

Greater Columbus
Flora Society





Some of our members have offered to share their 2023 growing experiences in pictures. In alphabetical order, here are the results of their efforts.

Carolyn Abood, Dublin

I am a one-year member of the Greater Columbus Dahlia Society and a first year dahlia grower. This is Kelvin Floodlight, my first attempt at growing a dahlia. I'm a Master Gardener but knew nothing about dahlias. I learned a lot attending the GCDS meetings and hope to add additional dahlias to my collection.



Chris & Quinn Bryant, Solon

My wife (Danielle) and daughter (Quinn) and I were friends of Tony Evangelista and came down to your club's show this past summer. Quinn and I wanted to submit some pictures of our summer this year, and are hoping to make it to both the luncheon at Der Dutchman and to the plant sale, hopefully we will be bringing some of our own plants to donate to the club's auction.



A little about us!

Quinn and I are the most dedicated to the Dahlias in our house, but my son who is a freshman at the University of Tennessee will help with some of the work as long they aren't in bloom as he is allergic to bees. This was our third year growing them, and our very first year showing them. Our first year we did a REALLY good job killing them. Out of 70, we killed 50 pretty early on. Part of it was our fault, and part of it was ignorance to how poor our conditions were. Of the 20 that made it to the first frost, only 10 gave us a bloom, BUT we were hooked!!! The next year, using our horrible success rate we planted 200 tubers hoping to have 70 "make it", we had about 100 make it. Realizing some of our failure was due to planting plants out the day before a two week heat wave/drought coupled with our poor growing conditions I committed to MASSIVELY overhauling, for the better, our dirt in an attempt to make soil.



KA's Papa John

Because my daughter is involved in this endeavor, I NEVER wanted her to be in contact our around harsh chemicals so this entire journey has been 100% organic for us. It was my commitment to organics and my love of all things sporting that tightly connected Tony Evangelista. He was 100% supportive of my efforts to create our own compost and shift towards no-till, and it was at the Columbus show this Summer where he had chance to see Quinn and I's blooms in person that reflected all our efforts. This was a dahlia season Quinn and I will never forget!!! It was a roller coaster of being SO surprised with the drastic improvement in the quality of our blooms, the overall exceptional health of our plants, the fun we had and all the shows we attended, the amazing new friendships we formed especially with Jason Fairchild and all the Westfalls!!!! It also will be a year that has left a very large hole in all of our hearts with the loss of a VERY special person to all of us. It seems like yesterday that Quinn skipped a day of school in the Spring to join me as we brought dirt from Tony's Painesville garden down to his new Delaware garden . . . Our family will always maintain our membership with the GCDS and we hope to attend your show every year as a tribute to our friend Tony, and look forward to meeting more of your members.







Jackie's Red Devil



Rawhide



A Couple of Dahlia Dads
with their Dahlia
Daughters



Carmela Staas and the Prince



Jeanette Enyart, Saint Paris

Joined GCDS after attending the 2022 Labor Day weekend show in Marysville. I have grown Dahlias for 5 years and add to my collection each year. It was quite the learning experience to place some blooms on the Novice table this year for the first time. I so appreciated all the help from the members, and encouragement from my husband.

Dahlias offer such variety and beauty. I enjoy them more each year.







Painted Lady
butterfly on Pixie



Nicholas





Jason Fairchild, East Liberty

Dahlias supported with wood dowels getting ready for transport to a show. Notice the salt and watermelon rinds – signs of summer!









Mark Freudenberg, Dublin

In 2015, my journey with dahlias began, and oh boy, it was a blast! Six vibrant plants took their place in my east-facing front yard, and let me tell you, the results were nothing short of spectacular! Those beauties defied the package predictions, reaching heights that left me pleasantly surprised.



Capturing their enchanting allure through the camera lens became more than just a pastime; it evolved into a passion! Sharing the unique beauty of my dahlias with friends worldwide brought me immense joy. Fast forward to 2023, and my dahlia empire expanded with a whopping 50 tubers! Imagine the thrill of discovering new colors, styles, and maybe rare? – a reddish/purple and white dahlia flaunting two "siamese" blossoms!

And here's the latest scoop – I've decided to kick things up a notch by joining the Greater Columbus Dahlia Society. I look forward to sharing and soaking in the wealth of knowledge from fellow dahlia enthusiasts like yourself! Let the blooming adventures continue!









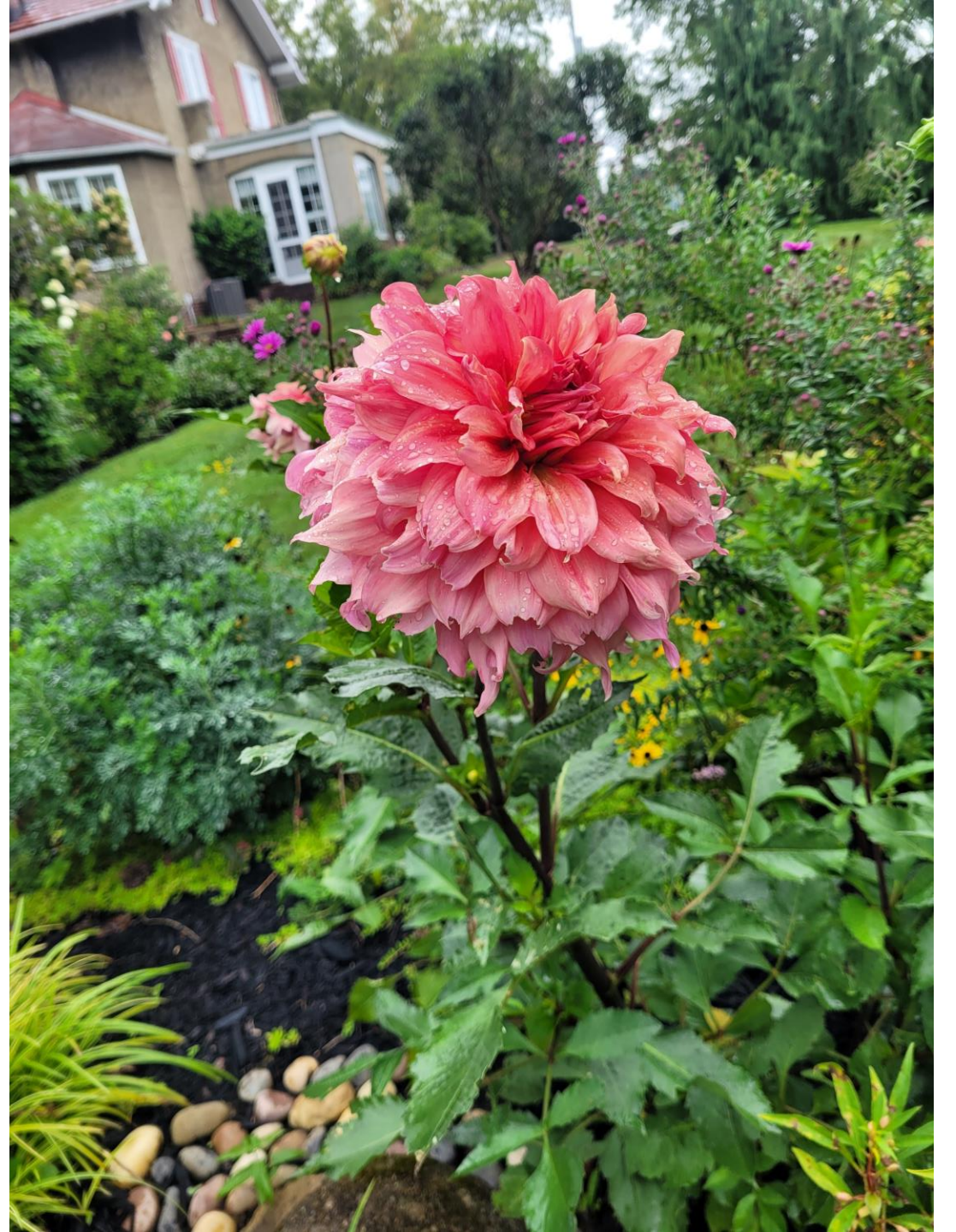
Sheila Geiling, Utica

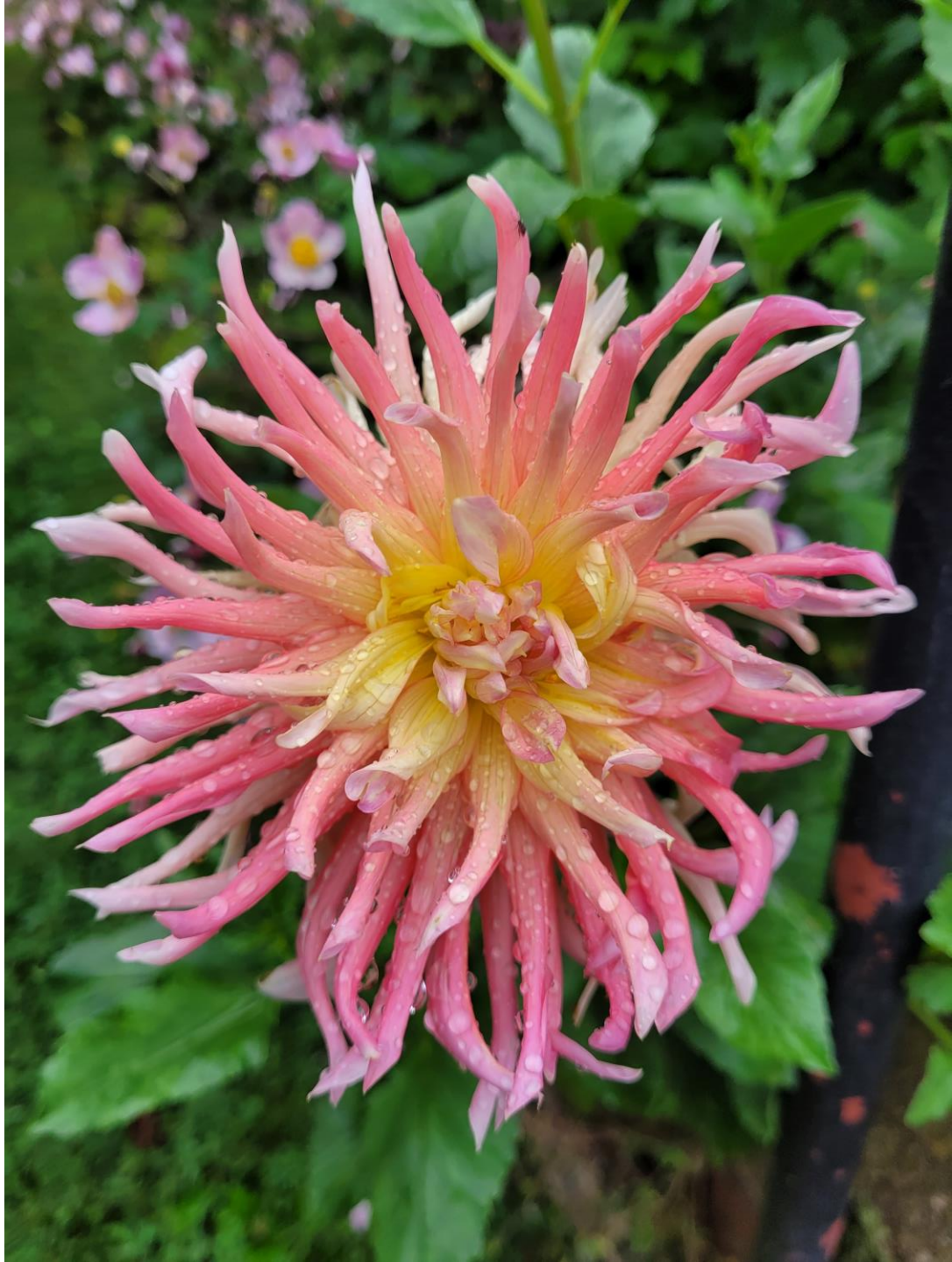














Stephanie Homorody, Lewis Center

Although I've been growing dahlias for over 10 years I am a new member to the Greater Columbus Dahlia Society. I am a hobby dahlia grower with limited space, but I try to put dahlias anywhere in my garden that there is sunny real estate! I am looking forward to gaining knowledge, creating new friendships with fellow dahlia growers in the area and showing a dahlia or two or three at the show in September. :).





Bouquet from 2022 Dahlias



Bouquet from 2023 Dahlias



Mikayla Miranda



Edna C



Kenora Wildfire



River's Yellow Snow



Rip City



Gitt's Attention and Rebecca Lynn

Jeff & Linda Laine, Westerville

We grow about 150 dahlia plants in over 70 varieties scattered all around our various gardens on our property, intermingled with hundreds of perennials and annuals. One of us likes to disbud and the other prefers to have lots of blooms. Can you guess who is who?



Pooh

**Carl,
originated by Harriet Chandler**



This is a view looking out from our swim spa. The top of the spa is four feet high and the white dahlia is about 9' tall. The wall of dahlias gives us privacy. Linda likes to deadhead and disbud from the water.

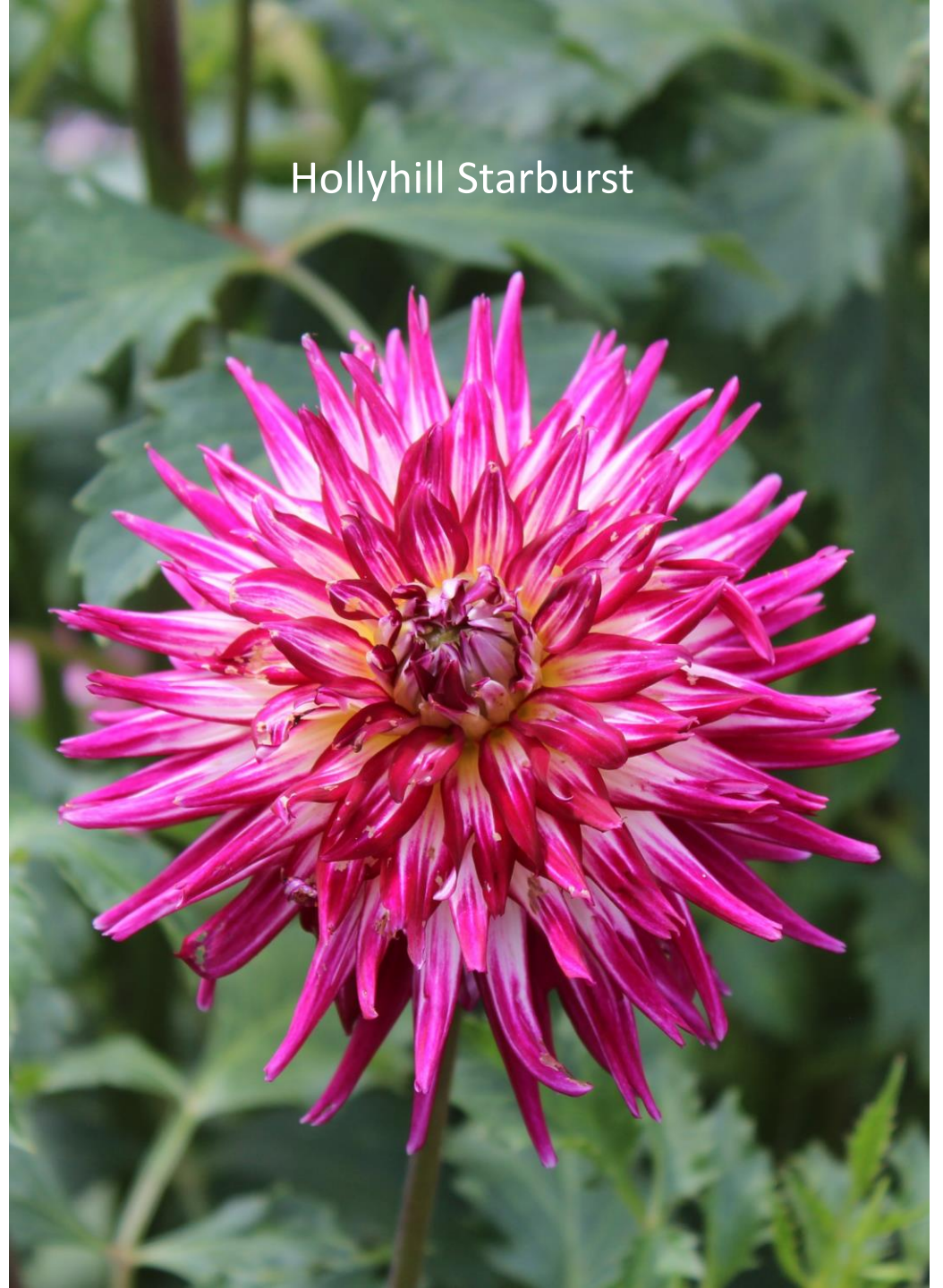


KA's Khaleesi, Hollyhill Starburst, Penhill Watermelon

Inland Dynasty on 7' Trellis



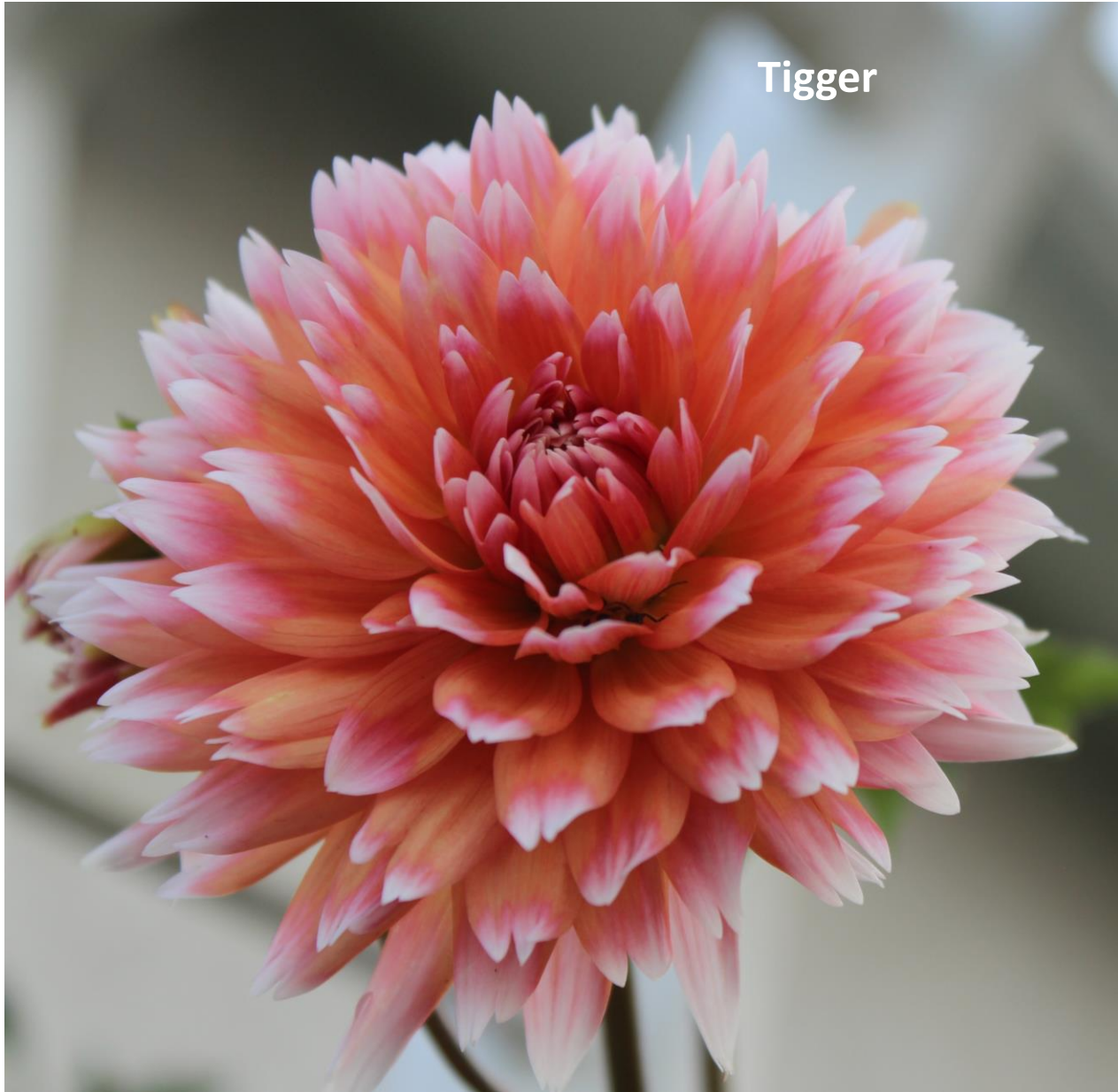
Hollyhill Starburst



**Yvonne Iris,
Ken Redd origination**



Tigger



Vassio Meggos



Islander





Lisa Leist, Blacklick

I started growing dahlias about 5 years ago and was immediately hooked! Each year I have learned something new. I grew around 50 plants last year. I have really enjoyed getting to know the members of the GCDS who share this love and passion. So many individuals have taken time to share their gardens and knowledge with me. Here are a few of the flowers I grew in 2023:





Colorado Classic



Gabbie's Wish



Make a Wish



Nighty Night



Spartacus



Make A Wish, Poodle Skirt, Totally Tangerine, Make A Wish



Show 'N' Tell



Low Rider

Joe Meloni & Caroline O'Brien, Columbus

Attached, you will find a selection of photos showcasing the vibrant and diverse dahlias from our garden. We are excited to participate in the upcoming show and contribute to the celebration of these beautiful flowers.













Jim Rengert, Newark

Don Grube and I promoting Dahlias along with 26 other planted cultivars at the Licking County Master Gardener Open House July 18 this year. Over 200 visitors.



Swallowtail butterfly
enjoying Embrace



Tammy Wharton, Columbus

I'm happy to share some of my favorite photos from this past year. I love dahlias, I think they are one of the most photogenic and generous flowers. I have been growing them for over five years. I turned to gardening after all the kids left home; it's a great hobby. I used to sew (girls grew out of smocked clothing), then I turned to baking (too unhealthy and was making us fat), so I turned to gardening because I got interested in hybridizing. I'm a scientist by trade, so this was the perfect union of beauty and science.



Favorite First Year Seedling

I started hybridizing daylilies, then lilies, iris, amaryllis and dahlias. I think I am settling into dahlias being my favorite as they will mature and bloom the first year. I now grow about 150 named varieties of dahlias and start a couple hundred seeds each year. It keeps me busy all year, because I start various types of seed in my 'basement greenhouse' during the winter months. I just need more space now.



Hart's Bonnie



KA's Cloud



Red Labyrinth



Strawberry Ice

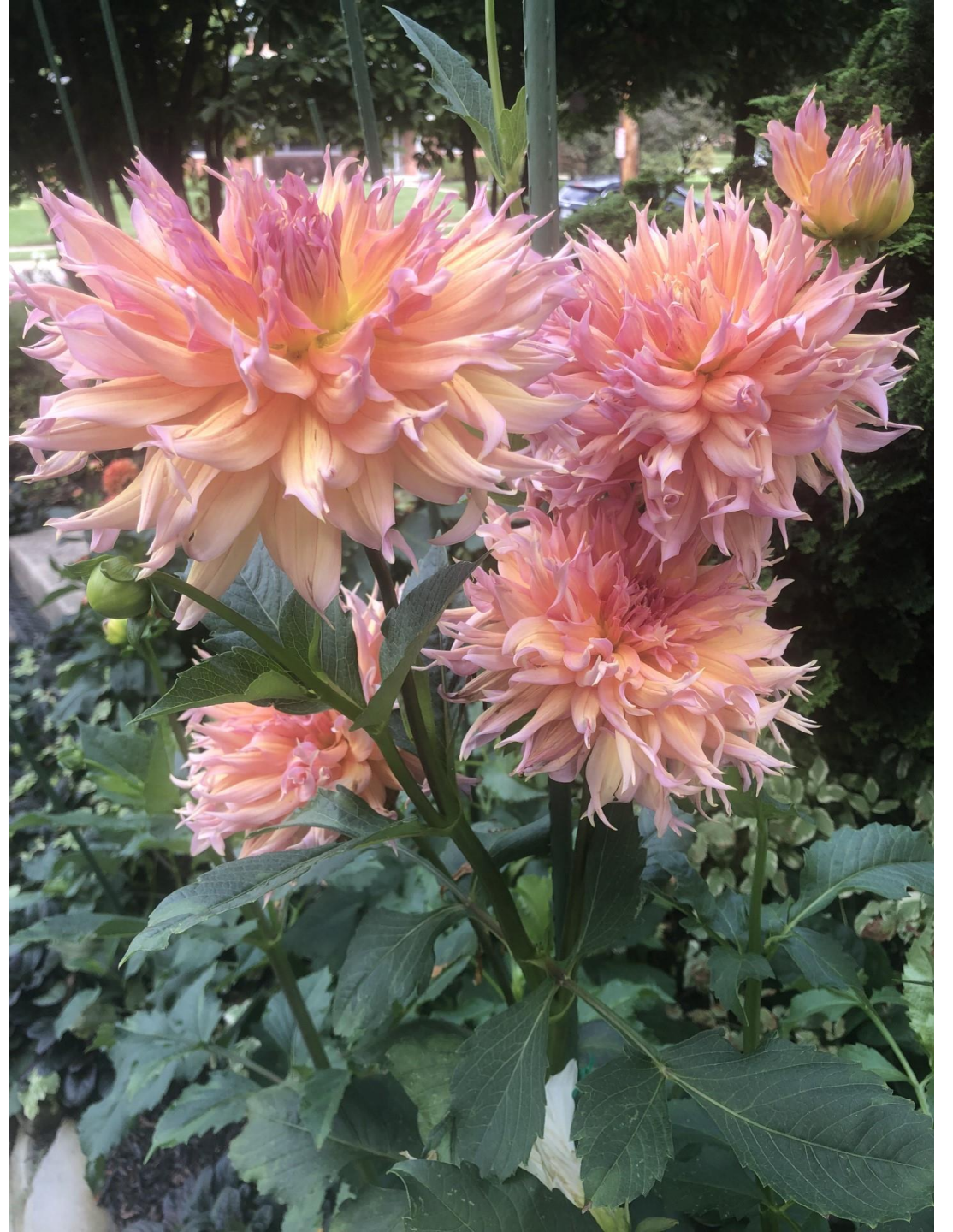
John Wheatley, Worthington

Nice to meet you, fellow Dahlia growers. Although I have enjoyed both turf and garden work for years, this coming year will be (only) my third growing Dahlias. It has been the huge variety of colors, bloom shapes and plant sizes that have gotten me hooked.

I just recently joined both the local and the national society & was planning to enter 2 or 3 blooms into next years' show in Marysville. I saw "was", because my neighbor just removed two large trees from his backyard, so my sunny space for gardening has almost tripled! And on top of that, I've made a new friend who works for Monty's Plant Food Company, so I may now grow 8 or 10 entries for the show! Looking forward to the 2024 luncheon & meeting you all.

Bee happy,













Steve Walker, Columbus

It was a good year to share dahlias with friends and neighbors.

An unusually tall plant required a stepladder to help attach an extended support stake.





