



THE DIRT FROM DAHLIA HILL

For Member/Volunteers

Spring, 2022



Thank you, Dahlia Hill Members

Gratitude: To savor and pay attention to those things that are good in our lives. Being grateful is widely accepted as a way to maintain positivity in our lives, and to provide an antidote to negativity. Here at Dahlia Hill gratefulness is a very easy feeling. When the board and I think about the members who make Dahlia Hill a spectacular success each season, we are filled with gratitude for the dedication and time each member invests in Dahlia Hill.

We look at the garden terraces now and see mud covering the ground. It takes only a moment to recall the glory of the dahlia blooms of last September and the fun of seeing the hill transformed from tiny bareroot plantings to full sized plants so large they must be staked. All of this is only possible because of you. Dahlia Hill could not exist without the love and care each of you lavish on our tubers and plants as they bloom throughout the growing season.

And for this we say, Thank You!

Thank you too, for the time you spend in the storeroom sorting and preparing tubers during the cold spring and fall months, for planting and digging the tubers, often in inclement weather, for the consistent weeding and plant maintenance, and for the countless other details that ensure Dahlia Hill is glorious for the community to enjoy.

Dahlia Hill is a product of your loving hands, and we want you to know how very much we sincerely and deeply appreciate the efforts of all members. You truly are the heart and soul of Dahlia Hill. We look forward to seeing everyone soon, and the colorful magic you all will create this summer at Dahlia Hill.

Peggy Kernstock, Executive Director and the Dahlia Hill Society Board

Mark Your Calendar for Dahlia Hill Activities

Giving Tuesday/Give Local Midland: May 3, MIDLAND AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION website: <https://www.givelocalmidland.org>. Donate to Dahlia Hill Society online through the Midland Area Community Foundation - May 3.

Planting: Mid - May depending on weather and soil temperatures

Tuber Sale: May 21 and 28, 8 am to 4 pm

May 23 through 27, 9 to noon (Monday - Friday).



Cheryl Weeks Rosten, Dahlia Hill Member, shares her knowledge of storing tubers at Dahlia Hill with visitors .

Meet Member: Cheryl Weeks Rosten

Over a cup of hot chocolate, I had the privilege of meeting Cheryl Weeks Rosten. Visiting with Cheryl is like delving into the philosophy, mission and inner workings of Dahlia Hill. She has filled most activities that make the hill work - be it weeding, storing tubers, planting or serving as the board president and member. A role she encourages others to take on,

“It’s a great way to learn the inner workings of the Hill and it doesn’t really take that much time out of your schedule”.

Cheryl will tell you that she best serves the Hill as an educator. She enjoys watching the progression of the garden, talking to people and answering their most common question, “Are these all Dahlias?” And she has more to do in sharing the story of Dahlias and the Hill with those who visit. Cheryl has a rich history with Dahlia Hill (DH) as she was friends with Charles Breed the founder. “Charles brought art and science together at DH”. And if you want to know how DH was transformed from an empty lot owned by a sand and gravel company, into a hill of 1200 dahlias, just ask Cheryl, she can tell you.

Dahlia Hill couldn't exist without members and Covid has attracted new people to become involved as it is

outside, and you can work when it fits your schedule. That can also be a disadvantage if you want to meet other volunteers. However, working toward the August/September Equinox is crucial. That is the time that Dahlia Hill is revealed to be the gift to the community that volunteers work all season to create. Julie Chamberlain, Editor

Thank you Dahlia Hill Society Board Members

Board members make important decisions regarding the direction, funding and financing for the Dahlia Hill Society. We wish to thank those who have recently exited serving on the board and those who have stepped up as new and/or existing members.

Exiting board members:

Brian Mills
 Mary Jo Peters
 Mark Smith
 Jack Telfer
 Cheryl Weeks-Rosten

New* and current board members

Lloyd Bailey, President	Don Smith
Marilyn Greene, Secretary	Crisann Breed
Karen Thurlow, Treasurer.	Marilyn Soules*
Thad Hallberg*	John Holmes

Did you know...

...the Dahlia is the national flower of Mexico? It is native to the mountains of Mexico and Guatemala. The hollow stems of these plants, some growing to over 20 feet, were often used for hauling water or as an actual source of water to traveling hunters.

...about 200 years passed before dahlia seeds, roots, and plants found their way to Europe? From the Royal Botanical Gardens in Madrid, Spain, dahlia seeds and tubers were soon sent throughout western Europe.

From: American Dahlia Society

2021 Photo Contest Winner

London Parks won 1st place in the 2021 photo contest in the youth category.

You can find more winning entries on page 4.



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.

Thank you members!

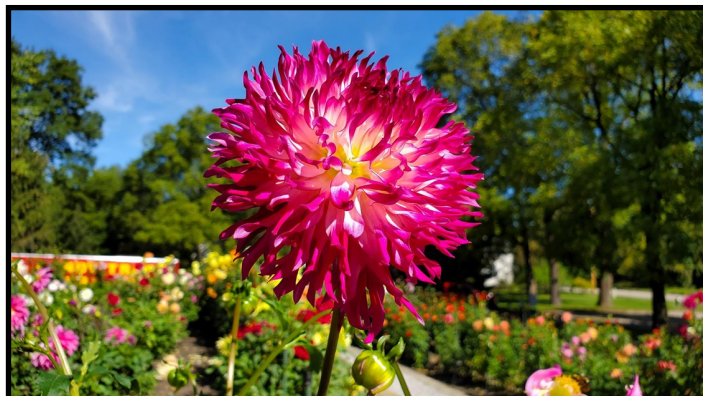
When you visit and enjoy Dahlia Hill, please think about the following people who make sure the Hill is weeded, flowers staked, tubers planted and stored and a number of other activities that make this public garden an asset for the Midland Community.

Sandra Austin-Buda	Bob Dostal	Elizabeth Kastanya	Loren Metcalf	Don Smith
Barb and Lloyd Bailey	Dan and Marcia Draves	Jay & Karen Ketover	Brian & Karen Ellen Mills	Mark Smith
Rudy Barron	Mary Jean & Steven Eberbach	Elizabeth Haibel Klohn	Michael Mirto	Marilyn Soules
Karin Bartling	Kathy Gaffke	Barbara Kozubal	Lindy Morley	Sheri Tausk
Joanie Boulton	Jennifer Gay	Bill Krueger	Mary Jo Peters	Jack & Jeanne Telfer
Crisann Breed	Marilyn Greene	Anita Lawnichak	Rosemarie Peterson	Karen Thurlow
Jeanne Calkins	Terra Gunari	Sarah Legacy	Cheryl Phillips	Cheryl Weeks-Rosten
Julie Chamberlain	Pam Hall	Diane Maxson	Sue Pickvet	Jen Wentworth
Cheryl Cronkright	Lorie & Thad Hallberg	Karen Lee McArdle	Neli Ragina	Susan Wiersma
Doreen Dagenais	Mic Hamas		Ashley Rychwa	Thank you all for the time and love invested in making Dahlia Hill beautiful. We couldn't do it without you!
Cheryl Dean	Diana & John Holmes		Ron Sexton	
			Bernie & Louise Skowronski	

2021 Photo contest winners



Stuart Frohm 1st Place Artistic, Category



David Krajniak 1st Place, Realistic Category

View Dahlias Clearly, New Tools for Those with Low Vision and/or Mobility Issues

This summer, members can offer visitors a new way of seeing dahlias up close. The Midland Lions Club provided a donation to the Dahlia Hill Society which resulted in the purchase of a variety of magnification devices. They were introduced at the 2021, Equinox event and allowed visitors to see the Dahlia blooms with greater clarity and in delightful detail.

This program is designed to provide support to visitors with decreased vision and anyone who wants to explore the intricate details of a dahlia flower. In addition, there are sunglasses with various colored tints that provide increased depth perception when looking at the garden. There are also binocular spectacles that can be worn by visitors with limited mobility to view the dahlias from the bottom of the garden.

These devices will continue to be available during the upcoming season.

Thank you Midland Lions Club!

Passing

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of one of our beloved members. Marcia Draves left us on February 1st, 2022 at MyMichigan Medical Center of Midland. Marcia and Daniel Draves shared fifty-two loving years together.

They both contributed many hours making Dahlia Hill a beautiful place for our visitors. Marcia was an exceptionally creative woman, whose talents were many and varied. She loved to garden, cook, and arrange flowers, amongst other things. Marcia will be missed.



View Dahlias Clearly provides visitors with low vision to magnify dahlia flowers for a better view.