



PAM HOWDEN  
Form: Waterlily



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

**PROGRAM** - ADS narrated "Delightful Dahlias" featuring the 19 forms now recognized by the American Dahlia Association. Deborah will bring pictures from the DigOut to show on the Big Screen as well as some glimpses of the National Show in Everett this past August. Bring early tubers if you have them for sale. Who will bring goodies for their hungry hoard?



We debuted our new computer projector with Frank's cd of the ADS 2010 Dahlia New Introductions compiled by Claudia Biggs. With almost 100 lovely offerings, I chose just a few to comment on. Starting with the Big Ones, Ken Greenway's Accent Paint, A ID var w/dr, grows VERY large and floriferous.

From the Meggos factory which spawned Spartacus, comes another A ID, Harvey Koop, a variegated yellow on dark red. The Kennedys introduced two pronounced IC's. (Because this is Soc's favorite form, I always check these out extra specially.) Hollyhill Cotton Candy and Hollyhill Margarita are both B IC DP, with the latter being both darker and more rambunctious. For fluffy frou frou, Mingus Kay L Fry, B LC LB w/L, just explodes like a feather tutu. A true tri-color, Daffy, BB lc Bi r/y/w, is both white tipped AND variegated and yellow and red and white and orange—a crazy combo. Aptly named, Enchantress, BB SC Bi DPK/W, indeed enchants. Our own Lou Paradise's Eden Barbarossa, BB FD R, nailed the Lynn Dudley Award. Lakeview Glow, BB IC Y, fills an under represented category and incurves quite nicely. Tahoma Alan, BB FD Wh, looks designed by a mathematician. A really fun bi-color, Misty Changeling, M FD BI RW, flashed prettily. But for unusual eye-catching color, Tahoma Tyler, MB FL Y/L, gets my vote. Two anemones danced off the screen. Garland's Enterprise, AN W, for a white dahlia actually displays a yellow "blush." Swan Island's Twilight, AN LV DB, twinkles with burning ember tubes in its center. Lastly, looking like a roused red fowl, Rooster, ST R, won the Derrill Hart Award. Tinnee and I saw it at the Trial Gardens and at its home base, Accent Dahlias; Rooster makes a lot of blooms on a 4-5' bush.



Harvey Koop



Rooster



Misty Changeling

## DIGOUT 2010

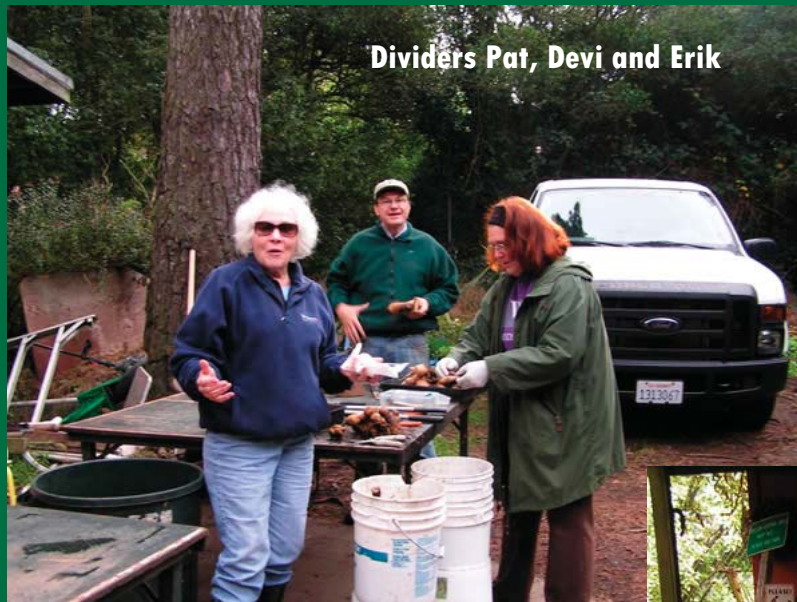
Whose brilliance chose two weeks earlier for our Golden Gate Park Dahlia Dell Annual Exhumation? Instead of the unrelenting torrents of rain that pelted down at our traditional date, the weather gods blessed us. No rain for a week previous made not only easier digging but significantly easier dirt removal from Orlando's air compressor—made necessary by a broken water main in the park. Vince and Marianne dug, while Tinnee and Sue performed in situ triage to ravaged clumps. Krystal and Nichole hauled black flats to Baker Bill's truck and Jim drove them to the Gardeners' Enclave. Bobby single-handedly whacked down tree dahlias into knuckle sections and covered trays and 4x4's of them with soil in anticipation of our Tuber and Plant sale in April.



Tin and Sue do field triage

Thanks to Vince, Erik and Deborah for coming in Thursday to dig a couple dozen clumps “to prime the dividing pump,” as Erik suggested. As soon as Dick assembled his bleach bench, he stoked up a jolly fire in the GangHouse where we could toast our chilly fingers. Craig strung shop lights over picnic tables while Frank's ipod entertained us with his DigOut medley. We sorely missed our Master Divider, Ron, and the Label Table doyen, Joann. Erik, Tinnee, Devorah, Dick, Napa Mike, and Frank reduced the hundreds of clumps to “chicken legs”

as the English call tubers. Deborah rescued too small or skinny necked tubers by planting them immediately in milk cartons which Baker Bill provided for the occasion. Hearing how short of hands we were, Annie returned to cleave and Pat's daughter Victoria and granddaughter Dani scribed alongside Shelly, Nicholas, Barry and Marcia. Prepared for arctic gale conditions, Paula presided over the spray station. Once again, Hazmat John processed the tubers through the bleach baths.



Dividers Pat, Devi and Erik

With customary zeal, Mary attacked the kitchen with her scrubbers and whipped up 2 salads to accompany our Pizza Express toothsome pies. Thanks to Pat for the delicious Russian Tea cakes, to Paula for bagels mit schemer, and to Erik for drinks galore. For afternoon relief, Mina brought a huge carafe of Indian tea---both scrumptious and hot! Truly never have so few done so much so well!



Shelly, Pat, Craig and Frank at the label table



Air compressor genius



Barry, Marcia, Vince and Mary



Hazmat John

More  
DIGOUT 2010  
Kodak moments

[Click here for even more DIGOUT 2010 photos](#)



Tree Dahlai specialist Bobby



Orlando with  
tiny treasures



Hard core  
final few

### VALENTINES FOR DAHLIAPHILES:

Please attend the Pacific Southwest Conference (PSC)! Take this opportunity to meet dahlianistas from all 7 Dahlia Societies in California. We are undersubscribed and would really appreciate your participation. Use this link to register. \$65 secures you both days (Feb. 13-14) attendance, magnificent banquet, stupendous raffle, goodie bag, and Dr. Walbot's lecture. Embassy Suites in South San Francisco offers us special room rates of \$109. Tell them you're with The Dahlia Society.

### CUTTING SEMINAR:

On March 6, 10-4 PM, @ Lakeside Presbyterian Church on the corner of Eucalyptus and 19th, Lou L. reprises his erudite hands-on seminar on how to evaluate a pot root's potential for cuttings, how to select which cuttings, wielding the scalpel, dipping the growth hormones, establishing snippets in potting medium, and securing the precious starts in "shower caps." Only 10 people get this privilege and 4 of the spots are already taken. Please call Lou to reserve your experience: 415 664 2854 or Lou@In2.com (Check out DSC enews March 2007 for other details.)

### FINALLY FEBRUARY!:

The assault of hard rain blown up from the south brought warmish temperatures and 2 of my left-in dahlias have sprouted already, necessitating prompt dusting of snail bait. So watch for early achievers; safeguard them from snails, slugs and evil ravishers like earwigs with Super Sluggo (to be green) or Cooks with earwig eradication (less green). Be liberal with your compost, spreading it up to 2" atop your beds. Try some horizontal composting: drive a bore 2-4" across down 2-4 feet. Fill the empty hole with kitchen scraps or garden leaves/grass/twigs/hearth ashes. My garbage caches disappear within 2 months. Go fishing: dahlias love fish heads, guts and fins. Tubers from DigOut have begun sprouting up in my loft. When they are 6-8" high I transfer them to my unheated greenhouse which I augment with light from midnight to 4 am. You can easily set up a small book case greenhouse or just use warm windows (check out DSC Newsletter Feb. 2004 for instructions.) Weed Weed Weed! Register to participate at Pacific Southwest Conference NOW.

Yours in Dirt,

*Deborah*

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In 1917  
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