

DAHLIA DIGGINGS



NEWSLETTER FOR:

"THE GREATER ST. LOUIS DAHLIA SOCIETY"

Volume #12/08 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

'09 "Flower of the Year"

Kiara Pompadour (B, FD, Light Blend)

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

December 19th, @ 7:30 pm. Missouri Botanical Garden.

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



DECEMBER REFRESHMENTS:



Everyone bring your favorite Christmas cookies, cakes, and treats!



EDUCATION:

Santa gift exchange, *NO SCROOGES!*

The annual \$10 gift exchange will be part of the December meeting festivities.

Just remember that you have to bring a gift to receive one.

A TIP OF THE CAP TO: Jim Boever and Bob Sewell for stepping up to the plate and volunteering to fill the respective roles of treasurer and financial secretary. And as a way of saying a special thanks to Bob submit your 2009 membership dues, payable to the Greater St. Louis Dahlia Society, in a timely fashion. The dues structure is unchanged from last year - St. Louis only (\$10), combined ADS/STL (\$30) and family (\$33). Bob has set a Jan. 15 deadline, so let's help him meet that deadline.

FLOWER of the YEAR: As announced in the bulletin header, the "Flower of the Year" is Kiara Pompadour. It was selected in a runoff vote, of those present at the November meeting, with Islander (AID dark pink) and Summertown Sunrise (MFD light blend). Any of the three would have been a good choice because each has been a past court of honor representative. Ample propagation stock will be available for distribution at the January meeting. To supplement whatever propagation stock already available, the membership voted to purchase six additional roots. The root stock will be purchased from Arrowhead Dahlias at a cost of \$30.

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.

EXCELLENT ROOT HARVEST: With many members having an abundance of stored root stock the society might be able to reinstate the \$1 root sale at the February meeting. The February root sale accomplishes two things. First it adds some money to the society treasury and second it gives members an opportunity to purchase good, healthy stock for either planting or propagation at below bargain prices. A decision will need to be made at the December meeting. If agreed, the January and/or February bulletin will list many of the varieties available at the root sale. Those submitting roots for the sale must have the stock marked by name and submit only stock that shows a potential "eye".

GOOD NEWS, POTENTIAL BAD NEWS: The return to a two-day plant sale Mother's Day weekend at the Garden was good news, indeed. However, it brings an added responsibility and that responsibility is producing enough plants to support the two-day sale. Plainly put, more members propagating will be necessary if the society is to have enough plants. A thousand or more plants, not counting the several hundred border plants propagated and supplied by Mike Plannett, will be needed to meet the possible demand. Please keep this in mind preparing for the coming season. EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS; also keep that in mind as well. And if you cannot propagate plants but have an abundance of roots - sprout and pot them for the sale.

PROPAGATING SUPPLIES: Take an inventory of your supplies and bring your needs to the December meeting. Both Mike Plannett and Les Miller were to have checked 09 prices. A signup list will be available at the December meeting. Distribution of supplies will take place at the January meeting or make your own special pickup arrangements. The list of supplies includes pots, pot markers, pro-mix, oasis cubes and osmocote. The later will be sold in five-pound increments. Oasis cubes come in sheets of 104 cubes. When paying for your supplies, make all checks payable to the Greater St. Louis Dahlia Society.

ST. LOUIS SOCIETY 09 CALENDAR:

- (*monthly meetings*): Jan. 16, Feb. 20, Mar. - no meeting, April, 17, May 15, June 19, July 24, Aug. - picnic meeting, Sept. 18, Oct. - no meeting, Nov. 20 and Dec. 18.
- (*plant sale*) May 9-10. This is the society's normal Mother's Day weekend at the Garden. The Garden is also allowing the society time that Friday afternoon to bring in plants and arrange the Orthwein exhibit hall so that the sale can commence early on Saturday. Let's take full advantage of this opportunity.
- (*show*) Sept. 24-25-26-27. These dates represent the last weekend in September. Show setup can begin anytime after noon on the 24th (Thurs). The pre-08 society schedule will be effective on the 25th, 26th and 27th.

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



IS THERE A SANTA CLAUSE??

- **Santa's Workload**

There are two billion children in the world, but since Santa doesn't appear to handle the Muslim, Hindu, Jewish, and Buddhist children, that reduces his workload to 15% of the total, or 300 million. At an average rate of 3.5 children per household, that's 85.7 million homes. Santa has 31 hours of Christmas to work with, thanks to the different times zones and the rotation of the Earth, assuming he travels East to West. This works out to 767.9 visits per second. So for each household with good children, Santa has about 1/1,000th of a second to park, hop out of the sleigh, jump down the chimney, fill the stockings, distribute the presents, eat whatever snacks have been left, get back up the chimney, into the sleigh and move on to the next house."

- **The Time/Distance Factor**

Assuming that these 91.8 million stops are evenly distributed around the Earth, we're talking about .78 miles per household, a total trip of 75.5 million miles.

- **Calculation of Estimated Speed**

This means that Santa's sleigh is moving at 650 miles per second, or 3,000 times the speed of sound.

- **Santa's Payload**

Assuming that each child gets nothing more than a medium-size Lego set (about two pounds), the sleigh is carrying 321,300 tons, not counting Santa, who is invariably described as "heavy." On land, normal reindeer could pull no more than 300 pounds, and even granting that flying reindeer could pull 10 times the normal amount, Santa's going to need 214,200 reindeer to pull his sleigh. This increases the payload to 353,430 tons, or four times the weight of the "Queen Elizabeth."

Conclusion:

- A craft of 353,000 tons, traveling at 650 miles per second, creates enormous air resistance. This will heat up Mr. Claus and his sleigh like a spacecraft reentering Earth's atmosphere.

Translation:

- If there is a Santa, he's toast.

Comments and Questions greeted with a smile.

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