

# KITSAP COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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## Special points of interest:

- July meeting is July 15
- 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

The dahlias are growing now!! They are coming up and there is plenty of disbudding to be done. Now, it's just waiting for this bloom or that bloom to open up. It is such an exciting time of year.

This year, Bob and I planted about 80 seedlings. Gordie Leroux compared going out to his seedling patch with "Christmas" - you never know what is going to be found

there. Ours haven't started blooming, but I can hardly wait to see what appears.

We are preparing for the show season. It will be time to clean out our staging area and get everything in order for getting those blooms staged and to the shows. Then it's the dash home from work, spend the evening cutting and staging the blooms and making the tags. There's always a quick, late dinner (have to use the early evening light for cutting) and never getting to bed quite early enough. It's up early Saturday morning and off to the show that is occurring that weekend! If I'd been told 15 years ago that I would spend almost 2 months doing that, I would have thought, "NO WAY". But, I love it - I enjoy the competition, but I mostly enjoy the wonderful people I have gotten to know from around the Pacific Northwest and the world.

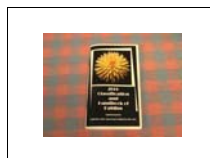
*Terry Schroeder*

## JUNE'S MEETING

Our June program consisted of David Smith providing information about "stopping" or "topping" your dahlia plants. a DVD explaining the Classification Book. Due to electronic difficulties, we were not able to see the full DVD, but the basic information was provided.

At the business meeting, we discussed the

club gardens, the upcoming dahlia show and the storage area in the basement of the Crystal Grange. The raffle was held with Bill Jones, Leone Smith, Janet Anderson, Kathy Hughes, Peta-Maree Lamb, Terry Schroeder and Loney Kennedy winning prizes.



*Classification Book*

## GARDEN TOURS

Last year our Garden Tours were a great success! We'd like to offer them again next year, but have not had many people respond with interest in having their garden on the tour. If you would be interested in hosting a garden tour at your home, please contact one of the Board Members, either by email or phone. If there is enough interest, the Board will make sure the tours are promoted to the members.

## Annual KCDS Picnic

Sunday  
July 15th

## JULY MEETING

The July meeting will be our annual picnic. Remember, our **July picnic is held on Sunday July 15** at Janet and Eric's home, 8687 Sungate Place NE, Bremerton. At the picnic everyone has an opportunity to sit and chat with other dahlia aficionados. You may even choose to talk about something OTHER

than dahlias!! KCDS will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments and drinks. Members are asked to bring a salad, dessert, or other side dish to share.

After we all get our fill of food, Bob Schroeder will do a presentation about how to stage dahlias for a show. Janet

Anderson will present how to put together a basket for a dahlia show. New members will be able to get some containers to use in showing.



Mmmmm good!

## 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.

## THE GRANGE

Work has actually started on the basement in the Grange. On Saturday June 30, Bob and Terry went down and tore out one set of cabinets and cleaned out the tuber storage area. On Friday July 6, Beth and Tom delivered some supplies and painted the floor in the tuber storage area. On Saturday and Sunday, July 7 and 8, Eric, Jim (Fuzzy), Beth, Gary, Larry and Joy and Bob and Terry. They cleaned up (got rid of) all of the stuff in the area of the basement that we will be using, got the insulation up and got one of the storage shelving put together. (Terry kept commenting on how she couldn't believe that Bob had built and put up those shelves by

himself in their shed!) The area looks really great! Unfortunately, we didn't get photos of it before, but there is a huge improvement. There was a lot of stuff in the basement that had to be moved out. It had been stored there and was no longer useful. Most of it was probably well over 10 years old. On Saturday, many stayed the full day (8 am to about 6 pm), just cleaning and getting up some insulation. It was a huge task. Thanks to all who came and helped (Eric, Jim, Beth, Gary, Larry, Joy, Bob, and Terry). Special thanks to Bob, Beth, and Jim who showed up both Saturday and Sunday and put in about 16 hours of work! We will have a tour at our Sept meeting.



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

Taken from Dahlias: A Monthly Guide

## *Watering, Diseases, Pests and Disbudding*

Once the hot, dry days of summer begin, it is important to have a regular watering program. Soaker hoses or T-tape laid in the garden is an excellent method of watering as it gets water to the roots where it is needed, as well as conserving water. Overhead watering is less efficient and can damage the dahlia flowers. It is best to water early in the day and to give the plants two or three good soakings a week instead of several smaller doses of water. Mulching under the plants with grass, leaves or compost will help hold the water in the soil and control weeds.

Powdery mildew is a problem in



areas with warm temperatures and high humidity. Powdery mildew appears as dirty gray spotting on the leaves of the plant and will slowly engulf the entire plant. It will not kill the plant, but its spread inhibits photosynthesis. Prevention is the best defense, because once it gets started it is almost impossible to stop. The best defense is to start a regular spraying program early in the growing season. If you foliar-feed your dahlias, you may wish to add a fungicide to your mixture. The choices of fungicide range from natural materials such as copper or sulfur to commercial chemical compounds. It is also helpful to remove the bottom three or four sets of leaves on the plants to increase the air circulation.

Spider mites, aphids, earwigs,

and thrips are some of the major pests in the dahlia garden. Once the pest has been identified, you need to develop a plan. An integral part of any pest-management plan is to maintain a healthy garden with strong plants. The preferred methods of insect control include removal of insects by hand, washing them off the plants, use of insecticidal soaps, use of beneficial insects that eat the harmful insects, and the selective use of insecticide sprays, such as malathion, sevin, (carbaryl) or systemic pesticides. Before spraying, make sure you understand any harmful side effects and read the product label thoroughly.

Dahlia plants generally produce many flowers on each plant. Typically each branch of a dahlia



## DAHLIA SHOW

Next month on August 4th and 5th, will be our annual Dahlia Show. Our show is held in the President's Hall at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds. This is our 83rd consecutive, annual show! Kitsap County has hosted a dahlia show since 1924.

I would like to encourage everyone to participate in the show in some way. It's amazing to see all those gorgeous dahlias (our dahlia count is usually around 2,000 dahlias) in one location. Whether you are really "into" showing (as Bob and I are) or just grow dahlias because you

like them, you will enjoy seeing the dahlias at our show.

Ways to assist are by being a clerk for a judging team, helping at the Information (Hospitality) Table, helping to set up on Friday August 3rd.

Another very important way to assist is by donating money toward the awards. KCDS gives out over \$2,000 in cash and prizes for awards. Contact Wanda Novak if you would like to donate cash or have a donation from a business for the show. All business donations are acknowledged with the business name on a sign displayed at the show. However, the sign needs to be done ahead of time, so donations need to be in to Wanda by July 21st to ensure that the business name can be added to the sign.

I hope everyone takes some time to come and see our show and participate in some way. It is a wonderful way to support your Dahlia Society!

**Kitsap County  
Dahlia Society**

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## IT'S JUNE; IT MUST BE TIME FOR... Taken from Dahlias: A Monthly Guide

*(Continued from page 3)*

plant has a terminal bud at the end along with two side buds. You will also find other pairs of flowers buds at the leaf nodes further down the branches. Disbudding is the process of removing the side buds to allow the terminal bloom to reach its maximum size. In the larger types of dahlias, it may be necessary to also remove some of the lower buds. The easiest method to remove these extra buds is to get to them when they are small (about the size of a pea) and just snap them off with your fingers. It is best to do your disbudding in the morning when the plants are crisp.



*Each branch will produce three buds at the flowering terminal. Remove the two side buds. To promote a larger and stronger bloom, the second set of buds can also be removed as shown here.*



KITSAP COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY  
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Place  
Stamp  
Here