



CREEKSIDE GENEVEVE, B, FD,
BI, FLOWER OF THE YEAR

DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2006

WWW.DAHLIASOCIETYOFGEORGIA.ORG

2006 ANNUAL SHOW A GREAT HIT

The 2006 Dahlia Society of Georgia Annual Show was held this past week-end and was a winner with all of the visitors to the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Again, as we have become accustomed to, the expression of amazement when they first entered the Exhibit Hall and saw the entire room filled with beautiful dahlias has become a normal expected reaction. So many beautiful flowers on display is just awe inspiring to the general public and the dahlia growers alike. We had growers from five Southern states participate with many wonderful blooms brought by all growers. Of special note were the

huge blooms brought by Allen Haas and Michael Devore from Brevard, North Carolina. The bloom of Bonaventure, pictured below, was the best A-sized bloom in the show and was just stunning. We want to say THANKS to all of the members that came and helped make the show a complete success. Thank you Paula & Dan Pinholster for the wonderful job you did in organizing the show and making sure everything went as planned. It was one of the best Dahlia Shows in recent memory.



OCTOBER MEETING/MINI SHOW
OCTOBER 16
7:30 PM
EXHIBIT HALL
ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

CHORES IN THE DAHLIA GARDEN-OCTOBER

After all of the dreaming, planning and hard work, we now have the last of the blooms. Isn't it amazing how rapidly they grow; from day to day you can almost see the changes. The shortening of the days, the lessening of light, all go into urging the dahlias to make seed. These dahlia blooms of October are determined to produce attractive flowers to entice the various pollinators to do their job, and be quick about it. The blooms seem to blow their Centers in order to make it

2006

ANNUAL CALENDAR

- **GA NAT'L FAIR DAHLIA SHOW, PERRY, GA** OCTOBER 11-13
- **OCTOBER MEETING, MINI DAHLIA SHOW,** OCTOBER 16, EXHIBIT HALL, ABG
- **NOVEMBER MEETING, NOV 20,** ABG
- **CHRISTMAS PARTY— DEC, TBA**

2007

ANNUAL CALENDAR

- **JANUARY MEETING, JAN 15,** ABG
- **FEBRUARY MEETING, FEB 19** ABG
- **MARCH MEETING, MARCH 19** ABG
- **APRIL TUBER SALE, APRIL 16** ABG EXHIBIT HALL
- **MAY TUBER SALE, MAY 21** ABG EXHIBIT HALL
- **JUNE MEETING, JUNE 18** ABG
- **JULY MEETING/PICNIC,** TBA
- **AUGUST MEETING, AUG 20** ABG
- **SEPTEMBER ANNUAL SHOW** SEPT 29/30 ABG

THANK YOU MEMBERS

Dear Fellow Members,

The Dahlia Society of Georgia held a beautiful show this past weekend, and all the volunteer workers are to be credited with the success of the show. It was amazing to stand to the side and observe the expressions of wonder from all the visitors who walked through the show. Then I knew that all of the planning and work was worthwhile.

Thank you all for cheerfully giving your time and effort. We appreciate the men for setting up the tables on Friday afternoon, everyone for bringing food, everyone for helping the visiting exhibitors, the growers who brought and staged their blooms, all the judges and clerks for their effort, the group that organized the lunch, the receptionist at the front door, the people who were available to answer questions, and the clean-up crew on Sunday afternoon. If you did anything not mentioned in the previous sentence, we thank you for that also.

Dan and I enjoyed all of the time that we spent with our fellow dahlia growers throughout the weekend. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

With sincere regards,

Dan and Paula Pinholster
(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

easer for the bees and butterflies to get to the pollen.

Tagging the "Keepers"

By now you probably have a good idea which of the varieties you will want to grow next year. There are still probably several weeks before

GEORGIA NATIONAL FAIR DAHLIA SHOW

The Georgia Dahlia Society will again be the hosting club for the annual Dahlia Show at the Georgia National Fair being held at the National Fair Grounds in Perry, Georgia on October 11-13. Staging takes place in the morning of the 11th at 7:30 AM. All growers are invited to bring flowers and join in the fun of this good time together.

After staging, the Fair provides a catered outstanding FREE lunch served in a private dining room for all of the growers. As soon as our nap is over (just kidding) we begin the judging. ATTENTION ALL APPRENTICE JUDGES...this is a wonderful time to learn your judging skills as our teams are small and we can spend a lot of time discussing various judging points. The NOVICE and AMATEUR SECTIONS are usually wide open and the judging somewhat liberal since we are at the end of the season. So bring your flowers, spend the evening enjoying an excellent meal with your fellow dahlia enthusiasts at a fine restaurant on Tuesday evening and then the show on Wednesday.

A story from a few years ago involved two Southern States Society members coming to this show. They had cut their blooms and placed them in 5 gallon buckets and loaded them in their open pickup truck and started to Perry. Upon arrival we asked them if they were going to show any flowers as they didn't bring them into the staging tent. They said they were but along the way the wind in the open pickup had caused the buckets to levitate out of the bed of the truck and they didn't know where their flowers were. They had a good time anyway.



THE SHOW TABLES AT THE GEORGIA NATIONAL FAIR DAHLIA SHOW

the first killing frost. My advice is - don't waste it. Go through your garden now and cull the disappointing plants so you can use that space next year. Most people have a limited area in which to grow and you don't need to take up space with those varieties that did not meet your expectations. There is no sense in digging and storing dahlias that didn't perform as you expected. Trash them now. Literally pull them out of the ground, bag them and get any debris from those plants in case they might be infected with some virus or other disease. This winter when you get the new catalogs you will find plenty of new, appealing dahlias that you will want to grow in 2007. You will be glad that you didn't keep disappointments.

While conducting this purge, be sure to place a sturdy tag on the "keepers" (attaching it to the main stalk of the plant) because when the frost kills the top of your plants, they will all look alike. This is from one who knows from past "surprises".

If you have a digital camera use it to record blooms of those you plan to keep. In the middle of winter it is always a joy to pull up a dahlia photo file and go through it, remembering the beauty of the blooms and the thrill you felt when seeing the first good bloom of a particular variety. [Study Your Garden](#)



KATHY WHITFIELD WITH MADAM DE ROSA

Now is the time to study the layout of your garden regarding sunlight and drainage. If all of your dahlia plants are skinny and tall, with weak stems, then you probably need to provide more sun next year. There are a few dahlias that naturally grow 7' - 9', but most are in the 3' to 6' range with the average being about 4 1/2' tall. The garden in this photo would gain from the removal of some neighboring trees. If you suspect a drainage problem then dig your tubers. You might find some indication of poor drainage previously undetected i.e. mud, even though it

has not rained lately. I can not over emphasize the need for good drainage. Remember a rule of thumb from the Spring - "dahlias don't like wet feet". Record any changes that need to be done before next year's planting and keep track of that record. Plan now to improve your garden before you plant next year!

For those who do not want to dig up the tubers, be sure to cover the beds with about 6" of mulch. Wheat straw, pine straw, or leaves make for a good, protective covering that should carry your dahlias through the winter.



Dahlia Virus

In an earlier newsletter I mentioned dahlia virus and its importance. Viruses are the greatest threats to dahlias! Virused plants are not curable so the infected plants must be destroyed, in their entirety. There are numerous dahlia viruses and, unfortunately, even the "experts" have trouble agreeing on specific symptoms and the extent of virus infection among dahlias. Most viruses are transmitted (vectored) by chewing or sucking insects such as

aphids, but can also be transmitted by gardening tools that were used previously on a virused dahlia. Cigarette smokers can very easily transmit the tobacco mosaic virus by simply touching a plant. Tomato plants suffer similar viruses and can also lead to infection of neighboring dahlia plants. One particular dahlia virus, the oak

THE DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA WELCOMES HILDA BECKER KENNESAW, GEORGIA

WE ARE SO GLAD TO HAVE YOU AS A NEW MEMBER MINI-SHOW

The last show of the season will be a mini-show during the regular October meeting of the Dahlia Society of Georgia on Monday evening, October 16th. This show is designed for new growers and other growers that don't show or didn't receive an award above a blue ribbon in the annual show. It has been real popular during the past two years since its inception. It is a "no pressure", bring what is left blooms in your garden, fun time. The blooms are judged, awarded ribbons and prizes given. So far everyone that has brought blooms has won at least one Blue ribbon and a cash award. Plan in joining in the fun for the October meeting



KENORA FIREFIGHTER B, FD, R,

leaf virus, refers to the pattern of an oak leaf superimposed on the center of a dahlia leaf and is quite visible when the infected leaf is held up to the light. Another sign is misshaped new leaves as show in this photo . Yet another common characteristic of a virused dahlia plant is stunted growth where the leaf pairs are very close together.

Probably the most common sign is yellow splotching on the leaves, particularly along both major and minor veins. It often looks like the infection travels out the major central vein, flows onto a minor veins then “explodes” into a yellow splotch. Here again, by holding the leaf up to the light you can easily see these splotches.

The only thing to do when you find a virused dahlia plant in your garden is to immediately remove it, bag it, and dispose of it- immediately!! Be sure to collect all leaves, stems and

branches that fall off and get rid of them in the same manner. Virus denial is a common malady of dahlia growers because it often seems that your most favorite variety or the most expensive dahlia in your garden shows virus symptoms. Be strong. If not, you run a good chance of losing your entire garden because viruses can move quite quickly, and most insects can be carriers. I've learned to not look at the name tags when inspecting (roguing) for virused plants. If you think it's virused then pull and discard!!



Keep Deadheading

With the dahlias producing so many blooms now, we are kept very busy trying to remove the dead blooms. Dahlias lose the back petals first and this creates almost a steady rain of spent petals. They quickly start to decay wherever they come to rest. If left on the ground they can quickly become a breeding ground for various harmful fungi such as Botrytis. By deadheading, you remove a lot of decay before it can cause fungal problems. You also make the plant rush to make a replacement bloom thereby providing you with a constant source of blooms.

There is a right way to deadhead and a wrong way. It is tempting to just grab the faded bloom and pull it off of the stem. It is better if you take the time to cut and remove the stem along with the spent bloom. Cut down to just above the first detectible new branch (lateral) and it speeds the growth of the lateral and future blooms.

I have found from experience that the “quick and easy” way of removing just the bloom by simply pulling it off the stem can result in a very painful sting to the palm of your hand when, in your haste, you failed to detect the bee in the center of the bloom. When you make the same mistake at least once every season, you should learn to deadhead the proper way and stick to it.

Spray for fungus

This time of the year, with the cool nights and warm days, your garden is being subjected to nightly, heavy dews. On one hand that is very beneficial because it gently provides water to the dahlias. On the other hand, it provides the perfect breeding ground for many fungal diseases that weaken or even kill some of your plants. One particular fungus that appears now is powdery mildew. Rubigan will defeat powdery mildew. It is not widely available by can be obtained from some of the more experienced growers in the society. Another common fungus appearing now is known as leaf spot. It initially appears on the lower leaves but works itself up the plant and can rapidly spread to adjacent plants. It doesn't seem to have any long-term effect on the



Powdery mildew, late stage

NEW YORK, NEW YORK, WHAT A WONDERFUL SHOW

The National Dahlia Show was held in Long Island this year and hosted by the mid Island Dahlia Society at a lovely state park called the Oyster Fields. They did a great job in keeping those in attendance from all over the country busy and entertained. On Thursday evening we had a lovely dinner cruise that took our ship from the docks of Long Island all the way to the East River in front of Manhattan and to the Statue of Liberty. The trip was a great time together and those lights and buildings in Manhattan and the Lady Liberty was just a super view even though the rain made it a little damp outside the salon.

Friday was a busy day also as we were bussed to the Eastern Trial Garden to wander through the new dahlias that will be released next year. There were some real beauties with vivid colors. A couple catching my eye were orange as the deep color was outstanding . We have a difficult time getting such a wonderful orange color here in the South. Lunch was served at the trial garden with a cookout of hotdogs and huge hamburgers. The food all week-end was just wonderful. Friday evening brought a reception in the honor of Monsignor Tom who was presented a

(cont on next page)

plants but is unsightly. Captan or Cleery are two generally available fungicides that combat this condition. Again, it is a matter of keeping your plants as healthy as possible before their roots go into storage or hibernation.

Fertilizing

We quit giving nitrogen to dahlias about mid to late August. The earlier need to produce lush growth is replaced by a need to concentrate on blooms and roots. Having said that, I have found over the years that spraying the plants with water soluble potassium nitrate (a mix close to 15-0-35) helps significantly strengthen the stems. Supposedly this nitrogen is needed to make the potassium work more efficiently and therefore is not a contradiction of the first sentence in this paragraph.

Fertilizers containing phosphorous help dahlias produce blooms and enhances bloom color therefore we will use something like Morbloom, 0-10-10, until the killing frost arrives. This particular product comes in a liquid form and can be found at Hastings and Habersham nurseries. A mixture of 1 TBS @ gallon of water will keep your blooms lively and strong and their colors quite bright. A dosage of common Epsom salts also is thought to boost bloom color and darken the foliage at the same time. Continuing to feed dahlias with potassium is thought to help tuber development and hence guarantee better storage.

Enjoy

Take time at least once every day to just look at your blooms and marvel at their beauty. Share them with your friends and strangers. Every time you give away dahlias I bet you will receive a big, hardy smile. BRIAN KILLINGSWORTH

(continued from page four)
a picture of a dahlia named in his honor. Staging started that evening also for the show the next day.

Saturday morning was the time to judge the flowers and as always we had plenty of judges. The big winners were Trica Narrows B, SC, Y (a competitor for Hamari Accord) Trengrove Milliumen, BB, FD, Y and Embrace, BB, SC, B. Buddy Dean, from Cashiers, NC placed six presentations on the head table.

Thanks to the Mid Island and Long Island Dahlia clubs for their excellent hosting of this event.

Those attending from Georgia were, Gene & Joy Boeke, Dan & Paula Pinholster, and John & Regina Kreiner. Allen & Deb Haas from Brevard, North Carolina represented NC along with Buddy Dean.

SEE MORE PICTURES OF THE NATIONAL SHOW:

<http://>

[www.midislanddahlia.com/2006 ADS Show/show photos.html](http://www.midislanddahlia.com/2006ADS%20Show/show_photos.html)



TRICA NARROWS B, SC, Y BEST A OR B IN SHOW



IRENE'S PRIDE AA, SC, BR BEST AA BASKET IN SHOW



DAHLIA DISPLAY IN THE EXHIBIT HALL IN LONG ISLAND



MORE BASKETS AT THE NATIONAL SHOW



BO-BAY B, SC, LB Y/L



TARATAHI LILAC BB, IC, LB L/W



MY BEVERLY BB, LC, LB Y/DP



SHOW TABLES AT THE GEORGIA DAHLIA SHOW



NEW YORK CITY AT NIGHT FROM THE WATER