

MBDS NEWSLETTER

January 2017



The Dahlia Dirt

Next Meeting:

**Friday, January 13
at Simpkins Swim Center
Santa Cruz**

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

Dahlia Genome Sequencing

We are excited to announce that the Dahlia Genome Sequencing Project has reached its fundraising goal of \$30,000.

Thank you to all 43 donors in 16 states who gave \$32,095 to make this happen. In February of this year the species dahlia *Dahlia coccinea* will be sequenced. We may also sequence the octoploid dahlia Edna C if and extra \$8,000 is raised.



After the sequencing is complete, Dr. Virginia Walbot of Stanford University and Dr. Hanu Pappu of Washington State University will write a National Science Foundation Grant to fund a full assembly of the sequenced DNA. Unassembled DNA is like having a box of puzzle pieces. An assembly puts all those pieces together to make a complete picture. If awarded, the grant will allow scientists to use the information to compare dahlia DNA with other flower species. An example of this might be comparing the various pathways that plants use to fight pests. Scientists could determine which pathway actually exist in dahlias. This would aid in efforts to breed dahlias more resistant to specific pests. We could possibly find the pathways that can silence viruses or prevent viruses from moving from organ to organ in an infected plant. Dr. Walbot and Dr. Pappu are planning to submit the grant by March 1st of this year. For updated information on the sequencing project and the NSF Grant, see the ADS website and look at “The Dahlia Genome Project.”



**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

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

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.

Fun at the Holiday Party!













DAHLIA ADDICT

Have you ever wondered who runs the website dahliaaddict.com?

Meet Amanda Windsor.

Amanda's exposure to dahlias started 7 years ago when she noticed them displayed in a restaurant. She started by growing five varieties and now grows 90 in her Eureka, California garden. Early on, she ordered dahlias through the the BigList, a variety locator created by the Colorado Dahlia Society. That inspired Amanda to start dahliaaddict.com. She incorporated the parts she loved from the BigList and added pricing and links to supplier websites. What makes her site special is the ease with which a grower can find and order tubers and cuttings. Amanda is the site designer, photographer and web coder.

Amanda started dahliaaddict.com in Nov. 2015. Initial design and code for the site was a big commitment. Keeping the site up to date is a hobby and her work load increases every November and December. She has pricing and order information from 62 different dahlia suppliers. She keeps her site current by surfing the web in search of new suppliers.

Amanda receives donations to support her website but mostly funds the site herself. The donations she receives come primarily from businesses listed on her site. One of the most rewarding things for Amanda is helping growers find dahlias they want to grow but thought were lost to the world.

One surprise from Amanda's work is the number of unique offerings each suppliers has. She has found that 51% of the dahlia varieties from any one supplier are unique. For example, Kathy's Choice can only be found at Clack's Dahlia Patch. Tahoma Ann C can only be found at Dahlias by Les and Viv.

If you are hunting for a hard-to-find dahlia you might want to check out Amanda's site. Thank you Amanda for giving us such a wonderful gift.

Find Amanda's site at www.dahliaaddict.com

Minutes

Since the minutes from December were so brief, they will be included in the minutes for January.



The Crew



President: Kristine Albrecht

Vice President: Kevin Larkin

Treasurer: Katy Bannister

Secretary: Maia Pedemonte

Membership: Jean Biberdorf

Newsletter: Jan Palia

Website: Brion Sprinsock

Holiday Photos: Liz

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

Want to see past issues of the newsletter?

Check out our website mbdahlias.org