

THE CHATTANOOGA REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY

THE HOSTA CONNECTION

MARCH 2, 2013

12 O'CLOCK

THE BARN NURSERY

Speaker: Craig Walker



Notes from the Editor

Spring is in the air, I just came in from walking the dog, it was so warm I had to remove my jacket and the dog's sweater. I started glowing and Pepper started panting. I had wished for snow and colder temps, last year the bugs & caterpillars were terrible, the snails were out before I put out snail bait, last year my August Moon did not look like a hosta, it looked like a lace-leaf plant. I put out snail bait and Preen a couple of days ago, hopefully this will help with the snails and weeds.

We will not have a meeting in April, if any of you want to book a speaker please do, I've run out of ideas, contact Roseanne so she can reserve East Ridge Community Center. I asked Cornelia if she could reschedule her program for April, I had forgotten she was going on a cruise in April. Cornelia said, "yes she would reschedule" we need to decide on a date. We are still planning on visiting her garden this spring, at the next meeting we need to make plans for who's going and the transportation.

HOSTA CULTURE

taken from Hostapatch 3/27/2012

Understanding the seasonal growing cycle of a Hosta plant can aid in the best timing for various cultural needs. The seasonal growing cycle of a Hosta plant begins when dark shoots begin to emerge from the soil, elongate and unfurl into the leaves, it is just before this period of foliage growth that a balanced 20-20-20 , or 10-10-10 fertilizer should be applied. The next growth spurt takes place in the roots. It is at this time a second application of fertilizer should be applied, however with a lower nitrogen and higher phosphorus and potassium content. Care must be taken after the foliage has matured so as not to over fertilize or contact leaves with fertilizer as this may cause them to burn. Also if moisture is in sort supply, extra watering may be necessary as Hosta prefer a moist soil.

Realizing these seasonal growth spurts helps in knowing when to divide hostas. It is best to divide before the root growth begins. However it may be difficult to dig up a large plant and divide it after the foliage matures without damaging some leaves. It is also easier to divide a plant just as the foliage is emerging as it is easier to determine the individual plants. Any time hostas are divided they should be replanted immediately in soil with ample organic matter, and provided sufficient moisture.

Many hostas grow leaves and roots all summer and may be given light applications of a balanced fertilizer through mid August. Some hostas such as Elegant, Francis Williams, Great Expectations and Color Glory, stop growing in the summer. These plants are native to higher and cooler elevations in their natural growing range. They are characterized by their larger blue colored leaves. It is not advisable to fertilize these plants after early summer while in their summer dormancy. When in doubt it probably would be best not to fertilize after early summer

The best way to capitalize on the beauty and lush foliage of a hosta plant is to improve the soil at planting time, fertilize early in the season, and supply ample moisture when mother nature doesn't.

JUNE 7th through 9th Dixie Regional Hosta Society meeting will be held in Memphis Tennessee

HOW TO MAKE A LIGHT-WEIGH HYPERUFA TROUGH

Traditional Hypertufa troughs are made of cement. They're heavy. Here is a recipe for a light-weight version that you can make and enhance for natural effects. They can last for several years.

Materials

An empty, polystyrene box

A wire brush or other tool to rough up the outside of the box

Optional: hot air gun to slightly melt and round corners and make shapes

One or two colors of tough porch, deck paint (rock colors)

Some sand, grit, pumice, gravel or mortar mix for texture

Process: Scrape and scar the box surface. Round sharp corners and mimic rock surfaces. Paint on one color as an undercoat, then add the second color to give a mottled effect and enhance textures. While paint is still wet, throw sand, grit or pumice onto the box to add texture. Or add a light coat of mortar mix for more of a stone appearance.

Remember to carefully punch drainage holes in the bottom. Stand the trough on a pair of bricks and enjoy.

WHAT'S COMING UP ?

APRIL 19 & 20th --- BACHMAN GARDEN & ART EXPO

We will start selling Hostas Friday evening and Saturday till 2 p.m. If you have any sun or shade loving plants, we can sell them - they don't have to be hostas. I have some Lenton Roses potted up to sale. If you can't bring your plants to Signal Mtn, you can drop them off at our house any time. I always enjoy selling at the Bachman & Art Expo, if you would like to join the crew come on up to the Mountain and meet new people and have some fun.

MAY 4 --- Picnic and Garden Tour at Jimmy Wootens'