

# DAHLIA DIGGINGS



NEWSLETTER FOR:

*"THE GREATER ST. LOUIS DAHLIA SOCIETY"*

Volume #9/07 E-Mail edition

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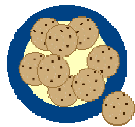
*Awards banquet info*  
*with this newsletter.*

**MEETING:**

**September 21st, 7:30 PM**

**Missouri Botanical Garden**

Unless otherwise noted or changed the society meets the third Friday of each month.



**REFRESHMENTS:**

Maleta Fox and Colleen Simons.





## EDUCATION:

Staging, with an emphasis on vases. The education chairman is asking anyone who can bring blooms; please do so.

The education chairman will supply the vases and wood wedges.

**PEOPLE'S CHOICE:** Ineligible varieties for the '07 show are **Aitara Diadem, Kenora Wow and Pam Howden**. No entry placement before noon the 28th.

**SHOW SCHEDULE, TAGS and ADDENDUM** for the arrangement section will be available at the September meeting. And in addition the updated Section "V" page can be picked up, too.

**LAST REMINDER:** The date of the '07 show at the Garden is Sept. 28~29-30. Setup will be Thursday, Sept. 27.

**JUDGING SEMINAR:** Chairman of the judging committee, Bob Sewell, would like to remind everyone that the annual judging seminar will be held Tuesday, Aug. 21 at the Garden from 7 to 9 p.m. The American Dahlia Society requires each of its member societies to conduct at least one yearly seminar. The seminar reviews all of the current judging information and also updates any changes. And it is during the seminar that discussion usually occurs dealing with judging practices as they might relate to the year's specific weather conditions. Good judging makes for a successful show and the place to get all of your questions answered prior to the show is the seminar. Bob strongly recommends that judges and clerks attend the seminar.

**SHOW SCHEDULE, TAGS and ADDENDUM** for the arrangement section will be available at these upcoming events: picnic, judging seminar and September meeting. And in addition the updated Section "V" page can be picked up, too.

# ***NATIONAL SHOW REPORT***

**STL DELEGATION:** Fourteen members attended the combined national / Midwest conference show held recently at the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, II. The Central States Dahlia Society was the host. The majority of the delegation was attending the national show for the first time and all first-timers agreed that it was an eye-opening experience. And for Bob and Judy Sewell it brought back memories of the 1985 national show in St Louis. "We didn't really know what dahlias were at the time," she recalled. Thinking back she added, "We just decided to go to the (Missouri Botanical) Garden that Sunday afternoon and happened on the dahlia show somewhat by accident. And we have been growing dahlias ever since." Comprising the delegation in addition to Bob and Judy were Bob and Donna Himmelberg, Jerry and Judy Donley, Colleen and Fletcher Simons, Brian and Sarah Meyer, John and Maleta Fox, Hank Soltermann, and Joe Meyer. John and Maleta were the deans of the delegation, having attended several previous national shows.

**THE COMPETITION:** Bob Sewell, Hank Soltermann and Joe Meyer each entered blooms in the show and Colleen Simons entered the photography section. Colleen and Bob led the way. Each won a blue rosette in their respective classes. Bob was so excited that he even had the chairman of the show sign the back of the rosette. Three of Hank's class entries received a blue and the lone Meyer class entry won a third.

**ELLIS EVANS AWARD:** In keeping with the wishes of Ellis' late wife, Toni, the Midwest Conference recognized the long-time deceased St. Louis member by awarding a \$50 stipend to the best three-bloom miniature entry. The winning entry was *Sugartime Sunrise* exhibited by Jim and Vilma Thomas of the Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society.

**THE SHOW ACTIVITIES** extended over five days and included everything one would associate with a national convention. Attendees could select whatever activities were of specific interest. Following the Sunday morning classification committee meeting and the annual ADS morning business meeting there was a bus tour of two gardens of Central States Dahlia Society members. Steve Meggos was the most notable. He lives in a Carpenterville subdivision but his dahlia garden consists of over 900 plants. He is a dahlia enthusiast but surprisingly does not show his blooms. Rather, he helps other enjoy the fruits of his labor by giving some away and the remaining blooms on his plants eventually become seed pods. Steve hand pollinates. One of his primary crosses currently is Zorro on Formby Kaitlyn.

**JUDGING:** Members of the delegation were assigned to respective judging teams and that also proved to be an interesting experience for all.

**AWARDS:** All of the awards, which included medals and honorary stipends, were predetermined by the show committee. Those receiving awards at the Saturday banquet did not have to come forward to receive them. Each award was brought to an individual at his/her table. by a group of runners from the host society. Instead of crystal or glassware all such awards were different types of handmade pottery donated by an artisan friend of the host society.

**ENTERTAINMENT:** A string quartet provided music during the noon luncheon and two harpists played before and during the evening banquet.

**PICTURES** of the show are available on the website.

**LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY:** We all know about a food bank and a blood bank. *How about a root bank within the society?* The primary purpose of the root bank would help supplement the root stock of those members who do much of the propagating for the society's spring plant sale at the Garden. To have an even more successful two-day event the society needs more plants and the only way to get them is either propagate more or interest more members in propagating. Sunday dahlia selections were rather slim this year. When it comes time to harvest roots for winter storage most members only harvest what they intend to work with the following season. The other roots are either left in the ground to freeze and rot or dug and tossed on a compost pile. It is those roots, if usable, that could find a refuge in a propagating root bank.

How would the root bank work?

First it would require a little extra storage work and some paper work. But, it would be a small price to pay if it could enhance our plant-sale selection. Our intra-society root sale at the February meeting didn't *net* much for the treasury simply because there weren't that many roots for sale. And the number of roots has declined steadily at recent sales. Granted, some roots have been sold at the plant sale but those 50-cent or \$1 roots could have netted much more if they had been turned into propagation stock. Root-bank stock would be distributed free to those members who plan to propagate at the February meeting. Anyone else would pay the customary \$1 per root. An inventory list of the root-bank stock could appear in the December and January bulletins so those propagating would know what is available beyond their own harvested stock.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** President Colleen Simons, in accordance with the bylaws, has put forth a nominating committee for officers for fiscal year 2008. The new fiscal year begins in November.

**SETUP WORKERS:** Setting up for the annual society show will take place at the Garden on Thursday, Sept. 27 beginning at 10:00 a.m. John Fox is coordinating the transportation of stored show items to the Garden. Everyone else who can help should report to the Garden at about that time.

**CLARIFICATION** regarding any aspect of the show should be done at the September meeting. Do not wait until show day. Getting your questions answered at the meeting will help make the show go smoother and thus make it a pleasant experience for everyone who participates and everyone who attends.

*The Greater St. Louis Dahlia Society*  
*Annual Awards Banquet and Dinner*

**Date:** October 13th, 2007

**Time:** 5:30 PM until?????

**Place:** Overland Christian Church, 2200 Lackland Rd., Overland, Mo

Deadline for reservation is October 5th. Please remit by using this detachable form or by submitting to Hank Soltermann at the September meeting or any time during show weekend, (Sept. 28, 29, 30). Please make your check payable to: *The Greater St. Louis Dahlia Society*. The cost is \$10 for a member and \$12 for a non-member.

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

I / WE WILL (    ), I / WE WILL NOT (    ) be attending the 2007  
awards banquet and dinner

MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_ NON-MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your check with this form to:

Hank Soltermann  
10415 Cantor Way  
Overland, Mo 63114

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



To celebrate the start of the college football season here are some, (slightly biased), college football jokes.  
ENJOY!!!!

A Jay hawk, a Tiger, a Cornhusker, a Buffalo, and a Longhorn are all climbing a mountain. They get to the top of the mountain, and the Cornhusker says, "I do this for the University of Nebraska," and he jumps off of the mountain. Then the Buffalo says, "I do this for the University of Colorado," and he jumps off the mountain. Then the Mizzou fan says, "I do this for the world," and he pushes the Jay hawk off of the mountain.

- Q. How do you keep Jay hawks out of your yard?  
A. Put up a goal-post!
- Q. How do you get a KU graduate off your porch?  
A. Pay him for the pizza.
- Q: Why did Michigan change their field from grass to artificial turf?  
A: To keep the Michigan cheerleaders from grazing at half time.
- Q: What do you get when you cross a groundhog and a Wolverine?  
A: Six more weeks of bad football.
- Q: How do you make University of Michigan cookies?  
A: Put them in a big Bowl and beat for 3 hours
- Q: How many batteries does it take to shock Michigan?  
A: 1 AA

A man was walking in the woods when he came upon a river. On the other side, there was a man wearing a KU hat. The man yelled to the KU fan, "How do you get to the other side of the river?" The KU fan responded, "You moron, you're already on the other side!"

**Ann Arbor News Report:** Football practice in Ann Arbor was delayed on Monday for nearly two hours. One of the offensive players, while on his way to the locker room, happened to look down and notice a suspicious looking, unknown, white powdery substance on the practice field. The head coach, Lloyd Carr, immediately suspended practice while the FBI was called in to investigate. After a complete field analysis, the FBI determined that the white substance unknown to the players was the goal line. Practice was resumed when the FBI decided that the team would not be likely to encounter the substance again.

One day in an elementary school in Ann Arbor Michigan, a teacher asks her class if the Michigan Wolverines are their favorite football team. The whole class says yes except for Little Jimmy. The teacher asks, "What's your favorite football team Jimmy?" Little Jimmy says, "The Ohio State Buckeyes." The teacher asks, "Well, why is that?" Little Jimmy says, "Well, my dad is a Buckeye fan, my mom is a Buckeye fan, I guess that makes me a Buckeye fan." The teacher angered by his reply says, "If your dad was a moron and your mom was an idiot what would that make you?"

Little Jimmy says, "Well, I guess that would make me a Michigan fan."

**GO TIGERS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**GO BUCKS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**WHITE ELEPHANT:** Don't forget your knick-knack and also bring a big appetite for goodies and dahlia inter-action as the group relates the many horror stories associated with the extended hot, dry weather conditions that beset the membership

Comments and Questions greeted with a smile.

[webmaster@stldahliasociety.com](mailto:webmaster@stldahliasociety.com)

"GET THE PIG!"