



# DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA NEWSLETTER

PARKLAND RAVE BB-IC-L  
FLOWER OF THE YEAR

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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2013

[WWW.DAHLIASOCIETYOFGEORGIA.COM](http://WWW.DAHLIASOCIETYOFGEORGIA.COM)

## THE SHOW SEASON IS UPON US

September is coming up fast so that means lots of blooms in our dahlia gardens, and this year with all of the rain your plants should be way ahead of schedule. What should we do to get blooms ready for the annual shows or for the mini-show in October? First is to make sure you have developed a habit of disbudding the side buds on those you are interested in showing. As a rule of thumb, I disbud all of mine except for miniatures and some BBs. If I have some of these I want to show then I will disbud those too. Why do this? To get the blooms larger. The next thing to do is to strip your plants of extra laterals that take away energy from the laterals where the blooms you want to show are located. This is a hard thing to do for many growers but if you want to compete on the show tables it is a necessary task, especially for AA, A and B sized dahlias. The number of laterals you have growing is important, so follow this general rule. In our heat to get the maximum size on show dahlias is to limit the growing laterals to TWO on AA & A sized dahlias, FOUR laterals on B sized dahlias and EIGHT on BB sized dahlias. You don't have to limit smaller sized dahlia laterals, but you still need to disbud for the shows. About a week before the show, clip a straight bamboo stick (12"- 18" ) on the stems to get them straight. If you want to get that all-important 45 degree bloom



**WYN'S FARMER JOHN AA-ID-LB W/Y/L** A VERY BEAUTIFUL BLOOM IN YOUR SUMMER/FALL DAHLIA GARDEN. IT GROWS VERY WELL IN OUR GEORGIA HEAT. IT WAS DEVELOPED IN 2005 BY WALT & CORRY WYNNE. WALT DIED LAST YEAR IN A TRAGIC FIRE IN THEIR HOME DURING THE 2012 SHOW SEASON IT WON A TOTAL OF 24 RIBBONS/MEDALS. A GIANT DAHLIA THAT IS VERY EASY TO GROW IN HOT-LANTA I RECOMMEND IT FOR YOUR GARDEN.

## CALENDAR

### AUGUST MEETING

AUGUST 19

ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

### CAROLINAS DS SHOW

SEPT 14-15

CROWN PLAZA CONVENTION CENTER

ASHEVILLE, NC

### ALABAMA DS SHOW

SEPTEMBER 21ST

VESTAVIA HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

BIRMINGHAM, AL

### GEORGIA DS SHOW

SEPTEMBER 28-29

ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

ATLANTA, GA

### TENNESSEE DS SHOW

OCT 5-6

ERLANGER COMMUNITY CENTER

CHATTANOOGA, TN

position, then some tenacity and patience is required, but it can be done. When the bud is small you go out to your garden in the heat of the day and bend the bloom (without breaking it) to the 45 degree angle, or as close as you can get, and hold it in that position for 3-5 minutes. Then you come back the next day and the next day and do the same thing until the bloom will hold the 45 degree position. Remember you will need to do this on every bloom you plan on showing that doesn't naturally come to the 45 degree position. Gilly Simmons, one of the best if not the best grower in the Southeast, explained this point to me and as many members that know him will testify he brought buckets of perfect blooms to every show that he attended all having that 45 degree position. Not sure if he ever showed Camano Stika the most top facing large dahlia there is that we grow.

These are some techniques you can use in getting your dahlias ready for the shows that will help you to be more competitive

### ANNUAL PICNIC

Regina and I would like to thank so many of the members that came to our home for the picnic last month. We hope everyone had as good a time as we had in hosting this annual event. The food was great as always and we had a perfect day with no rain and no sun, just a cloudy sky. I know many of you had a hard time getting to our home with the repaving project on I-285 so thanks for suffering through that issue. I apologize for not looking into that and giving everyone from the West and North an alternate route.

A number of members wanted to know the name of the bright orange dahlia that was blooming. It is called Dr John Kaiser B-ID-FL OR/YL (see below 2012 photo) It should show up in our tuber sales next Spring as there are at least three members growing it this year.



## AUGUST MEETING MONDAY 19, 7:30 PM GARDEN CLASSROOM

### ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

**THE PROGRAM THIS MONTH WILL BE A DISCUSSION AND DEMONSTRATION ON HOW TO DISPLAY YOUR DAHLIAS IN THE SHOWS. THERE ARE SOME DEFINITE TECHNIQUES THAT NEED TO BE FOLLOWED. SO IF YOU WANT TO LEARN HOW OR BRUSH UP ON THE STAGING OF YOUR DAHLIAS THIS IS THE PLACE TO BE.**



L TO R: PETE & MELINDA MISTR, RICK HALL, DALE FREEMAN, BOB GOEHRING, BEA WEAVER AND DARROLL FREEMAN



L TO R DAVE & CHERI FELTON, FRANK MCCOMB, ED MERCER



L TO R: BOB GOEHRING, MELINDA \$ PETE MISTR DARROLL FREEMAN



CARLA SICHSEL AND GENE HUTCHISON



PAULA & DAN PINHOLSTER

## UPDATE ON TEDDY GITTS SWAN ISLAND DAHLIAS

Teddy and his wife were involved in a terrible car accident a couple of months ago and his wife passed away as a result of the accident. I received word that Teddy also passed away recently. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the Gitts family.

## SOUTHERN STATES MEETING

The second Southern States meeting of 2013 will be held right after the awards luncheon at the Georgia Show on September 29. A copy of the minutes from the last meeting will be sent to the society presidents soon. Please submit any agenda items to me prior to the Georgia Show.



KENORA MAJESTIC B-C-LB DP/WH



*Hart's Blood Red*

## GA NATIONAL FAIR DS

The GA National Fair Dahlia Show will be held October 12-13 at the fairgrounds in Perry, GA. Staging will begin in the afternoon of Friday, October 11 and continue on the morning of October 12. All dahlia growers are invited to enter blooms in this show. The fair will provide lunch on Saturday to all participating growers.

## CALIFORNIA DREAMING

The following extract of an article is taken from the Dahlia Society of California August Newsletter. It is a summary of a presentation given at their July meeting by two ladies from the Monterey Bay Dahlia Society that have been very successful in growing and showing their dahlias. While attending the 2011 National Show Regina and I had the pleasure of meeting and touring the garden of Kristine Albrecht in the Monterey Bay area. As you can guess all of this coastal area is under the summer marine influence of fog and cool temperatures so growing conditions for dahlias are perfect.

While all of the information may not be useable to us in our growing conditions the points about using mycorrhizae is very useful in growing our dahlias. I have used it for the past three years as has Allen Haas. Some other members are using it too. I recommend that you use it too as it really expands the root system. Kristine has been very successful in showing her dahlias in the California shows and the National shows. Below are pictures of her entries of AC Dark Horse AA-SC-PR and Verda A-SC-W in the 2011 National Show in San Jose, CA.



Kristine Albrecht and Iris Wallace tantalized us with all sorts of green products and green tricks to grow winning dahlias and still stay organic. Kristine's interest in "healthier" practices while growing competition BIG pumpkins and little boys. While she and husband, Brian, began running B&B's, the desire for non-toxic measures increased yet again. Iris cleaves to green practices to keep her bee hives happy. Both Kristine and Iris plant a cover crop of a combination of vetch, beans, oats, fava and other nitrogenating plants along a healthy slug of chicken manure in December after lifting their clumps. Their supporting husbands rototiller this under leaves, stalks just before planting. Immediately after rototilling, they mulch with straw and redwood chips to hold in moisture and suppress weeds.

**MYCORRHIZAE MIRACLES:** The Monterey winning duo rolls their tubers mycorrhize before planting. Mycorrhize are beneficial spores which spread a wide underground root system and delivers more food to the plants. It helps keep beneficial micro-organisms healthy and suppresses many of the nastier ones. The women augment their holes with Sunstane, turkey poop and feathers and bone meal. Iris's husband, Dave, an avid fisherman, supplies guts and heads for each of her clumps. Iris plants 100 tuber clumps and 120 seedlings. Kristine goes hog wild, sewing 650 dahlias, 650 seedlings, 120 various tomatoes, and lots of other veggies.

If you would like to access the rest of this article which includes pictures, and the rest of the DSCA Newsletter, please paste the below link into your browser.

[http://sfdahlias.org/newsletters/2013/DCS\\_Aug2013.pdf](http://sfdahlias.org/newsletters/2013/DCS_Aug2013.pdf)

