

KITSAP COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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Special points of interest:

- June meeting is June 21
- Dahlia Show Time

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

Now that all the tubers have been planted, it is time to wait and watch them pop out of the ground. Bob and I typically go out in the morning or when we get home from work and walk around checking out what has popped.

Then as they grow, it's time to top them. The hardest part is waiting for them to bloom. It seems to take forever once you see that first bud.

We have also registered for the National Show in Chicago and are looking forward to going there. It looks like they've got some interesting tours set up, including a trip into downtown Chicago. We even were one of 50 to get free tickets to the Zanies Comedy Club. And, I will have the opportunity to meet up with a friend from high school that I haven't seen since she moved in the summer before our senior year (and that was just a couple of years ago).

I'm going to go out and see how the dahlias are doing. Most have popped; although a few late ones still haven't, so I'll check on some of them. The post office is growing well and I understand that Roadhouse is as well.

Happy Growing!

Terry Schroeder

MAY'S MEETING

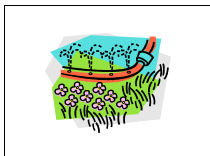
Our May program consisted of a discussion about various watering systems. Eric presented information about watering systems he uses, including a drip hose and other drip systems. Bob presented information on a t-tape system. It is used by many dahlia growers and provides more consistent watering than a regular drip

system. The t-tape can be purchased on line, at Steuber's in Snohomish and possibly at McConkey's in Sumner.

In the business meeting, the Master of Crystal Grange, David Corey, spoke about our club maintaining a permanent home at the Grange and answered questions. After David gave information and answered

questions, a vote was taken as to whether to hold the tuber sale at Crystal Grange or at the Garden Club building on Central Valley Road. The vote was in favor of the tuber sale and other activities being done at the Crystal Grange.

In between the business and program, our monthly raffle was held. Garden pruners, ball vase, yard bag, hose nozzle, watering can were the prizes won.



Watering System

Using the ADS Classification Book

JUNE MEETING

The program for our June meeting will be a DVD presentation on how to use the ADS Classification Book. Betty Burton is one of the instructors for the Beginning Judging Class. She gave an excellent presentation last year on how to use the Classification Book.

There is a lot of information included

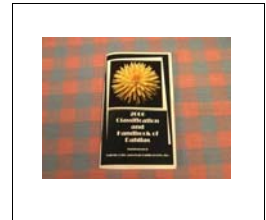
in the Classification Book and Betty explains how to decipher it. Betty is able to accomplish this in a easy-to-understand manner.

Come and see what you can learn about the Classification Books.

2007 Classification Books will be available for purchase. If you have

a Classification Book, be sure to bring it.

We will also be talking about our Dahlia Show and our upcoming picnic.



ADS Classification Book

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.



PICNIC

In July, KCDS has an annual picnic. This year our picnic will be held at the home of Eric and Janet Anderson.

Typically, KCDS provides meat for the picnic with members bringing a salad, other accompaniment or dessert to share.

There also will be demonstrations on how to prepare to show dahlias.

The picnic is a wonderful time to get together with other members and socialize. Sometimes, people have even been known to talk about things other than dahlias (is there anything else?).

The weather is also usually quite nice. We will have the picnic later in the afternoon so

that it is not in the heat of the day. Typically, we have started about 3:00 pm.

Plan to come to the picnic and share dahlia (or other) stories with your dahlia growing friends.



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

Taken from Dahlias: A Monthly Guide

Typing, Stopping, Disbranching and Fertilizing

As dahlias grow and bloom, they need to be supported to promote straight stems and to prevent damage from wind and rain. Tying the dahlia stalk to the stake, driven in at planting time, is the easiest method for most growers. The tying material can be the green paper/wire garden ties, binder twine, contractor tape or almost any other commercial product for that purpose. Start tying when the plant is 12 to 18" tall and continue tying every 12 to 18" up to about 4 feet. Some taller plants may need more.

Dahlia growers have learned that by removing the growing tip, a dahlia plant will produce multiple branches (and



blooms). Stopping (or topping) is the method growers use to force their dahlia plants to produce these multiple branches. To stop a plant, you simply pinch off the growing tip of the plant after a predetermined number of leaf pairs exist on the plant. The number of leaf pairs depends on the size of the bloom; two or three leaf pairs for giant or large and three or four leaf pairs for medium or small blooms.

Disbranching means removing some of the laterals (branches) to concentrate all the growing energy into the remaining blooms in order to maximize their size.

Disbranching, if needed, is done several weeks after stopping the plants. To maximize the size of the blooms, the grower should remove secondary sets of laterals.

Removing the lower leaves of a plant is important to improve air circulation around the plants to minimize the potential for mildew and other diseases and can be done at the same time as disbranching.

When dahlia plants are 4 to 5" tall and have established a good root system, give them a dose of nitrogen to help speed development. You can do this with a shot of water-soluble fertilizer by spraying the leaves and/or through the root zone. Alaska Fish Fertilizer or Miracle Grow are both high in nitrogen and lower in potassium and phosphorous. Potassium and phosphorous are essential for tuber and bloom development, but should be added later in the season.



DAHLIA SHOW

It is now only TWO months before our annual dahlia show. A lot of work needs to be done in order to accomplish this task. Kitsap County hosts the first show of the season for the Pacific Northwest; we set the standard.

Wanda is in charge of donations for awards. Donations from businesses are always accepted; typically garden shops and nurseries provide great awards. Money is also always a great prize and cash donations from members are graciously accepted. You can even choose the area where that award will be given.

Another area where assistance is needed is to coordinate the Information Table. We have to have someone at the table from 1 pm to 6 pm on Saturday and 12 noon to 4:30 pm on Sunday. We also need to be sure to have someone there Saturday morning while people are bringing in their blooms.

And, we need to have people who are willing to be a clerk for our show. Most of the people bringing blooms into the show are judges and some of their spouses are clerks. The clerk's responsibility is to keep track of what the judge's decisions are. Clerking is an excellent way to listen to the judges and to learn what they are looking for in a show bloom. Many of the judges are well-known dahlia originators, as well. It's a wonderful way to assist our club and to learn a little more about dahlias.

Of course, we need assistance to help set up and take down the show. Setting up typically takes one to two hours. We usually start about 4

(Continued on page 4)

**Kitsap County
Dahlia Society**

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

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

KCDS Web
www.kitsapdahlias.org



TUBER SALE

(Continued from page 3)

pm on Friday and are usually out by 6 pm or earlier. Take down usually takes an hour or so.

Think about what areas you might be interested in assisting.



Gordie Leroux, originator of Kenora dahlias and a well-known dahlia grower from Everett, passed away on June 9, 2007. Gordie was awarded the Gold Medal by the ADS at the National Show in Seattle in 2004.



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

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