

Rocking in the Garden and Rolling on the River

The Mid-South Hosta Society has volunteered to host the next Dixie Regional convention in Memphis on **September 23-24, 2005**.

Memphis last hosted the meeting in September 2001 with 155 registrants. You will be receiving an invitation packet with all the details, but **please save that weekend to be in Memphis**. We have tried to alternate between May and September meetings so we can have Hosta Shows and garden tours in May and educational meetings in September.

Since we will not have gardens to see in September, we are going to hold a Photo Contest. We tell you now so you can start taking pictures of your beautiful spring hosta garden. Yes, there will be judges and prizes. We will have several categories for your photos and that will be explained in your invitation packet.

One of the highlights of every Dixie meeting is the Friday night auction, a chance to get some new hostas, different plants and other garden items at crazy prices. We gladly accept donations of plants and garden items from Dixie members so we can auction them back to ourselves. Remember, only garden-related items. Just bring them with you to when you come to the meeting.

We will have wonderful speakers, great educational programs and other special events. We are so confident that we are planning for 200 attendees. Come and enjoy a memorable moment in Memphis, **"Rocking in the Garden and Rolling on the River."**

American Hosta Society Region 3



Dixie Regional Hosta Society
Mike Chambers, Director
3596 Gailyn Drive
Memphis, TN 38135

Hosta of the Year-2005



Striptease

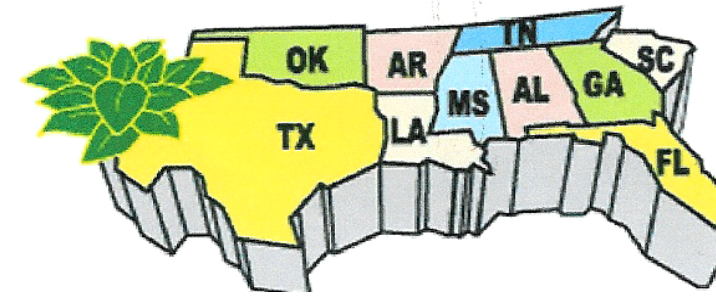
Each year the American Hosta Growers Association designates a "Hosta of the Year."

The criteria for selection are that the hosta is a good garden plant in all regions of the country, that it is widely available in sufficient supply and that it retails for about \$15 during its reign as "Hosta of the Year."

The 2005 Hosta of the Year is **'Striptease'**.

Past winners include: 2004-'Sum and Substance', 2003-'Regal Splendor', 2002-'Guacamole', 2001-'June', 2000-'Sagae', 1999-'Paul's Glory', 1998-'Fragrant Bouquet', 1997-'Patriot', 1996-'So Sweet'

American Hosta Society Region 3



DIXIE DOIN'S

DRHS-Dixie Regional Hosta Society Newsletter

January 2005

INCOMING DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Dixie Regional Hosta Society. Many of you might not even realize that you are a member of the Dixie society. If you are a member of the American Hosta Society (AHS) and live in one of the 10 states in the Dixie region or if you belong to one of our local hosta societies, you are automatically one of approximately 920 DRHS members.

I am Mike Chambers, the new Director of Region 3. I want to express my sincere thanks to Claudia Walker for her continued assistance in helping me during my transition into the position. Please see Claudia's message as the outgoing Director after four great years. It has been sometime since the DRHS published a region wide newsletter, but we plan to provide you increased communications this year.

The DRHS has region wide membership meetings, normally once a year, as scheduling permits. Recent meetings were held in Atlanta, Memphis, Nashville and last May in Clemson, SC. You will read in this newsletter about the next meeting scheduled for September 23-24, 2005, in Memphis.

Your Board of Directors consists of a Director, Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor, who currently live in the Memphis area during my term as Director. Additionally, we have a representation from each area of the region with a local society. Several prominent nationally recognized hosta and gardening experts, as well as our own past Dixie Directors, have agreed to serve as Advisors to the Board. And finally, each local society president is considered a member of

the board and welcome at the annual board meeting. As you can see, by our geographical challenge, most of the board's administrative actions and communications take place via e-mail and we normally only see each other at the annual meeting and sometimes at the AHS annual convention.

OUR 2005 GOALS

The Board of Directors has established some goals for 2005 to provide communication and assistance to the region and to encourage growth and new ideas to the local societies. They include:

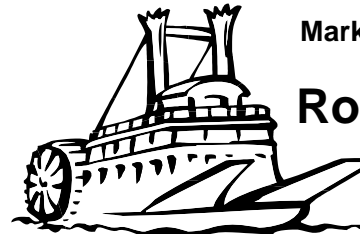
1. Establish a new Board of Directors by January 1, 2005.
2. Conduct an entertaining and educational regional meeting for 200 attendees.
3. Have a Website for every local society linked to the Dixie Website.
4. Publish a Dixie newsletter in January, May and October 2005.
5. Update the DRHS Bylaws.
6. Assist members in Little Rock to re-establish the Arkansas Society.
7. Build a database and mailing list of all Dixie members.

If I can be of any help to any of you, please contact me at 3596 Gailyn Drive, Memphis, TN 38135, (901) 434-9562 or e-mail: mschambers@fedex.com.

I'm looking forward to working with each and every one of you in promoting America's favorite perennial.

- Mike Chambers

Please expedite
Time Sensitive Material Enclosed



Mark your calendars for September 23-24, 2005 for the Dixie Regional Meeting in Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for
Rocking in the Garden and Rolling on the River

From Past Director Claudia Walker To All in Region 3-

My thanks to all of you for your support during these past four years. And thanks to all of the Regional Board members for their advice and support: Harold McDonell, Judy Burns, Toni Wright, Nancy Hall, Emily Lee, Bud Martin, Lillian Grovenstein, Maisie Partridge, George Schmid, Chuck Zdeb from the Georgia Hosta Society; Cornelia Holland and Delona Shockey, Middle Tennessee Hosta Society; Mary Chastain, Chattanooga Regional Hosta Society; Olive B. Langdon, Alabama Hosta Society; Ruth Pardue, East Tennessee Hosta Society; Betty Cruickshank, Greater Carolina Hosta Society, and Larry Tucker and Mike Chambers, Mid-South Hosta Society.

Thanks for allowing my one true dream to come true, hosting a regional Hosta Show. We not only did one, we did TWO! Many thanks to the Middle Tennessee Hosta Society (Nashville, TN, area) and the Greater Carolina Hosta Society (Clemson, SC, area) for their willingness to host the shows.

Special thanks to all the local societies who so graciously hosted Hugh and me as we visited you during the past four years: East Tennessee Hosta Society, Greater Carolina Hosta Society, Alabama Hosta Society, Middle Tennessee Hosta Society and Chattanooga Regional Hosta Society.

Congratulations to Chuck and Betty Cruickshank for their wonderful garden, the Charles and Betty Cruickshank Hosta Collection at the South Carolina State Botanical Garden, for being the first garden in the Southeast to be an official AHS Display Garden.

And thanks to my husband, Hugh, for all his support and "taxiing" me all over Region 3 these past four years. As Bob Hope use to say, "Thanks for the memories." I thoroughly enjoyed it, and I thank you for your confidence to allow me the opportunity to be your Regional Director. I know that you will give Mike Chambers and his board the same support that you gave me. I look forward to seeing each of you at the regional meeting in Memphis, TN, in the fall.

With fond memories,

Claudia Walker
Past Regional Director

TREASURER'S REPORT

Through the fund-raising efforts, auctions and vendor sale profits from previous meetings, the Dixie Region has a solid opening balance for 2005 of \$11,844. We promise to use it wisely to further our goals.

Ideas for your Local Society

Local hosta societies strive to provide their members with garden education, fellowship and other services to share our love of gardening. Here are some ideas that some societies have used to grow membership, provide benefits to their members, raise funds and support the community. See if any of these will work for your club and let us hear about your good ideas.

1. Seek membership discounts from local nurseries.
2. Sell ads to the local nurseries if you have a newsletter.
3. Conduct annual hosta sales for members and the local public. Great fund-raiser.
4. Participate in local garden shows by having an information booth and perhaps sell plants.
5. Buy garden products in bulk and resell them to members at real cost savings. Increase the price and offer them to the public for better profits. Try buying fertilizer in bulk and re-bag it. Also buy plant markers, logo shirts and hats, garden containers, etc., for sale to members.
6. Pass along savings to members. Many larger hosta specialty nurseries have annual club special deals where you can buy a quantity of newer varieties at special prices.
7. Develop a local club brochure that provides information on growing hostas and society membership. Place these in all of the local nurseries and botanic gardens where gardeners visit. Hosta lovers will find you.
8. Volunteer to give presentations on hostas or shade gardening to local garden clubs and organizations.
9. Take on a community project to plant hostas at city hall, a fire station, museum or other community facility.



WWW.HOSTA.ORG

The American Hosta Society's Website was recently redesigned. It now provides more information and it is much more user-friendly.

The compact home page features 10 subject "buttons": About the AHS, About Hosta, AHS Activities, What's New, Major Awards, Membership Info, Member Services, Local Societies, Where to Get Hostas and Published References. When pressed, the "buttons" offer links to other topics, such as history, a hosta dictionary, conventions, the hosta popularity poll, how to join AHS, board minutes, vendors and AHS publications.

Among the links are local and regional Websites, including www.dixiehosta.com.

Local Societies in Dixie Regional Hosta Society-Region 3

Alabama Hosta Society

205 Cathy Lane
Birmingham, AL 35215
email: nfchandler@earthlink.net
Meets 3rd Saturday of February, April, August, and October at 11:30 am at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, 2612 Lane Park Rd.
Annual Hosta Sale in May, Tour in June, Christmas Party in December.
Annual dues of \$6.00 single and \$7.50 family
Times may vary with meetings and tours at members gardens.

East Tennessee Hosta Society

404 Chestnut Street
Sweetwater, TN 37874
(423) 337-6007
e-mail johnsonelin@aol.com
Meets monthly April to September with garden visits, workshops, etc.
Business meetings September, November, January and March.
Annual plant sale at the entrance to the UT Gardens on the Saturday before Mother's Day.
See our website for meeting dates:
www.kornnet.org/etnhosta/
Membership \$12 for individuals, \$18 family

Georgia Hosta Society

Ann Bentsen, Membership Chair
P.O. Box 420768
Atlanta, GA 30342
Meetings: 2:00 pm, on Jan 29, Mar 26, Sep 10 and Nov 12.
Hosta Leaf Show and Plant Sale, 9 am to 4 pm, May 14.
Meetings & Leaf Show held at the Atlanta Home Builders Association, 484 Brockett Rd. Tucker, GA 30084
Membership: \$15 individual, \$25 family
Website: www.gahosta.org

Greater Carolina Hosta Society (South Carolina)

Jack DeVroomen....President
208 W Main St
Ninety Six, SC 29666
(864) 543-4008
email: tulipking@hotmail.com
Meetings: March 6, SC Botanic Garden, May 15, garden tour, June 18 & 19. Multiple events, September 11, picnic, Dec 4, TBD. all meetings at 2 pm.
Membership: \$10 individual \$20 commercial.

Hosta Connection

Betsy Mahtani
Route 1 Box 213BB
Cleveland, OK 74020
(918) 243-5202
e-mail: b7mathani@flash.net
Meets fourth Tuesday in March, April, June, July, August, September, October and November at 7 pm, Brookside Library, Tulsa, OK.
Annual in-club Hosta Sale in September. Joint garden tour with Oklahoma City Hosta Society.
Membership: \$5 individual, \$8 family

Middle Tennessee Hosta Society

801 Hillsboro Road
Franklin, TN 37064-2013
(615) 794-4153
e-mail: plantaginea@aol.com
Meets fourth Thursday of the month (except June and July) at 6:30 pm at Cheekwood Gardens, Nashville, TN.
Meets fourth Thursday in January at the Green Hills Library in Nashville.
Annual Hosta Sale in May on the Saturday prior to Mother's Day, Garden tours in June and July.
Membership: \$10 annually.

Mid-South Hosta Society

3596 Gailyn Dr
Memphis, TN 38135
(901) 434-9562
e-mail: mschambers@fedex.com
Meets the third Thursday in February, March, April, September and October at 7 pm at Memphis Botanic Garden.
Annual Hosta Sale/Garden Tour in May on the Saturday prior to Mother's Day.
Membership: \$5 individual, \$7.50 family, \$10 commercial.
Website: www.mshosta.com

Oklahoma City Hosta Society

Pam Burnside
2201 Morningstar
Edmond, OK 73034
(405) 340-3820
Meets fourth Thursday in March through October.
Annual in-club Hosta Sale in September. Joint garden tour with Hosta Connection, Tulsa, OK.
Membership: \$5 individual, \$8 family

DIXIE LINK TO YOUR SOCIETY'S WEBSITE - COMING SOON . . .

Dede Musser serves DRHS as the master of our outstanding Website, www.dixiehosta.com. She is always ready to update our information. Did you know that you could go to the merchandise tab and buy many items like shirts, hats, coffee mugs, etc that display our Dixie logo. You can visit a garden on the featured garden tab or read news of the past meeting. Dede has informed us that our Website has the capability to host other Websites. I have asked each local society president by a previous e-mail to

provide the local society logo, plus information on officers, contact numbers, mailing address, membership info and their 2005 schedule. So coming soon will be Web access to every event in every local society. Several locals already have their own Website with a link from the Dixie Website. Our Dixie Website can also be found as a link from the AHS Website and soon so will all of our local societies Websites.