

# THE DAHLIA DIRT



The Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Dahlia Society

**July 2012**

**Next Meeting:**

**Friday, July 13 at Simpkins Swim Center, Santa Cruz**

**7:00 Pot Luck Dinner**

**7:30 Meeting**

**Program:**

**We plan on having a night of mini “teach-ins”. Instead of four groups we are going to split up into two- 30 minute sessions. The subjects covered will be General Dahlia Care, Showing Dahlias & How to Read the Show Schedule and Dahlia Floral Design.**



## From the Prez....

We have another educational and fun-filled meeting this Friday. We are having our second round of teach-ins from a few of our experienced members. Joe Ghio will discuss dahlia care this time of the year and Jan Palia will demonstrate creating bouquets and baskets. After 30 minutes we will switch to Becky Adams talking on dahlia care and Bettie Crandall showing us her basket artistry. Our local dahlia show is coming up August 25 and 26th so we will also have a session on "Understanding the Show Catalogue." Don't forget to mark your calendars for Mini Show to be held at Kevin and Karen's house on July 21st.

The Judging Seminar is Saturday July 14th at Santa Cruz Montessori School (The Winston Campus). It starts at 9am and goes to 5pm. Lunch will be served. Here are directions if you need them:



From Hiway 1 get off at the Park Avenue exit. Head north on Park Ave. (away from the ocean) and turn left at Cabrillo College Drive (about 200 yards from the freeway). Follow Cabrillo College Drive until it ends in a cul-de-sac. Take the driveway on the right for the mt. Calvery Lutheran Church. Head up the church driveway and take the first right turn onto the Montessori School property. Follow the parking lot around to the far side of the building where you will find double glass doors. You're there.

It's an exciting time of year in the garden! My dahlias really started to bloom this week and I was able to make some of my first bouquets. What fun! Happy Gardening....Kristine

## June Guest Speaker

### Darn Gophers!

Tom Wittman, of [www.gopherslimited.com](http://www.gopherslimited.com) shared his knowledge about pesky varmints in the garden (gophers, moles and ground squirrels) and how to keep them under control.

Thanks, Tom.



## Millie's Garden



"Because"

Millie's Seedling

Millie Marchi has been growing dahlias for the last twenty years. She has her system finely tuned and with the help of her little buddie, Lilo, she plans on producing some gorgeous blooms this year.

She uses a drip system for irrigation, bone meal and fish emulsion for her planting and gives credit to Ozzie for getting her started 20 years ago.

She has her traditions too. Every year Millie takes her first bloom to the nearby donut shop for all to enjoy. She sets up her dahlia stand with bouquets and singles for sale in front of her house, taking advantage of the excellent beach traffic. She provides Jardine's Restaurant with blooms each week.

Millie, 91, is growing about 80 dahlias this year.

She says that amount is less than in the past but she has had to "cut down in my middle years."

Go Millie!!!!



Millie and Lilo



To stake her dahlias, Millie uses PVC pipe with an attached label using recycled pieces of window blinds. The labels conform to the shape of the pipe.



The gazebo offers a relaxing site for shade and viewing the dahlias.



## Mini- Show



### Mini Dahlia Show

Saturday, July 21

1-5pm

Don't forget about the mini-show at Kevin and Karen's on Saturday, July 21, 1-5pm.

Get hands on experience with comments and helpful hints from award winning exhibitors!

Here is your chance to practice staging your blooms and share your expertise in judging.

Bring your blooms, your vases and frogs, your baskets and mechanics and a summer dish to share for the pot luck.

Kevin and Karen

295 Alitos

Corralitos, Ca 95076

Directions:

Take Freedom Blvd exit and turn left on to Haims Road. Proceed to Corralitos Market and turn left on Eureka Canyon Road. Go 1/3 of a mile and take the first left past the Cal Fire Station on to Alitos. The house will be on the left.

Schedule:

1:00-3:00 Staging Demonstration

Prep for Show

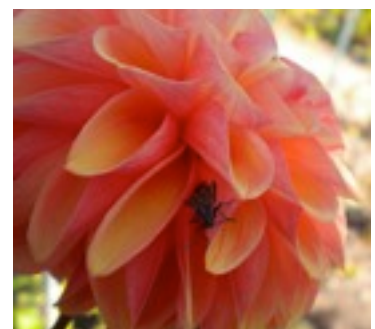
Floral Arrangement Class

3:00 Judging

3:30 Pot Luck

Show us Your Blooms!

Bring your dahlia blooms to the meeting this Friday....



## DAHLIA CULTURE FOR JULY 2012

### CUTTING BLOOMS

To encourage the plant to make more and better blooms, blooms must be removed in a timely manner. We can either cut blooms at their prime or wait awhile and then cut off the old, spent blooms.

The length of time a bloom will stay pretty in a vase is dependent upon things such as dahlia variety, method of treatment after cutting, and the water in the vase. Some gardeners say “put the stem in water immediately” others say “immediately put the stem in a bucket containing a few inches of hot (160 degrees) water and leave it there until the water cools.”

Commercial products are available for use to extend the life of cut flowers. The ADS Guide to Growing and Caring For Dahlias suggests two less expensive formulas. Formula 1 consists of 1/4 teaspoon of bleach plus 2 teaspoons of sugar in 1/2 gallon of water. Formula 2 is 2 tablespoons of Listerine in 1/2 gallon of water. Some antiseptic mouth rinses available at K-Mart and drug stores have the same ingredients as Listerine, and cost less. When I cut flowers, I put a bottle capful (4 tablespoons) of the Rinse and a gallon of water in a bucket, and put stems in right after they are cut.

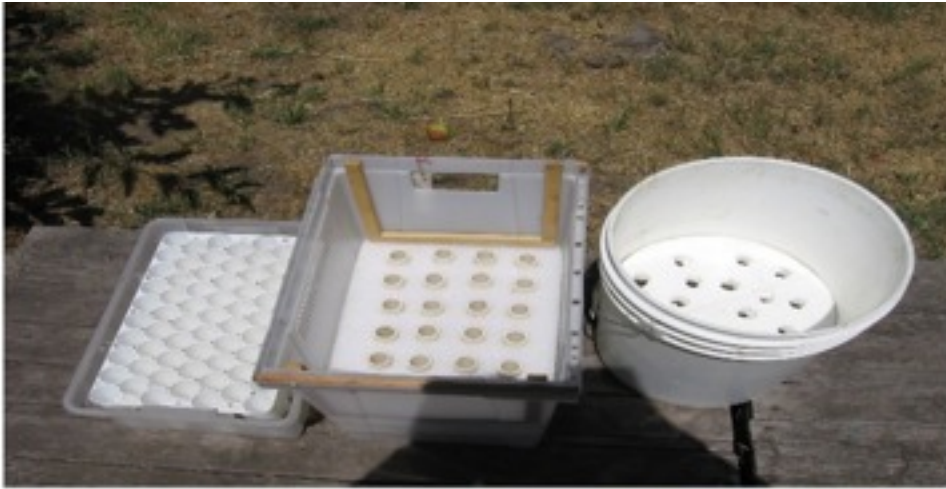
### BLOOM TRANSPORT

The intent is to continually encourage you to enter blooms in shows because it is the high point of what we do; and can be fun. However, if you have not already acquired a means of carrying and protecting blooms and associated leaves in transit, these few words and pictures might help.

A bucket with a holed piece of foam plastic is easy to prepare. I bend and cut holes in a piece of welded wire to place at the bottom of the bucket to help keep the stems vertical. Bucket preparation is easy; but only a few blooms can be put in the bucket.

A good container is a “you-build” insert for a plastic tub. Top and lower pieces of foam plastic are cut to fit snugly in the tub. Holes sized for 3/4 inch plastic pipe are drilled in the foam plastic. The pipe pieces should be about 6 inches long. The foam plastic tends to float so it is fixed in place in my tubs. Foam plastic sheets are available at Beverly’s.

Perhaps you can find a commercially available Multi-Pot insert for a plastic tub. A source for Ropak Multi-Pots can be found on the internet. The insert pictured was bought several years ago from a supplier in Oregon by a MBDS member who took our orders and made the purchase.



## Judging Seminar

**Judging Seminar, July 14, 2012 9 am -5 pm, Santa Cruz Montessori School (Winston Campus), Soquel, CA (see “from the Prez” for directions)**

**The Monterey Bay Dahlia Society will be hosting a judging seminar at Santa Cruz Montessori School on July 14th at the Winston Campus off of Park Ave in Soquel. The address is 2446 Cabrillo College Drive, Soquel, CA 95073 This is a wonderful opportunity to learn how judges view blooms and select winners at the dahlia shows. I expect members from several California Dahlia Societies to attend. Membership in a dahlia society is required to attend this event.**

**Head judge Lou Paradise from the California Dahlia Society (San Francisco) will be leading the seminar with help from John Morton of the San Leandro Dahlia Society and many other head judges.**

**If you are currently a judge, you need this seminar to stay current and keep your judging status. If you are thinking of becoming a judge, this seminar is a requirement.**

**I attended this seminar before I was thinking of judging and learned so much about how best to show my blooms. This seminar will teach you what the judges are looking for! I recommend this for everyone, even if you are a real beginner.**  
**- Kristine**



# Minutes from the MBDS Meeting

## Minutes from MBDS meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Kristine Albrecht called the meeting to order at 7:35PM. Thirty (30) members present.

**Judging Seminar:** Kristine went around with the sign up sheet during the pot luck and asked if any other members wanted to be added. We are lucky to have the judging seminar held locally this year. Most often it is held in the bay area.

**Mini-Show:** Will be held a Kevin and Karen's house. Members voted between July 21<sup>st</sup> or July 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was decided to be held on Saturday July 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Pin Frogs:** Iris demonstrated some of her containers with frogs for displaying our blooms at the show(s). The importance of purchasing pin frogs with long pins (23mm) was noted. She also handed out flyers with a website to purchase frogs. EZpots.com sells them by boxes of 24. When buying them like this the cost is around \$1.45 each which is considerably less than the usual \$4 or \$5.

**MBDS Show Schedule:** Our show is on August 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. A week earlier than usual because of the conflict with the National Show held on the same weekend. Please send Kevin an email if you would like to sponsor a certain dahlia class (category). We have a new section this year. The Photography section has several different classes where you can enter your dahlia photographs, paintings or sculptures. There will also be a section for First Time Exhibitors.

**Table Arrangement:** It was brought to Kristine's attention that some of our members were unhappy with the new table arrangement. Some folks didn't like seeing the backs of other members. Others liked the new arrangement. They thought it allowed you to speak with more than one other person at a time at your table. The discussion was brought to a vote and members voted to keep the new arrangement for now.

**Minutes:** Motion was made to approve the May minutes as written in the newsletter. Which were then approved.

**Treasury:** Katy Bannister reported that she paid the insurance for our show at Soquel High. Mary Bannister will take over the mailing of our newsletter to folks who don't get email.

**Upcoming Events:** Greenhouse Tours on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Tom Karwin spoke briefly about the upcoming Garden Fair at Sky Park in Scotts Valley on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Not enough interest or volunteers available and it was decided that MBDS would not have a booth this year.

Business part of our meeting was adjourned to allow Thomas Whittman from Gopher Limited to speak about gophers and other rodent problems we have in our gardens. For more information go to [www.gopherslimited.com](http://www.gopherslimited.com)  
Minutes respectfully submitted, Iris Wallace





## Future Dates

<b>August Meeting:</b>	<b>Friday, August 10</b>
<b>Judging Seminar:</b>	<b>July 14 Santa Cruz Montessori</b>
<b>Mini-Show:</b>	<b>July 21 Kevin and Karen's</b>
<b>San Leandro Show:</b>	<b>August 3-5</b>
<b>San Francisco Show:</b>	<b>August 17-19</b>
<b>MBDS Show:</b>	<b>August 24-26 Soquel High School</b>
<b>National Dahlia Show:</b>	<b>August 31 - September 2 Portland, Oregon</b>
<b>San Jose Show:</b>	<b>September 7-9</b>
<b>Santa Cruz County Fair:</b>	<b>Staging on September 9-10</b>

## The Crew

**President:** Kristine Albrecht  
**Vice President:** Kevin Larkin  
**Treasurer:** Katy Bannister  
**Secretary:** Iris Wallace  
**Membership:** Jean Biberdorf  
**Contributing Writer:** Dean Barnes  
**Newsletter:** Jan Palia  
**Website:** Brion Sprinsock



**Please send all your fascinating photos and interesting tidbits for the newsletter to [bgawlik@cruzio.com](mailto:bgawlik@cruzio.com)**

**Want to see past issues of the newsletter?**

**Check out our website [mbdahlias.org](http://mbdahlias.org)**