



Long Island Dahlia Society

WWW.LONGISLANDDAHLIA.COM LIDSNEWS@HOTMAIL.COM

28 44th ST. ISLIP, NY 11751 **DECEMBER, 2007**

MEETING

COME MAKE MERRY & BRIGHT!

DECEMBER 20, 2007



WHERE:

Bayard Cutting Arboretum,
Carriage House Loft,
East Islip, NY

DIRECTIONS:

Southern State Pkwy to exit
45 East (Montauk Hwy or
Main Street East). Go
through 1st light, and Arbo-
retum is on the right. If main
gates aren't open, continue
to service gate, the Arbo-
retum's 2nd entrance

Each year , LIDS members get together in late December to share some holiday cheer. This year, December 20th will be the date and, as usual, the Arboretum Carriage House Loft will be the location. Members will gather for a brief general meeting, followed by a luscious feast, prepared by our own members. Marge Micheels has volunteered to organize the food offerings for this event. Please take the time right away to call or write to let her know what delectable dish you will be contributing to the "groaning table". It can be anything from an hors d'oeuvre or salad to an entree or dessert. Judging from past experience, the meal will be a mouth watering treat! Marge may be reached by email at dahlia59@optonline.net or by phone at (631)581-7131. Early notification will make her very happy, and will ensure a well balanced selection of treats, so please make that call!

MAIN TOPIC

Yearly review

A highlight of this event is the holiday gift exchange. If you'd like to be able to pick out a gift from the table, please bring in a new, wrapped gift valued at approximately \$15. If the gift is meant to be specifically a guy's or a gal's gift, please label it so on the outside. Participation in the exchange is voluntary, as always, and a lot of fun. So, circle the date and be prepared to celebrate the season with fellow LIDS members!

DAHLIA 101 TOPIC:
Over-wintering Tubers

REMINDER:

Meetings are held on the **3rd
Thurs. of every month,**
and begin at 7:45, with coffee
at 7:30. * **"Dahlia 101" at
7:00 for newer members.**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS,
HAPPY HANUKKAH,
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL!!!**



UPCOMING EVENTS

LEARNING THE WORTH OF DAHLIAS

DECEMBER

LIDS Gen'l. Meeting and
Holiday Party BCA-CH,
12/20 7:30 p.m.

On December 2nd, Irene Virag, freelance garden column writer, published another article on dahlias (her third this year!). In the Newsday column, entitled "Dahlias are Well Worth the Trouble," Mrs. Virag related her recent experiences digging and packing up the dahlias she grew this summer. It seems that in the past, Virag had only planted a few dahlias in her flower gardens, and had been unsuccessful at preserving them from season to season. When she planted this year's dahlias, she had made up her mind to treat them as annuals, letting them die at the end of winter, and buying new stock in the spring. She changed her mind, though when she was offered the

JANUARY

LIDS General Meeting
Location to be determined
1/17 7:30 p.m.

- cont'd p. 4

LIDS 2007 CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 7 - Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at Bayard
20 - LIDS Meeting, BCA CH Loft, Holiday Party

JANUARY

- 17- LIDS Meeting,

BY-LAWS CHANGES

Below are the by-laws changes that were discussed at the Board of Directors meeting on Nov. 1, 2007. The changes were approved by the directors and will be voted upon by the membership at the December LIDS meeting.

Article 4: Section 2 -

Add to the duties of the President:

The President shall form an Audit Committee of three persons to perform the annual review of the Society's Treasury. This report shall be given at the first Board of Directors meeting of the new fiscal year.

Article 4: Section 4 -

Delete from the duties of the Vice President:

...to form an audit committee for the annual review of the treasury. This report shall be given at the first Board of Directors meeting of the new fiscal year.

Article 4: Section 5 - Under the duties of the Treasurer it states that the Fiscal Year is from January 1 to December 31. The new proposal is to change the Fiscal Year to be from November 1 thru October 30 of the following year.

Article 11: Section 3 - Change the dates of the Fiscal Year from January 1 through December 31, to November 1 through October 30 of the following year.

This newsletter is published monthly by
The Long Island Dahlia Society.
Loretta Glatzer, Editor
Patricia Murphy, Assistant Editor
Joe Lysik, photographer

EXPANDING OUR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Our Education Chairman, Joe Lysik, reports that the main topic of the November meeting will be a **review of the past year**, including everyone's successes and flops. If you have any printed photos or digital images in your camera, that relate to this past year, or even just a story or memory to share, please bring it with you. "**Over-wintering Tubers**" will be the topic for the Dahlias 101 class. Through knowledge we grow!

DAHLIAS 101

We'd like to encourage all new members (and anyone else who would like a "refresher") to attend the Dahlia 101 class, starting at 7:00 pm, just prior to the general meeting times. Taught by Joe Lysik, chairman of the Education Committee, these half-hour segments are a great way to learn the jargon and get a head start on becoming an experienced dahlia gardener. They also provide an easy way to get to know other club members a few at a time, rather than to be initially overwhelmed by the larger numbers at the general meetings. Hope to see you there!

HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES AT BAYARD

Just a reminder-- The Bayard Mansion will be open to the public during the holiday season. For free inspection of the beautiful vintage Christmas decorations on the first floor of the Manor House, visitors may show up any day during this month and early January. For guided tours including the 2nd floor of the Manor House, please sign up at the reception desk. Tours will take place on some weekdays and all Saturday afternoons in December, beginning at 2:00.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !!

We are pleased to announce that we have added the following names to our membership roster in the last month:

Keith McLoed of New Rochelle
Harold Reichert of Bay Shore (re-up)

Welcome to the wonderful world of dahlias, folks!
We're looking forward to seeing each of you at our meetings, social events, and at the Arboretum garden..

BOARD NOMINATIONS

Due to unfortunate circumstances beyond our control (like our being accidentally locked out of our meeting hall at the Massapequa location), the LIDS November meeting never took place. As a result, the vote on the proposed Board nominations has been rescheduled for our December meeting.

At the October general meeting, The LIDS Executive Board proposed the following slate of officers:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Vice President- | Kevin Fox |
| Recording Secretary- | Pat Murphy |
| Corresponding Secretary- | Lori Glatzer |
| Treasurer- | Marge Micheels |
| Membership- | Maurcen Burford |
| Garden Director- | Bill Wolkoff |
| Garden Associates- | Mark Glatzer |
| | Jim Micheels |
| | Joe Laundrye |
| Education- | Joe Lysik |
| Evaluation- | Erina Aaron |
| Fundraising- | John Canzoneri |
| Publicity- | Joe Lysik |
| Dahlia Shows- | Dennis Kirchner |
| Website- | Joe Lysik |
| ADS- | Bill Bushman |
| NADC- | Erina Aaron |
| | Dennis Kirchner |
| Hospitality- | Pam Dovak |

Since the President serves a two-year term, we will not be voting on that position this year. Nominations can be made from the floor at our December meeting, just prior to the vote.

WHO TUBE? YOU TUBE!

By Pat Murphy

During the past year U Tube has popped up all over the place. U Tube accepted questions for the Presidential debates and many of us have been sent U Tube videos by friends to view. I found out that U Tube has many hidden secrets. Did you know that if you go to www.utube.com to search for "dahlias" you will find photos of dahlia shows in San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, and Hamburg, Germany? Or you can see a video by a gardener in England demonstrating how to dig up dahlias. I typed in "hummingbirds" and found videos of hummingbirds hovering, feeding and defending themselves. I even saw a female hummingbird taking care of her babies. The video showed them growing and being fed by their mother over a period of several weeks.

If you have any spare time, go to the U Tube site. You will be fascinated at some of the videos that are on this site. You can explore U Tube and maybe you will make your own video for others to view.

If you type "Millers Crossing" in the search box, then scroll through the site you will see a video of the band **Millers Crossing** performing at the Huntington Arts Festival. You can hear Christina and Ralph Ayasse's daughter singing a bluegrass song with the group.

AN INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT

Winter is the time of promise because there is so little to do- or because you can now and then permit yourself the luxury of thinking so.



Club member Ed Bonci continues to reach out to us from Eastchester, NY. This time he sent the "official photo of the members of wife Pams law firm". According to Ed, their yellow lab Emma serves as special counsel. She certainly appears to be very comfortable with her role!

THE ELUSIVE HUMMINGBIRD

By Patricia Murphy

Out of the corner of my eye flashes its glittering iridescent whirling dervish. It's beating its wings frenetically backwards and forwards as it hovers near the cannas plants. Then just as quickly it disappears from view. A split second later it's back to a red cannas flower, hovering in place as it gathers nectar with its extensile tongue. I observe its aerobatic skills as it moves forward and backward, and sometimes upside down, and disappears toward a nearby tree.

I recently read about hummingbirds. Ruby-throated hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubei*) are the only species of hummingbirds that breed in Eastern and Midwestern North America. They can be found as far north as southern Canada and as far south as Central America and Mexico. These remarkable birds beat their wings an average of 52 times a second. During migration times they can travel long distances at speeds of 40 mph.

The male has bright coloring with a dark belly, brilliant red throat, and iridescent green feathers on its back, brownish gray on its breast and belly, and a forked tail without white tips. The female is larger than the male and has a pale gray throat and belly, its wings are nearly black, the feathers on its back are iridescent green or bronze green, its flanks are light brown and its fan-shaped tail has white tips. The young fledglings have the same coloring as their mother during their first year of life.

I found out that they are territorial. The male hummingbird migrates north each spring a few weeks before the female to stake out a territory in which to live and to lure the female. He looks for an area that has an abundant food source, usually in a woodland area, park, or garden. He's attracted to a variety of flowers and trees: mimosa trees, cannas, trumpet vines, cardinal flowers, salvia, hibiscus, Mandevilles, butterfly bush, honeysuckle, and other native plants. A hummingbird's environment needs to have access to water and shelter. In addition to nectar, the hummingbirds eat small insects and spiders. Hummingbird feeders can attract them especially when they are migrating and need a quick source of food. The male guards and aggressively defends this territory from other male intruders, especially during mating season.

Courtship is very brief. The female lays two eggs the size of a kernel of corn and raises them alone. She builds a walnut-sized nest in a tree or shrub where she feeds her young until they are ready to fly and

find their their own food. Scientists think hummingbirds live an average of 3 - 5 years.

I sighted hummingbirds many times this past summer but they were very elusive- quickly showing up and disappearing before I could get my camera or binoculars out to see them up close. My sightings increased at the end of August and continued into October.

Hummingbirds need to eat extra food as they prepare for migration time. They feed every 10 minutes throughout the day and may consume 2/3 of their body weight in a single day. They need this body fat to help them make their way to Mexico and Central America.

For now I sit here thinking about next spring. I am preparing to welcome the hummingbirds back home in May. Scientists have tracked the hummingbird migration routes and have found that they return to the same garden area each year. I have already built a pergola, which is ready to have a trumpet vine or cardinal flowers planted at its edge, and I have bought another hummingbird feeder to attract them. Maybe this coming year I will be able to catch one of those elusive hummingbirds in my camera's lens.

You can find more information at
www.birdwatchersdigest.com
www.hummingbirds.net
www.hummingbirdworld.com
www.lihummer.org

LEARNING THE WORTH OF DAHLIAS

- cont,d from p.1

guidance and physical help of LIDS and MIDS club member Steve Nowotarski, along with fellow dahlia enthusiast, Barbara Schmidt. Together, the two experienced dahlia gardeners led Virag through the various steps of cutting down, cleaning, and curing her tubers. She also learned how to pack them for winter storage, which she planned to do a week later, when they cured .

It sounds like Mrs. Virag has found the same attraction to growing dahlias as we all have. I say, "Welcome to the club, Irene!" And to Steve and Barbara, "Great outreach!"

THE PERFECT FALL DAY...



...FOR DIGGING AND CLEANING THE DAHLIA TUBERS



AND THEN THERE WERE NONE!



All photos on this page and page 6 were contributed by Joe Lysik. Thanks, Joe!

LABELING, TRIMMING, DIVIDING, & CURING TUBERS ...



**... THEN PACKING THEM FOR THEIR LONG WINTER'S NAP!
SLEEP WELL, SWEET DAHLIAS, SEE YOU AGAIN IN THE SPRING!**

