

50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary!  
one heart



## *Hamilton and District Chrysanthemum & Dahlia Society*

[www.hamilton-mum-dahlia.com](http://www.hamilton-mum-dahlia.com)

---

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

There will be no big parade, no 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake (that I know of), and no over the top celebration. It will be just our usual general membership meetings and a get together during August with dahlia growers. Of course, our show will have the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary theme well covered. Special Classes have been added to the schedule. You will find more info about those classes deeper in the newsletter. In this issue, I have also included an article that deals with the early sixties.

It's been a few years since we've had such a prolonged cold winter. Perhaps that's a good thing when you consider it helps to keep a consistent cool temperature for storage. Be sure to check those tubers. The club will need your extra stock for the tuber sale.

Dahlias of Today (2014 issue) has been ordered and should be delivered to my door sometime in April. New password for the ADS web site, Mid-West Conference show has some outrageous prize money!!!!!! And old dahlias can still look good in any garden.

Jim Hall

# President's Report

Hello to all of the members of our Dahlia Club and welcome to a frigid 2014. Hope all is well with everyone. Now is a great time to check over your tubers and discard any that are in poor shape.

Your Board of Directors met at our house on Jan 13 to review plans for the coming Dahlia Season and here is some news - Sandra Hudson has agreed to take on the Hospitality role and will be looking after the coffee and treats as Kathie Clark wanted a break after two years of doing a terrific job for us.

As you know 2014 is our Club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we have decided to celebrate with a competition for the Best Yellow Dahlia in the entire Show and Ralph and Elizabeth Suttell have agreed to sponsor the prize for this award.

The Dahlia of the Year will be any Single Bloom of a dahlia originally introduced (past or present) by a member of our Club. Tanis and I will sponsor an award for this competition.

Maybe other members might be interested in sponsoring some of the other major awards too.

Our Anniversary Show this year is Sept 19-21 and we will be in the main auditorium and the RBG this year so we will need lots of blooms for the tables.

I look forward to seeing you all on March 10/14 for our first meeting and would remind you that Ralph is always looking for donations for the Ways and Means draw. All the best for 2014

Larry Hall - President

Be sure to read the follow-up articles regarding the Special Classes and Dahlia of the Year. Since our Executive meeting, three more special awards for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show have been added. (It's going to be a GREAT SHOW – Jim Hall)

## Dates

Record these on your calendars please.

**March 10<sup>th</sup>** – first general meeting of 2014 – invite a friend to start the gardening season with us and partake in our 50<sup>th</sup> year!!

**April 14<sup>th</sup>** – the tuber auction - again, invite a friend. Better yet, invite several. There will be a good selection of tubers for the ‘Special Classes’ section.

**May 12<sup>th</sup>** – Just before the May 24<sup>th</sup> week-end - getting the garden and you ready for planting. Along with perhaps a general discussion about timing, preparation and other general dahlia practices during the summer months.

**September 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>** 50th Anniversary Show

**October 6<sup>th</sup>** – the last general meeting at the RBG in rooms 1 and 2 (up-stairs) with the main topic of digging and storage methods. Let’s hope frost doesn’t arrive until the end of the month so we can enjoy those blooms a couple of more weeks.

PLEASE NOTE: the above section (October 6<sup>th</sup>) is a straight cut and paste from the last newsletter of 2013. Perhaps this year I will be adding some pictures of the 50<sup>th</sup> show.

AGAIN: “I just love cut and paste in a word processor!”

**Articles are always needed** – along with new ideas.

Submit by e-mail [jhall31@cogoec.ca](mailto:jhall31@cogoec.ca) or I will do the typing if you send written copies to:

Jim Hall  
53 Ann St. Dundas, ON L9H 2N4.

Received the following information about the Midwest Dahlia Conference:

Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, they will hold a Judging Seminar at the ADS Trial Garden at Bonneville Mill located in Bristol, Indiana.

The Midwest Dahlia Society Show will be sponsored by the Mahoning Valley Dahlia Society on 12–14 September 2014 in Youngstown, Ohio. This conference show has seven sponsored classes and they are listed below:

Category		Sponsor	Amount
Best Zorro	Lily	Ann Seipel	\$125.00
Best Baron Entry		Ron Miner	\$100.00
Best Jackie Evangelista	Tony	Evangelista	\$100.00
Best Nellies'Rose		Bud Ervin	\$50.00
Best Marcella Louise	Jim &	Carl Chuey	<b>\$500.00</b>
Best Badger Twinkle	John & Barbara	Thierman	goblet
Best "Country" Introduction		Don Warden	\$50.00

Three additional items pertaining to the above:

Best Baron Entry will be from the following dahlias – Baron Kathy, Baron Sylvia and Baron Larry.

The goblet is from Black Hills Glass Blowers, Keystone, S. D.

And finally **the \$500.00 in bold is no typo.**

Current up to date and future news about the Midwest Conference can be gleaned from their WebPage: [www.midwestdahliaconference.org](http://www.midwestdahliaconference.org)

**Be sure to read the up-date on the ADS web site.**

**(new password and all that need info)**

I'm sending several attachments separate from the newsletter. One is an old article called Canadian Dahlias 1958.

It was written by Jack Newstead who lived in Brantford, ON and from what I have been told and researched; he was quite a dahlia grower in the '50's. I have some other older material written by Mr. Newstead that may be of interest to some of our members which I will use in another newsletter.

The other article is by our Honorary Member, John Dickson. It was written in 1996 and although it mainly deals with the formation of our neighbors, Canadian Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society, it does mention some of the founding members of the Hamilton Society and their first show. In the early days of the society, chrysanthemums were the main flower being grown. Did you know that the chrysanthemum is the official flower of Hamilton and that the chrysanthemum called 'Garden State' (a yellow of course) is the official chrysanthemum! At one time you would have been able to get this chrysanthemum from the Gage Park greenhouse right after their mum show in late October. I believe it is no longer grown.

## A New Dahlia

I wrote an article about some new dahlias that were purchased last year. The two main dahlias in the article were Clearview Daniel and Skipley Lois Jean. This is a small follow-up:

Using the 2014 Classification book, Clearview Daniel received a combined total awards (first place and higher) of 100. Nine of the top awards were for the Best Single Ball Dahlia and seven top awards for the Best Triple Ball Dahlia. That's quite an achievement for a first year introduction.

The second dahlia, Skipley Lois Jean, received a total of 45 combined awards. I did not do a break down on this dahlia for awards. Again, with the main competition being Mary's Jomanda, this new dahlia did quite well. The other dahlia with the good lookin' picture, Clearview Avia, received 36 awards. Rather small compared to the 344 awards that Lakeview Glow received!!!

## Dahlia of the Year 2014

As mentioned in Larry's President's remarks, this being our 50<sup>th</sup> year, your executive decided that this year's dahlia would be one created

from seed by a Hamilton member (past and present). Consider this a small honor to all our hybridizing members. You have quite a list to choose from. Dahlias created from the following members should be available at the April auction.

Suttell, Duxbury, Mooney, Hamilton, Byrne, Larmour, Warden. [have I miss anyone?] The above members have all produced excellent dahlias from their gardens with seed. Don't grow just one variety – grow several to honor our hybridizer's.

## A Special Class and Special Awards

A special award has been put forward for the Best Miniature Dahlia Entry. This could be a single, triple or five bloom entry.

NOTE: Miniature Ball Dahlias Excluded. I like this special as it will include the small growers. The award (\$50.00) will be on top of the regular prize of the winning entry.

Also in the special section, a class for a single bloom of a dahlia that is 50 years old (or more). Again, \$50.00 is being put forward for prize money which will be split \$25, \$15, and \$10. Did you notice while you were reading the supplement to the December 2013 bulletin that Kelvin Floodlight AA FD Y (released in 1959) actually won King of the Show. The results are on pg 12. See my article regarding old dahlias.

A special award (\$50.00) will be given to the Best Triple Entry of a yellow dahlia. The stipulation here is that AA, A, and B size dahlias are not eligible. All other sizes and forms are. Another +plus+ for small growers.

## A New Classification Form

For several years, some new Novelty Dahlias have displayed characteristics of both Orchid and Collarette dahlias. They were given the name "ORCHETTES" - sort of a hybrid name of Orchid and Collarette. Starting this year, 2014, ORCHETTES will be recognized as their own form. The 2014 Classification and Handbook of Dahlias will reflect the addition. The abbreviation for ORCHETTES will be OT.

Here's the new description and definition from the Classification and Handbook of Dahlias of Dahlias:

9401 – 9415 ORCHETTE Dahlias: A bloom combines the involute characteristics of the orchid dahlia form and the petaloid characteristics of the collarette form. Ideally, eight ray florets uniformly surround the disc flowers in a flat, even plane. Ray florets should be straight and involute for at least half their length and fully involute for at least one-fourth of their length. Ray florets should possess a corresponding petaloid at their base. Petaloids should be of a length which gives visual impact and not so small that they are not easily discernible at arm's length. Petaloids may lie flat within the base of the ray floret or slightly rise and/or cup upward toward the center of the bloom. Disc flowers with 0 to 3 rows of pollen are desirable.

Classification of colour on ORCHETTES will be designated by the colour on the reverse of the ray floret, the same as Orchids. Since the ORCHETTE has characteristics of both the Orchid and Collarette, we will need to have a system to distinguish between the colour on the face of the ray floret and the petaloids.

A hyphen (-) will separate the colour between the face of the ray floret and the petaloids. The petaloid colour(s) will be reported last. That is, an ORCHETTE with Dark Red reverse florets, yellow and pink face floret and petaloids that are flame would be reported like this: OT, DR/lb/y/pk-fl/y/or. [[95% of above can be found on pg 39 of the June 2013 ADS Bulletin.]] Judges – read carefully!!!

### **THIS SUMMER – VISIT DUNDAS**

The Dundas Historical Society  
139 Park St. West  
Dundas, ON, L9H 1X8  
Email: mail@dundasmuseum.ca

This past year, our society was approached by this group, represented by Mr. Larry Sagar, about helping them establish a dahlia garden at the museum. Now that sounds simple enough but there was a catch – they preferred older varieties (if possible) - as in thirties and forties - or even earlier to be planted.

The society has agreed to help guide Mr. Sagar and his volunteers with this adventure into past dahlias.

Some older varieties have already been purchased for the museum to plant. Just so you know –they will not be used in to special 50 year old dahlia class.

If you have some older varieties, please consider donating a tuber or two for this cause. Kidd's Climax, Nita and Kelvin Floodlight would be a great start to the collection the museum wishes to start.

A big PLUS for the society: a sign about the club and advertising our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show will be a t the display for all to see.

The dahlias should start to bloom in early August, so mark your calendars and spend an afternoon in Dundas – the museum is nice to look at also !!!!

### **2014 Membership List**

This list will be a part of the next newsletter. I usually don't ask this, but if for some reason you do not want your phone number or e-mail address published in this list, please call 905-627-9634 or e-mail me [jhall31@cogeco.ca](mailto:jhall31@cogeco.ca) before the end of April. April issue will have several articles about Timing. The Show Schedule will be available also.

Tuber Sale – April 14 – remember - invite a friend, neighbor or fellow gardener.

### **American Dahlia Society**

If you are not already a member of the ADS, here are a couple of things you missed in the December 2013 Bulletin.

2013 Seedling Bench Evaluation

2013 ADS Trial Garden Results - if you are a member, you can see pictures of the flowers in the trial gardens on the web site.

Great pictures on all the new 2014 Introductions

Larry Hall's pictures and article about the dahlia floats and parade in Holland.

Several interesting articles – about dahlias of course!!!

A.D.S. Photo Contest Winners.

If you're not a member, in the next March Bulletin you'll miss the Fabulous 50 List along with the 'Cream of the Crop' list.

Ask some fellow members about the ADS and you will hear only positive reviews.

For those of you who are members of the ADS, please remember that a new password for access to the **American Dahlia Society** web page is needed. This change took effect January 15, 2014.

The new password can be found on pg 67 of the December 2013 ADS Bulletin. Pg 67 also has the password to the ADS Bulletin archives – a good source of dahlia information in past articles.

While visiting the ADS web site – sign up for the free e-Newsletter from the ADS (mentioned in a prior e-mail)

Hope to see you March 10,  
meeting rooms 1 and 2 (upstairs)  
7 pm SHARP

Jim Hall

P.S. – there's only one more article to read about 50 year old dahlias.

*Note: pg. 9 was the end of the newsletter. Something happened after a download (it was a virus) that caused me to be unable open ANY WINDOWS PROGRAM. I was able to open the e-mail program, so I immediately sent out the newsletter and got the computer fixed.*