

THE DAHLIA DIRT



The Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Dahlia Society

October 2014

Next Meeting:

Friday, October 10 at Simpkins Swim Center, Santa Cruz

7:00 Pot Luck Dinner

7:30 Meeting

Program:

We'll be talking about how to treat our dahlias as the season changes.



Message From the Vice Prez....

Vice-President's Message

Over the next few months I will be filling in for Kristine at the meetings and in the newsletter. At the upcoming meeting we will talk a little about the always fun Dine-Around and have an open discussion about how to treat our dahlias as the season changes.

Fall in the Dahlia Patch

Dahlias are undergoing a transformation this time of the year as they convert from active vegetative growth to fall conditioning leading to winter dormancy. We are losing 2-3 minutes of daylight each day, currently about 11 hours, dropping to about 10 hours by Thanksgiving and eventually 9 hours on the Winter Solstice, December 21. This causes dahlias to produce more blooms with fewer petals, with the central disc exposed rapidly, promoting pollination and seed production.



In addition, underground, the roots are bulking up by storing starches that make the tubers for nourishing next spring's new shoots. This transition is a survival tactic that occurs naturally with little we can do other than alter the irrigation we apply based on plant health and rainfall.

If your plants are large and still blooming, keep watering, reducing the amount gradually from the summer peak. Actively growing dahlias probably need 50-75% of the water they were getting a month ago. If there is no rain by the end of October the plants will likely need only 15-25% of what the summer peak was. A significant rainfall could completely eliminate the need to water at all. If your dahlias are not actively growing and have lost most of their leaves you can quit watering all together.

Come to the meeting to learn more of what our members do do condition their plants for dormancy.

See you Friday!

Kevin



Ed Rosser took the 'smallest, most perfect' bloom in the show.

Minutes from MBDS meeting on September 12th, 2014

Kristine Albrecht called the meeting to order at 7:35. Number of members present = 29.

Announcement: Mary Bannister announced that Kristine won both the best single and triple at the County Fair! Congratulations! She also recognized Tom Karwin for his outstanding garden articles that have been in the Sentinel. And to be sure not to miss Joe Ghio's 1 hour Iris Sale on Saturday the 20th!

MBDS Show at the MAH: Iris asked members to briefly give feedback about our show last month at the MAH. Many good points were made about how to do it better next time. One of the main things we heard was that members missed the "Wow" factor of walking into one big room of flowers. Having separate rooms was more difficult to navigate and many of the rooms were not so well lit or they were too hot. The parking really didn't turn out to be too difficult as some had thought. Our bloom sales out front were well received and profitable. Having free classes for the public was a positive experience. Overall, the consensus was that we were able to draw a more diverse group of people to our show and that we should think about what our show objective is. Iris suggested we can decide later in the spring if we want to continue having our show at the MAH.

Dean's 95th Birthday: Members celebrated Dean's 95th Birthday with a surprise cake!

Culture: Members discussed various tuber storing methods. Please ask a member what they do. You'll get a different answer from each of us!!

Dine-around: Our Dine-Around is coming up on Saturday September 20th from 12-5. Gardens we will visit are Katy Banister, Karen and Kevin's, Sharon and George Lucchesi and Bettie and Jim Crandall. Directions and more information to be emailed out.

President News: Kristine asked that Kevin lead our meeting for the next several months. Because of an increase in her work week, Kristine feels she is unable to fully give her attention as President and continue doing the job the way she has.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Iris Wallace

Dine-Around







**Don't Forget
Our November MBDS
Meeting
on Friday, November 14
will be at
Tony and Alba's Pizza
on 41st Ave.**

More details at the October Meeting

The Crew

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



**Please send all your fascinating photos and
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