

# Portland Dahlia Society Bulletin

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

*Portland Dahlia Society website: portlanddahlia.com*

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**Next meeting Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 @ 7:30 p.m.**

## **PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY**

PDS will start out this National Show in Portland year with a bang, featuring a jam packed informational program. First, we will view the ADS DVD featuring 2012 introductions. That should get us in the mood for a panel presentation on how to begin our preparations for this year's dahlia garden, to include information regarding how to take cuttings and start your plants indoors. Many growers feel that taking cuttings is the best way to maintain and revitalize your stock. Finally, we will be taking suggestions regarding supplies you will be needing, including fertilizers and planting supplies. Many times, we can order items as a club and get discounted prices, so don't forget to bring your wish list and ideas.

Speaking of discounts, Rain or Shine and Concentrates both give Portland Dahlia Society Members 10% discounts on selected items. Just mention that you are a PDS member. Concentrates has recently moved and is now located on International Way right off the Milwaukie Expressway.

## **MONTHLY AUCTION**

If you have tubers of *newer* varieties that are ready to be auctioned, bring them in and they will be auctioned off at this meeting. The Board feels that we may get a better price if we do some selling prior to our main event and some of those who take cuttings would like to get them sooner. This will be limited to newer varieties, or those that are very hard to find. This will help us to reach our sponsorship goals for the 2012 ADS National.

## **COOKIES FOR FEBRUARY**

Theresa Bergman and Larry Smith will be providing cookies for this month's meeting.

## **NATIONAL SHOW UPDATE**

By Ted Kennedy

There has been a tremendous amount of work done on planning and preparing for the American Dahlia Society National show that we are hosting on September 1st and 2nd this year. I have noticed that our monthly bulletin has had very little information on the subject and here is my attempt to bring you all up to speed.

When we took on this task, we knew that one of our members, Mark Oldenkamp, had been the chairman of the ADS Show in San Jose. With his advice, we divided the management of the show into three areas: Site Selection and Contract Negotiation (Tiffany Boatwright), Publicity, Tours and Special Events (Larry Smith and Laura Oldenkamp), and Show Chairman (Ted Kennedy). All of these management teams have used Mark Oldenkamp as our "Chairman of the Board" to keep us on track.

Site selection was the first large task. Tiffany checked out many possible sites and we quickly selected the Red Lion on the River located on the Columbia River at Jantzen Beach. It is located at the first Oregon exit off I-5. It has the largest ballroom (with no pillars) in Oregon or Washington. Its Grand Ballroom has 18,000 square feet (120 x 150 x 16) and will hold the entire show, all within the one room, probably with space left over. Our contract with Red Lion for use of the facility guarantees a certain number of room nights and a minimum dollar amount of food. So it is important that we encourage participants to book with the Red Lion, although they have other options. Tiffany at this time also contracted a graphic artist to create a logo for the event.

After the show site was selected, the Tour and Publicity people got working. Tours are planned to the Oregon Gardens and other sites on Thursday, on Friday tours of several PDS members gardens, on Sunday a grand tour of Swan Island Dahlias and our trial garden and finally on Monday Hollyhill Dahlias in Oregon City. Publicity is a never ending task and Larry Smith and his committee have placed articles in the American Dahlia Society bulletins and other publications.

One of the most important tasks with the show is the registration of participants. Shirley Bankston has stepped up to coordinate that task. She also volunteered to become the special treasurer for the show, so that we can keep track of income and expenses and not burden our long time treasurer with double duties. Shirley and her team have set up the registration forms and they are now ready to use.

We have been using our Portland Dahlia Society web site to advertise the show and all of the information has been updated on our site at [Portlanddahlia.com](http://Portlanddahlia.com).

The show catalog has been a monumental task and all of the committee members were actively involved in its creation. Eric Toedtli has been our writer and with his help that task is nearly done and will go to the printers soon.

Ribbons and awards is a huge task for such a large show. Tiffany has taken on the task of ordering all of the ribbon awards. This is no small task as we have to predict how many we will use and there have been numerous changes along the way. Mike Riordan has taken on the awards category, including medals and cash awards. He is in the process of soliciting donations for our huge list of monetary awards. We decided to keep the list of awards separate from the show catalog so that we could solicit awards right up to the date of the show.

Larry Sawyer has volunteered to head up the photo competition.

There is now a show site committee concerning the design of the show and the head table. Eric Toedtli, Gary Murphy and Ted Kennedy have been working with Robin at the Red Lion to create a map of the show and the locations of the hundreds of tables. Gary and Eric have grand plans to create an impressive head table that will hold more winners than any traditional show.

Jeanette Benson and Gordon Jackman and Margaret Kennedy have written the Flower Design categories. Gordon will be the show contact for floral design issues. Jeanette has selected Garden club judges for the design competition. Jeanette has agreed to help prepare a giant display of flowers for the head table. Gordon and Jeanette have volunteered to place floral displays in the Red Lion's lobby and hallways.

Mark Oldenkamp has become our chairman of judges. He will assign all of the judging teams and collate the judging sheets to report show results. Jeanette Benson has agreed to be at our classification table for the show.

Wayne Lobaugh has volunteered to create a "Power Point" slide show for the awards presentation. Don Sailer has prepared special signage for the show tables.

Another important area has been our fund raising and we plan to have a raffle of donated items. Max Ollieu and Tiffany have been working hard on this. Teresa Bergman has been rounding up items to sell at the show such as t-shirts and souvenir items.

I know I have left out numerous people and tasks that have been done.

There is still a lot to do and to plan for. Many people have stepped up and volunteered on the various

committees. I know that there are many other people that would like help out but have not yet had time but would still like to contribute. As we get closer to the actual show date, we will need a long list of people to help out on Thursday for show set up, on Friday for set up and greeting and helping exhibitors, Friday evening to all hours of the night to be there for the exhibitors who will work through the night to prepare. And we need lots of volunteers for clerking duties at the show. We need lots of volunteers to be at the show when open to the public to field questions at our information table. On Saturday afternoon we need photographers for pictures of winning entries; we need people to help with the seminars as each room needs a floor monitor. We need people to help at the awards presentation. We need people to be there all day on Sunday to help with the public. We need lots of people to help in the show dismantling on Sunday afternoon. We may need volunteers to attend an "end of show" pizza party on Sunday evening.

## **TUBER WORKSHOPS**

In looking ahead to our annual sales, we will be holding 2 tuber workshops at Swan Island Dahlias. The first will be on Saturday March 31st, and the second will be on Saturday, April 21st. The second one will be to prepare tubers for the Master Gardener's sale. Starting time for both workshops is 9:00 AM. Please help out and one or both if you can. Also, we would like to have tubers you are going to donate for the sale brought in to our March meeting, or in to this month's meeting if you can't be there in March. Please be sure each variety is clean, free of rot and has a viable eye. You do not need to write on each tuber, as long as it is clearly marked in some way. More than one tuber of a variety may be put in a bag with the name written on the outside of the bag. Please be generous as these 2 sales are major source of funds. When donating tubers to the April auction, Shirley Bankston would like to have your list to find pictures of the blooms. If you took pictures of your blooms last summer, please bring them to the February and March meetings. If you did not take pictures, please send your list to Shirley at [shirbur@earthlink.net](mailto:shirbur@earthlink.net)

At your board meeting it was decided that Portland Dahlia Society members would be given early access to the April Tuber Sale at 6:00PM. The general public will not be admitted until 6:30PM. The idea is to give those who support your society first choice among the dahlias available on the sale tables.

## **AWARDS FOR 2012 SHOW**

If you have donated awards in the past and/or would like to sponsor an award for the National Show, contact Mike Riordan at 503-256-0425 or [riordanm@prodigy.net](mailto:riordanm@prodigy.net).

## **2012 DUES ARE DUE**

If you haven't already paid, dues are past due. Judges please remember that you are required to carry membership in both the American Dahlia society and the PNDC (Pacific Northwest Dahlia conference). PDS dues, ADS dues and PNDC dues should be combined and paid to the Treasurer as noted below. Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers dues are \$10 and also payable through our Treasurer.

PDS	ADS	PNDC
Adults: \$7.00 Couples: \$10.00 Juniors: \$1.00	Individual: \$24.00 Family: \$27.00	Individual \$10.00 Dual: \$15.00
Mail to or pay at next meeting		
Larry Sawyer, 11015 S.W. Berkshire, Portland, OR 97225		

## FEBRUARY CHECKLIST

How are those tubers doing in storage? Regardless of your storage medium and method, it is advisable to see how things are storing. Sometimes rot can spread from one tuber to the next. If there is some rot, many times the tuber (s) can be saved by cutting away the rotted portion and treating the cuts with flowers of sulfur or Captan. If you are using vermiculite and the medium seems too damp (vermiculite clinging to tubers), more dry vermiculite can be added to the storage container. As you are checking through, this is a great time to select tubers you want to take cuttings from and/or donate to the PDS tuber sale. Not sure how many of you store over pot roots. I keep mine stored open in nursery flats in the same storage area (garage) as my tubers. They are still in the same pots they grew in last summer. One thing I've learned is to take the flats outdoors and water them thoroughly about once a month. This does not promote premature growth, but does enhance the keeping quality of the mini-clumps.

Now is a good time to think about soil in preparation for next growing season. Consider topdressing your dahlia garden with compost or manure. In fact this early in the spring, it need not be that well composted. Cow, horse, chicken, leaf mold compost, mushroom compost, rabbit, Zoo Doo or Llama will work just fine. Check your local newspaper or feed store for suppliers both you – haul or delivered. Besides beneficial nutrients, organic amendments enhance the ability of the soil to hold water. This month the soil is too wet to work with machines, but can be hand turned.

While discussing soil, let's visit the subject of pH. Soils in the Pacific Northwest tend to be naturally acidic. Add to this rain through our polluted skies, and we end up with more push to the acid side. To counter act the acidity, apply Dolomite Lime or Prilled (pelletized) Lime either now or at planting time. By pulling your soil more to the neutral side the plants are better able to absorb and process nutrients. An added benefit to liming is the addition of Calcium to the soil. Calcium is essential for

the production of cellulose in plant tissue. (Healthier plants with stronger stems). A soil test will give you an accurate picture of what's needed in your soil. See A & L Laboratory's web site at [http://www.allabs.com/analytical\\_services/analytical\\_main.htm](http://www.allabs.com/analytical_services/analytical_main.htm)

## FEDERATION SPRING WORKSHOP

The Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers will hold their Spring Workshop on Saturday, March 24th. There is no cost to this event and most participants bring a brown bag lunch. Presentations on varied aspects of dahlia growing are provided throughout the day. There is also an auction of new introductions accompanied by a slide show of each offering. Contact Teresa Bergman (360)274-8192 or Jeanette Benson (503) 649-4118 for more information and to coordinate car pool arrangements.



*Hollyhill Valentino BB C Red  
2012 Derrill Hart Winner*

## PNDC SPRING MEETING

The Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference will hold its spring meeting on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at Georgetown Realty in Portland. Georgetown is located at 1000 NE 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Portland 97230. The luncheon begins at noon. Details concerning the luncheon arrangements will follow.

Following the luncheon is a short business meeting; this is followed by a tuber and plant auction. Many of the originators from the entire west coast (British Columbia through Southern Oregon) will be in attendance. Many will bring some of their new originations and imports to the auction. Everyone's interest in the newer varieties and the spirited bidding is more than worth the price of the luncheon. You do not need to be a member of the PNDC to attend and participate in this function.