

Portland Dahlia Society Bulletin

Meets second Tuesday of the month at Rose City Park United Methodist Church, 5830 N.E. Alameda

Editor: Mike Riordan (503)256-0425 Contacts: Larry Smith thebodysmith@hotmail.com, Jeanette Benson (503) 649-4118

Next meeting Tuesday, August 13th, 2013 @ 7:30 PM

COOKIES FOR AUGUST

Cookie hosts for August are Armondo Castro, Kathy Bates and the attending membership. Since we expect a good size group, let's see what we can bring to elicit ooh's and ah's.

PROGRAM FOR AUGUST

Our program for August will be a mini-show along with a judging demonstration. If you have an entry or two you can bring, this will give us something to work with and brighten up the meeting space. There will be some cash prizes for first time exhibitors. Listen carefully and learn the special techniques of successful exhibitors.

Also we will have a seedling contest with cash awards. Any seedling is eligible as long as it's not already listed in the classification book.

ANNUAL SHOW

It's hard to believe but the culmination of all our activities is fast approaching. We have all worked very hard on fund raising so we could stage the biggest and best show ever. Mega thanks to all the volunteers who made this possible!

If someone is thinking of exhibiting for the first time, please have courage and take the plunge. There was a first time for all of us. I know you will be pleasantly surprised with how well you do! We will have show schedules available at the meeting. Please take a copy and familiarize yourself with the show rules. Speaking of which...all exhibitors are required to sign-in with their exhibitor numbers under their respective competition division. If this is your first time or you need help with this, please ask the person (s) that is working with classification. They will be happy to show you how to register as an exhibitor. Those that have exhibited in the past are encouraged to bring lots of blooms, not just the best of the best. I never was able to tell with any certainty which ones would be my big winners before the

fact. The exhibit hall sure looks great when the tables are brimming with eye-candy entries.

If you would like to find out more about how dahlias are judged, helping out the judging teams as a clerk is a great way to observe and learn. This requires a small time commitment Saturday morning. Please contact Mark or Laura Oldenkamp at 503-649-4118 to participate.

Some advanced planning and preparation makes it a lot easier to get that winning entry from the garden to the head table. All exhibitors provide their own containers and filler. Most people use shredded florist foam for filler to support the flowers. The containers should be proportional to the size of the entry. Pompons and miniatures look good in a #303 can (14-15oz). The cans need to be painted with either dark green or black paint. Black is the required color for most shows in Washington State. Make sure you get your cans ready at least a few days in advance so the paint has a chance to dry thoroughly before use. Cans from last season may be cleaned or re-painted. After repeated use, some cans begin to rust from the inside soiling the filler and reducing the flower's keeping quality. These are best discarded.

Entry tags will be available at the August meeting. Pick up some so you will have them to place on your entries at home. This saves a lot of last minute work and frustration at the exhibit hall. The tags are color coded for competition category as follows: Juniors-yellow, Novice-pink, Amateur-blue, Open and Special Entry-white.

When is the best time to cut my blooms for show or other uses? I cut mostly early (that's with dew) Friday morning. Sometimes Thursday morning if the bloom needs an extra day away from the sun. Blooms need to be "set" so they will keep and show well. When cutting the blooms cut the stems at a 45 degree angle placing them in buckets containing two inches of hot water. As the water cools it gradually sets the blooms. Do not allow any foliage to touch the hot water or it will

blacken. The buckets of cut blooms need to be placed indoors in a cool place out of drafts and direct sunlight. A basement is an ideal location to store the blooms and use as a work area to “put up” your entries.

CALL FOR AWARDS

Thanks to all who generously donated cash or other awards for our show. If by any chance you have not yet turned in your cash to Larry Sawyer, you may do so at the August meeting or alternatively mail to Larry at: 11015 SW Berkshire; Portland, OR 97225-4407. Sweepstakes winners and People’s Choice winner from two years ago are asked to bring their revolving trophies to the August meeting or make other arrangements with Mike Riordan. We did not use any revolving trophies at the National in 2012.

DAHLIA PHOTOS NEEDED

Shirley Bankston our membership secretary, also has taken on the task of maintaining a photo library for use on our sale tables during our annual tuber sales. She is looking for digital and/or print photos from film. If you have some varieties you know you will be donating (particularly the rarer ones), why not take a photo for your benefit and to help the society market your generous donations. Shirley’s e-mail is shirbur@earthlink.net

SHOW VOLUNTEERS

We will need a few volunteers to help set up the exhibit hall at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds on Thursday afternoon, August 27th at 4:00 PM. We will be assembling the head table, covering it. Covering the exhibition tables and placing the Section markers.



VISITING OPEN DAHLIA GARDENS **By Ted Kennedy**

Some of my fondest memories are the trips we have taken to see the dahlias at the various commercial nurseries. Many of these businesses have been long closed but the memories will be with us forever.

There is a newer website that lists the “open” dahlia gardens all over the USA and most have directions, maps and even some pictures. The link to the site is: <http://www.dahlias.net/OGtopbox/opengarden.htm>

For Portland People, there are several gardens to visit in our area and first and foremost is Swan Island Dahlias. We are lucky to have the largest dahlia farm in the USA just a few miles from us in Canby. They are really set up for visitors. They have a nice parking lot just a few feet from their display garden. If you bring your lunch, they have picnic tables available too. And an added bonus is that the Portland Dahlia Society has their trial garden there. And another bonus is that they are open just about any time of day (except when the sprinklers are going).



Mak's Lemon Zest

For a nice day trip consider visiting Dan’s Dahlias in Oakville Washington. It is not too many miles North of Portland and is well worth the trip. Their three acre dahlia garden gets some of the coastal weather influence and many of the varieties have deeper colors than here in Portland. If you grow cut flowers and want to see some good cutting varieties, Dan has specialized in selling flowers at public markets for years and you can see them growing at their best in the garden.

If you are ever in the Coos Bay area, you have to visit Shore Acres State park. They have an extensive planting of dahlias and since they are right on the ocean, the colors of the dahlias are outstanding. The park is a gardener’s paradise and I have a picture of the dahlias growing there on my computer as the background for my desktop.

These are only a few suggestions. I am planning on visiting Teresa Bergman’s Cowlitz River Dahlias in Castle Rock, Washington and hope to say hello to Wayne Lobaugh at his Lobaugh’s Dahlias in Chehalis. And I am going to visit Alpen Gardens and say hello to John and Carla Stables. And every year, I visit Phil Mingus in Vancouver. Last year I wrote about dropping in on Park’s Dahlias in Azalea and Clack’s Dahlias in Myrtle Creek. And we have not been to Mohawk Dahlia

Gardens or Frey's Dahlias in many years and need to go back. You know there are so many dahlias and so little time...

Portland Dahlia Society Annual Garden Tour

After taking a year off from our annual tour of member gardens to work on the National Show tours, we are back in business. Our date for this year will be Saturday, Aug. 24. Most of our members don't have acres and acres at their disposal, this tour will focus on smaller properties and give you ideas how to incorporate your favorite flower into the space you have available. This tour was designed to minimize the driving time so we will have more time to visit and enjoy the dahlias.

First on the agenda is Old House Dahlias, operated by Mark Harvey. Mark's address is **8005 SE Mill St., Portland 97215**. We will meet there at approximately 9:30 a.m. Mark left a career in the corporate world to create a successful business in the dahlia world. His yard is fully engulfed in dahlias, you won't believe how many he can fit in to a smallish lot.

Next, travel 10 minutes to our Recording Secretary, Linda Taylor's, 10:45 a.m. Linda's address is **3716 SE Liebe, Portland 97202**.

Head East on SE Mill to 82nd Avenue and turn right onto 82nd. Next turn right onto SE Powell Blvd. After about two miles turn left onto SE 39th (Cesar Chavez Blvd.) Continue South on 39th past Holgate and then turn right onto Liebe. 3716 Liebe is on your left.

You won't believe how much she has packed into this small city lot. Linda grows a variety of different plants and incorporates the dahlia into her garden in creative ways.



Salmon Rays

The lunch stop, only five minutes from the Taylor house, will be at our President, Larry Smith's house at 12 noon. Larry's address is **4227 SE 76th Avenue, Portland 97206**.

Take Liebe East to 39th and turn left onto 39th traveling North to Holgate. Turn right onto Holgate and go east to SE 76 and turn left onto 76th. 4227 SE 76th will be on your left.

Larry's yard features about 150 dahlia plants of all shapes and sizes, as well as other flowers and vegetables galore. You will want to bring your favorite potluck dish for sharing and your own place settings. There will be plenty of tables, but chairs are limited, you might want to bring a folding chair to ensure your seat at the banquet. Caveat: There is not a lot of shade in this location, so load up on sunscreen. There are also some uneven spots in the pathways, so it is suggested that anyone who many have balance issues carry a cane...Larry is certified in CPR, but hopes not to have to use it at the potluck!

The last stop will be at the Debbie Thomas house, about 20 minutes away from Larry's. Debbie's address is **5801 Burma Road, Lake Oswego 97035**.

From Larry's home travel North on 76th to Powell. Turn left on Powell going south for about 4.4 miles. After crossing the Ross Island Bridge take the US 26, I-5 South Ramp to Lake Oswego. Continue on I-5 South toward Salem for about 8 miles. Take exit 291 to Carmen Drive / King City. Turn left onto SE Upper Boones Ferry Road. Upper Boones Ferry Road becomes Carmen Drive. After about .6 of a mile make a sharp left onto Burma Road. 5801 SW Burma Road will be on your right.

Debbie is known for her artistic skills and has been creating and selling garden art for a number of years. You will surely be impressed with the design of her garden.

Many of you may be blessed with GPS navigation devices. The highlighted address can be easily inserted into your navigation systems. In the interest of safety and ecology we encourage carpooling. If anyone is using the written directions it best to have one person drive and another act as navigator. If for any reason participants join the tour late or need to leave early this is acceptable.

Additionally, Gary Murphy's annual open garden is Sunday, Sept. 8, 1-4 p.m. Any PDS member is welcome. Gary's address is 3833 SE Sandy Circle, Troutdale, OR 97060

Larry Smith