



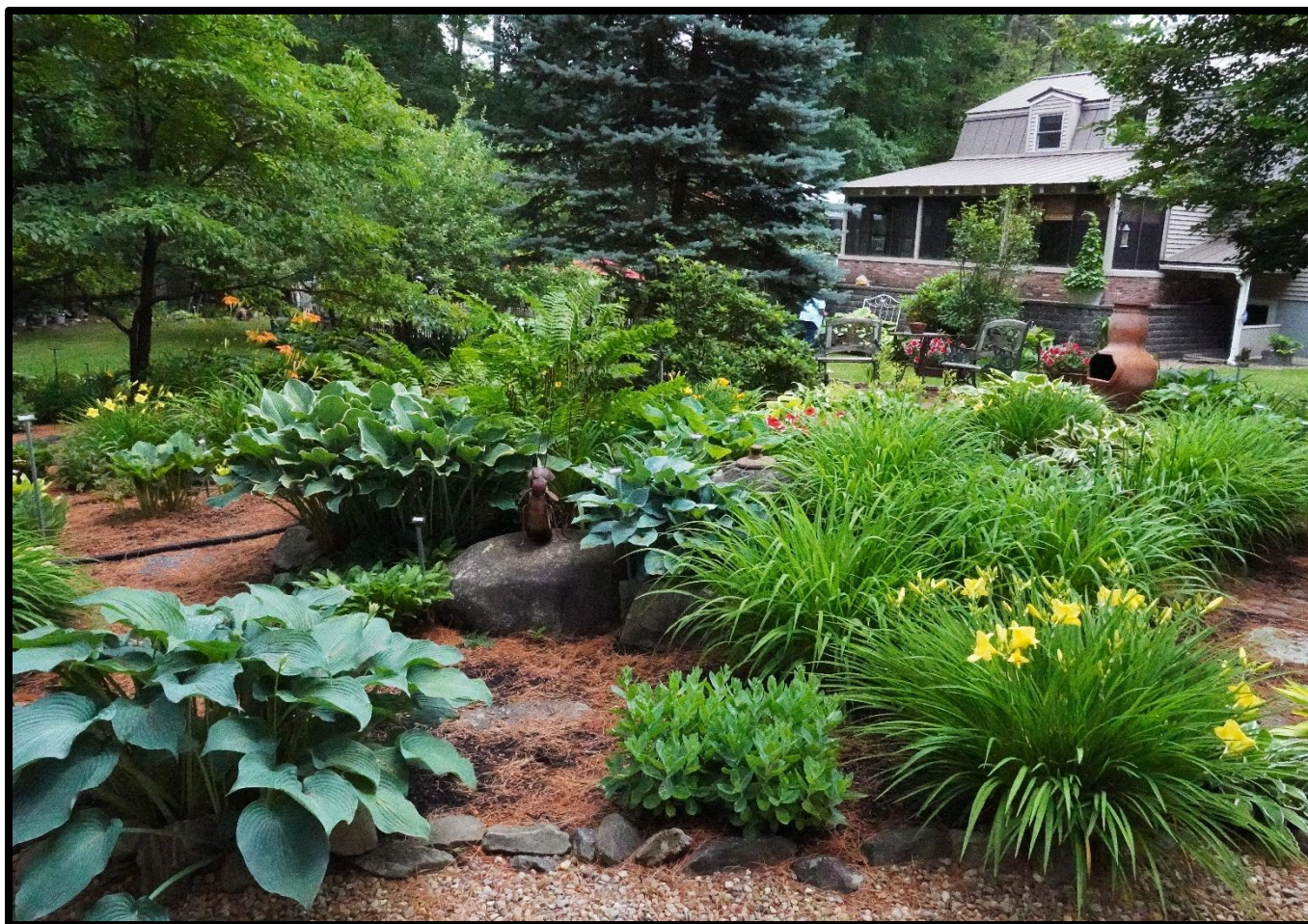
# Georgia Hosta Notes

A Publication of The Georgia Hosta Society

Volume 41

March 2025

No. 2



*Cheryl and Rick Cravino's beautiful HostaAmour garden in Pelham, New Hampshire, on tour during the 2024 AHS National Convention last year. More scenes from HostaAmour and other gardens on last year's national convention garden tours can be found starting on Page 10.*



## President's Message

By Mark Malaguerra

A lot has changed since the last time I sat down to write the President's Message. Here in Atlanta, there was a few inches of snow on the ground as I sat down to compose the message on that January day. Today I was out in the garden in shorts and a T-shirt, the daffodils are about done blooming, the buds are swelling on the trees and shrubs, and I see a few of the hostas starting to nose up.

In that message, I announced that we would be having our annual Hosta Show and Plant Sale at Tucker First Baptist Church, an announcement that didn't age well! Due to some changes in the direction of the church, we were notified that the church facilities would not be available to us. That sent several of us scrambling to find another suitable location with less than 4 months before the show date. Finding a venue that is easily accessible, that has suitable space both inside and out, and that is within our budget is hard to come across. After contacting the Senior Pastor at Oak Grove United Methodist Church and touring the facility, we decided that it was a space that would fit our needs. We were able secure the church gymnasium and parking lot for our Hosta Show and Plant Sale. Please check out the article about the new location in this newsletter.

Our upcoming April 12th meeting will be the last meeting before the show and sale so our program will be devoted on how to prepare and groom your entries so that they look their best and have a better chance to make it to the head table. There will be information on how the leaves are scored in judging, as some of the criteria have changed. We will also be distributing the show entry tags so you can have your tags all filled out ahead of time. Remember to save those free return address labels! They are a big-time saver on filling out the entry tags. If you have any ribbons from previous shows, please bring them to the meeting so we can reuse them.

Please join us at our April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting for food, fellowship, and our big Spring Auction. This is always one of our most popular meetings of the year and is a major fund raiser for the GHS. It's always a great opportunity to pick up some hostas, companion plants, and garden art. Please look around your garden and storage shed for plants, tools, pots, and garden accessories to bring to the auction. Remember, we can now take credit cards so there is no need to bring cash or a checkbook. I hope to see see you all then.

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***Hosta longipes* –  
Red Flower Selection**

Photo by Hiroshe Abe



## Next Meeting    April 12, 2025    11:00 AM

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

### Food for the April 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting – “Anything Goes”



The food theme for our April meeting will continue to be “Anything Goes.” We hope you will be able to bring a meat, vegetable, appetizer, salad, bread, or anything else you would like. Oh yes, desserts are always in high demand. GHS members do have a sweet tooth! GHS will provide drinks, dining utensils and paper goods.

## Annual Spring Auction



Yes, it is time for our biggest fundraiser of the year, our spring auction. For most of our 41 years in existence, 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. 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 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. We remind you again to bring your pocketbook brimming with cash. Our treasurer stands ready and quite willing to help separate your money from you. You can also now pay via your smart phone using the GHS general QR code at the pay table. Remember, this is our most important fundraising event, so come prepared to bid often and bid high!

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### Recycle Your Old Ribbons

If you have ribbons left over from previous shows that you would like to recycle, please bring them to our next meeting on April 12.



## Time to Pay Dues for 2025

If you have not yet paid your 2025 membership fees, this is a reminder that they are due. If you are coming to the April meeting, that would be a good time to give our Membership Chair, Becky Paris, a check for your 2025 dues, or you can mail your check to her at the address shown on the membership registration form on the last page of this newsletter. You may also pay directly online at the GHS website, <https://gahosta.org/>, and you can now pay



your dues using our QR (Quick Response) code (at left) that allows you to use your camera app on your smart phone to access our membership renewal page. All you have to do is open the camera app on your smartphone and point it at the QR code shown here. A prompt (zefly.com) will appear on your screen as you point the camera at the QR code. Click on the prompt and you will be taken right to the online form for GHS membership. (Note that the form also includes a donation section. This is a donation to the service provider, not GHS, and is optional. However, any little donation you might make does help the society reduce credit card processing fees.)

Annual dues are only \$15.00 per individual or \$25 for two or more persons living in the same household.

## *Dixie Regional Hosta Society*



### **2025 Regional Meeting to be Held in Atlanta in September!**

The GHS Board of Directors has agreed to host the 2025 annual Dixie Regional meeting this year in Atlanta. The format will consist of a day of seminars presented by prominent AHS members from around the country. There will also be a luncheon as well as the annual Dixie Region business meeting. Of course, we can also expect a spirited hosta auction and possibly some hosta vending activities. Although everything is still in the planning stage, at this time we think the meeting will be held at a hotel in the Johns Creek area and this meeting will be presented in lieu of our normal GHS meeting on September 13. **The GHS Board has also decided to cover the registration fee for all GHS members in order to encourage our members to attend.** We will have more information for you later. Meanwhile, plan now for a fun day of “hosta things” on September 13.

## American Hosta Society 2025 National Convention

### *“Hosta Double Feature”*

*June 19-21, Peoria, Illinois*

Jointly sponsored by the American Hosta Society  
and the Midwest Regional Hosta Society  
Hosted by the Central Illinois Hosta Society



For more information and to register, go to [www.hostaconvention.org](http://www.hostaconvention.org). A copy of the registration form is also included in the January 2025 issue of *Georgia Hosta Notes*.



## Big Changes Coming for our May 10<sup>th</sup> Hosta Show

For many years, the First Baptist Church's Recreation Center on Main Street in Tucker has been the venue for our annual hosta shows. However, the church advised us earlier this year that the center would no longer be available for non-church activities. That set in motion a mad scramble to find another location for our show. Led by President Mark Malaguerra, the search was successful and our hosta show and plant sale will be conducted at our new show home.

The 2025 GHS Hosta Show and Plant Sale will be held at the **Oak Grove United Methodist Church** gymnasium at 1722 Oak Grove Road, Decatur, Georgia 30033. The church is located at the corner of Oak Grove Road and Fair Oaks Road off Lavista Road inside I-285. Our search committee reports that the traffic situation in this area will be much less hectic than in Tucker and there will be plenty of convenient parking near the gym. The gym itself was once the church sanctuary and has huge windows that provide excellent natural lighting to help our leaf entries look their best. We think it will be an even better space for our show than our previous venue. The plant sale will be in a large parking lot just across from the gym on Fair Oaks Road, a very short walk from the show location.

Our show theme this year will be "The Sky's The Limit." Show schedules will be sent to all members and will also be available at our April meeting. The American Hosta Society Show Committee has been busy updating the *Handbook for Hosta Shows and Judging*. There are a few resulting changes in the standard show schedule including the elimination of sections in Division II - Container Grown Hostas and in Division III – Trough/Container Gardens Arranged for Effect. Look for these changes as well as changes to the point scales for judging all the divisions. This and more information about our show this year will be presented at the April meeting. Plan now to help in setting up for the show, attending the show and plant sale, and bringing leaves to enter in the show.



# The Georgia Hosta Society

Proudly Presents



## ‘THE SKY’S THE LIMIT’

**Our 34<sup>th</sup> Hosta Show & Plant Sale**

**Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 2025**

(Show Setup – Friday, May 9 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm)

**Oak Grove United Methodist Church**

**Gymnasium, 1722 Oak Grove Road**

**Decatur, GA 30033**

**Hosta Show 10:00am to 2:00pm**

**Free and open to the public**

**Plant Sale 8:30am to 2:00pm**

**Including hostas and many other interesting plants**

Please see our website, [www.gahosta.org](http://www.gahosta.org), and visit us on Facebook.

Hosta show accredited by the American Hosta Society



## The February 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Our February general meeting began as usual with our business meeting followed by yet another wonderful luncheon thanks to our members who treated us to a tremendous array of food. After lunch and our 50/50 drawing, it was time for our program. We had hoped to have Carol Brashear and Bill Meyer join us for a tour through the fantastic Hosta Library website which Carol helped to create and which she and Bill have administered for many years. Unfortunately, they did not have the ability to interact with us via Zoom, so Carol prepared a program for us which Harold McDonell adapted. Using the Hosta Library website online live, Harold demonstrated the vast capabilities of the site to provide just about any information one might need about hostas - and more. Our members were amazed at the amount of information available there and on the many links associated with it. We thank Carol for her assistance in developing this program.

Below are a few pictures taken at the meeting by our club photographer, Mikky Lockwood. Enjoy.



**President Mark Malaguerra conducts the business meeting.**



**Mark has everyone's attention as he announces the new show location and explains recent changes to the show schedule and procedures.**



**Food Time!**





## The February 8th Meeting



Harold McDonnell presents our program for the meeting about the many capabilities of the Hosta Library website.





## AI-Generated Hosta Pictures – Don't fall for them!

### If it looks too good to be true, it probably is.

If you are on Facebook, almost certainly by now you have seen images of wildly colored hostas that often also sport very unusual flowers, flowers unlike any hosta flowers you have ever seen before. Of course, they are all fake images generated by artificial intelligence (AI) programs. Don't fall for them. If, in a moment of extreme weakness you do succumb to those ads and order either the plants or seeds they offer for sale, you will get 1. nothing, 2. a little hosta plant in extremely poor condition which most likely is an inferior cultivar that is nothing like what you thought you were ordering and which is probably HVX infected, or 3. seeds of unknown origin that may not even be hosta seeds. You certainly will not get that red and white hosta with glorious floral displays because that plant does not exist.



Of the three possible scenarios, perhaps the worst is the seeds. These are often not hosta seeds but something much worse – weeds that, if planted, may just be the next horribly invasive plant species introduced into the country by accident. NEVER order or plant seeds from anyone other than trusted sources, especially if they are imported and most especially if they are sourced from China. It is just too risky to do so.

AI generated images are not just confined to hosta hucksters. On Facebook, you will see just about every imaginable possibility from wildly patterned irises to elephant ear plants that rival the rainbow flag in colors. You can best protect yourself from being scammed in several ways. First and most important is to just use your common sense. If it appears too good to be true, it probably is a scam. Second, beware of all advertisements you find on social media sites like Facebook and on

internet sales sites like eBay, Amazon and Etsy. Third, only buy plants and seeds from trusted sources. Follow these three steps and you will not become the next scam victim.



**All photos on this page are of hostas that do not exist. They have been unapologetically reproduced by your editor without permission from the fake plant Facebook pages and web sites!**



## The 2024 American Hosta Society

### National Convention, Marlboro, Massachusetts

The annual American Hosta Society Convention was again held in Marlboro, Massachusetts (Boston area.) Building on the success of the previous national convention held in Marlboro in 2011, convention co-chairs Paula Lehtola and Kathie Sisson presented attendees with a great program including interesting guest speakers, many committee meetings to attend, the annual business meeting, a super hosta show, a seedling competition, an ice cream social, and a wonderful wrap-up banquet. Of course, there were garden tours of eleven gardens, each displaying its owner's own personal touches.

The October 2024 issue of *Georgia Hosta Notes* featured the meetings, show, and seedling competition, and the January 2025 issue featured several of the gardens on tour. This issue features the remaining gardens on tour at the convention. As mentioned before, many of the gardens did not have readily visible plant ID markers, so some of the pictures will not include the individual hosta names.

### National Convention, Marlboro, Massachusetts

#### Ann Chepjian's Garden in Mason, New Hampshire

Ann Chepjian and her husband moved to Mason, New Hampshire in 2009 after living 40 years in Boston. The property includes a private air field her husband wanted for flying the plane that he built. There was a lot of space left for Ann to begin her gardening adventures. The result of her efforts is a beautiful garden with not only hostas but a host of other sun and shade perennials and numerous ornamental shrubs and trees.





## National Convention, Marlboro, Massachusetts

### Ann Chepjian's Garden in Mason, New Hampshire (continued)



*H. 'Enchanted Mist'*





## National Convention, Marlboro, Massachusetts

### Sue and Chuck Andersen's Mason Hollow Nursery in Mason, Massachusetts

I failed to get many pictures in this wonderful hosta nursery because I was too busy shopping!



The nursery was crowded with shoppers!



*H. 'Forbidden Fruit'*



*H. 'Snowberry Muffin'*



*H. 'Thunderbolt'*



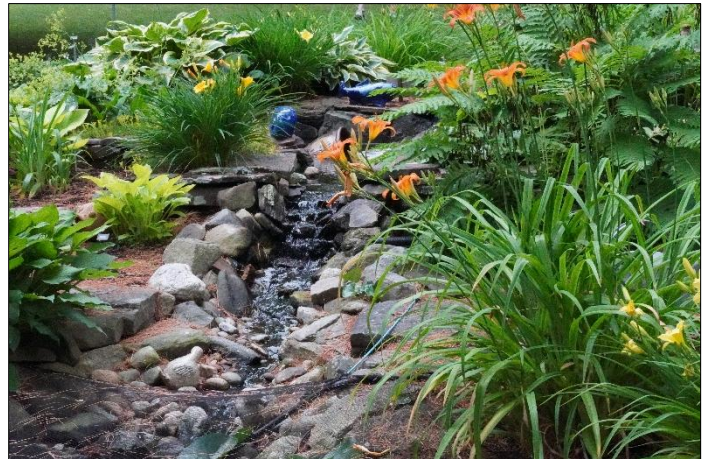
Beautiful Pitcher Plants in the Bog Garden



## National Convention, Marlboro, Massachusetts

### Cheryl and Rick Cravino's HostaAmour, Pelham, New Hampshire

Over 1,000 hostas live happily in this outstanding country garden created over a 23-year period by Rick and Cheryl Cravino. Many companion plants combine with the hostas to make every part of this expansive garden a joy to observe.



*H. 'City Lights'*



*H. 'Blazing Saddles'*

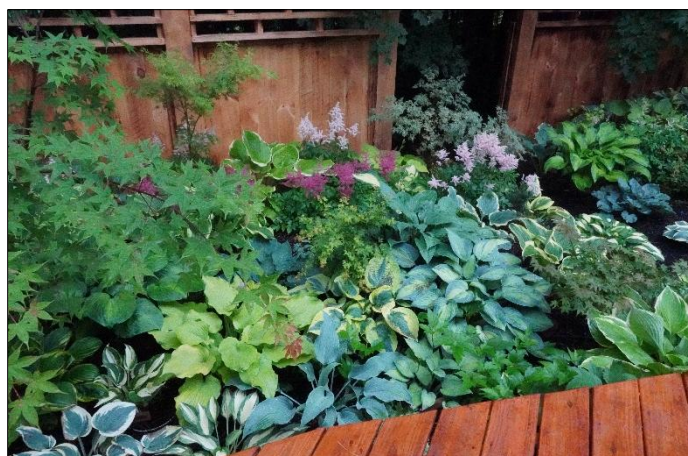
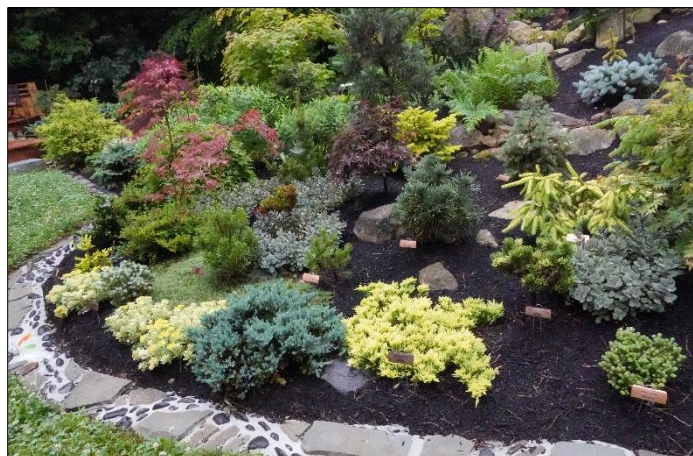
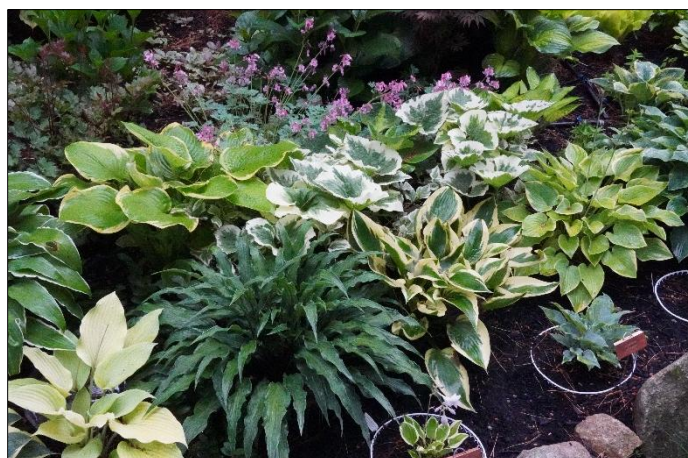




## National Convention, Marlboro, Massachusetts

### Allison O'Neil's Garden in Brookline, New Hampshire

Although this garden was started in 2017, Allison has aggressively built and expanded it while learning all about hostas which she says she knew nothing about when she started. Today it is absolutely beautiful and just full of many tried and true hostas as well as an extensive collection of some of the newest and rarest cultivars. We visited on a misty morning but no one noticed the light rain as we eagerly made our way around the garden.





## National Convention, Marlboro, Massachusetts

### Allison O'Neil's Garden in Brookline, New Hampshire (continued)



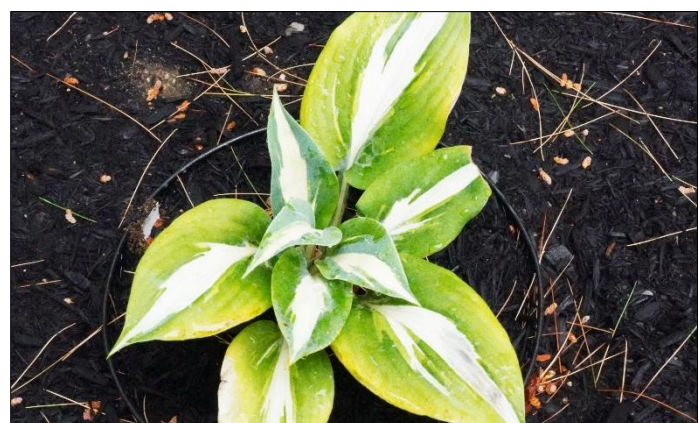
*H. 'Cool Mistress'*



*H. 'Dixie Ghost'*



*H. 'Quicksand'*



*H. 'Timeless Beauty'*



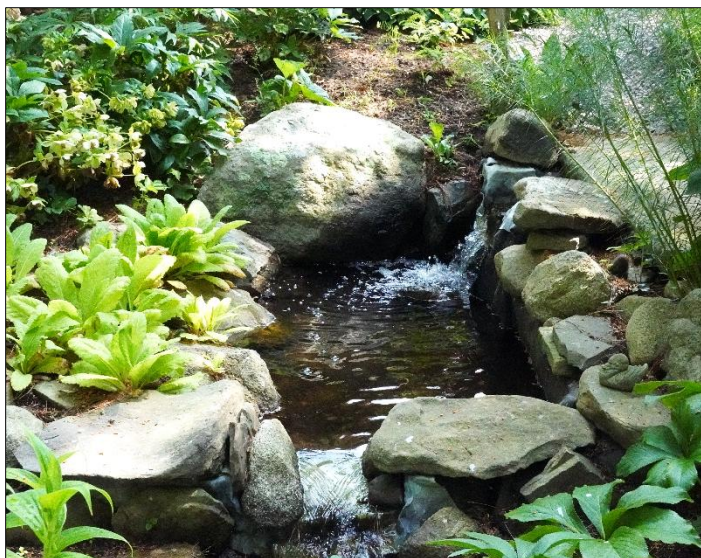
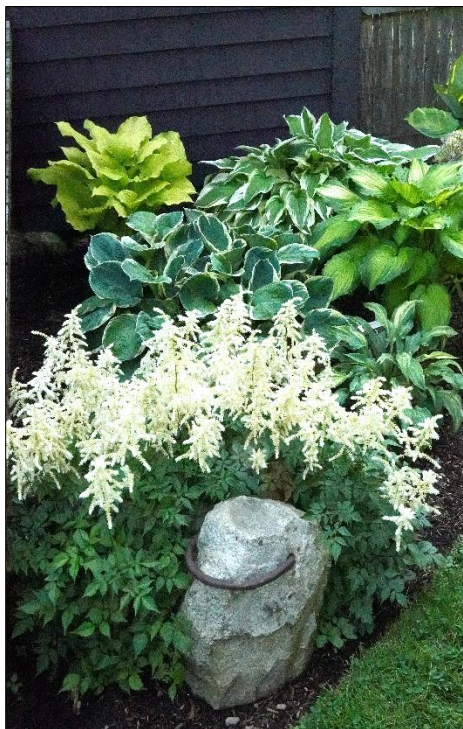
*H. 'Orion's Belt'*



## National Convention, Marlboro, Massachusetts

### Gerry and Rindy Bennett's Garden in Hanover, Massachusetts

This huge garden with its expansive lawn spaces, a very large conifer collection, and both sun and shade perennial beds was a treat for the convention garden tour visitors. We were given plenty of time in this garden and we needed it in order to traverse the entire garden. I found the conifers to be every bit as exciting as the large hosta collection.





## National Convention, Marlboro, Massachusetts

### Gerry and Rindy Bennett's Garden in Hanover, Massachusetts (continued)



*H. 'Gunther's Prize'*



*H. 'Blue Ivory'*



*H. 'Bridal Falls'*



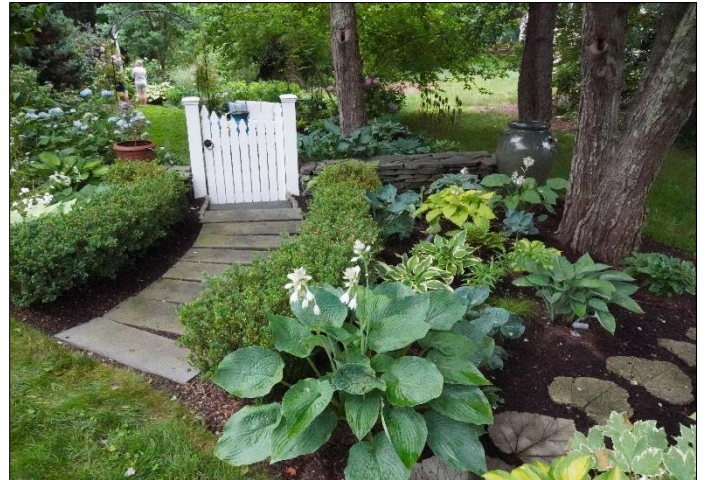
*H. 'Second Coming'* – a stable sport of  
*H. 'Honeybells'* with bold white veins.



## National Convention, Marlboro, Massachusetts

### Cindy Bortolan's Garden in Westford, Massachusetts

Starting with a property overgrown with brush and poison ivy, Cindy has created this wonderful suburban oasis. If one had to describe it with only a word, that word would have to be serenity.



*Podophyllum* 'Spotty Dottie'



*H.* 'Warwick Comet'



*H.* 'Great Expectations'



**THE GEORGIA HOSTA SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of the General Meeting – February 8, 2025**

Mark Malaguerra called the meeting to order.

Mark advised that the minutes of the previous meeting were published in the newsletter. Chuck Zdeb moved the minutes be approved as published and Judy Burns seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Treasurer Dexter Henry provided the Treasurers report.

There was a discussion about the Newsletter. Harold McDonnell is stepping down as editor and the club is searching for a replacement. Let Mark or Harold know if you are interested in becoming the new newsletter editor. It was noted that anyone can submit an article for the newsletter.

Mark led a discussion about the Hosta Show and Plant Sale. The show is on May 10 with setup on May 9. The big news is our change of venue to the Oak Grove United Methodist Church at the intersection of Oak Grove and Fair Oaks Roads, Decatur, Georgia. There will be some small changes to the show setup and presentation but all agreed that this will be an excellent place for the show.

Scott Smith reported on the progress of moving our website from Wild Apricot to Go Daddy host.

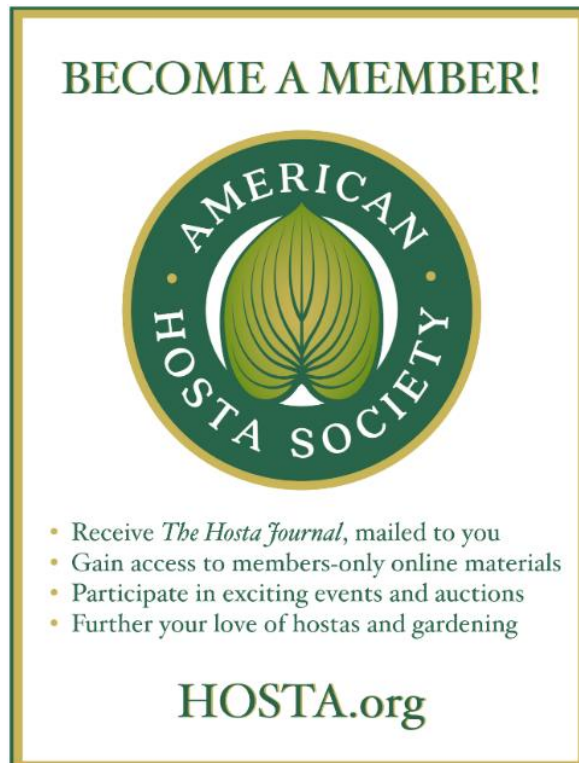
A nominating committee is needed to search for new candidates to serve on the board this coming year.

Harold reported for the audit committee that an audit of the Treasurer's books was conducted before the meeting and the audit found that all was in order.

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was approved.

Ida Beth Barner

Secretary





**THE GEORGIA HOSTA SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of the Board Meeting**  
**March 10, 2025    Via Zoom**

The meeting was called to order with the following board members in attendance: Mark Malaguerra, Becky Paris, Harold McDonell, Ida Beth Barner, Dexter Henry, Judy Burns, Scott Smith, Greg Ferguson, Judy Beeler, Steven Blair, Richard Jolly, Greg Barner, Chuck Zdeb, and Claudia Walker.

Mark announced that the next general meeting will be at the Garden House on April 12. We will be conducting our annual Spring Auction at this meeting.

Mark asked for approval of the Minutes from the last meeting. Claudia Walker moved the minutes be approved as published. Scott Smith seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Treasurer Dexter Henry presented the Treasurer's Report.

VP-Membership Becky Paris advised that we are about on track for member renewals. A discussion followed about locations and staffing of membership tables at the GHS Hosta Show on May 10.

Harold discussed the newsletter and the use of the GHS membership QR code for membership renewals.

Mark provided an update on the status of the Hosta Show followed by an extensive discussion. Plans appear to be on schedule. Scott Smith will arrange for show staff to meet at the church to survey the show and sale sites and to make further plans for the show.

Scott Smith announced that the website conversion is complete. The board expressed appreciation to Scott for his hard work on the conversion.

The need to elect a nominating committee at the next general meeting on April 12 was discussed. Mark announced that he would be open to serving another term as President.

The status of finding a replacement for newsletter editor Harold McDonell, who is retiring from the job at the end of the year, was discussed. So far, no one has come forward to become editor. Mark again suggested that a newsletter committee be formed to produce the newsletters. Judy Burns agreed to be in charge of assembling the newsletters provided the content production be the responsibility of other committee members. After discussion, the board was open to this method of continuing to produce newsletters of interest to our members. Harold McDonell suggested, since the newsletter editor position is an elected board position which must be filled, that Judy be considered to be nominated for that position by the new nominating committee.

There being no further business, Scott Smith moved the meeting be adjourned and Judy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Ida Beth Barner

Secretary





# THE GEORGIA HOSTA SOCIETY

## 2024-25 OFFICERS AND BOARD

President: Mark Malaguerra	404 808-2866
1 <sup>st</sup> VP Programs: Cozart Smith	404 273-9562
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP Membership: Becky Paris	770 508-8651
3 <sup>rd</sup> VP Publications/Newsletter Editor:	
Harold McDonell	770 461-8882
Secretary: Ida Beth Barner	404 643-9483
Treasurer: Dexter Henry	770 460-0983
Parliamentarian: Judy Burns	681 203-0288
Communications Coordinator:	
Scott Smith	404 486-3471
Ex Officio: Greg Ferguson	770 789 9057

## DIRECTORS

### Term

1 <sup>st</sup>	Judy Beeler	404 808-7222
1 <sup>st</sup>	Steven Blair	770 908-8689
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Richard Jolly	770 487-5036
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Greg Barner	404 644-9483
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chuck Zdeb	770 593-0895
3 <sup>rd</sup>	vacant	

## STANDING COMMITTEES

Advertising/Publicity/Communications:	Vacant
Historian: Claudia Walker	770 722-3147
Hospitality: Julia Lyons	706 265-3328
	C 770 315-3328
Hosta Leaf Show Co-Chairs - 2025:	
Mark Malaguerra	404 808-2866
Sandra Bussell	404 636-5920
Newsletter Production and Publishing:	
Mark Malaguerra	404 808-2866
Scott Smith	404 486-3471
Sunshine Chair: Claudia Walker	770 722-3147
Vendor Liaison: Greg Ferguson	770 789 9057
Ways and Means: Kendra Spadoni	256 777-4762
Web Master: Scott Smith	404 486-3471



**Established 1984**

## Georgia Hosta Society Members Holding American Hosta Society Positions:

**Sandra Bussell:** AHS Judges Records Chair  
**Harold McDonell:** AHS 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.dixiehosta.net).

## Hosta Cultivar Registration

For all questions about registering hosta cultivars, contact Gayle Hartley Alley, ICRA for Hosta, at the Hosta Treasury website – [www.hostaregistrar.org](http://www.hostaregistrar.org).

## **2025 Calendar of Events**

April 12 – General Meeting & Annual Auction – Deen Day Sanders Garden House 11:00 AM

May 10 – Hosta Show and Plant Sale – Oak Grove United Methodist Church (show setup May 9, 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM)

June 19-21 – AHS National Convention, Peoria, Illinois

August 11 – Board Meeting 7:00 PM Zoom

September 13 – Dixie Regional Meeting (location to be determined)

October 6 – Board Meeting 7:00 PM Zoom

November 8 – General Meeting – Deen Day Sanders Garden House 11:00 AM Speaker – Danny Lawson, *The Hosta Journal* Editor – ‘A Tour of AHS Display Gardens Across the United States’

## **GHS Membership Registration – 2025**

**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**