

From the PNDC President...

The seasons are changing to the growth-promoting side. Daffodils are in bud, Viburnum are in bloom, Sasanqua Camellias are three quarters through their incomparable performances and dahlia nuts are starting some stock for cuttings. Even though it's the same cycle each year, the miracle of growth and rebirth strikes a familiar yet wondrous chord as Mother Nature begins her spring symphony.

By this time, most of us have put in our orders for those special new ones we will be growing this season. It seemed to me that this year many of the commercial growers sold out more quickly than usual. Maybe we're all just ordering earlier to avoid disappointment. I plan on growing more bi-color and variegated varieties this season, since these traits are so eye catching and specific to our favorite flower. Ted Kennedy has suggested that the "picotee" margins of some bloom's florets is not only a pleasing color effect, but could be the basis of a new color class. What will the future hold...except change, the only constant.

As of now I'm aware of two judging schools planned for this year. Lane County will hold their school and Portland will have their school on Saturday, August 1st

at the Georgetown Realty Office. Please talk up these events within your respective societies so everyone has an opportunity to participate. The school will be structured for both the new Candidate Judge and those desiring to fulfill their bi annual refresher course requirement. Taking the judging course is also a great way for exhibitors to improve their competitive skills.

Our PNDC Spring Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 18 at Parker's Restaurant in Castle Rock, Washington. We will again be able to order individually off the menu. The delegates and officers will meet in executive session at 10:30 and the luncheon and general meeting will begin at noon. The highlight event is the tuber and plant auction. Top growers and hybridizers bring their newest, rarest and best imports and/or originations. The bidding is always spirited, lively and entertaining. Thanks so much to Teresa Bergman for again making these arrangements with Parker's.

Good Growing,
Mike Riordan, PNDC President

Seeking Gold Medal candidates

by Cheryle Hawkins

Each year the PNDC Executive Board recognizes an individual or couple with the Gold Medal for Lifetime Achievement. By way of example, this could be someone who has mentored newcomers to the world of dahlia exhibition and/or developed new dahlias and introduced them commercially. An individual that has been instrumental in recruiting a number of new members for a society and tirelessly promotes the idea of sharing their own knowledge and experience with others would be very worthy.

So who is our recipient for 2015? We ask that any PNDC member or society consider nominating someone who is not from their own society. A nomination should describe the candidate's achievements and contributions to the dahlia society, to the PNDC, or to dahlias as a whole.

Please consider nominating someone at our April 18th spring meeting. Contact your PNDC delegates with your input and suggestions or submit your nomination by e-mail to the PNDC Secretary, Cheryle Hawkins, at icehawk@q.com To view a list of past award recipients, visit the PNDC website.



PNDC Spring Meeting Saturday, April 18th

We have booked Saturday, April 18th for our annual meeting and tuber/plant auction. We are writing to you now so as to avoid conflicts with your other dahlia-related activities. Our preference would have been an earlier date in March, but those were already reserved by other parties.

Our meeting place will again be Parker's Restaurant in Castle Rock, Washington. A special lunch menu for our group is included with this newsletter. Choose your lunch selection and e-mail Teresa Bergman with your lunch choice: larryteres@msn.com. Everyone will pay individually for their lunch. Thanks to Teresa Bergman for making these arrangements!

I'm sure most of us are pouring over the commercial websites, ADS Bulletins and Classification Book in preparation for another enjoyable year with our favorite hobby. Best wishes to all in your planning and propagation efforts. Travel directions are noted on page 3 of this newsletter.



Wild Rivers Dahlia Society to host PNDC Show

August 22-23 Gold Beach, Oregon

Dear fellow PNDC member clubs,

As you maybe aware, the Wild Rivers Dahlia Society will be hosting the 2015 PNDC show on August 22-23. We are seeking information to present to the public at our show. We would like to get information about each of your societies. A historical summary including how long your society has been in place and other information about your society and home town. We are also looking for what information best represents your region. We plan to use this to tie into our design sections to represent the entire PNDC. Any and all information will be greatly appreciated and entered into a handout for visitors. Even information on the formation of the PNDC will be helpful. Please contact me at with your input.

Thank you for your help!

Bob Chibante, President,
Wild Rivers Dahlia Society



Spartacus -2015 Show Flower

News From Wild Rivers Dahlia Society

by Bob Chibante

The Gold Beach area was hammered with nearly 8 inches of rain the last few days. Currently on Feb 8th in the evening the rain continues. The gardens are well drenched. At Mountain Valley Dahlias home garden, there was nearly five feet of water covering the lower garden for 4 hours. After 2 days the water finally returned to within its banks. It was at its highest this century. What fun that was!

The Wild Rivers Dahlia Society is proud to host the PNDC conference show this year. Our show date will be Aug. 22nd and 23rd. The county fair is being held the following week, making it necessary to have a week between us and Portland. This will allow members to show proper blooms at the fair this year. We are proposing that they allow a dahlia judge to judge the dahlia entries.

Regarding our dahlia show, the plan is to have the meeting dinner catered and held in the fairgrounds upstairs overlooking the show blooms on the floor below. We left the decision for the bloom of the year up to our members who are newer to the dahlia society culture. After presenting them a number of photos, they chose Spartacus as our Bloom of the Year. Larger blooms always attract a lot of attention and as an A size bloom, Spartacus tends to be an earlier bloomer. Next on the agenda, was finalizing our theme. The unanimous choice

was, "Jewels of the Northwest". The show will be at the Event Center on the Beach. We have four "Fair Friends" that volunteer in our club. The Curry "Fair Friends" volunteer their time for catering events to help fund repairs for the fairgrounds. Members Ron Crook, Joan Cooper, and Mandi Chibante help prepare and serve meals, along with Chef Bob Chibante. Due to their contributions, we get to use the venue, for the time being, at no charge for our shows. This allows us to spend our funds on infrastructure, promotion and awards.

In the constant desire to teach our members new things, we are encouraging our members to enter baskets. We will begin teaching the members how to put together baskets at our March meeting using some of the material I received from Eleanor Shantz at a judging school. Baskets and designs add impact and depth to a show.

While a room full of blooms are amazing, the public enjoys seeing what they can do with dahlias beyond putting them in a vase. Plan to plant a few of a variety or two to have enough for a basket. Please try your hand at making a basket to bring to the show. We plan to have some nice awards for the basket sections. Remember your basket level is based on your experience and can be lower than your horticulture level.

Portland Dahlia Society by Tiffany Boatwright

Hollyhill Bill M



photo by Ted Kennedy

It's that time of year again when the dahlias have been in storage for a while, the ground is starting to warm up, and we're dreaming of summer and our future blooms. Whether you've been pouring over the new offerings or are just getting around to thinking about this year's dahlia garden, there are always ways to keep busy during down time.

Congratulations to club member Ted Kennedy on having the highest scoring BB in the trial gardens in 2014. Hollyhill Jeanette is a beautiful orange cactus that you surely will want to consider adding to your summer garden.

PDS club members Max Ollieu, Larry Smith, Margaret Kennedy and Mark and Laura Oldenkamp all were major winners in the 2014 National Show in Tacoma. Best in show wins were garnered by Max and Larry, Margaret won best arrangement in show and the Oldenkamp's had two head table wins. What a great showing from PDS members!

Recently our board members met to discuss the coming year's plans. Many exciting meeting topics will be covered as well as continuation of the ever popular September meeting at Swan Island Dahlias. Our club has been fortunate to gain many new members in the recent years and I'm sure our varied and relevant meeting presentations go a long way to attract and hold these members.

Dahlia Show: our annual show will be held Labor Day weekend this year at the Clackamas County fairgrounds in Canby. Next year we will be making a big change and moving the date of our show to the weekend before Labor Day and moving our venue to Oaks Park in Portland. With this change comes a bigger venue, better lighting, and an opportunity to have more public view our blooms than at are current venue. This will also free up a holiday weekend so that our members and other participants can partake in family celebrations and other activities.

This year's Flower of the Year is Hollyhill Bill M and our Challenge Flower is Vesuvius.

DIRECTIONS

The PNDC Spring meeting will be held at Parker's Restaurant in Castle Rock, WA on Saturday, April 18th. Parker's is located at 1300 Mt St Helens Way NE, Castle Rock, WA 98611. From I-5 going north, take exit 49, head east past the Shell Station and strip mall (about a quarter mile). Parker's Restaurant is on the right. Their phone number is 360-967-2333.

Tuber Sales: Our first is April 14th at our regular meeting site and will begin at 6:30 for the general public and 6:00 for club members. Our second tuber sale will be held May 2 - 3 at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds in conjunction with the Master Gardener Fair. Time is 9am-4pm, we are in space F25.

Canby Trial Garden: Tubers are planted about 5/10, rooted cutting entries about 2 weeks later. If sending rooted cutting entries, entrant must contact director Teresa Bergman at 360-274-8292 or for details on where and when to ship. Please do not mail entries to Swan Island Dahlias. Entries are irrigated by overhead sprinklers, limit of 25 cultivars. Reservations required, contact Mark Oldenkamp at 503-367-1122 or to make reservations.

New officers for 2015

Ted Kennedy- President
Linda Taylor- Vice President
Nan Hage- Recording Secretary
Larry Sawyer- Treasurer
Tiffany Boatwright- Corresponding Secretary

2015 PNDC Dahlia Shows



Victoria Dahlia Society

August 29-30

West Shore Town Center, Victoria

Nanaimo Dahlia Society

August 22-23

Country Club Centre

Wild River Dahlia Society

August 23 - 23

Gold Beach, Event Center on the Beach

Portland Dahlia Society

September 5-6

Clackamas County Fairgrounds

Southern Oregon Dahlia Society

September 12-13,

North Bend, Pony Village Mall

Lane County Dahlia Society

September 19-20,

Eugene, Lane Events Center

Douglas County Dahlia Society

September 26-27,

Roseburg, Douglas County Fairgrounds

Southern Oregon Dahlia Society by Donna Hymer

And so it's February. It's time for planning the garden layout, ordering tubers, making cuttings, organizing and preparing tools, dreaming and waiting.... waiting for April and May for planting. Dreaming of that perfect bloom, looking out over a sea of color and form of the garden in August, and of bouquets and arrangements. Of course, there is all the soil preparation, irrigation, fertilizing, spraying, weeding, topping and disbudding, but, it's all worth it when we see the finished product of all our toil and labor.

Our tuber sale will be April 11 at the Pony Village Mall. We here at Southern Oregon Dahlia Society have decided to try and increase our numbers by offering more informative talks at our monthly meetings. We want to bring in some of the most knowledgeable growers we can find to help us and others grow the most healthy and beautiful plants possible. We have formed a committee of three to head up this task. Committee Chair is Gary Swan, with Deb Schalla and DebiJean

Enright filling out the committee.

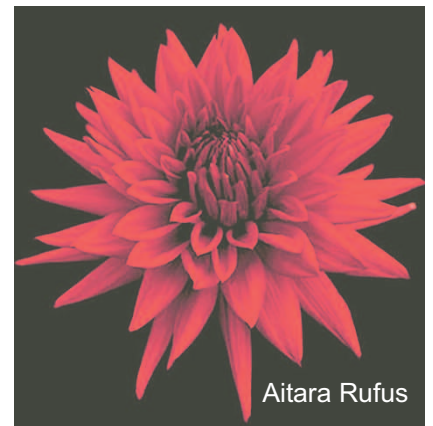
Our dahlia show will be September 12 - 13 and our Flower of the Year will be "Elvira" with our show theme being "Pretty in Pink". Our President, Dave Parmeter came up with the idea of donating some tubers to the local Girl Scout troop so that they can grow their own, thereby increasing the knowledge and love for our favorite flower. We also discussed the possibility of setting up a table or two at our show for the Girl Scouts to show their blooms with special awards being provided by our Vice President, Gary Swan for their participation.



Douglas County Dahlia Society

by Mark & Ember Nay

Our society had a nice year with each of us showing and winning awards. As of this date our show will be held September 26-27 in the Floral Building of the Douglas County Fairgrounds, in Roseburg. We have selected a beautiful red cactus, Aitara Rufus as our flower of the year. This year we have a couple of new members who are very eager to learn and just might be showing this year too!



Lane County Dahlia Society by Michael Canning

Spring is on the way, of that there is no doubt. Early rising signs are everywhere. It sure would be nice to get a few winter storms over the next couple of months for the snow pack in the mountains. Seems like we're always short of something, or have too much of another.

The Lane County Dahlia Society has approved a new slate of officers for the 2015 calendar year. It is with great appreciation we let our president for the last 10 years, Lexa Cookson ride off into the sunset. She will remain an active member of our group, but without the many responsibilities of the office. We will miss her gentle guiding hand at our meetings and events.

Here are the 2015 LCDS officers:

- Co-President-Camille Noel
- Co-President-Cheryle Hawkins
- Vice President-Michael Canning
- Second Vice President-Deb Gilmer
- Secretary/ADS Rep-Phyllis Shafer
- Recording Secretary-Carol Prud'Homme
- Corresponding Secretary-Michael Canning

Our annual Tuber Sale & Auction is planned on April 2. In May we will sell more tubers at a "Garden Extravaganza" along with the Eugene Garden Club on May 9 and May 16-17. Be sure to mark your calendars for the weekend of September 19th and 20th for the 52nd Lane County Dahlia Show. We're having it at the Lane Events Center (aka Lane County Fairgrounds) again this year. Our flower of the year is the striking mini-ball Chimacum Davi. Please come visit our show, and share in the celebration of our flower.

Here's to the best growing season ever in 2015 from your friends in the southern Willamette valley!



Victoria Dahlia Society by Ryan Berry

The Victoria Dahlia Society 2015 Tuber Sale will be held Saturday April 18th at the Knox Presbyterian Church, and Sunday April 19th at the Westshore Town Centre. Check our website for times, details, and confirmation closer to the date. Contact for more information. (sorry about the conflicting dates for the PNDC Spring meeting and our tuber sale. We schedule a weekend that isn't in conflict with Easter or the local 10km run, and since both move around each year we don't have a consistent weekend to plan for.)

The 69th Annual Show will be held Saturday and Sunday August 29th & 30th, 2015. The Flower of the Year is Show n Tell (single bloom) and the Flower of the Year (triple bloom) is Sarah B, presented by Jim Gilchrist. Please check our website or email for details and a show catalogue. All participants (exhibitors, judges, clerks) traveling from off-island to the show will receive a complimentary main course at the Show dinner Saturday evening (please register ahead.)



Show n Tell

Nanaimo Gladiolus and Dahlia Society...by Ed Johnson

Our club will hold our tuber sale April 25th in the Country Club Mall which is the same mall where our annual show is held. Our show date is August 22-23 and the Flower of the Year is Show n Tell (single bloom). The Flower of the Year (triple bloom) is Sarah B, presented by Jim Gilchrist. Our gladioli of the year is Beautiful Angel 441.

Dahlias were first discovered in Mexico and Central America by a Spanish explorer in the late 1700s. Potatoes had been discovered in the "New World" in the late 1500's and they had proved to be an important addition to the diet of Europeans. On his return to his homeland the Spanish explorer /conquistador brought back dahlia tubers thinking they would be another great food. The tubers tasted dreadful, so they tried them for animal feeding and the cows would not eat them.

However at the Court of Spain, a Swedish botanist called Andreas Dahl started to experiment with the tubers and first discovered that the open centered flowers hybridized to many different colors, and 25 years later he produced an incredible hybrid which was the very first fully double flower. The rest is history and the dahlia is now considered to have the most variable hybridizing characteristics of any flower in the world with respect to Color, Size of Bloom, and Form.

In 2013 Rudy De Groot, a member of our club, collected lots of seed pods from one variety in his garden. He knew who the seed parent was but the pollen parent could have been any dahlia in his garden (courtesy of the bees).

In 2014 Rudy gave about ten seeds to every member in our club and each one of those seeds produced a

different flower. Experienced hybridizers will select a "good" mother (and either let the bees do the pollinating, or "choose" the father and do the pollinating themselves with a small camel hair paintbrush.) About ten out of a hundred hybrids will be worth keeping for the next year, but only one out of a those ten "might" win over an existing dahlia in its class. The exercise gave our members a better understanding of hybridizing than you get from the printed word.

It is a very educational thing to do in your own garden. There are many successful hybridizers in the Pacific Northwest part of North America. And you get to name your baby. Seeing a new dahlia which you produced is worth a thousand words.

There are several successful hybridizers in our club, but I will only mention Bob Sampson because of something he does that has proved to be successful and interesting. He frequently uses Jessie G. as his seed parent and lets the bees do the rest. Many but not all of his hybrids are the same color as Jessie G which is a Purple Ball. In the classification book you will find Lyn's April, a Red Ball; Lyn's Concord and Lyn's Merlot both BB FD PR; Lyn's Jen BA DR, and Dorothy May BB SC PR. And the interesting thing is that fairly often the new hybrid takes after Jessie G, and has a dog-leg bend in the stem (they are thrown away).

New hybridizers are always excited and impatient to see what they produce. It is very like a new baby in the family—doesn't look a thing like mum or dad but looks just like grandma or grandpa, and aren't you proud? (Quick answer please. How many points are there for a perfect stem?)



DAHLIA FEVER By Ted Kennedy

I have noticed over the years that many people catch what I will call "Dahlia Fever". They are exposed to dahlias and begin to grow them and love them. Then they find out there are thousands of varieties of dahlias and that about a hundred new ones are introduced each year. At this point, many people are infected with "Dahlia Fever".

The Infection Begins:

It is hard to say how the disease is contracted. Many people are given a dahlia tuber by a friend and that starts the fever process. Others may visit a friend's garden or by chance attend a dahlia show or perhaps a county fair. Some may receive a color catalog in the mail. And then they begin to grow dahlias and for some unknown reason many of these first time growers become dahlia fanatics who have no self control. The disease process has started and the infected gardeners quickly progress to Stage One.

Stage One: Although, the infection symptoms may vary among individuals, I will attempt to list the development of the manic portion of the infection. Perhaps this quote from a fictional grower sums it up: "I love dahlias and despite the fact that there are thousands of named varieties, I want to grow every one of them and I want to do it this year." Of course that is impossible, but the infected person begins to try as hard as possible to grow as many as he can. He pours over dahlia catalogs, he researches the numerous nursery web sites, and subscribes to all the dahlia publications. At this point he becomes a chronic list maker. A picture or a written description of new dahlia is exhilarating and he adds name after name to his wish list. And then he starts removing lawn. He has to have some place to grow these dahlias and the lawn is holding him back. Then he orders as many as his pocket book allows and despite knowing he does not yet have enough room to grow all of them, orders a few more. And he has made some "dahlia friends" at about this time and they want to share some varieties. He attends the dahlia club sale and finds several varieties on his wish list and cannot resist. And now at planting time, he has eliminated as much lawn as is feasible and there are too many tubers. He is "generous" and plants some at his mother's house "because she would like them."

Stage Two: The flowers have bloomed in his crowded yard. For the first time in his life he finds

that he does not actually like some of the varieties he was able to acquire. But during this glorious time of having dahlias bloom in his yard, he becomes aware of many varieties he does not yet have. He visits a friend's garden and there it is: "Gordon's Big Whopper" the flower that was sold out before he could order. He has to have it. He plans his summer vacation around a "dahlia trip" and visits as many dahlia nurseries as possible and writes down a hundred or so flowers he must have. He also visits the trial garden and is frustrated because he wants several of those new flowers but they do not have the names by the bushes. And then he goes to the dahlia show. By now, he knows lots about dahlias and has just found out that he ordered many of the wrong varieties and he needs to replace them with better flowers. The season ends with the digging and he decides to donate a great many of the tubers to his local dahlia society to make room for some really good dahlias next year.

Stage Three: Our dahlia grower now has been named as a fanatic by his friends and relatives. They appreciated all the flower bouquets he gifted them but cannot figure what is the big deal about some flower. The third season is the season of methodical moderation. He now knows he cannot grow every dahlia he likes and that he has to make some choices. He has been crowding too many plants into his small garden and now wants to spread them out a bit (alternatively, he buys a house with a couple of acres and continues to go crazy). He still buys quite a few new varieties but by now knows he has to delete some in order to have room. He decides that he could win a few prizes at the local fair and dahlia show and learns how to groom his plants for the shows (alternatively, he decides that selling dahlia cut flowers is easy and starts a small business and become an entrepreneur).

Stage Four: He has been growing dahlias now for twenty years. He has met lots of nice people through the dahlia club and volunteers some of his time to help them. He has a long list of dahlia varieties that are his favorites and grows them every year. He adds a few new ones each year and he has found that he now likes to specialize in growing some of the dahlia forms and not some others. He has become known for his abilities to show his favorite types of dahlias and enjoys going to a few shows. Life is good.

2015 March ADS Representative Report

Although most of us do not see the American Dahlia Society world, many actions and deliberations go on behind the scenes. I would predict that in the near future, some exciting information will become available for gardener use.

1. Bulletin of the American Dahlia Society: Don Dramstad, editor, has appointed an editorial committee: Deborah Dietz from San Francisco; Linda Holmes Cook from Wenatchee; Wanda Bowers from Philadelphia; and a member from she South. Judy Hines will also convene as a member of this committee.

2. The ADS has received a donation of \$350,000 for Virus Research. This amount will augment the initial ADS amount given to the a Washington State Dahlia Research Fund, led by Han Pappu. This additional funding will greatly increase the research coffers and members should expect to see a good number of articles on virus.

3. The ADS Centennial National Show, hosted in New York, is well under way. Of interest will be a symposium, most likely a discussion of viruses in dahlias, the futures of plant societies over the next five years, and the future of dahlias. The individuals will include well-informed and renowned individuals. In addition, a booklet will review the development of the dahlia from 1965 to 2014 that will include the most significant developments over the last 50 years.

4. The Piper Creek Trial Garden located in Alberta, Canada has been promoted to a fully qualified Trial Garden for the 2015 season.

5. ADS will now post the latest ADS Bulletins online under the members only.

6. Seedling growers should check the latest Bulletin and prepare to send in their entries for evaluation this year.

7. The Portland Dahlia Society held a well-received National Show. I would suggest that the PNDC apply for the 2019 open date. What do you think Portland, Eugene, or Victoria and Nanaimo? Give it some thought before discarding as undoable.

8. The ADS will hold its annual two-day spring meeting on April 17-19 in Naples, Florida.

Respectfully submitted,

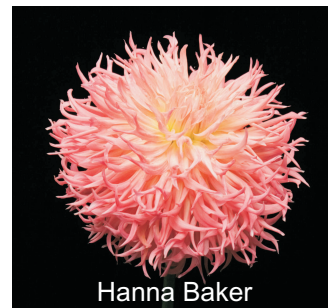
Wayne Shantz
PNDC ADS Representative



In Remembrance: Steve Nowatarski

It is with sincere sadness that we announce the passing of Steve Nowatarski on January 13, 2015 from double pneumonia. His huge presence and skill as a grower, exhibitor and hybridizer will be missed across America. He was a very close friend of PNDC veteran members Wayne and Eleanor Shantz. Wayne writes that "ADS has lost a true ambassador and I have lost a special friend." Hannah Baker was the laciniated dahlia beauty (pictured) that Steve originated.

His many contributions to the dahlia world will surely be remembered. We send our deepest condolences to his wife Audrey. A memoriam about Steve can be viewed at the American Dahlia Society website, www.dahlias.org



Hanna Baker

ADS Image Library by Claudia Biggs

The 2015 ADS New Introduction program is now ready and available for purchase. You can order online from the ADS web site or contact me directly at 509-326-1953 or dbiggs@mindspring.com There are two versions again this year. The automated program costs \$13 and the deluxe version is \$20, including a second disc of low resolution photos.

<http://www.dahlia.org/index.php?page=ads-store-2>

Parker's Restaurant

Welcome P N D C

Ale Battered Fish & Chips \$9.99

• hand dipped in our own beer batter, served with fries and tarter.

Parker's Original Burger \$5.99

• smaller version of the Big Boy, lettuce, tomato, onions & burger sauce. add .60 for cheese

Fried Prawns \$9.99

• Served with fries & cocktail sauce for dipping.

Deli Salad \$9.99

• Ham, turkey, cheddar cheese, swiss cheese, tomato & cucumber. served with your choice of dressing

Chicken Strips \$7.99

• Canola fried strips of breaded chicken. served with your choice of dipping sauce & fries

Chicken Fettuccini \$8.99

• Tender breast of chicken tossed with fettuccini pasta and creamy garlic Alfredo sauce.

Bay Shrimp Louie \$10.99

• bay shrimp atop garden greens, cucumber, tomato and hard boiled egg

*pricing does not include, dessert, beverages tax or gratuity
These will be added to your guest checks*

Above is the special lunch menu for the PNDC group. Please choose your lunch selection and e-mail Teresa Bergman (larryteresa@msn.com) to let her know your lunch choice.