

September Events:

Every Tuesday - Saturday: "Guided Walk" Lichterman Nature Center
10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Reservations are required. (901) 767-7322 ext. 121.

Sept. 8: "Japanese Garden Candlelight Tour" Memphis Botanic Garden
6 p.m. Cost: \$7 (\$5 for members.) (901) 685-1566 ext. 110.

Sept. 9: "Beyond Pansies: Pruning, Bad Preparation, Wildflowers, and
Asian Greens" Memphis Botanic Garden 9 a.m. to noon. Cost: \$30 (\$25 for
members.) Presented by noted garden designer and owner of Gardens Oy Vey Nursery,
Diane Meucci. Dress for gardening. Rain date is September 16. (901) 576-4100.

Sept. 9: "A Standard Flower Show: "It's a Child's World After All"" 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. At the home of Jim
and Darlene Glisson, 8955 Buckstone Cove, Cordova, TN 38018. (901) 752-6662, dglisson@midsouth.rr.com.

Sept. 11: "Memphis Fern Society" 7 p.m. Members share their summer gardening experience at the
Memphis Botanic Garden. (901) 685-9835.

Sept. 13: "Use of the Home Computer to Enhance Your Garden" Noon at the Memphis Botanic Garden.
Presented by David Sojourner, Master Gardener. Cost: \$5 (members are free.) (901) 576-4131.

Sept. 14: "Handkerchief Gardens: Designing Small Space Gardens on Everything from Large Estates to
Apartments and Condos" 6:30 p.m. Hardin Hall, Memphis Botanic Garden. Presented by Sharon Lovejoy
(www.sharonlovejoy.com), Memphis Area Master Gardener. (901) 752-1207.

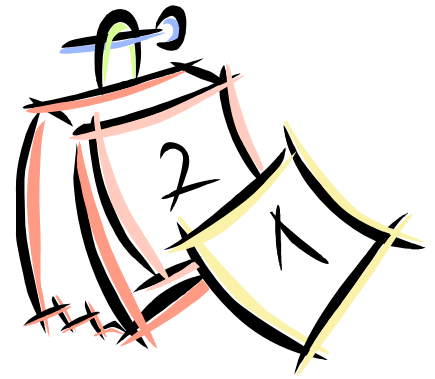
Sept. 15: "Autumn Appreciation" by Jason Reeves. Noon at the Memphis Botanic Garden. Cost: \$20.00
(Memphis Botanic Garden members are \$15) Reservations recommended, (901) 576-4131.

Sept. 16 and 23: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Gardens Oy Vey is having a sale: 20% off all plants! Visit
www.gardensoyvey.com. (901) 867-8367 or email diane@gardensoyvey.com.

Sept. 21: "Plant Exchange And Mulch, Mulch More" 7 p.m. Mid-South Hosta Society at the Memphis
Botanic Garden. (901) 685-1566. Contact Larry Tucker, 489-9146.

Sept. 22: "Flower Arranging Demo: Late Summer Bounty" 10 a.m. at the Dixon Museum. (901) 761-5250.

Sept. 28: "Perennials for Every Situation, Session III: The Fall Garden" 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Presented by
Ellen LeBlond, Dixon Gallery and Gardens, in the Horticultural Administration Building. Cost: \$20 (members
are \$15) Includes presentation, garden tour, and box lunch. Reservations required: (901) 761-5250



**The Mid-South Fair Horticulture Building
needs volunteers! Dates are September 21
through October 1, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
daily. Shifts are preferably 4 hours, but 2
hour shifts are acceptable. All volunteers
receive a free pass and free parking. Contact
Ann McCormick at (901) 353-5427 for more
details.**

GOOD NIGHT, HOSTAS

By Mike Chambers

It is almost time to say “good night” to your hostas for the year.

As the late fall and winter approach, we will see some hostas giving up the ghost early, even by mid-September because of our hot summer. Some will do better and linger until the first heavy frost.

In the North, they mulch their hostas heavily, not to protect them from freezing, but to keep the frozen ground from heaving them up. Hostas love to be frozen. When we in the South have a heavy winter, our hostas are always fuller and stronger in the spring. To be fully dormant, hostas need 12 to 14 weeks with the ground below 40 degrees F. Sometimes our warm winters do not provide that condition.

When you see your hosta leaves drop to the ground, remove the foliage and any remaining flower scapes immediately. The debris from plants provides a nesting place for slugs, snails and other pests. It also is a good breeding ground for fungus and disease.

Keeping the leaves raked or blown from your garden beds also helps prevent these problems. If you use your leaves as winter mulch or to enrich your soil, first grind them up with your mower.

Late October or early November is a good time to put down the last dose of slug and snail bait. They lay their eggs in the late fall, so get them before they reproduce.

We want the ground to get as cold as possible, so do not mulch your hostas until early spring. Other perennials might need mulching if they are not as hardy in our Zone 7B.

Hostas in outside pots will be just fine as long as the pots are not terra cotta. Terra cotta, which is porous, will freeze and crack. Put terra cotta pots on the covered porch, water them once in November and then do not touch them again until late February. Remember, wet roots will rot, but dry roots will winter over and be ready to regenerate in the spring.

Fall also is the best time to divide and relocate hostas in the Mid-South. If you divide them in mid-October, there is normally plenty of time for their roots to take hold of the soil and get comfortable for winter. Spring division is OK, but your hostas will be shocked and growth will be delayed a bit.

So as you say “good night” to your hostas, please put them to bed in a nice debris-free and clean garden bed. They will be back in late February to say “thank you.”