

THE DAHLIA DIRT



The Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Dahlia Society

February 2014

Next Meeting:

Friday, February 14 at Simpkins Swim Center, Santa Cruz

7:00 Pot Luck Dinner

7:30 Meeting

Program:

The “Gopher Guy” will be giving us insights into how to control gophers in the garden.



From the Prez....



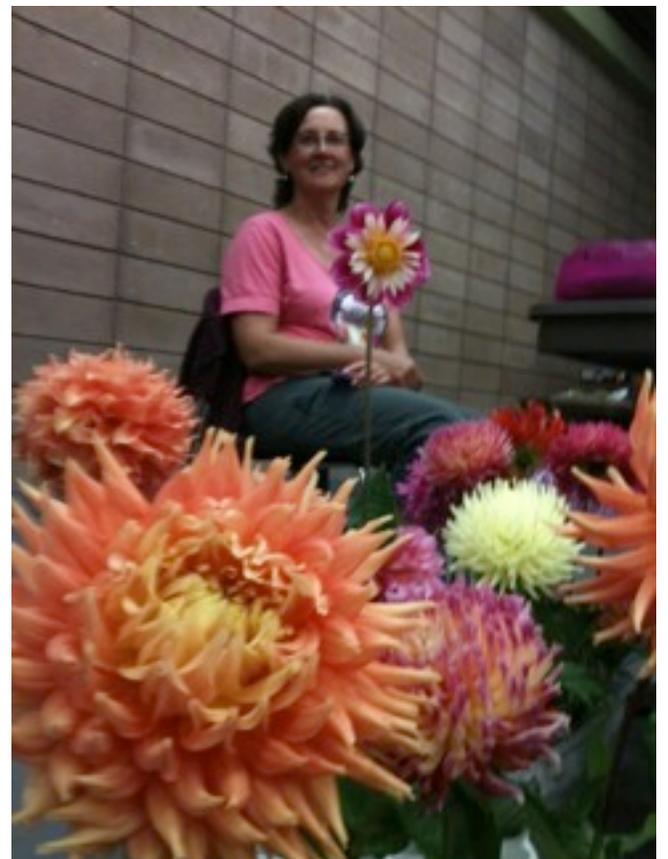
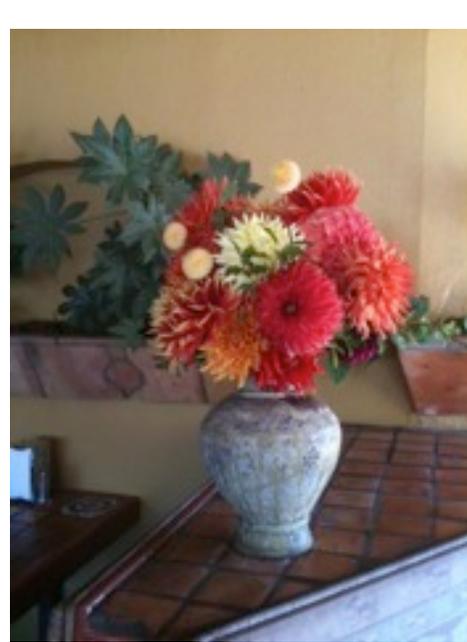
At this Friday's meeting Tom Whittman from *Gophers Limited* will educate us on all aspects of the gopher. Thomas started his gopher career as an organic farmer in 1982. He trapped gophers daily for over twenty years and founded a wildlife damage control company focusing on gophers, moles, voles and ground squirrels. He has been a consultant on rodents since 1991 and was educated at the University of California, Santa Cruz as an ecologist where he studied under the famous wildlife ecologist Raymond Dassmann. This is a "not to be missed" talk if you have any problems with critters and want to better understand their behaviors.

See you Friday.

Thank goodness for the rain. ...Kristine

Photos from 2013





Minutes from the MBDS Meeting



Minutes from MBDS meeting on January 10th, 2014

Kristine Albrecht called the meeting to order at 7:30. Number of members present = 24.

Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference: February 15th and 16th. This meeting happens once a year in an effort to get all the other societies in the area together. This year the conference is hosted by the John Stowell Dahlia Society and held at the Biltmore Hotel in Santa Clara. There will be business to go over, continuing education and then in the evening is much anticipated banquet and raffle. If you have items to donate for the raffle please bring to our next meeting and Iris will bring them to the conference. For more information contact Ken Masurat at 408-259-9223.

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

Treasure: Katy Bannister reported that we received our refund from what was left over after the National Show in 2011. We continue to hold a positive balance in our account.

Membership: Jean announced that she had one more check to send in to ADS for those members wanting to join our National Society. Maya and Shelly are new members. Jean also brought up the idea of purchasing all of our member's new nametags. This would be included in each member's enrollment fee. A motion was made that MBDS pay for new nametags and the motion was passed.

Officers and Board Members: Officers and Board Members will remain the same. Officers are President: Kristine Albrecht; Vice President: Kevin Larkin; Treasurer: Katy Bannister; Secretary: Iris Wallace. Board Members are Kristine Albrecht, Joe Ghio, Jan Palia, Sharon Lucchesi and Karen Zydner. A motion was made by Kevin and Jean seconded it to vote on all Officers and Board Members. The vote was passed.

Tuber Sale: The date for our annual Tuber Sale was set for April 5th. Left over tubers will be donated to Homeless Garden Project. Both items were voted on and passed. Tuber sort is on April 2, 3, and 4. More tuber sale details will be discussed at our February and March Meetings.

Judging Seminar: Our Society will host this years Judging Seminar on July 19th at Montessori school. To keep your judging accreditation current you must complete this seminar every 2 years. This is also just a great opportunity to learn more about dahlias even if you don't plan to be a judge. The goal this year is to have multiple speakers talk on the different aspects of judging blooms. It was also mentioned that some members might want to practice judging blooms and then have a Sr. Judge review afterwards.

Upcoming Shows: Mini show (at Kevin and Karen's) July 26th, First show of the season in San Leandro on Aug. 2nd, followed by San Francisco on Aug. 16th. The National Show this year is in Tacoma, WA on Labor Day weekend. This is the same weekend we typically do our show. Many of our members as well as other key members from the bay area will be attending the National Show. Iris is looking into doing our show at Soquel High either Aug. 9th or Sept. 6th. The September 6th date interferes with the County Fair which begins on the 9th. Members discussed the possibility of finding an alternate location. Kristine will contact folks in Santa Cruz about possibly renting the new Arena on August 23rd and 24th. Current space at Soquel High is 51'x70' and even that is pretty tight.

County Fair: The week of September 9th. Do we want to have more of a presence there? Maybe a display of some sort? Should we sponsor? Provide and education element ie. How to Grow or an arranging seminar? Increase prize money by making a donation? So many questions to consider we created a "Fair Breakout Committee"! Thank you to Mary, Kevin, Doris, Carol, Janice, Karen and Kristine who all volunteered to be a part of this committee.

Next Meeting: "Gopher Guy" will come to our next meeting February 14th. Yes, on Valentines Day!

Dahlia Dig at Kevin's: Kevin has all his tubers dug, just need to be divided at this point. The date set for that is Feb 1st and 2nd from 9 AM to 3 PM.

Culture: Because of our drought status, Kristine presented the question: What do you mulch with to help retain water in the garden? We went around the room and members all had a turn answering this question. What follows is a list of all the different things we do to mulch our gardens. Organic Mix from Buena Vista Dump/Vision Recycling/ Santa Clara Waste, Straw, Chicken and rice compost blend, Alfalfa, Leaves, Chicken Manure or Compost purchased in bags, Worm castings, Veggie Mix with chicken manure added, sawdust, Soil building compost, Nothing, Shredded leaves and sticks and Cardboard.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Iris Wallace



Future Dates

Next MBDS Meeting	Friday, February 14	Simpkins
Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference	February 15 & 16	Santa Clara
Tuber Sort	April 2, 3, 4	
Tuber Sale	Saturday, April 5	Deerpark
Judging Seminar	Saturday, July 19	Aptos
Upcoming Shows		
Mini-show	July 26	Kevin & Karen's
San Leandro Show	August 2	
San Francisco	August 16	
National Show	Labor Day Weekend	Tacoma, WA
County Fair	Week of September 9	

The Crew

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

