

# DAHLIA DIGGINGS



NEWSLETTER FOR:

**"THE GREATER ST. LOUIS DAHLIA SOCIETY"**

Volume #12/07 E-Mail edition

Officers for the 2008 fiscal year are:

**PRESIDENT**, Mike Plannett (314) 846-6650; **VICE-PRESIDENT**, Kineth Launius (417) 255-0605;  
**SECRETARY**, Bob Sewell (618) 234-0176; **TREASURER**, Jim Davis (573) 484-3731;  
**FINANCIAL SECRETARY**, Shirley Pollinger (636) 584-8311  
**HEALTH and WELFARE CHAIRPERSON**: Judy Sewell

**AUTAY CHIPPER**

**'08 FLOWER OF THE YEAR**

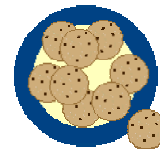
**MEETING:**

**Dec 21st, @ 7:30 pm. Missouri Botanical Garden.**

Unless otherwise noted or changed the society meets the third Friday of each month



**REFRESHMENTS:**



Everyone bring your favorite holiday treat!



## **EDUCATION:**

Colleen Simons will provide the education program. It should put the finishing touches on a successful year and get the juices flowing for '08.

**CONDOLENCES** of the entire society go out to Lou Gerardi and the Gerardi family following the recent passing of Lou's wife Pat. She will be missed at a variety of society events, not only in the coming year but for years to come. Pat's "Can-Do", selling attitude led many a visitor to the society's spring plant sale to leave with a variety of items that were never part of their shopping list when they arrived. The best day in the sun for Pat and Lou , however, came just a few years back when they won the show's "People's Choice" award with an entry of Lakewood Joe. It was a proud moment for them and those attending the awards banquet when they accepted the Sandefur trophy. Pat embodied the true spirit of an organization like the dahlia society. "Help when asked, join in the competition at show time and, otherwise, just enjoy the dahlia patch with Lou and friends".

**MEMBERSHIP:** "Take care of your dues renewal in a timely fashion." A renewal form was included with the November Bulletin

**NEW FISCAL YEAR HERE:** The society greeted its new slate of officers for the fiscal year '08. The slate was voted in by acclamation at the November meeting. Mike Plannett will head the new team and Kineth Launius comes aboard as vice-president. Retained for another year were Bob Sewell (secretary); Jim Davis (treasurer); and Shirley Pollinger (financial secretary).

**FLOWER of the YEAR:** As a tribute to the long time service of Les and Dorothy Miller, their 2000 introduction, "Autay Chipper", was overwhelmingly selected '08 Flower of the Year. For those members unfamiliar with Autay Chipper it is a BBFD yellow. The Millers have won several previous Greater St. Louis show awards with Autay Chipper. *SO IT CAN FIND ITS WAY INTO THE COURT OF HONOR.* The society voted to purchase eight (8) roots of Autay Chipper and distribute them to propagating members. The distribution will take place at the January meeting. Members can also purchase additional stock at \$5 per root. The source of the supply is: Endless Flower Farm, P.O. Box 1225, Camden, Me 04843. [Endlessflowerfarm.com](http://Endlessflowerfarm.com) Autay Chipper thus becomes a triple threat for the '08 show. Not only is it Flower of the Year but it can also win Princess of the Show honors, and a winning vase of 15BB's will net the entrant the Ellis Evans memorial award, a \$50 stipend. Two of the past three shows have produced no entry of 15BB's, so that in itself could be a challenging goal! Autay Chipper is a variety that propagates well so ample plants should be available. Each member will get one free plant. Additional plants will cost \$3, the regular plant price, to members. This will help defray the cost of the root stock purchased by the society.

**GIFT EXCHANGE:** In lieu of the customary monthly "White Elephant" drawing the December meeting will feature a \$10 gift exchange. One must provide a gift to participate in the exchange, however. The gift can be specific for a man or a woman and should be marked as such or it can be unisex and unmarked. There will be no society \$5 prizes.

**GOOD AND BAD:** It's nearing the time when all of us begin mulling over the many root price lists hoping to find something new or something unusual that will help us place a bloom in The Court of Honor, or raise the eyebrow of a neighbor who has gotten accustomed to gazing into our respective dahlia patches. Prices of most roots range from \$3 on the low side to \$10-15 on the high side, regardless of the supplier you consider ordering from. Similarities end there, unfortunately. Before shelling out the cash do your homework, either via internet and e-mail or a phone call. And, after that, shy away from any supplier that you feel uncomfortable with. Also feel free to contact society members to find out what previous experiences they have had regarding a potential supplier. And don't forget to factor in your needs.

If you just plan to plant roots the supplier's later shipping dates will not be a problem. If you plan to propagate and are told that the shipment date can not be until, say, late February or early March, then it would be wise to look elsewhere.

**BEYOND** good treats, there is always a lot of informative dahlia talk at the meeting. Come join us and help spread the holiday cheer among society friends.

## ***Here's this month's installment of***

### ***HENRY'S JOKE OF THE MONTH***



(Thanks to the joke's namesake for this month's joke)

#### **"Discretion"**

Six retired Floridians were playing poker in the condo clubhouse when Meyerwitz loses \$500 on a single hand, clutches his chest and drops dead at the table.

Showing respect for their fallen comrade, the other five continue playing standing up. Finkelstein looks around and asks, "So, who's gonna tell the wife?" They draw straws. Goldberg picks the short one. They tell him to be discreet, be gentle, don't make a bad situation any worse.

"Discreet? I'm the most discreet man you'll ever meet. Discretion is my middle name. Leave it to me." Goldberg goes over to the Meyerwitz apartment and knocks on the door.

The wife answers and asks what he wants.

Goldberg declares, "Your husband just lost \$500 and is afraid to come home."

The wife says, "Tell him to drop dead!"

"I'll go tell him," says Goldberg.

Comments and Questions greeted with a smile.

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**"Let's go Bowling"**

"Go BUCKS" / "Go TIGERS"