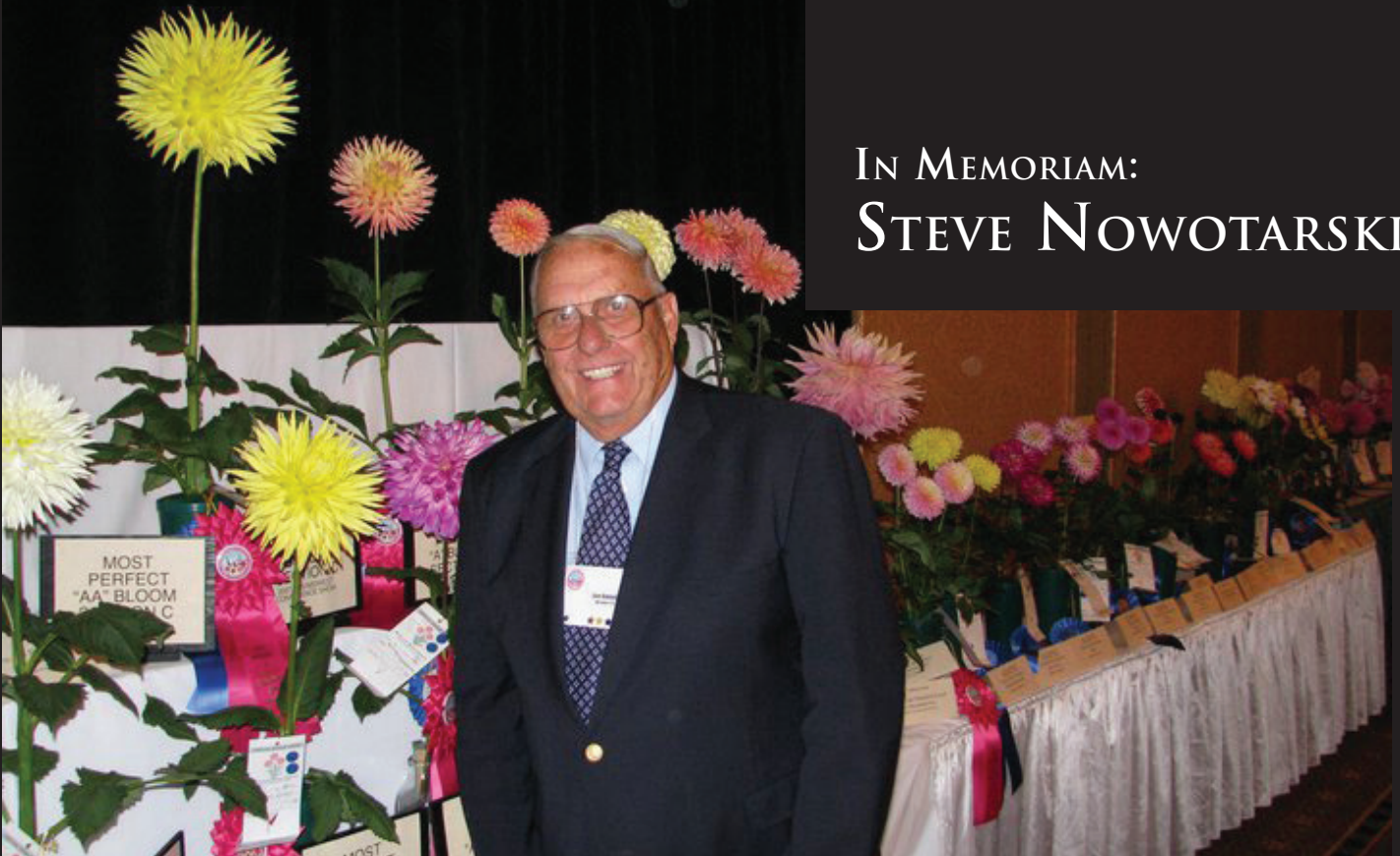


IN MEMORIAM: STEVE NOWOTARSKI



Steve and Audrey



A huge presence and great voice for dahlias is stilled. The dahlia world lost Steve Nowotarski to double pneumonia on January 13, 2015, in New York City. Steve was a giant in the gardening world and the American Dahlia Society in particular. He recognized many years ago that the dahlia world was larger than just exhibiting dahlias at shows. Hybridizers from around the world would send their new creations to Steve to test them for quality. Being a fierce competitor with dahlias helped to make Steve a top rate judge.

Steve combined the skills of a traditional grower, exhibitor and hybridizer, with a visionary's commitment to the development of the dahlia as a popular flower, appealing to the general gardening public. Steve stood tall on the pulpit of organic, chemical-free gardening writing persuasively under the sobriquet, Joe Worm. Steve also saw the value of dahlias as a container and bedding flower, and produced a how-to video which enjoyed wide circulation. His work at the Callahan Dahlia Garden at Planting Fields in Long Island, New York introduced the dahlia to thousands of new growers. Ever a supreme dahlia marketer, Steve produced an attractive, full color brochure for the new grower, available in quantities of 100 to all American dahlia societies. Recognizing that the internet provided a great opportunity to showcase photos of our favorite flower, Steve instigated this e-newsletter to supplement the ADS website.

In 2013, Steve received the ADS Gold Medal, our ADS Society's highest award. He had been deeply involved in the planning of the ADS Centennial Show to be held in September 2015, hosted by his Mid-Island Dahlia Society.