

**DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA**  
**MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER & MEETING NOTICE**



**HOLLYHILL JITTERBUG BB-SC-O**

**LOVES THE HEAT AND MAKES HUNDREDS OF BLOOMS**

**MARCH MEETING...**The March meeting will be held next Monday evening, March 20, 7:30 PM in the Turner Theater in the Atlanta Botanical Garden Entrance Building. The program is titled "Doing Dahlias". It will cover the many aspects of getting your garden ready for the Spring planting of your dahlias. Since this will be the only meeting until June concerning the culture of dahlias (April & May will be tuber sales) a lot will be covered on how to plant, take care of and successfully get your dahlias on the road to making those blooms in August and beyond.

**SOUTHERN STATES ASSOCIATION MEETING...**The Spring meeting of the Southern States will be held this coming Saturday, March 18, at 12 Noon at the Northlake Piccadilly Cafeteria, 2000 Crescent Centre Blvd, Tucker, GA . It is just off of Lavista Road at I-285 East. We will have a private room, so come in and get your lunch and come to the private room.

The purpose of the SS Association is to discuss and determine dahlia issues that are common to all of the Societies in the Southern States.

**2017 DUES...** If you are planning on renewing your membership this year please do so as soon as possible in order to keep this newsletter coming each month and the ADS publications coming the rest of the year. Members that have not renewed their membership by next month will no longer receive the newsletter until your dues are up to date.

NEW MEMBERS...PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS. WE ARE SO GLAD YOU  
HAVE JOINED THE DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA

TIM & AMY HULSEY

STATHAM, GA

PENNY DAY

ARNOLDSVILLE, GA

NANCY BERRY & TONY BUFFINGTON

DALLAS, TX



HILLTOP KEMPER B-SC-FL

SEEDLING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN 2016 NATIONAL SHOW



DAHLIAS ON THE SHOW TABLE 2016 NATIONAL SHOW  
IN ASHEVILLE, NC

**DIVIDING DAHLIAS IN THE SPRING IN GEORGIA** Many dahlia growers in the South don't dig their dahlias before winter and elect to let them remain in the ground, just mulching them well to protect them from any hard freezes. If growers following this practice want to divide their plants to either have additional plants or to reduce the size of the tuber clump below ground level (should be divided every three years at least), then the time to accomplish that task is the first/second week of April. There should be eyes and growing tips long enough to make the divisions easy. Just cut off at least one tuber with an eye/ shoot and you have a new plant. April is still too cool for replanting the new divisions, so let the surface cuts air dry for a couple of days in a cool dry location. After that, put the dahlias in plastic grocery bags and keep in the cool location so the eyes don't shrivel and die. You can replant the clumps immediately as long as roots remain on the clump. Around the first of May, when the soil warms to around 70 degrees, you may plant your new plants in your garden. Keep an eye on these plants when in storage to make sure the eyes stay alive. You can replant into pots if needed.

**SOME NEW RELEASES FOR 2017**



AC FREEBIRD

AC FREEBIRD AA-SC-R



AC ROSKELLEY AA-SC-L



CLEARVIEW CAMERON B-C-LB W/L



CLEARVIEW JONAS A-SC-LB PK/Y

## DAHLIA QUESTIONS

Q. What amendments should I add to my dahlia beds?

A. Dahlias love lots of organic material which will make the plants have thick stalks, excellent upward growth and high quality blooms. The best mixture of amendments you can use is compost and horse manure. If you don't have access to horse manure purchase mushroom compost which contains horse manure. If you don't make your own compost you can get free compost in DeKalb County and, I believe, Cobb County. Gwinnett residents can get free compost in Lawrenceville. It is worth the time & effort to add these two amendments to your entire garden. Black Kow will just not provide the growth as other amendments. If you don't dig your dahlias each season, just place these two amendments on top of each dahlia and water in or let the rain wash the nutrients down to the root zone.

Q. How deep should I plant my dahlias?

A. Your tuber should have an eye showing on the crown end. Dig your planting hole and place the tuber in the hole about 3" to 4" deep with the eye pointing toward the sky. Make sure you place your stake at the eye end of the tuber before covering the tuber.

Q. Should I water my dahlias in after planting?

A. If we are having a dry Spring you can give them a small shot of water. Most of the time the Spring rains will provide enough water to get them going. If we are having a wet Spring then you may want to delay planting until the soil dries out so they won't rot.

Q. Should I get a soil analysis before planting?

A. Yes, if you haven't had one for a couple of years. The optimal PH for dahlias is 6.2 but the range they will still do well is PH 6-7. Other than that, you need to take action to change the PH.

Q. How should I fertilize my dahlias in the early season?

A. I like to start out with some Osmocote 14-14-14 when the plants are 3"- 4" out of the ground. This will last until about the end of June. Calcium Nitrate is another product I use along with a foliar fertilizer. I am going to try Neptune's Harvest with seaweed this season. After September 1st reduce the nitrogen you give the plants unless there is no rain.



HILLTOP MOONSHINE B-SC-W



HILLTOP MIMI B-FD-FL RD/  
YL



HILLTOP KEMPER B-SC-FL RD/YL