



# American Dahlia Society (ADS)

What It Is and Why I  
Should Belong

# ADS

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FORMED IN 1915 AND INCORPORATED IN  
NEW YORK STATE

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UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION FOR LOCAL  
DAHLIA SOCIETIES

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THERE ARE PARTICIPATING AND ASSOCIATED  
SOCIETIES IN THE US AND CANADA

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THERE ARE OVER 2000 INDIVIDUALS WHO  
BELONG TO THE ADS IN THE US AND CANADA

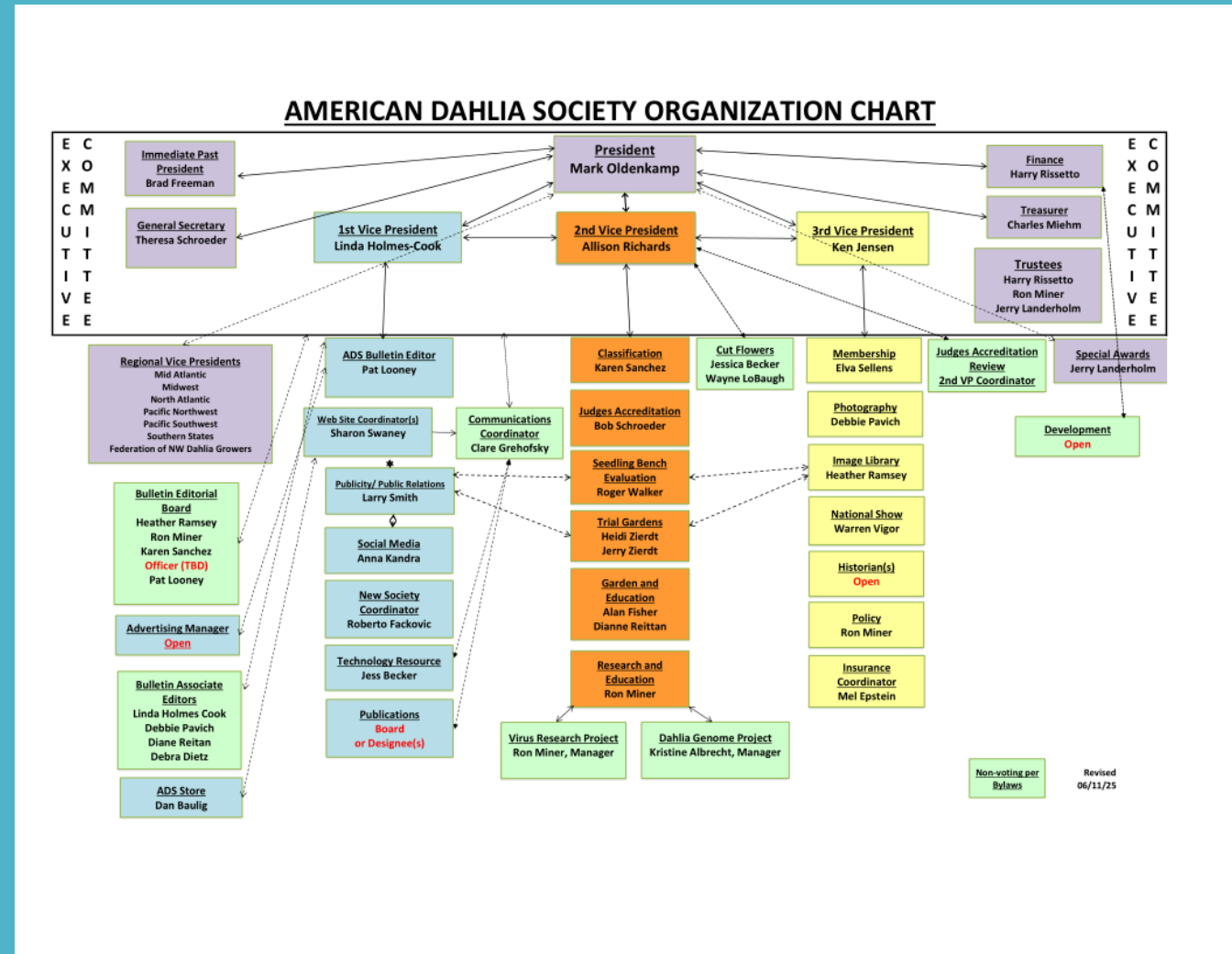
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THERE ARE OVERSEAS ASSOCIATES FROM  
COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD

# ADS MISSION STATEMENT

The American Dahlias Society is organized to promote and encourage the development of and appreciation of the dahlia through educational and research activities and by supporting the local dahlia societies.

# ADS ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE



# ADS COMMITTEES

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

CLASSIFICATION

BULLETIN EDITOR

FINANCE

GARDEN DAHLIAS

HISTORIAN

IMAGE LIBRARY

INSURANCE

JUDGES ACCREDITATION

MEMBERSHIP

NATIONAL SHOW

NEW SOCIETY COORDINATOR

PUBLICATIONS

PHOTOGRAPHY

PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

SEEDLING BENCH EVALUATION

SPECIAL AWARDS

TRIAL GARDENS

WEBSITE

SOCIAL MEDIA

CUT FLOWERS

# TOP 7 REASON THE ADS BENEFITS DAHLIA ENTHUSIASISTS

- KNOWLEDGE
- DAHLIA CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM
- RESEARCH
- TRIAL GARDENS AND SEEDLING  
BENCH EVALUATIONS
- PUBLICATIONS
- JUDGING
- COMMUNITY

# KNOWLEDGE

ONLINE RESOURCES ON ADS  
WEBSITE - <https://dahlia.org/>

- FUNDAMENTALS OF GROWING DAHLIAS
- DAHLIA UNIVERISTY
- GARDENING WITH DAHLIAS
- DAHLIAS AS A CUT FLOWER

Our courses have been written by dahlia enthusiasts, not necessarily scientists or horticulturalists. These enthusiasts are pleased to share their experience and best practices with you. Please keep in mind that there are a variety of opinions in the dahlia community and that different solutions and procedures work in different circumstances and locales. We urge you to participate in a [local society](#) where you will meet great growers with knowledge of growing dahlias in your area...and you'll have fun!

We have also included some links to non ADS sources. These are included for your convenience because we think they might be interesting to you. As stated above there are variety of opinions in the dahlia community. Please note that you are leaving the ADS site when you view these other sources. Check their privacy policies as appropriate.

Courses or references listed below covers a single topic pertinent to growing beautiful dahlias.

## Growing

Preparing for a Dahlia Garden	<a href="#">view</a>
Early Season Dahlia Hints	<a href="#">view</a>
Cuttings	<a href="#">view</a>
All things tubers	<a href="#">view</a>
Planting and Staking	<a href="#">view</a>
Supporting Dahlias	<a href="#">view</a>
Watering	<a href="#">view</a>
Fertilizing, Bug and Disease Control	<a href="#">view</a>
Coping with Spider Mites	<a href="#">view</a>
Broad Mites (Article in June 2020 Bulletin)	<a href="#">view</a>



# CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

- UNIFORM METHOD OF DESCRIBING DAHLIAS BY FORM, SIZE AND COLOR.
- EVOLVING PROCESS AS NEW FORMS, SIZES AND COLORS ARE ORIGINATED
- COMMON LANGUAGE TO DESCRIBE DAHLIAS



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# CHD – TABLE OF CONTENTS

- FORM DEFINITIONS
- COLOR CLASSIFICATION
- KEY TO CLASS NUMBERS
- DAHLIA CULTIVARS
- LINKS TO ONLINE RESOURCES



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# RESEARCH PROJECTS

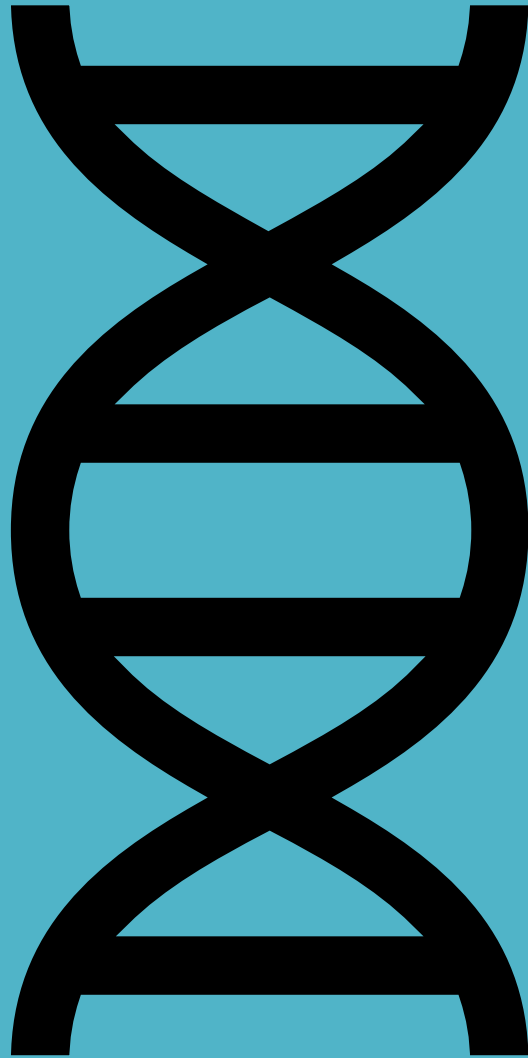
- VIRUS
- GENOME





# RESEARCH - VIRUS

- STARTED IN EARLY 1990s
- ENDOWED CHAIR AT WSU ESTABLISHED IN 2014 WITH HELP FROM THE SCHEETZ-CHUEY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
- FOCUS ON STRATEGIES USED SUCCESSFULLY WITH COMMERCIAL CROPS SUCH AS POTATOES AND ONIONS
- TESTING / DEVELOPMENT OF CLEAN STOCK



## RESEARCH – GENOME

- DAHLIA  
GENOME  
MAPPING
- RECONCILE THE  
DAHLIA FAMILY  
TREE





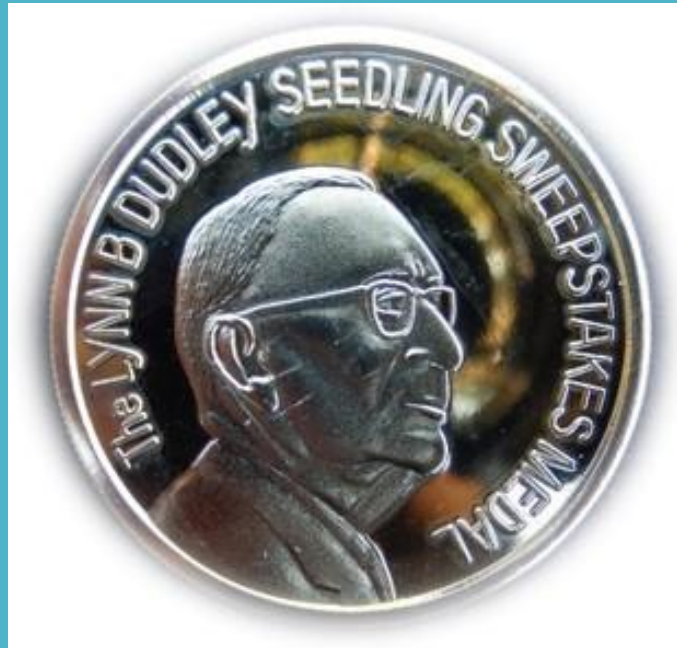
## TRIAL GARDEN AND SEEDLING BENCH EVALUATION

- A SYSTEM TO EVALUATE NEW CULTIVARS OFFERED BY HYBRIDIZERS.
- THERE ARE EIGHT TRIAL GARDENS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA
- ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE ADS WEBSITE



# SEEDLING AWARDS

- THE DERRILL W. HART MEDAL – TRIAL GARDEN
- THE LYNN B. DUDLEY MEDAL – SEEDLING BENCH
- THE EVIE GULLIKSON MEDAL – SEEDLING & TRIAL GARDEN – OTHER TYPES



# OTHER AWARDS

STANLEY JOHNSON MEDAL –  
HIGHEST NUMBER OF  
AWARDS IN A YEAR



LES CONNELL MEDAL –  
HIGHEST NUMBER OF  
AWARDS IN A FIVE-YEAR  
PERIOD



# PUBLICATIONS

BULLETINS – APRIL, AUGUST,  
DECEMBER  
  
(MEMBERS HAVE ACCESS TO  
PAST EDITIONS OF BULLETIN –  
ONLINE)

CLASSIFICATION BOOK (CHD)  
PRINT AND ONLINE  
  
AVAILABLE MID TO LATE  
WINTER

JUDGING ROSTER - ONLINE

FABULOUS FIFTY AND CREAM  
OF THE CROP (ONLINE) -  
DECEMBER

DAHLIA SHOW REPORTS  
(ONLINE) - DECEMBER

SEEDLING REPORTS (ONLINE) -  
DECEMBER



# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER – DAHLIA TALK

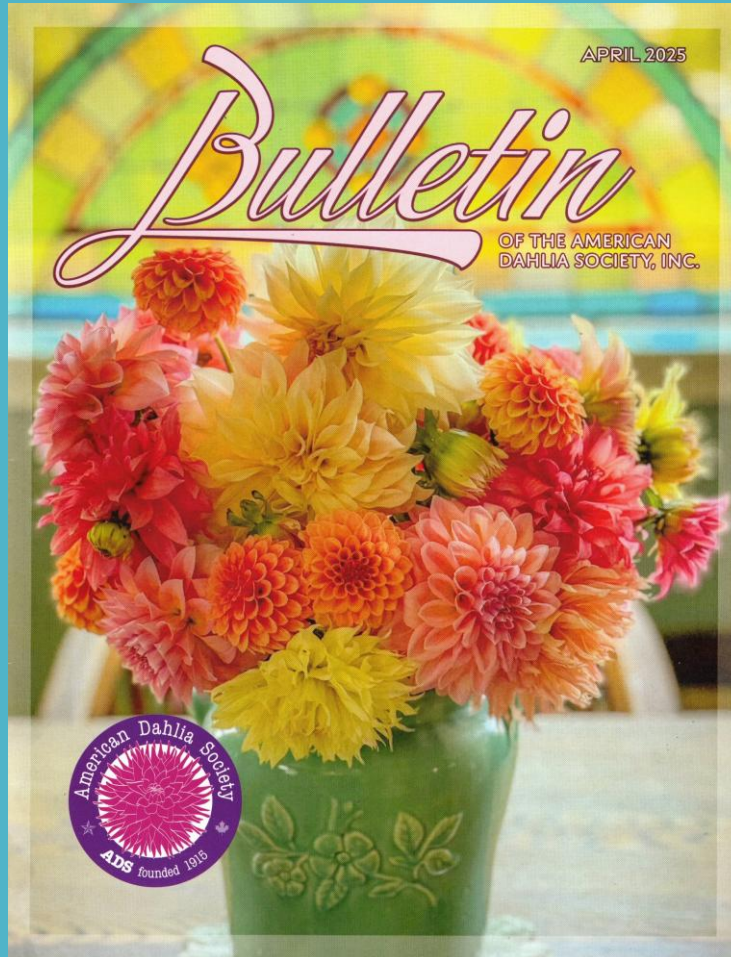


## ROOTING AROUND THE FAMILY TREE

By Martin Král

In a vexing (and entirely illogical) urge to complement my dahlia plot with a companion planting of blue flowers, I chose years ago to plant Michaelmas asters alongside the driveway. Thinking that every dahlia grower aspires to bring blues to the vibrant palette of dahlias, the display in September so confirmed my choice, that I kept growing these perennial asters for many years. \* In time, though, the light blue border got sparser, so I sought to replace the lost plants. I searched in vain for the same variety, only to find that the genus *Aster* had undergone a major revision by taxonomists that placed my blue blooms not only under Lesser Asters but also within the unpronounceable species designation of *Symphyotrichum*!

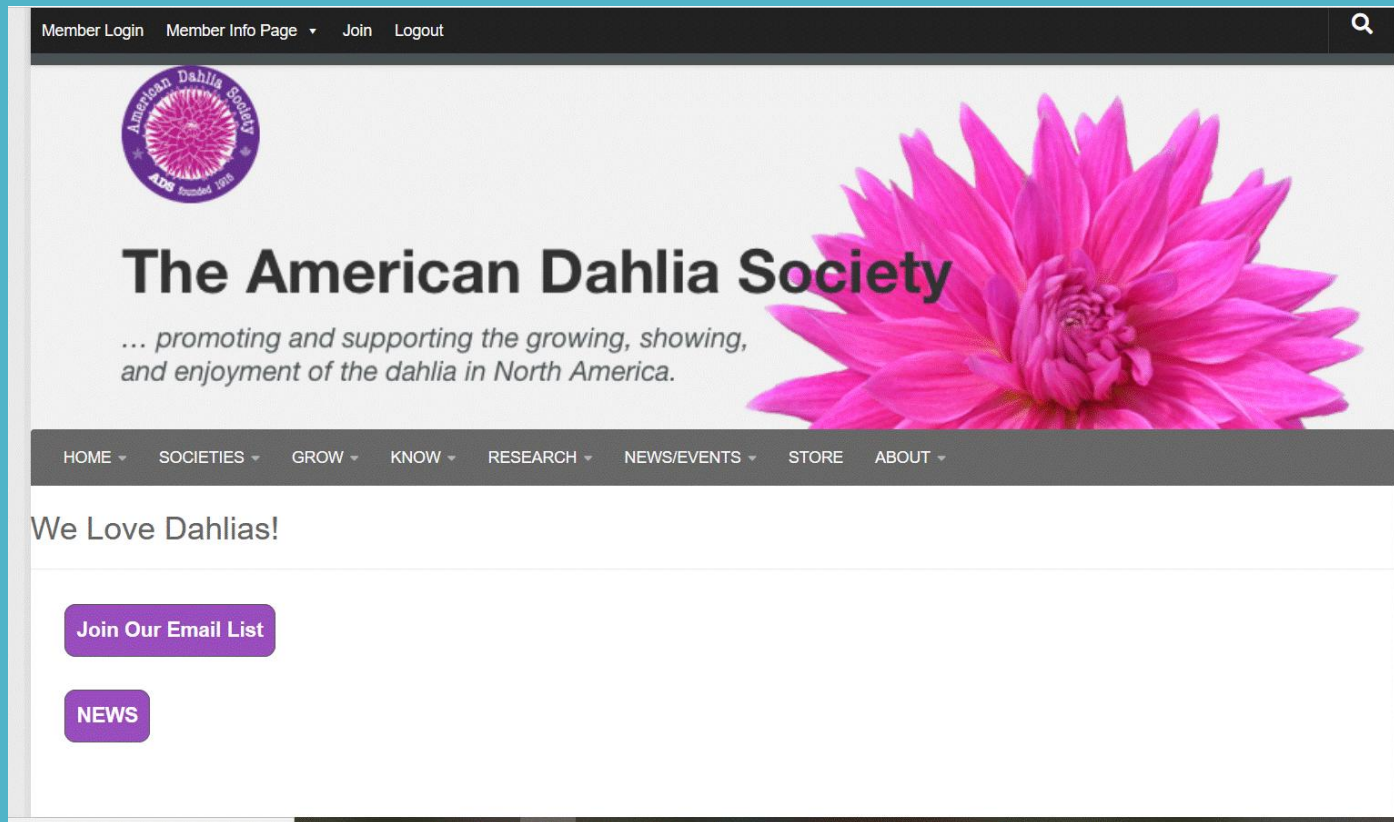
My two towering centenarians in the back yard will only concur that taxonomy is an inexact effort to classify all life forms, with revisions or deletions making a mockery of 'hard science.' Those Douglas firs had experienced at least 20 reclassifications in the past, having been called a *Picea* (spruce), then an *Abies* (fir) – among others - before dropping into an uncomfortable Northwest relationship with Western hemlock (*Tsuga*) as the false hemlock *Pseudotsuga menziesii*. Drat those taxonomists.



# ADS BULLETIN

## APRIL 2025 ARTICLES:

- THE MENTOR AND THE MISFIT
- THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GARDEN
- STAMP OF APPROVAL
- MULTIPLYING DAHLIA JOY
- TUBER TALK
- MUCH MORE



ADS WEBSITE -  
<https://dahlia.org/>

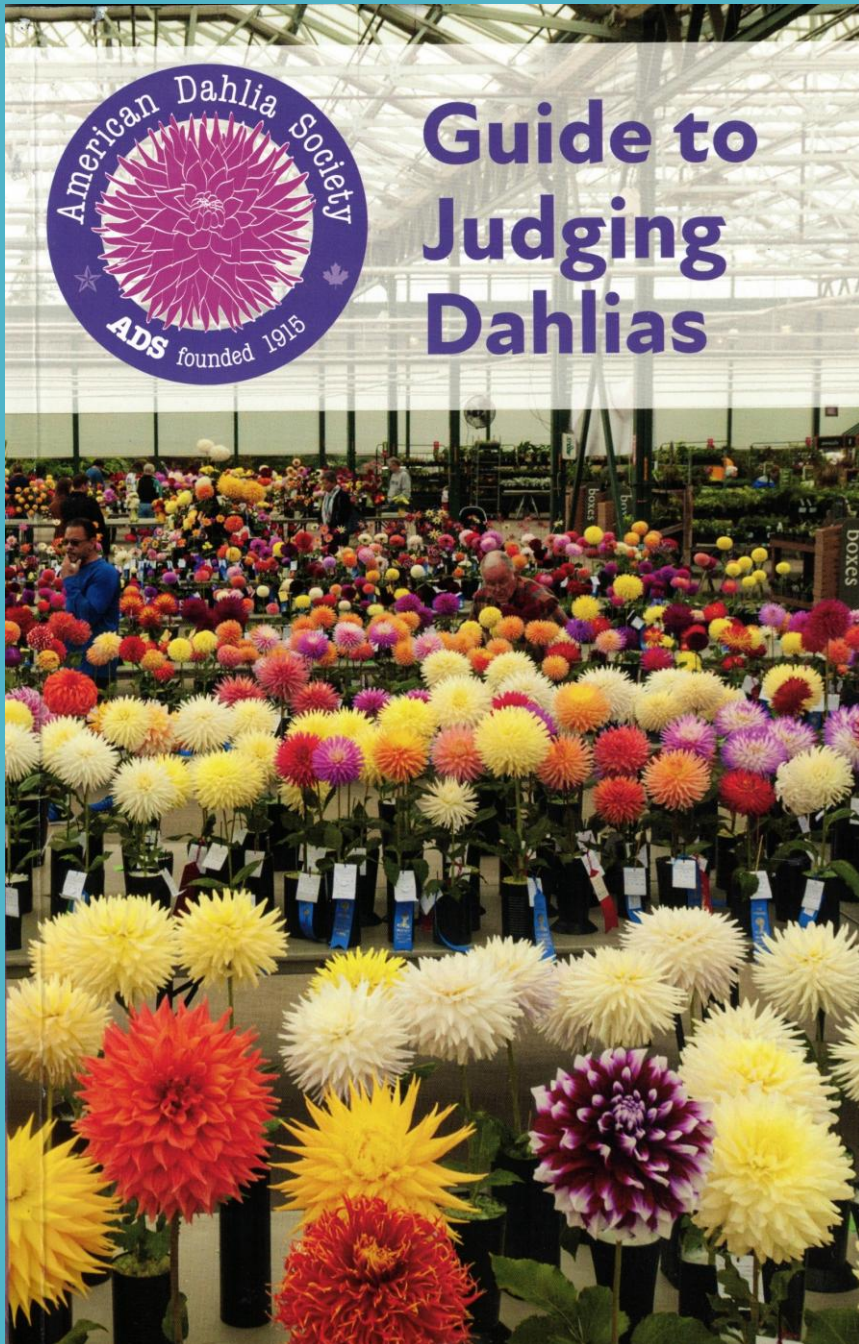




# JUDGING

- CLERK
- CANDIDATE
- ACCREDITED
- SENIOR
- HONORARY





# JUDGING REQUIREMENTS

- UNIFORM SET OF STANDARDS FOR JUDGING DAHLIAS
- “GUIDE TO JUDGING DAHLIAS” – OVERALL PRINCIPALS AND PRACTICES
- THESE ARE THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS AND THE LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS CAN ADD ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS IF DESIRED.





# COMMUNITY

- NATIONAL SHOWS
  - 2025 – CHICAGO, IL
  - 2026 – GRAND RAPIDS, MI
  - 2027 – ROCHESTER, NY
- MEETING NEW PEOPLE AND ENJOYING A SHARED INTEREST
- LEARNING NEW AND INTERESTING INFORMATION

# MEMBERSHIPS

INDIVIDUAL (USA) - \$30.00  
PER YEAR\*



HOUSEHOLD (USA) - \$35.00  
PER YEAR\*



\*SEE ADS WEBSITE FOR  
ADDITONAL INFORMATION  
OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL  
DAHLIA SOCIETY