

2012 National Dahlia Show Seminars

Four seminars will be presented on Saturday afternoon in two rooms, each seminar 55 minutes long. Two different presentations will run simultaneously.

We have **Eleanor Shantz** who has graciously agreed to explain the intricacies of the art of dahlia basket construction. Eleanor has a deep and long- time interest in floral art design. Her baskets always creatively balance the color of dahlias with the hue, texture and shape of appropriate filler material. Each flower looks ideally placed. Eleanor and her husband Wayne are both retired educators from Eugene, Oregon and serve as Regional ADS Representatives for the Pacific Northwest Conference and have been long time teachers of many judging clinics in the region.

Colin Walker has consented to present the good and the not so good of dahlia photography. Colin has worked for many years for *Dahlias of Today* as a photographer and photo editor. His occupation with the parks department in a Puget Sound municipality has given him much experience in the art of floral and plant photography. Together with his father Roger, they maintain a display planting at the Bellevue Botanical Garden.

Kevin Larkin, research and education director for the ADS will share information about new directions in dahlia research, specifically dahlia fertilization. What works well in most areas of the country? Application, harmful interactions and other issues will be discussed. Kevin may elect to use a panel or forum to field questions and stimulate discussion. Kevin brings many years of dahlia growing experience as co-operator of Corralitos Gardens.

Dahlia Growing 101: A presentation geared to the novice grower just starting down the road to serious dahlia addiction. Topics will include staking, disbudding, disbranching and placement as well as discussion on how to successfully dig, divide, and transplant dahlias. We expect this to be a popular seminar with the public attending the show. Presenters will be experienced dahlia growers from our region.