



PAM HOWDEN  
Form: Waterlily



Nico Purple

**NEXT MEETING:** June 9, 2009 at 7:30 PM on 9<sup>th</sup> Ave and Lincoln Ave. Program: Dr. Virginia Walbot, Stanford professor, will share her fascinating discoveries about dahlia genetics and color. This is the one to bring your friends to! Share your extra tubers and cuttings with your fellow DSCers. This will be the last meeting opportunity to scarf up great plants this season. A disbudding, pinching out, deleafing and deadheading clinic will take place at the Dahlia Dell at 6:30 PM with Deborah.

**BETTER DAHLIA PHOTOGRAPHS:** Many times winners of ADS Photo Contests, DJ and Peg gave us insights into both what makes a good photo and what makes an ADS winner (not always the same aesthetic). Besides the \$20 for First place, \$10 Second and \$5 Third, ADS awards very cool medals which DJ passed around. In 2008, 339 photos were submitted by 19 entrants. For 2009 only digital pictures will be accepted for consideration by ADS. However, for the 4 Bay Area Dahlia Competitions, only printed and matted pix can be submitted. Both DJ and Peg say they try to always carry their cameras because photo ops abound in the strangest places. Driving around San Francisco one day, DJ spied a great dahlia hedge and snapped what became a winning shot. Peg caught Lou Paradise up close judging an alluring dahlia and captured another winner. With 9 categories and 4 submission per categories and the fact that they're all on-line submissions, DSC photographers should FLOOD ADS with great entries. Here are the classes:

1. Introductions or undisseminated : Intros from the past two growing seasons or unnamed seedlings. Only one variety in pic and petals should not extend beyond picture edge. Dahlia MUST BE IDENTIFIED
2. Dahlia Portraits: an single dahlia listed in present CLASSIFICATION HANDBOOK or past ADS handbooks. Again only one variety and petals not to extend beyond edge—your basic mug shot, in other words.
3. Blooms of two or more varieties: MUST BE IDENTIFIED.
4. Dahlia Garden: id location and people if any.
5. Dahlia Shows and Clubs: pix of club events or dahlia exhibitions—id recognizable individuals and location of club.
6. Macro View: close-up of part of dahlia bloom or plant; may include insect or other interesting elements relating to dahlia culture.
7. Kids & Critters: dahlia must be present—id kid or crit.
8. Digital Darkroom: please specify technique and program used. (DJ showed Franck Avril's stunning Parchisi photo with different dahlias in place of the marbles.)
9. Dahlia Personalities: any clearly recognizable individuals qualify, so long as their relationship to dahlia culture is identified with the image.

(Numbers 6, 7, and 8 had the most entries.)





Barbara Swanson suggests viewing from another angle, for example the backs of dahlias or looking up from below through the petals to the sky. Barry has joined a photography club where they judge pix every month; he says they've not only trained his eye but also taught him several great Photoshop techniques. Now go out there and TAKE SOME PICTURES!



Fred checks out dahlias for sale



Barry at National Watercolor show



David sending victory



**GENEROSITY OF FRIENDS:** Thanks to DJ for bringing in yet another big basket of delicious home-grow Grn lemons. Gustatory graciousness to Marilyn for her yummy banana chocolate loaf and to Baker Bill for his decadent chocolate cream pie. John innovatively contributed two bottles of fortified libations in addition to his lovely schwartzkopf aeoniums. To tantalize our palates, the Dingwalls donated cookies. And Pat (as she always does) shared chocolate English biscuits. Green thanks to Devora for her lovely cuttings and to Deborah for her dahlia plants. Soc's and Franks tubers sold quickly. Special thanks to Mary for her lovely donation to the well being of DSC in the memory of her husband Carl.

**2011 NATIONAL SHOW IN BAY AREA!**

President Tinnee announced that the 2011 National Show will be held at the Santa Clara Marriot August 18-21. We need ideas for one or two tours around the Bay Area: private gardens, public gardens, floral factories??? Please share your inspired suggestions with Tinnee, Deborah, Gerda or Lou. Washington to man Dan's Dahlias.

**SOCAL BUZZ:**

South Coast President Bob Papp reports that he's been giving lots of dahlia lectures, planting at the South Coast Botanical Garden, the Long Beach Veteran's Hospital and a local mental rehabilitation facility. Taking advantage of LAND, he's embarked on a major seedling adventure.



**DAHLIA DELL DOINGS:**

Wow! First dahlia blooms before June—just amazing to see so much happening already in the Dahlia Dell. Thanks to Vince and David who valiantly dug a lot of holes and to Pat who braved heat stroke to plant during our Dog Days of unusual temperatures. Devora initiated Kathy into planting and labeling. Winner of 2008's Best Junior Bloom, David, has been helping his father plant in cages as protection from gobbling gophers.



**IN MEMORIAM:**

We have lost a dear friend and a very valuable member of our society. Jytte Rasmussen passed away on May 13, 2009, after many difficult months battling her illness. Spending time with her we witnessed the stoic and graceful way she handled the problems as they arose, with the help and loving care from George and her family. Our thoughts are with them during this difficult time. AS most of you know, Jytte "wore many different hats. " Her most time-consuming jobs were: taking care of the ADS memberships, tallying the show results, and editing the newsletter. She found time to do so many other tasks, and did them expertly and without fanfare. We miss her so much. Gerda.



**JUMPING UP JUNE:**

At last! First blooms appear. One of the hardest chores is pinching out the first bud. Usually the first bud will appear with two smaller buds at the sides and a pair of leaves. Pinch out all three buds and both leaves down to the stem to where the next set of leaves appears. Pinching (or stopping in dahlia lingo) sends all that energy that would have gone into the first flowers back into making a stronger, heartier plant. Your dahlia will be bushier and better shaped. Were you to leave the bud on, probably the bloom would be very crotch bound on a short stem. When you get your second flush of buds, disbud the two flanking buds leaving only the central, biggest bud to flourish. This yields a significantly larger bloom on a



Remove two side buds



Crotch bound bloom

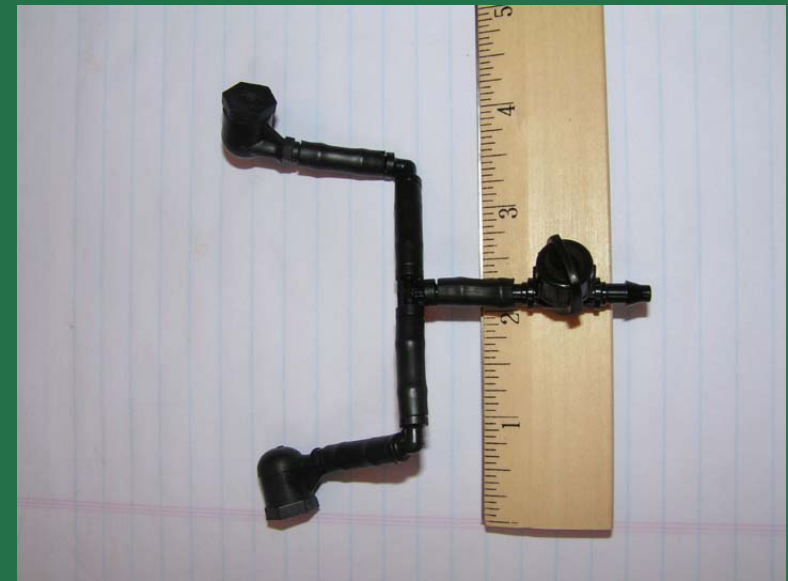
longer, stronger stem. Truly. When it comes time to harvest your bloom (or deadhead when the bloom is spent) pay careful attention to where you cut it off. You want to go beneath the two leaves which accompany your bloom down to NEW GROWTH. If you just cut off the flower before its accompanying two leaves, you will have brown scraggy plants by August.

Watering becomes a finer art now. Watch your plants: they will tell you when they want water because they will droop ever so little. Dahlias like to be very wet and then very dry to put down deeper roots. In hot areas like Novato, East Bay and San Mateo, shade cloth and/or misters make a huge difference lowering the temperature and raising the humidity.



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Phillip reports a satisfying wake of dead earwigs after liberally plying his munched plants with Super Sluggo Plus which is an "organic" way to deal with earwigs, snails and slugs. He further gloats that since he played his burgeoning buds with Super Bloom (N low; Potassium sky high; Phos. Medium) his bushes seemed to robustly thrive as he watched. My Secret Garden has been plagued by a writhe of wee green caterpillars. So I mixed a cocktail of insecticide (I use Malethion), fungicide (I prefer Monterey Fungi Fighter), and a general fertilizer (Miracle Grow or any water soluble balanced fertilizer) deployed via my 3 gallon backpack sprayer. I'll spray a second time a week later. Safe spraying tactics include dousing early in the morning without wind and suiting up with hat, gloves, boots, long sleeves and a respirator. Afterwards, throw your clothes immediately in the laundry and jump in your shower. I have started to tie my taller plants to stakes. Debora uses the Corralitos/Morton method: she ties strings horizontally 10" high from one end of her row to the further end. In time she will add another string horizontally at 24" 36" and even 48" if necessary. This effectively provides a dahlia corral.



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Yours in Dirt, *Deborah*



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