

An aerial photograph of a vast dahlia field, showing rows of plants in various colors including red, pink, and green. A small tractor is visible in the upper right corner of the field. A large, white, rounded rectangular overlay is centered on the image, containing the text for the meeting.

Southeastern Michigan Dahlia Society

Membership Meeting
January 17, 2026

Agenda

Presidential stuff:

Membership – Lucy/Renee
2026 Calendar – Sherree
Treasurer Report – Pam
Banquet Options – Lucy/Elyse

Election – President, Secretary, Trustees

SEMDS History & Fun Facts – Elyse

Meet & Greet Activity – Paula

New Introductions – ADS Video

SEMDS History & Fun Facts

Elyse Swenson



SEMDS Fun Facts - Our Society

- ▶ The Southeastern Michigan Dahlia Society (SEMDS) was established in 1953, making it one of the oldest dahlia societies in the Midwest.
- ▶ Our longest-standing member is Evelyn Kreger who joined in 1978.



My garden is full of "people."

by Evelyn Kreger

My garden is full of "people."

The peonies and forsythia blossom faithfully every spring. They are like the dependable people who never let me down.

The trumpet vine and sweet pea are my wild teen-agers. They need tough love. I tie them to the fence to keep them in check.

Unavoidable weeds are the pushy, controlling people. How very irritating they are!

When plants, like children, are abused by lack of love, proper food and water, they don't blossom to their fullest potential.

The star of my garden is the giant dahlia. She requires diligent attention, however. She is the garden diva. When she finally appears on "opening night," the audience is astounded by her performance and exquisite beauty.

A single blossom of the hibiscus, daylily or evening primrose will last only 24 hours. Each one makes the most of its precious life. Shouldn't we?

Our Mission

- ▶ The mission of SEMDS is to promote and support the growing, showing, and enjoyment of dahlias within our community.





National Affiliation

SEMDS is an affiliated society and partner of the American Dahlia Society (ADS).

Members gain access to valuable educational resources, publications, and national events.

Learn more at:
dahlia.org

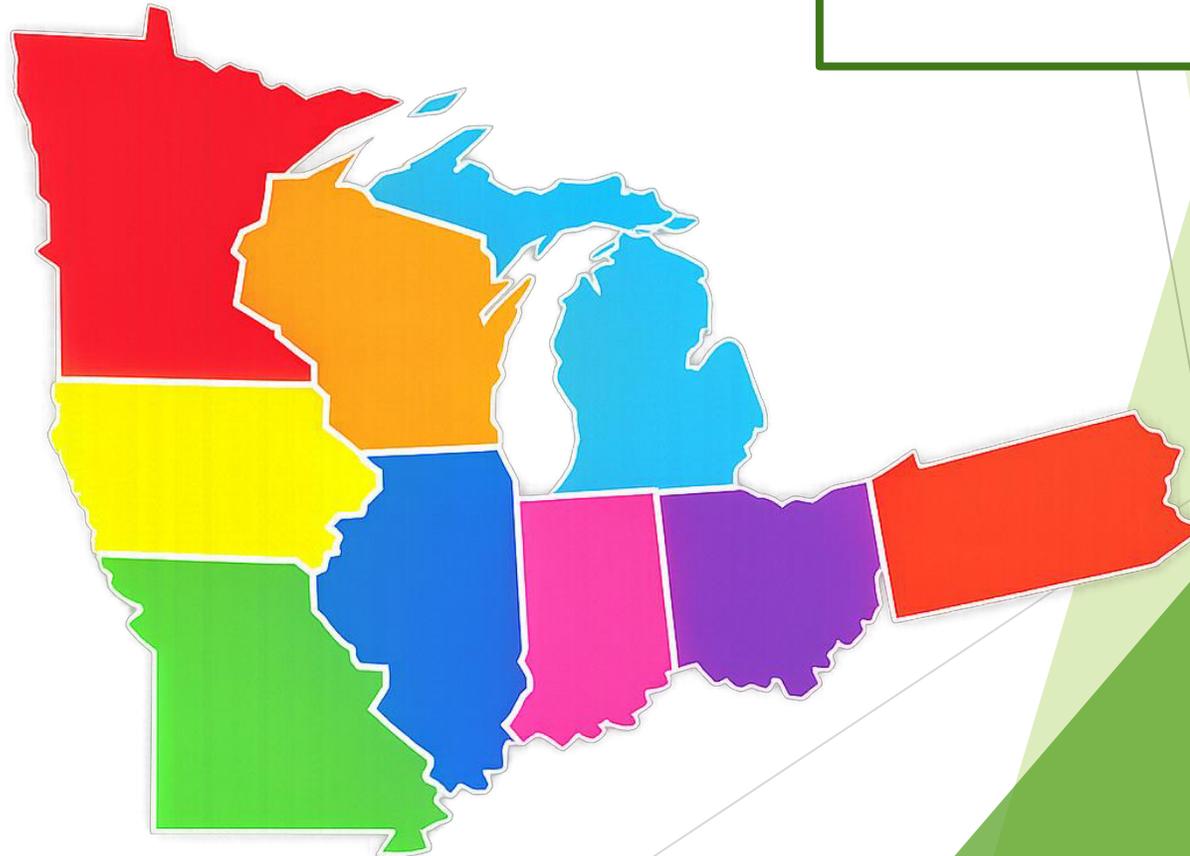
Regional Connection

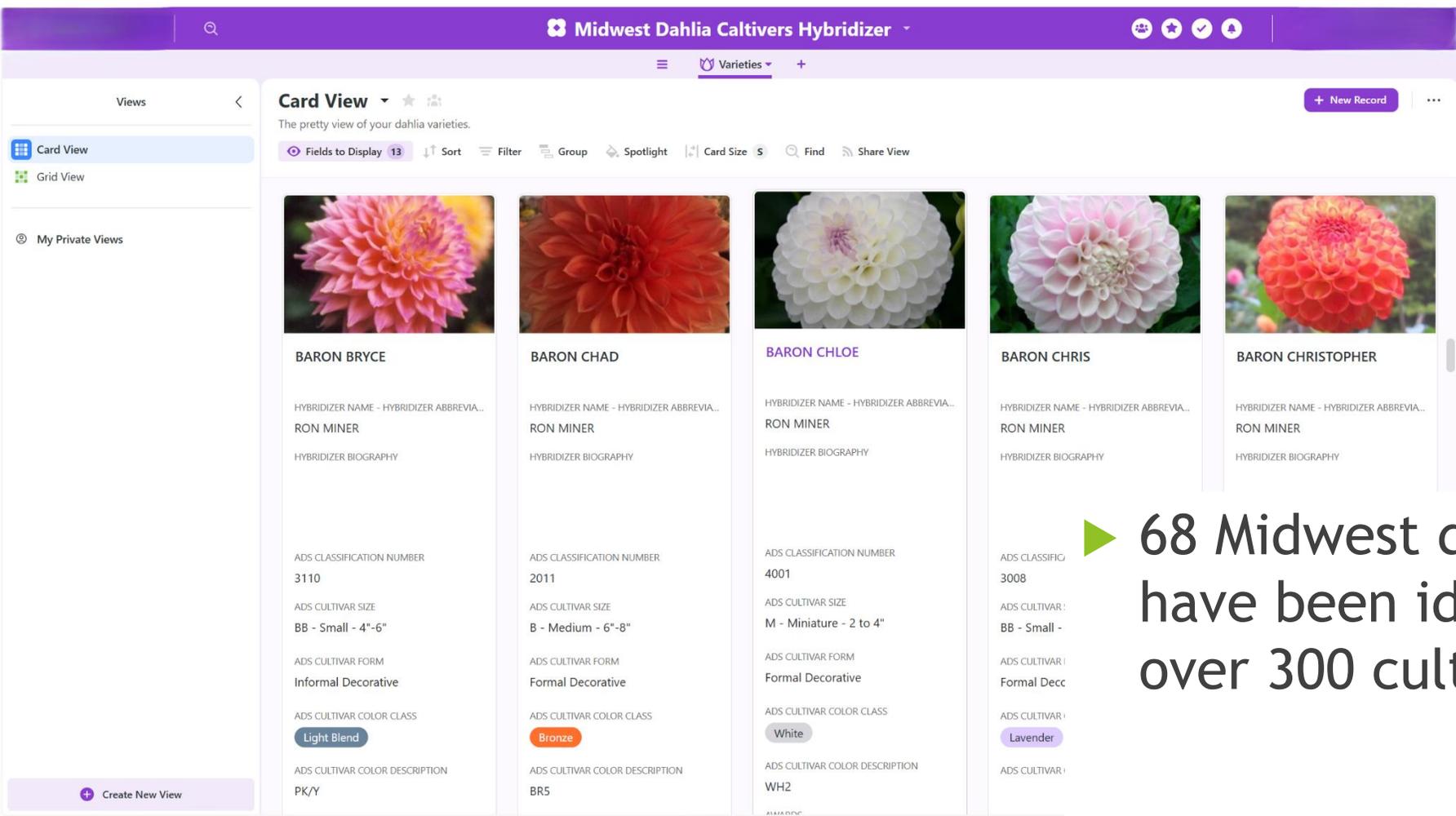
- ▶ SEMDS is part of the Midwest Dahlia Conference, a regional network connecting dahlia societies across the Midwest. Visit for more information <https://www.mwdahlia.org/>



Midwest Dahlia Societies

- ▶ Currently, 16 dahlia societies make up the Midwest region.
- ▶ Learn more at: mwdahlia.org





▶ 68 Midwest dahlia hybridizers have been identified, with well over 300 cultivars documented.

▶ Over 300 cultivars are included in The Midwest Dahlia Project catalog, scheduled for release March 1, 2026.

SEMDS Hybridizers

SEMDS is home to six Midwest dahlia hybridizers:

- ▶ **Dick Arrington:** Cilla Two, Cilla
- ▶ **Bud Ervin:** Nellie & Grace, Nellie & Wes, Nellie Rose, Nellie & Winnie, Nellie & Mariko
- ▶ **Kim Kasanic:** Kimberly, Sam-AV, DKG
- ▶ **Russell Propst:** I Love Lucy
- ▶ **Kelton Zebarcha:** Kelton's Original





What's Next?

- ▶ More information about **The Midwest Dahlia Project** will be shared in the coming months.
- ▶ We will continue highlighting fun facts, people, history, and cultivars connected to SEMDS.
- ▶ Thank you for being part of SEMDS. More information and dahlia stories to come.

Activity – get to know others in the society

Paula Gearin

2026 ADS People's Choice Photo Contest

Voting is now open and will close on January 31.

Get your vote counted! [See the entries and place your vote on the ADS website.](#)

Only ADS members may vote. One vote per member.



Entry 01



Entry 02



Entry 03



Entry 04



Entry 05



Entry 31



Entry 32



Entry 33



Entry 34



Entry 35



Entry 06



Entry 07



Entry 08



Entry 09



Entry 10



Entry 36



Entry 37



Entry 38



Entry 39



Entry 40



Entry 11



Entry 12



Entry 13



Entry 14



Entry 15



Entry 41



Entry 42



Entry 43



Entry 44



Entry 45



Entry 16



Entry 17



Entry 18



Entry 19



Entry 20



Entry 46



Entry 47



Entry 48



Entry 49



Entry 50



Entry 21



Entry 22



Entry 23



Entry 24



Entry 25



Entry 51



Entry 52



Entry 53



Entry 54



Entry 55



Entry 26



Entry 27



Entry 28



Entry 29



Entry 30



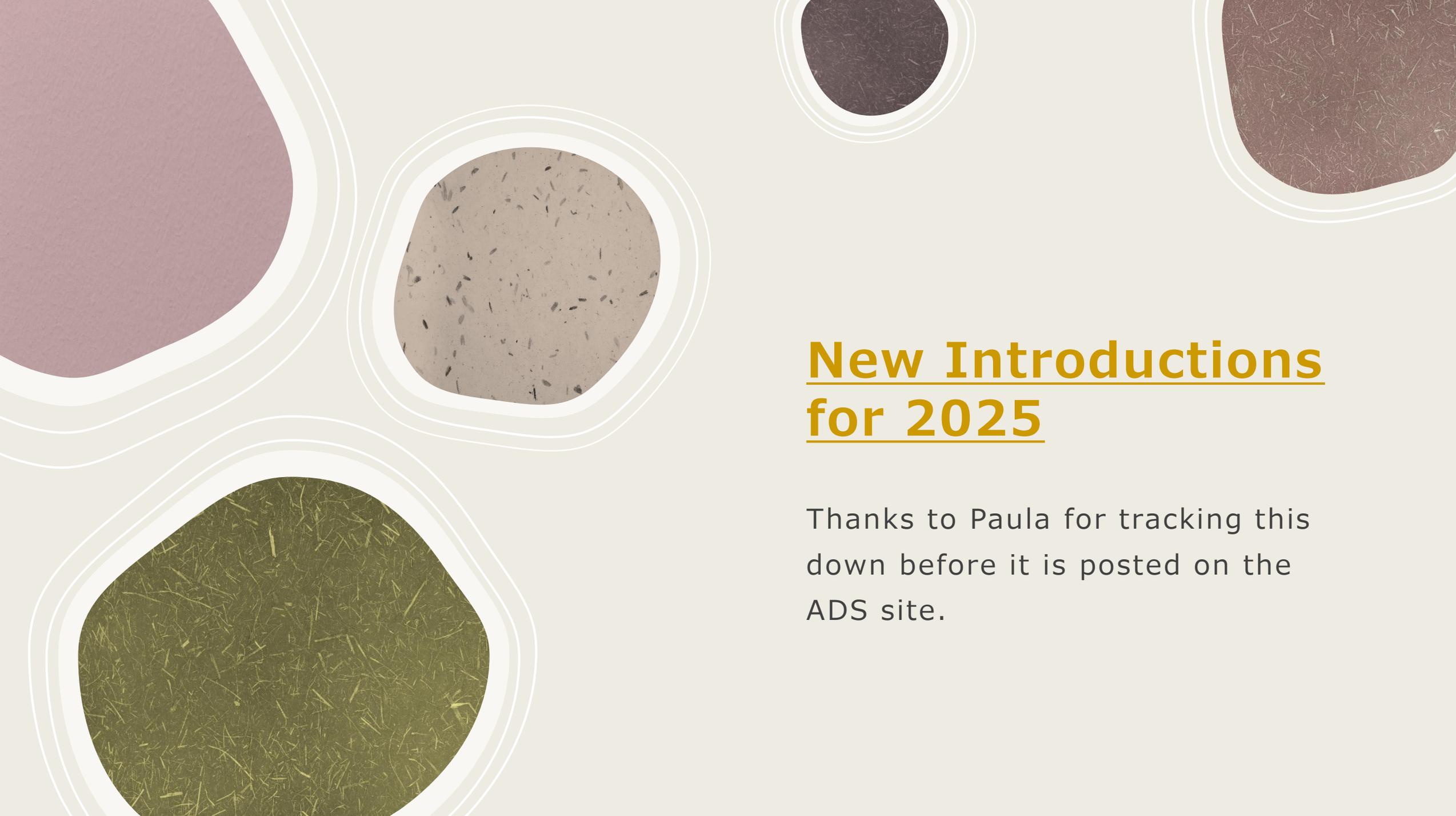
Entry 56



Entry 58



Entry 58

The background features several overlapping organic shapes with white outlines. One shape is a solid reddish-brown color. Another is a light brown color with small dark specks. A third is a dark brown color with a fibrous texture. A fourth is a greenish-brown color with a fibrous texture. The overall aesthetic is natural and textured.

New Introductions for 2025

Thanks to Paula for tracking this down before it is posted on the ADS site.