

The dahliafax

Inland Empire Dahlia Society, Inc.
Official American Dahlia Society Trial Garden
Affiliated with American Dahlia Society
Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference
Spokane



April Dawn B ID LtBld Wh/Pk
2008 Dahlia of the Year

Claudia Biggs, Editor

newsletter

VOL. 44 ISSUE 83

JUNE 2008

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 12, 2008 7:30 P.M. Manito Meeting Room
HOSTS: Storebos & Bentleys WHITE ELEPHANT: Storebos & Bentleys
PROGRAM: Demonstration of arrangements—Tim Kohlhauff

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hello everyone, and welcome to June. First I would like to thank everyone that helped out at the VA and the Trial Garden planting dahlias. From what I heard it went really well. Thanks again everyone!! Before I forget, I need to say this. I had a meeting with Jessie at the fairgrounds this week and she said that all contracts for judges and clerks have been sent out. If you have not received one yet, let me know ASAP. If you have gotten yours, get it in ASAP, before you forget about it or misplace it or lose it. If you were a judge or clerk last year, and did not get one yet, let me know ASAP. My number is 483-3181, or e-mail me. Every year someone forgets to turn theirs in or forgets to bring it to the fair, so please do this ASAP, thank-you. I talked to the person that does all the rosettes for the fair and will by this meeting hopefully have the samples that were discussed at the March meeting. For those of you not being at a meeting but show at the fair, we are looking to change the style or the rosette for next year's conference show. I will have those new styles and colors of the tails, which we are looking to change also at this meeting. Change is good, and we think it is time for a change and the fair and Jessie o.k.d the changes as we see fit. So thank-you to the fair for working with us on this matter. For those of you that helped work one or all the tuber sales thank-you very much!!

This was a very very good year for us for sales, and with our own auction in April and 3 after that, we brought in over \$4,000 for the society. Nice job everyone!! A large part of this will be used for next year's Conference show. Lots to do for next year's show and we'll be starting on that right after this years show. I will be looking for all suggestions on this matter. I think that last month we said what the flower of the year for next year was, but if not it is Kenora Sunset. So make plans to get ahold of this one for next year. I did luck out and we have the Longhorn Bar-B-Q for this year's show banquet. Times and address for this will be in next month's newsletter. I would like to thank those people that have donated to this year's fair with cash donations. I think that this is something that we have to lean towards more, and anyone can donate. The amount can be whatever you want it to be and you can even choose where you would like to have your donation go towards. Just about anything in the fair guide is open for a donation except for about 10 of them that have been donated on already. Any questions about this, please ask me at the meeting or call or e-mail me. This year the society is putting in \$300 extra dollars for prize money. Where exactly I'm not sure but we will try to cover as much as possible. I'm hoping to put a big push on the youth division to try to attract more of our younger people, we need them!! Any ideas let me know. Once again I want to thank all those in the society that donated tubers to the tuber sales. And all those (even though they don't get a dahliafax but I want to thank them anyways) that donated to our cause also. This all means so much to this society to keep it healthy and fun!! There are a lot of other things out there to do with our lives, but we choose dahlias as one of those things that we like or love to do. There is nothing easy about the job of growing dahlias, and it is a hard sell for people who aren't quite sure if they really want to grow them or not. Oh! You have to dig them up every year, oh that's not for me. We hear that and know full well what they're thinking, but we love it. We love the challenge to see if we can really get them to winter over. I do anyways..Don't forget this meeting Tim will be doing a demo on arrangements and etc. It should be a very good learning experience for those of us that would like to do this at the fair. Thanks everyone again for all your help. See you at the meeting. *Greg Smith*

IEDS Meeting—Minutes May 9, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Greg Smith and 22 were present. Auction totals were announced from the April meeting totaling \$607.

Trial Garden totals are 38 and growing in the greenhouse. Planting will be May 31st.

Treasurer's report: We have \$5,500. The tuber sales so far brought in \$2,789.

Planting for the VA will begin at 8 am followed immediately by the trek across town and the planting of the Trial Garden. Coffee, donuts and lunch will be provided.

Tim gave an explanation of the workings of the American Dahlia Society.

Walter Hoppe, the awards chair, reported on the progress of medal exchanges and gave the Idaho Society show dates of August 16-17, at Bonner County Fairgrounds in Sandpoint, Idaho.

Garden Expo sign up sheets were passed around.

Tim will do the June program concerning baskets, bouquets and arrangements.

Greg reported on the fair guide which is to go to print soon. We have gift certificates from growers and will give them as fair awards. Cash awards are to be allotted for special awards such as Best Bloom of Show.

Club rosters will be printed for 2009 as well as a show program for the PNDC show we are hosting.

Dahlia of the year for 2009 is Kenora Sunset.

We will have a booth at the fair for all 9 days. Sign up sheets were passed around. If you can work this booth at any time, please notify Greg.

Places were suggested to have our show banquet. Greg will check into this and report back.

White Elephant and raffles were held. Meeting adjourned.

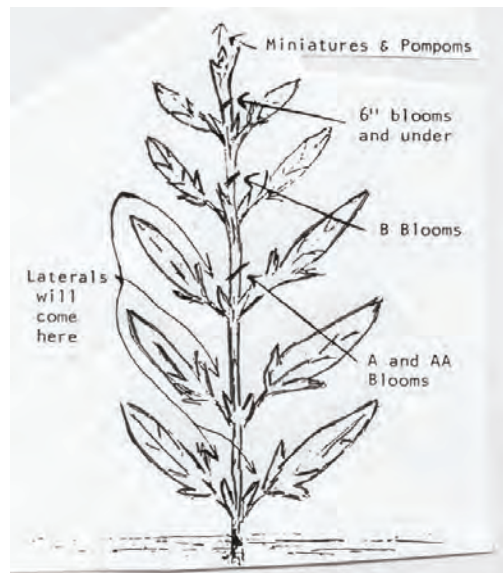
Joni Beasley, Secretary

STOPPING

Dahlia growers learned long ago that by removing the growing tip, a dahlia plant will produce multiple branches (and blooms). Stopping (or topping) is the method growers use to force their dahlia plants to produce these multiple branches. Left alone, the dahlia plant will continue to grow until the one terminal bloom - located on the growing tip—has completed its flowering cycle. Exhibition growers want to be able to establish the time when blooms are available and maximize the size of the individual blooms. Stopping is the first step to accomplish this control.

To stop a plant, you simply pinch off the growing tip of the plant after a predetermined number of leaf pairs exist on the plant. The number of leaf pairs to save depends on the size of the bloom. For plants with giant or large blooms, two or three leaf pairs should remain; with medium or small blooms, three or four leaf pairs should remain. The smaller varieties can be stopped once the terminal bud has formed.

(Disbudding continued next page)



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DISBUDDING

Dahlia plants generally produce many flowers on each plant. Typically each branch of a dahlia plant has a terminal bud at the end along with two side buds. You will also find other pairs of flower buds at the leaf nodes further down the branches. Disbudding is the process of removing the side buds to allow the terminal bloom to reach its maximum size. In the larger types of dahlias (or if you want longer stems for your flowers) it may be necessary to also remove some of the lower buds. The easiest method to remove these extra buds is to get to them when they are small—about the size of a pea—and just snap them off with your fingers. It is best to do you disbudding in the morning when the plants are crisp. It is not necessary to disbud more than the first pair of buds on the smaller types of dahlias, such as pompons.,

**2008 OFFICERS OF THE
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The Inland Empire
Dahlia Society
meets monthly on
the 2nd Thursday of
the month at the
meeting room at
Manito Park except
Dec.

Dues: Single: \$7
Family: \$10