

THE CHATTANOOGA REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY



THE HOSTA CONNECTION

**NO MEETING
APRIL 7, 2018**



**THE MEETING WILL BE AT THE
GARDEN EXPO AT CAMP JORDAN
ARENA IN EAST RIDGE ON
APRIL 14 & 15**



Notes from the Editor

*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 -- the Society will reimburse you for the entrance fee. There are 2 classrooms with different programs on different subjects each day.*

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SATURDAY, APRIL 14

Classroom A

Time	Presenter	Seminar Title
11:30 am	<u>Sallie & Richard Ford</u>	<u>Deer & Predator Invisible Fencing</u>
1:00 pm	<u>Nick Yorlano</u>	<u>Cactus and Other Succulents</u>
2:30 pm	<u>Ruby Rymer</u>	<u>Gardening Small in Terrariums & Troughs</u>
4:00 pm	<u>Holly Colf</u>	<u>Dahlias</u>

Classroom B

Time	Presenter	Seminar Title
11:00 am	<u>Jeff Morris</u>	<u>Okra: A Southern Staple</u>
12:30 pm	<u>Katie Bishop</u>	<u>Spring and Summer Vegetables</u>
2:00 pm	<u>Eleanor Craig</u>	<u>Great Ferns for Southern Gardens & Their Shady Friends</u>
3:30 pm	<u>Kevin Mathews</u>	<u>Nature Photography</u>
5:00pm	<u>John Nettle</u>	<u>Proper Pruning of Shrubs and Trees</u>

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

Classroom A

Time	Presenter	Seminar Title
11:15 am	<u>Tom Stebbins</u>	<u>Good Bugs, Bad Bugs</u>
12:45 pm	<u>Allison Janes & Rob Mock</u>	<u>Hydroponics</u>
2:15 pm	<u>Angel Miller</u>	<u>The 4th Sister–Companion Planting with Mushrooms</u>
3:45 pm	<u>Katie Bishop</u>	<u>Vegetables in Containers</u>

Classroom B

Time	Presenter	Seminar Title
11:00 am	<u>Katie Bishop</u>	<u>Tomatoes</u>
12:30 pm	<u>Pat Stewart</u>	<u>Companion Planting with Herbs</u>
2:00 pm	<u>Linda Fraser</u>	<u>Growing Wild Things in a Polite Neighborhood</u>
3:30 pm	<u>Stephanie Payne</u>	<u>Basic Landscaping</u>

HOW TO PROTECT HOSTA FROM FROST DAMAGE by C.H. Falstad.

Hostas are amazingly resilient hardy perennials, but their foliage can still succumb to frost. The damage can leave them unsightly and vulnerable to disease. Unlike some tender annuals, sometimes hostas can take a few days to show symptoms from frost damage. Once thawed you may see limp clumps with very dark, crinkled, frozen-lettuce-like leaves and can appear as burned leaf margins, leaf tips, or just the higher portion of unfurled leaves. Frost could affect just the surface of a leaf without penetrating to the

lower cells. They may show small yellow droplet sized spots from water freezing on leaves, or just cold water sitting on foliage. In these minor cases the symptoms will manifest as darkened tissue, eventually becoming lighter yellow followed by brown color. Healthy established hostas can tolerate temperatures of 28° F (-2 C) for short periods of time. Longer periods of several hours at the same temperature injure leaves. (Expanded but still tightly rolled foliage is more resistant to frost than foliage that is completely unfurled, tight buds that emerge early in the spring may still be able to withstand temperatures of much less than 32 .)

How to help avoid frost damage

Prevent damage by selecting less susceptible hostas. Some early emerging hosta varieties are notoriously prone to late spring frost damage, some gardeners have also noted that plants with lighter colored foliage are more susceptible to frost.

Select protective garden locations. Do not plant in low garden elevations that collect cold air. Areas where the soil may warm up faster and hostas may emerge earlier such as an open, south facing hillside are more likely to be hit by late spring freezes. Locate susceptible early emerging hostas in micro-environments that do not get direct sunshine in the early spring. This will prevent the sun from warming the soil, thus slowing emergence and unfurling of foliage until air temperatures can be more easily maintained above the freezing point. Hostas in above ground containers tend to emerge earlier since the soil in the pot will warm up earlier. Keep plants mulched in early spring whether in pots or directly in the ground. Pots submerged in soil or mulch are less prone to the earlier warming.

Steps to avoid 'foretasted' frost

Lay a cover directly over the plants. Preferably it should not be in contact with the leaves. Leaf tissue directly touching the cover is more prone to frost damage. Do not use plastic. Staking may be required to keep the cover from contacting leaves, or to keep it from crushing young tender spring foliage. The purpose of this covering is to prevent the loss of the heat in the ground from going up and away from the plant tissue. Cold air, in the atmosphere drops down on calm nights. Drape the cover to meet the ground in order to prevent the cold air from invading the trapped warmer air underneath, you need to weigh it down to prevent the cover from blowing off overnight. Heavier coverings such as blankets, and even lighter weight layers need support, wooden stakes, lawn chairs or inverted, extra-large, plastic pots selectively placed over favorite hostas for additional protection make effective structures for supporting insulation. Reemay® cloth is a very light and effective commercial frost cover. One of its advantages is that it allows enough light transmission to be left on hosta plants for a few weeks with no apparent detrimental effects. This spun bonded material is also thin enough so as not to hold water, and because it is a polymer, it will not become moldy. Normally a single cover layer can provide 2 to 7 degrees of protection. Bed sheets can be used as insulating material, cardboard boxes make excellent frost armor, but metal cans are not advised. Plastic pots used in container-growing plants can also be used. Water is also effective in many ways. Keeping your garden well watered early the morning before a frost may actually allow for greater radiation warming from the sun (if your hosta beds get direct sun). A dry garden will hold less heat than a wet garden.

Plants injured by late spring frosts are more devastating but seldom are life-threatening for the clump. Most older plants have secondary eyes or secondary flushes that can develop, if the entire first flush is destroyed. However, plants will not be as large as they would if the first flush was undamaged. The larger concern is not the actual frost damage but some secondary bacterial or fungal infection that may begin in the damaged tissue and not be arrested before the entire clump is killed.

To protect against secondary diseases, the foliage should be cleaned down to healthy tissue if the injury is extensive. Some hosta growers cut the damaged leaves off at the ground. When cutting damaged tissue be careful not to spread other diseases or hosta viruses. The foliage can be picked off by hand, but tends to be rather slimy. Leaving extensively damaged frozen leaves on clumps to dry can restrict the new flush of leaves from emerging, causing trapped or distorted growth. If the injury is limited to the tips of the leaves or small spots and the foliage has not fallen down on the ground, you may allow the foliage to dry up on its own and just monitor the plant for other diseases.

How to divide your hosta plants.

Lift the entire plant, including the roots, from the ground and divide the clump into separate plants. Use a sharp shovel or knife to cut the plant into 2 or 3 pieces. Make sure there is at least one stem growth point (or eye) on each new plant. Put one piece of the plant back in the original hole and transplant the other pieces to new spots.

Keep the plant and its roots moist. Dig a hole slightly shallower than the root ball and at least 1 1/2 times as wide. Place the hosta in the hole with the crown just above soil level and add soil as needed. Do not bury the crown. Do not tamp the fill soil. Water the soil thoroughly to remove air pockets and allow the soil to settle. Starter fertilizer (high proportion of phosphorus) may be applied to transplanted hostas to promote root growth.

WHATS UP NEXT: OUR PICNIC MEETING SATURDAY, MAY 5 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 (bring a covered dish or two) 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.