

**DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA
JULY 2014
NEWSLETTER & MEETING NOTICE**



**DR. JOHN E. KAISER B-ID-FL OR/YL
FLOWER OF THE YEAR FOR 2014**

ANNUAL PICNIC—Our picnic this year will be held on July 26, 3-6 PM at the home of Dan & Paula Pinholster. Their address is 73 Blackfoot Trail, Cartersville, GA A link to a map is below. TELE # 770-382-8110

The Pinholsters have a beautiful terraced garden with lots of different plants and of course, outstanding blooming dahlias. If you haven't been to their home it will be a special treat, and if you have been there before it is always a joy to see all the plants in bloom, especially the dahlias.

Please bring a veggie, salad or dessert for everyone to enjoy. The meat and drinks will be provided by the Society.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the picnic. If you would like a ride to Cartersville please let me know.

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/73+Blackfoot+Trail+SW,+Cartersville,+GA+30120/@34.17883,-84.7963258,14z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x88f54e912ac155c1:0x444f65783b608dfa>

THERE WILL NOT BE A REGULAR MEETING AT THE ABG THIS MONTH

NEW MEMBER

Please welcome ANNE BOYTE of Stone Mountain, Georgia

WE ARE SO GLAD TO HAVE YOU AS A NEW MEMBER AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT OUR MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES.



**PENHILL CREAM GIANT AA-ID-W
AN OLDIE, BUT WE HAVE SOME GOOD STOCK OF IT
FOR NEXT YEAR**

AUGUST MEETING

The August meeting will be a little different this year in that we will be having our MINI-SHOW plus the informational instruction on how to prepare and stage your dahlias for the annual show. The MINI-SHOW will have two classes:

One for the new growers, novice level growers or growers that have not won above the novice level in the annual show. Any form and size blooms can be entered. Ribbons and prizes will be awarded.

The second class will be for experienced growers. Three entries per grower of their best blooms without class distinction. First, second and third places will be awarded with bragging rights for the prizes.

GROWER QUESTIONS

Question: The leaves on my plants are dying from the base of the plant. I am pulling them off as they are so ugly. Will that hurt the plant?

Answer: The summer heat is causing the leaves to die and it will not hurt the plant to remove them. By removing them you will improve the air circulation around the bottom of the plant.

Question: I think I may have spider mites on some of my plants. How do I tell if I do and what do I do to get rid of them?

Answer: Spider mites are one of the biggest problems in growing dahlias and if you don't have them yet, be thankful as they will show up sooner or later if you grow dahlias. They can be a minimal problem if you know what to look for on your plants. If the leaves are turning a brownish color and the green is dull, there is a good chance you have them. First look at the underside of the leaf to see if you can detect any spider webs. If not, then take a sheet of white paper and hold under the leaf and then shake the leaf. If you have mites they will fall on the paper and will usually be a reddish color. **Treatment:** Pull dead and severely infested leaves, throwing them away. If the plant is overcome with the mites, cut it back so new growth will begin. Spray with Organicide (google for vendors) on the underside of the leaves once a week for three weeks.

Question: My plants wilt during the heat of the day. Do I need to water them more frequently?

Answer: Dahlia plants wilt during the day as a result of the underground roots and tubers requiring water during the heat of the day. You should only water your plants once or twice a week (if no rain). Watering more often can cause stem rot plus make your plants look washed out instead of a bright dark green color. There is an organic foliar fertilizer on the market that contains yucca

extract. It is called **Golden Harvest Fertilizer**. Using this fertilizer each week will keep the dahlia plants from wilting during the heat of the day. Another treatment you can use is to spritz your plants with a short watering of the plants during the heat of the day. This will reduce the stress on them. Here is a link for this fertilizer:

<http://www.ghorganics.com/page29.html>

Question: What is the proper technique for deadheading my dahlias?

Answer: Lots of growers just pop the old bloom off of the plant and leave an ugly stem. This is not the correct technique. Take a pair of clippers and cut the stem back to new growth on the plant. This will insure the plant will not go out of bloom too early in the fall.

Please send any growing questions you may have to me and we will make sure you get an answer from one of our experienced growers.



18th SURGICAL HOSPITAL B-ID-V LV/PR GROWING IN LOUISVILLE, KY

JUDGING CLASS

The Pinholsters will host our annual judge's training class in their home in Cartersville on August 9, 2014. The class will begin at 10:00 AM and will conclude at 2 PM. Lunch will be served around noon. This invitation includes

senior, accredited and candidate judges as well as all who might become a candidate judge. We would like to encourage all members to come to this training to learn how to judge dahlias on the show bench. Time will be allotted for a question and answer session geared specifically to the candidate judges.

DAHLIA CELEBRATION

The Dixon Gallery & Gardens in Memphis, TN www.dixon.org is having a celebration of dahlias this growing season with a display of 4,000 dahlia plants growing in their garden. We just don't see displays like this in the South so if you, family or friends are going to be in the Memphis area this late summer or fall please consider taking advantage of this glorious display of dahlias.

The main celebration will take place on the week of September 17-21. A munch and learn about dahlias will take place on September 17th at 12 noon with Brent Heath speaking. Brent is owner of Brent & Becky's Bulbs of Gloucester, Virginia. Brent will also lead a tour of the dahlias at 5:00 PM on September 18 which will conclude with a toast to dahlias in conjunction with Art after Dark.

Yours truly will give a lecture at 10:30 AM on Saturday, September 20 on Growing Heat Tolerant Dahlias.



KENORA SUNSET B-SC-FL RD/YL