

**TENNESSEE DAHLIA  
SOCIETY INFORMATION**

The society meets every **third Tuesday** of each month at Wally's Restaurant in East Ridge just off exit #1 of I-75 South. Meetings begin at 6:00 PM.

The meetings are designed to cover various aspects of dahlia culture as well as growing tips and other information related to the entire process of growing. The good food and fellowship is also a plus.

**BECOME A MEMBER**

TO BECOME MEMBER OF THE TENNESSEE DAHLIA SOCIETY PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING AND CONTACT ONE OF THE LISTED MEMBERS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL: \$28.00

FAMILY: \$31.00

**Member Benefits!**

*New Members will receive the following:*

**Membership in The American Dahlia Society**

*The Classification and Handbook of the American Dahlia Society.*

**Quarterly Publications of the *Bulletin of the American Dahlia Society.***

**New members who actively attend monthly meetings are provided a variety of free tubers in time for Spring planting.**

**MEMBER CONTACTS**

**Jeff Partin  
423-316-7308**

**Ray Phillips  
423-877-9300**

**Harold Stewart  
423-344-7675**

**Tennessee  
Dahlia  
Society**



**Information and Contacts  
2005**

## WHAT IS A DAHLIA?

Dahlias are rapidly growing flowering plants that produce some of the most stunning and varied blooms existing in nature. Dahlias are grown from seeds, cuttings, and root divisions. Dahlias are octoploids, which means they have eight sets of chromosomes. This makes the dahlia very unstable genetically, and results in many different forms and colors.

1. If grown from seeds, dahlias may take on any number of characteristics from either or both seed parents.
2. If grown from cuttings, the cutting taken will produce an identical genetic duplicate of the plant from which the cutting was taken.
3. The most common method of growing dahlias is from root divisions or "tubers". When a dahlia matures, roots become enlarged in order to store food for the next season. The plants can be dug up in late Fall and the swollen roots or tubers can be divided. Each tuber is divided, and if divided properly, will produce an exact genetic replica of the parent plant. By this method some varieties have stayed in circulation for decades.

## WHY GROW DAHLIAS?

To celebrate and enjoy a true gift from GOD.

To share with friends.

To become actively engaged in a society which promotes dahlia culture through show competition, public education, and good fellowship.

## DAHLIA CHARACTERISTICS

Dahlias come in many sizes and colors. Blooms can be as small as one inch to up to fifteen inches (or more with a lot of attention and skill).

Dahlia plants can be from around two feet tall to over eight feet tall. Some types of dahlias can be used for bedding purposes in landscaping, while others are typically suited for show competition.

***\*YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SHOW FLOWERS TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY, PARTICIPATION IN SHOWS IS STRICTLY YOUR CHOICE. BUT ONCE YOU SEE A SHOW, IT IS HARD TO RESIST***

## DAHLIA REQUIREMENTS

Dahlias require well-drained loamy soil with at least half a day of sun to be their best. Dahlias require considerable amounts of water when the weather is dry, and it is best to provide deep regular watering rather than light sprinkles.

Dahlias need specific amounts of fertilizers in order to produce the spectacular blooms they are known for. The timing, types, and amounts of fertilizers vary with weather, soil conditions, and your purpose in growing dahlias. Dahlias also need to be protected from various insects and diseases. These issues can be addressed with either chemical or organic means.

***All of the previous information can be further explained by contacting a local Dahlia Society member. Dahlia growers typically love to talk about their favorite flower so all you have to do is ask.***

**Growing Dahlias is a relaxing and rewarding undertaking and will reward you with the sheer beauty and satisfaction that only Mother Nature can provide.**

## Tennessee Dahlia Society

**President:** Jeff Partin  
**VP:** Gary Arnold  
**VP:** Ray Phillips  
**Treasurer:** Harold Stewart  
**Secretary:** Rose Newsom  
**Show Chairman:** Harold Stewart