

KITSAP COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY

APRIL 2006

HEADS UP, EVENTS COMING UP, SO PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our next regular meeting will be April 20th at the Crystal Grange, 2160 NE Paulson Road, Poulsbo (just off Central Valley Road) beginning at 7 PM. Come hear how much honey (as in—rhymes with money) all you busy worker bees brought into the club coffers from the **Annual Tuber Sale**. This is our major (only) money making venture for the year and from the results (report to be given by Pat Paulsen and Richard Tailleir) you will hear how much the public and members look forward to our sales. We will also be having an open mike forum on soil preparation prior to planting our tubers.

Also this meeting will be our “infamous”, madcap **plant and tuber auction**, so bring your extras of anything that depends on photosynthesis to grow and a little spare change so you can bring home lots of new additions for your garden. All proceeds will go towards prizes at our KCDS show in August. Note: **personal trades** may be made at break time prior to the auction.

Providing goodies will be Inga Carmack and Larry Sukut.

RESERVE THESE UPCOMING DATES

May 6, Sat. beginning **9 AM-planting of the club garden** at the Silverdale Post Office. Contact Beth Taylor, Kim Schleis or Tom Kramer for more details.

July 15, Sat Federation Summer Workshop 9-9:30 AM refreshments, workshop starts at **9:30 AM** Faith Lutheran Church, North Seattle. Contact Richard Tailleir or Bob Schroeder for more information

July 22, Sat. Federation Judges Training workshop, 9 AM-3 PM in Tacoma at Connell's. Contact Richard Tailleir or Bob Schroeder for more details

August 5+6, Sat + Sun-KCDS Dahlia Show at the Kitsap County Fair grounds, President Hall. Contact Terry Schroeder for information.

IT'S APRIL

it must be time to:

Wake up your tubers by moving them to a slightly warmer locale.

Prepare the bedding soil for your babies. Dahlias grow best in soil with a pH of 6.5. Add lime (calcium carbonate) or Dolomite (calcium magnesium) to raise pH. Soil tests will tell you exactly what nutrients are in your soil. Add organic fertilizer (blood meal) and 10-10-10 fertilizer to nurture healthy plants.

Get ready to plant tubers (around the first of May). Dahlia plants do not seem to start growing until the soil reaches 55°F, so have patience, more dahlias are lost to rot in cold, wet soils than from any other cause.

The future is something which everyone reaches at the rate of sixty minutes an hour, whatever he does, whoever he is.

C.S. Lewis (1898-1963)

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR **WORKER BEES, TUBER DONATORS, PAT MENGE** FOR HER DONATION OF IRISES, **BILL & NANCY JONES** AND OF COURSE **PAT PAULSEN**, AND A **CAST OF MANY,MANY MORE**, FOR WITHOUT ALL YOUR EFFORTS OUR ANNUAL TUBER SALE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SUCH A SUCCESS

Useful web sites with links:
www.Dahlias.net ,
www.Dahlias.org
 and our own web site,
www.KitsapDahlias.org .

Our March Meeting

The following is all hearsay as this editor was at Harrison Hospital after undergoing extensive rotor-rooter surgery to be able to breath easier. So, I make no guarantees, nor take any blame for any omissions that might occur.

Les and Vivian Connell were the special guests of the evening. Prior to the meeting, several members joined them for dinner at the Olive Garden in Silverdale. Les presented a program on seedlings, covering pollination, harvesting, sprouting seeds, growing seeds, planting the seedlings, summer care, digging and storage. He started growing seedlings in 1974 (that is 32 years of never-before-seen good and bad dahlias). Les collects the seeds in September when the seed pods are still green, and emptied out the seed pods at that time. He stressed marking the seedlings that he does want to keep and grow another year. For those seedlings that he does not want to keep, he does not pull them up, but plows them under after he has dug up promising seedlings. The promising seedlings are stored over the winter and planted again next year, to see how stable the genetics of the new seedling are.

Worker Bees still being solicited for:

Help with the club garden,
 and
 Securing prizes for our show,
 Manning our information table
 at the show,
 Helping Madeline West with food

There is nothing
 like the first
 hot days of spring
 when the gardener
 stops wondering
 if it's too soon
 to plant the dahlias
 and starts wondering
 if it's too late.

Henry Mitchell
 The Essential Earthman (1981)

See Bill Jones for new badges (remember, your first KCDS badge is free, after that Bill will be collecting money for replacement badges). He also has *Dahlias: A Monthly Guide* for sale and will order more *Dahlias of Today* if there is an interest.

To our new members,
this bears repeating!
**D. D. and the Need for
Dahl-anon**

An increasing number of spouses are finding themselves battling a marital problem that wrecks havoc on the home front and puts the sanity of at least one member of the family in jeopardy (the others' is already suspect). There is a definite trend that a growing number of spouses are being torn asunder by a beastly affliction called — **D.D.**, otherwise known as Dahlia Dementia.

D.D. is a highly contagious, rapidly progressive condition—usually striking the individual in the prime of life (i.e. can still dig in a garden). Early symptoms are often difficult to diagnose as they often masquerade as a harmless interest in the here-to-fore ignored garden. Before long, however, the problem escalates and dahlia-mania sets in as catalogs are perused, multiple dahlia societies are joined, and the acquisition of every tuber in existence becomes THE quest. When left unchecked, full-blown D.D. is likely to develop, and your home begins to resemble a greenhouse with curtains.

Sadly, support groups for D.D. are almost non-existent. One reason is because D.D. is still essentially a “closet problem”, only truly surfacing during tuber sales and at show times. In an effort to help the real victims identify early D.D. warning signs, the following 10 symptoms have been identified:

1. An unconscious tendency to gravitate towards any tuber sale with the claim “I only want to look”.
2. A tendency to spend large amounts of time surfing for dahlia web sites and tuber catalogs.
3. An inability to resist yet another tuber purchase or tuber trade despite the fact that there is a distinct lack of any room in the present garden.
4. Spending considerable amounts of time outside reconnoitering for other suitable growing sites (in other people's gardens).

5. Denial of an addiction, (i.e. intercepting the postman on the street and hiding further tuber purchases until planting time from the non-affected spouse).
6. Has an unnatural urge to read really back issues (1950 and earlier) of The Pacific Northwest Dahlia, or Dahlia catalogs from the 1920s and to memorize the 20-year classification book front to back.
7. Becomes incensed when you refer to tubers as “bulbs”, or proclaim your preference for flowers that smell.
8. When given the choice as to whether to take you, or yet another bloom, to a dahlia show—you lose.
9. Every weekend in August and September is fully booked with dahlia shows. Friday nights out are a thing of the past due to the demanding nature of choosing and staging the perfect blooms for show. The neighbors understand about flashlight-in-mouth, midnight rendezvous to scout for THE perfect bloom.
10. Dahlia cultivation has become a year-round obsession with the building of benching rooms, potting sheds, staging areas and greenhouses (to the exclusion of any routine home maintenance).

Desperate to regain a sense of normality in the home, and a chance to step across the living room without spying a seeding incubating on the fireplace mantel, “iffy” tubers eyeing-up while nestled among my dining room houseplants, cedar shavings tracked in from the garage, staging material floating everywhere, I have begun to seek productive ways to fight the dreaded D.D. malady. Prayer-chains, telephone crisis hotlines, **S.A.E.T.P.** (spouses against excessive tuber purchases), and other special task-force groups are desperately needed. If you or someone you know has already fallen victim to D.D., I strongly suggest you either join the swelling ranks of **D. W.** (Dahlia Widow/Widower hood—yes, D.D. crosses gender barriers) or join them. Who knows, perhaps one day they'll lust after you like one of the Cream of the Crop or Fabulous Fifty.

P-M L., D.W. of D.D.

Come Hear All About
Our Tuber Sale
At April's Meeting.


A Few
Notable facts:

Whereas over 700 tubers
were lost in storage,
member donations saved
the day.

On the first day of the sale
we made \$XXX over last
year's sales, and we made
\$XXX more in sales on
Saturday than
on Sunday.

We made over \$XXX on
the members' only sale on
Thursday.

We had the biggest turn-
out of member volunteers
ever, some even want to
sign up for next year!



Spring
unlocks
the flowers
to paint
the laughing
soil.

A BIG thank you in a tiny space
from Peta-Maree for the azalea
and all the get well cards for
her recent surgery.

Presidents Report

By the time everyone reads this newsletter our club tuber sales should be complete. A special big thank you to **Pat Paulson** who did an amazing job setting up the sale, arranging advertising, and managed the cash register both days. The club made over \$ XXXX. **Bill and Nancy Jones, Beth Taylor, Wanda Novak, Richard and Monica Tailleir** and **Tom Kramer** also contributed many hours to prepare for the sale. I also want to thank all the other **club members** who packaged and labeled the tubers and participated in the tuber sales. This was truly a KCDS membership effort. Having a successful sale will allow our club to have a really fun dahlia show in August and complete some special projects this fall.

April is finally here gang. Time to wake up the tubers from storage and get the garden ready for planting. At the Sungate Dahlia Garden Janet and I have dug up more sod and created more space for dahlias. We hope to have a new water feature for this summer's garden tours. The most exciting news is that our neighbor gave me permission to cut down this tree that has been providing too much shade. The puppies have also been helping in their special way, digging their own holes and tracking in the new black soil into the house. We gave Elmo and Bentley their first cattle hoof

chew to keep their minds out of the garden. Have you ever smelled those things after 15 minutes of chewing. You get your own special barn yard smell in the privacy of your own home.

This month's meeting will be our annual tuber and plant auction. Les Connell has donated two tubers for the auction, Jowey Ingrid (BB-FD-Or), and Trenlyn Rhionon (B-SC-R/Y). Other Dahlia Donations are welcomed for the auction as well as plants of all kinds. I will be bringing some large pots of Siberian Iris. There will also be some iris left over from the dahlia sale. Many of the members also do last minute trading at this meeting. We will also have a panel discussion about soil preparation and desert! Look forward to seeing everyone and celebrating our successful tuber sale.

Thanks again to all who participated in this years tuber sale.

Eric.

Don't forget to start soliciting donations for our show in August. Please contact Wanda Novak if you have any donations for prizes or need donation forms for businesses.



Kitsap County Dahlia Society
P. O. Box 502
Silverdale, WA 98383-0502
