



Hosta Happenings

East Tennessee Hosta Society

February 2020

President's Message

According to Punxsutawney Phil, we are in for an early spring and who are we to question his wisdom. Accuweather is predicting something similar but are saying that we are in for a wet and stormy March & April. There are reports that flowers are already blooming in Texas and our frost free date has been brought forward by up to three weeks so it looks like our Hostas will be poking their heads up soon. We have been blessed with a very mild although wet winter.

Our very first meeting will be this Sunday 23rd February, 2.00pm at the UT Gardens south greenhouse rooms. Let me know if you need directions. We will be presenting this year's program and would love your feedback for any possible changes. We have some great gardens lined up to visit this year so please mark your calendars and plan to get involved. Our guest speaker at this meeting will be Sam Adams (UT campus arborist) and will be talking about 'Growing Hostas under Trees'. This will be a must for Hosta enthusiasts as our Hostas need shade to grow and thrive. You will certainly pick up some good tips about providing and managing the shade for your Hostas. Also attending and addressing this meeting will be the new UT Gardens director James Newburn.

Thank you to all the members that supported the membership booth at the Dogwood Arts Home & Garden Show. I felt it was an outstanding success and time will tell to see how many new members we pick up. It was very good exposure for our club and the booth was looked professional. Most of the people that we spoke to at the

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Hostas in the Smokies

2020 Dixie Regional Meeting

By now you know that ETHS is hosting the 2020 Dixie Regional Meeting May 28 to 30.

A contract has been signed with the Holiday Inn Cedar Bluff, Knoxville (Interstate 40, Exit 378 to North Cedar Bluff). Reservations may be made by going to [this link](#) then entering dates of you stay. You should then see the Group Code AHS to get into our room block.

We will be providing buses for the morning tours with lunch being served at the last garden spot On Friday and Saturday.

The registration fee is \$99 if postmarked by May 7. Registration form is posted to our website on the [Dixie Region Convention page](#) (simple pdf and interactive pdf registration forms are available).

The gift hosta is 'Touch of Class.'

Speakers are being finalized. As soon as we have the schedule, it will be announced on our website.



Calendar

show have only moved to Knoxville in the past 12 months and are looking forward to setting up their new home and garden. A big thank you to Elin Johnson for developing and printing the handouts and membership forms. These were a hit and we ran out of these by Saturday afternoon.

This year's program has become a moving target during the summer months but the majority of the program is in place so please attend this month's meeting to find out what is in the program for the coming year. There are some exciting things planned and I encourage you to get involved.

This year's regional Hosta convention that we are hosting is coming together nicely and will be a boost for our club. Now is the time to register for the convention and some of you may also want to book the hotel. This is the first time that our club has hosted a convention so it will be a unique opportunity to attend and enjoy the benefits and convenience. For \$99 you get a welcome reception with drinks and food, Hostality every night which includes food and drinks, Lots of vendors selling unique Hostas and companion plants, visiting top Knoxville gardens and being chaperoned in buses. Lunches in the gardens, hearing from some great speakers on subjects that are relevant to our interests, a banquet fit for a king and a live auction of some unique and rare plants. Of course you will be catching up with old friends and making many new ones. Go to our website and download the form and get registered. This rare event doesn't happen very often.

Most members have already paid their membership fees so this saves the treasurer a lot of work in following up members who haven't paid. If you haven't paid yet, please bring your membership fees to the meeting this Sunday as our Treasurer will be there to conveniently process them for you.

Hang on to your seat – we are in for a great year.

See you this Sunday at 2.00pm.

Warm Regards,

Fred Anderson

2020 President, **East Tennessee Hosta Society**

2723 Smallwood Drive

Knoxville, TN, 37920

Ph: 865-607-9240 **Email:** braker01@att.net

February 23, Sunday, 2:00 pm, South Greenhouse Classroom meeting: present and discuss 2020 program; Growing Hostas Under Trees, Sam Adams, Arborist, UT Facilities Services, Landscape Services.

March 20 – 21, Hosta College

March 29, Sunday, 2:00 pm, South Greenhouse Classroom meeting: report from Hosta College; a fun activity; Seasonal Management Planning, Mary Albrecht.

April 1 through 30: Dogwood Trails & Open Gardens

April 26, Sunday, 2:00 pm: Hella Peterson Garden Tour

May 3, Sunday, hours TBD: UT Gardens Plantapalooza & Hosta Tailgate Sale

May 28 – 30: Dixie Region Convention

June 10 – 13: AHS Convention, <https://hostavision2020.com/>

June 27, Saturday, 10:30 am: Garden Tour, TBD

July 25, Saturday, 10:30 am: Plant Nursery Tour and Social, TBD

August 23, Sunday, 10:30 am:: Presentation by Bob Solberg at Anderson Estate

September 19, Saturday, time TBD: activity TBD

October 25, Sunday, 2:00 pm: Caesar Stair Fall Garden Tour

November 22, Sunday, 2:00 pm: End of Year Meeting, annual general meeting and social; site TBD

Future updates will be posted to our website.

2020 Dues are Due!

Just a reminder that annual dues are due! Send your check for \$12 for individual or \$18 for family membership, made out to ETHS, to

Gina Buffum

Treasurer, East Tennessee Hosta Society

7334 Wheatfield Place

Knoxville, TN 37919

Crazy Winter Weather

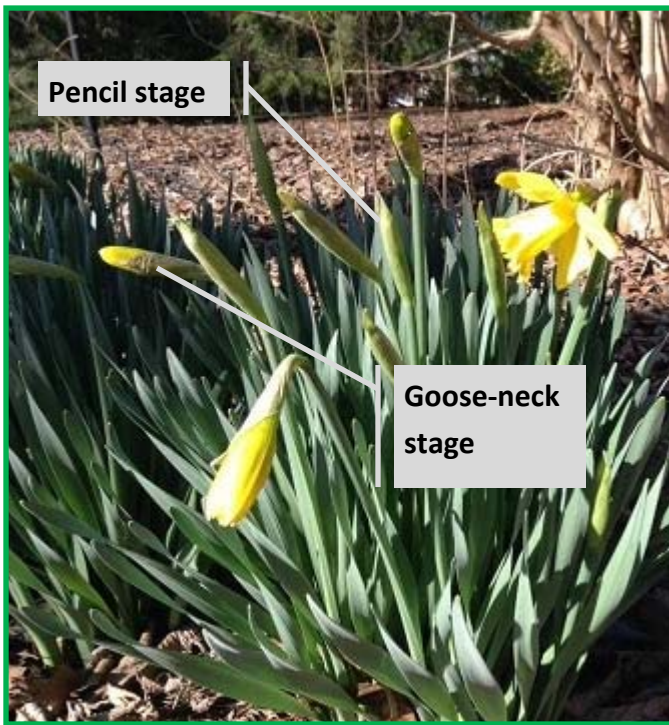
This winter has been anything but normal. Daffodils, hellebores, and Okame cherries are already flowering in the Greater Knoxville area. Buds on magnolias are getting very fat.

Don't panic! While these plants are flowering, they can handle cold temperatures, provided they don't dip too far below the 20's.

Old hellebore foliage should be removed in winter. Late January is best for USDA Hardiness Zone 7. However, if you haven't gotten it done yet, it's not too late. Once flowering is over and the seed pods develop, this is the time to apply some fertilizer. Manures, Milorganite, Hollytone, or balanced granular fertilizer such as 14-14-14 are fine.

Daffodils come in early, mid- and late-season varieties. It is only the early season ones we are seeing in bloom now. They can handle the cold.

If the forecast is for the teens, harvest the flowers provided they the buds have dropped to near a 90-degree angle from vertical. Horticulturists call the flower buds when still sticking straight up the "pencil stage." When



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Member Passing

We are saddened to report the passing of one of our long-time members. Mike Johnson passed away on January 31, 2020. We extend our condolences to his wife, ETHS member Esther Johnson.

Mike and Esther were among our earliest members joining ETHS in 1998. At the peak of their garden they had about 100 hostas until the deer discovered them. Mike retired from the University of Tennessee Department of Psychology.



Mike (front row in black jacket) and Esther (front row in blue jacket) at a ETHS event in 2012.

Kroger Rewards Card

Did you know that the UT Gardens can easily be supported by linking your Kroger Rewards Card to them? If you have a their loyalty program card, you can set-up your account online and then select the UT Gardens from a long list of eligible organizations. Every time you use the loyalty card, you'll help the UT Gardens. To set up, visit <https://www.kroger.com/o/store-services/community-rewards>



The UT Gardens is Participating in the 2020 Tennessee Tree Day



Order your trees today from the Tennessee Environmental Council for Tennessee Tree Day 2020. The UT Gardens are one of 4 pick up sites in Knox County so you can choose the site that is most convenient for you. Tree seedlings will range from 1 to 3 feet and are available for a small donation. Distribution of pre-ordered, pre-paid trees is on Friday, March 20 from 9am to 5pm. Order your trees now until March 1, and get ready to plant! See donation details,

available species information and to place orders for pick-up at the UT Gardens, Knoxville at www.tectn.org/tennesseetreeday.html

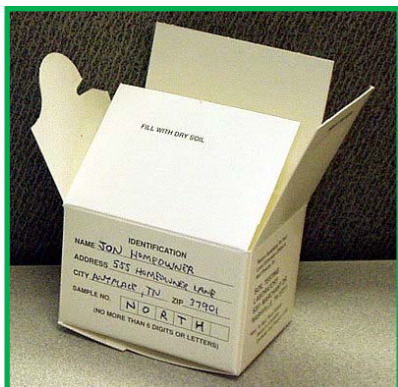
(Continued from page 3) Crazy Winter Weather

bent over and still not opened, it's the "gooseneck stage." Daffodils can easily be cut and used indoors when in the goose-neck stage. You'll get the longest post-harvest life from them when cut at this stage (see picture to understand the different stages).

If your daffodils aren't blooming as heavily as previously, you should dig and divide once flowering is over. Also use a little fertilizer when you replant to help the bulbs build. Use a low-nitrogen fertilizer. Bonemeal is commonly recommended for bulbs.

Regardless of plant, this is also the best time of year to get a soil test done before applying fertilizer. Check

with Knox County Extension for information; 865-215-2340. Also look at the information available online at <https://ag.tennessee.edu/spp/Pages/Lawn-and-Gardens.aspx>



Tranquility Garden Work Days

We're scheduling a few work days in the Tranquility Garden. More than likely there will be two in March and another in April to help make sure it is looking its best for May. Many areas are Adopt-a-Spots, and others areas are not.



Help is needed with weeding winter annuals, spreading mulch, removing the overly aggressive mondo grass (*Ophiopogon japonicus*), and general spring clean-up. As soon as the dates are finalized with UT Gardens personnel, they will be announced via email and on our website.

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer or to participate in Adopt-a-Spot, contact Alice Kimbrell, akimbrel1@utk.edu.