

# DAHLIA DIGGINGS



NEWSLETTER FOR:

*"THE GREATER ST. LOUIS DAHLIA SOCIETY"*

Volume #7/08 E-Mail edition

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

## PICNIC / FISH-FRY

## AUGUST 16

### NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

July 18th, @ 7:30 pm. Missouri Botanical Garden.

Unless otherwise noted the society meets at the Garden on the third Friday of the following, upcoming months:

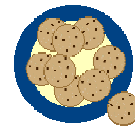
July, September, November and December.

Other monthly meetings will be held in conjunction with the August fish fry/picnic, the September member garden tour and the October awards banquet.



## JUNE REFRESHMENTS:

Jerry Donely, Maleta Fox and, Donna Himmelberg



## EDUCATION:

Getting past the "MID-SEASON BLAHS".

**CONTINUE** to think about Dee Pollinger. Don reports that she will undergo, hopefully, her final surgery July 18. She has completed a series of chemo treatments and remains in good spirits, although the treatments have been taxing, he advised.

**RON** Pollinger is experiencing a hip problem but brother Don also reports that Ron's dahlia patch is coming along in good shape as are the patches of several other members, namely, Brian Meyer, Jerry Donley, Jim Boever, John Fox, Ken Kornblum and from Alabama, Tom Gilbert. Tom said that he and Jenny are looking forward to coming to the show in early October.

You can view pictures of Tom's patch and also pictures of Joe and Brian Meyer's patches on our website. Anyone else interested in having pictures of their patch on the website please contact Brian: [webmaster@stldahliasociety.com](mailto:webmaster@stldahliasociety.com).

**IT'S** not too early to check whether you will need show tags. Show chairman Joe Meyer will have tags available at the August picnic/fish fry meeting. And in connection with show preparation, find attached to the July bulletin a copy of the 08 arrangement section addendum. Some additional copies also will be available at the picnic.

**PICNIC/FISH FRY:** The Donley's promise that there will be plenty of fish. Other pot luck dishes will be provided by those attending the picnic. Expect to find a signup sheet at the July meeting. And other picnic questions will be answered as of the regular business agenda. A map and directions to the south county picnic site will be provided with the August bulletin.

**SOME** discussion is expected as to whether high gas prices will curtail a September garden tour. If such a tour is not feasible, it will still be necessary to hold a short impromptu meeting some place to finalize everything for the Oct. 1-2-3 show. No September meeting was scheduled at the Garden when the 08 event calendar was put together in lieu of the pending annual garden tour. If, however, a garden tour is feasible, be thinking where the majority of the membership would be willing to travel on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon.

**THOSE MEMBERS** who were able to plant in mid May, despite the heavy monsoon rains, should have completed their 90-day pinch-back. Others who were not as fortunate likely will wait until early August to begin their final pinch-back.

With Mother Nature turning up the heat and humidity remember to keep plant shock at an absolute minimum. If time allows take advantage of cloudy days or wait until early evening to pinch back. By doing so, your plants will have a 12-15 hour window to recover.

Also one can minimize plant shock by pinching back individual plants in stages. And it would be helpful to fertilize your patch once the pinch-back process is completed. A nitrogen fix should spur lateral growth and thus help guard against stunting.

The most healthy plants will have the best chance of surviving the July and August heat and in turn will also be the most apt to produce the best blooms, whether one plans to show or not.

**MIDWEST SHOW:** The Greater Columbus and Cincinnati dahlia societies will jointly host the 75th Midwest Conference show at the Drawbridge Inn, Covington, Ky., Sept. 12-14. And the following weekend the ADS national show will be held at Longwood Gardens in suburban Philadelphia. Those wanting more particulars on either or both shows should refer to the ADS June bulletin for particulars.

**GARDEN DAHLIAS:** In recent years Steve Nowotarski has actively pursued the ADS to recognize varieties that do not measure up to show standards but nevertheless produce blooms suitable for cut-flower bouquets and container gardening.

Steve has provided an interesting article in the June ADS bulletin on container gardening. It begins on page 63. Some ideas he presents regarding filler material and how to balance the container planting could possibly be adjusted by those members planning to have entries in the bouquet section of the St. Louis show.

And Steve suggests that individuals visit his website to find out additional things about container gardening with dahlias.

**FUTURE CHANGES?** The ADS classification committee has listed 74 varieties that will be considered for classification change prior to 2009, One can visit pages 27- 29 in the June ADS bulletin for the complete list.

However of special interest to many STL members are the following:

- *Hy Mom* (AA to A)
- *Wyn's Sensation* (SC yellow to SC bronze)
- *Woodland Wildthing* (SC orange to 10 orange)
- *Camano Sitka* (IC dark blend to IC light blend)
- *Nenekazi* (LC light blend to LC dark blend)
- *Tahoma Higgo* (LC dark blend to LC light blend)
- *Senior Ball* (light blend to dark blend)

## *Here's this month's installment of*

### HENRY'S JOKE OF THE MONTH



(THANKS AGAIN TO SARAH MEYER FOR THIS MONTHS JOKE)

### **BUBBA'S 21st BIRTHDAY**

Bubba had long heard the stories of an amazing family tradition.

It seems that his father, grandfather and great-grandfather had all been able to walk on water on their 21st birthday.

On that special day, they'd each walked across the lake to the bar on the far side for their first legal drink. So when Bubba's 21st birthday came around, he and his pal Jim Bob took a boat out to the middle of the lake. Bubba stepped out of the boat and nearly drowned! Jim Bob just barely managed to pull him to safety

Furious and confused, Bubba went to see his grandmother.

'Grandma,' he asked, 'it's my 21st birthday, so why can't I walk 'cross the lake like my pappy, his father, and his father before him?

Granny looked deeply into Bubba's troubled eyes and said:

'Because your father, your grandfather and your great grandfather were born in January, when the lake is frozen. You were born in July, you frickin' idiot.

**BRING** an interesting white elephant, a good appetite and share your successes and/or problems.

Comments and Questions greeted with a smile.

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