

THE CHATTANOOGA REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY



THE HOSTA CONNECTION



FEBRUARY 3, 2018

MEETING IS CANCELLED



Notes from the Editor

Burrrrr is cold outside!!! My Lenten Roses are starting to bloom in spite of the cold.

I read this somewhere and felt that this is what our Hosta Society is all about." We come together because of our love for the plant, but we keep coming back because of the friendships that we form as members of the group."

I wasn't in a good place early last spring when I lost so many plants due to the drought. I told myself I wasn't going to get attached to my plants, (garden). I usually go wild buying plants in the spring but I didn't do that --- instead I divided took cuttings, everytime we went to Lowes I'd check the Clarence racks, I bought a lot off the clearance racks.

Johnny helped me so much last year - he dug holes for me (in the past he'd dig maybe 10 big holes a season) last year I lost count on how many holes he dug and help plant -- he even dug holes for 4" pots.

Right now, I'm in a good place, I've been making plans for new ideas to use in the garden, looking forward to seeing all the transplants and new plants to start growing. Johnny has already said, he would help me again like last year.

At our Christmas Luncheon we made plans for our meetings for 2018, they are included in this newsletter. Judy Nowlin is doing a great job as President. Judy took the minutes and composed the agenda. Johnny and I were used to Chuck taking the minutes so neither one of us wrote anything down. Chuck and Janet were unable to attend, we missed them and all the members that weren't here.

We had to cancel our February meeting; below is the correspondence that Judy had with Smith-Gilbert Gardens

From: Cheri Collins [mailto:ccollins@kennesaw-ga.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 12:18 PM

To: nowlins@comcast.net

Subject: Smith-Gilbert Gardens camellias

Hello Judy. I wanted to give you an update on our camellia garden. Unfortunately due to the snow storm where we received over 10" of snow, all the tree limbs that fell, and the very cold temperatures that go with it, our garden manager thinks that the time frame you are looking at for visiting will not be a good time for camellias to be blooming. She feels the cold has damaged the buds, that weren't knocked off by other limbs and snow, and that many will not open at all. She also feels that your best chance to see the most camellias in bloom will probably be in November. I don't want you to have to drive all that way to not see very many in bloom.

I'm sorry for the bad news. Please let me know how you would like to proceed. If you want to, in the fall I can update you on the status of the blooms and we can work out a date that is best then.

Cheri Collins Education/Event Coordinator ccollins@kennesaw-ga.gov

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Judy's reply:

Dear Cheri, Thank you so much for letting us know about the conditions at the garden. We are disappointed that we will not be able to see the camellias in February but we will work with our members to find a later date to visit. Knowing that November is the best time to visit, we will look at our schedule for 2018. Mother nature always has a way of making sure we know that we are not in control. I have included our Newsletter manager and our website manager so that we can get the word out to the members that our February meeting needs to be revisited. We all look forward to coming to your wonderful garden in the future.

Judy H. Nowlin

The Chattanooga Regional Hosta Society

423.718.2313

HERE'S WHAT WE ARE PLANNING THIS YEAR:

Summary of Christmas Luncheon Meeting Decisions for 2018

- **Saturday, February 3rd** : Smith – Gilbert Gardens – Judy is working with Sherry Collins at the garden and she will have someone there to walk us through the gardens giving us information on the varieties and history of the grounds. Our group also decided to have a late lunch/dinner at Henry's Restaurant, known for its wonderful food. **CANCELLED**

- **Thursday, March 1st:** Nashville Flower Show, and Cheekwood Gardens - (time permitting) was selected as our March adventure. We will be driving to Nashville as a group. Even if you have gone before, there is always new and exciting exhibits to learn from and enjoy. We will try to drive to Cheekwood after the show but it closes at 4:30 pm so we may not have time but we will explore the possibility prior to the visit. Food is available at the show. Members will be able to “fly free” at the show and we will set a time and place to reassemble for our caravan to Cheekwood or to home. Details about Chattanooga departure place and time to follow.
ENTRANCE FEE WILL BE PAID BY HOSTA SOCIETY -- details in March Newsletter
- **April Meeting:** Instead of a group meeting on April 7, we decided to focus on individually attending the ***Master Gardener EXPO***. The dates are Saturday April 14th through Sunday April 15 at the Camp Jordan Arena, East Ridge Tennessee Ruby will be exhibiting and the EXPO will give us new ideas. ***ENTRANCE FEE WILL BE PAID BY HOSTA SOCIETY - Price is \$10 for both days -- there are programs on different subjects both days - details in April Newsletter***
- **Saturday, May 5th 1:00 pm:** Frances Jones of Signal Mountain has graciously agreed to allow our chapter to tour her acclaimed garden and for us to picnic on the grounds. Frances has been creating a piece of Heaven on the brow of Signal Mountain for over 40 years. Her garden contains magnificent sculptures and plants that vary from conifers to cone flowers. She has beautiful Hosta selections and a view of the Tennessee river gorge that stops you cold. For those who do not know how to find Frances Jones’s garden, Judy will be in the Food Lion parking lot at the foot of Signal at 12:30 pm. 30 minutes prior to meeting time in order to caravan members to the location. *Details in May's Newsletter*
- **Saturday June 2nd 1:00 pm:** Our meeting for June will once again be at Ruby’s beautiful Bethlehem Gardens. We will enjoy her daylilies, hostas and the beautiful garden landscape. We will also have the opportunity to purchase hostas from Ruby. Our annual plant auction will be scheduled for this meeting. Remember, we need everyone to contribute to our sale inventory. Our group always has a wonderful and spirited time at the auction while making money for our Chapter. Lite snacks are always welcome.
- July, August and September will be reserved for focusing on our own gardens.

- **Thursday, October 4th** will give us an opportunity to learn how to create Hypertufa containers at Bethlehem Gardens. Ruby will need your \$40.00 supply fee before attending. Participants must supply the container to use as a mold. Think dishpan. Please do not attend if your supply fee has not been sent to Ruby by the 1st of September prior to the class as she needs to purchase the materials in advance. Arrival time at Bethlehem Gardens to be announced.
- No meeting in November
- December 1st 1:00 pm: Luncheon Meeting will be at the McMaster's home. Once again, we can enjoy the beautiful decorations and fellowship with our fellow Hosta friends. We will plan 2019 at that time.

The 2018 Hosta of the Year is 'World Cup', a spectacular bright gold hybrid of 'Komodo Dragon' x 'Super Bowl' hybridized by Doug Beilstein of Mansfield, Ohio. A large Hosta with upright petioles and deeply cupped leaves, it appears to be reaching for the sky. Obviously it has inherited the very best traits from each of its great parents. It is listed as growing to 19" tall with a spread of 39". However, as it has matured in gardens across the country, it has proven to be much larger. The registered size of the evenly puckered leaves is 9"x6" and almost every one of them neatly faces to the center of the clump.

HARDY PLANTS FOR THE SHADE GARDEN

Bloodroot - no special care, dies back

Early Meadow Rue - tough; no special care. Looks good through fall.

False Solomon's Seal - lasts all season. Fruit provides nice contrast with hostas.

Jack in the Pulpit - bright red fruit in the fall. Deer don't like.

Jacob's Ladder - does not die back. Good companion planted in masses.

Large Flowered *Bellwort* - holds through fall.

Large-flowered *Trillium* - blooms in early spring, dies back

Mayapple - slow-spreading colonies. Dies back by August.

Shooting Star - spring ephemeral. Can take more sun. Late spring bloom.

Solomon's Seal - has a later spring bloom. Arching stems with blue-black fall fruit eaten by birds.

Virginia Bluebells - food plant for bees, hummingbirds and early butterflies.

Blooms early; dies back.

Wild Geranium - spreads by rhizome or seed. Bright pink-purple bloom in spring.

Lasts through fall when it provides some red color.

Wild Ginger Asarum - can be used as a ground cover. Not evergreen.

Wild Strawberry - creeping ground cover. Try under shrubs rather than mulch.

Woodland Phlox - mass-plant with hostas for effect. OK to be covered by hostas after they leaf out. Attracts Clearwing Hummingbird moths.