

The Rhode Island Dahlia Society y

The website www.rhodeislanddahliasociety.org is up and running.

Take a look. Help fill out the site.

Be proud. Show your dahlias.

Fill in the survey (on the back of the renewal form) and send photos or digital images.



Pay your dues before December 31, 2008. Do not miss notification of RIDS events or ADS Bulletins or Classification books.

Holiday party

The more the merrier, December 7th in Arturo Joes in Narragansett the Society will meet for Food and Fun. For reservations and menu choices call Joyce MacInness 401-364-6646 today. Although the venue has changed the \$5 gift swap has not. Who will end up with Santa's hat? This year you can shop for holiday gifts and support the Society. Participate in a raffle/silent auction. Or support the society by donating an item to the raffle. The Ways and Means Committee has received gift certificates or discounted tickets from Edaville Railroad, The JFK Library, and Trinity Repertory Theatre. If you are unable to attend but would like to take a chance on the raffle items please call Abbie 401-932-6973.

Monthly Meetings

New ideas

The membership voted for several new prizes to be given at the 2008 shows. Plans were made to buy new vases for the 2009 shows. A Ways and Means Committee was formed. The Nomination Committee drew up a new slate of officers to serve until 2010. Walter Gross will pass the president's gavel to Donna Lane next February. Bill Dykstra will serve as Vice-president, Nancy Alley as Treasurer and Nicholas Sterling will continue as recording Secretary. Beth Additon will take on the job of membership.

Programs

Demonstrations on cutting tubers and locating eyes were given, Bill Matteson held a program on propagation, Abbie Barber gave a Powerpoint slide presentation on tuber storage, Dan Dougherty gave a program on saving tubers by waxing them. Donna Lane gave a slide show.

Judges Class

Joyce Sterling held judges' classes after each 2008 meeting. These classes contained information both from the ADS booklet "Guide to Judging Dahlias" and Joyce's years of judging experience. An average of 8 student judges attended the sessions. RIDS student judges helped judge in the RI shows, the CT Show, the Mid-West Regional Show, and the ADS National Show this year.

Tuber Auction

The Society held two tuber auctions in 2008. The auctioneer, Nicholas Sterling reviewed the ADS Dahlia Forms and Sizes for new attendees with a lollipop stand visual aid. While the two auctions were financially successful, the membership decided the Society will hold one public auction on May 17, 2009.

Green Animals Topiary Gardens

In 2006, the Preservation Society of Newport County invited the Rhode Island Dahlia Society to lend its expertise in reinstating what had previously been a dahlia garden at the Green Animals Topiary Garden in Portsmouth, RI. RIDS and Green Animals continue to work collaboratively on the dahlia garden. In 2008 Jim Donahue, chief horticulturist for Green Animals and a RIDS liaison, decided on a theme of "hot" and "cool" colors for two dahlia display gardens. The gardens were planted with the help of Rhode Island Dahlia Society volunteers. Green Animal gardeners maintained a dahlia cutting garden as well. Members were able to enjoy the gardens in August, as Jim invited the Society to have its summer party on the grounds.

Dahlia Shows

The Washington County Fair Dahlia Show had running water this year. Rain came down so fast and so hard that there was a river that ran through the building. The flowers were not harmed by the water, but the high temperatures wilted blooms. The 43rd Annual Rhode Island Dahlia Show was held in spite of the hurricane and had over a thousand blooms. Several new prizes were given this year including Prince of the Show and many Tricolors for the lacinated group of blooms. Dahlia bouquets were sold again this year. Much thanks to Joan and Beth Additon, Carlyn Jehle, Donna Lane, Deb Puerini, Gail Wentworth and a number of exhibitors who donated flowers and their time to make the bouquet sale so successful.

Summer Picnic

The first Sunday in August the Additon's brought the big white tent that belongs to the Society, everybody brought food, and the Society provided plates and utensils. The members enjoyed a perfectly lovely picnic day on the grounds of Green

Animals Topiary Gardens in Portsmouth. At the November meeting Water Gross passed out the recipe for the pineapple coleslaw that was so well enjoyed at the picnic.

Volunteers

This, my third year of compiling the unofficial newsletter, I want to do something for all the people who make this organization run. So imagine all you loyal volunteers, hear the applause, and receive your unofficial virtual certificates of appreciation & admiration. To the RIDS team: the Society Officers, the Executive Committee, the Show Chairmen for both the Washington County Fair show & our Annual show, the representative from RIDS to the American Dahlia Society & to the North Atlantic Dahlia Conference, the Judges, senior & junior, our class room teacher of the new judges, and the on the job teachers who shared their experience at the shows, the individuals who clerk the shows, the people who open up the community center, set up & breakdown the tables & chairs for our meetings, the people who set up & breakdown either show, the people who bring refreshments, those who buy the coffee, tea & supplies & lug them to the meetings & those who prepare & serve luncheon on the day of the show judging, the organizer of the holiday party, the individuals that keep the records of members, the bloom count, the prize winners & the prize blooms, the people who give their time & tubers to make the auction successful, our auctioneer, the people who keep track of what sold, for how much & to whom, the editor of the show program, the people keeping track of the Societies finances & to those who give donations, the website team, Green Animals Topiary Garden & Jim Donahue for the picnic site, our corresponding & sunshine secretaries, those members who shared their expertise giving programs, our advertising & media crew, the crew that carries & stores the various show supplies, the individuals who made the show supplies, those individuals whose creativity keep the society vital and moving forward; to you, who gave time, labor, money or material to support the Society, thank you, thank you, thank you.

Sincerely yours, Abbie Barber

P.S. I forgot the most important thing of all, thank you for growing dahlias and sharing your affection and appreciation for the bloom. And thanks for those people developing new varieties of dahlias.

Help Wanted

The Society is looking for volunteers to come in early (1:30 PM) and set up chairs and tables in 2009. The following meetings need volunteers February 1, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, October 4, November 1. Call Joan Additon 401-294-4734. Many hands make light work. Grab a friend and volunteer as a team.

E-mail

Marty Metzger, corresponding secretary, requests that all members make a choice of either email or post card notification. If you have not been receiving e-mail notification about the meetings and you want to receive electronic notification, then please email Marty at metz10@cox.net. He must receive notice directly from you. This currently is the only way that you can get on the email listing.

IN MEMORIAM JOHN M. "SKIP" JONES

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of one the members of the Rhode Island Dahlia Society and extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife and family.

Retired Navy Lt. Commander "Skip" Jones passed away at home in Portsmouth on February 29, 2008. He was the husband of Helen Nelson Jones, to whom he was married for 47 years. Skip was a leader in land preservation efforts in Portsmouth, and also worked to save and restore the Glen Manor House, later serving as president. He was a past member of the vestry at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Portsmouth. Skip and his wife, Helen, were tireless volunteers and together donated countless hours to community service, including preparing meals for the hungry at the St. Mary's soup kitchen.

Skip loved music and the arts. He enjoyed everything from jazz to opera and was especially devoted to the big band sound and ballroom dancing. Skip founded Friends of Ballroom Dancing with several others in 1987, and for 21 years hosted big band dinner dances approximately 10 times per year, featuring the larger orchestras like Glen Miller, Harry James, Sammy Kaye, as well as smaller local ensembles like Duke Belaire. Skip also introduced ballroom dancing to Brown University students, and helped sponsor the first collegiate ballroom dance competition in the Northeast.

He was a Master Gardener and maintained a large vegetable and flower garden, which always included dahlias. He always grew more than enough for his own needs and regularly shared his harvests with family, church members, and the needy.