

THE CHATTANOOGA REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY



THE HOSTA CONNECTION



**PLANT AUCTION
OCTOBER 5, 2013
MEETING AT 1 P.M.
EAST RIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER**



Notes from the Editor

How much rain did you garden get? We're on a hill so we didn't have to worry about our gardens getting flooded. I did have a few Hostas that died, on examination they looked like they had crown rot. My water bill for June, July and August was wonderful – it only was about \$10 to \$20 more than usual. My September water bill will be high, I've have to water 5 days out of 7.

The trip to Nashville in May was fun. There were only eight of us, we car pooled, we only used two cars for the trip. Cornelia's gardens were still just as beautiful as they were for the '2012 Hosta Convention', we spent all morning admiring and asking Cornelia questions about her shade loving plants. One of the members of the Nashville Hosta Society who sells hostas was there with 15 to 25 different hostas for sale. After a delicious lunch we went to Cheekwood, this was my first trip, I was expecting to see gardens filled to the brim with plants. I was disappointed because my expectations were so high. Cheekwood was pretty, there was a lot to see, but it was less than I expected. The flower garden was small - compared to how much land Cheekwood could have used for this display. There were lots of pathways (long pathways) with a few planting beds along the way these were pretty. The area that I liked best was the Japanese garden, I was very impressed in all the plantings and symbolisms that was used.

Ruby Sunday is having a special plant sale, if you buy a \$1,000 worth of plants you will get 50% off. This special can be divided between 4 people, Ruby said, it takes so long to write up each order, that she was limiting four buyers for the \$500 purchase which is 1/2 off the \$1,000 sale price.

REMEMBER TO POT UP LOTS OF PLANTS FOR THE AUCTION, this is our primary way to raise money for our Treasury.

There is a need for someone to take over arranging the programs for the meetings in 2014. I'll continue to do the newsletter, but can't continue finding the programs. Hopefully, someone or maybe two members will volunteer to arrange the programs for our Meetings.

WHATS COMING UP!

Make plans for Our Christmas Luncheon, December 7th, 12 pm., at Johnny's and our home. We always enjoy the fun and friendships we share. I'll have directions in the next newsletter.

MILORGANITE --- The Deer Chaser

'information from 'Prairie Hosta Herald'

Miorganite as a deer chaser? This was a surprised to learn this fact at the recent AHS Convention in Milwaukee.

Bill Radler, developer of the Knock Out Rose, home is located near a major stream and a large portion of heavily wooded area with deer, there are a lot of hostas and other plants outside the deer fence. A question was asked how he kept the deer from eating the hosta and plants on the outside of the fence? The answer – Milorganite. It seems that about every one to two weeks he broadcasts Milorganite on the beds outside the fence, those plants were very large and had great color.

If you have not used Milorganite Fertilizer on your garden, you need to check it out. For some 85 years this product from Milwaukee has been used by professionals and gardeners. It does not have to be watered in, does not burn, is slow release over some 8 – 10 weeks and is safe for children and pets. Mix it with fertilizer when broadcasting in the spring. Broadcast Milorganite on Hosta beds at least once or twice a year and add some to pots along with the other fertilizer.

Milorganite is organic nitrogen with 4% iron and does contain some phosphorous, but the manufacture notes it will not leach out as occurs with mined phosphorous. It is more available for the plants and will not move into groundwater, lakes or streams.

Milorganite is available at most garden centers in 50 pound bags. So if you have a deer problem check this out, it may be the best solution.

If using Milorganite is not your choice: here is another view point

FERTILIZING YOUR HOSTA

taken from the, *Prairie Hosta Herald*
by Warren Pollock

Hostas are heavy feeders and respond well to fertilizers-especially the slow release kinds applied very early in the spring as the tips just appear. They should be watered in well so the water-soluble nitrogen (ammoniacal) content is available to the plants when they need nitrogen most: when they are actively making new leaves.

Some suggested slow release fertilizers

SCOTTS (LAWN) STARTER FERTILIZER: 20-27-5 It lasts about two months; apply at half the amount recommended on the package.

MIRACLE-GROW SHAKE AND FEED: 10-10-10 One treatment will last up to 2 to 3 months Apply at full strength.

DYNAMITE PLANT FOOD (sold as Nutricote, to the Nursery trade): 18-6-8 Difficult to find but sometime is available at some Home Depot store and garden centers.

(OSMOCOTE another slow-release granular fertilizer, is a substitute, but note that as much as 65% of its nitrogen can be released in a single heavy watering).

Suggested: use of Roots and M.Roots (which contains Mycorrhiza spores) when planting bare-root and repotting container-growing hostas, these granular products encourage new root formation. Their nitrogen content is only a few percent, so the above slow-release fertilizers need to be applied along with them.

Don't just put fertilizer on the hosta crown and feeding tips, you need to extend to the clump's perimeter and beyond.

Hostas also benefit from Epsom salt in early spring. The magnesium helps green-up green leaves and darken 'blackish' leaves. Add a pinch to a gallon of water and apply a couple times in early spring to the leaves and soil.

For bigger leaves, try applying a foliar fertilizer directly to the leaves as they are unfurling and making new growth. Pre-wet the soil well to ensure the Hosta has enough in ground moisture. Spray a soluble fertilizer, such as Miracle-Gro or Peters, diluted to 1/4-1/2 of recommended strength, every 7-14 days until midsummer.

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