



THE HOSTA CONNECTION

The Hosta Society of North Alabama

The Hosta Society of North Alabama welcomes all who have a love of and interest in hosta and hosta gardening. We meet the 4th Monday of the month January—October at 6:00 pm . Please check the Program schedule for the correct meeting location. Light refreshment is served at 6:00 and our meetings start at 6:30.

For further information contact: Sue Toole, President , toolems@knology.net

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Deadline for next submission: January 15, 2016

THE HOSTA CONNECTION

September 2015

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As I sit down to write this message the sun is shining and the temperatures are in the 70’s. This is the time of the year when gardeners start getting tired and even discouraged as we see the ravages of the heat or dry conditions. Thankfully, we have had good rains in August and the hosta are loving that. But things are looking tired and ragged and that includes me. Now is the time I start telling myself, “there is always next year”. Gardeners seem to have an optimistic outlook even when we stand there looking at dry scorched leaves and the weeds that have gotten away from us during the dog days of summer. When I start to feel overwhelmed with the work I see out there that needs doing I just remind myself of the 18 inch rule. Sit down in the garden and instead of looking at the weeds that need pulling lift your eyes about 18 inches and you don’t see the work any longer but just a beautiful garden to enjoy.

As we move toward the end of the year I want to thank you for all your cooperation and hard work. You have made this very busy year such a success. We are all looking forward to a wonderful year in 2016 as we host the Dixie Regional Hosta Convention. We are going to need “all hands on deck” to pull this off so please plan on helping in any way your schedule allows.

Also, we are looking for folks who would be interested in taking on leadership roles in the organization. We have a wonderful society with lots of great folks and to see it continue to move forward we will need folks who are willing to serve in leadership roles. So, we want to encourage each of you to seriously consider joining the Board at some point in the future. Any of the Board members will be happy to talk with you and answer any questions.

Sue Toole

We’re Moving!!!!!!!!!!

Well, it is finally here! Due to the impending construction at the Botanical Garden, from now on we will be meeting at our new location. The Brahan Spring Recreation Center is located on Ivy Ave. just to the north of the Senior Center. The address is 3770 Ivy Ave. Huntsville, 35805 . The parking is on the right of the building as you face it and we ask that you enter by the front door which is on Ivy Ave.

It is very easy to get to this location. No matter where you are coming from you need to get to the intersection of the Parkway and Drake Ave. From there go west on Drake and it is only ½ mile to Ivy Ave. The Senior Center is on the right at the light (the northwest corner) and the name of the road should be visible. Turn right onto Ivy and the Rec Center is the second building on the left just past the Senior Center. The Senior Center is not on this map but it is located on the corner of Drake and Ivy.

If this link doesn’t work by clicking on it just hit the ctrl key and click on the address below and it should open.

[Click here: Brahan Spring Recreation Center - Google Maps](#)

HSNA CONTINUING PROGRAM CALENDAR FOR 2015

SEPTEMBER 28: “Wonderful World of Ferns” - Presented by Eleanor Craig, “The Fern Lady”. She owns and operates Fern Ridge Farms, a specialty nursery in northeast Alabama, located between Cedar Bluff and Centre. Her 20 years of experience has evolved into a business specializing in hardy garden ferns. She presently grows over 75 varieties of garden ferns, and will have them for sale. Her website is fernridgefarms.com. We will also have Election of Officers for 2016.

OCTOBER 26: ANNUAL MEETING AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:

Power Point Presentation: “Gardens from the 2015 American Hosta Society Convention in Raleigh” by Mary Terrell

TRASH TO TREASURE SILENT AUCTION— Bring your oldies but goodies to raise money for the Dixie Region meeting.

Your trash may be someone else’s treasure. I know I found a gem at our last one. We will have a dinner. The club will provide the meats, so bring sides for the table. It’s always yummy. Dues will be due for 2016.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

The Huntsville Herb Society is having a Fall Tea Party on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 11 AM to 1 PM at Murray Hall, HBG. Herbal teas, traditional teas, and iced teas will refresh you along with tea sandwiches, scones, patisserie, Chicken salad and herbal cakes. Enjoy herbal gift idea demonstrations. Boutique shopping from 10-2. Adults \$25; 16 & under \$10. For reservation contact Doty Henry at 256-426-6620 or mail check to Huntsville Herb Society, 4747 Bob Wallace Ave, Huntsville 35805.

Huntsville Botanical Garden Fall Plant Sale is also October 10-11. Saturday hours are from 9-5, and Sunday from 12-4. This is a great time to pick up those plants that will do well with a fall planting. Bring in a soil sample and have it tested by Master Gardeners while you are shopping. Visit the HBG Facebook page for a list of “Blue Ribbon’ plants that will be available.

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Please welcome new members: Shirley Cunningham, Nona Weldy, Doty Henry, and returning member, Dianne Nabors.

2016 DUES ARE DUE: PAY AT OUR MEETING OR SEND TO: SANDY BLACKARD, 2701 Chippendale Ct., SE, Decatur, 35601. \$15.00 /single; 20.00/family.

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HSNA OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 2016:

President: Sue Toole

Vice President Programs: Sharon Darty

Vice President Membership: Cookie Kruvand

Secretary: Charlene Stone

Treasurer: Sandy Blackard

Member at Large: Becky Stokes

This slate is presented by Becky Stokes, Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Elections will be held at our September meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor with the permission of the person being nominated.



THE HOSTA SPOTLIGHT.....

ENJOYING YOUR AUTUMN HOSTAS

With the arrival of clear skies and crisp night temperatures in the high 40's to low 50's on September 12 - 14, we can now feel better about our hosta moving into the "going-dormant" stage of growth for the year. Many of the shorter season hosta varieties did not wait for cooler temperatures; they surrendered to the weather a month ago. Can you really blame them considering the Tennessee Valley weather in 2015? Some stalwart intermediate season hosta are now showing the yellows, golds and rusts of "fall color". But one group is not quite ready to call it a year just yet. The late season hosta are persevering, trying their tired best to add fresh interest to the perennial flowers and changing woodland leaves of fall.

From a landscaping viewpoint, late season hosta are the best ones for you to collect. They are hardy plants that show and grow well from April to October. They maintain their vigor in our hot humid summer. Many of them have late bloom periods that add color and interest to the autumn garden. Lavender, purple or white flowers blend well with hardy Chrysanthemums, Agastache, Brilliance Autumn Wood Fern and Asters. And as a bonus for the hostaphile, some cultivars even manage to send up fresh new leaves in September that make you ooh! and aah! all over again.

If you have a small garden with limited spaces for hosta, late season cultivars are the only ones you should collect.

This month I've surveyed three north Alabama gardens and talked with the HSNA gardeners about their standout late season hostas. The following species and cultivars have made the list this year because they came through some really rough conditions for a broadleaf perennial plant and are still doing well today. More to the gardeners' point, they still look great - in September!

Abiqua Drinking Gourd	Ambrosia	Appletini	Atlantis	August Moon		
Blue Angel	Blue Hawaii	Blue Mouse Ears	Blue Umbrellas	Bridal Falls		
Bulletproof	Calamity Jane	Cherish	Christmas Tree	Dancing Queen		
Dixie Chickadee	Elfin Fire	El Nino	Empress Wu	Final Summation		
First Frost	Fried Bananas	Frosted Mouse Ears	Frozen Margarita	Gemstone	Gold Drop	
Golden Sculpture	Goodness Gracious	Grape Fizz	Grand Finale	Guacamole	Halcyon	
Holy Mouse Ears	Ice Prancer	Invincible	Irish Luck	June	Kiwi Full Monty	Krossa Regal
Lemon Frost	Leola Frame	Little Treasure	Love Pat	Mystic Star	Neptune	Neutrino
One Man's Treasure	Orange Marmalade	Patriot	Peppermint Ice	plantaginea		
Plum Pudding	Queen of the Seas	Red October	Regal Splendor	Remember Me	Roy Klehm	
Silver Bay	Squash Casserole	Stained Glass	Sum and Substance	Touch of Class		
Victory	Yesterday's Memories	Sky Dancer				

Susan K. Webb

Landscape Designer

Hosta Society of North Alabama

September 14, 2015

**HSNA'S FAVORITE HOSTA LIST— A list compiled by our members
of their favorite hostas that grow well in our area**

Mini

Appletini	Frosted Mouse Ears	Mighty Mouse	Teaspoon
Blue Mouse Ears	Hideout	Mini Skirt	Teeny Weeny Bikini
Chartreuse Wiggles	Lakeside Baby Face	Neutrino	Uzo-no-Mai
Cherish	Lakeside Zinger	Pixie Vamp	Venusta
Cracker Crumbs	Little Treasure	Ruffled Mouse Ears	Woodland Elf
Dixie Chickadee	Little Wonder	Stiletto	

Small

Allegan Fog	Ginko Craig	Otome-no-ka	Silver Bay M
Blue Ivory	Gold Drop	Patriot	Strawberry Banana Smoothie
Blue Monday	Invincible M	Peach Salsa	Templar Gold
Curly Fries	June M	Pearl Lake	Tick Tock
Feather Boa	Lemon Lime	Peppermint	Twilight Time
Fragrant Blue	Little Treasure	Rainbow's End	Warwick Curtsey
Friends	Mystic Star	Razor's Edge M	Wolverine
Gemstone	One Man's Treasure	Ripple Effect	

Medium

Abiqua Drinking Gourd	Frozen Margarita	Mango Tango	Shade Fanfare
Autumn Frost L	Ghost Spirit	Marilyn Monroe	Shimmy shade
Blazing Saddles	Ginsu Knife	Midwest Magic	Sky Dancer
Blue Cadet	Golden Tiara	Minnesota Wild	Sno Cone
Blue Ivory	Gypsy Rose	Minute Man	So Sweet
Blue Ridge	Hudson Bay	Old Glory	Stained Glass L
Bridegroom	Irish Luck	Paradise Island	Sugar and Spice L
Deep Blue Sea	Lakeside Beach Captain	Party Favor	Touch of Class
Designer Genes	Lakeside Keepsake	Paul's Glory L	Twilight
Diamond Tiara	Lakeside Shore Master	plantaginea	Vulcan
Diana Remembered	London Fog	Potomac Glory	Warwick Comet
El Nino	Love Pat	Purple Heart nr	Wheee!
Eskimo Pie		Queen Josephine	Whirlwind
First Frost		Red October	Yellow Splash Rim
Fragrant Bouquet		Revolution	
		Rocket's Red Glare	

Large

Antioch	Fried Bananas	Liberty	Samuel Blue
Atlantis	Goodness Gracious	Luna Moth	Sky Runner
Blackjack	Grape Fizz	Montana Aureomarginata	Squash Casserole
Blue Angel G	Guacamole	Neptune	Striptease
Christmas Tree	Halcyon	Niagara Falls	Sun Power
Climax	Holy Moly	Night Before Christmas	Thunder Boomer
Cup of Grace	Journey’s End	Paradigm	Thunderbolt
Earth Angel	Key Lime Pie	Paradise Glory	Winter Warrior
Elegans	Key West G	Potomac Pride	Yesterday’s Memories
Final Summation G	Kiwi Full Monty	Queen of the Seas	Cathedral Windows

Giant

Blue Hawaii	Gentle Giant	Millennium	Sagae
Blue Mammoth	Golden Sculpture	Parhelion	Sum and Substance
Chief Sitting Bull	Komodo Dragon	Powder Blue	Ulysses S. Grant
Clear Fork River Valley	Krossa Regal	Regal Splendor	Victory
Earth Angel	Lady Isobel Barnett	Rosedale Golden Goose	Winter Snow
Empress Wu	Lakeside Full Tide	Royal Standard	Zounds

nr not registered

If hosta is listed in two categories it was listed in the smaller group but the letter to the right indicates it could go in the larger group as well. Thank you Sue Toole for compiling this list!!



“ROCKET CITY RENDEVOUS”.....DIXIE REGION UPDATE!!

Tour Gardens have been selected for the 2016 Dixie Regional meeting. On Friday, attendees will tour on their own the gardens of Sandy and Kay Blackard and the Delano Park Garden in Decatur, and Sue and Mike Toole in Madison and Linda Chandler, Huntsville. On Saturday, we will leave by bus from the Best Western in Madison and journey to the gardens of Jean and Ray Burgess, Huntsville, Ricky Hesson and Mike Smith, Lacey’s Springs, Dianne and Jerry Nabors and Mary Terrell , Guntersville, and Jo Ann and Frederick Braam, Big Cove, with a stop in Guntersville for a box lunch at the Civitan Park Pavilion by the lake. Keep up with all the news by checking our HSNA Facebook page and the DIXIE Region Facebook page.

SAVE THE DATE.....

JUNE 2-4, 2016

Here is your invitation for a

“ROCKET CITY RENDEVOUS.....

for Hosta Lovers!!”

The Hosta Society of North Alabama invites you to the 2016 Dixie Regional Meeting on June 2-4, at the Best Western Plus, Madison, Al (Huntsville area).

Your Dixie Region meeting Committee has been working hard since last spring. We have selected 8 tour gardens, lined up speakers, arranged for meals and transportation, in other words, getting all our ducks in a row to make this a great time of fun and fellowship with hosta friends old and new.

There will be many different ways members can help us make this a great convention. We will need volunteer help in many areas: manning the registration table, greeting the attendees, stuffing the goody bags, potting up the gift plants, helping with the Hospitality Room, decorating for the banquet, to name a few. Please volunteer when you are asked. We can't do this without YOU!! If you have a particular area in which you would like to help us out, just contact any committee member.

Registration information will be available in January, so check the Dixie Region Website and also the next newsletter for further details.

Dixie Region Convention Committee

Mary Terrell—Chair—marydterrell@gmail.com

Sue Toole—Co—Chair

Sandy Blackard, Jean Burgess, Ricky Hesson, Becky Stokes, Steve Cunningham, Kendra Spadoni, Susan Webb



H. “Rocket City’ by Randy Goodwin—attendee gift plant!!