



NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 12 April @7:30 @ 9th and Lincoln

PROGRAM: Erik G. presents his marvelous slide show of a Year of Dahlias—informative and humorous. Invite your friends and family. We will have more tubers, cuttings and plants for sale, too. Who will donate treats?



ONLY THE BEST!



The fatal step in Mike and Martha's journey to become commercial dahlia growers began at DSC's annual Tuber sale: Erik G. showed them around and suggested which dahlias to buy. From the original 30 in their back yard, their mania metastasized to 400 plants of 45 varieties growing in black milk crates above ground in Half Moon Bay. Early on Mike differentiated their business based on quality. They would not sell tubers or bunches or "seconds"—just their finest blooms by the stem. "Price discounting is a death spiral." Martha decided that the quality of the florist should match the quality of their flowers. So lucky SF florists receive their dahlias within 2-3 hours of being cut. Florists love weird flowers like a genetic glitch in Rolf producing one half red and one half orange. Florists also seem to prefer pastel colors that easily match with other flowers in arrangements.



In contrast, their farmers' market customers prefer the brightest and boldest of colors and snatch up Maniac, Spring Flag, Taratahi Ruby, and plenty of Show 'n' Tells. M&M love the interaction with the public, repeatedly advising them not to place their vases in the same room with avocados, apples or tomatoes which give off ethylene, an "aging" gas. M&M constantly evaluate their results and goals, looking for more efficient or more



effective ways to expedite their labor. M&M rely on Romeo's Supply in Half Moon Bay for advice for their fertigation drip system. They scout the four Bay Area Dahlia shows to decide which stunners to test grow the next season. Besides donating wonderful AA clumps back to DSC, Mike and Martha also give blooms away, for example to a Zen Hospice House or to a passing little girl or an elderly person who needs a smile. Mike and Martha love passing out floral hugs!



THE GENEROSITY OF FRIENDS:

Once again the Dingwalls brought a box to lemons to share with DSCers. If that weren't enough, they also brought cookies and biscotti. MMM. Yet again, Marilyn and Philip brought a kiln's worth of hand-crafted pots to give away. Ruth from Ft. Mason donated a basket of clementine's and luscious strawberries. Baker Bill stunned us all with a marble cake as delicious as it was lovely. Pat bestowed upon us candy chews and chocolate Florentines. Thanks to Gino for the BIG muffins. Devorah and Deborah brought lovely tubers and a couple plants for early discounted sales. DSC is especially beholden to

Baker Bill for coming early each month to open the kitchen and to Ron and Joann for cleaning and closing long after most of us have gone home to bed.



DSC TUBER AND CUTTING SALE - SATURDAY, APRIL 2:

This is our ONLY fund-raiser of the year, so we want to really do it RIGHT. On Friday, April 1, from 10:30 to noon any help setting up tables and putting out cuttings would be a godsend. On Saturday, April 2, for those volunteers on the list and those bringing tubers, doors open at 8 a.m. If we get everything sorted out in time, we'll be able to shop before the public gets in @9 am. Please bring if possible: ADS classification book, magnifying lens, bottle of ink in a pencil, your name tag, and your very finest helpful attitude. Do wear your National Show 2011 T-shirt or another dahlia T-shirt to set you apart. (We'll have them for sale on Saturday, too.) We'll have a potluck lunch afterwards to celebrate, so please bring a tasty something to share with your hard-working DSCers. Do remember that any tubers or plants that come into the auditorium are to be sold; any plants that you are swapping with pals should be exchanged in the parking lot. That way there's no confusion. CU there? For questions: Deborah: 415-826-6214 or 415-816-2118.

LOOKING FOR OTHER TUBER AND CUTTING SALES IN THE AREA:

TUBER AND CUTTING SALES: all start at 9 am.

Who	When	Where	What (to look for)
DSC	April 2	Fair Grounds Bldg. 9 th and Lincoln San Francisco	Verda Rembrant`
John Stowell	April 2	DeAnza College Flea Mart 21250 Stevens Cr. Blvd. Cupertino	Camano Sitka Midnight Star
Monterey	April 9	Deer Park shopping Center Rio del Mar Blvd Aptos	Taratahi Ruby Wheels
San Leandro	April 30	Root Park 900 block E. 14 th St. San Leandro	Embrace Pooh

BEST OF THE BEST:

What was the name of the Best of Show - Double Small at the San Francisco Court of Honor last year? How about the Novelty Open at the Monterey Bay Court of Honor? Or the top AA at the 2010 Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference?

[Click here to find these answers and more, plus figure out what you need to plant now to end up in this year's Court of Honor.](#)

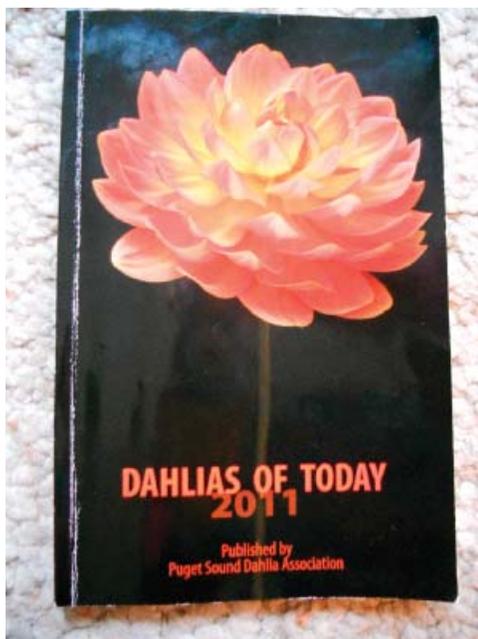
CREATIVE CUTTING CLASS: (Exclusive report from DJ Eckelbarger)

Lou Lombardo once again led his cutting workshop March 6th in order to help generate plants for our annual sale. Lou went over the difference between a "tip" and "stem" cutting demonstrating each. (Tips coming from the top of the plant and stems wherein the stem is cut in half with a leaf on either side.) Before 2:00 PM we had four trays of fresh new cuttings finished and ready to go in the greenhouse, all 128 of them. Be sure to look for the cuttings at the sale April 2nd!



D.O.T. INCLUDES BAY AREA INTROS:

The once-a-year slick publication, Dahlias of Today, out of Washington features an article from Deborah about the Bay Area Dahlia Scene. She highlights cultivars originated here that deserve to be disseminated more widely throughout the world: Bode, Wild West, Starring, Juul's Amber, Elfin, and Arena's Sunset among others. The article includes terrific photos from Peg and Deborah.



BEACH PARTY! PSW CONFERENCE: (Exclusive report from Barry and Marcia Hart)

The 2011 Conference was held at the Beach Resort which overlooked Monterey Bay... what a view! Kevin Larkin and John Morton conducted most of the introductory business. Lou Paradise talked about our upcoming National Dahlia Show that we will be hosting in August and showed us the large stand-up banner that he received from ADS. Marilyn Masurat showed us pictures of the venue for the National Show. Both before and after the National Show, there will be bus tours to dahlia growers and tourist attractions in the Bay Area. There will be people coming from as far away as Australia and we want to show them a good time. Several people volunteered to house people after the show so that they could get in additional sightseeing before heading home Down Under. (If you are interested, call Deborah 415 826 6214) Putting on a national show requires a lot of manpower... all volunteer, of course. There are still places for all of us to help.



There were seven societies present at the conference. It's always interesting to hear what's going on around the state. One common thread was the dropping off of memberships and the difficulty of getting members to actively participate. As with most organizations, there is always a core group that seems to do everything. Somehow, we need an injection of youthful members in our clubs. So how do we do that? Pat Cunningham reluctantly dissolved the LA Society he's presided over for over 50 years and rolled it into the South Coast Society.



BEACH PARTY! PSW CONFERENCE (continued)



John Morton presents some of last year's winning medals

The evening began with our excellent banquet. During the banquet, John Morton presented some special medallions to some of last year's conference winners. Along with the banquet, the evening's festivities included a raffle and a silent auction. Two of the walls of the room were lined with tables covered with raffle items and then there were several tables with items for the silent auction. The lottery ended with quite a few orchid plants donated by Ozzie. Luggage carts were



George Lucchese



Barry and Marcia Hart, Leslie Servin and Roy Stier

BEACH PARTY! PSW CONFERENCE (continued)

And the winners were -



Passing out the winnings



Leslie Servin and her loot



Frank Schulkin and his loot



David Jossely and his loot



Sharon Lucchesi and her loot

BEACH PARTY! PSW CONFERENCE (continued)

We met again the next morning to take care of some more conference business. Then Roy Stier spoke to us about growing dahlias in the '30's with his father... some things are the same, but a lot has changed, too.



Bob Papp
South Coast

The meeting ended with a discussion about next year's Conference. It's the South Coast Dahlia Society's turn to host it, but the membership there is very small...so someone said that we could just have it again next year in Monterey.

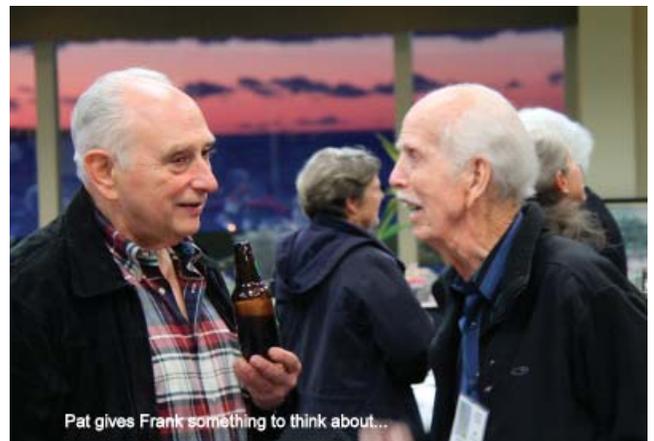
I'm for that... any excuse to go to Monterey...a chance to talk dahlias with old and new friends and, of course, I'll expect another beautiful sunset!



Roy Stier
John Stowell



Chris, Andrew and Curtis



Pat gives Frank something to think about...

[Click here more more photos from this year's Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference.](#)



Gerald Lohman
San Diego County

NATIONAL SHOW WEBSITE LIVE!

Check out our ads2011.org, it's up and running. If you have some suggestions to add to other things to do in the Bay Area before or after the big ADS floribunda, let Deborah know.

HALLS OF HEDDON DAHLIAS

What's more fun than ordering new dahlias never seen in the Bay Area? Our most English Patricia delighted in her box full from Britain, almost all pot roots with lovely eyes. Since the English system of nomenclature and sizing is different, she simply chose wonderful names and colors she adored. We all look forward to these new and foreign beauties.



AT LAST APRIL!

Finally time to plant! Yes, you can plant tubers directly in the ground, but I don't recommend it. Most dahlias need between 62-68 degrees to germinate. Ask yourself how long it will take for your dirt to get that warm? Rather I recommend putting your tubers in a bit of dirt in a warm window and letting them grow a few leaves and a bunch of roots. Have you set up your drip system yet? Before planting anything, make sure you have fertilizer and snail/slug/earwig eradicators. These voracious wretches will turn your finest plant into expensive salad overnight. I like to use a balanced fertilizer (all the numbers the same, like 10-10-10) and bone meal is a nice treat, too. Do place your stake in BEFORE you put your dahlia in the hole to avoid impalement. Label immediately. Watering is dicey in the beginning: tubers require NO water but cuttings need a little sprinkle EVERY DAY. The reason tubers need NO watering is that they have no roots to absorb the moisture, so they will just turn to mush. However, the cuttings have new, very thin rootlets, which must drink often. Obviously if it rains, the cuttings are happy, but what to do about the tubers? Why not place a 5 gallon black pot over your buried tuber to act as an umbrella from the rain as well as a mini warmer-upper? Do give generously to your beloved DSC with your extra tubers, plants and cuttings. But remember to keep back 30% of your total estimated planting as insurance against catastrophe. For recalcitrant tubers which refuse to eye up: place them in a box or flat with a damp (not wet!) towel over them in a warm (not hot) spot, (for example, by the water heater or a sunny window). Last but not least, come to our tuber sale and get some new beauties to delight you and your friends for the whole season!

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](#)