

In Memoriam: Norm Hines

Norm Hines, ADS Bulletin Editor

The dahlia world has lost a dear friend and colleague. Norm Hines passed away early on Monday, May 20, 2013. For 20 years, Norm was the editor of the ADS Bulletin, the flagship publication of our organization. As a member of the ADS Executive Committee, Norm was tireless and tenacious in his advocacy of ADS policies that supported the needs of dahlia growers throughout the country and the world. When he took over as editor, one of his first priorities was to ensure timely delivery of this quarterly publication. Through his hard work and his gift for efficiency, Norm managed to get each issue of the Bulletin out to members on time and packed full of information relevant to dahlia growers at all skill levels. He welcomed contributions by all ADS members with ideas to share via the Bulletin. He recognized the value of the Bulletin as a communication tool for the membership, many of whom read and re-read each copy as soon as it arrived in their mailboxes. Norm was very creative, taking the initiative for adding more color, listing medal winners, and incorporating more photographs reflecting the activities and awards relative to ADS and its membership.

Since the first of the year, Norm had been facing multiple health challenges. On December 31, 2012, Norm was unloading bags at the airport in Chicago, when he was hit by speeding car, which pinned him against his vehicle. His injuries were serious, requiring amputation of one of his legs, causing him to be confined to a wheelchair. Norm worked tirelessly to rehab from the accident, despite setbacks that resulted in additional hospital stays. Despite several health problems, Norm continued to prepare and mail each Bulletin issue to members on time. Norm's son David Hines, printer of the Bulletin, worked closely with his father. Between the two of them, they put together a color poster of the new classification system that now goes to all new ADS members. Many of these printing services were done at cost, or at no charge to ADS. Norm ran a production line of family and close friends to put out 1800 – 2400 copies of each issue, including stuffing envelopes and sorting them into bags according to USPS regulations.

Many ADS members were fortunate to call Norm a dear and trusted friend. They describe Norm as honorable and loyal, always supportive and willing to go the extra mile. In addition to his love of his dahlias, Norm also raised countless birds, and one could always hear them chattering in the background when talking to him on the phone. In addition to his son David, Norm is survived by his wonderful wife, Judy and extended family. His loss is tremendous and will be felt by his family, friends, Chicago dahlia club members and the American Dahlia Society for years to come.