



Welcome to the 87<sup>th</sup> Midwest Dahlia Conference Show and the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Show of the Greater Pittsburgh Dahlia Society!

We are here to answer your questions. New members are welcome, and we encourage anyone interested in growing dahlias to join our club and attend our plant and tuber sales in the spring. These sales feature show-quality dahlias at reasonable prices. Sunday afternoon at the conclusion of the show many blooms are given away by the exhibitors, you may want to stay for some free flowers.

\*Cover photography by Shelley Lipton  
[www.shellelyipton.com](http://www.shellelyipton.com)

## **SHOW SCHEDULE**

Bloom entry: Friday, 4:00-11:00, Saturday, 7:00 - Noon  
Registration: Friday, 3:00 p.m. - 11:00, Saturday, 7:00 a.m. - noon  
Lunch: Saturday, 11:00 am - 11:45 pm  
Judges meeting; judging starts: Saturday, 12:00 PM  
Show open to the public: Saturday 3:00-5:00PM  
Midwest Meeting: Saturday 3:30 PM  
Banquet: Saturday 5:00-8:00 PM  
Sunday hours: 8:00AM-3:00 PM  
Show closes: Sunday, 3:00 PM  
Clean up: Sunday, 3:00 pm - Thanks for helping!

## **GPDS OFFICERS**

President: Judy Romano  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Jennifer Floyd  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Bob Romano  
Treasurer: Heather Ramsay  
Corresponding Secretary: Katrina Dunderdale  
Recording Secretary: Katrina Dunderdale

## **DIRECTORS**

Mark Floyd, Randy Miller, Mary Peterson,  
Aderyn Ramsay, Mike Ramsay, Flora Williams, John Williams

# SHOW COMMITTEE

Co-Show Chairs: Bob and Judy Romano, Judges Chairman: John Williams

## GENERAL SHOW RULES

1. Four divisions are available: Novice, Junior, Small Grower, and Open. The requirements for each division are given following the division headings. Exhibitors should enter only where qualified. All exhibitors must register at welcome desk upon arrival.
2. All entries shall be in accordance with the current *Classification and Handbook of Dahlias* or be classified as last listed by that publication with appropriate modification to the classification number. If the variety is not known or not listed then it must be referred to the Classification Table prior to judging. If the originator intends to enter either bench or trial garden then the seedling entered in competition must be identified by an alpha/numeric number prior to being introduced. Seedlings shall be entered into their appropriate classes. Misplaced entries may be properly placed by a judge in the correct classification only if that division and classification has not yet been judged.
3. All entries must be submitted by Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. EST.
4. The GPDS will supply all entry cards. The exhibitor is responsible for proper identification of all entries with classification number and variety name or seedling number. The entry must also include the exhibitor's name and the tag must be sealed. Failure to do so may result in disqualification. Non-competitive and commercial displays are exempt.
5. No one is permitted on the floor during judging except for judges and clerks.
6. The GPDS will supply containers for single bloom and three bloom entries only. Exhibitors must provide their own containers for Baskets, Vases, and Arrangements.
7. At least one full set of leaves, or enough foliage to acquire balance, is required.
8. All blooms in competition must be grown by the exhibitor except for arrangements. Violators will be disqualified.
9. Any unfit exhibit will be removed. No awards will be given for unworthy entries.
10. Wedges only are allowed for support. Artificial support of blooms above

the top of containers is prohibited except in arrangement division.

11. The GPDS will take reasonable care to maintain exhibits as entered and shall return all personal property when possible. The GPDS will not be responsible for damage to exhibits or containers.

12. No exhibit or part of an exhibit may be removed prior to Noon Sunday except by special permission of the Show Chairman.

13. First and second place ribbons will be awarded in each class if deemed worthy by the judges. Third place ribbons may also be presented for all Novice and Junior classes.

14. A Special Gold Ribbon will be awarded, when worthy, to the best first place winners for each form of each size AA, A, B, and BB, and the best miniature (4001-4515), ball or miniature ball (6001-6115), pompon (6201-6215), and (7001-9715).

15. Three-bloom entries in each size class will be judged by form. Mixed form is not allowed.

16. Disseminated dahlias will not be disqualified when oversize or undersize. Blooms classified by the ADS as miniature or smaller may have non-oversized blooms given bonus points. All blooms will be judged on their merits or lack of merits.

17. An Exhibitor may enter more than one entry in a class and as many entries as desired of the same variety.

18. At the close of the show on Sunday, the Show Committee shall remove all entry tags and ribbons. Exhibitors may receive tags and ribbons at the registration desk.

19. The exhibitor agrees to abide by all show rules and ADS rules when entering. The Show Committee may make further rules as deemed necessary for proper conduct of the show.

20. The Judges Chairman shall select the Classification Committee. The Judges Chairman shall determine the methodology and standards for selection of the Court of Honor.

21. Judges' decisions are final.

## NOVICE DIVISION

A Novice is one who has never received a Gold ribbon in an ADS sanctioned dahlia show. Only one Special Award will be chosen from all Novice Classes.

SECTION: *Novice*

CLASS:

*A* One bloom decorative AA or A size (0001-0115, 1001-1115)

*B* One bloom cactus, Lacinated AA or A size (0201-0515, 1201-1515)

*C* One bloom decorative B size (2001-2115)

*D* One bloom cactus Lacinated B size (2201-2515)

*E* One bloom decorative BB size (3001-3115)

*F* One bloom cactus Lacinated BB size (3201-3515)

*G* One bloom miniature (4001-4515)

*H* One bloom Ball/Miniature Ball (6001-6115)

*I* One bloom Pompon (6201-6215)

*J* One bloom Other Forms (7001-9715)

## JUNIOR DIVISION

A junior is anyone up to and including 16 years old.

Only one Special Award will be chosen from all Junior Classes for the Court of Honor.

SECTION: *Junior*

CLASS:

*K* One bloom decorative AA or A size (0001-0115, 1001-1115)

*L* One bloom cactus AA or A size (0201-0515, 1201-1515)

*M* One bloom decorative B size (2001-2115)

*N* One bloom cactus B size (2201-2515)

*O* One bloom decorative BB size (3001-3115)

*P* One bloom cactus BB size (3201-3515)

*Q* One bloom miniature (4001-4515)

*R* One bloom Ball/Miniature Ball (6001-6115)

*S* One bloom Pompon (6201-6215)

*T* One bloom Other Forms (7001-9715)

## SMALL GROWERS DIVISION

A Small Grower is anyone growing 100 or fewer dahlia plants, excluding seedlings. Entry tags must have the division identified as *SG*.

A small grower may enter the open division, but must follow all rules pertaining to that division.

SECTION: *SG One Bloom Entry*

CLASS: Sizes AA, A, B, and BB only. The current ADS Classification number (0001-3515).

## OPEN DIVISION

SECTION: *One Bloom Entry*

CLASS: The class is current ADS Classification number (0001-9715)

SECTION: *3AA* 3 Blooms, AA Size

CLASS: ADS Classification Number (0001-0515)

SECTION: *3A* 3 Blooms, A Size

CLASS: ADS Classification Number (1001-1515)

SECTION: *3B* 3 Blooms, B Size

CLASS: ADS Classification Number (2001-2515)

SECTION: *3BB* 3 Blooms, BB size

CLASS: ADS Classification Number (3001-3515)

SECTION: *3Min* 3 Blooms, Miniature Size

CLASS: ADS Classification Number (4001-4515)

SECTION: *3Ball* 3 Blooms, Ball size

CLASS: ADS Classification Number (6001-6015)

SECTION: *3MinBall* 3 Blooms, Miniature Ball Size

CLASS: ADS Classification Number (6101-6115)

SECTION: *3Pom* 3 Blooms, Pompon size

CLASS: ADS Classification Number (6201-6215)

SECTION: 3 Blooms not included above.

**CLASS:**

- 1 Stellar (7001-7015)
- 2 Water Lily type (7301-7315)
- 3 Novelty Double Center (7601-7615)
- 4 Peony type (8001-8015)
- 5 Anemone type (8201-8215)
- 6 Novelty Open Center (8601-8615)
- 7 Collarette type (9001-9015)
- 8 Orchid type (9201-9215)
- 9 Orchette (9401-9415)
- 10 Single types (9601-9615)
- 11 Mignon Single (9701-9715)
- 12 All Micro types

**SECTION: Vases**

Must be grown by the exhibitor. One container with no filler allowed. Foliage is required. Blooms may be the same or mixed variety, but all must be the same size or type as the class name. One entry goes to court for each of 5+, 7+, and 9+ classes.

**CLASS:**

- 1: 5 or more blooms, AA size (0001-0415)
- 2: 5 or more Blooms, A size (1001-1415)
- 3: 5 or more Blooms, B size (2001-2415)
- 4: 7 or more Blooms, BB size (3001-3415)
- 5: 7 or more blooms, Miniature size (4001-4415)
- 6: 7 or more Blooms, Ball Size (6001-6015)
- 7: 7 or more Blooms, Miniature Ball Size (6101-6115)
- 8: 9 or more Blooms, Pompon Size (6201-6215)
- 9: 9 or more Blooms, (7001-9715)

**SECTION: Challenge Classes**

1. Best 3 Bloom Entry of a Midwest Introduction. Sponsored by the Midwest Dahlia conference. \$100.00
2. Best any Romano introduction. Sponsored by Bob and Judy Romano. \$100.00
3. Best Marcella Louise. Sponsored by Jim Chuey (In memory of his mother.) \$100.00
4. Best Carl. Sponsored by Jim Chuey (In memory of his brother.) \$100.00
5. World's Largest Bloom competition. Does not have to be a show quality dahlia.

Measured by diameter only. No cash prize.

<https://www.dahlia.org/news/largest-bloom-2-2/#:~:text=The%20winner%20AGAIN%20in%202022,14%205%2F8%E2%80%B3%20Maki.>

### SECTION: *Arrangements and Baskets*

Fresh foliage and flower spikes are allowed, but dahlias must predominate. Flowers used in the arrangements need not be grown by the exhibitor. No state conservation plant material will be permitted, such as trailing arbutus or ground pine. Baskets must have at least one handle. Each class has a theme related to Pittsburgh landscape and regions. Think creatively!

1. **Mon Monster**, Legend of a Monongahela river creature. ( Like Nessie.)
2. **3 Rivers**. Pittsburgh is noted for the three great rivers meeting at the point.  
<http://www.brooklineconnection.com/history/Facts/PPark50.html>
3. **Bridges**. We have many old and new bridges crossing our rivers and valleys.  
<https://www.visitpittsburgh.com/blog/25-famous-pittsburgh-bridges/>
4. **Day in The Neighborhood**. Basket. A basket of dahlias to bring to old and new neighbors.

### SECTION: *Photography*

All pictures must be taken by the exhibitor. All entries can be prints of any size up to 5x7", and should not be framed or matted. The exhibitor should write their name, class and dahlia variety (where available) on the back of the picture. Each exhibitor may enter no more than two (2) pictures per class.

#### Class A: *Dahlia Portrait*

One bloom or multiple blooms of one variety, with no other plant matter prominently displayed. Photo may be taken inside or outside, but entire bloom must be unobstructed and within the boundaries of the photo. This is meant to be distinguished from an arrangement photo.

#### Class B: *Dahlia Garden*

Outdoor photo may include humans and/or critters, but dahlias must figure prominently. This is for showing off dahlias in the place they grow and the joy of dahlia gardening.



**Class C: *Artistic***

Includes arrangements, bouquets, macro photography, creative photo processing, B&W, and dahlias with other props. Be creative, but dahlias must figure prominently.

**Class D: *Show Photos***

Any show photos that do not fit the portrait category. May include humans and/or critters.

Note: Judges may decide to divide classes into subclasses as needed.

**SECTION: *ADS Seedling Bench Evaluation***

Offered in cooperation with the American Dahlia Society. Show officials and exhibitors must read and adhere to the rules for entries and judging as printed in the ADS Handbook and Classification of Dahlias.

**CLASS: No. 1 ADS** Three blooms in either one or three containers

**CLASS: No. 2 ADS** One bloom, first year seedling