

# THE CHATTANOOGA REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY



## THE HOSTA CONNECTION



**MAY 7, 2011  
12 O'CLOCK  
PICNIC AT THE MCMASTERS  
ALSO – PLANT AUCTION**



### *Notes from the Editor*

**YEA!!! NO LATE FREEZES OR FROST** – Now I'm hoping that we won't get any hail from the thunderstorms. I love spring, I'm still fascinated watching the plants emerging from the soil. Our garden suffered a little from not putting it to bed last fall, but who knows, we might have still lost plants.

Johnny and I are looking forward to the picnic, you'all have been here at Christmas when the garden was sleeping, now it's awake and we're hoping you will come and enjoy it.

I have an area 'my walk about' that slopes down the hill, I'm starting to naturalize it, (I'll let God take care of it with a little help from me). I know as I get older I won't be able to garden on the hill. We had a very large tree taken down in early spring - the man who wanted the wood changed his mind when a tree blew down in his yard. The tree is still laying on the ground and amazingly some of the hostas I have babied, in the past are growing along side the wood. The tree was taken down the old fashion way; one man in the tree and three on the ground trying to direct the falling wood. You will notice the deep depression in the ground where the wood fell, the hostas had not started growing so the men had no idea that hostas were beneath their feet as they walked everywhere, I kept telling myself as I watched ---this area will be naturalized --- this area will be naturalized --- the plants who make it will be, survival of the fittest.

As Johnny regains his strength, there are a few things to repair and a lot of projects planned for the gardens. Johnny loves to create, but hates to repair, we'll (he'll) have all summer to do this.

## **EIGHT IDEAS FOR USING HOSTAS IN YOUR GARDEN**

reprinted courtesy of Tom Lakowske

### AS EYE-STOPPING FOCAL POINTS

A giant 'Sum and Substance' in a field of variegated Liriope will grab your eye from across the yard. At transition areas in your garden; where two paths meet or at the entrance to a garden

room, for example. A good focal point will slow people down and let them know something special is happening here.

#### IN CONTAINERS

A large, vase shaped Hosta, like 'Krossa Regal,' makes the perfect "thriller" plant in a half barrel. Use Coral Bells and Japanese painted ferns as fillers, and Vinca Major as a spiller. Any containers will work, make sure it has drain holes, and in the winter tip them on their sides on the north side of your house

#### TO COMPLIMENT OTHER PLANTS

A gold 'Sun Power' or 'August Moon' will make the color of a Royal Purple Smokebush or Bloodgood Japanese Maple look richer. Plant a 'June' next to a dwarf Blue Spruce to enhance the blue. A circle of 'Old Glory' hosta around a Crimson Queen Japanese Maple puts the maple on a pedestal.

#### TO PROVIDE ENTERTAINMENT

I have three large ventricosa 'Aureomarginata' planted in front of a rocker. When they are in bloom, I enjoy watching the bumblebees buzz from flower to flower. A large container, with a bunch of mini-hostas becomes a crowd pleaser when you add a family of small gnomes and their house.

#### TO BRIGHTEN A DARK SPOT

My gazebo is surrounded by holly and yews. As they matured, I trimmed the lower limbs off and plant about 20 'Gold Standards' all among their trunks and around the gazebo. The bright hostas lit up what had become a dark spot.

#### HAVE A FAMILY REUNION

Sports, seedlings, and their parents are a winning combination because their colors natural match so well.

#### AS A GROUND COVER

Large quantities of 'So Sweet' make a lovely groundcover. They keep weeds to a minimum. A mid-size all blue, or a green with a slight white variegation looks best. Plain green 'Lancifolia' is a classic groundcover.

#### TO HIDE THE UGLIES

I planted a 'Blue Angel' to cover the entrance to my crawlspace. Hostas work well to hide the legs of Clematis vines too. Plant hostas over Daffodil bulbs to hide the Daffodil foliage after the flowers are gone.

### **QUOTE**

But each spring---a gardening instinct sure as the sap rising in the trees, stirs within us.  
We look about and decide to tame another little bit of ground' by Lewis Gantt

## **KILLER COMPOST**

GARDENERS IN THE United Kingdom and the United States have recently lost plants due to compost contamination with **aminopyralid**. It is a Chemical found in the weed killers like 'ForeFront' and Milestone, used to treat pastures where cattle and horses graze. The problem for gardeners is that aminopyralid doesn't break down even if eaten and digested by an animal. As a result, some manures are laced with an unhealthy dose of Broad-leaf herbicide. The company that produces this chemical recommends that composted manure from animals grazing in treated fields not be sold for use in gardens. So the next time you buy manure from a local source, ask if the field where the animal grazed was treated with aminopyralid.

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## **Whats going on !!!**

April 22, Friday

- Trip to Huntsville Botanical Garden – meet at 8 am - East Ridge Community Center

April 29 --- Bachman Garden and Art Expo --- This is a very fun day, we meet a lot of people interested in Hostas. Everyone is invited to attend: the hours are 8 am to 3 pm. You don't have to stay the entire time (you also shop for plants at other vendors)

May 7 --- Picnic and Plant Auction – (there is also a plant exchange)

Bring a covered dish the fun starts at 12 o'clock. If you have plants you want to exchange put them in a separate place from the plants to be auctioned.

Welcome new member Laverne Hughes!

Thanks for refreshments: Betty, Dennis, Judy, Reathel, Roseanne and Arlene

Next year, June 13 thru 16, 2012, the National Hosta Convention will be held at Nashville. We will sponsor Bob Solberg, and particulate in helping the Nashville Hosta Society. More information on this later.

Directions to the PICNIC: On Hwy 153 go north onto 58 Hwy --- go 2.5 miles --- at bottom of hill - turn left on Champion RD --- Go 2.2 miles to Lone Hill Rd – turn left. Go ½ mile to end of road – our home is tan and brick.

If you need to call us – home : 344-5876

cell: 313-4646

Hope to see everyone at the picnic --- we'll have fun !