



Dear Fellow PNDC Members,... Larry Smith, President

Ah, Summer is here and the dahlias are shooting up and bursting into glorious bloom. Well, for some of us, they are. Mine have been somewhat of a disappointment so far. A good many started out looking diseased and stunted, twisty and crinkled foliage abounded. The cause could be one of several things. The V word....Virus? Probably not, in this case. Could manure added this spring have been tainted with pesticide? Could they be stunted from either the cool spring or the mini heat wave we had in June? We had downpours here last month, but when I planted, the soil was very dry down where the tubers were placed....I dug down to take out a few bad plants and the soil down at tuber level was bone dry! Regardless, maybe if I mowl around enough, it will conjure up a successful show season. Historically, the more disappointed I am in my dahlias, the better they seem to place at the shows, so on with the bellyaching! I NEED more Head Table rosettes for my collection, you know-HA!

By the time you read this, some of you will have completed the judge's training/refresher course in the Portland area. The Canadian members will have participated in a workshop led by Mark Oldenkamp in Nanaimo. Show season is quickly approaching and the PNDC show season will be leading off in Victoria in mid August. The PNDC Conference Show, presented by Lane County Dahlia Society, will commence in Eugene, September 14-15, at the Lane County Fairgrounds. There will be more information about the dates and locations of all of PNDC shows within this publication, I hope that you will attend some of them. We who do make the effort have a lot of fun and make some wonderful friends in the process.

In order to highlight the National Garden Bureau's proclamation of 2019 as "Year of the Dahlia," I came up with an angle to pitch this to the local media. Since the ADS has chosen to highlight inclusion of micro dahlias into the show book, I worked with a couple of TV shows to include an interview, in order to bring attention to our hobby. The links are as follows, we are being encouraged to share them with whoever we want to, on your websites or on social media.

<https://vimeo.com/345077095>

A Bylaws Revision Committee consisting of Mark Oldenkamp, Bob Chibante, and I have been working with the various Society Reps and have sent out a proposed draft to be considered. We feel this update will allow our organization more flexibility and allow us to work to invigorate the PNDC in years to come.

The PNDC Board, consisting of officers and a lead representative of each Society, met at The Oldenkamp home in late March, just prior to the PNDC Spring Meeting, in Executive Session. With use of the Zoom program that allows people to join by computer, all PNDC Societies were able to participate in this productive meeting. Our main task was to discuss needed revisions to the PNDC bylaws, which have not been updated since 2005.

Barry Willoughby, Judge's Chair for the Victoria Dahlia Society show, says they have been short of judges over the past few years. The PNDC is planning a judging workshop there in 2020 in order to lure in some new judges. Until then, Victoria would like to lure any available PNDC judges to this year's show.

Victoria is in a beautiful part of British Columbia and well worth visiting. The Victoria club treats guests to some excellent food centered social events and unmatched hospitality during their show. This year's show will be on August 17-18. If you are able to help or would like more information, contact Barry at bawilloughby@telus.net

I wish you all "happy growing" as I get ready to go into my garden and grumble grumble grumble about my plants. In any scenario, all will not be lost, as my vegetable garden is doing spectacularly well this year.

PNDC Spring Meeting Minutes

Thank you to Phil Newton and Teresa Thom for taking the PNDC minutes at the PNDC meeting, held March 23, 2019. This is a job that no one wants to do but they both did a great job! You will receive the minutes with this newsletter as a pdf attachment or as an enclosed hard copy.



Victoria Dahlia Society - Phil Newton

Victoria, B.C.

We just had our July 1st Canada Day celebration and hope our American friends had a great July 4th. Dahlia blooms are just starting to show. We had a mixed May and June with good heat but also some rain.

Our tuber sale was a huge success with the more members selling tubers than ever before. The biggest thanks has to go to the twenty volunteers who helped at the sale even though they didn't sell tubers. The club is growing steadily with 80 members and the hope of surpassing 100 by show time.

Cathy Featherby put on a well-coordinated three part presentation on starting dahlias which was well received with great audience participation. Part of the presentation was on wanted and unwanted bugs. Very well received.

Lyn Vantreight and Teresa Thom co presented an interesting program on cut flowers for roadside stands and retail. We had a very interested group as there are many Dahlia vendors for the cut flower business throughout lower island. Most people use the honour system on the stands and the theft was minimal. On our stand we usually get a little more than we ask for and very few times are we shorted.

Our display garden at the Prospect Lake community

hall is well attended on the Tuesday evening. John Wrinch is doing a wonderful job throughout the week watering the garden and the Tuesday crew has a mix of "newbies" and senior growers so we should have a splendid display again this season.

Barry and Mary Willoughby with their combined 80 plus years growing dahlias are running the show for us again this year. Our flowers of the year will be **Lady Darlene**, single, and **Clearview Daniel** for the triple. We are short of judges, so if you want to see Victoria at its Dahlia best get in touch with myself. The show catalogue can be viewed on our website, www.victoriadahliasociety.org

The show is held on Aug 17th and 18th at the Prospect Lake Hall again this year, a venue that is perfect in size for our show. On the Sunday the Prospect Lake community center has their annual BBQ so we get quite a large crowd as well as great burgers.

We're lucky to have so many members actively involved in our club and they make it a fun as well as a learning group. This year we have garden tours featuring Connie Young Davis, Joan Fleming, and Wayne Reid's gardens. Enjoy your Dahlias in this "Year of the Dahlia"!

Wild Rivers Dahlia Society - Bob Chibante

Gold Beach, OR

Hopefully, Curry County will stay fire free this year. Wild Rivers Dahlia Society will be hosting our 2019 Dahlia Show at the Event Center on the Beach in Gold Beach. While it was a logistic problem to be unsure of location and last-minute moves, we truly appreciate all the efforts and sacrifices our local and visiting emergency services agencies and the men and women firefighters and support staff did to protect as much life and property that was saved. Our event center is the emergency center for the county and besides being available for staging personnel, it is the primary location small livestock and horses are brought for safety.

The 2019 show will be Labor Day weekend, Aug 31st, 11am-4pm & Sept 1st, 10am-3pm. The bloom of the year is Jennifer's Dream. As always, we have some giveaways for our visiting exhibitors who stay until the show's end. Last year we had a public entry competition. It was successful and we had a few added members join from that section. We still are seeking sponsors for our show. Most of our members are new to the competition world, changing over their varieties and have been buying quality dahlias supplied by growers and hybridizers of the American Dahlia Society family. Meanwhile, the Curry County Fair was held the 3rd week of July. In an attempt to bring up the standards for fair blooms, WRDS held a few lectures and educational opportunities for the public to learn about dahlias and how to exhibit them. They resulted in the largest dahlia exhibit for the fair. There were 73 blooms presented for judging. Normally there are around 15 to 20. WRDS is the sponsor for the best dahlia at the fair and I judged them. Guy Chibante cleaned, painted and supplied 150 cans, then Clay Dalrymple filled them with shredded floral foam. We supplied the cans for the public to stage their blooms instead of the usually clear soda and booze bottles.

Mandi Chibante and Bob Hemus spent entry day helping folks to get the correct section for both named and unnamed blooms. This was Bob's first time doing this for others and he did a good job learning how to identify forms. Things looked much better; entries did not have to be moved around before judging began. It was nice to see Maryanne Connelly's Ruskin Diane named as the best dahlia. This bloom would have won blue or higher honors at an ADS show. Since, I do not enter blooms into the fair competition, my blooms were used for the booth display advertising the club and the show. Overall, it was a nice event! Next stop, ADS show season.



Lane County Dahlia Society - Deb Gilmer

Eugene, Oregon

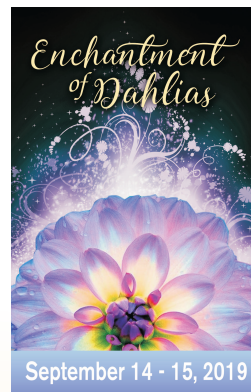
The first half of the year has certainly flown by, here in Eugene. Our April Auction was very successful: with 71 bidders buying 396 tubers for \$1419 and another \$420 of tubers from the sales tables for a total of \$1891. In May and June, LCDS sold \$2278 at the first Garden Extravaganza Sale with the Willamette District Garden Clubs, \$796 at the 2nd Tuber sale the following weekend, and \$206 at our final June 6th tuber sale at our regular meeting for a total of \$5173 for our 2019 Dahlia Show. We have also raised \$780 towards a goal of \$1200 in show awards.

LCDS 2019 spring and summer programs included a May PowerPoint program on "Top Dahlia Picks for your Garden" by Lexa Cookson and Deb Gilmer, which was quite inspiring. Larry Smith, PNDC president and long time grower from Portland Dahlia Society, kept us entertained with his dahlia growing methods and upper body workout tips in June. In July members were treated to a talk by August Jackson from the Mt. Piscah Arboretum on Pollinators and in August, Wayne Lobaugh, of Lobaugh's Dahlias from Chehalis, WA spoke on Growing and Judging Open Faced Dahlias. September's program will help LCDS growers to try their hand at staging and showing their dahlias at our upcoming show.

The 2019 Lane County Dahlia Society Show will be held on September 14th and 15th, 2019. It will also be this year's Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference Show. The 2019 show theme is "The Enchantment of Dahlias" and will feature Margaret and Ted Kennedy's Hollyhill Black Beauty, an award winning black-red BB

size, Informal Decorative as show flower.

There will be a University of Oregon home football game against Montana on September 14th so make your hotel reservations soon. Registration will begin on Friday, September 13th from 6-8 PM and then on Saturday, September 14th from 6:30 to 9:00 AM. A banquet will be held the evening of September 14th, with awards being presented on Sunday, September 16th.



Flower arrangers will have some interesting designs themes to challenge them including: "Enchanted Forest": a design that includes wood and dahlias; Cinderella's Slipper: a design arranged in a dressy shoe with dahlias; Snow White: a designer's choice using all white flowers including dahlias; Fairy Tales: a design with dahlias that includes a book and/or uses a figurine or other accessories; Tinkerbell: a miniature design (8" or less) with dahlias; and Crystal Ball: a design incorporating Ball, Miniature Ball, and Pom dahlias with rock crystals. Men may try their hand at two Men Only design themes: "Prince Charming" - a dahlia design in a dressy shoe or boot and "Sorcerer's Stone" - a design including one or more rocks.

We welcome all comers to our show so put it on your schedule, as the blooms will be incredible!



These beautiful dahlia table settings, made by members Carol PrudHomme and Pat Chasse, will be raffled off at the LCDS Dahlia Show. Tickets will be available for \$1 each at the Information Table.

Show Banquet on Saturday Night, Sept. 14

Members of the Lane County Dahlia Society will host the PNDC Dahlia Show and are looking forward to putting on a fantastic show and banquet! On Saturday night we have a dinner banquet planned at the historic Eugene Hotel in downtown Eugene. Dinner reservations must be made a week in advance by replying on the Judges reply card that you'll soon receive from Judging Chair Lexa Cookson. Plan to attend for an evening of social opportunities with friends from our Roseburg, Portland, Gold Beach, Nanaimo, Victoria, and Lane County dahlia societies.

Please plan to attend for an enjoyable evening. Tickets for this event are \$22.50 each. Banquet details will be included with our Judging invitation.

Also, this year the Ducks play Montana, September 14, at 7:45 PM. It is our hope that lodging will be more available than in the past. We hope to see you there!



Douglas County Dahlia Society - Ember Nay

We have been working with new members on planting, watering, and dealing with viruses/diseases. Discussing how to disbud and tie up plants.

Our flower of the year is Cameo, and we would like to extend our apologies if any of your Cameo are not doing well. It appears that we can jinx the variety we choose for our flower of the year. Needless to say, when we were discussing this, we had major debates due to the fact we didn't want to pass along this horrid trend to the beloved Cameo! Such a beautiful waterlily type doesn't deserve the dreaded curse of Douglas County. HA, HA! This is all in good fun and we know that we aren't cursed but we just have an uncanny knack at having difficulty with the variety we choose to show off for the show.

With all that said, our show will be **September 21 & 22, 2019**. The name of our show is "The Greatest Show on Earth". This will have a circus theme. Thought this will help all of you who enjoy entering the arrangements.

We will be in the Floral Building at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. We will be putting on our potluck for lunch, please bring a dish to share. We have plenty of space and picnic tables to eat at. This is a large covered area that keeps us out of the elements.

We will have some garden tours on Sunday morning, those will be announced at the show on Saturday morning.

Here are some basic directions to arrive at the Fairgrounds. If you are coming from the north. Take Exit 123, turn left onto Portland Ave., after approx. 500 ft. turn right onto Frear St., drive 0.3 miles on Frear St. and then turn left at the gates. The building will be on your right. The only difference with the directions from the south is you will turn right onto Portland Ave. and only drive about 100 ft. before you turn onto Frear St.

We look forward to seeing you at the shows and wish you all the best for your growing season!

Portland Dahlia Society - Larry Smith

Nothing lasts forever and after meeting in our church venue for about 20 years, we needed to find a new location beginning in our meeting beginning in August.

The new location will be the Oaks Park Dance Pavilion, the same building where we have been hosting our annual show. It is a spacious and comfortable venue.

There are few activities going on in the park during the evenings, so there will be more than enough parking available. Best yet, I was able to cut a deal with them where we will be paying less than half the room rental fee than we were scheduled to pay in our former location. We meet at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday on most months, check our website, for details. Guests are always welcome, so plan to join us when you can.

Our fund raising activities this year were very successful. In addition to our big April sale, we also had a tent at the big Master Gardener sale in Canby and had a smaller auction and silent auction in May and June. Bidding was spirited and competitive to the point that this penny pincher didn't win a single bid in the April sale. Lots of cash was earned to support our activities and shows.

Speaking of shows, please plan to join us on **August 24-25** for the "North Willamette Region Dahlia Show" at Oaks Park. How's that for marketing? "Annual Portland Dahlia Show" doesn't spark much interest in the media, so I spiced it up a bit. We will be offering a record amount of prize money. Our "Four Musketeers" will be catering the judges and volunteers picnic lunch so we can have a chance to sit down together and enjoy each other's company. We hope

you can join the fun!

Upon being approved to host the **2023 National Show in Portland**, we have just signed the contract with our first choice of venues, the Red Lion on the River. The 2012 National was held there and it was spectacular, ADS members who attended are still talking about how well it came off. The Portland DS will take the lead in planning and implementation, though we will be asking for help with various tasks from other clubs within the region to make it an all PNDC supported event. More information will be forthcoming as the time grows closer.

Seeking Social Media Guru!

The American Dahlia Society is looking for someone who is comfortable with and enjoys working the social media sites to serve on the ADS Publicity and Public Relations Committee. Many people get large amounts of information from social media and we are missing out if we don't tap those resources. While I have taken the lead in traditional media PR for the ADS, I personally don't participate in Facebook, Twitter, or any of the other popular sites. Honestly I don't have the time or interest in learning how to use them.

If any of you know of someone who might be a whiz at social media, please let me know. The position should not be overly time consuming for someone who already knows the ropes and, for a working person, it will be a great addition to their resume. And the best part is you get to work side by side with ME on this great project - promoting the Dahlia!



Nanaimo Glad & Dahlia Society - Judy Stephens Nanaimo, BC

The Nanaimo Glad & Dahlia Society has their annual show at Country Club Centre on **August 24-25**, 2019. We would love to see some of the folks from the US come for a visit! Our Dahlias of the Year are Lady Darlene and Clearview Daniel. Our banquet is on the Saturday evening at the ABC Restaurant at 6 pm. We have 6 new Candidate Judges that are anxious to judge in their first show as a judge. Two more are writing the test over the summer that will be ready for next year's show calendar. We had a very successful Judging School on July 20th with guest speaker Mark Oldenkamp. Barry Willoughby and Vern Stephens spoke on seedlings before the group took part in teams to judge them. A great learning tool! Mark did a PowerPoint presentation on dahlia nomenclature so we could see how blooms

got their color classifications. Victoria and Nanaimo members enjoyed the day with Vancouver Island University Catering Service supplying our lunch. The ladies of our club showed their homemaking skills by preparing many slices etc, for our dessert. Over all a very successful and educational day!

We are looking forward to our show as our gardens are bursting with so much color. We had a parlour show last evening and practice show cards to jog some memories as well as remind folks of the necessity of completing the cards properly and legibly for the data entry people. If anyone is coming north to the island, we'd love to have you at our show! You can contact me or Vern to let us know.

Happy Growing and Showing! Judy, Judges Chair

PNDC Judges Training a Success by Larry Smith

A large group of dahlia enthusiasts gave up their Saturday on July 13 to attend dahlia judging school in the Portland area. In all, thirty-four participated, including three who made the trek from Douglas County DS, six from Lane County DS, and the remainder from Portland DS (two of whom reside near the Oregon Coast). The format implemented was a very successful team taught approach (organized by Mark Oldenkamp) that will serve as the template for future PNDC sponsored trainings. Remember, any Senior Judge can be a presenter and in the team taught setting, the work is spread evenly. No need to wait forlornly for someone to set up a training in your town, seize the initiative and host your own! Better yet, get together with a nearby dahlia society and pair up to share the load. The PNDC will offer plenty of support to help you make it happen. Contact Mark or myself for additional information.

Swan Island Dahlia Festival

The 2019 Annual Dahlia Festival at Swan Island Dahlias arrives **August 24, 25, 26, 31, September 1 and 2**. This free event is a must see for the dahlia lover or if you just love to look at flowers. View over 400 floral arrangements of dahlias, over 15,000 cut dahlia blooms on display in 3 indoor display rooms. Floral arranging demonstrations, talks on dahlia culture, live dahlia tuber dividing demonstrations and much more will be featured. Stroll through and view nearly 40 acres of dahlias in full bloom during this festival. Cut flowers will be available to take home with you. Free admission, free parking, and the event is handicap accessible.



Erik Toedteli explains the variety of dahlia forms brought to the Judges Class.





Birdnest Dahlias by Ted J. Kennedy

Since there is no official definition of birdnest dahlias, I can give you my definition with no fear of being accused of exaggeration or embellishment. Birdnest dahlias are a type of cactus dahlia. People familiar with the history of dahlias know that word "cactus" is an archaic botanical term that describes a flower that grows in the shape of the flower of a cactus. Wow, I googled a hundred so of pictures of cactus flowers and not one of them looks like a cactus dahlia. Perhaps that species of cactus went extinct. I am leading you on. Actually, the word cactus in those days of the late 1800s, referred to the cardoon. And nearly all of you are familiar with cardoon as it is the wild version of the artichoke and is related to one of our favorite weeds, the thistle. And the thistle is the floral emblem of Scotland. Perhaps, we should call cactus dahlias "Scottish" dahlias as that makes just as much sense as the real explanation above.

But I digress. We now know that birdnest dahlias are cactus dahlias and now we must add another term to describe them and it is "incurved". This word is also a bit contrived as there are "incurve" chrysanthemums and there is another word "incurvate" that means the same thing as incurved. The word incurved does mean that the petals bend inward. The inward direction in dahlias is up towards the center of the bloom. And now we come to birdnest dahlias that are incurved cactus dahlias that have

petals that incurve upwards and then swirl into the shape of a birds nest. It would have been easier just to say dahlias that have flowers in the shape of a birds nest but that would be a bit too easy. So, a birdnest dahlia is an incurved cactus that has petals that curve towards the center of the bloom but then turn sideways in a regular manner, creating an outline that looks much like birds nest.

There are not yet any size classifications for birdnest dahlias and someone said that we could use the relative sizes of actual birds' nests to indicate the flower sizes. They would start with a hummingbird nest at 2 to 4 inches and end at the Eagle's nest for over 10 inches. Of course, this is not a realistic suggestion and the normal size classifications would be used.

Now for the meat and potatoes of this article What dahlia varieties are birdnest dahlias and let's look at some pictures?

The first one I remember seeing was Jayne. And Bedhead and Snoho Storm. HH Cotton Candy can easily swirl into a birdnest and one of the prettiest I have ever seen was Mike & Kathy Iler's Zephyr.

Erik and Gerda Juul of the San Francisco bay area, in about 1990 were the originators one of the first to be called a birdnest dahlia that they named aptly, Birdnest. It is a large dahlia that swirls well and still can be seen occasionally at the shows.

When You Judge at Shows, Remember This by Larry Smith

Many judges have remarked that they often forget details asked for on the report. What helps me, as a judge/exhibitor, keep track is to maintain a weekly record of each show. In the back of each show schedule, I write down who was on my judging team, including the Team Leader's name, and the classes I judged. I keep the list of entries I have made, which I use to record my results, with that show schedule.

I do this for each show I participate in and keep that year's show schedules in one place. That way, at the end of the season, it is easy for me to look up the information required on the Annual Report. The section asking about your show results doesn't have to be 100% accurate, ADS does ask judges to grow and show dahlias and this information allows me to determine that you are meeting this requirement.

I had quite a few questions last year regarding

requirements for retaining judging status and/or necessary steps to attain a promotion to the next level. There are very specific steps required in each case and information can be found regarding this in the ADS members only section and toward the back of the printed 2019 PNDC roster of members that you received earlier this year. If you have a specific question, please ask me for clarification.

Last year, I found a number of judges who would otherwise have been promoted, but had not kept up with the requirements. Accredited or Senior judges need to maintain the ADS requirements to maintain their status to avoid the possibility of demotion down to the next lower level. Since we need all the judges we have, I will make every attempt to contact you individually when I note that you are lacking a required step.

PNDC Report to ADS - July 2019

by Mark Oldenkamp

PNDC Vice President; 1st Vice President, ADS

There has been lots of work done, after good support and input from the executive committee, to revise the bylaws in a way to be less prescriptive and more flexible - all while emphasizing the reason we dahlia societies exist, to promote the dahlia. As this is published, the full board of directors is voting electronically on this proposed document. While the democratic process must be completed, I have some confidence that this important step will be accomplished soon.

The Canby Trial Garden was planted in a new area in early May. The entries seem to be doing well.

The team of caretakers includes some that are newer to growing dahlias which give a hands-on learning opportunity for them. Soon it will be time to judge the 35 entries. During the weekend of the Portland show there is a hope to be able to provide the van to take a group to Swan Island for judging and also to see the first weekend of the dahlia festival. This was well received last year and if we can pull this off it really helps to get many scores submitted for the compilation of results. This is excellent practice for candidate and accredited judges and it helps them toward meeting the requirements for advancement.

The Portland Society was awarded the 2023 National Show. A contract has been negotiated and signed with the Red Lion at Jantzen Beach which is the same site where the 2012 show was held. There is lots of work to do in hosting a National show as well as a need for extra fund raising so that the cost to those attending can be kept as low as possible. There will be ways for many hands to find the place they can help. Stay tuned for more information as plans unfold.

2019 is the Year of the Dahlia and ADS is working cooperatively with the National Gardening Bureau to promote to their significant audience. This affiliation

developed late last fall so ADS leadership jumped on the opportunity and developed a flyer that is available to all societies to be a resource for engagement with the public that may attend your events. Soon, the events in many cases will be dahlia shows or exhibitions.

The link to the flyers can be accessed via the ADS website, , from the home page where there is much more information about the Year of the Dahlia. I am encouraging all PNDC societies, and others as well, to utilize this resource and leverage this in your effort to engage with the public and possible with some new members.

This is year one of the ADS five-year trial run at recognizing micro dahlias with new classifications for many new sections. While in many sections there are not currently many cultivars, we have seen quite a number of micro collarettes and a scattering of other cultivars. Over the years, many very small cultivars have been seen but not kept, so this is a chance to recognize the little ones. Every society is encouraged to find a way to include a place for the micro dahlias.

It is hoped and anticipated that we will see may more cultivars that will compete first against other micro (under 2") varieties.

The dahlias season is about to become colorful. Enjoy the bouquets, share them often. If you are an exhibitor, may you win many awards. If you are a seedling grower, hoping you find some keepers in your patch.

The two Canadian Societies have struggled a bit in recent years. Judges training is one area of support they have asked for help. I have a trip planned to Vancouver Island in July and have been able to coordinate that schedule to include an afternoon judges training session in Nanaimo.

Corrected 2019 PNDC Dahlia Show Dates

Victoria Dahlia Society

August 17-18

Prospect Lake Community Hall
Lady Darlene, Clearview Daniel

Nanaimo Dahlia Society

August 24-25

Country Club Mall, Nanaimo
Clearview Daniel, Lady Darlene

Wild Rivers Dahlia Society

August 31 - September 1

Event Center on the Beach, Gold Beach
Jennifer's Dream

Portland Dahlia Society

August 24-25

Dance Pavilion at Oaks Amusement Park, Portland
Hollyhill Jitterbug

Lane County Dahlia Society

PNDC Dahlia Show

September 14-15,

Wheeler Pavilion, Lane Events Center, Eugene
Hollyhill Black Beauty

Douglas County Dahlia Society

September 21-22,

Douglas County Fairgrounds, Roseburg
Cameo



The Cutworm and the Underwing Moth

by Phil Henderson, Lane County Dahlia Society

Its a simple story: they are one and the same. I remember my pop, intoning Slim Pickens, cursing the "Darn cutworms." while messing around in his vegetable garden. I don't remember him showing me one; just the evidence: a wee, tipped-over, dead and drying up seedling. The cutworm is actually a caterpillar. It is the larval form of the Underwing Moth and gets its name from its habit of chewing right through a stem; often right at the soil, or just below. They belong to the family Noctuidae (both larvae and adults are nocturnal) and are vast and diverse. They and their allies are also called: Army Worms, Owlet Moths, Dart moths, and/or Miller moths.

Cutworms are one of two most ravenous garden pests I know. The kind, when you are on your morning walk-through admiring blossoms, growth, and you suddenly stop, jaw dropped; agast at damage. The plant that yesterday was beautiful appears to be half eaten or dead. I exaggerate slightly. Great portions of leaves may be gone or stems toppled. Gophers withstanding, of course: only the cutworm and behemoth garden snails (that have suddenly migrated into your refuge) can be so disruptive.

I find it absolutely necessary to meet them on their own ground: at feeding time. One must venture out into the night (about 10:30-11:00), flashlight in hand and keenly inspect the ravaged, and nearby, plant(s). The cutworms (by the time they do big

damage) are pretty large; an inch and a half, round as a pencil. At that time they are often found on the stem, or at a leaf's edge; particularly at the top of the plant where everything is fresher.

The caterpillars commute nightly up into the plants from daytime hideaways in soil/litter below the plant. I have noted cutworms to be most abundant in newly formed beds, or in beds dangerously close to weedy (especially grass!), uncultivated, soils. caterpillars are soft and puffy, brownish to olive/greenish and variable degrees of longitudinal striping/dashing/spotting. Larvae and pupae are often first encountered in early-on cultivations. When dug up, the caterpillars always form a tight little "C," like a fat, short, snake eating its tail. The one-inch pupae are shiny brick red and look like a butterfly chrysalis.

In late spring and early summer the adults are commonly attracted to porch lights and often manage to be a nuisance at the light over my sink. Adults can be found nestled into rags, burlap, boxes on your porch; in your garden shed; or in your workshop. Adults do not overwinter: just, variably (by species) they overwinter as eggs, young larvae, or pupae. There are many species; one that seem common here in the NW is the introduced European Large Yellow Underwing; often more orange than yellow.



The Dahlia That Didn't Getaway!



by Shirley Prince

Hi - My name is Shirley Prince and I live in Port Alberni, on the west coast of Vancouver Island in B.C. Canada. I know that we share a similar passion for dahlias. Here is my story.

Prince is my maiden name. Two husbands later but I've always been a prince. I thought that I'd use this opportunity to get to know you a bit better. I miss a lot of meetings in the early spring and late fall. The road to the east coast from Port Alberni is literally deadly. An hour and fifteen minute drive, with part of it through a mountain pass. And then back in the dark to my home. If I lived in Nanaimo I'm sure that I would try to be on the executive in some way. I was born and raised in east end Vancouver. If any of you know the east end Vancouver Culture Center, I lived the first twenty-one or so years of my life within a six block radius of it. Just off Commercial. The neighbourhood was called "Little Italy" There were probably tomatoes everywhere but, in my memory, we never had a garden or even a house plant. If we did have one it was probably plastic.

Fast forward to 1975. I bought my tiny little nine hundred square foot house in Port Alberni and moved into it with my nine day old son. Obviously, I've skipped a few parts of the story. It was a double city lot, two blocks away from being out of town. Having been raised in Vancouver Central, I felt like I was on a farm. Fast forward again a few more years. Don't get bored yet. The dahlias are coming up soon. There was no garden here. I had a tiny little house, and the rest of my yard was a field.

One day, I was having a birthday party for someone and he asked me if I had ever considered cutting my lawn. I was a hippy chick at the time and explained to him that I didn't have a lawn. I had a field. It was very organic and natural. He told me that all I had to do was get someone to come by with a scythe, cut it down, and then I'd have a lawn. I told him that I liked it just the way it was, but, it stuck in my brain. The next spring I asked him to come with his scythe and make me a lawn. He did. I couldn't believe it! I had this huge yard. Absolutely amazing! Life was perfect for about two weeks. Then the field started to grow back. I hadn't thought about that. I called him up and he said he'd cut it for me once more and then I'd have to get a lawn mower and weed eater and do it myself. Wow!! Pretty harsh! I had a great idea. I thought that if I planted a garden, I wouldn't have so much lawn to cut. God! How young and stupid was that! And so I grew everything that was fit to eat. Watermelon, cantaloupe, eggplant, parsnip, yada, yada, yada.

Then, one day I was in a store, I think it was called K Mart. I was in my early thirties. I saw this funny looking thing. Looked like a dried up piece of dog poop. But it had a gorgeous picture of a flower on it. I talked to the woman that was serving me and she told me how to plant it, stake it and dig it up every fall. I went crazy and I bought three of them. They grew just like the pictures. They were called dahlias. The next year I bought more. Then I heard about this woman in town who was selling tubers. We became friends, and before long, I had like twenty or thirty dahlias. I became known locally as a specialist in growing dahlias. Big frog in a little pond.

I belonged to the local Klitsa gardening club and one

year they asked me to be on a panel of three people to answer questions about dahlias. There was myself, another woman that I knew and had exchanged tubers with, and an unknown man from Nanaimo. I think it was in September. The three of us showed up with armloads of flowers. Mine were all labeled and in vases. The fellow from Nanaimo, -I can't remember his name- but he told me at one point that he didn't know the names of most of my dahlias. Little Buttercup, Fluffy Bunny's Ears, Cat Tail. I told him that it was because I'd made them up. His jaw dropped several inches and then he said, "YOU CAN'T DO THAT!" I said. "What?" He told me that I couldn't just make up names for my plants, He backed off because I was getting embarrassed. Then, I found out that he was a dahlia judge. I was intrigued. I wanted to talk to him after the meeting, but things got very busy and then he was gone.

I decided at that time that I wanted to become a dahlia judge. Coincidentally, I bumped into him at Canadian Tire a week or so later. He chuckled when he saw me. Guess he found me somewhat entertaining. I told him that I wanted to become a dahlia judge and asked him how I should go about that. He told me that there was a guy in Parksville/Qualicum? named Ed Johnson. He asked if he could give him my phone number. He said that he thought there was a meeting coming up soon and maybe I'd like to join in. I said sure, assuming that I was just a hop, skip and a jump, away from becoming a judge. Lo and behold! Ed called me within a day or two, gave me directions to get to the Payne Horticultural Center, date, time, everything, and so, of course, I went. It was on a Saturday and it was an all day thing. Didn't take me long to lose my "know it all" attitude. But, people were very friendly. They lent me a couple of books, and at the end of the day, the guy giving the workshop handed out tests for anyone who was interested in becoming a judge. I snapped it up. I found out later that it was actually not a meeting at all, but a judges' workshop. My introduction to the group. I wrote the test that week. I'm a teacher born and raised, and I know how to write tests. I took my completed test to my first meeting, the first Tuesday of the next month.

Someone suggested to me at that meeting that I should maybe hold off a bit and also that I needed to show some of my flowers. I panicked but thought I'd figure it out somehow. I thank that person whoever you were. So, I learned about showing flowers. I got rid of most of my tubers and started focusing on ones that were in the ADS handbook. Since then, I've won lots of ribbons, become a Judge, got onto the head table several times, and I was thrilled. I still am, and I've learned so much. Thanks to Ed, Jim, Vern and Judy and to so many others.

This year I planted over three hundred tubers in the garden of the house that I moved into in August 1975. I tell people that the plants I grow to eat are organic but my dahlias are on steroids. Bye bye, organic hippy chick. I'm seventy-one now. I live just a few blocks off the road to Tofino. Good pit stop if you're headed west. As long as you call first you're always welcome.

Cheers, Prince Shirley

Judges Accreditation Update

by Larry Smith

This is a reminder that all judges will need to submit a Judge's Annual report to me no later than October 10. The form will be available in paper form from the judge's chairman at each show as well as on the PNDC website at:

Many judges have remarked that they often forget details asked for on the report. What helps me, as a judge/exhibitor, keep track is to maintain a weekly record of each show. In the back of each show schedule, I write down who was on my judging team, including the Team Leader's name, and the classes I judged. I keep the list of entries I have made, which I use to record my results, with that show schedule. I do this for each show I participate in and keep that year's show schedules in one place. That way, at the end of the season, it is easy for me to look up the information required on the Annual Report. The section asking about your show results doesn't have to be 100% accurate, ADS does ask judges to grow and show dahlias and this information allows me to

determine that you are meeting this requirement.

I got quite a few questions last year regarding requirements for retaining judging status and/or necessary steps to attain a promotion to the next level. There are very specific steps required in each case and information can be found regarding this in the ADS members only section and toward the back of the printed 2019 PNDC roster of members that you received earlier this year. If you have a specific question, please ask me for clarification. Last year, I found a number of judges who would otherwise have been promoted, but had not kept up with the requirements. Senior or Accredited judges need to maintain the ADS requirements to maintain their status to avoid the possibility of demotion down to the next lower level. Since we need all the judges we have, I will make every attempt to contact you individually when I note that you are lacking a required step.

Exhibitor Class Clarifications by Larry Smith

Below are the clarifications on the exhibitor classes we plan to use at the Portland show this year:

Exhibitor Classification Update to Portland DS Show

In order to further encourage members to exhibit in our show, the Portland DS has agreed on the following changes to exhibitor classes:

Novice: (Pink tags)

Exhibitors entering dahlias in this division are inexperienced in the showing of dahlias. They may remain in this division for up to 10 dahlia shows regardless of winnings. They will end the show season in the same exhibitor category as they started, instead of moving up mid-season.

Amateur: (Blue tags)

This division is for advanced exhibitors who show dahlias for fun and experience. Those entering in this division are encouraged to remain until they consistently have entries on the head table and/or win special awards for the last three show seasons.

Open: (White tags)

Experienced exhibitors who have had entries on the head table and/or won special awards in the prior show seasons are required to enter in this division. Exhibitors that have not won head table awards during the past three show seasons may return to the Amateur division.

The definitions are a hybrid between what Douglas County's schedule listed for the PNDC Conference Show last year and the Federation definitions. The PDS Board has agreed to implement these changes in a trial period for the 2019 show and will reevaluate after the show.

We found that at most shows, the Open/Advanced Amateur class has been top heavy, leaving far fewer blooms competing in Amateur and even less in Novice. Some members have stated that having to move up in class too quickly decreases their incentive to show because they don't feel that they can be successful among some of the more serious exhibitors. It has also been suggested that members who show in only their home society's show won't have the experience gained by those who show in multiple shows each year and could, therefore, be at a disadvantage.

Since having different exhibitor class definitions within different PNDC shows could create confusion for those who do attend more than their home show, this will be brought up as a topic of discussion at the upcoming Spring PNDC Meeting.