



Hosta Happenings

East Tennessee Hosta Society

April 2021

April Showers bring May Flowers

Well, we haven't had much in the way of April showers. Rather, April has been cruel with freezes and frosts after a warm March. Sheets, pillow cases, nursery containers, clay pots, and plastic tubs came in handy on March 31 for the April Fool's Day freeze which wasn't a very nice joke! Then April 21 and 22 freezes weren't nice either. Hopefully, we are done with these rollercoaster temperatures.



2021 Officers

- President Fred Anderson
- Vice President Bob Goeltz
- Treasurer Gina Buffum
- Secretary Wanda Taylor
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Garden Events Calendar

April 29 through May 1 from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm each day, Tuckaleechee Garden Club, Pioneer Cabins, 288 Boat Gunnel Rd, Townsend, TN, to benefit Townsend River Walk and Arboretum. Native plants, wildflowers, vegetables, herbs, perennials, annuals, and garden items available. For more information, directions and parking, see <https://www.townsendriverwalk.com/news-grid/140-2021-tuckaleechee-garden-club-plant-sale-april-29-thru-may-1.html>

May 1 from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm, rain or shine, North Hills Plant Sale at 2511 N. Park Blvd, Knoxville. Selection includes native plants, hardy perennials, shrubs, herbs, vegetables, and annuals. See <https://northhillsgardenclub.wixsite.com/nhgc/plantsale> for more information.

June 5 from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm, Kanunsita Garden Club Plant Sale at Moofest in downtown Athens, TN. Includes entertainment, and 200 food and craft vendors, Mayfield Dairy contests and First Annual MooGrass Festival and so much more!



July 15 to 17, Virtual 2021 American Hosta Society National Convention. For details visit <https://ahs2021.org/>.

Companion Plant of the Month: *Arisaema*

Mary L. Albrecht, Professor Emerita, Department of Plant Sciences, University of Tennessee

Arisaema, jack-in-the-pulpit, represents a number of different species in the Araceae, the arum family. Related plants include *Dieffenbachia* (dumbcane), *Aglaonema* (Chinese evergreen), *Spathiphyllum* (peace lily), and *Anthurium* (anthurium or flamingo flower) to name a few.

Those *Arisaema* commonly found in the nursery and garden center industry are:

Arisaema candidissium, striped cobra lily, China (below)



Arisaema dracontium, dragon root, North American (right)

Arisaema sikokiannum, Japanese cobra lily, Japan (below)



Arisaema thunbergia
subsp. *usrashima*,
Arisaema, Japan (right)



Arisaema triphyllum, jack
-in-the-pulpit. Eastern
North America (below)



There are many more available from specialty and native plant producers. **DO NOT COLLECT ANY FROM THE WILD.**

According to the Pacific Bulb Society (<https://www.pacificbulbsociety.org/>

[pbswiki/index.php/HomePage](https://www.pacificbulbsociety.org/pbswiki/index.php/HomePage)), there are approximately “260 species ... primarily found in the Himalayas, China, and Japan, though a number are found in southern India, South East Asia, north-eastern Africa and North America.” They go on to say that “many species [are] easily grown in the open garden while others can be quite challenging to maintain in cultivation because of their dislike of moisture during winter dormancy. They are easily grown from seed. They can sometimes skip a season and then surprise you when you think you have lost them by reappearing.”

Basic garden needs for arisaemas are:

1. Fertile, highly organic, moist (but not necessarily wet) soils - most are native to woodlands.
2. Part shade to full shade conditions
3. Rarely suffer from disease except for rust (*Uromyces ari triphylli*) that appears as small orange dots on the underside of the foliage as it unfurls. Best control is removal of the foliage at the tuber and discard. Don't place in the compost bin.

Plant Delights Nursery, Inc. has good information available at <https://www.plantdelights.com/blogs/articles/arisaema-arisaema-arisaema> and offer several.

Photo Credits:

From Pacific Bulb Society, Giorgio Pozzi photographer: *Arisaema candidissium*, striped cobra lily, China; *Arisaema dracontium*, dragon root, North American; *Arisaema triphyllum*, jack-in-the-pulpit. Eastern North America

From Pacific Bulb Society, John Lonsdale photographer: *Arisaema sikokiannum*, Japanese cobra lily, Japan

From personal collection of Mary Albrecht: *Arisaema thunbergia* subsp. *usrashima*, *Arisaema*, Japan

HVX Isn't the Only Virus Out There!

Mary L. Albrecht, Professor Emerita, Department of Plant Sciences, University of Tennessee



While we are most familiar with Hosta Virus X (HVX), we forget there are others out there. This ‘Rhino Hide’ was purchased from a local garden center (not a big box store) in May 2020. There We had a freeze on April 2, 2021. This particular plant was just barely emerging so was only covered with mulch. As the leaves

emerged, they looked suspicious. It was dug on April 19 and held in isolation for testing. The brand new test strips came up with a negative test for HVX - note there is only one horizontal red line on the test strip. Had it been positive, there would be a second stripe just above the green area. Other viruses that infect hosta include tobacco rattle virus (I have no idea where that name comes from) and several of the mosaic viruses. It may still be just frost damage so it will remain in isolation until new foliage emerges. If the new growth looks fine, it will be held for further evaluation.



Slug Control - Don't Let Up



Spring rain means the slugs are having a ball - able to party 24 hours a day. Plus slug eggs have been hatching over the past couple of weeks. Continue to apply repeat applications of slug bait per directions on the package. We continue to get very positive reports on the new generation of iron phosphate slug baits. Unlike the older metaldehyde baits, they are non-toxic to pets (and small children). The key to success with slugs is persistence. A single application of slug bait won't get the job done.



Hi-Yield contains metaldehyde as the active ingredient.

Sluggo Plus contains 1% iron phosphate and Sluggo Max contains 3% iron phosphate as the active ingredient.

Other brands are Corry's (containing sodium ferrous EDTA) and Garden Safe (containing iron phosphate..)



Adapted from Shady Choice Newsletter, Vol. 25, issue 4, April 2021, page 4.



Spring has Sprung!

Walk around Tranquility, the garden of member Cornelia Holland!

