

The Dahlia Dirt

Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Dahlia Society

Show Time!



DAHLIA CULTURE TIPS

Dean Barnes writes of the MBDS Display of Nineteen Dahlia Forms and culture tips for September and October and thinking about digging tubers later in the season.

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MBDS MINUTES 8/10

The August 13th MBDS meeting focused on preparations for the 2010 Annual Dahlia Show (one of the MBDS big annual events) and included other topics.

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NEXT MEETING

Second Friday of every month
 7:00 pm Potluck;
 7:30 pm Meeting
 • Come to Simkins Swim Center,
 Community Room,
 979-17th Avenue, Santa Cruz

**Monterey Bay Dahlia Society
Annual Show
September 4-5, 2010**

Saturday September 4th - 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday September 5th - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location

Soquel High School
401 Old San Jose Road
Soquel, CA 95073

Exhibitor Schedule

Friday September 3rd

4:00 p.m. – Show Hall Set Up
7:00 p.m. - Exhibitors may begin staging blooms.

Saturday September 4th

9:30 a.m. - Entries close
9:30 a.m. - Judges' and Clerks' instructions at the Court of Honor
10:00 a.m. - Show judging begins
12:00 a.m. - Judges', Clerks', and Exhibitors' Luncheon
1:00 p.m. - Judging resumes
5:00 p.m. – Show Closes for the Day

Sunday September 5th

10:00 a.m. – Show Re-Opens
3:00 p.m. - Awards Presentation
4:00 p.m. - Exhibitors may remove entries
5:00 p.m. - Table removal.
All exhibits left after 5:00 p.m. will be removed
by Dahlia Society Breakdown Committee

Show Committee

Show Manager	Kevin Larkin
Court of Honor & Awards	Randall & Lena Marsden
Judges and Clerks	Kevin Larkin
Hospitality/Refreshments	Kristine Albrecht
Publicity	Kevin Larkin
Tallying	Karen Zydner
Culture Table	Dean Barnes & Mary Bannister
Bloom and Bouquet Sales	Kristine Albrecht
Contact Info During Show	Kevin Larkin (831) 596-0323

**MINUTES OF THE MONTEREY BAY DAHLIA SOCIETY,
MEETING OF AUGUST 13, 2010**

Sharon called meeting to order at 7:35 and moved to approve the minutes from July and they were approved. It was noted that there were 21 member's present.

Newsletter

Note to Tom to make sure background is white. Sharon's was black and was more difficult to print and read.

Treasury and Membership Report

Everything is the same. No new members.

Judging Seminar

Kevin, Lena and Christine went. About 50 people showed up.

Tuber Labeling Mix-up

More members have noticed that the wrong dahlias are coming up. We need to be more diligent when labeling our tubers when we dig them up.

National Show

Shirts are available for sale. The show in San Francisco will also have some available. San Francisco show is Saturday August 21st in Golden Gate Park. Christine won in the San Leandro show for Novice. Flower was Vernon Rose.

September Show

✿ The tables we used for the past 20 years were part of the Scotts Valley Rink, which was recently sold. Not sure if those tables are still available for use. Kevin will check into if Soquel High has extra tables.

✿ Set-up starts at 4pm on Friday the 3rd. Kristine will be the food person and has the banner, Cathy will take care of publicity and Becky has the sign(s). Sharon will look into the "Gate Guard" from 11pm to 5am.

✿ New this year will be the "Best in the show" and/or "Best Entry" Category.

✿ There are new Entry Tags this year with cultivar name on the bottom now.

✿ We will be selling extra blooms again this year.

✿ Extra help will be needed on Sunday when break down happens. You know the saying: "Many hands make light work"!

✿ Dean has requested to retire from the Information/Culture table. He will still bring in the blooms and papers, but we need members to trade off working the table.

✿ Also, for next year's show someone needs to take over the task of growing one of each type of dahlia. Please talk with Dean.

✿ Be sure to have a sign-up sheet at the table for people to get informed about the spring sale. Ideally, an email address.

County Fair

Mary passed out info about the entries. The cost is \$1 per class/ \$20 max to enter blooms. Not just dahlias, there are many other flowers are on the list. As an incentive to get people to commit to bringing in blooms for the fair, Mary passed out prizes to members who volunteered!!

Mini-show at Jack and Pats

A great time was had by all that came. There was good food and interesting art to see as well. Thank you again Jack and Pat for making this happen!

Dine – Around

Tentative date was set for October 3rd (Sunday). Doris has volunteered her garden. The final gardens will be decided on at our next meeting September 10th.

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DAHLIA CULTURE FOR SEPTEMBER

By Dean Barnes

HELP!

There has been no indication that someone has grabbed the ball and thought, "I need to check my list to see which forms I need to add next season to grow all nineteen forms for the Information Table." Perhaps you can team up with another member and share growing nineteen forms.

Visitors to the MBDS Show like the comparative view afforded by our display of a bloom of each form (type) of dahlia on the information/culture table. The display is a good start point for questions and a discussion of dahlias. Some people have a problem in believing that blooms that are so different are all called dahlias.

Setup of the display is a challenge because someone must grow or otherwise acquire a good-looking bloom of each of the nineteen different forms. In the interest of the display in future years, it would be a good idea for someone else to plant one or more of each of the nineteen different forms. Especially needed are the less frequently grown small and open centered bloom varieties.

September is a good time to look critically at your plants. Some may be so sick or weak that they should be dug early and destroyed. Perhaps others you don't want to plant next season, but the tubers would be ok for the root sale. Sometimes one plant of a variety did much better than others of the same variety. If there is a choice between a good and a bad plant, it makes sense to keep track of tubers from the good plant for planting next season. You can keep track by making a mark, e.g. a "K" for keep on the plant label and a "K" on tubers when marking them for storage.

By October, most of our plants have passed their peak for blooms. Continue watering and deadheading and there will be lots of smaller, but still beautiful, blooms until frost kills the plant. It would be a shame if everyone didn't dig, wash, divide, mark, and store tubers of his/her favorite varieties so tubers could be shared with other gardeners at the MBDS root sale. We will really start talking up "dig" next month, but meanwhile start thinking of some reasons for it.

Digging and storing tubers will:

1. Contribute to the financial wellbeing of our society by making tubers available for the root sale. Please, every spare tuber counts.
2. Make tubers available for trading. There is pleasure in giving!
3. Provide tubers needed to plant several of a given variety. Multiple plants enhance chances of making multiple bloom entries in shows.
4. Let you have more control over what is where in your garden next season. Multiple plants of a variety can be together. Varieties of like size or color can be in the same area.



FROM THE PREZ
By Sharon Lucchesi

Greetings fellow MBDS members!

As I write this I am visualizing all of your gardens blooming in that Technicolor glory that encourages us to continue with this fancy year after year.

As you all know, our spectacular MBDS show is Labor Day weekend at Soquel High School. Many members are grooming their blooms for a potential win...at any rate the blooms bring great joy to both participants and visitors.

If you have extra blooms to spare, please share them with us so that we may offer them to the public.

Curious about judging?

Come Saturday morning to help clerk, you will be able to observe the judges in action, and see what it takes for a bloom to win, or not...

So join us for the fun!!

Kudos to:

Congratulation to Kristine Albrecht on her wins at the San Leandro Show.

Thanks to Carol Herse for her dedication to the food table in years past at the show. Kristine will be taking charge this year...

To all the member who so graciously give of their time and action to create a most memorable show!!

Happy Growing,
Sharon Lucchesi

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