

DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA
SEPTEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER
THE GEORGIA 2015 ANNUAL SHOW

While the picture below was taken last Saturday at the Carolinas Show in Asheville, it does remind us that our show is next week, Sept 26 & 27. I hope everyone is looking forward to the show as it is an exciting time for our Society and for many of the members that have never attended our show. First let me encourage every member that grows dahlias to come to the show and bring some dahlias to enter in the show. The entrance is free, just show your name badge and you can enter the Garden. We do need some help for the membership in making our show a success this year. First, we need members to bring food, sandwiches, cookies other



items for our growers to have access to while they stage. These need to be brought on Friday afternoon or early evening. Please keep food a low profile so we don't have an issue with the ABG. Next we need help in setting up the show on Friday afternoon the 25th, starting between 1-2 PM in Meshon Hall where the show will be held. Please let me know if you can come and help during this time. We need both men and women for a couple of hours and then if you can stay

you can help the growers in placing their flowers on the tables. We also need volunteers to greet the public and pass out literature as they come to the show on Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday. Please let me know if you can help in this regard. Lastly we need members to help tear down the show on Sunday afternoon and you can take some flowers home if you show up about 3:00 PM. We NEED YOUR HELP so please come to the show.

“SHOW TIME IN THE MOUNTAINS”

CAROLINAS DAHLIA SHOW



CREEKSIDE “DOC” A-SC-LB A WONDERFUL BLOOM IN THE ASHEVILLE SHOW. IT WAS ORGINATED BY BRIAN KILLINGSWORTH. IT DOES WELL IN OUR SOUTHERN HEAT.

The Dahlia Show Season got off to a super start last weekend in Asheville at the North Carolina Arboretum. While some of the major growers from the South were absent other members of the Carolinas Society stepped up and brought many fabulous entries especially in the AA/A (giant & large) size categories. Ivor Mitchell, who had not grown or shown dahlias for the past five years, brought some of the `biggest dahlias I have ever seen grown in the South. He and his wife live in the Linville, NC area at the base of Grandfather Mountain which is about 4,000 feet above sea level. His entry of five 11”-12” blooms of Verda was just stunning.

Another grower from Floyd, Virginia also brought many large entries and placed a number of them on the head table. While there weren’t as many entries as in past shows the over all quality of blooms was excellent.



EMBRACE BB-SC-BR ANOTHER STUNNING DISPLAY OF THE LARGEST BLOOMS OF EMBRACE I HAVE EVER SEEN. PHOTO IS NOT ACCURATE.



VERDA A-SC-W THIS IS THE BEST LARGE WHITE DAHLIA WE CAN GROW IN OUR HEAT. MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE IT IN YOUR GARDEN.

DAHLIA QUESTIONS

THIS IS THE TIME OF THE YEAR WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR SINCE WE PLANTED OUR TUBERS LAST SPRING. HOPEFULLY YOUR DAHLIAS HAVE STARTED BLOOMING OR WILL SHORTLY START TO FILL WITH BLOOMS. OUR QUESTIONS THIS MONTH WILL BE CONCERNING BLOOMS .

Q: I am having difficulty with my plants blooming this season. What am I doing wrong?

ANS: Sometimes dahlia plants have trouble blooming even though they are tall enough and have laterals strong enough to set the buds. I would suggest that you use a blooming agent either by a foliar spray or a drench. Blooming agents usually have a high middle number for the phosphorus content. Here are a few I would suggest you might try: Mor Bloom 0-10-10 This is an Alaska product and will probably need to be ordered on line. It only comes in one gallon containers. Another product is called Sea Grow. It is available at Pike Nurseries but make sure you get the one with high Phosphorus content and low nitrogen. There are others just make sure you use one with high phosphorus.

Q: My large dahlias blooms are so heavy they dip their heads or even almost break off. How can I keep them standing tall.

ANS: You need to use a stem stiffener such as potassium nitrate (order from E-Bay or Amazon in smaller amounts), Mor Bloom will work if you use it as a drench and use enough of it, or muriate of Potash will work but only a teaspoon per plant. More could burn your plant.

Q: I have heard dahlias can bloom until frost. Is that true?

ANS: Some you can keep blooming until frost but it will take some work. You need to deadhead your old blooms before they can set seeds. If enough blooms set seeds then the plant says it has done it's work for the season and quits blooming. You will have a better chance to keep them blooming the later the plant starts blooming as long as you deadhead.

Q: I would like to take some seeds to try next season. What do I need to do?

ANS: Let a couple of blooms stay on the plant and after the bees are finished pull the remaining petals off of the bloom. Watch the bloom to see if a seed head forms and if it does wait until the seedpod/bloom closes and has a black tip on the end then it is ready to cut. Cut the stem and put it in water for a couple of weeks and then hang it upside down in a cool dry location until it dries out.

Q: How many laterals should I let grow and bloom? Since we live in the heat we cannot grow as many up as in cooler climates. AA/A Should be one or two blooms per plant for showing. B Should be no more than four up for showing. BB Should be 6-8 per plant for showing.

Q: How do I make my blooms larger?

ANS: Due to our hot days and very warm nights we are unable to get the size or depth of color in our blooms if we had lower temperatures . Now that cool weather has arrived the blooms will stay closed longer and they will get larger as a result. Also, to maximize the size of the blooms you need to disbud the two side buds and the laterals growing out from the leaf axial down to two sets of leaves below. You can also strip laterals from the plant in order to channel growth energy to the blooms you are grooming for show.

SHOW SCHEDULE FOR THE REST OF 2015

Tennessee, Chattanooga—Saturday, September 19 Near the VW Plant

Georgia, Atlanta—Saturday 1-5 PM & Sunday 9 AM—4 PM September 26, 27 Atlanta Botanical Garden

Alabama, Birmingham—Saturday, October 3, 1st Baptist Church Vestavia Hills, AL

Georgia National Fair, Perry, GA Fair Grounds, October- Saturday October 17 & Sunday Oct 18



SHOW & TELL A-IC-DB RD/YL



WINNING ARTISTIC ARRANGEMENT BY PAULA PINHOLSTER.



GLORIOSA B-FD-V YL/RD



WOODLANDS WILDTHING B-SC-O