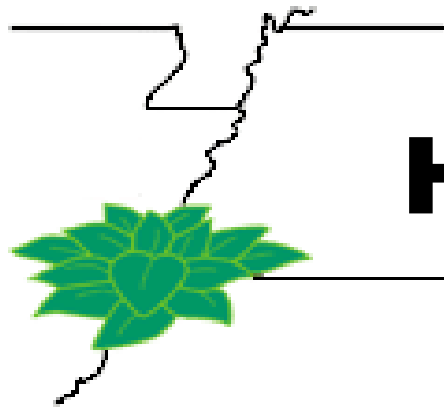


Mid-South Hosta Society

Hosta



Hotline

February 2012 Volume 15, No. 1

Jason Reeves to Speak at February Meeting

Jason Reeves, ornamental horticulturalist, will open the MSHS 2012 programs at our February 16 meeting at the Memphis Botanic Garden. Jason's topic will be, "Friends in the Shade Garden; Keeping Your Hosta Company." He will tell us about some new shade loving companions, as well as some standard underutilized friends.

Since 2002 Jason has been employed as a research horticulturalist the University of Tennessee Gardens at the West Tennessee Research and Education Center in Jackson. Before coming to the UT Gardens, Jason worked at the Opryland Conservatories in Nashville, the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis and the famed Longwood Gardens near Philadelphia. He has also worked as a horticulturist at the Palomia Gardens in New Zealand. A native of West Tennessee, Jason grew up on a farm in rural Carroll County near Huntingdon. He received his Master's degree in Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Design from University of Tennessee Knoxville.

As curator at the UT Gardens-Jackson, Jason has spearheaded many projects, including the creation of a Certified Tennessee Arboretum and the development of a Southeastern Regional Conifer Display Garden. Here he also works with the Madison County Master Gardeners. His colorful plant combinations and unique garden art, made by recycling everyday objects, draws several thousand people to the research center's annual Summer Celebration lawn and garden show in July. This event was voted a "Top 20 Event" by the Southeast Tourism Society. In the fall Jason creates an elaborate fall display at the center using more than 5,000 pumpkins, gourds and winter squash comprising over 90 varieties he grows each year.



Jason is also a contributing editor to Fine Gardening magazine and leads numerous domestic and international garden tours. In 2010, he toured a group through South Africa and in December he will host a tour to New Zealand. Check the website for more information on the UT Garden and events (<http://west.tennessee.edu/ornamentals/>), but don't miss this first meeting of the year and enjoy this knowledgeable and creative speaker!

Judith Hammond

CLEAN YOUR CLOSETS - DONATE YOUR JUNK

"One man's junk is another man's treasure."

We know you are planning your spring cleaning. As you sift through your treasures, consider donating those with which you have fallen out of love. Yes...it happens to us all. You just had to have that item, but now it has lost its appeal. The Mid-South Hosta Society will be having a Garage Sale sometime this Spring to raise funds for the 2013 Dixie Regional. Remember, we are hosting that event in June, 2013. We'll let you know as soon as the garage sale date is set, but you can go ahead and donate your items. Co-ordinate drop-off/pick-up of your "former treasures" with Monti McCauley (767-8661) or Lisa Kennedy (761-5001).



It's that time of year again...Time to place your annual Osmocote order. This year, if there is enough interest, the MSHS may also order Nutri-cote. This is a fertilizer recommended by Bob Solberg to use during our hot summer months. Orders will be taken at the February 16th meeting and delivered at the March 15th meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting but still wish to order, please contact Gloria Green by phone (662-342-1518) or email (glogsgarden@aol.com).



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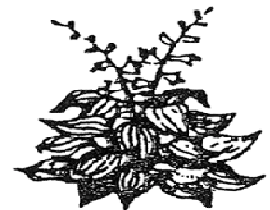
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June 13-16

Nashville Airport Marriott



A Note from the President

What strange weather we are having! Although for the Mid South strange weather is almost the norm. We go from 60 degrees to below freezing in less than 24 hours ... and then it's back to 50+ degrees. My poor plants don't know what to think. Spring hurry up and get here! One member reports he has 'Sweet Innocence' pips and buttercup blooms already.

Make your plans to attend our first meeting of the new year on February 16th. We will be taking fertilizer and club special orders. These are two great benefits of being a member of the MSHS and I hope you will take advantage of them.

Judith Hammond has done a great job of lining up outstanding speakers for this year. You will not want to miss any of them. See the calendar in this issue. Spread the word; bring a friend.

Finally, don't forget to renew your membership. It's a great value at only \$10/year. You might even consider gifting a membership to a friend. It's a gift that continues to give for a full year!

Happy Gardening! Linda

Thank you to all who so generously brought goodies to share in 2011. Our hospitality table was overflowing with lots of tasty treats and that wouldn't have happened without you. I hope that you will be willing to again share your baking and/or shopping talents with our members at this year's meetings. Come a little early to mingle, get ideas for great snacks and maybe even some gardening tricks from our members. We're looking forward to seeing all of you this year as we have great speakers lined up for 2012.

Rosa Woody, Hospitality

Larry's new hosta book ready for sale at meetings or by mail

The updated second edition of Larry Tucker's popular hosta book has been published and will be for sale this year at MSHS meetings, the American Hosta Society Convention in Nashville and by mail order to anyone unable to attend these activities.

In reviewing the book, AHS President Doug Beilstein said: "It doesn't matter if you have never seen a farm or you were raised in Florida, Larry's verbal picture of life with hostas and Shari (his wife of two score and more) comes alive in humorous anecdotes. Grab a cup of coffee or a martini, ease back in your La-Z-Boy and prepare for his hilarious second-edition *Made in the Shade*."

Made in the Shade: More Confessions collects the more than 100 columns written by Larry over the past 13 years as the centerpiece of our *Hosta Hotline* newsletter. This new publication is an expanded version of his 2009 book. It includes two dozen new chapters, more hosta tips, color covers and pictures. In compiling the new book, Larry couldn't resist adding a sub-subtitle: *Once a hopeless hostaholic, now a shameless hostatute*. That seems to sum up his role as an ambassador for the Friendship Plant.

Larry's first book sold out, so don't miss your opportunity to get this final update. At local activities and the national convention, the book's price will be \$15. By mail order, the cost will be \$18. Checks should be made payable to Mid-South Hosta Society with the notation *Made in the Shade*. Orders should be sent to **Larry Tucker, 2927 Geoffrey Drive, Southaven, MS 38672**. As with the first edition, revenue will go to an endowment fund to maintain the Memphis Botanic Garden Hosta Trail, which was designated an AHS National Display Garden.

Former Dixie Regional Hosta Society director Claudia Walker, a longtime member of our club, also loves the new *Made in the Shade*: "Larry is a real storyteller! It's a treat to read his adventures with Shari, which always have a humorous twist. Whether about hostas, fertilizer or garden art, these essays are enough to make you laugh or cry. We have all been there!"

Foliar Nematodes Are Unwanted Visitors

By Mary Bardens, NW Indiana Hosta Society Newsletter Editor

There are many things that you may want to see in your hosta gardens but foliar nematodes are not one of them. Nematodes are microscopic worms that will devour hosta tissue. They live in the plant stems and leaves (and retreat to the crown in the winter) feeding inside the tissue. The tell tale sign is in the brown dried up portion that shows up on the leaf between the veins. They are more prevalent in hot, wet summers and late summer, early fall is the easiest time to spot the affliction.



Bob Solberg suggests that by the time you notice the dead brown tissue between the leaf veins, the nematodes have already retreated to the crown. But it still might be possible to see if you really have an infestation. Take the injured leaf, tear the infected portion into tiny pieces and place them in a shallow, clear glass dish. Cover them with warm water and let them sit overnight. Stir and then using a high-powered (x 10) magnifying glass you will be able to see the tiny worms swimming.

Host plants for nematodes include hostas, begonias and chrysanthemums, so you may never know how they arrived in your garden. Buying hostas late in the summer or keeping them isolated in pots for a season will give you an opportunity to see if the plant is infected. Sadly, most of us don't do that, so if you have nematodes, here are a few things you can do.

Dig the plants and send them off to the landfill, and never to your compost pile. Then plant something new, which is not a nematode host, in the bare spot. This is the only real way to rid your yard of these worms, but for most this is a drastic step. We can live with the problem and do our best to minimize it.

Minimize top watering. Wet foliage helps nematodes spread as they are able to travel in a thin film of water. Always clean tools, including pruners and trowels, in a 10% bleach solution after each use. Wash pots in a strong bleach solution before re-using them. There are nematicides labeled for nursery and garden use, but they are very toxic to fish and wildlife and must be used with extreme caution.

Insecticidal soap or ZeroTol (a concentrated solution of hydrogen peroxide) should be applied when symptoms become evident but these are "contact kill" and have no residual benefits.

Hosta grower and breeder Ran Lydell offers the following advice: You should start treatment in early spring. It is a good idea to flag in late summer those plants suspected of being infected with foliar nematodes. In spring the newly emerging foliage will not show signs of nematodes so marking the plant(s) will help you find them. Treat those that are still in the ground. Treat and totally isolate those that are in pots.

Spring. First application-Disyston as in Bayer Advanced Rose and Flower Care, with fertilizer at 12-18-6. It is a granular systemic product available at garden centers and the Home Depot.

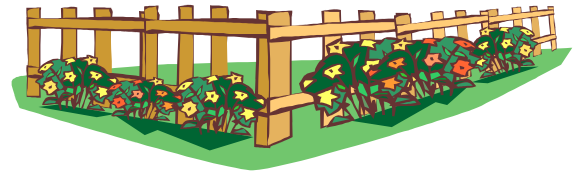
Mid and Late Summer. Second and third applications, ZeroTol (1 tbsp per gallon of water).

Fourth application, drench the whole plant in a 25% solution of household bleach.

The order of the applications make sense to fertilize in the spring and bleach in the fall. Ran says that he is not sure if any of these products is more effective than the other, or if any one treatment might be sufficient, but after this treatment regime the infected hostas show no noticeable damage.

Unless all infected plants are removed and destroyed you will never be totally free of foliar nematodes, but the above advice will make living with them in your gardens easier.

As the Garden Grows...



by Percival Picklebottom
Chapter Seven

Hello again to all lovers of hostas, blooms and all things green and beautiful. I feel sure that all of you are anxiously anticipating the glory of spring. But for the time being, the garden sleeps in winter's repose. Flowers, trees and each little hosta dreams of spring. Yes, spring, the eternal promise of the renewal of life and the sun shining down to welcome the first tender leaves and buds of the season. Through the gray of long winter days, hopes for green growing things fill the daydreams of so many. The gardener longs to stroll through the lush foliage, watering each growing plant. The squirrel slumbering in her cozy nest knows that spring will bring new adventures. But there is none who desires that glorious hosta more than Sylvester...the slug. He waits patiently for the tender leaves of spring's first hostas. Last autumn he narrowly escaped the stinging rain of ammonia. He has moved to a new garden, very pleased that he will no longer need to watch for the red-shoed terror. Sylvester knows all too well that he is not a welcome resident in any hosta garden. We shall see if his new home is as perilous as the last. Will he flourish in his new garden or will he succumb to the dangers of a slug's life? Only time will tell....

This is Percival Picklebottom, your garden observer, signing off.

A RIDDLE FOR GARDENERS

(The answers are names of flowers.)

1. How might you describe a silent person?
2. Name for a lady who marries for riches.
3. Everyone has these on their face.
4. You might find one of these on a safari.
5. An appropriate gift for a banker.
6. A fastener on a single man's coat.
7. A country of automobile lovers.
8. Good name for a guy's biking club.
9. He's an awfully sugary bill.
10. They're the dairy best blooms.
11. A peevish fairytale creature.
12. A woman's nightly footwear.
13. They hate to wait.
14. A fine looking jungle ruler.
15. Cross between a violin and a clarinet.

See page 6 if you need help with the answers!

*"I'm not really a career person.
I'm a gardener, basically."
- George Harrison*



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Show Off Your Beautiful Garden

We need a member to volunteer to host our annual May Hosta Sale and Garden Tour. If you know of someone or if you yourself would be willing to "loan" us your garden on Saturday, May 12th, please contact Linda Pittman or Lisa Kennedy. We know that our members have beautiful gardens full of amazing hostas. What a great way to show off all your hard work to the society members and the community! Please consider helping us. The May Hosta Sale is a major source of income to the MSHS and a great way to introduce the society to potential new members.



"Cares melt when you kneel in your garden."

MSHS 2012 Board

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Riddle Answers

1. Mum
2. Marigold
3. Tulips
4. Tiger Lilies
5. Money Plants
6. Bachelor's Button
7. Carnation
8. Cyclamen
9. Sweet William
10. Buttercups
11. Snapdragon
12. Lady's Slipper
13. Impatient
14. Dandelion
15. Violet



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HOSTA DURABILITY POLL

Many thanks to those who responded to the durability poll. We had very few responders, but a lot of hostas reported as holding up late into the year. Here are the top varieties reported. Those of you receiving the email version of this newsletter, check the final page for a complete list.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Guacamole | Frosted Mouse Ears |
| Flemish Sky | June |
| Remember Me | Lakeside Beach Captain |
| Abby | Lakeside Shoremaster |
| Blue Mouse Ears | Love Pat |
| Bulletproof | Morning Dove |
| Camelot | Paul's Glory |
| Cathedral Windows | Praying Hands |
| Fire Island | Rainbow's End |
| Fragrant Bouquet | Squash Casserole |
| Francee | T Rex |

Perhaps we will try the poll again next year-end and more of you will participate. Remember, this is not intended as a comprehensive list of hostas that hold up in our heat and humidity. Many thanks to Bowman Reid and Heather Goodwin for the idea and for keeping the tally.



Larry Tucker shares this photo of his hosta 'Urajiro Hachijo.' Its leaves remained perky green until a late November cold snap. In early December, this tough guy caught and held snow on his upright golden-yellow foliage. Larry finally had to cut the leaves to put the plant into cold storage for the winter.

2012 CLUB SPECIALS FROM BOB SOLBERG & GREEN HILL FARM

Orders for hostas from Bob Solberg and Green Hill Farm will be taken at our February 16th and March 15th meetings. These are bare root divisions. The plants will be available for pickup at our April 19th meeting. Payment must be made when you place your order. Order forms with price list and pictures will be available at the meetings. Below is a tentative list of the hostas that will be offered. The March newsletter will have the final list along with descriptions.

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Appletini | Cup of Grace | Night Shift |
| Bailey's Cream | Honey Pie | Smiley Face |
| Blue Tooth | Lemon Ice | Sugar Plum |
| Blueberry Waffles | | |



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2012 Mid-South Hosta Society Important Dates to Remember

- Feb. 16 Society Meeting - 7PM at the Memphis Botanic Garden
Speaker Jason Reeves, Horticultural Specialist, UT Research Center, Jackson, TN
Topic "Friends in the Shade Garden, Keeping Your Hostas Company"
- Mar. 15 Society Meeting - 7PM at the Memphis Botanic Garden
Speaker Mike Shadrack, Internationally known hosta expert & author
Topic "Miniature Hostas"
- Mar. 17 Hosta Trail Work Day - Memphis Botanic Garden
- Apr. 19 Society Meeting - 7PM at the Memphis Botanic Garden
Speaker Rick Blake, MSHS founding officer
Topic "Growing Hostas in the California Desert"
- May 12 Annual MSHS Hosta Sale and Garden Tour ...seeking a volunteer host
- June 13-16 American Hosta Society 2012 Convention at the Nashville Airport Marriott
"Hostas, Friends and Music"
- Sept. 20 Society Meeting - 7PM at the Memphis Botanic Garden
Speaker Troy Marden, garden designer and TV host
Topic "Mid-South Gardens"
- Oct. 18 Society Meeting - 7PM at the Memphis Botanic Garden
Speaker Bob Solberg, hosta breeder and garden designer
Topic "Building a Shade Garden Around Hostas for Year-Round Interest"
- Oct. 20 Hosta Trail Work Day - Memphis Botanic Garden

Here are all the hostas reported in our 2011 Durability Poll:

In order of frequency submitted

Guacamole	Empress Wu	Rootin Tootin
Flemish Sky	Eye Declare	Royal Standard
Remember Me	First Frost	Sagae
Abby	Fortunei Hyacinthi	Serendipity
Blue Mouse Ears	Fragrant Blue	Sieboldiana Elegans
Bulletproof	Fried Bananas	Sky Dancer
Camelot	Ghost Spirit	St. Paul
Cathedral Windows	Ginsu Knife	Strawberry Banana Smoothie
Fire Island	Gold Standard	Striptease
Fragrant Bouquet	Golden Tiara	Sum & Substance
Francee	Grey Piecrust	Sun Worshiper
Frosted Mouse Ears	Guardian Angel	Sundance
June	Hadspen Blue	Sweet Innocence
Lakeside Beach Captain	Halcyon	Tennessee Waltz
Lakeside Shoremaster	Hawkeye	Tick Tock
Love Pat	High Society	Tom Schmid
Morning Dove	Holy Mouse Ears	Touch Of Class
Paul's Glory	Ice Age Trail	True Blue
Praying Hands	Inniswood	Tyler's Treasure
Rainbow's End	Ivory Coast	Urajiro Hachijo
Squash Casserole	Jaz	Whirlwind
T Rex	Jewel Of The Nile	Yellow Squash
Lakeside Blue Cherub	Jurassic Park	
Abiqua Drinking Gourd	King Michael	
Alligator Shoes	Krugerrand	
American Sweetheart	Lakeside Dragonfly	
Ann Kulpa	Lakeside Looking Glass	
Atlantis	Lakeside Old Smokey	
Awakening Angel	Lakeside Coal Miner	
Beckoning	Marilyn Monroe	
Big Daddy	Maui Buttercups	
Black Hills	Midwest Magic	
Blue Angel	Mildred Seaver	
Blue Cadet	Millennium	
Blue Ice	Mississippi Delta	
Candy Hearts	Mystic Star	
Captain Kirk	Old Glory	
Carolina Sunshine	One Man's Treasure	
Celtic Dancer	Paradigm	
Chinese Sunrise	Patriot	
Christmas Tree	Potomac Pride	
Cup Of Grace	Ray Of Hope	
Deep Blue Sea	Red Dragon	
Diva	Red October	
Elegans	Restless Sea	
Elvis Lives	Risky Business	



“Great Hostas for the Memphis Area” Quiz

OK, Hostaholics. Time to prove that you really know your hostas! Here are photos of just a few of the hostas reported to flourish in our area. Can you match the photo with the name? I know you can! I am so sure, in fact, that I am not even going to publish the answers!



- ___ Abby
- ___ Blue Mouse Ears
- ___ Francee
- ___ June
- ___ Lakeside Shoremaster
- ___ Love Pat
- ___ Paul's Glory
- ___ Praying Hands
- ___ Squash Casserole

