



DAHLIA DIGGINGS

SAVE THIS BULLETIN!

CONTENTS IMPORTANT

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

MEETING: Jan 18, 7:30 p.m., Missouri Botanical Garden.

The society meets the third Friday of the following months: January, February, April, June, July, September, November and December.

REFRESHMENTS: Mike Plannett, Judy Sewell, Maleta Fox.

EDUCATION: Propagation St. Louis style will be the theme of Mike Plannett's pictorial program. Mike visited several members last year and got a bird's-eye view of their propagation methods. Each visit portrayed similarities and differences.

MEMBERSHIP: Anyone who has not paid his/her 08 fiscal dues please do so ASAP so our financial secretary can complete any unfinished bookwork with ADS membership chairman Alan Fisher. She also wants to finalize the updated STL membership roster so it can be disbursed with the February bulletin. STL only dues are \$10 and a combined STL/ADS membership is \$30. Make your check payable to the Greater St. Louis Dahlia Society and forward it to Shirley Pollinger, 811 Oakmount Lane, Union, Mo. 63084

AUTAY CHIPPER ROOTS: Les Miller will have the society-purchased Autay Chipper roots at the January meeting. A root will be given to each member planning to propagate plants for the membership and May plant sale. Autay Chipper is the society's Flower of the Year and members are encouraged to grow at least one plant and enter the season-ending competition. There will be eight (8) roots for distribution.

PROPAGATION SUPPLIES: John Fox and Les Miller will again take care of the propagation supplies. Inventory your supplies and contact either John or Les as to what your needs are: oasis cubes (104 count), pot markers, pots, pro-mix, and potting soil. Some supplies might be available at the January meeting. But expect all ordered supplies to be available at the February meeting.

LOOKING AHEAD: Expect some discussion at the January meeting about the winter root sale. The past two root sales have not been worthwhile, from the standpoint of generating revenue and root selection. Therefore, it might be more advantageous to distribute all or a portion of those roots to propagating members for the purpose of generating more plants for the May sale or plants for a possible intra-society sale at the April meeting.

08 CALENDAR of EVENTS: Plant societies like ours are obviously becoming second-class citizens at the Garden even though the scheduling department says otherwise. The scheduling department contends that its primary goal is offering a level playing field for all those wanting to take advantage of Garden facilities. But a check of the Garden's 08 calendar has the prime weekend dates mostly going to events that have the potential to generate additional revenue for the Garden.

This revelation prompted Mike Plannett to pose this question during discussion at the Dec. meeting, "Have other plant societies run into a similar problem?"

Thanks to the good work of Colleen it was discovered that, indeed, other plant societies have encountered similar problems. Examples: the Iris society was offered a show date after prime iris blooming time. The Bonsai society annually had given the Garden a \$500 donation but cut back to the 12-date \$300 membership after problems arose. Traditionally the rose society sale also had been Mother's Day weekend. The rose society can no longer sell its miniature rose plants in the upper foyer. The Herb society has left the Garden period.

It must be noted, however, that failure on our part to submit our 08 dates in a timely fashion caused part of our problem. Nevertheless, the Garden scheduling office had to have our \$300 membership check in hand before considering anything. NO GOOD-FAITH HANDSHAKES ANYMORE.

The consensus of opinion is that the Garden has the plant societies over a barrel. And even if another site is found rental and insurance costs could make them prohibitive and no other place has the potential to draw the gardening public.

To return to the calendar of old, namely 12 monthly meetings, a two-day plant sale, the board meeting date, the judging seminar date and the Thurs-Fri-Sat-Sun show schedule, means an additional \$400, making our annual membership fee \$700. This would have to be paid up front before the scheduling office would even consider our calendar application, a far cry from the \$150 donation of the past.

During the December discussion John Fox suggested a larger donation to the garden might enhance our chances of getting the dates submitted. But as reflected in Colleen's findings a larger donation carries absolutely no more weight.

So, you ask, "Where do we go from here?" The society does have time in the next 5-6 months to weigh a number of options before it, again, will be time to submit our '09 membership fee to the Garden scheduling office. That should put us at or near the front of the line, but, as Joe Meyer found out in his '08 deliberations that guarantees nothing.

CAPSULE LOOK at CONFIRMED '08 CALENDAR:

January:

Monthly society meeting

February:

Monthly society meeting

(Possible board meeting in place of education program)

March:

NO MEETING

April:

Monthly society meeting

(Intra-society plant sale (*tentative*))

May:

NO MEETING

One day plant sale at the Garden's Beaumont room on May 11th

June:

Monthly society meeting

July:

Monthly society meeting

August:

Society picnic/fish fry meeting at a site yet to be determined

September:

Monthly society meeting

Annual garden tour (date and sites yet to be determined)

October:

NO MEETING

Annual Society show in the Garden's floral display room on Oct. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

Awards banquet at Overland Christian Church on Oct. 11th, (*pending*)

November:

Monthly society meeting

(Selection of our '09 flower of the year)

December:

Christmas party meeting

INTRA-SOCIETY PLANT SALE:At the December meeting someone estimated that members, past members and friends of members purchase nearly 50 percent of the plants at the first day of the plant sale, leaving general sales to account for the other 50 percent of sales on Saturday and all day Sunday.

As already noted elsewhere in this bulletin the society plant sale will be conducted just one day - Mother's Day Sunday. Then it would seem advantageous to conduct an intra-society sale prior to our public sale. Such a sale can be accomplished and it can be successful.

Those propagating would need to supply the bulletin editor with individual lists of what they are propagating so that a master list could be published in the March bulletin. A potential buyer could bring his/her wish list to the April meeting. Hopefully at the sale would be a number of plants of each variety appearing on the master propagation list. If, however, someone has concern about caring for his/her plants until May planting that person could make separate arrangements with propagating members to pick up their plants May 11. But members should understand that the focus of May 11 would be general sales.

MONTHLY BULLETIN: The editor will continue to circulate the bulletin even during months that no meeting is scheduled.

REFRESHMENT CALENDAR: First, Maleta Fox wants to thank everyone who volunteered for refreshments in a timely fashion. However, those individuals who have already committed in March and May should consider an alternate month with no meeting scheduled in March and May.

As the refreshment calendar stands currently one volunteer is needed in June, two in July and two in November. Filling these spots will enable Maleta to not have to worry about refreshment volunteers for the entire year. So, if you plan to attend the January meeting get with Maleta before or after the meeting and work things out accordingly.

HENRY'S JOKE OF THE MONTH: (THANKS TO SARAH MEYER FOR THIS MONTH'S JOKE)

TIRED DOG

An old, tired-looking dog wandered into the yard. I could tell from his collar and well-fed belly that he had a home. He followed me into the house, down the hall, and fell asleep in a corner. An hour later, he went to the door, and I let him out.

The next day he was back, resumed his position in the hall, and slept for an hour. This continued for several weeks. Curious, I pinned a note to his collar: "Every afternoon your dog comes to my house for a nap."

The next day he arrived with a different note pinned to his collar:

"He lives in a home with ten children -- he's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?"

\$5 WHITE ELEPHANT RETURNS: January signals the return of our two \$5 white elephant drawings. This is addition to whatever else shows up on the white elephant table. And also bring a big appetite for some tasty treats and some additional dahlia conversation.