

DAHLIA DIGGINGS



NEWSLETTER FOR:

"THE GREATER ST. LOUIS DAHLIA SOCIETY"

Volume #12/06 E-Mail edition

PRESIDENT, Colleen Simons (636) 583-8568; **VICE-PRESIDENT**, Mike Plannett (314) 846-6650;
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: December 15th at 7:30 PM, Missouri Botanical Garden. Unless otherwise noted or changed the society meets the third Friday of each month.

REFRESHMENTS: Everyone surprise society members with his/her favorite Christmas treat. Don't forget to bring a big appetite with your delicious treat.

PRESIDENT Colleen Simons has promised an education segment that will both enlighten and offer a few surprises to those attending our annual holiday bash.

THE CHOICE for 2007 flower of the year is Scaur Swinton, (BFD Dark Pink), an interesting choice for a couple of reasons. First it has been a long, long time since a B-size variety was selected and second and even longer time for a dark pink. Scaur Swinton, like Islander, needs to be shaded to keep its pink color from fading. However, it is an easy grower, a good root maker and has contended for Queen of the Show honors recently. From the general discussion at the November meeting, there appears to be ample root stock for propagation purposes.

'07 CALENDAR PRESENTED: Joe Davinroy, our liaison with the Garden, presented this year's meeting and event calendar at the November meeting. Highlighting the calendar will be the annual board of directors meeting, Feb. 6, the annual spring plant sale May 11-12-13 (Mother's Day weekend), the annual judging seminar Aug 21 and the annual show Sept. 27-30. This year's monthly meeting schedule has one slight change in that the May meeting will be held the fourth Friday instead of the third Friday.

REMEMBER any health and welfare items should be referred to Judy Sewell, our new chairperson.

"RAISING BEAUTIFUL DAHLIAS THE EASY WAY": Copies of this easy-to-read growing guide will again be available at the December meeting at \$5 per copy. If you are looking for the perfect stocking stuffer for the gardening friend, this guide is it. Look for copies of the guide on the front table at the December meeting and future meetings.

REFRESHMENT SIGN-UP: Check your family activity calendar prior to coming to the December meeting. This will better prepare individuals to sign the refreshment sheet. It is both beneficial for Marge Boever (the refreshment chairperson) and Joe Meyer (the bulletin editor) to have this finalized in advance. Marge will not have to search for someone at the last minute and Joe can easier have the individuals listed in the bulletin as a friendly reminder.

PROPAGATION SUPPLIES: December is the month to order your propagation supplies. John Fox and Les Miller will pick up the ordered supplies for distribution at the January 19th society meeting. In the past supplies is as follows: Oasis cubes (104 ct sheets), pot markers, 4" plastic pots, 10# bags of potting soil, 3 cuft bale of Pro-Mix potting soil, Osmocote and (78 ct) energy pellets -- a suitable replacement for oasis cubes for those who do not plan to do extensive propagation. A preliminary inquiry by Les Miller as to what the '07 cost of each item will be that prices have slightly increased as they did from '05 to '06. Les is expected to report those increases at the December meeting.

DON'T WAIT until January or February to order new stock fro the more credible commercial suppliers. This is particularly true when it comes to proven winning varieties. Many such varieties do not produce an overly amount of root stock. As a result, these varieties can sell out quickly. Make any initial contact now and let your wishes be known. If you have dealt with certain suppliers before, they will likely honor your request before mailing out their new price list. Another thing you can do, via e-mail, is to ask several suppliers if they will be able to supple the following varieties and ask them to quote the '06 (per root) price of each. Advance a check equal to 1/2 of your possible order and mail the balance and shipping cost upon receiving the new price list. Some suppliers even make it possible to order on line by credit card. Whatever, keep in mind that a suppliers best stock is sold first. So, to insure propagating healthy plants, one needs to use strong, healthy stock.

IN LIEU of our monthly white elephant drawing, those attending the December meeting should bring a \$10 (max) exchange gift. To draw for a gift and individual must bring one. If specifically for either a man or women please mark it accordingly. There will not be a \$5 drawing, this will resume in January.

IT'S TIME to renew both St. Louis and American Dahlia Society dues for 2007. A St. Louis Society membership is only \$10. A combined membership is \$30, and a combined family membership is \$33. The family membership allows for two (2) classification books. Whatever membership you select, make your payment payable to the Greater St. Louis Dahlia Society. Please remit your payment along with the form at the bottom of this notice to our new financial secretary, Shirley Pollinger. If mailing, her address is: 811 Oakmont Lane, Union MO 63084. If remitting in person at a society meeting, also supply the dues form.

The information you supply will have a dual purpose. First, it will serve as a data base for future reference for Shirley and secondly, she also plans to distribute a complete society roster to the membership in early 2007. The transition from one financial secretary to another can take place smoothly if the membership complies with this simple request: **SEND YOUR RENEWAL REMITTANCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

Once the roster has been updated, information can be forwarded to the bulletin editor. This will enable future (regular) mailings and e-mail communication to reach the membership in a correct and timely fashion. Any problems in this regard should be directed to bulletin editor, Joe Meyer at either 324 W Linden St., Edwardsville, IL 62025 or dahlia@dialupweb.com

Your cooperation will be appreciated by both your financial secretary and bulletin editor.

ST. LOUIS / AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY DUE FORM

St. Louis only (\$10) _____ Combined Single (\$30) _____ Combined Family (\$33) _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

Phone #: _____ (home) _____ (Cell)