



THE DIRT FROM DAHLIA HILL

Spring, 2021



May Your Gardens Begin with Dahlias!

The Dahlia Hill mission:

to maintain the Dahlia Hill garden for perpetuity;

to encourage and promote public interest in Dahlias;

to educate and disseminate information to the general public on methods of growing, displaying and showing dahlias.

Dahlias are a garden essential. They begin to bloom as other flowers fade out. They are a magical way to rejoice in the beginning of fall. The Dahlias at Dahlia Hill in Midland, MI reach their peak in September. Here are a few examples of new, brilliant Dahlias photographed last September.



Junk Yard Dog

Fernclyff Lemon Aura

Thomas Edison

More new varieties on next page

Dates to Remember 2021

April 25 - 30 Sort tubers for sale and planting

May 4 Giving Day with the Midland Area Community Foundation .

Go to: www.givelocalmidland.org to learn more and donate to Dahlia Hill.

May 17 - 21 Tentative planting dates, weather dependent

May 22 & 29 Tuber sale 8 am to 4 pm

May 24 - 28 Tuber sale 9 am - noon

All past and future volunteers are welcome.

Contact Us: Dahlia Hill Society of Midland, c/o Peggy Kernstock, 2809 Orchard Drive, Midland, MI

Phone: (989) 631-0100

E-mail: dahlia.hill.society@gmail.com

Seasons of Life Sculptures



Summer is one of four sculptures found at Dahlia Hill created by Founder Charles Breed

The four “Seasons of Life” sculptures at Dahlia Hill are seven feet tall, cast aluminum pieces designed by Charles Breed. The sculptures are filled with symbols relating to the belief that nature provides us with positive absolutes. Death and taxes are not the only absolutes in life—the equinoxes, solstices and moon phases are cyclic constants that humans have depended on for eons.

“Spring” and “Fall” are symmetric—symbolizing the equinoxes, with equal lengths of night and day. The solstices are represented by “Summer and “Winter”- they are symmetric, showing the longest day and longest night of the year. The months are represented on each sculpture with the petal or leaf-like shapes near the top. In “Fall”, these shapes contain seeds.

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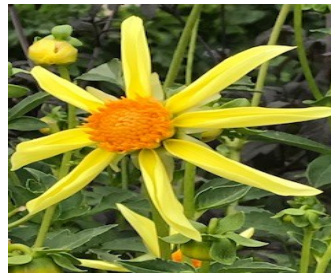
More New Varieties



Wildcat



Dow White



Top Mix Yellow



Glenbank Twinkle

The Dahlia Hill Society will hold a tuber sale that will include these new varieties and many more on May 4. See page 1 for times. Varieties available will depend upon how well the tubers have survived through winter.

At Dahlia Hill, we do not use insecticides. That is why, when you visit you will also see butterflies, bees, dragonflies, and predator wasps among other pollinators.



The Winter Sculpture depicts the wilting stage of life .

Want to join the Team at Dahlia Hill?

If you know of anyone interested in becoming a member or volunteering, please let us know. Our membership application and activity descriptions will be available through our Facebook account or by email to dahliahill.society@gmail.com. Members can vote on board elections every two years. They can also attend board meetings which occur in April and December.

Typically, meeting locations vary. Please call Peggy Kernstock at the office for the meeting location (989) 631-0100.

In “Winter” the seeds have dropped.

The sculptures are also vaguely human – shaped. They use symbology to show the predictable and unavoidable changes that occur in the human body and psyche as we age. “Spring” depicts youth—from, birth to age twenty-five—the budding stage of life.

The Hindu religion refers to it as the learning phase of a person’s life. “Summer” is when we are in full bloom - age twenty-five to fifty - the building phase. “Fall” is going to seed - age fifty to seventy-five—when we give back to society.

“Winter” is the wilting stage - age seventy-five and up - when we let go.

The concept for the designs evolved from a sketch of the cross section of a flower’s bud that Charles drew in college botany class.



The last frost of 2020 painted the dahlias with new colors.