

# DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY 2007

[WWW.DAHLIASOCIETYOFGEORGIA.ORG](http://WWW.DAHLIASOCIETYOFGEORGIA.ORG)

## HAPPY 2007 DAHLIA SEASON

January 2007 is here already and so another dahlia season begins and I am sure we all would like to be able to get in our gardens now but we must wait for Old Man Winter to complete his 90 days of cold weather. Now is the time to get prepared for the season though by ordering new dahlias that we want to try, planning our garden, determine what we are going to add to our soil to make

those plants grow better and how we are going to combat the bugs and critters. We hope our newsletter and our monthly meetings will help you in making those decisions about your dahlia garden for 2007. We learn a lot from networking with others so take advantage of these valuable resources each month.



THIS IS A PICTURE OF A DAHLIA SEEDLING GROWING IN THE EASTERN TRIAL GARDEN IN LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK. IT SHOULD BE RELEASED IN 2007 BUT AT THIS WRITING THE NAME AND WHERE IT WILL BE RELEASED IS NOT AVAILABLE YET.

### JANUARY MEETING

JANUARY 15

7:30 PM

GARDEN CLASSROOM

BASEMENT

### ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

The January program will focus on two items. First will be a slide show

of the new Dahlia introductions that are being released for 2007. This is always interesting to see all of the new dahlias and wonder if we can grow them well in the South. We will also discuss how to determine what dahlias are heat tolerant and will grow in our climate.

## 2007

### ANNUAL CALENDAR

- JANUARY MEETING, JAN 15, ABG, GARDEN CLASSROOM
- ATLANTA GARDEN & PATIO SHOW JAN 25-28, GALLERIA
- SOUTHEASTERN FLOWER SHOW FEB 7-11, GA WORLD CONGRESS, BUILDING C
- FEBRUARY MEETING, FEB 19 ABG, GARDEN CLASSROOM
- MARCH MEETING, MARCH 19 ABG, GARDEN CLASSROOM
- APRIL TUBER SALE/AUCTION, APRIL 16 ABG EXHIBIT HALL
- MAY TUBER SALE/AUCTION, MAY 21 ABG EXHIBIT HALL
- JUNE MEETING, JUNE 18 ABG GARDEN CLASSROOM
- JULY MEETING/PICNIC, TBA
- AUGUST MEETING, AUG 20 ABG, GARDEN CLASSROOM
- NATIONAL DAHLIA SHOW SEPT 6/10, CHICAGO, IL
- CAROLINAS SHOW SEPT TBA
- TENNESSEE SHOW SEPT 22/23
- GEORGIA SHOW SEPT 29/30
- ALABAMA SHOW OCT 6
- GA NAT'L SHOW OCT 10/12
- GA MINI SHOW OCT 15 ABG
- NOVEMBER MEETING, NOV 19
- CHRISTMAS PARTY TBA

## 2007 OFFICERS

The following individuals have been duly elected as our officers for 2007. Please give them your full support and encourage them in fulfilling their duties during the year.

PRESIDENT                    BRIAN KILLINGSWORTH  
VICE-PRESIDENT/        BLAIR WALKER  
PROGRAM CHAIRMAN  
TREASURER                HENRY EVERETT  
SECRETARY /                FRANK MCCOMB  
ADS REP

## WHAT TO DO IN JANUARY

I must admit that probably the “best” (translates-easiest) months of growing dahlias are January and February. The actual physical work is at a minimum and you can spend most of your time inside, warm and cozy, going through dahlia and other plant catalogs. We can all catch up on the newest varieties that promise total success if only you will try them in your garden.

### DECIDING ON WHICH VARIETIES TO GROW

A word to the wise; most catalogs or pricelists hype those dahlias grown in areas with very different weather from what we experience here in the South. What was a barn burner in Oregon or Washington will not like 98 degree weather for 10 consecutive days. We have to grow those varieties that have proven to be able to withstand our midday scorchers. Here is a shortened version of our recommended analysis of the most recent ads classification and handbook of dahlias. This little book has a wealth of information and the section in the middle of the bulletin entitled “Cultivars listed by classification number with 2006 awards listed by geographic region” will serve as a guide for which dahlia varieties will grow well here in the South.

In the example page below the first column contains the size and color classification #. The second column is the name of the dahlia. The 3<sup>rd</sup> column is the total of awards (blue and higher) won in the most recent year. **Now it really gets interesting.** Columns 4 and 5 show the # of blue ribbons (col. 4) and # of higher ribbons (col. 5) won in western USA

## 2007 ANNUAL DUES

Please renew your membership with the Dahlia Society of Georgia and the American Dahlia Society. When you pay your dues to DSG we send your renewal fee to ADS, so one check does it all. ADS would like to know who is going to renew by January 30 so they can tell the printer to continue sending you the Bulletin. If you joined at the annual show in September or later your dues for 2007 are included.

The dues are: Single Membership \$27.00; Household Membership \$30.00. Make your check payable to Dahlia Society of Georgia or DSG. Send it to Henry Everett, Treas., 2690 Gleneagles Drive, Tucker, GA 30084. Any questions, just call/email John Kreiner, 770-447-1405 As Henry is out of town.

## AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY

Below are excerpts from an email received from Dr. Richard Peters who is the coordinator of all of the American Dahlia Society Representatives in each Dahlia Society across North America. This email was received by Frank McComb, our ADS Representative. This email communicates information from the ADS to the Societies and is very much welcomed as a tool for “staying in touch”.

Hi Everyone,

This is kinda exciting for me to communicate to all of you. As you may know, I have spent the last three weeks getting proper names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses from all of you. Some have communicated back to me by email and others have gotten personal phone calls from me. It was good to talk by phone to many—just to experience your enthusiasm for the ADS and the dahlia.

Here is what I hope: 1. That you are the ADS representative of your society and that this email

- the home of cool, cloudy weather. Columns 6 and 7 show the same information for the Central USA-hot, dry summers, high temperature days. Columns 8 and 9 show similar winner information for the southeast but, also includes New England and most of eastern Canada. The section with weather most like our southern climate is the Central USA, columns 6 and 7.

Using the sample page below, apply some of what you just learned.

- 1) In the case of # 370 **Taratahi Lilac**, the total wins of 269 were won in all 3 areas so it is a dahlia for any part of the USA. The same can be said for # 375, **Jessica** which won throughout the country, not in just one region.
- 2) In the case of # 373 **Frigoulet**, all of its 17 wins were on the west coast. None of that variety won in the Central or Eastern sections. Therefore, don't bother trying to grow **Frigoulet** in Georgia. The same conclusion can be drawn by studying the results of # 371, **Salmon Rays**.
- 3) On the other hand, using # 383 **Barbara Z**, it is obvious that it "loves" the heat and does quite well in areas with hot summers.

370 LAVENDER LINE	11	5	4	1	1	0	0
370 MAJESTIC KERGRADE	4	3	1	0	0	0	0
370 MARTIN'S NEAT	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
370 ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH	9	3	0	3	3	0	0
370 TARATAHI LILAC	269	84	51	52	27	31	24
371 SALMON RAYS	34	22	9	2	1	0	0
372 MY FRITZ	4	3	1	0	0	0	0
373 APRICOT RAYS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
373 CAMANO IMP	7	4	0	1	0	2	0
373 FRIGOULET	17	16	1	0	0	0	0
373 KARI FRUIT SALAD	31	14	10	4	1	2	0
373 KEEWATIN PIONEER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
373 LITTLE JACK	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
373 SCARBOROUGH BRILLIANT	24	14	4	3	0	2	1
374 ALFA SOCCORO	4	3	0	0	0	1	0
374 CEBU	9	7	2	0	0	0	0
375 JESSICA	100	29	11	29	10	11	10
375 JESSICA TEARS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
375 PURPLE MIST	22	16	5	1	0	0	0
375 TANJOH	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
381 COCONUT PUFF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
381 HELEN'S DAVID	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
381 WEDDING VOVS	9	5	3	1	0	0	0
381 WHITE LACE	6	3	2	1	0	0	0
381 WOODLAND'S SARAFINA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
382 ALLISON	7	1	2	4	0	0	0
382 COLWOOD ANN	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
382 COLWOOD FAITH	4	2	2	0	0	0	0
382 HISSY FITZ	29	6	2	9	0	10	2
382 LEMON BLAST	3	0	0	0	0	3	0
382 MARY MORRIS	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
382 PINELANDS PEACE	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
382 SUN FLARE	3	0	0	2	1	0	0
382 VISTA LINDSEY	12	6	6	0	0	0	0
383 BARBARA Z	24	0	0	14	8	2	0
383 MINGUS WILLIAM M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
383 ORANGE SPICE	2	1	0	0	0	1	0

## NEW MEMBER

.PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER THIS MONTH

GENE HUTCHINSON

BERKLEY LAKE, GEORGIA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2 (ADS)

is going to the correct address.

2. That you will faithfully communicate to your club what is covered in these emails. The ADS is vitally interested in its member clubs and feels that the whole worth of the ADS is centered in you. You might ask your president to give you a few minutes on each meeting's agenda to give out your information.

3. That you and your fellow club members will communicate back to me as to what you all feel the ADS ought to be working on. Two way communications are always better.

So, let's get started:

To begin with, the ADS is run by its President, Jerry Landerholm, from Lombard, IL and is associated with the Central States Dahlia Society. He has just taken office last month and is eager to carry on the work of the Society. He is assisted by the Board of Directors, and they can be found on the first or second pages of the ADS Quarterly Bulletin. The Board will be gathering in April at a 2-day session in Atlanta, Georgia to conduct its business. They also have a couple of Conference Calls by phone the rest of the year. The Annual Meeting is always at the National Show.

The ADS National Show for this coming year is going to be held by Jerry's Club, the Central States Dahlia Society in St. Charles, Illinois. This is a South-western suburb of Chicago, and the

If you will apply these rules and study the classification booklet, you will save yourself a lot of disappointment (and money). There are plenty of dahlias that do well here in the south. Just think back to last fall's show or even your garden, and remember the variety of colors and shapes that can grow here. You just need to realize that some dahlias do a whole lot better than others, depending on the weather. **Grow heat tolerant dahlias.**

Another good source for winning dahlias that succeed in the south is the 2006 show report from each of the Southern State members. This information can be found in the Supplement to December 2006 Bulletin which we received with the mailing of the December 2006 ADS Bulletin.

Where do I recommend you shop for these heat tolerant dahlias? Ask some of our more experienced growers where they purchase their dahlia tubers. In addition, I suggest that you buy most of your 2007 dahlias at our Society's April 16th and May 21st auctions. The members will bring their own tubers that grew in their gardens last year. If they didn't prove viable last year we would have tossed them. The tubers and plants at the auctions are acclimated to southern growing conditions by at least one season, and many, numerous seasons.

#### **A SUGGESTION FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION**

During this time of in-door dahlia garden planning I want to make one problem solving suggestion. I have been approached by several members who lost many plants to voles. These are the furry little creatures, about 3" long, that resemble moles (but smaller) and use the mole passages to get to dahlia tubers. Their damage starts to show in early August and if unchecked, can quickly reduce your otherwise healthy, fully grown, blooming dahlia plants. A perfectly healthy plant may die overnight. If you tug on the top of the plant and it comes out off the ground, you probably have voles. If you have garden cats you won't have vole problems. Since we have plenty of voles and no cats I have had to change to planting all dahlia plants or tubers while still in pots. I plant "pot and all"; some call these **potroots**. The size of the plastic pots varies; yet the success rate against vole damage is 100%!! The voles can not chew through the plastic pots. And, the plants grow to full size and there is no difference in plant or bloom size nor number of blooms produced. Since we have plenty of voles and no cats I have had to change to planting all dahlia plants or tubers while

Pheasant Run Resort will hold the show. This is an unbelievably beautiful complex with hotel, restaurants, golf courses, swimming pools, and a large staging areas to exhibit our favorite flower. We will not be moving from hotel to exhibit area--it is all in one place. There will be lectures and garden tours to augment the program. Please save the dates of 6-10 September 2007. There will soon be registration forms and further information on the ADS Webpage: [www.dahlia.org](http://www.dahlia.org) and also in the ADS Quarterly Bulletin. A recent accomplishment of the ADS is the printing of ***Raising Beautiful Dahlias the Easy Way***. This is a 75 page color book that was designed solely for the beginning dahlia grower. It has received many fine compliments from both amateur dahlia growers as well as positive responses from the experts. Through the years many growers and society members have voiced concern that the ADS was too focused on the dahlia exhibitor and the dahlia shows. I can assure you that since I have been on the ADS Executive Committee, the message has been heard-loud and clear! As such, the ADS has formed a Garden Dahlia Committee headed by Steve Nowotarski. This committee has done a lot of work in the past two years. A Dahlia Garden magazine is in the works, and the ADS has promised \$5,000 to get this project off of the ground. The committee has selected dahlia tubers that would be considered wonderful garden dahlias and not necessarily good show flowers. They have distributed these tubers to various growers around the US to find out how they grow in different areas. The varieties they select must be good growers in all areas. They have named the "Garden Dahlia of the Year" already and have written their efforts in the ADS Quarterly Bulletin (see cover of March 2006). If anyone has any ideas on how to further promote the growing of dahlias to non-exhibiting members, please let us know. We are very interested in this.

I suppose this is enough for our initial communication. I sure hope this works. I have great hope.

Thanks much,

Doc

Richards W. Peters M. D.



Here is a potroot of **Just Peachy**. The pot is full of tubers and there are even several that overflowed at the top; no problem. I cut the pot away and wash out the soil.

Sometimes the tubers will burst the pot. This has no ill effect on the tubers even if a vole nibbles the exposed material. The same tuber, once washed appears in the next photo.

Potroots are easy to store. Just pull them out of the ground and



stack them (on their sides to drain) in a small, cool, dark place during the winter; then come spring, simply wash out the soil and cut the clump into parts that include at least one visible "eye".

Why not plant a couple of dahlias using this method?

**Your blooms will not be effected;** you'll not be pestered by voles; the

storage is simple; and the plants' "growth eyes" will tell you when they are ready to resume growth in the spring.



## WINTER TRADE SHOWS

The **Atlanta Garden & Patio Show** (January 25-28) [www.atlantahomeshow.com/](http://www.atlantahomeshow.com/)

kicks off our time this winter, meeting those from around the Atlanta area and the South-east that have an interest in growing dahlias. It will be held as in previous years at the Cobb Galleria Center . We need members to volunteer to help staff our booth (2- hour shifts) for the entire time the show is open to meet and greet the attendees, pass out brochures and growing information and to answer questions they may have. We will also have our computer set up to show pictures of dahlias to those passing by the booth. Our booth number this year is 115. There is no admission cost to those that volunteer to help so if you would like to help please email me, call me, or sign up at the January meeting. Those that feel they are not experienced enough to answer questions, don't worry an experienced dahlia grower will be teamed with you.

The **Southeastern Flower Show** [www.flowershow.org/](http://www.flowershow.org/) will be held February 7-11 in the Georgia World Congress Center Building C. We will need volunteers for this show too. The working hours will be in blocks of three hours. You may attend the show before or after your shift without cost to you. This is a wonderful opportunity to attend this great flower show FREE.

**Our President, Brian Killingsworth, will be making a presentation about growing dahlias on Friday, February 9, at 10:30 AM**

**Dr. Ezekiel Kennedy, one of our members, will be playing the piano during the show at various times so try and support both of our members during their contributions to the show.**

**SUPPORT YOUR SOCIETY BY HELPING DURING THESE TWO GREAT SHOWS**



**WASHED TUBERS**

### **ONE OTHER SUGGESTION**

Now is a good time to have your soil tested. Contact your county agent for details. Dahlias live the pH factor to be around 6.2- 6.5. If lime is needed, simply cast it on your beds and let the winter rains carry it into your soil. It will take 4-6 months for agricultural lime to sweeten your soil so get started now.

Enjoy this “time off”. Planting time will come soon enough. Brian Killingsworth



**ELMA ELIZABETH A—FD—LAV, GROWS WELL IN THE SOUTH. LATE BLOOMER**

## **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

We would like to say thanks to Brian & Linda Killingsworth, Frank McComb, and Henry Everett for their efforts in putting the party together. We all had a great time and the food was just super as always. Thanks to everyone who came and enjoyed the party at this lovely venue.

## **2007 CALENDARS**

There are a number of dahlia calendars available this year so here is a website where you can view information for all of them:

[www.dahlias.net/Calendar/dahliacalendar.htm](http://www.dahlias.net/Calendar/dahliacalendar.htm)

We will have Tina McNabb’s calendar at the January meeting for everyone to take a look at the wonderful pictures and the great product she has put together.



**KIDD’S CLIMAX A—FD—LB Y/PK A WONDERFUL DAHLIA**



**SB’S SUNNY MB—YELLOW GROWS WELL IN ALANTA**