



Hosta Happenings

East Tennessee Hosta Society

November 2022

President's Message

It looks like the drought has broken and the Autumn season is petering out after the spectacular fall colors this year. Winter is knocking on our door and will certainly put an end to the flowering season. I wait for this time to transplant all the trees and shrubs that need to be moved or potted up.

We are in the home stretch to our last meeting of the year – Sunday, November 20 at Chris & Mary's home (12659 Bayview Drive) which will be a potluck affair (a plate to share) and bring your own adult beverages.

Apart from socializing, we will have a brief meeting to elect officers for next year and decide on our annual donations.

Unless we get further nominations before hand or from the floor, following is the lineup for 2023.

President – Fred Anderson

Vice President – Beverly Smith

Secretary – Wanda Taylor

Treasurer – Liz Etnier

Mary Albrecht will also continue with the role as Communications Director.

Because of Covid it has been a while since we have made any donations. Our current balance is \$3370.37. I suggest that we could donate up to \$2500 from our funds. I would also like to suggest that we divide it up around other public gardens instead of it all going to UT Gardens.

To purely start the conversation – Let's say we give UT Gardens the majority – and split the rest equally between Knoxville Botanical Gardens and Ivan Racheff House and Gardens. We would also need to decide if we want the monies to go to a specific purpose or let them decide the best use of the money.

Bob Solberg has also mentioned that he has booked a

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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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hotel for May next year for the Dixie Regional Convention in Raleigh/Franklinton, NC, and should have registration forms this month.

This is your last chance to catch up with your Hosta friends this year so let's end the year on a high note. The first meeting of 2023 will be the 26th February.

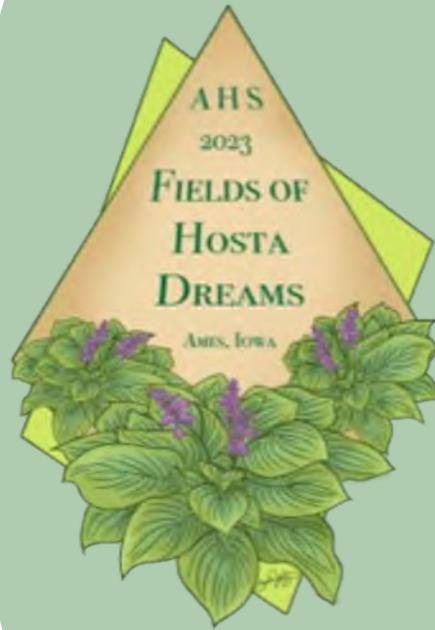
I look forward to catching up with everybody this Sunday at 2.00pm – Mary will share more details with you before then.

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

Garden Visitors



As seen in the yard of Mary and Chris Albrecht. Top: Possum; middle: Skunk (like I need to tell you!); bottom: Fox.

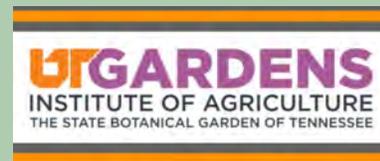


2023
National
Convention
June 7-10,
Ames IA
Registration
is now open.

Local Garden Events

Sunday, November 20, 2:00 pm – Annual General Meeting and end of year social at the home of Chris and Mary Albrecht, 12659 Bayview Dr., Knoxville

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



Horticultural Trivia: What's in a Plant's Name? The Genus *Hosta*

According to Liberty Hyde Bailey's Manual of Cultivated Plants, the genus *Hosta* is named in honor of an Austrian botanist and physician, Nicolaus Thomas Host, 1761-1834. It's difficult finding much information about the man. There is a website called [Wikispecies](#) that has limited information about him. According to this site, there are 14 species named for him:

- * *Aira caryophyllea* var. *hostii*
- * *Aira hostii*
- * *Carex hostii*
- * *Dicranum hostii*
- * *Erianthus hostii*
- * *Juncus hostii*
- * *Juncus trifidus* ssp. *hostii*
- * *Normeyera* X *hostii*
- * *Orchis hostii*
- * *Orchis mascula* var. *hostii*
- * *Salsola hostii*
- * *Saxifrage hostii*
- * *Saxifrage hostii* subsp. *Hostii*
- * *Tilia hostii*

If you notice, in these names, the name Host has been Latinized by adding the double i ending. Yet, in the genus we all enjoy, it is *Hosta*, not *Hostii*. How can that be?

Look to the International Code of Nomenclature for Algae, Fungi, and Plants. Article 20, Section 3, Names of Genera and Subdivisions of Genera lay out the rules and recommendations. Pretty simple and straight forward rules with examples (taken directly from the Code - https://www.iapt-taxon.org/nomen/pages/main/art_20.html ; I know TMI- too much information):

“20.1. The name of a genus is a noun in the nominative singular, or a word treated as such, and is written with an initial capital letter (see Art. 60.2). It may be taken from any source whatever, and may even be composed in an absolutely arbitrary manner, but it must not end in *-virus*.

“20.2. The name of a genus may not coincide with a Latin technical term in use in morphology at the time of publication unless it was published before 1 January 1912 and was accompanied by a species name published in accordance with the binary system of Linnaeus.”

[*Editor's Note 1: Are you bored yet?!*]

“20.3. The name of a genus may not consist of two words, unless these words are joined by a hyphen (but see Art. 60.12 for names of fossil-genera).

“Ex. 7. “*Uva ursi*”, as originally published by Miller (Gard. Dict. Abr., ed. 4: *Uva ursi*. 1754), consisted of two separate words **unconnected** by a hyphen, and is not therefore validly published (Art. 32.1(c)); the name is correctly attributed to Duhamel (Traité Arbr. Arbust. 2: 371. 1755) as *Uva-ursi* (hyphenated when published).

“Ex. 8. Names such as *Quisqualis* L. (formed by combining two words into one when originally published), *Neves-armondia* K. Schum., *Sebastiano-schaueria* Nees, and *Solms-laubachia* Muschl. ex Diels (all hyphenated when originally published) are validly published.

“Note 1. The names of intergeneric hybrids are formed according to the provisions of Art. H.6.”

[*Editor's Note 2: I'm sure you're bored by now!*]

“20.4. The following are not to be regarded as generic names:

“(a) Words not intended as names.

“(b) Unitary designations of species.

“Note 2. Examples such as “*Leptostachys*” and “*Anthopogon*”, listed in editions of the *Code* prior to the *Tokyo Code* of 1994 were from publications that are now suppressed (see App. I).”

[*Editor's Note 3: That sounds scary!*]

“Recommendation 20A”

“20A.1. Authors forming generic names should comply with the following:

- a. Use Latin terminations insofar as possible.
- b. Avoid names not readily adaptable to the Latin language.
- c. Not make names that are very long or difficult to pronounce in Latin.
- d. Not make names by combining words from different languages.
- e. Indicate, if possible, by the formation or ending of the name the affinities or analogies of the genus.
- f. Avoid adjectives used as nouns.

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- g. Not use a name similar to or derived from the epithet in the name of one of the species of the genus.
- h. Not dedicate genera to persons quite unconnected with botany, mycology, phycology, or natural science in general.
- i. Give a feminine form to all personal generic names, whether they commemorate a man or a woman (see Rec. 60B; see also Rec. 62A.1).
- j. Not form generic names by combining parts of two existing generic names, because such names are likely to be confused with nothogeneric names (see Art. H.6)."

[Editor's Note 4: If you've hung in until now, you win!]

Now according to Article 60 (https://www.iapt-taxon.org/nomen/pages/main/art_60.html) the recommendation for Latinization clearly states that:

"When the name of the person ends with a consonant, the letters *-ia* are added, but when the name ends with *-er*, either the terminations *-ia* and *-a* is appropriate."

Since the species *Hosta* is named for Nicolaus Thomas Host and his name ends in a consonant, based on this recommendation, you would assume it should be "*Hostia*" and not as we know it. So what's the deal?

I checked my copy of William Stearn's *Botanical Latin: History, Grammar Syntax, Terminology and Vocabulary*. He quoted from the work of Linnaeus (the father of modern nomenclature):

"Care must be taken that the names are uniform and that they end in *-a*, as though they were feminine substantives."

Okay, so in becoming a plant name, Host became *Hosta*. Linnaeus worked before the International Code became a thing so *Hosta* violates the modern rules.

But wait, there's more!

There's an escape clause in the Code – they can "*conserve*" a name even if it goes against the rules because of the prominence of the name.

So, not to leave any stone unturned, I read W. George Schmid's *The Taxonomy of the Genus Hosta and Evolutionary Placement* (<https://>

www.americanhostasociety.org/Education/species/species_part2.pdf) and he confirmed for me that, yes, the International Botanical Congress of Vienna in 1905 did indeed conserve the name *Hosta*. So, rather than calling the species *Hostia*, we use the conserved or protected name *Hosta*.

Now it might not be a trivial matter if you're a plant taxonomist. However, for gardeners, we still love *Hosta*. Or as William Shakespeare wrote

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

So a hosta by any other name would be as wonderful!

Mary L. Albrecht, Professor Emerita and ETHS Communications Director, and admittedly not a plant taxonomist though she did have a graduate level course in plant taxonomy. Her professor told the class, "Don't worry about pronunciation! All Latin Scholars are dead!"

**Midwest Regional
Hosta Convention
Coming to
Rochester, MN
July 13-15, 2023**



Garden enthusiasts from around the country are expected to attend the annual Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention, July 13-15, 2023, at the Best Western Rochester Hotel gather in Rochester, Minnesota. The Convention is hosted and organized by the Shades of Green Hosta Society of Southeast Minnesota.

The theme of the Convention, *Hosta dreamin'*, reflects the ever-expanding love of and interest in hostas, which have become integral components of regional gardens due to their wide variety in color and size and ability to thrive in Minnesota's Zone 4 climate.

Each Convention attendee will receive an exclusive Convention Hosta that has never before been offered to the public. Additionally, the first 75 Convention

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registrants before May 1, 2023 will receive a second gift plant, Hosta 'Candy Kisses.'

Convention highlights include a kick-off BBQ at the breathtaking gardens of Camp Creek Farm in Preston, MN, tours of five spectacular gardens featuring vast collections of hostas in diverse landscape designs, educational sessions presented by world-class experts, an accredited Hosta Show, a Rod Kuenster Seedling Show, a live auction, a raffle, vendors offering hostas of all

varieties, garden art and more, hospitality, and a few surprises. The Hosta and Seedling Shows and the vending area will be open to the public at specified times, allowing visitors to experience first-hand the captivating colors, shapes and sizes that Hostas afford.

Registration and further information at: <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org>.

Convention Preview Video at: <https://tinyurl.com/hostadreamin>

Welcome New Staff at the UT Gardens, Knoxville



The new Turfgrass Manager and Horticulturist, David Hamilton is from Knoxville, and began working in June, 2022. He completed his bachelor's degree in Conservation Biology at Union University in 2012 and started his career as the Farm-to-Table Director at The King's Academy (TKA) in Seymour, TN, where he developed and maintained the garden, greenhouse, and aquaponic system for use in the school cafeteria. After TKA, David went into landscaping and lawncare with Ploughshares Landscaping and eventually his own business, Beacon Lawn Care. David and his wife have two boys that love visiting UT Gardens so he is excited to be a part of the team that brings joy to so many.



The new Collections Manager and Horticulturist Jennifer Northam grew up in Knoxville and graduated from the University of Tennessee in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in Geology. She went on to complete a Technical Certificate in Geographic Information Systems at Roane State Community College. She later returned to the University of Tennessee to study Public Horticulture including an internship here at the UT Gardens from 2006-2007. Jennifer has worked in a variety of horticulture positions over the past 15 years in Tennessee and South Carolina including plant production, retail sales, urban horticulture and as a garden consultant designing and maintaining private gardens. She has one husband and two cats. She says "The Gardens have completely changed since I worked here as an intern, and I am very excited to keep it going and growing!"

October: A Great Visit to GATOP

We had a delightful visit to GATOP, God's Answers to Our Prayers, last month.



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

**When southern states finally
legalize the devils lettuce**



In case you don't get it - marijuana leaves. You know the rest!

American Hosta Society Membership

Consider joining the AHS. It's easy. Visit their website for full details (<https://www.americanhostasociety.org/Membership/Membership.htm>) and sign-up online or use the printable membership form.

Click here to Join the AHS or Renew your Membership Online

(We accept PayPal, Discover, Mastercard, Visa and AmEx)



Printable Mail-in Form

Regional Societies have their own membership, activities, and publications. Visit the Local Societies section for more details.

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