



Georgia Hosta Notes

A Publication of The Georgia Hosta Society

Volume 38

March 2022

No. 2



This stunning picture, probably of *Hosta* 'Frances Williams', is one of the most beautiful hosta scenes ever posted on Facebook. Unfortunately, the photographer was not identified. We reprint it here for your enjoyment. If anyone can identify who created it, please let us know. We would like to give that person full credit for such a beautiful creation.



President's Message

By Greg Ferguson

Hello to our hosta family!

You know that guy? The one that always loves to play a trick on you? He loves playing that same worn out – but effective – trick over and over. He always ends it with a sly little grin and a big “Gotcha!” You know him, don’t you?

Well, Nature just “Gotcha!” again. Nature teased us with a beautiful, early spring. Our jonquils bloomed, our early shrubs leafed out, even our azaleas and hostas started to show. Everybody seemed to say, “Whew, I’m glad winter’s over. We’ve made it this time.” Then that guy, Nature, played its same old trick – a deep freeze into the teens and low 20s, and said “Gotcha!” When will we learn? The lesson here is to know when the last freeze normally occurs in your growing zone. There are many, many sources for this information. Google “date for last freeze <your zip code>” on the internet and you’ll get dozens of choices.

Of course, this freeze could have been worse. Another week or so and many of our hostas would have unfurled their leaves. Our flowering shrubs would have been farther along. So, we can count our blessings. “Gotcha!” “Back at cha!”

The Georgia Hosta Society is looking forward to our first in-person GHS meeting of 2022 on April 9. Due to a resurgence in COVID, our first General Meeting, 2/12/2022, was held via Zoom. We were blessed with a well prepared and interesting presentation of “Hosta 101” by Sandra Bussell and Mary Lepore. Sandra and Mary conducted a survey of our membership and compiled lists of favorite hostas. Photos and key information on the screen made this a memorable and practical presentation. If you missed the meeting, you can enjoy it online by going to our website gahosta.org and watching it.

Our upcoming General Meeting is April 9 at our regular meeting place, Deen Day Sanders Garden House, Duluth, Georgia. At the April 9 meeting we will have a pot luck meal, we will have instruction on preparing hostas for the May 7 Cut Leaf Show, and we will have our annual fund-raiser, our Spring Auction. Bring your auction items with you, and be prepared to bid on auction items. This is always fun, interesting, and lively. You never know what you’ll find. Our meeting begins at 11 am.

The GHS is moving full-steam-ahead, preparing for the Cut Leaf Show and Plant Sale. You’ll find information elsewhere in this newsletter about this event. (There will also be a special upcoming newsletter dedicated to the event.) This is the first time since 2019 that we’ve had this event, due to COVID, so we’re extremely excited about getting to hold it in-person again. The event will be held in Tucker, Georgia, at the Fellowship Hall and Parking Lot of the First Baptist Church. It will be on the same day that Tucker Day 2022 is held, 5/7/2022.

We are planning for several garden tours for 2022. Some details are in this newsletter. More details will be released very soon.

Your Board has been active in preparing for the Fall General Meetings. Steve McMurtry, Program Chairman, has September’s speaker lined up. Steve has a tentative speaker for November, and we’ll share that with you later when confirmed. As of this time, meetings are planned for in-person. As always, General Meetings are held at the Deen Day Sanders Garden House, 10777 Bell Road, Duluth, Georgia.

I hope you will get involved with our events. Volunteers are always needed and welcome. You will have fun and meet some wonderful people. I look forward to seeing you at the General Meeting on Saturday, April 9, 2022.

Next Meeting April 9, 2022 11:00 AM

Deen Day Sanders Garden House, 10777 Bell Road, Duluth, GA 30097

Food for April 9th Meeting - It's springtime!



Spring is finally here and Julia has decreed a luncheon of delightful salads and spring-inspired finger foods for our April 9th meeting. Oh yes, yummy desserts will be needed also. As usual, the paper goods and drinks will be provided by GHS but for everything else, anything goes. Our members are known for the wonderful lunches we have for each meeting. Let's make this one the very best.

Annual Spring Auction



Yes, it is time for our biggest fundraiser of the year, our spring auction. For over 30 years we have depended on our members to bring many wonderful plants and garden-related items to make this auction a success and every year you have come through. Let's make this the best one ever. Look around now to see what you can share with fellow GHS members. It does not have to be a hosta although hostas are always the hot items. It can be other perennials such as hellebores, epimediums, cyclamens, blood root, or woodland poppies. You may have a Japanese maple seedling or other special tree you can donate, or some special bulbs you can share. How about camellias, azaleas, or other shrubs? Or maybe you have tools,

ornaments, or other garden-related items. Bring them. There is sure to be someone at the meeting wanting just that item.

Of course, auctions require buyers as well as donations for success, so bring your pocket book brimming with cash. Our treasurer stands ready and quite willing to help separate your money from you. Remember, this is our most important fundraising event, so come prepared to bid often and bid high!

Have you paid your 2022 GHS dues yet? See back page for dues information.

Wanted: Old Show Ribbons. If you have old show ribbons you would like to recycle, please bring to the April meeting and give to Judy Beeler.

2022 AHS National Convention - June 8-11



AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY
NATIONAL CONVENTION

MINNEAPOLIS, MN
JUNE 8 - 11

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
INFORMATION COMING SOON

PRESENTED BY:
mn hosta SOCIETY

The AHS National Convention is on for 2022 and will be held in Brooklyn Park (Minneapolis area), Minnesota. Complete details and registration form are available at www.hostavision2022.com.



Hostas in the Smokies - 2022 Region Three Dixie Regional Meeting - June 2-4

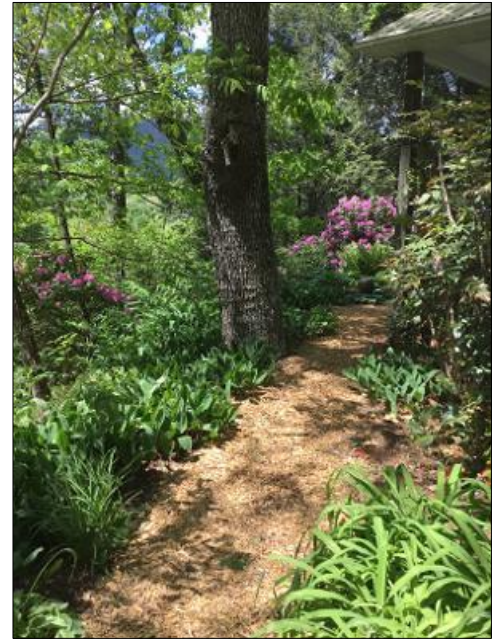
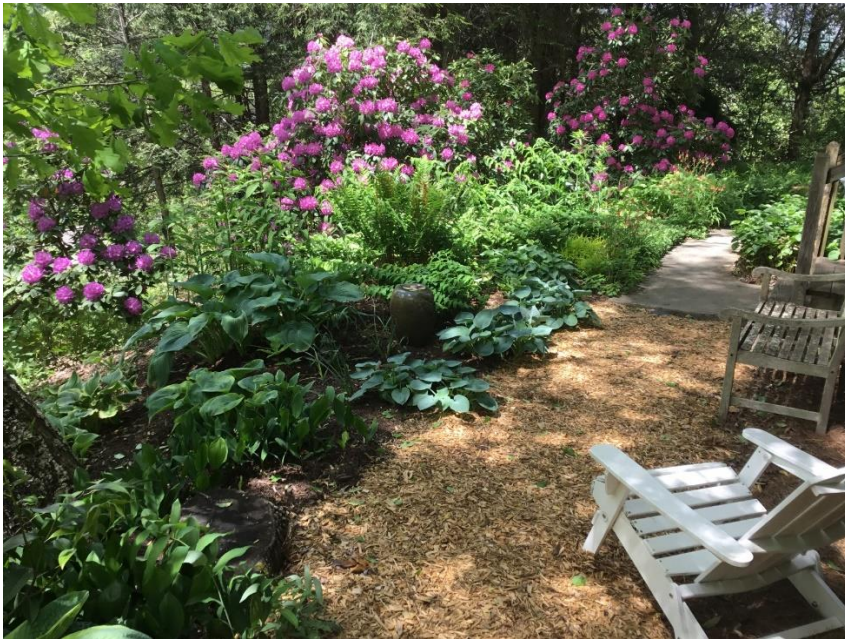


The Dixie Regional Meeting in Knoxville on June 2-4 is also on! After two years being cancelled by COVID, the third time in 2022 is the charm. Some details, such as the hotel link, have already been posted on the East Tennessee Hosta Society website, www.easttnhostasociety.net, and more information including registration fees and form will soon be posted. The Knoxville folks are raring to go to provide us a great experience with interesting programs and beautiful gardens. Let's reconnect with our Dixie Region friends and support the East Tennessee Hosta Society with our presence at the Dixie Regional Meeting.

Dexter Henry invites you to lunch and a garden tour - June 2.

Dexter Henry invites you to stop by for lunch and to tour his Sylva, NC mountain garden Thursday, June 2 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm on your way to the Dixie Regional in Knoxville. This is the tale of two gardens, the original "Hosta Picchu" is 23 years old and it was expanded in 2021 with the acquisition of adjoining property. Please RSVP to dextermckayhenry@gmail.com by Monday, May 30. Dexter will provide driving directions to Sylva and his mountain home upon receiving your RSVP.

The drive from Atlanta to Sylva takes about 2-3 hours depending on which part of Atlanta you are starting from. Sylva to Knoxville is 1 hour 50 minutes. Even if you are not going to the Dixie Regional meeting in Knoxville, you are invited to join other GHS members at Dexter's garden on June 2.



Mark Malaguerra and Scott Smith invite you to a garden tour - June 5.

After the Dixie Regional, Mark Malaguerra and Scott Smith invite you to stop by their Waynesville, NC mountain cabin on your way back to Atlanta to have a light snack and visit their garden. The garden will be in the 6th season and will include many hostas which have been transplanted from their home garden in Atlanta. The address is 210 Adcock Mountain Road which is right off of 1-40. All GHS members are welcome to visit

Feel free to come at any time between 11:00 am and 2:30 pm. Waynesville is about 1 hour 50 minutes from Knoxville. Please RSVP to Scott Smith at scottsingsbari@aol.com if you're planning on coming so we can prepare food accordingly and have parking appropriately planned.



GHS Member Mary Lepore's Garden to be on Tour - May 14

Monroe-Walton Center for the Arts will be holding the *Nature Meets Art* Garden tour on Saturday, May 14 from 10:00-4:00. The garden of Mary Lepore, a GHS member, will be among the gardens showcased this day. Ticket sales benefit the efforts of MWCA to continue and expand the mission of reaching the community with the beauty and healing nature of art. Ticket & tour information can be found at <https://www.monroewaltonarts.org/>.



+++++

GHS Members are invited to tour two fabulous gardens in Cartersville.

Wednesday, June 15 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

In the October issue of *Georgia Hosta Notes*, we featured a couple of outstanding gardens in the Cartersville, Georgia area which feature not only hostas, but many other perennials and other plant material.

The first, Doris and David Bishop's Shady Rest Garden, is a huge and unbelievably beautiful garden just full of daylilies, hostas, ferns, and just about any other perennial that will grow in Georgia. It also contains a great collection of trees and shrubs, many of them seldom seen in our own gardens. In mid-June, when we are invited to visit, the thousands of daylilies and the Japanese iris will be at their peak bloom and will be providing a vivid display of color. Be prepared to spend quite a bit of time in order to take in all that Shady Rest Garden has to offer. Doris' collection of hostas alone is stunning.

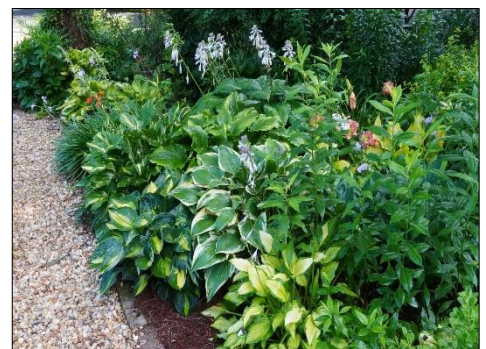
The other garden, which is located quite close to Shady Rest (3 1/2 miles), is Lily Hill Garden created by Curlette Hennard. Lily Hill Garden is small and serene, and it features quite a few hostas, many arranged in delightful little theme gardens. Color is provided by daylilies and hydrangeas. For our members with smaller gardens, which are most of our members, this super garden will show just what can be done with the limited space you have. Much use is made of small and miniature hostas.

On the next page are scenes from each of these gardens as well as their addresses and a map to assist you in locating them. Both gardens are close to the Interstate 75 just north of Cartersville.

GHS Members are invited to tour two fabulous gardens in Cartersville.

Wednesday, June 15 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Scenes from Shady Rest Garden



Scenes from Lily Hill Garden



Shady Rest Gardens
Doris and David Bishop
35 North Woods Drive NW
Cartersville, Georgia 30121
(GPS may be 35 N Woods Drive NW)
Park on street and enter garden on the asphalt drive just beyond the house.

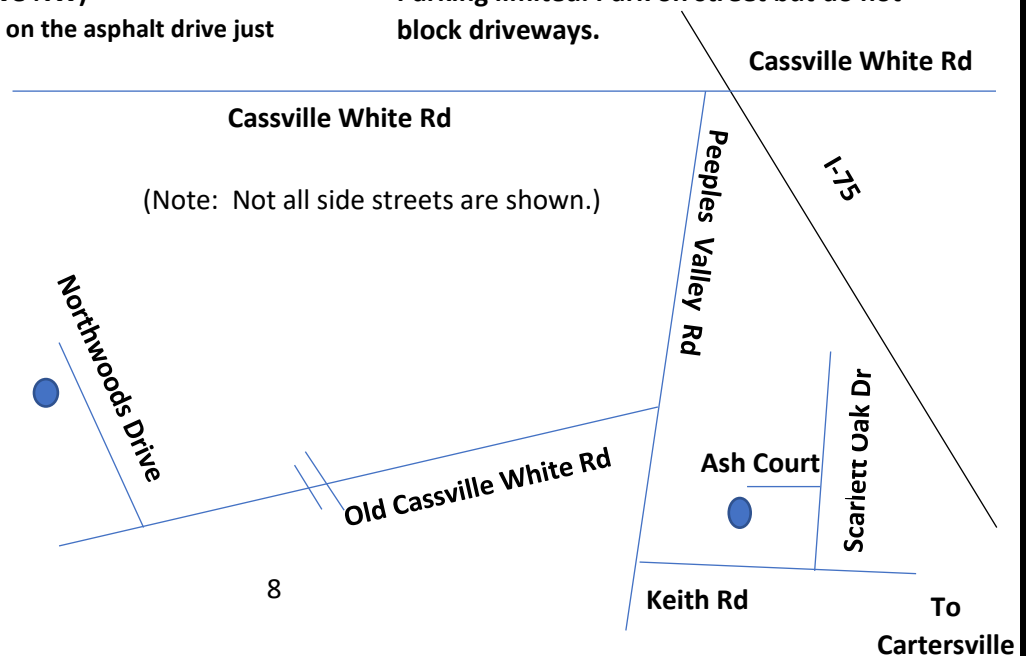
Lily Hill Garden
Curlette Hennard
13 Ash Court NE
Cartersville, Georgia 30121
Parking limited. Park on street but do not block driveways.

Directions

Drive I-75 North to just north of Cartersville and exit at Cassville White Rd - Exit 296.

Turn left onto Cassville White Rd. Cross I-75 and immediately turn left onto Peebles Valley Rd.

Follow map to each garden.



“Give & Garden” Fundraiser Supports Georgia Nonprofit, North Fulton Master Gardeners, Inc.

Give & Garden

SUPPORT NFMG with a purchase of beautiful plants for your garden.

THE NORTH FULTON MASTER GARDENERS, INC. IS A GEORGIA NONPROFIT 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO EDUCATE ITS MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC IN THE AREAS OF HORTICULTURE AND ECOLOGY IN ORDER TO PROMOTE AND FOSTER COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT.

Sale ends 4/1/2022

<https://bit.ly/NFMG-GiveAndGardenFundraiser>

Please support the online **NFMG Spring “Give & Garden” Fundraiser** with a purchase of beautiful plants for your garden. Your bulb purchases will help NFMG continue to provide quality horticultural education to the North Fulton Community and beyond. For each order, 50% of the proceeds will go directly towards helping NFMG meet our goal. Thank you for your continued support. <https://bit.ly/NFMG-GiveAndGardenFundraiser>

The last day to order is April 1, 2022. Shipping starts March 1st.

Give & Garden guarantees EVERYTHING we sell on this site 100%. All plants are 100% guaranteed to grow and thrive. If you follow the simple care instructions, and if any plant still does not grow, please notify Give & Garden within 1 year of purchase, and they will replace it or refund your money, with no questions asked.

Attention: Show date changed to May 7.

Please note that our show date has been changed from May 14 to May 7 due to Tucker Day being on May 7.

GHS Members - Keep taking pictures of your gardens!

The pictures you have provided of your gardens for the newsletter the past few issues have been very popular and inspirational to your fellow members. Please plan now to take more pictures of your gardens this year, especially of hostas and hosta groupings, hosta flowers, and landscape scenes. Send them to our newsletter editor, Harold McDonell, at haroldmcdonell@aol.com. Send the pictures at the highest resolution possible. Thumbnail size is not acceptable since the resolution is not high enough to depict the picture well in the newsletter. Please try to provide names with the pictures if possible.



Mystery Mouse Identified

The mystery hosta displayed on page 10 of the January issue of *Georgia Hosta Notes* has been tentatively identified as *H. 'Frosted Mouse Ears'*. Thanks to everyone who provided input into this little beauty's identification

Our February 12th Meeting - Hosta 101

For our February 12th meeting, we again had to resort to Zoom rather than an in-person meeting as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 situation. However, it was a very interesting and informative meeting due to the efforts of two of our members, Mary Lepore and Sandra Bussell, who compiled the results of our earlier GHS membership survey on which hostas do well in Georgia and which ones do not. Mary and Sandra presented the results in a very nice PowerPoint presentation titled "**Hosta 101 - A guide to hostas which do well in our climate**". Just in case you missed it, the meeting was recorded and a link to the recording has been sent to all members. We certainly hope you will take the time to enjoy *Hosta 101* via the link if you missed it on February 12th. We promise it will be worth your time.

On the following pages, you will find lists of those hostas deemed to be good performers in Georgia and those hostas which our members considered to be bad actors. Some of the good actors were obvious and made the "good guy" list of most of our members. Tops on the list was *H. 'Guacamole'* which seems to do well for everyone. Others at the top of the list include *Hostas 'June'*, *'Sum and Substance'*, *'Blue Mouse Ears'*, *'Liberty'*, *'Victory'*, *'Empress Wu'*, *'Wu Hoo'*, *'Leading Lady'*, and *'Sagae'*. Overwhelming winners of the "Dud" category were *Hostas 'Great Expectations'*, *'Tatoo'*, *'Cherry Berry'*, and just about everything in the *'Tokudama'* family, most especially the sports and close relatives.

Interestingly, a few hostas made both the best and the worst lists. Go figure! A good example is *Hosta 'Patriot'*. Many would consider this a must-have hosta. Clearly, it does well for some, but not for others. *H. 'Elvis Lives'* and *'Night Before Christmas'* are two other cultivars to make both lists. This just serves to prove that, in Georgia, you must grow it to know it.

Results of the GHS Survey of Best and Worst Hostas for Georgia

Below are the results of the recent survey of best hostas and worst hostas for growing in Georgia:

Hostas Recommended by our Members - Registered before 2000

American Halo	Halcyon	Potomac Pride
Ann Kulpa	Invincible	Queen Josephine
Antioch	June	Regal Splendor
Big Daddy	Krossa Regal	Royal Standard
Blue Angel	Lady Isobel Barnett	Sagae
Blue Cadet	Lakeside Surf Rider	So Sweet
Bridegroom	Leading Lady	Spritzer
Captain Kirk	Lemon Lime	Squash Casserole
Chinese Sunrise	Mikado	Striptease
City Lights	Night Before Christmas	Sum and Substance
Deep Blue Sea	Old Glory	Tattoo
Diana Remembered	Olive Bailey Langdon	Tokudama Aureonebulosa
Elvis Lives	One Man's Treasure	Torchlight
Francee	Oxheart	Undulata Albomarginata
Frances Williams	Patriot	<i>ventricosa</i>
Golden Tiara	Paul's Glory	
Guacamole	Pearl Lake	

Hostas Recommended by our Members - Registered since 2000

Afterglow	Empress Wu	Olive Branch
Anne	Enterprise	Orange Marmalade
Barbara May	Etched Glass	Powderpuff
Blue Mouse Ears	First Blush	Red October
Blueberry Muffin	First Frost	Satisfaction
Brutus	Forbidden Fruit	Scheherazade
Candy Dish	Gooseberry Sundae	Snake Eyes
Cathedral Windows	Happy Dayz	Spartacus
Citric Star	Humpback Whale	Sum of All
Cold Heart	Katie Q	Sun Worshiper
Curly Fries	Kiwi Full Monty	Tea and Crumpets
Dahlonga	Liberty	Valley's Lemon Squash
Dancing Queen	Li'l Smooch	Venetian Blue
Designer Genes	Mini Skirt	Victory
Diamond Lake	Monkey Business	World Cup
Earth Angel	Mystic Star	Wu Hoo
Elatior	Oh Cindy	
Electrocution	O'Harra	

Results of the GHS Survey of Best and Worst Hostas for Georgia (Continued)

Hostas NOT Recommended for Georgia by our Members

Andrew	Francis Williams	Orange Marmalade
Angel Falls	Friends Forever	Pandora's Box
Aphrodite	Grand Prize	Patriot
Bridal Falls	Grand Tiara	Radio Waves
Brother Stefan	Great Expectations	Seducer
Cherry Berry	Humpback Whale	Stitch in Time
Cherry Tomato	Komodo Dragon	ANY Tokudama
Elvis Lives	Liberty	Uzu-no-mai
Empress Wu	Loyalist	Vulcan
Fair Maiden	Minuteman	Wedgewood Blue
Fire & Ice	My Child Insook	White Christmas
Fire Island	Night Before Christmas	

In their *Hosta 101* presentation, Sandra Bussell and Mary Lepore made reference to species heritage in determining which hostas might do well in Georgia and which ones might not. Included in the presentation were these slides which show the importance in a particular hosta's ancestry in determining how well it might fare in warmer climates such as ours.

Let's look again at the predominant hosta species to avoid from the survey: our nemesis "any Tokudama". *H. "Tokudama"* is related to *H. sieboldiana*. It comes from Japan and grows in the northern area of Honshu Island in the Hokuriku region near the city of Niigata. This region is known for long winters and deep snow. The average temperatures in December, January and February are below 42 degrees Fahrenheit. March typically ranges from 38 degrees to 48 degrees. As you can see, *H. "Tokudama"* inhabits an area that far exceeds the minimum 30 day winter chill requirement. It naturally grows in a colder climate and is one more suitable for plant zones further north. Save yourself some heartache, avoid hostas with "Tokudama" in their parentage. While all hostas will emerge the following spring after a low -chill winter, hostas that need more chill time are usually weak and proceed to deteriorate during the subsequent seasons. You may be able to keep one going for a few years but sooner or later it will be gone.

Most hostas must have a minimum winter dormancy requirement of 30 days at temperatures below 43 degrees F.

Often in Georgia, our winter weather does not align with those conditions. The hostas that perform their best in our area are those that have lower than normal winter dormancy requirements. The required winter dormancy for a Hosta is genetic. It is based on the part of the world where the species involved in a particular hybrid is found to exist. The hosta species which have evolved in the warmest climates and therefore have the lowest chill requirements include:

Hosta clausa
Hosta gracillima
Hosta kikutii
Hosta longipes
Hosta montana (southern forms)
Hosta nakaiana
Hosta plantaginea
Hosta sieboldii
Hosta ventricosa
Hosta venusta
Hosta yingeri

Some of the Best Hostas for Georgia



H. 'Guacamole'



H. 'June'



H. 'Blue Mouse Ears'



H. 'Sum and Substance'



H. 'Victory'



H. 'Liberty'

More Hostas Recommended for Georgia



H. 'Deep Blue Sea'



H. 'Old Glory'



H. ventricosa



H. 'Halcyon'



H. 'Kiwi Full Monty'



H. 'Spartacus'



Editor's Message and Hosta Ramblings

by Harold McDonell

A New Georgia Garden Resident - the Joro Spider

A few issues back of the *Georgia Hosta Notes*, we posted a picture of a huge spiderweb taken by member Julia Lyons in her garden. She identified it as the web of a recently accidentally introduced species of orb spider from Southeast Asia, the **Joro spider** (*Triconephila clavata*). Since that time, the Joro spider has rapidly expanded its territory to include most of north Georgia, including the Atlanta area, and parts of South Carolina.

The Joro spider is a show-off in every way. It is a huge thing, measuring up to 3-4 inches in length and has a huge body similar to our native and beloved yellow garden spider but even larger. It is even more colorful than the yellow garden spider, sporting hues of bright yellow, blue, red, and black. It is quite a site to see. Like its native cousin, it also builds spectacular webs in late summer and fall but its webs are on a grander scale. A Joro web, often built in three layers, may be as much as 6-10 feet in diameter and it shimmers gold in the sunlight. It is spectacular.

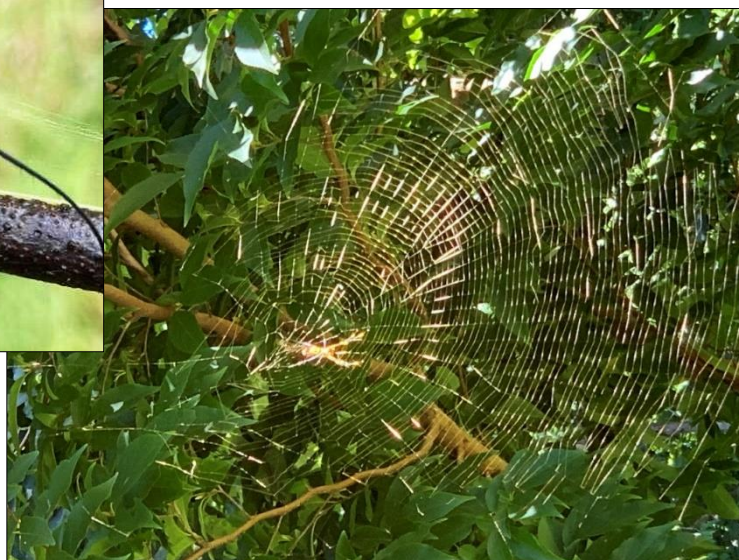
The jury is out as to any detrimental effects this spider may have on our environment. Certainly, it will catch a lot of insects which we do not want around anyway - flies, mosquitoes, stink bugs, grasshoppers, etc. However, some fear it may push the yellow garden spider and other native members of the orb spider family out of their habitats. Only time will tell. Fortunately, it is no more dangerous to people than other orb spiders. It has very short fangs that seldom can pierce human skin and even if it does, the bite is normally no worse than any other minor insect bite.

The experts say the Joro spider cannot now be eradicated and probably will continue to expand its territory to include much of the eastern seaboard of the country. So, if you stroll into your garden late this summer and fall, and find a fabulous golden spiderweb inhabited by a huge but beautiful spider, just relax and enjoy. The Joro spider is here to stay.



Female Joro Spider

(Photo credit: *Physiological Entomology* 2022)



Joro Spiderweb

(Photo credit: *Mikky Lockwood*)

Getting Close With Your Hostas

Your editor has been encouraging GHS members to take and share pictures of your gardens in general and your hostas in particular. While you are doing that, why don't you also consider taking some artistic close-up pictures of your hosta flowers and leaves. While browsing Facebook, we discovered several pictures of hosta leaf close-ups submitted by Margarete Kuehn. Margarete lives and gardens in the Rhineland area of western Germany near Cologne and Düsseldorf. She says she loves to experiment with taking close-up pics of her hostas. When asked if she would allow us to share a couple of the pictures which she had posted on Facebook, she not only granted permission. She also shared several more of her beautiful creations. Take a look at what Margaret has created and see if you can match her photographic skills with close-ups while taking pictures in your own gardens. If we get enough pictures from our members, we will share them in a special section of either the September or November newsletter.



A Primer on the Traits of Hosta Species

By Bill Meyer

(Editor's Note: Observing the increasing interest in hosta hybridizing in our membership led me to reminisce about my early efforts at hybridizing going back to the mid-1990s. At the time, printed information about what individual hosta species contributions might be was scattered and not readily available. Around that time, Bill Meyer contributed the material reprinted below through a Hosta Pix discussion. It deals with the parental traits of a number of individual hosta species which are especially noteworthy with respect to hybridizing. It proved to be quite useful to me, especially since many of the available hosta cultivars I was using in my early efforts were not too many generations away from the species themselves. Even today, I think it is good information for the neophyte hybridizer to consider since the parental history of so many modern hostas we use for crosses is now easily accessible on the internet. Knowing that information will help the new hybridizer better understand where the traits of his or her seedlings are coming from and what traits he or she might expect from the crosses being made. This discussion is reprinted here with Bill's permission.)

Montana - Montanas come in two basic types such as those features seen in *H. 'On Stage'* and the type seen in 'Frosted Jade'. The first type is a very common weed in Japan and somewhat non-descript in its green form. Some think it is a parent of a no longer accepted species such as *Fortunei* and *Undulata*. Vigor is perhaps its best trait. Flowering can also be a strong point with tightly-packed racemes and colored bracts. The second type, *H. montana* f. *macrophylla* is a prime contributor to large leaf sizes with high vein counts. Breeders like Olga Petryszyn use it in their programs for this reason mainly.

Sieboldiana - Sieboldianas have very strong traits and are the source of two important traits - blue color and lutescence. Additionally, they contribute good substance, rounded leaves, and rugosity. It's the second-most used in hybridizing.

Ventricosa - *H. ventricosa* has not been used too much in crosses because it is very difficult to use as a pod parent. The strongest trait it contributes is the typical bell-shaped flowers, but lately through the work of Mary Chastain it is showing really dark greens.

Longipes - *H. longipes* is a plant only coming into its own recently in hybridizing. It has an interesting collection of traits to contribute, including glaucous tops and white backs, highly glossy tops, very attractive flowering, pie-crusting, red petioles, and more.

Sieboldii - *H. sieboldii* is the most-used species in hybridizing. It was the original source for variegation in hosta (*H. 'Beatrice'*) so it was used very extensively in the last thirty years. Positive traits include fast strong growth, high fertility and high seed/pod counts even several generations away, red petioles, and excellent compatibility with other species. Negative traits are also strong and include poor substance and poor wax finishes on the leaves.

Hypoleuca - *H. hypoleuca* adds some surprising traits. Large leaf size is the most interesting one, but others include attractive flowering, acceptance of blue and lutescent gold coloring, and white leaf backs, as well as strong vigor (strange as that seems).

Kikutii mainly contributes its distinctive leaf shape and strong vein structure, but is also good for flowering. Negative would be slow growth.

A Primer on the Traits of Hosta Species (continued)

Pycnophylla - *H. pycnophylla* has many good traits to add which are similar to *longipes*. Except for glossy waxes, the list of positive traits is similar: white backs, red petioles, piecrusting, acceptance of blue and lutescent gold coloring, good flowers. Negative would be slow growth (most of the time) and slow production of leaves/divisions, and a strong tendency toward medium size.

Venusta - *H. venusta*'s primary use is for small size, and it has little else going for it.

Capitata - *H. capitata* can contribute colored bracts and satiny waxes, and is a very early bloomer.

Nakaiana - *H. nakaiana* is good for vigor, small size, high numbers of leaves/divisions, and good fertility. Negative is that it tends to make plants look dull and ordinary. A good example would be 'Blue Cadet'.

Yingeri and laevigata- *H. yingeri* and *H. laevigata* contribute similar traits. Good waxes in the shiny and satiny ranges, some good red coloring (tendency to fade early, though), vigor and fertility in later generations. Negatives would be not accepting glaucous waxes so blues are nearly impossible.

Nigrescens - *H. nigrescens* can contribute upright plant form, red petioles, strongly upright scapes, and glaucous waxes. Negative would be slow growth and fertility problems in later generations.

Plantaginea - *H. plantaginea* positives - fragrance, vigor and sun-resistance. Negatives- serious fertility problems (can be very difficult to build breeding lines), and difficulty with glaucous waxes.

Leaf size is somewhat variable with most species and tends to work pretty much the way you'd expect. Extremely large or extremely small leaves tend to be hard to come by. Piecrusting does not seem to be species-related but good form in a piecrust leaf would require strong vein structure.

Variation will come in one of two ways - 1. Using a streaked pod parent will produce up to 70% (even higher percentages have been reported) streaked seedlings, so this gives the best results, or 2. growing large numbers of seedlings from non-streaked parents will occasionally yield a streaked seedling ('Dorothy Benedict' was created this way), but this is unreliable. Streaking seems to behave the same way with all species with regards to passing the trait on to the next generation. Most species have yielded streaked forms by now.

When trying to determine the species involved in a cross, relative bloom time can help because crosses always bloom in-between the bloom times of their parents. Bloom dates can vary from year to year because of weather conditions, so they are best considered as periods defined by the species rather than calendar dates. For example, the first period would be *H. sieboldiana*, *montana*, and *capitata* bloom time, and the last would be *H. longipes* and *kikutii* bloom time.

This is just a quick thumbnail sketch of the information that's there, and others could add to it from their own observations. It would take a small book to really give a clear picture of all that's involved. Because it's so complex, there are vast possibilities in terms of different-looking plants to come. This gives someone a basic idea, but breeding will accentuate some traits and isolate others. Mixing three and four species into a plant will probably also make for some unusual results. Bloom time is very important in crossing, but not a solid barrier. Even this can be manipulated by starting plants early, or saving pollen from the past season. Fertility problems can cause a dead end as well, so more than one plant from a cross should be grown on.

P.S - The actual number of species is a frequent source of debate. DNA testing hopefully will resolve this.

THE GEORGIA HOSTA SOCIETY
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING Via Zoom
February 12, 2022

President Greg Ferguson welcomed visitors, including invited guests from other garden clubs in the area. He explained a bit about our organization and some upcoming events: our plant auction at the April 9 meeting; annual leaf show and sale on May 14; September 10 meeting with guest speaker. He encouraged us to check GHS's website and Facebook page, as well as the quarterly newsletter, for details and dates.

Greg introduced two of our members, Sandra Bussell and Mary Lepore, who developed and presented a program called "Hostas 101: A Guide to Hostas that Do Well in Our Climate." The extremely beneficial presentation was recorded and may be viewed from the home page of the GHS website (www.gahosta.org).

Following the program, Greg called the abbreviated business meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Minutes of the November 13, 2021 general meeting and the January 8 and 22, 2022 board meetings were published in the January issue of the *Georgia Hosta Notes* newsletter. Steve McMurtry moved that the minutes be accepted as printed; Greg Barner seconded the motion and it was approved.

Greg Ferguson reported that Treasurer Dexter Henry provided the quarterly treasurer's report; we ended the year with a cash balance of slightly more than \$3,500. We will resume fund-raising with the April plant auction. The required annual audit of the financial records will be conducted at the next in-person general meeting.

Newsletter Editor Harold McDonnell reported that the un-named hosta pictured in the January newsletter has been identified as *H. 'Frosted Mouse Ears'*.

Programs Chairperson Steve McMurtry said that Josh Spece of In the Country Garden & Gifts in Independence, Iowa has agreed to present our September program via Zoom.

There being no further business, Fred Lindquist moved that the meeting be adjourned and Steve McMurtry seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 pm.

Judy Beeler, Secretary



**THE GEORGIA HOSTA SOCIETY
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
March 12, 2022 Via Zoom**

The meeting was called to order by President Greg Ferguson at 9:42 a.m. Participating were: Greg Barner, Judy Beeler, Sandra Bussell, Dexter Henry, Richard Jolly, Mary Lepore, Julia Lyons, Harold McDonell, Steve McMurtry, Becky Paris, Scott Smith, Kendra Spadoni and Chuck Zdeb.

After discussion via email prior to the board meeting, the board unanimously agreed that the general meeting planned for April 9 should be held in-person rather than virtually.

Greg acknowledged the outstanding program developed and presented by Mary Lepore and Sandra Bussell at the February 12 general meeting. A video recording of "Hosta 101" is available for viewing on the GHS website.

Minutes of the January 8 and 22 board meetings were published in the January *Georgia Hosta Notes* newsletter. Chuck Zdeb moved and Steve McMurtry seconded that the minutes be accepted as published. The motion was carried.

Dexter Henry presented the Treasurer's report and commented that next quarter should bring in additional revenue from our annual plant auction. Dexter also confirmed that the facility at the First Baptist Church of Tucker will be available to us from noon on May 6 until 6:00 p.m. on May 7 for the Hosta Show and Sale.

The program for the April meeting will be the plant auction, according to Steve. Also, Sandra and Harold will demonstrate labeling procedures and leaf preparation for the May show. Josh Spece has agreed to provide a program in September; Josh's presentation will be via Zoom, but the meeting will be in-person. A speaker is still needed for the November general meeting.

Scott and Julia will check with the Garden House to determine if the April meeting and auction can be transmitted by Zoom to members who cannot attend in person.

Greg encouraged us to continue contacting other garden clubs and inviting their members to our meetings. Earlier contacts resulted in several visitors from other clubs participating in the February 12 Zoom general meeting.

Julia has set the food theme for the April meeting as "It's Springtime!" Greg reminded us to provide more assistance to Julia and George in setting up the food service and, especially, in clean-up after the meal.

The required audit of the 2021 financial records will be conducted following the April meeting. Steve and Greg Ferguson volunteered to conduct the audit.

We decided that the theme for the 2022 Leaf Show will be "On the Road Again." Sandra Bussell, Co-Chair, outlined the tasks currently assigned to members. Dexter is responsible for logistics with assistance from Chuck, Becky and Sandra (including transporting supplies to and from the off-site storage facility). Judy will ensure that sufficient ribbons are available and also provide registration assistance. Mikky Lockwood will coordinate clerks' responsibilities and assignments. Katie Lindquist will oversee tabulation. Becky will handle hospitality and membership. Harold and Chuck will co-chair classification. Harold will also develop the Schedule. Chuck will coordinate judges. Placement will be the responsibility of Mikky and one other person. Scott and Mark will handle publicity. Claudia Walker will provide assistance as needed.

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING - March 12, 2022 (continued)

Sandra will invite all judges within the Region to participate. The show will be accredited, even though no judging has taken place in the past two years and judges may be behind on their requirements.

Chuck reported that there is a new AHS chair of judging. The Judges' Handbook is currently under review and will certainly be revised to some extent.

Mary Lepore's home garden will be on the Monroe-Walton Center for the Arts garden tour on May 14. Mary invited us to attend.

Newsletter Editor Harold McDonnell recently presented a program about hostas to the Henry County Master Gardeners group.

We welcomed Kendra Spadoni to the board as Chair of the Ways and Means Committee.

The East Tennessee Hosta Society is hosting the 2022 Regional Meeting in Knoxville in June. Our members Dexter Henry (Sylva, NC) and Scott Smith and Mark Malaguerra (Waynesville, NC) have invited us to tour their mountain gardens on our way to/from the Regional. More details will follow.

Harold is communicating with the owners of Shady Rest Garden and Lily Hill Garden, both in Cartersville, to arrange possible tours in June.

GHS currently holds a Certificate of Deposit valued at approximately \$21,000. Chuck Zdeb and Greg Barner will research ways in which some of those funds might be used to promote the genus Hosta. Possibilities include scholarships or stipends for students in horticulture curricula, grants for research into Hosta Virus X or nematode control, etc.

There being no further business, Chuck moved that the meeting be adjourned; Mary seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Judy Beeler, Secretary



THE GEORGIA HOSTA SOCIETY

2022-2023 OFFICERS AND BOARD

President: Greg Ferguson	770 436-4846 C 770 789-9057
1 st VP Programs: Steve McMurtry	404 323-4406
2 nd VP Membership: Becky Paris	770 508-8651
3 rd VP Publications/Newsletter Editor:	
Harold McDonell	770 461-8882
Secretary: Judy Beeler	404 808-7222
Treasurer: Dexter Henry	770 460-0983
Parliamentarian: Mark Malaguerra	404 752-6423 C 404 808-2866
Ex Officio: Scott Smith	404 752-6423
& Communications Coordinator	C 404 486-3471

DIRECTORS

Term

3 nd	Sandra Bussell	404 636-5920 C 404 808-2866
2 nd	Katie Lindquist	404 237-0546 C 404 863-6425
2 nd	Chuck Zdeb	770 593-0895
1 st	Greg Barner	404 644-9483
1 st	Mary Lepore	678 635-5796
1 st	Richard Jolly	770 487-5036

STANDING COMMITTEES

Historian: Claudia Walker	770 722-3147
Hospitality: Julia Lyons	706 265-3328 C 770 315-3328
Hosta Leaf Show Co-Chairs - 2022:	
Sandra Bussell	404 636-5920
Dexter Henry	770 460-0983
Newsletter Production and Publishing:	
Mark Malaguerra	404 752-6423
Scott Smith	404 752-6423
Advertising/Publicity/Communications:	Vacant
Vendor Liaison: Greg Ferguson	770 436-4846
Ways and Means: Kendra Spadoni	256 777-4762
Web Master: Scott Smith	404 752-6423



Established 1984

Georgia Hosta Society Members Holding American Hosta Society Positions:

Chuck Zdeb: AHS National Show Chair
Sandra Bussell: AHS Judges Records Chair
Harold McDonell: Gifts and Memorials Chair

The Georgia Hosta Society

The Georgia Hosta Society offers an annual hosta show, four **Georgia Hosta Notes** newsletters and four general meetings, garden tours and workshops, an annual plant sale, and many other benefits. Annual membership dues are \$15 per Individual, \$25 for a family membership. Send membership inquiries and dues to Becky Paris – VP Membership 306 Carney Lane, Ball Ground, Ga 30107. For further information, go to www.gahosta.org.

The American Hosta Society

The American Hosta Society membership offers participation in all national AHS activities, including a national convention; two issues annually of **The Hosta Journal**, each with nearly 100 pages, many interesting and informative articles, and dozens of color and black and white pictures; and one annual **Online Hosta Journal**. ENewsletters are also published periodically to keep members informed. Membership dues are \$30 individual and \$34 family per year (US). For additional information, go to www.americanhostasociety.org or Contact Barry Ankney, Membership Secretary - AHS, 1104 Oxford Court, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181-5249. .

Dixie Region (AHS Region 3)

All members of GHS and AHS are automatically members of the Dixie Region. The region offers annual meetings, garden tours, judging clinics and other activities. For information, go to the Dixie Region Website: www.dixiehosta.net.

Hosta Cultivar Registration

For all questions about registering hosta cultivars, contact Gayle Hartley Alley, ICRA for Hosta, at the Hosta Treasury - www.hostaregistrar.org.

2022 Calendar of Events

April 9, 2022 - General Meeting - Deen Day Sanders Garden House - Annual Spring Auction
May 7, 2022 - Hosta Show and Plant Sale - Setup May 6 - Tucker First Baptist Church, Tucker, Georgia
May/June - Garden Tours - Additional details to be announced later.
June 2, 2022 - Garden Tour of Dexter Henry's Sylva, North Carolina Mountain Garden
June 2-4, 2022 - Dixie Region Meeting - Knoxville, Tennessee
June 5, 2022 - Garden Tour of Mark Malaguerra and Scott Smith's Waynesville, North Carolina Garden
June 8-12, 2022 - American Hosta Society National Convention - Brooklyn Park (Minneapolis), Minnesota
August 13, 2022 - Board Meeting
September 10, 2022 - General Meeting - Deen Day Sanders Garden House
October 8, 2022 - Board Meeting
November 5, 2022 - General Meeting - Deen Day Sanders Garden House

GHS Membership Registration– 2022

Name:

Address:

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

Email:

Georgia Hosta Notes newsletters will be sent to members via email to save production and mailing expenses unless you specify that you prefer a paper copy. Please check here if you want a paper copy ____.

Annual Dues are \$15 for individuals or \$25 for a family (two or more persons living in the same household).

Please make check payable to The Georgia Hosta Society.

Send completed form and payment to:

Becky Paris – VP Membership, 306 Carney Lane, Ball Ground, Georgia 30107

Advertising Rates for *Georgia Hosta Notes*

Georgia Hosta Notes welcomes advertisements. To place an ad, send formatted ad along with payment made to The Georgia Hosta Society to Harold McDonell - Editor, 110 Dawn Drive, Fayetteville, Ga. 30215 (haroldmcdonell@aol.com) at least one month prior to meeting date. We will assist with formatting if you desire.

Full Page - \$50 Half Page - \$30 Quarter Page - \$20 One Eighth Page - \$10