

DAHLIA DIGGINGS



NEWSLETTER FOR:

"THE GREATER ST. LOUIS DAHLIA SOCIETY"

Volume #9/08 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

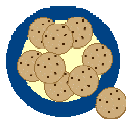
HEALTH and WELFARE CHAIRPERSON: Judy Sewell

IT SHOW TIME! , OCTOBER 1, 2, & 3

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

September 19th, @ 7:30 pm. Missouri Botanical Garden.

Unless otherwise noted the society meets at the Garden on the third Friday of the remaining, upcoming months: November and December.



AUGUST REFRESHMENTS:

Joe Meyer and Hank Soltermann



EDUCATION:

Judging Chairman Bob Sewell will handle the annual ADS recommended judging seminar. And show chairman Joe Meyer will answer any last minute questions regarding show preparation.

SENIOR JUDGES: The ADS has notified Bob Sewell that all senior judges are required to take a new ADS judging test. Bob will hand out the test at the September meeting. It can be completed at one's leisure and returned to him in the supplied envelope.

THE SEPTEMBER MEETING will provide another opportunity to pick up show tags, a show schedule and arrangement addendum. All also will be available at the Garden on Oct, 1.

EVERYTHING pertaining to the show Oct. 1-2-3 at the Garden will be hammered out at the September meeting, from setup after lunch on Sept. 30 to teardown late afternoon on Oct. 3.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE: The following varieties remain ineligible for Section P at the '08 show. *Kenora Wow*, *Pam Howden* and *Vonallee*. Remember that no enter can be placed in Section P prior to noon on the 1st. And in accordance with board action earlier in the year an entry, upon placing, can not be moved or handled in any way except by the person who is entering the section.

ATTACHED TO this bulletin is the information flyer spelling out all the details for the season-ending awards dinner Oct. 18 at the Overland Community Center. Please make your reservations as soon as possible. John and Maleta Fox are co-chairing the event.

IT'S not too soon to begin gathering up all the things you will need setup day. Check your vase containers to make sure they do not leak and rinse them out with a weak solution of bleach. Make out the majority of your show tags prior to coming to the Garden. This not only will save time but lessen the chance for mistakes that could cost a good bloom being disqualified. Search around for other living plant material to dress up your entry in section V, "Bouquet of Dahlias".

CLASSIFICATION TABLE: Don't hesitate to bring blooms of varieties that are not listed in one of the more recent ADS classification books. The show chairman has a yearly classification library dating back more than 50 years. It will be available on the classification table. In addition an entry can be put on the classification table for classification. However once classified and initialed it is the responsibility of the person entering the bloom or multiple-bloom vase to place the entry in the correct section.

ADDRESS CHANGES: Update your current society roster with the following changes:

- Bob and Judy Sewell (email) rlsihs@wisperhome.com
- Al White (regular mail) 490 Urbana Dr., Apt. 205, Freeburg, Il. 62243

The move has forced Al to give up growing dahlias after more than 35 years. Al's biggest pleasure came from growing and showing first-year seedlings.

POLLINGER UPDATE: Don reports that wife, Dee, seems to be improving, however, the drug that she is required to take daily for the next five years has some negative side effects. "Both of us continue to be positive," he added. Don and brother, Ron, continue to have problems walking. Looking ahead to show week, Don remarked, "The fun is yet to come." And he also advised that Ron will have hip- replacement surgery sometime after the show.

HANK SOLTERMANN reminds those who have the rotating awards plaques to return them to him, either at the September meeting, or during show week so each can be updated accordingly.

SPREADING THE GOSPEL: Some members will be giving presentations on growing dahlias to St. Louis area garden clubs in the upcoming months.

LOOKING AHEAD: Selecting the '09 flower of the year will take place at the November meeting. So be thinking of a variety that either hasn't been selected or hasn't been selected in a number of years.

ROOT HARVEST and STORAGE: If the forecasters are correct, fall weather could extend well into late October and early November without a killing frost occurring. The up side is that plants will continue to produce blooms. But there is also a down side and that is storage when temperatures range into the lower 60s. Root clumps or divisions that are not thoroughly dry when stored are apt to develop crown rot. Crown rot can be devastating because it destroys the area where new sprouts will develop and thus render the clump or division useless. To help guard against this impending problem harvest and store only the healthiest root clumps. Anything questionable, discard. You will be money ahead in the long run.

BRING ALONG an interesting white elephant to the September meeting at the Garden. And don't hesitate to ask questions regarding the show or regarding what to do as the season heads into its root-harvest and winter storage phase. All of us can have a more gratifying growing experience when a collective effort is put forth. So don't hesitate to ask someone for help.

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



A Riddle

You are driving in a car at a constant speed. On your left side is a 'drop off'. The ground is 18-20 inches below the level you are traveling on, and on your right side is a fire engine traveling at the same speed as you. In front of you is a galloping horse, which is the same size as your car and you cannot overtake it. Behind you is a galloping zebra. Both the horse and zebra are also traveling at the same speed as you. What must you do to safely get out of this highly dangerous situation?

For the answer, click and drag your mouse from star to star.

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Comments and Questions greeted with a smile.

webmaster@stldahliasociety.com