

The 89th Annual Show
of the
Midwest Dahlia Conference

hosted by the
Elkhart Dahlia Society

SEPTEMBER 13 - 15, 2024

Dahlias Exhibited at
Farmstead Expo Barn
368 S Van Buren Street
Shipshewana, IN 46565

MDC OFFICERS

President - Randy Foith

Treasurer, Secretary - James Kassner

EDS OFFICERS

President – Rusty Ritchie

Vice President – Jan Gawthrop

Secretary/Facebook – Cammi Waggoner

Treasurer/Website – Anita Ritchie

Judge's Chairman/Trial Garden – Steve Kuiper

ADS Rep - Rhonda Cantrell Vigor

SHOW COMMITTEE

Co-Show Chairmen - Steve Kuiper & Rusty Ritchie

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Friday – September 13, 2024

3:00 pm - Staging of entries begins, and continues through the night

Saturday – September 14, 2024

9:00 am - Staging ends, Entries Close

9:15 am - Judges Meeting, Judging begins

11:30 am – Lunch

Noon - 4:30 - Show opens to the public

1:30 - Midwest Dahlia Conference Meeting

5:30 pm - Awards Banquet

Sunday – September 15, 2024

10:00 am – Show Opens to the public

1:00 pm - Bloom give-away

1:30 pm - Show ends, Clean up begins

GENERAL RULES GOVERNING THE SHOW

1. Any dahlia grower may exhibit in the show. Prizes will only be awarded to registered exhibitors.
2. All specimen blooms entered for competition must be grown by the exhibitor, with an exception for seedlings and arrangements. A person other than the originator may enter seedling blooms in seedling competition.
3. Containers will be provided for single bloom entries and three bloom entries. Exhibitors must furnish suitable containers for all other multiple bloom entries.
4. Any entry considered unfit by at least two of the Show Committee (officers) for exhibition may be removed at any time during the show.
5. Any artificial support on a bloom (excluding arrangements) disqualifies the flower from consideration by the judges.
6. When entered, all flowers become the property of the show management and may not be removed before the close of the exhibition except by direction and consent of the Show Committee.
7. The MDC, EDS and show venue assume no responsibility for containers or other personal property of exhibitors.

JUDGING AND AWARDS RULES

8. Every entry must be identified using the show tags provided, with all information recorded, and tag properly **folded**. This includes arrangements and photographs. Use of pre-printed name labels is encouraged.
9. All dahlias shall be entered in accordance with the American Dahlia Society Official Class Numbers. Use the current ADS Classification and Handbook of Dahlias for verification. Dahlias not listed by the ADS **must** have approval from the judges' chairman or his designee prior to being placed in the show. Approval to be indicated on the show tag by the judges' initials.
10. Entries misplaced as to color, type or size may be properly placed or reclassified by the section judges if done prior to its' judging in the correct section.
11. Any, or none of three places may be awarded in any class at the discretion of the judges.
12. The judges' decision will be final. Consensus is the goal. Pull out the scorecard if necessary.
13. To qualify for any prize, award or trophy, an entry must have won a blue ribbon. Blooms eligible for Grand Awards shall come from Sections Junior, Novice, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, and 13.

14. Judges may award in each class the following places and points:

	SECTIONS 1, 2, 3, 4, 11, 12, 13 & Novice	SECTION 5	SECTIONS 6, 10
Blue, 1st	3	6	9
Red, 2nd	2	4	6
Yellow, 3rd	1	2	3
Higher Award	5	5	5

15. In case of a tie for sweepstakes, the exhibitor with the largest number of blues and specials will be declared the winner.

SECTION SIZE RULES

16. In Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4, the section in which an exhibitor shows is determined by their Hill Count. A “hill” of dahlias is a plant grown from a tuber or cutting. If planting is done so there are two plants to a stake this counts as two hills. Only AA’s, A’s, B’s, BB’s and Miniatures, excluding seedlings, are included in the Hill Count. These are ADS class numbers 0001 to 4515.

SECTION 1- SMALL GROWER-Amateurs growing from 1 to 50 hills.

SECTION 2- MEDIUM GROWER-Amateurs growing from 51 to 150 hills.

SECTION 3- LARGE GROWER-Amateurs growing 151 to 300 hills.

SECTION 4- OPEN TO ALL-More than 301 hills. Growers that have cloth enclosures or who are professional growers must exhibit here.

17. Size rules and Hill Count do not apply to the Novice grower. The Novice Section is for any exhibitor who has never won a Novice Sweepstake. Single bloom entries of all class numbers can be shown in Novice.

18. Size rules and Hill Count do not apply to the Junior grower. The Junior Section is for growers under 19 years of age.

19. The number of dahlia hills planted in the initial planting shall determine the section the exhibitor shall enter. Plants that stunt, or are damaged by insects or other acts of violence too late to be replaced, cannot be deducted from the original number of hills to gain admittance into a lower section.

SHOW SECTIONS

For all sections see rules 16 and 19 for definition of Hill Count.

JUNIOR SECTION Open to exhibitors under age 19. Hill Count does not apply. All entries will be shown in the Junior section. This section does not have a sweepstakes award, but best entries may be considered for grand awards.

Junior-1 is for growers under 13 years of age.

Jr-1-a. Single bloom entries of all class numbers. Exhibitor must have participated in growing their dahlia. Limit of one entry per class number.

Jr-1-b. Hand-drawn picture of a dahlia. Pencil, crayon, markers, or paint may be used. Limit of 2 entries.

Jr-1-c. Floral arrangement in a coffee cup using dahlias. The plant materials do not have to be grown by the exhibitor. Limit of one entry.

Junior-2 is for growers 13 to 18 years old.

Jr-2-a. Single bloom entries of all class numbers. Exhibitor must have participated in growing their dahlia. Limit of one entry per class number.

Jr-2-b. Photograph of a dahlia or dahlias that is digitally altered in some way. Have fun with it. Printed on regular paper or photo paper. Limit of 2 entries.

Jr-2-c. Floral arrangement in a coffee cup using dahlias. The plant materials do not have to be grown by the exhibitor. Limit of one entry.

NOVICE SECTION Open to any exhibitor who has never won a Novice Sweepstake. Hill Count does not apply. Single bloom entries of all class numbers will be shown in Novice.

SECTION 1 - SMALL GROWER-Amateurs growing from 1 to 50 hills

SECTION 2 - MEDIUM GROWER-Amateurs growing from 51 to 150 hills

SECTION 3 - LARGE GROWER-Amateurs growing 151 to 300 hills

SECTION 4 - OPEN TO ALL-More than 300 hills. Growers with cloth enclosures and professionals must exhibit here.

SECTION 5 - OPEN TO ALL, THREE BLOOM ENTRIES All Classes. The three blooms must be the same cultivar.

SECTION 6 - OPEN TO ALL, 5 and 10 BLOOM ENTRIES All classes, 5 blooms of same cultivar. All classes, 10 blooms of the same cultivar.

SECTION 8 - SEEDLING CLASS

This section is for first year seedlings and ADS Seedling Bench only. Judges will determine the class numbers of all entries during judging.

First year seedlings - 1 bloom. Open to all exhibitors.

2024 ADS Bench Evaluation of third or fourth year seedlings - Three Blooms.

The Seedling Bench Evaluation is offered in cooperation with the American Dahlia Society. Open to all exhibitors. Show officials and exhibitors must read and adhere to the rules for entries and judging as printed in the 2024 ADS Classification and Handbook of Dahlias.

SECTION 9 – CHALLENGE CLASS

2024 Introductions and Challenge blooms must be entered in Section 9 to compete for these awards. First place, second place, third place, and honorable mentions can be awarded in each challenge class.

9001 – Best 3 Bloom Entry of a Midwest origination.

Sponsored by Midwest Dahlia Conference and Michigan Dahlia Association

9002 – Best Single Bloom Entry of a Midwest origination.

Sponsored by Michigan Dahlia Association

9003 - The Vigor Challenge

Sponsored by Warren Vigor. 12 blooms to be staged as follows:

3 blooms over 6 inches, each bloom in its own vase. They can be AA, A or B sized.

3 groups of 3 blooms under 6 inches. Each vase of 3 is to be one variety.

In all it will be 6 vases and 12 blooms. Winners will be the highest scoring entries as determined by a score sheet. This style of championship is popular in Australia and the UK, so we thought to add some extra fun. To conserve space dahlias may be staged without foliage.

9004 – Best “Blue” Dahlia

Create a blue dahlia. Rules don't apply. People's Choice. Sponsored by Steve & Mona Kuiper in memory of Sylvia Bradburn, who always wanted a blue dahlia.

9005 – Best Bristol Fleck

Sponsored by Marcia Nellans in memory of her sister, Maranel Sue Guiff

9006 - Best Carl

Sponsored by Jim Chuey in memory of his brother, Carl.

9007 – Best Evangelista Introduction

Sponsored by the Ohio Dahlia Society in memory of Tony Evangelista

9008 – Best Islander

Sponsored by Steve & Mona Kuiper in memory of Wanda Erikson

9009 – Best Kelvin Floodlight

Sponsored by Jim Kassner in memory of Frank Campise

9010 – Best Lavender Waterlily

Sponsored by Marcia Nellans in honor of her sister's loyal canine companion, Bindi

9011 – Best Manor Jayne

Sponsored by Mac Boyer

9012– Best Manor Jubilee

Sponsored by Mac Boyer

9013 - Best Marcella Louise

Sponsored by Jim Chuey in memory of his mother, Marcella Louise

9014 – Best Oldoc Introduction

Sponsored by Jan and Kathy Gawthrop

9015 – Best BB Formal Decorative Light Blend, classification 3010

In memory of Michelle Pierce Carter



SECTION 10 – FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

Open to all exhibitors. Limit one per class.

RULES:

1. Scale of Points:

Creativity/Adherence to theme	30
Condition of fresh materials	30
Balance & Rhythm, Proportion, and Technical Aspects	20
Color Balance & Selection	20
2. The exhibitor must make the arrangement; however, the plant materials do not have to be grown by the exhibitor.
3. Dahlias must be predominant, but other flowers and plant materials may be used. No artificial plant material should be used.
4. Accessories may be used to carry out the theme of the class.
5. Containers and other properties used must be furnished by the exhibitor and should be marked with the owner's name. No backboards will be available at the show. While reasonable care will be taken, the Elkhart Dahlia Society, Midwest Dahlia Conference, and Farmstead Expo Barn will not be responsible for the loss, damage, or breakage of such materials.
6. All entries must be in place by 9:00 am on the opening day (Saturday), and not removed until the show closes. The exhibitor is responsible for the prompt removal of the entry at the show's close. Please make plans for removal if you will not be present at closing.
7. Please follow the theme and parameters given for each Class. Some classes have restrictions on dahlia size, spacing of blooms, and angle of view. No arrangement is to be disqualified, but might be downgraded if rules were not followed.
8. Limit of two entries per class.

VASES

Class 1. OMG! Use a large vase to show off multiple blooms. Viewed from one side.

Class 2. SAY IT WITH FLOWERS Use a medium vase to send a message. Viewed from all sides.

Class 3. CENTER OF ATTENTION A table centerpiece. Blooms must measure 4 inches or less. Entries may be used to decorate the evening banquet.

BASKETS (with or without handles)

Class 4. SUNSET A mass arrangement using the colors of a beautiful sunset. Viewed from one side. Blooms may be any size and may touch.

Class 5. BASKET OF CHARM A basket to be viewed from all sides. Use dahlias under 4 inches. Blooms should not touch. Entries may be used to decorate the evening banquet.

Class 6. BASKET OF BEAUTY A basket to be viewed from one side. Use blooms 4 inches or larger. Blooms should not touch.

ARTISTIC DESIGNS

Maximum space allowed is 30" x 30". Viewed from one side. Backboards may be used, but are not provided nor required.

Class 7. STAR GAZING Let your inspiration come from the night sky.

Class 8. MOTHER NATURE Wild materials should be used. Grasses, herbs, bark, twigs, log pieces, fungi, etc.

Class 9. MAGIC MOMENT An arrangement to celebrate one of life's magical moments.

SECTION 11 – PHOTOGRAPHY

1. Open to all exhibitors.
2. Entries can be images photographed in 2024, or 2023 that have not been entered before.
3. 4 x 6 photos or 5 x 7 photos only, and matted. Mat not to exceed 8x10.
4. Limit of two entries per class.
5. Please put exhibitor name on back of photo.
6. Each entry must have a Show Tag. Tag must specify Section 11 and a Class number from the list below. Identify the blooms present, if known.
7. Entries will be displayed on the wall with a mounting putty that will be provided at the show. No tape, tacks, or nails are allowed.
8. If you will not be present at the close of the show and want your photos returned to you, please make arrangements with Anita Ritchie.

Class 1. Dahlia portrait (one bloom - entire bloom visible)

Class 2. Dahlia close up (an intimate focus on its' beauty)

Class 3. Dahlias in the garden (multiple blooms visible)

Class 4. Cut dahlia blooms on display. This can at a show, event, flower stand, etc.

Class 5. Dahlias and critters

Class 6. Dahlias and people

SECTION 12 – OPEN TO ALL

Single bloom entries of all classes 6000 and up, except Micros.

SECTION 13 – MICRO DAHLIAS

Single bloom entries of all classes of Micro dahlias.

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World’s Largest Dahlia

Entries for this competition will be all large dahlias and may not necessarily be a show quality bloom. Any contender in this competition must be measured by at least two Senior Judges at any time the entry is brought to the show. Entry into one of the show sections is not required.

All largest dahlia measurements to be sent, along with the judges’ names, to: Ken Masurat – dahliaken@yahoo.com

SHOW AWARDS

JUNIOR SECTIONS - Best of each class to be awarded a ribbon and a gift.

SECTIONS 1 TO 4 AND NOVICE - In each of the 5 sections the largest bloom and best of each type to be awarded \$10 and a medal. The best in each section to be considered for Grand Awards. Grand Awards will be awarded for largest bloom, Best AA, Best A, Best B, Best BB, and Best Miniature.

SECTIONS 5 - 3 of a Kind Best of each type to be awarded \$10. Grand Awards given for best entry with 6” or over blooms, and for best entry with under 6” blooms.

SECTIONS 6 - MULTIPLES Blue ribbon winners receive \$10. Grand Awards given for best 5 entry with over 6” blooms, and for best 5 entry with 6” or under blooms. Grand Awards given for best 10 entry with over 6” blooms, and for best 10 entry with 6” or under blooms.

SECTION 8 – SEEDLING

First Year Best Bloom	Rosette Ribbon
Best ADS Seedling Bench Evaluation	The ADS Seedling Award

SECTION 9 - CHALLENGE CLASS First, second, and third places will be awarded.

Class 9001- 3 Bloom Midwest origination will award \$150, \$50, \$25.

Class 9003 - The Vigor Challenge will award \$100, \$50, \$25.

All others will award \$50, \$25, \$10.

Honorable mentions of \$5 may be awarded at Judges' discretion.

SECTION 10 – ARTISTIC ARRANGEMENT

Best Vase	\$25 and a medal
Best Basket	\$25 and a medal
Best Artistic Design	\$25 and a medal
Other Blue ribbon entries	\$10

SECTION 11 - PHOTOGRAPHY

Best photograph	\$25 and a medal.
Other Blue ribbon entries	\$10.

SECTION 12 - OPEN TO ALL Best of each type to be awarded \$25.

SECTION 13 - MICROS Best Micro to be awarded \$25.

SWEEPSTAKES will be awarded in all Sections except 8 and 9. Section winners, except section 13, will receive Warsaw Cut Glass vase and \$25. Section 13 will receive \$25. Runners-up will receive exchange medal and \$10. The show sweepstakes winner will receive EDS silver medal and name engraved on the EDS traveling trophy.

**The MIDWEST DAHLIA CONFERENCE and ELKHART DAHLIA SOCIETY
acknowledge with appreciation the generous support from the following:**

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Scheetz Chuey Charitable Fund
Dahlia Society of Ohio
Rusty & Anita Ritchie
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Badger State Dahlia Society	Jim Chuey
Dahlia Society of Wisconsin	Jayne Froney
Elkhart City Parks Department	Jan & Kathy Gawthrop
Elkhart County Parks Department	Keith & Robin Hill
Farmstead Inn & Expo Barn	James Kassner
Greater Columbus Dahlia Society	Steve & Ramona Kuiper
Inland Empire Dahlia Society	Marcia Nellans
Lane County Dahlia Society	Irv Marcus
Minnesota Dahlia Society	Naomi Prince
Southtown Dahlia Club	Warren & Rhonda Vigor
Warsaw Cut Glass	Kyle Wright
Washington State Dahlia Society	