



Hosta Happenings

March 2008

Vol. 12, Iss. 2

M.V.H.S. MEETING
SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2008
2:00 PM

RON and KATHRYN DIETER
Sunnyfield Nursery, Galva, IL

RIVERDALE FIRE STATION
RIVERDALE, IOWA
(across from ALCOA)

The M.V.H.S. Meeting on February 10, 2008, started out with a potluck. Sliced ham, buns and drinks were provided by the Club.

Vice President Shirley Waters called the meeting to order at 2:50 pm.

Secretary's Report - Minutes for the October and November meetings were in December's newsletter. The Treasurer reported the club account and the money from the convention were combined. An additional CD was purchased which will earn 4.1% interest.

Dave Searle from the Quad City Botanical Center sent a thank you card for the \$1,000 donation for the repair of their watering system.

The Club received a certificate from the Quad City Times for the Bix Brick we purchased. The purchase of the brick will help raise money for the Bix Display at the Putnum Museum. It will be displayed at the QC Times building in downtown Davenport.

Old Business:

--Sandy Fedler reported on the scholarship fund. The committee recommended we hold onto the money until they find a student with a 2 - 4 yr. horticultural degree.

--Carolyn Hamilton reported on the Winter Scientific meeting held on Saturday, January 19. Ten members of our club attended. Tom Micheletti will no longer be doing the Winter Scientific Meeting and a new organizer is required.

--Dean Piatt is taking orders for the Hosta Finder. They are \$14.00 each and will be available at the March meeting.

New Business:

--Shirley Waters said she purchased hosta seeds at the Winter Scientific Meeting, in response to an email request we received from a man in Russia. She will be forwarding these on.

--The Club plant sale is scheduled for June 1, 2008. We are looking for donations from Club members as we no longer have Forrest Johnson's hostas to count on. More information will be furnished at a later date.

--Dean reported Duck Creek Park has asked the Club to donate 10-15 hostas for their Meditation Garden.

--Naylor Creek Nursery is offering hostas at wholesale prices. Orders were taken and the bare root plants will arrive in early April. We did purchase some of the hostas for our Plant Sale.

--April 1st is the deadline to order hostas from Bob Solberg (Green Hill Hostas). Order blanks were in the last newsletter. Please contact Shirley Waters for questions, 309-797-5379. Pick-up will most probably be at the June 1st plant sale.

--Bob Solberg will be speaking at the Iowa Extension Office building on October 3, 2007. Meeting information will be forthcoming. Other garden clubs will be invited to attend.

--Don Musak reported on the upcoming bus trip on June 7. We will be going to Songsparrow in Avalon, Wisconsin and Anderson Japanese Gardens in Rockford, Illinois. More information will be published in next newsletter. Songsparrow, is mail order nursery, is only open one day a year for garden clubs. This is a special day and a lot of fun, so tell all of your friends.

--Sally Stewart invited all to attend the garden walk which will be on June 29. Sally and Carolyn Hamilton will be showing their gardens. Other Club members are invited to show their gardens too. Refreshments will be at Carolyn's.

--Dean Piatt reported he is looking into the non-profit tax status for the Club.

Mary Ann Dailey won the door prize which was a huge elephant ear bulb, donated by Joe Shindelar.

Ron/Kathryn Deiter from Sunnyfield Nursery, Galva, IL will speak at the March 6 meeting. The meeting was adjourned. Glenn Herald, Professor of Horticulture, Central Illinois College, was the program speaker.

WHAT DO GIBOSHI and FUNKIA MEAN?

by Mike Chambers

from Hosta Hotline, Mid-South Hosta Society Newsletter

We all see words in our hosta readings and in our hosta names and we wonder - what does that mean? Much of what we do not understand is botanical Latin. Etymology is the science of word history and the basis of most botanic classifications and names is rooted in Latin. However, sometimes we see the Japanese botanical terms attached to hosta names. So let's just look at a few words we see in our hosta world that hosta lovers often ask, "what does that mean?"

Giboshi is actually the Japanese word for Hosta and most hosta species came from Japan, Korea and China. Sometimes you still see the word in hosta literature.

Funkia - This was the original name for hostas when they first arrived in the U.S. in the mid-1800's. Then later the name was changed to Plantain Lily. Both names are now obsolete and Hosta is the official name.

Latin terms:

Aureo - Golden

Albo - White

Elata - Tall (Hosta 'Nigrescens Elatior', the very tall version of hosta species nigrescens)

Marginata - Margined - so Albo-marginata is a white margined leaf

Maculata - Spotted or mottled middle - so Aureo-maculata would be a leaf with gold spots or streaks

Glaucus - Blue and waxy, like the blue haze on a fresh grape

Grandiflora - Grand or larger flowers than the normal plant

Picto - Painted or multicolored

Rugose - Rough, wrinkled or crinkled

Japanese terms:

Ogon - Yellow or gold

Shiro - White

Aoba - Green leaf

Hime - Small

Kifukurin - Yellow edged

Other terms:

Cultivar - a CULTIvated VARIety, a plant cultivated/hybridized by someone, not a species

Tissue Culture - Propagation in a laboratory of many plants by using a small tissue fragment of a mother plant.

Sport - A line of plants vegetatively propagated from a single mother plant; also called a Clone.

Abiqua - This is a forename of many registered hostas. Abiqua is a creek in northwestern Oregon near Portland. Walden West Nursery has a nursery near this creek and has names over 25 of their registered hostas with this forename (Abiqua Drinking Gourd, Abiqua Delight, Abiqua Moonbeam).

Lakeside - Lakeside is also a forename for over 120 registered hostas from Lakeside Acres Nursery. Mary Chastain's home and nursery is on a lake near Chattanooga and she gives all her registered hostas this forename.

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## 2008 HOSTA FINDER

Dean Piatt is now taking orders for the 2008 Hosta Finder. It will cost \$14 each this year and if you want it mailed, please add \$3.25. They will be available at the March meeting

Topreorder, please send a check (made payable to MVHS) to Dean's address is 2910 Telegraph Rd., Davenport, IA 52804. His new email is: [dpiatt@mvhosta.org](mailto:dpiatt@mvhosta.org).

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

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2008 DUES ARE DUE!!

If there is an "07" printed after your name on the mailing label, your dues for 2008 are due.

Dues are still only \$7 per family and this is a bargain.

Please send your dues check, made payable to MVHS, to Dean Piatt, 2910 Telegraph Rd., Davenport, Iowa 52804.

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MVHS Annual Plant Sale will be held on Sunday, June 1. We don't have any of Forrest Johnson's plants left so we will need a lot of plants from our members in order to have a good sale!!! This Spring, when you are cleaning up and deciding what needs to be divided, think of MVHS and dig up something for the sale!

Put **Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>** on your calendars!

**Bus Trip – Avalon WI - Klehm’s Song Sparrow Nursery**

**Included: – Rockford IL (Anderson Japanese Garden)**

**Offered through:**

**Mississippi Valley Hosta Society**

**(M V H S)**



**This is a once a year opportunity – Song Sparrow is only open to the public one day, Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup> for a very short time window (club has a reservation).**

**Plan on:**

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

**Games aboard the bus – with prizes to winners!**

**Snacks and drinks on the return trip home**

**Bus Loads: 6:00 am, Hobby Lobby lot, 2121 Kimberly Rd, Bettendorf, IA  
(Lunch stop... on your own) Bus Returns: 4:30 pm (approx’)**

**Cost - \$40 per person.. make checks payable to: M V H S  
(Admission fee for Anderson Garden is included in the above \$40)**

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

**First come, first served seating..... no refunds after May 24th**

(Photos taken at Anderson Japanese Gardens, are limited to personal use only)

----- Bus to: Song Sparrow – Anderson Japanese Gardens -----

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

## PLANTS THAT WILL AND WILL NOT GROW NEAR

### BLACK WALNUT TREES

from gertens.com

Black Walnut, *Junglans nigra*, and its close relative, the Butternut, *Junglans cinerea*, produce juglone which is toxic to many plants. Keep sensitive plants at least 20' away from these trees. Many plant species will not die immediately but slowly over a period of years. Other species, particularly those in the Nightshade *Solanacea* family, are extremely sensitive to juglone and will decline fairly quickly. Removing the offending tree will not solve the problem, since juglone is contained in all parts of the root system, and unless every piece of root is removed plants in contact with the roots will continue to suffer the toxic side effects for many years.

#### **Perennials Resistant to Juglone:**

Adiantum pedantum (Maidenhair Fern)  
Alchemilla (Lady Mantle)  
Anemonella thalictroides, also known as Thalictrum thalictroides (Rue Anemone)  
Aguilegia (Columbine)  
Asarum canadense (Wild Ginger)  
Asarum europaeum (European Ginger)  
Astilbe (Astilbe)  
Athyrium niponicum (Japanese Painted Fern)  
Bergenia (Pigsqueak)  
Brunnera (False Forget-Me-Not or Siberian Bugloss)  
Epimedium (Barrenwort or Fairy Wings)  
Euonymus fortune (Winter Creeper)  
Filipendula rubra (Queen of the Prairie)  
Heuchera (Coralbells)  
Hosta (Hosta)  
Ligularia (Groundsel or Ragwort)  
Matteuccia struthiopteris (Ostrich Fern)  
Polygonatum odoratum (Solomon Seal)  
Primula sieboldii (Primrose)  
Pulmonaria (Lungwort)  
Tiarella (Foam Flower)  
Tricyrtis hirta (Toadlily)

#### **Other Plants Resistant to Juglone:**

Crataegus (Hawthorn)  
Malus (Crabapple)  
Poa (Kentucky Bluegrass)  
Prunus (Cherry)  
Robinia (Locust)  
Rubus (Black Raspberry)  
Trifolium (Clover)  
Ulmus (Elm)  
Vitis (Wild Grape)

#### **Plants Susceptible to Juglone:**

Vegetable Plants including: Beans, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Green Pepper, Potato and Tomato.  
Betula (Birch), Celtis (Hackberry), Medicago (Alfalfa), Tilia (Linden, Basswood), Vitis (Domestic Grapes)

## **BUS TRIP TO SONG SPARROW**

A bus trip is planned (see attached flyer) for Saturday, June 7th. We will be going to Klehm's Song Sparrow Nursery in Avalon, WI and then on to Anderson's Japanese Gardens in Rockford, IL.

Song Sparrow is a mail-order nursery and normally not open to the public for business, but one Saturday a year, they do allow garden clubs to visit. So this is a real treat! We'll have one of their catalogs at the next meeting. This is a big nursery and our time frame is from 9-10:30 AM, so it is best if you know ahead of time what you'd like to look at!!

We would like to have a full bus, so this trip is being offered to other clubs -- so be sure to sign up early!!! A sign-up sheet will be at the March meeting.

### **BOB SOLBERG HERE ON OCTOBER 3rd**

Our guest speaker for the October meeting will be Bob Solberg. and we will meet at the Iowa Extension office, 875 Tanglefoot Lane, Bettendorf, Iowa. (That is north of The Lodge, formerly Jumer's, and right under the big white water tower.)

We have moved our meeting to a larger facility because we are anticipating a lot of people will want to hear him speak. Sooo - keep this date in mind and plan to attend and invite fellow hosta club members who don't attend as regularly and friends. We also plan to invite other clubs to come enjoy his talk.

Bob is a hybridizer and has a nursery, Green Hill Hostas, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. We have been selling his club hostas for several years. A few of his hybridizations are 'Guacamole', 'Grey Ghost', 'Frozen Margarita', 'Cracker Crumbs', 'Cookie Crumbs' - and there are many more! I know you have at least one of his hostas in your yard!

Our convention profits at work!!!!

# *A Primer on the Traits of Hosta Species*

*by Bill Meyer*

(Editor's Note: The following discussion by Bill Meyer deals with traits of individual hosta species that are especially noteworthy with respect to hybridizing. Bill sent it through HostaPix when someone asked for help in looking for traits when crossing hostas. It is reprinted with Bill's permission.)

**Montanas** come in two basic types such as those features seen in 'On Stage' and the type seen in 'Frosted Jade'. The first type is a very common weed in Japan and somewhat non-descript in its green form. Some think it as a parent of a no longer accepted species like Fortunei and Undulata. Vigor is perhaps its best trait. Flowering can also be a strong point with tightly-packed racemes and colored bracts. The second type (Macrophylla) is a prime contributor to large leaf sizes with high vein counts. Breeders like Olga Petrysyn use it in their programs for this reason mainly.

**Sieboldianas** have very strong traits and are the source of two important traits---blue color and lutescence. Additionally they contribute good substance, rounded leaves, and rugosity. It's the second-most used species in hybridizing.

**Ventricosa** has not been used too much in crosses because it is very difficult to use as a pod parent. The strongest trait it contributes is the typical bell-shaped flowers, but lately through the work of Mary Chastain, it is showing really dark greens.

**Longipes** is a plant only coming into its own recently in hybridizing. It has an interesting collection of traits to contribute, including glaucous tops and white backs, highly glossy tops, very attractive flowering, pie-crusting, red petioles, and more.

**Sieboldii** is the most-used species in hybridizing. It was the original source for variegation in hosta ('Beatrice') so it was used very extensively in the last thirty years. Positive traits include fast strong growth, high fertility and high seed/pod counts even several generations away, red petioles, and excellent compatibility with other species. Negative traits are also strong and include poor substance and poor wax finishes on the leaves.

**Hypoleuca** adds some surprising traits. Large leaf size is the most interesting one, but others include attractive flowering, acceptance of blue and lutescent gold coloring, and white leaf backs, as well as strong vigor (strange as that seems).

**Kikutii** mainly contributes its distinctive leaf shape and strong vein structure, but is also good for flowering. Negative would be slow growth.

**Pycnophylla** has many good traits to add which are similar to longipes. Except for glossy waxes, the list of positive traits is similar: white backs, red petioles, piecrusting, acceptance of blue and lutescent gold coloring, good flowers. Negative would be slow growth (most of the time) and slow production of leaves/divisions, and a strong tendency toward medium size.

**Venusta's** primary use is for small size, and it has little else going for it.

**Capitata** can contribute colored bracts and satiny waxes, and is a very early bloomer.

**Nakaiana** is good for vigor, small size, high numbers of leaves/divisions, and good fertility. Negative is that it tends to make plants look dull and ordinary. A good example would be 'Blue Cadet'.

**Yingeri and laevigata** contribute similar traits. Good waxes in the shiny and satiny ranges, some good red coloring (tendency to fade early though), vigor and fertility in later generations. Negatives would be not accepting glaucous waxes, so blues are nearly impossible.

**Nigrescens** can contribute upright plant form, red petioles, strongly upright scapes, and glaucous waxes. Negative would be slow growth and fertility problems in later generations.

**Plantaginea** positives---fragrance, vigor and sun-resistance. Negatives---serious fertility problems (can be very difficult to build breeding lines), and difficulty with glaucous waxes.

Leaf size is somewhat variable with most species and tends to work pretty much the way you'd expect. Extremely large or extremely small leaves tend to be hard to come by. Piecrusting does not seem to be species-related but good form in a piecrust leaf would require a strong vein structure.

Variegation will come in one of two ways --- 1. using a streaked pod parent will produce up to 70% (even higher percentages have been reported) streaked seedlings, so this gives the best results, or 2. growing large numbers of seedlings from non-streaked parents will occasionally yield a streaked seedling ('Dorothy Benedict' was created this way), but this is unreliable. Streaking seems to behave the same way with all species with regards to passing the trait on to the next generation. Most species have yielded streaked forms by now.

When trying to determine the species involved in a cross, relative bloom time can help, because crosses always bloom in-between the bloom times of their parents. Bloom dates can vary from year to year because of weather conditions, so they are best considered as periods defined by the species rather than calendar dates. For example, the first period would be sieboldiana, montana, and capitata bloom time, and the last would be longipes and kikutii bloom time.

This is just a quick thumbnail sketch of the information that's there, and others could add to it from their own observations. It would take a small book to really give a clear picture of all that's involved. Because it's so complex, there are vast possibilities in terms of different-looking plants to come. This gives someone a basic idea, but breeding will accentuate some traits and isolate others. Mixing three and four species into a plant will probably also make for some unusual results. Bloom time is very important in crossing, but not a solid barrier. Even this can be manipulated by starting plants early, or saving pollen from the past season. Fertility problems can cause a dead end as well, so more than one plant from a cross should be grown on.

P.S. - The actual number of species is a frequent source of debate. DNA testing hopefully will resolve this.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY CLUB PLANTS  
2008 ORDER FORM

Please remember all plants will be bare root. Pick up date and place will be announced later. **DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS APRIL 1, 2008.** Send your form, along with your check made payable to MVHS, to:

**SHIRLEY WATERS, 3519 – 38<sup>TH</sup> ST., MOLINE, IL 61265 – phone 309-797-5379**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ AMT. PD \_\_\_\_\_

1. 'COCONUT CUSTARD' (Solberg 2007) Small (6"X14").....( ) x \$32 \_\_\_\_\_  
( 'Blue Cadet' x 'One Man's Treasure' o.p.) This little yellow hosta has heart-shaped leaves that are frosted with lots of white wax in Spring, making it rich and creamy. Top that off with bright purple petioles that extend up into leaf. Well-proportioned, frosted yellow scapes in July-August with pretty orchid-colored flowers. A delicate look on a sturdy plant.
  2. 'COUNTRY MOUSE' (Hansen) Mini (3" x 8") .....( ) x \$12 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Sport of 'Bill Dress's Blue' ) This very cute miniature hosta has heart-shaped blue leaves with nice, clean white margins. This perfect small container plant has lavender flowers in June-July. Really adorable!
  3. 'GINSU KNIFE' (Solberg 2002) Medium (18"x28").....,( ) x \$12 \_\_\_\_\_  
( 'Irongate Supreme' x 'Green Fountain' ) Imagine a wide, irregularly cream-colored margined hosta with serrate margins and white fragrant flowers in August. The leaves that fountain from the very upright clump have large undulations and some twisting. Unique in color and habit; great in a container or garden.
  4. 'MILLENNIUM' (Wilkins 1995) Huge (35" x 80").....( ) x \$10 \_\_\_\_\_  
( 'Herb Benedict' x 'Sagae' ) One of the best extremely large blue hostas because of its huge heavily substance, rounded, dark blue leaves, good growth rate and heat tolerance. Near white flowers on tall scapes in late June.
  5. 'ON THE BORDER' (Beilstein 2007) Medium (15" x 28").....( ) x \$14 \_\_\_\_\_  
( 'Neat Splash' x 'Blue Wedgwood' ) This very bright white-margined, shiny green-centered, attractive hosta has good substance and great color contrast that calls out from across the garden! Light lavender flowers in July.
  6. 'ONE MAN'S TREASURE' (Benedict, Solberg 1999) Medium (14"x24") ( ) x \$10 \_\_\_\_\_  
(H. longipes hypoglauca seedling) Finally a red-petioled hosta you can see the red color without standing on your head. A medium-sized clump of shiny, dark green pointed leaves with petioles that are red on both sides up into the leaf blade. Purple flowers in August with red scapes and seed pods.
- (TURN OVER FOR MORE CHOICES)

7. 'ORANGE MARMALADE' pp#16,742 (Solberg 2002).....( ) x \$12\_\_\_\_\_
 

Medium-Large (18" x 42") Looking for a hosta guaranteed to "fly out of the nursery"? This one has all year appeal, attractive when it emerges with its blue leaves with a bright yellow center in the Spring and amazing in May as it turns orange-yellow or yellow-orange, the color of those Crayola crayons. Beautifully variegated all summer with lavender flowers in July.
8. 'SINGIN' THE BLUES' (Beilstein 2007) Large (25"x50").....( ) x \$14\_\_\_\_\_
 

('Trail's End' seedling) An upright very blue seedling, Has leaves that are boat-shaped with a distinctive "inch" at the base. It has heavily puckered leaves in regular rows and lavender flowers in June. Makes a statement in back or foreground.
9. 'THUNDERBOLT' pp #12,232 (Crowder) Large (28: x 60").....( ) x \$12\_\_\_\_\_
 

(Sport of H. sieboldiana) A new sieboldiana sport with a narrow yellow center that becomes white in summer, like 'Great Expectations', but has a white blue-green margin. Variegation in the leaf center becomes more narrow with age until it looks like a lightning bolt. White flowers in June and leaves with very thick substance.
10. 'TITANIC' pp #12,402 (Hansen/Shady Oaks Nursery 1999).....( ) x \$14\_\_\_\_\_
 

Giant (32" x 70") (Sport of 'Sum and Substance') This hosta's dramatic, wide gold-margined dark green-centered round leaves are larger than dinner plates. Slightly more compact than its parent, but with more substance, if that is possible. Large lavender flowers in July.

## **FRUGAL FUNDAMENTALS FOR FANTASTIC FOLIAGE, FLORA AND FAUNA** **aka, Gardening on the Cheap**

by Jeanne Truestedt, Shades of Green Hosta Society

Every gardener knows that his hobby is a series of holes into which one pours all disposable income in the name of health (none of which is reimbursable through Medicare) and happiness (almost as expensive as psychiatric counseling). But because its benefits outweigh its costs, we submit our addiction and look for ways to make it an affordable part of our everyday lives.

There are many temptations hidden within the full color pages of our favorite gardening catalogues, all geared toward the lust of our eyes and the desire to partake of what's new in the plant world. One can safely guarantee that what's new and exciting is also miniscule in size but with an enormous price tag. Such is the nature of temptation...

Perhaps the easiest way to deal with the impulse of immediate ordering is a methodical stroll through all the fine print listed in the description below the color filtered digital photo above. Ignore words like 'spectacular', 'customer acclaimed', and 'gotta have' as hooks. Consider phrases such as 'much improved', 'will sell out quickly', and 'be the first in your neighborhood' snares to reel you into the net of impulse buying. That then leaves us with the truth in advertising that tells us what makes this plant worth the price we'll pay to own it.

Looking for plant materials that are disease resistant, from proven parentage, with strong growth habits, and local zone hardiness will be economical in the long run because they won't break the bank requiring chemicals to insure growth. East of propagation, zone and site appropriateness will allow rapid growth that in turn allows sharing or spreading the abundance to other parts of the landscape. And if you are a member of MVHS, you'll reap added rewards from having great treasures to swap and sell with all the other plant addicts on the membership list! Such a deal!!

### **2008 AHS CONVENTION**

The National convention of the American Hosta Society will be held in St. Louis on June 11 to June 14, 2008. The convention hotel will be the Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel St. Louis.

The seven tour gardens are in place: Nancy and Arlie Tempel, Kelly and Jeff Hall, Pam and Chester Wolkowitz, Pat Payton and Jean Hudson, Joan and Dave Poos, Chick and Bruce Buehrig, and Diana and Craig Plahn. For a glimpse of the fabulous tour gardens and more information, visit <http://www.stlouishosta.org> This will be a fun experience for all of us. It is a time to get to know our fellow hosta society members much better, to promote our society and recruit many more members while we celebrate the plant we love so much -the genus Hosta. The Registration Form is also on the above web-site.

Another way to avoid being taken in by horticultural hype is to share your growing experiences with others. Swallow the pride and let other gardeners know the coveted plant you mortgaged the house for was a waste because it never made it through the winter. Honesty is worth its weight in gold because it saves our fellow gardeners from making similar mistakes. Preparing and keeping an ongoing list of proven plant materials could be a very valuable asset for our membership for just this reason.

Keeping a record of the new releases that we have purchased and grown successfully, would encourage asking for advice before taking an expensive risk. For example, having purchased the Echinacea 'Razzmatazz' from Wayside Gardens and growing it for five years. I would say it wasn't worth its purchase price because its spindly, lackluster growth, and sterility have made it more effort than it's worth. Its color and form are not spectacular, even if it is the first fully double Echinacea on the market. So, purchase at risk of failure because it isn't the heartiest Echinacea you'll ever buy. On the other hand, my experiences with E. 'Harvest Moon', 'Sunset', and 'Little Giant' have been exceptional. They are real bargains because they quickly establish colonies in a single growing season.

As the 'temptation season' of mail order plant catalogues is here, take time to drool and lust over all that's new and exciting on the horticultural front. You won't be alone in your endeavors. If statistics are right, 60% of the population is doing the same thing as gardening becomes a major force in our market-driven economy. Enjoy these fantastic opportunities offered through the advances in research, tissue culture and inventive breeding programs. But let's also get as much value for our greenback as possible so we can continue to increase, multiply and fill this earth with all the many different shades of green for many years to come.

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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AHS DUES. 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. Dues are now \$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 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: Pete Postlewaite, Treasurer, 21172 Andover Rd.,

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

MAR 16 – MVHS Meeting, 2 PM  
APR 12 – Fluff & Buff, VanderVeer  
APR 26 - Hosta Dig at VanderVeer  
JUN 1 - PLANT SALE, DUCK CREEK PARK  
JUN 11-14 – AHS Convention, St. Louis  
JULY 10-12–MRHS Convention, Chicago  
OCT 3 – Bob Solberg here

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PLEASE VISIT OUR MVHS WEB
SITE: mvhosta.org

2008 DUES ARE DUE!!!!