



Michigan Dahlia Association

Affiliated with

AMERICAN DAHLIA ASSOCIATION and MID-WEST DAHLIA CONFERENCE

<http://www.midwestdahliaconference.org/MDA/index.htm>

July 2019 Newsletter

I hope by now your dahlias are established and growing well. What a challenging spring with all the rain and then instant summer with 90 degree temperatures. Every year is different and has its own challenges. Remember to water, fertilize, disbranch, disbud and water your dahlias. On these very hot days, even if you watered the day before, turn the water on for 15-30 minutes just to cool off your Dahlias. They will thank you for it.

August is a busy month:

August 17, 2019 – Saturday

Midwest Dahlia Conference Judging Seminar

Bonneville Trial Gardens at Bonneville Mill County Park, 53373 County Rd., Elkhart, IN

Midwest Dahlia Conference Web Page: www.midwestdahliaconference.org.

This is a great opportunity for judges and anyone contemplating becoming a judge, to become familiar with the procedure.

August 18, 2019 – Sunday

Whine & Wine Garden Tour & Dahlia Staging Demonstration and Timing & Grooming Dahlias for Show

1:30 – 3:30 pm Darin Robert (734-660-9990)
1020 Wing Drive

Ann Arbor, MI 48103

4:00 – 6:30 pm Tom & Lil Rumble (734-550-9395)
7765 Jennings Road

Whitmore Lake, MI 48189-9038

Please RSVP to both Darin Robert and Tom & Lil Rumble if you plan to attend. For Tom & Lil Rumble, bring a dish to pass and a beverage of choice to drink and also bring your favorite lawn chair, if you have one. This will also be a great time to try to have any unidentified dahlias in your garden identified. It is also a great opportunity to see other member's gardens, to ask questions and discuss growing practices and pest control. We encourage new members to consider coming to this event. New information, new friends and new dahlia gardens.

August 23 – 25, 2019, Friday – Sunday

71st Annual Michigan Dahlia Association Show

Washtenaw Community College,
Morris Lawrence Building,
4800 E. Huron River Drive,
Ann Arbor, Michigan

The 2019 Flower of the Year will be any Laciniated Dahlia.

This year the MDA Show is one week early, so as not to interfere with the ADS National Show in Grand Rapids, MI, Aug 30 – Sep 1.

Friday, August 23, 1-11 pm, set up for the event starts at 1:00 pm, stay for staging from 3:00 pm till 11:00 pm.

Saturday, August 24, staging will start at 6:00 am and conclude at 9:30 am when judging starts.

Sunday, August 25, 9 am to 2 pm Morris Lawrence Building will be opened to the public. At 2:00 pm we will sell off Dahlias and start clean up.

Many hands make less work, come out on Friday and Sunday to help set up and clean up. Saturday we always need help judging and clerking.

August 30 – September 1, 2019, Friday -Sunday

ADS National and Midwest Dahlia Conference Show

Hosted by West Michigan Dahlia Society
Meijer Botanical Gardens, Grand Rapids MI

Registration and Details are in the June 2019 ADS Bulletin or at West Michigan Dahlia Society website: www.westmidahlia.com

Please consider competing or at least attending the ADS National Dahlia Show. This is a great opportunity to participate in or view an ADS National Show in your “back yard”.

2019 – Michigan Dahlia Association Calendar of Events

September 22, 2019 – Sunday

After Show Picnic and Dahlia Seedling Judging

2:00 pm Fred & Annise Nicholas (734-429-5796)
5780 Saline Waterworks Rd.
Saline, MI 48176-8831

Please RSVP to Fred & Annise Nicholas if you plan to attend and bring a dish to pass. We will also have our Seedling Judging so bring any of your seedlings that are blooming, containers will be available.

Here is another opportunity to view a member garden, to have questions answered and the have any unidentified Dahlias in your garden identified.

September 28, 2019 – Saturday, set up 11:00 am

Community Dahlia Competition and Fall Tuber Dividing and Storing Demonstration

1:00 – 4:00 pm Room 125
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
1800 Dixboro Road
Ann Arbor MI

This exhibition is open to all who will not be competing in an ADS sanctioned show. Entries will be judged purely for garden decoration and consist of a single Dahlia Flower in a vase, supplied by MDA for the exhibition. Entries may be made from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm with judging at 1:00 pm. The Exhibition is open to the public. There will also be a display of tuber dividing and storing the tubers for the fall. This is a great opportunity for new members and friends just starting to grow Dahlias to learn and ask questions about the Dahlia.

October 6, 2019 – Sunday

MDA Awards Banquet

5:00 pm Social Hour & 6:00 pm Dinner
Fillmore Bar & Grill 734-426-3727
7954 Ann Arbor Street
Dexter MI 48130

Other Events

September 14, 2019 – Saturday

SEMDS Show
Orchard Mall, 6337 Orchard Lake Rd., West Bloomfield MI 48322

If anyone has any input for our newsletter, please let me know, Fred Nicholas, (734-429-5796) or nicholas48176@frontier.com.

Books: We have 3 copies of the book, 2019 Dahlias of Today available the cost is \$13.00. Contact me 734-429-5796 first come basis.

A big thank you to all who helped with our Tuber and Plant Sales. These are our source of income for the Annual Show and yearly expenses. This year the MDA sales made: Tuber sale, \$1726 and Plant sale, \$1373. Thanks again for all who participated.

On June 8, David Knox and Don Warden represented MDA at the Pollinator Day at Hoods Hardware in Wyandotte. They provided information about the Dahlia and sold open center Dahlias. The exposure to MDA will hopefully bring some new members and they made \$140 in Dahlia sales. A Big Thank you to David and Don, and to any MDA members who supported the event.

Hope to see you August 18, at our Annual Whine and Wine Garden Tour.

Fred Nicholas
Corresponding Secretary

Cutting Dahlias for the Show and Bucket Care

The first thing to do is get your buckets out and clean them. Mix about three gallons of water, 3 Tbsp chlorine bleach and a little dish soap in a bucket. This mix gets used with a brush to scrub the insides of all the buckets, then rinse with clear water. Now you are ready to fill the buckets with water for your cut dahlias.

Cut your dahlias late in the evening or early in the morning with a sharp knife. Strip off excess leaves, you do not want any leaves under the water. Puncture the stem with your knife to let air out and water in, then place in your bucket as quickly as possible. Now secure the dahlia stem to a dowel or bamboo stick inserted alongside of the dahlia in the bucket. There are many methods used to secure the dahlia to the stake: surgical cloth tape, twist ties or twine with a piece of gauze or a cotton ball between the stem and stake. A very convenient method is to use a spring loaded hair clip or barrette (available at the Dollar store, in various sizes) around the stem and stake.

Now to the bucket. You can use 3-5 gallon buckets. The 3 gallon buckets work well for the smaller dahlias that won't have a long enough stem for a 5 gallon bucket. You can attach 1 ½ inch PVC pipe inside the buckets with bolts or screws. To make it simpler you can place a ring of PVC pipe inside the bucket and place a plastic pot inside, the ring, to keep the PVC in place. A big advantage to this, it is easy to take apart to clean your buckets and to stack your buckets for storage and put the PVC tubes in a box. FYI, if you can find thin walled PVC (like central vacuum PVC) it will make your bucket lighter.