

KITSAP COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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Special points of interest:

- March meeting is March 15
- Tuber Sale

Come hear
Ken & Marilyn
Walton
Speak about
cuttings
At our
February Meeting
Thursday
January 15
7:00 PM

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

This week I sent out all of my dahlia orders. I was pleased to get most of the varieties I wanted plus a few unusual tubers. Janet and I were going to cut back and grow more plants of only fifty to 60 varieties, but after I reviewed what I purchased we had to abandon that idea. There were too many really cool tubers we had to have!

What a great hobby. Not only was I able to

buy some new introductions, I also traded some of my dahlia stock with other growers to get new varieties. I really had some great conversations with many of the growers and hobbyists like myself. If they didn't have a variety I wanted I would get directed to another grower.

I recently purchased a new computer and now for the first time have my entire inventory logged with a picture for each dahlia. When I purchased a new variety I made sure to copy the picture. Now I can review the number of each variety, the colors of all I have and determine what colors or variety I am missing. Next I will be printing out some catalogs to show potential customers as I start selling my inventory this month. Make sure you review your wish lists from the garden tours and contact me at this

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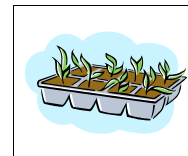
FEBRUARY'S MEETING

At February's meeting, we took care of all of our business and reports that needed to be made before our program.

We discussed the possibility of making the Crystal Grange our new home for all events (tuber dividing, packaging, sale, etc.) and having a sign in front of the building indicating that. More

information to come. We also discussed a project in coordination with a 4-H club from Bainbridge Island. Bob has contacted them and will work with them. They want to learn to grow and take care of dahlias. They most likely would be interested in showing at our annual show.

After all business was done, we had a break. Marilyn Walton then gave a wonderful presentation on doing cuttings. This is a fantastic way to increase your stock (without buying a ton of tubers) as well as getting blooms for the early shows.



Tray of cuttings

MARCH MEETING

Seedlings
Presented by:
Leone Smith

The program for our March meeting will be "Seedlings". Leone Smith will present information on how to harvest and grow seeds from dahlias. Leone and David have been growing seedlings for many years and have consistently come up with sought-after new originations. They

have 16 originations listed in the current ADS Classification Book.

Another important discussion will be on exploring the Crystal Grange as future home of KCDS. Estimated numbers on the cost of making the Grange our new home will be presented. A vote

will be taken at our general meeting on March 15th, to: 1). move everything to the grange or 2). Keep just the tuber sale at the Garden club on Central Valley Road.



Seeds

April Meeting
Will be
Plant Sale and
Tuber Auction

2007-2008 OFFICERS

President: **Eric Anderson, 360-698-1330**

Vice President: **Beth Taylor, 360-620-3808**

Corresponding Secretary: **Terry Schroeder, 360-479-6362**
(newsletter)

Recording Secretary: **Zorina Bleau, 360-871-4135**
(meeting minutes)

Treasurer: **Bob Schroeder, 360-479-6362**
(membership, financial, publications)

Trustees: **Tom Kramer, 360-621-9480**
Joan Hagerman, 360-876-0518
Pat Paulsen, 360-698-0123



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

ADS Representative: **Chet Haus, 360-698-4874**

Contact any of these people regarding club events or for answers to dahlia gardening questions. The Board Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 6 PM, at varying locations; check with any officer for the current location of the meeting. 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.

TUBER PACKAGING

Our tuber pack is coming up at the end of March. Although, we have lots of tubers, we sell a bunch of them. Donations of tubers is always needed. If you have some tubers to donate, contact Bill Jones (360-297-2134 or wjones@tsc.net) with the name(s) and approximate number. Bill needs this no later than March 24, as he needs time to make up labels and pictures. If you have a great picture, email it to him! Member donations are very important to our sale and greatly appreciated. Once you've let Bill know about your donation, you can bring them to the packaging Mar. 31.

The tuber packaging will be done on Saturday, March 31st at 9:00 am at the Central Valley

Garden Club. Many people are needed to help unpack the tubers and put them into individual bags so that they are ready for the sale. Bring your own stapler and staples, if possible.

A hot lunch (BBQ pork sandwiches, BBQ sauce and coleslaw) will be served at 1 pm for all worker bees.

Come and help package up our tubers, for a full day or a couple of hours; all assistance is valued and will earn you a coupon you can use at the Members Only Sale On April 4th.

Call or email Beth to sign up to assist at the packaging (360-620-3608 or bloomingbeth@hotmail.com).

IT'S MARCH; IT MUST BE TIME FOR...

Taken from Dahlias: A Monthly Guide

Garden Preparation

Dahlias require 6 to 7 hours of direct sunlight for optimal results, but will do fairly well with a minimum of 3 to 4 hours. Blooms and plant growth may suffer with less sunlight, however. Locate your dahlia garden where plants will have free circulation of air for healthy growth and prevention of mildew. Do not plant dahlias near or under large trees or shrubbery that block sunlight or takes away necessary moisture and nutrients.

Soil is a mixture of mineral particles, air, water and organic

material. The Pacific Northwest has a variety of soil types, ranging from sands to clays. The best soil type for dahlias is loam - a mixture of sand, clay, silt and organic materials. Good results can be obtained with other soil types, but the richer the soil is in organic material, the better your dahlia plants.

Dahlias demand a lot of water while growing, but good drainage is essential because the tubers do not like to sit in water.

If you planted a cover crop last fall, now is the time to chop down and spade or rototill it. Dig deeply and break up the large chunks of

soil. Add fertilizer at this time to help feed the soil organisms that break down the organic material provided by the cover crop. If you did not grow a cover crop, this is the time to add organic material, such as leaf mold, compost or manure. You may use peat moss, but it is acidic so check your soil's pH and add lime if needed. All of this material should be incorporated at least a month before planting to give it time to decompose. The important thing to remember is that the addition of organic material to your soil will help it.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

month's meeting.

This is a big month for KCDS as we prepare for the upcoming tuber sale. Pat and Zorina are co-chairing this project and will be asking for everyone's help packing up the tubers, setting up the

sales, and helping with tuber sales in Central Kitsap and South Kitsap. This is our money maker. We need our membership fired up and ready to go! See you March 15th !!

Eric Anderson



TUBER SALE

Our tuber sales are our primary fund raisers for the society. This allows us to maintain a nice display garden and put on a first-rate show, as well as other benefits for members.

Our first sale will be for Members Only, on Wednesday, April 4th.

(Remember, if you aren't a paid member, you won't be able to attend). Those members who have helped out at a work party over the past year and have "Worker Bee" coupons will be able to purchase from 5 pm to 6 pm. Other members will be able to purchase from 6 pm to 8 pm. Our first public tuber sale will be held on Friday, April 6, from 9 am to 7 pm and Saturday, April 7, from 9 am to 6 pm. .

There will be a Tuber Sale in Port Orchard on Saturday, April 14th from 9 am to 4 pm. The sale will be held at the Kitsap Saddle Club, 1470 Saddle Club Road SE, Port Orchard.

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**Kitsap County
Dahlia Society**

P.O. Box 502
Silverdale, WA 98383-0502

Newsletter Editor
Phone: 360-479-6362
Email: theshroad@wavecable.com



TUBER SALE

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Be sure to save the dates and come help the club with our largest fund raiser.

It's our tuber sale that allows us to put on a well put-together show that attracts growers from across the state and British Columbia. It also allows us to ensure that our display gardens are attractive to the public. We also do many things to thank members for their hard work (worker bee coupons, snacks at work parties, etc.) . Without the income from the sales, none of this would be possible.

People are needed to help to help the days of the sale. Zorina and Pat will have sign-up sheets at the March meeting. You can also contact Pat (360-698-0123 or bppaulsen@msn.com) or Zorina (360-871-4135 or zbleau@wavecable.com) to let them know what days/times will work for you to volunteer.

MEETING HOST

The Host for the March meeting will be Zorina Bleau.



**KITSAP COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 502
SILVERDALE, WA 98383-0502**

Place
Stamp
Here

