

# MBDS NEWSLETTER

February 2017



## The Dahlia Dirt

### **Next Meeting:**

**Friday, February 10  
Simpkins Swim Center  
Santa Cruz**

**7:00 Pot Luck Dinner  
7:30 Meeting**

# From the Prez

We have a busy weekend coming up. We have our monthly meeting on Friday, Feb.10th from 7pm -9 pm in the multi purpose room at Simpkins Swim Center. Also we will also be hosting the Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference for all the dahlia societies in California on Saturday Feb 11th from 9:30am-3:30pm again at the Simpkins Swim Center. If you haven't yet signed up for the conference and would like to come, contact me at [santacruzdahlias@gmail.com](mailto:santacruzdahlias@gmail.com).



At Friday's dahlia meeting, we will be discussing watering systems. If you want to know about drip lines, soaker hoses, trough flooding, t- tape and pvc systems bring your expertise and questions. If you can't make this next meeting but grew tubers from the tuber giveaway program last season, please bring your extra tubers to the March meeting. We will be auctioning off the new varieties at the March meeting.

Happy dahlia gardening - Kristine



**Meeting of the  
Pacific Southwest Dahlia  
Conference  
February 11, 2017**



The Monterey Bay Dahlia Society

invites you to the 67th Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference Annual Meeting. This year's meeting will be held Saturday, Feb. 11th from 9:30am to 3:30pm at the Simpkins Swim Center, 979 17th Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062. Our meeting will be a one day format with speakers, a tasty lunch, and of course an auction/raffle!

Registration is \$30 per person.

We are welcoming donations of raffle prizes and if you have an item that you would like to donate let us know in advance. Please email Kristine at: [santacruzdahlias@gmail.com](mailto:santacruzdahlias@gmail.com)

## **2017 Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference Registration**

**Please return by Feb 1 to:**

Kristine Albrecht

417 Pacheco Av.

Santa Cruz, CA 95062 (831) 566-2523 [santacruzdahlias@gmail.com](mailto:santacruzdahlias@gmail.com)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Society \_\_\_\_\_

### **Registration Options**

Full Registration Fee \$30/per person                      Number attending x \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks out to: The Monterey Bay Dahlia Society.

# Notes from Kevin Larkin.....

Things to keep in mind this time of the year from Kevin Larkin.



**Starting Tubers for Early Planting**  
Having blooms as early as possible requires planting in March if you start with tubers. I don't like to plant tubers that are still dormant - in fact I prefer to have shoots that are inch or so in length. This requires "starting" the tubers indoors in a warm spot to insure they are ready to plant in mid-March. Late-February is a good time to make preparations for starting your tubers if you want to plant that early.

You'll find that some varieties will consistently sprout early - even before coming out of storage, and many varieties are consistently slow to sprout. A and AA varieties tend to be the slowest. With a goal of planting the first wave of tubers the 3rd week in March I will take roots of AA and A size dahlias and other varieties that I know are slow to sprout out of storage in late February.



When taking roots out of storage I like to look closely at all of them to see which ones may have begun to sprout a bit - those are my first choice to plant.

Tubers are started in shallow trays or cut-down cardboard boxes with 2-3 inches of good potting soil moistened slightly. Set the tubers into the trays as close together as possible with the most promising eyes facing up - they can even be touching. The tubers don't need to be completely covered.





Place the tray full of tubers in a warm spot - 60 -70 degrees. They do not need a lot of light at this stage. In 7-10 days you should see some of the tubers sprouting and possibly forming fibrous roots. These are ready to plant or can be kept in the tray a while longer. If they are to be held you should move all of the more advanced tubers into a separate tray and increase the amount of light so the shoots don't stretch excessively. The slower sprouting tubers will, hopefully, eventually sprout and be ready when you are set to plant. I've found this process of starting your tubers before planting significantly improves the chances of having consistent plantings with the fewest gaps.



It does, however, require that you be very careful when planting not to break off the started shoot!

# Minutes

The minutes from the January meeting were not available.



## 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](mailto:bgawlik@cruzio.com)

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