

THE DAHLIA DIRT

NEWSLETTER OF THE MONTEREY BAY DAHLIA SOCIETY

From the Prez

Happy May, Dear Dahlia Friends,

I hope this note finds you with your dahlia babies all nice tucked away in their warm soil beds...The weather these past few days has been stupendous and very conducive to growing so lets see what happens.

Our root sale was a huge success. I attribute it to all the fine people who stepped up and worked together, thank you all so very much, it was truly pleasurable, even the weather complied!

So let's gear up next for growing and setting our sights toward the ADS National!! It is going to be a busy summer!

Speaker for May

A speaker from Reforestation Technologies International (RTI) is slated to speak at our May 13th meeting. Their product "Xtreme Gardening" a mycorrhizae base has been popular with giant pumpkin growers. I look forward to hearing what this product can do for our dahlia growing. The RTI website is www.xtreme-gardening.com/.

Talk at Aladdin Nursery

On April 23rd, Kevin, Mary & Sharon gave a dahlia presentation to about 30 attendees at the Aladdin Nursery in Corralitos. The talk was well received and we did sell a few tubers left over from the sale. I believe another talk has been scheduled for June, (Kevin will

have details). We thank Gustavo Beyer for being a gracious host.

Be Prepared

Something I do throughout the year to lessen the burden at the checkout counter: every time I go to the garden center, I will buy one or two of the products I need. I do this throughout the year. This provides me with a little store of the goodies I need, when I need it to tend to any garden problem. Here are some items on my list:

- Spinosad
- All Season Oil
- Serenade
- Fish Emulsion
- Grant's Ant Stakes

Of course, always check for coupons and sales!



MBDS MINUTES, 4/2011

News about upcoming events: the MBDS Root Sale April 9th, the national show, and the Smart Gardening Faire in Carmel. Mark your calendar!

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PHOTOS HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2011 MBDS

Tuber Sale

Contributed by
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NEXT MEETING

Second Friday of every month
7:00 Potluck
7:30 Meeting
Come to the
Simpkins Family Swim Center,
Community Room
979-17th Avenue, Santa Cruz
May, 13 2011

Meeting Minutes – April, 2011

Sharon called the meeting to order promptly at 7:25 PM so that we could end quickly and get a good night's sleep before the sale in the morning.

Four new guests were present and interested in growing dahlias.

Treasurer Report

Katy has sent the money for the National Show, as approved at last month's meeting. A total of \$4,000, so far. We are co-hosting this event with the San Francisco Society. We may add money to our contribution if they need more.

Haiku

Sharon shared her Dahlia Haiku and encouraged others to submit theirs for inclusion in the newsletter.

Aladdin Nursery

Kevin and Mary will do a talk about dahlias on Saturday, April 23rd at 11:00 a.m. at Aladdin Nursery on Freedom Boulevard, in Corralitos. Tubers left over from the sale will be available for sale. They also will give a free tuber to every person present for the talk.

Tuber Sale

Becky already has signs out there tonight. Yay! Wear warm clothes in the morning. Arrive by 7:30 a.m. to help with set-up. Cuttings, A's and AA's marked with a red line around the neck are \$5. The rest are all \$3. Culture table will be set up by Jean.

Culture

Questions were answered about what makes a good tuber (firm, with eyes) and we discussed many different methods of tuber storage. Coarse vermiculite vs. peat moss or a combination. Joe Ghio layers tubers in newspaper and moist vermiculite. Kristine Albrecht uses peat moss and also has experimented wrapping some of the smaller tubers in plastic wrap. Doris keeps hers in alphabetical order.

Also noted and discussed was the definition of a tuber. It was concluded that a tuber is an enlarged root, but a root is not necessarily a tuber.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15

Minutes respectfully submitted, Iris Wallace

Members Convene for the 2011 Tuber Sale



Preparations for the Sale



Customers!



Another Successful Tuber Sale Thanks Everyone!



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