



DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA NEWSLETTER

EMBRACE BB-SC-Y
FLOWER OF THE YEAR

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OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

WWW.DAHLIASOCIETYOFGEORGIA.ORG

BEAUTIFUL DAHLIA SHOWS IN 2009

There are still two shows to go this month with the show at Perry on the 15th being one and then the mini-show on the 18th so there is still time to join in and get some blooms to the

show tables. It has been a great show season starting with ADS National Show in Everett, WA, the Carolinas Show, Tennessee Show, Georgia Show, and

the Alabama Show. They were all excellent shows this season with the Tennessee show having over 1,100 blooms. Pictures from the national & Georgia shows are on other pages of the newsletter.



PART OF THE HEAD TABLE AT THE 2009 DS OF GA SHOW. THERE WERE 700 BLOOMS IN THE SHOW WHICH WAS CONSIDERED VERY GOOD CONSIDERING THE HARD RAIN IN THE ATLANTA AREA BEFORE THE SHOW. ONE GROWER HAD 23" OF RAIN.

2009 CALENDAR OCT/NOV/DEC

NAT'L FAIR
DAHLIA SHOW

OCTOBER 16
PERRY, GA

MINI-SHOW
OCTOBER 19
ABG

NOVEMBER
MEETING
NOVEMBER 16
ABG

ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS
PARTY
TBA

OCTOBER MEETING

7:30 PM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19 ATL BOTANICAL GARDEN

PROGRAM: MINI-SHOW THIS SHOW IS DESIGNED FOR THE NEW GROWER, AND NOVICE GROWERS THAT COMPETED IN THE 2009 ANNUAL SHOW. BRING WHAT IS LEFT IN YOUR GARDEN AND ENTER THE SHOW. BLOOMS ONLY WILL BE JUDGED DUE TO OUR RECENT RAINY WEATHER. STAGING HELP WILL BE AVAILABLE. RIBBONS & CASH AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN. PLEASE COME EARLY TO STAGE.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

LARRY DUCK
BLAIRSVILLE, GA

BETTY HANACEK
ATLANTA, GA

BRUCE & CELIA TAMKER
CENTERVILLE, GA

WE ARE SO GLAD YOU HAVE
JOINED THE DS OF GEORGIA

THANK YOU MEMBERS

Dear Dahlia Society members,

Dan and I want to say thank you to all the workers and volunteers who gave of their time and energy to make our dahlia show a complete success. Yes, we had a beautiful show thanks to all of you. We need to single out Regina Kreiner for organizing our food and snacks. It was nice to go by the kitchen at any time and pick up a drink or snack. Thank you, Regina. Also, thank you Pat Mercer for organizing our lunch. Then, Frank McComb took on the job of loading and delivering the vases and carafes. Thank you, Frank.

We are thankful that our show weekend went so smoothly, that we had plenty of volunteers, and that everyone (members, visitors, and the public) enjoyed the showing of our spectacular dahlias.

We are anticipating our mini-show, and we will see you then.

Sincerely,

Paula and Dan Pinholster

2009 ADS NATIONAL SHOW

If you have never been to a National Show in the Puget Sound area of Washington state please promise yourself that you will endeavor to attend the next one as there is nothing more spectacular than visiting a field of 8,000 dahlias all in full bloom and not requiring stakes. Also, promise yourself you will stay long enough to visit Victoria, Canada and the most beautiful garden of all, Butchart Gardens. It is just fabulous and not only the dahlias. See the pictures below and on page six for the rest of the story about the ADS show.



THERE WAS A PIANO IN THE HOTEL LOBBY SO REGINA PLAYED DURING THE RECEPTION. MARGARET BATES, FROM ENGLAND, SANG ALONG WITH A VERY PROFESSIONAL VOICE, BEING ACTIVE IN MUSICAL THRATER.



ONE OF THE TOUR STOPS INCLUDED A FIELD OF 8,000 DAHLIAS AT THE HOME OF MARY HERRANGES IN NORTHERN, WA

PICTURES FROM THE 2009 DS OF GA ANNUAL SHOW



FRANK MCCOMB AND JOHN GEURIN CHECKING OUT SOME OF THE FLOWERS ON THE TABLES OF THE DS OF GA 2009 ANNUAL SHOW



BRIAN KILLINGSWORTH, JEFF PARTIN AND KRISTY PARTIN LOOKING OVER THE SHOW TABLES BEFORE THE JUDGING BEGINS AT THE 2009 DS OF GA ANNUAL SHOW



BOB AND LORI GOEHRING PAUSING FOR A PICTURE WHILE STAGING THEIR FLOWERS FOR THE SHOW.



LEFT TO RIGHT: RAY PHILLIPS, DS OF TENN; ED WHITFIELD, DS OF AL AND GENE BOEKE, DS OF GA JUDGING THE BEST AA/A SIZED DAHLIAS AT THE 2009 DS OF GA SHOW.



DICK ADMUNSON PUTTING WATER IN SOME OF THE BOTTLES FOR THE STAGING OF THE FLOWERS AT THE 2009 DS OF GA SHOW.



FAYE GOLDEN,, BRAIR WALKER, AND ALYCE DOLAN DISCUSSING DAHLIAS AT THE 2009 DS OF GA SHOW.



PURCHASING DAHLIAS FOR 2010

There are a number of ways to purchase dahlias for next year and for new members and those that haven't purchased them commercially before here are a few tips.

Almost all commercial growers can be found at this website: <http://www.dahlias.net/dbiglist.htm>

Some of these growers already have their catalogs available so you can order now and more will be coming on line from now until the middle of January. If you have some you really want to order then **you need to order early or they may not have them available later.**

1. Go to the DS of GA website and check out the listing of heat tolerant dahlias under the DAHLIAS IN THE SOUTH PAGE.
2. See if the ones you want are listed as heat tolerant. If not **don't waste your money** unless it is a new release & then you are gambling it will grow well in our area.
3. Go to the BIG LIST and look up who has it available for sell and look at a picture of it in one of the online catalogs to make sure it is the one you are looking to purchase.
4. You can wait until the Society tuber sales in April & May to purchase other tubers or all of your tubers at a very low cost.



A WINNING BASKET BY FAYE GOLDEN AT THE 2009 DS OF GA SHOW.

CHORES IN THE DAHLIA GARDEN- OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

After all of the dreaming, planning and hard work we now have the last of the blooms. Isn't it amazing how rapidly they grow, from day to day. You can almost see the changes. The shortening of the days, the lessening of light, all go into urging the dahlias to make seed.

The dahlia plants of October are determined to produce attractive flowers to entice the various pollinators to do their job, and be quick about it. The blooms seem to blow their centers more quickly now in order to make it easier for the bees and butterflies to get to the pollen.

Digging Dahlia Tubers

The September 2009 issue of the *Bulletin of the American Dahlia Society* has an excellent article on digging tubers. We have found that dahlias grown in this area can be left in the ground over winter if protected by a 4"-6" covering of mulch. Good candidates are pine straw, wheat straw, and chopped up leaves. After several years you will have to dig the clump and split before replanting.

Tagging the "Keepers"

By now you probably have a good idea which of the varieties you will want to grow next year. There are still probably several weeks before the first killing frost. My advice is - don't waste it.

Go through your garden now and cull the disappointing plants so you can use that space next year. Most people have a limited area in which to grow and you don't need to take up space with those varieties that did not meet your expectations. There is no sense in digging and storing dahlias that didn't perform as you expected. Trash them now. Literally pull them out of the ground, bag them and get any debris from those plants in case they might be infected with some virus or other disease. This winter when you get the new catalogs you will find plenty of new, appealing dahlias that you will want to grow in 2009. You will be glad that you didn't keep disappointments.

While conducting this purge, be sure to place a sturdy tag on the "keepers" (attaching it to the main stalk of the plant) because when the frost kills the top of your plants, they will all look alike. This is from one who knows from past "surprises". I'm tagging my plants now while they have verifying blooms. If you have a digital camera use it to record blooms of those you plan to keep. In the middle of winter it is always a joy to pull up a dahlia photo file and go through it, remembering the beauty of the blooms and the thrill you felt when seeing the first good bloom of a particular variety.

Study Your Garden Now is the time to study the layout of your garden regarding sunlight and drainage. The “floods” of recent weeks have undoubtedly tested your garden’s ability to drain properly.

If you suspect a drainage problem then dig those tubers of varieties you want to grow next season. You might find some indication of poor drainage previously undetected i.e. mud. Remember a rule of thumb from the Spring – “dahlias don’t like wet feet”. Record any changes that need to be done before next year’s planting and keep track of that record. Plan now to improve your garden before you plant next year!

If all of your dahlia plants are skinny and tall, with weak stems, then you probably need to provide more sun next year. There are a few dahlias that naturally grow 7’ – 9’, but most are in the 3’ to 6’ range with the average being about 4 1/2’ tall.

Keep Deadheading With the dahlias producing so many blooms now, we are kept very busy trying to remove the dead blooms. Dahlias lose the back petals first and this creates almost a steady rain of spent petals. They quickly start to decay wherever they come to rest. If left on the ground they can quickly become a breeding ground for various harmful fungi such as Botrytis. By deadheading, you remove a lot of decay before it can cause fungal problems. You also make the plant rush to make a replacement bloom thereby providing you with a constant source of blooms.

Spray for fungus This time of the year, with the cool nights and warm days, your garden is being subjected to nightly, heavy dews. On one hand that is very beneficial because it gently provides water to the dahlias. On the other hand, it provides the perfect breeding ground for many fungal diseases that weaken or even kill some of your plants.

One particular fungus that appears now is powdery mildew. Rubigan will defeat powdery mildew. Also check more common fungicides found at your garden center store for defeating powdery mildew. Another common fungus appearing now is known as leaf spot. It initially appears on



Powdery mildew, late stage

the lower leaves but works itself up the plant and can rapidly spread to adjacent plants. It doesn’t seem to



have any long-term effect on the plants but is unsightly. Captan or Cleary are two generally available fungicides that combat this condition. Again, it is a matter of keeping your plants

as healthy as possible before their roots go into storage or hibernation.

Fertilizing We recommend not giving nitrogen to dahlias past mid to late August. The earlier need to produce lush growth is replaced by a need to concentrate on blooms and roots. I have, however, found over the years that spraying the plants with water soluble potassium nitrate (a mix close to 15-0-35) helps significantly to strengthen the stems. Supposedly this nitrogen is needed to make the potassium work more efficiently and therefore is not a contradiction of the first sentence in this paragraph. Fertilizers containing phosphorous help dahlias produce blooms and enhances bloom color therefore we will use something like Morbloom, 0-10-10, until the killing frost arrives. This particular product comes in a liquid form and can be found at Hastings and Habersham nurseries. A mixture of 1 TBS @ gallon of water will keep your blooms lively and strong and their colors quite bright. A dosage of common Epsom salts also is thought to boost bloom color and darken the foliage at the same time. Continuing to feed dahlias with potassium is thought to help tuber development and hence guarantee better storage.

PHOTOGRAPH YOUR DAHLIAS Now is a good time to record memories of this season’s blooms. Several of the other societies have added a photography section to their show. We are considering doing the same at our society’s next show. Next year the ADS National Show will be held in nearby Chattanooga, TN. The photography section at annual national shows is always large and multi faceted. Why not go through some of your old photos and plan to take more photos this fall and next season? The rules are simple, the sections numerous, and anyone can enter and anyone can win prizes for their photos. Give it a try!

Enjoy Take time at least once every day to just look at your blooms and marvel at their beauty. Share them with your friends and strangers. Every time you give away dahlias I bet you will receive a big, hardy smile.

BK



A ROW OF YELLOW DAHLIAS IN THE FIELD OF 8,000 DAHLIAS.



EDNA C B-FD-Y IN THE GARDEN OF STEVE SANTOS IN MARYSVILLE, WA. HE GROWS ABOUT 50 PLANTS OF IT & 50 OF INLAND DYNASTY AND WON MAJOR AWARDS IN



REGINA KREINER POSING IN FRONT OF THE FIELD OF 8,000 DAHLIAS. IN FERNDALE, WA



THE MAIN SHOW IN THE FLORAL BUILDING AT THE ADS SHOW IN EVERETT, WA

