

Hamilton and District Chrysanthemum & Dahlia Society

Dahlias with all their hue and glory,
are worth all the love and worry.



For the Dahlia Society Membership www.hamilton-mum-

With this small newsletter, you will find a couple of items that you could consider as a follow-up to our first meeting of the year.

You will have two attachments with the e-mail – the first of course is what you are reading – and the second will be the current membership list – which could change and will be updated plus forwarded to you at the appropriate time.

The Dahlia of the Half Century was mentioned at the March meeting. For our members not with the A.D.S., I have copied the notice that was on the ADS web site along with the list of the 17 varieties that your choice was originally narrowed down to.

I also received a notice from Randy Foith, the Mid-West Conference Dahlia Society President. If you are interested, our members can take part in a cut flower survey for dahlias. This survey is also posted on the ADS web site www.dahlia.org – it's under ADS and Web Site News – hit the more info link to fill out the flower-survey.



Help determine which ones are outstanding cut dahlia cultivars by taking part in our series of surveys, starting with the Battle of the Flames. Does it bloom early and often? Does it have long stems? Does it last in a vase? We'll tally up the strengths and weaknesses of multitudes of cultivars and deliver easy-to-read results which will show which varieties made the top cut for the cut flower business as well as the casual hobbyist.

<http://goo.gl/forms/vIBzS7Lzuf>

The above notice regarding the dahlia survey came at just the right time. It now serves a double purpose. I was going to ask some of our growers to give me a short list, say six to ten varieties, of the dahlias they think would be good for new growers. But since the above survey is asking all ADS members, why not ask all of our own members to recommend some varieties, especially with this e-mail going out to all our members. So send me a short list of the dahlias you like for cut flowers or dahlias that

are just great to look at in the garden. And let me know if they will be available at the tuber sale April 13. Please send the list to me within two weeks and I'll forward your recommendations in another e-mail to club members before the tuber sale. If you are bringing some tubers of your recommendation(s) to the sale, please include that info also. I'm sure Keith and Marion Flowers will include Northwest Cosmos on both of those lists.

"The Voice of our Members"

Questions? Send them to your Executive

President - Larry Hall = larry@larryhall.ca

Secretary – Gail Luckhart = luckhart@cogeco.ca

Membership – Carolyn Cutt = daninkster@hotmail.com

Carolyn is also the Treasurer

Newsletter – Jim Hall = jhall31@cogeco.ca

ADS Rep - Ralph Suttell = rsuttell@bell.net

Ralph Suttell – Jim Hall = Co-Show Chairmen

If you have any concerns, now would be a good time to use the above. All questions relating to the dahlia and the garden could be answered at the next meeting but due to time factor – probably the May meeting.

That should still be enough time to put your answer to good use.

Best Dahlia of the Past 50 Years

March 1, 2015. The American Dahlia Society announced today that the dahlia, *Edna C* has been selected as the Best Dahlia of the Past 50 Years.

The designation is part of the American Dahlia Society's centennial celebration. *Edna C*, pictured below is a large, bright yellow dahlia in the decorative class. Its overall appearance creates a "bouffant" effect.



Originated in 1968 by the renowned California hybridizer Paul Comstock, *Edna C* has been widely grown and has been successful in dahlia shows throughout North America.

In 1997, it was awarded the coveted *Stanley Johnson Medal* for overall exhibition success.

The criteria used by the ADS to choose the Best Dahlia of the Past 50 Years included popularity, dahlia show success, and longevity.

A yellow medium semi-cactus, *Hamari Accord*, was the runner up. *Inland Dynasty*, a yellow giant cactus finished in third place.

In 1964, the dahlia variety *Jersey Beauty* (pictured right) was acclaimed as the best dahlia for the prior 50 years.

The American Dahlia Society was formed in 1915 and has over 2,000 members.

For the record – one of the Special Classes for our 50th Anniversary Show was “Best Single Yellow Bloom” in the show sponsored by Ralph and Elizabeth Suttell.

The Best Single Yellow was ‘Edna C’ – the bloom on the far right and grown by John

Mooney.

Also mentioned at the March meeting, was the final Super Seventeen (That's what they were called) cultivars for ADS members to choose from.

I have included the list on the next page – do some research – suggest you type in the name for Google search and you should get a good image of the dahlia.

As an example: type, Edna C

But this is better: type, Edna C Dahlia

Here's that list:

1940 Kidd's Climax – A FD LB	1967 Edna C – B FD Y
1968 Mary Jo – M SC Pk	1977 Brookside Snowball - BB FD W
1978 Walter Hardisty – AA ID W	1983 Magic Moment – B SC W
1984 April Dawn – B ID LB	1986 Hamilton Lillian – BB FD Or
1986 Hamari Accord – B SC Y	1987 Zorro – AA ID Dk R
1991 Rose Toscano – M FD Or	1992 Inland Dynasty – AA SC Y
1994 Elvira – Peony Dk Pk	1995 Pam Howden - WL LB
1999 Embrace – BB SC Br	2002 Valley Porcupine – NX LB
2002 Mary's Jomanda – Ba Dk Pk	

AA – Size over 10”	A – size 8 – 10”	B – size 6 – 8”	BB – Size 4 – 6”
M – size 2 – 3 ½”	WL – Waterlily	Ba – Ball – over 4”	SC - Semi Cactus
FD – Formal Decorative		ID - Informal Decorative	

LB – Light Blend Y – Yellow W – White Dk - Dark
R – Red Or – Orange Pk - Pink
NX – Novelty Double Center

Hopefully, a few tubers of the Super Seventeen will be at the tuber auction April 13.

See you there.

Jim Hall
HDCDS
Newsletter Editor
Co-Show Chairman

If I forgot something, it will be in the next notice in two or three weeks.