

Hamilton and District Chrysanthemum & Dahlia Society

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

50th
Anniversary!
one heart

www.hamilton-mum-dahlia.com



This is the last Newsletter for 2014 giving you notice for the Awards Night, the one club function left for our 50th year happening on December 6th. All details next couple of pages.

It's Nov 1 and with it came snow flurries this morning. I have not dug one dahlia. Half of my garden has been cleared of stalks because I thought maybe it's a good idea to do some before the real cold weather gets here. It was 3 Celsius this morning and I decided to do the newsletter instead of digging. The dahlias will be okay because they are all covered with compost and leaves to a depth of about ten inches. A real hard frost won't damage the tubers.

There's only one item to add to the Calendar:
Awards Dinner: December 6th time 6:00 PM

Hope to see as many members as possible that night to say Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

Be sure to read the article from a new contributing editor. Also a reminder of who won what last September, an article about why join the ADS, some ADS happenings and if it is still needed, our membership form for renewal.

**** A SPECIAL CD – almost finished!!! ****

A couple a pictures – maybe some odd, small items as filler!

Jim Hall

President's Report

Dear Members,

As I sit at my keyboard to compose this note to our Club, I am reminded of the fact that we will have to be outside digging tubers in the cold weather in the next couple of weeks, which leads me to ask, WHY AM I DOING THIS? Answer, because it is a challenge and fun too. We also get to make new friends all the time.

We have cut down the stocks to just above the ground and have thrown out the plant's that did not do well for us this season as the experienced growers say they will not get any better next year. So we will look at the wholesaler's websites and order some new tubers for the Spring that are guaranteed to WIN.

It has been a trying year for growing what with the late spring that delayed planting and a funny summer too, but looking at the results of the winners from the SHOW, experience always pays off. We are looking forward to the Awards Dinner on Dec 6/14 at Southcote 53 and Jim Hall (no relation) will confirm the time and directions in this newsletter.

We congratulate all the winners and especially the novices and small growers who competed very well and in large numbers.

We want to thank Jim Hall and Ralph Suttell for once again doing a remarkable job in putting the Show together, it is not an easy task, and I also want to thank all those who came out on the Sunday to help take the Show down, it makes the work a lot easier when we all pitch in.

We look forward to seeing you all on Dec 6.

PS. It is obvious by reviewing the list of winners that no favoritism is afforded senior management in the Club by the Judges. But we will still continue to compete!

All the best.....Larry Hall * President 2014/15 *

SOMETHING TO READ (in Jan/Feb, etc.)

When the garden is covered with snow, and the days are rather short in daylight, perhaps some time could be given to the pleasure of reading. In the September 2014 ADS Bulletin, there is mention of a book called, The Plant Lover's Guide to Dahlias. The author is Andy Vernon. A complete review (written by Martin Kral) is on page 33. I have received word that the above book is available through the Hamilton Public Library (not at every location but by special request). Several of our members are on the waiting list to read the above book.

Now for some really, really old material to read, check the following web site – <http://www.hathitrust.org/>
In the Search part type in dahlias – you should get a return of 160 results for all fields: dahlias. Now you can read all the titles if you have time, but I recommend the following as a must read if you are interested in older articles and books about dahlias.

Dahlias by G. F. Drayson – published 1959

Dahlias: a colour guide by Ted Collins – published 2003

Modern Dahlias by J. Louis Roberts – published 1938

A Practical Treatise on the Cultivation of the Dahlia by Joseph Paxton – published 1838 (YES, the date is correct) – I will definitely read this book when I see that it has chapters such as ... Errors respecting rich soil ... flowers diminished and impoverished by too rich soil ... propagation of FALL cuttings ... on to use manure

water Procure good seed ... training your plants with three stakes surprising how the old stuff has the same reasoning behind what is being done in the modern world of dahlias today!!!

The Dahlia, a practical treatise on its habits, characteristics, cultivation and history – by Lawrence K. Peacock- published 1931 – this is interesting because there are several editions of this treatise – all published at different times – the earliest I found was 1896. Compare all the editions (written by the same author) and see how dahlias changed in those thirty years. I found the 1916 edition interesting. It starts with a picture of a red dahlia called Minnie Burgle (and it's in colour). Under the picture is the following

This is truly the “National American Dahlia,” raised by the gardener of the Mare Island Navy Yard, San Francisco, honor to “Uncle Sam” as well as the raiser, who named it Mrs. Mina Burgle, in honor of his wife. Unfortunately it was sent Minnie Burgle, Mrs. Mina Burgess and other names. We are glad to credit Mr. Burgle the honor of producing the **best all-around red dahlia in cultivation**. A strong, vigorous grower, early, continuous and free-blooming, a good keeper and root maker; in addition to its large size, fine form and vivid colour. It deserves a place in every American collection. Mix-ups with dahlia names are still a common occurrence in 2014 – and the wording for the ad – could be still used today.

The 1916 edition is also very interesting because of the following – I quote from the digitalized book – “It is most gratifying to the writer to announce in this fifth edition of the book “The Dahlia,” the reorganization of the American Dahlia Society in May, 1915, along the broad lines on which it was first organized with the result that we now have about three hundred and twenty-five members in good standing”

Now to really understand the wording – “the reorganization of the American Dahlia Society in May, 1915” – you will have to read the first few paragraphs in this section of the book Could the ADS have the wrong birthday!!!!

The above article was used because all of our member's are on the Internet – enjoy the read.

Interested in giving the editor a book review?

See also the following article in this newsletter about why our members should join the American Dahlia Society.

Special thanks to Keith and Marion Flowers for the following:

Hooked on Dahlias

We are long-time gardeners, but this was the first year that we have experimented with dahlias. We joined the society at the last meeting of 2013, and, with help from Carolyn, purchased a selection of dahlias at the club sale. We checked the selection out on the internet to see what flowers to expect, but that did not really prepare us for the beauty that bloomed, and kept blooming in our front garden.

We have approximately 16 different types of dahlias: singles, a Collarette, an anemone, formal and informal decorative's, ball, cactus, semi-cactus and incurved-cactus. Who knew there were so many? Well of course, you did, but this has been a journey of discovery for us.

My personal all time favourite has been Northwest Cosmos, a vibrant violet with red eye, beautifully simple it stands tall and erect and calls to all the bees. We have the dahlias in the front-garden in two semi-circular beds. We grew for garden display, not



for show, and the results have been so impressive. We are particularly interested in attracting wild-life, birds and insects, and so we were delighted at the number of bees of various types that came to feed, and often to sleep overnight on the flowers, drowsy with sun and pollen; the

singles and collarettes are the favourites for that, but the others gave their share.

For our own pleasure, the brilliant colours and shapes delighted not only us, but our neighbors, anyone that passed on the street, and visitors who came to our garden on the local horticultural society garden tour – they seemed to be particularly impressed.

We have always preferred to leave our flowers in the garden, not cut them to bring in the house, but the dahlias have changed that habit. To our delight, these flowers seem to love being cut, the more we take in or give to friends, the more they reward us by producing new stems and blooms; quite the best experience we have ever had in that respect.

As I write this, October 6th, our dahlias are still blooming and producing their wonderful display, and we have already identified the next batch that we want to purchase. Seems like we will have to find space in our suburban garden to create yet more beds!

Hooked!!!

Keith and Marion Flowers

Other popular Single and Collarette Dahlias are:

Teasbrooke Redeye

Wheels

Alpen Diamond

Mars



Dundas Museum

I hope some of our members had a chance to drive by or visit the Dundas Historical Museum to view the dahlias. An information book was inside for all visitors to take a look at regarding the old dahlias, some dating back to 1910, and also information about the club. The people in charge at the museum have received nothing but rave reviews from visitors and Dundas residents since they started to bloom. To our members who helped by donating tubers for this project - a big thank you.

Plans are underway for more dahlias in 2015 – now we are waiting for the frost and then storage. Just so you know, the biggest problem I currently have with the museum is hard to understand. Some varieties need to be discarded mainly because of weak stock. I am having a difficult time convincing others that they should be thrown away and new, stronger stock acquired. Call it over enthusiasm on their part, excitement, whatever – they don't realize better results can be achieved for 2015 by using better and stronger varieties.

I have saved seed from several older varieties at the museum. Their main man behind the old dahlia idea is dreaming of creating a new dahlia and calling it The Dundas Cactus. Guess I should have created a breeding bed with just cactus dahlias in it and kept that seed instead of the seed from all those decorative's.

Awards Night

After some concerns regarding the date, but more importantly, your executive was extremely disappointed at where you, the club members, would be seated for the Awards Dinner, it was decided to put the matter of changing the date (and restaurant) to a vote by the membership; which resulted in the following:

Awards Night: December 6th, 2014 – 6:00 PM

Where: Southcote 53, 534 Garner Rd., East, Ancaster, ON



You can punch the above address into the navigation system of your car or trust me (LOL) to give the correct directions.... Or check out goggle maps! The restaurant has a web site with map also.

Directions:

If you are on the mountain, simply head to Garner Road (formerly Hwy. # 53) and head towards Ancaster. There is a stoplight at the corner of Southcote and Garner Rd (Hwy. #53). The restaurant is just past the stoplight of your left.

If you are on the #403 from the Burlington area, you have two options.

1. Take #403 West. Suggest you get in the center lane before the #6 North exit. Once you are at the top of the #403 hill, go pass the Lincoln Alexander Parkway exit (you are still in the center lane) and then take the exit for #6 South (by-pass) and Garner Rd. Stay to the right on the exit ramp for Garner Rd. At the stop sign, turn left – just before the next stoplight (at the corner of Southcote and Garner Rd), the restaurant will be on your right hand side.
2. Again, take #403 West – take the center lane before you reach the #6 North exit. Once going up the #403 hill, move to the right lane so it will be easier for you to take first exit – stay to the right so you will head into Ancaster. (**NOTE:** not sure if exit reads Mohawk West or if it states Rousseaux St.) According to Google Maps- it's Mohawk Rd West. Once going into Ancaster, at the second set of stoplights, turn left (advanced green here) on to McNiven Rd. Follow this road which will take you over the #403. Note: McNiven Rd. changes its name and becomes Southcote Rd. I believe there are some new stoplights along this part of the road but you will eventually arrive at the corner of Garner and Southcote Rd. Turn right onto Garner Rd and then you will have to do a left turn (about 50yds. ahead) into the parking lot of the restaurant.
3. I think it best to use option #1 – less turns!!!

We are booked for 6:00 pm in a private room. It will be okay to arrive 10 or 15 minutes early.

No typo on next page!!!

Awards Night

I have used this title again for a special reason. This evening should not be just about winners at the 50th Anniversary Show.

I quote from 'Hooked on Dahlias' - "We grew for garden display, not for show, and the results have been so impressive."

During our garden tour this year, some of the membership had with them, their iPads and other computer tablets which had pictures of known and unknown Dahlias plus other flowers in the member's respective gardens. Now, if you were able to get dahlias in bloom this year, then I consider you and other members of our club to be winners also. Yes, I will receive a small prize this year but a better award for your editor that evening would be to see your gardens in full bloom.

I'm assuming you took lots of pictures - 'I hope you did' - because I would really like to see your accomplishments for 2014. This will be possible only if you load up those tablets with lots of pictures for me and the other members to see.

Start loading...

A Special 50th Anniversary CD

During our 50th Anniversary Show, our member Karl Schwarze took a lot of pictures (approx. 800). All of these pictures cover the 50th Show from the set-up on Friday evening, the show on Saturday plus the evening dinner and on Sunday, auction of the blooms and take down of the show.

Karl is in the process of putting all these pictures on a CD which I believe will be made available after the awards night. Pictures taken Dec 6th will be on the CD also. And as a bonus - the garden tour. I'll let you know when it's ready for distribution.

American Dahlia Society Membership

If you are already a member of the ADS, you can skip this article or you can read it and then realize as I did while doing the short research, that a couple of very important items were overlooked by me. How did I miss them? I didn't read the bulletins cover to cover – just the articles that I thought mattered regarding the ADS or were of interest to me!

C.H.B. = reference will be made to these letters several times, so to save time, plus my laziness, C.H.B. refers to Classification and Handbook of Dahlias.

As a member, you receive one copy of this C.H.B. With a Family Membership, two copies are sent. I've had an ADS Family Membership for years and it still surprises me how I manage to have only one copy of different years – I do know that I have given some away – but not that many!

Starting with March - the first Bulletin of 2015 – the first item of real interest would be The Fab 50 List. Fifty means nothing since for many years the list contained over one hundred dahlias. The title has a certain criteria to it. In order for a dahlia to be on the list, the cultivar needs to have won during the 2014 growing season, at least 50 red (blue in the US) and higher awards in sanctioned ADS Dahlia Shows throughout the United States and Canada. Many of these varieties, especially BB size and down make excellent garden flowers. Form is a matter of preference to the individual. Also within the March Bulletin will be the Cream of the Crop. This list gives all the top dahlias for each colour class. The top dahlia in each form is given in **BOLD** type which makes for easy recognition. If your interest is BB size dahlias, you could easily see that **Embrace** BB Semi-Cactus Bronze had **313** High Awards and **Lakeview Glow** BB Incurved Cactus Yellow had **344** Higher Awards (totals taken from 2014 C.H.B.). Both were the Top BB Dahlias in 2013 and both

make excellent garden flowers. You have quick reference to each colour and each form of the dahlia. Since all our members are on the Internet, you need only to type in the search area: dahlia and then the name of the dahlia -which usually gives you a picture and a location to purchase that dahlia.

Purchasing – don't forget that article I did about sharing the cost – find a buddy for next year – learn how to do cuttings and share your new purchases.

You can also use the CHB at the club's tuber auction in April. Just so the members know – some of the totals for the Fab Fifty and the Cream of the Crop are courtesy of our show and the CCDS in Toronto. Ross Harrison, the Show Chairman for CCDS, and myself; sent in the results of the show to ADS Classification Chairman, Lou Paradise in California. Lou puts everything together for publication in the CHB.

Is the Dahlia a Man's Flower? Good question – I'll have to read the article again in the March 2014 Bulletin - but off hand, I don't think it is.

The bulletins of each quarter have full colour winning pictures from the ADS Photo Contest. There's an item I can't remember mentioning in the newsletter. Full details, rules and the how to: can also be found on the ADS web site. The above particulars are usually published in the March ADS Bulletin also.

As a member, I want to know just what an organization as big as the ADS is doing for dahlias and its membership. Minutes from all ADS executive meetings are published in each quarterly bulletin.

When dahlia growers get together, the conversation usually has some reference to tubers. Tuber Talk – written by former ADS President, Harry Rissetto - is an excellent part of each Bulletin. In September, his article started in Adirondacks, then to Columbus and finally Seattle. He mentioned the Coalition of American Plant

Societies, the ADS of course, the Trial Gardens in Seattle and unfortunately, his broken ankle. Oh – the March article was interesting to!

Reasons for joining the ADS - two full pages plus, and to quote Al Pacino, 'I'm not finished yet!' You can skip the rest if you wish. Use the membership form attached.

Bone Meal – written by a guy here in Canada (BC), some club members do use this fertilizer but after reading the March Bulletin, not sure if I'll use this material again.

Members of the Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia had a Royal Encounter with Prince Charles when he visited The Halifax Public Gardens on his last Royal Tour of Canada. Didn't know that until I read the September Bulletin which included some comments from an old guy!

The first Bulletin in 2015 will have the hotel reservation form for the ADS National Show September 18th – 20th 2015 hosted by the Mid-Island Dahlia Society. This is the 100th Anniversary of the ADS and I'm sure all participants will say 'Wasn't that a party!' If you are serious about attending, book early!

Election of ADS Officers: The ballot was on pg 7 of the June Bulletin, 2014. How did I miss this!! The top of the ballot reads

() For President Donald Dramstad

Perhaps this explains the start of the President's remarks in the September issue ... "Due to the absence of" !!!! I should have voted ...

Info for 2015 Midwest Conference which be held in Michigan. The Conference Show is always a good one ... and if you stay for 4 or 5 days and take in the garden tour, the Michigan Show can be a great holiday.

The December Bulletin is one of the most important. It will have all the show reports (separate book – there are that many), Trial Garden and Bench Scores of the NEW dahlias that will be introduced in 2015. Retailers who support the ADS by advertising in the Bulletin will have new introductions in their ads. Try to support the advertisers!

The Current ADS Web Site

The ADS web site is always changing. Articles within the site are not always in the Bulletin. If you haven't already done so, join the e-newsletter. Always interesting stuff in the newsletter, usually organic methods dealing with the not so traditional ways of growing dahlias.

Due a quick visit to the ADS web site <http://www.dahlia.org/> to see some of the interesting items the site as to offer.

One sure thing that all current Hamilton ADS members should partake in is – ADS Members to choose “The Dahlia of the Half-Century.” Just click on the link at the ADS site for more info:

Suggested criteria for the dahlia:

1. Prominence during significant period within the 50 years
2. Success on the show table during that period
3. The cultivar was widely available and widely grown
4. It possesses the quality of Distinction.

Every six months, the password for the Members Only section changes... so in January ADS members will need to use the new password which should be in the December 2014 Bulletin. To give all of our current Hamilton Membership a better view of the ADS web site, here is the password to use until the New Year.

... click Member Login on main page of ADS web site

In the Username section – enter - ***** ; hit Tab button – in Password enter ***** and then use mouse to hit Sign in. Remember - --- use all small letters. (passwords removed, call executive if wish to access ADS)

Consider this six weeks free membership! Merry Christmas.

Also, you should be able to take a look at past issues of the bulletin that are on-line If you like what you see, use the membership form provided again with this newsletter. Cheque or correct cash in a separate envelope will be accepted by Carolyn Cutt our Membership Chairwoman and Treasurer at – well of course –the Awards Night – Dec. 6. But if you do decide to join the ADS, Carolyn would like to receive your dues earlier so she can send them to the ADS before Dec. 15 of this year.

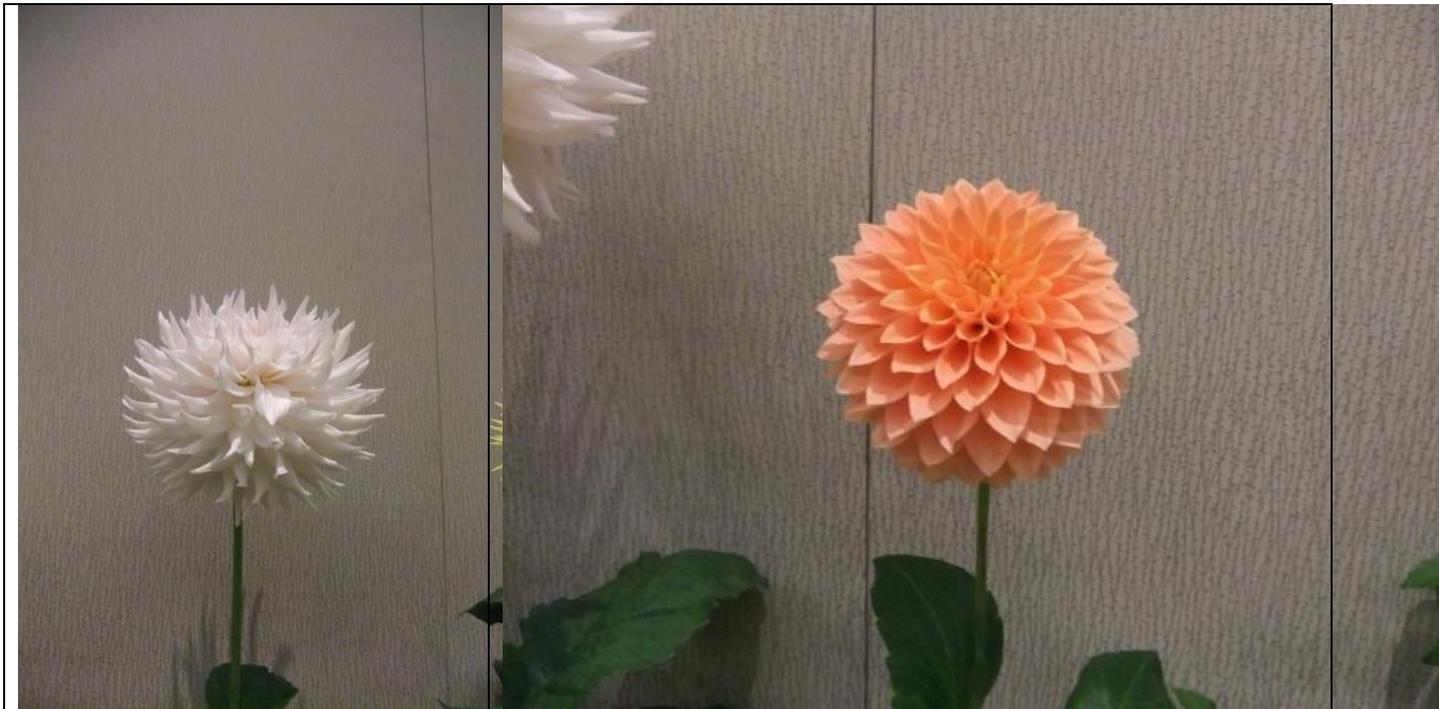
One more item about ADS If you visit the ADS site, check out the section for ADS Store – you just might pick something up for Christmas.

Remember – October 6th our last general membership meeting 2014. Anita Isaac (far left) was the eventual winner in our first petal plucking contest.



Good visible eyes

Cut and ready for storage



Champion Bloom
Rogue Starburst
Ralph Suttell

Reserve Champion Bloom
Hamilton Award
Hamilton Lillian
Robert Young

Hope you enjoyed the read ...

If you can't make the Awards Night

Merry Christmas
Happy New Year
To You ALL

Did I forget something again!!!!

Yes, I did!

Here is something I would like to suggest for your News Letters, a section where it gives the members a voice that does not get lost during the meetings, even though it should have been recorded by the secretary and discussed at the Executive Meetings.

Call it: "The Voice of our Members" or something in that neighborhood and we will forward ideas to you which will then go on that page for further scrutiny.

You can do the above, suggestions anyway, by sending an e-mail to any member of the executive using e-mail addresses from membership list or visit the club web site and send suggestions to the appropriate individual. All e-mails are automatically forwarded to that individual.

"The Voice of our Members"

I like that title – will use it in the next newsletter – if I get any suggestions.

Jim Hall
HDCDS
Newsletter Editor
Co-Show Chairman