

KITSAP COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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Special points of interest:

- September Meeting
- Dig

Upcoming Events

September

6-9 ADS National Show, St. Charles, Ill

8-9 SSDS Show, Olympia, WA

8-9 WCDS Show Bellingham, WA

15-16 FVDS Show Langley, BC

October

13 Cutting down Blooms at KCDS Gardens, 9 am

27 Digging Tubers, 9 am

November

3 Divide Tubers - Crystal Grange, 9 am

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Where have all the flowers gone? Is it just me or is the bloom production down this summer. I am making this judgment based on the number of buckets of bloom I take to the hospital to share. Over the past two years I usually take four to five buckets of flower into work by the end of August. I've only taken two buckets the last two weeks!

Another indication of low bloom production is the low number of blooms that show up at each dahlia show. The Kitsap County Dahlia society show only had 1367 blooms this year, almost 700 fewer blooms less than our

2006 show. This past weekend the Washington State Dahlia Society show also had a low turnout. So what could be the cause of this phenomenon? Fertilizer, water, consistent temperature? Maybe it's global warming?

This will be a good topic to discuss at our next dahlia meeting. Dick Porter will be featured as our guest speaker and he might have some insight on the decrease in bloom production during the 2007 growing season.

Don't forget to bring you best single entry for our mini Dahlia Contest!

Eric Anderson

AUGUST'S MEETING

There was not an official meeting in August, but a couple of our members were at the Trial Garden at Point Defiance Park . The goal was to learn about judging new originations at the Trial Garden by working with a Senior Judge. Also, since all judges have to judge at the trial garden or on the seedling bench at a show, this gave everyone an opportunity to get a few dahlias judged. It was a nice

evening and most of us got 2 or 3 dahlias judged. There are 70+ new originations at the Trial Garden that need to be judged, so this is a wonderful way to accomplish that.

There were several members from the Washington State (Tacoma) and South Sound (Olympia) clubs, as well.

There also are trial gardens in Spokane,

Portland and Victoria BC. We are fortunate to have several that are relatively close.



Trial Garden

Dick Porter & Mini Dahlia Show

Thursday
September
20th

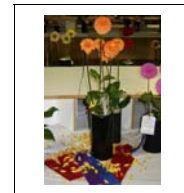
SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September meeting will include a presentation by Dick Porter. Dick Porter is an accomplished dahlia grower from Bellingham. He and his wife, Kay, grow a moderate number of dahlias at their home. I am sure his presentation will be extremely informative and well done.

We will also be having a mini dahlia show. Each member/couple can bring one bloom to show. It should be staged for showing; KCDS will provide tags so that everyone has the same color tag. The show should be interesting and fun for all!

We also will have an "Open House" of the basement area. We

have the storage area completed (although not all the grape boxes for storage are there). Everyone will have an opportunity to see how nice this area is now.



Hmmm - what happened?

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.



KCDS DAHLIA GARDENS

I can't believe that it is already time to start thinking about digging and dividing, but it is!

On October 13, we will be cutting down the dahlias at the post office and the Road House Nursery. We will leave them for two weeks and then dig them on October 27th. We also will need to dig about 100 tubers that were planted at Ebeth's house. Both the cutting down and digging will begin at 9 am and continue until we are finished. We will divide the tubers on November 3rd at our new location, The Crystal Grange. We hope to divide in the basement, which will allow us to leave them to dry, as long as needed. It will also be very easy to put them away in the storage boxes that we

have down there.

We'll be showing it off at our September meeting - don't miss the preview!



Storage Area in Progress



Pile of Junk from the Basement

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

Taken from Dahlias: A Monthly Guide

The Autumn Parade

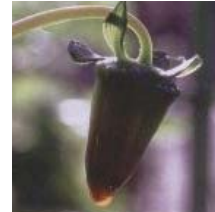
The last few weeks before a killing frost ends a growing season are typically the most colorful in a dahlia garden. The early blooming plants still have a few flowers, and the late-blooming plants are in their glory; practically every dahlia plant has colorful blooms. There is also little competition in the garden for the riot of colors and shapes that your dahlias exhibit.

This month is a good time to visit local dahlia shows, open houses at commercial dahlia farms, or hobby dahlia gardens, to note varieties that you would like to add to your dahlia collection next year. It is also a good time of the year to share your blooms with shut-ins, convalescent centers, friends and co-workers.

Most new dahlia varieties are started from seeds. Dahlia plants are true to the tuber, but not to the seed. Thus a dahlia *tuber* will almost always produce a plant of the same variety. However, since dahlias are hybrids, the seeds will always produce varieties different from the seed's parents. Although it's best to start collecting seed early in the season, you can still collect seed this month for next year's seedlings. Growing seeds has been described as "just like Christmas every day" by Gordie Leroux. You can go out into your garden and check out what is growing; you just never know what kind of surprise will be in the garden for you!

Give your dahlia tubers the chance to "harden" for the winter

by discontinuing all fertilizing and by limiting the amount of watering in September and October.



A dahlia seedpod in the garden.



A dahlia seedpod ready to be harvested.

DAHLIA SHOWS

There are only three remaining dahlia shows. There are shows in Olympia and in Bellingham on September 9th and 10th. The show in Olympia is at the Bark and Garden Center, 3334 Mud Bay Road NW, West Olympia. Several people who typically attend that show will be at the National Show in Chicago, so it would be a good show to attend. They'll need judges and clerks, I am sure.

The show in Bellingham is at the Bloedel-Donovan Park Gym. And, they will have some people not attending due to going to the National Show, as well. Then, the final show of the season in this area will be on September 15th and 16th. It is the Fraser Valley Dahlia Society show, held in Langley, British Columbia. It is a fun show and will be held at

the George Preston Recreation Center, 20699—42nd Avenue, Langley, BC. Bob and I will be attending that show. A couple of people from Fraser Valley typically attend our show, so we like to reciprocate by attending theirs. It is a very nice way to end the season. We have an opportunity to see a little bit of British Columbia on Sunday morning. This year, since the show isn't being held in a mall, it will close at 4:00 pm. Typically, the back-up at the border hasn't been too bad.

At least well into October, dahlias will continue blooming and be great for displays. One of the things that the general public loves about dahlias is that they last for so long and continue to look nice. Enjoy and share them for another month or so~

**Kitsap County
Dahlia Society**

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE

In September a Nominating Committee will be appointed. The Nominating Committee is responsible for getting a slate of Officers to run for the 2007-2008 year. One trustee is always needed and each other office is a one-year term. If you would like to be on this committee, let our President know. Think about running for an office and supporting your dahlia society in a leadership position.

TREATS

In September, treats will be provided by Beth Taylor.

We need people to sign up for treats for the upcoming year.

KCDS SHOW RESULTS

To see the results from this year's KCDS show, check out our web page. The results of our show are listed there.



KITSAP COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 502
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