

DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



SHOW & TELL A-LC-D/B RD/YL

A WONDERFUL PICTURE OF THIS FLOWER
THAT WE CAN GROW IN THE SOUTH. PIC-
TURE WAS TAKEN SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE.

GROWING SEASON REVIEW...The 2019 season started out well with adequate moisture for our dahlias and continued until the middle of August when the 2019 drought set in and rain was nowhere to be found for the next two and one half months. I watered every day during that time period and I still had plants die or if they were slow growers just disappeared and I couldn't find them. Next year I will go back to using my soaker hoses instead of hand watering.

We have come to expect this type of weather over the past number of years but this year was the worst. We must plan better for this type of weather without much or any rain during the summer or early fall. Along the West coast, while they have cooler temperatures that we do, they don't have rain from May to October/November usually, and must plan for watering their gardens. We must do the same. While Carolinas and Tennessee had their planned shows this year Alabama did not due to the drought and high temps. Next year our show will be back so we must be ready for it with quality flowers. Hopefully we won't have a late season drought next year.

NOVEMBER MEETING...The November meeting will be held on Saturday, November 16th at 11:00 AM in the Turner Theater in the entrance building of the Atlanta Botanical Garden. This is a very important meeting as we will elect officers for next year and also set the meeting schedule. We need your input on these matters so please plan to attend. Also, if you have any flowers left please bring them to the meeting for everyone to see.

The program will concentrate on how to get your dahlias ready for winter and will discuss what to do if you leave your tubers in the ground or if you dig and divide them. We will also demonstrate how to divide your tubers and those in attendance will have an opportunity to use your skills in dividing some tubers if you would like to give it a try. Some of the questions that will be addressed are:

- (1) Will my tubers rot if I leave them in the ground over the winter?
- (2) When should I divide my tubers?
- (3) Why don't some of my dahlias grow again when I leave them in the ground all winter?
- (4) What is the best way to store my dahlias inside during the Winter?
- (5) When is the best time to divide my tubers in the Spring?

Come to the November meeting and get the answers to these and other questions attendees may have.

DSG MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2020:

2020 membership renewals are being received. Our membership renewal period runs from November 1 – December 31. Renewals are due by January 1, 2020.

Dues remain at \$31 for an individual and \$34 for a family. Please make your check payable to the 'Dahlia Society of Georgia, and mail it to the Membership Director: Kathleen Hadfield, 53 Old Fuller Mill Road, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30067-4125. Or, if you prefer, Kathleen will be in attendance at the November meeting at the ABG so you can drop off your renewal.

If you have any questions, please contact the Membership Director at kathleen@hadfield.com.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

HOLLYHILL JITTERBUG BB-SCOR. AN EXCELLENT DAHLIA FOR YOUR GARDEN. TONS OF BLOOMS DURING THE GROWING SEASON.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**RHONDA EWERS
ALPHARETTA, GA**

**RINA GUEBERT
BROOKHAVEN, GA**

**JACKLYN HARDER
FLOWERY BRANCH, GA**

**JIM LETSON
ATLANTA, GA**

**JODI MANSBACH
ATLANTA, GA**

**JESSICA PENNER
BOWERSVILLE, GA**

**SERENA ROBISON & JONATHAN DOUGLAS
SANTA ROSA BEACH, FL**

**KEVIN TYLER
OLIVE BRANCH, MS**

**TINA & ALBERT BRUNSMAN
LUTZ, FL**

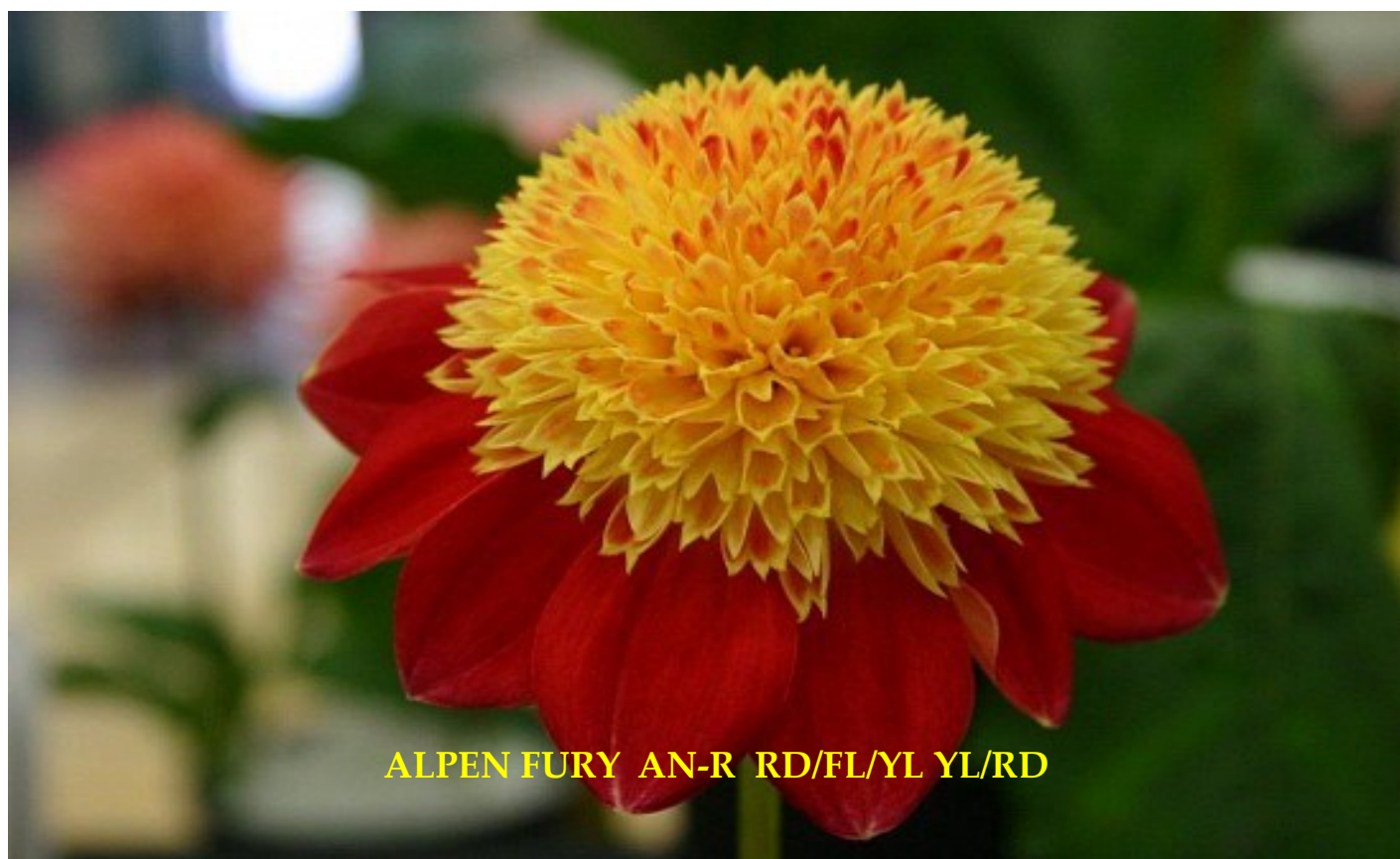
WE ARE SO GLAD YOU HAVE JOINED THE DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA

DAHLIA SOCIETY PICNIC... Many thanks to Dan & Paula Pinholster for hosting the Society picnic in their beautiful home and garden. The food was great and everyone had a wonderful time.



SOIL HEALTH...The following article was taken, with permission, from the Dahlia Society of California November, 2019 newsletter. It is a synopsis of a presentation at their October meeting.

Shilpa Thanawala and Paul Matulucca from the Master Gardeners of San Mateo and San Francisco explained why maintaining the Web of Life enhances everything in one's garden. Shilpa's mantra, "Feed your soil, not your plant" exhorted us to maintain a complete ecosystem from the big plants down to the micro-organisms. Dirt has 3 main sizes from largest to smallest: soil, silt and clay. Because clay particles are so small, they compact very densely. Introducing the "secret ingredient" organic matter, lets these tiny clay bits aggregate with other looser items. The looser and better drained the soil, the better the micro community thrives. The happier your worms, nematodes and mycorrhizae, the lushier your soil. Maintaining this flourishing microscopic society means eliminating rototilling. Moreover, Shilpa suggested, "Cover your soil. Naked soil degrades rapidly." To keep weeds under control, put flat cardboards covered with leaves and compost across your patch. Paul explained a chart that showed at what PH certain trace elements become available to plants. Dahlias prefer the 6.8-6.9 range. Paul handed out Peaceful Valley cover crop grids with variety on one axis and aspects on the other. For example: Buckwheat provides good weed competition, adds significant organic matter, attracts beneficial insects, grows 13"-36" high, is somewhat drought tolerant, loosens heavy soil, and is easily established. Peggy named several places in the North Bay including Grab 'n Grow in Sonoma for all different types of manure/compost/soil. Diana said her son, Shane, delivers throughout the Bay area: BarlowHauling.com Devorah commends her Bokahsi Japanese anaerobic composting system that produces divine lychee worm casting syrup. She has it in her kitchen where it DOES NOT smell. Lola recommended VF 11, a liquid foliar feed. Phil dumps 30+ bags of commercial chicken manure on his fallow patch.



ALPEN FURY AN-R RD/FL/YL YL/RD

NEW DAHLIAS (TO ME) THAT GREW WELL IN MY GARDEN IN 2019



THE BEST NEW DAHLIA IN MY GARDEN IN 2019. A BEAUTIFUL PLANT WITH LOTS OF BLOOMS THAT LASTED A LONG TIME. IT GREW WELL IN THE HEAT AND CONTINUED TO BLOOM ALL SUMMER. 6' ACCENT DAHLIAS 2019

ACJC...AA-SC-FL YL/OR ANOTHER GREAT GIANT FROM ACCENT DAHLIAS. IT GROWS TALL, 8'. BEAUTIFUL LARGE BRIGHT ORANGE BLOOMS. GROWS WELL IN THE HEAT. I RECOMMEND IT FOR YOUR GARDEN BUT MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A STEPLADDER.

ACCENT DAHLIAS, OTHERS 2017



AC JERI...AA-SC-Y...A FANTASTIC DAHLIA RELEASED IN 2018 AND HAS DONE VERY WELL IN IT'S FIRST YEAR. IT GREW WELL BUT DIDN'T DEVELOP MORE BLOOMS UNTIL LATE IN THE SEASON. EXCELLENT BLOOMS FOR OUR HEAT. 5' ACCENT DAHLIAS, JS DAHLIAS, COWLITZ RIVER DAHLIAS

OVA JO...BB-FD-BI YL/WH...THE BEST SMALL YELLOW WITH WHITE TIPS DAHLIA I HAVE SEEN. VERY FORMAL AND VERY PRETTY. IT DID WELL IN THE HEAT SO I RECOMMEND IT FOR YOUR GARDEN. 4' JS DAHLIAS AND MANY OTHERS 2015



BLOOMQUIST BETHANY...M-IC-DB DP/YL...OUTSTANDING MINIATURE DAHLIA THAT RECEIVED THE MOST 2018 AWARDS FOR IT'S SIZE IN NORTH AMERICAN SHOWS. NEEDS TO HAVE COOL WEATHER FOR THE BLOOMS TO BE CORRECT. WORTH THE WAIT. 6' JS DAHLIAS



BEAR CREEK SUNRISE...C-OR...A LOVELY ORANGE DAHLIA THAT GROWS WELL AND GIVES LOTS OF BLOOMS WHEN IT COOLS DOWN. I RECOMMEND IT FOR YOUR GARDEN. 5 1/2' JS DAHLIAS AND OTHERS 2013



CLEARVIEW JENNAE...M-FD-PR...NICE PURPLE DAHLIA THAT GREW WELL IN OUR HEAT AND PRODUCED MANY, MANY LOVELY BLOOMS. IT BLOOMED ALL SUMMER AND WOULD HAVE HAD EVEN MORE BLOOMS BUT IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO DEAD HEAD SINCE IT WAS 6' HIGH. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND IT FOR YOUR GARDEN. 6'

CLEARVIEW DAHLIAS 2019

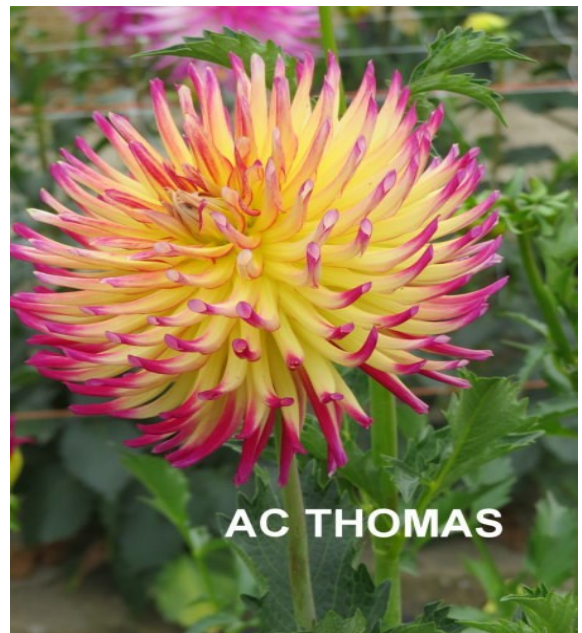


KETCHUP & MUSTRD...A-FD-FL RD/YL THIS BLOOM IS STRIKING TO SEE. PLANT GREW WELL BUT DID NOT HAVE AN OVER ABUNDANCE OF BLOOMS DURING THE SEASON. I RECOMMEND IT FOR YOUR GARDEN. 5'

JS DAHLIAS AND MANY OTHERS 2011



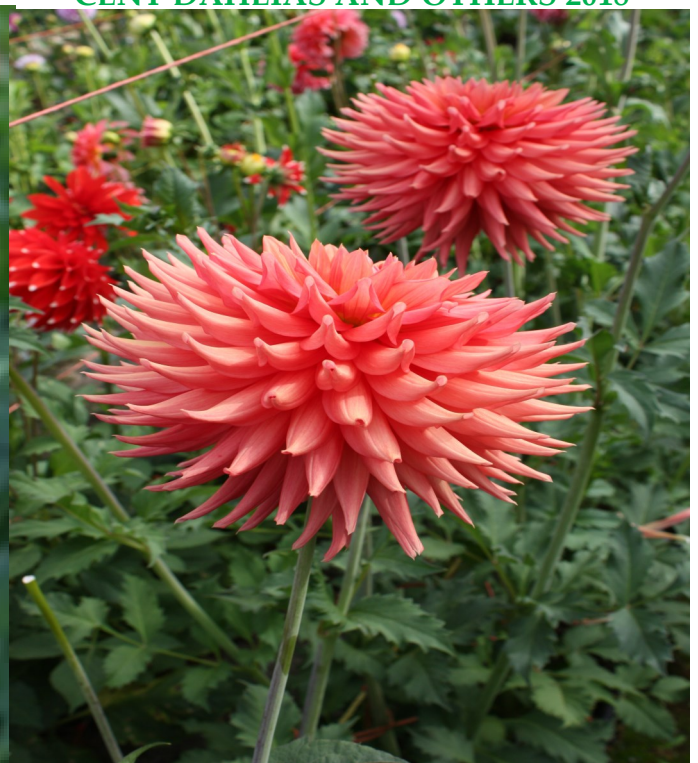
AC FBG AA-SC-OR...A VERY PRETTY SHADE OF ORANGE. THE PICTURE ABOVE IS A VERY MATURE BLOOM AND IT IS MUCH PRETTIER WHEN IT IS NOT SO OLD. GREW WELL WITH ENOUGH BLOOMS TO GROW IT AGAIN NEXT YEAR. AC-CENT DAHLIAS, JS DAHLIAS 2017



AC THOMAS BB-IC-DB DR/YL...THE INTER-NET PICTURE ABOVE SHOWS A LOT MORE INCURVE AND SPIKE PETALS THAN IT DID IN MY GARDEN. IT IS VERY PRETTY AND GOES A LONG WAY TOWARDS REPLACING JESSICA. I RECCOMD IT. 3' AC-CENT DAHLIAS AND OTHERS 2018



MYRTLE'S BRANDY B-LC-DB RD/WH...AN OLD-IE FOR SURE BUT IT PERFORMED VERY WELL IN OUR HEAT. ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY THIS ONE SO I DID AND WAS VERY SURPRISED AT HOW WELL IT DID. GOOD BLOOMS AND GOOD SEEDHEADS. MANYVENDORS 2002



AC SHITAKE B-SC-OR...IT SEEMS LIKE I HAVE A LOT OF ORANGE DAHLIAS. THIS IS ONE OF THE BEST AS IT GREW WELL WITH MANY BLOOMS. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND IT. ACCENT DAHLIAS, PARK DAHLIAS 2014