



Hosta Happenings

November 2011

Vol. 15, Iss 8

M.V.H.S. MEETING

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2011
2:00 P.M.**

RIVERDALE FIRE STATION
(across from ALCOA)

PROGRAM:
ELLEN KELLY,
Colorful, Magical Conifers

The following is borrowed from ROHS Newsletter :

AHS Online Auction 2012: Get Ready!



September may seem an odd time to be thinking about sub-zero temps and cabin fever activities coming up in January of 2012 ... WRONG! There is no better time than now to take inventory, make note, and plan donations for the AHS On-line Auction. This event is the second largest fundraiser for the society each year. Donors provide a description of plant material, seed, or garden related items and a digital photo. Each item is posted in an easy to use auction format.

Each year the AHS On-line Auction is held in mid January. News is distributed via email notices and upon the AHS website. Enter the AHS website and send a message to the chair, Don Dean, requesting that your address be added to the mailing group. Changed your service provider or have a new email address? Be sure to send this news to Don as well.

Much more information will be coming to the membership later. Take a moment now with this message to have your email included in future messages. Planning for possible donations is even more time critical while we can see what we have. Give it a thought and consider joining in on the fun and entertainment when the plant world can seem to have stopped!

**AHS Online Auction Chair,
Don Dean**

From the President

I'd like to thank everyone for all of their help in making our fourth educational talk a big success. Dr. Bob Olson gave a good talk and had wonderful photos to share, we had great attendance and the goodies that Teri Simmering arranged for were good too!!!

It's time to start thinking about our programs for next year. If you have attended a meeting with a good program, if you know of a good speaker or would like to have a specific program, please let me know or talk to one of our board members. Also, any suggestions for our bus trip would be appreciated. We need all of your ideas and suggestions!!!

Carolyn

Minutes from Secretary, Mary Johannsen

MVHS had a packed house for Dr. Bob Olson's presentation of his 25-year journey in developing his lovely yard into a garden. More than 100 attended this enlightening experience on October 16 at the Scott County Extension. His journey started in the 80's and continues on today. His MVHS slide show presentation of the transformation of his yard was inspirational and many of us in the audience could identify with this process. A garden is a never-ending saga for most of us. Bob's enthusiasm for each adventure that he took with his family and friends was an enjoyment to behold and listen to. He may have started simple but he sure ended spectacular! I would like to pass on a bit of knowledge that Bob shared with us, "Never put a \$40 plant in a 50-cent hole." But we all knew that, didn't we? :O)

We would like to thank everyone who brought a treat to share. As always, everything was yummy and that well deserved Hosta Buck will come in handy next spring. We would also like to let everyone know that our Annual Hosta Picnic at VanderVeer Park in September was enjoyed by quite a few of us. Of course, Mother Nature sprinkled a little rain but we were inside with the humming birds, so it just didn't matter. Hope to see everyone at the MVHS November meeting!

WINTER SCIENTIFIC MEETING

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society is once again sponsoring the Winter Scientific Meeting. This popular winter event will be held Saturday, January 21, 2012 at the Wyndham Hotel, 3000 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL. The hotel has given us a \$79.00 room rate. Please make your own reservations by calling 877-999-3223, and mention the "Midwest Regional Hosta Society Winter Scientific Meeting" to guarantee the rate. We have an outstanding program of speakers with interesting and timely topics:

Roy Klehm ... My Favorite Garden Plants

Bob Solberg ... Bringing a New Hosta to Market: Hybridization, Selection, Production and Marketing

Mark Zilis ... Tissue Culture - Past, Present, and Future

C. H. Falstad - Topic TBA

Again this year, the program will include a series of three concurrent breakout sessions. The topics covered in these sessions will be:

Session A: So You Want to Create a Water Feature (by Dennis Hood)

Session B: Trees for the Hosta Garden (by Glenn Herold)

Session C: Hybridizer's Perspective - (by Jeff Miller of Land of the Giants Hostas)

These breakout sessions will be presented twice, so attendees will be able to attend two out of the three sessions.

Again this year, there will be a hosta seed silent auction, proceeds of which will be used to underwrite a portion of the cost of the meeting.

The cost of this winter extravaganza is only \$55 per person for MRHS members and \$65 for non-members, and includes a continental breakfast and a deli buffet lunch. At their option, non-members can apply the \$10 difference in the registration fee to a one-year membership in the MRHS. Please make checks payable to MRHS, and mail before January 9, 2012, with the [registration form](#) to:

Kristine James
523 E. Calhoun Street
Woodstock Ill. 60098

Registrations postmarked after January 9 require a \$10 late registration fee per person.

Registration at the hotel will begin on Friday, January 20, from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm, and Saturday, January 21 from 7:00 am - 8:00 am. The program will run from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm on Saturday. Dinner Friday and Saturday nights will be on your own at one of the many fine area restaurants. The Hospitality Suite will be open from 7:00 pm -10:00 pm, both Friday and Saturday nights, for all that good hosta fellowship.

Questions? Contact Lou Horton (630-293-7735) or email: lehorton85@ameritech.net

Over-wintering Hostas in Nursery Pots

by Mary Bardens, editor of the NW Indiana Hosta Society newsletter

(Article reprinted with the permission of the author)

It happens to all of us. At some point in our gardening life, we don't get all of our plants planted. Fall comes, big end of season sales, life happens, then winter shows up and we still have plants sitting in black nursery pots. Not only are you looking at money spent, but you really wanted those hostas. And now you need them off of the sidewalk so you don't hit them with the snow blower.

Hostas can be over wintered in those pots in a few different ways. As temperatures drop, the plant will start to go dormant. The leaves will yellow and die back. Cut off the leaves and discard; don't compost. Be sure to sterilize your tools between plants in a 10% bleach solution to avoid spreading anything contagious. Allow the plants to continue getting the same moisture as the in-ground plants. Don't let them dry out prior to storage as they will need some moisture to get them through the winter. Check the pot bottoms for slugs and their little white pearl slug eggs so they don't over winter with the hosta.

Plants in gallon pots will survive better than in smaller pots due to the increased insulation of the soil around the roots. Soils that are too heavy with clay or peat will hold too much moisture and can cause root rot.

TIP 'EM

If you are over wintering the pots outside and you don't have a cold frame, one way is to dig a shallow trench before the ground freezes. After the hostas are dormant, place them in the trench at an angle to keep water from pooling on the surface. They can also be leaned against something like a landscape timber. You will want to keep the pots from thawing and freezing, so a cover of pine branches can be used. Or, a white insulating blanket designed just for this purpose can be placed over the pots and secured. Black plastic would cause too much heat and thawing could occur.

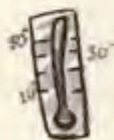


BURY 'EM

Dig a hole to bury at least 3/4 of the pot in the ground. Again, a white insulating blanket over the pots and a piece of plywood weighted down over that to keep out extra moisture and critters.

STASH 'EM IN AN UNHEATED BUILDING

An unheated garage, shed or barn works very well for winter hosta storage. In this environment they can be put on shelves or on the floor. Place the pots in the coldest part of the building, such as the north side, to reduce the chance of premature thawing. A little mouse bait would be a good idea if the area is not critter proof or patrolled by a cat. About mid winter, or if the pots appear very dry, you will need to add some moisture, but not too much. This can be done by placing a few ice cubes in each pot, or a snowball if available. The normal winter temperature fluctuations should cause the ice or snow to melt slowly enough to add some moisture without drowning the roots.



SPRING THAW

Now things will get interesting. You will have to be aware of the spring temperatures. If it gets too warm where the plants are being stored, they will prematurely sprout. Then you will end up with pale, gangly leaves that will be too tender for outside fluctuating temperatures. Ideally, you should move the pots back outside, or uncover if already outside, prior to their spring thaw so that they wake up slowly and naturally. You should be able to cover up the pots if it rains and then freezing temperatures occur. You don't want ice pooling in the top of the pot.

Be aware that not all hostas emerge at the same time. Just as in your garden, some will lag behind. Give the plants a chance, have a little faith, and make yourself the same solemn promise you did last year: **"This year I will get everything in the ground by Labor Day"**. Good Luck!

2012 Midwest Convention



Theme:
"Operation
Hosta"

July 12 – 14, 2012

Ramada Hotel and Convention Center
Rochester, MN

Hosta Garden Picnic at Camp Creek Farm
Educational Seminars
Auction, Silent Auction and Raffle
Five Wonderful Gardens on Tour

Convention Plant: H. 'Candy Kisses'



See next page for the tentative convention schedule.

Visit Shades of Green Hosta Society's website for more detailed information:

http://www.soghs.org/2012_Midwest_Convention

WHAT DO GIBOSHI AND FUNKIA MEAN?

by Mike Chambers; originally printed in the Hosta Hotline, the newsletter of the Mid-South Hosta Society

We all see words in our hosta readings and in 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 that 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 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:

Albo - White

Aureo - Golden

Elata - Tall

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

Grandiflora - Grand or larger flowers than normal

Maculata - Spotted or mottled middle...therefore, Aureomaculata would be a leaf with gold spots or streaks

Marginata - Marginated.. so, Albo-marginata is a white margined leaf

Picto - Painted or multicolored

Rugose - Rough, wrinkled or crinkled

Japanese terms:

Aoba - Green leaf

Hime - Small

Kifukurin - Yellow edged

Orgon - Yellow or gold

Shiro - White

TENTATIVE CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Schedule as of 10/19/2010

Thursday, July 12 (Noon until 11 PM)

8:30 am-Noon	Vendor Setup	Grand Ballroom A
Noon- 5:00 pm	Hosta Show Entries	Royale B/Hallway
Noon- 6:00 pm	Auction Plants Received	Royale A
Noon – 6:00 pm	Raffle Sales	Convention Lobby
Noon – 9:00 pm	Registration	Convention Lobby
Noon – 5:30 pm	Vendor Sales	Grand Ballroom A
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Garden Picnic	Camp Creek Farm
9:00 – 11:00 pm	Hostatality	Hostatality Suite

Friday, July 13 (7 AM until 11:30 PM)

7:00 am – 10:30 am	Hosta Show Entries	Royale B/Hallway
8:00 am – 11:00 am	Judges Clinic I	Symposium
8:00 am – 2:00 pm	Auction Plants Received	Royale A
8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Vendor Sales	Grand Ballroom A
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Raffle Sales	Convention Lobby
10:00 am – 11:00 am	MRHS Board Meeting	Hospitality Suite (?)
11:15 am – 12:15 am	Educational Seminar	Symposium
11:00 am – Noon	Judges Luncheon	Restaurant or Royale C
Noon – 3:00 pm	Hosta Show Judging	Grand Ballroom B
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Education Seminar	Symposium
2:15 pm – 3:15 pm	Education Seminar	Symposium
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	President's Meeting	Hospitality Suite (?)
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Hosta Show Open	Grand Ballroom B
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Silent Auction	*need location as setup will be taking place for banquet
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Cocktails & dinner	Royale ABC
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Auction	Royale ABC
9:30 pm – 11:30 pm	Hostatality	Hostatality Suite

Saturday, July 14, (6:30 am until 11:30 pm)

6:30 am – 7:30 am	Breakfast	Royale ABC
6:30 am – 7:30 am	Registration	Convention Lobby
8:00 am – 1:30 pm	Garden Tours Buses	Hotel Front Lobby
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Hosta Show open to public	Grand Ballroom B
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Vendor Sales	Grand Ballroom A
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Raffle Sales	Convention Lobby
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Raffle Drawing	Convention Lobby
5:30 pm – 9:30 pm	Cocktails & Dinner	Royale ABC (or Outdoor Tent)
9:30 pm – 11:30 pm	Hostatality	Hostatality Suite



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday, December 2, 2011
Social Hour - 6:30 PM
Dinner - 7:30 PM

The Outing Club
2109 Brady Street
Davenport, Iowa

Beef Tenderloin w/ Bearnaise Sauce - \$25
Grilled Salmon w/ Sherry-Chive Cream - \$25
Breast of Chicken Oscar,
topped with Alaskan King Crabmeat - \$20

Dessert will also be served.
Our club is picking up a portion of
the cost for the dinner.

For reservations, please call
Teri Simmering, 332-4957
by Friday, November 25, 2011

We will meet in the Bawden Room.
Enter the back door and take the elevator or
steps to second floor.

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:

Dec 2 - MVHS Annual Christmas Party
Jun 13-16 - AHS Convention, Nashville