

# THE CHATTANOOGA REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY



## THE HOSTA CONNECTION



# NO FEBRUARY MEETING



### *Notes from the Editor*

*Carol, was not able to line up a speaker for our February meeting. We have a speaker for the **March 1** meeting if it doesn't snow. Cornelia Holland will be giving the program: Hostas 101. Cornelia is very knowledgeable on Hostas. We had a field trip to her Nashville garden last spring, her garden has been shown on television and written up in articles. Our members who saw her garden will tell you how grand it is.*

*If you have received this Newsletter, please either call me 423-344-5876 or email me so I know that you received this newsletter. I've had some members say that they didn't receive the Newsletter. If I don't hear from you by phone or email, I will remove your name from the Newsletter list.*

*Carol is getting the programs for the meetings together this year. I retired myself from doing the programs. I'll continue to do the Newsletter but if someone else would like to have a go of it, I'll gladly let you have the position.*

*I need to apologize for the last Newsletter I sent. Not everyone is a animal lover, I knew I needed to send the Newsletter, to remind you the time and that the Society's Christmas luncheon was at our home, but all I could was think of what happen to 'Pepper' my dog. To update you on Pepper, He is doing FINE.*

*The Dixie Regional Hosta Convention is May 30 & 31. It will be hosted by Bob & Nancy Solberg. You will visit Bob & Nancy's garden and nursery, see Green Hill Farm, State Farmers Market, and gardens in the Wake Forest Area. You can look up the information on the web under Dixie Regional 2014 Convention. Johnny, Carol, and I are planning on attending. Johnny and I enjoyed the speakers and gardens at National Hosta Convention 2012 we want to experience it again.*

## RUNNING OUR OF SPACE – TRY SMALL HOSTAS

Unfortunately, none of us have unlimited space to plant hostas. Even the largest garden finally begins to fill up. Frequently, however, our ability to maintain the garden limits our need for new hostas long before the space runs out. Small hostas solve both these gardening dilemmas.

Large hostas also require more maintenance. Aside from the additional initial bed preparation time and effort, large hostas are just hard to handle. If grown in containers they seem to always be sending new roots out those little holes in the bottom of the pot. Small hostas need not be repotted as often. And thoughts of procrastination begin to creep into our minds when those old giant clumps need dividing.

Small hostas are easy to divide. Many do not even require a knife, they just pull apart with your hands and they do not need a crane to lift them out of the hole. Also, frequently they increase faster than large hostas so there are more surplus divisions to pass on to other hosta friends. Dividing small hostas every two or three years also keeps them small. And it keeps them cute.

In the garden I like to see small hostas grouped in areas by themselves, away from their bigger brothers and sisters. Frequently these beds are raised, bringing these smaller plants closer to eye level. I have seen several of these 'mini beds' mulched with gravel or small river rocks. The effect is both clean and eye-catching.

We used to see small hostas regularly used as border plants. Long rows of 'Golden Tiara', 'Gold Edger', and 'Kabitan' still fill my mind's eye. As collectors, many hosta growers cannot afford to allot so much space to any one cultivar. But for landscape effect, a border of almost any small hosta will define space as well as carry the eye around the garden. Remember, small hostas make great container plants too.

by, Bob Solberg,  
from, Via Gold & Green Hosta Society

## SLUGS PREFER DECAF

Working at a snail's pace has become a well known adage. One would think that caffeine and coffee might be the best answer to picking up the pace. However it turns out what might work for humans has the reverse effect on slugs. In fact, caffeine has recently been found to be fatal to slugs which may open the door for new more environmentally friendly pesticides.

Recent studies have found that slugs and snails are killed when sprayed with a caffeine solution, and that spraying plants with this solution also serves as a repellent.

Researchers found that when they sprayed an area of soil with a 2 percent caffeine solution, slugs and snails would either crawl away from the treated ground or die. Further research showed that slugs preferred to eat plain cabbage leaves rather than leaves treated with a caffeinated spray. Similar studies found that more snails left planted areas treated with caffeine when compared to areas treated with a standard snail repellent.

But don't go pouring coffee (or coffee grounds) on your garden since the average cup of coffee contains only about 0.05 percent caffeine --- much less than the 1 to 2 percent solution that proved fatal to the snails. In addition, the jury is still out regarding the related effects of earthworms.

Caffeine offers promise for snail and slug control, the researchers said, because it is labeled 'generally recognized as safe' by the US Food and Drug Administration. Commercially available slug sprays contain strong chemicals that are regulated by the FDA and are not allowed in food products.

by Rob Martko, The Hosta Guy

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