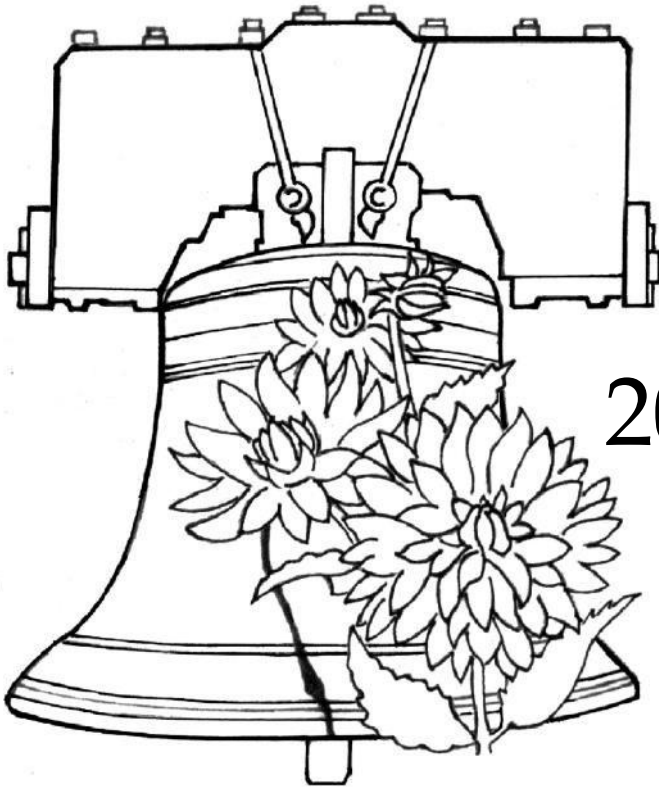




2026

The Greater Philadelphia
Dahlia Society
Annual Dahlia Show



LONGWOOD
GARDENS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society

is proud to present
THE 2026 ANNUAL DAHLIA SHOW.

Welcome!

We are pleased to have you at our annual show. Your presence and your flowers are what make this weekend magical. Here at Longwood Gardens, we receive incredible crowds of admirers of nature, and they leave in awe of the diversity of the dahlia. Do know that we are here to help you present in whatever way we can and hope you linger to mingle with the guests who come to the show. The show floor becomes overflowing with curiosity, so your knowledge and enthusiasm are a welcome asset in making all who come leave with a deeper appreciation of our beloved dahlia.

This year we are running the new Dahlia Tally System side by side with our traditional method, so please check in at registration to receive your exhibitor number.

Thank you for coming this weekend and sharing your dahlias with all!

Nancy Sage Sciarretta
President, The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society

SHOW SCHEDULE

Friday, September 11, 2026

- **12 noon to 2 pm** Set up
- **2 pm to 9 pm** Staging

Saturday, September 12, 2026

- **6 am to 10 am** Staging

Exhibits **MUST** be ready for judging by 10 am.

Judges should be ready for their responsibilities by 10:15 am.

- **10:15 am to 1 pm** Judging

Only judges and clerks will be allowed on the floor during judging.

Judges may not participate in decisions involving their own interests or entries; judges must step out and get a substitute judge.

- **12 noon to 2 pm** Lunch for participants, Music Room
- **1 pm to 9 pm** Show open to public
- **8:15 pm** Illuminated Fountain Show
"Pure Imagination"

Sunday, September 13, 2026

- **10 am to 6 pm** Show open to public
- **6 pm** Show closes with tear-down and storage

DIRECTIONS TO LONGWOOD GARDENS

Longwood Gardens is located on Route 1, about three miles northeast of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. For GPS or Google Maps/Mapquest/internet mapping, use the following addresses in Kennett Square PA
For the business entrance: 409 Conservatory Road
For the main entrance: 1001 Longwood Road

Information for Exhibitors, Judges and Members

All exhibitors, judges, and members must initially enter Longwood Gardens via the Business Entrance. The Business Entrance is located at 409 Conservatory Road, Kennett Square, PA. Turn right. Tell the guard that you are with the Dahlia Show; they can provide further instructions if you need them.

At the entrance to the staging area on the Music Room patio, sign in at the Registration Table. If you do not have a name tag already, you can get one there. After unloading, continue to the lower level and park. If there are no parking spaces available there, you will have to put your car in the main entrance parking lot. Get a wristband from the show registration table. Turn around, retrace your path to exit at the Business Entrance and drive to the Main Visitor Entrance. Use your wristband to enter Longwood Gardens via the Visitor Center.

Coffee and snacks will be served Saturday morning near the staging areas.

Note: There will be a few handicapped parking spaces near the staging area. Contact Wes Bowers (contact info below) before the show to arrange handicapped parking.

If you need additional information, have any questions about how to get to Longwood Gardens, or for any emergency, please call Wes Bowers at 610-314-1528. Wes can also be reached at wesleybowers@msn.com.

RULES OF EXHIBITION

1. ALL EXHIBITORS must sign in at the registration table.
You will receive an exhibitor number.
2. UNIFORM ENTRY TAGS must be used.
Tags can be obtained at the Show.
Tags must be completely filled in, top and bottom, with variety name, section, classification number, exhibitor's name, and exhibitor number to qualify for an award.
3. NUMBER OF EXHIBITS. Any person may have any number of different varieties in any class, but no more than two may be of the same variety. Each exhibitor in Division II, Juniors, may have an unlimited number of entries.
4. BLOOMS shown in competition must be grown by exhibitors entering them, except in Division VI .
5. A SMALL GROWER grows plants for pleasure, does not sell for a profit, has never been employed as a gardener, and grows less than 100 plants.
6. CONTAINERS will be supplied by Show Committee, except in basket and Dilly Dahlia...ing divisions. (Some baskets and vases are available.)
7. CLASSIFICATION. All entries in the show will be judged in accordance with the current official American Dahlia Society classification and handbook as to size, form and color.
8. SUPPORTING STEM. The use of any material to support dahlia stems above the container will disqualify the exhibit.

9. ALL THREE BLOOM ENTRIES must be of same variety.
10. SETS OF LEAVES. All blooms should have at least ONE set of leaves.
11. PACHYSANDRA, CHRYSANTHEMUM, BOXWOOD, and FRAGRANT SWEET BOX may NOT be brought in to Longwood Gardens.
12. THE DECISIONS OF THE JUDGES ARE FINAL.
13. UNWORTHY ENTRIES. Judges will withhold award when they consider any entry unworthy.
14. TRI-COLOR will be awarded for each form where applicable and worthy.
15. BASKET SCORECARD:
Baskets are judged on the quality of the blooms and of the arrangement.
 - a. Quality of blooms 50%
 - 1) Color 10%
 - 2) Form 10%
 - 3) Substance 5%
 - 4) Stem and foliage 5%
 - 5) Uniformity 20%
 - b. Quality of arrangement, proper balance 30%
 - c. Distinction—overall effect, including color harmony, artistic application of all the materials used in the entry 20%

16. MARKET BUNCH SCORECARD:

Dahlia Market Bunches are judged on the following:

- a. Color 15%
- b. Blooms – Condition of petals 20%
- c. Blooms – Harvested at the appropriate stage 15%
- d. Blooms – Uniformity of age 10%
- e. Stem – Firm bloom attachment 15%
- f. Stem – Firmness and integrity 10%
- g. Stem – Length (minimum 12") 10%
- h. Properly bound with a single rubber band 5%

17. REMOVAL OF EXHIBITS. No exhibit may be removed at any time during the show except by permission of the Show Committee.

18. ADDITIONAL RULES. The Show Committee reserves the right to make additional rules and classes, to change the schedule as becomes necessary to remove from the table before or after judging any exhibit it considers to be in poor condition, or to make such further rules as it deems necessary for the proper conduct of the Show.

19. LIABILITY for loss or damage is disclaimed by The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society.

DIVISION I OPEN TO ALL

Single Bloom SECTION	CLASSIFICATION NUMBERS	Three Blooms SECTION
Section AA	0001-0515	3 AA
Section A	1001-1515	3 A
Section B	2001-2515	3 B
Section BB	3001-3515	3 BB
Section M	4001-4515	3 M
Section BA	6001-6015	3 BA
Section MB	6101-6115	3 MB
Section P	6201-6215	3 P
Section ST	7001-7015	3 ST
Section WL	7301-7315	3 WL
Section NX	7601-7615	3 NX
Section PE	8001-8015	3 PE
Section AN	8201-8215	3 AN
Section NO	8601-8615	3 NO
Section CO	9001-9015	3 CO
Section O	9201-9215	3 O
Section OT	9401-9415	3 OT
Section S	9601-9615	3 S
Section MS	9701-9715	3 MS
Section Micro	{5001-5515	3 Micro
	7101-7115	
	7401-7415	
	7701-7715	
	8101-8115	
	8301-8315	
	8701-8715	
	9101-9115	
	9301-9315	
	9501-9515}	

DIVISION I OPEN TO ALL (continued)

Basket or Container

SECTION	QUANTITY	CLASS	SIZE/FORM
C5	5 or more	0001-1515	AA, A
C7	7 or more	2001-3515	B, BB
		6001-6015	BA
		7001-7015	ST
		7301-7315	WL
C9	9 or more	4001-4515	M
		6101-6115	MB
C11	11 or more	5001-5515	MC
		6201-6215	P
		7101-7115	MST
		7401-7415	MWL
		7601-9715	NX, MNX, PE, MPE,

AN, MAN, NO, MNO, CO, MCO, O, MO, OT, MOT, S, MS

Baskets may be mixed colors but must be of the same form.

Other foliage is permitted.

Each winner of the Basket Section receives a Rosette.

Best Basket of the Sections goes to the Court of Honor.

DIVISION II JUNIORS (under age 18)

SECTION	CLASSIFICATION NUMBERS
Section 1 AA,A	One bloom 0001-0515, 1001-1515
Section 2 B	One bloom 2001-2515
Section 3 BB	One bloom 3001-3515
Section 4 M,ST, WL	One bloom 4001-4515, 7001-7015, 7301-7315
Section 5 BA,MBA, P	One bloom 6001-6015, 6101-6115, 6201-6215
Section 6 All others	One bloom All others

DIVISION III AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY **SEEDLING BENCH EVALUATION**

Offered in cooperation with the American Dahlia Society. Open to all exhibitors. Entries consist of three blooms from the same seedling grown for at least three years. Exhibitors, show officials and judges must read and adhere to the rules for **Seedling Bench Evaluation** printed in the current edition of the American Dahlia Society's *Classification and Handbook of Dahlias*.

DIVISION IV SMALL GROWERS

Open to those who qualify under Exhibition Rule #5 (page 4). Growers who qualify under this rule may also exhibit in other divisions of the show. The best entry of each section receives a Rosette and goes to the Court of Honor.

SECTION	CLASSIFICATION NUMBERS
Section I	
AA and 3AA	0001-0515
A and 3A	1001-1515
Section II	
B and 3B	2001-2515
Section III	
BB and 3BB	3001-3515
Section IV	
M and 3M	4001-4515
ST and 3ST	7001-7015
WL and 3WL	7301-7315
Section V	
BA and 3BA	6001-6015
MB and 3MB	6101-6115
P and 3P	6201-6215
Section VI	
NX and 3NX	7601-7615
PE and 3PE	8001-8015
AN and 3AN	8201-8215
NO and 3NO	8601-8615
CO and 3CO	9001-9015
O and 3O	9201-9215
OT and 3OT	9401-9415
S and 3S	9601-9615
MS and 3MS	9701-9715
Micro and 3Micro	{5001-5515, 7101-7115, 7401-7415, 7701-7715, 8101-8115, 8301-8315, 8701-8715, 9101-9115, 9301-9315, 9501-9515}

DIVISION V UNDISSEMINATED CULTIVARS

One bloom

DIVISION VI DILLY DAHLIA...ING

This division allows dahlia lovers to demonstrate the simple and abundant beauty of dahlias in their favorite containers. Container to be provided by exhibitor.

Foliage and filler allowed as long as dahlias predominate.

Rules of Exhibition 1, 2, 11, 17, 18 and 19 apply. Note especially that pachysandra, chrysanthemum , fragrant sweet box, and boxwood may not be used.

The winner of each section will be chosen in a "People's Choice" competition, voted on by visitors to the show. A ribbon will go to each of the winners.

For each section, a design of your choice. Space allotted is 24" x 24". Height restriction 48". Designs will be displayed on tables.

Special entry tags are provided for this division at the registration table.

Section 1 **LET FREEDOM RING**

Section 2 **STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER**

Section 3 **ANYTHING GOES**

DIVISION VII FLOWER OF THE YEAR

2026 **Ainsley** 9613 S DB originator Timothy Elkner

Two Sections:

Section 1 Flower of the Year Single Bloom

Section 2 Flower of the Year Three Bloom

DIVISION VIII

DAHLIA MARKET BUNCH

A "dahlia market bunch" typically refers to a bundle of fresh cut dahlias sold by local farmers or growers at a farmer's or

floral market. Dahlia market bunches are prized for their freshness, seasonal variety, for their sustainability and support of local agriculture. This division will focus specifically on these dahlia bunches with no fillers. Judges will evaluate the freshness of the blooms with scores that rank marketability and favors good grower management for a commonly found market item. Judging criteria can be found on the ADS web page at <https://www.dahlia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/dahlia-market-bunch.pdf>.

Section 1 5 stem bunch of similar color

Section 2 5 stem bunch of mixed colors

Section 3 10 stem bunch of similar color

Section 4 10 stem bunch of mixed colors

All general rules of the show apply except rule 10. The following additional rules apply to this division:

1. Minimum stem length of 12".
2. Neatly bind each bunch with one rubber band at the bottom of the bunch.
4. No external wrapping material around the bunch.
5. No additional fillers or flowers other than dahlias (leaves and buds attached to the stems are okay).
6. Limit of 2 entries per person in each section.

Note: If the entry tag does not have enough space for all of the variety names and classification numbers, use the back of a second entry tag to list the names and

COURT OF HONOR
BEST SINGLE FULLY DOUBLE BLOOM IN SHOW

BEST 3 FULLY DOUBLE BLOOM IN SHOW

BEST SINGLE OPEN CENTER BLOOM IN SHOW

BEST 3 OPEN CENTER BLOOM IN SHOW

KING OF THE SHOW

BEST AA DECORATIVE BLOOM
BEST AA CACTUS BLOOM
BEST 3 BLOOM AA
BEST A DECORATIVE BLOOM
BEST A CACTUS BLOOM
BEST 3 BLOOM A
BEST SMALL GROWER ENTRY, SECTION I

QUEEN OF THE SHOW

BEST B DECORATIVE BLOOM
BEST B CACTUS BLOOM
BEST 3 BLOOM B
BEST SMALL GROWER ENTRY, SECTION II

PRINCE OF THE SHOW

BEST BB DECORATIVE BLOOM
BEST BB CACTUS BLOOM
BEST 3 BLOOM BB
BEST SMALL GROWER ENTRY, SECTION III

PRINCESS OF THE SHOW

BEST MINIATURE (M) DECORATIVE BLOOM
BEST MINIATURE (M) CACTUS BLOOM
BEST 3 BLOOM MINIATURE (M)
BEST STELLAR (ST) BLOOM
BEST 3 BLOOM STELLAR (ST)
BEST WATERLILY (WL) BLOOM
BEST 3 BLOOM WATERLILY (WL)
BEST SMALL GROWER ENTRY, SECTION IV

COURT OF HONOR

DUKE OF THE SHOW

BEST BALL (BA) BLOOM
BEST 3 BLOOM BALL (BA)
BEST MINIATURE BALL (MB) BLOOM
BEST 3 BLOOM MINIATURE BALL (MB)
BEST POMPON (P) BLOOM
BEST 3 BLOOM POMPON (P)
BEST SMALL GROWER ENTRY, SECTION V

DUCHESS OF THE SHOW

BEST NOVELTY DOUBLE CENTER (NX) BLOOM
BEST 3 BLOOM NOVELTY DOUBLE CENTER (NX)
BEST PEONY (PE) BLOOM
BEST 3 BLOOM PEONY (PE)
BEST ANEMONE (AN) BLOOM
BEST 3 BLOOM ANEMONE (AN)
BEST NOVELTY OPEN CENTER (NO) BLOOM
BEST 3 BLOOM NOVELTY OPEN CENTER (NO)
BEST COLLARETTE (CO) BLOOM
BEST 3 BLOOM COLLARETTE (CO)
BEST ORCHID (O) BLOOM
BEST 3 BLOOM ORCHID (O)
BEST ORCHETTE (OT) BLOOM
BEST 3 BLOOM ORCHETTE (OT)
BEST SINGLE (S) BLOOM
BEST 3 BLOOM SINGLE (S)
BEST MIGNON SINGLE (MS) BLOOM
BEST 3 BLOOM MIGNON SINGLE (MS)
BEST MICRO BLOOM
BEST 3 BLOOM MICRO
BEST SMALL GROWER ENTRY, SECTION VI

TO COURT OF HONOR

BEST JUNIOR ENTRY, DIV. II
LARGEST BLUE RIBBON BLOOM
SMALLEST BLUE RIBBON BLOOM
BEST BASKET OR CONTAINER
BEST UNDISSEMINATED CULTIVAR
BEST SINGLE BLOOM "FLOWER OF THE YEAR"
BEST THREE BLOOM "FLOWER OF THE YEAR"
BEST ADS SEEDLING

The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society

www.philadahlia.org

President	Nancy Sage Sciarretta
1st Vice President	Tammy Opalka
2nd Vice President	Susan Sarudy
Secretary	Sharon Richardson
Treasurer	Dave Opalka
ADS Representative	Nancy Sage Sciarretta
Program Chairman	Sharon Richardson
Judging Chairman	Timothy Elkner
Longwood Gardens Liaison	Wes Bowers

SHOW COMMITTEE

Chair	Wes Bowers
Judging Assignments	Timothy Elkner
Classification	Timothy Elkner
Dilly Dahlia...ing, Division VI	Cindy Miller
Show Secretary	Timothy Elkner
Court of Honor	Tammy Opalka
Ribbons	Marla Edwards, Grace Evangelista
Clerking	Dave Opalka
Mass Arrangement	Cindy Miller
Show Program	Cindy Miller
Hospitality	John and Marla Edwards

MORE INFORMATION

For additional information about growing dahlias,
check out:

www.philadahlia.org—the website of The Greater
Philadelphia Dahlia Society

www.dahlia.org—the website of The American Dahlia
Society

The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society

The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society is a non-profit organization formed in 1948 for the purpose of stimulating interest in and promoting the culture and development of the dahlia, disseminating information relating to the dahlia, and giving public exhibitions.

We solicit the aid of all flower lovers. Further information about the Society will cheerfully be given by members in attendance at the Dahlia Show. You may also want to visit www.philadahlia.org.

For information about membership in the Society, please contact Dave Opalka, 312 S 5th St, Perkasio PA 18944; gpds.membership@gmail.com.

Annual membership rates are:

GPDS Family / Single \$15.00

GPDS Senior (65+) / Junior (<18) \$12.00

All GPDS memberships include the newsletter *Dilly Dahlia...ing* and other communications.

Membership in the American Dahlia Society can be purchased on their website <https://www.dahlia.org/about/join-w-mms/>. ADS

Members receive the ADS bulletin and the *Annual Classification and Handbook of Dahlias*. Please contact Dave Opalka if you have questions about joining ADS.

The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society meets quarterly. March, May, and November meetings are held at Longwood Gardens. We conduct a tuber sale for the May meeting; we sell dahlia tubers at the Longwood Main Entrance. The August meeting is a pot-luck picnic at a member's home.

notes

