

Portland Dahlia Society Bulletin

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

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Next meeting Tuesday, August 12th, 2016 @ 7:30 PM

COOKIES FOR AUGUST

Cookie hosts for August is 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! We will have some florist foam available for sale in smaller size packages. What can we learn about dahlia shows, even if you don't grow for show? What are the judges looking for? How do you fill out an entry tag? What goes on at a show? We will have a hands-on staging demonstration for beginners. We would also like to try a container exchange. So if you could bring a few extra cans or other containers we can encourage our newest exhibitors.

ALL HANDS ON DECK!

By Larry Smith

After many years in Portland, our annual show has moved to the Oaks Park Dance Pavilion in Portland. The show will no longer be on Labor Day weekend, the dates are Saturday and Sunday, August 27 and 28. There are thousands of people in the park on weekends, so we will get many more visitors than we had when our show was in Canby. The advantage to gain from this higher exposure will be the potential to attract new members and ensure the long term health of our club.

WE NEED YOUR HELP in putting on the show. You need not be an exhibitor in the show to help out. Currently, our greatest need is for traffic directors and people to help exhibitors get their flowers unloaded and into the building on Saturday from 6 to 9 a.m. We also need volunteers to direct traffic and help exhibitors load out on Sunday afternoon from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Since we are allowed no more than four cars to pull up to the building at one time, for just a few minutes, it is critical

that we keep control of this process so that our exhibitors will have their needs met and keep coming back to our show year after year. Our Membership Chair, Shirley Bankston, has graciously agreed to coordinate volunteers, please contact her by email at shirbur@earthlink.net or by phone at 503 246-8632 and volunteer to help make our new, improved show a rousing success.

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 503-266-4411 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

Sweepstakes winners and other revolving trophy winners from last year are asked to bring their revolving trophies to the August meeting or make other arrangements with Mike Riordan. Mike's phone is 503-256-0425.

JUDGES' TRAINING IN EUGENE

The Lane County Dahlia Society is proud to present a seedling judging school lead by LCDS member Wayne Shantz. Wayne and his wife Eleanor have served at the national level through the American Dahlia Society in several capacities over the past decades. Wayne has agreed to share his latest thinking about judging seedlings on the bench, though he tells me the process will be more experiential than lecture driven. Bring your thinking caps!

The school is scheduled for one day, Saturday August 13th. LCDS member and commercial grower Eugene Kenyon, his wife Wendy, and of course River himself will host the event at River's Dahlias in Veneta, OR. Veneta is about 15 miles due west of Eugene on Highway 126 toward the Oregon coast. The session begins at 8:30AM with registration and coffee, the class starts promptly at 9AM, and the day will finish no later than 5PM.

We have room for about 40 students, so please consider attending. While there is no requirement to be an ADS judge, the workshop does assume knowledge of dahlia bloom evaluation criteria. The registration form is attached as a PDF file. Please mail it back if you plan to attend by August 7th. Cost of the workshop is \$20.00 to cover costs, and includes coffee, lunch and snacks. Directions to River's Dahlias are with the registration form. If you have any questions, or you need a registration form mailed to you, please contact Michael Canning at 541-954 9191, or icehawk@q.com . We hope to see many of you on August 13th.



Kelsey Annie Joy

TRIAL GARDENS = JUDGING OPPORTUNITIES

By Ted Kennedy & Gary Murphy

The American Dahlia Society sponsors Trial Gardens across North America to provide a place for hybridizers to have their new dahlia cultivars evaluated. The ADS currently recognizes 8 Trial Gardens throughout the US and Canada. Trial garden locations and contact information can be found on the ADS website under Dahlia Resources.

In order for Senior and Accredited judges to maintain their judging status both the ADS and its member conferences set minimum judging requirements for trial gardens and bench seedling evaluation(s). The ADS currently recommends the judging of at least two entries per year but not less than 10 in five years. By taking advantage of judging at a trial garden we feel that you will find this experience much more enjoyable than perhaps judging on the bench at shows. What better place is there to see new dahlia varieties than at a trial garden?

Here are some reasons for judging at a trial garden:

1.) Most trial gardens are located in public areas and have many visitors. When you are judging flowers (or perhaps helping to maintain the garden) the visitors will notice you and see you as someone who is knowledgeable and will ask questions about dahlias and their cultivation. As we are

always looking for new dahlia enthusiasts to join our clubs/societies, the trial garden thus becomes an excellent place to recruit new members or impart welcome knowledge to the average gardener.

2.) Judging trial gardens is not tedious work but rather fun and rewarding. The paper work that you fill out to record your evaluations is relatively easy to complete. You'll need a tape measure and an ADS color chart, however, these items are usually provided at the trial garden. Most of us view this activity as an opportunity to offer your opinion on newly created cultivars be they potential show quality dahlias or simply garden varieties.

3.) You can be one of the first people to see potential new varieties, therefore, getting a sneak peek at a dahlia(s) that you yourself might want to grow.

4.) You will have the satisfaction of supporting a system that allows new dahlias to be seen in various parts of North America. Can you imagine how difficult it would be to be aware of new varieties without our trial gardens? In the trial garden you can judge a dahlia under real life conditions and in a climate area similar to yours.



Skipley Bonanza

Therefore, we encourage each and every qualified judge to take advantage of trial garden judging. Each trial garden is maintained by local dahlia club volunteers who devote countless hours to ensuring that each originator's entry(s) are presented in the best condition possible and are ready

for evaluation. So, plan now to participate in judging at a trial garden(s) this season...it will not only be a personally rewarding experience but also will validate the efforts put forth by those volunteers who diligently maintain the garden(s).

Originators, judges, and dahlia enthusiasts in the Pacific NW are fortunate to have 3 trial gardens to avail themselves of and these are: Point Defiance Park, Tacoma, WA.; Inland Empire, Spokane WA.; and the Canby Trial Garden located at Swan Island Dahlias in Canby, OR. One major drawing point for the Canby Trial Garden is that it is located at Swan Island Dahlias which is the largest commercial dahlia grower/supplier in the United States. What a unique opportunity this venue offers the visiting dahlia judge. evaluate 30+ newly minted cultivars; peruse 40 acres of blooming dahlias and then finish your visit with perhaps a picnic amongst thousands of dahlias.

/s/ Ted Kennedy is co-owner of Hollyhill Dahlias, an originator and exhibitor, Senior judge and President of the Portland Dahlia Society. Gary Murphy is an exhibitor, Senior judge and Life Member of the Portland Dahlia Society.

SHOW PUBLICITY

Also attached to your electronic version of this August PDS Bulletin in a promotional flyer for our annual show Saturday and Sunday, August 27th and 28th. Since Oaks Park is a new venue for our show, we need to make an extra effort to get the word out about this year's show. Please distribute the flyer (physically and electronically) to gardening friends, other garden clubs, places of employment, community bulletin boards, grocery stores, gyms or other places you believe will find an interested audience. Thanks to Laura Oldenkamp for designing the flyer.



AC Casper

TRAINING CLASS IN OLYMPIA

By Ted J. Kennedy

I attended the Judges training (for Senior and accredited judges) in Olympia, Washington on July 30. I believe 8 of our club members attended and the class was hosted by the Federation. The class was free but you did have to get there and Olympia is about 100 miles from here. Wayne Lobaugh chaired the session and taught many of the slots. If you are curious, here is a summary:

Anemones We went through the form in depth and were told that the most important thing is that the flower have a dome of tubes. Tubes are technically called disc florets and are anatomically different from ray florets. Disc florets surround the structures that produce the pollen and pistils in center of the flower. They are present in all dahlias but are elongated in anemones. And a big deal was made that the ray florets that are below the disc florets can be of any form, FD ID, cactus, and on and on and there can be any number of rows of them although no one has seen more than two. That is the briefest summary of the 45 minutes.

Semi Cactus: The most important point made in the 30 minutes or so was that semi cactus florets need to be broad at the base. The flower Embrace was maligned as not having this important characteristic even though it has been the top winner among semi cactus for many years. Stephen Cox, visiting from Australia and attending the class, took this as a personal affront as Embrace is an Aussie flower. He said that they soak the blooms in water right up to the flower to hydrate them and this causes the base of the floret to widen and also causes the florets to be more revolute. This may not be possible here as we show flowers with leaves on the stalks and they do not do so there. This was a very interesting exchange of information between two rival dahlia countries.

Baskets: We dissected the rules for baskets and critiqued numerous pictures of poorly prepared entries. There was quite a bit of discussion concerning basket handles and the rules that the handle must be somewhat visible and that some

flowers need to be placed behind the handle. Lots of discussion was devoted to the definition of "mixed" baskets and I am now sure that all the students could easily define what is a mixed basket. It was a long discussion of that one category of about 20 different classes. The most important concept taught at the class was that the proper placement of the flowers is probably the most important judging factor. The class was interesting if you enter baskets, probably not so much for mortal people who cannot do them and admit it.

Arrangements: Our own Gordon Jackman was the presenter. A discussion of the point values on the Federation score sheet was the first subject. That was followed by a discussion of numerous pictures of arrangements that had been entered in dahlia shows. Experienced arrangement people gagged when they saw many of the pictures as they were "kindergarten" level in some cases. If you like arrangements, it was a good session. If you do not appreciate them, you were probably even more confused as to all the written and especially unwritten rules that affect the judging of arrangements. In other words, if you are not an artistic person, you should probably not be judging them. There was a long discussion about the use of Garden Club judges on the judging panel. It was the consensus that this was an excellent idea and that for the most part this has worked well in the past. It was recommended that the team leader be a dahlia judge.

Judging the ADS seedling entries: Everybody was required to judge several "entries" of three flowers using the scoring sheets and color charts and tape measures. Senior judges helped the less experienced judges. The less experienced judges learned a lot and the senior judges got to act like experts (they are). Afterward, an informal poll of the scores was conducted and they were pretty darn consistent. One particular entry was dissected in great depth as it had passed with high score at a show last year. At this training session, the great majority of the judges did not give it a passing score. All of the possible reasons for the discrepancy were discussed although no

conclusions were reached. By the way, I brought 4 of the "entries" to be judged. I bragged to another person that I should be complimented for daring to bring less than perfect flowers so the teams could do their work. Actually, since it had been 95 degrees the day before, the flowers were not at their best. I also included one "cut flower" seedling and knew that it would have a tough time.

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