

# KITSAP COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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### Special points of interest:

- November meeting is November 16
- New Officers were elected in October

### DUES ARE DUE!

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See Bob to pay. A registration form is on our web site [www.kitsapdahlias.org](http://www.kitsapdahlias.org) Bob will also have some forms at the meeting.

## FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

As your newsletter editor for the 2006-2007 year, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. I have been involved with KCDS since 1996, when I was "volunteered" to be the corresponding secretary (newsletter). I did that job for several years and did enjoy it. I look forward to doing it again. I have also taken on the position

of newsletter (3 or 4 newsletters per year) and Show Book editor for the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers. I am also the Show Chairperson for KCDS and I have done that since 1997 (with lots of help from many members over the years!).

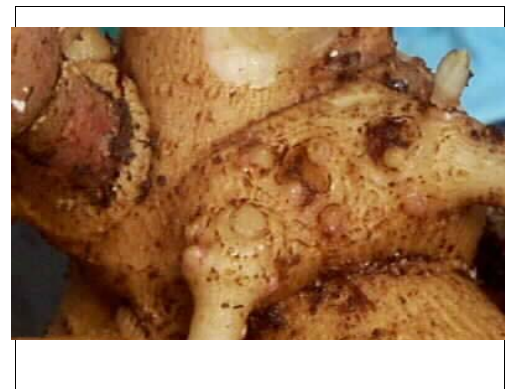
I hope to be able to make this newsletter one that you enjoy getting and looking at each month. If there

is anything you would (or would not) like to see in this newsletter. And, if there is anything that you would like to see in the newsletter, please let me know. I can be contacted by email at [theshroad@wavecable.com](mailto:theshroad@wavecable.com) or by phone at 479-6362.

## OCTOBER'S MEETING

The largest item of business involved our annual elections. There was no one running for Corresponding Secretary or Treasurer at the beginning of the meeting. Zorina Bleu stepped up to the plate for Recording Secretary and Bob Schroeder for Treasurer. See the list of new Officers on page two. Tom Kramer gave a presentation on digging,

dividing and storing tubers. I did not get the names of all the raffle winners in October, but will try to do so in the future.



This shows a tuber with "eyes"

## NOVEMBER MEETING

The topic for the night will be worm composting.

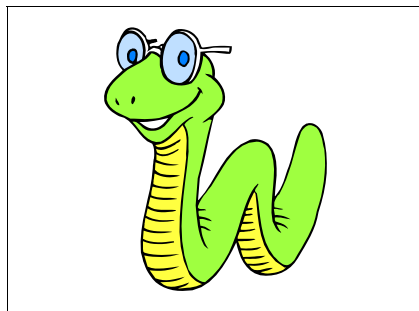
Our guest speaker will be Bobbie Morgan from the National Landscapes Project. She works for the Washington State Department of Ecology. The topic for the night will be worm composting.

Bobbie should provide with a lot of information as to how to do our own worm composting, where to purchase worm

compost and the benefits of using worm compost. I am hoping that she will also provide with some web links that pertain to worm

composting.

Our meeting is on Thursday, November 16 at 7:00 pm at the Crystal Grange, 2160 NE Paulson Road (off Central Valley Road), in Poulsbo.



Worm Composting

## 2007-2008 OFFICERS

President: **Eric Anderson, 698-1330**

Vice President: **Beth Taylor, 620-3808**

Corresponding Secretary: **Terry Schroeder, 479-6362**  
(newsletter)

Recording Secretary: **Zorina Bleau, 871-4135**  
(meeting minutes)

Treasurer: **Bob Schroeder, 479-6362**  
(membership, financial, publications)



Trustees: **Tom Kramer, 621-9480**  
**Joan Hagerman, 876-0518**  
**Pat Paulsen, 698-0123**

Federation Representative: **Howard (Dutch) Boerger,**  
**253-857-8222**

ADS Representative: **Chet Haus, 698-4874**

Contact any of these people regarding club events or for answers to dahlia gardening questions. {Note, all the Officer's phone numbers begin with the prefix (360)}. The Regular Board Meetings are held just prior to the general meeting at 5 PM. The General KCDS Meetings are at 7PM on the third Thursday of the month at the Crystal Grange (with the exception of July, August and January). Both meetings are open to all.

## FEDERATION AND ADS

Many of you may still not be sure what the Federation and ADS are. The Federation stands for the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers. This group is a regional group of which KCDS is an Affiliated Society. As an affiliated society, we must hold a dahlia show every year. The objectives of the Federation are:

*Provide an organization of dahlia societies and common goals for Northwest dahlia hobbyists who grow and exhibit dahlias. Provide*

*leadership in dahlia culture and to improve, through experiments and research, the quality of exhibition, garden, and cut flower cultivators. Educate and train dahlia judges through field experiences and workshops. Support a trial garden. Promote inter-society communication by proposing solutions for common problems. Provide yearly publications dedicated to the latest advances in dahlia culture and dahlia news around the world. Encourage the*

*(Continued on page 4)*

## IT'S NOVEMBER; IT MUST BE TIME TO...

Taken from Dahlias: A Monthly Guide

Divide and store your tubers.

Some guides advise you to divide tuber clumps in the spring when the growth eyes start enlarging. This approach means you have to store the clumps over the winter, which could take a large storage area. The stalks also become hard and woody over the winter and are very difficult to divide in the spring. These are the reasons that most growers in the Northwest divide their clumps in the fall. Make sure the clump is clean and trimmed. The "eyes" can usually be seen and are enlargements, located where tubers are attached to the stalk or crown of the clump. Many

tools can be used, including sharp garden scissors, sharp knife, and/or bypass pruning shears. To start dividing, first locate a tuber with a visible "eye". Take your cutting tool and make a pie-shaped cut on each side of the tuber into the crown. The cut should meet past the visible eye and include a portion of the stalk. Continue until all tubers with eyes are removed, making sure to cut away any excess stalk. Use an indelible pencil to write the variety name on the tubers while they are damp. Most growers will treat the tubers with a fungicide to prevent rot. A common one is a diluted bleach solution.

After treating the tubers, let them dry for 12-24 hours. It is then time to put them away until spring, keeping them from being too wet while not letting them dry out. They should be kept at a cool temp, from 35 to 40°F. Many growers store them in a storage medium - cedar shavings, vermiculite or sand.

Check your dahlias periodically during to winter to determine if any have gone bad and should be removed. Remove rotted tubers and open bags for a couple of days, if there is too much moisture. If tubers appear to be dry, add a bit of water to the bag.

## DECEMBER MEETING

In December we will be having our Holiday Potluck dinner. Thomas Kramer will be cooking his wonderful salmon. Please bring a main

dish or dessert to share. Also, bring a \$10.00 gift if you want to participate in the Gift Exchange. We also will be collecting canned and non-perishable

food for the local food bank at the meeting. The Holiday party is always interesting and fun!

*"Thomas Kramer will be cooking his wonderful salmon."*

## THANK YOU'S

Thanks to all of the members who helped with digging on October 28th and the dividing on November 4th. There were many hands and many happy worker bees! We do appreciate

everyone who takes time out of their busy schedules to assist the Dahlia Society in getting their work done. With many people helping, it makes all of the work go quicker. Remember, those

who help at any work party receive a certificate for a free tuber at our Tuber Sale in the spring.



*"With many people helping, it makes all of the work go quicker."*

