

THE DAHLIA DIRT



The Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Dahlia Society

February, 2012

Next Meeting:

Friday, February 10 at Simpkins Swim Center, Santa Cruz

7:00 Pot Luck Dinner

7:30 Meeting

Program:

Our guest speaker will be Ozzie Parnianfar who sells his dahlias and orchids at the Cabrillo Farmer's Market. Ozzie will share his knowledge on how to grow dahlias and orchids successfully in pots.

From the Prez

A big thank you to Dean Barns, Lena Marsden and Iris Wallace for their many hours in relabeling and reorganizing all the name and picture cards for the upcoming tuber sale. Hats off to all of you!



We will hear more about our upcoming Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference on Feb 18th and start the planning of our tuber sale on April 7th.

I'm really looking forward to hearing our local member and speaker Ozzie Parnianfar give a talk and demonstration on growing dahlias in pots and sharing his knowledge on growing orchids at this months meeting.
Happy Growing.. Kristine

Minutes from MBDS Meeting on January 13th, 2012

The meeting was promptly called to order at 7:32pm by our new president Kristine Albrecht.

Gavel was handed over to Kristine and was noted that the gavel came from Dean's father many years ago. "THANK YOU" to Sharon for her role as president during the past 5 years. She received a gift certificate and Katy brought in a yummy cake to acknowledge and appreciate all of Sharon's dedication.

A moment was given to remember Jack Nellany who passed away this week. He and his wife Pat always had the mini-shows at their place each summer. We will all miss him.

Kristine has returned the "Question Box". All members are encouraged to submit questions at the beginning of our meetings and they will be answered later during our culture question time.

Newsletter: Thank you to Tom who fulfilled this task for the past 2 years and thank you to Jan who has stepped in to continue our monthly "Dahlia Dirt" Newsletter. Please send in articles and lots of pictures.

Treasury Report: Katy put together an estimated Profit and Loss type statement for the society. This outlined our estimated expenses and sources of income. As it stands, our balance is still positive. Katy also indicated that the room at Simpkins has been reserved for the year and that we will have our annual pizza party in November.

Karen Zydner (Speaker): This month we were fortunate to have our own member, Karen Zydner of Corralitos Gardens, speak about taking dahlia cuttings. She discussed how taking cuttings increases your stock beyond just saving your tubers. She also demonstrated where to make your cuttings (just below the leaves) and talked about the importance of temperature, misting, transplanting and fertilizing. Thank you Karen for sharing your experience and knowledge.

Membership: Jean reported that we currently have 38 MBDS and 21 ADS members paid up. Please turn in all dues to her.

Tuber Sale: The date for our Tuber Sale has been set for April 7th. The sort will take place Wednesday through Friday prior to the sale. Please provide Dean with your tuber list before the sort so he can get pictures and tuber name cards made ahead of time.

Speakers for upcoming meetings: Kristine is excited to have lined up several speakers for our upcoming meetings. Next month (February) Ozzie Parnianfar will speak about growing dahlias in pots. This will be a good time to ask him about your orchids, too. In the future we will have Kevin present his Power Point on Pest Management, Gopher guy, RTI (Mycorrhizal people), scientist from Kitayama's about vase life cuttings and others. Please forward all ideas to Kristine. She is also encouraging more garden type tours. An honorarium of \$50 was recommended, voted on and passed.

Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference: Southern California Dahlia Societies were signed up to host this years' event, but are unable to. Marilyn Masurat from John E. Stowell Dahlia Society in San Jose is planning a one-day event on February 18th. This is in place of the usual full weekend conference.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm

Minutes respectfully submitted, Iris Wallace



In Memory of Jack



On January 14, 2012, a gloriously sunny day, some of the MBDS members attended the memorial service for member Jack Nellany. The service was held in "paradise" Jack's place on Coast Rd. in Santa Cruz. The glistening Pacific Ocean provided the perfect backdrop to Jack's prolific garden. We heard and shared stories of him, most all ended with a great laugh. I learned that Jack gave lots of hugs and lots of love. He taught others to be accepting of most everyone.

We will miss him very much & send Pat and his family our deepest sympathy.

I learned that our dahlia meetings are much more than, well, dahlia meetings. They are a place for us all to share a part of our lives, doing what we love to do with one another. We share community & spirit, and that is a tie that binds for eternity...

In gardening...Sharon

Guest Speaker



January's guest speaker was Karen Zydner of Corralitos Gardens. She spoke to a rapt audience as she shared her tips for successful propagation from cuttings. Thanks, Karen!

Starting the Cuttings



Anticipating spring, get your dahlia seeds germinating and pot-tuber cuttings ready to go. Regardless of your facilities, start germination indoors. Giving the plants a head start will produce blooms even as early as May.



The sprouting tubers with bottom heat and grow lights to mimic spring conditions.



The first cuttings rooting in sand under the dome.

Dahlia Seed Starting by Kristine



In the last month I've been having fun starting some of the seeds I collected from dahlias that I crossed this summer. I've been putting the seeds between damp paper towels and covering them with a plastic bag or plastic wrap. I put them in my oven with only the pilot light on and the doors open. That combo keeps my seeds around 72 degrees.

In less than a week I have some sprouting seeds. As soon as I see the first signs of a root, I plant them into 4" pots with about a quarter of an inch of soil covering them. The first inch or two of the pots is just seed starting mix and rest of the pot is full of potting soil. Immediately the pots are put under my grow lights and in a few days the seedlings push



through the soil and show their first set of cot leaves. I'm always amazed how small the seeds are and how vigorous and tall the seedlings grow.

Last year my seedlings were my tallest and my fastest growing plants. I really recommend growing seedlings if you haven't done so yet.

What I've Learned:

1. Collect your seeds from some of your first blooms not your last ones.
2. Don't wet your paper towel too heavily when starting your seeds.
3. Don't get your seeds too hot.

Also, if you have any open centered flowers in your field you will get a majority of open centered seedlings. I like covering my

flowers with mosquito netting and doing the work of the bees by crossing only those flowers I would like to see the combination of.

Future Dates

March Meeting:	Friday, March 9 With guest speaker Kevin Larkin of Corralitos Gardens
Tuber Sale:	Saturday, April 7 Deerpark Shopping Center, Aptos
San Leandro Show:	August 3-5
San Francisco Show:	August 17-19
MBDS Show:	August 24-26 Soquel High School
National Dahlia Show:	August 31 - September 2 Portland, Oregon
San Jose Show:	September 7-9
Santa Cruz County Fair:	Staging on September 9-10

The Crew

President: Kristine Albrecht
Vice President: Kevin Larkin
Treasurer: Katy Bannister
Secretary: Iris Wallace
Newsletter: Jan Palia
Website: Brion Sprinsock



If you have any photos, news or announcements for the newsletter please send them to Jan at bgawlik@cruzio.com

**Want to see past issues of the newsletter?
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