



DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA NEWSLETTER

2011 NATIONAL SHOW EDITION

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WWW.DAHLIASOCIETYOFGEORGIA.COM

WILDWOOD MARIE WL-DP
2011 FLOWER OF THE YEAR

DAHLIA SHOW TIME IS HERE

Even with the third hottest summer in recorded Atlanta history, the annual show will be held this week-end at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. The hours of the show are Saturday 1-5 PM and Sunday 9-4. Even though it has been a tough summer for growing dahlias (they prefer warm days and cool nights which we don't have in our summers but

they seem to grow anyway) we expect a good show with lots of blooms of all sizes, colors and forms. If you have never attended a dahlia show it is a sight to behold with all of those beautiful flowers on the tables. The word used by most visitors when they first see the hall with all of the flowers is "WOW" as most of them have never

seen a room full of dahlias before. It is a grand experience for all attendees. We will have growers from four states bringing their dahlias for display and competition so there should be many excellent entries to fill your appetite for beautiful flowers. Members and dahlia friends plan to attend the show this week-end.

WHAT: DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA ANNUAL DAHLIA SHOW

WHERE: ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

WHEN: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1-4PM, SUNDAY 9 AM - 4 PM

COST: FREE WITH GARDEN ADMISSION



PART OF THE HEAD TABLE AT ONE OF OUR SHOWS

CALENDAR

DAHLIA SOCIETY OF ALABAMA ANNUAL SHOW

BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDEN

OCTOBER 1ST

12-4PM

GEORGIA NATIONAL FAIR DAHLIA SHOW

PERRY, GA

OCTOBER 15-16

OPENS 12 PM SAT

2011 NATIONAL SHOW

Regina and I were privileged to attend the National Show this year which was held in San Jose, CA in August. We lived in San Francisco many years ago when I was a member of the U S Army so it was a time of renewing memories and seeing fabulous dahlias growing in that cool summer climate they enjoy in coastal California. We lived on the Presidio which was an Army base right at the Golden Gate Bridge. It went the way of the base closing act many years ago just like our Fort McPherson here in Atlanta has done this month. We visited the Dahlia Dell in Golden Gate Park before the show and surprised Deborah Dietz, my counterpart (newsletter editor) in the Dahlia Society of California as she was tending her section of the Dell. She gave us a personal tour which made the visit special in learning about the varieties and seedlings growing in the Dell.



DEBORAH (L) AND REGINA IN FRONT OF THE DAHLIA DELL



ANOTHER SHOT OF THE FABULOUS DAHLIA DELL

A mention of San Francisco would not be complete without a shot of the Golden Gate Bridge so here is a picture of Maddy



Varsalona, our member from Kennesaw. More about Maddy later.

After a couple of days in SF we went down to the show site in Santa Clara. The first day was a tour of two wineries up in the Los Gatos mountains. Both were lovely settings with one having olive trees from which they pressed their own olive oil. The next day we toured two personal gardens of lovely dahlias and the beautiful dahlias of Corralitos Gardens. Our hosts Kevin and Karen Larkin gave us a quick

overview and we were free to roam the grounds viewing all of the lovely dahlia plants and blooms.



KEVIN LARKIN GREETING THE TOUR



MADDY VARSALONA TOURING CORRALITOS GARDENS



CORRALITOS GARDENS



THE HOME & GARDEN OF RANDY & LENA MARSDEN IN THE SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS



"18TH SURGICAL HOSPITAL" SEEDLING IN CORRALITOS GARDENS



THE HOME & GARDEN OF GEORGE & SHARON LUCCHESSI IN THE SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

Saturday was show day and what a show it was. The ballroom & hallway at the Marriott hotel were full of beautiful dahlias.



A UNIQUE AND LOVELY DISPLAY OF DAHLIAS



A BEAUTIFUL DISPLAY OF AC DARK HORSE AA-SC PR



AN ENTRY OF CREEKSIDE VOCANO B-LC-FL THIS IS AN ORIGINATION OF BRIAN KILLINGSWORTH



ONE OF THE MANY SHOW TABLES FILLED WITH DAHLIAS



BEST ARRANGEMENT IN THE SHOW

Sunday was meeting and education day with a number of presentations by noted dahlia enthusiasts. One of the highlights for our Georgia Society was a short presentation by our own Maddy Varsalona on "Dahlias 101" taken from a FHA presentation she had given. She fielded many questions providing quality answers. The room was almost full with attendees and Maddy did an outstanding job receiving a rousing round of applause for her effort. A super thank you to Allen & Debbie Haas for making Maddys attendance at the National Show possible through their generosity.

Sunday night was a Bar-B-Que at the home of Ken & Marilyn Masurat high in the mountains overlooking the San Jose Valley. A very lovely setting among their dahlias and large vegetable garden.



A GIANT PUMPKIN AND TO THE LEFT A GIANT WATER-MELON STILL GROWING



A WINNING ENTRY OF AMHURST REGINA A-SC-YL BY MARY MCALLISTER, MONTEREY SOCIETY



A LOVELY BASKET OF POMPONS

Monday was another tour day going to the Dahlia Dell in Golden Gate Park, Cabrillo Park, Fisherman's Wharf and Paula Jaffe's garden in Tiburon.



CABRILLO PARK DAHLIAS. THE STORY OF THIS GARDEN WAS FEATURED IN A RECENT ADS BULLETIN



THE JAFFE HOME & GARDEN IN TIBURON, CA



THE DAHLIA DELL. LOU PARADISE & PAT HUNTER TENDING THEIR SECTIONS



THE DAHLIA DELL



NEXT YEAR THE NATIONAL SHOW WILL BE HELD IN PORTLAND, OREGON