



THE PNDC DAHLIA TIMES

SPRING 2020

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference

www.pnccdahlia.com

Dear Fellow PNDC Members Larry Smith, President

What an odd and stressful time it is with most of us going out only when absolutely necessary, dodging people, and some of us laid off from work. As a displaced fitness instructor, I have resorted to exercising to my own TV fitness show and a daily bike ride over the local cinder cone. I have been resigned to (ugh) housework and decluttering for entertainment. I went to a nursery for the first time this year and found the display of vegetable plants to be nearly wiped out. Looks like people are concentrating more on gardening and growing their own food this year, so that is a positive.

Much effort by Eric Toedtli and some expense was expended to create the first ever PNDC Combined Show Schedule and Roster and now we are wondering if we will be allowed to have shows this year. As Co-Chair of the Portland show, I am resolute that if there is any possibility to host some kind of event, we will be moving ahead. Normal procedures will need to be implemented as "social distancing" would still be required, which would mean redesigning the building layout and who knows what else. At least we will have a few months to work on that.

What a great PNDC Annual Meeting we had planned for this year! For the first time in recent history, we scheduled a continuing education program, including ADS President Brad Freeman at the spacious and more centrally located Oregon Garden. We still have

not completely given up on the idea and are looking at possible June dates, depending on what our public officials allow and with safety at the top of our minds.

If this comes together, all will be notified and I will personally contact all who had registered for the March event. Should we not be able to reschedule, we will likely have a Leadership and Executive meeting on Zoom.

ADS had to cancel their annual and planning session, which had been scheduled for April. In its place was an on-line meeting, attended by Elva Sellens, Mark Oldenkamp, and I. Some creative ideas came out of it and all agreed that this is giving us opportunities to better learn how to use technology to advance the dahlia world. Since just about every tuber sale has been cancelled or drastically changed, many clubs are learning how to host on line sales. Our Portland DS is patterning our virtual sale on a successful venture shared by Puget Sound Dahlia Association. We have found that our members and regular customers are chomping at the bit for tubers.

A small group of members met at the Oldenkamp farm on a recent Sunday to package tubers for sale and will soon put our inventory on line. For more information, go to our website at www.pnccdahlia.com or contact me or Mark. If you are wondering how to move your tubers and raise funds, this is time to get creative and all of our PNDC clubs will be stronger if we share ideas.

Wonderings from Mike Riordan

I know the response to Covid 19 continues to evolve, and here are just a few of the results from this pandemic. Our April Meeting and Tuber Sale is postponed to sometime in May TBD (please pull or modify any tuber sale flyers you may have distributed). The PNDC Meeting is postponed to late May or early June. Clackamas County Master Gardeners Sale which was rescheduled for May 30-31, has been cancelled. Our best and busiest sale opportunity - down the tubes! More to come as we gain more guidance from experience.

Here are a few activities that growers can be doing now such as potting up tubers for an early start inside or outside, last minute tuber divisions as they come out of storage, and taking cuttings.

Hope you all stay healthy,
Mike Riordan



Nanaimo Glad & Dahlia Society - by Judy Stephens

The Nanaimo Glad and Dahlia Society has had an interesting spring. With the Covid 19 pandemic, as with all of the various extra curricular activities for the world as well as those for our everyday lives changed!



CHI ef 25 (Single)

Our first meeting was at the beginning of October and we managed to have one in March as well. We had a ZOOM meeting with the executive to figure out what was going to be still possible and what was needing to be cancelled. It was a productive meeting with a brand new treasurer that was learning the job as well as a new secretary.

I must say both Guy Tohana and Candi McNeil have done a fine job for a couple of newbies. We have Jane Martin, with hidden talent for marketing and sales on our team this year also. Jane is a welcomed addition to helping with our society to be able to have good fund raisers.

It goes without saying that when a person takes on a position on the executive of any organization it has its hurdles. With the temporary closing of our club, we do a lot of emails and phone calls keeping in touch and making decisions that we hope the club members will agree with.

Our president, Julie Mervyn, has done an absolute great job. She keeps in contact with her executive and members to make sure all is going smoothly for each. This is all being done while facing her own life challenges. She is one strong person to be able to do this. Some folks think there's nothing to being a president cause you sit at the front and

direct the meeting. There is so much behind the scenes between meetings and decision making, phone calls and organizing as well as making sure things are in place to make it all run smoothly. Anyone who has done the position of president knows what it takes. A huge pat on Julies back!!!!



TUI_CONNIE (Triple)

With that being said, we have had to cancel our tuber sale and the real possibility of cancelling our annual show is in the air right now.

For some of our members that are larger growers than most in our club, we have individually created our own way of getting the tubers sold. Some on line and some in person with safe distancing and thank goodness for e-transfers and honesty.

We had a couple of weeks of warm weather so some of our members started planting their gardens. Vern and myself have started planting our dahlias. This is the earliest we have ever attempted to do this. Mother Nature has been kind for the weather which is huge when spending so much time on your knees. We're looking forward to seeing color again in what has been strips of soil with some fall rye growing in place of the dahlias. Replenishing the soil is a must and this works well each year along with some manure rototilled into the soil.

Looking forward to a beautiful garden again and hoping the Covid 19 fades away quickly as can be expected. It will be good to see everyone's smiling faces again as a group.

Victoria Dahlia Society - by Phil & Teresa Newton Victoria, B.C.

Thank goodness for the garden. In these strange times it is sure nice to have the sanctuary of 2 acres.

I have rebuilt new beds, fixed the tuber shed, cleaned all the old beds, pruned all the fruit trees, and trimmed the berry bushes. Had time to cover the blueberries and Saskatoons so I will get some fruit this year instead of the birds.

We have had a very dry April and just now had much appreciated rain. The Mason Bees are out, and I had time to pull the Dandelions, so they went to the fruit trees. Maybe a bumper crop of cherries, peaches, apples, and apricots this year.

Had my best year of over wintering Dahlias tubers this year and now we cannot have a sale. I have been giving lots away, but I bet my compost pile will look great this season.

I had great success with the plastic wrap system and good to moderate success with covering some with wood shavings and vermiculite. I think next year I will go with the plastic wrap system solely.

The compost I put in the Dahlia beds has broken down and I am ready to plant. The full moon (the flower moon) is May 7th and it looks like the temperature picks up right about then. I will start planting and should get it done in a week or two.

These strange times have at least given me a head start on the season and I have noticed a few other oddities.

The fuel gauge on my truck is stuck on full and I have found a lady living in my house. Her name is Teresa, she seems nice.

Portland Dahlia Society

by Larry Smith

Before the virus lockdown order was handed down, we were able to proceed with our monthly meeting in March. Members, led by Mark Oldenkamp, donated a large number of pot tubers for a silent auction. Some of our more experienced members gave a demonstration on taking cuttings. Senior judge certificates and pins from ADS were awarded to Linda Taylor and Adrienne Hale. Our newly qualified Candidate Judges receiving recognition were Terry Smith, Julie Huynh, and Barbara Caffaratti-Klubert.

The April auction and sale was postponed to our May meeting in hopes that we could proceed, but as of this writing, that is probably not going to happen.

The large Master Gardener sale, at which we have a booth and usually clear about \$3500, has been cancelled. We have been observing how other clubs have managed on line sales and will be doing that to distribute tubers to our members and others. The Swan Island Dahlia facility is normally open to us to package our tubers, but they have had to close their buildings to others. As an alternative, we are going to have a limited attendance "social distancing" event at the Oldenkamp property to prepare tubers for sale.

You will be able to find information about our on-line sales at: www.portlanddahlia.com

Provided we will be able to proceed with our show on the last weekend in August, our flower of the year will be Kelsey Annie Joy, Co-OR. We fully intend to have a show if our show venue at Oaks Park is cleared to open and it is deemed safe for our members, exhibitors, and guests. We may need to implement social distancing measures, stay tuned for updates as the season progresses.

Congratulations to Linda Taylor, unanimously approved by the ADS Board as new director of Canby Trial Garden. Linda has worked diligently on maintaining the garden for years and we were anxiously awaiting her promotion to Senior Judge to make that possible. During the vetting process, one Board member commented, "Linda has been a valuable asset to the Virus Research Committee."

Some of us have commented how lucky we were when our main concern was virus in dahlias. Here's hoping and praying for the good health of all within the dahlia world.

Kelsie Annie Joy



Lane County Dahlia Society

by Deb Gilmer Eugene, Oregon

This is a sad and challenging time for all of us. Staying safe and well is of the utmost importance though so LCDS members are focusing energies on what we love to do the best: GROW DAHLIAS!!!!

Attendees to our February meeting got their first look at all the new dahlias in the 2020 ADS New Introductions DVD. This was followed in March by LCDS members Sonia Hall and Eugene Kenyon giving tips to grow and show dahlias, as well as how to start dahlia seedlings. Cheryle Hawkins also displayed floater bowls and containers for exhibiting our favorite flower. It was great to see everyone and welcome some new members to our society.

Officers for 2020 are:

Co Presidents: Camille Noel and Cheryle Hawkins;

Vice President, Membership Chair & ADS Rep:

Deb Gilmer

2nd Vice President: Esther Barton Ralph

Co Secretaries: Pat Chasse and Allison Allen

Treasurer: Phyllis Shafer

Newsletter Editor: Cheryle Hawkins

Judges Chair: Lexa Cookson; Show Ribbons:

Camille Noel

Show Medals and Newsletter Mailer: Dick Bach

PNDC Reps: Deb Gilmer, Cheryle Hawkins, Camille Noel, Dick Bach.

With the cancellation of our April and May meetings, tuber auction, and tuber sales events, the 2020 Lane County Dahlia Society Show is scheduled on September 19th & 20th. We will depend heavily on the money from our savings account and the generosity of our show sponsors. This year's show flower will be Hollyhill Pink Tigress. We hope you will join us for what promises to be a wonderful gathering of spectacular blooms as well as friends new and old.

Hollyhill Pink Tigress





Douglas Dahlia Society by Elva Sellens Roseburg, Oregon

Our Dahlia Society has had only one meeting this year. We are selling our dahlia tubers at our local Farmers Market which is open since they sell food products. We had a tuber sale last Saturday April 25th, and our next tuber sale will be May 2nd. A lot of people came to the Farmers Market. In Douglas County, we only have 24 people who have tested positive for Corona virus and 14 recovered – no deaths. We feel quite safe in selling our dahlia tubers at the Farmers Market. The Market set up their booths with at least 5 feet of space between the vendors on each side. As long as you wear gloves and a face mask, I feel that you should be fairly safe in selling tubers at the Market.

If your event or location has canceled out and you do not have any location to sell your tubers, you may consider joining your local Farmers Market and sell your dahlia tubers there. Just consider your local corona virus situation and take the necessary precautions by wearing a face mask and gloves.



SIR RICHARD

2020 Shows and Flowers of the Year Nanaimo and Victoria



AUGUST 22 - 23,

Portland Dahlia Society

AUGUST 29 - 30, Portland

Dance Pavilion at Oaks Amusement Park

Show Flower: Kelsey Annie Joy

Wild River Dahlia Society

SEPTEMBER 5 - 6, Gold Beach

Event Center on the Beach

Show Flower: To be decided

American Dahlia Society - cancelled

SEPTEMBER 11 - 13

Wenatchee, WA

Lane County Dahlia Society

SEPTEMBER 19 - 20, Eugene

Lane Events Center, Wheeler Pavilion

Show Flower: Hollyhill Pink Tigress

Douglas County Dahlia Society

SEPTEMBER 26 - 27

Roseburg - Douglas County Fairgrounds

Show Flower: Sir Richard

Pollinator Dahlia Bath



"Cameo" by Adrienne Hale



Should I Take a Break From Growing Dahlias This Year?

By Eric Toedtli, Portland Dahlia Society

In a word – NO. I have heard many people questioning if they should grow dahlias this year due to the uncertainty regarding if shows will be held this year or not. Some are asking is this a year to take a break. At this point I am assuming that shows are still going to happen. But even if they were all cancelled for this year I would still grow dahlias. Do you grow JUST for shows?. I am sure the answer is NO for all of us. It is a passion. And this summer if home isolation continues most of us will have more time, not less time, to work in the garden.

Maintaining your stock of dahlias you have acquired over the years is one reason to keep growing. Think about how difficult it would be to try to replace all of your stock a year or two from now. Replacing your dahlias would come at a considerable expense. And are you going to be able to get the quality of stock you currently have. For example: I had very strong plants of Zorro many years ago. Unfortunately it all rotted one winter. For several years after that I kept buying Zorro from different growers until I finally acquired strong stock again. I would not be happy to have to try to replace it again.

So what should I do with my dahlias if there is no shows? How about sharing them at places such as Senior homes and similar places (assuming if they will accept them because of Covid-19). You can acquire vases cheap at garage sales. I often pay @.25 - \$.50 each for vases. Sometimes you can find them in a free box. If they are marked more than \$.50 then make an offer and don't be afraid to walk away if they say no. Some sellers will holler to you as you are walking away and accept the offer. Some won't. I will not pay more than \$.50, even for a large vase.

Another option is maybe you live in a good location to setup a roadside cut flower stand. I have heard of people making quite a bit of money from these. Even the ones where it is an honor payment system do well. The money coffee can often has more money in it than the amount of flowers you set out that morning. I remember from a few years ago that someone from the Portland Dahlia Society told me they grew only for their roadside stand. But they did not keep the money. They donated 100% of the proceeds to their church.

This might be a year to experiment with your growing techniques. Maybe you have had thoughts that "sometime" you should make some changes to the way you plant or grow your dahlias. The changes may be minor or they may be drastic. I personally always try something different each year. I also experiment in my vegetable garden. Last year I experimented with changing my watering technique for the dahlias. I bought a new four station watering timer and programmed it differently than I had with my old timers in the past. I am very happy with the results but am going to make a couple of minor adjustments to it this year. A couple of years ago I

tried some different soil additives that I was very happy with. Next year I might try growing one row of dahlias with netting to support them rather than stakes.

Reducing the number of plants I grow was one of my plans for this year, even prior to Covid-19. My current employment situation is not going to allow me to maintain as many plants. I am cutting back from about 700 plants to about 550. After I retire in a few years then I will go back to 700 or maybe even more.

If local shows get cancelled this year I am going to do two things differently. I am not going to put up shade cloth. I grow my entire garden, except 1st year seedlings, under shade cloth. It requires a significant effort over several days to first put it up and then several more days at the end of the season to take it down. The second thing I am going to do is grow the garden with the mindset of this being the year to take seeds with a focus on larger varieties. Rather than growing AA varieties "2 up" or "3 up" like I do for shows, I will probably grow them more like "6 up". I will still disbud but much lighter than normal. I will focus on AA and A varieties. And maybe include a few select B varieties. I actually enjoy disbudding the garden!



Allen's Country Roads (Allen Manuel grower) as displayed at the Portland show in 2018 year scoring 88.16. It went on to the trial gardens to win the Hart Medal for the large and giant size this year.

ADS Image Library by Claudia Biggs

The ADS Image Library has been busy this past couple of months with requests for the 2020 ADS New Introductions. You can order this program on the ADS web site. There are two versions: an automated program only for \$13 or a deluxe version that includes a second DVD of low resolution photos only for \$20. I have also finished the 2020 ADS Fabulous Fifty Dahlia program which will be posted soon on the ADS web site. You can order it from me



Will There Be Dahlia Shows This Year?

By Eric Toedtli, PNDC (unofficial) show schedule chairman

As I write this most of us are isolated in our homes with uncertainty of when things will return to “normal”. And what will “normal” look like? Many events, festivals, concerts, etc. scheduled for this summer are being cancelled. Will there be dahlia shows this summer/fall?

The ADS national show has been cancelled. I have not heard of any local dahlia shows being cancelled YET.

Local, state, and federal guidelines for the Covid-19 isolation are only one factor that dahlia society’s need to look at when deciding to host their show or not this year. Another consideration is if the venue where the show is held will allow a show this year. Some societies may need to move their show to a different venue only for this year. Financials are a major concern for most host societies. Tuber sales have been cancelled for this year. Some societies at this moment are looking into some type of online sale. Maybe this will set a precedence for future year fund

raising. The point here is that most society’s may have a major shortcoming to their treasury this year.

The benefit of the combined show schedule for the PNDC might not be fully realized until next year.

If local dahlia societies are able to host their shows it is most likely that they will need to make changes from the published schedule, such as significantly reducing or eliminating cash awards. The combined show schedule has already been printed and is currently sitting here in boxes next to my desk. We originally planned to distribute them at the March PNDC meeting that ended up being cancelled. One way or another we will eventually get them in the hands of each PNDC member. Please don’t expect the information in the combined schedule for each local society to be 100% accurate. Each person will need to check with the local society when it gets closer to the scheduled show for updates and if the show is even going to be held this year.

A group gathers to organize tubers

by Laura Oldenkamp

A small group of members from the Portland Dahlia Society have gathered and will gather again to organize tubers toward a sale. At first it will be available for Portland Dahlia Society members only—with all roots being \$4 each. Members can only order one tuber of each named variety, but can order as many varieties as they wish. Shirley Bankston is preparing a comprehensive list of what will be available. Members are asked to make their decisions fairly quickly because online sales will be cut off at 10 am this Sunday May 3. Shortly after that deadline, a small group of PDS members will put the orders together and the tuber orders

can be picked up and paid for at the Oldenkamp’s in Canby or at Larry Smith’s in SE Portland soon.

If members do not want to pick up their tuber order, the package can be mailed for \$10, regardless of package size. Please email Laura Oldenkamp with your order at laura@oldenkamp.com. Orders will be filled, first come first served. Your order may not be filled with all of your choices since there is a limited supply.

After filling orders on Sunday May 3, the remaining inventory is available to the public with an online sale at \$5 per tuber. There will be a shipping fee of \$10, regardless of package size.



Any tubers left over after Sunday, we are going to sell on line. If you look at Puget Sound Dahlia Association’s on line “shopify” sales page, that is the program we are going to use.

Is pH More Important Than Fertilizer?

By Ted J. Kennedy

People new to growing dahlias tend to ask the same questions. One of the most common questions is “What kind of fertilizer should I use on my dahlias?” As with any other subject, people that are just starting out really do not know what questions to ask. I say that same person should be asking what is the best pH for my garden soil and how can I correct it if it is wrong?

People have heard of the term pH but it is a mysterious term that sounds very chemical in nature and inapplicable to gardening.

Dahlias need to be grown in soil that has the correct pH. In Western Oregon, nearly everybody has acidic soil. The pH scale is backwards in my mind and the lower the number, the more acid is your soil. For some reason neutral on the pH scale is 7 and I seldom hear of anybody that has pH of 7 or higher. And let’s cut to the meat of this discussion: What pH is best for dahlias?

There is the short answer, the long answer and the “kiss”(keep it simple stupid) answer.

Short answer: 6.3

Long answer: Some people argue that a higher pH up to about 6.7 is best, while others consider anything over 6.0 to be very good. I like 6.3.

Kiss answer: any pH number that starts with 6 is probably good enough.

And why is the pH important? Plants find it difficult to take up fertilizer and minor nutrients when the pH is wrong. For example. If the pH is at 5.5, plants can be starved of nutrients despite the fact you are feeding them well. It is a sliding scale and the ideal number is the slightly acidic range in the sixes.

How do we correct overly acid soil here in Western Oregon? Agricultural lime is the answer and it consists mainly of calcium carbonate. It is an organic product that is just ground rock. The Rocky Mountains have huge deposits of limestone. The biggest use for limestone is for portland cement that is in fact cooked limestone.

The limestone rock is ground into a powder for “ag lime” . The finer it is ground the quicker it dissolves and activates in the garden. Years ago, ag lime was a coarse powder that took many months to activate. Nowadays, they sell “prilled” lime that is super fine powder that is sprayed with a binder so you can spread easily without

a huge cloud of dust and it takes effect in weeks instead of months. . It is about \$9.00 for 50 pounds of prilled lime . There is another ag lime product called Dolomite lime and it differs only in that this ag lime has considerable magnesium in it. If your garden is deficient in magnesium, the soil test people will advise the use of dolomite lime to increase the magnesium levels. If you have sufficient magnesium in your soil, you should avoid using Dolomite lime as too much magnesium is not good. By the way, the regular ag lime has some magnesium in it too and that may well be all you need.

How much lime do I need to add to the soil? There are charts available and if you get a soil test they will give you exact recommendations. The amount is usually more than you think, lots more than adding fertilizer.

Does the soil change in pH from year to year? Fertilizer is generally acidic and if you fertilize, your soil will become more acidic, especially after several years. There is also a “native” pH level that may be too acidic for dahlias and as the effects of lime wear off, the soil will try to return to that native pH level. Organic growers are less affected by pH changes but since they are trying to feed plants with organic products, it is really important the pH be ideal.

Can I use a soil pH meter to determine the pH of my soil? The Portland Dahlia Society owns a \$100.00 pH meter that we loan to club members. I like to borrow it every few years and take many readings and map where I need more lime. Meters are not as accurate as the soil test results that you get as they actually use a chemical test to determine how much lime you need. Typically, the soil test numbers will be slightly different from the meter and usually the actual number indicated by the soil test is more acidic than the meter’s readings.

How often do I need to add lime as it is heavy and it is a laborious activity? They used to say every few years, but they were using old fashioned ag lime not prilled lime. Old fashioned lime dissolved over a longer period of years. One commercial grower puts down a small amount every year to avoid the laborious task of spreading a huge amount every few years. I do that too and I add my prilled lime in early spring every year. Here is a chart to use if you did not get a soil test.

Pounds of Limestone Needed per 1000 sq. ft. to increase soil pH to 6.5

If your soil pH is:	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0
Soil Texture					
Sandy loam	100 lbs	80 lbs	65 lbs	45 lbs	20 lbs
Loam	175 lbs	150 lbs	110 lbs	75 lbs	35 lbs
Clay	230 lbs	200 lbs	150 lbs	100 lbs	50 lbs

Is pH More Important Than Fertilizer? ...continued

So is pH more important than fertilizer? Actually, probably not but it is still very important.

Some more minutia: My son the chemist says that soil pH meters work well only to give a very approximate reading. He says they are designed to be most accurate near the number 7 that we seldom encounter and are inaccurate below the 6 level probably giving you a higher number and that is not good. So if you use a meter, especially the cheaper ones, you will think your pH level is better than it really is.

One commercial grower, neglected his soil pH and decided that he would just give the plants a little more fertilizer to make up for it. He increased his fertilizer each year for several years and finally his soil was at 5.5 pH and he decided to put down some lime. Of course, his garden did better the next year.

There is a limit on how much lime you can add to increase your pH if your soil is very, very acidic. Apparently, too much of a good thing can be a bad

thing. One source says: "Never add more than 50 pounds of lime per 1,000 square feet in a single application."

The late Bill Mishler knew his soil was very acidic. He was a very frugal person and for example drove a VW Rabbit diesel pick up, that had no power or air conditioning but got great gas mileage. He and Phil Mingus found a cheap source of lime at a lime manufacturing plant. They had a real deal on lime if you loaded it yourself into your pick up and as they say it was "dirt cheap". Bill did not read the instructions about applying too much lime in one year. He proceeded to apply the cheap lime and knew that when it was in bulk like that you could not store it easily. So, he added extra lime, after all his soil was very acidic. The next year Bill's garden did not do well. He borrowed the club's pH meter and found out his soil pH was 7.1 and had become too alkaline for dahlias to do well. As they say, too much of a good thing is a bad thing.

ADS Regional VP - PNDC Report

The biggest news that most should already know is that the 2020 National Show hosted in Wenatchee has been cancelled. There was consideration of rolling all the current awarded National show dates one year forward, but in the end Wenatchee will now be in 2024 and plans for Ohio (2021), National Capitol (2022) and Portland (2023) remain as originally awarded. The Covid-19 situation has far reaching implications and certainly many societies have had to adjust on how to fund raise by selling tubers and plants online, we have seen many versions of this so far.

I hope that most societies will be able to have some sort of show season. Many thanks to Eric Toedtli for the significant effort to produce the first PNDC combined show schedule. This was a daunting task and the first effort is the hardest; refinements and tweaks should be easier going forward.

The planning of the Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference annual "spring" meeting has been impacted; we are currently trying to see if June 6th will be workable but we may need to resort to a Zoom meeting. Delegates and PNDC members stay tuned.

The Canby Trial garden entries are in pots and showing life. With the recent ADS Board vote, Linda Taylor is officially the Trial Garden Director. Much thanks for the many years of service by Teresa Bergman. The garden will again have 35 entries and will require a team effort to get grown, groomed and then judged. Even if we do not have shows to judge, the trial garden will provide a great opportunity for judges to get experience. ADS has concerns that with the possibility of some shows being cancelled that it may be difficult for seedlings to get judged enough times. To accommodate they have approved a temporary rule. The purpose of the rule amendment is to give an additional year of eligibility to those hybridizers who entered dahlias on a seedling

by Mark Oldenkamp

bench at a show or in a trial garden in 2019 and have opted to try for a higher score. The scoring would be done in accordance with the established Trial Garden and Seedling Bench Evaluation rules. The rules allow for the higher score to be certified which is the reason some hybridizer opt to enter their dahlias for a second year on a seedling bench or in a trial garden.

The delivery of the March Bulletin was slowed by the impacts of the Corona virus situation. The inquiries about this have stopped so hopefully all ADS members have received this by now. The current issue was posted to the ADS website once we learned there were mail delivery issues.

Please consider taking advantage of the dahlia virus testing this year. Societies will be offered the opportunity to send in virus testing samples in 2020. This is done with generous financial support from the virus research project with the goal to encourage societies to work toward being able to offer tested clean stock, hopefully with a premium price. This offer was extended to societies for the 2019 growing season but participation across the country was very poor. Maybe this year more societies will take advantage of this offer. Details will be forthcoming; check the ADS website.

Please don't forget this way to help ADS. ADS is registered as a non-profit and as such is eligible as a charity that Amazon users can designate for a small donation to the non-profit for any purchases being made under the Amazon "Smile" program. Please check out this program and consider designating Dahlia Society Inc as the benefactor of this Amazon program. Your cost is exactly the same so please, if you use Amazon, sign up today.

Mark Oldenkamp

ADS Regional VP - PNDC