

THE CHATTANOOGA REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY

THE HOSTA CONNECTION

SEPTEMBER 1, 2012
12 O'CLOCK
THE BARN NURSERY



Notes from the Editor

Either I'm confused or Mother Nature is confused, the weather we are having now - we should have had in June and vice versa. Summer is moving along quickly and has offered us quite a number of challenges this year. The weather has been the biggest challenge, changing from cool and comfortable to hot and humid then back to cool again, calm winds to winds that are destructive. I haven't had to water in 3 weeks, some of my hostas that were in bad shape have put on new leaves. I think the rain was carrying thousands of weed seeds, I've never had so many weeds, some I've never seen. I also have a new crop of snails and baby slugs. With spring coming early I missed the timing of putting out my snail bait, I don't know if this is why I have so many slugs and snails or if they came in the rain like tadpoles, usually I never see any snails or slugs on the ground or vegetation, but now I see them everywhere. I need to put out some bait, I can't correct the damage they've done this year but maybe I can slow them down next year if I kill a bunch of them now..

The August meeting our speaker, Elenor Craig from Fern Ridge Farm, Cedar Bluff AL was very informative on ferns and gave a delightful program. She brought a good selection of ferns for us to purchase. I think everyone present bought a fern. I bought the large mother fern with the babies hanging on, I've taken the babies and now I'm trying to get them to grow, if I have any luck I'll bring some to the plant auction in October. I bought four ferns, Johnny took two of them and planted them in his hosta bed.

For next year, Johnny, our Treasure, my husband had a fun idea, after seeing the leaf show at the National Hosta Convention he thought we should have a Leaf Show, not the formal kind; It will be called "THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY!!!, we haven't figured out all the details - we know it will be fun --- the judging will be done by ballot by the club members. Some ideas we are playing with - biggest mature leaf, smallest mature leaf, ugliest leaf, bluest leaf, etc, etc. (We'll figure all this out at a future meeting.)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS (hopefully soon to become members).

People say hostas are indestructible and you can't kill them. Yes, some hostas are very strong and will put up with almost anything, then there are the hostas that no matter what you do – are a challenge to grow. I had mention earlier in the newsletter that I was going to apply snail bait; I have come across this article while looking for Hosta growing tips:

Courtesy of SE Wisconsin Hosta Society

“Many of you have requested that we send you a reminder when it is time to apply the ammonia soil treatment around Hosta to control slug populations. Well, here's your reminder: Instructions - Mix a solution of 20% household ammonia (1 part ammonia to 4 parts water). Using a watering can apply this solution generously as a soil soak around the crown of your Hosta plants just as the pips are breaking the soil in the spring. This solution will kill overwintering slugs and slug eggs in the soil. We have found that it significantly reduces slug populations. If slugs continue to be a problem this solution can be reapplied several times throughout the growing season. Some Hosta fanciers of our acquaintance actually spray their Hosta gardens with a very dilute Ammonia solution (1 to 8 parts) as frequently as once a month.

HOSTAS OF THE YEAR

2012 Liberty
2011 Praying Hands
2010 First Frost
2009 Earth Angle
2008 Blue Mouse Ears
2007 Paradigm
2006 Stained Glass
2005 Striptease
2004 Sum and Substance
2003 Regal Splendor
2002 Guacamole
2001 June
2000 Sagae
1999 Paul's Glory
1998 Fragrant Bouquet
1997 Patriot
1996 So Sweet

HOSTA SOCIETY OFFICERS 2012

President.....Carol Bullard
Vice President.....Shirley McMasters
Recording Secretary.....Chuck Dotson
Treasurer.....Johnny McMasters
Newsletter Editor.....Shirley McMasters
Hospitality.....
Publicity.....Roseanne Kaylor
Yearbook.....Betty Fassnacht
Webmaster.....Dennis Schafluetzel

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The current dues for 1 year.....2012 to 2013
Single.....\$10
Family.....\$15

The September Program will be given by Craig Walker with the Barn Nursery.

The 2012, February Meeting was at the Barn Nursery - Craig did a fantastic program. If you attended this meeting you will remember Craig showing plants still in dormancy, he called them naked plants, there were a lot of naked plants sold that day. Craig is very knowledgeable in all the plant families – I don't know what kind of program he plans to do, but I'm looking forward to learning and seeing the plants that Craig has planned for us.

THE HOSTA GARDENING CALENDAR

from 'The Green Hill Gossip' by Bob Solberg

Late Summer (growth of buds for next year) late-August-September

With the full extension of the flowering inflorescence, the growing tip, (meristem), of the hosta shoot is carried high into the air, at the end of the scape. New “dormant” buds now begin to form at the base of the scape, that will go through cold dormancy and produce the new shoots and leaves of the plant in the next spring. Ideally, three buds are formed, but frequently less are formed by large hosta cultivars. In some early flowering hostas, these buds may produce a second growth of new shoots, leaves, flower scapes and more dormant buds the same summer, especially if they are grown in areas where the growing season is long, as in the Southeastern US.

Labeling: Place plant labels, temporary or permanent, with each new hosta. Bury a plastic label with the plant name in the same position for each hosta. Map the garden if you are so inclined.

Light: Days begin to shorten, hostas begin to begin to look tired.

Nutrients: Fertilize newly planted hostas with 10-10-10 or a little slow release fertilizer. If some hostas make a few new leaves then liquid feed once in August.

Pests: Check for voles moving into the garden. Check for foliar nematodes, again. Check the oldest leaves. If the deer still want our hostas, then at some point, open the gate and let them clean up the garden for you.

Protection: Mulch newly worked areas.

Propagation: Continue to divide hostas. Try to get them finished 6 weeks before the first frost. You can do it later but remember hostas do not grow roots over the winter.

Water: Turn off the irrigation and put the hoses away. Lack of water will encourage dormancy. Of course, continue to water your new plantings.

Fun: Look for fall special from your favorite hosta nurseries. Hostas planted in the fall will look a year older than the ones you buy next spring. Continue to plant new acquisitions.

HOSPITALITY --- We will not have refreshments for the September meeting (Barn Nursery). The Hosta Society will furnish, plates, cups and serve ware for the meetings. Carol and Therese were the only members to sign up to bring refreshments to the October Meeting. We need several more volunteers - you can sign up at the September meeting.