



DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA NEWSLETTER

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2010 NATIONAL SHOW IN CHATTANOOGA

This the year we have been waiting for when the ADS National Dahlia Show returns to the Southern States after a long absence. Excitement is already starting to build as many aspects of the show are coming together. The show and convention headquar-

ters will be in the famous Chattanooga Choo Choo hotel. You can even stay in a railroad car if you would like. There will be tours of dahlia gardens, an awards banquet on a large river boat navigating the Tennessee River at sunset. If you like to judge dahlias you can sign up to be on one of the judging teams

or as a clerk. We always need volunteers to help conduct the show so if you are planning to come to the show please ask Frank McComb, Brian Killingsworth, Dan & Paula Pinholster, or myself as to how you can help.

2010 CALENDAR

**FEBRUARY 15
REGULAR MEETING
ABG**

**MARCH 15
REGULAR MEETING
ABG**

**MARCH TBA
SOUTHERN STATES
SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING
BIRMINGHAM, AL**

**APRIL 19
TUBER SALE
ABG**

**MAY 17
TUBER SALE
ABG**

**JUNE 21
REGULAR MEETING
ABG**



This is a picture of the banquet at the 2008 National Show which was held in a wonderful venue at Longwood Gardens outside of Philadelphia and hosted by the Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Soc.

FEBRUARY MEETING

7:30 PM

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN BASEMENT CLASSROOM

PROGRAM: WE WILL BE SHOWING THE DVD "DAHLIA" PRODUCED BY THE NATIONAL CAPITAL DAHLIA SOCIETY. THIS IS A GREAT GROWING GUIDE ON HOW TO GROW DAHLIAS. WE WILL BE SHOWING THE UPDATED VERSION WHICH TAKES YOU THROUGH AN ENTIRE GROWING SEASON.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

DONNA CREWS
LILBURN, GA

GAIL LEE
CLAYTON, NC

TULASI GATTU
ALPHARETTA, GA

CHUCK BUMGARTNER
BAKERSFIELD, CA

ANDREW DURDEN
EAST POINT, GA

DARRELL FREEMAN
CEDARTOWN, GA

CECILIA DANIELS ODUM
PROSPERITY, SC

DALE FREEMAN/RICK HALL
CEDARTOWN, GA

THOMAS RODGERS
ATLANTA, GA

WE ARE SO GLAD EACH OF
YOU HAVE JOINED THE
DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA



COMET AN-DR 1952. BEAUTIFUL FLOWER BUT WILL IT GROW HERE?



RYECROFT ZOE BB-SC-LB OR/YL



BEST BASKET IN SHOW AT THE 2009 ADS NATIONAL SHOW. CHECK OUT HOLLYHILL DAHLIAS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

WINTER ACTIVITIES FOR DAHLIA GROWERS

Dahlia growers can generally take it easy during the winter months. With the temperatures dropping and numerous winter rains falling, it's a good time to sit back and enjoy the memories of this past growing season. Having quickly done that, it's time to fast forward and prepare for the 2010 growing season.

We in the South have the extra incentive of the upcoming 2010 ADS National show being held in nearby Chattanooga. By all means plan to attend and please plan to exhibit a bloom or two. Attending a National Show is quite an experience. I joined the Dahlia Society of Georgia in the late 80s and we had consecutive national shows in 1992 and 1993. The 1992 show was held in Asheville, NC and was stunning. Exhibitors came from Canada, the Northeast, the Midwest and several actually brought blooms from the west coast. But the blooms from here in the South were equal to the challenge and many of the top winners were southern growers. The very same can and will happen in 2010 so plan to be part of it.

This is a good time to select new varieties that perhaps you saw last year. The December ADS Bulletin will have show reports that list the big winners for 2009. Besides any dahlia catalogs you receive, visit the Colorado Society's website at www.dahlia.net, home of the "Big List" Dahlia Locator. Remember the points covered in a prior article; check for winners in the southern shows but also pay attention to the Midwest shows as well— places like Cincinnati, St. Louis, and Chicago. Many of those growers battle the same high heat and humidity days that we experience; many also have the same plant diseases and insect invaders, too.

Speaking of insect invaders, those who attended our "mini show" may remember an earwig being found on a bloom and subsequently shown to all as a point of interest. Earwigs have annually been a bloom destroying pest (see



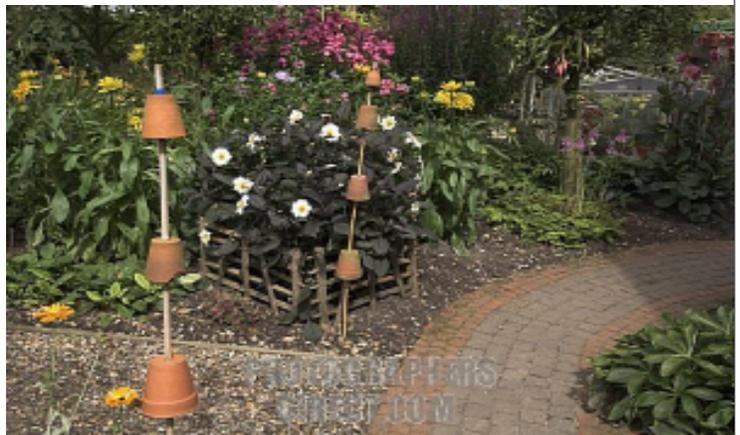
photo on left) for other regions of the ADS membership; it now appears that they are moving into the South as

well. They are 1/2" to 3/4", flat bodied, brown or brown and red striped. The pincer on the rear is forbidding, but also helps identify earwigs. If



squashed they give off a foul odor. A call to the county extension agent turned up a warning that they appear to have be-

come tolerant of current insecticides; the same reason we have so much trouble with spider mites.



More research turned up an earwig habit that we growers might use to our advantage. Earwigs are night feeders. During the day they hide in soil and mulch and plant debris in and around our dahlia beds. Various traps can be set to attract earwigs when they bed down for the day-

An inverted pot on a bamboo stake, filled with straw, and placed among blooms, will serve to collect sleeping earwigs. You can then tap them into a container of soapy water or bleach. Low sided containers, like used jar lids, filled with vegetable oil, will also trap earwigs. Dampen a newspaper, roll it up, and place under several plants. The next day collect and dispose of these traps. Another winter project to consider would be to give your dahlia beds a good plowing. Earwigs and many other pests lay eggs to overwinter in the top few inches of soil. A tilling to at least 6" should uproot these eggs and bring them to or near the surface where a deep freeze will destroy the eggs. (Don't forget an earlier recommendation to add small chips of granite to clayey soil.) You will also break any crust that might have formed on the beds and leave fresh, friable soil that is more porous to winter rains. Just be sure that your soil is dried out enough to withstand the effects of a tiller. If you hit mud, stop. All the past work to improve the soil will be for naught if you create lumps of muddy soil.

Why we should share our flowers

Linda's hair stylist has grown dahlias for several years. Once Linda learned about his efforts she shared some tubers with him. At the end of this year's season we took blooms to places like the banks and local businesses. One bouquet went to Mark, the hair stylist. On Linda's next trip there he told her the following: another of his customers was taking care of her bedridden husband at home who had terminal cancer. She mentioned this to Mark right after we'd given him the bouquet. He asked the lady if she would like to take the dahlias and she accepted, wanting to place them in his room. During her next visit she revealed to Mark that during the last several days of her husband's life, they had both sat and talked about how beautiful and

unique were the dahlias. Who knows what joy we can receive by sharing these beautiful flowers?

BK

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Alyce and Paul Dolan hosted our Christmas party again this past Christmas season in their beautiful home. Thank you so much for all of your work and the beautiful decorations that were so lovely. We all had a great time and the food was super as always. Thanks to everyone that came to the party.

