



# Hosta Happenings

June 2009

Vol. 13, Iss. 5

## **CORRECTION - CAROLYN'S GOOF**

### **M.V.H.S. GARDEN WALK JUNE 28, 2009 2:00 P.M.**

Start at Pat and Bill Wohlford's home,  
5102 Crow Creek Rd., Bettendorf

Then go to Sally and Franc Freeman's home,  
20599 Utica Ridge Rd., Davenport  
(from 53rd St., turn north on Utica Ridge Rd.-  
Wells Fargo Bank on one corner, Hy-Vee on other  
go over I-80 and it's about 1 more mile on the right)

STILL BRING AN HORS D'OEURVE TO SHARE, CHAIR, LIBATION!

**ALSO, DEAN PIATT NEEDS TO KNOW BY FRIDAY, JUNE 12  
IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO GO ON THE BUS RIDE.  
IF WE DON'T GET ENOUGH PEOPLE, WE'LL HAVE TO CANCEL  
THE BUS TRIP!!!!!!**

# **BUS Trip!!!!**

## **Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>**

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 30<sup>th</sup>)

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

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate if special accommodations are necessary: \_\_\_\_\_

**MARY CHASTAIN'S NURSERY**  
**HAS A NEW OWNER!!!**

I just received an email from Don Dean about Mary Chastain's Nursery. Many of you own a "Lakeside" hosta or two and thought this would be of interest:

"Rummers are now clarified with this quote from the new owner of Mary Chastain's nursery, "Hi Don, I am the one who bought Mary's Nursery. I also bought the name and have incorporated and will continue as Lakeside Acres. There will be many new Lakeside plants in the future. Mary had very many unregistered seedlings some of them spectacular. If you have any questions feel free to contact me anytime. Thanks, Rob."

Carolyn

**PLANT SALE A BIG SUCCESS!!**

**Many thanks** to all of the people who came on Sunday, May 31, to help with the plant sale and to our members who came to buy some of our nice plants.

We had another great sale - grossing approximately \$4700!! So many members brought some nice plants to sell and we appreciate everyone's efforts and help. We couldn't do it without your support! A special thank you to Freeman Tree Farm who donated several plants also. We also signed up 8 new members - many thanks to Liz Jansen who signed up 5 of those 8!!!!

We have a few newer variety plants that did not sell and we will have those available for sale at the garden walk and fall picnic. H. 'Red Dragon' with red petioles and H. 'Ebony Towers', a purple petiole plant, will be there!!!

*Carolyn and Sally*

**SUN TOLERANT HOSTAS**

from Hornbaker's Hosta Highlights

A rule of thumb is: Gold or variagated hostas can tolerate more sun than green hostas, which can tolerate more sun than blue hostas. Blue hostas have the best coloration in more heavily shaded areas of the garden. The hostas listed below have held up well in "Full Sun" (four hours + afternoon sun), without excessive TLC. Please take this list as helpful, but not factual, as hostas generally are shade loving.

Abba Dabba Do  
Aphrodite  
Blue Angel  
Captain Kirk  
Fried Bananas  
Gold Standard  
Golden Tiara  
Guacamole  
Inniswood  
Lady Isobel Barnett  
Minutman  
Patriot  
Royal Standard  
Shade Fanfare  
Sum and Substance  
Sundance  
*undulata*  
Wide Brim

Allan P. McConnell  
August Moon  
Blue Mammoth  
Fragrant Bouquet  
Fried Green Tomatoes  
Golden Anniversary  
Great Expectations  
Hadspen Blue  
Invincible  
*lancifolia*  
*nigrescens*  
*plantaginea*  
Sagae  
So Sweet  
Sum It Up  
Sun Power  
Vanilla Cream  
Zounds

Alex Summers  
Blond Elf  
Blue Umbrellas  
Francee  
Gold Drop  
Golden Prayers  
Green Sheen  
Halcyon  
Krossa Regal  
Lemon Lime  
On Stage  
Regal Splendor  
September Sun  
Sugar and Cream  
Summer Fragrance  
Treasure  
Whirlwind

## **SATURDAY, JUNE 20th IS A BUSY DAY!!!!**

On Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, there will be a HOSTA LEAF DISPLAY at the QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER in Rock Island.

We will be showing pictures of hostas and members can answer questions. Don Musak will do a presentation on shade gardening.

Please plan on helping to promote the society and membership to our club. We need people to volunteer to help and also we will need hosta leaves, presented in water and named.

This opportunity to spread the word is a great chance to let it be known we are here for new members. Contact Shirley Waters @ 797-5379 or [waters1@mchsi.com](mailto:waters1@mchsi.com).

If you have some great hosta pictures we sure could use them.

This will begin at 2:00 PM and probably go to 5:00 PM. If you can volunteer for any length of time it would be appreciated.

### **VANDERVEER GARDEN DISPLAY TOUR**

The VanderVeer Garden Display Tour will also be held on June 19 and 20. Three of our members' gardens will be on the tour - Barbara Polios, Sally Stewart and Pat Wohlford.

Hours of the garden walk are:

Friday, June 19 - 4-7 PM

Saturday, June 20 - 10 AM - 4 PM

The cost is \$25 and participants need to go to VanderVeer Park in order to buy a ticket, which includes an educational packet and map. Participants will also be given a yellow wrist band which will get them admission to each garden and will also admit them to a talk given by Roy Diblik.

Roy's talks will be held at the Deere-Wiman garage at the following times:

Friday, June 19 - 7:30 PM

Saturday, June 20 - 11:00 AM, 1:30 PM

## **BILL'S "HIDDEN POT" TRICK**

by Ray Rodgers, Central IL Hosta Society

I recently came across an article authored by Bill Jarvis, a Houston, TX hobbyist/hybridizer of daylilies.

Bill's use of plastic nursery pots is unlike any I can remember hearing of. Altho the writing specifically pertained to daylilies, the same basic principles could apply to other plants, including hostas.

He purchased a quantity of 5-gallon black plastic pots, cut off the bottom 2/3 of each, which left a circular plastic ring about 4-5 inches deep. He then placed a ring around each individual clump of daylilies, sinking it about half-way into the dirt. When finished, the daylilies looked like they were growing in pots which had been sunk in the ground.

I'm guessing most hosta gardeners wouldn't like this appearance, but with a layer of mulch outside the rings, combined with seasonal foliage maturation, the rings would virtually disappear.

Bill's stated advantages include:

--When watering daylilies, water would run down the lower places in the bed resulting in uneven distribution. The ring around the plant now prevents the water from leaving the area where the roots are concentrated. *Note: Even after a good rain, the root zone under some hostas' foliage often remains dry.*

--*In the spring, Bill liked to give his lilies a boost by applying a tea made from fish emulsion and other organic nutrients. This liquid is applied to the roots of each clump individually and if applied too fast, would drain away from the plant before it could sink into the soil. He now can just dump in the required amount quickly and go on to the next plant. The ring keeps the formula from draining away and it sinks right down to the roots. Note: Haven't we all experienced this dilemma?*

--According to Bill, when a daylily becomes infected by crown rot, completely soaking the roots with the systemic fungicide Subdue is necessary to save the plant. The ring allows him to quickly make sure the roots get completely drenched.

--The final benefit is to keep the mulch from getting too close to the plant. *Note: Keeping mulch away from the base of hostas helps to prevent Crown Rot and/or Petiole Rot.*

If not receptive to purchasing 5-gallon pots, rings cut from smaller pots can be used for small and mini hostas.

For those of you who are willing to try this technique on just a few plants, I suggest first trying this on hostas that are believed to need just a little extra attention to grow well.

A number of gardeners save plastic nursery pots for various reasons and would likely be happy to share.

**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](http://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!**

- June 20 - QC Botanical Ctr
- June 19-20 -VanderVeer Garden Design Tour
- June 28 - MVHS Garden Walk
- July 12 - MVHS Bus Trip to Peoria

Visit our MVHS Web Site: **[mvhosta.org](http://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 DEAN PIATT,  
2910 TELEGRAPH RD., DAVENPORT, IA  
52804.** His email is: [dpiatt@mvhosta.org](mailto:dpiatt@mvhosta.org)