



Hosta Happenings

East Tennessee Hosta Society

March 2021

President’s Message

Spring is in the air and the Hostas are pipping up. It won’t be long now when we will know which Hostas the voles have left us. It is amazing what difference a day makes (especially if it warm and sunny) to see new life and flowers blooming. Weather pending, we try and walk around our garden every day at this time of the year. However I am bit nervous about Hostas leafing out at this time of the year - a heavy frost could really spoil my day.

When I did a poll at the last meeting about who had been vaccinated – about 80% of those at the meeting affirmed in the positive. Since then the vaccine rollout has really ramped up and infection case numbers are dropping. I am getting more confident that we will be back to garden tours and activities soon. We have been reluctant to plan things in case there is another flare up. However next month we are encouraging you to support the Dogwood Arts Featured Garden Program. Both of

these featured gardens are Hosta member gardens so you are guaranteed to see some Hostas. One of the gardens is Dr. Alan Solomon’s GATOP garden and the other is Fred & Sandra Anderson’s garden. This will be on the 17th & 18th April. Being an outside activity makes it a lot easier to social distance. These garden tours rely on volunteers to be garden guides and also to help direct traffic. Also at the Anderson garden, I will be setting up a membership booth for our club which will need manning. Please consider helping out for a couple of hours if you can. Please let me know if you can help and I will forward you the signup sheet that is going around.

In May we usually have the Tailgate Plant Sale but this has been postponed until next year. However depending on the Covid situation at the time, we may be able to organize a Hosta Nursery visit at member

2021 Officers

President Fred Anderson
Vice President Bob Goeltz
Treasurer Gina Buffum
Secretary Wanda Taylor
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ETHS Calendar

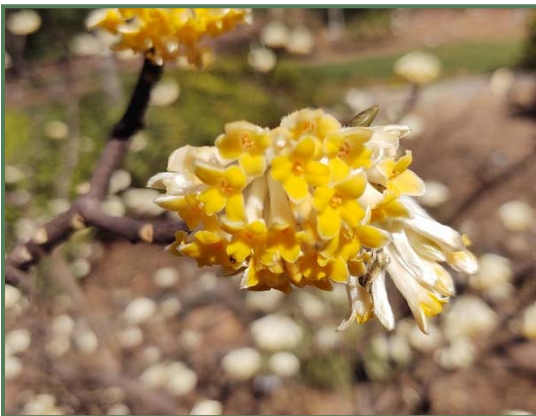
March 28, 2:00 PM, Zoom Meeting, information will be sent via email.

Stay abreast of happenings by checking the Calendar page on our website, <http://www.easttnhostasociety.net/>.

Brian Whites Nursery. In the coming months, activities will be on an ad hoc basis until the CDC recommendations will allow us to be active again. I really miss our social time together and can't wait to see you all again in the garden.

Our next meeting is on the 28th March at 2.00pm via Zoom (information will come in an email). There isn't a lot of business to discuss, however I will be delivering a presentation on the development of my garden and some of the challenges I have had to overcome. Come along and learn from my mistakes. I am sure you will enjoy it and take away some valuable information. See you at the meeting.

Warm Regards
Fred Anderson
East Tennessee Hosta Society
2021 President
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Japanese Paper Bush
(*Edgeworthia chrysantha*)

Cicada Brood X to Emerge in 2021

In case you haven't seen the news, this summer will experience a cicada emergence - Brood X. Learn more from UT Department of Entomology professor Dr. Frank Hale. (Story and video at WBIR.com.)

Key take away is emergence may be regionalized. Brood X, last emerged in May 2004. No significant detections in Middle and West Tennessee counties in 2004. Highlighted counties saw Brood X.



According to University of Maryland Extension publication [HG 43](#), "Adult cicadas cause no important feeding damage. The only damage cicadas cause to plants results from the egg-laying habits of females. They use an appendage, called an ovipositor to gouge longitudinal slits in twigs into which they deposit eggs. The ovipositor cannot harm people. Twigs with many slits often break or hang down from the tree. On well-established trees this damage, called flagging is not serious." Control is not necessary on established trees.

Call for Help!

Member Cornelia Holland notified the club that the Old Glory Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution is working with the City of Franklin to develop a garden in a land the City has acquired and is developing for a City Park.

The land is adjacent to the Carnton Plantation and Battle Field and was purchased by the Caretaker of Carnton Plantation after the Civil War. The original house, out buildings and a slave dug well remain. There was also a garden where bodies were buried before being moved to a cemetery on the Carnton property. One subsequent owner of the property was a captain in the 114th Field Artillery (WWI) and was involved in the plot to kidnap

the German Kaiser Wilhelm from his sanctuary in Amerongen, Holland.

The Old Glory Chapter has chosen to dedicate this new garden to all U.S. Soldiers from Revolution times to present-day.

The garden will be fenced and house eight 8ft by 8ft beds with pathways between. The center of the garden will hold an American Flag.

One of the eight beds will be planted with hostas that have Patriotic Names.

Master Gardeners are starting next month on preparing the garden for planting in late spring.

It is hoped that a Veteran's Day celebration can be held at the garden November 11th of this year and the garden will be dedicated in 2022 which is the 125th anniversary of the Old Glory Chapter's founding.

Cornelia is coordinating the hosta garden project and currently sourcing the following hosta. She is looking for the following hosta for the garden. Do you have any of these that you could donate 3-4 crowns for planting in this garden? Or, do you know where she can purchase larger sized plants?

- H. 'American Hero'
- H. 'American Eagle'
- H. 'Liberty'
- H. 'Minuteman'
- H. 'Old Glory'
- H. 'Patriot'
- H. 'Purple Heart'
- H. 'Rocket's Red Glare'

- H. 'Silver Star'
- H. 'Victory'

Will appreciate any help the members of ETHS may be able to provide in donating plants or helping me source them.

She is especially having difficulty finding sources for

- H. 'Buffalo Soldiers'
- H. 'Green Beret'
- H. 'Purple Heart'
- H. 'Rocket's Red Glare'

Thanks for your time and consideration. If you can help, contact Cornelia Holland at 615-351-3917, plantaginea@comcast.net

Mow Less Frequently - Improve Bee Habitat

Dr. C. Elizabeth Hamilton alerted us to some great information about protecting bee habitats. According to research released by the Northern Research Station of the USDA Forest Service, "... mowing every 3 weeks resulted in as much as 2.5 times more lawn flowers (aka dandelions and clover) and greater diversity of bee species, the abundance of bees was greatest when homeowners mowed every 2 weeks." Learn more at the [USDA Forest Service website](#).

Brian White's Nursery



Website is updated with all plants available for the 2021 gardening season. Hosta of the Year 'Rainbows End' is available (left). Brian also has his introduction 'What's That?' ready. The first white-centered 'Halcyon' sport was named for the most frequently asked question during a garden visit at the home of Sue Williams.

People kept asking "What's that?"

Photos below, left to right, April, June and August

<https://www.brianwhitesnursery.com/>



UT Gardens Spring Spectacular Online Plant Sale

Spring is almost here and that means it's time for our annual Spring Spectacular Plant Sale! Check out a partial inventory available on [our website](#). Please stay tuned for more additions. Also check out their information on their Facebook Events page, <https://www.facebook.com/events/1126500411106117>.



This year's sale will be completely online with curbside pick up by appointment. We are excited to offer a diverse collection of expertly selected shrubs, perennial flowers, edible plants, tropical foliage plants, conifers and much more.

Members: March 26 – April 5

Public: March 29—April 5

Zero-contact pickup at the UT Gardens, Knoxville by appointment April 9-10.

Looking for Something New in the Garden?

By Mary Albrecht, Professor Emerita, University of Tennessee, Dept. Plant Sciences

Epimedium, barrenwort or bishop's cap, popularity has increased over the past 10 years or so, as gardeners look for new plants to add to their collections. It prefers partial to full shade situations so makes a great companion plant to *Hosta*. Depending on the species and the variety, they range in height from 6 to 24 inches and can get a spread of 8 to 24 inches.

Relatively “new” to the perennial garden, Epimedium has been identified for centuries, yet good cultural information is limited.

The name is of Greek origin from Discorides, and retained by Linneus. There are eight species described in Liberty Hyde Bailey's *Manual of Cultivated Plants*. I have the 1975 15th printing of the 1949 revised edition. The first edition was copyrighted in 1924. Horticulturists of my generation and before, consider it the “Bible” of plant material and the place to start when learning about new plants. It was the standard herbaceous plant material textbook until Steven Still's *Manual of Herbaceous Ornamental Plants* was published. Still includes full descriptive and cultural information for *Epimedium x rubrum*, red barrenwort, and lists six related species (4th edition, 1994). Then there's Allan Armitage's *Herbaceous Perennial Plants* (1989), where you can find a good description of six species and some cultural information.



Epimedium x youngianum 'Niveum'

In the Royal Horticultural Society's *Index of Garden Plants* (Mark Griffiths, 1994) 17 species are briefly.

Bailey described Epimedium, a member of the barberry family (Berberidaceae), as

“Perennial, almost woody herbs with creeping underground stems, grown in the border or rock-garden; of about 23 species in temperate regions of the northern hemisphere. Leaves 1-3 pinnate; leaflets denticulate; racemes simple or slightly branched, terminal or opposite the leaves; sepals 8 in 2 whorls, the inner usually petaloid, often colored; petals 4, in the form of nectaries, spurred or hooded; stamens 4,

free: capsules opening by valve on back; seeds few.”

The best comment I ran across is from Arno and Irene Nehrling’s 1964 book *The Picture Book of Perennials*,

“Although this genus of the Barberry Family...has been appearing in books since the time of Discorides, physician in the Legions of Nero, it has not been widely accepted as a garden plant. This is strange, for it forms a beautiful slow-spreading ground cover in the worst soil, even in heavy shade. Its charming flowers are among the most pleasingly shaped of all cultivated plants and may be enjoyed in a variety of colors. However, it is best alone, without competition from taller material. The long attractive varicolored foliage is not troubled by pests, but it should be cut back in late winter or early spring. Increase by divisions.”

Their comment on “the worst soil” is in contrast to Still’s recommendation of “moist soils containing copious amounts of organic matter.” I suspect growth will vary tremendous in these two situations!

From what I have learned since I added two epimediums to my own garden, they:

- Prefers partial to full shade.
- Appears to do well under moist soil conditions, so make sure you add in compost and mulch.
- Competes well with tree roots.
- Flowers in the spring, typically April and May.
- Treat like Lenten roses (*Helleborus* species and cultivars) by cutting back the foliage in the winter.
- Relatively pest free and that includes things like rabbits and deer!
- Hardy in Zones 4(5)-8(9) depending upon the species, putting Tennessee in their sweet spot! Tennessee ranges from USDA Zone 6a at the higher elevations of the mountains and plateau to an area of 8a on the south side of Memphis.



The Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder provides great contemporary information for growing these species (<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderProfileResults.aspx?basic=epimedium>). The Brooklyn Botanic Garden also has particularly good information about growing *Epimedium*, https://www.bbg.org/gardening/article/elegant_epimedium.

A local source for two varieties is Brian White Nursery. According to his website, he carries *Epimedium wushanense* ‘Sandy Claws’ (below, top) and *Epimedium* ssp. *nova* ‘Spine Tingler’ (below, bottom) (see <https://www.brianwhitesnursery.com/the-plants.html>)



‘Sandy Claws’ (Photo from Walters Gardens)



‘Spine Tingler’ (Photo from Walters Gardens)