

OUR NEWEST LOCAL SOCIETY - WELCOME

When the Arkansas Hosta Society folded in 2001, many of the members lived in and around Hot Springs, AR. Several dedicated members missed the society and so, on November 4, 2006, they formed the Ouachita Hosta and Shade Plant Society in Hot Springs. After many months of thought and planning, a small group of hosta lovers, headed by Larry Averill, Gene Lichliter, and Yvonne Becker formed the new society. Many of the members are also actively involved in the local Master Gardener's Association.

They have recently published a wonderful society brochure and will be publishing regular newsletters. The Dixie Region will be providing a \$250 start-up grant.

We welcome these 45 new members of the society in becoming the 13th local society in the Dixie Region. We wish them well and stand ready to support their efforts.

HOSTA OF THE YEAR

Most of you know that Hosta 'Paradigm' has been selected by the American Hosta Growers Association as the Hosta of the Year for 2007.

Just to let you know that Hosta 'Blue Mouse Ears' has been proclaimed the 2008 selection.

NEXT EDITION

We plan to publish another edition of Dixie Doin's in the fall of 2007. It will give the success stories of our Birmingham meeting and the site and date of our 2008 meeting. Anyone wanting to share information with the Dixie membership, please send it to Dixie Director Mike Chambers. E-mail: mschambers@fedex.com.



DIXIE DOIN'S

DRHS-Dixie Regional Hosta Society Newsletter

April 2007

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Well spring is almost officially here, but for us Southern folk the temperatures in late February and March already have our hostas up and working hard for moisture. That means we are back in the garden, actively - and tending sore backs!

However we need "**more hostas**" and one of the best places to find the newest and healthiest hostas will be at the Dixie meeting this year. We have nine excellent vendors this year. Most of this edition of the "Dixie Doin's" is dedicated to our meeting in Birmingham. You will find the registration form inserted into this newsletter.

Once again I would just like to thank the North Carolina Hosta Society for the outstanding meeting we had last year in Greensboro. The 70 attendees were well received and well fed. We had a good selection of vendors and a great selection of plants and wonderful speakers.

We are proud to see the Chattanooga Society is alive and doing well. We thought we had lost contact with them for a while. Also we are sad to report that after many years of great service the Greater Carolina Hosta Society in Clemson, SC became inactive at the end of 2006. We hope their interested members will rejoin a hosta society near their home.

-Mike Chambers



SWEET HOSTA ALABAMA

The Dixie Region's 2007 meeting at the Birmingham Botanic Gardens is sponsored by the Alabama Hosta Society. All events are held at the Birmingham Botanic Gardens. A detailed schedule will be in your welcome packet. There is a map on the back of your registration form in this packet. Please be sure to copy the map before mailing in your registration form. This was printed back to back to save money and postage.

Schedule:

Friday June 1

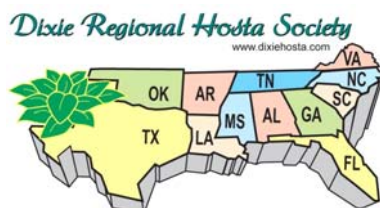
- 1:30 - 6:00 pm Registration/ Photo Check-in
- 2:00 - 4:00 pm Judges Clinic II
- 4:30 - 5:30 pm Dixie Board Meeting
- 6:00 - 7:00 pm Dinner buffet
- 7:00 - 9:00 pm Dixie Auction
(please bring garden items and plants to donate to auction)

Saturday June 2

- 7:00 - 8:00 am Registration/Photo Check-in
- 8:00 - 8:15 am Opening Remarks
- 8:15 - 9:00 am Keynote speaker George Schmid, "Hosta Flowers"
- 9:15 - 12:00 noon Programs 1- 2 - 3
- 12:00 - 1:30 pm Box Lunch and Vendor sales
- 1:30 - 3:00 pm Programs 4 & 5
- 3:00 - 5:00 pm Tour Birmingham Botanical Garden, Vendor sales continue

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

Please expedite
Time Sensitive Material Enclosed

SEE YOU IN BIRMINGHAM, JUNE 1 and 2, 2007!!

IN MEMORY - OLIVE BAILEY LANGDON

Olive Bailey Langdon lost her battle with cancer on the evening of January 24, 2007. She passed peacefully at age 79, with her husband Joe and son Joe Bailey (Joey) by her side, at home in Birmingham, Alabama.

Olive was a graduate of Howard College at Samford University in Birmingham and was one of the first women to graduate from the University of Alabama Law School.

Her first gardening loves were daylilies and irises. She and Joe became life members and show judges of both the American Iris Society and the American Hemerocallis Society.

Olive found her second gardening love, hostas, in the late 1970s. In 1985, Olive became President of the AHS and served meritoriously until 1989. She served and supported the Georgia Hosta Society, Alabama Hosta Society and was a member of the Board of Directors for the Dixie Regional Hosta Society.

We will always remember Olive as an exceptional gardener, enthusiastic contributor, exacting show judge, generous friend and, above all, a most gracious and genteel lady. (excerpts from an article written by W. George Schmid, for the next edition of the Hosta Journal).

SWEET HOSTA ALABAMA— 2007 DIXIE REGIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE (continued from page 1)

Vendors:

The following vendors are scheduled to be there with their latest stock of plants: Bob Solberg, from Greenhill Farms, Richard Jolly from Pine Forest Gardens, Bud Martin from Colonial Farm, Bill Silvers from Silver-Elbert Nursery, Susan Webb from Hurricane Valley Ornamentals, William Cureton with compost, CD's and books, Jan Midgley selling wildflowers and book, Harold Deason with hypertufa troughs, and Steve Watson selling hostas from his Nashville area nursery.

Photo Contest:

The Peoples' Choice Photo Contest will be a great source of fun and you might just win a prize. **Please check in your garden and hosta photos at the registration table when you pick up your packet.** Categories are: Best Garden Photo and Best Hosta with a Child or Pet Photo.

Speakers/Programs: We have a great day of programs with a wide selection of subjects and six wonderful speakers. You will get to hear all the speakers.

“Hosta Flowers” with W. George Schmidt

W. George Schmidt's passion for plants dates to his youth in his native Bavaria, where he studied botany, horticulture, and landscape architecture at the University of Munich. He has devoted his life to growing shade plants, specifically hostas, and is the author of the landmark monograph, *The Genus Hosta*, and *An Encyclopedia of Shade Perennials*. Proficient in six languages, Mr. Schmidt has traveled worldwide to investigate hostas. He is a life member of The American Hosta Society and serves as the AHS historian.

“Composting and Organic Gardening” with William Cureton

William (Captain Compost) and Peggy (Mulch Woman) Cureton began their sustainable gardening career in 1997, and have mastered the art and science of making tons of homemade compost through a special hot composting process. William authors the organic gardening forum FAQ page on GardenWeb.com and moderates the composting forum on DirtDoctor.com.

“Hostas in Pots” with Bob Solberg

Bob is well-known by Dixie hosta lovers. He has a BS degree in biology, graduate work in botany, and established Green Hill Farm at Chapel Hill, NC, in 1981, where he has pioneered hosta development, introducing over 35 hosta varieties. Bob is founder and past president of the Carolina

Hosta Society and co-founder of the American Hosta Growers Association. He has served the American Hosta Society as editor of *The Hosta Journal* and vice president for the genus *Hosta*. Bob will provide a new talk on “Hostas in Pots.”

“Ferns with Hostas and Shade Tolerant Companion Plants” with Daniel D. Jones

Dr. Jones is Professor Emeritus of Biology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Chairman and Graduate Program Director of the Biology Department, teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in botany. In his home garden, many native and uncommon exotic perennial and woody plants are blended into the landscape. Ferns are his particular interest – over 150 different ferns may be found growing in his yard. As a member of the Birmingham Fern Society and liaison to the Hardy Fern Foundation, he helps maintain the diverse collection of ferns in the Fern Glade at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens and evaluates the garden-worthiness of uncommon and new introductions for the Birmingham climate.

“Landscaping with Ferns, Hosta and Wildflowers” with Susan Webb

Susan Webb is celebrating her 30th year designing and estimating landscapes as a partner with Tally Landscaping Service in Huntsville, Alabama. She has taught landscape design short courses at UAH and gives “Noontime Chats” on shade garden plants to Huntsville Botanical Garden visitors. Since 2000 she has polished her green thumb as a partner in Hurricane Valley Ornamentals, a perennial plant nursery featuring ferns, hosta and shade garden plants. She is 2007 Vice-President for Programs of the Hosta Society of North Alabama.

“Propagating Native Plants” with Jan Midgley

Jan Midgley is the owner of Wildflower, a nursery devoted to growing Southeastern native plants. She is the author of *Nursery Sources of Native Plants, Southeastern Wildflowers* (out of print but available in 7 states versions, ex. *All About Alabama Wildflowers*, from Books-a-Million) and *Native Plant Propagation*, available from the author.

Using pictures of plants in bloom and in fruit and of the ripe seeds, Jan will show how to collect, clean, store and sow seeds of native plants. The talk demonstrates the difference between a “wet” and a “dry” seed and how to handle them differently. Growing plants from seeds promotes genetic diversity and produces healthy plants that can adapt to our ever changing environment.

AHS CONVENTION IN INDIANAPOLIS

The “Greatest Spectacle in Hosta” is the theme of this year's AHS National Convention which will be held in Indianapolis IN on June 20-23.

The convention is filled with three days (Thursday, Friday, Saturday, with optional events on Wednesday) of garden tours, visits to retail nurseries, lots of hosta vendors, guest speakers, and wonderful food at two nightly banquets and a garden buffet. Hundreds of hosta leaves will be on display at the “Hosta Show”. For details go to the AHS website (www.hosta.org) or contact your local president. The 2008 convention will be closer to home for many of us in St Louis, MO.

AHS NATIONAL DISPLAY GARDEN - “CONGRATULATIONS, MEMPHIS”

After almost eight years of hard work, toil, expense and dedication, the Hosta Trail at the Memphis Botanic Garden was certified in October 2006 by the AHS Board of Directors as the 15th AHS National Display Garden in the United States.

The Hosta Trail holds 180 varieties of hostas and many other shade perennials. The theme for the garden is “Hosta from around the Globe”. There are five major beds each dedicated to the region where the individual hosta variety originated. Beds are marked north, south, east, west and an international/species bed. Each hosta variety is botanically labeled with engraved markers. A stone path runs through out the “Trail” linking the beds. There is also a raised stone mini bed with some 25 miniature varieties.

The dedication ceremony will take place on April 28 with Tom Micheletti, VP of the AHS, as the special speaker.

Congratulations to the Mid-South Hosta Society members for all their hard work.

DIXIE REGION 3 MEMBERSHIP AND LOCAL SOCIETIES

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a member of the American Hosta Society (AHS) and live in one of the 12 states in the Dixie region or you belong to one of our 13 local hosta societies. Our local societies include:

Alabama Hosta Society

Norma Chandler
205 Cathy Lane
Birmingham, AL 35215
(205) 854-1180
E-mail: nfchandler@earthlink.net

Hosta Society of North Alabama

Dan Watt
3109 Village Creek Road, SE
Decatur, AL 35603
(256) 355-4617
E-mail: dbwatt@charter.net

Middle Tennessee Hosta Society

Carl Herbison
4495 Highway 70 West
Dixon, TN 37055
(615) 441-5274
E-mail: ceaderhaven@aol.com

Charlotte Hosta Society

Willie Royal
215 Anthony Circle
Charlotte, NC 28211
(704) 366-7081
E-mail: Royal2227@aol.com

Mid-South Hosta Society

June Davidson
300 Ben Avon Way
Memphis, TN 38111
(901) 452-2281
Website: www.mshosta.com

Chattanooga Hosta Society

Steve Attwood
6406 Fox Den Lane
Hixson, TN 37343
E-mail: atwood6406@comcast.net
Website: <http://chattanoogahosta.org>

North Carolina Hosta Society

Willa Sackfield
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Reidsville, NC 27320
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East Tennessee Hosta Society

Howard Luttrell
120 Shaw Ferry Lane
Lenoir City, TN 37770
(865) 988-3762
Website: www.kornnet.org/etnhosta

Oklahoma City Hosta Society

Jackie Welch
11229 Wolf Creek Road
Guthrie, OK 73044
(405) 293-9000
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Georgia Hosta Society

Claudia Walker
10525 Timberstone Road
Alpharetta, GA 30022
(770) 442-3257
Website: www.gahosta.org

Ouachita Hosta and Shade Plant Society

Larry Averill
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Hosta Connection

Julie Almohandis
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Potomac Hosta Club

Sandie Markland
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Website: See Link from www.hosta.org



TREASURER'S REPORT

As of the latest bank statement DRHS account balance stands at \$8,174.56. We provided the new Ouachita Hosta and Shade Plant Society a grant of \$250 start up money. We also advanced the Alabama Hosta Society \$1000 for the upcoming meeting, which will be repaid following the meeting.