



DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA NEWSLETTER

BO-BAY B-SC-LB Y/L

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ORIG BY GENE BOEKE WWW.DAHLIASOCIETYOFGEORGIA.ORG

GENE BOEKE RECEIVES ADS GOLD MEDAL

Gene Boeke, ADS Southern Region VP, received the ADS Gold Medal at a ceremony during our annual Christmas party. Due to a scheduling conflict Gene was unable to attend the 2007 National Dahlia Show in Chicago to receive the award in September. It is a well deserved tribute to Gene for his leadership and hard work he has accomplished during his 60 years of growing dahlias and the years being associated with the ADS.

Gene joined the Dahlia Society of Georgia in 1955 and has been serving the society ever since in many capacities. He has been the president and still serves as the top show judge in the Southeast. He is also the Regional V-President for the American Dahlia Society for the Southern States and serving on their Executive Board. Congratulations Gene! Read more in the Dec Bulletin.



GENE BOEKE RECEIVING HIS ADS GOLD MEDAL. PRESENTATION AND READING OF THE CITATION MADE BY BRIAN KILLINGSWORTH. JOY BOEKE IS SEATED.

JANUARY MEETING

JANUARY 21ST

7:30 PM

BASEMENT CLASSROOM

ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

The start of the new year always brings our desires for growing new or different dahlias when our growing season arrives in April-May. In order to make sure we purchase

Dahlias that will grow well in our Southern heat we need to make sure we use the best know techniques in doing so. We will learn how to use our classification book to make those determinations and we will view a DVD of many of the NEW RELEASES FOR 2008. We will also have a DVD of the winners in the ADS photography contest. Come to the January meeting.

2008 CALENDAR

JANUARY-JUNE

JANUARY

JAN 21ST-- MEETING ABG

JAN 30TH-FEB 3RD
SOUTHEASTERN FLOWER
SHOW, GWC, BUILDING A

FEBRUARY

FEB 7-10

ATLANTA GARDEN &
PATIO SHOW
GALLERIA CENTER

FEB 18TH-MEETING ABG

MARCH

MAR 17- MEETING ABG

APRIL

APR 21ST- TUBER SALE

MESHON HALL, ABG

MAY

MAY 19TH- TUBER SALE

MESHON HALL, ABG

JUNE

JUNE 16- MEETING ABG

MAIN ENTRANCE TO ABG CLOSES

Due to the construction of the new parking garage the main entrance has been closed and an old service entrance has been activated as the entry point into the garden. **This entrance is still on Piedmont Road just a little further towards 14th street and should be very well marked.** The entrance comes out near the

ORCHID CENTER.

2008 DAHLIA CALENDARS

We still have a few 2008 Dahlia Calendars available and the price has been reduced to \$10 each. They will be available at the January meeting or you may call or email me with your order.

2008 DUES

It's that time of the year again to renew your membership in the Georgia Dahlia Society so please don't delay in sending in your check to our Treasurer, Henry Everett or you may pay at the January meeting. The dues are the same as in past years and remains one of those items (maybe the only one) that has not gone up in cost. Dues are \$27 for an individual or \$30 per household. You can't even fill up your gas tank one time for that amount of money, not even a Honda.

Your dues allow you to be transported to the wonderful world of dahlia growing with a wonderful group of like minded individuals growing the most beautiful flower in the world. You are valued as a member and we hope your membership is valuable to you. Learning the in's and out's of growing our dahlias takes time so all of the instruction benefits, and networking available to members is indeed worth every penny of your dues.

We are all hoping and praying that the 2008 growing season will be much different than 2007 so please continue your membership in 2008. **BELOW PENNSGIFT AA-ID-L**



GALLERY DAHLIAS

Most readers have probably never heard of Gallery Dahlias but they are a new bedding dahlia that comes from Holland after 15 years of breeding. They are patented so you don't find them everywhere. The ones I have seen were growing last summer at the Smokey Mountain Trial Garden in Cashiers, North Carolina. They were very beautiful with lots of blooms and only one of all the listed cultivars is over 18" in height.

Cashiers is 3,480 feet above sea level so they have warm days and cool nights and I want to say very loudly **I DON'T KNOW IF THEY WILL GROW IN OUR HEAT OR NOT.** So don't go out and purchase any unless you just have to try them. In the past most bedding dahlias I have grown don't do very well and grow taller than the listed height.

We will be growing some in the display garden in Stone Mountain Park this summer and we will report during and after the season as to how well they did in our heat. So I recommend that you wait until 2009 before considering purchasing Gallery Dahlias. Here are some places you can look at and/or purchase them. http://www.verwer-dahlias.nl/en/gall_intro_en.htm

www.jungseed.com/sp.asp?c=189 (NO PICTURES)

www.mzbulbspring.com/sp.asp?c=59

www.dahlias.net/dbiglist.htm click on Container Dahlias



GALLERY SINGER, RED, ART FAIR WHITE, CASHIERS, NC

WHAT DAHLIA GROWERS CAN DO IN JANUARY

Here you are in the midst of winter and wondering if you have any dahlia chores. I will suggest two that you can do now or you can save them for February. If you dug and stored your tubers then you can work to improve the soil in your beds. If not, and they are still in the ground, safe under a 4"-6" layer of mulch, you can still consider which new varieties to grow this coming summer.

#1- WORK TO IMPROVE YOUR SOIL

You can take advantage of any warm day to work in your garden with the aim of improving its overall condition. I recommend it be done now so there is a longer time for changes to occur before planting. As long as the soil in your beds is neither wet nor damp, now would be a fine time to incorporate any available source of organic matter.

If during the past summer you noticed any area that possibly had a drainage problem now is the time to correct it by adding loft and height to the soil. I use loft here to describe an airiness or lightness in the soil as opposed to sticky, compacted soil. Adding overall height to the bed will allow you to plant your dahlia tubers or plants higher in the bed and further away from low spots where water might collect.

Organic material like rotting leaves, decomposing or completely composted manures, finely chipped bark, or even small bits of granite ("turkey grit" or "8s and 9s"), available from any local rock quarry, will add valuable loft to soil and increase the tilth (workability or crumbliness) of the soil. If granite rock is not available you can add perlite to your soil to achieve similar short term lofting results. **You are creating space between the smallest particles that make up the soil so that plant roots can grow and spread freely.** You are also increasing the drainage capability of your soil. The organic matter also has valuable nutrients that benefit your plants and attract earthworms whose work, in turn, further increases the loftiness of the soil and the nutrients available to the plants.

Some people advocate the use of green manure. This term describes growing a winter hardy crop, such as rye grass, winter wheat or vetch, in your beds then plowing it in at least 6 weeks prior to planting your dahlias. I've used rye grass and have been pleased with the results. One note of caution- you will probably need to cut the rye grass before plowing it in and be sure to give it a full 6 weeks to start decomposition before trying to plant.

One of the best growers in the southeast, Richard and Joy Strong from Birmingham, believe in letting Mother Nature and the winter weather work the soil. After digging and storing their tubers they simply plow their beds deeply and let winter rains and recurring frosts "reshape" the particles of soil. Keep in mind they have been growing in the same, built up beds for over 20 years so their soil is very rich and lofty.

2- CONSIDER WHICH NEW VARIETIES TO TRY THIS SUMMER

Had last year been normal, we would have had several dahlia shows in the fall. These shows are excellent opportunities to study other gardeners' blooms and come up with a list of new varieties to try. Or, perhaps you have received several catalogs from the commercial dahlia growers that have varieties that are enticing you to try in your garden. Or, you have visited any of several internet sites that have gorgeous pictures of perfect dahlia blooms that make you want to have similar beauties in your 2008 garden.

The Colorado Dahlia Society site, www.dahlias.net, has wonderful dual features to help you find any available variety. First, their "[Big List](#)" [Dahlia Locator](#) page lists alphabetically, all commercially available varieties. Another page called [Dahlia Sources & Suppliers](#) list all commercial growers along with their addresses, websites and telephone numbers.

Keep in mind that 90% or more of the commercial dahlia growers are in the northwest and that the weather in Washington, Oregon and British Columbia, Canada differs "somewhat" from our southern weather. Many of the dahlias that grow perfectly out there will croak the first +100 degree day we have. When we have several of those days in a row, many a dahlia as well as many other plant species will not make it. But have faith! There are still many other dahlias that can be classified as "heat tolerant" and can make it through a southern summer and still reward you with beautiful blooms in mid September and on into October and November.

How can you tell which ones belong to which category? Study the ADS Classification and Handbook of Dahlias that you recently received with the December ADS Bulletin. This little book has a wealth of information and the section in the middle of the bulletin entitled "Cultivars listed by classification number with 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 3rd 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 - 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.

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.

In the case of # 372 **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**. 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.

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.

Where do I recommend you shop for these heat tol-

erant dahlias? I suggest that you buy most of your 2006 dahlias at our Society's April and May auctions. The members 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.

Enjoy this period of downtime. Soon you'll have plenty of physical work.

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 370 LAVENDER LINE | 11 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 370 MAJESTIC KERKRADE | 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 VOWS | 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 |



L TO R: GALLERY DAHLIAS REMBRANT AND CEZANNE

WINTER TRADE SHOWS

The 2008 Southeastern Flower Show and the Atlanta Garden & Patio shows are almost upon us and we **NEED YOUR HELP**. The Southeastern Flower Show is first up this year with it starting on January 30th through February 3rd and the Atlanta Garden and Patio show is the week following, February 7-10.

The SE setup will be the same as in the past couple of years with all of the flower societies grouped together. Since it will be in Building A this year the amount of available space is reduced from Building C where it was last year so I don't know the exact location where we will be located.

We will be manning out allotted space from 10:00 AM on Wednesday through 4 PM on Sunday the 3rd so we need a lot of members to volunteer to meet the public and hand out our materials to those with an interest in dahlias. You may come early or stay late and see the show

We must **REPLY TO THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR BY JANUARY 20TH** and our meeting this month is January 21st so **I need everyone to send me an email or call me if your would like to participate and what time(s) you would like to be there.** The shifts are three (3) hours each and all are open at this time. Please contact me ASAP. 770-447-1405

The ATL G & P will be the same as in the past with an individual booth for each vendor/society. The start times this year are 12 noon each day except Saturday which will be 10 AM. The shifts will 3 hours also with some extra time on Friday evening and Saturday. We have more time to sign up for this show so a sign up sheet will be passed around at the January meeting.



DANUM METEOR AA-SC-R, GROWS WELL IN OUR AREA

2008 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT-----FRANK MCCOMB
VICE - PRESIDENT-----BLAIR WALKER
TREASURER-----HENRY EVERETT
SECRETARY-----CARLA SCHISSEL
ADS REP-----PAULA PINHOLSTER

CHRISTMAS PARTY PHOTOS



WEBSITE HEAT TOLERANT LIST

The DS of GA website listing of heat tolerant dahlias (DAHLIAS THAT GROW WELL IN THE SOUTH PAGE) has been updated for 2008 so you can review them and then look them up on the Big List www.dahlias.net and locate a vendor that has a picture. The list has been expanded for 2008 and includes an alphabetical listing and a listing by size. Again, most popular and easiest to grow dahlias are noted.

One of the techniques used in developing this listing is the method that has been explained on page 4 of this newsletter in Brian Killingsworth's article so most of the work has been done for you. The other major technique that was used is the actual experience of growing the cultivar by one or more growers here in the Southern States Dahlia Society.



BOUQUETS OF DAHLIAS AT ED & PAM BONCI'S HOME IN NY



CAMANO RASCAL B-I/C BI R/W SHOW IN WASH, DC



BO-LEI B-LC-L GROWING IN ED & PAM BONCI'S GARDEN IN NY



LADY DARLENE B-FD-DB R/Y GROWS WELL IN OUR AREA



LEFT: KENORA SUNSET B-SC-FL GROWING IN GA