



# DAHLIA DIGGINGS

## Friendly Reminder:

'08 Show Only 104 Days

### 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:** June 18, 7:30 PM Missouri Botanical Garden. Unless otherwise noted the society meets on the third Friday of the following, upcoming months - June, July, September, November and December.

**REFRESHMENTS:** Joe Davinroy, Aldine Kimker, Bob & Pat Auer.

**EDUCATION:** It's not too early to think about timing. And what are the perils of all the excess wet weather?

**THE SOCIETY** welcomes new members Ernesto Abarca of Maryland Heights, Mo. and Irene Haley of Washington, IL.

**JOHN FOX** and **HANK SOLTERMANN**, again, represented the society at the annual spring meeting of the Midwest Dahlia Conference. The day-long meeting was held at the Eby Pines Resort in Bristol, In. and was attended by some 50 people from many of the 18 societies that comprise the conference.

Fox reports that it was recommended and then passed by the conference board to adopt the national criteria that specifies that the Midwest Show court of honor include the best single bloom entry of every type dahlia recognized and classified by the American Dahlia Society. And it was further recommended and approved that "AA" and "A" size entries be grouped separately.

One can expect to find these recommendations in force when the Greater Columbus and Greater Cincinnati society's co-host the 75<sup>th</sup> Midwest Conference show, Sept. 12-14 at the Drawbridge Inn in suburban Cincinnati. All pertinent information regarding the show can be found on pages 94-96 in your March ADS bulletin.

It was announced that this year's Midwest show will have a special section to pay tribute to longtime Columbus society member Luther Havens. Entry in the section will be limited to only those varieties introduced by Havens.

Following the business meeting attendees were treated to an interesting program on dahlia diseases given by Janna Beckerman, professor and plant pathologist from Purdue University. And as usual, the spring meeting concluded with the annual plant auction. More than 400 plants were donated, of which 30 came from St. Louis society members.

Fox also added another \$150 to our treasury by selling three boxes of show tags.

**INCLUDED** in the June bulletin is a response email from Deborah Springer of the Garden scheduling department. Springer's response followed a letter to her and/or Maggie Brune, of the same office, from show chairman Joe Meyer. The Meyer letter expressed some concerns voiced by members at the April meeting and also included the society's tentative calendar for 2009.

**EXPECT** Treasurer Jim Davis to provide a detail financial report on the combined April meeting and May 11 plant sale. Davis also is working on an overview of revenue vs. expenses for the years of 2005-06-07 as requested by President Mike Plannett. That report will be forthcoming and will appear in a future society bulletin.

**INCENTIVE:** The Elkhart Dahlia Society is offering 10 roots to new members. Also noted in this information tidbit are the Elkhart 08 flowers of the year - Manor Sunset, Penhill Monarch, Emory Paul and Rock Run Kaitlin.

**MIDWEST CONFERENCE PRESIDENT** Richard Peters confirmed to the bulletin editor that some reference will be made regarding the Ellis Evans memorial award at the Midwest show. And that the award will be given to the best single BB per the request of Ellis' late widow, Toni. The memorial award was nearly forgotten at last year's combined Midwest/National show but eventually was given to the best miniature. Last year's near oversight will be remedied this year, Peters promised.

Similar recognition is made at the St. Louis show, again, per the request of Toni. However at the St. Louis show the award is given to the best vase of 15 BB's. Both the Midwest and St. Louis awards also carry a stipend of \$50.

**COME PREPARED** to share what ups and downs your patch experienced during May, our planting time. This May, according to the area weather experts, was the wettest on record. Have you noticed additional slug damage because of the excessive wet, cool weather? How much was your planting delayed? Have you noticed slower growth? Have you been able to apply a preventative spray for leaf miner?

Is there a silver lining? Possibly. Wet, cool weather does help hold red spider mites in check but those hot, humid days will soon appear. So take advantage of a cloudy, cool day and spray just to be safe.

**WHITE ELEPHANT:** In addition to bringing an appetite for some delicious treats, also bring something unusual for the white elephant drawing.