

VANCOUVER DAHLIA SOCIETY

Promoting Dahlia Growing Since 1955

Bulletin 3

May - June 2011



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE * NORM SHARP

Now that we have incorporated our compost and fertilizers into our soil and developed a planting plan, let's get started to plant. All those new tubers we obtained at the tuber sales are ready to fill our garden beds with spectacular beauty that only dahlias can display.

Our April dahlia tuber sale was very successful this year. The quality of the tubers sold was excellent. The total amount sold was \$15,171.00, the second highest amount in the last seven years. Again Vera Williamson and Tina McNabb did a great job of organizing this year's sale. Thank you for all the help we received from our members, as well as all the sellers and buyers. Next year we will be holding our sale in a new venue at VanDusen Gardens, which I am sure will provide us with more public exposure.

At our April general meeting we had Wally Kurth give us a presentation on the American Dahlia Society's new four digit classification system to identify dahlias. Change in some cases can be difficult to accept, but Wally did an excellent job in convincing everyone of the new system's merit, (pointing out, change is not always hard to accept). Following his presentation Wally did an encore as our auctioneer and raised over \$300.00, a job well done. Thanks one and all for the many specialty tubers that were donated.

Our May general meeting presenter will be Brian Campbell speaking on bees. He is an excellent, informative speaker. I am sure you will enjoy his presentation. Hope to see you at our May 18th general meeting @ 7:30, until then happy planting.

Just a tidbit:

Young aphids mature in about a week. If all the children of one mother survived for 100 days in favourable conditions, their combined weight would be an incredible 10 million tons.

Next Meetings:

May 18, 2011
June 15, 2011

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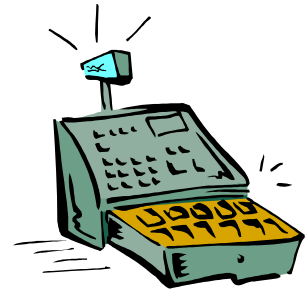
The VDS meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, except January, November and December, in the Floral Hall at the VanDusen Botanical Gardens at 7:30 PM. Visitors are Welcome. Our website is www.vancouverdahliasociety.com

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 9 & 10, 2011.

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 9 Members Sale	\$ 4,957.00
Public Sale	\$ 8,150.00
April 10 Public Sale	\$ 2,075.00
Total	\$15,182.00
Club Portion	\$ 7,610.50
Total to Date	\$ 7,610.50



The gardening season is almost here and we'll soon be out looking for new plants, tools, fertilizers, etc. Remember to show your Vancouver Dahlia Society membership card to the retailer or wholesaler as some shops will give a discount. Some wholesale floral and garden supply centres will recognize our member's card and allow you to shop at the wholesale prices. (I know Garden Works accepts our membership card and gives a 10% discount - Editor)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Minerva Billones, and Ted and Namai Eaton who joined at the tuber sale

Inflammation (MS OR) Wanted

Paul McKittrick, Show Chair from the Victoria Dahlia Society is looking for this tuber. If any of our members can help Paul please contact him at paulmckittrick@shaw.ca



The Stanford Dahlia Project

How would you like to take a university level biology course where the professor teaches plant genetics using the dahlia as the study subject? That is just what you can do at Stanford University in California. The course is called Biology 137: Dahlias in Plant Genetics. Dr. Walbot has generously shared the course syllabus as well as other pertinent information on the Stanford University website. There is also a database of dahlias that the university grows at their Stock Farm Experimental Garden and several other scientific dahlia documents. Have a look at this intellectual website at http://www.stanford.edu/group/dahlia_genetics/index.htm



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 43 members in attendance at the March meeting and the winner of \$21.50 was Bob Fernandes.

We had 34 members in attendance at the April meeting and the winner of \$21.00 was Gordie Stach.

REMINDER - 50/50 tickets will be on sale at each meeting only until 7:25 PM. We want to start the meetings on time at 7:30. Please come early enough to purchase your tickets before the start of the meeting.



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Refreshment Reminder

May Meeting

Sandwiches: Maria MacKenzie
 Sweets: Fay Newman, Jeannette Stach
 Fruit/Veggies: Edward Ho

June Meeting

Sandwiches: Betty Girard
 Sweets: Dave McIntosh, Donna Quinn
 Fruit/Veggies: Norm Sharp