

**DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA
JANUARY 2015
NEWSLETTER & MEETING NOTICE**



RAYANN'S PEACH S-DB OR/RD. GROWS WELL IN OUR SOUTHERN HEAT.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EACH MEMBER OF THE GEORGIA DAHLIA SOCIETY AND WISHING YOU GREAT SUCCESS IN YOUR DAHLIA GROWING DURING 2015 AND BEYOND.

Over the many years I have been growing dahlias I have found it amazing that each year of growing I have learned something new or different that has helped me to have a better growing season than the year before. This is what the Dahlia Society of Georgia is all about and I can attest to the fact that no matter what your level of gardening or growing dahlias, there is always more to learn.

I grew dahlias for a number of years both here and in South Texas before I finally joined our Society here in Atlanta. I learned more about growing dahlias in my first year of membership than I had the previously 10 years of growing them without the help of the Society. Of course I originally grew without the help of the internet and all of the available information we now have at our fingertips. I did read everything I could get my hands on about dahlias, and that was helpful.

By being a member of a dahlia society you have that inter-change with other experienced growers you don't get just growing them on your own. Even if you can't get to the meetings, membership is valuable in that you always have someone to help you in your growing via email. There are many twists and turns to growing dahlias. While

they are not difficult to grow, there are many valuable techniques available that will only enhance your dahlia growing experience, but it takes time to learn. Again, the Dahlia Society of Georgia stands ready to help you to be successful in growing your dahlias during 2015.

JANUARY MEETING—THIS IS ALWAYS A FAVORITE MEETING FOR US AS WE GET TO SEE ALL OF THE NEW DAHLIA RELEASES FOR 2015 AND THERE ARE SOME REAL BEAUTIES THIS YEAR. THE DVD LASTS ABOUTS 35 MINUTES AND WE WILL START IT AFTER A SHORT BUSINESS MEETING. WE WILL BE SELECTING THE FLOWER OF THE YEAR SO BRING YOUR SUGGESTIONS. CARLA WILL PROVIDE THE REFRESHMENTS.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 19
7:30 PM
ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN
GARDEN CLASSROOM
BASEMENT OF THE MAIN BUILDING**

THE GARDEN IS CLOSED ON MONDAYS BUT IS OPEN TO THE DAHLIA SOCIETY FOR OUR MEETING. THERE IS NO CHARGE TO ENTER THE GARDEN.

STONE MOUNTAIN DIG—Thanks to Dave Felton, Frank McComb, Gene Hutchison for helping me in getting the tubers out of the ground in late November.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY—Super thanks to Alyce and Paul Dolan for hosting our Christmas party in December. We all had a great time, the food was excellent as always, Alyce’s Christmas decorations were all lovely and we had a fun time with the gift exchange. Thanks to everyone for bringing their favorite dishes. The editor neglected to bring his camera or phone so no pictures this year.

2015 OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT —————FRANK MCCOMB
VICE-PRESIDENT ————— TBD
TREASURER —————HENRY EVERETT
SECRETARY ————— CARLA SCHISSEL
ADS REPRESENTATIVE —————HEATHER VARSALONA
MAKETING & PR —————JOHN KREINER**

WEBSITE— The Society website has been updated for 2015 except for the Heat Tolerant Dahlia Listing. This should be updated before the February meeting. PLEASE LET ME KNOW ABOUT ANY DAHLIAS THAT YOU HAVE GROWN IN THE PAST TWO YEARS THAT DOES WELL IN THE HEAT AND IS NOT ALREADY LISTED. PLEASE SEND ME THE NAME, FORM, CLASSIFICATION # AND COLOR. ALSO, IF IT GROWS WELL BUT WILL NOT KEEP IT'S CENTER CLOSED FOR SHOWING PLEASE INDICATE.



HIGH SSCORING 2015 RELEASE FROM ACCENT DAHLIAS A-ID-W

JANUARY DAHLIA CHORES—WHAT??? WORRY ABOUT MY DAHLIA GARDEN BEFORE SPRING? YES!!!

Here are some tasks for you to do during January and other cold months.

1. Planning: Do I want to grow more dahlias next season? If so, which ones am I interested in growing? Have I reviewed the Dahlia Big List of commercial dahlia growers to see which ones look good to grow and have I cross-referenced them in the Georgia Heat Tolerant List

to make sure they are suited to grow in our heat? Do I want or need raised beds for growing my dahlias? Where can I get compost for my dahlias? (DeKalb residents have two county sites available for free compost. Gwinnett has at least one site in Lawrenceville that has free compost. Check with the governmental agency where you live to see if they have sites with free compost available for residents. It will be well worth your time. Yes, we recommend Black Kow but compost is so much better for growing dahlias, so try to get it if you can. You don't need a pick-up truck to haul it.)

2. Maintenance: Check your dahlias if in the ground to make sure they have enough mulching material 4"-6" so if we have even colder temps before the end of winter they will be protected. If you have stored them inside, make sure you check them for rot at least once a month. If it is dry enough and you till your bed, try to do it so the bugs in the ground will be exposed to freezing temps, especially spider mites. Clean up any pots or debris left over from the growing season.

