

The Chattanooga Regional Hosta Society Meeting Minutes - 4-3-16

We met at the Barn Nursery at 10:00 a.m. and attended a presentation by Craig on Sun gardening.

Craig presented a number of what he considered the best sun perennials and discussed what cultivars were available at the Barn Nursery. Favorites presented were Bee Baum, Black Eyed Susan, Shasta daisy, Coreopsis, Day lilies, Dianthus, Gaur, Hardy Hibiscus, Iris, Phlox, Coneflower, Russian Sage, Salvia, Sedum, Verbena, and Yarrow.

He advised that many cattle farmers use a persistent herbicide in their pastures to keep the weeds minimized. This herbicide can be found in the manure. Black Cow manure is not certified to be free of it.

Dr. Earth fungicide and insect sprays he recommends. They contain essential oils rather than harsh chemicals.

Most of the Barn Nursery suppliers no longer use neonicotinoids that are transmitted to plant flowers and nectar and can be harmful to bees and other insects. Monrovia will continue using them until 2017.

Carolina Jasmine is a toxic plant. Keep children away from it. Bees stay away.

Although it contains a neonic chemical the only way to control the bug damage that causes cannabis leaves to curl up is Ortho - Flower, Fruit and Vegetable spray. If sprayed only on the leaves it will not be transmitted to the flower.

Craig's presentation ended at 11:30 and we truly appreciated it. Great job!

At 11:30 we had a short meeting. Our president Carol Bullard advised our next meeting will be on May 7 at the home of Tami Fisher and Gary Jacoby located off exit 345 on I-75 South. Their address is 6922 Lee highway. More directions will be sent out in the next newsletter. We will meet at 12 noon and eat a pot luck meal and then have our plant auction. The auction is our best money raising activity of the year and all members are requested to bring as many plants as possible. They do not have to be Hostas.

Carol advised that we have over \$3,000 in our treasury and that those who attend the May meeting will be given a Hosta valued at \$10.00. Ruby Sunday Rymer will provide the plants and one can choose next year's Hosta of the year, Brother Stefan or a chartreuse one called Fashionista.

The club ordered ten Hosta plants that are red in color named First blush. They are \$20 each and you may purchase one of them. Let Carol or Shirley know if you want one. They are being shipped to Judy Nowlin's because she bought ten for herself. She will care for them and love them until the May 7 meeting and will bring them to you there.

Ruby was proud to advise that she has many fragrant plants blooming this spring and invites all to visit.

Our Treasurer Johnny McMasters reported that we now have balance of \$3,628.81. He passed out yearbooks/ directories to those who did not get one earlier.

Jimmy wooten said that the Reflection Riding Arboretum wants to add clubs such as the Hosta Society to their annual fall plant sale. We need to consider if we want to sell hostas there.

Respectfully submitted, Chuck Dobson, Recording Secretary 4-3-16