

THE CHATTANOOGA REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY



THE HOSTA CONNECTION

MEETING

MARCH 1 at 1 PM
EAST RIDGE
COMMUNITY CENTER



SPEAKER

CORNELIA HOLLAND
' HOSTA 101'



Notes from the Editor

This has been one cold winter, lucky we had no damage or power outages, but my garden looks terrible. Leaves are brown on all my plants, trees, and bushes, I'm afraid I've lost all my pre-nimals that are on the edge of Zone 7b. I've always prided myself in saying I can grow this or that plant that is zoned further south, I guess I'll be careful about bragging (it always come back to bite me).

Our speaker for March is Cornelia Holland, past President of the Middle Tennessee Hosta Society, Cornelia was responsible for bringing the National Hosta Convention to Nashville in 2012.

Several of our members visited her gardens last May, Cornelia's gardens were fantastic. Cornelia knows how to arrange a hosta grouping, that compliments all the hostas. I'm looking forward to our March meeting, hope to see y'all there.

*Some of you haven't paid your dues: Individual \$10 Family: \$15
If in the Year Book there is the number 13 at the end of your name – you haven't paid for 2014.*

Our April 5, 1PM meeting will be at Ooltewah Nursery --- Jim Yates will give the program

A PUZZLE FOR YOU TO SOLVE

'You might be a hostaholic – If you can answer these with hosta names!'

1. Great sandwich with bacon/lettuce
2. Drink with a Mexican meal
3. Dessert of chocolate covered ice cream
4. French dessert with caramel/Grand Marnier
5. Philly steak is not complete without
6. A mess made with Saltines
7. Fragrant spice from bark of tree
8. A red and white sugar stick
9. Two ingredients in a Mexican meal
10. Browned batter cooked between two hot plates
11. Blue Bell's specialty
12. Green Florida fruit desert
13. Citrus fruit preserves
14. Cake with fruit on bottom
15. A drink and an English muffin
16. A cocktail made with vodka and apple juice

ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE

Overwintering Hostas in Containers

Hostas grow in pots and they are difficult to overwinter. Typically the spring freeze and thaw cycles kills them. Last year I tried bringing them in late in the season and keeping them in the cold room. This was quite successful. The Hostas must have a built in clock though because come late April they perked up and started growing quickly in the dark. I brought them out of the cellar and put them out during the day, then in at night, when there was frost. This worked quite well. They went from pale almost colourless to normal in a week. Hostas are herbaceous and die back each fall after the first frost. I like to clear off the dead foliage before bringing them down to the cold cellar. I hope that this helps the plant from getting mouldy. The yellow variegated one was slower in getting started in the spring but it's doing well after a couple of months of growth. Hostas in the ground are quite hardy (zones 2-10). Again some varieties are hardier than others and a drive around and a talk to your garden store will provide a list of likely hardy Hostas.

Article from 'Garden Web'

MORE THOUGHTS ON HOSTAS AND THE WEATHER

Freeze/Thaw Cycles Cause Heaving

In some areas, the winter months will alternate freezing and warmer temperatures, especially between nights and days. This can cause the roots of your hosta to be pushed up out of the ground in a process called heaving. Larger varieties can survive this process, but smaller varieties can die with their roots exposed.

To avoid heaving, you can cover the plant with mulch during the winter. This will stabilize the temperature of the soil around the roots no matter how the temperature of the air fluctuates. A layer of pine needles or straw will also work well and is less likely to provide a home for burrowing rodents or slugs. In the spring, just rake the protective layer away from the crown of the hosta to prevent rot from developing on the leaves as they emerge.

Don't Misplace Your Hostas

Hostas basically disappear into the ground during the winter and don't sprout leaves until later than many other plants. You don't want to accidentally dig up your hostas while you are prepping the soil and planting other spring flowers. Consider placing stakes near your hostas or some other marker to serve as a reminder. A pretty option is planting crocuses or some other early spring bloomer around your hostas. These will bring life to your garden as the season changes and remind you where your hostas are.

Do It Yourself Staff

Answers to questions: last to first 16.Appletini 15.Tea and Crumpets 14.Pineapple up-side down Cake 13.Orange Marmalade 12.Key Lime Pie 11.Ice Cream 10. Golden Waffles 9.Avocado and Guacamole 8.Candy Cane 7.Cinnamon Sticks 6.Cracker Crumbs 5.Cream Cheese 4.Crepe Suzette 3.Eskimo Pie 2.Frozen Margarita 1.Fried Green Tomatoes"

A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows."

"The best way to garden is to put on a wide-brimmed straw hat and some old clothes. And with a hoe in one hand and a cold drink in the other, tell somebody else where to dig."

My husband's a water sign. I'm an earth sign. Together we make mud.