

# THE DAHLIA DIRT



The Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Dahlia Society

## February 2013

### Next Meeting:

Friday, February 8 at Simpkins Swim Center, Santa Cruz

7:00 Pot Luck Dinner

7:30 Meeting

### Program:

Karen and Kevin will have a presentation on growing dahlias from seed.



## From the Prez....



I started some of my dahlia seeds this past month and am already taking care of more than fifty tiny plants. It's so much fun starting the seeds and watching them grow.

I start them on a seed-starting mat set at 72 degrees and use overhead grow lights to spur them on. A few of my seeds took over twenty days to germinate while other only took a day or two. I'm amazed at the diversity of the seeds and can't wait to see what they will mature into.

At our February meeting this week, Kevin and Karen will share some of their seed growing knowledge and bring seeds as well. The dahlia season is just around the corner and next month we will be concentrating on our April 6th tuber sale and a possible dahlia talk at Probuild [on April 10th](#). We are set to do the Cabrillo Farmers Market [on April 13th](#). Happy Winter....Kristine





# Tuber Sale

Our upcoming Tuber Sale will be on Saturday, April 6 at Deerpark Shopping Center. I would like to get a list of the tubers you plan on bringing to the tuber sort.

Dahlia enthusiasts like to see a picture of the dahlia bloom before they purchase a tuber. A list will help me get the photos together ahead of time.

Please bring your list to the meeting or email to Iris at [iris@cruzio.com](mailto:iris@cruzio.com).



## Selections for Flower of the Year



MBDS

San Leandro

DSC

John Stowell

Blown Dry and Verrone's Obsidian

Skipley Bonanza and Pooh

Eden Barbarosa and Verrone's Morning Star

Mary's Jomanda and Verrone's Obsidian

## Minutes from the MBDS Meeting



01.11.2013 MBDS Meeting January 11, 2013  
Notes and Minutes

17 members present

- Kristine called the meeting to order at 7:29 PM and wished Happy New Year, welcomed new members (Haley - and Woody came later) and suggested we do the “fun/social” part of the meeting first. Everyone took a turn to speak and reflected on the last year, what we learned, would do differently, current status of our gardens and any tips; these are some shares:
  - Several members have still not dug their tubers this year, some plan to do it the coming two weeks.
  - Kevin shared he has had really good success with powdery mildew control last season by spraying a sulphur suspension (considered approved in organic gardening) on the young plants (mid June) before blooming. Sulphur is considered organic. He used the powder mixed in water (2 tbs/gal for his brand) is better than a liquid which can burn plants.
  - Doris shared that the row of tubers she left in the ground last year (close to the house) to get earlier bloom didn't work. She advocates digging tubers.
  - Kristine will plant less plants to be able to better care for them and fertilize more often.

Kristine also shared that the owner of the neighboring lot to her garden (Mr. Rittenhouse) offered MBDS to use that piece of land for the club as a “community garden.” Nothing was discussed more than that she mentioned we would have to do all the care, pay water and other expenses and make sure there is liability insurance. The soil is probably poor and hasn't been worked. The offer is there for the club to think about

2) Calendar dates were discussed and decided for the coming events.

a) Tuber Sale date was set for April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013

b) Cabrillo Farmer's Market Sale: April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 (Kristine will call to secure a spot.)

c) Annual Dahlia Show August 31<sup>st</sup> September 1<sup>st</sup>. (Labor Day Weekend)  
(Kevin will be gone, need to arrange for tables.)

d) Reminder that February 16 & 17 is Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference (Katy will send out reminder.)

e) Mills Garden Tour date tentative April 7<sup>th</sup> (Kristine will check availability.)

f) Pro-Build Dahlia Talk (discussed for early April, suggestion came to move it to before the Tuber Sale in order to promote the sale as well. Club will attempt to schedule with Pro-Build for March 30<sup>th</sup>.)

3) Other Business

a) Dahlia Wish List Project

Kristine brought up a suggestion that we have a “Dahlia Wish List” where members bring in a list of their top five tubers that they are wishing for (preferably with each desired dahlia name written on a Post-It with the member name and contact information) for next meeting. That way, toward the end of planting season, members can give away any left-over (extra) tubers to other members who really wants them rather than tossing them on the compost pile. So please bring your list of desired dahlias!

b) Tuber Sale Preparations

Dean and Kristine also reminded everyone that in order to have a good tuber sale, we need members to give (email) their lists with tubers to Iris, so that we can have tubers properly marked with pictures and tuber names.

#### c) Report on Board Meeting

The board met (date?) and further discussed the possibility of reorganizing the club to a 501-C7 (social club.) There still has not been a decision made and the board is still discussing. Next Kate and Kristine will meet to go over the forms to evaluate whether they are easy to fill out ourselves. There are tax compliance and insurance considerations to reorganize. One limitation is that no more than 35% of the club's income can come from outside sources – and the club usually exceeds that with the tuber sale. Board meetings are open to anyone who wants to attend. The next board meeting is currently not yet scheduled.

#### d) Coming meeting topics & speaker

Kristine solicited suggestions from present members for speakers and meeting topics. Some suggestions were: Rainwater Catching. Someone from the UCSC Ag extension about weeds, “RTI “ regarding mycorrhizae and soil building, the “Gopher Guy” (but maybe to keep the topic to gophers only), a session with small groups with “club experts” providing Q&A time, Earthworms and composting, Pest Management by Kevin.

#### 4) Membership

Jean reported on Membership. We have 33 members who have renewed for 2013. 42 People have not renewed. We gained a lot of members on the tuber sale with a discounted \$5.00 membership but most of those members have not become active members.

There was a discussion about the value of promoting discounted membership at this years' tuber sale.

A motion was made to promote membership but *not to discount it* at the coming tuber sale in April. The motion was seconded and members voted in favor of and approved the motion.

#### 5) Treasury

There is currently sufficient funds in the bank account. Some dues and memberships have been received and a reimbursement for web hosting has been made.

6) Meeting Minutes from last meeting were approved.

7) The Tuber divide at Kevin's for the tuber sale was postponed to the weekend of January 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (rain cancels to weekend following.)



## Calendar

February 16-17	Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference
March 8	MBDS Meeting and Pot Luck
April 6	Tuber Sale
April 7	Mills Garden Tour (tentative)
April 10	Pro Build Dahlia Demonstration (tentative)
April 12	MBDS Meeting and Pot Luck
April 13	Cabrillo Farmer's Market Tuber Sale
August 31- September 1	Annual Dahlia Show

## The Crew

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



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