

# KITSAP COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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### Special points of interest:

- May meeting is May 17
- Crystal Grange

## Upcoming Events

### July

- 21 Summer Workshop
- 28 Judge's Workshop
- 29 Judge's Workshop

### August

- 4-5 KCDS Show
- 11-12 GHDS Show
- 11-12 SVDS Show
- 18-19 SCDS Show
- 25-26 PSDA Show

### September

- 1-2 VDS Show
- 1-2 WSDS Show
- 1-2 PDS Show
- 6-9 ADS National Show - Illinois
- 8-9 SSDS Show
- 8-9 WCDS Show
- 15-16 FVDS Show

## FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The planting is done at the post office and soon there will be sprouts coming up. Bob and I have started planting and should get completed by the middle part of May. I just hope we have plenty of room for all the dahlias we want to plant.

Then it's time to start thinking of taking our blooms to the various dahlia shows around the Puget Sound. Each year, we try to

attend a show each weekend. They start the first weekend in August and go until the third weekend in September. The Kitsap show is the first show of the season, August 4th & 5th at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds, in the President's Hall. I encourage everyone to come to the show and try their hand at showing a couple of dahlias.

Before the show, we will provide some basic information about showing and how to get blooms ready for a show.

At our June meeting, there will be a DVD presentation showing a past dahlia show and one to give information on using the ADS Classification Guide.

*Terry Schroeder*

## APRIL'S MEETING

Our April program consisted of a tuber and plant auction. We made over \$360 in the auction. Bob put together a power point presentation of many of the plants and tubers that were being offered for auction. There also was one member, who will remain nameless, who bought her fair share of tubers and other plants. Fortunately, she

has plenty of space for planting. The auction was fun and many people were able to pick up some tubers or plants that they wanted.

In the business meeting, we discussed the use of the Crystal Grange as our permanent home. Bob presented a way to store tubers in the basement that would make it much easier to get the tubers ready for the annual

sale. The basement of the Crystal Grange is an excellent place for storing tubers.

It was announced that we will be renewing our web site address and our name.

Beth and Kim are going to participate in "Growing Your Investments" which was sponsored by Edward Jones Investments and held April 26. They will be promoting KCDS.



Variety of plants

## Watering Systems & Topping Your Dahlias

### MAY MEETING

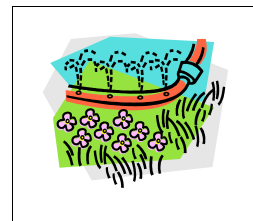
The program for our May meeting will be two presentations, one on watering systems and one on topping your dahlias.

There will be a presentation about using t-tape for watering your dahlias. This system is inexpensive and provides water to the base of the plant. There will be a

presentation on "topping" your dahlias to encourage them to grow more laterals and be bushier. This will allow the bloom to grow to its potential. Topping also will delay your plants first bloom a bit, so you may not want to top too late in season, especially if you plan on showing some blooms at the Kitsap

show.

Both of these presentations should provide valuable information to help you in growing dahlias.



Watering System

### 2006-2007 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, 2160 NE Paulson Road, Poulsbo, WA 98370. (with the exception of July, August and January). The Board and General meetings are open to all.



### PLANTING

A large work party was on board for planting the post office on Saturday May 5th. Many people showed up and participated. Thanks to the number of people who showed up to help and Beth and Tom's preparations ahead of time, the garden was planted by 9:30 am!

Beth had all the tubers organized by the row they were to be planted, with the completed labels to be put on the stakes in the bag with the tubers. The bag of tubers were in front of the holes that they were to go in. Tom and Beth had gotten the holes dug, put the fertilizer down and had everything ready. The members came, put the tuber in the hole, put the label on the stake, covered the hole and

went on to the next. It was well organized and a lot of work went into preparations ahead of time to make sure it all went smoothly.

#### Thank You, Beth, Tom & Kim!

I want to thank everyone who helped get the club gardens ready to go and also planted. I also want to thank those people who contributed tubers for all the gardens: Bill and Nancy Jones, Bob and Terry Schroeder, Eric and Janet Anderson.

We will have a calendar for people to sign up to help maintain the club gardens.

Thank You all, Beth



## IT'S APRIL; IT MUST BE TIME FOR...

Taken from Dahlias: A Monthly Guide

### *Care of Growing Plants, Cultivating Pests*

The tuberous roots that we plant tolerate dry soil much better than wet. Unless your soil is extremely dry and the spring weather is very warm, you should not water at planting time. Begin watering once foliage begins to appear. Your dahlia plants will grow without water; don't kill them with kindness.

Once cuttings and seedlings and acclimated to the outdoors, they can be planted mid-to late May, once the weather and soil temperatures are more stable. It

is recommended to break off one or two sets of lower leaves and plant the cutting a bit deeper than they were growing in the pot. After planting, you can water them with a transplant solution. If the sun is intense in your garden, you may need protection, using umbrellas or shade cloth. Cuttings and seedlings must be kept well watered so they will establish themselves and thrive.

If your garden is warm, weeds will become a problem and can steal the water and nutrients needed for your dahlias. Shallow cultivating at this time gets rid of the weeds during their most

vulnerable period. By the time your plants are a foot tall, they will have feeder roots just below the surface; be careful not to hoe too close to the plants.

May is the time to begin your serious assault on slugs, since they are capable of eating so much of the new plant growth. Also watch for caterpillars at this time. Slug control includes physical removal, traps, barriers and chemical baits containing metaldehyde. For caterpillars spraying with BT or a systemic insecticide will help.



## CRYSTAL GRANGE

There has been discussion for the past several months regarding using the Crystal Grange as our permanent home for all of our activities. We also would be growing a garden at the Crystal Grange and we could use that for demonstrations, etc.

The only question that has been raised regarding using the Grange as our permanent home is whether or not to hold our tuber sale at the Grange.

At our May meeting, we will be voting on whether or not to hold our tuber sales at the Grange. The Board voted at our board meeting

The recommendation, by a majority, was to move all operations, including the Tuber Sale to the Crystal Grange.

Ballots will be available at the May meeting. If you are voting by proxy, please get your vote to an

*(Continued on page 4)*

## DAHLIA SHOW

I hope everyone has some Ruskin Diane tubers planted. This year, that is our Andy Babb Challenge Flower. We hope to have a large display of Ruskin Diane blooms at the show. We have also made this category a Challenge Flower with money awards for 1st, 2nd

and 3rd place winners, as well as a drawing for \$50 from all entries. In order to enter this category, however, you must pay \$5.00. All of the money collected from the entries will be put toward the awards given. Bob Schroeder is the contact person for entries.

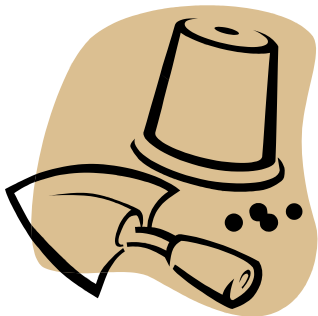
On the first page, there is also a list of the shows throughout the Puget Sound area. If you are interested in attending any of those, feel free to do so. Bob, Terry, Wanda, Tom or Beth could provide more information about those shows and where they are held.

**Kitsap County  
Dahlia Society**

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

Newsletter Editor  
Phone: 360-479-6362  
Email: [theshroad@wavecable.com](mailto:theshroad@wavecable.com)

KCDS Web  
[www.kitsapdahlias.org](http://www.kitsapdahlias.org)



**TUBER SALE**

*(Continued from page 3)*

officer, in writing, by Wednesday May 16th. Officers names and phone numbers are on page 2 of this newsletter. The newsletter editor's email address is just to the left of this, under the KCDS mailing address.

The vote is either to have all operations, **including the Tuber Sale**, held at the Crystal Grange or to have everything, **except the Tuber Sale**, held at the Crystal Grange.



**MEETING HOST**

The Host for the May meeting will be Terry and Bob Schroeder



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

Place  
Stamp  
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