

**2020**

**NORTH CENTRAL TRIAL GARDEN**

For the 2020 North Central Trial Garden “VIRUS” took on a different meaning. We no longer were concerned about dahlia mosaic, tomato spotted wilt or tobacco streak virus—our garden was a victim of the COVID-19 viral pandemic!

The University of Minnesota’s Landscape Arboretum, where the trial garden is located, closed March 13 to both the public & its volunteers. We could not access the Trial Garden! With entries already received and growing should they be returned? One of our members & owner of Creekside Dahlias generously offered an unused garden bed on his property for Trial Garden use. MN Dahlia Society requested and received ADS approval for special consideration to plant in another location. With masks and social distancing the newly re-located TG was planted May 31 with foot-high plants. A judges’ wrap-up day was held Sept 5 and plants produced exciting blooms right up to digging Oct 10.

It’s amazing that all the TGs were operating in this year of COVID limitations, and NCTG is SO happy we were not the *ONE* that couldn’t. Many thanks again to Creekside Dahlias and ADS for coming to our rescue. Our garden was a COVID-19 survivor!!

**Top-scoring dahlias in NCTG:**

**Carmen Gemma** B IC DR Sullivan 90.58; **Skipley Frost** BB ID WH Williams 89.25; **20<sup>th</sup> Ave Gwen** BA YL Gibson 89.16; **Sandia Icicle** B IC WH Boley 89.14; **River’s Skipley Norm** BB IC PR Kenyon 88.76; **Mak’s Michelle** B IC LB Kaas 87.96; **Irish Delight** MB YL Boley 87.6; **Clearview Carol Marie** B C DP Parshall 87.13; **Clearview Shannon** B IC YL Parshall 87