

# Dixie Doin's

The Georgia Hosta Society welcomes Dixie back to the Atlanta Area after a several year hiatus!



Successfully growing hostas in the south can result from looking at their heritage. The offspring of some species have the characteristics that lend themselves to thriving in our heat and humidity.

Join us in Marietta, Georgia

on June 5th and 6th to learn more.

## All in the Species: Making Hosta Genealogy Work for You!

In Nashville at last year's meeting, **Cynthia Wilhoite, AHS VP for the Genus Hosta**, gave an excellent program on species. Her talk was so interesting that we decided then and there that the 2009 meeting should take the discussion of species to the next level.

Our Saturday afternoon seminars start with **American Hosta Society President, Tom Micheletti**, giving us **An Introduction to Species**. Tom has been interested in hostas for about twenty years, and has organized the Midwest Regional's Winter Scientific meetings for the past sixteen years. Tom runs *The Hosta Patch*, a mail-order hosta nursery and is also active in the American Hosta Grower's Association.

Next up will be a discussion of **Hosta montana: A Southern Gardener's Observations with Larry Tucker**, a hosta collector for over twenty years. He was founding President of the Mid-South Hosta Society in Memphis, and was formerly VP for Publications for AHS.

**Mark Zilis** will wrap up our afternoon with **Hosta longipes**, the progenitor of some of our finest red petioled hostas. Mark is the author of the *Hosta Handbook* and the much anticipated *The Hostapedia*, (see page 3). He owns and operates Q & Z Nursery in Rochelle, IL, and was the recipient of the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award in 2001. Some of Mark's introductions include Hosta 'Cookie Crumbs,' 'Victory,' and 'Sum of All.' Our team of hosta experts is unsurpassed!

This stellar lineup of hosta experts will make for a delightfully informative and enlightening afternoon. But the weekend includes many more activities that will complement our discussions and offer a variety of opportunities for fun, fellowship and learning about hostas.

Friday afternoon starts with registration and the Dixie Board Meeting and Judges Clinic II. The Dixie Hosta Photo Contest will be accepting entries on Friday afternoon. If you are artistically inclined, you might want to enter our design competition. Details of these events may be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Information on all activities will be on our website, [www.dixiehosta.net](http://www.dixiehosta.net) in the next few weeks. (All information will be posted no later than May 15th.)

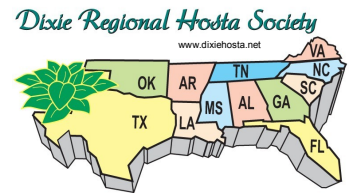
Friday evening's meal will be heavy hors d'oeuvres, with a cash bar available. While we graze, our guest speakers will be fielding hosta questions from the audience. *Ask the Experts* is always a favorite part of our gathering. Next will be our rollicking Dixie Auction. Our vendors and attendees always bring us some wonderful hostas, companion plants and other interesting plants. We also usually have

(Continued on page 5)



# Our 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 14 local hosta societies.



## **Alabama Hosta Society**

Judy Feltman  
471 Lake Providence Lane  
Leeds, AL30594  
205-699-9826  
E-mail: judyfeltman@alltel.net

## **Charlotte Hosta Society**

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

## **Chattanooga Hosta Society**

Dennis Schafluetzel  
1900 Red Fox Lane  
Hixson, TN 37343  
(423) 842-5527  
E-mail: dennis@schafluetzel.org  
Website: <http://chattanoogahosta.org>

## **Dallas-Fort Worth Hosta Society**

Sylvia Butler  
214-350-3034  
P.O. BOX 190452  
DALLAS TEXAS 75219-0452  
<http://www.sissinghurst-hostas.com>

## **East Tennessee Hosta Society**

Bob Goeltz  
909 Cherry Laurel Lane  
Knoxville, TN 37919  
865-691-7791  
Plantstoday@comcast.net  
Website: [www.kornet.org/ethnosta](http://www.kornet.org/ethnosta)

## **Georgia Hosta Society**

Julia Lyons  
2732 Highway 9 South  
Dawsonville, GA 30534  
706-265-3328  
lyonsfar@windstream.net  
Website: [www.gahosta.org](http://www.gahosta.org)

## **Hosta Connection**

Julie Almhandis  
5670 S. 88th Ave  
Tulsa, OK 74145-7907  
918-955-7082  
julzamethist@aol.com

## **Hosta Society of North Alabama**

Dan Watt  
3105 Village Creek, 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: ceaderhavench@aol.com

## **Mid-South Hosta Society**

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

## **Dallas-Fort Worth Hosta Society**

Sylvia Butler  
214-350-3034  
P.O. BOX 190452  
DALLAS TEXAS 75219-0452  
<http://www.sissinghurst-hostas.com>

## **North Carolina Hosta Society**

Simpson Eason  
2804 Butner Street  
Durham, NC. 27704  
919-220-6525  
christineeason@juno.com

## **Oklahoma City Hosta Society**

Jackie Welch  
11229 Wolf Creek Road  
Guthrie, OK 73044  
(405) 293-9000  
E-mail: welchskoi@yahoo.com

## **Ouachita Hosta and Shade Plant Society**

Gene Lichliter  
27 Guindola Place  
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909  
E-mail: genelich@suddenlink.net

## **Potomac Hosta Club**

Sandie Markland  
8702 Pinnacle Rock Ct  
Lorton, VA. 22079  
(703) 690-3021  
E-mail: AHSMembershipSecretary@earthlink.net  
Website: See Link from [www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org)



## ***DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE***

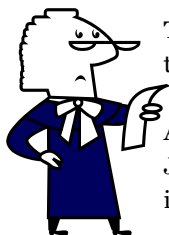
Wow, the time has flown past! We've been frantically planning for the next Dixie Regional meeting here in the Atlanta area on June. 5th and 6th. The hotel renovations have been completed and the gardens are being prepared for spring at Smith-Gilbert Gardens, and our garden tours. We have lots of fun things planned, so you don't want to miss the return of the DRHS to Georgia.

Included in this issue you will find the registration form and lots of information regarding the meeting. Also, you can obtain the information from our website, We'll have information about other activities in the area for you to enjoy while you're here, too. I'll keep this brief, since there's so much to read.

See you in June,

Judy Burns  
Dixie Regional Director

## Judging Matters



The American Hosta Society encourages members to become AHS Judges. The requirements are that you must be a member of AHS for at least three years, and you must take all three judges clinics, and participate in several hosta shows along the way. The complete requirements can be found on the AHS website: [www.americanhostasociety.org/Judging.html](http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Judging.html). You may download the official AHS Judges Handbook or purchase a copy for \$10 at one of our upcoming clinics. You may take the clinics in any order, but you must pass all three. Judging is fun and is a terrific way to learn about hostas.

### Judges Clinic I

The Middle Tennessee Hosta Society will sponsor an AHS Judges Clinic I on Saturday, May 23, 2009 from 1 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. at the **Arté Hotel** (formerly Brentwood Holiday Inn), 760 Old Hickory Blvd, Brentwood, TN, phone: 615-373-2600.

Registration is required. Contact Delona Shockey, 931-326-5385 or email: [lilhen@bellsouth.net](mailto:lilhen@bellsouth.net).

### Judges Clinic II

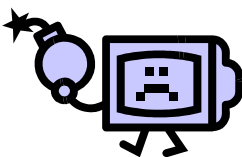
will be held at the Dixie Regional Hosta meeting in Marietta, GA on Friday afternoon, June 5, 2009. There is no charge for the clinic, but you must bring along your copy of the AHS Judges Handbook, or purchase one for \$10. at the clinic Please indicate on the registration form that you would like to take the clinic and whether you would like to purchase a handbook.

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**Judges Clinic III** will be held at the AHS Convention in Lansing, MI, June 24-27, 2009.

If you need to earn judging credit, the Georgia Hosta Society will be holding their 20th Annual Hosta Show on Saturday, May 17, 2009 in Tucker, GA. For details, visit: [www.gahosta.org](http://www.gahosta.org).

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**Judges take Note:** If you have submitted your judging paperwork to the AHS Records Chair, Kent Terpening during the past year or so, please check with Kent to be certain your paperwork is in order for the upcoming judging season. Kent suffered a “catastrophic computer failure” and is in the process of rebuilding the database. Contact: Kent Terpening, Judges’ Records and Training, 5087 Jennifer Drive, North Syracuse, NY 13212.

**Email is the preferred method of contact:** [kt1140@gmail.com](mailto:kt1140@gmail.com)

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## Book Corner



### The Hostapedia is on it’s way!

**Mark Zilis’** long-awaited tome is currently at the bindery, and is expected to start shipping out in early April. Mark will be selling his books at the DRHS meeting in June. If you can’t make it to Atlanta, you can still order a copy from: Q&Z Nursery, 11409 East Flagg Road, Rochelle, IL 61068, 1-800-528-2909. The cost is \$79.95 plus \$12 shipping.

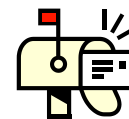
### Made in the Shade

**Larry Tucker**, irrepressible hosta collector and raconteur has assembled 10 years of musings from his column of the same name in the Mid-South Hosta *Hosta Hotline* into a soon-to-be published work called **Made in the Shade: Confessions of a Hostaholic**. All the revenue from the book will fund an endowment to preserve and maintain the Hosta Trail at the Memphis Botanic Gardens, an American Hosta Society Display Garden that Larry helped to create.

Larry will be one of our featured speakers at the DRHS meeting in June, but he will also be selling his books, which he will cheerfully autograph for you. Books at the meeting can be purchased for \$10 per copy, or if you can’t wait to get your hands on a copy, or can’t make it to the meeting, they can be ordered for \$15 per copy from: Larry Tucker, 2927 Geoffrey Drive, Southaven, MS 38672. Make checks payable to Mid- South Hosta Society.

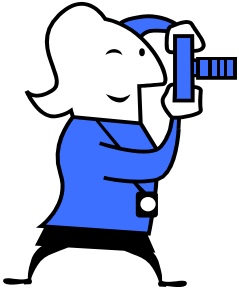
## Dixie Doin’s April 2009

## Can you help us save money?



*DRHS sends at least two mailings per year to our mailing list. The costs associated with this are a big portion of our budget.*

*If you would like to receive only **EMAIL** Communications from DRHS, we will be happy to add your name to our email list. Send an email to: [dixiehosta@bellsouth.net](mailto:dixiehosta@bellsouth.net). Be sure to include your full name and address and local affiliation, so we can remove all your information from the mailing list. You may also indicate your preference on the Registration Form for the DRHS meeting in June. Help us save trees and postage, too! We currently have almost 1100 names on our mailing list. Over 750 of you have an email address listed on our database. Yet only 120 of you responded that you are interested in receiving the Dixie Doin’s by email. Help us out by getting your Dixie Doin’s by email!*



# Dixie Hosta Photography Competition

*New rules this year.*

*Only photographs of **hostas** will be allowed.  
(No children or pets, please!)*



## Eligibility

- Open to all members of the Dixie Region of AHS who are attending the June meeting.
- Subject of photographs should be Hostas.
- One entry per attendee in each category (maximum of three).
  - Category 1:** Single leaf against solid background
  - Category 2:** Large mature plant,
  - Category 3:** Hostas in a Garden.
- Entries must be original and entirely the work of the artist.
- All forms of print manipulation are acceptable.

## How to Enter

- Each participant may enter three photographs, **size 8" x 10"** (nothing smaller).
- On the back of the photograph write the name of the photographer, and the title of the photograph.
- Complete the entry form (provided in welcome packet or downloaded from website) There is no charge to enter. Entries will be logged in, and an identifying number placed on the top right corner of each photograph.
- Entries will be accepted at the Dixie Region Meeting from check-in at 4 pm on Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.
- All entries will be displayed in the Photo Contest Room/Area (TBA) on Saturday, from 11 am.
- Judging will be by members viewing the show and using the identifying number on the front of the photo to vote. Vote for only three photos, using paper slips provided. Number of votes denotes placement.
- First, second and third place winners will be announced at Saturday evening's banquet. Voting closes at 5 pm.
- Entries can be removed after the banquet, or before 10 am on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. Any photographs not claimed will be destroyed.

Entry forms may be downloaded from [www.dixiehosta.net](http://www.dixiehosta.net), or will be mailed if you express your intent to enter on the registration form. You may mail your photographs early, but you must be registered to win. Mailing address will be on the entry form. Please do not mail photos with your registration.

Contact Maisie Partridge, [mrpartridge@yahoo.com](mailto:mrpartridge@yahoo.com)



## \*\*\* Calling All Designers! \*\*\*

Up to five competitors will create large scale table designs.

Since space is limited, the first five designers to register will compete.

Please indicate your intention to enter on page 2 of the Registration Form.

Attendees will vote on their favorite arrangements and prizes will be awarded,

based on written ballot, (one per person, please.) Rules will be mailed to competitors.

For additional information, contact: Willie Mae McDaniel, 404-289-9764, [wmcd3567@aol.com](mailto:wmcd3567@aol.com).

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**American Hosta Society Comes to Dixie in 2012**  
**The Middle Tennessee Hosta Society will host the**  
**AHS Convention in Nashville, TN**



# All in the Species: Making Hosta Genealogy

## Work for You!

Continued from page 1



quite nice assortment of garden art from some of our very talented artists here in Dixie. The bidding often gets lively but it's always friendly. The proceeds from the auction help defray the expenses of the DRHS.

At 9 am on Saturday morning, our **vendor sales** area will be open to both attendees and to the public. We have quite an eclectic lineup of vendors this year, offering hostas, companion plants, shrubs, ferns, garden art, tools and related merchandise. (See list below.) There will be time after the tour to Smith-Gilbert for you to shop. The sales area will be open from 9 am to 4 pm.

There will be two runs of shuttle buses to take registered attendees on a short drive up to Kennesaw to the Smith-Gilbert Gardens. Please indicate your preference for early or late run on the registration form. SGG, a Smithsonian affiliate, is home to a very impressive collection of statuary by nationally-known artists. Docents will lead tours of the gardens, which include a tea house, a conifer collection, bonsai collection and of course, hostas. We will return to the hotel in time for lunch in the dining room (included in registration), and maybe a little more time at our sales area, followed by a short business meeting and then our afternoon Seminars, which will start at 1 pm. There will be time for a short rest before we gather for our banquet. **Kevin Walek**, the International Registrar for the Genus Hosta, will explain ***The Registration Process: Why Register? and New Hostas to Look for***. Kevin is a past president of AHS, former editor of *The Hosta Journal*, and the winner of the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award in 2005. What a great way to wrap up a day of hosta fun!

On Sunday morning, we will have drive-yourself garden tours of some of the prettiest gardens in Cobb County.

Maps and directions will be included in your welcome packet. There's a lot of wonderful attractions nearby that are educational and fun, as well. Highlights are below, and there will be more information on these will be on the website, and in your welcome packet.

We hope that you will join us for this in-depth look at species. Learning how to grow better hostas here in the south is

All in the Species!

### Marietta Area Attractions

The Cobb County area is rich in cultural and historical interest. Below are just a few things of interest:

#### Hilton Marietta Conference Center

Hotel, Tavern, 18 hole golf course and  
Historic Brumby Hall and Gardens on the hotel property

#### Historic Marietta Square

Shopping, Museums, Restaurants  
(Hotel runs shuttle bus to Square)

#### Kennesaw

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield  
Trails of Kennesaw Mountain  
Southern Museum of Civil War  
and Locomotive History

#### Cobb County

Six Flags over Georgia  
Six Flags Whitewater and American Adventure

#### Atlanta

Georgia Aquarium  
World of Coca Cola  
Turner Field Home of the Braves  
Zoo Atlanta

**Vendor Sales at Dixie**  
500 Powder Springs Road  
Marietta, GA 30064  
Open to the Public  
9 am to 4 pm

Bloomin' Designs Nursery

Colonial Farms Nursery

Creative Creations

Fern Ridge Farms

Green Hill Hostas

Lee Greenberg Ferns

Pine Forest Gardens

McMahan's Nursery

Ornamental Specialties

Silvers-Elbert Nursery

The Garden Enthusiast

## *About the Smith-Gilbert Gardens*

On Saturday morning, June 6th, we will board shuttle buses in front of the hotel for a short drive to Kennew, Georgia to visit the Smith-Gilbert Gardens. The Gardens total 25 acres, 16 of which remain in the natural state. That leaves about 7 acres that are devoted to plantings, with over 3,000 varieties of plants, trees and shrubs.

The botanical diversity is great, but there's so much more to be seen. SGG boasts a very impressive collection of about 30 pieces of contemporary sculpture, donated by the gardens' founder, Dr. Robert Gilbert.

You may stroll the gardens on your own, or docents will be available for guided tours.

Please indicate your preference for 1st or 2nd bus runs on the registration form.

Wear your comfortable shoes!

Note the gardens will be open on Friday from 10 am to 4 pm, if you wish to go on your own. Mention that you are with Dixie Regional Hosta Society and the \$4 entry fee will be waived.

The Rock Garden in Smith-Gilbert Gardens with the Tea House in the background.



### Hostas in the Mountains Part Two

The North Carolina Hosta Society is announcing its second annual **"Hostas in the Mountains"** to be held at Rux Gardens in beautiful Waynesville, North Carolina. The nursery is open for the event on Saturday, July 11, 2009, from 9-5. There will be free hotdogs, chips, cookies and drinks from 10-4. Bob Solberg will speak on "Landscapes of Hostas" at 11:00 am, 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm. Flo Chaffin will speak at 2:00 pm about conifers. Like last year there will be plenty of hostas, conifers and other fun garden plants available for purchase.

Please contact Trish Rux at 828-456-4621 or [ruxgardens@gmail.com](mailto:ruxgardens@gmail.com) to reserve your spot at the lectures you would like to attend. She can also give you information about hotels in the area if you want to make a whole weekend out of it. Remember, the lectures and food are free and don't forget to visit other fine gardens and attractions the area has to offer.

For more information call Trish Rux at 828-456-4621 or Bob Solberg at 919-309-0649. Hope to see you there!!