



WILDWOOD MARIE WL-DP

DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA NEWSLETTER

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WWW.DAHLIASOCIETYOFGEORGIA.COM

DAHLIA SEASON IS STARTING

It is starting to warm up outside after such a cold winter and dahlia growers are starting to turn their thoughts towards another season of growing those beautiful flowers that we love so much. What we can do now is check those in the ground to see if any shoots are showing yet. If they are, you can dig those that you want to divide and

divide them, making sure you have at least one shoot with at least one tuber. Let them air dry for a day and then store in a plastic grocery bag to keep them from drying out until you are ready to replant the divided tubers. If you haven't divided your tubers in the last three years it is time to do so in order to make sure they will bloom well this season. If

you don't, the food will go to the tuber instead of to the growth above ground robbing you of high quality blooms. If you want to get a head start then start some of your tubers in pots in damp potting soil and place in a dark location with some bottom heat for about a week. Then put in light

but don't water until you see some growth begin and then water sparsely. If you water too much the tuber may rot, so you need to be careful about watering until roots are plentiful. Don't forget to save some of your tubers to bring to the Society tuber sale/auction in April and May. Make sure and use your GA Dahlia Society resources in helping you grow in 2011.



A vivid reminder of dahlias in full bloom providing incentive for dahlia growers for the new season. This is a display of dahlias at the famous Butchart Gardens in Victoria, BC

MARCH MEETING

MARCH 21

7:30 PM

ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

We will have a guest speaker, **Bruce Gillett**, who will present the following subject: **“Perils and Pitfalls of Gardening”**. His bio follows: Bruce Gillett is a neurologist who developed an interest in roses when he was stationed with the United States Air Force in England in the 1960's. He is an American Rose Society Consulting Rosarian and a member of the Greater Atlanta and Northwest Georgia Rose Societies. Dr. Gillett is a Cobb County Lifetime Master Gardener. He has designed and helped establish community rose gardens. His articles regarding roses and other horticultural topics have been published in the American Rose Society's national publication, in newspapers, and in horticulture newsletters and websites.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

BARBARA DUNLKEY

DULUTH, GEORGIA

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

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING
YOU AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS

MEMBER UPDATE

During the Southeastern Flower Show Janice and Mike Tsurutis came by the Dahlia Society table to say hello and gave us an update about Janice. She is progressing well in her recovery but is still confined to a wheelchair for now. She looked great as did Mike. Please continue to pray for her recovery.

“DAHLIAS OF TODAY”

The publication, “Dahlias of Today” published by the Puget Sound Dahlia Association, has arrived and is available for sale. We will have them available at the March meeting and if you would like to order a copy by mail please email me or call me and I will send one to you. The cost is \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members. Add \$2 for mailing costs. “Dahlias of Today” is the best annual dahlia publication in the dahlia world. There are plenty of colorful pictures of newer dahlias on the scene from the US and England. There is always a article about the National Show from the previous year and many more interesting articles about dahlias.



HILLTOP ST CHARLES B-SC-FL NEW 2011 RELEASE

SOUTHEASTERN FLOWER SHOW

Thanks to all members that worked the Southeastern Flower Show this year. We had a lot of people sign up for the free newsletter so that will help our exposure and we had a number of garden clubs express an interest for a dahlia presentation. Brian Killingsworth was one of the speakers for the show and spoke to a standing room only crowd of dahlia lovers. Thanks again.

WEB ADDRESS CHANGE

The Dahlia Society of Georgia website has two different addresses. One ends in [.org](#) and the other in [.com](#). The cost has risen in maintaining both addresses so we have decided to drop the [DahliaSocietyofGeorgia.org](#) address effective January, 2011. We cannot be responsible for whoever purchases the domain so please change your bookmark to [.com](#).

FLOWER OF THE YEAR

The flower of the year for 2011 is Wildwood Marie WL-DP. A picture is on the first page of the newsletter. Tubers should be available at the April tuber sale and cuttings available in May & June. We have a great flower to grow so make sure and bring one and enter it into the Flower of the Year competition at the annual show.



KINDRED SPIRIT BB-C-Y

Online Dahlia News and Information Sharing Groups

The following dahlia oriented email exchange groups are hosted on Yahoo! Groups, and are open to anyone with an interest in growing, showing, breeding or just plain enjoying dahlias. Spectator or participant, the choice is yours and each group email you receive contains instructions on how to unsubscribe.

Just click on any of the group names below to obtain more information about that group. Or, join 'em all, try 'em out and unsubscribe from any group(s) you don't like. And, if you don't know whether you are already a member of any of these groups, try joining anyway. Yahoo has checks that prevent duplicate memberships.

[Dahlia-Alert](#)

Is an email NEWS service for dahlia enthusiasts. Show and sale dates, supplier information, seasonal articles on dahlia culture, and an occasional horticultural news item of interest to dahlia growers are included in the news you will receive.

Dahlia-Alert is **NOT** a discussion group. Traffic is less than 36 emails per year and very focused on providing dahlia information you can use at the time you can use it. To join, send a blank email to: dahlia-alert-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

[Dahlia-Net](#)

Is a text only email discussion group focused on growing, showing and judging dahlias. Attachments and pictures are blocked from this exchange group. To join, send a blank email to: dahlia-net-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

[Dahlias](#)

Is a fully featured dahlia email exchange group which allows and encourages the exchange of pictures and attachments in addition to standard all text emails. To join, send a blank email to: dahlias-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

[Dahliacreating](#)

Is a specialist group which concentrates on the subject of hybridizing dahlias. To join, send a blank email to: dahliacreating-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

NOTE: Whenever you join a group using one of the email addresses above, Yahoo will send you a somewhat confusing email

requesting that you confirm your desire to join. You must **REPLY** to this email before your membership will become active, and the easiest way is to simply click on your **REPLY** button and then on the **SEND** button.

If you experience a problem attempting to join any of these Yahoo email groups, just send me an email containing your email address followed by your name and the name(s) of the group(s) you are wanting to join and I will direct add you. However, I am limited to a max of 10 direct adds per day so please try to get yourself added before you turn the problem over to me.

I am Don McAllister at:
donmc00@yahoo.com

BTW - Garden Web has a very active dahlia forum at:

<http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/dahlia/>

(Editor's note. The Garden Web Forum for dahlias is an excellent forum to ask questions/garner information for dahlia growers.)

2011 TUBER SALES/AUCTIONS

That time of the year is rapidly approaching with April just around the corner and planting time not so far off in the future. Our first sale will be held April 18 and the second one May 16. Both will be at the Atlanta Botanical Garden in the Garden Workshop in the basement starting at 7:30 PM. Members please bring your extra tubers making sure each one has a visible eye showing, is listed in the 2011 or 2010 Classification book and has a name attached to the tuber or the name written on the tuber. Please make the names as accurate as possible.



Mariah Thompson poses by the 'Friendship Dahlia' quilt which she found two years ago stored at Log Cabin Community Church in Vinings. After a year of research, Thompson discovered that it was made by members of the Ladies Aid Society, listed in frame, and was dedicated to their past president A.B. Caldwell in December 1934.

Photo by Laura Moon

SMYRNA - Mariah Thompson said she was just poking around the log cabin one Sunday at Log Cabin Community Church in Smyrna before Sunday school when she found an old quilt, wadded into a ball, with a note attached that caught her attention. "I have a background in sewing and I just wanted to find out the history of this quilt," Thompson said. "It probably took me a good year and if I hadn't had this note I wouldn't have known what to do." With the help of a note, that said the quilt was dedicated to Ladies Aid Society past president Mrs. A.B. Caldwell, possibly in December 1934 and a box of old documents and books from the church's historian, Thompson set out to solve the mystery of the quilt. From her research, Thompson uncovered the history of the Log Cabin Community Church and a group of dedicated women, known as the Ladies Aid Society, who gave their time and efforts to help families in need in the community.

Founded in 1912, the same year as Log Cabin Community Church, the Ladies Aid volunteered, raised money for families in need, cooked and sewed quilts, clothing and other necessary items for community orphanages and the local Red Cross. According to five ledger books of Ladies Aid meeting minutes that Thompson read in her quilt research, the members of Ladies Aid met once a month in the church's log cabin to sew, eat and plan ways to fundraise for church families or community members.

"The Ladies Aid did so much with nothing," Thompson said. "Whenever something needed to be done they took hold and got the job done." Thompson began reading meeting minutes from 1944, as the note on the quilt had suggested, only to find no sign of any quilt dedication in the Ladies Aid meeting records from that month and year. So she went back and started reading from the beginning of the meeting records in 1922 and eventually discovered mention of the quilt at the end of the second of the five hardbound ledger books dated D e c e m b e r 1 9 3 4 . While the meeting records listed all the Ladies Aid members who had attended the Dec. 6, 1934, meeting, Thompson and some older members of the church went through the list only to find that most of the meeting attendees were no longer living or had since moved away. Only one meeting attendee, at the bottom of the list was still living and in the church's directory: Genevieve Valentine H a r a l s o n . Thompson got in touch with Haralson and soon learned that she did not know much about the quilt either, because she was only an infant of about 14 months at the dedication ceremony. "All I know is what was told to me," Haralson said. "That the ladies in the church, and my mother was one of them, made the quilt. And when it came time for the dedication someone, I don't know who - I don't know if it was one of my older sisters or a caretaker, who took me up to the dedication." Haralson said she had heard the story of the quilt and the Ladies Aid through her mother growing up as a child across the street from Log Cabin Community Church. Haralson's mother, Ludie Mae Cannon Valentine, was an original member of the Ladies Aid and worked with the group until it started to dwindle during World War II. After learning about Haralson's role in the original quilt dedication, Thompson wanted to re-dedicate the newly found quilt to the church and Haralson. In April she invited the Log Cabin Church community, friends and family and members of a nearby church, Collins Memorial United Methodist Church, to a ceremony dedicating the quilt to Haralson. "It was very nice," Haralson said of the April 18 rededication ceremony. "It's just was well done and it was nice in that people who lived in the area who were not as familiar with the Log Cabin Community had an opportunity to meet

with the people to see some of the work that was done in the years before." The roughly 70-by-70 inch quilt, named the Friendship Dahlia by Thompson because of its large flower pattern on each square, is now framed and displayed in a small room beneath the chapel. Beside it hang two framed photos - one of Mrs. A.B. Caldwell, the Ladies Aid member who it was originally dedicated to on Dec. 6, 1934, and one of Haralson, proudly standing next to it at the rededication ceremony more than 75 years later.

"You won't believe the interest it has brought to this church," Thompson said. "Because now a lot of people when they come, especially when they come to see the church if they want to get married, this is what they want to see ... it's adding to our church."

Taken from the Marietta Daily Journal

Editor's note: The Dahlia Society of Georgia was organized in 1934.



DAHLIAS IN BUTCHART GARDENS



RIGHT-DAHLIAS GROWING AT WYNNE'S DAHLIAS