

THE DAHLIA DIRT



The Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Dahlia Society

May 2013

Next Meeting:

Friday, May 10 at Simpkins Swim Center, Santa Cruz

7:00 Pot Luck Dinner

7:30 Meeting

Program:

We will talk about feeding your dahlias.... what fertilizers do you use?



From the Prez....

I always love this time of year. There is so much hope and anticipation in the garden. My tubers are planted and some are just pushing their first sprouts. Seedlings that were started in December are blooming for the first time, working hard to put out a show quality bloom.

I really enjoyed hearing about your dahlia gardens as we went around the room at our last meeting. I now have a much clearer picture of how hard everyone is working keeping gophers at bay, what amendments are going in the "hole" and the number of dahlias that we all plant as a society. It was very impressive!



At Friday's meeting we will be talking about hows and whys of fertilizing. I have lined up a speaker from Pro Build and Kevin will also give us his special formulas. I look forward to seeing everyone and hearing how your dahlias are growing. Happy Gardening...Kristine

P.S. I have heard from a half dozen of our members who are short tubers for their gardens this year and would like more. If you have any extras and would like to share them please bring them to Friday's meeting. Thank you!!!!

Here are a few pictures of my seedlings so far:

Dahlias at Pro Build

"Growing Successful Dahlias" was the topic of a recent talk at Pro Build in Santa Cruz led by Kristine and Iris.

The little pavilion was filled to capacity with gardeners interested in getting tips from the pros.

Kristine and Iris covered aspects of storing, dividing and planting tubers and fielded lots of questions from the audience.

We even sold a few tubers!





Minutes from the MBDS Meeting

MBDS meeting on April 12th, 2013

Kristine Albrecht called the meeting to order at 7:35pm. Number of members present = 26.
Welcome new members Sheila and Leslie!!

Minutes: Motion was made to approve the March minutes as written in the April newsletter. Motion was approved.

Treasury: Katy reported our annual tuber sale a success! We made pretty much the same amount as last year. Thank you to everyone who donated tubers as well as helped with the tuber sort and sale.

Membership: Four new members were added from our sale.

Tuber Sale: Prior to our tuber sale Kristine purchased an Email software program that allows her to bulk send emails to folks on our lists. Previously, she was only allowed to send a dozen or so emails at a time. The new program also gives information as to how many people open the email and if we have duplicates. She found that ½ the people actually opened and read the emails.

ProBuild and Farmers Market: MBDS will give a dahlia talk at ProBuild on April 10th from 4:30-5:30. Left over dahlia tubers will be sold at the Aptos Farmer's Market on April 13th. Jan, Ozzy, Kristine and Iris will arrive by 6:30 AM to help with setup. Other members are also encouraged to come help.

Dahlia Show: Our annual dahlia show date has been set for Labor Day weekend this year and will continue to be held at Soquel High School cafeteria.

Culture: This month Kristine asked that we go around and members talk about what they put in their holes when planting dahlias, how they irrigate, and if they staked the plants. Listening, I found that not one member gardened exactly the same thing as any other member. Lots of information was openly shared. We have members who only grow 1 cultivar in a pot to members who grow 100's! We also have members who grow completely organically, some who use mainly synthetic chemicals and many folks who fall in-between and use a combination or not much of anything!

Future Dates

May 10 MBDS Meeting and Pot Luck

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
Contributing Writers:
 Dean Barnes
 Julie High
Newsletter: Jan Palia
Website: Brion Sprinsock



Please send all your fascinating photos and interesting tidbits for the newsletter to bgawlik@cruzio.com