

VANCOUVER DAHLIA SOCIETY

Promoting Dahlia Growing Since 1955

Bulletin 1

February, 2012



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE * PETER KRUEGER

Welcome to another year of growing, showing and socializing around Dahlias.

I am excited to be taking on the role of President. I have been on the executive for 3 years during which I have become acquainted with many people and have "learned the ropes". The executive is a competent, committed and enthusiastic group of people and I look forward to working with them in my new capacity.

There is not much change in the executive from last year. The only change is that Norm has moved to Past President (thanks, Norm for your exemplary leadership), and I have moved into the position of President from Vice-President. This does leave the position of Vice-President open. If you think you are the person to fill that position or if you know a person you think would be a good fit, please let me know or pass their name on to any executive member and they can pass it on to me.

The September, Potluck Dinner was a great success, as always; socializing around food and showing off our prize dahlias. There was, however, a gap in the evening when we had only two entries in the first time exhibitor and novice exhibitor category. This, to me, suggests a lack of new exhibitors in the club and one way I would like to address that is to institute an, "ask the experts" portion to each meeting. Members can bring any dahlia related question to the meeting and hopefully, someone in the club will have the answer. At the executive level, we may need to have a look at the judging categories for the potluck.

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Next Meetings:

February 15, 2012

March 21, 2012

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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

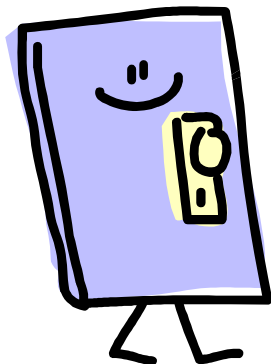
We have an exciting lineup of programs scheduled for you this year. The first meeting is on February 15, and will feature talks on starting dahlias from cuttings and starting dahlias from seed by members of our club. We will also begin preparations for the tuber sale.

I have persuaded Dick and Danielle Parshall to give an Introduction to Dahlia Judging presentation for the July meeting. The Parshalls are the originators of Clearview dahlias. Dick is the president of the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers, the body that oversees policy for about 12 dahlia clubs in the Pacific Northwest and that is responsible for the judges training for the same clubs. Every summer, Dick and Danielle teach a full day, Introduction to Judging class. When I took the course, it was not only the most fun I had had in years but it boosted my showing potential exponentially. I guarantee it will be great fun and will, hopefully, inspire many potential exhibitors.

Congratulations go out to Wally Kurth who has attained his Senior Judging status.

Congratulations are also in order for Gordon Stach who is introducing one of his seedlings called Hazel B, a Small (BB) FD V PK/DR.

I hope you are as excited about the coming year as I am. It promises to be a great year.



DOOR PRIZES FOR 2012

Everyone looks forward to the door prizes that we award each month at the end of the general meeting. Door prizes do not have to be new, they can be just about anything - cuttings from your garden, extra produce, a "re-gift" or homemade treasures. Each month names are randomly picked from those who have signed in at the beginning of the meeting, and each person chooses their door prize in order of winning. Everyone appreciates contributions to the door prizes. Please bring in anything that you would like to share with the club.



WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Sheila Dietrich

VDS MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Thank you to everyone for sending your renewals in. And for those of you that haven't yet renewed, Jack and I will be accepting VDS renewals at the February meeting. Please bring exact change or cheque if possible. And don't worry if you have misplaced your renewal form – we will have extras at the meeting.

As many garden clubs struggle with dwindling membership, I am happy to report that our membership is staying fairly stable with only a slight drop to 138 active members. We are on course to meet or exceed that number in 2012.

Thank you to everyone who has opted to have their bulletin sent via email. Not only do you get to enjoy the bulletin in colour, you are saving the club significant money. Currently over 60% of our members receive their bulletin by email.

And one more exciting detail. We are the largest (by far) Canadian group in the American Dahlia Society. And as of 2011 we are tied for the 18th largest club in all of North America. This representation gives us considerable clout in the dahlia world.

Thanks again for supporting the society with your renewal. We wouldn't have such a dynamic and vibrant club without your support. I would also like to thank and acknowledge Jack Duncan for assisting with renewals and keeping our mailing lists up to date. He puts a considerable amount of time and effort into these tasks.

And a final note, if any of your contact information changes throughout the year, please send an update to ydsmembership@telus.net or give me a call at 604 431 8611.

See you at the February meeting.

..... Betty Girard

Your **50/50 DRAW** will be back again in 2012. Tickets will be available when you sign in **before the start of the meeting** from Robin Blackmore.

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



We had 35 members in attendance at the October, 2011 meeting and the winner of \$26.00 was Dorothy Pitre.

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

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Refreshment Reminder

February Meeting

Sandwiches:

Sweets:

Fruit/Veggies:

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