

It's June,

Hopefully, given our late start in planting,

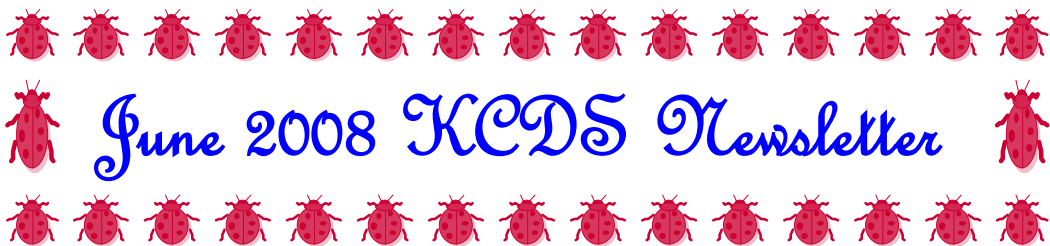
It is time to **Pinch, Stop and Disbranch:** when A or AA dahlias have two or three pairs of leaves, pinch off the growing tip, for smaller flowered dahlias (B and BB) leave three to four pairs of leaves, Miniatures, Balls and all others, leave 5 pairs of leaves stopping once the terminal bud has formed.

Tie: as your dahlias grow, tie them to support stakes

Fertilize: feed with 10-10-10 water-soluble fertilizer (Alaska Fish Fertilizer, Miracle Grow) to provide nitrogen needed for healthy growth, Later potassium and phosphorus will become more important for tuber and bloom development.

Mulch: as it decomposes it adds organic material to the soil, prevents rapid moisture loss from the soil and keeps weeds down.

See Leone Smith's article on timing your blooms for our show in August.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR JUNE 19TH KCDS GENERAL MEETING

Our next regular meeting will be June 19th at the Crystal Grange, 2160 NE Paulson road, Poulsbo beginning at 7 PM. Our program will consist of preparing necessities for our August show: filling out tags, staging material, use of classification book and show book (bring your own if possible), transporting and staging. Tom Kramer will demonstrate "vases to foam to boxes to wagon to show." A demonstration on how to top your dahlias will be given on June 23rd (Monday) at 6 pm at the Club Garden at the Silverdale Post office (see article on how to time your blooms for show on page 3).

RESERVE THESE UPCOMING DATES

July 20th (Sun.) KCDS annual picnic, 2 to 6 PM with food being served promptly at 3 PM. It will be held at Zorina & Bob Bleau's home in Port Orchard. Be sure to look for directions to their home in the July newsletter. **Please R.S.V.P. A.S.A.P.** to any Board Member so we can determine the amount of food to purchase.

August 2nd + 3rd KCDS' 84th Dahlia Show at the Presidents' Hall at the Kitsap County Fair grounds. (contact Wanda Novak for more details)

Federation Dates (see Eric Anderson for more information)

July 19th (Sat.) 9:30 AM Federation Summer Workshop Faith Lutheran Church, 8208 18th Ave. NE, Seattle.

July 26th (Sat.) 9 AM-3 PM Federation Judges' Training workshop Faith Lutheran Church, 8208 18th Ave. NE, Seattle.

July 27th (Sun.) Federation Judges' Training workshop in Tacoma at Connell's Dahlias.

Aug. 2&3 KCDS show, President's Hall, Kitsap County Fairgrounds, Silverdale.

Aug. 9&10 GHDS show, Grays Harbor Fairgrounds, Elma

Aug. 9&10 SVDS show, Skagit Valley Gardens, Mt. Vernon

Aug. 16&17 SCDS show, Floral Hall, Forest Park, Everett

Aug. 23&24 PSDA show, Kent Commons, Kent

Aug. 30&31 VDS show, VanDusen Gardens, Vancouver, B.C.

Aug. 30&31 WSDS show, Freighthouse Square, Tacoma

Aug. 30&31 PDS show, Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Canby, Or.

Sept. 6&7 SSDS show, Bark & Garden Center, Olympia

Sept. 6&7 WCDS show, Bloedel-Donovan Park, Bellingham

Sept. 12&13 FVDS show, George Preston Recreation Center, Langley, B.C.

Sept. 18-22 42nd ADS National Dahlia Show, Longwood Gardens, Kennet Square, Pennsylvania

In light of the rising cost of gas,
why not consider bringing fewer blooms
and carpooling?

Your 2008 Officers

President: Beth Taylor 620-3808

Vice President (programs): Tom Kramer 895-3606

Recording Secretary (minutes):

Zorina Bleau 871-4135

Corresponding Secretary (newsletter):

Peta-Maree Lamb 598-4581

Treasurer (financial, membership, publications):

Bill Jones 297-2134

Trustees:

Pat Paulsen 698-0123

Wanda Novak 692-4829

ADS Representative

POSITION OPEN

Federation Representative

Eric Anderson 698-1330

Contact any of these persons regarding club events (note all the officers' phone numbers begin with the prefix 360). The Regular Board Meetings are held at 6 PM on the first Thursday of the month. Locations vary so please contact Beth or Tom for the current location. The General Meetings are held at 7 PM at the Crystal Grange off of Central Valley Road in Poulsbo (with the exceptions of July and August). BOTH meetings are open to all. If you have an item for discussion, please contact Beth and she will put you on the agenda.

If you have an article or item for the newsletter, PLEASE contact Peta-Maree via phone 598-4581 or email at lambsp@comcast.net.

KCDS Show

The goal for our upcoming show is to have every member participate in helping with some of the many opportunities: set-up, hospitality table, food preparation and take-down, and enter at least one flower in our show.

Show Co-Chairs are Wanda Novak, Joan Hagerman and Sally Paulus.

Hospitality Chair is Genevieve Gardipe.

Food Co-Chairs are Madeline West and Zorina Bleu.

Contact any of these people to offer your help.

*In England they
have climate.
We have weather.*

Please Note:

If you are looking for your Show Book, it will be at the Grange next meeting. Your name should be on the cover.



**Gardening requires lots
of water,
most of it in the form
of perspiration!**



Joan Hagerman is currently soliciting member gardens to be included in this year's KCDS Garden Tours.

This is a fabulous way to share and show-off all your hard efforts and innovations.

Worker Bees being sought for:

Help with the club garden.

**Securing prizes for our show
in August.**

**Manning our information table
at the show.**

Clerking at the show.

Helping with food at the show.

Helping with set-up and take-down.

Dahlia Form Sudoku

	FD				MB			SC
MB			SC				BA	
		SC		CO		AN		
SC	WL	PE			CO			
BA			WL	MB	SC	CO		
AN					BA		WL	FD
		MB		NX	WL			CO
		BA	MB			WL		NX
	PE		CO	FD	AN			BA

Draw in 9 3x3 grid lines, then fill the 9 grids so that the nine forms appear once in each column, row and 3x3 sq.

You should have been there:

May's meeting was a surprise field trip to the club garden at the Roadhouse Nursery. After Tom Kramer demonstrated how to lay out and stake a large garden, it was then a hands on experience for all members present. As an added bonus several generous members brought in their extra tubers to share with fellow members.

TIMING BLOOMS FOR the KCDS SHOW

TERMS:

Stopping: to cut off the top of a dahlia plant three, four or five sets of leaves up from the ground. Suggested stopping is usually after three sets of leaves for an AA or A size, four sets of leaves for a B and five sets of leaves for a BB size dahlias. Miniatures and Poms can also be stopped to encourage bushy plants.

Disbranching: to remove some of the new side branches in the main stem.

Disbudding: To remove some of the buds of potential blooms from the side branches.

THE PURPOSE of all these operations is to concentrate the strength of the plant on those blooms you hope to take to a show or make the most beautiful vase displays.

I would like first to thank Dick Ambrose of **Camano Dahlias** for being my resource expert. Then to say that the best published general information is printed in the booklet **DAHLIAS: A MONTHLY GUIDE**, published by the Puget Sound Dahlia Association and available from our club Treasurer, Bill Jones.

Try this. Count back 70 days before the KCDS show and use that as a starting time of the Giant and Large blooms. If you are someone who does not dig your dahlias every year you will probably have dahlias well up by that date. Try "**stopping**" a few plants at different times using 60 – 80 days before the show as your time frame. Since different cultivars mature at different rates it just takes playing around with the ones you like to grow. I know from experience that Inland Dynasty matures very slowly and will hold several days when mature in our garden.

You may have a Giant or Large dahlia that is growing on a good straight stalk with a well formed terminal bud. If it looks as though that top bud may flower in time for the show you can **BREAK THE RULE, don't stop** that plant and just disbud its two side buds. You may get **ONE** winning bloom from that plant. Maybe it is worth taking that chance!

For B and some A size dahlias try "**stopping**" at about 55 days before our show. For the smaller ones just remove buds that show up more than 20 days or so before the show.

If your larger flowers seem to be coming on too fast you can nip out the center, or terminal bud, and wait for a side bud to develop. That will probably make a bloom about one week later than it would have been otherwise. Our show is very early in the season and timing is not an exact art.

Another rule of thumb that I like is to walk about in the garden on July 4th or 5th and **stop** any plant that has not yet been done. **REMEMBER: The point of all this is to get bigger and better blooms, and hopefully get them when you want them.** Be sure to take off any branch on your dahlia plant that does not look good to you and let the strength go to the rest of the plant. You want straight stems. A beautiful flower on a crooked stem will not get a Blue Ribbon!

Leone Smith

From Dahlias: A Monthly Guide

Please help our club.

For a one week commitment be responsible for weeding, disbudding, tying up plants, dead heading, watering, and being a friendly face to any of our curious public who might wander by our Club Garden at the Silverdale Post Office and the Roadhouse Nursery. Instruction will be given/shown for any points one might not be familiar with. You may want to sign up with your friends.

**WE'RE ON THE WEB
KITSAPDAHLIAS.ORG**

Kitsap County Dahlia Society

P.O. Box 502

Silverdale, WA 98383-0502