

DAHLIA DIGGINGS



NEWSLETTER FOR:

"THE GREATER ST. LOUIS DAHLIA SOCIETY"

Volume #10/07 E-Mail edition

PRESIDENT, Colleen Simons (636) 583-8568; **VICE-PRESIDENT**, Mike Plannett (314) 846-6650;
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HEALTH and WELFARE CHAIRPERSON: Judy Sewell

2007 Hourglass just about empty.

MEETING:

The October 19th meeting has been cancelled.

A short business meeting was held at the awards banquet and after a vote during the banquet, this months meeting has been cancelled.



EDUCATION:

Root harvest and storage.

For some, recent root harvests have not produced an abundant crop and many members could find themselves in the same predicament this year given the adverse dry conditions much of August it is then that the tubers do their maturing. Extreme care should be taken to help insure ample root stock for '08 propagation and/or planting.

NEW FISCAL YEAR APPROACHES: The society will be ushering in a new slate of officers in November and November is also the time the membership selects the *Flower of the Year* for the '08 show. So it is quite fitting that the October bulletin become the voice of the membership to express its gratitude to President Colleen Simons and her team for a job well done, and at the same time pledge strong support to the new team of officers.

REFRESHMENT SIGNUP: It's likely that Maleta Fox will begin circulating the '08 refreshment sign-up sheet at the November meeting so check your personal calendar before then. An early commitment will not only make Maleta's job easier but yours as well.

'07 SHOW RECAP: Accompanying the October bulletin is the results of the '07 show and the People's Choice section voting. But it is fitting, I believe, to use some additional space in the bulletin to, first, say THANKS to everyone who contributed in some way to the success of the show. Yes, entries were down and the downturn can be attributed, in part, to the adverse dry weather that struck the St. Louis area for much of August. And the weather played a role in keeping the Moynahan's and Johnson's from making the trip to St. Louis from Cincinnati and Richmond, respectively, and competing. Nevertheless, the show was held and, again, that was a tribute to the membership. Conversely, some societies were forced to cancel shows because of the hot, dry conditions in those areas.

This year saw Maleta Fox win for the first time, outside the arrangement section, with the best entry in the bouquet of dahlias. The section proved to be popular, again. Mike Plannett headed the judging team, which relied on an agreed point system to determine the winner.

Eight categories were missing from the Court of Honor, among which was a vase of 15BB's. That means that the \$50 Ellis Evans award will be extended, yet, another year. And surprisingly, no pom found its way into the show, thus no "smallest" bloom.

While blooms were under-sized, for the most part, the Court of Honor still proved to be a spectacular sight to the visiting public. Many who come to the Garden show weekend continue to marvel that the blooms come from backyard patches. One visitor even wanted to know if the "big" flowers were the by product of steroids?

Two people who voted in the People's Choice section just wrote, "Too hard to vote, all are too beautiful" in lieu of a specific number on each ballot. And a dollar bill found its way into the ballot box, compliments of a dahlia society member from Washington State who was visiting the Garden.

'07 SHOW RESULTS

Single Blooms

King of the Show: Holly Huston, Joe Meyer

Queen of the Show: Woodland Wildthing, Colleen Simons

Princess of the Show: Hy Clown, Colleen Simons

Best Miniature: unknown, Jerry Donley

Best Waterlily: Summit Festival, Jerry Donley

Best Ball: Cornel, Jim Davis

Best MBall: SB's Sunny, Jerry Donley

Best Pom: no entry

Largest Bloom: unknown, Jerry Donley

New Introduction: Wyn's Sensation, Bob Sewell

Flower of the Year: Scaur Swinton, Ron Pollinger

Best Seedling: Min SC red, Bob Sewell

Vase Entries

3A's: Vicki, Jerry Donley

Four Kings: no entry

5A's: Hy Mom, Ron Pollinger

10A's: Islander, Ron Pollinger

15A's: Islander, Ron Pollinger

3B's: Kenora Majestic, Ron Pollinger

Four Queens: Bob & Donna Himmelberg

5B's: Scaur Swinton, Ron Pollinger

10B's: Beaucon White, Ron Pollinger

15B's: Beaucon White, Ron Pollinger

3BB's: Aitara Diadem, Jim & Marge Boever

5B's: no entry

15B's: Barbarry Atom, Bob & Donna Himmelberg

15BB's: no entry

5Min: Brushstrokes, Jerry Donley

10Min: Sugartime Sunrise, Jerry Donley

5WL: no entry

10WL: Pam Howden, Jerry Donley

15WL: no entry

5Balls: Jessie G, Hank Soltermann

10Balls: no entry

5MBalls: SB's Sunny, Bob & Donna Himmelberg

10MBalls: no entry

5Poms: Stoneleigh Joyce, Colleen Simons

5 Other Types: Valley Porcupine, Bob & Donna Himmelberg

Bouquet of Dahlias: Maleta Fox

Arrangement Section

Class 901: (Spring Showers): Colleen Simons

Class 902: (Dark Stormy Summer Night): Colleen Simons

Class 903: (Crisp Autumn Day): Donna Himmelberg

Class 904: (Snowy Winter Day): Duey Davis

Grand Sweepstakes: Ron Pollinger

Runner-up Sweepstakes: Jerry Donley

People's Choice Results

In one of the closest competitions ever, Vonallee captured the 2007 show People's Choice award by a two-vote margin over Yellow Harlequin. The final tally was 96-94. Vonallee was entered by Joe Meyer while Yellow Harlequin was entered by Ron Pollinger. It was Meyer's first time in the winner's circle. Bob and Donna Himmelberg attempted a three-peat with an entry of Badger Twinkle but it finished well off the front-running pace. But another close race did develop for third as two former People's Choice award winners locked themselves in a battle to the finish thanks to the 440 overall visitors who took part in the balloting during the two-day show. Hank Soltermann claimed third with an entry of Mystery Day and Bob Sewell was one vote back in fourth with an entry of Manor Sunset. This year marked the 27th People's Choice competition. Ten exhibitors took part in the '07 competition. In addition to the 440 votes cast, two additional ballots had this written on each of them, "Too hard to vote, all are too beautiful." And a dahlia society member from Washington State, visiting the Garden, plunked a \$1 in the ballot box.

VOTING BREAKDOWN

1-Vonallee, Joe Meyer	96
2-Yellow Harlequin, Ron Pollinger	94
3-Mystery Day, Hank Soltermann	67
4-Manor Sunset, Bob Sewell	66
5-Heartbreaker, Jim Davis	37
6-Colorado Classic, Jerry Donley	34
7-(tie)-Badger Twinkle, Bob Himmelberg	20
7-(tie)-Elizabeth S, Colleen Simons	20
9-Crazy Love, Sarah Meyer	4
10-My Wife, Brian Meyer	2

Respectively submitted:

Joe Meyer, section chair

ROOT BANK? In lieu of the society's in-house February root sale would it be feasible to start a root bank as a means of supplementing the root stock of those who currently propagate for the May plant sale? To have an even more successful two-day event the society needs more plants and the only way to get them is either get the current propagators to make more plants or interest more members in propagating.

Proceeds from the '07 February sale were meager at best. However, the society could have potentially tripled the proceeds by using those same roots as propagation stock. And the plants generated from those roots would have enhanced the Sunday selections at the May sale.

How is the root bank stocked?

Simply, when it comes time to harvest roots for winter storage most members only harvest what they intend to work with the following season. The other roots are either left in the ground to freeze and rot or dug and tossed on a compost pile. It is those roots, if usable, that could find a refuge in a propagating root bank.

Such roots would be distributed free to anyone willing to propagate. However, if a member just wants a particular root to grow then he/she would pay the going rate of \$1 per root. An inventory of the root bank would be made available to the membership by the January meeting and roots would be distributed soon thereafter for propagating. Anyone just wanting to buy roots for planting would get them in March. Some additional storage and paperwork would be needed to make the root bank viable but this would be a small price to pay if the end result was more plants and a better plant selection at future sales. Remember the plant sale provides the society's operating resources.

Feedback needed

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



(Thanks to Joe Meyer for this month's joke)

A man and his ever nagging wife went on vacation to Jerusalem. While they were there, the wife passed away. The undertaker told the husband, "You can have your wife shipped home for \$5,000.00 or you can bury her here in the Holy Land for \$150.00. The man thought about it and decided just to have her shipped home. The undertaker asked "Why would you spend \$5,000.00 to ship your wife home when it would be wonderful for her to be buried here and you would spend only \$150.00. The man replied, "Along time ago a man died here, was buried here, and three days later he rose from the dead. I just can't take that chance!"

BRING a white elephant and an appetite for some delicious treats.

Comments and Questions greeted with a smile.

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"If IFS and BUTS were CANDY and NUTS"