



# Hosta Happenings

**East Tennessee Hosta Society**

**May 2021**

## President’s Message

What crazy weather we are having at this time of the year. Usually at this of the year, all the plants in the greenhouse has been emptied out and flourishing in the spring sunshine. Every year I complain that the spring weather is too short and now I am complaining that it is too long. Sandra has three foot tomato plants that she is trying to plant and has surrendered them to the cold weather. Hopefully this current cold snap will be the last.

I hope that you were able to visit the two ETHS member’s gardens last month when they were the featured Dogwood Arts gardens. The previous record of attendance was about 600 but this year it was about 1000. Obviously the pent up demand caused by the pandemic encouraged people to get out into the fresh air. Apparently the interest in gardening has skyrocketed during the lockdowns caused by the pandemic. I hosted a membership booth at my gardens when the public visited and had lots of inquiries. Hopefully this will increase our membership.

During the last time we had a freeze and frost, I sustained

some damage to some of the Hostas as there were up in all their glory. When you have over 500 Hostas it is impractical to cover them up. We did notice that some Hostas weren’t affected whereas certain ones were. We took a photograph of all the ones that were damaged and noticed a pattern. All the yellow ones, species and anything with a Mexican name were the ones affected. The rest of them didn’t even flinch. Ideally the plan is to have all the ones that suffered damage to be planted together in one bed so the next time we get a freeze or frost situation – they would be the only ones we would cover up. Of the 500 different Hostas I have, there were only about 80 affected. In the next newsletter I will share this list of the ones which experienced damage for your information.

This weekend member Brian White of Brian White’s Nursery will be hosting us to get our Hosta Fix. He is sponsoring a lucky door prize (a three gallon Hosta ‘Wu-La-La’) and will have special member pricing on Hosta of the Year ‘Rainbow’s End’. Masks are optional if you have been vaccinated but whatever you are comfortable

## 2021 Officers

- President Fred Anderson
- Vice President Bob Goeltz
- Treasurer Gina Buffum
- Secretary Wanda Taylor
- Communications Mary Albrecht
- Contact ETHS at [easttennhostasociety@gmail.com](mailto:easttennhostasociety@gmail.com)

## In This Issue

Calendar .....	2
Welcome New Member .....	2
Companion Plant of the Month: <i>Carex</i> .....	2
Spring in the Garden .....	4

with. If you need to sit while there, members are encouraged to bring their own chair. The weather looks great for the day so I hope to see you all there. You don't have to buy plants if you just want to socialize. Brian sells more than just Hostas and is a very knowledgeable plantsman so I encourage you to come out and get some fresh air and enjoy nature in the company of friends.

For those of you who can't get enough of gardening, my garden is always open for a visitation – the garden is looking great.

See you this Sunday at 2.00pm.

Warm Regards,

Fred Anderson

President

865-607-9240, braker01@att.net

<http://www.easttnhostasociety.net>

## Garden Events Calendar

**May 16, 2:00 pm, Brian White's Nursery Meet**  
Brian, shop, and vie for the door prize - a 3 gallon 'Wu-La-La'. Plug in 902 Raccoon Valley Rd. Maynardville, Tennessee into your GPS!

**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: *Carex*

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

*Carex*, commonly called sedge, is a genus of approximately 800 to 900 species. In recent years, there's been the introduction of a number of cultivars available to the gardener. They offer a range of color and foliage widths that blend well with hosta. Most do well under the same shade conditions. And, they all are great additions to those with wet areas - along ponds, streams, rain gardens, and drainage channels. Most are persistent through our Zone 7a winters adding some interest to the winter garden. And, a bonus – deer and rabbits don't like them!

In Liberty Hyde Bailey's *Manual of Cultivate Plants*, first published in 1924, he made the observation "very few [cultivars], although many of them bear ornamental spikes." I believe he'd be pleased with the number that are now available, including the following in my garden:

*Carex buchananii* 'Red Rooster', reddish bronze foliage that reaches 2 feet in height. From New Zealand, prefers sun and moist soils.



## Welcome New Member

Member Sandra Anderson recruited a new member - Peter Rose of Knoxville, TN. He claims on his membership form he is on the way to becoming a Hosta Addict! We look forward to meeting Peter at a future event when we can all get together again!

*Carex dolichostachya* 'Kaga Nishiki', Gold Fountains sedge, to 14 inches tall with bright green leaves (to approx. 3/16 inches wide) with yellow margins. Leaves arch upward and outward in a tuft. Prefers moist soils and full to partial shade. Foliage is persistent in hardiness zone of 7 and south.



from 6 to 12 inches tall.

*Carex Morrowii* 'Silver Sceptre' slowly spreads by rhizomes with jade green leaves with linear white stripes. Forms a neat mound about 12 inches tall in part to full shade conditions with rich moist, well drained soil. This one benefits from some removal of tattered foliage in late winter to make way for new growth.



*Carex flacca*, Blue Sedge, creates masses of flowing blue, thin foliage that reaches 6 to 8 inches long. Can handle dry to moist soil conditions (calcareous or sandy, too) in sun to part shade, making it rather versatile.

*Carex oshimensis* 'Evercolor<sup>®</sup> Everillo' is in a new series of cultivars that offer some bolder colors. This one is golden yellow to yellow green, about 12 inches tall, and handles a broad range of conditions from dry to moist and part sun to full shade. This one doesn't like being waterlogged.



*Carex flagellifera* 'Toffee Twist', introduced by Proven Winners, does well in part sun to sun (mine gets too much shade!) getting 18 to 24 inches tall and spreads to about 24 inches. Mine is being devoured by Carex 'Silver Spectre' so it will need to be moved! According to Proven Winners, it does best in USDA Hardiness Zones 7a through 10b. Further north, it should be treated as an annual.



*Carex oshimensis* 'Gold Strike' similar to other sedges, this one has dark green margins with broad, white central stripes that mature to creamy yellow. Like other sedges, it thrives in moist, well drained soils forming mounds about 18 inches tall by 24 inches wide. Does well in partial shade.



*Carex laxiculmis* 'Hobb', may be sold under the registered name Bunny Blue, is a neat, mounded sedge. Leaves are a blue green and up to 1/2 inch in width. Part sun to shade in moist soils will and reaches



*Carex scaposa*, Cherry Blossom Sedge offers showy pink spikes flowers in mid-summer and fall. The foliage is also much broader reaching up to 1.25 inches wide, tending towards a blue green to green as it ages, forming dense 12-inch mounds. Native to woodland slopes and along streams in Southern China and Vietnam to 5,000 ft elevation.

*Carex siderosticta* ‘Banana Boat’ gets its name from the bright yellow with narrow green margins and stripes, one-inch wide foliage that reaches lengths of 6 to 12 inches with a spread of up to 15 inches. Does well in part to full shade. This one is slow growing so will take longer to reach mature size in comparison to the others.



*Carex siderosticta* ‘Snow Cap’ gets its name from the white foliage with deep green margins and stripes. Similar in size to ‘Banana Boat’ but benefits from morning sun since there is so little chlorophyll in the foliage. Also does well in high moisture soils.



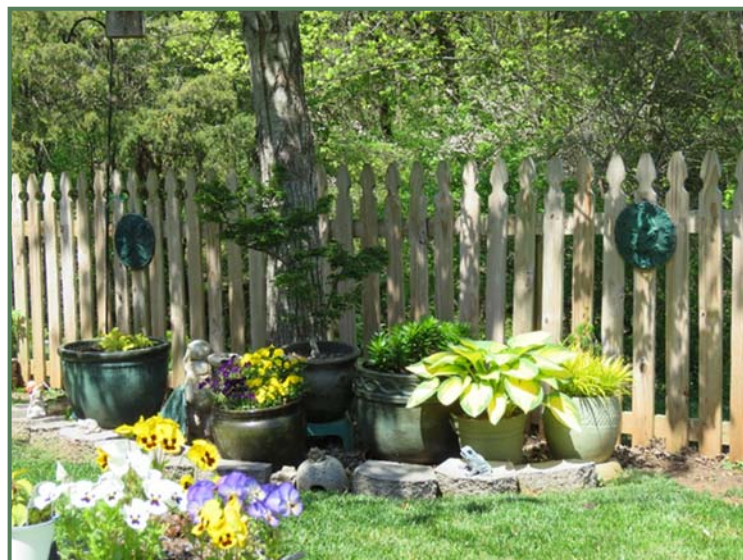
*Author’s Note:* I knew I had gotten a number of different *Carex* over the years. Just didn’t realize how many until I put this article together!

Photo Credits: All photos from the author’s garden with the exception of *Carex* ‘Toffee Twist’ which was from [North Carolina State Extension](#) and *Carex scaposa* which was from [Plant Delights](#).

## Spring in the Garden!

Elin Johnson, member, ETHS

This has been a beautiful spring. Even though we have had two occasions of late freezes and I had to cover them, my hostas have progressed really well. I thought you might like to see some of them. The photographs



were made April 21, 2021, just before the second freeze.

I’ve had a terrible problem with squirrels digging holes in my containers. I got a roll of chicken wire and have tried to enclose the hostas in wire in the top of the pots. That has worked pretty well, although they can find the



Winter garden with mounds of hellebores and sedges for interest.

smallest place where there's no wire. The other day one dug down to the roots of my 'Mini Skirt' hosta. That's another favorite of mine, so I was really angry.

'Orange Marmalade' as seen from my back window.



'Biscuits and Honey' was the conference hosta at Clarksville, and it has turned out to be a lot bigger than I expected. Isn't it beautiful?



'Bachelorette Party' (below)

'Fruit Loop' (below) and 'Dinner Mint' (bottom) may be my favorites!



From left to right 'Lemon Frost', 'Twinkle Little Star', and 'Dorset Blue'

