



**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, 11 October @7:30 @ 9th and Lincoln

**PROGRAM:** Last Gasp Mini Show: All the usual categories and one arrangement. Please come early to have plenty of time to set up your lovelies. Program: discussion of commercial dahlia vendors. From whom have you purchased tubers? Cuttings? Pot roots? How satisfied were you? Whom would you recommend? Whom would you avoid in the future? Who will bring goodies to share with your fellow hungry DCSers?



### MINI SHOW MAXI BLOOMS



With ten competitors with over 100 dahlias judges Erik and Lou had tough choices especially in the AA-BB section. Mike and Martha floored us all with a spectacular Black Monarch, a malevolent AA in deepest dark purple. Baker Bill's fine Mable Ann was trumped by his spectacular Nick Sr. Peg exhibited a darling Orange Cushion, m c. Pat triumphed with a perfect Juul's Pearl, Jessica Tears and a luscious Eden Barbarossa. John and Donna's Pam Howden eclipsed Frank's cool Karma Choc but fell second to Deborah's sumptuous Hollyhill Black Widow in a loaded waterlily class. Devi showed us lots of big beautiful dahl-



ias for the first time: Wyn's Ghostie, B; Wyn's Pinking of You, B; Valley Porc,nx; and Raspberry Sky, Col. DJ scored with the best of 3 Elviras in the peony class. For blues, Frank nabbed best A with a stunning Kenora Jubilee, a



diminutive best pom, Elfin, and a jaunty Best Col, Pooh. Deborah cleaned up with Arena's Sunspot, m; Powder Puff Polka, an; Starbrite, o; Clearview Magic, nx; Camano Pet, st; and being the only entrant, Best Open Novelty, Lorona Dawn. Best of the six x3's was awarded to Deborah's gay CG Sparkle and Best x5 to her happy Shea's Rainbows. Nicholas filled out the Junior Section with 10 entries, including an excellent Jessica and a lovely Bird Nest proving it's never too young to begin loving dahlias. Please bring your final finishers for our Last Gasp Mini Show at our October meeting. These educate and delight your fellow DCSers.



## GENEROSITY OF FRIENDS:

Thanks to Elsie for bringing in the stout plastic 5-gallon buckets—we could all use more of these. Peg's apple pie slipped easily down DSC gullets as did Baker Bill's sesame cake. Showing her classy palate, Pat built figs with cheese and almonds. We all appreciated the Dingwall's apple cake squares and Gino's sugar cookies. Isn't it wonderful how DSC has so many fine (dessert) cooks!

## NATIONAL SHOW, NATIONAL SUCCESS!

After 4 long years of planning we launched into 6 amazing days of dahlia celebration. Dahlia growers drove their refrigerated rental trucks up to the Santa Clara Marriott beginning Thursday. After stashing their beautiful blooms in our "cold" room, they jumped on buses for a tour of Monterey area wineries replete with plenty of tasting. Friday morning early, more busses filled with people going to Randy and Lena Marsten's home, Sharon and George Lucchesi's home, Corralitos Gardens Ranch, and the Kitayama Nursery. Manning the registrations booth, Pat passed out dozens of insulated lunch boxes that Guy had packed full of great things

like soft leather gloves, specimen bottles and insect identification books, safety goggles AND sunglasses, as well as a book all about Bay Area growers and public gardens. Betty Crandall began erecting extravagant dahlia topiaries complete with bird houses and bird song! From 6 P.M. Friday to 9 A.M. Saturday, competitors staged over 3100 dahlias. Whew!

Staging the big ones



Bette's fab topiaries



Baker Bill



Maria



our glamorous  
Pat Hunter



Bergnman's Kevin



Dick Parshall





**topiairies**



**Kevin Larken**



**Jackman sets up**



**Guy's brother**



**Mark and Laura  
Oldenkamp**



**Katy Bannister**



**Eleanore and Wayne creating baskets**



**Katy Bannister**



**Danielle  
Parshall**



**Deb staging**



**Chris Dix**



**Roy decides amongst  
his winners**





Lou



Sharon



Christine



Luchessi tour

## **NATIONAL JUDGES, BANQUETS AND RAFFLES:**

John Morton matched a California judge with visiting judges to assess the over 3100 dahlias in the Ballroom. Linda P. led several teams who input the results and crunched the numbers to result in Christine Albrecht winning Amateur Sweepstakes, Kevin and Karen winning Open Sweeps and all the way from Canby, Oregon, Heidi Oldenkamp won Novice Sweepstakes! The lunchtime raffle of a few very fine items delighted Orlando by drawing Linda P's remarkable quilt. Marcia promptly donned her necklace of gems. Meanwhile, Avis, Leslie, Donna and Beverly hawked t-shirts, aprons and dahlias-by-the-stem to the public excited by great coverage in local newspapers. Kevin presided over our awards banquet, awarding a special medal to Roy for all his help to dahlia lovers and to John and engraved bowl for all his work in the PSW conference. For those still lively after the banquet, the Ballroom—without oohing public—awaited ADS wish list writers and photographers.



**Marcia with her prize winning poem**



**original Hillside Girls**



**Donna and Pat**



**Erik and Gerda Juul**



**John Morton**



**Avis and Beverly**



**Orlando with Linda's quilt**



**Kevin Larkin and Alan Fischer**



**Mark Oldenkamp**



## SPECTACULAR SPECIMENS:

Marilyn, who had handled all the registration and more, was delighted when a Masurat seedling took top honors. Kristine Albrecht exhibited some stunners: AC Aquarius, st db; AC Dark Horse; Mexico, an with an electric center; Veronne's Richard B, st dotted yel/or like a giraffe; and a superb Crazy for Jessie, bb id r/y. Two more hot anemones were Oldenkamps' BJ Rival, crinkly or, and Devorah's Dad's Favorite, an pr. The Brandt's Snoho Sonia formed a perfectly pink ball. Chris Dix had a lock on his spectacular Normandy Orange Fluff, B or lc. With 3 huge Clyde's Choices, Scott vied for Big x3 with Bill Bagley's enormously showy Nick Srs. At the other end of the size scale, the Oldenkamps Lo Blush, ms lb, and Elva Sellen's Lo Splash, ms var indeed made splashes. Morton's Vesuvius, m lc exploded orange. Beguiling in their novelty were Vista Cody and Wallace's Vista Pet. (Must have all these for next season!)

Eleanor Shantz kept her Queen of the Baskets title with a big spread of pastel poms. Guy stunned people with several fine arrangements. Beverley's Wine Country arrangement featured huge Hilltop Ivans. Congratulations to Gordon Jackman, Oregon, for winning Arrangements Sweepstakes.



Clyde's Choices



Vesuvius



BJ's Rival



Mexico



Vista Pet



Dad's Favorite



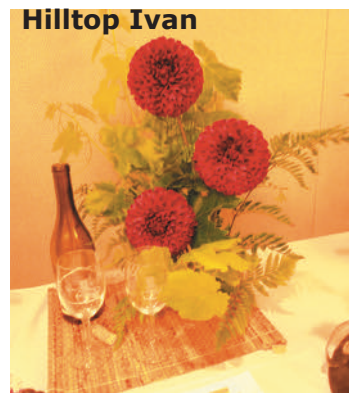
AC Aquarius



Verrone's Richard





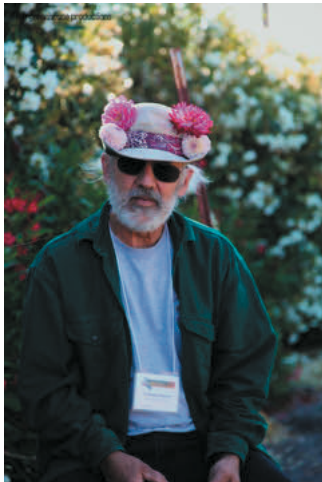


## SUNDAY STILL STRONG:

Both Dr. Virginia Walbot and Dr. Keith Hammett reprised their talks of Saturday. At the ADS summit, Lou went over the success of the 4-digit number system. In the room exhibiting the arrangements, Tinnee brilliantly set up an educational display with one of each of the 18 types of dahlias, a clump of sprouting tubers, and a pot of bloomers. Deborah, Curtis and Maddy, a 13 year old from Georgia all delivered Dahlia 101 classes. Dick Parshall, Keith Hammett, and Steve Nowotarski discussed the future of dahlias. At tear down, we sold the winning dahlias to a waiting throng of public buyers. Then it was off to the Masurat's magical picnic in their spacious garden overlooking the entire San Jose Valley.









## SIBERIAN MONDAY

Leaving toasty Santa Clara, the National Tour bus plunged through the fog to visit Cabrillo Gardens at 39th and Cabrillo. Devi and neighbors greeted travelers in heavy jackets but big smiles. Then onward to Golden Gate Park's Dahlia Dell where Pat, Lou and Deborah "interpreted" our 94 year old dahlia garden. After noshing at Fisherman's Wharf they crossed the Golden Gate Bridge to gape at Paula and Dennis's amazing hillside garden. Ninety AA, A and B dahlias mingled with 3000 other marvelous plants. What a fabulous finale to ADS 2011!





## POSITIVELY PLEASANT PICNIC!

the first time in years we had **SUNSHINE** for our annual dahlia picnic. Wow! What a difference. Besides Erik's ham, he also brought troughs full of sausages, cold cuts and meat balls. Guests excelled themselves bringing ever more divine desserts and salads. Gigi the Clown and her cowgirl partner painted throngs of children's faces. Balloons were twisted into fantastic shapes. Kids swarmed the fire truck and the mounted police.

Phil Ginsberg, the director of San Francisco Parks and Bevin Dutfy, SF mayoral candidate who cast the deciding vote against closing the park to cars on Saturday added political flair to our fete. Special thanks to Soc who helped truck over all the gear and set up tables and chairs at 8 am.









### **PRESIDENTIAL FLASH:**

Mike and Martha report the rumor that their magnificent dahlias, sold at the Hillsboro Farmers' Market graced the tables of the big benefit for President Obama later that evening. Now to get Michelle growing dahlias in the White House Victory Garden...

### **PUBLIC GARDENS: PUBLIC AMAZEMENT**

Cars drive by Cabrillo Gardens, hit their brakes and reverse to indulge in the full flush of Devi's ministrations. Go check out dahlia varieties you've never seen before. Likewise one needs a machete to plunge into the Dahlia Dell. Volunteer help on Saturday mornings cannot keep up with the surge of growth coursing through the Autumn clumps. Entomologist John hunted bugs and caterpillars, popping them in vials to grow into moths and butterflies at his quarters. Alas, he's had much success in his search. Debbie deadheaded and removed mildewed leaves in Pat's patch. Lou has left his beauties to make seed for more famous introductions and to go dormant as soon as possible to be fit for the cutting bench by Christmas. Frank delighted in his new volunteer, Rebecca; he brought her coffee and pastries to encourage her further ministrations. Deborah welcomed Marina, snipping spent blooms and disbudding.









## OCTOBER OCCASIONS:

Bring final beauties to our meeting for Last Gasp Mini Show. Delight and educate your fellow DSCers and \$urprise your\$elf with pri\$e money. Throw your final garden party. Last chance to make sure your labels match your ADS Classification Book. Toss out poorly growing clumps—toss ALL THE WAY OUT TO THE GARBAGE BIN—do not compost your problem children. Don't worry if perfectly good bushes start producing open-centered blooms. Less daylight stimulates some dahlias to try desperately for one more chance at making seeds. Rogue: if you have more than one plant of the same variety, mark the best one to continue to upgrade your stock. No more fertilizer now. Cut way back on water; only douse when your dahlias really need it. If you'd like to play the dahlia genetic lottery, leave a couple of your AA, A or B blooms on their stems until they form seed heads. I cut my seed heads with plenty of stem and put them in a glass of water in my house. Every few days, I snip a bit off the end of the stem so the seeds continue to mature. Try it! It's fun. Continue to pluck off mildewed leaves and cut plants back to NEW GROWTH. If you prune prudently, you should have decent dahlias for your Thanksgiving table. Truly. start to plan a cover crop for your dahlia plot: hairy vetch, fava beans, mustard seed or sweet peas. These all nab nitrogen from the air and sequester it into the ground where next season's dahlia roots can feast upon it. (Besides, it covers the sad, barren dirt during the gloomy mud months.) Last chance to go visit other people's gardens and get good ideas for next year.

Yours in Dirt,

*Deborah*

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