

# DAHLIA DIGGINGS



NEWSLETTER FOR:

*"THE GREATER ST. LOUIS DAHLIA SOCIETY"*

Volume #1/09 E-Mail edition

Officers for the 2009 fiscal year are:

**PRESIDENT**, Mike Plannett (314) 846-6650;

**VICE-PRESIDENT**, Kineth Launius (417) 255-0605;

**SECRETARY**, Bob Sewell (618) 234-0176; **TREASURER**, Jim Boever (636) 394-6447

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY**, Bob Sewell

**HEALTH and WELFARE CHAIRPERSON**: Judy Sewell



**Don't be Bashful**



**Join the Propagation Crew!**

**MEETING:**

January 16th, @ 7:30 pm. Missouri Botanical Garden.

Unless otherwise noted the society meets at the Garden on the third Friday of each month.

**JANUARY REFRESHMENTS:**

Evelyn Charles and Maleta Fox

**JUDGING TESTS:** Remember to either mail or bring your completed judging test to Bob Sewell. Completing and submitting the test is an ADS requirement and must be done every five years for society members to maintain their ADS accreditation. Bob must then mail the completed tests to Bob Moynahan, chairman of the ADS accreditation committee. Bob Sewell hopes to have everything completed by February. So don't wait to complete your test. Do so soon after the holidays. What better way to begin thinking about a new dahlia season than to complete the test.

**FEBRUARY ROOT SALE:** The consensus of those attending the December meeting was that enough extra root stock will be available to have an intra-society root sale at the February meeting. All roots will be \$1 and a list of probable varieties for sale will be included in the February bulletin. If you are a bargain shopper, then the \$1 root sale is one event you cannot afford to miss, so circle Feb. 20 on your calendar.

**PROPAGATING SUPPLIES:** A signup list will be available at the January meeting. Distribution of supplies will take place at the February meeting or make your own special pickup arrangements with John Fox. The list of supplies includes pots, pot markers, pro-mix, oasis cubes and osmocote. The cost of all supplies increased slightly from 2008, according to findings by Fox and Mike Plannett. When paying for your supplies, make all checks payable to the Greater St. Louis Dahlia Society.

'09 prices are as follows:

- Twine - \$9 per six roll pack
- Oasis Cubes - \$40.90 per case
- 4" Pots - \$31.50 per case
- Pot Markers - \$40.90 per 1,000
- Osmocote - \$87.67 per 50# bag \*note: osmocote can only be purchased in 5# increments

**REFRESHMENT SIGNUP:** Chairperson Maleta Fox began circulating the new refreshment signup sheet at the December meeting. Pick a month, other than March, August, October and December, and treat the membership to one of your favorite "goodies." Help out Maleta so that she does not have to find someone at the last minute.

**FINAL REMINDER:** Let's complete the membership renewal process by the end of January so that financial secretary Bob Sewell can forward the names to bulletin editor Joe Meyer for use throughout the fiscal year. This includes an updated membership roster which can be included with the February bulletin. Dues are unchanged from last year:

- St. Louis, \$10
- Combined STL/ADS, \$30
- Combined family, \$33.

Make your check payable, for the appropriate category, to the Greater St. Louis Dahlia Society and remit it to:

- Bob Sewell, #8 Elvira Dr., Fairview Heights, IL 62208.

**DAN FRANKLIN:** It is with sadness that the membership of the Elkhart Dahlia Society reports the recent passing of long-time member Dan Franklin. Dan and wife, Kathy, competed in the 2002 Midwest Conference show in St. Louis and had several Court of Honor entries. Dan's showmanship was widely known and respected throughout the Midwest Conference. The Franklins' also hybridized several varieties that carry the *Bristol* surname. For those who would like to send a personal condolence to Kathy the address is: 804 Vistula, Bristol, In 46507.

**MAKING the CASE:** To have a successful plant sale in May and also have some additional plants available for a likely intra-society sale at the April meeting, the society needs to beef up its propagation ranks.

As the bulletin header says, "*Don't be bashful.*" Even if you have never attempted to propagate previously, strongly consider giving it a try. Honestly, it is not that difficult and another 25-30 potential plants from another half dozen members would help immensely. As everybody knows, the annual plant sale supplies much of the society's financial life-blood. And those who attend the monthly meetings on a regular basis also know that the treasury could use a strong transfusion. And that can only come about by having a minimum of 1,000 or more dahlia plants to sell. Keep in mind that the society reimburses 35 cents per plant to cover part of the cost. And propagation can be the right medicine to cure a bad case of winter cabin fever.

If, however, propagation still is not your thing, even on a small scale, consider this option: Retain some of your extra root stock, find some suitable-size pots and sprout and pot them for the sale. The potted roots can be sold for the same price as plants and you will have done your share to make the May sale a success. And if time and space are a problem, one can hold off potting roots until late March or early April and still have ample time to bring something to the sale that is 6-8" tall.

Lastly, don't be bashful asking for help to set up a propagation bench. You will be surprised what can be accomplished with a small table, one 4' suspended shop light, and a couple of small trays of roots. Such a small-scale operation can be started as late as mid February and there will be ample time to have saleable size plants Mother's Day weekend in May.

**WHITE ELEPHANT:** January signals the return of the \$5 white elephant prizes.

Bring something else unusual, too, along with an appetite for dahlia talk and delicious goodies.

***Here's this month's installment of***  
**HENRY'S JOKE OF THE MONTH**



**New Year's Day Prayer for one and all**

Dear Lord,

So far this year I've done well.  
I haven't gossiped. I haven't lost my temper. I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty,  
selfish, or overindulgent.

I'm very thankful for that.

But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm  
probably going to need a lot more help.

Amen

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE

Comments and Questions greeted with a smile.

[webmaster@stldahliasociety.com](mailto:webmaster@stldahliasociety.com)