



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

PROGRAM: Booka Alon worms us up with vermiculture and novices wow us with NOVICE ONLY Mini Show. You are allowed 2 different entries into each: AA, A, B, BB, Min, WL, ST, P, MBa, Ba, S, Col, O, Ms, An, Nx, and NxO as well as x3 of one kind and x5 of one kind. Please come early to be all staged by 7:30. This is a great opportunity to practice set-up for THE BIG SHOW on Aug. 20-21. Pri\$es for first, second and third. Who will bring yummies to share?



DAHILIA SHOW 101:

The winner of many great prizes at past shows, DJ demonstrated showmanship craft. Earlier in the day, DJ purchased a heavy and short container at a nearby thrift store and rust-proof pin frogs at Michaels (2 for \$3). In front of us, DJ permanently attached one of the pin frogs to the vase using aquarium or acrylic cement.

Last but not least, he wrote a name on the bottom of the container with a UniPaint Pencil—waterproof and permanent. Prince Valiant x1 and x3 looked fabulous-- so fabulous that DJ gave them away to deserving admirers. DJ and Frank allowed others to practice staging flowers in their extra vases to get the hang of it.



DSC show entry tags



GENEROSITY OF FRIENDS:



Thanks to Baker Bill for a 2-layer chocolate coconut cake, late-season tubers and assorted pots. Thanks to Pat for cherries and home-grown plums. Gino contributed Sock it to Me Cake. Thanks to DJ and John D. for donating potted succulents. How we enjoyed the new seedlings from Tinnee and the glorious blooms from Deborah. People went home with colorful dahlias and smiles.



PRIVATE GARDEN TOURS OPPORTUNITY:

There are still a few seats available for the Friday, August 19, tour of two private gardens, one of which is totally organic and one where the owner-designed house epitomizes optimal California living including its wonderful dahlia garden. Friday also takes you to the famous Corralitos Dahlia Ranch and through the Kitayama Nursery, including their hydroponic gardens and shipping areas. The whole thing including bus ride from 8 AM to 5 PM is only \$40. The Monday August 22 tour also leaves the Santa Clara Marriott at the same time, stops at our glorious Golden Gate Park Dahlia Dell, Deborah's charming Cabrillo Playground Garden, and then over the bridge to Paula Jaffe's magnificent Tiburon paradise where she grows a hundred dahlias interspersed with 3000 other plants. Such a deal at only \$35! Call Marilyn now to reserve your seats: 408-259-9223 or call Deborah 415-816-2118 with any questions.

BAY AREA DAHLIA SHOW SCHEDULE:

Who	Where	When
San Leandro	San Leandro Library 114th St	Aug. 6-7
San Francisco	NATIONAL SHOW Santa Clara Marriott Hotel	Aug. 18-22
Monterey Bay	Soquel High School	Labor Day Weekend

PITCHFORK DAHLIA FARM:

Tucked in the bowl of the Santa Monica Mountains and right around the corner from Long Beach, the biggest shipping nexus on the west coast, nestles the San Pedro Math and Science Center. John Zalvalney, the only science teacher in the entire LA school system NOT to teach in a classroom, has long run a refuge for confiscated animals. Since January, Mud Baron applied his sweat, \$5000, and donations in kind of over \$4 million to



add the flora to John's fauna. Mud contacted Harry Risetto, past ADS president, who sent the call out for tuber donations. John Ensminger, Verrone's Pride of the Prairie Dahlias, The Rochester Dahlia Society, Lo-baugh's Dahlias, Jerry Moreno, Helen Callen, Burel & Shirley Bankston Dahlias and Elkhart Dahlia Society all responded with terrific roots. Students from the LA High School Culi-



nary Arts Program as well as kids from the Floral Education Classes helped plant the tubers either in 3 gallon buckets or in 50 foot mounded raised beds. What gloriously organized chaos these running mounds were! As we examined the dahlias emerging through rampant artichokes and exuberant green and scarlet amaranthus, we tasted sweet-sour sorrel, munched on pickle weed, and savored the Thai and African blue basil, all chased down by squirtingly warm Sun-



gold tomatoes. Accompanying us, Alice Waters, a red hen, searched out and gobbled up snails and slugs. DucDuc, the Moscowy Duck who resembles a red warty goose, cozied up to us demanding to be picked up and loved a bit, giving another definition to Hands-on farming.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION:

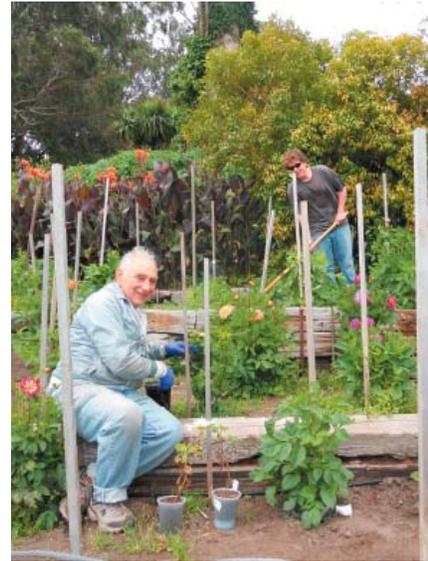
Thousands of urban kids have field tripped through this 3 ½ acre oasis in the Cement City. “They eat this stuff up!” enthused Mud. Some of the students helped pick, arrange and sell crazy mixed bouquets at various events. “Giving away flowers reminds us about our humanity,” suggested Mud. Passing the Samoan Church Community Garden and the Tongan Prayer Circle, we fed the Shetland pony tomatoes and the goats luscious weeds. We entered the fowl yard to glean warm eggs from nest boxes whilst the turkey paraded his stuff for us. Across from the hanging wall of Woolpockets, we stepped into John’s sactum sanctorum, the reptile room. Wow! Iguanas of all colors, chameleons of any color they want to be, turtles, snakes, snakes, snakes, and a huge horny lizard toad who liked sitting in my warm hands. Catching the corner of my eye, bins of sand appeared to hump and sink. Humongous mealy worms awaiting their fate as reptilian dinner delights, produce gourmet worm casing amendment for the garden. Kids pot up kilos of donated seeds and plugs of herbs. On the first Saturday of each month, educators from LA schools, master gardeners and youth groups come to choose supplies for their education gardens elsewhere. “We want to give inspired teachers all the tools” to inspire their students says Mud. One of his goals is to have every child recognize a dahlia, thereby planting the seeds for a new generation of ADS fanatics.



DAHLIA DELL DOINGS:

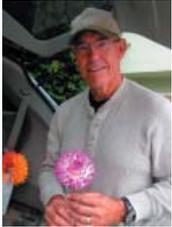
That little heat spell bedazzled the Dell goosing blooms and buds galore. Thank goodness we had plenty of volunteers like Mary Ann and Sue who deadheaded and disbudded for hours. Soc helped dig up crummy plants, replant resplendent Inland Dynasties from Paula, and dig a big compost pit. David

pulled buckets of weeds while chatting with his papa on the hillside. How does Lou get anything done, so politely answering the gazillion questions from the public? Let your friends know that Deborah will give a docent tour of the Dell Saturdays August 13 and 27 at noon. Free.



DAHLIA GARDENS HITHER AND YON:

DJ reports that Baresford Park blooms are in full spate. He's particularly fond of Lorona Dawn NXO which he claims, "Will give that Betty Boop a run for it!" Check out his Alpen Pearl. Mike Schelp flashed me his spectacular Rolfs and Stillwater Brilliants and gave me a preview of the new Barberpole, an bi r/w, and AC Bevin, BB db pr/w. Zowie!



CURIOS ABOUT CABRILLO PLAYGROUND?

Devorah reports that three quarters of her Cabrillo Playground is beginning to bloom. She's been "fer-tigating with Romeos 24-12-12 water soluble fertilizer which is hooked into a quick-coupler then into my drip irrigation system in the Dahlia Garden. The water from the quick-couple flows into the container through the black tube, mixes with the fertilizer and flows into the drip system through the clear tube. I got the fertilizer injector at the Urban Farmer Store." EZ-Flo Automatic Fertilizer Injectors feed through a garden hose, drip system, or after the irrigation zone, every time you water. It can be connected after any valve on an existing sprinkler or drip irrigation system as long as the unit is only under pressure while it is operating. Gardeners have long loved this unit for its ability to feed their flowers, trees and shrubs without constantly refilling the tank. Hose bib and drip units come in three tank sizes. Her Hollyhill Cotton Candy is fabulous as is Crazy4Jessie (the colors are super). AC Rooster is looking good too. The neighbors like San Francisco Sunrise and Porcelain and of course, everyone is wowed by Rolf. Bobby H loves Alpen Fury. Drive by 39th and Cabrillo for a gander.



IN TUSTIN TOWN DID JON DIETZ A STATELY DAHLIA DOME DECREE:

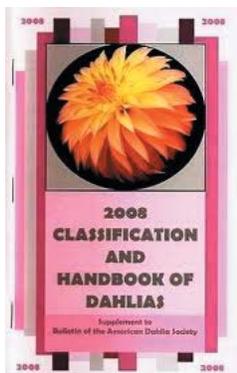
With apologies to Coleridge, Jon's latest Dahlia Pleasure Dome demanded poetry. Down in SoCal the sun shines brightly. So Jon researched geodesic domes to build himself a shade house. Discovering that the connectors for his pvc pipes were poor, Jon designed better ones. His 24' diameter and 14 1/2' high dome-estication is draped by a \$60 military surplus parachute. Inside, Orlando mounted a ring of misters. "We've achieved Costa Rica!"

Jon exulted. Indeed his dahlias, bromiliads and antheriums love it. Growing over 100 dahlia clumps, Jon loves taking vases of dahlias everywhere. His connecting hubs or a whole geodesic dome kit in any size are available at sonostarhub.com.



SHOW ESSENTIALS:

To show 3 or more specimens at our National Show consider packing the following: clean, water-proofed vases with pin frogs, watering pail, show schedule, pencil, ADS Classification Book, towels and scissors. Optional but really useful: pre-printed exhibit tags, really comfy shoes, Floralite or other bloom extender, your National Show T-shirt and naturally, a camera. Plan to spend twice the time you think you need for both set up AND clean up. Do save your extra blooms for arrangers to use. Remember it just takes one superb bloom to win BEST IN SHOW!



ALL GLORIOUS AUGUST!

When will your garden peak? While August and September yield the finest dahlias, judicious dead-heading and prudent spraying will keep your crop looking excellent through most of November. Always dead head down to new growth—usually well below the matching pair of leaves. Try to clip a blossom BEFORE it begins losing petals; the colorful trash at best slimes the leaves below, and worse, can attract bugs and bacteria. Clean out the bottom of your plant NOW: take the emerging laterals from the immediate 2-6" of your stalk (depending on how large your plant is). These laterals grow fast, develop buds—and break off! ACK! Save yourself the heartbreaking tsuris and conduct all the plant's energy into FLOWERS not broken boughs. Practice dahlia bondage; secure your dahlias to stakes. Alternatively, build sturdy corrals as Corralitos and John Morton do. Tie twine from outside stake to outside stake 18" and again @ 36" until you have the whole row contained in a string holding pattern. Bob Papp and the Clearview folks use a net mesh which they run parallel to the ground at the 18" and 36" heights. Dahlias and leaves grow up through the holes in the plastic screen and are safely held in place but easy to cut. I just spotted my first aphids. Both the green and black aphids can be eradicated with insecticide. Greener solutions include Safer brand spray or a couple tablespoons liquid dishwashing soap in a quart spray bottle, suffocating the nasty suckers. When there is a huge infestation isolated on one or two stems, do what Lou P does, and simply snip the encrusted areas off and throw them away. Aphids and caterpillars are disease and virus vectors, so you really want to stay ahead of them. Devorah reports that Romeo's in Half Moon Bay carries Hoist for mildew, but you have to buy @\$100 worth, even with your DSC 10% discount. Go in with a couple pals. Enter the novice-only mini show. Remember that you need the first leaf pair showing over the edge of the vase and allow double the amount of time you think you need for set up. Do fill out entry forms. (click here to download). Class A is x1; Class B is x3; and Class C is x5. Your entries delight everyone and educate most of us. Go ahead—JUST DO IT! Check out the on-line National Show schedule for the photography classes, too ads2011.org. Snap some pix and plan to enter them, too. This is THE NATIONAL SHOW as well as THE CONFERENCE SHOW, so that means a much bigger audience, snazzier ribbons, and more medals. Start giving bouquets away. Add some rosemary, sage or basil to your bundle for aroma. Create smiles wherever you carry dahlias!

Yours in Dirt,

Deborah

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