

KITSAP COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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Special points of interest:

- No Meeting in August
- Come to the Trial Garden August 27th
- Dahlia Show Recap

Upcoming Events

August

- 18-19 SCDS Show
Everett, WA
- 25-26 PSDA Show
Bellevue, WA

September

- 1-2 VDS Show
Vancouver, BC
- 1-2 WSDS Show
Tacoma, WA
- 1-2 PDS Show
Portland, WA
- 6-9 ADS Ntl Show
St. Charles, Ill
- 8-9 SSDS Show
Olympia, WA
- 8-9 WCDS Show
Bellingham, WA
- 15-16 FVDS Show
Langley, BC

FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The show season is here! The season started with Kitsap's show on August 4th & 5th. This week's shows are in Elma at the Grays Harbor Fairgrounds and Mount Vernon at the Skagit Valley Gardens. The next two shows are in Snohomish County, at Floral Hall in Forest Park on August 18-19. On August 25-26, the show is at Factoria Mall in Bellevue. On the Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day

weekend, there are three shows to choose from. Closest to us is the WSDS show in Tacoma at Freighthouse Square. There is also Portland's show in Canby, OR at Clackamas County Fairgrounds. They hold their show in conjunction with the Swan Island Dahlias annual festival. And, up north, there is a show in Vancouver BC, at the VanDusen Gardens. To round out the season, there is South Sound's show in Olympia, at the Bark and Garden Center on September 8-9. If you prefer to travel, there is also a show on September 8-9 in Whatcom County at Bloedel-Donovan Park. Or, of course, that same weekend is the National Dahlia Show at Pheasant Run Resort in Chicago (St. Charles, IL). The final show of the season in the Pacific Northwest this year is in Fraser Valley, BC. They have a new location - George Preston Recreation Center in Langley, BC.

Terry Schroeder

JULY'S MEETING

Our July meeting was our annual picnic. This year our picnic was held at Eric and Janet Anderson's home. The afternoon was nice and sunny, and, of course, the food was excellent! Those who came had a



Mmmmm Good Food!

wonderful time chatting with other dahlia aficionados and talking about how their blooms were growing.

We heard an update on how the basement of the Grange is progressing and work that still needs to be done. There was also a short presentation about how to stage blooms for showing.

GARDEN TOURS

There hasn't been any interest expressed in garden tours this year. 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.



Come to The Trial Garden

Monday
August 27th

AUGUST MEETING

There is no regular August meeting. There is an opportunity to meet with South Sound and Washington State Society members at the Trial Garden on Monday 8/27. It gives everyone a chance to see the trial garden and/or do some judging there. Our next regular meeting will be in

September. We hope to have an "Open House" in the basement. For those who saw it before work was started, there is a HUGE improvement. Our program in September will be done by Dick Porter. Dick is well known in the Federation and is an excellent grower. He is particularly

known for pom pons and other types. More information on specifics will be available in our September newsletter.

I also have heard mutterings about a mini dahlia show in Sept. Perhaps Dick will be the judge.



Mmmmm

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.

GARDEN AND FAIR DETAILS

The Dahlia Garden at the Post Office needs to have some volunteers. There is no one signed up to water, tie up, disbud or weed in the dahlia gardens until sometime in September. If you have a couple of hours once or twice a week, give Janet Anderson a call and offer to help take care of OUR garden. Janet can be reached at 360-698-1330. Remember, this is the garden that is associated with KCDS. We need to take pride in our garden and help ensure that it always looks nice!

KCDS has always been asked to classify dahlias for the Kitsap County Fair on the Monday just prior to the opening of the Fair. No one has been called yet to ask about having us do this,

but we are sure they will call at the last minute, wanting our assistance. If anyone is able to assist with classifying (it should be next Monday 8/20), let one of the Board Members know – our contact information is just to the right of this article.

Thanks to everyone who helps with the work of KCDS. Everything we do is done to promote the enjoyment and beauty of the dahlia - Our Favorite Flower!



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

Taken from Dahlias: A Monthly Guide

Putting the Dahlia Blooms on Exhibition (at home or at a show)

Generally speaking, there is a dahlia for every occasion. Some varieties are better as cut flowers than others. Many of the smaller varieties (such as poms and miniatures) make excellent cut flowers. Some large-blooming dahlias are just as pretty in a bouquet. Striking arrangements can be made when using a variety of sizes and types of dahlias.

Gardeners find that early morning is the best time of day to cut flowers. In the morning the dahlia plants are crisp and the air cool, which reduces the chance of wilting. When cutting your blooms, carry a container of water so that the stems can be immersed immediately



after cutting. This helps prolong the freshness of the blooms.

After the desired numbers of blooms have been cut, put them in a cool, dark area with no drafts for 4 to 8 hours. They will then be conditioned and not wilt quickly. Before removing them from the water in the container, have your staging medium or vase ready. Keeping the blooms in water at all times will prolong the appearance of the exhibit or arrangement by keeping the blooms in top condition.

For gardeners of a competitive nature, the urge to enter their pride and joy in a dahlia show may become overwhelming. The dahlia grower will complete with others with the same exhibiting experience.

The exhibitor classes are novice (beginning), amateur (several years experience) and open (commercial growers and consistent winners). Experienced exhibitors are typically willing to share their knowledge with novice growers. Exhibiting is fun and once you have competed in a show or two, you will know how to prepare and show your blooms. Show competition also makes you a better dahlia grower as you seek to get the best blooms possible for the shows.

Dahlias are exhibited in a number of ways. There is the single entry (one bloom in a show container), and the triple entry (three blooms of a particular size and type in a container). You will also find five-bloom entries, baskets and arrangements at the shows.

DAHLIA SHOW

The KCDS Dahlia Show was held on August 4 & 5. It was well attended with participants from as far away as British Columbia and Portland, OR. We even had a couple from British Columbia who came down, without any blooms to show, just to help judge/clerk at our show.

The show went well, although our bloom count was down a bit. We have been right around 2000 blooms for the past several years and this year we only had 1362 blooms. The President's Hall looked great,

however!

It seemed as though we had plenty of people coming through to see the show, thanks to Jim Sibon's efforts at getting information out to the public.

Federation members are still talking about our food this year. It is purported to be the best food at any dahlia show so far and definitely the best that KCDS has had. Thanks to Madeline, Zorina, Beth, Jim, Ebeth and Kim for all of their help with that fantastic food! Way to go!

Although there was a problem with set-up (due to the floor plan being unclear - oooops) and all of the tables had to be re-arranged, everyone pitched in, moved tables and chairs and we still were done before 6 pm! Way to go crew - Thanks to all who helped - Wanda, Eric, Janet, Beth, Ebeth, Julian, Tom, Jim, Bill, Nancy, Gary, Kim and Bob. I sure hope I didn't miss anyone. Zorina and Madeline were working on food.

**Kitsap County
Dahlia Society**

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PICTURES FROM THE DAHLIA SHOW



Some of the Baskets



An Overview of the Show



*Andy Babb Display
Best Ever!*



*Our Esteemed President
Checking out the Head Table*



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

Place
Stamp
Here

