



DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA NEWSLETTER

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SPECIAL 2008 SHOW EDITION

September is here and the Southern States Dahlia Shows begin next week-end. After cancellation of all of our shows last year everyone is looking forward to this show season with great anticipation of seeing lots of wonderful dahlia blooms in

an exhibition setting and the thrill of the competition. The Tennessee Dahlia Society will lead things off with their show in Chattanooga on September 6 at the East



DAHLIAS READY FOR JUDGING AT THE 2006 DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA SHOW

NO REGULAR SEPTEMBER MEETING

2008 ANNUAL DAHLIA SHOW

SEPTEMBER 27 & 28

MESHON HALL

ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

SAT: 12 PM – 7 PM

SUN: 9 AM – 4 PM

Brainerd Church of Christ Gym. The attendance of so many exhibitors to the National Show in Philadelphia during the third week-end has necessitated the moving of the Tennessee Show to the first week-end in September. The 2010 National Dahlia Show will be held in Chattanooga so everyone make sure to put that on your calendar. C-P2

2008 CALENDAR

SEPT--OCT

TENNESSEE DAHLIA SHOW

SEPT 6

EAST BRAINERD CHURCH OF
CHRIST

CHATTANOOGA, TN

CAROLINAS DAHLIA SHOW

SEPT 13-14

UNC ARBORETUM

ASHEVILLE, NC

NAT'L DAHLIA SHOW

SEPT 18-22

LONGWOOD GARDENS

PHILADELPHIA, PA

GEORGIA DAHLIA SHOW

ATLANTA BOTANICAL GAR

SEPT 27-28,

ATLANTA, GA

ALABAMA DAHLIA SHOW

OCTOBER 4

MCWANE SCIENCE CENTER

BIRMINGHAM, AL

GA NATIONAL FAIR

DAHLIA SHOW

OCT 10-12, PERRY, GA



SPARTACUS ON THE HEAD TABLE AT THE DS OF TENNESSEE SHOW



PART OF THE HEAD TABLE AT A DS OF CAROLINAS SHOW



HEAD TABLE AT THE 2006 DS OF ALABAMA SHOW

CONT FROM P1

The Carolinas Show will be held on September 13&14 in the lovely setting of the UNC Arboretum in the Asheville, NC area. This show always has many spectacular blooms in the A and AA size categories so it is well worth the trip to Asheville to see these large dinner plate dahlias.

The National Dahlia Show in Philadelphia will be held on the third week-end in the wonderful setting of Longwood Gardens just outside of the city. Longwood Gardens is one of the premier formal gardens in the United States so this is your opportunity to see this garden plus more lovely dahlia blooms than you have ever thought about. It is not too late to register for this show and the accompanying tours of Philadelphia and Longwood Gardens. Their website is: <http://www.longwoodgardens.org/>

The last week-end in September will be the DS of GA Show at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. This is another good-size show with 750-1000 blooms in a normal year. The most used expression when show visitors first come through the door to the exhibition hall (this is true at all dahlia shows) is WOW! The blaze of magnificent colors all in one view is breath-taking by everyone visiting the show.

The first week-end in October takes us to Birmingham for the Alabama show which is held downtown at the McWane Science Center. This is a one day show that will be held on Saturday, October 4th. Lots of beautiful blooms displayed in a very nice hall so if you are in the area make sure to stop by the show.

Our final show of the season takes us to Perry, GA to the site of the Georgia National Fair. This is always a fun show as exhibitors bring whatever blooms are left in their garden to show. There are always some great blooms for everyone to enjoy and it is most interesting to see the reaction of the visitors when they see the dahlias for the first time. This show will have staging on Friday afternoon, October 10 starting at 2 PM until 8 PM. Judging will be held on Saturday morning October 11 after which the show will be open to the public.



DAHLIAS ON DISPLAY AT THE 2007 NATIONAL SHOW IN CHICAGO



EMBRACE , A WINNING ARRANGEMENT AT THE 2007 NAT'L SHOW



DAHLIAS ON DISPLAY AT THE 2007 GEORGIA NATIONAL FAIR DS

MEMBERS & EXHIBITORS

We need your help for our show on the September 26, 27, & 28. Friday the 26th is show set up day and staging of flowers by exhibitors and we need as many members as possible to setup tables, put paper covering on the tables and all of the other items needed to get ready for the show. This will begin around 3 PM. Also, on that Friday we need for members to bring in finger food items and goodies for the exhibitors to munch on during the evening and night while they are staging their flowers.

Staging will continue on Saturday morning and we will need members to help with the judging of the blooms. Judging starts at 9:30 AM please arrive by 9 AM If you would like to learn how to judge dahlia blooms you may join a judging team as an apprentice judge. We will also need members to serve as clerks for the judging teams. Detailed instructions will be given to everyone if you haven't served in these capacities before. It's a lot of fun and you will enjoy learning more about the dahlias you grow. After the judging a lunch will be served for all of the attendees and the awards will be given out. It will cost \$5 per person. If you didn't sign up to work at the August meeting it's not too late as you can email Paula & Dan Pinholster dfp7373@juno.com or call them at 770-382-8110. You must register in order to have free entry into the Garden & account for lunch. If you are bringing flowers for exhibition you must unload them at the service entrance. On arrival, drive to the service entrance gate that is located to the left of the main entrance building. There will be carts at the gate or at the exhibition hall. Someone will gladly help you unload. After you have unloaded, parking may be a problem. We may have to use the Ansley Mall parking lot. Someone will shuttle you back to the gardens. Staging will end around 11:00 P. M. Cont P 4

On Saturday, staging will resume at 7:00 A. M. and end at 9:00 AM. Judging will begin at 9:30 A. M. Lunch will be picnic style at 12:30 behind the exhibition hall. Lunch will be a barbecue sandwich with the usual trimmings, a drink, and a dessert. After lunch we will make the awards and have some visiting time. Our artistic arrangements will have two sections. Section I will be an arrangement to celebrate the Fourth of July. Section II will be an arrangement to celebrate Thanksgiving. There will not be a photography section.

ST. MT. DISPLAY GARDEN



A 10" BLOOM OF IVORY PALACES AA-ID-Y AT STONE MT



SENIOR BALL BA-LB W/PR AT STONE MOUNTAIN

WHAT DOES VIRUS DAMAGE LOOK LIKE?

Now is the reward time for growing dahlias! After all of the back breaking, hot and sweaty work, you should be reaping a crop of dahlias. As the days grow shorter and the nights become cooler, your dahlia plants should take off. Hopefully you are seeing new blooms as well as strong, new growth of the entire plant. Now is also the time to seriously examine each and every plant in your garden for damage from diseases, deficiencies, and bug damage. Viruses are prime concern to dahlias for there is no cure.

Often the very top (newest) leaves will crinkle and show a lot of yellow along the veins (photos # 1 and 2). At the same time the leaves below it will look normal. Gene Boeke once told me if it is one variety that you really

want, break out the top of the plant and, if it grows back normal; then keep it. If it again shows the crinkled and yellow



PHOTO # 1



PHOTO # 2



PHOTO # 3

look—pitch it. This is a gamble so continue to watch it. On the other hand, if it is not a special variety, get rid of it as soon as you see these telltale signs. Photos # 3 - 5 show the virus signatures of yellowing along the main leaf vein with yellow also going out along the minor veins and with random “blooms” or “explosions” of yellow on the

minor veins. When you see these signs, inspect the whole plant and you will probably see many leaves showing the same signs of virus infection. In this case you must pull the plant and get it out of your garden or the virus will quickly spread to neighboring plants. Search where the removed plant was and also get rid of any leaves, branches, buds or blooms, roots or tuber debris. There is no cure for the virus but you can stop it from spreading by constant monitoring and action.



PHOTO # 4



PHOTO #5

There are other times when you think you have a virus infected

plant but it may simply be showing the signs of being under some other, less fatal stress (photos 6-8); may be a soil pH problem, a chemical deficiency, the effects of drought, insect damage, etc.



PHOTO # 6

Photo # 7 shows even more damage but when

you turn over the leaf you can see (# 8) the plant is infested with spider mites and therefore the damage is caused by the mites and probably not by



PHOTO # 7

a virus; At least not yet. Beginning with bottom leaves and working up the plants, spider mite infest the plant and severely stressed the plant. Unless you get rid of the mites immediately, and the damaged leaves removed, any and all types of calamities will be visited upon this particular plant and any others close by.

Photo # 8 shows the under side of the same leaf as shown in photo # 7. The coppery color is a defi-



PHOTO # 8

nite sign of spider mites. The coppery color is a give away that the problem is spider mites. Another sign sometimes is small, cluttered webs.

Jumping back to virus, there is one last sign of virus that needs coverage. Dahlias are susceptible to at least 7 types of virus. At least two of these "imprint" some leaves of infected plants with

"outlines" of oak leaves or some other mosaic pattern. Photos #9 and #10 show examples of these



PHOTO # 9 DAHLIA MOSAIC VIRUS



PHOTO # 10 OAK LEAF VIRUS

types of virus. Remember, **dahlias with virus can not be treated**. They must be removed from the garden along with any of its leaves, tubers and roots. Do not compost but place all debris in a bag and dispose of it immediately. Constantly study your plants for virus signs and at the first sighting, act quickly. Viruses are passed on in the spittle of various chewing insects and by contaminated hands and tools. Since we can't heal a plant with virus we need to constantly monitor our gardens in order to prevent infections passing from plant to plant. BK

