



NEXT MEETING: 10 November, @ 7:30 @ 9th and Lincoln.

PROGRAM - LAST GASP MINI-SHOW: Multiplying by Dividing. Lou gives his outstanding demonstration of digging up and dividing dahlia tuber clumps. Alternatives to digging out dahlias will be discussed round-table style. We will vote for our new officers and Board of Directors. Who will bring goodies to share?



FINE FINAL FLEURISH:

Congratulations to Baker Bill for his Best in Show with another magnificent Nick Sr. despite the "hurricane" that ravaged San Francisco. Frank lead a "group therapy" session on more organic methods with John Gale illuminating bug arcana. The general discussion shifted to tuber storage ("how to" for the best results), with members describing their methods - making sure tubers are completely dry before storing, then using shredded paper, hamster cage stuff, keeping the clump in soil in boxes (as Pat did last year), and planting in milk cartons, vis a vis Dietz. THERE WILL BE ROT! But one can maximize precautions to minimize the slime. Ken Greenway's Accent Dahlias was cited as a good source for tubers from great stock. Corralitos Gardens was recommended for outstanding cuttings. Tinnee and



Bill's Nick Sr.

Lou L suggested using OSH premium mix (purple strip on the bottom) and adding Osmocote when dealing with cuttings. Tinnee suggested keeping the cuttings in 4" pots until they are about two feet tall before transplanting into the garden. Gustatory gratefulness to Pat Hunter for bringing Florentine cookies, to Ron & Joann for their chocolate baby cookies and to Bill for his scrumptious Poppyseed cake with pineapple. ---prepared with notes from Pat Hunter



THE FINAL FLORIBUNDA:

Monterey Bay Society provided opportunity for final flaunting of flowers at Soquel High School. Once again, Roy marched in at midnight with a gladiator stable full of Spartaci and Vassio Meggosi, handily winning Best Large with a magnificent Zorro. By nabbing Flower of the Year, Gloriosa as well as Best 5 Large, Peach Delight and Largest, Kea Magic, Roy and Bette amassed Amateur Sweepstakes. Newcomer, Christine Albrecht triumphed with Novice Sweeps. With Best Junior Bloom, Chloe captured Junior Sweeps. Kevin and Karen mounted great winners for Open Sweeps including Col, Alpen Cherub; Best x3 Large, their own Bode; and Best x3 Small, Chimacum Sam. Sharon delighted in Best Novice Bloom, Weston Pirate. Powder Puff Polka put Deborah on the head table and the crowd voted for her huge Wynn's EEEk!!! for People's Choice. At Orlando's behest, Deborah also won the Beach Party arrangement! (Indeed, 90% of winning is sometimes just showing up.) The Juuls gathered rosettes for Best St, Camano Pet; and Best x5 Open with Juul's Buttercup while their baskets wowed everyone. Most Unusual fell to DJ.



Tinee exulted with Best Small in Show, CG Paragon as well as Best Disc Centered in Show with the Bishop of Auckland. She and Curtis toasted their Best Open and Best Small seedling wins. Once again, our Lou Paradise bedecked the Court of Honor with Best B, Chimacum Julia; Best BB, Eden Barbarosa; Min, GW's Babe; P, Hallmark; WL, Bel-Fiore; MS, Matthew Juul; and Novelty, Hollyhill Spider Woman. To which he added 5 Colors and Floating Pam Howden. A new seedling from Corralitos piqued my interest, an orange blend mini ball. People noted B C section winner, R. Nia from Deborah. Stier's Ryecroft Club, a yellow ball, roused interest, too.

Exhibitors appreciated the addition of both a coffee maker and mini-fridge for libations the whole show. Students from Dr. Walbot's class brought pictures of their experiments and explained the concepts to all who asked. Fascinating. Outside, Franck Avril sold cards and photos while others sold jewelry. Brilliantly, Monterey Dahlia Society sold the leftover dahlias from exhibitors on Saturday and the Best of the Best of the Show during Sunday Tear Down substantially offsetting the cost of the show. What a \$mart idea!



Jan's winning picnic

[click here for the Monterey Show results](#)



Roy's seedling

POTSHOTS:

Faced with a strip of poor dirt beside her driveway, Devora planted a pot root garden. She used 1-2 gallon pots filled with great potting soil and a special cultivar that she hoped to be able to make cuttings from in the early spring. Meanwhile, the interim flowers have been spectacular.

INVITATION FROM Dr. WALBOT:

If anyone is interested in learning more about dahlia genetics projects at Stanford University, they can check into www.stanford.edu/group/dahlia__genetics/Bio137 class. There will be lectures, labs, and field work. Good learning!

NURSINGLY NOVEMBER:

With care you can nurse some final blooms through Thanksgiving. Try eliminating any bottom branch within 8" of the ground. Cut down all brown stalks to final 4 joints. Only water when plants look parched. I often double or triple disbud to send all the energy into a few final flowers. Now is the time to save some prime seed pods. Dahlia seeds are the genetic lottery; each seed contains unique genetic material and will produce a unique flower if planted in the spring. I cut my pods when most of the petals have fallen away. I place the pod with it's 8-10" stem in a jar of water for it to finish ripening. Then I put all my pods up in the loft to dry out. Some people like to wrap a note around the stem indicating what the seed parent is. When you note that a plant is ready to hibernate for the winter you have 3 choices: leave in, dig out and protect, or dig out and divide. To leave a dahlia in the ground, you must be sure you have good drainage; without good drainage your tuber mass will jellify and rot away. If you leave a plant in, mulch it with leaves or grass clippings and cover it with a 5-15 gallon pot to ward off most of the rain. If you have poor drainage, dig your entire tuber mass up retaining as much of the dirt around it as possible. Put the whole bundle, roots, dirt and all in a cardboard box. You can stack these boxes out of the rain in a cool but not freezing spot until March. If you choose to divide your clump, try to process one clump at a time from start to finish so you don't confuse names. I like to sulfur the cut ends of my tubers before storage. When I dig up a dahlia at home, I enlarge the hole and then fill it with compost and cover with a 2" layer of soil. By the time I replant in April, the compost has been turned into black gold replete with worm castings. Consider sowing a winter cover crop which puts nitrogen back into the ground: hairy vetch, fava beans, soy beans or even peanuts. Winter is the time to balance the PH of your soil to around 6.8 and replenish any other micronutrients you may have depleted during the growing season. Start scanning the Big List for the latest new and wonderful dahlias to order for next year!



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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