



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: August 5, 2016

THE HOSTA CONNECTION

April 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hosta Friends,

I am fighting rabbits at my house. They love hosta leaves as much as the deer and it is an on-going battle to keep the hosta looking their best for the Dixie Regional Garden Tours. So here is another reason to grow hosta in containers, you can cluster them together and surround them with fencing. It doesn't look very good but it defeats these furry critters. They will be freed before the tour but for now they are protected behind the green fencing, all 200 feet of it.

The year is flying by so fast. This will be the last newsletter before our Dixie Regional Convention. We are showcasing our Society and our area by hosting this gathering and I want to encourage all of you to get involved. Many of you have signed up to help in one area or another and for us to pull this off, it is going to take all of us working together. If you have questions about where you can plug in just contact Mary Terrell. She would love to hear from you.

On a sad note, our much loved Jean Burgess, took a terrible fall and had her second surgery. She is currently in re-hab and is doing well but has a long recovery ahead. Please keep Jean and Ray in your thoughts and prayers. She would love your cards sent to her house.

Sue Toole, President

We've Moved!! In case you haven't visited us lately!!

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

Timely Tips for Growing Great Hosta: from Mary Terrell

1. Time to fertilize your hosta. One tip learned from Bob Solberg is that they love Miracle Gro Tomato food, the kind you mix with water and spray on the leaves. I have seen the results with my own eyes in Cornelia Holland's great garden in Franklin, Tn. I also use Dynamite for Foliage plants, 9 mos. Formula, (Nutricote) at Home Depot., with great results.
2. Put out the slug bait and kill as many as you can **now**, which keeps them from multiplying later! Also use Critter Ridder or Ropel to deter the squirrels and chipmunks.
3. If you grow hosta in pots, check the drainage. Quickest way to kill a hosta is root rot!

HOSTA SOCIETY OF NORTH ALABAMA PROGRAM CALENDAR

APRIL—OCTOBER 2016

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
4/25	Annual Plant Swap/ Getting Ready For Dixie Regional	Sharon Darty & Mary Terrell
5/7	Annual Plant Sale: Location: The Picnic Pavilion at HBG Set up day: Friday, May 6 (Please note the date change for this event)	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

OTHER DATES TO NOTE:

“Herb Fest”, Saturday May 7th from 10 am-1 pm in the “Herb Garden” at HBG;

Master Gardeners of North Alabama Plant Sale: Saturday, May 7th from 8 am-1pm, at the Madison Co. Farmers Market on Cook Ave.

National Garden Clubs Inc. Standard Flower Show

Wednesday, April 20 1:30-5:00 pm

Murray Hall, Huntsville Botanical Garden

Thursday, April 21 9 am—4:00 pm



ANNUAL HSNA HOSTA SALE

Saturday, May 7, 2016

9 am-2 pm

Place: The Picnic Pavilion at the Huntsville Botanical Garden

10AM & 12 PM: Special Hosta Presentations

Educational Displays and Hosta Questions Answered!

Sales personnel should arrive at 8:30 am; please park away from the Sale venue.

SET UP SCHEDULE FOR FRIDAY, May 6th

2 pm: Begin staging of existing tables, etc.

2-5 pm: Plant delivery, staging, tagging, finishing

If you would like to volunteer to help, contact Susan Webb.



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.

Registration Fee of \$125.00 includes Tour of 9 Hosta Gardens, Interesting Speakers, Vendors & Auction. Registration deadline is April 22nd.

The Tentative Program of Events for Dixie Region 2016

Thursday, June 2: Arrive by late afternoon; Registration open from 4-8; Vending open, Silent Auction open, Hostatality Room open from 8-11. Dinner on your own.

Friday, June 3: Complimentary Hotel breakfast (opens at 6 am); Registration open 7-8 am. Meet outside hotel at 7:30 to begin touring 4 local gardens by car. Suggested routes will be provided. Return to Hotel by 12 noon for Buffet lunch, Dixie Region meeting and our Speaker Session, until 4:00 pm. Afterward, free time to shop vendors and dinner on your own. Vending open from 10-5:30. Hostatality Room open 8-11 pm.

Saturday, June 4: Complimentary Hotel breakfast; Board buses at 7:30 for tour of 5 gardens, with a stop by Lake Guntersville for a catered box lunch, returning to hotel by 3:30-4:00. Meet and Greet cash bar at 6:00, followed by Banquet Buffet at 6:30, and our Special Speaker. The Live Auction will begin at approximately 8:30. Hostatality Room open 10-11:30 pm. Vending open 10 am—5 pm

Sunday, June 5: 10-12 – For those who sign up at registration check-in, there is a docent guided tour of the US Space and Rocket Center Museum, at a special group rate. More information will be available at sign up. Also several local gardens will be open and listed in the Convention Handbook.

We Need Everybody's Help!!

Your Dixie Region meeting Committee has been working hard since last spring. We have selected 9 tour gardens, 8 great vendors, 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 are 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. Thanks to those of you who have already signed up to help us out. We could use a few more! 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!!

TOUR GARDENS FOR THE DIXIE REGIONAL

FRIDAY Morning: The gardens of Linda Chandler, Mike & Sue Toole, Madison; Sandy & Kay Blackard & Delano Park, Decatur.

SATURDAY: Jean & Ray Burgess, Huntsville, Ricky Hesson & Mike Smith, Lacy Springs, Jerry & Dianne Nabors, Mary Terrell, Gunterville, Jo Ann Braam, Owens Cross Roads.

THE LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION AT THE DIXIE

We will have a live Auction. The 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!!

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. 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.

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:

If you have not paid dues for 2016, they are due. 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. **We are ordering nametags for those members who want them. They are \$13. Send your check made out to HSNA to Sandy Blackard to place an order.**

H. "Curly Fries" by Bob Solberg
HOSTA OF THE YEAR
Photo by Mary Terrell

