

Portland Dahlia Society Bulletin

Meets 2nd Tuesday Monthly Virtually Using Zoom Software

Website: portlanddahlia.com

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Next meeting Tuesday, March 9th, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

TUBER PACKING PARTIES BY Shirley Bankston

Our PDS will not be holding our April tuber sale at Oaks Park this year, but will again sell tubers on the Shopify website. To prepare for the Shopify launch, packing parties will be held on Saturday, March 20, 27, and April 3rd at morning (9am to 12pm), and afternoon (1pm to 4pm) shifts. To reserve your space, please call 503-246-8632 or email shirleybankston@gmail.com. You can bring your donated tubers with you, too. Plastic bags will be provided.

If you are unable to attend a packing party and want to donate tubers, please bring them to Shirley Bankston's (SW Portland) or Larry Smith's home (SE Portland). Call Shirley at 503-246-8632 for information and travel directions.

Shirley will print labels for each bagged tuber. Please send your inventory list to shirleybankston@gmail.com.

If members are not certain about some of their tubers' true identification, they are encouraged to put them in an 'Unknown' pile. The club will still sell them, but at a reduced price. "Mystery Dahlia"

For members working at the packing party you will receive 1 free tuber and can purchase up to 5 tubers @ \$4.00 each. Cash or check only.

SHOPIFY WEB TUBER SALES By Shirley Bankston

The Shopify store will be open on April 5 through April 10 for PDS members and friends. This year all orders placed will be shipped to the address on the order. A PDS presale discount coupon of 20% will be available (only during this time) to use that will lower the price and help pay for shipping.

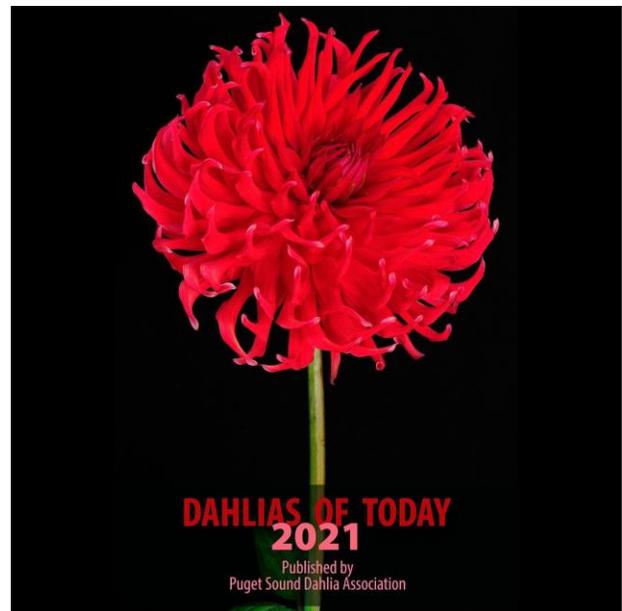
On April 13th, Shopify will be launched to the USA! Domestic shipping of tubers only – no international to Alaska or Hawaii. The base price for tubers will be

\$5.00 each. Some "more recent" varieties will have a higher set price and will be noted on the site.

DAHLIAS OF TODAY 2021

Shirley has 17 Dahlias of Today 2021 books to sell for \$15.00 plus \$3.00 shipping. Email shirleybankston@gmail.com to order.

This is the annual publication of the Puget Sound Dahlia Association with lots of color photos of dahlias you must have along with great articles by dahlia specialists. DOT features new dahlia introductions that include our very own hybridizers: Allen Manuel, Ted Kennedy, Wayne Lobaugh, Eric Toedtli and Swan Island Dahlias. Experts have included articles full of great information about raising dahlias along with beautiful pictures of the trial garden winners.



PROGRAM UPDATE FOR MARCH

Quick Hacks and Questions
Starting Tubers, Seeds and Taking Cuttings
Water Management Ideas
Slide Show of New Introductions

2021 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	Individual: \$24.00	Individual \$10.00
Couples: \$10.00	Family: \$27.00	Dual: \$15.00
Juniors: \$1.00		
Mail to or pay at next meeting		
Larry Sawyer, 11015 S.W. Berkshire, Portland, OR 97225		

MARCH 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 or insects (springtails or fungus gnats) can spread from one tuber to the next. Remove the rotted portion of the tubers and treat the cuts with powdered cinnamon, captan or sulfur. Many growers believe that a rotting tuber gives off ethylene gas which promotes premature sprouting in the other tubers in the same bag. While checking the tubers you may want to select some varieties for cuttings. I don't have the space to take all the cuttings I want at once. Therefore, some tubers are rotated back into storage and others come out to take still more cuttings.

While going through your stored tubers please take time to set aside tubers for our Shopify Store. We need everyone's support to insure the success of our annual fundraisers. Including a list of varieties and respective quantities is helpful to the volunteers who will be doing the packaging at the workshops.

March is a good time to get a soil test and find out what your ground lacks or perhaps has too much of a given element. Most soils in the PNW tend to be on the acid side. Applying lime, either regular calcium carbonate or dolomite, will help bring your soil back to neutral. This aids in the plants ability to photosynthesize and process soil nutrients. John Menzel once told me he thought the reason Australian growers had fewer problems wintering "hard to keep varieties" is because the Australian soils are naturally more alkaline. Most soil tests require at least a cup and a half of soil collected in a zip lock bag. It is advisable to take this sample from several different places in your garden to get an accurate representative sample. Try to keep the sample as sterile as possible by using very clean implements and wearing latex gloves.



CHi Mon Cher-e

WL – White by Paul McKittrick

PNDC MEETING

Our virtual PNDC spring meeting is set for Sunday, March 28th starting at 1 PM.

Since no in-person meeting will be possible this spring it will be virtual using Zoom software. Invitations will follow to members via email.

Because some members might be more interested in the program than the business meeting, let's start with the meeting with an educational program. The program will offer training credit to judges and will be of interest to the general member:

--Colin Walker of Puget Sound Dahlia Association will be giving a short presentation, likely regarding what makes a good vs. a poor novelty classified dahlia.

--Trevor Hoff of Nanaimo DS will give tips on photography. Note: In the 2020 ADS Photo Contest, Trevor won four of the ten classes, including Grand Prize, and placed in three others.

--One other possible presentation, still unconfirmed.

Right after the program, the 2021 PNDC Gold Medal honoree will be revealed. Due to the pandemic, the delivery of the winner's plaque will be delayed.

Business meeting will follow. This year, since we will be on Zoom, we will be combining the Executive meeting and the General Membership meeting. If any of you have agenda items to add, let me know. Larry Smith thebodysmith@hotmail.com

STARTING TUBERS INDOORS

Many growers prefer to start their tubers indoors ahead of planting time. This gives the plants a head start and results in earlier flowers in the garden. An added bonus is that there are extra sprouts available for taking cuttings and thus having additional stock for planting, trading or making pot roots.

Many growers have a set up of stacked plastic or wire rack shelving in their basement or spare room. Suspended above the shelves are fluorescent light fixtures. The multiple shelf set up yields some bottom heat from the light fixture on the lower shelf. Regular shop lights work just fine. There is no advantage to using the more expensive “grow” lights. I leave my set up on 12 hours a day and the plants grow just fine.

How soon should we start the tubers in pots indoors? Most growers think that four to six weeks is just about right. If you were planting mid to late May, starting your tubers about the first of April would yield 8” plants to set out at planting time.

If you want to experiment on a smaller scale, you can start just a few plants on a sunny window sill. Or better yet put a few pots out on a sunny patio or deck and bring them in on a nightly basis.

As the plants increase in growth, you may want to begin hardening some of the plants off. This involves leaving them outside in a sunny, yet protected area. I have a south facing deck that works great. By late April or early May they can be left out all day and night. Be watchful of a late frost and be prepared to move inside at night if necessary.



*Kelsey Aria – CO LB Gullikson Medal Winner
Colin Walker - Originator
Photo by Jerry Zierdt*

DAHLIA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS BY TED J. KENNEDY

What is the number one pest of dahlias?

In our wet climate, our biggest pest problem is slugs and to a smaller extent snails. It is very common for slugs to eat all of the sprouts emerging from the soil and the dahlia tuber may never recover. If you till your soil while it is too wet and create dirt clods, the slugs will crawl into the spaces between the clods and remain there eating dahlia sprouts. There are two product types that people use to control slugs and one is somewhat organic called Sluggo or other products using iron phosphate. The active ingredient, iron phosphate is not poisonous to human or animals and it even used to be sold in health food stores as a supplement. However, there is some controversy over the product as they have added a chemical called EDTA to enhance the effects of the iron phosphate. The other, old fashioned products are slug bait pellets, meal and liquid that are metaldehyde based. I am not an advocate of the pellets or Meal, but do use the liquid products (one is called Deadline) in my garden. Using the liquid sparingly by placing a thin line of the product around the dahlia plant will protect it from slug damage for a week or two. Once dahlias are up to about 12 inches tall, slugs do not seem to be a problem any longer. There are hundreds of other ways to control slugs but in my experience none of them are as effective as the two products above.

What is the biggest fertilizer related problem affecting dahlias?

Besides the obvious answer that dahlias need some fertilizer to grow, here in our area the biggest problem is acid soils. Dahlias grow best in slightly acid soils and the ideal pH is 6.3 although they do very well in a range from 6.0 to 6.5. Our native soils tend to be about 6.0 in pH and that is fine for dahlias. However, as you grow plants in your garden and fertilize the plants, the soil will become more acid. After a few years the acid will build up and the dahlia plants will not be able to take up the fertilizer easily and many people will increase the amount of fertilizer. With the increase of fertilizer the soil will become even more acid until dahlias do very poorly there no matter how much fertilizer is applied.

The answer to the acid problem is to check the soil pH with a pH meter (our club has one you can borrow) and if it is not in the proper range, to add lime to your soil. Lime is an organic product and is ground limestone (the Rocky Mountains are mostly limestone). Lime can be applied in early spring and the newer “prilled” lime products can be applied with your fertilizer spreader. Many commercial growers add some lime to their gardens every year. By the way, if you know your garden is deficient in magnesium (that is most of us), you can use dolomite lime that adds magnesium and corrects the pH too.

PDS MARCH MEETING INVITE

Mark Oldenkamp is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

*Topic: Portland Dahlia Society Regular Meeting
Time: Mar 9, 2021 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)*

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87049877617?pwd=bkFUdDRHbjF5aE9EQ3YwYW4wUTg2OT09>

Meeting ID: 870 4987 7617

Passcode: Dahlias1!

One tap mobile

*+16699009128,,87049877617#,,, *126246972# US (San Jose)*

*+12532158782,,87049877617#,,, *126246972# US (Tacoma)*

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 870 4987 7617

Passcode: 126246972

Find your local

number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87049877617?pwd=bkFUdDRHbjF5aE9EQ3YwYW4wUTg2OT09>

Mark Oldenkamp



*Skipley Frost BB ID W
Richard Williams – Originator*



*River's Angie
M C DP
Eugene Kenyon - Originator*



*Irish Delight MB Y
Steve and Sandy Boley Originators
Photo by Bob Schroeder*