



BO-LEI B-LC-L

# DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA NEWSLETTER

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

## APRIL TUBER SALE IS HERE

The annual April tuber sale/auction will be held during our regular meeting time on Monday, April 16 at 7:30 PM. This is the time for members and the general public to come and purchase locally grown Dahlia tubers that are heat tolerant and will grow well in the South. We do use an auction format so each tuber will be described and a picture of the bloom for most tubers will be shown on a

large screen so all can see. The pictures of the bloom were a big hit last year as it was our first attempt of using a computerized system and it makes it so easy for buyers to see what they are purchasing. Attendees becoming members will receive a \$10 discount in Dahlia Bucks towards your purchases. COME TO THE 2007 TUBER SALE.



MY BEVERLY B-LC-LB DP/Y

ORIGINATED BY GILLY SIMMONS FROM ANDERSON, SC. IN 2006 IT RECEIVED MORE AWARDS THAN ANY OTHER DAHLIA IN THE B-LC CLASS. A MOST BEAUTIFUL DAHLIA WITH STRIKING COLORS.

**APRIL MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 16TH**

**7:30 PM**

**EXHIBIT HALL**

**(ACROSS THE COURTYARD)**

**ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN**

As stated in the lead article The DS of Georgia Spring tuber sales will be held during April and then another

one in May. There will be free handouts on how to grow dahlias and which dahlias are heat tolerant, which is a major factor in becoming successful dahlia growers in the South. So many dahlias just won't grow well in our heat so named varieties play an important role as we know through experience if they will grow well or not.

## 2007

### ANNUAL CALENDAR

- APRIL TUBER SALE, APRIL 16  
ABG EXHIBIT HALL
- MAY TUBER SALE, MAY 21  
ABG EXHIBIT HALL
- JUNE MEETING, JUNE 18 ABG
- JULY MEETING/PICNIC, CREEK-SIDE DAHLIA FARM, AUGUST 4
- AUGUST MEETING, AUG 20  
ABG
- NATIONAL DAHLIA SHOW, SEPT. 6-10, ST CHARLES, IL
- CAROLINAS DAHLIA SHOW SEPT. 15-16, UNC ARBORETUM, ASHEVILLE, NC
- TENNESSEE DAHLIA SHOW 22-23 SEPT. CHATTANOOGA CONVENTION CENTER
- GEORGIA DAHLIA SHOW SEPT 29/30 ABG, ATLANTA, GA
- ALABAMA DAHLIA SHOW OCT. 6, MCSWAIN SCIENCE CTR, BIRMINGHAM. AL
- GA NAT'L FAIR DAHLIA SHOW OCT 10-12, PERRY. GA
- MINI-SHOW OCTOBER 15, ABG
- NOVEMBER MEETING NOVEMBER NOV 19, ABG
- DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY TBA

DAHLIAS – APRIL –planting time approaches but.....

Having just enjoyed two weeks of blissful day and enjoyable evening weather we are faced with the threat of frost for several nights. The drought since the first of the year has been dented, at least, by several nice, lengthy showers. Guess what...it's Spring. The warm weather and gentle rains are a guise to suck us in to making an oft repeated mistake; that of planting too early. Beware to those who want to plant dahlias now. Hold off until May. The current soil temperature shows a reading of 40- 50 degrees. Remember, dahlias like the soil temperature at planting time to be about 70 degrees, a lot like tomato plants. Who among us "farmers" have not planted tomatoes and other crops too early? At least be honest with yourself. So, what can a frustrated, impatient dahlia grower do? Right now!! What to do right now?

There are several current tasks that will prove beneficial later in the growing season. Hopefully you garden has already been plowed or tilled at least once this season. If not, as soon as your soil dries sufficiently (a handful of soil squeezed into a ball then crumbles easily), take a sunny day to enjoy being outside and work your soil to at least a 6" depth.

Any available compost or other aged organic material should be worked in at the same time. If you have had the soil tested and the results show a pH reading of below 6.0, casting powdered agricultural lime upon the surface of the freshly worked soil will help sweeten the soil and raise the pH to a more desirable reading of 6.2 – 6.5. Since it takes several months for lime to be incorporated, if your garden needs lime, then don't tarry but apply the lime now!!

Now is the time to pull out any dahlia tubers stored from last year and check their overall health. A white powdery mold on any can simply be washed off. Any dried tubers can be spritzed with warm water in hopes of plumping them back up. If while doing this checking you accidentally knock off a sprout or two, not to worry for they will quickly regenerate.

Tubers of newly acquired varieties\* or favorites left from last year will definitely benefit from being potted in new, fresh potting soil and exposed to light and some water. With the longer days, warmth, light and moisture, they will quickly awaken. They will quickly develop roots within the pot in anticipation of a May planting. You will be amazed to see how

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are so pleased to welcome the following new members to the Dahlia Society of Georgia. We are looking forward to seeing you at some of our meetings or other functions during the year.

LARRY BLUMER

&

KATHLEEN KEYES

LILBURN, GEORGIA

LEE CRIPPEN

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

WE HAVE A NEW MEMBER WELCOMING PACKAGE THAT YOU WILL BE RECEIVING LATER THIS MONTH.

## MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The cutoff for inclusion in the 2007 membership directory was April 1st. You may still send in your dues after that date and remain in good standing as a member for 2007 but your name and address will not be included in the directory. We encourage everyone to maintain their membership and help continue to make the DS of GA to be one of the premier flower societies in Atlanta and the South.

how much growth occurs, in as little as a month's time, both above and below the soil level in the pot.

I've learned from experience that dahlias or even new cuttings, either in pots, like about 16 hours of light a day when trying to awaken and produce initial roots. I recommend that you try to move the pots outdoors in the morning, place them in a sunny spot, and return them indoors in the evening. Then supplement their indoor light with any number of artificial light sources to reach a 16 hour dose of light. You will be rewarded with abundant roots and very healthy dahlias ready for the planting in May. Perhaps by the last week of April it will be warm enough to leave the dahlias outside and thereby help them begin to harden off in anticipation to May planting.

Yet another suggestion for this time of the year is a weekly, light (1/2) strength feeding of a liquid fertilizer; one with a higher middle number (the phosphorous portion) will help develop roots.

Now would be a good time to go ahead and drive your supporting stakes in the ground. Then, when you plant next month, you'll already have a support system to which you can attach any top growth from potted tubers. This top growth may be as much as a foot and will definitely appreciate having the protection of support in the case of any sudden spring storm. I recommend that you use relatively cheap wooden "tomato" staves or 1" white PVC pipe or 1/2" rebar rods (either at least 6' long). They will see you through the season. If you plan to grow just a few dahlias, then consider installing metal "tomato rings". A 3' space between stakes will allow you to work among your plants as they grow throughout the next 6 or more months.

So, April is here and the glorious time of the year when the outdoors awaken. These several tasks performed in April will greatly benefit your dahlias throughout the following spring, summer and fall.

\* An excellent source of heat tolerant dahlias, known to grow in this area, will be available at the April and May auctions. For all the new members - I know we throw a lot of information your way both in the newsletter and at our meetings. But remember, we too were new to dahlias at one time and a lot of what we suggest may only work in our garden. Something else may be better in your garden. Try several methods and us what works for you; and keep asking questions. Brian Killingsworth

## DAHLIA QUESTIONS

Q: How close should I plant my dahlias? 18"-24" between tubers is a good distance.

Q: How tall should the stakes be?

A: Unless you are planting bedding dahlias a 6' stake should be used. Put the stake in the ground when you plant the tuber.

Q: What should I use to tie my plants to the stakes?

A: Twine, string, plastic tape, cut up panty hose. Whatever you use tie it to the stake first so the plant can sway in the breeze instead of breaking.

Q: My growing tip is about 7-8' long. Do I need to plant it all underground?

A: Try to get as much as possible of the tip under the soil. You can mound the soil instead of planting it deeper.

Q:What are some easy to grow tubers that I should look for at the tuber sales?

A: Bo-Bay, Elsie Houston, Peaches N Cream, Honka, Cherokee Beauty, Yuukyu, Verda, Taratahi Lilac, Rebecca Lynn, Zorro, L . A. T. E., SB's Sunny, Nepos, Marie Snugg, and Willow Borealis.

Q:What fertilizer should I use?

A:Osmocoate worked into the ground or any good liquid fertilizer or 10-10-10, or 10-20-20. With our heat the osmocoate will run out around the first of August.

## MEMBERS BRING YOUR TUBERS

We need your tubers for the tuber sale/auction so come early and bring your tubers that meet the following conditions:

1. Each tuber must be listed in the ADS 2006 or 2007 classification book.
2. Each tuber must have a visible eye or the spot where an eye was broken off circled with a black marker.
3. Each tuber must be marked with it's name written on the tuber or a label attached with the name.

The table where the tubers will be will be organized starting with AA, A, B, BB etc. Please place them by size in alphabetical order. This will assist us in locating the tuber on the computer run so we can flash a picture of the bloom on the screen.

## AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Dahlia Society of Georgia is hosting ADS Executive Committee at the Airport Crown Plaza Hotel on Virginia Avenue next week-end April 13, 14, and 15. All members are invited to attend the meeting. (Cont)



ELSIE HOUSTON A-ID-P

BO-BAY B-SC-LB Y/L



L. A. T. E. M-FD-LB OR/Y

REBECCA LYNN M-FD-P

HONKA O-Y

## DAHLIAS OF TODAY

The 2007 edition of "Dahlias of Today" has arrived and will be available to members at the April meeting for a cost of \$7. If you can't attend the meeting a copy can be mailed to your home for the same cost plus \$2 for the shipping. Please call me or email me with your order. 770-447-1405

New members will receive a free copy as part of their wel-



KENORA SUNSET B-SC-FL R/Y



TARATAHI LILAC BB-IC-LB L/W



NENEKAZI B-LC-LB R/PK

## ADS REPORT FROM DOC PETERS

Hi All,

This is letter #5 Letter #3 was just for a few clubs, so don't worry if you did not get it. All of you Reps should have gotten a nice packet of information about the National Show from Central States Dahlia society member, Dan Kaplan. The Show is being held at the Pheasant Run Resort, which is something to behold in itself. The show promises to be a lot of fun as well has having a large number of growers exhibiting their blooms. Please talk up the National Show to your members, and distribute the registration forms to those who are interested. You are certainly free to xerox additional forms. The group has been working very hard, and you will be pleased. Note also that there is a Monday program with tours. The ADS March and June bulletins will contain information, too. Dan Kaplan is happy to answer any questions you may have : 8 4 7 - 2 3 1 - 5 0 7 5 I have noticed that several clubs have not notified Don McAllister to give him information on Tuber and Plant sales. Remember that Don has a list of all clubs that have tuber sales, and he even furnishes a map on how to get to your sale. This is a wonderful resource provided by the Colorado Dahlia Society. Just give him the name of your club, the dates, times, and address for the sale: [donmc00@yahoo.com](mailto:donmc00@yahoo.com) or 303-776-6150 I do have some sad news to share with you. After functioning for more than 70 years, the Toledo Dahlia Society has chosen to disband. The club members knew that the club was not getting or keeping new members and that the members had become elderly. They were no longer physically able to put up and take down tables for their show, and their mall where the show was always held had its last year in 2006. Some of the members had held the same offices for many years. Others would not serve. This may also serve as a wake-up call to all of our clubs. New members must be courted by having club members visit their gardens. Mentors need to take on the new members. Clubs need to have active and fun programs for the new people to learn. Fairly elaborate refreshments need to be served—pot luck or otherwise. Active, enthusiastic members need to be at the Information Desk at the shows. The clubs need to meet for pot luck dinners at members' gardens. Nothing is more exciting than wandering through blooming dahlias, and this really gets us all excited. Finally, I know that several of you have asked the ADS for information on how to start up a new club or how to get resources on re-invigorating an established club. This is a

topic that is near and dear to the heart of our President, Jerry Landerholm. I'm certain that it will be on the agenda for our two day meeting in Atlanta on 13-15 April. Speaking of the 2-day ADS Executive meeting in Atlanta on 13-15 April, I just want to remind everyone that all ADS members are not only allowed to attend the Executive Committee meeting, but are actively encouraged to do so. We just love input from all of our members. Please contact Jerry if you have any chance of attending: 630-627-0 0 2 8 . Now, I have some really good news. We have a new Dahlia Society in Pennsylvania, and it will be called the Gettysburg Dahlia Society. They will be joining our other two Pennsylvania Societies: Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. It is being started by Annie Radcliff, and this is very positive. Annie is one of these people who have enough energy and personality for three people. She was encouraged to fulfill her dream of having a Gettysburg Society. Spurred on by the likes of Alan Fisher and Arthur Kieffer, Annie has rounded up 8 paid members to start the club. Annie will be at the National Show in Chicago, I am sure. So if you have the chance, say "Hello" to her. You won't be disappointed. My tubers are waking up, but outside is still white here in Michigan. Waiting for it to turn green!

Take care,  
Doc

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The meeting will start at 6 PM on Friday evening the 13th and continue at 9 AM on Saturday all day with breaks and lunch. Sunday morning until 12 noon.

All are invited and encouraged to attend the meeting at anytime during the week-end. The meeting will take place in the Lombard II room.