

**DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA**  
**ATLANTA, GEORGIA**  
**JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER 2016**

**HOW ARE YOUR DAHLIAS GROWING?** 2016, so far, has been a long, very hot and very dry summer.

All we get from the weather forecasters are promises, promises, and more promises of rain, but not much rain. The weather this summer reminds me very much of the weather when we lived in San Antonio, Texas, where I first started growing dahlias.

That South Texas weather was devastating for the first couple of years until I learned to adjust my dahlia growing in order to cope with it. What measures did I take? I planted the tubers as early as possible after the frost free date in order to get them growing well before the high heat got

started in June. With early bloomers I could get a few blooms before the heat took over but for the majority of the plants we basically kept them alive until late August when they started perking up and the laterals started growing and the best part of the year arrived when the plants started blooming. We would have quality blooms until after Thanksgiving. Was it worth the wait and consternation of putting up with the heat? Absolutely! There is nothing like the beauty of dahlia blooms.

My point in all of this history is to encourage every member to keep those dahlias alive through these 90+ degree days until it starts to cool down in late August into September when those beautiful blooms start arriving. My garden is at it's best during the month of October and that is what all of my work in planting, replanting, tying, watering, fertilizing, spraying for bugs and every other task that is required is geared to bring about. So, hang in there even though it is difficult to do so.

**AUGUST MEETING** WHEN—AUGUST 15, WHAT TIME—7:30 PM, WHERE—ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN TURNER THEATER IN THE ENTRANCE BUILDING

**PROGRAM—DAHLIA MINI-SHOW**

The mini-show is an opportunity for novice growers to bring as many blooms as they would like as entries to the show. Experienced growers will provide staging materials and help in staging the blooms. All novice growers have to do is bring their best blooms. There will be an open class for experienced growers with a limit of three flowers per grower. Winners in the open class will only receive bragging rights as awards. This is always a fun time for our club.



**FIRE & ICE M-FD-BI ORANGE/RED & WHITE. VERY DIFFICULT  
TO FIND TUBERS OF THIS GREAT FLOWER**

# NEW MEMBERS

STACY CATRON, LYNNE DAVIS, ELIZABETH SANFORD

ANNA WEEKS, SHIRLEY WEEKS, TIM IRWIN

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

WELCOME TO ALL OF OUR NEW MEMBERS. WE ARE SO GLAD YOU HAVE JOINED THE DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT OUR MEETINGS AND SPECIAL FUNCTIONS

## 2016 AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY NATIONAL SHOW

The 2016 ADS National Show, being held at the Holiday Resort in Asheville, NC, is just a little more than a month away. This is a great opportunity for members and your friends to attend a National Show where lots of activities take place including tours of various dahlia gardens in Western NC or tour Biltmore Estates, if you have never had the opportunity.

There is an awards banquet on Saturday night that is always a lot of fun

and of course there is (the best part) the show, which will have 3,000-5,000 or more dahlias to whet your dahlia appetite. We also need workers during the show to accomplish many, many tasks associated with this annual super show. Please support this National Show as it is the last one we will have for a while this close to home. You can still register for the entire show or a partial registration. More tour pictures from Tacoma on the next page.



ONE OF THE TOURS AT THE 2014 NATIONAL SHOW IN TACOMA, WA THIS IS THE BEST SETTING FOR A DAHLIA GARDEN I HAVE EVER SEEN.



AC BEN AA-SC-LB PAULA PINHOLSTER, ALLEN HAAS, REGINA KREINER, HENRY EVERRET AND JESSEE USLETON AT ANOTHER TOUR STOP IN THE GARDEN OF LES & VIV CONNELL AT THE TACOMA NATIONAL SHOW.



THE TACOMA TRIAL GARDEN WAS A STOP ON THE TOUR AS WAS DAN'S DAHLIAS WITH 10,000 DAHLIAS IN FULL BLOOM. REGINA, HEATHER, DAN, MADDY AND DAN PEARSON.

## DAHLIA GROWING QUESTIONS

**Q:** THE HEAT AND LACK OF RAIN HAS JUST ABOUT "DONE MY DAHLIAS IN". WHAT CAN I DO?

**A:** FIRST, GIVE YOUR PLANTS SOME FERTILIZER LIKE MIRACLE GROW WITH HIGHER NITROGEN TO HELP THEM COME BACK AND START GROWING AGAIN. MAKE SURE THEY HAVE ADEQUATE WATER DURING THE DRY PERIODS. AS THE DAYS GET SHORTER AND SOMEWHAT COOLER THEY WILL START TO GROW AGAIN SO MAKE SURE THEY HAVE THAT EXTRA BOOST WITH MIRACLE GROW RIGHT NOW. REMEMBER, STOP HIGH NITROGEN FERTILIZERS AROUND THE FIRST OF SEPTEMBER UNLESS THERE IS NO RAIN, TO MAKE SURE YOUR TUBERS WILL BE HIGH QUALITY.

**Q:** HOW DO I CONTROL POWDERY MILDEW ON MY PLANTS?

**A:** THERE ARE A NUMBER OF HOME REMEDIES FOR POWDERY MILDEW. JUST GOOGLE TO FIND THEM. YOU MAY (HAVE, FIND) ONE THAT WILL WORK FOR YOU AND IS VERY CHEAP IN COST. A FAIRLY NEW PRODUCT THAT IS AVAILABLE IS JMS STYLET OIL. THIS PRODUCT KILLS THE MILDEW ON CONTACT AND PROTECTS THE PLANT(S) FROM FURTHER ATTACK. <http://www.styletoil.com/>

**Q:** I WENT OUT TO MY GARDEN THIS MORNING AND A PLANT THAT HAS BEEN DOING VERY WELL ALL SUMMER WAS WILTED. WHAT CAUSED IT TO WILT AND WHAT DO I DO TO SAVE IT AS IT IS ONE OF MY MOST FAVORITE DAHLIAS?

**A:** IT IS REFERED TO AS SUDDEN WILT OR VERCELLIUM WILT. FIRST, WATCH IT FOR A DAY OR TWO TO SEE IF IT STARTS TO RECOVER OR GETS WORSE. AFTER THAT, POUR TWO GALLONS OF WATER ON AND AROUND THE PLANT AND THEN STEP ON THE SOIL AT THE BASE OF THE PLANT TO COMPACT THE GROUND AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS. IF THERE IS NO INCREASE OF THE PLANT TAKING UP WATER, THEN MORE DRASTIC ACTION IS REQUIRED. YOU WILL NEED TO TREAT THE PLANT WITH A FUNGICIDE CALLED BANROT OR ANOTHER CALLED TERAFLOR. THESE ARE VERY EXPENSIVE TO PURCHASE. IF THE PLANT DOESN'T COME BACK OR DOES COME BACK BUT DOESN'T RESUME NORMAL GROWTH, THEN THROW IT AWAY.

**Q:** HOW DO I GET MY BLOOMS TO STAND UP AND NOT DROOP?

**A:** PURCHASE POTASSIUM NITRATE FROM AMAZON IN A WATER SOLUABLE FORM AND APPLY TO EACH PLANT EVERY TWO WEEKS UNTIL MID OCTOBER.

**Q:** WHAT PRODUCT DO I USE TO HELP MY PLANTS TO BLOOM BETTER?

**A:** THE PRODUCT I WOULD RECOMMEND IS ALASKA MOR-BLOOM 0-0-10. IT IS A FISH BASE PRODUCT THAT IS EXCELLENT. TRY HOME DEPOT

## ANNUAL PICNIC

MANY THANKS TO FRANK MCCOMB FOR HOSTING OUR ANNUAL PICNIC IN LATE JULY. WE HAD A GREAT TIME WITH SOME GREAT FOOD. FRANK DOESN'T DIG HIS DAHLIAS EVERY YEAR SO HE HAD QUITE A FEW BLOOMING. THANKS TO EVERYONE THAT ATTENDED.



1. CLYDE & SARA 2. PAT, CARLA, ED ,PAULA 3. ALLEN, FRANCINE, ANN, DAVID 4. DAN & PAT

DAHLIA PICTURES (NEXT PAGE) 1. CLEARVIEW SEEDLING (2017 RELEASE)  
2. ARRANGEMENT AT ALABAMA SHOW 3. COLORADO PIXIE 4. ELMA ELIZABETH 5.  
SHINKYOKU 6. ARRANGEMENT AT CAROLINAS SHOW

