

THE CHATTANOOGA REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY

THE HOSTA CONNECTION

MAY 4th MEETING PICNIC AND GARDEN TOUR

JIMMY WOOTEN'S HOME

**Jimmy will have BBQ pork loin, potato salad & slaw.
Bring a covered dish to add or desert.**

DIRECTIONS: as you approach the mountain - go up Signal Mt Rd - go approximately 6 miles - turn right on Gahagan Rd - go .4 mile - turn left on Fairmount - go about 40 feet Jimmy's house is a log house on the left - address is: 3813 Fairmount.

Jimmy sent me an email saying his gardens are very wet from the rain, he said to wear something you don't mind getting dirty.



Notes from the Editor

It's raining outside, I had planned to finish putting out pine straw today. Yesterday I worked out in the drizzle from 8am to 1pm, I used an hour of that time on the back porch, Johnny was putting up a swing so I had to rearrange the furniture. When Johnny gets up this morning I'm going to pressure wash everything on the porch including the screens. 'Johnny vacuumed all the cushions yesterday, so when I clean the cushions the pollen won't make a mess. 'Yes ! I'll get wet but not as wet as I was yesterday.' The drizzle wasn't cold but it wasn't warm either, I wore a fleece jacket which repelled water, 'notice I said repelled' I pruned two Japanese Maples and weeded the patio beds (the weeds pulled out so easy) I laid out some stepping stones so I wouldn't step in the bed, Took 3 bales of pine straw but everything is finished in that area.

The Bachman Garden and Art Expo wasn't fun, there wasn't as many vendors as usual, competition from other plant sales and the weather played a large part. Friday afternoon Betty, Carol, Johnny and myself set everything up. (Johnny and I picked up the Hostas, Thursday afternoon from Ruby's). Friday afternoon was so cold (even I got cold) the wind was blowing so hard we put plant trays between each row of hostas, the Sum and Substance and Empress Wue took a beating their leaves were so large they looked like a sail boat. We made two sales – one man came saying, 'he was working on a project and was waiting for our sale,' he bought all the Sum & Substance and one Empress Wue which totaled \$110.00 – first and best sale we had both days. We moved all the hostas inside because we were afraid of frost, (remember we were on Signal Mt). Saturday morning Chuck beat us up the Mountain and had started bringing out the Hostas, Chuck had potted up three different kinds of Hosta – five each, Judy came to our house Wednesday morning from Sand Mt, and brought lots of plants. \$60.00 was earned from Hosta members' plants. Ruby came Saturday morning and brought some Huaraches – we sold one. (Ruby had committed herself to help a friend who was having medical problems and forgot about Bachman's sale.) In past years we usually was sold out by 11 o'clock, Last Saturday we packed up at one o'clock, and made the trip back to Tunnel Hill. We had sold only a few Hostas – the Hosta Society made \$60.00 from the hosta sale. Bachman's Garden and Art Expo didn't have as many vendors and the weather was so cold nobody wanted to get out,

I'm looking forward to the Picnic at Jimmy's, There will be blooms from the perennials, azalea and rhododendrons. The hostas are wonderful – Jimmy will share his knowledge with us – our last picnic we learned his secrets for growing hosta's. Jimmy's' garden will be on the Chattanooga Food Banks' Garden Tour in June (the cost is \$10) there is no charge for exploring the garden on our Picnic.

At the Picnic, we'll plan on who's going to Nashville on May 25th. We are planning on seeing Cornelia Hollands garden (her garden was on tour at the American Hosta Society Convention in June 2012) and Cheekwood Botanical Garden. I saw Cornelia's garden, she had over 300 varieties of hosta. I've never been to Cheekwood so I'm looking forward to seeing something new.

SHADE LOVING COMPANION PLANTS FOR HOSTA GARDENS

BY FLOUNCE KRUER

All of the plants listed below grow in shade, unless part shade is indicated and they all like moist fertile soil with lots of humus.

Solomon's Seal, of the lily family, sports dainty bell-shaped white blooms which dangle along arching stems around May. It grows from 18 to 36" tall and its leaves are bright green edged with white. In October and November the leaves

turn bright yellow, providing interest when other plants look spent. It has no serious pests and can be divided in early spring or fall. It tends to spread, so give it lots of room.

Begonia grandis (Hardy Begonia) has angel wing foliage which is red tinted with soft blue-green leaves. The airy sprays of pink flowers shoot up above the foliage and last from late summer until frost. It can reach a height of about 24". It can be moved anytime during the growing season.

Dicentra (Bleeding Heart) the King of Hearts variety bears rose pink heart shaped flowers on steel blue fern-like foliage. It reaches a height of 15" and likes part shade. This variety blooms all summer. There are other varieties that bloom in early spring only and grow s 24 to 36" tall, bearing either white or pink blooms.

Silver painted fern is available in a number of varieties. It grows about 18" tall and likes part shade. It looks just as its name indicates.

Autumn (Japanese shield) fern – in spring 18 to 24" fronds unfurl in bright copper. They green up in the summer and then turn russet- orange in the fall.

Ferns – There is a large variety of native ferns which go really well with hosta because of the extreme contrast in foliage.

Apigelia marilandica – The variety Indian Pink produces spiked of bright red flowers with yellow throats. It grows 2 to 2 ½ ' high and blooms June to August. This is a native wild flower and is a striking plant.

Anemone hybrid blooms in late August and September and is available in a variety of white and pink-toned blossoms. Each flower spike has a couple dozen blooms. It grows 24 to 36" tall and likes part shade, it is propagated from its long hairy roots which have tiny nodules and can be found along with bulbs in garden centers, However, we have had no success with the bare roots. It is best to purchase a named potted plant.

Nandina domestica grows 3 to 6 ' tall and provides special interest in those bare beds during the winter months with its lush clusters of red berries and lacy colorful leaves. This plant is invasive! It grows from part sun to shade.

RAINFOREST SUNRISE is the 2013 HOSTA OF THE YEAR

This attractive sport of the all-gold Hosta 'Maui Buttercups' and hybrid of 'August Moon' and 'Frances Williams'.

It has lightly cupped leaves that are heavily puckered or corrugated. The glossy leaves emerge light green, but soon develop golden centers with dark green margins. The centers gradually lighten as the season progresses. It has the best color when planted in an area that receives morning sun. 'Rainforest Sunrise' has a moderate growth rate, forming a clump 10 inches high and about 2 feet across when mature. The foliage has good substance so it remains fresh-looking all summer and well into fall for a distinctive garden presence, as well as making it rather slug resistant. White to light lavender flowers are borne on 18 to 24 inch scapes in midsummer.