

THE DAHLIA DIRT



The Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Dahlia Society

March 2012

Next Meeting:

Friday, March 9 at Simpkins Swim Center, Santa Cruz

7:00 Pot Luck Dinner

7:30 Meeting

Program:

Our guest speaker will be Kevin Larkin of Corralitos Gardens. He will be speaking about Pest Management.



From the Prez....



We have a busy next month with the root sale April 7th at Deer Park Shopping Center. Thank you to Dean, Iris and Lena for all your work leading up to the sale.

On February 25th I attended the Pacific Southwest Conference in San Leandro. It was a one day event with great speakers. Karen Zydner presented information on the 2011 dahlia winners by size and type.

She also let us know about cultivars not properly appearing the the ADS

Classification Handbook, Hall of fame members and candidates, and a summary of winners from all five California Dahlia Shows. If you'd like to see these handouts, click here or visit our website at www.mbdahlias.org and go to Consolidated Class Reports towards the bottom of the page.

Lou Paradise also spoke about the need of dahlia judges and urged all our members to become certified. On July 14th, our society will be hosting the next judging training at Santa Cruz Montessori School in Aptos.

To top the day off, Roy Stier of the John Stowell Dahlia Society taught us about growing pot roots for cuttings and direct planting into the garden. It was also a nice time to socialize with dahlia growers without the business of a dahlia show.

Thanks to Ozzie for his presentation last month on growing dahlias in containers and orchid care

Happy growing...Kristine

Minutes from the February 10, 2012 Meeting

Kristine Albrecht called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.

Membership: It was reported that we currently have 43 MBDS and 22 ADS members paid up.

Treasury: Still in good standing, similar to last months report.

Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference: Will be a one-day event held in San Leandro on February 25th. Kevin passed out fliers to those interested in attending.

Kevin also mentioned that the Smart Garden Fair in Carmel Valley is April 14th. We had no volunteers to set up a booth so MBDS will not attend.

Tuber Sale: Our tuber sale is Saturday April 7th. The sort will take place on the 4th, 5th and 6th at Kevin's barn from Noon to 4PM. Price is the same as last year. AA, A and cuttings will be \$5. All other tubers will be \$3. Members can purchase at the sort for this price or for every 10 tubers a member shares for the sale they will receive 1 in exchange. After the club sale on the 7th, members can purchase tubers for \$1. One month after our sale, the extra tubers will be available at Alladin Nursery for sale and the proceeds will be donated to the County Fair. Then any extra tubers go to Doris' and then donated to the Homeless Garden Project. Everyone present voted and this "Extra Tuber" proposal was passed.

At our next meeting, we will have postcards announcing the sale to mail out to members of the community not on the email list. Please come early to help address the postcards. Signage for the sale was also discussed.

Dean, Lena and Iris completed the classification number update on all our name and photo cards that are used at the sort and sale. Many hours were spent updating the 1,130 dahlia name cards and 860 photo cards with the new ADS 4 digit classification number system. Thank you!

Speaker of the Month: Ozzie Parnianfar shared his knowledge of growing dahlias in pots. He spoke of what has worked for him over the years as well as his failures. He also demonstrated how to re-pot a cymbidium and spoke about the importance of having sterilized tools. A raffle was held for one of Ozzie's orchids which was won by Kevin. THANK YOU, Ozzie!!

Next months speaker is Kevin Larkin and he will discuss Pest Management.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm

Minutes respectfully submitted, Iris Wallace



Pot Roots Propagation

Here's a brief summary of Roy Stier's presentation at the Pacific Southwest Conference.

Start cuttings in 4" pots in early April or May. Cuttings root easily that time of the year.

When the cuttings are large enough, leave them in their 4" pots and plant the pot directly into the garden. Dig a trench and place the 4" pots in the trench. Cover the pots with a half of inch of soil.

Care for them as you would your other dahlia plants.

No need to do any trimming. Stake if necessary.

At the end of the season, don't dig the pot roots up just leave them in the ground and prune the vegetation back.

When you are ready to set your cutting bed up, dig up the pot roots, remove the 4" pot, clean them up and plant them directly into your cutting bed.

Pot roots can be removed from their pots and planted directly into your dahlia garden as well.



If you are interested in seeing the handouts from the Conference click here to go to our website at www.mbdahlias.org

Roy Stier talking about pot root propagation at the Pacific Southwest Conference.



CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED

MBDS will not send you any useless address labels, but does need a contribution of your GOOD spare tubers for the Root Sale.

You can bring one of a kind or a bag full of a variety to the root sort preferably on Wednesday or Thursday. Help with the root sort is welcome. If you will not be able to deliver your tubers, ask a friend to do it.

A sponge and water are very useful to clean tubers before they are brought to the sort.

It is also good to have a complete, correct variety name (like in the ADS classification book) printed on each tuber.



One of my hauls out of my little community garden plot....

Jean Biberdorf

Dahlias of Today 2012

The Annual News Publication
of the
Puget Sound Dahlia Association.



Our outstanding annual publication brings news from the flower shows, descriptions of new varieties from both local and international growers, tips for growing better dahlias, and profiles of popular dahlia experts. All together, a great read and a valuable resource for years to come!

This annual publication will be available at the March meeting for a cost of \$12.

Future Dates

April Meeting:	Friday, April 13
Root Sort:	April 4, 5, 6 Corralitos Gardens 12:00-4:00
Tuber Sale #1:	Saturday, April 7 Deerpark Shopping Center
Judging Seminar:	July 14 Santa Cruz Montessori
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
Membership: Jean Biberdorf
Newsletter: Jan Palia
Website: Brion Sprinsock



**Please send all your fascinating photos and
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