

BULLETIN

of the

AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY

JUDGING DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN



Trial Grounds and Shows require the combined hours and earnest thought of many unselfish people to help others realize the thrills of winning awards for Dahlia Culture. Above is one of last groups of A.D.S. men judging at Storrs, Conn. Trial Grounds. It was taken about five years ago.

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BULLETIN

of the
American Dahlia Society

Contents for August, 1949

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A.D.S. Returns to the Hotel Statler for its 35th Annual Show on September 21st and 22nd

The 1949 A.D.S. Show will be held in the beautiful Penn Top again this year. This magnificent hall forms an ideal setting for the show, because the floor space is usually filled but not crowded by the many entries. The same experienced group of men and women will be working hard as always to ensure a smoothly running show. The many exhibitors are grooming their plants to have those fine top quality blooms at show time. A fine exhibit is anticipated on the 21st and 22nd of September at the Penn Top.

NEW EXHIBITORS

A special plea is made to those who have not exhibited before at the New York Show to support the society and exhibit some flowers. If you live within driving distance of New York, bring in your flowers, and enjoy the friendly competition of exhibiting and the thrill of winning the ribbons. A group of experienced assistants will be on hand to help show manager Henry Olsen in giving a hand to the novices so that they can stage their exhibits properly. The elevators to the show are reached from the 33rd Street entrance on the north side of the hotel. The August, 1948 BULLETIN (page 3) has some good tips on growing and staging for exhibition.

Those who live too far away to make the trip by car may send their blooms by air to compete in section J or elsewhere in the show if desired. These entries will receive expert handling by an experienced team.

CHANGES IN SHOW SCHEDULE

The show schedule and classification list were mailed early this year, so that exhibitors could plan for the show in advance. Special features are the addition of a separate section—D—for the small flowered varieties, which are no longer included in sections B and C. The seedling section has been modified and is now called the A.D.S. Show Seedling Sweepstakes, the rules for which were discussed in the article in the February, 1949 issue of the BULLETIN. The American Home Achievement Medal, the Flower Grower Award, and the A.D.S. Trophy remain as before.

GREATER ST. LOUIS TROPHY

A special section for a single specimen large bloom is section K, inadvertently omitted in the printing of the schedule.

SECTION K

Class 285-A—*Court of Honor*—A special class designed to promote interest in the exhibition of fine, extra quality specimen dahlias. Entries to consist of one bloom, A-large, any type or color. Either disseminated varieties or seedlings may be entered in this class.

Award—Greater St. Louis Dahlia Society Trophy, the trophy to remain in the possession of the winner till the next A.D.S. Annual Show. An exhibitor winning the award three times shall retain permanent possession of the trophy.

The award is a beautiful sterling cup. It was awarded for the first time at the 1948 show. This is the supreme award in the show for a single large specimen bloom. It is the class in which to show your best flower.

Additional awards to the 1949 show schedule are:

SECTION B

Sweepstakes 10-B to 30-B for B-medium Dahlias.
Sweepstakes 31-A to 87-A for A-large Dahlias.

SECTION D

Sweepstakes 198 to 228 for Miniatures.
Sweepstakes 229 to 243 for Pompons.
Sweepstakes 224 to 249 for Singles, Collarette, etc.
FRED J. KNOCKE, M.D.

SOME OF THE COLOR CLASSES

I suppose it is my job as Chairman of Classification to continue to interest people in some of the phases of this work. There have been some requests for further consideration of the new color classes.

In this restricted space let us consider blends. This is the growing season, and, your committee earnestly requests some study of the definitions of the blend classes. You will note that they are now subdivided into Light Blend, Other Blend, and Autumn. The Light Blends are for the most part a group of clean colorful varieties. As you read the inclusions of the Light Blend class, you will note that there has been some reservation made for the possibility of blends of violet origin. That is true, but at present these blends of cyanic origin are scarce. As they present themselves, they will be attached to the Light Blend class. At present there is no need for a separate class for cyanic blends, so that the Light Blend class will contain varieties which are clean and bright. We all know that brightness is one of the most important variables of color. Most of the varieties in this class will have a high degree of luminance and reflectance. Lighter *tones* and *tints* of color will prevail even to the lighter dilutions of color as seen in pastels, including the two-toned varieties of similar brilliance.

It is true that the color range of blends is comparatively wide. This resulted in a crowding of the blended class. It therefore became necessary within the Joint Committee to consider blends into it. The blends with a yellow basic color were next separated out. These are now known as Other Blends. They are blended with red and orange and contain a saturation of color of medium brilliance and of spectral origin. These blends are shades of corresponding color. They are deeper than the Light Blends. The color combinations are evident at a distance of six feet. This rule is now the standard rule for blends. The measurement of color as it exists in blended varieties will depend upon the ability of the observer. Specification techniques must be understood by the personnel of classification committees, and, in particular reference to both of the above Blend classes. It must be understood that these varieties have a deeper saturation of colors and are *shades* of the blended colors as they appear on the face of the ray. They have a distinct yellow base, and are overlaid or blended perceptibly at six feet with *shades* of orange or red.

(Continued on page 5)

A.D.S. Show Sweepstakes Awards

Applications Received From Six Societies to Participate In This Program—New Score Sheets Ready

In the February 1949 A.D.S. Bulletin a new plan for "A.D.S. Show Seedling Sweepstakes" was announced. Branch and participating Societies were invited to offer them at their fall exhibitions.

Thus far, six societies have made applications and have been notified that the A.D.S. is glad to have these societies participate if the awards can be projected according to the rules at their local shows.

The Awards will be made at the A.D.S. Annual Show in New York at the Statler, September 21 and 22, and at all other shows where plans can be consummated to include them.

As outlined in the February issue, the Awards will be made for A—Large Dahlias, for B—Medium and for M—Small Dahlias and made, not to one variety in each size category, but to all entries which are scored an average of 85 points or over on the A.D.S. Show Score Card.

These Awards will be made to any seedlings entered in Seedling Classes in addition to any other Class Awards which may be made to them. Each entry in other seedling classes will be judged for these Sweepstakes Awards whether separate entry is made or not.

A.D.S. Gold Medal certificates will be awarded to all varieties which score an average of 85 points or more in New York and other Branch or Affiliated Society Shows making these awards.

In addition to above, all score sheets in all shows participating in the awards must be sent to the A.D.S. Sweepstakes Committee. An A.D.S. Gold Medal will then be awarded in each size class to the variety with the highest average point score in all the shows participating.

In all shows, in order to be eligible for these awards, Rule 1 requires that the judges shall have had experience in use of A.D.S. score cards in field or bench judging and that there be not more than five judges for any one show.

This plan was inaugurated to augment the selection of more worthy new dahlias to be introduced each season from different localities and to give recognition to seedlings which, though worthy of introduction, might be overlooked when only one supreme seedling award is made.

We regret that conditions over which we had no control caused delays in accepting applications and replying to inquiries. We also hope that with a longer period to study the potentials in this A.D.S. Seedling Sweepstakes Plan and with a longer time to consider them, the majority of A.D.S. Branch and Affiliated Societies can participate in this plan in 1950.

The A.D.S. Official Bench Score Card, like the miniature reproduction herewith, is being published and sent to societies making these A.D.S. Seedling Awards.

It is essentially the same as the Official Field Score Card except that such characteristics as floriferousness, bush height, etc. which have no bearing, are eliminated. Another change is that "uniformity" of blooms becomes more important in the Small and Medium sizes and carries a maximum of five points.

Another variation is that 5 points have been added to Distinctiveness in each category making 10 points maximum. The reason for this change is to emphasize the importance of new, different and better characteristics over existing varieties.

Still another variation is the adding of from one to 5

points for good bloom position. And 1 to 3 points are deducted for poor bloom position. The change is to recognize and reward the seedling for "looking the world in the face", or to penalize it if it does not.

Improvement in dahlias is one of the basic tenets of the A.D.S. Creed. It is hoped that this Seedling Award Program will help to improve dahlia strains and encourage hybridization of more beautiful, disease-resistant and satisfactory individual varieties.

Please send all data and final score sheets pertaining to these A.D.S. Seedling Sweepstakes Awards before October 20, 1949 to:

LYNN B. DUDLEY, *Chairman*

A.D.S. Show Sweepstakes Awards Committee
Address: 25 Irving Place, New Rochelle, N. Y.

AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY Official Bench or Show Score Card			
Originator.....		Entry No.....	
Address.....			
Variety Name or No.....		Type.....	
Number in each column, below at left, represents MAXIMUM Perfection Deduct, in each square, for less than perfection (negative qualities).			
M Small	B Medium	A Large	CHARACTERISTICS First Line Favorable Second Line Unfavorable
Max. 20	Max. 20	Max. 20	COLOR +Clear +Bright +Attractive +Useful -4 Unpleasing blend -2 Dull -3 Fades -3 Burns
Max. 15	Max. 15	Max. 15	FORM +Uniform +Artistic +True to Type -4 Deformed -2 Ordinary -2 Varying
Max. 10	Max. 10	Max. 10	DISTINCTIVENESS Add 1 to 10 pts. for form, color or other quality because superior to, or different from existing varieties
Max. 3*	Max. 0	Max. 10	SIZE Diameter..... Depth.....
Max. 15	Max. 15	Max. 15	STEM +Strong +Erect +Long +Graceful +Proportion -3 Weak-3 Crochy-3 Crooked-3 Poor Proportion
Max. 15	Max. 15	Max. 15	FOLIAGE +Health +Vigor +Rugged +Proportion -5 Poor-3 Weak-3 Succulent-3 Poor Proportion
Max. 12	Max. 15	Max. 10	SUBSTANCE Condition of Petals, +Firm +Thick +Back Good Condition of Petals,-3 Soft-2 Thin-2 Wilt-2 Falls
Max. 5	Max. 5	X	UNIFORMITY For Bench Judging only, deduct 1 to 3 pts. M or B only for Varying Size.
Max. 5	Max. 5	Max. 5	BLOOM POSITION +Side Facing, +45° angle facing Deduct 1 to 3 Points for top or down facing
TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	Note: If plant shows definite evidence of disease, deduct up to 5 points in the final score at left.
M	B	A	
Color Description.....			
Remarks.....			
Evidence of Insect Damage.....Of Disease.....			
Where Scored.....Scored by.....Date.....			
*Maximum up to 3 pts. awarded for daintiness—small size under 4 inches. (See Explanation Reverse Side.)			

Above is the Official A.D.S. Bench or Show Score Card for use in judging new seedlings in conjunction with the A.D.S. Seedling Sweepstakes Awards.

Actual size is 4 1/4" x 6 1/4" and is punched for inserting in 5" x 7" pocket size loose leaf books.

On the reverse side of card (not shown) are suggestions for use of the score sheet.

The Dahlia Marches On

Of the many methods that have been used from time to time to popularize one flower or another, the one recently used by the Dahlia Society of New Jersey can be commended not only for the success achieved but also because it made the younger generation, the future gardeners of the country conversant with the beauty and interesting charm of the dahlia as well as initiating young people into the field where the pleasure and uncertainty of growing from seed can be realized.

One of the larger producers of seeds for dahlias on the west coast suggested to one of the members of the Dahlia Society that since he had a surplus of seeds, our Society might be interested in distributing some of the same to the young people of our vicinity with the hope that interest would be stirred up and new dahlia fans developed. President Dixon accordingly appointed a committee and after considerable discussion it was thought that by means of the principal local radio station, some interest might be stirred up and proper distribution of the seeds obtained. Accordingly, "Farmer Will" Peigelbeck who operates a "farm—garden" program for Station WNJR was approached with the hope that he could develop the necessary interest.

Mr. Peigelbeck not only became interested but he stirred up so much enthusiasm that in a comparatively short time the stock of seeds available was exhausted and we had to go to Mr. Charles F. Pape, the donor, for an additional supply of seeds in order to fill the many requests obtained. Soon the second batch was exhausted and still another appeal had to be made and we feel certain that had the planting season not come to an end, the demand would still be continuing.

The procedure was a simple one. The "Four H" Clubs in the various counties were appealed to, and since these groups are interested in growing things, a ready response was found. The state was divided into counties and distribution was taken care of through the various local organizations in the counties. The seeds were put up 12 to a package and with each package there went a full and detailed description of planting and growing procedure, method of cultivation, feeding, spraying and harvesting of tubers. The requests were received by Farmer Peigelbeck at Station WNJR and the distribution was taken care of as expeditiously as possible. One of the best ways to evaluate the interest developed was the large number of inquiries received from time to time for further information or clarification of the instructions sent out with the packages. These of course were answered at once. At regular intervals Mr. Peigelbeck broadcasts pertinent instructions regarding the method of handling the plants at the particular period of the growing cycle so that the young people can keep abreast of the times and know just what to do and when to do it.

In order to give the young people a place where they can demonstrate the results obtained, the New Jersey Dahlia Society included in their show schedules, 13 classes in which the blooms developed can be entered for competition. The classes cover all types of dahlias in varying quantities and also an arrangement class. At this writing the results of this competition have not as

yet been ascertained but from all indications, Section (H) will be the most heavily entered in the whole show.

Another way we have of keeping track of the results obtained, is by means of a postal card which is sent out with the seeds. On the cards we ask the grower to tell the number of plants obtained from the seeds, the types of blooms and any other pertinent information.

Having made such a good start this season, it is planned to continue in 1950, but profiting by our experience of this year we will start earlier and work a little harder to the end that we anticipate having this group the most important junior group of our society.

Station WNJR will broadcast the class winners and the sweepstake winners and perhaps even extend the program by having some of the winners speak over the radio and tell of their experiences.

In handing out words of appreciation, we cannot pass the opportunity of thanking Mr. Charles F. Pape of Carpinteria, California for his kindness in donating seeds; Mr. George Swezey for his help in obtaining the same and Mr. John Metzger for his working out of the program; Mr. Leo Pollak for his ever-ready cooperation and last but not least, Mr. Peigelbeck and Station WNJR.

Camden Dahlia and Horticultural Society

Plans are complete for the Twenty-Fifth Annual Exhibition of the Camden Dahlia and Horticultural Society to be held at the Camden County Vocational School, Browning Road, Merchantville, N. J. September 23-24. Schedules may be obtained by writing the Secretary Watson Conover, 53 No. Childs Street, Woodbury, N. J.

A.D.S. SHOW

(Continued from page 3)

The remaining blends were placed into the Autumn class. The impurity of color and its mixture with various series of gray must be understood before placement into the Autumn class. It is generally understood that the Autumn class is reserved for gray and tanned varieties. The Dahlia is enriched with these autumnal suffusions. Autumn has its amber yellows, enhanced with golden sheens and apricot buffed with old rose; scarlets tanned with old gold, browns and mahogany, artistically colored and seemingly in tune with nature, rounding out its last seasonal floral phase. These are the Indian Summer shades so well known to Dahlia fanciers. They constitute the Autumn class. They are the shaded salmon, peaches, and old fashioned bronzes. These varieties demonstrate color complexities and dimensions and the beauty which really exists in coloration of multiple variables. Schedules throughout the country will carry the following thirteen color classes: WHITE, YELLOW, ORANGE, AUTUMN, RED, DARK RED, PINK, LAVENDER, PURPLE, LIGHT BLEND, OTHER BLEND, BI-COLOR, and VARIEGATED.

DR. EDW. F. McDADE, M.D.

(Reprinted from the May, 1949 issue of the BULLETIN, by request)

The Way to Better Dahlias - - - Some Thoughts From Australia

By M. I. FITZGERALD

85 Nicholson St., Coburg N. 13, Victoria, Australia

May we take this opportunity to wish all readers of the BULLETIN a very good New Year and may the dahlias of 1949 be bigger, better and brighter than ever before.

In this present article we intend to discuss briefly several matters which we believe may contribute to the improvement of dahlia knowledge and dahlia lore, and we will conclude with a few brief comments on some exceptionally fine dahlias which appeared in many far-flung dahlia growing points of this continent of Australia.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT DAHLIA GROWING? At first sight this question may seem easy to answer . . . we may be tempted to reply glibly that so much has been written about dahlias that little more remains to be said. Analysis of the question, however, tends to show that true scientific dahlia knowledge is full of gaps, doubts and fallacies with plenty of old wives tales thrown in for good measure. Admittedly the textbooks cover the rudiments of culture, such as general feeding, planting, digging of roots and so on. Admittedly also the dahlia magazines of the world carefully list and describe the new winners at the shows. But we have in mind something more. We believe that there is a great need for a dahlia forum which does more than answer questions. We would like to see a section in each dahlia journal and each dahlia society where all growers are asked and encouraged to give their personal observations and evidence to expert committees who would then sift all the data, no matter how scattered and fragmentary. They would then compile an encyclopedia of dahlia lore which would contain every scrap of real dahlia growing information. This committee would also supervise actual experiments and tests to prove or disprove the very many ideas on dahlias which at present are only theories which may or may not be fallacies. The compilation of this "DAHLIA ENCYCLOPEDIA" would be a big job, and would require the services of scientists, statisticians, amateur and professional growers, writers and in fact all those interested in furthering the interests of the dahlia. Let us now turn to the consideration of some of the matters which would appear in the great book.

FACTS, FALLACIES AND QUESTIONS

1. *Why do the clumps from red dahlias shoot late?*

It is our repeated experience that purple and red dahlias produce clumps which shoot from 4 to 8 weeks after yellow dahlias; and the latter shoot before the orange and bronze types. This is a general rule and we appreciate, gentle reader, that you may have different ideas. We merely set down our experience. It is an important point because the whole question of timing of blooms is bound up with the date on which the clumps shoot, this being of special moment to exhibitors. Correlated to this matter is the fact that yellow dahlias are prolific shooters whilst the reds and purples are not only late but are often shy in shooting. Think it over and check from your own data.

2. *Have you noticed that small cuttings root quicker than large ones?*

We know this is no new point. But we are not convinced that small cuttings always root quicker than large ones, and where they do, the growth of the cutting itself is often slower than from a larger cutting. The disadvantage of large cuttings is that the flop, apparently due to evaporation unless the leaves are cut in half, cross-wise. If this is done they will not flop even on a hot day. We feel that the optimum cutting is neither small nor large but rather the medium size is best, taking all things into consideration. What do you find, in practice, to be the best? We know what you have read, but is it borne out by actual experiment? And do you really get a blind clump if the embryo buds at the base of the cutting are removed? We doubt that one too!

3. *Why do clumps fail to winter successfully?*

Here is a question that very many dahlia lovers want answered in definite terms. Assuming that the freezing bogy is removed, there still remains the problem of shrivel, collar rot and tuber decay. Heavy manuring will give plump tubers but we believe it also leads to collar rot. Digging too early will cause shrivel and so will "drying out." There is still much to be written about the way to produce the best and toughest clumps, as well as good flowers. Of course we observe that some varieties are naturally poor producers of tubers and give little more than elongated roots. Then there is the question of pot roots which the Europeans favour so much. This question can be finally disposed of, by actual experiment but not be mere theory and guesswork.

4. *How can the life of blooms be prolonged?*

If the dahlia has one weakness it is that blossoms often fade too soon. The Europeans have done some research on flower preservation and they give special prizes to types with long lasting qualities. Perhaps the only way to prolong the life of flowers is to select suitable ancestors, as we humans must do if we are to live beyond the average span. In short there may be no elixir or rejuvenator for flowers any more than for humans. But intensive study of breeding characteristics on the one hand, and various blossom preserving aids on the other hand, should lead to definite improvement in one of the most important but most neglected of all aspects of dahlia growing. There is still some doubt even as to the best time of day to cut the blossoms to achieve maximum life of flowers.

5. *How do sports arise and how can they be induced?*

Such drugs as colchicine, which is poisonous and dangerous, may be part of the equipment of the hybridist of the future. But at present this problem of mutation is little understood. It is a fascinating aspect well worthy of wide experiment by those with time and space to grow very many plants.

6. *How can we breed new and better colours?*

This of course is an ancient problem which we will not fog. But is it not surprising that so little is as yet

known or at least published as to scientific or controlled dahlia breeding. With most less complicated plants, breeding techniques are well established and well known. We have yet to learn how a blue, a red or a white dahlia may be produced at will.

7. *Is there a time of the propagating season when cuttings root quicker than any other time?*

We say yes. About the middle of the Spring weather we find cuttings root in a few days from some varieties. We also find that there is a greater tendency to "black off" or dampen off, so far as cuttings are concerned, late in the season. Also unless exposed to direct sun, we find that cuttings dampen off fairly quickly. Again, if sharp pebbly sand be used, the tendency to dampen off is greatly reduced.

OUR AIM

In posing the above problems we have mentioned only seven aspects though we can think of 107. Our aim is to show the urgent need for real research in practical problems. This means work and different work casually in the garden or even for shows. It is essential that every grower do his bit in observing carefully and making known his observations and conclusion. There is no more suitable vehicle in the world than the leading dahlia magazine . . . the A.D.S. BULLETIN.

A GLIMPSE AT SOME NEW AUSTRALIAN DAHLIAS

During the war years, a great number of new dahlias were originated in Australia and the best of these are only now beginning to trickle across the world, to England, to Europe, to South Africa, to New Zealand and of course to the United States. The best of these new ones come from our three great dahlia growing states—New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria. The dahlias mentioned below include champions from each of these states.

* * * *

From New South Wales comes the small cactus, *Sunrise* which is very fine; and *Fay Marsh*, the medium crimson is a sensation over there. *Cynthia*, a large pillar-box red dec is also sought keenly, whilst the demand for the medium decorative, *Janis Anne* is very firm, so we are told from the Northern state.

There are a large number of others which are coming across the border from New South Wales to Victoria and they include many cactus and decoratives of world class.

* * * *

From South Australia we may mention the spectacular *Brooklyn Coralie*, rated one of the best coral pinks of the decade.

Betty Broster, the burnt orange dec, and *Miss Doris Brand*, the mahogany red are worthy representatives of the Southern state. Other new ones are *Robyn Jones* and *Peggy Ray*.

* * * *

From Victoria comes *White Gull* (a glorious white Cactus), *Gala Chief* (a championship winner of Lincoln red or vermilion), *Seashore* (a stiff stemmed long-petalled cactus of clearest golden yellow), *Sheila Reeves*, (a sort of opalescent glowing apricot), *AAA* (a deep red decorative), *Skymaster* (termed "the improved Kel-

vin"), and *William Buckley* (an old but nice cactus of pink and cream). We could mention many more, but this is just a brief idea of some new names of really good ones from Victoria.

* * * *

So much for our notes for this article. In our next budget of news we will be able to give the show winners of the main exhibitions of the Commonwealth, as our shows take place in March and April.

Dahlias Sparkle at Grand Centenary Show Brilliant Spectacle by Royal Horticultural Society

Rarely is it given to human beings to revel in such a feast of colour such a super technicolor show as the exhibition staged in the Melbourne Town Hall towards the end of March.

There were flowers fruits and vegetables in a great wealth of size, and beauty. The entrance to the main hall was flanked by noble pillars of big dahlia blossoms. Reds, mauves, bronzes, orange a rainbow in solid form, a symphony in colour. Among the hundreds of flowers, including some by air express from Sydney, it is difficult to select those warranting special mention. However, among the ones which caught our eye were the following:

Pink Supreme a clear ping exhibition cactus of lovely form; *Frost White*, a nice white cactus; a lovely *Captain Silverman* included in Miss Singletons prize winning lot of 6 medium garden cactus; a deep black red *Black Magic* which gave Mr. Middleton the medium cactus Championship blue ribbon. (He has previously won this ribbon several times including twice with the famous *Captain Silverman*). Also worthy of mention were the blue ribbon blooms of *Vredeborde*, a white cactus; *Pop Haris*, best big dec.; and a lovely bloom of old *Rita Betty* which still wins in the U. S. A.

There were not so many *Nobbys Light* as one might have expected. Some say it has been a bad season for *Nobbys*. However we were thrilled at the lovely specimen of our own yellow decorative giant *Pam Joyce* which featured in the winning collection of 24 dahlias over 6". Then too, *Janet Creelman*, *Adelyn*, *Cecile*, *Kelvin Rose* and *Schelbourne Sunset* were brilliant.

Gold Leader the recent Dutch importation looked grand in the winning exhibit of 9 vases of stiff stemmed decoratives.

But our happiest moment was the sheer beauty of a magnificent specimen of our *Mountbatten* which shone in Mr. Rowarths winning collection of 50 dahlias.

Having in mind the fact that rain fell heavily, in buckets, for days on end just prior to the show, it will be agreed that all the exhibitors are deserving of the warmest praise for their skill in getting so many perfect blossoms onto the show benches.

OTHER ATTRACTIVE EXHIBITS

A very pleasing an unusual section was the floating bowl feature.

A couple of dainty small dahlias with a few little purple flowers and a bit of foliage became a perfectly balanced picture in water.

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Then there was the miniature tray with snapdragons and other flower heads woven into exotic patterns. A number of fetching and ultra smart hats were shown, the decorations being flowers and even vegetables.

There were many luscious bottles of preserved fruits, berries and vegetables. To see them was to want them.

Superb carnations, fragile begonias, free blooming fuschias, and even a fishpond with real fish. . . they were all there. There were many dry bulbs of spring flowering plants like daffodils and numerous types of hyacinths.

The huge gladioli were beyond description. Colours ranged from near blue to fiery orange and most glorious pastels.

To speak in superlatives is the only way to attempt description of these and the hundreds of other flowers.

SUPER SIZED VEGETABLES

Pumpkins, carrots, silverbeet, and cabbages were all of mammoth size. But they looked most enticing and with no trace of coarseness. There were even mushrooms of large size. There were all sorts of tomatoes, in various colours and shapes and sizes.

The squashes were a gardeners dream and so were the potatoes.

The many rare blooms from valuable bulbs brought from far off lands were a further contrasting feature as were the unequalled paintings of New Guinea butterflies and flowers.

All who saw the great show must surely keep within their memories a vivid picture of everchanging colour, of a kaleidoscopic masterpiece. It is a pity that such a picture could not be preserved on real film for all gardeners in Australia to see.

BRILLIANT NEW DAHLIA FOR 1949

Arab Queen is a brand new champion. It is remarkable in that it gives up to a dozen large, refined cactus blooms without the slightest effort and with no forcing. It has a colour blend all its own. It is brilliant clear peach with a bright golden center, which is cone shaped and full of beauty. The stems are a foot long and steel stiff. This is a rare beauty.

Cantala is a decorative, of about 9". For perfection of form it has no peer. Its burnished coppery orange hue is also superb.

Like the previous dahlia it has the great advantage of being prolific with every flower a perfect gem. Flowers from early to late in the season.

A really charming new colour is the shade of pinky mauve seen on the petals of the new big decorative, *Cascade*. The petallage of the flower is unusually good, the centres are full and firm. Stems excellent.

Something quite different is the ever flowering little 3" *Dandy*. This is a white cactus and is most dainty in appearance, and the bushes are never without flowers.

Aptly named is the warm and gaily coloured *Persia*. The brilliant red petals are tipped or gilded with sparkling gold. It is a matchless combination of shades and the blooms are of ideal form, being medium sized.

Lastly we chronicle *Pacific Coast*. This is a deep large incurved cactus. The petals are long graceful and of finest texture. Colour is deep orange with golden sheen.

Dahlia Society of Ohio

The Dahlia Society of Ohio has had a most interesting season thus far. At our February meeting we had the pleasure of having Mr. George Currie, Editor of "The Dahlia", as our guest. He showed kodochrome slides of many recent introductions, as well as slides of new dahlias from Europe and Australia which will be introduced this year. This meeting developed into quite a "Round Table", as Professor C. Merrill Brown of Buffalo, as well as guests from the Toledo, Wellsville and East Liverpool Dahlia Societies were present. We have had our usual successful clump, root and plant sales and in April our own E. J. Wind gave interesting talk on the culture of dahlias from frost to frost.

As this report is being written in early May, our Show Schedule is already in the hands of the public. We have completely revised it to include the new classifications, with particular emphasis on the trial of the 4 in. to 6 in. class for large amateurs and open-to-all divisions. The new A.D.S. Gold Medal Certificates have also been included in our schedule.

Our show will be held on September 12th and 13th at the Higbee Auditorium in Cleveland. We sincerely hope that many dahlia enthusiasts of the East will stop off with us on their way to the Mid-West Show. E. J. Wind is chairman of the judges, and he has lined them up from as far away as California. Our show chairman, Ed Papesh, has spared no time or effort in planning for this show. We KNOW we will have a fine show! It will be worth your while to attend!

RUTH BERRY,
A.D.S. Correspondent.

The Best of the New & Standards

Write for Fall List 1949-1950

Clumps, Roots,

Plants, Rooted Cuttings

Pape Best Dahlia Seed

PREMIER
Dahlia Gardens

Columbia (Warren Co.), New Jersey

San Fernando Valley Dahlia and Garden Society

Subject: ROOT STORAGE IN SOIL

One of the most interesting articles I have eagerly gleaned from the Feb., 1949 A.D.S. BULLETIN was your thoughts on soil as a storage medium for dahlia roots or clumps.

I suppose the reason it struck such a responsive cord with me is my own past experiences in using garden soil for storage of my dahlia roots. I have always reasoned that the "good earth" was the most natural, and by far the most reasonable thing to use. It is truly the most perfect heritage left us by the Master Giver of "all good and perfect gifts".

To begin with, here in Southern California, we can leave our roots in the ground a lot later than you fellows back there. That makes our storage period correspondingly shorter. But it would take a lot to sell me on anything other than soil to store roots in—even if I lived in Alaska or Newfoundland. Yes, I've used ordinary garden soil to store my roots in for several years. And I go even farther than that—for which I'm considered a "nut" by the rest of the growers in this area. But let me, the "nut" speak for myself.

We have all heard the old adage, "necessity is the mother of invention". I have always been hampered greatly in my dahlia growing activities by lack of two prime factors—a large enough "patch" to suit my wishes and the lack of storage space and facilities. So I've had to "invent" a method of storing which could be held within the limits of my available storage space.

I lacked enough space to store roots in the clump; so I had to lift them and divide them on the spot. In this way I could store my roots in less than half the space formerly occupied by a given number of clumps. That was well and good so far—but now I had the problem of keeping them "plump" and the necks from withering away.

There being only three things in abundance in my garden—air, soil and dahlia roots—I was faced with making another decision. Since I wanted to keep the roots—and the air would dry them out; the roots apparently liking to grow in the soil (they had learned their multiplication tables very well)—besides I had never dug a root that was shriveled or withered or rotten—I found it only natural to make use of the abundance of soil about me.

I took ordinary wooden "lug-boxes", used for packing and shipping such fruit as tomatoes, apricots, peaches and grapes for you fellows back there. They are about 18" x 12" x 8" in size. I placed two inches of soil in the bottom. Then I carefully laid the divided roots on the soil as compactly as possible in one layer. They were covered over with more soil, to the top of the box, and stacked box upon box; with no cover—just cleates between each to provide air circulation. My only storage space is around the walls of a one-car garage; and that is fastly becoming inadequate, because the roots continue to increase by multiplication (they don't seem to be able to learn how to divide). The summer of 1948, my son and I planted, cared for and stored three hundred-fifty clumps of dahlias in this manner.

Of course you fellows couldn't store in your garage, henhouse or granary, because of the "chilly" weather back there—but you could still use your wine cellars or basement furnace room—same as always. And if the soil got on the dry side you could drape some wet "gunny sacks" over them once a month.

I've tried to avoid mentioning that we out here are "blessed" with anything (I didn't want to brag)—so let's just say that out here, if we are fortunate, our winter "rainy season" gives just the right moisture content to the air to accomplish the same thing your wet "gunny sacks" would do in your cellar basement—providing the garage out here was hastily and loosely "thrown together", with lots of ventilation; as mine.

Now just one more point in favor of my "screwball" storage method. Do you break a few necks; even with all the soil you can get to cling to the clumps when lifting? So did I. I could never cut my losses to less than ten to fifteen percent when I stored in the clump. With the above method of storage I don't have the broken necks; but obviously there will be roots that are "blind" when dividing in the fall, instead of in the spring. But I have never exceeded ten percent loss from blindness if divided in the fall. And my storage space is less than fifty percent of that needed for the clump method.

So, if you were me, would you rather gamble \$10 on having your eyes cut out this fall; or \$15 on getting your neck broken before next spring? Of course you and I still have the alternative of remaining a stubborn old mule—of staying in the same old rut—and taking these appalling wintering losses your thought-provoking article so vividly discloses—but we won't.

Thanks for hearing me through—and I know you and all your roots have spent a snug "bug in the rug" winter; and can look toward a re-awakening this spring without casualties.

In complete agreement, I am,
NOEL O. SCOTT.

Dahlia Society of Georgia

The Third Annual Southern States Dahlia Show, in conjunction with the sixteenth annual show of the Dahlia Society of Georgia, will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, on Saturday and Sunday, October 1st and 2nd, 1949.

The Southern States Dahlia Association is composed of the Dahlia Societies of Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.

We would like to extend to all a cordial invitation to attend this show. You will meet a number of your friends, see a beautiful dahlia show, and visit South Atlantic Trial Grounds.

A real Southern welcome awaits you.
C. R. PERRY.

Portland Dahlia Society

The 1949 Dahlia Show of the Portland Dahlia Society will be staged in the Sunken Ballroom of the Masonic Temple, West Park and Main Streets, Portland, Oregon, Sept. 17 and 18—Saturday and Sunday.

MADGE B. KERSHISNIK,
Secretary.

The American DAHLIA SOCIETY, Inc.

ORGANIZED MAY 10, 1915



"The Society is formed for the purpose of stimulating interest in and promoting the culture and development of the Dahlia; to establish a standard nomenclature; to test out new varieties and give them such recognition as they deserve; to study the diseases of the Dahlia and find remedies for same, and to disseminate information relating to this flower; to secure uniformity in awarding prizes at flower shows, and to give exhibitions when deemed advisable."

LEO L. POLLAK, *President*

Upper Mountain Ave., Upper Montclair, N. J.

GORDON F. WAASER, *Editor*

378 Pennsylvania Ave., Freeport, New York

ANDREW F. MULCAHY, *Secretary*

20 Marshal Ave., Floral Park, New York

HENRY A. OLSEN, *Treasurer*

189-23—44th Ave., Flushing, New York

Editorial

Uniform Schedules Next?

The ink had hardly dried on the Unified Classification list before many voiced the desire that all major shows might adopt this classification list for the 1950 schedules.

The A.D.S., encouraged by this fine endorsement now ventures that our various Dahlia Societies consider for 1950 a uniform *schedule*. True, many smaller shows do not require quite the breakdown that major shows find so necessary. But it does not appear that any show would be derived of its particular mechanics or techniques by conforming to the basic schedules used by the large regional shows and the A.D.S. Show.

The number of entries in each show should greatly increase if exhibitors could be sure that schedules are uniform. This is highly desirable.

Judges would experience greater freedom and more time will be utilized in actual judging of classes if rules and schedules were uniform.

Five years ago, uniform classification was considered by many impossible. Most of our shows this year will be conducted under the A.D.S.-Central States Uniform Classification list.

If we are all willing to approach the uniform schedule idea with a "meeting of the minds" attitude, just as we did the complexities of Classification—this much to be desired schedule can and will operate in most of our shows in 1950! Isn't it worth the support and effort of all of us?

Appeal To Exhibitors

Preparations for the many Dahlia Shows—local, state or regional can be made in advance just to a certain point.

In spite of excellent management and careful planning—much of the clerical detail work is done just before show time.

Now is the time for exhibitors to cooperate. You have set your buds and checked your schedules and know pretty much just what classes you intend to enter. It would help you and greatly facilitate your show manager's work if you would right now make up your entry blanks and send them in at least a week before the show.

If last minute changes or cancellations must be made—the clerks will accommodate you.

Won't you please attend to this important detail right now?

To Dr. Preas: With my Compliments

Some flowers are like old and faithful friends
You've loved since you can remember!
No sweet perfumes—
When the gorgeous dahlia blooms
Thro' August and September!

In vivid colour and majestic beauty—
They grow in their apportioned places,
For the ones they love—
And to God above
They lift their wax-like faces!

But humans can learn from them—a lesson!
Of beauty and unassuming dignity—
And while they live,
Joy untold they give
To folks like you and me!

Sincerely,

PEARL M. SMITH.

"Princess Lodge"

Ferndale Boulevard, Central Islip, Long Island

Dahlias in Mexico

Mr. Alberto Parrella shares this interesting letter with A.D.S. Dahlia fans:

Mr. Alberto Parrella,

Parrella Dahlia Gardens,

3380 Ely Avenue, Bronx 66, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Parrella:

I have had a letter in my desk from you since last February and I feel ashamed that I have not answered you before but I have been pretty busy down here.

I am arranging to take my vacation during September, when Mrs. Jones, my two daughters and I are all coming to New York and you may be absolutely sure that I shall make your garden one of my first and probably most frequent calls.

I also expect to be in New York long enough to see the Dahlia Show.

We did not have to accept your very kind offer to help us get our dahlia roots down to Mexico since the company that took care of our moving job took them also and sent them by air so there would be no danger of spoiling. I was able to rent a house here with a big piece of land and have over 200 dahlia plants growing. Down here, the people do not take the roots out in the fall because the frost never gets below the ground level and the result is that most dahlias you see in gardens are growing in huge clumps with a lot of small flowers on short stems. I have not seen a single dahlia plant down here which was well grown. They do get blooms early though, usually around the middle of May. I did not plant my dahlias until well into the month of May and I got my first blooms just this week and as you might guess the first plant to produce flowers was *Wanda Meade*. I have about 10 plants of this variety and they are all coming fast. I have had about 5 blooms from one plant already. The color down here seems to be even richer than back home but none of the 5 which I have had from this one plant have had good centers. I am a little worried about this because *Wanda Meade* makes good centers around New York and I wonder if the weather conditions down here will result in very many flowers without good centers. The weather does seem wonderful for dahlias because every morning the temperature is around 65° and there is bright sun. In the middle of the day it gets fairly warm, reaching about 85° with plenty of sunshine; then the plants seem to wilt down a little bit but by 3 or 4 o'clock is usually clouds up and the temperature drops down again to about 65° and we have rain. Sometimes it rains a little and sometimes it rains a lot. We had a very big hail that tore the plants to pieces; that was before they had side growth. In the morning, the dahlias usually look fresh and dark green and vigorous. There is very little insect attack. I use some Deenate 50-w. occasionally but I have not seen any insects working on the plants at all except for a couple tiny clumps of aphids. We have no Japanese, cucumber or even Mexican bean beetles and no corn borers, so far at least.

Before I go up to New York for my vacation I am going to try to take some pictures because by that time my garden will be pretty much in full bloom and I will show them to you at the show.

One of my problems this year is that when Mrs. Jones had the roots dug up last fall, nothing was labelled; so I had to plant them without any regard for height of the plant, size of the bloom or anything. The result is that I am likely to have a *Jane Cowl* growing next to a *Ball Dahlia* so the growth of my plants is pretty uneven. I also have a few stunts in the garden probably because last year they were poor plants too. This fall, I am going to throw away all the stuff that does not come good and in the Spring I am going to place an order with you for some varieties which I used to have and lost and also for some of the stuff I have never had before. I want a greater variety next year.

I am also going to try outdoor propagating next spring. I think I can get better garden than before. By stretching my garden out a little, I can probably raise about 400 or 500 plants and that is what I am aiming at for 1950.

If you have any suggestions about raising dahlias in Mexico, I will appreciate to have them, otherwise, do not bother to answer this letter because I know it is your busiest season and I will see you in a few weeks anyhow.

Best regards,

Very truly yours,

G. M. JONES.

Great Neck, L. I. Show

The Associated Garden Clubs of Great Neck are combining to hold the 3rd Annual Dahlia and Fall Flower Show at the Great Neck High School on Saturday, Oct. 1st.

Those who attended last year's show recall its great success and our plans for this year will insure the same fine facilities for exhibition. This is the last show on the Fall circuit. We have been informed that all of the leading exhibitors expect to be with us at that show.

LOUIS SMIRNOW.

Southtown Dahlia Club Chicago, Illinois

The officers for our club are as follows: Charles Ondrick, President; Edwin P. Steffen, Vice President; H. J. Bauman, Treasurer; Mr. Stanley G. Swanson, Secretary, 10944 S. Washtenaw Ave., Chicago 43, Illinois. We now have 134 members.

Our show this year will be held on September 24th and 25th at the Hamilton Park Field House, Chicago, Illinois.

GRACE SWANSON,
Secretary.

Dahlia Society of Tennessee

Our plans for the 1949 show have been made. The date is Sept. 24 and 25 in the ballroom of the Patton Hotel.

ARNOLD BURNETTE,
705 Belvoir Avenue,
Chattanooga 4, Tenn.

National Capital Dahlia Society

The members of The National Capital Dahlia Society are all in high gear preparing their dahlias and arranging for the forthcoming 14th Annual Regional Show which will again be held at the U. S. Botanic Garden, Maryland Ave. and 1st St. S.W. on September 24 and 25, 1949. We expect this to be our largest show to-date. More people are growing dahlias in and around Washington than ever before. Enthusiasm of the new members is exceptional. They attend meetings and ask questions which is the most healthy sign of interest, and by the way of speaking of membership. The membership has more than doubled over the past year and the society is in a very healthy condition, financially.

Mr. J. L. Bowling, chairman of judges reports that are judges will as in the past be of the best. However, he was disappointed that he was unable to get some of our New York friends due to previous commitments for other shows being held around New York and Long Island at that time. We are indeed sorry and will miss them.

Our Trophy Chairman Dr. Henry C. Parker reports that the list of trophies offered as prizes in all classes will be the largest this year ever before offered by the society. We hope this will be an incentive to all dahlia growers to bring their blooms to Washington. Ever one that grows dahlias is welcome. You are not required to be a member and no fees of any kind are charged.

The schedules are ready for distribution. Any one interested in exhibiting or obtaining a schedule will please contact Mr. C. L. Armentrout the show chairman, 3416 22nd St., N.E. Washington 18, D. C. who will be more than glad to oblige.

The society will for the first time exchange medals with other dahlia societies this year. However they were not fortunate enough to get the die manufactured in time to advise other societies that has in the past made inquiry if we exchanged medals, that is not in time for them to include in their schedule as most organizations like to do. We are sorry and will see that the previous requests are filled next year.

Members report that *Red Spider* is exceptionally bad this year which they attribute to the extremely hot dry weather the past month. The temperature has been hovering between 85 and 96 degrees which is not good for man or dahlias.

We expect to have an exceptional display of a foreign dahlia at our show this year. A dahlia which has quite an interesting history back of it as told by the originator. If you attend the show be sure and see this exhibit.

As a matter of information to judges and exhibitors, the building will be open for exhibits at 7:00 A.M. Saturday September 24, judging begins at 12:30 P.M. And the show will be open to the public at 3:30 P.M. A dinner will be held at the Dodge Hotel at 5:00 P.M. for the judges, their wives and members of the society which wish to attend.

It is reported the trial garden at the University of Maryland at College Park is coming along as well as could be expected. People attending the show at Washington are urged to give the new seedlings entered there a going over and be really prepared to know what you would like to grow next year.

JOHN L. BISHOP,
Publicity Chairman,
National Capital Dahlia Society.

Dahlia Society of New Jersey

The Dahlia Society of New Jersey held its regular meeting on Saturday, June 18th in the Parish house of Trinity Church, Newark, N. J. Mr. Dixon the President of the society was gratified at the number of members who attended.

The chairmen of the various committees of the Fall Dahlia Show reported their work is progressing rapidly, and nothing is being left undone to make this show one of the outstanding events of the Fall Flower Show season.

The society has received several letters from 4-H Clubs thanking us for the Dahlia seeds we have distributed, and requesting further information on their part, in our show. The Schedule Committee has 14 classes listed in section H of the schedule, for the 4-H growers. Dahlia Society members have been appointed to assist any grower in this class to assure proper placing of each entry. We are gratified at the interest the boys and girls of 4-H are showing in our plans. Needless to say the demand for seeds far exceeded the supply, and although we have distributed 4,000 seeds, we have had many disappointed applicants.

Anyone interested in showing in Branch Brook Park, Sept. 10-11 is requested to write to Mr. Thomas, 292 Lakeview Ave., Paterson, N. J. for a schedule.

We are trying to arrange a series of speakers for our Fall and Winter meetings and as soon as all arrangements are complete, we will include the name of the speaker in our newspaper announcement of the meeting. Our meetings are open to anyone interested in the Dahlia, the next meeting is scheduled for August 20.

WATCH FOR . . .

Lew Sarett's MADONNA (D-24), the big white semi-cactus, which will be shown in the Eastern, Mid-Western and Southern Shows.

Also a few other seedlings under numbers.

Visit our gardens and see them in bloom.

We plan to have our usual exhibit at the A.D.S. Show, at the Hotel Statler, in New York, on Sept. 21 and 22. We hope to meet you there.

**Our Advanced Price List
is now available**

**RUSCHMOHR
Dahlia Gardens**

38 Vincent St., Rockville Centre, N. Y.

Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society

The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society held their regular meeting on May 16th at Bala-Cynwyd, Pa. At this meeting we sold and exchanged roots and plants and tried to encourage as many new comers in the art of raising Dahlias as possible. We also decided to have a series of special meetings during the growing season and if possible out in the Dahlia patches. The topic at these special meetings to be, "The Growing of Better Dahlias".

On June 16th, we held our first special meeting on the beautiful estate of member Mrs. Robert W. Rea, Devon, Pa. Member Hugh Sweeney, Superintendent on the Rea estate was our host. We were fortunate by having present at this meeting, Mr. Richard Farnum, Farm and Garden Editor of the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin. The topics discussed at this meeting were, cultivation and insect control. Mr. Farnum's council on these topics was well received.

On July 1st, our Vice President, Thomas McKay, appeared on a television program, "How Does Your Garden Grow", with Mr. Amos Kirby, Garden Editor of Radio Station WCAU and WCAU-TV. McKay proceeded to demonstrate disbudding and disbranching of the Dahlia and to advertise our 1949 show.

At each of our meetings, Show Superintendent, Fred H. Moore, stresses the advantages of exhibiting and visiting our show. He points out that there is a place in our show for the little fellow, the big fellow, and the amateur. He points out that we are cooperating with the A.D.S. Seedling Sweepstakes Awards and the American Home Achievement Medal. Every section will have money awards in them insuring that the average exhibitor will at least recover a part of his expenses. There will be no entrance charge for an exhibitor nor any admission charge to visitors. The showplace is easy to get to from any direction without having to go through the heavy Philadelphia traffic. Parking area on each side of the show room will take care of over 200 cars.

Don't forget the show place is: Raymond Scott's Lincoln-Mercury Bldg. on the north side of U. S. Route 30 (Lincoln Highway) between Ardmore and Philadelphia. The dates are September 23 and 24. Exhibits must be in by 12 P.M. Sept. 23. Open to visitors at 3 P.M. Sept. 23rd. For further details write Fred H. Moore, P.O. Box 386, Haverford, Pa.

F. A. ALLEVA,
Acting Branch Editor.

Tour of Gardens in Connection With Mid-West Show

Those planning on arriving at Chicago on Friday, the 16th in advance of the opening of the Mid-West Dahlia Show, who desire to make the tour of dahlia gardens being planned for that afternoon, can make such arrangements by writing Lewis J. West at 1019 Illinois Road, Wilmette, Illinois. (In the May issue of the BULLETIN Mr. West's address was given as 2300 Hartrey Road, Evanston, Illinois, but he has since bought a new home at Wilmette, giving him more land on which to grow dahlias.)

Orange County (Calif.) Dahlia Society

The Orange County Dahlia Society has spent a very busy winter. The monthly meetings have been very well attended, a bountiful pot-luck supper being the first matter of business, followed by guest speakers. The last two meetings were taken up with our dahlia plant and root auctions. This method is used to raise the necessary money to put on our Annual Show. The members of the Inglewood, Calif. Society were our guests of honor at the last meeting, with a large number present.

The members of the Show Committee are busy at work planning the details of our Show which is to be held in the gymnasium of the Santa Ana Y. M. C. A., Saturday and Sunday, September 10th and 11th. The Show manager, Hobart Jordan, has appointed most of his committees, the schedule has been drawn up, and everybody is looking forward to a very successful show. The date of the Show this year is about three weeks later than last year, and may work out better, as a number of growers were late with their blooms last year and were not ready for the show. Planting is well under way now, some of the members having planted some as early as the middle of March. Our cold weather of this past winter caused some loss of tubers by freezing to those members who had not packed their tubers away well for the winter. However, the loss has been replaced and the gardens should be in full bloom in a couple of months. Several of the members have had single blooms already.

Anyone in this neighborhood at the time of our Show is invited to visit us. The show will be well worth the time spent in visiting it. Visitors are welcome at any time at the gardens of our members. Dr. G. Emmett Raitt, 11 Bush St., Santa Ana, Calif., is our president and would be glad to meet any dahlia fans.

ELDON MCNEIL,
Corresponding Secretary.

The Scranton Show

This annual show will be held on Sept. 9 and 10, at the Y.W.C.A. Auditorium. Its schedule will carry the new color classes, as outlined by the national body. These schedules will be mailed direct to the membership and to any one else who might be interested. The following officers were elected for the current year: Dr. Edw. McDade, President; Earl Holmes, Ernest Lewis, A. H. MacAndrew, William Stolz, and Wm. Vooz, Vice-Presidents; Charles Heusner, of 538 N. Sumner Ave., Scranton, Pa., Secretary, and Roy Webb, Treasurer. The classification lists can be secured at the reduced rates by contacting the secretary at the above address.

CHARLES HEUSNER,
Secretary.

Hagerstown Dahlia Society

The Hagerstown Dahlia Society is holding its annual Dahlia Show September 15th and 16th, Thursday and Friday, at the City Market Place.

H. K. RAMSBURG,
Secretary.

San Fernando Valley Dahlia and Garden Society

Glendale, California

Dahlia Society Co-Sponsors Southern California Mid-Summer Flower Show

The picturesque Civic Auditorium in the City of Glendale, California was the setting for an unique and original flower show on August 13th and 14th, 1949.

In the patio, near the entrance to the show was placed the California Centennial Commission's float, depicting historical events of early statehood and the heroes in the news of that day. The float was thirty-five feet long and about eighteen feet in height.

To gain the show floor, visitors passed thru a "Tunnel of Dahlias" and came immediately upon a growing dahlia garden of some thirty varieties; in the midst of which was placed the theme poem of the show, "My Garden, 1849-1949," which read as follows:

"In my garden
Grows so wonderous fair,
All the things
I've ever wanted there!
Their flaming beauty
There to measure
All the glory of my treasure.
And pausing here
I find a certain peace of mind;
For their happy faces
Seem to me to say,
God was here today!

—NOEL O. SCOTT

Surrounding the dahlia patch on two sides was a planting of fifty *Sutters Gold* roses, a 1950 All America Selection. They were a gift of the originators, Armstrong nurseries of California.

Leaving the garden, visitors followed a lazily winding six-foot garden path throughout the completely landscaped show, against a back-drop of native California trees and shrubs. All exhibition tables were arranged to the RIGHT of the paths.

The dahlia section alone contained 2,000 blooms with 234 entries contributed by thirteen exhibitors. The rosette award for the largest bloom in the show went to a magnificent *Freida Gaylord* measuring eleven and three-quarter inches in diameter by eleven one-half inches in depth. The rosette award for the best individual bloom in the show was given to an exquisite *Aristo* bloom. Both were exhibited by the Yukon Dahlia Gardens of Gardena, California.

The smallest bloom in the show was also awarded a rosette, and went to a tiny *Tiny Tot*, shown by Mr. and Mrs. Hobart Jordan, of Santa Ana, California.

The best first year seedling was awarded the SUNSET MEDAL, and was a delicate red cactus, grown by Russell H. Bush of Glendale.

The best second year seedling was grown and exhibited by Harry H. Larson, Sr., of Burbank, California. It was awarded the Dibberon Perpetual Trophy.

The best third year seedling was awarded the GORDON BAKER LLOYD PERPETUAL CUP. It was developed and exhibited by Noel O. Scott of Glendale, who has named it *Heavenly White*. It is on trial at three of the American Dahlia Society's trial grounds and in the three Honor Roll Gardens during this 1949 season.

Since the show was devoted almost entirely to showing what the home gardeners can do in their own back yard, there were eight divisions devoted to specimens from the garden—all the way from the lowly petunia, carrot and gerkin to luscious peaches and grapes. There were specimen plants of African Violets all types of begonias and even orchids in evidence.

In the Flower Arrangement Section there were entries by nine professional arrangers and a score of amateur artists.

Cooperating with and contributing to the grandeur of the show were such grand organizations as: American Begonia Society, California Fuchsia Society, Pacific Camellia Society, The Bulb Society and The Herb Society.

Of special interest was the educational exhibit of the San Fernando Valley Dahlia and Garden Society. Here one could follow the "evolution of the dahlia," some of its historical and botanical predecessors and the "dahlia family" by bloom formation.

This newest of flower shows came into being thru the efforts of the San Fernando Valley Dahlia and Garden Society and the Los Angeles Garden Center. It is operated under non-profit corporation papers, and is known as the Southern California Mid-Summer Flower Show, Inc.

Funds with which to stage the show came from private donations, proceeds from conducted Garden Tours and from commercial exhibitor fees at the show.

Attendance at the show is said to have reached the 5,000 mark. Plans for next year's show are already under way; with Gordon Baker Lloyd as Show Manager, having been employed in that capacity for a five-year period by the show committee.

NOEL O. SCOTT, Director Publicity,
San Fernando Valley Dahlia and Garden Society.

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