

# VANCOUVER DAHLIA SOCIETY

Promoting Dahlia Growing Since 1955

Bulletin 3

May - June 2009



**Our Website is**  
[www.vancouverdahlia.com](http://www.vancouverdahlia.com)

## Next Meetings:

**May 20, 2009**

**June 17, 2009**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE \* WALLY KURTH

Planting time has arrived! Most of us will have already prepared our garden soil for tuber planting. With the fear of frost gone, a lot of us begin planting at the end of the first week of May. It is so hard to wait for the first dahlia blooms to emerge!

Our April dahlia tuber sale was extremely successful this year. The total amount earned for the sale of the tubers was \$15,724. Wow! – the highest amount ever! Half of this amount is donated to the VDS. As you are aware there are a lot of costs for the VDS. The major cost is the rental of the VanDusen facilities as well as the costs of prizes and ribbons for our annual Dahlia Show. As usual, Vera Williamson and Tina McNabb did a wonderful job of organizing this year's sale. We are very thankful for everyone's help as well as all the sellers and buyers! During our last general meeting, we did some brainstorming in regards to the tuber sale. Many very useful suggestions surfaced.

At our April general meeting we had *Walt & Cory Wynne* as our main presenters. They did an outstanding job of demonstrating the art of starting tubers from cuttings as well as explaining their system of starting dahlias from collected seed pods. Following that, we had a tuber auction that was organized by Vera. Norm Sharp, auctioneer extraordinaire, inspired us to spend \$315 at the tuber auction. Thanks for the many specialty tubers that were donated.

*Our May general meeting presenter will be Maria Keating.* The focus of her presentation will be 'Bugs in our Dahlia Garden'. This is an extension of last year's very informative presentation on bugs.

We will be kneeling close to Mother Earth in the month of May. We just can't wait to dig, place and cover those 'darling' tubers that we have watched over so carefully during the past six months. What will the newly purchased varieties look like? We are all here in order to spread the joy of Dahlia growing!

Remember, we would like to see you as well as your guest at our *May 20<sup>th</sup> General Meeting* which starts at 7:30 pm. *Dick Porter* will be our *June presenter* – he will focus on topping, disbudding and disbranching as well as explain his miracle secret of growing winning pompons. Happy planting!

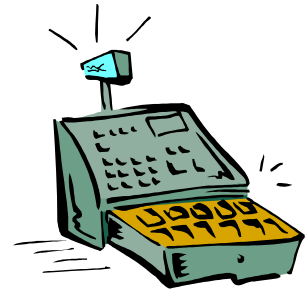
The VDS meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, except January, November and December in the Floral Hall at the VanDusen Botanical Garden at 7:30 p.m.

## TUBER SALE REPORT

A big **Thank You** to all those growers who managed to “winter over” their tubers and offer them for sale. Thanks to them, we had a most successful sale! The following is a report of the sales on April 4 & 5, 2009.

Tuber sales from the Burnaby Rhodo Show are still to come. A final report will be in the next bulletin with a list of expenses.

April 4 Club Sale	\$ 5,233.00
Public Sale	\$ 7,670.00
April 5 Public Sale	\$ 2,790.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 15,693.00</b>
Club Portion	\$ 7,831.00
<b>Total to Date</b>	<b>\$ 7,831.00</b>



## PAPA BALLS, MAMA BALLS AND BABY BALLS

We have a new class for competition at the show. Section 59, Class 267 is a ball, miniature ball and pom staged in a single container, colour variation allowed. When you are thinking about entering this, remember that the blooms do not have to be the same colour, but should complement each other. For instance a great combination would be Glenplace for the pom, a dark purple, Lulu Island Dad for the miniature ball, a vibrant yellow and Mary's Jomanda for the ball, a dark pink – that would be a stunning entry. Or you could have two of the same colour and one of another colour, even three different blends and flames such as Hy Lustre, Hy Suntan and Little Beeswings.. The combinations are endless. When entering this class use a white entry tag. Good Luck!

.....Betty Girard

## IN MEMORIAM

The dahlia world lost a great mentor and friend on April 28, 2009 when Frank Snell passed away. He will be sadly missed by all those whose lives he touched and he will be remembered for his leadership, strength of character, quick sense of wit and generosity.



With the support of his wife Margaret, Frank served many roles in the Vancouver Dahlia Society - Director, Treasurer, Federation Representative and in 1991 he became President. In 1992 the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers also elected him President. He was an active member of the American Dahlia Society. In addition to all these positions he also served 2 years as President of the B.C. Council of Garden Clubs. Frank retired from a career as a Credit Analyst but taught night school courses in Credit & Collections at B.C.I.T. He was always sharing his knowledge and experiences with others.

Frank and Margaret became Senior Judges and were strong promoters of Dahlia Education and the Federation Judges Training Program. In 1996 they both were co-chairs of the very successful American Dahlia Society National Show held here in Vancouver. He and Margaret also began hybridizing new varieties including Delta Alpha, Delta Coquette, Delta Red, Delta Florence, Delta Jenny, Delta Shirley, Delta Claret and Delta Marika Anne.



Frank is survived by his wife Margaret, children James and Jennifer, granddaughter Kate-Lynn and grandsons Colton and Skyler. He will be missed.

Delta Red - one of Frank and Margaret's introductions

## BOOKS - See Tina McNabb

### A GUIDE TO GROWING DAHLIAS

Guides will be available for sale at all future general meetings. \$5.00 each

### DAHLIAS OF TODAY 2009

Limited amounts of these books will be available at future general meetings. \$10.00 each

## NEWS FROM WEBMASTER JACK

If you haven't looked up our website lately you should take a look. Many new things can be found on the site. We have our Home Page at <http://vancouverdahliasociety.com> Under Contacts you can find all the members who play a very active role in running the club along with their phone numbers. If you need to download a membership form, it is there as well. Under Bulletins we have the bulletins of the last year which are loaded with great information. In Meetings and Events all dates and topics of the general meetings and special events are listed. We have pictures of our Annual Shows, the Tuber Sale and the Potluck Dinner under Show. Great information can be found under Links including the American Dahlia Society, the Fraser Valley Society and Ferncliff Gardens' home-pages. There is also the BC Council of Garden Clubs and the Snohomish County Dahlia Society if you want to find out more about the ADS National Show. In addition, we have links to help you identify dahlias under the ADS Classification Guide. Dahlia World gives a yearlong plan to look after your tubers. There are videos on Topping, Fertilizing, Storing and Dividing your tubers. Finally, lots of information on taking cuttings and growing dahlias in containers is available. Check it out as we are working towards making it better all the time. If you know of a great dahlia site let me know at [jack.duncan@shaw.ca](mailto:jack.duncan@shaw.ca). and we can share it with all members.



### REACH FOR THE STARS!!

The VDS will be celebrating the International Year of Astronomy in our floral art section at the show this year. This is a great opportunity to let your imagination run wild. I have never thought of dahlias representing the stars before, but it makes a lot of sense. Dahlias are in the stratosphere when compared to all the other flowers that we can grow. There are 5 classes in this floral art competition as well as special classes for juniors and men only. One class is "Mars", an exhibit using rock and red and/or orange dahlias. I can envision a breathtaking display using red dahlias such as Hy Sockeye or Marie Schnugg in tall black containers. Remember that you need to pre-register for the floral art with Jennifer Zuk at 604 294 0237 or via email at [rtzig@telus.net](mailto:rtzig@telus.net)

## Message from the 2009 VDS Show Awards Committee

Our show is still a few months away but in an effort to be green this year, I thought we should put the donation information in our bulletin instead of sending each of our members an individual letter.

As most of you know, we usually start canvassing for donations for the show around mid-July. We appreciate donations of cash, crafts, tools, art objects, vases, really almost anything you think a gardener might enjoy. If you would like to re-gift - that too is much appreciated - all we ask in this case is that it is a new object. The philosophy of these awards is that it (we hope) encourages our growers, including our new members, to show their dahlias at the show. It gives us a little fun after all our hard work. I think it might also attract our neighbours to the South and Vancouver Island to come and participate in our show. The more the merrier. I know our show isn't until September but if you wish me to pick up anything from you sooner, please give me a call and I will gladly do so. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 604-522-6258 or see me at the meetings. If you are interested in mailing a donation you may do so addressed to me at 8018 - 14th Avenue, Burnaby, BC V3N 2B6. Thank you for your generosity.

..... Maggie Cajar

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The membership desk was a busy place during the tuber sale. Many thanks to Jay Buckle, Tina McNabb, Mary Probert, Maggie Cajar and Pat Ianson for helping with the entrance desk at the members only sale, the membership table during the tuber sale and taking new memberships. We had 5 renewals on Saturday morning. We had 5 single and 3 family memberships for a total of 13 new members during the tuber sale weekend. Welcome to our new members.

**Harriet Warner**  
**Matthew St. John**  
**Max and Jeannie Kawada**  
**Michelle McBride**  
**William London**  
**Lynn MacKenzie**

**Rose, Ronald, Greg and Darlene Templeton**  
**Elaine Savidan**  
**Margaret W. Newton**  
**Kathy McColeman**  
**Christine Perry**

**Danielle Piard**  
**Jon Wyma**  
**Bindu Boggapam**  
**Linda Zapf**

## 50/50 DRAW

Tickets will be available when you sign in **before the start of the meeting** from Robin Blackmore.

Tickets are 1 for a Looney, 3 for a Tooney and 10 for \$5.00.



We had 54 members in attendance at the March 18 meeting and the winner of \$36.00 was Jeanne Noel.

We had 42 members in attendance at the April 15 meeting and the winner of \$27.00 was Carole Rollie.



## VANCOUVER DAHLIA SOCIETY CONTACTS

<b>President</b>	<b>Wally Kurth</b>	<b>604-536-6878</b>	<b>wally_kurth@telus.net</b>	
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	<b>Arlene Brodie</b>	<b>604-298-3676</b>	<b>john_arlene@telus.net</b>	
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	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Betty Girard</b>	<b>604-431-8611</b>	<b>vdsmembership@telus.net</b>
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<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Jack Duncan</b>	<b>604-420-9301</b>	<b>jack.duncan@shaw.ca</b>	
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<b>Bulletin Editor</b>	<b>Robin Blackmore</b>	<b>604-435-2530</b>	<b>vdseditor@shaw.ca</b>	

### Refreshment Reminder

#### May Meeting

Sandwiches: Donna & Betty and Doris Bowman  
Sweets: Rada Davy and Esmeralda Ferreira

#### June Meeting

Sandwiches: Arlene Brodie and Harriet Warner  
Sweets: Dorothy Pitre and Carole Rollie



**Please bring your own cup to cut cost of purchasing foam cups and to be environmentally friendly.**