South or even parts of the Midwest, afternoon sun may prove too hot for them. In addition, leaf temperature is determined more by afternoon high temperatures than light intensity. Air temperatures over 95 degrees and direct sunlight will burn hosta leaves in 30 minutes or less. Temperatures over 100 degrees can cause hosta leaves to "cook" and you can even smell them fry!

In the garden it is the angle of the sun that is important. South-facing slopes capture much more sun than north-facing slopes because a south slope is almost perpendicular to the sun's rays. North slopes are parallel to the sun's rays and are bathed in cool light while south slopes are often heat sinks. Morning light is cool light mostly because of high humidity and cool air temperatures. Afternoon sun can often be too intense. Light may cause the leaves to heat up but it is desiccation that causes the damage. Like I have said before, hostas are plant balloons filled with water. When the leaves reach a certain point, they desiccate, they burn and the damage is permanent.

Desiccation in cooler conditions will just result in reversible wilting but the combination of lack of water and too much heat results in burned leaf margins or scorching of leaf surfaces. It's obvious then that if you grow your hostas in more light, and heat, then you must supply them with more water to help prevent desiccation.

If you are going to give your hostas more light and more water, you must give them more fertilizer too.

Hostas can photosynthesize at a high rate with more light if enough water and nutrients are also supplied. Nurseries generally grow their hostas in "too much" light but supply "too much" water and fertilizer also so that the rate of growth is increased.

Increased amounts of light will change the shape and form of any hosta. Plant the same hosta in both 2 hours and 4 hours of direct sunlight. The latter will have more leaves, but they will be smaller and more narrow. It will produce more divisions but the clump will be shorter and more compact. It may bloom more consistently. The "sunny" hosta may appear more "juvenile" and produce more flushes of leaves in a crowded clump while the "shady" hosta may produce those huge "mature", rounded leaves on long petioles that win leaf shows.

This may be a good time to talk about the perfectly grown hosta. Every hosta we grow has its own personality, its own habits. Like our children we saddle each of them with our own expectations and set our goals for their future. We expect more from some than for others, especially the ones we paid a handsome sum for. In leaf show we envision the perfect leaf for each cultivar. In the garden it is the entire clump we envision.

It is the job of the gardener, like a good parent, to create the right environment so that our hostas will succeed and meet our goals. Site selection, how much light, is determined on what we want the plant to look like. In high light, hostas will form dense shrub like mounds. Their leaves will narrow and extenuate every ruffle and pucker. They will put on a wonderful show of flowers. In more shade, however, the leaves will expand to their fullest and the petioles will stretch. Clumps will become more upright and elegant, exhibiting each leaf individually. Flowers may not come at all, a blessing to gardeners that remove them as soon as they appear. In sun or shade they make look like different hostas to the untrained eye, each perfection to its caretaker's eye.

But wait, it is never that easy. All hostas do not have the same sensitivities to light. Some enjoy some hot sun while others scorch and burn. Not all hostas have the same heat tolerance or fondness for sun bathing. Even though hostas are becoming more and more complex genetically with each new generation of seedlings hybridized, there are some generalizations that seem to still work.

Hosta children of *H. plantaginea* generally enjoy heat. In fact in some parts of the North, and especially the United Kingdom, fragrant flowered hostas underachieve. While they do very well in heat and humidity they do require ample rains in August to bloom well. They are great hostas for the South especially coastal regions.

Blue hostas are thought to be shade hostas. *H. sieboldiana* and 'Tokudama', the source of the white wax that creates the blue color, both like cool moist sites. Some morning sun in the South, more light way up North. Blue hosta will scorch, that is, the upper surface of the leaf will become yellow or even brown where leaf temperatures have gotten too high because of hot direct sunlight. It is the white wax that that is supposed to reflect that heat but turn up the heat too much and the wax melts and the leaf burns.

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LIGHT by Bob Solberg, continued APRIL 2009

Ironically, many gardeners like to grow their blue hostas in as much light as they dare because the increased light allows increased photosynthesis and then increased wax production. Extra wax usually means bluer hostas and if the extra light increases juvenility then the increased flushes of leaves will make the hosta bluer longer.

Variiegated hostas have their own set of problems. White tissue tends to desiccate faster than green tissue. White margins burn easily and white centers melt away. White centered hostas that need more cool light to grow well because of their lack of chlorophyll, are much more successful in the North than in the hotter South. Wide-margined tetraploid hostas ironically also need more cool light because of their slower growth rate and often dwindle away in shady gardens.

We can talk about light all day long but in reality the only thing we can adjust is the amount of shade. In most gardens shade comes from structures and trees. Structures generally give a consistent deep shade. This is good because it tends to be very cool shade but bade because it often too low light. Short of a bulldozer little can be done to adjust this type of shade so we just work around it.

The rules are simple. No hostas on the south side, lots of hostas on the north side. The east side, morning is probably okay but the baking west side may be the most dangerous.

Trees are more complicated. First, they vary from species to species in the amount of light that they allow to pass through. Pines allow filtered light constantly, beech trees provide dark, heavy shade. Secondly, the sun dances among the trees as it journeys across the sky. Tree shadows move as the sun moves. Hopefully, this provides periods of cool shade and periods of cool sun.

Beware, in spring these patterns do not matter nearly as much as they do in July. Finally, trees rob your hostas of water. Shade can often be cool but dry. While wilting is not as permanent as burning, it is equally hard on your hostas and can lead to whole host of other problems. I will save that for another time.

So finally, what is the ideal amount of light for your hostas? Imagine that your garden is an open field and a huge piece of shade cloth will be the only thing between your hostas and the afternoon sun. Hostas ideally want consistent light but somewhat reduced from what comes straight from the sun. Generally, I would suggest 30% shade cloth north of Interstate 80, 50% between I-80 and the Mason-Dixon Line, and 70% in the South. Now adjust for elevation, slope orientation, type of trees, and extreme summer high temperatures. Factor in how you want your hosta leaves clumps to look and there you have it!

BENEDICT AWARDS

from THE HOSTA JOURNAL

The first Benedict Medal will be given by the American Hosta Society for 2009 and will be awarded to a hosta of exceptional merit based upon garden performance. The winner will be chosen by the Benedict Garden Performance Award Judges. Hostas in contention are:

- H. 'Sagae'
- H. 'Blue Mouse Ears'
- H. 'Striptease'
- H. 'Gold Standard'
- H. 'Halcyon'
- H. 'Regal Splendor'
- H. 'June'
- H. 'Whirlwind'
- H. 'Stained Glass'
- H. 'Krossa Regal'

FLUFF AND BUFF A BIG SUCCESS

Many thanks to the following people who came on April 18 to Fluff and Buff of the VanderVeer Hosta Glade:

Lois Beasley, Liz Jansen & helper John, Ann DeSalvo, Linda Port, Vi & Dennis Strobbe, Terry & Robert McAnaally, Sandy Fedler, Karen Wulf, Wayne Proeger, Karen & Dean Stotz, MaryAnn Hentrich. Jane Smay, Sally Stewart, Shirley Waters, Teri & Ron Simmering, Donna & Dean Piatt and Carolyn Hamilton. (Hope I haven't missed anyone!)

We only had to weed the gardens this year, as a lot of the hard work of edging and mulching will be done by a St. Ambrose student and the park Staff (Thank you to them! We didn't have to do it!)

The hostas are a little slow in emerging again this year -- must be all of the cool spring weather we have been having. So, we have to postpone our hosta dig for plant sale hostas to MAY 16!!!!

Thanks also to Shirley Waters and Karen Wulf for feeding the troupes!!!

Carolyn

Events that might interest the Hosta Club Members - 2009

Thanks to Ann DeSalvo for compiling this list

Plant Sales

- May 2 VanderVeer Botanical Park 10:00-4:00
May 3 Friends of Riverside Park 3400 5th Ave. Moline 12pm-3 pm
May 6-10 Big Brothers, Big Sisters NW Bank Parking Lot Davenport Preorder on line www.bbbsmv.org
May 9 Silvis Garden Club McGehee Center 4th Ave and 12th St. Silvis 9am-12pm
Scott County Master Gardeners Tanglefoot Rd Bettendorf 9am-12pm
Davenport Horticulture Duck Creek Lodge Davenport
Quad City Botanical Center Moline 8am-4pm
Rock Island Master Gardeners 321 W 2nd Ave Milan, IL
May 31 Mississippi Valley Hosta Club Duck Creek Park Shelter # 2 10am-2pm

Bus Trips

- May 14 Quad City Botanical call 309-794-0991 for info Chicago area \$95.00
May 16 Orchid Society Chicago area orchid growers \$45.00
June 6 Silvis Garden Club Song Sparrow/Olbrich/ Flower Factory WI \$53.00
Dean Wagner, 36 Deer Ct. Geneseo, IL 61254
July 12 MV Hosta Club \$35.00 Peoria Area Dean Platt 2910 Telegraph Rd., Davenport, IA 52804

Garden Tours Etc.

- June 6 and June 9 Bruce more in Bloom Cedar Rapids 6:00 pm
June 13 Bruce more in Bloom Cedar Rapids 9:30 am 319-362-7375 for reservations
June 19 VanderVeer Garden Design Tour 4:00-7:00 pm \$25.00
June 20 VanderVeer Garden Design Tour 1:00am-4:00pm \$25.00
June 20 Silvis Garden Club Garden Walk and Plant Sale

Activities

- May 2 Freight House Farmers Market Indoor/ Outdoor opens 8am-1pm every
Saturday now also every Tuesday 3pm-6pm through Oct
May Quad City Fruit & Vegetable Growers Assoc.
East Moline Skate City Parking Lot Wed & Sat 8am-noon
Moline Trinity Hospital 7th st & John Deer Rd Sat 8am-noon
Milan Old Hy-Vee Parking Lot 900 W 4th Wed. 2:30pm-5:30 pm
May 31 Friends of VanderVeer "Rare Affair" Fund raiser for the park
June 5 and 6 Rhubarb Festival Aldeo, IL
August 22 Bruce more Garden & Art Show 9am-4pm 319-362-737
September 26 Gourd Festival at Dallas & Roxie DeShane farm info at wvr@frontiernet.net

Classes

Rock Island Co. Extension & Master Gardeners

- May 5 Preparing your Soil 6:00pm Riverside Park
May 12 Container Cultivation 6:00 pm Extension Office Milan
May 19 Raised Bed Option 6:00 pm Riverside Park
May 26 Herb Gardening 6:00 pm Riverside Park
June 2 Compost Made Easy 6:00 pm Riverside Park
June 9 Going Green in the Lawn & Garden 6:00pm Riverside Park
June 16 Garden Art 6:00 pm Extension Office Milan
June 23 Enjoying the Harvest Preservation Ideas 6:00 pm Extension
June 30 Garden Photography and Journaling 6:00 pm Riverside Park
July 7 Garden Tour to be announced
August 18 Putting the Garden to Bed 6:00 pm Riverside Park

Classes (contd)

VanderVeer Botanical Park register through Scott Community College

Call 563 441-4100 or call Paula Witt at VVBP for more information.

- May 5 Vermi (Worm) Composting at Home 6:30-8:30 pm \$35.00 family of 4
Learn about worm composting and make a bin to take home #XHGGA-2068-SGR01
- May 7 Potting Party 6:30-8:00 pm Bring your own pot or purchase one \$5.00 plus
materials Plants will be available for purchase. Class # XHGGA-2047-SGR01
- May 9 Potting Party 10:00-11:30 Same as above #XHGGA-2047-SGR02
- May 16 Spring Wildflower Day Trip Road trip to Rochester Cemetery \$30.00
Depart VVBP at 8:30 am #XHGGA-2072-SGR01
- May 23 Rain Gardens 1:00-2:00 pm \$20.00 Take home a native prairie plant
#XHGGA-2067-SGR01 meet at rain garden by the fountain
- May 30 Mysterious Mushrooms 10:00-11:00 \$22.00 Meet at Stone Garage
#XHGGA-2069-SGR01
- July 11 Where the Wild Fern Grows 8:00-11:30 am \$30.00
Road trip to WildCat Den State Park
#XHGGA-2073-SGR01
- July 16 Conifer Collection 8:30-11:30 am \$30.00
Road trip to Bickelhaupt Arboretum
#XHGGA-2074-=-SGR01
- July 18 Foraging Basics for Wild Edible Plants 10:00-11:00am \$22.00
Stone Garage VVBP
#XHGGA-2071-SGR01
- August 13 Vermi Composting At Home 6:30-8:30 pm
Same info as the May 5 class
- August 20 Dried Floral Wreath Workshop 6:30-8:30 \$35.00
VVBP Stone Garage bring pruners & glove #XHGGA-2070-SGR01
- August 8 **Alice in Wonderland Tea Party** Duck Creek Lodge 2:00-4:00
Sponsored by Friends of VanderVeer.
Call VVBP for details for an opportunity to make a teapot or cup and saucer
at The Mad Potter on Utica Ridge Rd at a cost of \$20.00
Donate it to the Friends to be entered in contest for best use of theme ,
Wackiest and Peoples choice award. Winning pottery will be on display
at The conservatory from Aug 9- Sept 13

Bickelhaupt Arboretum Calendar Clinton, IA 563-242-4771

- April 25 9:00-10:00 Blooms in a Purse \$15.00 #63415
- May 30 9:00-10:00 Kitchen Gardens \$10.00 #66002
- August 8 Herb Faire 9:00-12:00 \$10.00 #65866
- December 5 9:00-10:00 Make your Own Wreath

Quad City Botanical Center

- April 26 Water Gardening 2:00 pm
- May 17 Edible Flowers 2:00 pm
- June 20 Hosta Club leaf show and presentation on shade gardening 12:00
- June 21 Gardening with Hostas

AHS DUES: The American Hosta Society offers participation in all national activities, including a convention, 3 issues of "The Hosta Journal", and a directory. They also have a web page - www.hosta.org. Dues are \$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 AHS and send to the Membership Secretary, Sandie Markland, 8702 Pinnacle Rock Ct., Lorton, VA 22079.

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**Midwest Regional Hosta Society Dues** are \$10/yr. Send your check to: Peter Postlewaite, Treasurer, 21172 Andover Rd., Kildeer, IL 60047.

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MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY DUES are \$7/YR. Please make your check payable to MVHS and send to Dean Piatt, Treasurer, 2910 Telegraph Rd., Davenport, IA 52804. We offer 8 newsletters a year, reduced prices on hosta offerings, garden walks, first opportunity to buy plants at our annual hosta and plant sale and many other good opportunities.

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

MAY 3 - 1PM - Hosta Potting Party,
Carolyn's House

MAY 11 - Name Tag Placing, VV, 9 AM

May 16 - HOSTA DIG, VV, 10 AM

See enclosed list for sales and events!!!!

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.](http://www.midwesthostasociety.org)

[midwesthostasociety.org](http://www.midwesthostasociety.org)

Hosta Library - <http://www.hostalibrary.org>

Hosta Forum - questions/answers - [http://](http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/hosta)

forums.gardenweb.com/forums/hosta

Mini Hosta Forum - [http://](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/minihosta)

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 DEAN PIATT,  
2910 TELEGRAPH RD., DAVENPORT, IA  
52804.** His email is: [dpiatt@mvhosta.org](mailto:dpiatt@mvhosta.org)

**2009 DUES ARE DUE!**