

KITSAP COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY

JUNE 2005

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Thursday, June 16th will be our next meeting held at the **Crystal Grange**, 2160 NE Paulson Road, Poulsbo (off Central Valley Road). The general meeting will begin at **7 PM**. The program will cover what you need to know for showing your perfect blooms: staging flowers for the show, how to use the classification book, the new numbering system in the show book and the new versus the old color charts. Our hostess (bringing the goodies) will be Terry Schroeder.

Don't forget **July 16th** will be the Federation workshop on how to show dahlias and **July 23rd** will be the judges training course for all levels at Connell's. Note: This will be the last opportunity to have Dave and Leone Smith as instructors.

More details will be forthcoming in July's newsletter but make sure to reserve **July 17th** for our annual KCDS picnic at Dori and Kent Soule's home on Central Valley Rd NE. We need someone to organize and purchase the food. Also reserve **July 30th** for the Poulsbo's farmers' market where we will be telling others about our dahlia society and displaying the great diversity of forms of our favorite flower. Start grooming your best blooms for our 81st KCDS dahlia show on **August 6th & 7th**. Set-up for the show will be at **4 PM on Friday, August 5th**. Volunteer opportunities also exist for clerking the show, greeting visitors at the information booth, helping Madeline West with the food, or **clean-up on Sunday, August 7th**.

Joan Hagerman is busily organizing our members garden tours for **August and September**. Please see her if you wish for your garden to be included.

Our **Post Office Club Garden Worker Bees** on **May 7th** were: Thomas Kramer and Beth Thomas (both who came extra early to prepare everything so that we finished in record time, 10 AM!!!), Bill & Nancy Jones, Peta-Maree Lamb, Mike & Sally Paulus, Bob Major, Kim Schleis, Bob Buila, Michelle Randall (Red Biker Babe) who saved the day with her mini-tool kit, Lucas Meyer in his polara-mobile, Pat Paulsen and her sky blue BMW and newbie worker bee Diane Hieatt. Note: secret additives to the holes for the tubers were alfalfa meal and 6-10-10 fertilizer (inquiring minds might want to know). **Don't forget to sign up for one week periods to maintain the Post Office Garden for our public's enjoyment.**

In addition approximately 200 tubers were planted in **The Roadhouse Club Garden** by Thomas K. and Beth T. on **May 12th**.

A new member packet was presented to Juanita Martin. Be sure to say hello to her. We also welcomed two visitors at May's meeting: Dave Neidlinger and Len Davis.

Our Heartfelt Best Wishes and Thoughts Go to Alice Church

IT'S JUNE

it must be time to:

Pinch, Stop, Disbranch: when A or AA dahlias have two 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.

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, it prevents rapid moisture loss from the soil, it keeps the weeds down.

If you want to
know
what was
in this box,
please come
to our
next meeting.

May's Plant Auction a Blooming Success

Lucas Meyer served as the most persuasive auctioneer, with Dave Smith delivering the goods. The Sibons successfully bid on two gorgeous moss hanging baskets made by Beth Taylor to start the auction off. Leone Smith remarked "I thought we'd get another chance at them!". Eric Anderson offered a paper flower plant for bidding, mint plants were won by Ernie Uffens and Leone S. The 3 Marie Schnugg tubers were all taken by Eric Anderson. Ernie U. bid on and won 3 lbs of Pat Menge's surprise tubers and stated "you guys are going to be jealous". Smaller surprise packages were won by the Builas and Madeline West with the familiar lament "I don't know where I'm going to put them". A Red Balloon tuber went to Monica Tailleir, while Pat M. walked away with Almand Climax, Ron's Dark Ember and Wanda's Capella. Ernie U. was delighted to take home Pooh, Lupin Chris and Inland Dynasty. Wanda Novak brought to the auction 20 heliotropes and pansies she had started from seed. After Leone S. purchased most of the heliotropes and Nancy Jones bought the remaining 6, Wanda went out to her car from more so that Pat Paulson, Beth T., Peta-Maree Lamb and Ernie U. could purchase some. The pansies saw Pat M. versus Leone S. with Leone taking home all 6. Lucas M. offered several Hen + Chicks with Wanda N. bidding against Leone S. False Lilies of the Valley were taken home by visitor, Dave Neidlinger. Violas (described by Lucas as "really good pot plants") saw Wanda N. taking home 5 plants, Leone S. taking 10 and Pat M. leaving empty handed. Next Kim S. offered two calla lilies for which there was great interest between Lucas M., Thomas Kramer, Wanda N. and Nancy J. Nancy J. won (to Bill Jones' despairing remark "2 for \$12!"). A big red calla lily saw a bidding war between Leone S. ("I really wanted it"), Len Davis, another visitor and Wanda N. who won. Leone S.'s offering of North Star sweet peppers (Lucas observed "they come with their own slugs") saw Wanda N., Kim S., Beth T., Pat P., Dutch Boerger and Marcia Mack entering into the fray. Beth T. and Wanda N. were the survivors. Leone S. then offered some Swarie (sp?) stasis. Lucas set all potential bidders straight with "they actually sorta look like dandelions". Beth T. bid against Kim S. (with Kim telling Beth "don't you hit me!"), Kim won. A 6-pack of China Asters saw Lucas M. in a bidding war with Dave S., while Sally Paulus was bidding against her husband, Mike. Lucas admonished "if you go to \$6, that's only \$1 each, how high are you willing to go?" to Mike P. and Sally P. Sally P. prevailed.

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WANTED

**Any pictures taken of
club activities.
Sally Paulus would like
to put them into our
club scrapbook**

Gardens are not made
by sitting in the shade.

-Rudyard Kipling

(Blooming success continued from page 2)


Chimicum Harvest Moon, a new introduction by the Smiths had Wanda N. bidding against Beth T., Eric A., Nancy J. (our Treasurer Bill was rubbing his head in dismay each time Nancy upped the bid), with the final winner being a very subtle Chet Haus. CG Elegance, a Correlitos introduction from CA, caused Monica and Richard Tailleur to bid (Lucas, "I see two bids!"), with Eric A. sneaking in and out bidding them both for this tuber. Free Spirit, an introduction from Winn in Ferndale again saw a bidding war between Pat P., Nancy J. (again giving Bill heart palpitations) and Wanda N. who won. Two CG Paragon tubers were coveted by Pat P., Monica T., Marsha M. and Lucas M. Our auctioneer, Lucas (collusion???) won one, while Marsha M. walked away with the other. Lucas' parting comment: "remember you are Dahlia Society Members!" Wonder what our two visitors thought? For all our frivolity, we raised \$318.25 which will go toward prizes at our August 6-7 Dahlia Show.

**Hard Work
spotlights the
character of
people:
some turn up their
sleeves,
some turn up their
noses,
and some don't
turn up at all.**

Remember, it's YOUR club garden. Please volunteer for a week of stewardship. Meet the public who are always so impressed with our blooms.

Garden Fertilizer

The feeding of plants is a complicated and quite technical procedure, but the few essential facts about fertilizers can be quickly mastered. Just remember the numbers 3-2-5. They refer to: the three basic types—messy, stinky, and messy/stinky; the two sizes they are available in—tidbit (4-ounce packet) and blammo (220-pound sack); and the five methods of application—too much, too little, too early, too late, and the wrong kind.



*Gardeners, I think,
dream bigger dreams
than emperors.*

—Mary Cantwell—

May's Raffle Review

Terry Schroeder- Barberry Gem Tuber
Peta-Maree Lamb (finally!)- Butterfly Wind Sock
Bob Majors- Honka Tuber
Dutch Boeringer- Tools
Sally Paulus- Water Sprayer
Loney Kennedy- Chilson's Pride Tuber
Ernie Uffens- Taratahiti Ruby Tuber
Ernie Uffens (again)- Barberry Gem Tuber
Terry Schroeder- Pair of Gardening Gloves
? sorry- Photo Album
Dave Smith- Water Sprayer
Bob Majors- Picture Frame
Beth Taylor- Gardener's soap
Nancy Jones- Set of Coasters
Wanda Novak- \$5
(note: she drew her own name)
Len Davis- \$10 (pretty good for a first-time visitor!)

**SO YOU WANT TO BE A
DAHLIA JUDGE! (OR NOT!)**

There are lots of reasons to attend the Beginning Level Dahlia Judges Class this year. The most obvious one is that you have been growing and showing dahlias for a while and you want to learn to be a Dahlia Judge.

Another great reason is that you have just begun to grow dahlias and you want to learn which ones to grow for your home garden and which ones make the best show flowers. You will learn how to sort out Cactus from Semi Cactus, Formal from Informal Decorative and unravel the mysteries of all the "other types" of dahlias.

Maybe you have been hearing about the "BIG KCDS DAHLIA SHOW AT THE KITSAP COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS THE FIRST WEEKEND IN AUGUST. What's that all about you wonder. You will learn how a Dahlia Show is organized and judged and what you may be able to do to help out. Clerking Skills are carefully taught so that even the newest growers can be a real part of the proceedings if they wish to.

In just one day you will learn all this and so much more. You will have a great time joining with other new (and some long-time growers) to learn more about our favorite summer flower. There is no stress or pain, just a chance to learn along with other nice people who share your interest. There is no cost for the class, bring a lunch, pencil and

paper and all your questions. The class is provided by the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers as part of the Education Program. There is a Dahlia Judges Manual that you can purchase from an instructor (L. or D. Smith) at the June meeting or when you come to class. You will find the book valuable even if you do not continue in the Judges Training Program. But, attending this class does not mean you have committed for the whole program. Of course, you will soon become friends with many wonderful folks who have continued. When you see how much it means to all of them you may just want to jump right in! We hope to see many KCDS faces in our class this year. If you attended last year and want a review we would very pleased to have you join us again!

L. & D. Smith

The time has come to get donations for our August 6&7 KCDS 81st Annual show. Please see Wanda Novak, Beth Taylor or Thomas Kramer for donation sheets. Individual or Business donations are most appreciated. Please get your show donations in by the end of June so we can WOW them at the Federation Summer Workshop (7/16) and at the Judges Training Course (7/23).

**Kitsap County Dahlia Society
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