



Long Island Dahlia Society

WWW.LONGISLANDDAHLIA.COM LIDSNEWS@HOTMAIL.COM

12 PERCY WMS. DR., E. ISLIP, NY 11730 **MARCH 20, 2008**

MEETING

MARCH 20, 2008

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 Arboretum's
2nd entrance.

MAIN TOPIC

"Propagating By Cuttings"

DAHLIA 101 TOPIC

"Planning Your Dahlia Gar-
den"

REMINDER:

Meetings are held on the
**3rd Thurs. of every
month.**

& begin at 7:45, with coffee
at 7:30. * "Dahlia 101" at
7:00 for newer members.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

3/20- LIDS General Meeting
7:30 p.m., BCA-CH

APRIL

13- Spring Luncheon &
Country Auction, Irish Coffee
Pub, East Islip, 12:00 noon

17- Dahlia Tuber Sale &
Gen'l Membership Mtg. BCA-
CH, 7:30 p.m.

MARCH STIRRINGS

Although the month of May is considered by most in the northeast to be the start of the new growing season, many enthusiastic dahlia growers have already begun benching up their last year's tubers to get a head start on the season. Growing plants under lights in cool basements in March and then transferring to cold frames outdoors in April is one solution for eking out a longer blooming season for some eager gardeners. Greenhouses are also an option, but only for a very few. In any case, by this time of the year, most dahlia lovers are chomping at the bit to get the process started. If you haven't the resources or the space to get started earlier than May, however, there is still one other way of ensuring earlier blooms than usual- that is to plant some border dahlias.

Although short in stature, these miniature plants lack nothing in beauty. They come in a variety of color choices and forms, and they reach the blooming stage much more quickly than their taller counterparts. They also make colorful displays in containers on patios and decks if garden space is at a premium. Border dahlias produce abundant blooms, and will continue blooming until frost- and they require no staking!! They pack quite a lot of punch for a minimum amount of care. How cool is that?

In the meantime, you might want to check out the HGTV suggestions for winter and early spring plants and trees you can grow for early color next year (see below and page 5).

LATE WINTER BLOOMS

Tired of looking out at the barren winter landscape? The HGTV website offers the following suggestions for winter-blooming plants that you could incorporate into your own landscape, to brighten your outdoor view next winter. (Cont'd. on page 5)



"Snowdrop" - a tiny white beauty, has to be planted in the fall. at the same time you would normally plant other spring-flowering bulbs. It is blooming right now in my daughter's garden in Islip- March 8th!



"Japanese pieris" blooms in white, pink, reddish-pink fountains of flowers in later winter to early spring. During winter, the reddish buds of this broadleaf evergreen are also ornamental.



Depending on the variety, "Hellebores" bloom anywhere from December to mid March, when nearly nothing else is in bloom. Most hellebores have nodding flowers. 'HGC Josef Lemper' holds its blooms upright (white and green).

LIDS 2008 CALENDAR

MARCH

20- General Membership Meeting, BCA-CH

APRIL

13- Spring Luncheon and Country Auction,
Irish Coffee Pub- 131 Carleton Ave., East Islip
17- Dahlia Tuber Sale and General Membership
Meeting, BCA-CH

MAY

10- Dahlia Tuber Sale and Horticultural Society
Plant Sale, BCA-CH- **lower level**
15- Dahlia Tuber Sale and LIDS General Membership
Meeting, BCA-CH **lower level**
31- Farmingdale Garden Fair (Farmingdale College)

JUNE

1- Farmingdale Garden Fair (Farmingdale College)
19- General Membership Meeting, BCA-CH

JULY

17- General Membership Meeting, BCA-CH

AUGUST

17- Annual Garden Party and Picnic, BCA Wolkoff
Dahlia Display Garden
21- General Membership Meeting,
30, 31- LIDS 1st Dahlia Show, BCA-CH- **lower level**

SEPTEMBER

18- General Membership Meeting, BCA-CH

OCTOBER

11,12- LIDS 2nd Dahlia Show and Photo Exhibition,
BCA-CH-**lower level** and Manor House Annex
16- General Membership Meeting, BCA-CH **lower level**

NOVEMBER

20- General Membership Meeting, BCA-CH

DECEMBER

18- Annual Holiday Party w/ optional gift exchange
and General Membership Meeting, BCA-CH

***** **PLEASE NOTE:** *****

As reported in last month's newsletter, our Hospitality Chair, Pam Dovak, needs an electric teakettle for use at meetings and Saturday sessions at the Arboretum garden. If any member has one to donate, please bring it to the March meeting or to the barn at the dahlia garden on Saturday. Thank you on behalf of all tea (or hot chocolate) drinkers!

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

EXPANDING OUR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Our Education Chairman, Joe Lysik, reports an informative agenda for the March meeting. The main topic up for discussion will be the techniques recommended for "Propagating from Cuttings."

The topic for the **Dahlias 101** class will be a very appropriate one for "newbies" at this time of year. It is entitled "Planning Your Garden."

Remember, 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!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !!

Our membership roster continues to swell! We are pleased to announce that we have added the following names to our membership roster this month:

Jane and Dennis Thorn of West Babylon
Louis Necroto of West Islip
Emily Chappell of Ronkonkoma

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

EMAIL ADDYS A NO-BRAINER!

Club members receiving this newsletter by snail mail should be aware that they would benefit from switching to email if at all possible. Not only will their newsletter look much better (emailed version is in live, technicolor splendor), but any extra notices from the board or myself can be sent at a moment's notice by email, but may not be sent at all by snail mail due to time constraints and printing/ mailing costs. If you have an email address to share with us, please call (631-523-4532) or email me at Loriglutzer@aol.com .

ABSOLUTE FINAL CALL!

The LIDS annual dues of \$15.00 per family were due in January. If you have not already done so, please be sure to update your membership by paying at the next meeting or by sending your check to:

Maureen Burford
24 Washington Ave.
West Sayville, NY 11796

Timely payment of dues saves LIDS considerable labor and mailing costs. It also guarantees that you will remain a member in good standing, entitled to all club privileges, including the timely receipt of this monthly newsletter. The names of any members who have not paid their annual dues by April 1st will be deleted from the mailing list.

REMINDER

**** REMEMBER TO START SEARCHING YOUR CLOSETS, SHELVES, GARAGES AND BASEMENTS, FOR ANY USEFUL, LIKE-NEW DONATIONS FOR THE CHINESE AUCTION. BRING THEM WITH YOU TO THE LIDS LUNCHEON ON APRIL 13th. DENNIS KIRCHNER ALSO SEEKS BOTTLES OF LIQUOR FOR THE BASKET OF CHEER. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO DONATE, PLEASE BRING BOTTLES TO THE MARCH MEETING.**

TUBER CLUMPS NEEDED

Serving as instructors for educational outreach programs in the community, LIDS members Mark Glatzer, John Canzoneri, and Vince D'Emilia have expressed a pressing need for donated dahlia clumps. The men need the clumps to teach students of both the Cornell Cooperative Extension's **Spring Garden** and **Master Gardener** classes the art of dividing clumps, benching up tubers, and taking cuttings. These classes are scheduled for several weekends in March and April, so the clumps are needed immediately. In addition, Mark will be teaching dahlia propagation to at least 2 garden clubs; including Sayville on March 17th, and Smithtown in April. All tolled, there will be between 250-300 students participating in all of these classes. Any LIDS members who have "no-name" or extra clumps (even discards left after the member has taken his own tubers from them), who would be willing to donate them for this worthy cause, please call Mark at 631-523-4532, or bring the clumps to the March meeting. Your help is greatly appreciated.

***** Please note— only dahlia clumps, not individual tubers, are needed. Thanks.**

FROM THE HOSPITALITY CORNER

By Pamela Dovak

ALERT! ALERT!

The LIDS Spring Luncheon (April 13th) is just around the corner. If you haven't committed to attend yet, there is still time! Send your checks (\$28.00) to me, Pamela Dovak, to guarantee your spot. I will be needing a head count so I can finalize our plans. What a great way to begin Springtime! A great time to be had by all. Great food at the Irish Coffee Pub! Great people! Great prizes!

Please make out checks to the Long Island Dahlia Society
Send your checks a.s.a.p. to :

Pamela Dovak
P.O. Box 664
Islip Terrace, New York 11752

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at Look2child@AOL.com, or come down to the Bayard Cutting Arboretum dahlia display garden on Saturday morning and ask me in person. You are also welcome to pay in cash then. Looking forward to seeing EVERYONE at the Irish Coffee Pub.!



John Canzoneri demonstrates tuber division for his niece and her friend. Both girls attended the LIDS Saturday volunteer session at Bayard as part of an environmental project they were doing for their High School science class. "Uncle John" was more than happy to pass on his love of dahlias to the younger generation.

Photo by Pam Dovak

HICKS SPRING GARDEN EVENT

Just as wintertime is nearing its gray end each year, there is a place you can go to awaken your senses and give you a taste of the colorful spring and summer seasons ahead. That place is Hicks Nursery Center on Jericho Tpke. in Westbury. This year, their "Spring Flower and Garden Event" took place on February 29th – March 9th. In addition to a beautiful display of large indoor gardens in full bloom, the center offered several fun and interesting seminars to choose from, for both adults and children. There was also a Horticultural Fair on the last weekend, where people could go to learn about any aspect of gardening from local experts. This exciting annual event attracts large crowds and parking and admission are free. The LIDS once again manned an educational outreach booth at the fair, and many club members visited the event throughout the week. LIDS volunteers included Sandy and Ed Budzick; Bill, Kathy, and Jeanette Bushman; Pam Dovak; Joe Lysik; Pat Murphy and Patrick Schildt. Below are some photos from the event. (photos by Pam Dovak and Pat Murphy)



Joe Lysik discusses dahlias with a "Lady in Red."

LIDS members participate in the Hicks Nursery Spring Event. The Audubon Society and a rescue organization for the birds were also represented. Below, a Great Horned Owl and a Harris Hawk. Down and to the right, a Screech



Judging from all the pamphlets she's collecting, it looks like Bill Bushman and Patrick Schildt were sparking this woman's interest in dahlias.



Beautiful statuary and specimen evergreens can be seen in the background as Joe Lysik talks to a visitor at the Horticultural Fair.



So many striking flowers and interesting birds were on display at the Fair, along with garden supplies, decorative items, and pond equipment.



Ed Budzick joins Joe and Patrick at the LIDS table.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THINGS TO COME...

The Arboretum garden— looking so bare, but not for long! Note how bright the birdhouses appear when there are no beautiful dahlias to compete with them for attention.



Photo by Pam Dovak

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OPEN

Need some reliable gardening advice? The Cornell Cooperative Extension headquarters in Riverhead are now open for the new season, and they offer several very important services to gardeners on Long Island.

Bring a sample of your soil down to them, and they will analyze it's makeup and make suggestions for improvement, if necessary. You can also give them a call for advice on proper growing conditions for specific plant varieties. Do they need full sun or partial shade? Do they prefer lots of water or like to be on the dry side? What diseases or insect damage are they prone to and what precautions or treatments should you use to keep them healthy? Does an acid environment or a basic environment promote the best growth or blooms, and which formula of fertilizer would be best? How should you prune your plant/tree, or when? What companion plants, if any, might you plant to benefit your specific variety?

The answers to all of these questions and many more are readily available with just a phone call or visit to the extensions headquarters. For info, call 631-727-7850. The address is 423 Griffing Ave., suite 100, Riverhead, NY 11901.

LATE WINTER BLOOMS- cont'd. from pg.1



"Witchhazel"- bright yellow (or orange or white) spidery flowers cover bare branches anytime from November until late winter, depending on the species.



"Buttercup Winterhazel" produces hanging tassels of yellow flowers on a wide, 4-6' tall shrub in late winter. (Image by Monrovia)



"Okame" - is one of the earliest flowering cherries to bloom, in late winter.



The giant-leaf paper plant, a cousin to daphne, bears very fragrant white and yellow flowers on bare stems in winter. Also called the paperbush plant.

If you'd like to see further early-blooming choices, (or any other plant topics), go to www.hgtv.com and click on "gardening" at the top of the page. You're on your own from there. There are hundreds of articles to choose from. :))