



Hosta Happenings

East Tennessee Hosta Society

March 2024

President's Message

Well spring is officially here. Let the excitement begin. What a way to officially exit winter - freezing temperatures and a frost warning. Of course, most of the Hostas are up so it is a mad panic the afternoon before trying to cover everything up and to make matters worse - in gusty wind conditions. In hindsight, I should've used Mary's "Que sera sera" method as the frost didn't eventuate because I think we were saved by low humidity. My birthday is groundhog day so always interested in Phil's prediction. Punxsutawney Phil's prediction of an early spring I think is spot on this year. Looking at the next two week forecast, I think we have seen the last of frosts and freezes.

Walking around the garden is exposing lots of plants emerging from their winter sleep.

Virginia Bluebells, Trilliums, Bloodroot, Celandine Poppies and Rue Anemone are all blooming. Dean's Woods will be great to visit in the next week or two to experience a valley full of ephemerals in full bloom.

Our next meeting will be a bit different where we will have at least five members presenting their favorite garden. These short 15-20 minute presentations will hopefully inspire you to visit these unique gardens that are shared. Our next meeting will be this coming Sunday at 2:00 pm at the UT Gardens greenhouse classroom. This will be our last classroom meeting for the year so please make an effort to attend. If you haven't paid your membership fees yet, this will an opportunity to conveniently pay as the treasurer will be in attendance. Next month there will be no activities but there will be a

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2024 Officers

- President Fred Anderson
- Vice President Beverly Smith
- Treasurer Liz Etnier
- Secretary Vanassa Workman
- Communications Mary Albrecht
- Contact ETHS at

easttennhostasociety@gmail.com

newsletter full of gardening events for you to take advantage of. My Hostas are looking good this year so take advantage of the Dogwood Arts open garden days on April 20 and 21 to see over 500 different Hostas - all with labels.

At this next meeting I would like to briefly discuss the proposal for our club to host the national AHS convention in 2026. Some of the advantages of hosting this convention are:

- Meeting other Hostaholics from all over the country,
- listen to national and international speakers,
- get to choose some unique Hostas from over a dozen national vendors,
- experience a leaf show,
- putting our club on the map with the potential for increasing our membership.

However, it would take 10 to 12 committed members to pull it off. Let me know if you need any more information or would like to be on the committee. If we can't get enough support for it, I will call AHS next week to relay the club wishes.

See you in the garden and keep an eye out for voles.

Fred Anderson

East Tennessee Hosta Society

2024 President

865-607-9240

braker01@att.net

<http://www.easttnhostasociety.net>

Dixie Regional Convention

[Middle Tennessee Hosta Society](https://mths-hosta.com/mths-calendar/2024-dixie-regional-hosta-convention) had agreed to host the 2024 Dixie Regional. It will be May 30 - June 1 in Brentwood, TN. Garden visits and lectures are planned. The current plan is to have the Auction Friday night so attendees can return home Saturday evening if they are within a few hours driving distance, saving one night at the hotel. See the information at <https://mths-hosta.com/mths-calendar/2024-dixie-regional-hosta-convention>.

American Hosta Society Annual Convention

Have you ever been to New England? If not, here's your chance! June 18 - 22 in Marlborough, MA, meet up with other hostaphiles to enjoy outstanding gardens, listen to outstanding speakers, eat great food, and take an optional "Day in Boston" and whale watch tour. To learn more, visit <https://hostaconvention.org/>.

Great Lakes Region Hosta College

Members Mary and Chris Albrecht spent this past weekend in Piqua, Ohio. Mary made presentations on companion plants and the story behind plant names. She was also the banquet speaker putting in a plug to come down to East Tennessee to visit not only the Great Smokey Mountains, but the UT

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Gardens, home to the Tranquility Hosta Garden, and the Knoxville Botanic Garden and Arboretum, and the Ivan Racheff House & Botanic & Arboretum. While there, Mary met two potential members who will be relocating to East Tennessee in the near future. Stay tuned!

Companions for the Garden

This is a good time of the year to plant hellebores. Visit local garden centers and shop for hellebores (Lenten rose, *Helleborus* species and hybrids). Also, you should be seeing lungwort (*Pulmonaria* species and hybrids) in flower in the garden. So look for those as well. They are both great companions for Hosta gardens. Before you know it, the peonies will be blooming, too!

BECOME A MEMBER!



- Receive *The Hosta Journal*, mailed to you
- Gain access to members-only online materials
- Participate in exciting events and auctions
- Further your love of hostas and gardening

ETHS Membership

2024 Membership Dues are Now Payable.

Name(s) (please print) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Preferred Phone (Include Area Code) _____

1st Email Address _____

2nd 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 household membership (maximum of 2 members) are \$15. Membership is based on a calendar year.

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

Liz Etnier
Treasurer, ETHS
1405 Whitower Drive
Knoxville, TN 37919

Invite a friend to join!

ETHS 2024 Calendar

March 24, 2:00 - 4:00 PM, South Greenhouse Classroom Meeting, UT Ag Campus - Garden Visit Presentations

April On your own - Dogwood Arts Spring Open Gardens - Featured gardens 20 & 21

April 5 (4-7pm) and 6 (9am-2pm), UT Gardens Plant Sale. April 5 is for Garden Members and UT employees; April 6 for the general public. Not a member, you can join up at the sale.

May 5 ETHS Plant Sale

May 19 Garden Visit Social

June 29 Garden Visit Social

July 20 Garden Visit Social

August 24 Regional President Visit

September 21 Garden Visit Social

October 20 Fall colors garden visit to GATOP

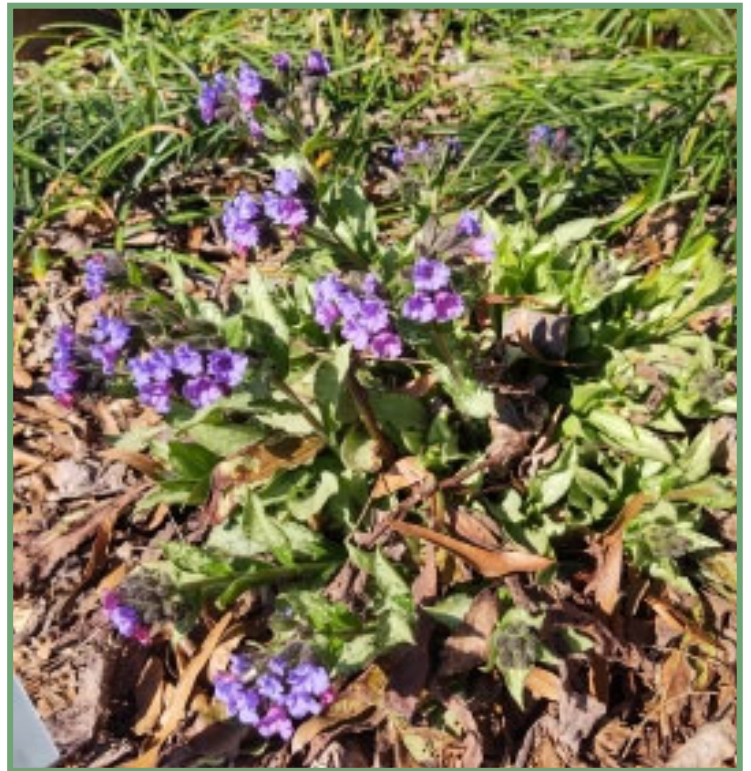
November 24 Annual General Meeting, end of year social

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

 *Ivan Racheff House & Gardens & Arboretum*



'Confetti Cake' Hellebore (above) and 'Diana Clare' lungwort (*Pulmonaria*, below)



Welcome new members!

Linda Hopkins invited her friends Cathy and Greg Slusser to join. Guess what? They did! Welcome to the ETHS!