



# KITSAP COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY

JANUARY 2006



## January 19th Pot-luck DESSERT Social

We'll be holding a pot-luck dessert social meeting at the **Grange**. Besides enjoying desserts and good company, we'll be privileged to view slides of all the **New Dahlia Introductions for 2006**. Dave and Leone Smith will once again enlighten us to all the finer points of these new dahlias along with letting us know where we can purchase them. Come and share yummy goodies with good company in the New Year! Forget you January First resolution for just this one evening and enjoy. Our hosts will be YOU!

Please bring your favorite dahlia web sites to the next meeting or email them to any of the board members. On our web site we hope to offer links to our Top Ten Dahlia Sites. Also think about if you would like a KCDS T-shirt, polo, long sleeved shirt or sweat shirt and in what color?

For those of you unable to attend our January dessert & slide meeting, our next "regular" meeting will be February 16th at the Crystal Grange, 2160 NE Paulson Road, Poulsbo (just off Central Valley Road) beginning at 7 PM. At this meeting we will have an educational program on making cuttings of your few in number but precious dahlias. As an added bonus Dave Smith's Garden Bloopers will be revealed and suggestions solicited as to what tubers to order for the club's garden stock .

**Important Note:**

In the March edition of this newsletter we publish a complete membership listing with names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. If you do **not** wish to be on this listing or if you do not want a part of this information shared, **PLEASE** contact Peta-Maree Lamb or Bill Jones **before** March 1st.

Welcome back to Bill Jones, our treasurer, from his recent stay at Harrison Hospital to undergo surgery. One wonders if his speedy recovery had anything to do with the fact that in his absence all financial matters were in the hands of the Board?

A big hurry up and get better to Dutch Boerger who has also been hospital bound. I don't think the Hospital would be amenable to indoor gardening (an issue of all that dirt), no matter how beautiful the blooms are!

**IT'S JANUARY**  
it must be time to:

Grab a mug of hot chocolate and start drooling over all the new dahlia introductions, also checking the **current Select Cream of the Crop** and the **current Fabulous Fifty** varieties. Use your classification book to check the number of awards, especially in the columns that correspond to the western region. The more awards, the more likely each cultivar will grow well in a given region.

Don't forget to check your stored Dahlia tubers and discard any that have started to rot.

Develop a plan for your upcoming Dahlia garden. How many dahlias you can raise in your **allotted** space?

Decide on which varieties you will be taking cuttings from in February.

*Gardeners,  
I think,  
dream bigger  
dreams  
than emperors.  
-Mary Cantwell-*



Useful web sites with links:  
[www.Dahlias.net](http://www.Dahlias.net), [www.Dahlias.org](http://www.Dahlias.org)  
 and our own web site,  
[www.KitsapDahlias.org](http://www.KitsapDahlias.org).

All the flowers  
 of all the tomorrows  
 are in the seeds (or tubers)  
 of today.  
 -Native American Proverb-

A special thank you to K.C.D.S.  
 members for the beautiful pot of  
 three poinsettias delivered to our  
 home following Bill's recent  
 surgery. It was very much  
 appreciated by us.  
 Bill and Nancy Jones

Remember, the gardener's work  
 is never at an end;  
 it begins with the year,  
 and continues to the next.....  
 —John Evelyn—

**KCDS Holiday Happenings**  
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Madeline West (#40) stole the platter from (#13) who stole the thermos set from (#29) who ended up stealing (#4)'s Chocolates of the World, (#4) then graciously opened the last unopened package, a set of dahlia place mats. Finally, (#1), having had a preview of all the gifts that weren't frozen "think of the music from jaws", stole the dahlia picture from (#17).

After this display of unrepented greed, our party was over at 9:30. Outside it was a very chilly, frosty 29 degrees. Everyone had the parting image of Pat Paulsen scraping the windshield of her sports car with her drivers license.

Numbers may be one or two off, as the action was very fast and furious. "Opened" implies that person chose to delve into the unopened, unknown gift pile rather than steal from someone else.

Nothing  
 is more completely  
 the child of art  
 than a garden.  
 -Sir Walter Scott-



## *KCDS Holiday Happenings You Should Have Been There* (or maybe you shouldn't)

A most joyous (abet hilarious) time was had by all those in attendance at our annual Christmas fete, on December 15th. A number of rarely seen member spouses were in attendance. Richard Tailleir managed to fill a whole table with his guests and our mystery member, Eric Anderson's wife Janet, made her appearance.

The epicurean feast was beyond belief with such offerings as Slamming Salmon (recipe by Thomas Kramer), skillfully prepared by Chef Fuzzy in his absence. As usual, there was way too much delicious food to be sampled. Decorations were tastefully designed and executed by Kim Schleis and Beth Taylor who donated all proceeds from the silent auction for these centerpieces to the food bank.

Our Madcap gift exchange proceeded after a heated discussion of whose rules rule. For the sake of time (there were over 40 participants) it was decided that this year after two steals the items would be frozen. The first gift unwrapper, Joan Hagerman (#1) unwrapped a resin key hider (selected no doubt based on weight), our President Eric Anderson (#2) unwrapped chocolate truffles, pound cake and stealthily guarded 1 year old brandied peaches, a guest (#3) opened scone mixes, and 2 jars of home-made peach and blueberry jam, Carol McLaren (#4) unwrapped a table-top water fountain. At this point many people remarked as how everyone was being so polite—no stealing yet. There were plenty of oohs and aahs when Inga Carmack (#5) choose an interestingly shaped package containing a cedar bird-feeder. Chet Haus (#6) opened a blue pottery vase, and the first steal of the night was executed by Bob Schroeder (#7) who went after (#4)'s water fountain. Said Bob, "it tingles your water rocks". (#4) then made another selection of a small cardinal bird feeder. David Smith (#8) unwrapped a large pottery vase with daisies (not dahlias unless you really blurred your eyes). (#9) then stole (#5)'s bird feeder (for 1 steal). (#5) then made another selection of 3 Teddy Bear Photo Albums. Wanda Novak (#10) perused all the unopened packages to the crowd's cry of "hurry up", and made her selection of a most unusually shaped package that when open revealed garden stakes, Miracle Bloom and two pairs of gardening gloves, "what size?" asked Beth Taylor. A guest (#11) selected a small package containing a mini set of binoculars "to spy on my neighbor's flowers". Kim Schleis (#12) opened a large snowman mug, coffee and most coveted Baileys to add to the coffee. Next Marcia Mack (#13) selected a package that held a large winter scene platter. Paula Strid (#14) opened a jar containing Chocolates of the World to the pleas of "come sit over here". Nancy Jones (#15) opened another table-top water fountain. Genevieve Gardipe (#16) was delighted when she opened a ceramic frog. Loney Kennedy (#17) was pleased with his gift of a thermos and mug set. Joe Rettig (#17) chose an international coffee selection. Another guest (#19) was about to steal the water fountain from (#15) when her granddaughter said "take it from (#7) and it will be frozen. So she then stole from (#7) (now frozen). (#10) then selected a crystal vase (now you see why I used numbers). Larry Sukut (#20) after a long session of indecision opened a set of three mosaic garden pots and a package of pasta. At this point Paula Strid stated "the President needs to get control, it's going downhill from here" After a pregnant pause, Monica Tailleir (#21) opened a Master Gardeners Au Natural calendar. Barb Furumori (#22) was on the prowl and pounced on (#9)'s bird feeder (now frozen). (#9) politely opened a bag of Dove candy, mint truffle hot coco mix and candy cane stirrer. Bob Major (#23) opening a bag of crocus bulbs pointed out "that this gift is frozen having already passed through the hands of the guy who made it, the guy who brought it and me". Larry Silverthorn (#24) stole (#2)'s coveted brandy peaches. (#2) retaliated by stealing (#16)'s beloved frog. (#16) chose a new gift, a bucket with gardening supplies and tools and "another" frog. Michelle Randall (#25) stole (#6)'s blue ("matches my kitchen") vase. (#6) decided to go for the big as yet unopened package—lots of packing popcorn, a bucket planter and wireless digital indoor/outdoor thermometer, as he said "I shouldn't have said it". Leone Smith (#26) opened chocolate and a three snowman figurine. Pat Paulsen (#27) went over and admired (#10)'s crystal vase, then selected a long package containing a folding chair, Whew, lucky (#10)! Guest (#28) went right to the package containing Chimacum Daphne tubers, a 2006 introduction. Terry Schroeder (#29) stole (#17) thermos set. (#17) then choose a stuffed doggie on a stake and a plaque "Plant Kindness & Harvest Love". (#30) stole from (#6) who then stole the tubers from (#28), at this point I looked away. (#31) granddaughter of (#19) opened an etched crystal bud vase. Richard Tailleir (#32) stole tubers now frozen from (#6), (#6) opened a crystal bud vase. At this point Joan Hagerman reminded everyone that she as (#1) gets to choose again at the end and that she went trough this 2 years ago. (#33) opened pop-up garden containers. (#34) Peta-Maree stole from (#30) (now frozen), (#30) stole from (#11), (#11) opened several sets of gardening gloves. Mystery woman Janet (#35) stole the blue vase from (#25), (#25) stole the set of mosaic pots from (#20), (#20) then opened another folding chair. Paula Strid's husband (#36) stole (#7)'s water fountain to his retort "I thought we talked about this" "I told you I didn't have far to go", he was sitting across the table from (#7). (#7) stole from (#10) who being too nice to steal, opened a box marked "essential tool to stage dahlias" to which Wanda replied "is that a husband?" further inside the package it read "you won't care whether you win or lose". It was a martini shaker and set of liquors. (#37) opened a pair of garden clippers. Fuzzy (#38) stole the folding chair "good for manning the grill" from (#7) (now frozen), (#7) stole from (#10) (see a pattern here?) who inquired why (#7) would want a set of bath salts?...(#7) did some sputtering then realized the joke was on him. (#10) opened a wooden cutting board and oven shelf puller. (#38) open gardening implements (tools of destruction). Beth Taylor (#39) stole the mosaic pots from (#25) stating that this too was blue, in a blue bag and has alcohol in it stole from (#12), (#12) stole from (#17), (#17) opened the next to last remaining gift—a dahlia picture and was advised to count the frogs in the picture.....

From the desk of the President.

I took a look at my dahlias, all cool and dry in their beds of cedar shaving the other day, and was pleased with my efforts for 2005. I had spent some cash last spring and retooled the varieties from previous seasons. Some came from the Fab 50, some from the new introductions, and some from trading stock with fellow dahlia growers. What a great hobby.

I remember taking meticulous notes at the National meeting in Seattle, the previous summer, as Les Connell shared the fertilizer mixture he used when planting his tubers. As many of you know, I purchased Messenger and used this product throughout the growing season. The plants seemed to jump out of the ground this year. The famous line used by many of the judges this year was "must have used Messenger". I think all contributed to healthier plants, flowers, and tubers.

Throughout the show season my wife became more interested, especially with creating baskets. I really got a kick out of her hanging out with

the basket ladies. She learned a great deal from these women, including just how competitive these gals can get when the judges don't follow the basket rules. The basket ladies are a tough group. What I enjoyed most was my wife and I now have a hobby we can share together.

The order catalogs are really rolling in now as we move into the new year. The days are also getting longer, yes!. Although we are in the middle of winter and we just had 13 inches of rain, in the Life of the Dahlia, now is the time to plan for the 2006 season. I want to invite everyone to our next meeting on January 19, 2006. The new 2006 introductions will be presented by Dave and Leon Smith. The next few meetings will be buzzing from all our members on which tubers to buy.

Come join the fun! Happy New Year!

President Eric, KCDS



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