



News & Current Happenings

East Tennessee Hosta Society

November 2018

President's Message

Well the frost has finally arrived if only lightly as most of my Hostas are still soldering on. I have been taking advantage of the cooler weather and planting like crazy. All my Hosta seedlings (about 80) and Rohdea (about 150) are all planted in protected raised beds for the winter. Not sure what I am going to do with them yet—I might have to find some friends to give some away. Another project that I recently completed was my new Mouse Island. This is a large Island garden bed that is being dedicated to the 57 different types of Mouse series Hostas. I am finding that these are harder to source than I first realized.

This November meeting is our AGM where we get to elect officers for 2019. **This Sunday the 18th November at 2.00pm** at the UT gardens south greenhouse rooms. I can't encourage you enough to consider taking on a role in the club. The time involved is very light and your contribution enhances your membership. The more you put into something the more you get out of it.

Our Treasurer Gina Buffum has graciously offered to host this year's Christmas get together at her home. It will be on the **2nd December at 2.00pm**. More information will be coming your way soon so keep an eye out for your invitation. It will be a pot luck arrangement so bring along a plate to share.

A topic that was raised at the last meeting was to hold a Hosta Swap next year about mid year. Start planning your divisions now and deciding which Hostas you have too many of to swap out for something different. Don't forget to label them.

Don't miss this meeting as we will be hosting Guest Speaker Amanda Spangler from the Knoxville Botanical Gardens.

Looking forward to catching up with everybody at the meeting this Sunday.

Fred Anderson
2018 President

Guest Speaker November 2018 Meeting

Amanda Spangler currently serves as the Director of Horticulture at the Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum. Amanda has held a variety of roles in the industry since 2007, and she has earned a bachelor's and a master's in Plant Sciences from the University of Tennessee. In this meeting, Amanda will share her experience touring some British Hosta and Hemerocallis Society member collections in 2014.

Time permitting, Amanda will also give us an update on all the current happening's at the KBGA.



Your Invited

ETHS Christmas Get Together
Save the Date—2nd December, 2.00pm

Bring a plate to share and
your good humor

Elin's Column



Elin Johnson (Master Gardener extraordinary) was the editor of this newsletter for nearly 20 years and many of those years as President. Her contributions are very appreciative.

Fall Colors

I have been really surprised this year that the colors have been as good as they have been. Fall arrived really late, and there was an unusual amount of rain. A lot of people thought there wasn't going to be much color in the trees. But we were wrong. There have been a lot of pretty colors.

Our Hostas don't disappoint us. Many of their leaves turn lovely shades of yellow. In my garden in downtown Sweetwater I made this picture around 2007. These pots resided underneath a beautiful red maple (see the leaves on the ground). It had grown to be a very large tree.



But there are golden yellow Hostas here at my new home as well. And my Japanese maples have turned nice colors this year. They usually don't turn until after the other maple leaves are gone, but this unusual year they have turned at the same time. Isn't this a beautiful sight? Beauty is all around us if we will just look.



Here are two examples here in Knoxville:



This is one of my favorites—H. 'Dinner Mint'. The other picture was made across the street from my condo under the window of my neighbor's house.



Member Profile

Each month we profile a member to help us get to know other members better. Be ready for your turn.

This Month's Member is 'Brian White'



Brian was a founding member of ETHS from the beginning.

He operates Brian Whites Nursery which started as D & B Yarden Goodies since 1998 and finishing sheet rock in the construction industry while also running the nursery.

His formal training is as a Machinist which involved 2000 hours of school at T. A.T. Oakridge TN. Then as a apprentice Machinist in Mobile AL. for a full year. Boy, Mobile was not the place for him, so back to these Tn. hills where he hooked up with the love of his life (not Hosta, they came later) Diana and was married in 1980.

He was in and out of a few local Machine shops and finally a job at Y-12 as a machinist, where he did a lot of interesting work. He left that job in 1989 and never worked as a machinist again.

While doing drywall work, he was given a BIG load of flagstone and this started his gardening passion and the meeting of his soon to be best friend Art Davis.

He has one son and over the years several dogs. He is naming a new Hosta after one dog he called Runt and yes the Hosta is a mini with an elongated leaf and a white center that gets darker as the season get warmer - this makes it a strong grower.

Over the years Diana was always out helping Brian and adding her touch to their gardens. She has not been active outside lately and the gardens have suffered. They only have a container garden now and some small areas were they still have fun in.

😊 Brian does have several Hostas for sale [3000+] of course and considers this his garden even if he has 72 of the same kind.

He finds that his favorite Hosta changes with the seasons but he really likes the ones that are good growers and perform well in East Tn. gardens.

He has found that he also has a passion for Japanese Maples and has been growing and selling them for several years.

Currently he has a good selection of Japanese maples for sale from one gallon size to



15 gallon estate size maples that Brian has grown from a fresh graft. Just this year he started doing his own grafting and plans on doing at least 40 more in the spring of 2019.

Back in 1999 he made his first Hypertufa container 30 x 18 x 12 inches. It looked like the English watering troughs made from stone. He made it for his good friend Art Davis who never even got to see it. He had a heart attack in Ruth Pardue's [The founder or ETHS] garden working and died the next day. He still has the container - it is falling apart but a really nice maple lives in it now.

He stills make a few Hypertufa containers and all are free form now—no two alike.

Reflecting on his current situation working in the nursery industry, he enjoys trying to grow the Hostas he has for sale the best he can and just enjoying life.

Brian has just turned 60, Nov. 11. "Hey this is like being 20 with 40 years of experience".

Brian thanks members for their participation and continued support in ETHS of our little fun, blue jean, floppy hat wearing garden group.

Here's to a great 2019!



Brian contemplating over a variegated H. Empress Wu leaf that was all that remained from a very expensive mother plant that died of root rot.

African False Hosta

Drimiopsis maculata



When I was in Philadelphia for the National Hosta Convention I spotted this at one of the gardens on tour. I was intrigued—I had never heard of a “False Hosta” before. The hardiness zone for this one is 7B so it would be one to overwinter in the garage.

Tony Avent from Plants Delight Nursery say” This wild bulb from South Africa's Eastern Cape Province emerges in spring to form clumps of 8" long x 2" wide, fleshy green leaves covered with dark spots (maculata means "spotted"). The attractive 8" tall x 1' wide clumps of foliage are topped in late April through May with 1' tall spikes of tiny off-white bells, making quite a show when the clumps get large. *Drimiopsis maculata* does not prefer full sun, although it will take a few hours without a problem...very easy in an array of garden soils. “

Can you name these Hostas?



A Blast from the Past

Recognize anybody here and where was it taken? The year is 2006



Action Checklist

- Think about joining the support team
- Mark your Calendar for the 2nd December Christmas get together at Gina's
- Invite your gardening friends to become members

New Members

Steve & Elle Kilpatrick

Welcome!