

MBDS NEWSLETTER

December 2016



The Dahlia Dirt

Next Meeting:

**Friday, December 9
at Simpkins Swim Center
Santa Cruz**

6:30 Holiday Pot Luck and Gift Exchange

Vice President's Message



December 2016 Vice President's Message

December Holiday Celebration

Happy Holidays to one and all!
This month is our very special Christmas Holiday Meeting. The potluck will begin at 6:30 rather than the traditional 7:00 to allow plenty of time for Santa to arrive and get his sled parked.

Following tradition we are asking each member to bring a wrapped present, \$10 value or more that will be offered up in our gift drawing. The drawing has a "twist" that if you are unfamiliar with, you have to come to participate!

Digging Your Dahlias

December is serious dahlia digging time locally. Plants are pretty much dormant and lower stalks are still sound enough that when cut back provide a handle to work with the clump. You don't want to dig too soon after a rain - you want to stay off your garden soil until it has had time to drain away excess moisture. Wet soil will compact and become less productive if you walk on it or try to dig or turn it.

Digging your dahlias now has several benefits:

1- Dormant dahlias are prone to decay, water logging, and gophers, all of which can prevent them from growing next season. Removing them from the soil will protect them from these threats.

2-Digging your dahlias provides space for winter gardening - bulbs or vegetables are a good rotation following dahlias, but cannot be grown over the top of dormant dahlias.

3-Digging your dahlias provides opportunity to increase your stock by dividing the roots that grew this past season. These can be shared with friends and neighbors and donated to the MBDS Annual Tuber Sale.



Or....Not Digging Your Dahlias

A perennial question from dahlia growers is ...Why not just leave them in the ground??

This is a very valid question and one that deserves some discussion because it rarely is a consideration by dahlia growers who show their dahlias...who, by the way, tend to lead the discussions at the meetings. So here you go...

1- It can be a lot of work. Face it - it **IS** a lot of work. And it not just about digging, because you have to deal with them after they have been dug - cleaning off excess soil, trimming away excess root material, dividing into plantable units, and storage until the following spring. **A whole lot of work!** But it's usually well rewarded work!



2- Dahlias left in the ground in this region will generally bloom in June or as early as May as opposed to newly planted roots or cuttings that begin to bloom in June or July. Earlier flowers consistently come from overwintered dahlias!

3- Dahlias are a perennial plant - meaning they live more than one year. Sometimes a dahlia will perform better if left undisturbed and allowed to grow several seasons without digging.

So there are three good reasons to dig your dahlias or not to dig your dahlias!! We encourage you to do whatever works best for your garden! We also encourage you to come to the December Christmas party and have a fun time!!

Dahlia Dig





Don't Forget the Holiday Gift Exchange!!!

If you would like to participate in the Holiday Gift Exchange this Friday bring a wrapped gift valued at \$10 or so and get ready for some big fun!

Pot Luck Dinner at 6:30
Gift Exchange



Minutes

MBDS Meeting Minutes November 11, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:35 by Kevin. 31 members present. Welcome new members Steve, Bev and Maggie.

Minutes: Kristine motioned to approve October minutes, Iris seconded, all in favor approved

Treasurer: No new report

Membership: No report

Nominating Committee Report: Yoshi and

Joe nominate the existing president, vice president, treasurer and directors, and amend the secretary position to be shared by Maia and Mary.

Nominations for 2017 Flower of the Year:

Fully double nominations- Elfin, Harvey Koop, Bloomquist Karen G, Embrace and Clearview Louise. By majority vote Elfin is 2017 fully double flower of the year.

Disc centered nominations- Lo Red Eye, Cobequid Celestial Star. By majority vote Lo Red Eye is 2017 disc centered flower of the year.

Joe made a motion to allocate \$1,000 to the Tuber Purchase Program. Open for discussion- arguments made to be conservative due to lower bank balance compared to prior years. Amendment was made to match last year's actual spend of \$800, amendment carries and motion approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Maia Pedemonte



THE CREW



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

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

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