



NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 14 December @6:30 @ 9th and Lincoln

HOLIDAY PARTY!!! - Note earlier meeting time. Please bring 2 things: a yummy potluck contribution (and serving utensil) as well as a wrapped gift relating to dahlia growing for our Present Predation game. (Many members like to don extra sparkly finery for our cozy gala.) People often ask if names beginning A-F should bring a specific thing, or people over 60 should cook dessert. DSC's policy encourages each member to bring what he or she cooks the BEST. So if we get all salads, we'll all be healthier; if only desserts arrive, we'll all be happier. Usually it works out smashingly well with appetizers, meat courses, veggies and salads and desserts. Surprise our palates with something wonderful!



GREAT EXHUMATIONS:

The announcement that Lou Paradise would reprise his exceptional demonstration of digging and dividing tubers lured many new visitors to our DSC meeting. One of Lou's strongest pieces of advice is, process one clump at a time eliminating the possibility of label errors. Baker Bill brought both a yummy cake and wore a T-shirt celebrating his dedication to Nick Sr, his HUGE id dahlia. When Tinnee brought fresh veggies and herbs from her Corralitos ranch, Frank suggested, "You'd better label the oregano lest someone try to smoke it." When not quipping, Frank took these great pix.



DUES DUE:

2011 Dahlia Society of California dues are \$10 for which you get wonderfully educational programs each month, a great tuber and cutting sale, a magnificent Floribunda! flower exhibition, super family fun picnic, hands-on how-to lessons at the Dahlia Dell and monthly e-newsletters covering the people, places and ideas surrounding our favorite flower. For an additional \$23 single and \$26 for families you can support the American Dahlia Society, receive quarterly ADS Bulletins, gain admission to the members-only areas of the ADS website, and get the 2011 ADS Classification Book which will have the new 4-digit numbering system. Please bring your checks and [membership form](#) to the December meeting or mail them to Joe Norton 2419 15TH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114.

SFPUC 2011 FREE CALENDAR: All San Francisco residents can request a 2011 colored calendar from SFPUC on line or by telephone. SFPUC also offers discounted cistern or rain barrels. If you will cultivate a large plot in the summer, now is the time to begin to request a garden water co\$ rate.

DAHLIA SOLACE:

The following anecdote was provided to us by the Director of the San Francisco Zen Hospice Project via one of our members. The 9-year old daughter of their first guest had been spending more and more time at the hospice in the last several days. She was often looking for someone to play hide and seek in between getting her homework done, and making lovely drawings of the events going on. When she first came to the house she was fairly shy and kept to herself. On the Thursday night when her mother died, the hospice received a large supply of Dahlias. They were quite stunning with bright color and full bloom. As the director was leaving, young Z was busy preparing bouquets in a variety of vases in the living room. Having forgotten that the Dahlia's were a gift to the whole house, the director thought someone had brought them specifically for Z's passed mother. As the director left, Z was carrying these vases upstairs - one by one. What the director had not realized until the next day, was that young Z had prepared vases for each of the residents still upstairs and was bringing them up to them. She was providing care to the whole rest of the house.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS FROM GREAT BRITAIN:

Our outgoing Recording Secretary, Pat Hunter, recently visited her family in northern England and took the opportunity to visit Halls of Heddon, a well known dahlia grower in Heddon on the Wall, Northumberland. Proprietor David Hall and his wife Sue grow several hundred dahlias, pot roots of which they ship all over the world, and huge, fabulous chrysanthemums; the family has been in business for more than 90 years. Pat ordered a few "English" cultivars - Charlie Dimmock and Gateshead Festival among them - and expects delivery in February.



VISITING ADS BLOOMERATI:

ADS VP Allen Hass and his wife, Debby, hit the Bay Area Dahlia Hot Spots by participating in the Monterey Dahlia Society's annual Dine Around. First stop: Christine Albrecht's huge pasture with hundreds of dahlias, gourds and tomato walls. They delighted in Iris's kale chips. On the site of an old pig farm, Doris built a haven for dahlias and raspberries. Orlando remarked on her amazing portable misters. The forest of humongous Show 'n' Tells stunned Debby. A glorious barbeque awaited guests at Corralitos Gardens where second VP Allen turned over the official ADS banner to first VP Kevin Larkin. They dined on strawberries at Craig's veggie patch and marveled over



Tinnee's dark foliage seedlings. Racing the gloaming, Allen got a private tour of Sharon Luccesi's marvelous collection. Finally they sat back on the Crandall's capatious deck, feasting on all sorts of



fine desserts. A trip to the Bay Area would not be complete without a tour of our Golden Gate Park Dahlia Dell. ADS Classification Chairman Lou Paradise, showed ADS VP (take out) Allen Hass several of his introductions and seedlings. Although no longer growing in the Park, the Juul's graciously invited Allen on a tour of their private garden after which they shared a sumptuous luncheon coffee?. Deborah added her own twist of the San Francisco experience by leading Allen on a bike ride across the Golden Gate Bridge—where Allen spotted DAHLIAS growing.



Photos continued on the next page

VISITING ADS BLOOMERATI (cont.)



SHUTTERBUG ALERT!

ADS Photo Contest 2010 details: Do you have an eye for beauty? Join in the fun and enter your 2010 photos in the ADS Photo Contest. The deadline is approaching VERY soon -- pictures have to be received by the ADS Photo Contest Chair, Martin Kral, on or before November 30, 2010. Complete instructions for the contest can be found by clicking here <http://www.dahlia.org/index.php?page=photo-contest>. Details can also be found in the September ADS Bulletin. All entries must be submitted digitally. Go ahead -- immortalize the Bay Area Dahlia Scene!

DECEMBER DECISIONS:

First off: pay your dues to DSC and ADS. Last chance to save seed pods. Evaluate last season's results and set up a new xl grid. What do you expect from next season? More of one color and less of another? Bigger blooms or smaller blooms? Are you getting hooked on anenomes, incurved cactus or novelties? Once you have a feeling for how you'd like to improve your personal Dahlia Dell, then go to THE BIGLIST Dahlia Locator <http://www.dahlias.net/dbiglist.htm> on the computer or start drooling over various dahlia catalogs. Early orders give you 2 advantages: there are less sold out varieties and you can request early delivery. I request my tubers for the first week in March and start them in milk cartons in my loft. If you are ordering plants, request an early shipping date. Tubers from Commercial Dahlia Growers I have planted (take out from) include those from Corralitos, Accent, Ayers, Veronne's, Linda's and Aztec but there are many many more. Start considering how you can improve your dahlia plot this winter: chicken manure? compost? leaves, grass clippings? Perhaps a "cover crop" of vetch, mustard seed or fava beans? All of these deposit useful nutrients into the soil via roots and can be turned under when it comes time to plant. Have your dahlias gone brown yet? If so either dig and divide them or mulch them and cover with a 5-8 gallon pot for the wet winter. Start collecting milk cartons. I exchange summer dahlias for winter cartons with my local Martha Brothers Coffee Shop. Imagine my surprise when one of the barristas showed me all the photos she'd taken of the dahlias that had adorned her shop in the past year. Pledge to come to the Big Dig 2011 on Jan. 8 and 9 at the Dahlia Dell in Golden Gate Park. Make a sought-after gift for exchange at our holiday party.

Yours in Dirt,

Deborah

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Page layout: Mike Willmarth
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Commercial Growers mentioned above:

Accent <http://www.dahliasuppliers.com/accent/>

Ayers <http://ayersdahlias.com/>

Aztec <http://www.aztecdahlias.com/>

Corralitos Gardens <http://www.cgdahlias.com/>

Linda's Dahlias <http://www.dahliasuppliers.com/lindas/index.htm>

Verrone's <http://www.wadahlias.com/>