



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Heading into this year's growing season I was excited to see normal, perhaps even wet, growing conditions. But then came June, which reminded me of last August with several days of 100 plus temps. There were four days over 100, many days in the upper 90s, and only an inch and a half of rain at my house for most of the month (until 6/29 when we got 3+ inches!). With water restrictions in Durham, it feels like last year's drought never left; but hey, it's not that bad. A wet spring got everything off to a strong start, and with regular watering (as much as allowed), my hostas look great for the most part. The concern we should have during these hot, dry conditions, is keeping our hostas wet. Hostas will rot when they get too dry rather than too wet, and they will come up smaller than the previous year, usually with browning tips and edges. If you have hostas that are rotted, dig them up, clean off all the brown, mushy parts, dip the plant into a 10 percent bleach solution, then rinse. Pot up the plants or put them back into the garden if you like.

Another problem with temps in the upper 90s is trying to get hostas to set seed. Early in June, most of my hostas just shut down when it came to setting seed. Easy hostas, like sieboldiana types, didn't give me any success and I was getting discouraged. A few days in the 80s turned me around and gave me hope, plus the pods I was looking for. I hope some of you have done some hybridizing this year. If you don't know which hostas to cross, just look to see which ones are making seed pods and use pollen from a different hosta to pollinate. It's fun to see how you can make a blend of the two hostas when you grow the seeds.

Bob spoke at our last meeting about how to get gold hostas through hybridizing, and hopefully some of you tried. But if not, we will have seeds for everyone that comes to the August 17th meeting. They should produce yellow seedlings and get everyone excited about making new hostas! The meeting will be at Bob and Nancy Solberg's garden at their home in Franklinton. They have a collection of new hostas, a few classics, and some you've never seen before. Bob will speak to the group about tetraploid hostas, and you can also look forward to the annual plant swap. You won't want to miss this meeting! You'll find more about the meeting to your right and below. Or, visit the Web site for full details. (www.CarolinaHosta.org)

- Simpson Eason

SUMMER MEETING: MESSAGE FROM THE SOLBERGS

Nancy and Bob Solberg extend a very special invitation to all our friends in the North Carolina Hosta Society to visit our garden at our home in Franklinton on Sunday, August 17, 2008. We have what we call a "miniature" garden - all that we can maintain with our busy nursery schedule. The plants, however, are not all tiny. In fact, Nancy has a very good collection of 'Sum and Substance' sports. The garden has 2 ponds, winding, moss-covered paths and a ten foot change in elevation - all in a very small area. In addition to the 'Sum and Substance' sports, some that are unnamed, there are 300 or more other hostas of all sizes and several of Bob's seedlings. Nancy has recently started growing many of her hostas in pots and troughs of all sizes. Our garden, while it features hostas, is not just a hosta garden. Nancy has collected tricyrtis, ligularias, wildflowers, ferns and currently is collecting astilbes. Hydrangeas and azaleas, as well as a few well-pruned small trees, provide the shrub layer. We like to think it has a lush, almost tropical, look. We hope you all will attend the meeting and share our garden with us on Sunday. Remember, the meeting is at our home in Franklinton - not the nursery in Chapel Hill. Please park at the Mount Olivet Church no sooner than 1:00 PM and someone will be there to direct you to the garden. Do not try to drive down to the house. Please feel free to stay after the meeting if you don't get to see everything beforehand.

The summer meeting is just around the corner!

Things to bring:

- Plants for the swap
- A comfortable chair
- Gardening friends
- \$10 annual dues (if you forgot last time)



Summer Meeting Details

Date:

Sunday, August 17, 2008

Time: 2:00 PM

Location:

Solberg Home Garden
66 Cody's Way
Franklinton, NC 27525

Hosts:

Bob & Nancy Solberg

See below OR visit the Web site for driving directions:

www.CarolinaHosta.org

DIRECTIONS

I-85 N to exit 186 (US 15). Right on US 15 toward Creedmoor. Right on NC 56 in Creedmoor. Go approx. 12 miles and make left on Mount Olivet Church Rd. Go approx. 2.5 miles to Mount Olivet Church (on the left). Park in the north side of the parking lot. Someone will be there to assist you down Cody's Way to the garden.

Please do not arrive earlier than 1:00 PM.



We're on the Web
www.CarolinaHosta.org

Please expedite.
Time sensitive material enclosed.

Hope to see you at the Summer Meeting in Franklinton August 17th!

HOSTA HYBRIDIZING PHOTO TUTORIAL courtesy of Brenda Bautista

Ready in 2 days

Ovary

Tepal/petal

Anther

filament

Stigma

Style

Ready blossom

This one is ready to prepare tonight!

Pollinated yesterday- see pollen?

Tepals and anthers removed, leaving stigma. This is the one you prepared last night!

And you will pollinate today.

Old stigmas, pollinated in last few days.

06/04/2006

I use filament as handle and 'paint' pollen onto stigma/ female part, in morning.

Anthers

Anthers(pollen) and the filaments holding them. Place on paper plate with name of hosta and let dry for 2 days and then freeze in aluminum foil w/ name and date, or use the next 1-2 days to pollenate. Then freeze any excess!

harvest tonight

Pollinated today

Polinated yesterdays!

Seed pod

06/04/2006

Get **LEAF CASTING INSTRUCTIONS** in a printable format, courtesy of Joel Van Oss!

Visit Our Web site: www.CarolinaHosta.org