



NEWSLETTER
Winter 2015

Long Island Dahlia Society

In the depth of winter I finally
learned that there was in me an
invincible summer.

Albert Camus



Winter in the Wolkoff Garden

Editor's Note



I found walking through the Wolkoff Garden in the "depth of winter", with its endless snow and chasing cold, to be a place of possibilities, dreams, and reflection. Soon we will be checking the tubers, sorting them out, making tags, and bagging the tubers for sale. We will be checking the lists, benching up, erecting the hoop house, preparing the beds, caring for the cuttings, planting, fundraising, fertilizing, staking, weeding, raking, tying up, pinching back, deadheading, inspecting, de-bugging, until there it unfolds, our beautiful garden!

Visitors come to enjoy the blooms, some photograph or paint them, others just walk around in a daze, yes, this beautiful garden is the result of the endless work of our volunteers. In this issue there is an article on volunteers, and how their contributions - big and small - create a garden for so many to enjoy.

In "A" size dahlia news, the Mid Island Dahlia Society will be hosting the American Dahlia Society's 100th anniversary and also celebrating the 50th anniversary of MIDS in September. You will find links to the special show website in the newsletter. What an exciting time this will be as dahlia growers from all over come to celebrate on Long Island.

You will notice changes to our newsletter this year. We are publishing the newsletter quarterly instead of monthly. Our goal is to increase member content and bring you more pertinent information and resources about our beloved dahlias. Your contributions are what will make this newsletter interesting and informative. I encourage you to send your photos, interesting tips about dahlias, your own articles.

If you can brave the cold and snowy paths, the garden is spectacular, even in winter.

- Carol Jansh

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2015 LIDS Upcoming Events

March 2015

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, March 19 at 6:30 PM

New Location – [East Islip Library](#)

Please do not contact the library - Questions? call 631-581-2489, please leave a message

Spring Luncheon and Cup Auction

Sunday, March 29

Volunteers for setup arrive at 11:30 AM

Luncheon 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM

[Irish Coffee Pub](#) Carlton Avenue, East Islip, NY

Price \$39 per person

Patrick Schildt manages this event, please R.S.V.P. to Pat in one of these ways:

1. By email: patrickschildt@optonline.net
2. By mail: send your check to: Patrick Schildt, 34 Betsy Ross Drive, Bohemia, NY 11716
3. Bring your check to our March membership meeting

Donations Requested for Raffle Table

If you would like to donate a local gift certificate or new item for the special baskets on our raffle table, please provide them to our Fundraising Chair, Kelly Abercrombie

The Big Basket of Cheer

Dennis Kirchner is accepting donations for the Basket of Cheer that will be raffled off at the Annual LIDS Spring Luncheon. Please bring your wine, liquor, or liqueur donations to the March meeting and give them to Dennis. Donations to the basket will also be accepted the day of the luncheon. Dennis' suggestion for the Basket of Cheer is "anything with alcohol!"

About the "Cup Auction"

Please start putting aside your special treasures that can be raffled off at our country auction. These can be any collectible, knickknack, houseplant, garden cutting, or any special item you would like to donate. The auction brings a lot of very diverse and interesting items; your "previously loved item" could be someone's new treasure! Bring those items to the luncheon. Many tables are set up for donations of items from members, these can be new or old things, plants, tubers, books, collectables, any sort of "stuff" you no longer need or want.

All types of odds and ends are welcomed (no food items) A cup is placed next to each item. Members purchase an envelope of tickets with the same number in it; these numbers are placed in the cups next to the prize you would like to win. You don't have to check tickets to win, just listen for your number(s) to be called!

Winter Checkups – by Joe Lysik

I don't know if this Winter is as bad as it was last year, but I do know it isn't over yet. Continual blasts of near zero weather coming down from Canada have given us all the Winter Blues. Looking through the various Gardening catalogs, while dreaming of warmer weather can help only so much. I have now resorted to logging on to the [Australian Dahlia Society](#) and looked at the various clubs dahlia shows "down under". Because of the reverse climate, they are presently into their show season right now.



Above: image from the Austrailian Dahlia Society

After viewing all the blooms in "Oz", I became reinvigorated and began checking my tubers to make sure they are surviving the Winter. It's important to continually check them because of the extreme cold air. This frigid air is dry and when pulled into your house, it will get warmed up and start looking to pick up moisture from where ever it can. Yes, it will creep into cardboard boxes and slowly dry out the tubers. If you find that the storage medium (newspaper, vermiculite, etc) is bone dry and the tubers are shriveling, you should dampen the medium a little and then put the closed box in a plastic large plastic leaf bag. This will prevent any further dehydration from occurring.



To additionally beat the Winter Blues, you can join us on Saturday mornings at 9 AM, down at the woodshop (next to the Wolkoff Garden, in the large barn).

We will be checking tubers, splitting donation tubers for sale, shucking dahlia seeds, etc...

Above: Wolkoff Garden, Early Spring Garden – Volunteer Activities Started!

Volunteer Corner by Maureen Burford

Volunteering is good for your health at any age but is especially beneficial to older adults. Studies have shown that those who volunteer have a lower mortality rate than those who do not. Volunteering is also known to lessen symptoms of chronic pain and heart disease. Reducing the risk of depression is another benefit of volunteerism, it can help protect against stress and depression when going through challenging times.

I think we knew that but it is nice to know it's actually science.

The Board met recently to finalize dates for our fall activities. LIDS September calendar is intense, starting with our first dahlia and photo show and on to the ADS Centennial (Yes, they are coming to the Wolkoff Garden) and ending with the Arboretum Fall Festival. We are currently seeking volunteers, who are not Board members, to join the Fund Raising Committee. Raising money to support the Garden and all of our activities is pleasant duty. We start with Earth Day April 25th which is more fun than work. Next come the tuber sales at the Arboretum and on the outside ending with our fall shows. Half day shifts on weekends are designed to suit your schedule. Whatever season or time of day you are available, we need you. Contact: Kelly Abercrombie kabercrombie@optimum.net

Feel free to give me suggestions for future Volunteer Corners and make sure to mark March 20th on your calendars. It is not only the first day of spring but also the International Day of Happiness. I'm ready. Cheers, Maureen

ADS Centennial Anniversary Show



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.

A special website has been set up where you will find information about the show, hotels and events. Please visit

[ADS Centennial](#)

Questions about the show?

ADSshow@adscentennial.com

The Dahlia I Would Give to a New Grower - by Steve Nowotarski

A long time gardener and dahlia expert, Steve Nowotarski passed away this year. Steve was a very active member in the local and national dahlia societies. Here is a partial reprint from the American Dahlia Society; you can read the full article online.



I am sure we all have been in the position of being asked "What is a fail-proof dahlia for a new grower?" At which point we flip through our mental file trying to remember that "sure-to-grow variety". Several come to mind but none stand out. Well now there is one I would recommend to every new or experienced grower, one that can't fail, one that is just exciting to grow. The name of this beauty is CLEARVIEW MAGIC. It has everything you would want in a dahlia. Easy to grow good size (8") blooms, early to bloom, arresting color RED; and form with feathery white surprises.....

Above: Clearview Magic

This article continues on the [American Dahlia Society](#) website, look for e-newsletter.

Dried Dahlias – by Ann Jacobson

I cut the dahlias when they are fresh and pristine. Put the base of the stem in boiling water for about 5 minutes, until there are no more bubbles. Then I arrange the bouquet in warm water. It is a very nice bouquet for 4 or 5 days. Then, as the water in the vase evaporates the flowers start to dry and eventually become quite dry. At this point, some of them look awful and are discarded, but many dry with beautiful shapes and colors that I use in vases during the winter.

I don't think most people realize that dahlias can dry so nicely.

The best ones so far are Cheyenne and Irish Glow. Dry dahlia flowers are fragile and can't be rearranged very much. Have been thinking of ways to stabilize them, but haven't tried anything yet. I do the same thing with chrysanthemums. Again, some work and some don't.

View Ann's dried dahlias and other photos here: [Ann Jacobson on Flickr](#)

A View from the Garden – by Joe Lysik

In the middle of February and after a good four feet of snow dumped on us, the view at the garden is nothing but stark and white. If you look closer, though, you will notice some changes to the garden. Around the central pergola you will see small piles of red bricks on the benches. These are some reserve bricks to finish off the job of repaving the floor under the pergola that John and Tom started before the weather turned frigid. The prep work of digging the ground and leveling out a sand base was accomplished before hand by Brendan, Mike, Lenny, John, Joe and Tom. It should give the pergola a nice finish by keeping down the weeds.



If you venture behind the Grand Trellis, you will see that Bill Wolkoff has been busy constructing cabinet fronts below the shelves. This will conceal our five gallon working buckets and other tools we use on a regular basis during the growing season.

We have recently received good news from John, Nelson's second in charge of the Arboretum. John has marked off a section of the "Fertilizer shed" for us to move our storage area to. What does that mean to us? No more walking through the "chicken crap" when we access the shed and believe me there will be plenty of it with 100 chickens on their way in Spring for the farmers. Speaking of Spring, it will arrive in only 30 days on March 20th, which hopefully will mean the view down in the garden will be a lot less white. But then again, what did the groundhog predict?

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
Fundraising Chair:	Kelly Abercrombie
Fundraising Co-Chair:	Open
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
