



Hosta Happenings

East Tennessee Hosta Society

May 2022

President's Message

The countdown begins for hosting our first ever convention with just over two weeks to go. We have an amazing organizing committee that will ensure that it runs smoothly. At this stage it looks like we will have around 60 full registrations and about four other guests joining us for the Saturday banquet and auction. If you haven't registered for the convention, consider joining us for the Saturday evening. It's not too late but we would want to know in the next few days as we are about to lock down the catering numbers.

We are still accepting items for the convention auction so please let me know soon if you are going to contribute.

A big thank you to all the members helping out and supporting the Annual Plant Sale. It was an outstanding success and hats off to Brian for coordinating this event. This was the first time that we offered credit cards - it was a good move as the majority of sales were paid by credit card. Hats off to Gina for organizing the square system

and becoming the square master. The attendance was great and this was mainly due to Mary plugging this event across several media platforms – she is definitely an asset to the club with her amazing communications skills.

Coming up is our first garden social for the year at Mary & Chris's garden in west Knoxville. Look for further details in this newsletter. Mary has an outstanding Hosta garden and they are all labelled to help with your education of Hostas.

Looking forward to seeing you in the garden.

Warm Regards,
Fred Anderson
President, 865-607-9240, braker01@att.net
<http://www.easttnhostasociety.net>

2022 Officers

President Fred Anderson
Vice President Bob Goeltz
Treasurer Gina Buffum
Secretary Wanda Taylor
Communications Mary Albrecht
Contact ETHS at easttnhostasociety@gmail.com

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Welcome New Member

Welcome new member Marilyn Johnson (actually a re-tuning member!). With renewals, we now have 43 single and family memberships.

Big Thank You to All Who Helped: Plant Sale Wrap-Up

We had a great turnout for the ETHS Plant Sale on May 1. In fact, it was so great, we didn't have time to take pictures of the crowd. A big thank you goes out to those members who came out to help with the sale. Brian White is owed a huge thank you! He grew the plants for us to sell (we sold 190 plants) and lined up the other vendors: (in alphabetical order)

Beaver Creek Nursery (besides the vendor fee, they gave us a \$25 donation).

Betty Longworth

Blissful Berry Greenhouse

Brian White Nursery

East Fork Nursery

Little Valley Nursery

Total sales (less Square fee - yes, we handled credit cards!) \$1,240.94 plus Vendor Participation Fee \$400.00 for a total of \$1,640.94.

We also owe treasurer Gina Buffum a thank you for getting us set-up to process credit card purchases using Square. The process created a line, but people were very patient. We were so busy, we didn't have the chance to take any photos! And, the forecast rains never materialized.

Local Garden Events

May 22 - ETHS Garden Tour at Mary and Chris Albrecht's, 2:00 pm

June 3 and 4 - Regional Convention

June 24 and 25, 10:00 am until 5:00 pm, [Dogwood Arts Summer Featured Gardens](#) includes Anderson Estate, Savage Garden, and Mary's Garden (different Mary, not your editor!).

July 9 - Garden Tour TBD

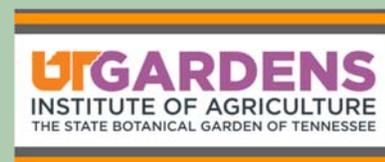
August – Educational Talk and plant sale by Bob Solberg

September 25 - Garden tour of Caesar Stairs' Garden, 2:00 pm

October 23rd – Fall Garden tour of GATOP Gardens, 2:00 pm

November 20 – Annual General Meeting and end of year social, 2:00 pm

Keep an eye out for events at the Greater Knoxville area public gardens:



Oh dear! Deer!

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



Photo evidence that deer do roam our neighborhoods at night. This one was caught on a trail camera in the backyard of Mary and Chris Albrecht on the night of May 8, 2022 at 1:58 AM. No physical evidence of damage was seen the next day. However, Mary was not happy! Plus this deer looks like she's ready to drop a faun any day now!

Deer control is a common topic of conversation for hosta growers. Here's a summary of things that people have tried to varying degrees of success.

1. Irish Spring. My sisters in northern New Jersey swear by it. I've tried and I don't think Tennessee deer can give a flip about Irish Spring soap.
2. Repels All Animal Repellent Granules by Bonide contains 1.12% putrescent whole egg solids (read that as rotten eggs), 0.54% cloves, and 0.03% garlic. The rest is inert ingredients (according to the label, that includes attapulgate-type clay, calcium citrate, diatomaceous earth, fish meal, fish oil. Limestone, meat meal, magnesium silicate, magnesium sulfate, sodium benzoate, urea, vinegar, water, and wintergreen oil). I've had fairly good luck with this in my garden at minimizing damage to plants. I just hadn't really done a heavy broadcast of it yet this year. The label claims it will last up to 2 months, so repeat application is needed.
3. Liquid Fence Deer & Rabbit Repellent Granular 2 from Spectrum Brands contains 3.115% putrescent whole egg solids (that's 3 times what Repels All

contains), 3.122% garlic, 0.118% sodium lauryl sulfate, 0.015% thyme oil, and 95.630% other ingredients (diatomaceous earth, water). I know other people swear by Liquid Fence.

4. Milorganite is a natural by-product of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District Treatment process and has been made since 1926. Basically solid materials are removed from wastewater. Microbes are added to the water and oxygen is bubbled through the water to create the proper environment for microbes to digest the nutrients remaining in the water. Eventually, the microbes die, binding agents are added to the water to cause the microbes to clump and settle in the sediment tanks. The clean water is returned to Lake Michigan and the microbe clumps are dewatered by squeezing out the water and then dried in rotary kilns at 900 to 1200°F killing all pathogens. What's left is analyzed for at "least 20 parameters every day to comply with all applicable safety guidelines for protecting human health and the environment." It is a slow release fertilizer with an analysis of 6-2-0 and supplies iron. I started using it about two years ago and find that it seems to help repel the small, four-legged critters that frequent the garden. I don't know how well it works against deer. Others have recommended it's use to deter deer.
5. Coyote/Fox Urine Granules by Shake-Away is marketed as a domestic cat repellent. They do not make claims that it will deter other pests. They do recommend their Coyote Urine Granules as a whitetail deer deterrent, taking advantage of the natural predator-prey relationship. This is considered an organic method and is OMRI Certified (Organic Materials Review Institute, omri.org).

I've also heard about these homeopathic remedies

1. Wind chimes (which won't chime if there's no wind) deter deer (we have a wind chime; it didn't seem to deter this particular deer),
2. Elephant ears (*Colocasia* and *Alocasia*) should be planted around the hosta garden as they give off a scent deer don't like (this suggestion came from a comment when I posted the above photo to a Facebook page),

(Continued on page 4)

3. Lights that come on with a motion detector (not sure how many detectors you'd need!),
4. Human hair hung in mesh bags in trees (just get some from your barber or hairdresser! This is a technique botanic gardens and arboreta have used for years.),
5. Animal manure from zoos (I suspect it should be composted before using, though the source for this information didn't say. Some zoos will sell composted animal bedding as Zoo Doo!), or
6. Dried, red cayenne pepper flakes (this seems to work with the little four-legged critters like chipmunks and rabbits but I have no hard data that says it is truly effective. I just have observed they seem to leave my porch pots alone when sprinkled with pepper flakes.).

References

Deter Deer in the Garden, HGTV, <https://www.hgtv.com/outdoors/landscaping-and-hardscaping/deter-deer-in-the-garden>

Liquid Fence Deer & Rabbit Repellent Granular 2, <https://www.liquidfence.com/products/deer-and-rabbit-control/deer-and-rabbit-granular.aspx>

Repels All Animal Repellent Granules, Product Literature, <https://bonide.com/product/repels-all-animal-repellent-granules/>

Milorganite, What is Milorganite®, <https://www.milorganite.com/using-milorganite/what-is-milorganite>

Shake-Away products <https://www.shake-away.com/Deer.php?page=Deer> and <https://www.shake-away.com/DomesticCats.php?page=DomesticCat>

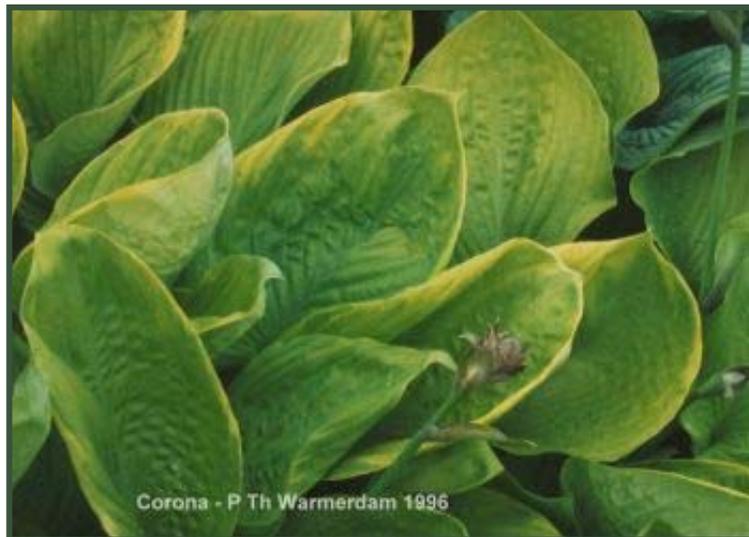
My Favorite Hosta

We're borrowing an idea from the New England Hosta Society - an occasional series featuring a favorite hosta written by members of the East Tennessee Hosta Society, so we will need members to step up and tells us about their favorites. So we are sharing the Vole Sisters from the New England Hosta Society write-up about their favorite!

The other day, we chatted with our friend Racoona about the COVID-19 pandemic. Racoona said, "I am a pacesetter for Corona-virus safety protocols. I wear a mask, wash my hands often and the letters in my name can be rearranged to spell 'corona.'" We were pleased to

discover a registered cultivar called H. 'Corona.' Delight turned to disappointment when we were unable to order and taste it.

Information from the [AHS registration](#).



| Clump Description | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Growth rate | Fast | Habit | Mound-like |
| Plant width | 61 inches | Plant height | 31 inches |
| Leaf Description | | | |
| Center color | Light green | Margin color | Deep gold |
| Length | 18 inches | Width | 16 inches |
| Vein pairs | 14 | Margin | Slightly rippled |
| Width of margin | 1.5 inches | Leaf base | Cordate |
| Texture - top | Slightly shiny | Texture - bottom | Glaucous bloom |
| Leaf Description (continued) | | | |
| Leaf shape | Not given | Leaf Base | Cordate |
| Scape Description | | | |
| Height | 35 to 40 inches | Scape color | Green with brown base |
| Flower Description | | | |
| Color | Medium lavender | Shape | Bell |
| Growing location | Noordwijk, The Netherlands | | |
| Flower time | July 10 to August 15 | | |
| Seed pod color or | Dark green | Age of Clump | 6 years |
| Parentage | Sport of H. 'Sum and Substance' | | |

ETHS Membership

Name(s) (please print) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Preferred Phone (Include Area Code) _____

Email Address _____

Are you a Hosta Beginner

Hosta Addict

Somewhere in-between

Approximately how many different Hostas do you have:

Fewer than 10

10-50

Over 50

Would you like your garden to be considered for an open garden tour by ETHS?

Yes

No

Maybe

Would you like to volunteer for an activity in our club?

Yes

No

Maybe

Annual dues for individual membership is \$12 and \$18 for a family. Membership is based on a calendar year.

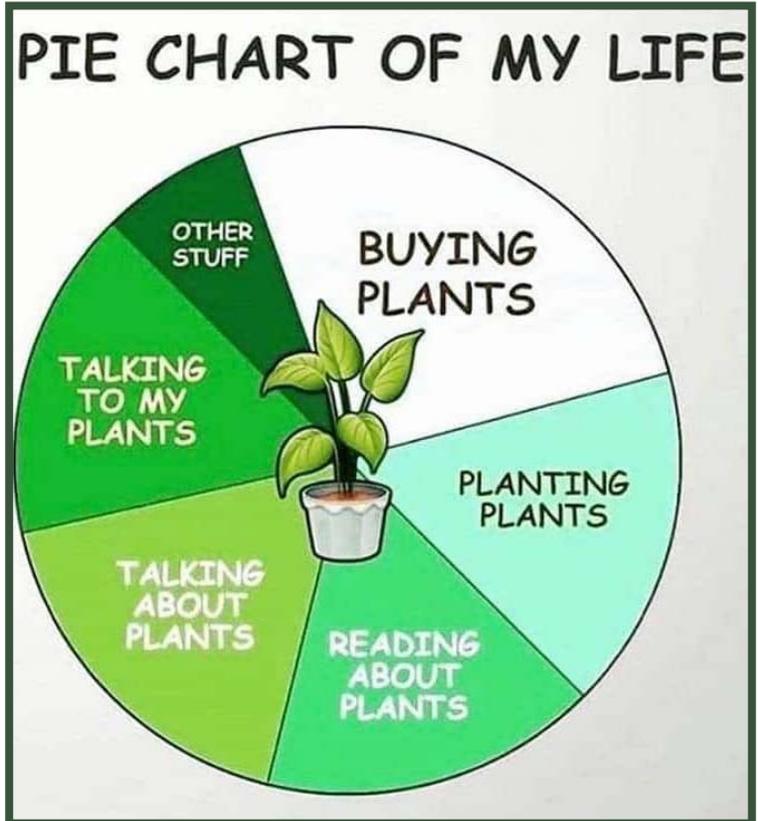
Mail application and check payable to **East Tennessee Hosta Society** to:

Gina Buffum
Treasurer, ETHS
7334 Wheatfield Place
Knoxville, TN 37919

Invite a friend to join!

Gardening Humor

Yes, it's that time of the year when our activity focus changes! This one was borrowed from a Facebook post. Original author is unknown!



(Contributions are always welcomed!)

Other creatures caught on camera include fox (below left), tailless raccoon, rabbits - lots of rabbits, domestic cat, and possum (below right)

