

THE CHATTANOOGA REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY

THE HOSTA CONNECTION

APRIL 1, 2017
MEETING at 1 O'CLOCK
THE BARN NURSERY
SPEAKER: CRAIG WALKER
HOSTA VARIETIES



Notes from the Editor

Is it Spring but this crazy weather is making me crazy. I didn't cover any plants when we had the cold snap, I had several hostas already with leaves – of course the leaves are now mush. After last Summer, I've decided to let nature take it course. Bob Solberg says, "once you start watering your hostas, you have to keep watering them," I'm only going to concentrate on the ones in pots and close to the house. Johnny and I know eventually we'll not be able to keep the large area like we want. I've already started naturalizing my 'Walk About'. located behind the carport. Last Summer I didn't water anything in my 'walk about', I'm surprised how much didn't die.

This year I'm going to start naturalizing the 'Round About', located past the fenced in area. I lost a lot of hydrangeas, Japanese maples, dogwoods, and red buds, it's to early to see how many of my perennials made it.

I've included the paper work on the Hosta Convention in Georgia. Johnny and I had such a good time at the National Hosta Convention in Nashville several years ago, we're planning on attending.

Our President, Judy, talked to Craig about the program this month, she said, he's hoping enough hostas have arrived to make a display for us. See y'al Saturday.

Buyer beware!

“That new Hosta might not be what the label says you’re getting.”

by J.D. Belanger Reprinted from the Northern Wisconsin
Hosta Society Northern Star January, 2017 Newsletter

Television giant’s HGTV is selling plants, including hostas. The problem is, they’re renaming well-known registered hostas, presumably to add some sales pizzazz. One is Bob Solberg’s ‘Orange Marmalade’ which they call “Citrine Supreme.”™. Another is “Blue Dew”™, registered as ‘First Frost.’ The list goes on. Just be aware that if you buy an HGTV Home, or Hosta Treasures™ Hosta, you might not be getting what you think you’re getting. You might already have it, under another name.

GROWING HOSTAS IN CONTAINERS

Using perennials—and even small shrubs—in containers has become more and more common as gardens shrink and breeders develop compact varieties. Hostas are among those perennials that do very well growing in the confines of containers. They come in thousands of cultivars and they are easy to care for, making them the perfect plant for busy or distracted gardeners. Mini-hostas, particularly, like the tight spaces of a container and can be very attractive on a porch, patio or stoop when arranged in a group or with other diminutive plants. But any size Hosta can be grown in a container. Growing hostas in pots requires only a few considerations. First, most experts recommend choosing a pot that is somewhat on the small size for the mature size of the plant. When you plant the Hosta in the container, you want less than 3 inches of space between the roots and the edge of the container. A small pot may require more frequent watering, but it’s best for the overall health of the plant.

Like all container plantings, make sure you have good drainage. The water should easily flow out of the bottom of the pot after a thorough soaking. Get good drainage by drilling a few extra holes in the pot. It’s better to thoroughly water the container less frequently than to give the plant just a little water every day. In warm or especially dry weather, however, you likely will need to water your container every day or two, no matter what. One nice thing about hostas is that when they are dry they will wilt a bit, but they won’t dry up and die right away. If your hostas are wilting, they are asking for a drink. Your bigger risk with hostas is watering too often, causing crown rot.

When growing hostas in pots, use a standard potting soil (never garden soil) and water the plant in. Some growers recommend a soil that is fast draining. Set the container outside in a part-sun or shady spot. While some hostas can take deep shade, most prefer dappled shade or a bit of morning sun.

What about winter?

You can keep your hostas in containers from year to year, but it's not as easy as overwintering the ones in the garden itself. In fact, some folks will plant their container hostas in the ground for the winter. Other gardeners bury their pots outside, so that the roots are underground, just as a garden hosta would be.

Another option is to move the pots to a somewhat protected area (near the side of the house, etc.) and cover the pots with a lot of mulch. That may be tricky, though, if we have a very harsh winter. A fourth option is to bring the pots into an unheated garage or shed after they have gone dormant. The plants will require water a couple of times during the winter, however, to keep the soil from wicking water out of the dormant roots. Whatever you do, do not try to over-winter hostas as houseplants. They need a cold, dormant period.

When growing hostas in pots, use a standard potting soil (never garden soil) and water the plant in. Some growers recommend a soil that is fast draining. Set the container outside in a part-sun or shady spot. While some hostas can take deep shade, most prefer dappled shade or a bit of morning sun.

2017 DIXIE REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY SHADY UNIVERSITY – A FALL HOSTA RETREAT

September 15-16, 2017 – Peachtree City, GA

Hosted by the Georgia Hosta Society

Course Description: A Look to the Future, The Georgia Hosta Society invites all hostaphiles to enroll and learn about new developments in hostas as well as other shade companion plants. Course instructors include Rob Mortko of Made in the Shade Gardens, Bob Solberg of Green Hill Farm, Mark Maher of Flowerwood Nursery (distributors of Encore Azaleas, Southern Living Collection Plants, Proven Winners plants and other plant material to Southeastern nurseries), and more.

(Thursday, September 14 Registration desks will be open 5:00-7:00 pm. Hospitality room opens at 7:00 pm.) Friday, September 15 active informal garden tours, plant sales, photography contest and auction.

Saturday, September 16 activities include speakers, Dixie Region meeting, and a silent auction. Light breakfast and full lunch included.

Location: Crowne Plaza SW Hotel Conference Center located about 25 miles south of Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport on 38 beautifully landscaped acres in Peachtree City, Georgia.

REGISTRATION FORM:

**2017 DIXIE REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY CONVENTION
SHADY UNIVERSITY – A FALL HOSTA RETREAT
September 15-16, 2017 – Peachtree City, GA**

Hosted by the Georgia Hosta Society

ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Complete a separate form for each attendee. Please print name as you wish it to appear on your name badge. First Name: _____ Last

Name: _____ Street: _____

_____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip

Code: _____ Phone: (_____) _____ E-Mail: _____

Publish my name in the Convention Attendee List: () Yes () No

REGISTRATION

Registration includes one Gift Hosta, Hospitality Room (Thursday–Saturday), one Drink Ticket at Bar on Friday, Breakfast and Lunch on Saturday.

Registration, prior August 1 \$95.00 \$
_____ Registration, postmarked after August 1, add late fee
\$25.00 \$ _____ Total Amount
. \$ _____

Cancellation received prior to August 1st will be refunded with a \$20 processing fee deducted. Cancellation request received thereafter will not be refunded.

PAYMENT

Mail this form and remittance. Make check payable to: Georgia Hosta Society Mail to: Dexter Henry, Registrar PO Box 243 Fayetteville, GA 30214 Contact e-mail: dextermckayhenry@gmail.com

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Contact Hotel Directly: Crowne Plaza Hotel & Conference Center 201 Aberdeen Parkway Peachtree City, GA 30269 Phone: (770) 487-2666

PARTICIPATION

[] I will donate plants for Friday evening’s Plant Auction. Approximate number: () 1 – 3 plants () over 3 plants [] I will donate an item or items for Silent Auction. [] I plan to participate in Hosta Photo Contest.

Mention you are with Dixie Regional Hosta Society for group rate of \$109 per night plus applicable taxes. The group rate applies to stays on September 14th, 15th and 16th.