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# DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2

JUNE/JULY 2010

WWW.DAHLIASOCIETYOFGEORGIA.ORG

## NATIONAL SHOW TIME JUST 3 MONTHS AWAY

The 2010 National Dahlia Show, to be held in Chattanooga September 23-26, is just a little more than three months from reality. This is a wonderful opportunity for all dahlia lovers to come to Chattanooga to see dahlias at their finest as exhibitors from many parts of the country will bring their best blooms for the competition and displays. If you have never attended a National

Dahlia Show you won't want to miss this opportunity to see all types of dahlia displays and the many different forms, colors, and sizes of dahlias. The fun begins on Thursday evening with a reception for everyone attending with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Friday the tours of dahlia gardens begin and last the entire day with lunch along the way. Also, staging begins in the afternoon. Saturday morning is the judging

and the show open to the public in the early afternoon. Saturday afternoon will also have seminars available to all growers. Saturday night will be a riverboat awards banquet on the Tennessee River at sunset and should be lots of fun for everyone in attendance. Come to Chattanooga in September. Go to our website to register.

### 2010 CALENDAR

JUNE 21

REGULAR MEETING

ABG

JULY 24

ANNUAL PICNIC

HOME OF DAN &  
PAULA PINHOLSTER

CARTERSVILLE, GA

AUGUST 19

REGULAR MEETING

ABG

SEPTEMBER 23-26

NATIONAL DAHLIA  
SHOW

CHATTANOOGA, TN

OCTOBER 15-16

NATIONAL FAIR  
DAHLIA SHOW

PERRY, GA

OCTOBER 18

MINI DAHLIA SHOW

ABG



THE SHOW TABLES IN EVERETT, WA IN AUGUST 2009 AT THE NATIONAL DAHLIA SHOW.

**JUNE MEETING JUNE 21, 7:30 PM**

**ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN CLASSROOM**

**SUMMER CARE WILL BE ONE OF THE TOPICS**

## NEW MEMBERS

**WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING  
NEW MEMBERS TO THE DAHLIA  
SOCIETY OF GEORGIA. WE ARE SO  
GLAD YOU HAVE JOINED.**

**BRENDA BUSBY  
CHAMBLEE, GEORGIA**

**MELLY & STONE ERMENTROUT  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

**ASTA & PAUL MOORE  
ALPHARETTA, GEORGIA**

## 2010 DAHLIA SOCIETY PICNIC

Summer is here and so is the heat as we are finding out with temps in the 90's already, so get ready to come to our annual picnic on Saturday, July 24 at the home of Dan & Paula Pinholster. Dan & Paula live in Cartersville, GA and have a beautiful garden in their backyard where they grow all of those prize winning dahlias and many other plants from blueberries to tomatoes. They will have lots of dahlias in bloom for everyone to see, also. You will really

enjoy seeing their garden especially if you have never been to their home before. Of course the food and fellowship at the picnic is always wonderful so members and non-members bring a veggie, salad or dessert and come to Cartersville on July 24th. The time is from 2-5 PM. A map will be published with the July membership email.



**Alloway Candy ST-P and Camano Pet ST-LB P/O at the National Show in Longwood Gardens, PA**



**THE FOOD LINE AT THE 2009 ANNUAL PICNIC**



**Kindred Spirit, BB-C-Y This plant has beautiful dark foliage that really shows the blooms off with the dark background.**

**THE QUALITY OF YOUR POT: (The following article was taken by permission from the DS of California June 2009 newsletter)**

Kevin Larken, co-owner of famed Corralitos Gardens, vice president of the American Dahlia Association and chair of the ADS Research Committee, walked us through a couple of the experiments that Pennsylvania State University is conducting on how potting medium and container size affect growing dahlias. Swan Island donated hundreds of tubers of Gitts Perfection. One hundred fifty tubers were planted in 3"



pots and 150 in 5" pots. Likewise, 150 were planted in coarse soil mix, 150 in medium texture, and 150 in fine planting soil for a total of 6 sets of 150 Gitts Perfections. 90% of the tubers sprouting in the first week sprouted in the fine soil; none germinated during the first week in the coarse mix. Kevin posits that perhaps the fine dirt allows more contact with the surface area of the tuber thereby stimulating it to germinate sooner. Over all, 20% of all tubers rotted within the 40 day purview of the experiment. Half of all tubers which rotted, did so in the fine soil containers. Tubers initially grew more quickly in 3" pots rather than 5" pots. Tubers were more successful in shorter fatter containers than taller pots of equal volume. Kevin explained the saturation zone is the area in the container that stays wet longest. In a shorter

Squatter plant, the saturation zone is shallower than the saturation zone of a taller narrower container. Since finer soil holds more moisture, the riskiest combination for rotting a tuber would be a tall skinny pot with super fine soil. Kevin concluded from this experiment that indeed, fine soil containing lots of peat moss and sand, germinates quickly but has a potential for later holding too much water content resulting in potential rot. So one should start one's tubers in small shallow pots with fine soil, but when the root mass has filled this space, gently transplant the entire mass either directly into the ground or into larger, squat pots with coarser potting mix. The old shibboleth that only singles and certain open centered dahlias do well in pots has been shattered. Containers placed on dirt grow better than those placed on concrete because the roots will continue out of the pot. Kevin spelled out the pot rule: the size of the pot should be at least 1/3 the height of the plant. So a 60" bush requires a 20" tall container. Anyone who would like to donate to further dahlia research should contact Mac Boyer. ADS has a 501C-3 tax status.

## **FREE DAHLIAS**

### **AT THE JUNE MEETING**

Growers will be bringing extra plants and tubers to the June meeting for anyone who would like to have them for free. If you want more dahlias in your garden this is a great time to get some heat tolerant dahlias and it is still not too late to plant them. Brian Killingsworth planted a tuber called Creve Coeur AA-SC-R a few years back on the 4th of July and brought a 14" bloom to the Alabama show that won largest and best in show so planting late does work.

## **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY**

The 2010 membership directory should be out by early next month.