

VANCOUVER DAHLIA SOCIETY

Promoting Dahlia Growing Since 1955

Bulletin 4

July – August 2010



Next Meetings:

July 21, 2010
August 18, 2010

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE * NORM SHARP

It seems everyone is bemoaning our cool nights and cloudy days we are experiencing at the start of this growing season thus far. But take heart, the sun will come shining through and those little green stumps will jump ahead and present us with spectacular colours in a variety of shapes and forms. It is worth the wait and perseverance of keeping those slugs and snails away and what ever else likes dining on these jewels of ours.

Just remember throw away those pesticides and herbicides, they may be a quick way to eradicate a problem, however, you don't want to be eradicated also as so many of them are carcinogenic. Here are a few home made recipes you may want to try:

Powdery Mildew Spray

5 ml (1 tsp) Baking Soda

5 ml (1tsp) Horticultural oil

Into one litre of water, you may also add 5ml of insecticidal soap to help the solution adhere and cling longer to the plant. Spray both upper and under sides of the leaves, as well as the stem.

Weed Killer Spray

Mix:

2 litres of white vinegar

¼ cup of salt

1 tablespoon of liquid lemon dish soap

Congratulations to Jack Duncan, our Web Master, on his recent retirement from the Children's Hospital. I am sure he'll be missed by a lot of people there however his dahlias and family will now have his full attention.

All the BEST Jack for a happy, healthy retirement !!

Have a great summer!

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.

Final Tuber Sale Report for 2010

The following is an account of all tuber sales and expenses.

Sales

Spring Tuber Sale - Apr 3/4	\$ 13,325.00
Burnaby Rhodo Fest - May 2	\$ 1,073.00
Auction - Apr 21	\$ 313.00
Total sales	\$ 14,711.00

Expenses

Growers	\$ 6,482.00
Hall Rental	\$ 552.00
Video, TV	50.00
Printing and postage	\$ 39.00
Prize coupons (BC Garden Clubs)	\$ 25.00
Donuts and coffee	\$ 56.00
Sellers lists/signs/tuber sale cards	\$ 82.00
Rhodo Table Rental	\$ 50.00
Total Expenses	\$ 7,336.00

Net Profit

\$ 7,375.00



A very special “thank you” to:

1. Those members who dug up and packaged those tubers donated to us “in the ground”. Our club number is “90” therefore all those sold at the sale for pure profit and hard work totaled \$361.00.
2. To Sue Croft and helpers for her “early bird” arrival to provide coffee, donuts and muffins to our staff of volunteers.
3. To Rosalee Hing who provided us with those excellent boxes for customer service.
4. To Vittorio Fontana and helpers who arrived early and set up the tables.
5. To Craig Stewart who puts up and provides that great video of “Dahlias”.
6. To Mary Probert who organizes and sells books and gives out advertising.
7. To Sue Girling and all the workers who made sure the Sales tables were well manned so our customers could be served quickly.
8. To Norm Sharp who subbed for Tina McNabb and did all the picture boards.
9. To Carole Rollie for doing all the finances.
10. To Richard & Jack for keeping track of the invoices and doing all the computer work.
11. To all the growers who donated their tubers to the Rhodo Sale:
Arlene Brodie, The Stewarts, The Zuks, The Pitres, The Fontanas, Peter Krueger, Christine Perry, Bonnie Nagel, Don Mackintosh, Dave MacIntosh, Wally Kurth, Merle Boyes, Mary Probert, The Rollies, Robin Blackmore, Sue Croft.
12. To all the growers who brought their tubers to our sale and made the tuber sale possible.

....Tuber Sale Report for 2010 Continued from Page 2

The VDS auction, with auctioneer Wally Kurth and helper Norm Sharp, was a huge success again this year. 31 donated tubers were sold for a total of \$313.00. The most expensive went for \$21.00 while two others sold for \$20.00 each. It was a lot of fun and excitement for all. The generous donors were:

The Howards, The Wynnes, The Rollies, The McNabbs, The Zuks, The Fontanas, Wally Kurth, Norm Sharp, Vera Williamson, Peter Krueger, Arlene Brodie, Robin Blackmore.

.....Vera Williamson

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Vancouver Dahlia Society Annual Show September 4 & 5, 2010

Plans are underway for the annual show. Volunteers are needed for a number of jobs. Show set-up starts on Friday, September 3 at 5 p.m. It takes about two hours to set up the show. Show clean-up starts immediately after show closing on Sunday, September 5.

Volunteers are also needed for clerking, ribbons, door, information and membership table, cut flower sales, set up and clean up for the lunch.

There will be sign-up sheets at the July and August meeting. If there is something you would like to do in particular, please contact Betty at 604 431 8611 or Richard and Jennifer at 604 294 0237.

Many hands make light work, and all assistance is appreciated, whether it be for an hour or two or the entire show!

Volunteers are needed to help with the setting up and clearing away of the VDS Show luncheon on September 4 and for the Parlour Show and Pot Luck Dinner on September 15, 2010. Please contact Sue at 604-879-0135 or suecroft@telus.net



Message from the 2010 VDS Show Awards Committee

The Show Committee is once again requesting donations for our annual show. 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 would like us to pick up anything from you sooner, please give Richard Zuk a call at 604-294-0237 if you live in greater Vancouver and Maggie Cajar at 604-701-6978 if you live in the Fraser Valley. Donations can be mailed to Maggie Cajar at 46152 Gore Avenue, Chilliwack, BC V2P 1Z7. If you have any questions please feel free to call Maggie at 604-701-6978 or see her at the meetings. Thank you for your generosity.

..... Maggie Cajar and the Awards Committee

A Special Invitation from Jean Heeringa, Lynden, Washington

Jean is again inviting all Vancouver Dahlia Society members to attend the Whatcom County Dahlia Society's Annual Potluck Supper on Monday, July 19, 2010 at 6 PM. Requirements for the evening are to bring something for a Potluck picnic, plate, cutlery and folding lawn chair.

Directions: Jean's address is 1216 Birch Bay Road, Lynden. Easy to find: Cross border at Peace Arch or Douglas Crossing. Take I-5 to exit 270 which is the Lynden - Birch Bay Exit, turn left, head north for 6 miles along Birch Bay - Lynden Road and you are there. If you are going through the Aldergrove Custom Crossing (264th Ave) proceed South (about 4 miles) to Lynden. Turn right onto the Lynden-Birch Bay Road (Safeway Shopping Centre at intersection). Go West for 2 miles. Jean's place is on your right hand side. Allow at least an hour for travel time without any delays at the border (don't forget your passports).

Announcing the 2nd Annual VDS Photo Contest



Judging will take place at the Pot Luck Dinner and Parlour Show September 15, 2010

1. Competition is open to anyone; VDS membership is not required.
2. Photos must be the contestant's own work.
3. Images must be representative of the entered class; dahlias must predominate.
4. Each entrant may submit no more than four images.
5. Maximum size of photo is 8 x 12 and unmounted.
6. Write contestant's name and name of dahlia (if available) on the back of the picture.
7. Bring entries to the parlour show on September 15th.
8. There will be ribbons for each class and an award for the best photo.
9. **Please note** - winning pictures of last year's contest may not be re-submitted.

Entry Classes

Class 1. INTRODUCTION OR UNDISSEMINATED DAHLIAS - introductions of the past two growing seasons or unnamed seedlings.

Class 2. DAHLIA PORTRAITS - any single dahlia listed in the Classification Handbook or past ADS listings. Dahlia variety must be identified.

Class 3. BLOOMS OF TWO OR MORE VARIETIES - be sure to identify these.

Class 4. DAHLIA GARDENS - note location of garden on back of photo.

Class 5. DAHLIA SHOWS AND CLUBS - pictures of club events and shows.

Class 6. MACRO VIEW - closeup of part of a dahlia bloom or plant; may include insects or other interesting elements relating to dahlia culture.

Class 7. KIDS & CRITTERS - dahlias must be present in image to qualify

Calling All First Time Exhibitors

Have you ever wanted to show flowers but felt too intimidated to put your blooms on the bench with all those other competitors? Did you bring flowers to the parlour show last year and enjoyed a little friendly competition? This year there is a special category at the show for first time competitors! If you have never entered a dahlia show before, this is a great place to start. It is OK if you have entered our parlour show or a general garden show before. But, if you have never entered a dahlia show before, consider bringing a bloom or two and entering it in Section 59, Class 271. If you don't have vases and foam - don't worry about it. Just bring your flower in some water to the show on Friday, September 3rd from 6-9 PM or Saturday, September 4 from 6:30 - 9:00 AM and someone will help you stage your flower and write out a tag. There is going to be a special prize for the winner! See You There!

... Betty Girard, Show Committee

FOR SALE

5' sturdy conduit poles. Perfect for staking dahlias or what have you. \$1.00 each. No cheques, cash only. Phone to order and instructions for pick up.
Contact Mary Probert in Aldergrove at 604-856-6284.

This site is available for any of your for sale or wanted articles for gardening or growing dahlias. Please contact the editor to reserve your space today!

Section 59 – Class 271 Floating Waterlily

Over the past few years the VDS Show Committee has received several requests for a class for floating waterlilies. The Skagit Valley and Whatcom County dahlia shows have had this class for several years and they have been very successful. This year the Show Committee decided to include this class on the show bench.

To enter a floating waterlily dahlia you need a bowl that is wider than it is tall and some clear water. The dahlia needs to float in the bowl so the stem must be cut off right below the bloom. This is the perfect place to show waterlily dahlias that have thin or crooked stems! When placing the waterlily dahlia in the bowl, it must not touch the sides of the bowl. These entries are judged both on the quality of the bloom and the proportion and harmony effect of the bowl and bloom together. Please note that greenery is not allowed.

Please consider bringing a waterlily or two to the show and entering them in this class. This class always proves to be popular with the public, and it is yet another diverse way to show dahlias off.

.....Betty Girard



This is a picture of Kay Porter's 2008 winning floater Kelgai Ann, as seen on the Whatcom County Dahlia Society website.

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 31 members in attendance at the May meeting and the winner of \$20.00 was David McIntosh.

We had 34 members in attendance at the June meeting and the winner of \$24.00 was Robin Blackmore.

REMINDER - Tickets will be on sale at each meeting only until 7:25 PM. Meeting starts at 7:30 PM. Please come early enough to purchase your tickets before the start of the meeting.



VANCOUVER DAHLIA SOCIETY CONTACTS

President	Norm Sharp	604-589-0463	sharpz@shaw.ca
Vice-President	Peter Krueger	604-241-4995	peterkrueger@shaw.ca
Secretary	Linda Ayres	604-596-2397	zurekayres@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Carole Rollie		
Past President	Wally Kurth	604-536-6878	wally_kurth@telus.net
Directors	Gary Rollie		
	Vera Williamson	604-574-5791	
	Richard Zuk	604-294-0237	rtzjg@telus.net
	Vittorio Fontana	604-524-4746	vittorio@shaw.ca
	David McIntosh	604-526-3441	hdmcintosh@shaw.ca
	Tina McNabb	604-572-8981	themcnabbs@telus.net
	Arlene Brodie	604-298-3676	john_arlene@telus.net
Food Services	Sue Croft	604-879-0135	suecroft@telus.net
Membership	Betty Girard	604-431-8611	vdsmembership@telus.net
Publicity	Evelyn Crawford	604-437-8395	
Webmaster	Jack Duncan	604-420-9301	jack.duncan@shaw.ca
Show Awards	Maggie Cajar	604-701-6978	mcajar@hotmail.com
Bulletin Editor	Robin Blackmore	604-435-2530	vdseditor@shaw.ca

Refreshment Reminder

July Meeting

Sandwiches: Ken Pitre & Jeanne Noel
 Sweets: Jack Duncan
 Fruit/Veggies: Maria MacKenzie

August Meeting

Sandwiches:
 Sweets: Selene Shen
 Fruit/Veggies Rada Davy & Louise Stewart