

THE DAHLIA DIRT



The Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Dahlia Society

November 2013

Next Meeting:

Friday, November 8 at Tony & Alba's Pizza on 41st Ave.

7:00 Pizza Dinner

7:30 Meeting

Program:

We will renew memberships and talk about ideas for next year's meetings.



From the Prez....



I hope to see you all at our annual pizza meeting this Friday at Tony and Alba's on 41st Ave. near the movie theater. Please bring your membership dues for the next year (unless you have recently paid them). It makes things easier for Jean to get this all taken care of as soon as possible. She will also be ordering name tags for those who need one.

Mark your calendar on November 16th and 17th for a dahlia tuber dig and divide at my garden. We will be setting aside the tubers for our Annual Tuber Sale (that takes place on the first or second Saturday in April). I will have Katy send directions to my garden via e-mail soon. Please bring a knife, a cutting board, and a tuber-marking pencil. If you are planning to help wash the tubers bring some waterproof clothing. I will have indelible pencils you can purchase if you don't have one. We really need everyone to help dig and divide as the funds from our tuber sale keep our society running and pays for our Annual Dahlia Show.

December 13th is our Holiday Party. Start thinking about a garden-related \$10 to \$15 wrapped gift to bring for our fun-filled gift exchange. Once again the evening will be officiated by our own Joe Ghio!

What would you like the Dahlia Society meetings to cover next year? What kind of Speakers? Topics? Breakout Sessions? Bring your ideas to Tony and Alba's on Friday and we'll shape the year together.

Happy Gardening..and dahlia digging, Kristine

DAHLIA CULTURE FOR NOVEMBER 2013

Share your tubers as a part of the enjoyment of growing dahlias. Digging and dividing is hard work and tiresome; but the effort is rewarding. The main reason for encouraging all MBDS members to dig, divide and store is to enhance the financial well being of our Society by making tubers available for the Spring root sale.

.When you dig, be sure that you have a foolproof way to keep track of the variety name. Weather is a major factor in deciding when to dig. For sure, wait until rain has made the soil wet enough to accept a digging tool. Defer cutting off green stalks because the plant may still be developing roots. Cut off the stalk about a week before digging. Use of two spading forks is a good way to lift the clump. A stand with a woven wire top is a great aid for use in the garden area to support clumps for a thorough wash and removal of extra stem, and poor/damaged tubers.



If you divide in the Fall soon after digging and follow a sensible storage practice, you should end up with tubers for your garden and quite a few left over. Use pruning shears instead of a knife for most dividing cuts because they result in faster and more precise cuts. Use of a knife to halve a clump puts pressure on lower tubers and breaks their neck. Use of large pruning shears results in less damage. Tubers with visible or potential eyes should be washed in a tub of water with a sponge, put in a tub containing a fungicide solution, and then into a tub to partially dry. While tubers are still damp, print the variety name on each one using an indelible pencil. Store tubers of a given variety in an open plastic bag filled with coarse vermiculite.

Membership Drive 2014



Membership Drive 2014!

Our membership drive for 2014 will be at the November 8th meeting at Tony & Alba's. Please bring your checkbooks to renew for next year.

If you are a current member, no need to fill out a membership form unless there is a change in your information.

Membership Type	Individual Membership	Family Membership	Notes
MBDS (Local)	\$10.00	\$10.00	Includes a monthly email newsletter, (\$16 if you need it mailed)
ADS (National)	\$24.00	\$27.00	ADS comes with ADS Classification Guide + Quarterly Bulletins
totals	\$34.00	\$37.00	Family comes with ONE additional Classification Guide

I will also be taking Name Tag orders in November. Name tags are important for all dahlia events, especially the tuber sale and show.

Tags are \$7.50 each; they will be distributed at the meetings.

Minutes from the MBDS Meeting

Minutes from MBDS meeting on October 11th, 2013

Kevin Larkin filled in for Kristine tonight and called the meeting to order at 7:45. Number of members present = 17.

Treasury: No report given.

Membership: No report. Jean absent. Please welcome our four new members this month: Kai Parker, Cynthia Dzendzel, Shelly Edwards and Judith Kent (Margo's sister) .

Minutes: Motion was made to approve minutes from September meeting and was approved.

Treasury Report: None.

Table setup: Kevin discussed the need of having someone setting up the tables before our meeting starts. Margo volunteered that she could come early (6:30) to set tables up and wouldn't expect to be compensated. Thank you , Margo!

Next months' Meeting: Our annual pizza meeting will be held next month at Tony and Alba's on 41st Ave. near the theater. Please bring your membership dues for the next year. It makes things easier for Jean to get this all taken care of as soon as possible. She will also be ordering name tags for those who need one.

Tuber Dig and Divide: Kristine has offered to donate some of her tubers to the club for our annual tuber sale in April. She proposed 2 weekends. A vote was held and the weekend of November 16 and 17th was chosen to dig and divide tubers at her place. Kevin and Karen will dig their tubers themselves and have a club divide date set up in January.

Fair Re-cap: Kevin mentioned it would be a good opportunity for the club to have more of presence at the fair next year and that we could discuss again in the spring what that would look like. A member brought up that it would be nice to have a dahlia category created for folks who don't know the name or classification number of their dahlia, but just want the opportunity to show it.

Culture: Now is a good time to start looking at your plants and decide whether to keep or toss out. If the plant is poor and your getting rid of it, DON'T bring to the tuber sale. We don't want to sell poor tubers/plants. Make sure everything is properly labeled.

Start cutting back on your watering schedule.

We also discussed the pros and cons of cutting off the root hairs on the tubers. Ask a member that was present if you want more information.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

Minutes respectfully submitted, Iris Wallace

Future Dates

November Meeting: Friday, November 8
at Tony & Alba's on 41st Ave.

**November Dig:
and Divide** November 16 and 17
Kristine's Garden
11:00-3:00

**December Meeting
and Holiday Party:** Friday, December 13



The Crew

President: Kristine Albrecht
Vice President: Kevin Larkin
Treasurer: Katy Bannister
Secretary: Iris Wallace
Membership: Jean Biberdorf
Contributing Writers:
Dean Barnes
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