

# THE DAHLIA DIRT



The Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Dahlia Society

## January 2013

### Next Meeting:

Friday, January 10 at Simpkins Swim Center, Santa Cruz

7:00 Pot Luck Dinner

7:30 Meeting

### Program:

We will discuss MBDS business and schedule for the coming year.



## From the Prez....

I'm so excited that I have some dahlia seedlings started! For years I've been struggling with starting my dahlia seeds, so this winter I was determined to try and find the "perfect system." At the national show this past summer I asked a few growers how they got their seeds going and they told me. With all my new-found knowledge and after saving hundreds of seeds, my experiments started. I was trying to find the perfect temperature and environment for germination. So last month, I broke out my practice seeds and started experimenting. What I know now is that over 80 degrees is too hot and that 70 degrees seems to be the sweet spot for dahlia seed germination. Two methods that have worked well for me are sprouting under damp paper towels covered with

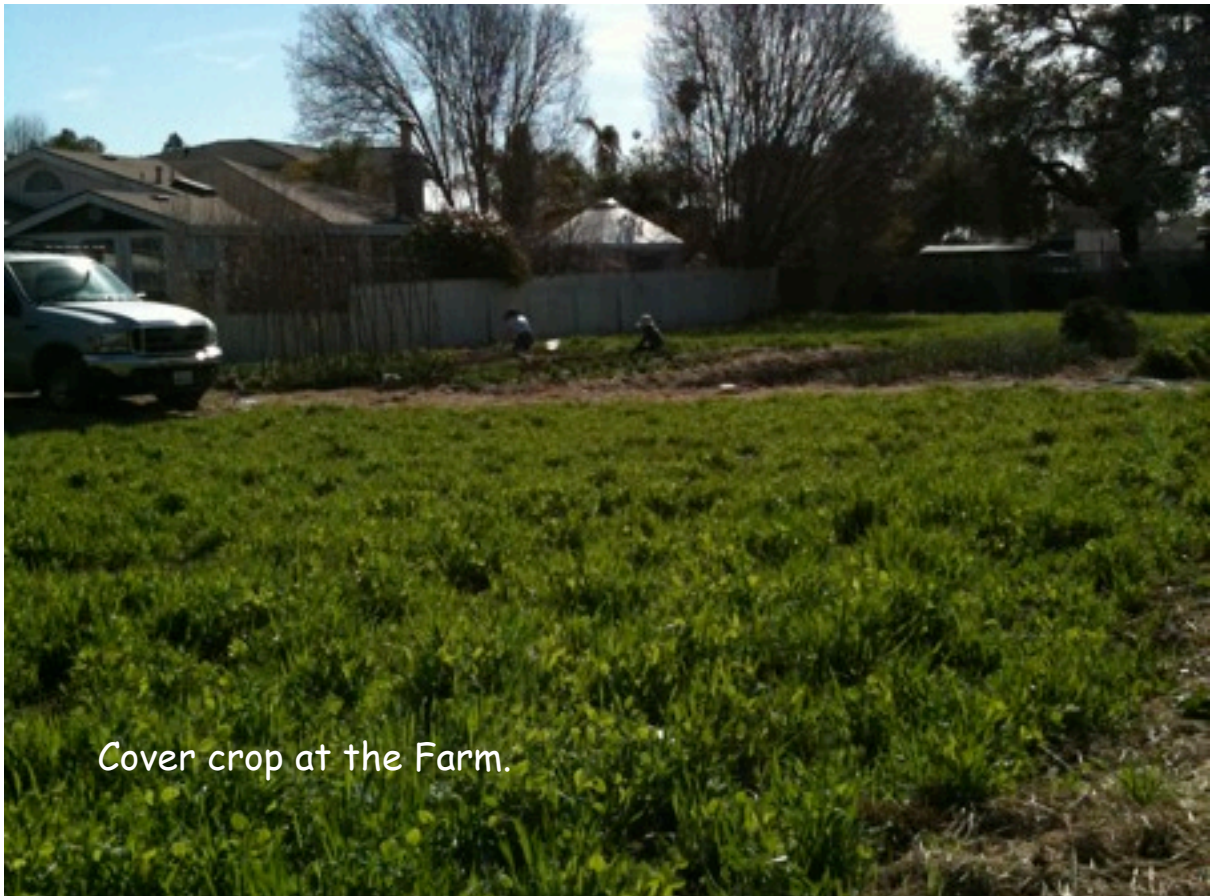
plastic wrap and starting seeds in seed- starting mix under lights and on warm grow mats. I feel like I am at the beginning of the learning curve and still have so much to learn but I'm having fun trying.

Happy New Year and happy growing,  
Kristine





Seedlings!

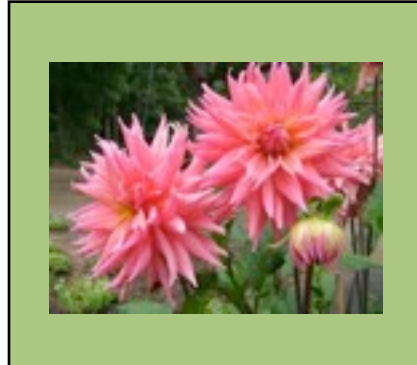
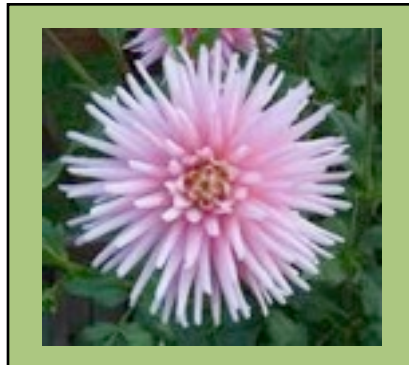
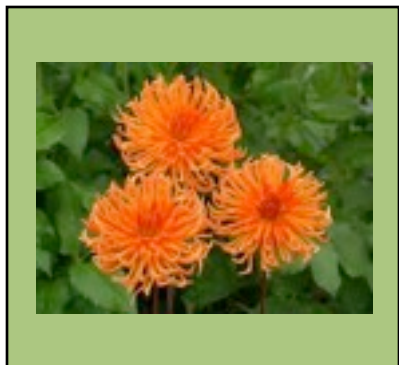


Cover crop at the Farm.

# Holiday Party!







### **Minutes from MBDS meeting on December 14th, 2012**

Kristine Albrecht called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. Number of members present = 36.

**Minutes:** Motion was made to approve the November minutes as written in the December newsletter. Motion was approved.

**Treasury:** No change. Outstanding website hosting bill.

**Membership:** Please pay Jean.

**Flower of the Year:** Votes were tallied and the Double flower of the year is Blown Dry and Single will be Verrone's Obsidian.

**Kevin has dahlias to divide:** Please come and get clumps from Kevin to divide and store for our tuber sale this year. He has also set up Jan 12 and 13<sup>th</sup> to do some dividing at his place.

**Board Members and Officers:** Kevin announced that we needed fill a position on the Board of Directors. Sharon Lucchesi has volunteered to take on the empty slot. Officers will remain the same.

**Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference:** Flyer is in the newsletter for this annual event. This year it will be held in San Leandro from Saturday to Sunday.

THANK YOU!!! Kristine spent time going through our year and thanking all the participants that help make our club what it is. Thank you, Everyone!!

**Holiday Party in December:** 7:30 we began our annual gift exchange celebration. A good time was had by all and there were many successful trades made. Happy New Year!

Minutes respectfully submitted, Iris Wallace

## Future Dates

**February Meeting:** Friday, February 15  
**Pacific Southwest  
Dahlia Conference:** February 16 & 17



## The Crew

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



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