

# DAHLIA DIGGINGS



NEWSLETTER FOR:  
*"THE GREATER ST. LOUIS DAHLIA SOCIETY"*  
Volume #6/07 E-Mail edition

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**HEALTH and WELFARE CHAIRPERSON**: Judy Sewell

*Be prepared for upcoming hot and humid weather.*

## MEETING:

**June 15th**

The Society meets the third Friday of each month at the  
Missouri Botanical Garden at 7:30 pm.



## REFRESHMENTS:



Jerry Donley, Toby Charles, and Maleta Fox



## EDUCATION:

Your dahlias are planted and growing. And some growers have possibly fertilized and sprayed at least once. An application of malathion and avid early on can work wonders when it comes to curtailing leaf hoppers, aphids, leaf miners and other insects and/or mites. This is also the time to spray the tomato plants with triple action --a combination spray for insects, mites and fungus problems. Soon it will also be time to mulch. What is the best mulch and how much mulch is needed? Mulching is a topic that often falls through the cracks as more discussion time is spent on other aspects of the growing season.

But mulching is an intricate part of any dahlia season. It serves several key functions during the growing season. So this month the topic is mulch.

**MALETA FOX** has taken over the chairmanship of the refreshment calendar. Thanks to all those who have volunteered for the monthly refreshments. Maleta reports that the calendar is now complete for this fiscal year and also through the first quarter of fiscal year 2008.

**PICNIC DATE** is Saturday Aug. 18 at Creve Coeur Park.

**ANY FUTURE** health and welfare items should be referred to Judy Sewell, the society's new chairperson.

**CLARIFICATION:** Some confusion has apparently surfaced as to when the society's 2007 show will be held at the Garden. It will be the **LAST WEEKEND** in September just as in previous years. The weekend dates are: Sept. 28-29-30. Show chairman Joe Meyer believes the confusion stems from the fact that September normally has four weekends and society members are accustomed to remembering that the show is therefore on the fourth weekend. But 2007 is one of those rare years when September has five weekends.

**EXPECT** John Fox and Hank Soltermann to provide an in depth report from the annual June meeting of the Midwest Conference. The meeting was held June 2 in Goshen, In. and was presided over by Midwest Conference President Dr. Rich Peters. Suburban Chicago will be the site of this year's combined Midwest and ADS national show, Sept. 6-9. ADS President Jerry Landerholm announced recently that the best vase of 3 miniature blooms at the 2007 combined show will be given the Ellis Evans memorial stipend of \$50. A similar stipend is also given at the St. Louis show for the best vase of 15 BB blooms in recognition Evans' many years of tireless service in St. Louis and to ADS.

**PLANT SALE:** The initial report presented at the May meeting listed gross receipts from the society's annual plant sale at nearly \$2,700. Show awards for this year had already been purchased, leaving the net receipts from the 2007 sale to be added directly to the society treasury.

**AUGUST PICNIC REVISITED:** Hank and Donna Soltermann are inviting those attending the picnic to come first to their home and check out not only Hank's dahlia patch but also the veggie garden. Hank likely will give more details at the June meeting.

**SHOW TOOLS:** It was suggested by Bob Sewell that the society purchase an ADS color chart and a multi-year ADS classification book to assist participants and judging teams at the show. After some discussion Sewell's suggestion was put forth in the form of a motion and approved by a majority of members attending the May meeting. The color chart will be most useful in the classifying of 2-yr and older seedlings that are entered in the regular sections of the show. The multi-year classification book will contain many varieties that no longer appear in the most recent classification books for one reason or another. Any member can also purchase his/her own multi-year classification book from the ADS.

**SECTION "V" (bouquet of dahlias):** Mike Plannett is submitting a six-category scorecard that he hopes will better assist those judging the bouquet entries and also those planning to enter section "V." The six categories will have a combined point total of 100. While adhering to each category, as defined, is important, Plannett stresses that individuals still will have the freedom to tap their own creativity and as a result he expects this year's entries to grow and be even better. "I see this as another step toward refining the section guidelines," he said. The six categories and the respective point total for each in parentheses are as follows:

1. DESIGN (30)
2. INTERPRETATION (15)
3. EXPRESSION (10)
4. DISTINCTION (15)
5. CONDTION (20)
6. CONFORMANCE (10)

Plannett defines each as follows:

- DESIGN: shape and design of the bouquet, understanding that the bouquet must be 360 degrees.
- EXPRESSION: placement of the blooms by size
- DISTINCTION: deals primarily with the size, shape, color and type of vase.
- CONDTION: quality of blooms, foliage and accenting live plant matter.
- INTERPRETATION: speaks to balance of the bouquet as it pertains to color and size of the various dahlias incorporated into the bouquet.
- CONFORMANCE: speaks to the number of dahlia blooms in one's bouquet. The section guidelines do not specify a minimum or maximum number of dahlia blooms, but rather stipulate that dahlia blooms dominate the bouquet.

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



(Thanks To Henry for this months joke.)

## **Wives lost in Wal-Mart**

Two old guys are pushing their carts around Wal-Mart when they collide.

The first old guy says to the second guy, "Sorry about that. I'm looking for my wife, and I guess I wasn't paying attention to where I was going."

The second old guy says, "That's OK, It's a coincidence. I'm looking for my wife, too. I can't find her and I'm getting a little desperate."

The first old guy says, "Well, maybe I can help you find her. What does she look like?"

The second old guy says, "Well, she is 27 yrs old, tall, with red hair, blue eyes, long legs, big busted, and is wearing short shorts." "What does your wife look like?"

To which the first old guy says, "Doesn't matter, let's look for yours"!

**WHITE ELEPHANT:** Rummage around and find something unusual for the white elephant drawing. Don't forget the society's two \$5 gifts. Finally bring an appetite for delicious treats and interesting dahlia discussion.

Comments and Questions greeted with a smile.

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"See ya later kid, write if you find work"