



## The 'Lakeside' series

This month we devote the newsletter to cultivars from the Lakeside Acres nursery, in the southern US state of Tennessee. Here Mary and Roy Chastain developed one of the finest ranges of cultivars available today...

### Climate challenges

Perhaps one of the most interesting aspects of the Lakeside series of hostas, was that they needed to withstand the humid, sub-tropical growing conditions found in Tennessee (click on map to view).

Lakeside Acres nursery was home to Mary and Roy Chastain and located to the east of Chattanooga in the far south-east of Tennessee. The nursery is now located in Michigan, read on to find out why...



There is an excellent transcribed interview, conducted in 2004 by Glen Williams, in the Reading Room of the **Hosta Library**, about Mary and Roy Chastain. We were very interested to discover just how many traits we found in common with their approach in enjoying working with their chosen genus. Although it is clear hybridising formed a large slice of that work, their interest began with a pure love of the plants. The frustration of being unable to source new varieties sparked their interest in hybridising. One of Mary's prime objectives, was to produce cultivars which could be more reliably grown in Tennessee gardens.



It is reassuring that so much effort has been taken to ensure their introductions should be garden worthy. Although we do not have the same climate as Tennessee, we are increasingly suffering more extremes of weather. Any varieties bred to withstand higher humidity should suit UK gardens.

**H. 'Lakeside Symphony'** - opposite, is one of our favourites...

To date, we have just over a third of the Lakeside series, so still some way to go. We have created a full list of the **Lakeside series** on a separate page because there isn't room to list them all in this newsletter - the following is a list of those we hold in our collection:

### Nursery news...

First we would like to thank **Brother UK**, who have allocated funding towards the re-organisation of our Plant Heritage National Collection. We are delighted with this welcome boost to this huge undertaking.

Each year the Brother Bursary Committee allocate funds to National Collections, as part of their sponsorship of Plant Heritage. Without the help of its' **sponsors**, Plant Heritage would struggle to do the valuable work it does. This includes publicising their initiatives at prestigious events, such as the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show...

### Plant Heritage at Hampton Court

This week we attended a meeting, at Wisley, to finalise arrangements, and share information, in the run-up to the 2013 show.

In an effort to significantly improve the visitor experience, the RHS are making major changes to the Hampton Court Flower Show in 2013.

We mentioned this in a previous newsletter and we now have a map, which shows how the showground has been divided into three 'zones'.

*H.* 'Lakeside Accolade'  
*H.* 'Lakeside April Snow'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Baby Face'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Beach Bum'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Beach Captain'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Black Satin'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Blue Cherub'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Blue Jeans'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Breaking News'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Butter Ball'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Cha Cha'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Charm'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Cindy Cee'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Coal Miner'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Contender'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Cranberry Relish'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Cupcake'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Delight'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Dimpled Darling'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Dividing Line'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Doodad'

*H.* 'Lakeside Down Sized'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Dragonfly'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Elfin Fire'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Feather Light'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Fruit Loops'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Hoola Hoop'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Iron Man'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Kaleidoscope'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Legal Tender'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Lime Time'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Little Gem'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Little Tuft'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Lollipop'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Looking Glass'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Love Affaire'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Masterpiece'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Meter Maid'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Miss Muffett'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Missy Little'

*H.* 'Lakeside Neat petite'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Ninita'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Old Smokey'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Premier'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Rhapsody'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Ring Master'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Ripples'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Rocky Top'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Roy El'  
*H.* 'Lakeside San Kao'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Sapphire Pleats'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Scamp'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Shockwave'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Shore Master'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Sir Logan'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Sparkle Plenty'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Spellbinder'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Spruce Goose'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Storm Watch'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Symphony'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Tycoon'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Zesty Zeno'  
*H.* 'Lakeside Zinger'

### The future

Mary and Roy retired from Lakeside Acres in 2009 and the business was purchased by Rob Canning, who then moved everything up to Michigan. Rob was inspired to continue their work, so we can expect to see more 'Lakeside' cultivars introduced in the coming years. Rob has talked about his belief that cultivars should be thoroughly tried and tested before being introduced, so it seems the business is in safe hands for the future.

**Next month:** [The Academy series - a must for fans of LOTR!](#)

All the plant elements have been re-organised into a single area, called the 'Grow' zone - click on the image to view:



As you can see, the Grow zone is north of the Long Water. If you are coming by car, this is where you will park to enter by the Stud Gate (Long Water) entrance.

The Plant Village, Floral Marquee and Plant Heritage Marquee will all be located here. The image below shows the position of the Plant Heritage Marquee within the Grow zone:



We will be on stand PH9, inside the main entrance, opposite the central feature garden. We are looking forward to working with the Plant Heritage, and National Collection, teams again this year and hope that the changes will see a revitalised show, which you will all want to visit. See you there...

The advice and opinions contained within this monthly newsletter have been formed over more than 38 years of experience with the Hosta genus. We are constantly learning and refining that knowledge and would welcome any suggestions that readers of this newsletter would like to make so please **contact us**.

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