

# Portland Dahlia Society Bulletin

Virtual Meeting with Zoom Software, Tuesday, August 11, 2020, 7:00 PM

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**Next zoom meeting Tuesday, August 11th, 2020 @ 7:00 PM**

## Zoom Virtual Meeting

Last month your society was one of the first in the nation to conduct a virtual dahlia society meeting. Encouraged by the overall success of our July meeting, we will again go virtual Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Members are encouraged to bring blooms, how-to questions about growing and stories about what worked well for you this season. Mark Oldenkamp's invite to the virtual meeting is directly below. The meeting address is date / time specific so only use this invite and not any previous invitations. Also be aware the cell phone audio is delayed and can't be used simultaneously with your Apple device or PC.

## Virtual Invite

Same format as the last time, I will open the meeting about 15 minutes before 7 pm so people can chat and then we can have a meeting starting at 7 pm. I reserved two hours, but we can go as long as people want to. Up to others to set the format and content of the meeting. Looking forward to seeing some blooms to be shared.

Mark

Mark Oldenkamp is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Portland Dahlia Society Regular Meeting via zoom

Time: Aug 11, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83478838308?pwd=azdOYzNaeWdTWUxPNisrNysxVGRBQT09>

Meeting ID: 834 7883 8308

Passcode: Dahlias!

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,83478838308#,,,,,0#,,876854767# US (Tacoma)

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(Germantown)

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+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 834 7883 8308

Passcode: 876854767

Find your local

number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kq44cShId>

Mark Oldenkamp

[dahliafan57@gmail.com](mailto:dahliafan57@gmail.com)



Canby Trial Garden, Last week of July 2020

## Thousands of Dahlia Flowers and No One Will See Them

By Ted J. Kennedy

Most of us planted our dahlia gardens with the expectation that the pandemic would end soon and we would have some wonderful shows. Of course, there are no shows, no Swan Island Festival, no face to face dahlia club meetings and again almost no one will see your flowers.

Let's look at some of the advantages of this situation:

Grooming your plants has become optional. Yes, we will do some disbudding and deadheading but it is for our own benefit. If you want a few plants to look good you can do it and if you do not feel like grooming, let some of them go wild.



Iris Wallace Winner of the Largest Dahlia in The World Contest 2019 “Maki”

Perhaps, you can become a dahlia breeder as you can now leave the spent blooms on the plants to allow them to make seed pods.

Then there are those onerous weeds. Can you back off a bit on weeding? Maybe that is not so good if they make seeds for next year.

One consummate show exhibitor in Washington, Eric Anderson, is putting together baskets of flowers for practice and sharing the pictures on Face book. I bet he did not realize that as a dahlia judge my comments would not all be positive. Actually, I was polite and hit the like button and kept the criticism to myself.

Another advantage of this situation is that we are generally tethered to our homes and gardens and seldom leave except for necessary shopping and such. Can you imagine a better place to be exiled to than your own wonderful gardens? Those people who do not garden are stuck in their house watching Lawrence Welk re-runs and we get to putter all we want in the garden. Life is good.

### **Dahlias Put to Good Use**

We all want to survive the pandemic and observe the rules regarding interaction with others. Personally, I never cared for the Champagne Music Makers. So why

not consider bringing some dahlias inside for our viewing enjoyment? Members of your household will also enjoy. The intricacy of forms and vibrancy of color are more completely appreciated in a vase or arrangement highlighting each bloom’s unique charm. Then step back and realize the totality of the display is more than the sum of its parts.

Cut flower sellers believe in starting early with the dew fresh on the blossoms. A through watering the night before seems to help. They also report smaller blooms seem to last better than larger specimens. Forms with less floral surface area seem to last longer once cut. A ball form would outlast a cactus all other things being equal.

Into the early morning garden we go with our bucket or can for the cut specimens. Hot water (as hot as it will come out of your hot water tap) about two to three inches deep in your container. Use a sharp knife and cut the bloom at a 45 degree angle pulling your knife upwards. Once you have collected all the blooms you intend to use bring your bucket(s) inside in a cool place (basement?) to let them set.

Once the water is cooled, the blooms should be set and the flowers can be arranged in your vase or display container. Books have been written about the art of arrangement. You know what looks good to you, so have at it. Darker colors and larger blooms towards the bottom.



Hollyhill Masquerade

Floral preservatives (Floralife) seem to help somewhat, but be aware it is reactive with metal. Historically some growers have tried an aspirin in each vase. Instead of the hot water treatment, heating the end of the stem with a gas flame was once popular. Seems like not so safe a practice. Another school used baking soda a tsp per vase. Remove any leaves that would be underwater. Lastly, the Home Econ instructors at St. Mary’s Academy in Portland taught to replace the water in the container on a daily basis.