

**DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA  
NEWSLETTER & MEETING NOTICE  
MARCH, 2015  
ATLANTA GEORGIA**



The results are in and the winner is Edna C! This bright yellow dahlia is an Medium to Large size Formal Decorative, introduced in 1968 by the renowned California hybridizer Paul Comstock. In 1997, Edna C earned the coveted Stanley Johnson medal. Thank you all for voting on the most outstanding dahlia of the past half-century. To see the official press release, visit [http://www.dahlia.org/up.../press\\_releases/Best\\_Dahlia\\_web.pdf](http://www.dahlia.org/up.../press_releases/Best_Dahlia_web.pdf)

**VOTED BEST DAHLIA IN THE LAST 50 YEARS—Edna C, B-FD-Y, named for Paul Comstock's wife Edna, was the winner of this popularity contest to determine the best overall dahlia for the past 50 years.**

**They narrowed the number of entries into this contest to a final total of 17 cultivars before determining a winner by ADS members that voted. On the next page is a listing of the 17 dahlias that were in the final voting. EDNA C IS NOT LISTED ON THE DS OF GA HEAT TOLERANT LIST. IT WILL GROW IN OUR HEAT BUT WILL NOT MAINTAIN IT'S YELLOW COLOR THEREFORE IT ENDS UP BEING WHITE WITH AN OPEN CENTER. ANOTHER DAHLIA THAT LOOKS VERY SIMILAR TO EDNA C THAT LOVES THE HEAT IS NAMED BLOOMQUIST BARBARA BB-FD-Y. A PICTURE IS ON THE NEXT PAGE.**

**THE SUPER SEVENTEEN**



1961 Kidd's Climax  
A-FD-LB PK/YL



1967 Edna C  
B-SC-Y



1968 Mary Jo  
M-SC-PK



1977 Brookside  
Snowball BB-FD-W



1978 Walter  
Hardisty AA-ID-W



1983 Magic  
Moment B-SC-



1984 April Dawn  
B-ID-LB



1986 Hamilton  
Lillian BB-FD-OR



1986 Hamari  
Accord B-SC-Y



1987 Zorro  
AA-ID-DR



1991 Rose To-  
scano M-FD-OR



1992 Inland Dy-  
nasty AA-SC-Y



1994 Elvira  
PE-DP



1995 Pam Howden  
WL-LB YL/OR/DP



1999 Embrace  
BB-SC-BR



*Valley Porcupine*  
2002 Valley Porcu-  
pine NX-LB PK/ WH



2002 Mary's Jo-  
monda BA-DP



This is a picture of Bloom-  
quist Barbara, BB-FD-Y,  
that looks similar to Edna  
C and grows very well in  
our heat.

It has become very popular  
in just a few short years  
since it's introduction in  
2011.

**MARCH MEETING**

MONDAY, MARCH 16

7:30 PM

ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

GARDEN CLASSROOM

BASEMENT OF THE MAIN BUILDING

THE PROGRAM THIS MONTH IS TITLED "THE BASICS OF GROWING HEAT TOLERANT DAHLIAS". THIS WILL BE A GREAT PROGRAM ESPECIALLY FOR ALL OF OUR NEW MEMBERS, BUT IT WILL BE GOOD FOR ALL MEMBERS FOR SHARPENING YOUR GROWING TECHNIQUES.

JOHN & REGINA WILL PROVIDE REFRESHMENTS.

ALLEN HAAS WILL HAVE CURVED, STAINLESS STEEL CUTTERS FOR SALE FOR \$10 EACH. THESE ARE THE BEST CUTTERS YOU CAN BUY.

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

**2015 DUES**

If you are planning on renewing your membership this year please do so as soon as possible in order to keep this newsletter coming each month and the ADS publications coming the rest of the year.

Members that have not renewed their membership by next month will no longer receive the newsletter until your dues are up to date.

**OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY** Joy Weller Boeke, wife of Gene Boeke (deceased)

passed away on February 11th, 2015. She was 85 years old. A memorial service was held at the Big Canoe Chapel on Sunday, February 15 and was attended by Dan & Paula Pinholster and John Kreiner. The Society sent flowers as a memorial. The dahlia, BO-JOY B-LC-Y, was named for Joy when it was introduced. It is an outstanding dahlia and many growers considered it his best introduction. It is very easy to grow and provides many blooms.



The below article is a reprint from 2013.

**DIVIDING DAHLIAS IN THE SPRING IN GEORGIA** Many dahlia growers in the South don't dig their dahlias before winter and elect to let them remain in the ground, just mulching them well to protect them from any hard freezes. If growers following this practice want to divide their plants to either have additional plants or to reduce the size of the tuber clump below ground level (should be divided every three years at least) then the time to accomplish that task is the first/second week of April. There should be eyes and growing tips long enough to make the divisions easy. Just cut off at least one tuber with an eye/ shoot and you have a new plant. April is still too cool for replanting the clump or for planting the new plant, so let the surface cuts air dry for a couple of days in a cool dry location. After that, put the dahlias in plastic grocery bags and keep in the cool location so the eyes don't shrivel and die. Around the first of May when the soil warms to around 70 degrees, replant in your garden. Keep an eye on these plants when in storage to make sure the eyes stay alive. You can replant into pots if needed to keep the eyes alive. Frank McComb does this each year, so if you would like to research it more please contact Frank.

### **ANSWER TO THE QUESTION FROM LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER**

Last month the we had this picture of a dahlia growing in Northern Washington and asked you why it had never been released. We had two correct responses both from senior judges, Paula Pinholster and Ray Phillips. The issue with this dahlia is that it has mixed form Some petals are semi-cactus where the petals are rolled half way from the end and flatten out towards the base of the flower (like Inland Dynasty) and other petals are incurved, or point back at the viewer. While it is a beautiful dahlia for home and garden it would never do well on the show table.



**Aitara Caress  
BB-C-LB PK/  
WH on the  
left.  
Greendor BA-  
V YL/RD on  
the right.  
Both very  
easy to grow.**

