



NEWSLETTER
Spring/Summer 2015

Long Island Dahlia Society



Editor's Note

This is a Spring/Summer issue, our very active calendar in August and September will require a separate publication, look for a "Dahlia Show Special" to be published in early August. This year the dahlia empire has expanded with new beds and is fully planted, if you have not been down for a visit lately, come and see all the work that has been done to make this year's garden one of our best ever. In this issue there is more information about the ADC Centennial show, a story about a marriage proposal in the garden, changes to our photo show, and the volunteer corner. Enjoy your garden!

- Carol Jansch, Editor

Dahlias from All Around

Martha Stewart has an interesting video on her website titled "Visiting a Dahlia Garden" you can find it at <http://www.marthastewart.com/916554/visiting-dahlia-garden#916554>

Interested in how to get your dahlias to bloom just right for a show? There is an article from the MN Dahlia Society titled "Timing Blooms for The Shows" by Randy Siem. While their climate is a bit different then ours, the article did a great job of explaining Randy's method of timing. You can find it at <http://www.minnesotadahliasociety.org/article02.html>

LIDS Upcoming Events

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, July 16 at 6:30 PM

East Islip Public Library - Please do not contact the library - Questions? Contact Millie Canzoneri at 631-581-2489, please leave a message

LIDS Members and Family Picnic

Held under the maple tree next to the Wolkoff Garden

Saturday, August 1 at 12 noon (rain date Sunday, August 2)

Bring a dish or desert to share and any "garden related" goodie you would like to contribute to the raffle table.

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, August 20 at 6:30 PM

East Islip Public Library - Please do not contact the library - Questions? Contact Millie Canzoneri at 631-581-2489, please leave a message

LIDS Spring Luncheon Photos

Thank you to Dee Cunningham for taking photos of our Spring Luncheon, you will soon find those pictures on our website, in the Photo Gallery section.

Tuber and Plant Sales – A Huge Selection!

This year our exceptional stock provided a large selection of tubers along with solid, quality dahlia plants.

Our Wolkoff Garden has been planted and the overflow provided LIDS members and the public the opportunity to find new dahlias to add to their own gardens.

The success of the sales and fundraising events were the results of the hard work of many volunteers. From the tuber division, to plant growing, to sign making, to setup, display, advertizing, sales expertise, and cleanup, the success was due to our members.



**Above: Lower Carriage House. Additional fundraising events will be held throughout the dahlia season, contact Kelly Abercrombie, Fundraising Chair and find out how you can help.
Photo by Jim Teeple**

If You Build It, They Will Come

by Joe Lysik & Joe Bonomo

This article is currently appearing in the ADS Bulletin.

About 15 years ago, the Long Island Dahlia Society was struggling to stay alive. Regular monthly meetings were held but they were attended by a handful of the usual stalwarts of the club. Meanwhile the Mid Island Dahlia Society was flourishing and getting ready to hold a their 1st National Show in 2001. These two clubs were no more than seven miles apart on Long Island, but that is a whole other story. Many dahlia fanatics were members of both clubs and Bill Wolkoff is one of them.

Bill Wolkoff worked with Steve Nowatarski to revitalize MIDS's Paul Callahan Dahlia Garden at Planting Fields and saw the importance of a dahlia garden to a dahlia society. It not only provides a hands-on environment for teaching various growing techniques, but it can supply the only thing that keeps clubs thriving... new members. Bill searched out other parks that could provide space for a garden for LIDS and found the Bayard Cutting Arboretum in Great River which is part of the New York State Park System.

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The 691 acre estate designed by Frederick Law Olmsted (who also designed Central Park in NYC) and Manor house was donated to New York State by Mrs. Bayard Cutting. Bill proposed a dahlia garden to the then director of the park, Brian Feil. Brian was quite hesitant at first, feeling that he might get stuck with more problems if the new garden was not properly maintained. So in the beginning Brian allowed only nine raised beds to be built. Over the first few seasons Brian saw that a dedicated crew of "dahliaholics" led by Bill Wolkoff came down every Saturday morning to keep the dahlia garden in meticulous shape. Brian was so pleased by the club's dedication that he allowed for further expansion of the garden.

The next few years Bill not only designed a garden with meandering paths and interesting shaped beds, but a variety of hard scaping. A Grand Trellis and built in benches topped with colorful birdhouses formed a backdrop for one end of the garden. Near the center of the garden Bill built a pergola with seating underneath for a shade oasis on a hot day. The pergola is topped with four mature trumpet vines that attract humming birds at dusk.

As the garden increased in size, so did the number of visitors. To accommodate the increased traffic Bill last year built another pergola with seating and six more raised beds, which now totals to over 40. Bill never ceases to amaze us, he has also built a grow room where we can start up our plants under fluorescent lamps and a hoop greenhouse(20' by 24') that breaks down when not in use. Did I mention that Bill is 92 years young.?

The garden now attracts many visitors year in and year out. Besides becoming a photographer's dream spot to hone their skills, many artists bring their easels and chairs down to spend an afternoon capturing the beauty of dahlias on canvas. We have even hosted a formal wedding ceremony inside the garden.

The most memorable occurrence that happened to me down at the garden was a request by a young man to follow him and his girl friend around in the garden with a camera that he handed me. I asked why and all he said was, "you'll see". After about ten minutes of lurking behind taller plants with camera ready in hand, I saw what he was talking about. The young man dropped down



on one knee and proposed. I took many shots of the surprised girl friend as he proposed.

So you see, Bill our Dahlia-lama built it and all kinds of people did come, but the ones we were looking for also showed up ... future members and now the Long Island Dahlia Society is thriving.

Left: Photo by Joe Lysik

Visiting the William Wolkoff Dahlia Garden to Propose!

If you would like to propose to your sweetie, visit the BCA website for location, hours, and fees and to download a visitor's map.

www.bayardcuttingarboretum.com

2015 LIDS Photo Competition – Change in Date



The 2015 LIDS Photo Competition will be held one month earlier this year. **The event will be held over the Labor Day weekend**, the registration days and times have been posted on our website, as well as the brochure and rules. Dahlias will be in full bloom, so get those cameras warmed up!!



Visit the LIDS website to download:
 “2015 Photography Rules”
 “2015 Photo Show Brochure”



Above: Part of the LIDS Photo Show Team.
 Dee Cunningham Photo Show Chair with Gene Murtha

Photos on this page and the cover taken by Carol Jansch

Visitors to the Wolkoff Garden

In early May, LIDS hosted ten Girl Scouts and some of their parents. Shown below is John Canzoneri demonstrating how to plant seeds and then Joe Lysik shows the troop how to get dahlias ready to plant.



Above: John Canzoneri showing dahlia seeds.



Above: Joe Lysik describing dahlia planting to young gardeners.

Photos by Dee Cunningham

Volunteer Corner *by Maureen Burford*

Last time thought I had covered all of the reasons why volunteering was beneficial to your health but just this week I found out that working in the soil imparts beneficial bacteria to one's gut and promotes digestive health, just like yoghurt! Who knew?

Speaking of benefits, two lovely ones are coming up for LIDS Volunteers. On **Wednesday evening July 8th** we are all invited to the Director's Evening Walk In the Arboretum hosted by the Horticultural Society. This is a tour of the gardens you have been meaning to visit with interesting background information from Nelson Sterner plus identification of any tree or plant along the way. No reservations necessary, meet at the Gazebo at 6:30.

On **Wednesday evening August 12th**, LIDS hosts the Hort Society at in the Wolkoff Garden. Light refreshments are served and we have a chance to socialize (without disbudding) and to show off our dahlias. We start at 6:30 pm, significant others are welcome and you will be on your way before dark.

A summer evening in the Arboretum is very special and not to be missed.

Our fall flower sales were a big success, thanks to the beautiful blooms provided by our gardeners, our stock of vases - small medium and large, is totally depleted. Time to hit the yard sales, closets and basements and while you are there, look for cups, mugs and small containers for the little flower arrangements at the Fall Fest Bring them to the barn any Saturday.



Muchas gracias to the volunteers who took on the extra work of setting up and helping with the Hort Society Plant Sale, at this busy time. The sale supports the beauty that surrounds us as we come and go in the Park.

I was dizzy from all of the little dahlia pictures we needed but thanks to a spectacular supply of prime tubers, what seems to be the growing popularity of dahlias and our dedicated "Dahlia People" we have more than fulfilled our mission to "promote the culture of dahlias", and can meet our financial obligations for another year.

THANK YOU, JOE, KELLY, AND THE ENTIRE TEAM THAT MADE IT HAPPEN

The Volunteer Calendar on our website is there for you, updates will be posted. Have a wonderful summer and rest up for the big doings in September.

ADS Centennial Anniversary Show News



The Mid Island Dahlia Society is hosting the [American Dahlia Society's](#) 100th anniversary and also celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Mid Island Dahlia Society. The festivities run from September 17 - 21, 2015

The dahlia show will be held at Hofstra University on Saturday 9/19 and Sunday 9/20 is open to the public and free.

Unique Photo Opportunity!

The ADS is celebrating its centennial with an exhibition of dahlias at Hofstra University. They are offering a photographer admission at 8:00AM on September 20. This will provide unobstructed opportunities for excellent photos. The exhibition will open to the public at 10:00 AM.

This special showing requires a minimum of 50 people (maximum of 75). The cost is \$15 per person. Please contact Suzan Goldstein at 516-731-6380 to secure your reservation.

Show Registration is starting! Please visit [ADS Centennial](#)

A special website has been set up where you will find information about:

- Hotel Reservations
- Directions
- Show Rules – yes you can exhibit your dahlias!
- Schedule of Events
- Symposium Speakers

Questions about the show? ADSshow@adscentennial.com

Tom Cleere of MIDS is the Chairperson, tcleere123@aol.com

Tom has ADS Centennial hats (\$10) and pins (\$5) for sale.

Do you have your ADS Centennial hat and pin?



2015 Executive Board Members

President:	John Canzoneri
Vice President:	Ted Gollatz
Board Member:	Maureen Buford
Treasurer:	Joe Lysik
Newsletter Editor:	Carol Jansch
Recording Secretary:	Dee Cunningham
Corresponding Secretary:	Millie Canzoneri
Garden Director:	Joe Lysik
Associate Garden Directors:	John Canzoneri, Ted Gollatz Mike Kehl, Gene Murtha Lenny Nicolosi, Holly Sisti
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Fundraising Co-Chair:	Debbie Gangone
Hospitality/Good & Welfare:	Patrick Schildt
Membership:	Millie Canzoneri
Education / Publicity:	Joe Lysik
Website Director:	Carol Jansch
ADS Representative:	William Bushman
Evaluation / Classification:	Dennis Kirchner
Wolkoff Dahlia Garden Design:	William Wolkoff
Show Chair Team:	Joe Laundrie, Lenny Nicolosi, Joe Bonomo
NADC Representatives:	Joe Laundrie, Ted Gollatz
Website Design:	Eric Larson/Carol Jansch
Website Implementation:	Eric Larson

Important Links

Bayard Cutting Arboretum
 Long Island Dahlia Society
 Mid Island Dahlia Society
 American Dahlia Society

www.bayardcuttingarboretum.com
www.longislanddahlia.org
www.midislanddahlia.com
www.dahlia.org