

Portland Dahlia Society Bulletin

Meets second Tuesday of the month at Rose City Park United Methodist Church, 5830 N.E. Alameda

Portland Dahlia Society website: portlanddahlia.com

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Next meeting Tuesday, February 7th, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY

We will have a DVD put together by Claudia Biggs (ADS Image Coordinator) of the new dahlia originations for 2011. Also commercial grower sources for the new introductions will be made available. We will be discussing which 2010 introductions proved most promising in our local growing area.

A demonstration of how to take dahlia cuttings and care for dahlia green plants through their various stages of development will round out our program for February.

The 2011 edition of *Dahlias of Today* has been ordered. We will have it available for sale at the meeting if it arrives in time. If not, it will be available at the March meeting.

MONTHLY AUCTION

If you have tubers of *newer* varieties that are ready to be auctioned, bring them in and they will be auctioned off at this meeting. The Board feels that we may get a better price if we do some selling prior to our main event and some of those who take cuttings would like to get them sooner. This will be limited to newer varieties, or those that are very hard to find.

We have it on good authority that tubers of Skipley Bonanza and Lakeview Glow will be auctioned. Skipley Bonanza was in much demand last season after gracing the cover of the 2010 edition of *Dahlias of Today*. Lakeview Glow won top honors for Christy Parks last season as best in show at Eugene.

COOKIES FOR FEBRUARY

Larry Smith and Mike Riordan will be providing cookies for this month's meeting.

BOARD MEETING

Your Board met on January 22nd to go over Dahlia Society business and plan for 2011. I think we have put together a very exciting line-up of meetings for the year.

We want to make our programs interesting and informative for all dahlia growers. We realize some growers like to show and others just want to grow good looking flowers in the garden. Our aim is to gear the programs with something educational and informative for all growers.

We are very excited about our hosting the ADS National Show in 2012. We are working on laying the groundwork and the committee assignments are taking shape.

We are interested in forming a publicity committee for all PDS functions as well as the national show. Those interested in participating please contact Larry Smith or Mike Riordan.



Lakeview Glow grown by Christy Parks

TUBER WORKSHOPS

In looking ahead to our annual sales, we will be holding 2 tuber workshops at Swan Island Dahlias. The first will be on Saturday March 26th, and the second will be on Saturday, April 16th. The second one will be to prepare tubers for the Master Gardener's sale. Starting time for both workshops is 9:00 AM. Please help out and one or both if you can. Also, we would like to have tubers you are going to donate for the sale brought in to our March

meeting, or in to this month's meeting if you can't be there in March. Please be sure each variety is clean, free of rot and has a viable eye. You do not need to write on each tuber, as long as it is clearly marked in some way. More than one tuber of a variety may be put in a bag with the name written on the outside of the bag. Please be generous as these 2 sales are our major source of funds.

At your board meeting it was decided that Portland Dahlia Society members would be given early access to the April Tuber Sale at 6:00PM. The general public will not be admitted until 6:30PM. The idea is to give those who support your society first choice among the dahlias available on the sale tables.

AWARDS FOR 2011 SHOW

If you have donated awards in the past or would like to sponsor an award for our show, contact Mike Riordan at 503-256-0425 or riordanm@prodigy.net. We need this information ASAP to complete the show schedule. Some of our members sponsor awards in the name of their businesses and/or offer gift certificates. Compliments to Erik Toedtli who works very hard each year to produce a first class show schedule we all appreciate.



Skipley Bonanza

2011 DUES ARE DUE

If you haven't already paid, dues are past due. Judges please remember that you are required to carry membership in both the American Dahlia society and the PNDC (Pacific Northwest Dahlia conference). PDS dues, ADS dues and PNDC dues should be combined and paid to the Treasurer as noted below. Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers dues are \$10 and also payable through our Treasurer.

PDS	ADS	PNDC
Adults: \$7.00	Individual: \$20.00	Individual \$10.00
Couples: \$10.00	Family: \$23.00	Dual: \$15.00
Juniors: \$1.00		
Mail to or pay at next meeting		
Larry Sawyer, 11015 S.W. Berkshire, Portland, OR 97225		

FEBRUARY CHECKLIST

How are those tubers doing in storage? Regardless of your storage medium and method, it is advisable to see how things are storing. Sometimes rot can spread from one tuber to the next. If there is some rot, many times the tuber (s) can be saved by cutting away the rotted portion and treating the cuts with flowers of sulfur or Captan. If you are using vermiculite and the medium seems too damp (vermiculite clinging to tubers), more dry vermiculite can be added to the storage container. As you are checking through, this is a great time to select tubers you want to take cuttings from and/or donate to the PDS tuber sale. Not sure how many of you store over pot roots. I keep mine stored open in nursery flats in the same storage area (garage) as my tubers. They are still in the same pots they grew in last summer. One thing I've learned is to take the flats outdoors and water them thoroughly about once a month. This does not promote premature growth, but does enhance the keeping quality of the mini-clumps.



Hollyhill Tigress, 2011 Derrill Hart Winner

Now is a good time to think about soil in preparation for next growing season. Consider topdressing your dahlia garden with compost or manure. In fact this early in the spring, it need not be that well composted. Cow, horse, chicken, leaf mold compost, mushroom compost, rabbit, Zoo Doo or Llama will work just fine. Check your local newspaper or feed store for suppliers both you – haul or

delivered. Besides beneficial nutrients, organic amendments enhance the ability of the soil to hold water. This month the soil is too wet to work with machines, but can be hand turned.

While discussing soil, let's visit the subject of pH. Soils in the Pacific Northwest tend to be naturally acidic. Add to this rain through our polluted skies, and we end up with more push to the acid side. To counter act the acidity, apply Dolomite Lime or Prilled (pelletized) Lime either now or at planting time. By pulling your soil more to the neutral side the plants are better able to absorb and process nutrients. An added benefit to liming is the addition of Calcium to the soil. Calcium is essential for the production of cellulose in plant tissue. (Healthier plants with stronger stems). A soil test will give you an accurate picture of what's needed in your soil. See A & L Laboratory's web site at http://www.allabs.com/analytical_services/analytical_main.htm

2011 CHALLENGE FLOWER SELECTED

At the board meeting Swan Island Dahlias won the honor of naming one of their introductions the Portland Dahlia Society 2011 Challenge Flower. Nick Gitts selected his 2006 introduction, Tutti Frutti, BB C Pink. Ample stock will be made available at the tuber and plant auctions. We will offer a \$10 award for the best bloom in each competition class: Junior, Novice, Amateur and Open. There is also an additional \$20 award for the best overall bloom from all competition levels.



Tutti Frutti, BB C Pink

FEDERATION SPRING WORKSHOP

The Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers will hold their Spring Workshop on Saturday, March 19th. There is no cost to this event and most participants bring a brown bag lunch. Presentations on varied aspects of dahlia growing are provided throughout the day. There is also an auction of new introductions accompanied by a slide show of each offering. Contact Teresa Bergman (360)274-8192 for more information and to coordinate car pool arrangements.



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PNDC SPRING MEETING

The Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference will hold its spring meeting on Saturday, April 23rd at Georgetown Realty in Portland. Georgetown is located at 1000 NE 122nd Avenue, Portland 97230. The luncheon begins at noon. Details concerning the luncheon arrangements to follow.

Following the luncheon is a short business meeting; this is followed by a tuber and plant auction. Many of the originators from the entire west coast (British Columbia through Southern Oregon) will be in attendance. Many will bring some of their new originations and imports to the auction. Everyone's interest in the newer varieties and the spirited bidding (encouraged by a professional auctioneer) is more than worth the price of the luncheon. You do not need to be a member of the PNDC to attend and participate in this function. If anyone prefers to arrive at 1:00 and skip the luncheon, this is perfectly acceptable.