

THE DAHLIA DIRT



The Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Dahlia Society

June 2015

Next Meeting:

Friday, June 12 at Simpkins Swim Center

7:00 Pot Luck Dinner

7:30 Plant care and feeding of your dahlias, a demonstration by Dean Barnes and tips on staging blooms for our Mini Show.



From the Prez

I hope your dahlias are in and growing strong.

At Friday's meeting we will be going over plant care and feeding for this time of the year. We will also have two demonstrations. One will be from super grower Dean Barnes. The other will be on staging blooms for our upcoming Mini Show.

Please put July 18th on your calendars for the Mini Show at Kevin and Karen's at

296 Browns Valley Rd., 12 noon to 4pm. We will stage blooms from 12-1. Judging will begin at 2pm. The mini show is a once-a-year casual event where new members can learn how to stage blooms for a real show. The society will have blooms there, so you don't even have to bring your own blooms! It's a potluck so bring something to grill and something to share. It's a relaxed and fun event and I hope you all can make it.



If you have blooms in your garden bring a few to Friday's meeting and put them on the bloom table for all to enjoy.

Happy Gardening- Kristine

Tuber Purchase Program

June Tuber Raffle

At our June meeting we will raffle off 2 cultivars: Hollyhill Santa Baby (Minature Formal Decorative Bicolor with Red and White) and John Meggos ("A" Size Informal Decorative Variegated with orange and dark red).



Hollyhill Santa Baby
Photo used with permission from Hollyhill Dahlias



John Meggos 1114 A ID Variegated
Photo used with permission from JS Dahlias

Dahlia Labeling



Dahlia Labeling by Iris Wallace

How frustrating it is to purchase and grow a dahlia only to find out later it's not what I thought it was. Often it seems I've waited months for my tubers and plants to give me that first bloom of the season only to be disappointed to figure out it's not what I thought I planted. Labeling our dahlias correctly is important. We want to be sure we have the proper names on our plants for showing them as well as for selling the tubers the next season. When this is done consistently we can all avoid feeling disappointed, confused or frustrated.

This year I've decided to try something new as to how I label my plants. Each plant gets a tag in the ground as well as one hanging up above on a string that I have strung over each row. Each tag has the cultivars name and ADS number written on it. My reasoning behind hanging the tags up high is because I wanted to avoid always crawling on the ground looking for the name tag. The jury is still out as to whether this is something I want to do each year or not due to the aesthetics. I'm still not sure I like the look of all those tags hanging in mid air. Maybe once the plants get tall enough they won't look so out of place. What do you do to label your plants?



Summer Calendar

July 18

Mini Show at Kevin and Karen's

296 Brown's Valley Rd. Corralitos

12:00 to 4:00

August 1-2

San Leandro Show

August 15-16

San Francisco Show

August 29-30

MBDS Show ⁵

Minutes

Minutes from MBDS meeting on May 8, 2015

Kristine Albrecht called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. There were 19 members present, and new member Danny brought Andrew as a guest. Welcome!

Minutes: April's minutes were all in favor approved.

Membership: One newly renewed member

Treasury: There are some outstanding checks, and we continue to be in good standing. Some discussion on dispersal of funds should be discussed in the future. The board will begin discussion on specifics and we'll go from there.

Mini-Show: Especially encouraged for the first time exhibitor and those who have not shown much, the mini-show is an opportunity to learn the basics of the upcoming show season. It will be a one or two table show with most classes covered. It's a great way to study what a show is about in a low key environment, and enjoy early blooms. Perks of coming to the mini show is you learn secret information from the experienced members: Like by showing in the multiple bloom categories chances of winning are increased due to significantly less entries. July 18th and July 25th were presented as options. After a show of hands of who would be able to come on each date, July 18th was selected as significantly more members would be able to come.

Name that Pest or Problem: The members were split into groups to examine examples of pest or problem ridden plants. We rotated around the different example stations, and shared thoughts for solving the issue. Some examples of ideas shared: Putting a stocking over the top of powdered sulfur and shake on plants for powdery mildew; a liquid spray of neem oil and serenade combined for powdery mildew; removing the effected leaves of plants with leaf trimmers as it is a cosmetic problem; and mixing equal parts molasses, soy sauce and oil in a dish at ground level to attract and capture pincher bugs, especially baby and barely developed bugs.

Dahlia Door Prize Program: Winners of these new varieties will receive their tubers next spring

Hollyhill Loverboy: Ozzie & Becky

Hollyhill Pink Martini: Janet & Andrew

Hollyhill Rudolph: Lori, Emily & Liz



The Crew

President: Kristine Albrecht

Vice President: Kevin Larkin

Treasurer: Katy Bannister

Secretary: Maia Morris

Membership: Jean Biberdorf

Newsletter: Jan Palia

Website: Brion Sprinsock



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