

# THE CHATTANOOGA REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY



## THE HOSTA CONNECTION



**FEBRUARY 2, 2013  
MEETING AT 1 P.M.  
EAST RIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER**

## **2012 HOSTA CONVENTION PICTURES OF THE GARDENS**



### *Notes from the Editor*

*Cornelia and Virginia will be at the February Meeting, I'm looking forward to seeing pictures of the gardens again. Virginia's pictures are some of the best hosta pictures I've seen, Virginia knows how to frame the shot – it looks professional. You will see pictures of Cornelia's garden that we are going to visit this spring, May 25.*

*The Mid South Hosta Society is planning the Dixie Regional Meeting in Memphis this year. I believe the dates are June 7 and 8. As I receive the information, I'll share it with you.*

*I hope your Holidays were good, Johnny and I enjoyed ours very much. Are you ready for a new year of gardening? We are having another crazy winter, I have daffodils up 4 and 5 inches, my creeping flock is starting to bloom. I guess the only good thing about this winter is we have received rain, lots of rain, this is rebuilding the water table, and will help the large trees with their deep roots.*

*All of my flower beds receive the same amount of water; last fall, I transplanted several plants together, that will tolerate dry conditions. Once this bed is established I'll only water it occasionally. There are still several plants I need to transplant out of this bed, and put in a bed that requires more water. I have a large rain barrel that holds 250 gallons of water, Johnny installed an electric pump, so I could use the water hose to hand water. I thought, "ooooooooo, I have lots of water, but nooooooooooooo, it took me about 30 minutes before it went dry." I was only able to water like this once, it never rained enough to fill up the container for the pump to work. This year, I'll only use the water for special plants, (yes, I have some special plants that are not hosta's --- not many but a few).*

## SOUTHERN HOSTAS:

*from 'The Hosta Patch'*

Hostas will not grow year round in climates that do not experience frost or as houseplants. If grown year round, Hostas will slowly decline and eventually disappear. They need to go dormant and experience temperatures near freezing. This usually means they need to be dormant at least one month where the temperature will remain near or drop below 40F.

There are around 40 recognized species of Hostas. They originate in the orient in latitudes generally comparable to the U.S.D.A zones. The conditions they grow under are as varied as the genus. Hostas grow naturally in open fields, comparable to our prairies, in moist meadows, on rocky mountain slopes, forest, and shady mountain woods. The climate is usually cooler, damper, and cloudier than that of the general climate in the United States. Hostas grown in the U.S. where the sun is more intense, there is not as much rainfall, and the summers are warmer, like to grow in the shade. Even if our gardens are shaded from direct sun, the heat is more intense, and the air is generally drier than the natural growing range for hostas. In the cooler northern part of the U.S. All hosta varieties will grow well. It is in the south, where the summer heat is more intense and lasts for longer periods of time that some varieties of Hosta will not perform as well. As a general rule most Hosta species will tolerate the climate conditions of the south. It is however the Hostas with *H. sieboldiana* and *H. Tokudama* in their heritage that suffer in the southern heat. In this prolonged and intense heat these plants will not achieve their full potential and will not grow as large. A beautiful large plant one year may come back the next spring just a tiny plant. This is the result of crown rot, which begins in the fall after a long hot, dry summer. Unfortunately these two susceptible varieties of Hostas are the parents of many of the large leaved blue hosta for which the genus is prized.

Hostas such as *H. sieboldiana*, 'Elegans', *H. tokudama*, *Aureonebulosa*, and *H. tokudama*, *Flavocircinalis* let you know by their names that they are varieties that do not like the heat. There are a whole host of sports of these Hostas that are not as easily determined, such as 'Frances Williams', or 'Color Glory'. It helps to know the background of plants when choosing Hosta for the southern garden.

Some Hostas are not sports of these hybrids, they are grown from seed. Some such as 'Blue Mammoth', 'Blue Angel' and 'Elegans', seedlings, will tolerate the southern climate, and will grow large and lush if good cultural practices are implemented. In addition to the large blue Hostas that are so prized, there are smaller varieties with blue leaves that will also grow well in the south. There are several southern growers working on hybridizing plants that will tolerate the heat and look good all summer.

The south does have varieties that will grow better in the south than their northern neighbors. Hostas with fragrant flowers will actually grow larger, and perform better in the warmer southern climate. All Hostas with fragrant flowers derive their fragrance from the species *H. plantaginea*, that grows in southern

China, further south than any other Hosta species. It is the original southern Hosta. Of the thousands of Hosta varieties on the market, most of them will grow well throughout their entire hardiness range.

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Members that were nominated and elected to serve as Officers and Committee Chairpersons for the years: '2013' and '2014'.

President: Carol Bullard  
Recording Secretary: Chuck Dobson  
Historian: Shirley McMasters  
Publicity Chairperson: Roseann Kaylor  
Year Book: Betty Fassnacht

Vice President: Shirley McMasters  
Treasurer: Johnny McMasters  
Hospitality Chairperson: Betty Fassnacht  
Newsletter Editor: Shirley McMasters  
Web Master: Dennis Schafluetzel

### **UPCOMING EVENTS !**

March Meeting: Barn Nursery, 1 o'clock, Craig Walker, speaker  
April 19 & 20: Bachman Garden & Art Expo, plant sale  
May Meeting: Jimmy Wooton, picnic and garden tour  
May 25: Nashville trip, garden tours

How would you like to have a Hosta Leaf Show? Johnny had the idea; he thought it would be fun, just the members would be involved. We would have different categories: best leaf: blue, yellow, green, and variegated. Biggest leaf, smallest leaf, leaf from your favorite Hosta, etc. This wouldn't be a contest, but a chance to show off your best. Or this could be a contest, the members could vote which was their preference. Keep this in mind – we'll talk more about it at a later date if your interested.

At the Bachman Garden & Art Expo, Ruby supplies us with hostas to sell. In past years, the sale was only on Saturday, this year the sale will start Friday afternoon, and end Saturday afternoon (I'm not sure of the hours). The Hosta Society is a well known vendor at the Garden & Art Expo, one year we were late arriving and setting up, people wanted to know if the Hosta Society was coming. When we arrived, (mix up in time) we were advised, (not politely) that we were late and everyone was asking where we were.... "it feels good to be wanted". Every year at the Bachman Garden & Art Expo, Chuck always brings some kind of plants to sale: hostas, small bushes, etc. Last year, Chuck bought 2 'huge' Halcyon Hostas from Sam's: I think he paid \$10 or \$20 for each, we sold them for double the amount he paid---all of this was pure profit for the Society. We don't have to sale just hostas, if you have a plant that isn't dormant, or a craft item you've made and would like to donate it to sell --- you can bring it to the 'sale' of drop off at my house. I'm going to take some Lenten Roses to sale. The six or seven members who help at Bachman can sell anything and have fun doing it. All members are welcome to help at the Bachman sale.