



NEXT MEETING: December 13, @ 6:30 (not our normal 7:30 time) @ 9th and Lincoln



PROGRAM: Holiday Party! Please bring a wrapped gift relating to dahlia growing (@\$10) for a rousing Present Predation and a delicious dish with serving implement for a sumptuous supper. Your benevolent DSC will provide plates and utensils. (Many participants are known to deck themselves in gala attire, sequins, festive hats or even antlers.)

DIG HIS TUBER TALK:

Lou Paradise graciously reprised his discussion about digging tuber clumps. Tip #1: Always pierce a circle @12" from the center of the clump with your shovel to break any long running roots; then prize up the clump with a double shovel pincer movement.

Tip #2: Always process one clump at a time so you don't lose the label.

Tip #3: Paste Captan and/or sulphur on the exposed edges of each tuber to guard against fungus.

Tip #4: Let tubers dry 2-3 days before bagging in vermiculite, peat, sand, or guinea pig shavings.

Tip #5: Store in a cool (@40-42 degrees) but not cold (below 32 degrees) dry spot.



GENEROSITY OF FRIENDS:

Thanks to Devorah for her home-baked chocolate chip cookies and to Donna for her mini white cupcakes. Gino brought strawberry loaf slices to compliment Pat's candies. Ron and Joann baked apple cake squares and Baker Bill whipped up carrot cake with luscious cream cheese frosting. Bill, Joann and Ron have opened, presided over, cleaned and closed our kitchen for many years. Alas, they have resigned this duty. Beginning in January, we hope someone else will step up to this. Otherwise we will not be able to have hot water for coffee and tea and use the kitchen. Please contact Deborah (415 816 2118) if you would be willing to help out running the kitchen.

'TIS BETTER TO GIVE:

Recently the Parks Trust threw a fabulous fundraiser. Erik's nanny, Jenna Kaiser, created 40 exquisite corsages from Dell poms and miniatures which Erik pinned on the Parks Board and those who had generously contributed to our national show. Rather than spend huge sums on florists' displays for a charitable event, the 5 Dell gardeners bestowed glorious blooms to bedeck tables in the huge circus tent next to



the carousel. Many party revelers exclaimed about the unusual blooms and the great color. So

impressed was one admirer, that he handed Erik yet another handsome contribution check! Not two weeks later, San Francisco Beautiful asked Marilyn and Deborah for dahlias for their fabulous masked ball at the Palace Hotel. It's great to do well by doing beautiful!



ASK NOT WHAT DSC CAN DO FOR YOU BUT.....:

Thanks to Devi, Pat, and Marina for approaching candidates and conducting a successful election. New directors for 2012-2014 are: John Mani, Donna Mani, Vince McCormick and Lou Paradise. We will so miss Gerda and Erik Juul and ALL the MANY things they have done for DSC over the MANY years. The continuing board from 2010 are Diana Brogiotti, Devorah Josephs, Pat Hunter and Erik Gaensler. We thank DJ for acting as recording secretary for the last year and welcome Marina Rose as our new RS beginning in January. Through the unstinting donation of time, energy, creativity and resources of these people, our Dahlia Society of California continues to thrive. Moreover, Devorah has acceded to taking over our Membership rosters. Deborah continues to compile our monthly newsletter; Webmaster extrodinaire, Mike, continues to webify the news; and Pat stamps out the snailmail version. Thank you all for dedicating your talents, time and resources to bettering our DSC!

VISITING TV STARS:

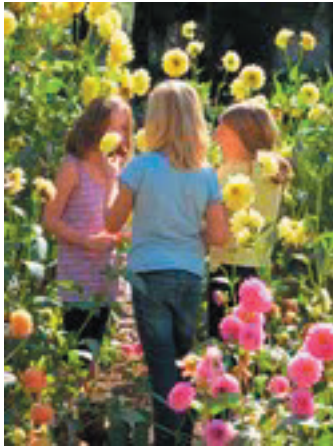


Henry Tannenbaum and his wife love to stroll around the Dahlia Dell. They picked up deadheading tips from Pat and a short course in Dahlia Genetics 101 from Tinnee. I love how our volunteers educate the Public. Tinnee explains to the Chinese; Valeria explicates in Russian; Ruth and Mary Ann in Tagalog; Orlando and Lou in Italian; Erik in French and Deborah in spastic Spanish and German; dahlias speak in every language!



TEACH THEM YOUNG:

On three separate days, Erik led classes of 20+ third graders from Marin Country Day School in the art of weeding, disbudding and deadheading at our Dahlia Dell. Each time, Erik gave them a presentation on the history of dahlias, dahlia birds and bees, and explained tuber masses. Then with the supervision of teachers, parents, nannies, Tinnee, Pat and Deborah, the kids trooped into the flowers. Nicholas, already an expert, showed his pals which and where to cut. Thomas dutifully deadheaded, but asked each time, "Do we have to throw it away? It's so beautiful?" Their infectious energy and unabashed marvel spurred the dahlias to even later blooms!



UNEXPECTED HISTORICAL INSIGHTS:



Roger had given some passersby of his multi-tiered dahlia ziggurat some extra tubers. They were so thrilled with their results that they left him a letter with 3 newspaper clippings. On June 24, 1943 the front page had a picture of Herbert Simon in his 20'x20' victory garden, one of 300 in Golden Gate Park during WWII. The second clipping shows grandson Ralph Simon sitting between a pom pom and the Largest Dahlia in the 1967 San Francisco Fair. Ralph and Laura pledged to Roger that "next year we will build redwood boxes with screens, since there are so many gophers and moles living on the west side of Twin Peaks." Ah, dahlia diplomacy reaps again!

DUES DUE:

Dues for DSC remain at the remarkably low price of merely \$10 because so many people devote so many of their efforts without billing DSC. For this modest cost, you receive 12 great meetings and programs a year; 12 informative e-newsletters; invitation to our tuber sale, annual show/competition, our annual picnic, and the big DigOut. If you care to join the American Dahlia Society as well, it costs \$24 for individuals and \$27 for families. You receive quarterly ADS Bulletins, the 2012 ADS Classification Book (box scores for all dahlias exhibited last year), and members-only access to special areas on the ADS Official Website. Please bring your application and check to the next meeting or mail to Joe Norton, 46 Seward St. SF CA 94114.



DIGOUT 2012:

DIGOUT 2012: Mark your calendars: January 7 and 8 from 9 AM until dark at the Dahlia Dell. Bring an extra change of clothes (lots of water involved in processing), boots, gloves, dividing tools, ADS Classification Book, hat, grubbies (much mud and some bleach imperil fancy clothes), and something yummy to share for power snacks or lunch or drinks. Learn or teach the arts of digging, cleaning, transporting, dividing, bleaching, or labeling while having terrific filthy fun and hobnobbing with other dahliaphiles.

VISITING BLOOMERATI:

LA Dahlia Prez, Bob Papp, recently toured several dahlia gardens in the Bay Area. Devorah's Cabrillo Sidewalk Garden blew Bob away. He loved her Rolf, HH. Cotton Candy and Wyn's Ghostie. Lavish praise earned him an invitation to Devorah's amazing back yard with roses, lilies, tomatoes and, yes, more dahlias. Glorious weather made the trip down Hwy 1 yet more fabulous to reconnoiter Mike and Martha's 400 milk crates full of AA's and A's. Their Mingus Julies, Show 'n Tells, and Mingus Chad E's waived proudly next to the chicken coops and giant pumpkin patch. After checking out the Pupp's brick terraces and integrated fertigation system, Roger returned the favor by getting in over his ears at the Dahlia Dell. Lastly we visited Flora Grubb's Nursery off Third Street: brilliant urban

green chic! I loved their laminated sheet with pictures of good bugs on one side and bad bugs on the other— handy to have when encountering creepies in the Dell. Flora features a 55' hanging wall with sun-loving plants on one side and shade lovers on the other side. Ah, ain't inter-society cross pollination fine!



DECEMBER DECISIONS:



I have just decided which dahlias I'm going to dig up and which I'm going to leave in over the winter. I'll be placing big pots over the tops of those destined to be "sophomores" next year. Those with utterly wussy stems or mostly open centers get relegated to the compost pile; they will NOT go to our tuber sale in April. I am also noting which of three clumps of the same cultivar I will save for myself to regrow. The Pennhill Watermellons, CG Sparkles, Powder Puff Polkas, Nenekazis, Belle of the Balls, Inland Dynasties and Fern Irene's continue to produce show quality blooms into deep November. But Jessica! Wow! Whether in Lou, Pat, Tinnie's or my section, the Jessicas just continue pumping out perfect specimens! They definitely will be invited back to the party next year. Continue to collect some fat seed heads to try your hand at seedlings next year. My local Martha Brothers Coffee House has



begun saving milk cartons for me. Orlando has gotten used to hearing me staple and slash them on collection evenings. I pot up some of my favorite tubers as soon as I dig them up. They slumber up in my loft by Christmas time, perchance to sprout in January, starting the cycle over again. If you are just lopping down, harken to advice from Kevin Larken, "When cutting back your dahlias, try to cut to a solid stalk.

It doesn't always work, as many stalks are hollow all the way down, but most have a region that is solid within a few inches of the soil. For those with a hollow stalk all the way down cut them



back and poke a hole in the stalk at ground level to allow excess moisture to drain.” A darning needle or big nail works great. Also check out U-Tube for videos of digging out and dividing. Once you have dug up all your tubers, start adding compost, leaves, and/or chicken manure. Plant a cover crop of fava beans, hairy vetch or even sweet peas!

Yours in Dirt,
Deborah



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Originally Organized
In 1917
In San Francisco

Dahlia was adopted as the
Official Flower of San Francisco
On October 4, 1926
By its Board of Supervisor

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**Wishing you had access to the past 12 months of
dahlia doings? [Click here for past newsletters](#)**

[Click here for 2011 National Show Results](#)

