



DAHLIA DIGGINGS

Thanks to Everyone for Helping at the Plant Sale Mother's DAY

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: Next scheduled meeting will be June 20, 7:30 PM Missouri Botanical Garden. Unless otherwise noted the society meets at the Garden on the third Friday of the following, upcoming months - June, July, September, November and December. Other monthly meetings will be held in conjunction with the August fish fry/picnic, the September member garden tour and the October awards banquet.

REFRESHMENTS: (in June) – Aldine Kimker, Joe Davinroy, Bob & Pat Auer.

EDUCATION: announced in the June bulletin.

ADDING to the RANKS: The society would like to welcome new member, Dale Luchsinger, of Terre Haute, In. Dale reports that he is joining our society because it is the nearest to his home.

ON the HEALTH FRONT: Both Judy Sewell and Dee Pollinger continue to improve from their respective ailments. And in connection with Dee's rehabilitation close friend Brenda Krause is planning a trivia night to raise money for cancer research in Dee's name. It is being planned for June 6 at 7 p.m. To participate contact Brenda at (636) 583-7717 or (636) 584-3305.

PLANT SALE SUMMARY: Some receipts remain outstanding but a preliminary report indicates that the combined April meeting sale and Mother's Day sale will likely gross over \$1,600. Some might be disappointed but considering the terrible weather Mother's Day and no Saturday sales the society should count its blessings. Treasurer Jim Davis will provide a more detail report at the June meeting.

DATES, SITES CONFIRMED: Hank and Donna Soltermann have confirmed the sites and dates for the August picnic/fish fry and the October awards banquet. First, the picnic will be Aug. 16 at Bee Tree Park – a site checked out by John Fox and he gave it high marks. More details will be forthcoming in the months ahead. Jerry Donley, again, promises that there will be plenty of fish. The awards banquet will be Oct. 18 at the Overland Community Center. Hank reports that the changing of the guard at his church made it unavailable. "Actually, I believe the community center is more accessible than the church," Hank said. The community center is located on Lackland Road, near Woodson. Directions to both sites will be included in future bulletins.

MAKE THESE CHANGES: Bulletin editor Joe Meyer has a new email address and there is also an error in his phone number that appears in the revised '08 member roster. The new email is as follows: joemeyer4323@charter.net. His corrected phone number is: (618) 656-4323.

BELATED CONGRATULATIONS to Les and Dorothy Miller who recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

THE '08 SHOW: The society's Garden liaison – Joe Davinroy – acting on a board meeting recommendation, was able to secure additional setup time Tuesday (Sept. 30), thus making this year's event comparable to previous shows in length.

The complete refined schedule will be as follows:

- Tuesday (Sept. 30) – setup beginning at noon
- Wednesday (Oct. 1) – placing of entries from noon on
- Thursday Oct. 2) – entries close at 10 a.m., judging begins and show open to public by 12:30 p.m.
- Friday (Oct. 3) – show open to public, dismantling begins 5 p.m. or thereabouts

MEMBERSHIP ACTION: The majority of the members present at the April meeting ratified all recommendations passed out of the board of directors meeting held in early March. To refresh members' memories those recommendations ratified were:

- The society will make a \$100 donation to the ADS to help defray the cost of updating its internet website.
- People's Choice entries will remain as placed upon entry.
- A \$50 donation will be made to the Missouri Botanical Garden in lieu of sending flowers to a deceased member or member spouse
- Beginning with the '08 plant sale members supplying plants (regular varieties) will be reimbursed 40 cents and (border type) 25 cents. In addition the society will continue to sell plants to members for \$3 each, but increase the non-member cost to \$3.50 each or three plants for \$10.

LETTER to the GARDEN: With the blessing of the president and positive responses from others, show chairman Joe Meyer submitted a letter to the Garden's scheduling department, notifying it of our proposed '09 calendar of events. The letter and proposed dates are part of the May bulletin. Responding to the letter by email Deborah Springer referred to the current scheduling guidelines that make it very clear that dates submitted by member plant societies, such as ourselves, will not be considered by office until early November. The Garden's event calendar is open first to all internal Garden departments. Once their events have been penciled in, the remaining open dates are allotted on a first come, first serve basis. Springer pointed out that the Garden currently is working with 29 such plant society groups and her office has no intention of sidestepping the carefully written guidelines to favor one over any/or all of the others. She further stated that purchasing a membership in no way guarantees that the Garden will have available space for all dates and times requested and the purchasing of a membership in no way implies that.

SOCIETY WEBSITE: Brian Meyer reports that our website produced over 300 hits during the month of April, including one from a gentleman in England who has added dahlias to his garden and seeks advice. Another person who attended the Mother's Day plant sale was alerted to the sale via the website. She first became acquainted with dahlias during a visit to Cashiers, NC.

PLANTING TIME is upon us, if the ground ever dries out enough. Rainfall through the metro area has been much too much in recent weeks, over 4.5" in Edwardsville. Similar reports have filtered in from others. One weather person pointed out that this has been the wettest 4 and one half months on record in the St. Louis area. But just wait, nary a drop will be found come July and August.