



**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, July 13 @ 7:30 @ 9th and Lincoln.

**PROGRAM** - Mike Pettinari, master composter, will dig deeply into building composters, brewing compost tea, worm composting and he'll bring examples! Deborah will give a disbudding, deadheading and deleafing hands-on seminar from 6:15 to 6:45 at the Dahlia Dell. Who will bring yummys to share?



**PARTNERSHIP EXPLICATED:**



Maria DeAngelo welcomed DSC under the umbrella of the Parks Trust non-profit 501C-3 tax status. Now donors of money or "in kind" will receive letters from the Parks Trust for tax purposes. "In kind" donations would include a web designer donating time to help rebuild our website. While no money would be exchanged, the web designer could still receive a tax credit for a donation in the amount of his/her typical hourly rate. Likewise if a company donated a lot of fertilizer or other garden products, that company

would be able to get a tax deduction for these "in kind" presents. We will also be able to add a credit card debiting for generous visitors to our website. Dr. Erik announced that an anonymous donor has already gifted DSC with \$2500. The Parks Trust receives a one-time 5% administrative fee for keeping track of each donation and cuts checks which DSC requests to pay for our meeting room rent, our show costs, our ribbons and especially for our ADS National Show in 2011. Meanwhile, the money that we have accrued over almost a hundred years as DSC, remains ours, in the DSC checking account and is NOT subject to the 5% administration charge.

**HEAVY AND SQUAT:**

Search the local thrift shops and garage sales for heavy containers which Big Dahlias would not topple. The shorter the vase the more likely you could exhibit with the first two leaves ABOVE the container lip. Devorah and Elsie swear by arrangers' clay to affix a frog to the vase thereby allowing one to transfer the frog later. Deborah uses aquarium cement which is permanent. As your dahlias begin blooming, try out arrangements using a water theme, an Asian whiff, something tall; in other words, begin practicing for the arrangement categories of our show in August. You do NOT have to grow your own arrangement flowers and you are allowed (even encouraged) to use non-dahlia foliage.



### **GENEROSITY OF FRIENDS:**

Thanks to Ron and Joann for their yummy chocolate cake and to Devorah for her scrumptious Blueberry Danish. Pat's cookies complimented Francine's lumpia: masarap! Thanks to Deborah for bringing in the calcium nitrate in baggies which she sold for \$1 each. DSCers scooped up her milkcartoned dahlias. John's house plants disappeared to new homes. Franck arrived with magnificent posters to tout our August Floribunda. Wow!

### **ABOUT BLOOMING TIME!:**

Naturally the time it takes a dahlia to progress from bud to bloom varies depending on the temperatures, soil, and type of dahlia. Below are approximate estimates for your anticipation:

“A” sized formal & Informal Decorative 30 to 32 days

“A” Sized Semi Cactus 27 to 29 days

“A” Sized Cactus 26 to 28 days

“B” sized formal & Informal Decorative 28 to 30 days

“B” Sized Semi Cactus 25 to 27 days

“B” Sized Semi Cactus 22 to 25 days

Smaller dahlias use less time.

### **DAHLIA DELL DIRT:**

The rains have flushed out early blooms at our Dahlia Dell. Pat and Kathy worked on their Munchken border, with Elise and Granville pumping out adorable peonies. Dick dug gopher-cage size holes on the hillside. Thanks to Devi's discussions with the Park Signage people, stern admonitions warn would-be terrace trampers. Deborah appreciates Sweet Sue and Devorah disbudding and deadheading amidst mist or heat. Handyman Orlando tackled the stove-in lid of the green box where we store gardening equipment, installing not

only a new and improved cover, but sturdy hinges and internal shelving as well. DSC Volunteers are wonderful!



**More volunteer action and the fruits of their labors**



Elvira



Ruskin Andrea

**2010 SHOW SCHEDULE:**

San Leandro	Aug. 7-8	San Leandro Library
San Francisco Conference Show!	Aug. 21-11	9th and Lincoln, Golden Gate Park
Monterey	Sept. 4-5	Soquel High School
John Stowel SJ	Sept. 11-12	Westgate Mall, 1600 Saratoga Ave

**YOU BE THE JUDGE:**

Our combined societies offer a judging seminar Saturday, July 31 from 9-4:30-ish. Church of Christ, 601 MacArthur Boulevard, San Leandro, 94577. Whether you show or not, take advantage of this FREE seminar to learn so MUCH more about your amazing dahlias and how to appreciate them. Please let John Morton know you are coming: (510) 276-0530.



## JUBILANT JULY:



Rembrant

Wow! Finally a bunch of blooms! Remember to cut your dahlias back to the next new growth. If you do not snip this far back, pretty soon you will have a brown stick with no more flowers. IMMEDIATELY put cut stems in water. Cut @ 1/8" every couple days and your dahlias should last 7-8 days indoors. Deadhead spent blooms back to new growth, too. All this rain has made optimal circumstances for butterflies and moths; I have never seen so many ravenous caterpillars of all ilks before. As soon as you see a leaf hole, check the back for these voracious villains. Using a systemic insecticide will dampen their enthusiastic orgies. If you are really plagued, spray with a cocktail of malathion, fungicide

and fertilizer. As my clumps set bud, I switch to a superbloom fertilizer where the middle number is very high (eg 10-55-15); I use liquid Schultz or Peter's. Disbud the extra side buds leaving just a single bloom per stem with it's first pair of leaves. Many areas have been hit with sweltering temperatures. Three helpful hints here: 1) Water both early am and late pm 2) Add an umbrella or shade cloth over your dahlias to lower the heat and hold the moisture in 3) Add misters to the tops of some of your stakes. These only need to go off for 5-10 seconds every hour to bring the temperatures down and the humidity up. Serge in Novato used both shade cloth and misters with triple digit temps for over 45 days thereby winning Best Novice Bloom. Do you have scraggling dahlias? Not growing strong and erect? Mishapen and hunched? Consistent open centers on supposedly fully double dahlias? When in doubt—throw it out! By pass the compost and toss these questionables straight into the trash. Replace with healthier specimens. As your dahlias begin to bloom, check the flower against the label with the ADS Classification Book. Update your garden map and xl grid.



Platinum Blonde

Yours in Dirt,

*Deborah*

Dahlia Society of California, Inc., San Francisco, CA -- Copyrighted

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

Editor: Deborah Dietz  
Page layout: Mike Willmarth  
Photo credits: Dietz

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