



Hosta Happenings

March 2011

Vol. 15, Iss 2

M.V.H.S. MEETING

**SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2011
2:00 PM**

**RIVERDALE FIRE STATION
(across from ALCOA)**

**PROGRAM:
STEVE FELT**

**FORESTER,
ILLINOIS DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Will talk on **SOIL****



MVHS Meeting Minutes February 13, 2011

The meeting began with a smorgasbord of marvelous munchies, which were enjoyed by all, with many leftovers to share and take home! After we were all satiated, the business side of our gathering began.

Carolyn brought the meeting to order and the November 14th meeting minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. She informed us an internal audit was completed on the 2010 Treasurer's books and everything was found to be in order. Many thanks to Ann DeSalvo and Shirley Waters.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Cato gave a short financial report and the membership voted and accepted. Jim informed of the interest accrued on two CDs. He also has purchased 10 Hosta Finders which are for sale to members. If interested, please contact Jim. They are going fast!!! Cost: \$14.00 -- \$16.00 if mailed to you.

There is a new process for submitting bills for reimbursement. All bills must be submitted to Carolyn Hamilton, President, first for approval before being submitted to Jim for payment. Thank you for helping us make the new process a success.

Old Business

Carolyn was informed that a plaque on the new conifer in the Hosta Glade at Vander Veer will not be allowed, although it will be planted in the glade.

New Business

The second phase of the two-year project on the Hosta Virus X will cost \$40,000 to conduct and the membership present voted and approved a donation of \$1,000 to this project.

A reminder from Franc Freeman that all orders for Solberg Hostas (list is in this newsletter) must be in to him by April 30.



The above photo is from Sally Stewart's garden!! Just thought you'd like to look at something green and instead of snow!

The Hosta Bucks Program is still going strong for 2011. So come on out and earn some "bucks" at the Fluff and Buff on April 23 at 1:00 PM (rain date April 24) at Vander Veer Park. We also need help with applying name tags at the Hosta Glade on April 30th at 9:00 AM. Any help would be very appreciated to help identify the copious amounts of hostas in the glade and to help read the maps and hand out the name tags.

Another reminder regarding Master Gardener Classes - MVHS will pay for any member to attend these classes. Give Carolyn or any board member a call for more information. She also reminded us the 2011 membership dues are due. \$7 is a bargain. Please mail your check, made payable to MVHS, and send to Jim Cato.

Announcements

Don Musak has a great speaker for the March 13th meeting. Mr. Steve Felt from the Department of Natural Resources will speak on Soil. Hope you all can make it. If you know of any speakers you would be interested in hearing at one of our meetings, please contact Don. He also reminded us of the bus trip to the Madison Farmers' Market and Flower Factory scheduled for June 11. These trips always fill up fast so don't procrastinate!

Meeting adjourned. Before leaving, we all participated in Hosta Bingo. Lots of fun had by all!!!

Respectfully submitted by:
Mary Johannsen, Secretary

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY

The following people have dues that expire December 31, 2010!! **They need to be paid by April 1.** Please send your check for \$7 (**made out to MVHS**) to the new Treasurer:

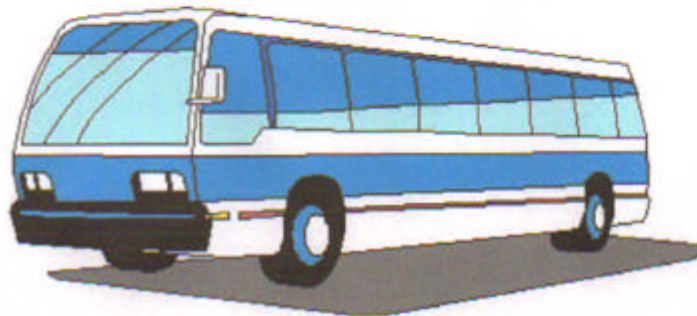
Jim Cato
12915 - 25th St. Ct.
Milan, IL 61264

Better yet, renew it for two years and send a check for \$14!

Sue Anciaux
Stanley & Kay Bates
Jennifer Betker
Rita Brautigam
Brenda Bumann
Kay Collins
Joyce Corken
Shirley Cruzen
Wilmer & Helene Denker
Julie Dobbeleare-Castens
Howard & Sandy Fedler
Sandra Fleming
David & Pamela Fuller
Joni Henri
Mary Ann Hentrich
June Hessell
Teresa Holmquist
Martha Jinks
Wes & Mary Kay Johnson
Jackie Kallenberger
Judy Klindt
Sandy Lane
Roxanne Meyer
Don Musak
Kris Overmann
Brian & Gail Paarmann-Nikulski
Joel & Judy Rutledge
Kim Schluenz
Dennis & Sherri Scrutchfield
John & Patty Sedlock
Joe Shindelar
Harry & Patricia Sievers
Jane Smay
Melvin & Lyn Sours
Lynn Summers
Robert & Margaret Tuftee
Shirley Ullrich
Jerry & Jeanne VandeWiele
Sandra Wales
Kathleen Wolfe

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY & GUEST!

BUS TRIP: MADISON FARMERS MARKET AND FLOWER FACTORY—STOUGHTON WI!



\$47.00



- BUS LOADS—HOBBY LOBBY, BETTENDORF IA - 6:30 AM
- TO: MADISON WISCONSIN FARMERS MARKET
- LUNCH INCLUDED—BUFFET
- FLOWER FACTORY - STOUGHTON WISCONSIN
- DRINKS & SNACKS PROVIDED—TO AND FROM
- GAMES—PRIZES
- OPTIONAL MUSEUM VISITS
- BRING A CAMERA!

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2011— BUS LOADS 6:30 AM! - RETURNS 6:00 PM

Madison Market professes to be the largest producer market in the country, known to have 150 vendors - nearby museums if the market isn't your choice. Terrific Chinese/American buffet lunch included!

At the Flower Factory, visit their unique and beautiful gardens, then browse their huge selection of grasses, hostas, pond plants and perennials.

Send fee payable to **MVHS**, c/o Jim Cato, 12915-25th St Ct., Milan IL 61264



----- Bus to: Madison Market & Flower Factory -----

Name(s) _____

Address: _____ Phone _____

E-mail Address: _____

Special Needs: _____

(No refunds after May 31, 2011)

MVHS - SOLBERG CLUB PLANTS
2011 ORDER FORM

Please remember all plants will be bare root. Pick up date and place will be announced later. DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS APRIL 30. Send your form, along with your check (made out to MVHS) to: Franc Freeman, 20599 Utica Ridge Road, Davenport, Iowa 52804. Phone: 355-8534

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ AMT. PAID _____

‘BATTLE STAR’ - (G. Randy Goodwin 2006) (sport of streaked seedling) - Medium (15"x36") Great color combination of gray green leaves and yellow margins and is distinct from across the garden. Sturdy hosta has good substance, dark lavender striped flowers in June. () X \$13 \$ _____

‘CRUMB CAKE’ -(Solberg 2008) - ('Cinnamon Sticks' X 'Cracker Crumbs') - Small (4" X 12") This rapidly growing hosta makes a very tight flat mound of honey-gold round leaves with mahogany petioles that are shiny, wonderfully wavy, and have very good substance. Its mahogany scapes have pretty lavender flowers in July. () x \$9 \$ _____

‘CURLY FRIES’ - (Solberg 2008) - ('Pineapple Upsidedown Cake' seedling) - Small (5" X 16") Best grown in half a day of sun, its highly ruffled narrow leaves emerge yellow and then fade to near white. The scape is deep purple, topped with lavender flowers. It makes a great container plant or grows very well in the garden. () x \$14 \$ _____

‘ELECTROCUTION’ - (Avent 2005) - ('Swoosh' X H. longissima) X 'Redneck Heaven') X 'Elvis Lives') - Medium, (13" X 28") It has narrow green leaves with a yellow margin that become white in more sun. What is electric about those leaves, however, is that they are very wavy and very twisted at the same time. Lavender flowers in June. () x \$13 \$ _____

‘FINAL SUMMATION’ - (Solberg 2008) - (Sport of 'Sum and Substance') - Large, (20" X 60" or more) This is the dark green-edged sport of 'Sum and Substance'. It has wide green margins, superior rich colors and slightly cupped, very round, giant leaves and typical lavender flowers in July. () x \$13 \$ _____

(continued on the back)

(continued) - SOLBERG CLUB PLANTS - ORDER FORM

'NATE THE GREAT' - (Solberg 2003) - (H. nigrescens X 'Tokudama Aureonebulosa') - Large, (22" X 40") Tall and proud with large round blue-green leaves that are deeply cupped and puckered, this large upright hosta is worthy of the front of the bed. Lavender flowers on tall straight scapes top this one off in July. Named for Bob's son, Nathan.

() x \$9 \$ _____

'SUMMER SQUALL' - (Solberg 2007) - (H. sieboldiana X 'One Man's Treasure' F2 seedling) Medium, (14" X 32" or larger) Rich blue color and nicely folded leaves, this "Longiana" may be the best and bluest of the lot. It makes a strong statement in the garden, good substance and sturdy leaves and is a great breeder. It has 3 foot scapes of light lavender flowers in mid-summer.

() x \$13 \$ _____

'TICKLE ME PINK' - (B. and D. Stegeman, Hack 2006) - ('One Man's Treasure' X 'Squash Casserole') - Medium, (8" X 28") Its has glowing yellow leaves with twisted reddish tips and produces deep red scapes with flowers that are pinkish lavender in late summer. The leaves may even have some red streaks in the fall.

() x \$13 \$ _____

'TINY BUBBLES' - (Solberg 2008) - ('Corkscrew' X 'Lemon Frost') - Small, (8" X 16") This bright yellow harbinger of spring has arrowhead-shaped leaves with good substance but it is the closed orchid flowers that persist for weeks in mid-summer on perfectly proportioned yellow scapes that make this a very unique hosta. It is a sturdy little plant that grows very well.

() x \$9 \$ _____

'TONGUE TWISTER' - (Solberg 2008) - ('Iwa' X 'Blue Blush' o. p.) - Small, (8" X 18") With its dark green leaves that twist upward out of the clump, this great little hosta looks as fresh in October as it does in May. It has great substance, rich color. Light purple scapes produce light lavender flowers in September and light purple pods in October.

() x \$9 \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

A GREAT PLACE TO USE YOUR HOSTA BUCKS!!!!



Battle Star



Crumb Cake



Curly Fries



Electrocution



Final Summation



Nate the Great



Summer Squall



Tickle Me Pink (top)



Tongue Twister



Tiny Bubbles



Got a Deer Problem?

From hostas and yews to arborvitae and white pines, a growing Northland deer population has been giving homeowners and gardeners fits in recent years. The problem of hungry deer can be a headache for homeowners and an economic disaster for tree farmers, nurseries and foresters. And deer deterrents on the market until now tended to wash off in any rain. But a Duluth scientist has developed a way for plants to absorb hot pepper concentrate into their roots and up into the leaves, rendering them too hot for deer to munch.

Tom Levar, a forestry and horticulture specialist for the University of Minnesota Duluth's Natural Resources Research Institute, developed the idea using a chemical first used to treat muscle soreness in racing horses and, later, human athletes. The benign chemical, called DMSO, absorbs quickly through animal and human skin and into the bloodstream. Levar found out that it passes through plant "skin" as well, and then combined DMSO with several bitter and otherwise unpleasant tasting chemicals. Pepper concentrate offered the best combination of being easy to use, natural and extremely effective. "You can use it when the plant is first put in the ground or incorporate it into the soil with established plants," said Levar, adding that the plant will even emit a peppery smell. People "don't notice the smell as much, but the deer sure know what it is... It's not really clear which is the better deterrent, the smell or the hot taste. Usually it's one bite and they move on."

The pepper concentrate, called capsicum, is natural and doesn't harm the plant. The stuff also works great to keep dogs, cats, rabbits, mice, voles, moles and gophers from eating plants and young trees, Levar noted. In tests at an Alexandria, Minn., tree farm that had suffered huge losses of young conifer trees to field mice, the repellent proved 100 percent effective. Michigan-based Repellex, USA already has purchased the licensing rights from the university and has applied to the Environmental Protection Agency for approval, expected late this year. Company officials expect to have Repellex Systemic Animal Repellent on store shelves in March. Gardeners can simply dig a few pellets into the soil around the base of the plant and, when it rains or plants are watered, the natural process of plant nutrient transfer will suck the stuff in. It will be available in tablet form at first and eventually sold in granules that can be simply shaken onto the ground around the plant.

Levar said Repellex Systemic will last three months or more, and company officials say the tests are showing full effect for an entire growing season. "This really changes the whole (deer repellent) industry because it's inside the plant. Everything else out there was really a short-term solution that washed off and had to be re-applied repeatedly," said Elizabeth Summa, president of Repellex USA. "It's going to cost a little bit more (than spray-on deterrents) for a single application. But because you don't have to reapply it, it's going to be much less expensive in the long run." Levar notes that Repellex Systemic shouldn't be used on edible plants "unless you want your strawberries to taste like hot peppers," he joked. "You'd definitely be able to taste it."

Excerpt of an article published in Duluth News Tribune

Reprinted from the Midwest Regional Hosta Society Newsletter - Fall 2010

Plant Tissue
Culture
Workshop May 13, 2011

In this workshop you will...

- Prepare culture mediums
- Disinfect and culture plant leaves, acillary buds
- Discuss trouble shooting and internet resources
- Take home cultures that you create in class
- Receive handouts with basic instructions
- All media and materials provided
- No prior knowledge required!
- Plant nutrients will be available for a small fee to add and continue cultures in your own home.

Plant tissue culture is a method of plant propagation that involves growing plant parts in a sterile environment and controlling the production of roots or shoots with growth regulators. Using this method, small plant parts can be induced to produce hundreds of small "plantlets" which can be further developed and grown to maturity in greenhouses or as houseplants.

Class size limited, register today!
(309) 756-9978 Ext 10

www.extension.illinois.edu/rockisland

University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programming and employment. Call ahead if you need a reasonable accommodation to attend this program.



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY
321 WEST 2ND AVE, MILAN, IL 61264

Plant Tissue Culture Workshop
Friday, May 13, 9 am - 3 pm (includes box lunch)
\$45 for General Public \$40 for Master Gardeners

Register online or fill out this form and return with check payable to Rock Island County Extension and mail to the address above.

General Public \$45 Master Gardener \$40

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Any preferred plant to propagate? _____

If you are registering a 2nd participant:

General Public \$45 Master Gardener \$40

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Any preferred plant to propagate? _____

BUS TRIP

RICH'S FOXWILLOW PINES NURSERY, WOODSTOCK, IL

MONDAY, MAY 16, 2011

Bus departs ~ 7:00 am

From: Geneseo Community Center

541 E. North Street

Geneseo IL 61254

Depart for home ~ 3:00 pm (arriving back in Geneseo about 5:30 pm)

Cost: \$38 (Includes box lunch)

We will tour and shop at Foxwillow Pines & join Rich Eyre for a tour of 2-3 local gardens.

Snacks and water will be provided on the bus.

If you wish coffee or other beverages, please bring your own.

-Send check payable to **Geneseo Garden Club**, c/o Terri Lamberti, 1061 Mark Street, Colona IL 61241-9604

Name: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

Special Needs: _____

No Refunds after April 30, 2011

QUOTE

"Hostaphilia – a relatively benign condition found in gardeners in parts of the US, Europe and New Zealand. Symptoms include excessive plant buying, bed enlargement, and compulsive reading of the Hosta Journal. It is a progressive condition but very rarely fatal (unless you are talking about checking accounts). It peaks in the spring and early summer and may be exacerbated by a trip to Hosta College, an AHS Convention, or Wade and Gatton. Occasional winter flare-ups have been observed when Greenhill Farms and Q and Z Nurseries issue their new catalogs. Palliative treatment includes buying, planting and lusting after the newest variety. Usually symptoms of this condition decrease from late summer and into the winter. Hostaphilia can be readily transmitted to unsuspecting gardeners and there are no known complete cures of this condition."

*Jim Munson-President Michigan Hosta Society
Hosta Happenings-Newsletter of the Michigan Hosta Society Feb
2011 Volume 21 Number 1*

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Most of our members have a lot of hostas, yet some also have roses, iris and other sun plants in their yards; however, everyone should have an abundance of "SOIL". This will be our program for the March 13th meeting at 2 PM at the Riverdale Fire Station.

We'll also have some door prizes and Teri Simmering always has nice "goodies" to snack on!!! I do hope you can be there!

There was great food at the pot-luck!!
Following is a recipe from Karen Wulf for her

Scalloped Corn:

1/2 small green pepper chopped
1/2 onion finely chopped
3 Tbsp. butter
Salt and pepper to taste
1 cup milk
1/2 cup bread crumbs (I like to use seasoned ones)
3 cups whole kernel corn
1 egg well beaten

Topping:
1 Tbsp. butter
1/2 cup cracker crumbs

Mix the first 8 ingredients together and put in greased bowl and top with cracker crumbs. Bake 325 degrees until top is nicely browned.

Carolyn

MINI HOSTA NEWS

In March 2010, The American Hosta Society president, Tom Micheletti, formed an ad hoc committee to clarify the size of mini hostas in the society. This was necessary to create uniformity in mini size specification for AHS Hosta Show classification, AHS popularity poll, Mini Forum and other activities. Members were Judy Burns, Show Classification chair; Bob Olson, Hosta Journal editor; W. George Schmid, AHS Nomenclature chair; and Bob Solberg, American Hosta Growers liaison.

The committee standardized the mini size within the AHS as the size used in Show classification for the last several years: leaf blade area less than 6.0 square inches. (Area is leaf blade length multiplied by leaf blade width.) This permits a larger selection of hostas to be classified as minis for the AHS Mini Poll, compared to a previous criterion of less than 4.0 sq. in.

The new Mission Statement is:

- o To maintain a listing of Mini Hostas based on the new AHS Mini Size.
- o To provide a forum for information exchange on growing mini hostas.

The new Mini Hosta Criteria is:

- o Leaf blade area no greater than about 6.0 square inches (38.7 sq. cm.). [Change from previous]
- o No restriction on clump spread. [No change from previous]
- o Hosta size designations "tiny" and "dwarf" are discontinued. [No change from previous]

This forum will continue to develop two lists, with the intent of keeping them up to date. Donald A. Rawson, Comstock Park, Michigan, now will principally be responsible for this function. One list will comprise registered and species minis satisfying the new AHS size requirement. It can be used for the AHS Miniature Hosta Popularity Poll in the Hosta Journal. The other list will comprise unregistered minis meeting the new AHS size requirement. It also can be used by nurseries.

W. George Schmid, Chair, AHS Nomenclature Committee
Warren I. Pollock, Member, AHS Nomenclature Committee

The forum is a Yahoo Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/minihosta/>.

2011 HOSTA FINDER

Jim Cato is now taking orders for the 2011 Hosta Finder. It will cost \$14.00 this year and if you want it mailed to you, it will cost \$16.00. The books will be available at the March meeting.

To pre-order, please send a check made out to MVHS to Jim at 12915 - 25 St. Ct., Milan, IL 61264. His email is pussbug@aol.com.

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

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, PO Box 7539, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

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**Midwest Regional Hosta Society Dues** are \$10/yr. Send your check to: Barbara Schroeder, 1819 Coventry Dr., Champaign, IL 61822-5239.

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MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY DUES are \$7/YR. **Please make your check payable to MVHS (not Jim)** and send to JIM CATO, 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 plant sale and many other good opportunities.

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING:

- Mar 11-12** - Hosta College, Piqua, OH
- Mar 13** - MVHS Meeting, 2 PM, Riverdale Fire Station
- Apr 23** - Fluff & Buff, VanderVeer Hosta Glade
- Apr 30** - Name Tags, VanderVeer Hosta Glade
- May 16** - Silvis Garden Club Bus Trip to Rich's Foxwillow Pines
- Jun11** - Bus Trip to Madison/Flower Factory

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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 JIM CATO,