

THE CHATTANOOGA REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY

THE HOSTA CONNECTION



**JUNE 5, 2010
PICNIC & GARDEN TOUR
JUDY HILL'S
12 O'CLOCK
CHATTANOOGA TIME**

Directions to Judy's: Take Interstate 24 (towards Nashville), you will bear left onto Interstate 59 south; stay on I-59 to the Trenton Ga Exit (exit 11); turn right on 136 west, go to top of mountain turn right on 301; stay on 301 to Georgia – Alabama State line. (road name changes at the state line from 301 to Hwy 90, but the road is the same one you have been on). Go approximately 1 mile after you cross the State Line, Judy's house is on the left, you will see her gardens first, then her house that is rock, pass the house and use this driveway to enter---park in the empty lot next to the garage.



NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Summer is here, we've closed the windows, turned the air conditioner on and started watering the garden. I really enjoy the time I spend in the garden. The virtues of gardening plays a part in your physical health. I do need the exercise, but I think I get more mental health than physical health out of gardening. There is just a peacefulness to being out there, a feeling of accomplishment, and the comfort in knowing that next year the garden will be just as good if not better.

The hostas this year are gorgeous, I know in the Northern States the hostas grow better because of the cold, we had a cold winter with snow, but not all of our hostas survived and some are still struggling. Johnny's hosta/trillium bed did not fair well. Last fall, Johnny dug up half the bed and enriched the soil with compost and pine bark nuggets then replanted the hostas. (Bob Solbergs' recommendation) The newly planted area did no better this year than last year. I know it may take awhile for the hostas to settle in and next year should be better, but some of the hostas I have in other beds that I transplanted

last fall are just jumping out of the ground. I did amend the soil with compost but no pine bark nuggets.

The hosta's I had in containers did very well, I'm using more containers for hostas this year. I've had one problem with a hosta in a container; a Sum and Substance that had four very large leaves, it looked wilted; on inspection I found something had chewed the stems off a little below ground level, (like a cut worm chews tomatoes) I dug around in the container looking for the suspect but couldn't find anything. This container was in a cluster of 7 pots, none of the other containers were affected. "Any ideas"???

The Picnic and Garden Tour in May at Ruby Tuesday's was fun. As always the food was delicious, the companionship of fellow gardeners and a wonderful garden to explore. I always enjoy seeing Rubys' gardens but I also enjoy buying new hostas and shade loving plants for our garden.

The Picnic and Garden Tour for June is at Judy's, 12 o'clock Chattanooga time. As always our picnics are Pot Luck, so bring a covered dish and enjoy the gardens. Judy's love of growing and potting plants never ends. Judy is going to give everyone a plant, she has potted up a variety of plants for us to choose from. (For you new members, Judy used to sell hostas and other plants, but the traveling bug bit her and Kenneth, and they are always on the go.)

SEASONAL HOSTA TIPS

BY BOB SOLBERG

SUMMER

Period of bloom, seed setting and dormancy

June – July – early August

Fertilization: Apply 10-10-10 July 1 or weekly applications of liquid

fertilizer until bloom. Also, fertilize once after dividing and replanting.

Irrigation: Maintain soil moisture. Also, sprinkle leaves during heat of day to cool.

Protection: Thin layer of coarse mulch to conserve moisture and keep crown cool.

Division: August is the best time to divide and replant. Fertilize after replanting.

Pests: July and August, begin watching for foliar nematodes on leaf blades and isolate or destroy affect plants. Fungal diseases begin during summer (Use Daconil every 10 days as needed)

The Dixie Regional Hosta Society Annual Convention – July 15 – 18, 2010

Hostas In The Mountain: Waynesville, North Carolina

I'll have information and registration forms at the June meeting. I couldn't find any information on the web, but I do have 2 web sites if you have any question.

Contact either Trish Rux at RuxGardens@gmail.com 828-456-4621 or Bob Solberg at greenhill@mindspring.com 919-309—0649.

