



Dear Fellow PNDC Members,...

Show season is fast approaching and exhibit halls will be filled with stunning quality blooms of our favorite flower. We will enjoy seeing fellow exhibitors from other clubs and interacting with them again. Some new faces and some old familiar faces and sadly a few who can no longer be with us.

Our Conference show is sponsored by the Douglas County Club this season. The dates are September 22 and 23rd. The show will take place at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. We will be presenting the PNDC Gold Medal for Lifetime Achievement to three honorees at our awards banquet on Saturday evening. Elva will have more detailed information to share with the group.

It is time for me to pass the torch to a new President of the PNDC. I have been serving as President for at least 8 years and a periodic change at the helm is health for almost all organizations.

My resignation will take effect at the end of my current term this season. I would like to thank those that have helped with the organization over these years. My special thanks to those that have stepped in to assume new responsibilities when vacancies existed in the PNDC leadership.

Wishing you all a successful growing and showing season Best wishes to you all,

Mike Riordan, PNDC President

PNDC Spring Meeting Minutes

Thank you to Larry Smith for taking the PNDC minutes at the PNDC meeting, held April 14, 2018. This is a job that no one wants to do but Larry did a great job!. You will receive the minutes with this newsletter as a pdf attachment or as an enclosed hard copy.

PNDC Officer Election Planned

The PNDC election of Leadership Team members for the 2019-20 term will be held at the Fall Meeting on September 22 in conjunction with the Conference Show in Roseburg. The Nominations Committee has proposed the following slate of candidates:

President Larry Smith (Portland DS)

Vice President Bob Chibante (Wild River DS)

Secretary Phil Newton/Teresa Thom (Victoria DS)

Treasurer Elva Sellens (Douglas County DS)

ADS Representative Mark Oldenkamp (Portland DS)

Cheryle Hawkins (Lane County DS) has agreed to continue her role as newsletter editor. While this position does not come with an official vote on the Board, Cheryle will serve in an advisory role to our members.

As the slate now stands, there is a diversity of representation among member societies. The new Leadership Team will be charged with reviewing current PNDC policies and practices with an eye toward making the organization more useful to our Societies as well as individual members.

At the Fall Meeting, additional nominations for each office can be taken from the floor. If you would like to submit a name for nomination to any of the listed offices, you may also notify current PNDC President, Mike Riordan.

ADS SHOW September 20-23

The American Dahlia Society 2018 National Show is quickly approaching! Sponsored by The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society and Longwood Gardens, activities are planned for September 20th - 24th. Registration for the cocktail reception, buffet luncheon, Banquet and Fountain show is \$150 through August 1. Pay via paypal or be sure your mail is postmarked by this date to get this rate. Beginning August 2, the cost is \$170.

Registration form and information are available at www.philadelphia.org

There is a registration limit of 240 – first come, first served. Hope to see you there!

Douglas County Dahlia Society - by Elva Sellens

Roseburg, Oregon

We would like to invite everyone to the **PNDC Conference Show on September 22 and 23** at the Douglas County Fairgrounds - Floral Building, Interstate 5 Exit 123, Roseburg Oregon. Our flower of year is Lakeview Glow. We have decided to change the definitions for a Novice, Amateur and Advanced Amateur for our PNDC conference show and for our future shows. We feel the need to encourage people to continue exhibiting their blooms.

Each dahlia society has individual who only show dahlias in their local show because they may not be serious exhibitors, or they are not able to travel to other dahlia shows. By changing the Novice definition, we are trying to encourage these members to continuing showing and participating in dahlia shows.

We are adding to Novice definition that they may continue to show in Novice division until they reach ten dahlia shows. It gives the exhibitors an option to move back from the Amateur division to the Novice division if they have not exhibited in ten dahlia shows.

Since we have so many people in the Advanced Amateur division and a limited number in the Amateur division, we are giving some exhibitors a chance to move back to a less competitive division and hopefully to renew their interest in showing blooms. For various reasons, not all exhibitors have the time and garden space to be very competitive. We want to recognize that some people have smaller gardens than other exhibitors, or they might be working full time, or have other obligations so it may be harder to get top quality blooms to make the show table. To encourage exhibitors to continue showing, we are allowing them to move back to the Amateur division if they have not

won a major award (excluding special sections) in a dahlia show in the past three years.

We are leaving it up to the exhibitors to choose their show level. We want to encourage people to consider moving back to another division. Just because you have shown dahlias for a number of years does not mean you cannot move back.

NOVICE DIVISION: Exhibitors entering dahlias in this division are inexperienced in the showing of dahlias. They may show as a Novice for a maximum of three (3) years, or ten dahlia shows, or may choose to advance after the first or second year. In the year the Novice achieves 10 shows, they may continue the rest of the year as a Novice. If you have already moved up to the Amateur division but have not entered in ten shows, you can move back to the Novice Division.

AMATEUR DIVISION: One who has exhibited as a Novice for a minimum of one (1) year. They may remain in this division for a maximum of five (5) years regardless of winnings, or may choose to advance after one (1) year. If an Advanced Amateur exhibitor has not won a major horticultural award in a show in the past 3 years, excluding special sections, they can chose to move back to the Amateur division.

ADVANCED AMATEUR DIVISION: (Open) One who has exhibited as an Amateur for a maximum of five (5) years or may have chosen to advance after one or more years as an Amateur. If an Advanced Amateur has not won a major award, excluding special entries, in the past 3 years, they can chose to move back to the Amateur division.

SEE YOU HERE!

Victoria Dahlia Society - Phil Newton & Teresa Thom

Victoria, B.C.

We are having a hot summer here in Victoria on Canada's west coast (best coast) so we are watering twice a day (sometime even more).

The blooms are coming in abundance and we have opened our little roadside honour flower stand ten days earlier than last year. We jokingly say we are making "ten of dollars" but I wonder if after the cost of new tubers, water and fertilizers etc. we even make that. It is a true labour of love.

Our club is doing great with almost as many members as last year, and we hope to surpass that number by the end of the year. Our new president Cathy Featherby is doing a wonderful job in a relatively thankless task. As a past president, I understand the work she has taken on. John Wrinch has taken the display garden in to his own hands and we are getting a number of new members showing up to help on our weekly Tuesday work parties. Barry Willoughby will be holding a Judging seminar at the Starling Lane winery on Aug 2nd. The folks from Nanaimo will come

down island and we will have some lively discussions and a great time. We have a number of new members that are very interested in helping the club and it take a load off of the members who have been there for years.

Our club BBQ will probably be done by this printing and I am sure we will have had a great time at the Starling Lane venue with our world famous prime rib and beer can chicken. Thanks to Kate Pharis, Mary Willoughby and Jackie Wrinch for the organization. Also special kudos to Teresa (too) for the desserts.

The show will be at Prospect Lake Hall again this year on Aug 17, 18,19th. This has proven out to be a great venue. The Prospect Lake Hall committee holds their BBQ on the Sunday and their large turnout enjoys the last day off our show. Flowers of the year single Parkland Rave and Triple Pooh. Our banquet is Saturday night at the Howard Johnson at Elk Lake at 6 pm.

Happy gardening!



Lane County Dahlia Society - Deb Gilmer

Eugene, Oregon

Following successful auctions and sales in April, May and June, the Lane County Dahlia Society has offered programs to encourage our members to look at different methods of maintaining their gardens. Topics have included various watering and fertilizing strategies, learning about pollinators in the garden, and using alternatives to control pests instead of toxic pesticides. Information that included recipes for insecticidal soap and 'safe to use' weed killer was also offered.

In July, several members entered cut flowers, floral designs, house-plants, and table settings in the Lane County Fair - winning ribbons and cash prizes. Henry Alley, Ed Bigornia, Deb Gilmer, Cheryl Hawkins, Monica Henry, Camille Noel, Sandra Otsyula, and Carol Prud'Homme all had entries this year, with Sandra winning the overall award for "Best Dahlia".

In the Design section, 3 of our members submitted blue ribbon entries in several different categories: Meet You at the Beach (floral design featuring water)-Camille Noel; Let's Set the Date (traditional mass design)-Deb Gilmer, and Best Design All Sections + best Design Open Class-Monica Henry.

The Lane County Dahlia Society will celebrate their 55th dahlia show on September 15-16, 2018, in the Wheeler Pavilion, at the Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene, Oregon. Our Dahlia Show



theme is "A Bounty of Blooms" and our show flower will be in honor of the late Mike Iler, talented dahlia hybridizer and longtime LCDS member. He and his wife Kathy have owned Blossom Gulch Dahlias located along the coastal marsh of the Coos River, outside of Coos Bay, Oregon. Mike and Kathy created an amazing catalog of unique dahlias. While we originally chose his creation "Lexa" to be our 2018 show flower, "Lexa" didn't make enough tubers

for many of our growers and exhibitors. Under these circumstances, we are expanding the Show Flower class to include **any Iler origination that is listed in a classification handbook.**

Please join us for what promises to be a stellar show, where we will celebrate the summer's best blooms with new friends and old.

Arrangement categories will include "Walking the Plank": a design with wood; "Cornucopia in Color": a design with dahlias, fruits, and vegies; "Petite Bounty": a design measuring 8" or less; Mutiny on the Bounty: a men's only pirate-themed design; and "Ahoy Matey" a men's only design incorporating a beer stein or mug.

A special bonus is the quilt above, created by our member Carol Prud'Homme. She has generously suggested that we raffle it off at our show. More details will follow in our show book. To those from out of town - it is wise to reserve your lodging now since our show is also the same weekend as the Ducks home game. Good luck to all this show season!

Nanaimo Glad & Dahlia Society - Judy Stephens

Nanaimo, BC

The Nanaimo Glad & Dahlia Society has their annual show at Country Club Centre on August 25 - 26, 2018. We would love to see some of the folks from the US come for a visit! Our single bloom for this year is Parkland Rave and a triple bloom of Pooh. Our banquet is on the Saturday evening at the ABC Restaurant at 6 pm. Our club members are exceptional as they all bring gifts wrapped to the banquet so everyone attending can get a door prize.

The ongoing issue of having enough senior judges and other judges, as well as clerks, still remains. It's always a last minute juggle for the show to have

enough of them for the teams needed. Whoa is me!

Vern and I have been busy putting up shade cloth to protect our blooms from burning, fading and just plain cooking! The heat has been incredible here in Nanaimo and the area this past 10 days - 2 weeks. Even though it helps to give the plants a dick start from the rains, it also can do some damage to the blooms. We are looking forward to another successful show and are pleased that our membership has increased since our May tuber sale. More keen growers interested in growing beautiful dahlias and glads!

Dahlias do not do well on a roller coaster

by Ted J. Kennedy & Larry Smith

Portland Dahlia Society (established in 1928) is holding their annual show at Oaks Amusement Park on August 25 and 26. The Oaks Park opened in 1905 and the Dance Pavillion building where the show is being held was built in about 1910. Despite being over 100 years old, it is fully air conditioned and you will not notice the warm weather outside.

If you are a judge or a clerk, we are planning to provide lunch for you at an outdoor picnic area near the building. Please do not eat a large lunch and then ride the roller coaster. And also, the miniature train that winds through the park is for children, not adults.

Dahlia of the Year is Hollyhill Black Beauty, BB ID DR. There will be a lucrative amount of prize money to compete for. The show schedule and other information about the show is on our website: www.portlanddahlia.com

The show will have the normal panoply of entry categories but we have added a new category for flower designs taller than 4 feet in which the top three entries will each receive \$50 cash awards. We hope to impress the park visitors with the overwhelming magnificence of dahlias and tall displays are indeed a sight to see.

On Sunday morning, all judges are invited to go to



Swan Island Dahlias to visit and judge the Canby Trial Garden. Since weekend parking is at a premium at Oaks Park, we are working on getting a van to transport interested out of town judges from Oaks Park to the Trial Garden on Sunday morning. We also are planning a Trial Garden Judging seminar, which will count toward updating your judging credentials.

The Swan Island Dahlia festival will be happening this same weekend and not only can you see the trial garden entries, but you can also take in the festival. If you do attend, be sure to tour the underground display of dahlias in the tuber storage building at Swan Island. They hire a crew of florists to present hundreds of displays of the various dahlia varieties on sale.

We always seem to be short of clerks. Clerking is an excellent way to learn about the dahlia by eavesdropping on the judging comments and finding out the qualities looked for in show dahlias. No prior experience is necessary, just a willingness to help. The Team Leader is ultimately responsible to ensure that the clerk sheets are submitted correctly and will train. All clerks will be invited to join our picnic lunch on Saturday. If you are bringing someone with you who could help, sign them up with our Judging Chair, Mark Oldenkamp: dahliafan57@gmail.com

What to Remember When You Judge at Shows

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 2018 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.

Show time at Gold Beach Sept. 1 - 2

by Bob Chibante of Wild Rivers Dahlia Society

Wow, it's show time already. Amazing how time seems to fly by and all those plans of getting ahead of it all just fades away. Hopefully, no more fires spark up. Sure, is nice to breathe that cool clean ocean air. Even more reason for everyone to come to the WRDS show. While the valleys are enjoying temperatures in the 90s up to triple digits, we are suffering those 60 and 70-degree days.

One topic we discussed at the PNDC Spring meeting was how to help smaller societies to survive.

I truly feel that participation is a large part of that success. More exhibitors bring more blooms which entices more visitors to view a more spectacular display of our passion. The more excited visitors are creates more opportunity for us to attract new members. Your exhibits are key to our growth. Our focus as a small club is the show. Drawing from a population county wide of just over 20,000 residents, is challenging to grow larger and garner financial support. Locally we have slightly more than 2300 people to draw from and with age considerations, of those most likely to belong to a garden- type club, that number is very small. With that in mind, we still draw over 300 visitors to our show to enjoy the fruits of your labor. They admire your blooms without any concern to faults. We have many giveaways for exhibitors who stay till the end and we will be providing lunch on site.

In design this year we will have 2 sections. Arrangements, which will require all elements to be in a single container. This will represent the ability

to transport your design as if purchased from florist and not have to be reassembled at home. Just avoid the FTD look and be creative. Second, we will have a display section. A 24 inch by 24 inch section will be provided. Be creative and make sure dahlias not props are the dominate feature. Also, we will have a day 2 award for these sections recognizing the quality of freshness. This would be appreciated by a purchaser of an arrangement from a florist that their arrangement can last more than one day in their home. Trying to find ways to show more appreciation to our arrangers who attend our dahlia show. We would like to see more support for them locally and nationally. They expend a lot of thought and expense in their work. Designs this year will be judged by judges from Redding, Ca. under the National Garden Society standards. Good Luck and thank you for your efforts.

Scorecards will be available at my garden if folks would to like have the experience of Trial Garden judging and scoring. This provides an opportunity for folks who don't or can't go to Swan Island to get the practice of score judging as allowed by the rules.

Beyond the show, one can enjoy the beach and we have plenty of whales cruising the coast very near to the beach. Plenty of easy viewing access. Being Labor Day weekend helps relieve the concern of Monday morning work. Even enjoy a half day fishing trip for salmon or a five-minute ride to bottom fish. Hope to see you here.

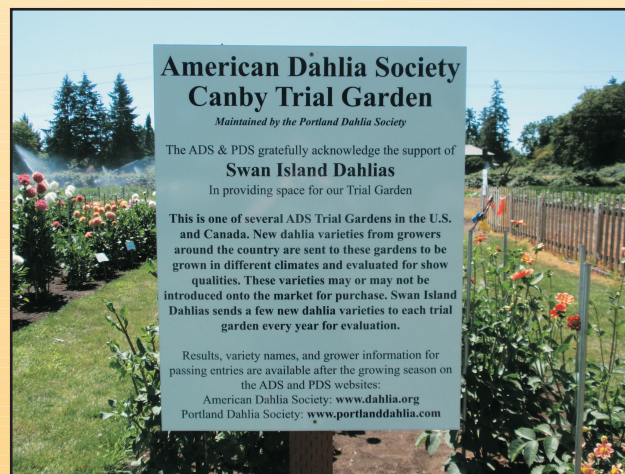
Canby Trial Garden Report by Linda Taylor & Larry Smith

The garden is doing very well even with the heat, which is good since this summer is turning out to be extra toasty. There are 35 entries actively growing, most of which are now blooming. Thanks to Gary Murphy, Linda Taylor, Nan Hage & Kathy Knudson for tending the garden. It is amazing how much the plants grow and change over a few days. We are definitely to the point where there are entries that could be judged.

The box of judging materials is now back in its cubbie at Swan Island Dahlias, near the entrance of the trial garden, and has been restocked with current forms. These materials are available for any judge to use at any time, no pre-arrangement is needed. Swan Island has installed a new Trial Garden sign, which will do a good job of explaining what the TG is and how it fits into the Swan Island setting.

We encourage any judge, from Senior to Candidate, to come to Swan Island whenever you are in the area to score the entries. TG judging is one way to meet your ADS requirement for judging undissemintated cultivars and an important step

taken to advance or retain your judging status. This can be done individually or as a team. Candidates will want to work with an Accredited or Senior judge, a great opportunity to practice and gain experience in learning the ADS standards.



Orius Bugs: Tiny Predators are a Big Help

by Linda Taylor

The next time you look at a dahlia bloom and see tiny insects flitting about, take a closer look. You may already have these beneficial insects in your yard and never noticed them, or thought they were pests. But it turns out these little guys are such voracious consumers of thrips that they are sold for release as a control measure, like releasing ladybugs or lacewings. Thrips are a significant concern for dahlia growers, both for the damage they can do to flowers & leaves, and because they are the vectors which transmit several dahlia viruses.

The ADS Virus Research program is looking into various means of thrips control, and releasing Orius bugs is a non-chemical option, though this is more usually used in a greenhouse setting. Various Orius species can be found in many parts of the country, so I thought I would go

looking to see if I already had them in my own garden. Sure enough, I have them already, and so does Swan Island (Nick Gitts said that he hadn't brought them in, but that they were welcome to stay if they eat thrips!). In fact, I have been seeing more Orius bugs than thrips in the ADS Trial Garden there, now that I know what I am looking for. By the way, they also eat aphids and spider mites!

Do you have Orius bugs in your garden? Be prepared to look closely. They are only about 2mm long, and they move quickly and fly a lot. To give an idea of scale, here is a picture of a very nice pom (currently entered in the Trial Garden as #28). The bloom is about 1-1/2" in diameter, and there is an Orius bug about 3 rows down from the center (and probably another on the underside of the floret).



ADS Comments from Mark Oldenkamp

The COLOR has arrived for most of us. So the preparation, propagating, planting, watering, fertilizing and grooming is paying off. My plants are quite variable this year. Quite a few look great and some are just not growing at all. I will have some blank spots. All the while we grow closer to show season. I hope the every society will make the effort to include your members in some way. If not at the show, at your meetings. Please be mindful of mentoring and providing for those that do not show dahlias.

The 2018 planning meeting for ADS was well attended in Santa Clara, CA. We had a report on the WSU research on virus as well as a great update on the dahlia genome project. Many clubs agreed to designate the ADS insurance surplus to the genome project which is going to provide the opportunity to sequence a few more varieties. There will be much more to come on this. Speaking of insurance, the ADS insurance program is a great value and member service to our societies. No society should risk not having the insurance. See the March Bulletin or the ADS website for details.

It is time to vote for ADS officers for the next two years. You can find the ballot in the June Bulletin and they can be mailed, faxed or scanned. Officers will be installed at the Annual meeting.

I trust that some of the PNDC members will join Laura and me in Philadelphia. If you have not registered, please do so right away. We think that the Monday bus tour will be fabulous even though it is not all about dahlias. Longwood Gardens is an amazing garden so since there are no organized tours on Friday this will be your chance to explore Longwood. We made our hotel reservations around July 20 and one of the recommended hotels was already fully bulked for the room block.

The Canby Trial Garden is looking great and is ready for judging. During the Portland show at the end of August, there is a plan developing to provide transportation to Swan Island from the show site so those attending can park your car at Oaks Park in the am and a van ride will get you to Swan Island and back. We really hope as many as possible will come and judge while the blooms are more at their prime. If you happen to be in the area, the judging supplies are kept onsite at Swan Island, just connect with Teresa Bergman or Linda Taylor and they can

direct you to these resources.

This past couple of weeks I got to visit a couple of dahlia gardens I had not been to previously. First Steve Meggos arranged his schedule to give me a peek at his home garden. It was not in bloom yet but it was great to see what everyone has been talking about. He grows much more than dahlias. This week Laura and I were in Spokane, so we connected with Claudia Biggs who showed us her garden as well as the public garden she coordinates at the VA Hospital (180 plants) and then we went to the Inland Empire Trial Garden. They have about 25 entries that are just starting to bloom. The city park setting for this garden is worth a visit if you ever get the chance to be in Spokane.

PNDC leaders met after the spring planning meeting to start the discussion about the desire to have a serious discussion on the future direction of the PNDC. It was agreed to have a nomination committee focus on a slate of officers that would like to continue this process. That committee has met and I trust this newsletter has a nomination committee report in it. The Conference show this year is in Roseburg which unfortunately conflicts with the National Show. There will be a conference show in Roseburg and the election and installation of new officers will be a part of that time. Once the new officers are in place and after the growing season slows a bit, the plan is to get serious about evaluating most everything we do. What do we do? Why do we do it? Is it effective in promoting dahlias to others? Should we try new things? This process most likely will lead to a Bylaws revision. I expect that there will be significant outcomes from this process but implementation could take some time. There will be places for all members to have input, but for the moment my intent here is simply to make everyone aware of the general objective.

I hope to see many of you at a show or two. Drop me an email (address below) if you have something on your mind regarding ADS or PNDC.

Mark Oldenkamp,
PNDC Vice President
2nd Vice President, ADS.
dahliafan57@gmail.com



Show your big blooms!

What is the Largest Dahlia in the World? Let's find out! Please urge your society to add a category for your upcoming show schedules. It could be chosen from one of the dahlias already on your tables or it could be in its own class. All we care about is its DIAMETER. How wide is it from the furthest point to point as noted by two senior judges or one senior and one accredited judge. Leaves not needed; open center ok, cruddy back petals notwithstanding. JUST

by Deborah Dietz

DIAMETER! ADS would love a photo of the bloom and ideally the bloom and its grower, but not necessary.

The Dahlia Society of California and the Heirloom Expo award \$50 for the winner of the Largest Dahlia in their respective shows. We urge the other US societies to follow suit with some financial reward. The rules and forms are on the ADS website. Deborah Dietz can be contacted for further clarification: 415-816-2118 or dahlia.dietz@gmail.com

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:

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Staging Dahlias for an ADS Show

by Ted J. Kennedy

Note that I specified ADS show as dahlias are shown at many county fairs and the way the flowers are staged for county fairs varies and even varies from fair to fair. We are in the Pacific Northwest and we stage our show entries in containers filled with shredded floral foam. In the East, they stage flowers in oasis floral foam provided by the club. In the San Francisco area they stage flowers in containers with floral pin frogs.

The containers: Here, the predominant container at shows are metal food and juice cans that are painted black(or dark green). A typical can held spaghetti sauce in it's prior life and the exhibitor painted the outside of the can with spray paint(the cheapest black spray can works well) . Smaller cans are used for smaller flowers and mignon singles are in tiny juice cans. Having extolled the virtues of inexpensive re-cycled metal cans, the next most popular container is a plastic vase that has been sold by the ADS. It is a bit larger than a spaghetti can and is very useful for flowers that are larger such as single entries of giants and large dahlias. There are many, many versions of show containers and some home made versions made from ABS plumbing pipe are popular especially since they are extremely durable and will last the proverbial lifetime.

Whatever the container(we do not allow glass containers), it is not the container that is judged at the show. Having said that, the container needs to serve it's function without being distracting and a poorly painted or rusty looking containers will not serve you well. And leaking containers are not

acceptable and may get your entry disqualified.

Shredded floral foam(also known as crushed Styrofoam) is purchased from floral supply companies in 10 pound bags and it costs less than about \$25.00 per bag. It used to be available in a green color but I have not seen green in recent years. It differs from oasis type foam in that it does not absorb water but still holds flowers stems firmly in the container. Oasis foam is perfectly acceptable at our shows but it is the high cost(and some other factors) that deters most people from using it. There are always some entries at our shows staged with oasis type foam.

Now let's discuss the actual preparation of the entry using shredded foam. Containers are filled with the dry foam. The foam is packed down at least 4 or 5 time(add more foam and pack and repeat) to ensure that the foam is packed tightly enough to hold a flower stem. Most people do not add any water to the container as they are staging or if they do they only add a small amount. This is because the foam cannot be pressed around the flower stem easily if it is wet.

A dowel or screwdriver is used to make a hole in the foam for the insertion of the flower stem. Larger dowels are used for larger stemmed flowers. The flower stem is inserted into the hole and then the dry foam is pressed down vigorously around the stem and extra foam added as needed. Dry foam will lock around the stem and hold it firmly in place. Once the stem is firmly in it's exact place in the container, water is added .

Publicizing Your Dahlia Show by Larry Smith

So what if you put on a great dahlia show and no one other than your exhibitors and judges comes to see it? That is the question I asked myself regarding our Portland Dahlia Society show. For at least 30 years, our show was held about 20 miles outside of Portland at a county fairgrounds, where we got very few visitors. Two years ago, we opted to move to Oaks Park, a well known venue within the Portland city limits with a goal of attracting more visitors and ultimately gaining more members to ensure the long term health of our club.

Our first year at Oaks Park was 2016. Attendance was better there, but we quickly found that it is necessary to advertise to attract more visitors. More needed to be done to get the word out. In 2017, Portland hosted the Pacific NW Dahlia Conference Regional Show. Using that to our advantage ("Regional Show" was bound to attract more media attention than "the annual Portland Dahlia Society Show"), we got several spots on television and articles in four different local newspapers. The popular local Garden Time TV show interviewed me in my garden and that clip aired prior

to our show. I sat for an interview on a local public affairs program that was aired several times during the month of the show. The local ABC news affiliate sent a reporter out to do three live interviews on the morning news from my garden two days before the show. The local NBC affiliate sent a reporter to the show on opening day to highlight the show on the Saturday evening and Sunday morning news. Oregon's largest newspaper by circulation ran an article about dahlias featuring color photos and information about the show one week prior. Three other local publications did a feature article for us.

The result of all this publicity? Attendance increased manyfold, more than we have ever before experienced, including far more than we had in our new venue the previous year. One long term member remarked that we had more visitors at this year's show than the total amount we had for the entire 30+ years in our previous venue. More importantly, several signed up to become members of our club. Below are a few tips for to gain media attention.

1. Appoint a publicity chair or committee months before the show. I took the lead for our club due to my past history of working with media. Experience is helpful, but a person with follow through and perseverance will serve well.

2. Develop your media contacts well in advance. Two weeks or sometimes even two months before the event is often too late. Start developing contacts in the off season. Find out which reporters or writers at your local TV station or newspapers might be interested to cover your event and keep in contact with them occasionally throughout the year. For example, I have emailed the Oregonian's gardening columnist with positive comments about an article she has written, signing it with my name and noting that I am President of the Portland Dahlia Society. Also, when I saw that a TV reporter I had worked with was turning 40, I sent him a happy birthday message. They appreciate the recognition and personal contact and often reply. With that, we have established an ongoing working relationship that pays off when I need their help with publicity.

3. Find angles that may be of interest to viewers that could pique the interest of your contacts and will hook them into wanting to cover your show. For example, if you are hosting a milestone show (40th or 50th year) or have a member who has been showing for an incredible number of years, that can be the hook. Last year, when our oldest member turned 100, I arranged for an interview that resulted in an article in a local publication and a youtube video that also highlighted some of our club activities.

4. If you have unique and interesting guests who can be interviewed, call upon them. I learned that David Brown, Archivist for the British National Dahlia Society, would be attending our show. Voila! That provided an international angle. David was more than happy to appear on TV and proved to be a most interesting and colorful subject. The reporter loved interviewing him.

5. When sending Public Service Announcements or publicity flyers to television news stations, only include the date of the first day of your show, letting them know that the flowers will be on display and fresh. Don't include that the show will also continue on Sunday. If you do, chances are that they will send a camera out on Sunday afternoon and show the footage on the Sunday evening news. This only serves to uselessly notify potential visitors of your event AFTER it is too late for them to attend. I send a PSA to the local TV stations about two weeks prior to the show and do followups a week prior and two days prior. Send it to the general news tip email address, but if you have the name of a reporter, it is helpful to copy your email to them.

6. Use social media. I don't personally use it, but many people get their information from Facebook and other sites. If you don't know how to access it, find a member of your club or a young person who can create an account and add information.

7. Thank any media professional who has helped you. Send them an email stating that their assistance increased awareness and attendance at your show. Adding a personal touch such as a thank you card tends to be appreciated. This year, I gave the reporter who did the remote shoot from my garden two huge bags of vegetables to take back to the station and share with coworkers. I also gave the reporter who came to the show on the first day a nice bouquet of dahlias. Little touches serve to help them remember you the next time you come to them and could ensure that their response will be positive.

In summary, to attract more visitors/potential members to your show, you need a well thought out publicity plan. Start early and be persistent as there may be setbacks along the way. If you work the angles the right way, you may be able to get some great publicity for your show, even without an advertising budget.

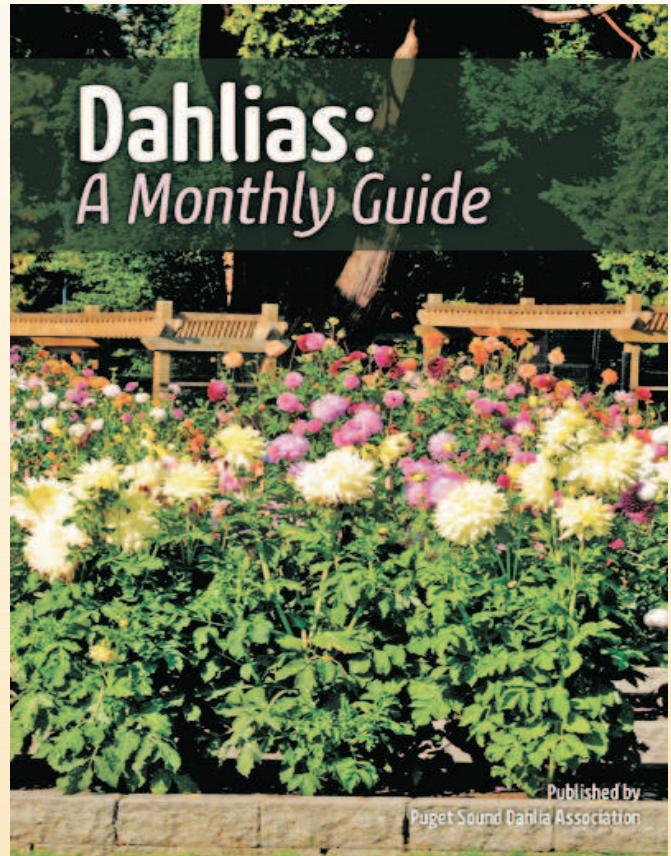
Dahlias: A Monthly Guide - Updated & Available

The Puget Sound Dahlia Association is pleased to announce the arrival of the 4th Edition of Dahlias, A Monthly Guide (DAMG); the 1st Edition of DAMG was published in 1978. A number of dahlia clubs and individuals have already received copies of the updated DAMG.

The 4th Edition of DAMG has been updated to reflect current horticultural practices, the introduction of the orchette dahlia form and to provide a list of on-line dahlia resources. In addition there is information on growing dahlias from cuttings, growing dahlias from seeds and growing dahlias in containers. DAMG provides the information necessary to grow dahlia successfully; it does this by letting the reader know what should be done each month to accomplish this.

Throughout the publication we encourage the reader to contact their local dahlia society to obtain growing tips and practices for their specific locale.

This information would include the best time to plant the dahlia plants and tubers, specific varieties that grow well in that locale, endemic pest and disease issues, etc. If your dahlia club or society sells copies of the DAMG at your spring tuber sales we encourage you to put a sticker on the back cover with the name and contact information (preferable a website address) for your club or society. You may find a few new faces at your next dahlia club or society meeting.



Dahlia Festival Fun!

August 25, 26, 27 and September 1, 2, 3

One of the most spectacular displays of dahlia blooms happens every summer at Swan Island Dahlias in Canby, Oregon. Swan Island is the largest commercial Dahlia grower in Oregon. Their Dahlia festival runs for three days: August 25, 26, 27 and September 1, 2, 3 from 8 am - 6 pm. The event is free admission and parking, with food vendors on site. Plan to bring a camera and stroll through acres of dahlia fields to wander and photograph, watch hands-on demonstrations, and visit large display rooms filled with Dahlia arrangements from floor to ceiling. The PNDC sanctioned Trial Garden is on the grounds as well, so you can view new and upcoming dahlia varieties. If you haven't been to these dahlia gardens, it is well worth the drive up I-5.

Be sure to visit the PNDC Trial Dahlia Garden while you're there (note Linda Taylor article). More information is at <https://www.dahlias.com>



Mike Iler of Blossom Gulch Dahlias is gone but not forgotten

by Cheryle Hawkins

The dahlia world has lost a talented, knowledgeable, and quiet leader from our list of northwest dahlia hybridizers. Mike Iler passed away in June from cancer. He leaves behind his longtime partner, Kathy Iler, 4 llamas, and several gardens on several acres in a coastal oasis. According to Kathy, Mike always had a passion for growing plants which soon led to the hybridizing and growing of original varieties. His first passion was growing Japanese Iris. The inevitable happened when he attended a dahlia show in Coos Bay.

It was love at first site as he recognized the infinite possibilities of creating new dahlia varieties. Mike and Kathy delved into learning everything they could about dahlias, attending Wayne Shantz's dahlia courses whenever possible. First volunteering as dahlia show clerks, they soon became accredited as Dahlia Show Judges and began exhibiting at dahlia shows in Oregon and Washington. Attending the Lane County Dahlia Show was one of their favorite shows to enter and they have been members of our society for a long time.

Making friends with other growers and hybridizers opened up Mike and Kathy's world of possibilities and soon they began their own dahlia business: Blossom Gulch Dahlias. Today their varieties can be viewed on their website: blossomgulch.com

By viewing the beautiful display of their many originations, you will understand just how much Mike Iler will be missed.

Our deepest condolences go to Kathy, from all of us in the Lane County Dahlia Society. If you would like to send her a card or an email, her address information is below.

95131 Mattson Lane, Coos Bay, OR 97420-5307
blossomgulch@gmail.com

Comments from friends....

Some people enter one's life as "a character." Mike Iler fits this descriptor. He had an air about him that separated him from other dahlia friends. To add to this, he possessed virtues: focus, keen awareness, intensity, studious motivation, privacy, and a scientific prowess that often translated into a winning mindset. I remember how he absorbed material when he took his first judging course. A good mind he had. His organized ways also impressed me. On his ten or so acre paddock with few level places and just outside the fog bank near Coos Bay, Oregon he placed his seedlings in strategic places to accomplish his well-planned goals pertaining to color, size, and forms of the varying dahlias he desired. In summary, to me Mike exuded competence, generosity, trustworthiness and regrettably, I have lost rich friendship.

- **Wayne Shantz**

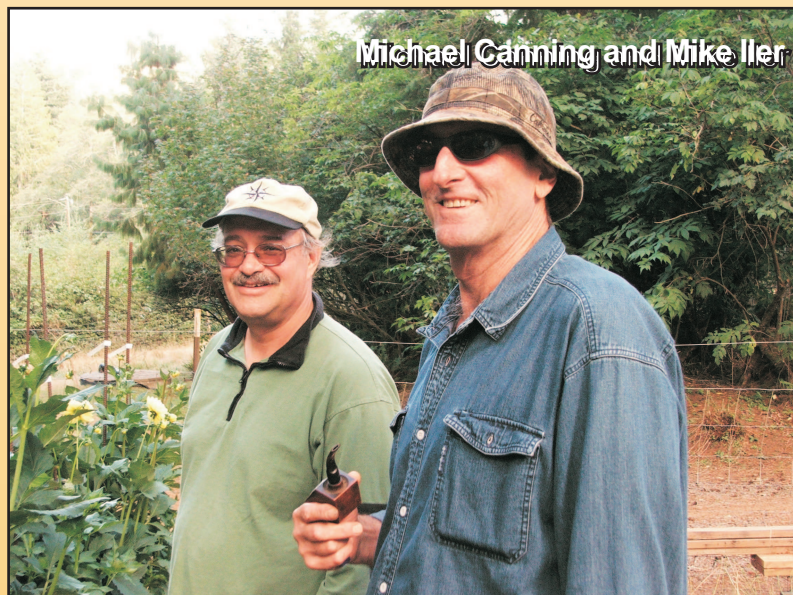
Barbara and I had the great good fortune to visit Mike's and Kathy's dahlia gardens in the Fall of 2012. We were traveling with Wayne and Eleanor Shantz who made the arrangements that led to our memorable visit. The Iler home and their gardens were delightful highlights in a wonderful woodland setting. The most compelling aspect of their gardens was one spectacular seedling followed by another even more spectacular seedling. On and on and on the seedlings went! My favorite garden among Mike's many was one that was hidden away behind fencing and wind breaks to keep unwanted pollen from invading the "ball" patch.

In 2013, Mike had 17 different fully double dahlias approved on the Seedling Bench with an average score of 88.3. Simply amazing for a guy who is so soft spoken that you hardly know he is around at a show. A wonderful and highly talented guy, Mike will be sorely missed and long remembered in the dahlia world.

- **Ron Miner, American Dahlia Society**

Michael and I first connected with Mike and Kathy at the Oakway Mall show, the first time I entered a dahlia show. We happened to pull up in the parking lot next to the Ilers but had no idea who they were or where they were from. All I remember is watching bloom after incredible bloom coming out of their van and that I was really blown away (compared to my measly entries). Michael was impressed but quickly pointed out to me that they weren't entering novice like I was! Whew - was I relieved! Later on we met them and we immediately hit it off, becoming fast friends.

- **Cheryle Hawkins**



Michael Canning and Mike Iler

Remembering Phil Mingus

by Ted Kennedy

Philip Mingus of Vancouver, Washington, a dahlia grower for over 70 years passed away on February 17, 2018 at the age of 77. He was born in Yakima, Washington to Arthur Mingus and Mary Virginia (Gollehon) Mingus.

Phil worked at ALCOA aluminum at their production plant for over 20 years. In 1983 he retired from ALCOA and went full time into dahlias. His father had shown him how to grow dahlias when he was very young. Mingus dahlias became a successful venture and he sold hundreds of dahlia varieties to customers all over the USA. He published a catalog each year and the varieties were listed in alphabetical order. He assigned a three digit number to each variety and used rubber stamp to impress that number on each tuber. If a customer wanted to know the name of the variety, Phil could access his records and tell them the name. However, the numbers changed from year to year and you needed to know what year it was purchased.

Phil originated 84 varieties of dahlias and grew his seedlings in a hoop house covered with shade cloth. He had many interests besides his 71 years of growing dahlias. He served his two year term as President of The Portland Dahlia Society and especially enjoyed using the gavel to get everyone's attention. He served in The Army National Guard, enjoyed cooking, canning, hunting, fishing, picking Huckleberries, clam digging, visiting with friends and family, and most of all his Grandchildren.

Phil is survived by his sister, Anita Peterson; his ex-wife, Jean Mingus; and his 3 children: son, Philip



R. Mingus II (Tracy), daughter, Cindy Van Veen (Greg), daughter, and Julie Feldman (Randy); and 8 Grandchildren. One will easily notice that nearly all of his dahlias were named after many of his relatives and friends. One of my fondest memories of Phil, was the look on his face when found out that some of his varieties reached the head table at a National Show. Our club will miss him because he always had an answer to any dahlia question no matter how obscure. I still remember him telling us how to get a tuber that would not sprout to grow: cut a half an inch off the end and plant it again.

2018 PNDC Dahlia Show Dates Including Show Flowers

Victoria Dahlia Society

August 18-19

Prospect Lake Community Hall
Parkland Rave, Pooh

Nanaimo Dahlia Society

August 25-26

Country Club Centre, Nanaimo
Parkland Rave, Pooh

Portland Dahlia Society

August 25-26

Dance Pavilion at Oaks Amusement Park, Portland
Hollyhill Black Beauty

Wild Rivers Dahlia Society

September 1-2

Event Center on the Beach, Gold Beach
Fancy Pants

Lane County Dahlia Society

September 15-16,

Wheeler Pavilion, Lane Events Center, Eugene
Any Iler Origination listed in a Classification Book

PNDC Dahlia Show

Douglas County Dahlia Society

September 22-23,

Douglas County Fairgrounds, Roseburg
Lakeview Glow