



DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA NEWSLETTER

KINETIC

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APRIL/MAY 2010

BB-LC-OR

WWW.DAHLIASOCIETYOFGEORGIA.ORG

THE TUBER SALES BEGIN THIS MONTH

Our annual tuber sales are always an evening full of fun and excitement that everyone in attendance enjoys and gets some great dahlia tubers for their garden. We have changed the format from previous years after a trial run last May to include an auction to begin the evening with featuring those tubers that are new releases for 2010 or dahlias that are in high demand and short sup-

ply, usually some of the AA and A sized tubers. After the auction portion of the sale is completed the tables will be opened to everyone in attendance to select those they would like to purchase and select from the heat tolerant dahlia tubers of every size and form from dinner plate dahlias to waterlilys and poms. All dahlias in this part of the sale will cost \$4 each. Each dahlia will have a live eye showing and will be listed in

the American Dahlia Society classification book. Free growing instructions will be available in a hand-out and computerized pictures will be available for attendees to view for most of the tubers. Expert growers will be available to provide information as needed by members and other attendees. Come to the tuber sales.

2010 CALENDAR

**APRIL 19
TUBER SALE
ABG**

**MAY 17
TUBER SALE
ABG**

**JUNE 21
REGULAR MEETING
ABG**

**JULY
ANNUAL PICNIC
TBA**

**AUGUST 19
REGULAR MEETING
ABG**

**SEPTEMBER 23-26
NATIONAL DAHLIA
SHOW
CHATTANOOGA, TN**



CREEKSIDE DOC, A-ID-LB PK/YL THIS BEAUTIFUL FLOWER IS AN ORIGINATION OF BRIAN KILLINGSWORTH'S AND WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE APRIL TUBER SALE.

APRIL TUBER SALE 7:30 PM

**MONDAY, APRIL 19 ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN
BASEMENT CLASSROOM**

MAY TUBER SALE 7:30 PM

**MONDAY, MAY 17 ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN
BASEMENT CLASSROOM**

MEMBERS

WE NEED YOUR TUBERS FOR THE TUBER SALES. Since the tuber sales are the only fund raisers for the year for our society it is very important that we have as many tubers as possible for the sales. So please bring your divided tubers. Make sure each tuber has the following:

1. A live visible eye. If the eye has been knocked off circle where the eye was with a Sharpie so it can be determined if it will be sold. Two or four eyes will come back where the original eye was located.
2. Make sure the tubers you bring are listed in the current, or was listed in past. ADS Classification books.
3. Write the name of the flower on the tuber with a Sharpie or attach a label with the name to the tuber.
4. Come early to the sale so we can get the tubers you bring in the correct positions on the tables.

MEMBER ALERT

One of our members, Janice Tsurutis, is very ill and required emergency surgery a few weeks ago and has been in the ICU at St Joseph hospital since then. She is in room 213 of the ICU or you can send her a card to her home address:

Janice Tsurutis
3929 Menlo Drive
Doraville, GA 30340-5117



ABOVE PICTURES OF DAHLIAS FROM THE GARDEN OF ED BONCI AND PAM JENSON OUR MEMBERS IN NEW YORK.



JESSICA, BB-IC-BI YL/RD ALWAYS A FAVORITE



KENORA SUNSET B-SC-FL RD/YL GROWING IN GA

DAHLIA QUESTIONS

The following questions have been asked by some of our members or have been listed as good to know information.

Q: If my plants are sprouting now (green above the ground) is it ok to dig them up and divide them and/or move them?

ANS: Yes you can dig them and divide them making sure you have at least one tuber and one eye together or, if you don't have many eyes sufficient crown area for an eye to start growing. Make sure those divided tubers that don't have any/many roots with them are not replanted until the soil is warm enough (70 degrees) for roots to form or they could rot if we get more rain. If you don't replant right away hold the tubers in plastic grocery bags or a box lined with at least four folds of newspaper to keep them from shriveling.

Q: Based on what I have read 04/19 is probably too early to plant dahlias where we live. Do you agree? If so, could I buy them 04/19 and keep them safely until early/mid May and plant? I'm not sure I can make the sale in May?

ANS: You are correct. We usually say to plant dahlias the same time you plant your tomatoes or when the ground temperature gets about 70 degrees. We use May 1st as our planting date in the Atlanta area although this hot weather has all of us thinking about planting. You can keep tubers until you are ready to plant them by keeping them in a plastic grocery bag so air can't get to them and cause them to shrivel. You want to check them weekly to make sure they don't start rotting too. After they eye out they are usually easier to keep without these issues and all tubers at the tuber sales will have eyes.

Q: This is our second year here and the deer have discovered that we have things growing that they like to eat. Do you have any experience with the deer tolerance of dahlias?

ANS: Some growers have told me the deer eat all of their dahlias and others say they won't touch dahlias. The deer never ate my dahlias until last year after growing them here for the last 30 years. I started using Liquid Fence <http://www.liquidfence.com/> to keep them from walking through my beds and eating other plants and it works very well and keeps rabbits and deer away. It is all natural and stinks to high heaven. You must apply it the way they recommend to keep them away.

Q: If I knock the eye off of the tuber will it come back?

ANS: Yes! Two or four eyes will appear.

Q: My dahlia bulbs in the basement shriveled up.. I will try to soak them to see if they plump up.. Last year, some of the worst looking bulbs did quite well.. Any input on this?

ANS: About all you can do with shriveled up dahlias if they are not too far gone is to try and get them to take up some water and then cut off the best tubers and start them in pots and see if they will put out an eye. You can also plant the entire clump in a one/two gallon pot and put out in the sunshine and see if a shoot will appear.

2010 NATIONAL SHOW INFO

The website for the National Show in Chattanooga is the following address: <http://www.dahliasocietyofgeorgia.com/2010Show.htm>

If you are planning to attend the show in September you can print out the registration forms from the website and send them in or you can copy them out of the March and July Bulletins. You can also reserve your room at the Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel on line too or call 1-800-872-2529.

DISPLAY GARDEN PLANTING

We are planning to plant the display garden at Stone Mountain Park on the second Saturday in May, the 8th. We had a great time last year and I am sure we will this year. We will need to do a final till as the horse manure has been tilled in already. Then we will line off the rows and determine the spacing and then plant the tubers. We will need people to fill out the tags and chart the planting so there are plenty of tasks to be accomplished. This a chance for our members to join in the fun of planting a dahlia garden together. We will meet in the Plantation parking lot near the dumpster at 9 AM. We will have most of the needed tools and coffee, water and goodies. Any questions please email John at: jkreiner@bellsouth.net /770-447-1405



CHEROKEE BEAUTY AA-ID-PK