



# 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](mailto:toolems@knology.net)

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Deadline for next submission: April 15 2016

THE HOSTA CONNECTION

January 2016

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With such an unseasonably warm winter so far it seems hard to believe that the cold temperatures of January and February are upon us. If your hosta are like mine, they are very confused and some are thinking it is time to wake up and start growing. Flowers are blooming everywhere and I am wondering what in the world our spring bloom time will look like. With all that said, I want to wish each of you a very fruitful and floriferous 2016.

The Hosta Society Board is already hard at work planning a wonderful year for our group. Sharon Darty has put together a very informative and fun schedule of programs for the year. Just the intriguing titles will draw you out to the meetings and make you want to invite your friends. Sandy has got our Budget on track, Cookie is updating and organizing our membership process, Kendra is organizing our delicious food, Charlene is keeping very detailed minutes for our records, Susan and Sandy are hard at work planning the Plant Sale, and Mary is heading up a very organized well planned Dixie Region Convention.

This is going to be an extremely busy fun filled year and I want to encourage each of you to get involved in whatever facet of our organization is of interest. Our focus will be in three main areas; our monthly meetings, our plant sale and of course the Dixie Regional Convention. We will need lots of helping hands for all of the above. If you want to get plugged in but just don't know how or what to do, please talk to me or any of the Board members to find your comfortable little corner of our great big beautiful Hosta world.

Sue Toole, HSNA President

### We've Moved!!

Due to the impending construction at the Botanical Garden, HSNA is now meeting at our new location. The Brahan Spring Recreation Center is located on Ivy Ave. just to the north of the Huntsville 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 behind the Senior Center.

Our meetings start at 6:00 pm with food and fellowship; programs begin at 6:30.

# HOSTA SOCIETY OF NORTH ALABAMA PROGRAM CALENDAR

## JANUARY—OCTOBER 2016

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
1/25	"How to Speak Hosta"	Susan Webb
2/22	"Designing Your Garden to Attract Birds" (with Hosta in mind)	Herb Lewis
3/28	"Buy This, Not That: Choosing Alternative Hosta Cultivars For North Alabama"	Lynda Nelson
4/25	Annual Plant Swap/ Getting Ready For Dixie Regional	Sharon Darty & Mary Terrell
5/14	Annual Plant Sale: Location TBD (set up May 13)	Susan Webb, CHM.
5/23	"What's in a Name—The Backstory on Some of Our Favorite Hosta"	Sue Toole
6/2-4	2016 DIXIE REGION MEETING	HOSTED BY HSNA
6/25	"SURVIVOR— THE DIXIE REGION EPISODE"	Mary Terrell & Susan Webb
7/23 (Sat. 10 am)	"What's All The Hype About Hypertufa?" Hands on HSNA workshop—off site Make your own hypertufa, (registration required) or just watch how it's done. Fee for materials TBD; Meet at Hurricane Valley Ornamentals, 2069 Hurricane Creek Rd., Gurley, AL.	Lucy Tally of Tally Landscaping Svcs.
8/22	Slideshow of AHS National Convention in St. Louis	Steve Cunningham
9/26	"Big World, Little Hosta: Success with Small and Mini Hosta"; Election of Officers	Mary Terrell
10/24	Annual Meeting and Dinner / Introduction of New Officers for 2017 "Putting Your Hosta to Bed For Winter"	Panel Discussion

**HSNA OFFICERS FOR 2016:**

President	Sue Toole	toolems@knology.net
Vice President Programs	Sharon Darty	sharon.darty@hhsys.org
Vice President Membership	Cookie Kruvand	Rkruvand@aol.com
Secretary	Charlene Stone	charlene.stone@icloud.com
Treasurer	Sandy Blackard	ecb1964@att.net
Member at Large	Becky Stokes	beckystokes@comcast.net

**Committee Chairmen:**

Plant Sale: Susan Webb /Sandy Blackard

Hospitality: Kendra Spadoni

Leaf Show: Steve Cunningham/Ricky Hesson (no leaf show in 2016 due to Dixie Region)

Newsletter Editor: Mary Terrell

marydterrell@gmail.com

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Dues are now due, and will be past due after our January meeting. Club dues are \$15/single and \$20/family. Please make check to HSNA and send to Sandy Blackard, 2701 Chippendale Ct., SE, Decatur 35601, or pay at the meeting. Send any changes in membership info to Cookie.

**ANNUAL HOSTA SALE**

**Saturday, May 14 2016**

**9 am-2 pm**

**Set up: Friday, May 13**

**Time: TBD**

**Place TBD**



# **ROCKET CITY RENDEZVOUS... FOR HOSTA LOVERS!!**

**2016 DIXIE REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY CONVENTION**

**JUNE 2, 3 AND 4**

**Best Western Plus**

**9035 Madison Boulevard**

**Madison, AL (Huntsville Area)**

**Call hotel direct: 256-772-7170 reservations\***

\*Mention HSNA Dixie Region when making reservations; \$88.00 per night plus taxes and fees. Includes breakfast.

Free Airport shuttle available. Check with hotel.

**Registration Fee of \$125.00 includes Tour of 9 Hosta Gardens, Interesting Speakers, Vendors & Auction; for full program details or questions contact : [marydterrell@gmail.com](mailto:marydterrell@gmail.com) or visit the Dixie Region Website: [www.dixiehosta.net](http://www.dixiehosta.net).**

Plan to arrive Thursday evening. Vendors will be open and so will the Hostatality Room. Dinner is on your own. Friday morning we have 4 gardens for you to tour by car, returning to the hotel for a "Lunch and Learn" session with speakers, and a Dixie Region business meeting. Dinner will be on your own, and there are a lot of great restaurants close by for you to sample.

Saturday we will board buses early for a tour of 5 hosta gardens, going all the way to beautiful Lake Guntersville, with a box lunch by the lake. Returning mid afternoon, you will have time to shop vendors and get ready for the banquet and our special speaker. Afterwards, we will have the Auction.

Sunday morning there is an option for a guided tour of the US Space and Rocket Center, plus we have other open gardens for you to visit.



# **SAVE THE DATE.....**

**JUNE 2-4, 2016**

## **We Need Everybody's Help!!**

Your Dixie Region meeting Committee has been working hard since last spring. We have selected 9 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. We will also have sign up sheets at our meetings.

### **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!!

## **THE LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION**

We will have a live Auction after the Banquet Saturday night. Proceeds from this benefit our Dixie Region. Please consider donating items for the auction, either plants or unique or handmade items. We will also have a silent auction to benefit HSNA and help defray expenses of the Dixie Region meeting. We hope to have really unique and special items for you to bid upon, and if you have something to contribute to this, please let me know. Several people are going to put together special baskets for the silent auction. Let your creativity shine!!

Mary Terrell

# 2016 DIXIE REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY CONVENTION

## ROCKET CITY RENDEZVOUS – FOR HOSTA LOVERS

June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Huntsville, Alabama

Registration forms will be sent to the Membership via e-mail and will also be available at the meetings.

Could not get the form to fit on this page!! Hope we will have a good turn out from our club. Register early since attendance is limited.

### BECOME A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY!!

We encourage you to join the American Hosta Society. Members receive two beautiful Journals in color, as well as an online Journal, filled with great information and pictures of the newest Hosta, good cultural practices, and scientific advancements. Membership is \$30/yr. for single; \$80/3 yrs.; Family is \$34/yr.; \$90/3 yrs. An E-membership is available for \$20/yr. E members receive all journals online. Send your memberships to: Sandi Markland, AHS Membership Sec., P.O. Box 7539, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948.

If you are a member of HSNA, you are automatically a member of The Dixie Region. Check out the regional website: [www.dixiehosta.net](http://www.dixiehosta.net). And you can post to The Dixie Region Facebook page, (DHRS) as well as our own HSNA Facebook page, so take a look at these and like us! There are lots of pictures on our HSNA Facebook page.



### 2016 HOSTA OF THE YEAR

#### H. "Curly Fries"

Hybridized by Bob Solberg, 2008

This is a club favorite and a great grower, perfect for containers and sure to brighten up your garden. Give it some morning sun to bring out the color. It is classified as a miniature, but makes a fairly large clump., especially in a container. Wonderful contrast with blue minis.