

DAHLIA DIGGINGS



NEWSLETTER FOR:

"THE GREATER ST. LOUIS DAHLIA SOCIETY"

Volume #1/07 E-Mail edition

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY, Shirley Pollinger (636) 584-8311
HEALTH and WELFARE CHAIRPERSON: Judy Sewell

LOOKING AHEAD:

Root sale at February meeting

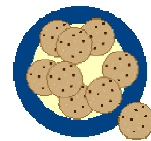
MEETING:

January 19th

The Society meets the third Friday of each month at the
Missouri Botanical Garden at 7:30 pm.



REFRESHMENTS:



Sarah Meyer, Colleen Simons, and Judy Sewell.



EDUCATION:

The January meeting is usually reserved for reviewing procedures that can lead to successful propagation. And the education chairman will touch on them briefly, again. But, also as a change of pace he will present a short intra-society history lesson, which may indirectly help members decide which new varieties they may like to grow this season. New is not necessarily defined as a 07 introduction but as a variety that has never previously appeared in his/her patch.

MALETA FOX has taken over the chairmanship of the refreshment calendar. Either contact her by phone, email or check with her at an upcoming meeting and sign up for refreshments if you have not already done so.

ANY FUTURE health and welfare items should be referred to Judy Sewell, the society's new chairperson.

PROPAGATION SUPPLIES will be distributed at the January meeting so plan accordingly. If you have yet to order your supplies contact either John Fox or Les Miller *ASAP*. The following supplies will be available: 4" pots, pot markers, oasis cube sheets, osmocote, 3 cuft pro-mix, bagged potting soil, and energy-cube sheets. A breakdown of supply prices and a comparison between '07 and '06 prices are as follows -- 4" pots, no increase; pot markers, no increase; oasis sheets, was \$3.6\$(now \$4.00, energy-cube sheets, no increase; osmocote ,was \$50 (50# bag) now \$65; bagged potting soil, was \$4.50 now \$4.75; 3 cuft pro-mix potting soil was \$22.75, now \$25.



IF YOU MISSED IT

The society's "*Flower of the Year*" is Scaur Swinton, a BFD, dark pink. This marks the first time that Scaur Swinton was selected and also the first time in a number of years that a B-size variety was selected. The old adage, "try it and you will like it", applies to Scaur Swinton. So, plan on growing several plants in your patch this year. To sustain the rich mauve pink color, you will need to shade your blooms. There should be ample plants available at the May plant sale. And Scaur Swinton has found its way onto several commercial price lists.

DEADLINE: The deadline for renewing both St. Louis and ADS memberships is Jan. 20, according to Shirley Pollinger. A St. Louis membership is \$10, a combined membership is \$30 and a family membership is \$33. All checks should be payable to the Greater St. Louis Dahlia Society, however. Pollinger explained that a deadline was necessary to; hopefully, insure that ADS bulletin mailings will not be interrupted. "But even then I cannot be sure," she added.

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

REFRESHMENT SIGN-UP: One volunteer is needed for March. This will complete the first quarter of the New Year. But also feel free to sign up for any upcoming months as well.

SOME DO'S and DON'TS: Whether you plan to start roots indoors soon for propagation purposes or later for eventual planting outdoors it is wise to keep these things in mind.

- Keep your potting soil damp but not wet and do not let the soil become dry.
- Refrain in the beginning from adding fertilizer (osmocote) or (weak liquid solution) to your potting soil. Although some commercial potting soils already have osmocote in them. Once a number of cuttings have been taken a shot of weak fertilizer solution can be beneficial.
- When choosing roots for propagation select those of medium to small size. Large roots often take a very long time to sprout and they tend to rot much quicker than smaller roots because they do not develop a feeder-root system.
- Before placing the selected roots in a propagation bench move them from your cooler storage area to a warm area that will help stimulate growth. The longer, the better. Ten days to 2 weeks prior to starting would not be overdoing it.
- Placing propagation trays on heating pads can be very beneficial.
- Lights should be kept 6-8" above the propagation trays in the beginning and raised accordingly once the cuttings start coming. Remember that the higher the lights the taller the growth and this will result in spindly stems that may or may not produce healthy plants.
- The rule of thumb for light exposure is usually 12-14 hrs per day.
- Lastly, the number of cuttings taken from anyone root usually will determine whether that root can also be planted or destroyed. Use your own judgment in that regard.

Here's this month's installment of

HENRY'S JOKE OF THE MONTH



(Thanks to Robert Auer for this months Joke)

Three sisters ages 92, 94 and 96 live in a house together. One night the 96 year old draws a bath. She puts her foot in and pauses. She yells to the other sisters, "Was I getting in or out of the bath?" The 94 year old yells back, "I don't know. I'll come up and see." She starts up the stairs and pauses. "Was I going up the stairs or down?" The 92 year old is sitting at the kitchen table having tea listening to her sisters. She shakes her head and says, "I sure hope I never get that forgetful," as she knocked on her wooden table for good measure. "She then yells, "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who's at the door."

WHITE ELEPHANT: January renews the society's \$5 white elephant. Rummage around and also find one of your own and bring it as well as an appetite for delicious treats and interesting dahlia talk.

MESSAGE FROM THE WEBMASTER: Sorry for the tardiness and the poor quality of the December Email newsletter, and a BIG THANKS to the editor of the regular post newsletter for recovering the fumble and keeping the drive going. The return of the power after the power outages caused by the winter weather at the start of the month of December sent a power surge into my computer that put it to sleep for good. That's OK; I needed a newer model any way. This also caused a loss off some of my files which stored names, Email addresses and some other info. I believe I have recovered everything from my own memory and notes, but if any one knows of anyone that has not received this news letter, either by Email or regular post please inform me and it will be corrected ASAP. I will also be at the January meeting so if any one has any questions or concerns about the email newsletter or the website, please feel free to bring it up.

Thanks and,

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING!

Comments and Questions greeted with a smile.