



Hosta Happenings

East Tennessee Hosta Society

September 2022

President's Message

I am confident that this week's nineties temps signals the ending of summer. We can now start to look forward to more pleasant temperatures and start planning the closing of the season and getting our gardens ready for the winter. At this time of the year, I go around with three different colored flags with my Hostas to help me in the spring as the Hostas emerge. One color are for ones that need to be moved because it outgrew its current location or it was getting to much sun and needs to be relocated to a shadier spot. A different color will be for ones that need to be divided because it had developed a fairy ring (The center dies out) or to improve the growth of the Hosta. The third color is for ones that the identification needs to be verified in the spring. I like to do all these Hosta changes as they emerge in the spring so I don't have to worry about handling foliage.

If you haven't been to Caesar Stair's garden before - well

you are in for a treat. We selected Caesar's garden in the fall as that is his garden's peak season. He has lots of Asters and I am hoping that they will be blooming on the day. Caesar will be giving us a personalize tour of the garden as it needs to be explained so it will be important that we try and get there on time. He is also requesting the names of the people who will be attending so he can manage the logistics for the event. The start time is 4.30pm which is a bit later than usual but should be cooler. After the tour it is planned to socialize with a wine and water and take in the magnificent view of the TN River and the Smokies. Did I tell you that Caesar is the past President of the Knox County Master Gardeners and the name of the property is called Hilltop Farms? For those into vegetables, he has an impressive garden lot for these. You will be sorry if you miss this event.

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2022 Officers

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

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Coming up in October is a fall visit to GATOP. Then November is our last get together for the year which will be the Annual General Meeting and the end of year social. This is the time when we elect officers to guide the club for the coming year. The positions that will become vacant at this meeting will be President, Vice President, Secretary & Treasurer. Apart from Mary Albrecht's role as the communications officer – these positions are not very onerous on your time. As you have experienced by now that the club is not into formalities very much – it is all about meeting other gardeners, getting education and having fun. The current office holders have been in their positions for many years so it is time to get some new people to take on these roles and refresh the club with new ideas. I know as President that the hardest part of this job is coming up with a President's message every month. The current executive officers are not standing for reelection so now is your opportunity to make a contribution and to support the club. Please contact me if you need any information about these roles or would like to nominate for a position.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Sunday at 4.30pm – don't forget – Let Mary or me know if you are going to attend this event.

Fred Anderson
East Tennessee Hosta Society
2022 President
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braker01@att.net
<https://www.easttnhostasociety.net>



Local Garden Events

Sunday, September 25, 4:30 to 6:00 pm – Garden tour of Caesar Stair's Garden, NOTE New time!

Thursday, September 29, 7:00 to 9:00 pm - [Knoxville Symphony Orchestra presents Mozart](#) in the Gardens, Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum, free and open to the public. No ticket required. Picnic blankets and lawn chairs are encouraged!

Friday, September 30, 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm – UT Gardens, Knoxville, Fabulous Fall Preview Sale for UT Gardens Members and UT Employees.

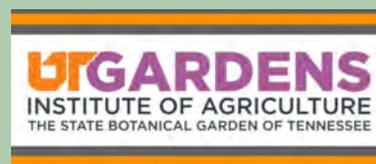
Saturday, October 1, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm – UT Gardens, Knoxville, Fabulous Fall Plant Sale

October 8, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm - Herbal Bath Teas, Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum, registration required and a fee is charged for this event. Learn more [on their website](#).

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

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

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



September 25 Garden Visit: Hill Top Farm

Hill Top Farm, the gardens of Caesar Stair, will be our garden visit on September 25. Plug 5617 Lyons View Pike into your GPS and join us at 4:30 pm (later than normal to accommodate our host). Here's some history of the gardens as published in the September/October 2007 issue of Southern Accents written by Connie Ward-Cameron.

“In Knoxville, overlooking the Tennessee River and the Great Smoky Mountains, lies an enchanting garden on seven acres known locally as Hill Top Farm. The name reflects the long history of the site, which was farmland in the 19th century. The current house, built in the prairie style, dates from 1916. Held by the Stair family since 1956, the property is now home to Dorothy and Caesar Stair.

“Decatur, Georgia-based plantsman Ryan Gainey began his collaboration with the Stairs in 2001. Invited to stay at Hill Top Farm, he was drawn to the views and the landscape of indigenous trees. Gainey and architect Marc B. Mosley begin a design consultation with the family that became a garden collaboration.

“It started with a pool house and eventually grew to include a pavilion and fireplace to provide a focal point for the formal garden, a rustic pergola, and a crescent-shaped aerial hedge. The gardens evolved organically.

“The pergola embodies the juxtaposition of rustic and sophisticated for which Gainey is known. Mosley designed the structure, made of stacked-stone columns

and roughhewn cypress beams, as a centerpiece of a garden full of vines and herbaceous plants that contrast with the formal lawn.

“Completion of one garden led to the creation of another. 'Our next project was to develop a garden outside the pergola. This area overlooks the river and the foothills, and stone walls and steps embrace a late-blooming garden that pulls one out to the fall color visible across the horizon,' says Gainey.

“We also added an aerial hedge, modeled after the one at Dunbarton Oaks,' he says. 'The hedge serves as a colonnade and is underplanted with white flowering hydrangeas. When you're here, taking in the view, with those white flowers at your feet, you have the illusion that you're walking on clouds.'

“The latest addition is a hexagonal carved-limestone font surrounded by a hexagonal hedge that repeats the shape of the font and an interior round hedge that echoes the pattern on the stone.”



Our August 27 Meeting

People started arriving a few minutes before 11 am. We had a very good turnout and lots of food was shared. There was much conversation and fellowship over lunch which was served just about noon time. Then at about 1:00 pm, Brian White discussed one of the hostas he brought to show people – Hosta ‘Ambrosia’, a ‘Guacamole’ sport with fragrant flowers. Then guest speaker Bob Solberg of Green Hill Hostas, Franklinton, NC, gave a presentation on things you might want to know about hostas and answered our questions.

First topic was potting mix for those grown in pots. Bob recommended a mix of pine bark and peat-based growing medium. The pine bark improves drainage. Of course, fertilization became the logical next topic. He recommends a high nitrogen fertilizer in the spring through June. As a nurseryman, he uses Harrell’s 17-6-12 slow-release pelleted fertilizer. Key is using high nitrogen to encourage growth in the spring. Can also use foliar feeding with Miracle Gro’s Tomato Fertilizer in early May, mid-May, and very early June, just not on the minis. The key to knowing when to stop fertilizing is when they start to bloom. Once they start flowering, they don’t need more leaves. You want them to be able to go dormant when cold weather arrives.

During the summer, you will see fungal diseases, including anthracnose. Anthracnose is not a big deal.

Some cultivars are more susceptible than others. He mentioned ‘Rainforest Sunrise’ has a problem with anthracnose but not to worry. Just remove the affected leaves.

Nematodes may be a problem with one or two plants. They will be in the foliage, and we shouldn’t get too worried about it. Same with HVX. It will be in the foliage, so if you remove flower stalks, there’s no need to use alcohol between plants. Don’t cut the leaves off, wait for them to die and then simply pull off. Most growers are using starts from tissue culture which will be free from HVX. You will typically find in the big-box stores because they tend to sell older varieties that are not being produced via tissue culture. If it is present in a plant, remove the plant and don’t replace with another hosta for a few years.

Hostas are classified by sizes – mini, small, medium, large, and giants. The American Hosta Grower Association classifies them by height. Bob advocates for classifying them by width.

When he finished speaking, members willingly bought plants from him.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Albrecht for Wanda Taylor, Secretary



Left: Enjoying the Andersons’ garden.

Right: Members arriving and enjoying a delightful day.





After enjoying a wonderful potluck with lots of great food, we heard from Bob Solberg, Green Hill Hostas, Franklinton, NC. Bob led a lively discussion about the care and maintenance of hostas, and even dispelled a few myths!

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!

Welcome New Members

Welcome new members *Rhonda Adkins, Wynne Kohout, Jolly Goins, and Teresa Jones* invited by member *Cindy Daniel*, and *Vanassa Workman*.

Know a fellow gardener who could benefit from joining us? Pass along this newsletter with the membership application!

Gardening Humor



Captain Jean Luc Picard and Commander Will Riker of the Starship Enterprise talking gardening, as they appeared on Facebook!