

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: Ted Kennedy E4449@aol.com, Jeanette Benson (503) 649-4118

Next meeting Tuesday, August 14th, 2018 @ 7:30 PM

COOKIES FOR AUGUST

Cookie hosts for August are Larry Sawyer and Billy Tompkins. Since we expect a good size group, maybe a few others could lend a cookie or two.

PROGRAM FOR AUGUST

Our program for August will be a mini-show along with a judging demonstration. Also Gordon Jackman will demonstrate how to do a basket. 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! 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 Canby, 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 25 and 26th. 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.

CUT FLOWERS are needed Saturday and Sunday morning for our cut flower sale. These need not be show quality. Even if you have a very small garden, whatever you can bring will help us defer the costs of our annual show.

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. We need volunteers to man the information/membership table. The scheduling will be in shifts coordinated by Shirley Bankston. 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.



AC Jeri AA SC Yellow

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.



Kelsey Annie Joy

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.

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 25th and 26th. Since Oaks Park is a newer 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, nurseries, gyms or other places you believe will find an interested audience. Thanks to Laura Oldenkamp for designing the flyer.



AC Casper