

# Portland Dahlia Society Bulletin

September Meeting at Swan Island Dahlias, 995 NW 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue; Canby, OR 97013

**Club Website: [Portlanddahlia.com](http://Portlanddahlia.com)**

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**Next meeting Tuesday, September 13th, 2016 @ 4:00 PM**

## PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER

Our program for September will be a reprise of last year's highly rated gathering at Swan Island Dahlias. We realize that work schedules may limit some member's arrival times. It is perfectly acceptable to join in when ever your schedule or inclination allows.

We will start at 4:00 PM with a tour of the gardens and an opportunity to judge seedlings at our ADS sanctioned trial garden. This is an easy way for judges to fulfill their annual requirement for trial garden judging. Senior judges will be available to work in teams with those just starting out.

At about 5:30 we will have dinner. Please bring a pot-luck dish of your own to share along with a serving spoon. The Society will provide soft drinks, paper plates and plastic utensils.

Nicholas Gitts has agreed to be on hand to answer any dahlia related questions. And Gordon Jackman will have an arrangement demonstration as well.



**Salmon Rays**

## MEETING THE PUBLIC AT THE TRIAL GARDEN

**By Ted J. Kennedy**

I spend quite a bit of time at the trial garden at Swan Island Dahlias. The plants need maintenance and of course the trial garden needs to be judged. There are lots of visitors to the gardens and they can be very interesting.

Tourists from out of town: After a while, you begin wonder what states do not provide visitors to the gardens. Lots of people seem to be from Alaska and I believe there may be a shortage of flowers there and they just love the flowers. There are fewer people from states where dahlias do not grow well and Texas provides few visitors. I have noticed that Mid Westerners love to grow dahlias and I have talked to many of them over the years.

The photographers: If you want to just go ahead and work at the garden without interruption, the best people to have around you are the photographers. They are in their own little world and are constantly adjusting cameras, tripods and reflectors and what not and they hardly ever come up for air. It is my theory that they know almost nothing about dahlias and could care less about them. I bet if it were Swan Island Roses or Swan Island Mug Worts they would still be there in droves snapping pictures with their huge lenses. I asked one of the avid photographers how many pictures she had taken of the dahlias here over the years and she said 20,000. And she excused herself to take a few more.

The florists: Recently, more professional florists have visited while I was working. One really nice florist from Santa Barbara was very interested in the trial garden. I asked her what colors were popular for weddings and what dahlia colors she would use. I expected her to say that pinks and whites were popular with the occasional purple wedding and perhaps a Gothic one with almost black flowers. Wrong! She said that the popular color schemes nearly all include a tannish pink that is best represented by the dahlia Cafe' au Lait. I showed her a very nice light pink trial garden entry and she said it

could only be used to mix in with the tan ones. I showed her a dark red flower expecting her to say that it was totally inappropriate for a wedding as it had brownish cast to it. Quite the contrary. She said that the brown overtones were outstanding and she would use lots of them in her wedding work. She asked whether there are any brown dahlias as they would be very popular.



Hollyhill Moonsong

And I always seem to be asked some “interesting” questions. I have learned that explaining the “birds and the bees of dahlias” to most tourists can be very frustrating. It usually goes like this:

These are new dahlias bred by people from all over the USA.

Oh, I thought you grew dahlias from seeds.

No, we grow them from tubers.

Well, if you grow them tubers, how do you get new ones?

We collect seeds from the dahlias.

But you said they grow from tubers.

Yes, they do grow from tubers, but they do make seeds and potatoes make seeds too.

But I grow potatoes from cut up potatoes.

At this point, I usually change the subject to the weather.



Skipley Spot

**2016 DAHLIA GARDEN OPEN HOUSE  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2016  
1:00 – 4:00 PM**

Fall is near and the flowers are in their glory! It's time for my annual dahlia garden tour. Anyone is welcome, so bring your family and friends and stop by and enjoy this year's crop of over 250 dahlias (over 20 new varieties).

We're at 3833 SE Sandy Circle in Troutdale and here are some quick directions: Stark Street East to 282<sup>nd</sup> (Troutdale Road), turn south (right) onto Troutdale Road, go to the third street on your left which is 40<sup>th</sup>, turn on to 40<sup>th</sup> proceed to Stott and turn left, pass two houses and make a left on Sandy Circle and you're there. I will have a sign in the yard so you can't miss it... no flowers in the front, they're all in the back

Gary and Dee Murphy



Hollyhill Jitterbug

Hollyhill Jitterbug garnered best in show at Portland, Oaks Park, August 27 -28<sup>th</sup>.

Gordon Jackman won best design in show at the Portland show. The flower is Chimacum Julia and the design was a transparency where two nearly identical vases are viewed through an object. In this design two bicycle wheels with spokes removed created the transparency effect. He used nearly black foliage from a smoke tree foliage to contrast with the bright yellow flowers and also foliage from a ninebark plant. And he mixed in some yellow tinged juniper to match the yellow in the flowers.