

KITSAP COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY

MARCH 2006

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

Our next "regular" meeting will be March 16th at the Crystal Grange, 2160 NE Paulson Road, Poulsbo (just off Central Valley Road) beginning at 7 PM. At this meeting Les Connell will present a program on how to propagate seedlings. Come meet this famous originator and introducer of dahlias and his wife (famous in her own right for the lovely baskets she creates).

Our hostesses for providing goodies will be Beth Taylor and Kim Schleis.

RESERVE THESE UPCOMING DATES

March 11, Sat-Federation Spring Workshop in Mt. Vernon Senior Center: 9-9:30 AM refreshments, workshop starts at **9:30 AM** and ends about 3 PM. The workshop sessions will be: Growers Panel (featuring both our own Eric Anderson and Dutch Boerger), Dahlia Photography, the Use of the Internet for Dahlia Information, Use of the Classification Guide and Transporting Blooms to the Show. Contact Richard Tailleir or Bob Schroeder for more information

March 25, Sat-beginning at **9 AM** at Central Valley Community Hall and Garden Club. Many, many members are needed to help **package tubers** for the upcoming tuber sale and set up the hall for the sale. Contact Pat Paulsen for more details.

March 30, Thurs-6-8 PM at Central Valley Community Hall and Garden Club. **"Members ONLY" tuber sale.**

April 1+2, Sat. 9-6 & Sun. 10-4 -at Central Valley Community Hall and Garden Club. **Annual KCDS tuber sale to public** (our only money-making activity for KCDS' coffers).

April 8, Sat. 10-5 PM, -Port Orchard KCDS tuber sale, South Kitsap Mall. Contact Richard Tailleir for more details.

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.

See next page for more dates

KCDS Show Andy Babb Challenge Flower
2006 Hamari Accord, B(med, 6-8" dia), Semi-Cactus, yellow
2007 Ruskin Diane, BB(sml. 4-6" dia), Formal Decorative, yellow

IT'S MARCH

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 to nurture healthy plants.

Many Dahlia Societies are having tuber sales this month and next. As many of these tubers come from the top exhibitors/growers in this area, buying at these sales is an excellent way to get the most popular and newest varieties. Check out dahlia web sites for links and for more information.

Dahlia of the Year

2006-Valley Porcupine
Our Smith's own-Novelty,
fully double, light blend
white/pink

2007-Camano Pet
Stellar, light blend yellow/
orange

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

**A prudent man
does not make
the goat
his gardener.
-Hungarian Proverb-**

More dates coming up (continued)

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 Fairgrounds, President Hall. Contact Terry Schroeder for more details. Contact Wanda Novak with prize donations

Our February Meeting

After a busy business meeting where we covered such topics as: the upcoming tuber sale (dates on front page), upcoming Federation events and ADS report, books/badges/scissors/stakes sales covered by Bill Jones, Dahlia Club shirts ordered by Ebeth Ellis (gray and teal only), questionnaire results tallied by Beth Taylor {new dahlias for club garden– Show-n-Tell, Kidds Climax, Banana Mamma, Barbarry Bingo- (remember we just saw the new 2006 introductions); topics– basket preparation, growing dahlias in pots, pest eradication, staging, equipment for staging; guest speakers– Les Connell (our March speaker) and Eden Bioscience; a big yes to garden tours; yes to a KCDS garden calendar chaired by Kim Schleis and featuring club members; having the educational program first, followed by the business meeting}, Joan Hagerman is once again taking sign-ups for the upcoming garden tours, a medal exchange with the Southern Oregon Society, \$62.50 and 80 pounds of food going to the food bank, we had our raffle.

Tom Kramer (tool carrier basket), Louis Burzycki was drawn twice in a row (work apron and a 5 piece garden hand tool set), Loney Kennedy (weed picker), Beth Taylor (set of pruning shears), Pat Paulsen (5 piece garden hand tool set), and Tom Kramer once again for a cash prize of \$5. In spite of purchasing 18 tickets, Michelle Randall was not a lucky recipient of anything (now this editor doesn't feel so bad).

Bob Schroeder and Loney Kennedy then gave a presentation on preparing cuttings. Memorable quotes were "simplify", "nothing is gospel truth-there are many ways to do things", "open up your mind", "if anyone says there is only one way-their way, run in the opposite direction". Among the reasons for doing cuttings was: to get more plants out of one tuber, to get a more vigorous plant, to keep more to the original color and produce better blooms, to increase the amount of stock from valuable tubers, to get an earlier start for earlier blooms.

Preferred ingredients/equipment for these two members were: 4" pots, Growers' Best Media, 70 degrees and high humidity (shop lights surrounded by plastic and frequent misting), good pair of stainless steel shears, scalpel or exacto knife (sterilized), small plastic cups, washed playground sand, spray bottle for misting. According to Loney, many different methods for preparing cuttings are to be found by logging on to Google and entering dahlia cuttings.

Both gave extensive hands-on demonstrations, with Bob Schroeder demonstrating potting up the cuttings and Loney demonstrating how to prepare the cuttings.

President's Message

Wow, March is here already. Must be March, my wallet is a little light after buying some new varieties of dahlias. I have had fun this year trading for new tuber too. I usually make a list at each dahlia show of prize winning entries and write down the exhibitor name. Then I make the call during the winter and see if I can complete my wish list. Most every exhibitor is in the Federation book so it's easy to call or email. Next weekend at the Federation Workshop (March), I will catch up with many of the growers and complete our trades. Janet and I will also participate in a dahlia growers panel discussion. This is my first workshop and I heard there is a dahlia tuber auction as well, more \$\$\$.

Our puppies are really growing and now are over three months old. Their new game is chewing up my 4" pots. They'll pick up a pot and run with it. As their mouth closes down the pot covers their eyes and they unusually run into something. Every day is a comical adventure.

The KCDS Board met to prepare for this months upcoming meeting. We are less than one month from our annual tuber sale. Now is the time for all members to volunteer and help prepare for the sale. This is our fund raiser for the year and to be successful we need the entire membership's help. Please sign up to help package tubers, set up the sale, or help work the sale April 1 & 2. My hat's off to Pat Paulson who has

chaired the tuber sale for many years. Pat has done a terrific job each year and this year will be no exception. She has to-do lists ready for all of us to sign up at this months meeting. The tuber sale is a fun event for me. Along with eating donuts and pizza I get to meet people who come from all over the county to purchase tubers about learn about an exciting new hobby. Club members will also show everyone how to divide dahlia clumps and conduct planting demonstrations. All members can participate at the sale. KCDS will also have a membership sale a few days before the sale. This is a great opportunity to get some of those expensive varieties at a bargain price. Tell your family and friends, come one come all to the KCDS Dahlia Tuber Sale April 1 & 2.

As you are going through your tubers to see how they are faring through their long winter's nap (What you haven't checked? Remember the adage about one rotten apple?), please consider any extras that you can't plant, will be most willingly be accepted by the club for the upcoming tuber sale in April. Ideally you can bring your divided, cleaned and labeled tubers to the tuber packaging on March 25, having given Bill Jones you best estimate as to type and number of tubers by March 18 (so that he can prepare labels for packaging).

Also 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
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