



DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA NEWSLETTER

CRAZY 4 JESSIE BB-IC-DB
DR/YL

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WWW.DAHLIASOCIETYOFGEORGIA.COM

WHY GROW DAHLIAS???

I love growing dahlias and always have ever since I was smitten with the beauty and color of them way back when. I didn't let a little problem like living in San Antonio, Texas deter me from trying to grow them in all of that South Texas heat. Needless to say my first year was not too successful but I got a few blooms from the plants that didn't die. I loved them so much after reading about cuttings I even tried to grow cuttings the second year. That venture didn't turn out

very well so I didn't try that again for a few years. I needed to concentrate on growing dahlias that would live through the Texas summer. I didn't know about heat tolerant dahlias but I kept reading all of the written material I could find still it just wasn't working out very well. I had a few more blooms the second year and even raised some eyebrows when I took some blooms to church to give away. I continued to grow dahlias until we were reassigned to

Atlanta. I never once considered giving up on growing dahlias even though they don't like the heat for the most part. I just reasoned that next year would be a better growing year than the one just finished. In Atlanta I learned about the Georgia Dahlia Society but I didn't join as I was too busy in my job which required a lot of traveling so I just continued to grow a few dahlias in my backyard. I started attending the annual

dahlia show in Atlanta and enjoyed seeing all of the flowers in their glorious beauty. I started getting the meeting notices each month and after three years finally attended the annual picnic that summer. By this time I had been growing dahlias for a number of years but little did I know about how to grow them as my first year as a member in the Georgia Dahlia Society showed me. I learned more about growing dahlias during that first year of membership than I had learned in all of my previous years of growing dahlias. You may ask how is that possible? There are so many aspects to growing dahlias that a new grower needs to learn how to be successful and that takes time. One of the best techniques is to rub elbows with experienced growers through attending society meetings and listening and/or asking questions and then networking with other growers at these meetings. If that doesn't fill the bill, then email me or other experienced growers. **There are no dumb dahlia questions.** One of our new members who lives away from Atlanta



THE DAHLIA BEDS IN JOHN & REGINA KREINER'S BACKYARD UNDER 5 1/2" OF SNOW. WAITING ON SPRING

JANUARY MEETING

JANUARY 17

7:30 PM

ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

Winter has arrived for sure this year with all of this snow and cold temperatures. Never fear though we will have a very warm time on January 17th viewing the new dahlia releases for 2011. This is an opportunity to see the best new dahlias for this year. Come and enjoy this presentation and a warm time together.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

MARTHA MORRIS

LILBURN, GEORGIA

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

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING
YOU AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS

2011 DUES

Happy New Year! A new dahlia year begins and we hope it won't be as hot as last year. It is time to pay your 2011 dues so please send in a check to Henry, or you can pay at the January meeting. The dues remain the same for 2011, \$27 for an individual or \$30 for a family unit. You can hardly even fill up your gas tank for \$30 so membership in the Georgia Dahlia Society is still a good value. **Please don't respond to the membership requests in the ADS Bulletin** but have your membership in the Dahlia Society of Georgia so you will get personalized dahlia information for growing in the South.

(continued from page one) emailed me a number of times during the past year asking me different growing questions which he then put into practice. Our desire is to help all of our members and anyone else who grows dahlias to become successful in order to get the maximum enjoyment of this most beautiful and amazing flower. This is why we grow dahlias and always look forward to a better season next year. You can, too, so don't give up growing dahlias; just continue to grow them better by using the members and resources of the Georgia Dahlia Society to help you.

2011 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....LORI GOEHRING
VICE-PRESIDENT.....PAULA PINHOLSTER
SECRETARY.....CARLA SCHISSEL
TREASURER.....HENRY EVERETT
ADS REP.....ALYCE DOLAN

PLEASE SUPPORT
OUR OFFICERS IN 2011



SENIOR BALL B-LB LV/WH GROWING IN JOHN GEURIN'S GARDEN IN CARTERSVILLE

DID YOU KNOW? DAHLIAS ARE NATURAL HYBRIDIZERS. THE SEEDS OF DAHLIAS PRODUCE A DIFFERENT FLOWER FROM THE ORIGINAL FLOWER.

SOUTHEASTERN FLOWER SHOW, FEBRUARY 25-27

The annual Southeastern Flower Show will be held on the above dates at the Cobb Galleria Centre. We will be manning a table in the flower society area so we need volunteers to help out during these three days. The shifts should be in blocks of 1 1/2 hours each. I will have sign-up sheets at the January meeting and will be sending out an email soon thereafter. We will have the computer set up to show pictures of flowers and have handouts to give to those that stop by our table. This is always a great time to meet growers and prospective members, so come and help in this effort. Brian Killingsworth is scheduled to make a presentation on dahlias during the show.



CAMANO CONCORD B-IC-PR

WEB ADDRESS CHANGE

The Dahlia Society of Georgia website has two different addresses. One ends in [.org](http://www.dahlias.net/dbiglist.htm) and the other in [.com](http://www.dahlias.net/dbiglist.htm). The cost has risen in maintaining both addresses so we have decided to drop the [DahliaSocietyofGeorgia.org](http://www.dahlias.net/dbiglist.htm) address effective this month. We cannot be responsible for whoever purchases the domain so please change your bookmark to [.com](http://www.dahlias.net/dbiglist.htm).

WHERE CAN I PURCHASE QUALITY DAHLIA TUBERS?

Buying dahlia tubers can be like a "pig in a poke" as there are many vendors out there and unless you have used some of them and know the quality of the tubers they sell, you just don't know what to expect. Since we live in the South we have another issue when we purchase tubers...the heat. Most dahlias prefer cool weather or, to be precise warm days (70's-low 80's) and cool nights (50's-60'). Since we rarely have those temperatures in Georgia in the summer time we must try to select tubers to grow that are heat tolerant or will grow well in our heat. This is why we have developed a listing on the Dahlia Society of Georgia Website of heat tolerant dahlias that will grow in the South. We add to this list each year so we can stay up with the current releases that come out each year, and we have experience from our Southern growers that grew them. So always check our listing to see if the dahlias you would like to purchase are included. If they aren't, then you may want to reconsider which dahlias to purchase.

Where to purchase

The Big List <http://www.dahlias.net/dbiglist.htm>

Almost all growers have pages/catalogs that can be accessed from this website. Some of the best vendors that I have had good experience with include: ACCENT DAHLIAS, BIRCH BAY DAHLIAS, BLUE RIDGE DAHLIAS, CLEARVIEW DAHLIAS, CORRALITOS GARDENS **(CUTTINGS ONLY BUT THE BEST CUTTINGS YOU WILL EVER SEE)**, COWLITZ RIVER DAHLIAS, FERNCLIFF GARDENS, DAHLIAS BY LES & VIV, HILLTOP GARDENS, HOLLHILL DAHLIAS, LOBAUGH'S DAHLIAS **(BEST VALUE)**, JS DAHLIAS, WYNNE'S DAHLIAS.

The Dahlia Society of Georgia spring tuber sales. All dahlias are locally grown and are priced very low compared to commercial growers. **(BEST VALUE)**

Big Box Stores...Not recommended

Other Nurseries...OK but make sure the varieties you want are listed on the heat tolerant list.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Christmas party was held on December 5th at the beautifully decorated home of Paul & Alyce Dolan in Smyrna. We had an excellent turnout of members and a good time was had by all. The food was great as always and the gift exchange took on a little different twist this year. Led by our new President, Lori Goehring, we played that popular Christmas gift game sometimes known as a Chinese auction. Everyone had fun with Dave Ely have the most fun. Our outgoing president, Frank McComb, was thanked for his service for the past three years and presented with three Dahlia Medals. The new officers were installed too. Thanks so much to Paul and Alyce for hosting this year's party.



