



Hosta Happenings

East Tennessee Hosta Society

April 2024

President's Message

This month marks the passing of one of our long-time senior members - Fran Scheidt. I had a close bond with Fran and I will truly miss her. She was a very active member of the club and attended and volunteered in all of our events. Fran was always giving me plants and even gave me two of the Holly's that she registered. I have over 20 different Holly's in my collection now

because of Fran 😊. I have placed a memory marker in front of her registered Holly 'Frantastic' that she gave me. She led an amazing life and will be missed by everyone.

Last weekend we had over 450 people visit our garden and the Hostas put on a good

show considering this time of the year. I thought I had escaped any frost damage but upon closer inspection - I did get some minor damage. The weather certainly can't make up its mind. This week we have two mornings around 40 degrees. We are crossing our fingers that all the plants that we planted for the open garden will not be affected. Everybody admired the Hostas and I wouldn't be surprised if we get some membership enquiries. A lot of people asked where they can get some of the unique Hostas, I advised them to join a club for connections. Brian White Nursery got a lot mentions during the weekend 😊.

It's that time of the year to be on patrol for voles and slugs so this is going to keep me busy in the coming weeks. It is also the ideal time to start applying foliar fertilizer to the

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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

Hostas. I have a four-gallon backpack that has a battery pack to help me with this process. It takes me three hours to apply 40 gallons of fertilizer.

Coming up on May 5 will be our annual plant sale sponsored by member Brain White. This is the only fund-raising event that we do for the whole year. It does raise awareness of our club and helps grow the Hosta population in our community. It will also be an opportunity to educate people about Hostas when they ask questions. Monies raised from this event go to help support the free public gardens in Knoxville. It is for these reasons that we all get behind this event and support it by helping out. The event is from 12-4 pm but we will need people from 11am to help set-up. This is a fun event and you meet some really nice people as well as your other garden friends. Can you please let me know when you would be available to help.

Next month I am lining up a garden that we have never visited before so keep an ear out for more details. Have you registered yet to attend the Dixie Regional Hosta Society convention in Brentwood TN? This is coming up at the end of May. The late registration fee starts applying after April 26 so time is of the essence. Come and join us for a fun weekend.

The Hosta season has officially kicked off so hang on to your hats.

Fred Anderson

East Tennessee Hosta Society
2024 President
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<http://www.easttnhostasociety.net>

Passing of a Gardening Legend

We mourn the loss of member Fran Scheidt. Fran had a long, productive life, passing at the age of 96, and was active in the ETHS, as well as the UT Arboretum Society, and a volunteer with the UT Gardens, Knoxville. She will be missed by many. Read about her extraordinary life as an educator, a holly enthusiast, and a photographer [online](#). Memorials may be made to the [UT Gardens, Knoxville](#) or the [UT Arboretum](#).

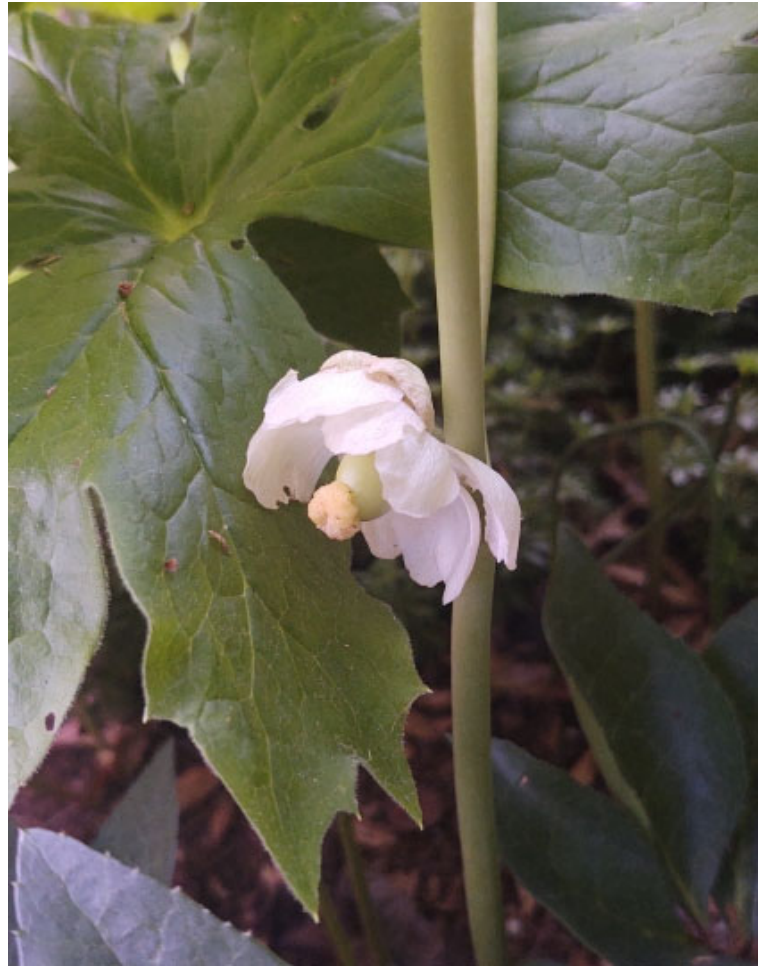


Fran Scheidt with James Newburn, Managing Director of the UT Gardens Knoxville, last year when she was presented the Distinguished Volunteer Service Award. Photo from the UT Gardens, Knoxville.

Companion Plant: Mayapple



Fran Scheidt (center) with her daughter-in-law, Sarah Sheppard (right) and Mary Mishu (left) when the ETHS met at the home and nursery of Brian White. Photo by Mary Albrecht.



Fran at Dr. Montgomery's farm when the East Tennessee Hosta Society held a garden visit in June, 2016. Photo by Elin Johnson.

Podophyllum peltatum, Mayapple, is native across much of the United States. It's in the same plant family as barberry!. It's typically included in the garden for it's large, showy foliage that hides it's delicate white to pink flowers that appear in March to April in Tennessee. It will form a dense mat. Leaves can reach 6 to 8 inches across and stand as tall as 18 inches. Will spread by rhizomes, so best for the back of the garden or edge of a woodland stand.

See the [Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#) for more information.

Spring Awakens!



Hosta 'Afterglow' (above left) and 'Atlantis' (above right), *Trillium recurvatum* (below left) and aphids on *Helleborus* 'Golden Lotus' (below right). It's not just the plants awakening! Keep an eye out for pests in the garden!



And, Speaking of Pests...

Ambrosia beetle is being reported on Facebook gardening groups. While it's good to alert fellow gardeners about finding damage from different insect pests, it is also good to alert the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. It can easily be done on-line at https://stateoftennessee.formstack.com/forms/report_a_pest or you can contact your county extension office. Don't know the number, you can look it up here <https://utextension.tennessee.edu/office-locations-departments-centers/>. By clicking on your county's name in the list, you will be directed to your county's extension webpage. Scroll down to the bottom to find their address and phone number.

Why is it important to report pests to the TN Department of Agriculture? They can send inspectors to a commercial operation that you report having seen an insect or a disease pest. Think about that HVX infected hosta you saw at a garden center - local or big box store. If you report seeing it, the TDA inspectors can inspect the facility and then educate the managers about the problem and get them to stop selling. If the plants were purchased from a wholesale producer, they can then track down that producer and have them stop selling the infected/infested plants. You become part of the solution and help protect everyone.

Why talk to your local Extension agent? Extension agents will work with the TN Department of Agriculture if something is reported to their office. Additionally, the agents can then start to educate others in the county about the issue and help make sure other producers don't experience the same pest problem.

On the Protect TN Forests website, part of the TN Department of Agriculture, you can find an [Emerging Threats page](#). At the moment, they report six emerging threats to Tennessee forests:

- * Sudden Oak Death
- * Spotted Lanternfly
- * Oak Wilt
- * Asian Longhorned Beetles
- * Gold spotted Oak Borer
- * Cogongrass

On their [Insects page](#), they provide information on 14 other major insect problems affecting trees in our state, including an assortment of other beetles, emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, spongy moth, woodwasp, pine sawflies, tent caterpillar, gall-forming insects, crape myrtle scale, hackberry aphid, and tent caterpillar. They also have pages devoted to diseases and invasive plants.

There's also good information about plant pests and quarantines on the general Department of Agriculture [Plants page](#). Many of the same insects are included, however, not all are the same as on the Protect TN Forests information. It's worth it to check both sites to learn about pests in the state. Insects don't distinguish between forests and home landscapes.

April/May in the Zone 7b Garden

- ◆ Plant annuals and perennials.
 - ◆ Can transplant perennials since ground is warming and roots will more quickly establish. Make sure they are well-watered.
- ◆ Delay planting warm season annuals until early to mid-May. While in Zone 7b now, there is still a chance for a light frost, especially at higher elevations.
 - ◆ Caladiums
 - ◆ Cannas
 - ◆ Elephant ears
 - ◆ Vinca or Periwinkle (*Catharanthus roseus*)
 - ◆ Cockscomb (*Celosia*)
 - ◆ Lantana
 - ◆ Pentas
 - ◆ Petunias
 - ◆ Zinnias
- ◆ Based on soil test, it's a good time to fertilize azaleas, other spring flowering shrubs, and perennials. Read specific product labels for directions.
 - ◆ Hollytone
 - ◆ MiracleGro All Purpose Plant Food
 - ◆ Miracid for Acid-loving Plants
 - ◆ MiracleGro Performance Organics
 - ◆ Ironite
 - ◆ Milorganite
- ◆ Keep an eye out for rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, and deer. They are very active. Having natural predators such as coyote, fox, dogs and cats is the best control; some people don't like predators. People report various degrees of success with different repellents.
 - ◆ Repels All (granules or spray)
 - ◆ Liquid Fence (spray)
 - ◆ Fox and/or Coyote Urine pellets
 - ◆ Milorganite

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

April 27, 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM,
Mountain Laurel Garden Club Plant Sale,
Fairview Elementary School, 2130 Old
Niles Ferry Rd., Maryville

April 27, Ivan Racheff House and
Gardens Plant Sale, 1943 Tennessee
Ave., Knoxville, TN. More details [on line](#).

April 27, 10:00 AM until we run out!
Knoxville Dahlia Society Tuber and
Cutting Sale, Stanley's Greenhouse,
3105 Davenport Rd., Knoxville.

April 27, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, North
Hills Garden Club Plant Sale, 2419
Kennington Rd., Knoxville. See
their [website](#) for updates as they come
available.

May 4, 2024, Knoxville Botanical Garden
and Arboretum, Spring Plant Sale, 2743
Wimpole Ave.

May 5, 12:00 pm until 4:00 pm, ETHS
Plant Sale, at the UT Gardens, Knoxville.
Various vendors.

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

 *Ivan Racheff House & Gardens
& Arboretum*



Dixie Regional Convention

[Middle Tennessee Hosta Society](#) 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>. Registration is still open.

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/>. Standard registration ends on April 30, 2024.

Late registration is payment received between May 1 and June 8, 2024.

BECOME A MEMBER!



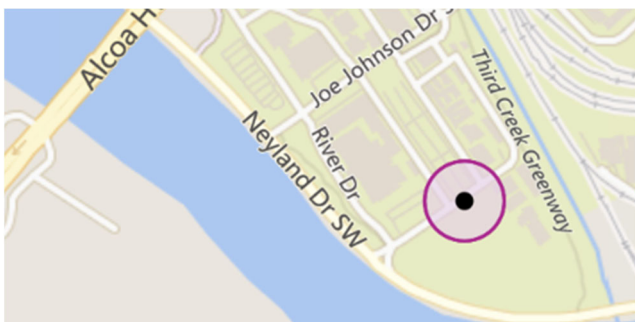
- Receive *The Hosta Journal*, mailed to you
- Gain access to members-only online materials
- Participate in exciting events and auctions
- Further your love of hostas and gardening

East Tennessee Hosta Society's Annual Plant and Garden Sale at the UT Gardens, Knoxville



Brad Greenwood, blacksmith, creator of botanically themed home and garden treasures
Allen Beeler, Little Valley Nursery, assorted high quality hanging baskets and annuals
Betty Longworth, Countryside Gardens, a delightful assortment of perennials.
Beaver Creek Nursery, odd and unusual perennials, trees, and shrubs
Jana Marie Graziano, Clear Spring Farm, large variety of small fruits, herbs, vegetables, annuals, and perennials.
The Garden Center Dayton. The best selection of Japanese Maples in our area, along with many other trees, shrubs, vegetables, herbs, annuals and perennials.
Brian White Nursery, the area's premier hosta grower along with other unusual plants.

Sale Location



Entrance to the UT Gardens 2518 Jacob Dr

Sunday, May 5
12 noon until 4:00 pm
Rain or Shine!

New Vendors Welcome: For more information contact Brian White Ph: 865-591-6774