



NEXT MEETING: 8 December, @ 6:30 @ 9th and Lincoln.

PROGRAM - Holiday Party! An hour earlier, we'll start at 6:30 instead of 7:30. Please bring a delicious dish to share with your hungry DSCers as well as a wrapped package for our inimitable Present Predation. In the past, the gifts which were "stolen" most frequently included baskets of narcissi, dividing sets, hand blown vases, dahlia calendars, and loppers. Use your imagination for merry pilfering. In the past, DSCers have been known to dress in sparkles, colorful suspenders, and gloriously silly hats or even antlers.



DIVIDING TO MULTIPLY:

Lou Paradise recommends lopping back to 3-5 nodes above ground. Even though these nodes act like water seals to prevent rot at the crown, he suggests you also put dahlia "condoms" over the exposed ends: plastic bags, Saran Wrap, or tin foil. After lopping, don't dig up for at least 2 weeks to give the plant time to go dormant and toughen up the tuber skin. Spade straight down a full circle around your dahlia bush before



you use two shovels in a pincher fashion to pry up the clump. This cuts through roots which might cause the all important necks to break. NEVER NEVER haul out by the stalk. Always lift from UNDER the clump. Lou pointed out that our tendency is to spray the dirt off from the center outwards: WRONG. Spray the dirt off the ends of the tubers first and work you clean way to the center, thereby protecting again the tender necks from breaking from the weight of the soil. Some fanatics who want to protect finicky or expensive clumps actually dig a trench around the clump and gently spray off the top. Then they divide the clump from the top down right in the hole. Deborah allowed as how she often divides and pops in milk cartons the very same day. Many aficionados use

paste over the exposed tuber ends to further thwart rot. Let dry 24 hours and then store in vermiculite, guinea pig shavings, peat moss or even shredded newspapers. Store in a cool not cold place such as under the house or in the garage.



[Click here for more photos from the Nov. meeting](#)

SEEDS AND STEMS:

The slate of officers and board members passed during our balloted election.

Also, congratulations to our Franck Avril for landing the card and calendar concession at the Golden Gate Conservatory. Major coup. Congrats, too, to DJ, whose late season Beresford Gardens in San Mateo prompted passersby to comment, "I've been to Filoli but you have so much finer dahlias here."

ROUNDTABLE GREENHOUSE:

Now is the last chance to collect cuttings to grow in your greenhouse for extended cuttings in the spring. Alas, now is also the time unwanted grunge creeps into the greenhouse: mildew or even spider mites. Various suggestions were proffered: heavily treat with Spinosad, Monterey Fungi Fighter, or Bayers 3 in 1. Keep your greenhouse and its occupants clean! Bring some great cuttings to our tuber sale to help out your benevolent Dahlia Society of California.

GREEN LOTTERY TICKETS:

Tinnee provided an excellent exhibit of the various stages of seed heads from those still with petals on them to brown and brittle. Lou likes to hang his seed heads upside down. Deborah puts hers in glasses of water for them to finish whatever development they might need. World famous dahlia hybridizer and winner of this year's Dudley Award for Eden Barbarosa, Lou Paradise, plants 100-150 seedlings each year 4-6" apart.



DJ, Tinnee and Lou all agree that you pluck out the dogs as you assess with critical eyes your genetic lottery results. Lou may keep less than ten to try for a second year.



Tinne's seed head progression



MILK CARTON PHILANTHROPIST:

Baker Bill has milkcartons if you need them for early germination. Contact him @ 650 871 7200. Bill brought several to give away at our meeting. Thanks too, to Dick Meyers for a whole box of Venetian blind labels. Oh so redolently wafted the scent of fresh lemons from the box the Dingwalls brought to share. DJ brought copies of the ADS Photo Contest guidelines. He reminded everyone that all entries must be sent in digitally this year. Go on—send a bunch in! Thanks to Lou and Thelma for chocolate chip cookies and to Leo for vanilla wafers. Baker Bill delighted us with a chocolate bunt cake whilst Ron and Joann brought fresh lemon bars AND brownies. Delicious thanks to all!

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DAHLIA CONFERENCE:

Feb. 13-14 DSC hosts the annual conference of all the dahlia societies in California. This is a great opportunity to meet and mingle with our Bloomerati and learn more about the aesthetics of dahlias as well as the arcane workings of ADS. Moreover, Dr. Virginia Walbot will be our keynote lecturer followed by a lovely banquet and a tremendous raffle. (If you have anything to donate to the raffle contact Erik Gaensler, Tinnee, Frank, or Deborah.) Gift bags are distributed to those registered for the Conference. If anyone has any ideas as to how to get nifty items (50 of each needed) for the bag (kindly donated by Safeway) please let Pat know and she will solicit said idea. Gardening ideas are ideal, but not necessary. E-registration form is on line, but if you need a hard copy, they will be on hand at the December meeting. Please send completed form with your check to Pat Hunter, 1440 10th avenue, San Francisco, 94122.

[[CLICK HERE](#) for the registration form. A copy can also be found on the last page of this newsletter.]

DUES DUE:

It's that time of year again. Your \$10 gets you a monthly newsletter such as this, monthly informational (and fun) meetings, and participation in our tuber sale, dahlia show, and hands-on training at the Dahlia Dell. For an extra \$20 Individual or \$23 family you join the American Dahlia Society, receive 4 quarterly Bulletins, and the all-important ADS Classification Book. Please either mail your checks to Joe Norton, 2419 15th St., SF CA 94114, or bring them to the Holiday Party in December.

VENUE INGENUITY?

Can you suggest another building where we could hold our tuber sale in April? What about where we could hold our dahlia show in August? DSC needs an alternative venue ideally with parking. Please contact Tinnee, Frank, Deborah or Pat with your suggestions and a contact person or telephone number. We really need your help with this!

FINE FINAL FLORAL FLOURISHES:

As many of you have observed, The Dell enjoyed an exceptionally long blooming season this year despite early mildew in June. As late as Nov. 14 you could spot show-quality Shea's Rainbows, Cristinas, Woodlands Merindas and Kelgai Anns. Wildwood Maries looked as good in late November as they did in late June. Spring Flag and Mingus Julie just seemed to get better. Of course some of the open varieties just kept blooming away: Stillwater Pearl, Honka, Pooh, and Glen Place at 5' tall just kept popping perfect poms. Once again Jessica and Clearview Magic made early appearances in the summer and continued to party well through Turkey Time. Such troopers! So when you plan your plot for next year, ask yourself how long do you want your dahlias to produce great flowers and choose a few of these long-season charmers.

Great late dahlias:

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to visit the DSC website and enjoy photos of some of the late-season dahlias that continue to brighten the dell and members gardens.



DORMANT OR DIGGING DECEMBER?

Whether you disinter your dahlias or leave them in the ground the nicest thing you can do for your garden right now is WEED! Every nasty weed you toss out now will prevent hundreds from flourishing when the rains commence. You may choose to plant a cover crop of anything that puts nitrogen back in the ground like hairy vetch, fava beans, or even special types of mustard seed. I have big 10-15 gallon pots over the dahlias I will leave in the ground to prevent them from getting too wet and rotting. Now is also the time to get your orders in for next year. Cruise The Big List. Get seduced by heady descriptions of must-have dahlias. Go over your wish lists. Buy a few varieties you've never seen before to delight yourself and dazzle your fellow DSCers. Talk to your friends about which commercial growers you've had success with and which ones you were concerned about. Time to cosset some cuttings in your greenhouse so that it will have several branches to make more cuttings in late January and February. Keep your greenhouse clean! Bring something utterly delicious to our Holiday Potluck and something outrageous to fan the flames of rampant thievery at our Present Predation.

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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ANNUAL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DAHLIA CONFERENCE

Saturday & Sunday February 13-14, 2010

The Dahlia Society of California is honored to host the sixty-second Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference (PSWDC). Not only will we cover conference business, discuss the ADS 2011 National show, we will also have Dr. Virginia Walbot, Professor of Biology at Stanford University as our guest lecturer. We are anticipating a fun and informative event and hope you will be able to join us.

Location: Embassy Suites San Francisco Airport, 250 Gateway Blvd, South San Francisco, CA 94080
Tel: (650) 589-3400

Room Reservations: Please call the hotel directly, mention Group code: "DSC " or "dahlia society" for our contracted rate.
Room Rate: \$109 +tax (includes happy hour on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday)
Registration per person: \$65 (includes conference attendance, lecture, dinner banquet & raffle)
Late Registration: \$75 (after Saturday Jan 23, 2010)

Schedule of Events

Saturday Feb 13, 2010 From 10am Registration
1:00 - 4:00pm PSWDC Meeting Part 1 & ADS 2011 National Show Meeting
4:00 - 5:00pm Lecture by Dr. Virginia Walbot, "Manipulating Dahlia Color with Light and Metal Ions"
5:00 - 6:30pm Happy Hour & Silent Auction
7:00 - 9:30pm Awards Banquet and Raffle
Sunday Feb 14, 2010: 7:00 - 9:00am Breakfast (\$12 for non-hotel guests)
9:00 - 12noon PSWDC Meeting Part 2

Questions & Info Deborah Dietz deborah@sfdahlia.org
Patricia Hunter hunter.pat@sbcglobal.net

Registration Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

"Home" Dahlia Society: _____

Saturday Banquet Menu (Please choose one for each attendee)

- _____ Chicken Mediterranean: Chicken breast stuffed with baby spinach & feta cheese atop orzo pasta garnished with red roasted bell peppers, with artichoke white sauce.
_____ Salmon with cilantro, lemon-caper sauce served with rice pilaf and seasonal vegetables.
_____ Vegetarian: Mixed vegetable penne pasta in red sauce.

All meals are served with a mixed green salad, dinner rolls and tea or coffee.
Dessert is a creamy, rich, chocolate mousse in a chocolate cookie crust, topped with whipped cream.

Make check payable to: Dahlia Society of California
Mail registration and check to: Pat Hunter at 1440 Tenth Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122

We at DSC wish you all the best and are looking forward to seeing you in February 2010.