



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

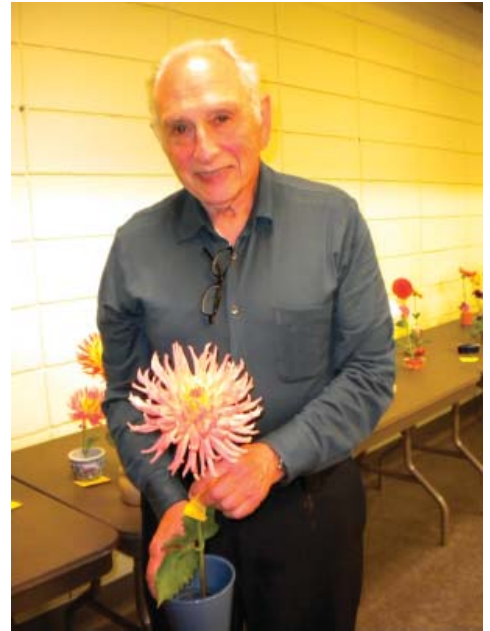
PROGRAM - Our inimitable Lou Paradise reprises his dahlia digging and dividing instructions. Bring a clump YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT to practice on. Bring dividing tools such as sharp knife, small chisel, small hammer and/or sharp clippers. Elections! Come vote for your Officers and Board. Who will bring Tricks or Treats?



LAST GASP:



What a fine mini show for so late in our October season. Devi scored several firsts with lovely Mary's Jomanda and x3 Sweet Dreams. Deborah sacked the only AA with a fine Inland Dynasty and a saucy Jessica. Her ethereal Porcelain and quirky Valley Porcupine took top honors, too. Despite the harsh heat wave that turned most open centereds crispy, Deborah brought winning Arulen Princess, Elvira, Stillwater Plum and (proving that sometimes 80% of winning is just showing up) the single single, Delta Red. Stunning us all, Frank S triumphed with a fabulous Show 'n Tell,



Robert Too, Pocrates, Alpen Diamond and Best In Show, Camano Sitka—Wow! Congratulations Frank! He announced, "Next year I'll plant and leave the country," as a backward compliment to Tinnee's magnificent hillside this year. Thanks to the Dingwalls and Lou C for their conscientious judging evaluations.



Hollyhill Spiderwoman



FUNDRAISER PAR EXCELLENCE!

Through major lectures and judicious press, Dr. Erik has raised \$10,000 for our national show, rewarding some of the hefty check writers with home delivered bouquets. Dr. E supplied dahlia boutonniers to the lummerati at the Parks and Rec Gala and invited Phil Ginsberg to come to our Dahlia Picnic for a photo op. Great politicking!



CHATANOOGA WHO HA:

Lou and Thelma reported that the National Show in Tennessee was "Just splendid." They praised the food, the beautiful riverside site, the riverboat banquet, and the fabulous flowers. Thelma especially appreciated the lecture on arrangements. California has a lot to live up to at our National Show in 2011.

AZTEC NEW DIGS: an exclusive travelog from DJ

In mid-July we decided to take a drive up to visit Rosa and Jamie at Aztec Dahlias just outside Petaluma. What a delight to see their 2 acres and 4500 plants all in a row! The easiest way to get there is up Rt 101 to Petaluma and take Washington Boulevard East Exit. Go until it dead ends into Old Adobe Road. Turn Left and about 3/4 of a mile up the road on your right keep your eyes out for the dahlias!



We had a wonderful visit and saw dahlia sales extraordinary par excellence in action as one customer wanted blooms of a different color than what they had already cut – so off goes Rosa with her basket and cuts a delightful bunch of blooms that were just what the customer wanted! They had potted plants as well.

So if your plants had gone bust for this season you can still enjoy our favorite plant with a leisurely drive to visit Aztec Dahlias. Check their web site www.aztecdahlias.com for particulars about the hours and you might even find something you want to order for 2011 as it's never too early to start!



OCTOBER SLIPPED THRU THE CRACKS:

Many apologies for missing the October newsletter. Deborah's computer gave her the blue screen of death. Some of her hard drive survived. Her new computer proves mysterious. Nevertheless, congrats to exhibitors (and educators) from the Sept. Mini Show. In her delicate style, Pat took first honors for her Elvira. DJ introduced us to winners AC Cougar (B), Tahoma Olivia (m) as well as old favorites, Mi Wong, Valley Porcupine, Alpen Cherub, and Shea's Rainbow. Devi lead with perennial raves, Pink Jupiter, Greendor, Powderpuff Polka, and dark beauty, Karma Choc. Triumphant with Nick Sr. AGAIN, Bill won best AA and Best in Show. Thanks to Peg for her delicious lemon cake and to Baker Bill for his yummy German chocolate cake. Pat shared oh so English vanilla cookies. How very generous of the Dingwalls to bring a box of lemons so no DSCer get scurvy (arrh! In celebration of Talk Like a Pirate Day). Thanks to John for his growing plants.

LABORS OF LOVE: MONTEREY SHOW:

Whilst the begonia parade shimmered down Main Street, the annual Labor Day Dahlia Bonanza dazzled crowds at Soquel High School. Several humongous arrangements from Bettie Crandall, Jan Palia and Lori Holland inspired gasps of admiration. Katie Bannister nabbed Novice Sweepstakes with a great Valley Porcupine. Chloe's Pam Howden spurred her on to Junior Sweeps. Like the circus act where clowns and dogs continue emerging, stagers watched Team Dietz's little blue Element at debouch at midnight. Stagers marveled over how much Orlando could stuff into and on top: enough to amass Amateur Sweeps including winning Camano Pet, Midnight Star and Sandia Melody. Earning Best Dahlia in Show, Willo Violet (pom) and Best Large Hollyhill Electra boosted Kevin and Karen into Open Sweepstakes. Congrats to DJ for landing Mars (NXO) on the head table and for securing Best Novice Bloom, Hollyhill Electra as well as most unusual, a really weird V. Porcupine. Lou Paradise's Chimacum Julias (Bic Y) proved



spectacular this year taking Best x5 and only being aced for Best B by his own new intro Fusion. Roy triumphed Largest with his magnificent Bryn Terfel; the Marstens garnered the other extreme with a weeny teeny Rembrant in perfectly diminutive vase.



NEW AND NOTEWORTHY:

Franck's Vesuvius exploded onto many wish lists. As always, the Masurats exhibited a very cool Bumble Rumble and a dauntless Ms. Kennedy. A pink and white '09 BB lacinated debuted from Joe Ghio. The crowd loved the big variegated balls, Ms. Zelda from Christine Albrecht. Lou Paradise unveiled his new bi-color, D40 mmmm! Roy staged 3 of his 2009 pink and yellow RS Phil. Corralitos cleaned up with their stunning new pinkish pom, Elf (on sale for the 2011 season) as well as with a shimmering Gwenyth, appearing lighted from within. Tripply Dark, Team Dietz's x3 Karma Chocs surprised the public.



(More article photos on the next page)

WOW!!!



Can you wish list?

LABORS OF LOVE: MONTEREY SHOW:

Boosting support for California's 2011 show, Leslie hawked our iconic t-shirts. Franck sparked deals for his gorgeous cards, calendars and wall photos. How did the Monterey Bay Society raise enough money to pay for their show facility? They sold left over dahlias! Such a great idea.



NOVEMBER NOSTALGIA:

What weird weather we've had this year: coldest summer in The City in 34 years and horrid heat waves followed by early rains???? As a result I've had some of my best and biggest AA's and my worst spider mites ever. In my Secret Garden in Bernal Heights I've cut down all the afflicted clumps. Many have sent out new green sprouts from the bottom, which I've watered and dosed with a balanced fertilizer. Over those which turned permanently brown, I've turned 5 gallon black pots to protect the underground tubers from further rain. At the Dahlia Dell, Pat and Lou have begun lopping down, causing their dahlias to go dormant, helping firm their tuber skins. Last chance to save some seed heads to play the genetic lottery next spring. I put my cut heads in a cup of water and trim the stems 1/4" every couple days until the head turns absolutely brown and brittle. At this time of year, you need to make several decisions. Which dahlias grew so poorly that they should be trashed? Throw them out NOW and fill their empty holes with compost. Which are adequate dahlias but not ones you plan to grow next year? Label these DSC, because you will dig and divide these to donate to our sale in April. Now consider the ones you want to grow again in your garden. Do you want to leave them in the ground or pull them out? If you enjoy VERY well drained soil, simply mulch them with leaves or grass clippings, cover them with a big pot and wait until spring. (Do NOT leave them more than 3 years in a row in the ground. They HAVE to be divided and the nutrients replenished.) Some people dig theirs in March, divide, and pop one with eyes back in the ground the same day. If you have poorly drained soil or underground predators like gophers, moles or voles, you MUST dig yours out. If you only have a few clumps or a couple clumps which you REALLY want to make sure keep for next year, try the cardboard box technique. Dig out your root mass leaving as much dirt on the clump as possible; put a shovel of dirt in the box and place the dirt-engulfed clump on top; put another shovel of dirt over the clump. Store your box in a dry, cool (but not freezing) spot until next March. If you will be dividing your clumps, come to our November meeting and learn from the Dividing Guru. Start thinking about cooking up a lip smacking dish and finding (or making) an irresistibly stealable gift (@\$10) for our Present Predation game at our annual Holiday Party.

Yours in Dirt,

Deborah

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