

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 10th, 2015 @ 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY

Members will be getting back into the thick of our obsession with the chance to interact with those similarly afflicted. First, we will view the ADS DVD featuring 2015 introductions. That should get us in the mood for a panel presentation on how to begin our preparations for this year's dahlia garden. Finally, we will be taking suggestions regarding supplies the group 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, Concentrates offers Portland Dahlia Society Members 10% discounts on selected items. Just mention that you are a PDS member or bring along a copy of this bulletin. Concentrates is now located on International Way right off the Milwaukie Expressway. If you are nearby Bob's Red Mill Restaurant, you're very close by.

At our PDS board meeting, January 17th, we discussed plans for this year's educational program and some initiatives we would like to undertake. Our business meeting this month will give members a chance to learn more and have a voice in your society's strategic decisions.

FIRST AUCTION

Last year we tried an early tuber/pot root auction at our February meeting and it was well received. We were able to get a better price prior to our main event and some of those who take cuttings would like to get stock sooner. This will be limited to newer varieties, or those that are very hard to find. We will use a silent auction format.

COOKIES FOR FEBRUARY

Teresa Bergman and Adrienne Hale will be providing cookies for this month's meeting.

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 28th, and the second will be on Saturday, April 25th. The second one will be to prepare

tubers for the Master Gardener's sale. Starting time for both workshops is 10:00 AM. Please help out and one or both if you can. As an incentive to full shift participants is their choice of a free tuber from those available at the tuber pack. 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

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.



Hollyhill Pink Martini

2015 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 powdered cinnamon, 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 Craig's list under "yard and garden" and put the word "manure" in the search field. 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://al-labs.com/analytical_services/analytical_agri2.aspx

FEDERATION SPRING WORKSHOP

The Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers will hold their Spring Workshop on Saturday, March 21st. 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.

PDS 2015 FLOWER OF THE YEAR

At your January board meeting, Hollyhill Bill M, NX DP, was selected as our flower of the year. This one is a real crowd pleaser, plentiful and easy to grow.



Hollyhill Bill M

PNDC SPRING MEETING

The Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference will hold its spring meeting on Saturday, April 18th at Parker's Restaurant in Castle Rock, Washington. The luncheon begins at noon. PNDC delegates begin their work at 10:00 AM.

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.

PLANNING NEXT YEAR'S DAHLIA GARDEN

By Ted J. Kennedy

Most people who grow dahlias grow their favorites and try a few new varieties each year. People grow dahlias for different reasons but all of us appreciate a beautiful dahlia plant in our garden. There are about a hundred or more new varieties introduced each year and many of them are unremarkable and many of them are quite stunning. Here at the Portland Dahlia Society we like to promote the new varieties by showing the new variety DVD published by the American Dahlia Society. In addition we sell newer varieties at our annual tuber and plant auction in April.

Many people find that the prices of the newest originations are very expensive as they average over \$20.00 for the best ones and one recent introduction was sold (and sold out) for \$30.00. In the second year most varieties decline in price to about 60% to 75% of the original price. In the third year, varieties that make lots of tubers usually decline in price to less than 50% of the original price while those who are shy tuber makers may be a bit higher priced.



Hollyhill Angela

Some dahlia enthusiasts wait a year or two to try a new dahlia. It is not only the hefty price that motivates them, but they want to hear from people who tried the new one. Many people want to see a dahlia growing in a local garden. Pictures of dahlias usually show just the flower and the "proof of the pudding" is seeing the entire dahlia plant. Some varieties are "cool weather" dahlias meaning that the flowers fade in intense sunlight or that they have defects like green center in hot weather. Here in the Portland area many "cool weather" varieties do not do as

well as others until the cooler weather in September and later.

Every year I order some of the new introductions. This year I decided to use most of my budget to buy the new introductions from Blossom Gulch. Mike and Kathy Iler have been breeding dahlias for many years now and have reached a point where every one of their new ones is something I want to try. They offer a new introduction collection each year and I was able to get my order in before it sold out. It includes one each of their new introductions: Abbey BB FD DP, Cabrillo B LC DB, Catalina BA OR, Ember MB Y, Fiona. BA LB OR/Y, Liza BB C DBR/Y, Rae Ann B SC DP, and Zoey A ID Y. I am most excited about Fiona the ball dahlia that won a best in show at Eugene. By the way. The last year's intros from Blossom Gulch did well for me, especially Carnivale, Darcy, Lexa, Sandrine and Camille Noel. I am planning to bid on many of the new varieties that appear in our annual auction. I really want several of the newer Accent Dahlias and especially AC Ingra the giant bicolor in purple and white and AC Casper the A sized ID in white.

Another source of new dahlias that is growing in popularity is buying rooted cuttings. There are several of the dahlia vendors that specialize in selling rooted cuttings and the most well-known is Corralitos Gardens in California. This year they are selling KA's Cloud A ID W the winner of the Derrill Hart Medal and cuttings of many really hard to find dahlias. Cowlitz River Dahlias is selling rooted cuttings also and one of her specialties are the newer introductions from Hapet Dahlias in Austria. The Hapet varieties have been wildly popular and nearly impossible to acquire as they do not ship to the USA. Hilltop Gardens also sells rooted cuttings.



Hollyhill Jeanette BB C OR winner of the 2015 Derrill Hart Award for BB size and named after our own Jeanette Benson.