

DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA  
AUGUST 2017 NEWSLETTER & MEETING NOTICE

AUGUST MEETING AUGUST 21ST, ABG, TURNER THEATER , 7:30 PM

Our annual show will be coming up next month on September 23 & 24 and will be held in Meshon Hall at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. We would like as many members as possible to get into the swing of things and show some of their dahlias. With all the rain this summer everyone should have some plants that are making blooms that are good enough to place in the Novice section or in the Amateur section.

We know most new growers and new showers are hesitant and even fearful about putting blooms in the show. We would like to alleviate some of those fears by giving you some tips (in this newsletter) you can use the last three or four weeks prior to the show that hopefully will make your show blooms better. The next thing that will help you get those blooms staged correctly is the information Paula Pinholster will be bringing next Monday night. Paula always has interesting points she presents at the August meeting about staging our blooms.

Frank McComb will be presenting opportunities for all of our members to volunteer in making our show this year one of the best ever. Please volunteer ; we need your help.

GROWING TIPS FOR GETTING READY  
FOR THE SHOW

1. Depending on how many plants you grow, select three or four that have done well this year and could produce some good blooms.
2. Select some laterals that look like they will have some blooms ready by show-time. As soon as some buds appear, disbud the two side buds so all of the energy will go to the center bud thereby making it larger. (REMEMBER..THE CENTER OF THE BLOOM MUST BE CLOSED FOR JUDGING)



DR. JOHN KAISER B-ID-FL OR/YL ONE OF  
THE BEST ORANGE DAHLIAS.

3. If you are growing A or B sized dahlias you want to restrict the laterals with buds to one or two for A's and no more than four for B's. This is the only way to get them up to size. Another thing you can do is dis-branch or remove some of the laterals without buds from the plant.
4. Fertilize your plants weekly with a low nitrogen fertilizer, liquid preferred. Also, give your plants Potassium Nitrate during the four week period so the blooms will be stiff, allowing the blooms to hold their heads up high. During the last week before the show, water the plants daily.
5. Set buds... When the buds are about the size of a nickel and a quarter, go in the heat of the day and lightly bend and hold each bud to a 45 degree angle on the plant. It will take about two minutes for each one. Go back a second day and do the same thing again until it holds the 45 degree angle.
6. About a week before the show take a bamboo stick (in the packages of green bamboo at your garden center) about 2' long and put it on the lateral to straighten the stem. Tie it to the lateral carefully with chenille sticks (pipe cleaners).
7. Just before your buds show color, start spraying them with Mavrick insecticide, 1/2 to 1 tsp. per gal. Continue to spray the blooms daily to keep bud worms and cucumber beetles at bay.



#### KATHLEEN'S SEEDLING

Kathleen Hadfield sent me a picture of the very lovely seedling she grew from the seed I gave out at one of our spring meetings. It is a seed from Wanda's Aurora which is AA sized. This looks like it will at least be a B sized and maybe an A. This bloom has lots of petals and follow on blooms should be the same. As it goes through the next four years it could change both in color and size. She can name the dahlia whatever she would like as long as the name conforms to ADS standards of number of characters. She can also enter the seedling into an ADS trial garden in the fourth season of it's maturing process.

Congratulations Kathleen!



## MORE CULTURE TIPS AS WE ENTER THE PRIMARY BLOOMING SEASON

1. With all of the rain we have had this summer most of the dahlias have started blooming without a lot of trouble. To keep them blooming give them some Alaska Mor-Bloom 0-10-10. It is fish based and is an excellent product.
2. Powdery mildew needs to be dealt with as it can kill a plant if not treated. Now is the time that it hits our dahlias, so make sure you spray for it. The newest and best product to control it is Stylet Oil (GOOGLE). The only way it is sold is in one gallon amounts or more. I would be glad to give some to members but you will need to come to my home to get it.
3. You need to spray your dahlias since the rain has stopped and the bugs get going. A good insecticide should take care of most of them. Spider mites require an oil based product or Avid.
4. You can keep fertilizing your dahlias but after September 1st only use a fertilizer with low nitrogen unless we don't get much rain. Too much nitrogen late in the season can cause your tubers to shrivel in the ground.
5. Many of the items listed on page 1 & 2 also apply.



BB-IC-L



CRAZY FOR CAROL M-IC-OR



CLEARVIEW EDIE A-SC-W



CREEKSIDE DOC A-SC-LB



GITTS PERFECTION A-ID-LB LV/WH



## 2017 ANNUAL PICNIC

We would like to thank Richard and Francine Dykes for hosting the Society picnic last month. It was a lovely day, not too hot and no rain and the home of Francine and Richard was just perfect. We were able to see Francine's dahlias as we came to the front of the house as she has limited sun so she plants them where she can take advantage of it.

Thanks members for bringing great food dishes as always. It was all scrumptious. A good time was had by all.



SHOW & TELL A-LC-DB OR/YL