



Seeking Gold Medal candidates

Each year the PNDC Executive Board recognizes an individual or couple with the Gold Medal for Lifetime Achievement. By way of example, this could be someone who has mentored newcomers to the world of dahlia exhibition and/or developed new dahlias and introduced them commercially. An individual that has been instrumental in recruiting a number of new members for a society and tirelessly promotes the idea of sharing their own knowledge and experience with others would be very worthy.

As our April meeting soon approaches, we ask that any PNDC member or society consider nominating someone in time for the PNDC April 2nd spring meeting. It is important that the nominee should not be a member of the nominating society. When submitting the nomination, please describe the candidate's achievements and contributions to the dahlia society, to the PNDC, or to dahlias as a whole.

Contact your PNDC delegates with your input and suggestions or submit a nomination by e-mail to PNDC's recently-appointed secretary, Larry Smith: thebodysmith@hotmail.com or at 4227 SE 76th Ave; Portland, OR 97206

View a list of past award recipients at www.pnccdahlia.com

by Cheryle Hawkins

Spring PNDC meeting: Saturday, April 2, 2016

The PNDC spring meeting will be held Saturday, April 2nd at a new venue: the Elmer's Restaurant in Portland. Elmer's address is 10001 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland, OR 97220. The society delegates convene at 11:00 am and the luncheon and general meeting will begin at noon.

April 2nd, 2016

Elmer's Restaurant:
10001 NE Sandy
Blvd., Portland, OR
97220

Dear Fellow PNDC Members

Spring has sprung and yet another dahlia growing season is upon us. Cutting sprouts and seedlings are beginning to emerge along with our hopes and anticipation of another successful and exciting 2016 dahlia year.

Our Nanaimo Society will be sponsoring our PNDC show this season. Portland has changed its show date to a week earlier (weekend before Labor Day) and has a new location at Oak's Park. Portland also hosts a party and celebration for Myrtle Bloomfield's centennial birthday. Larry Smith has agreed to serve as PNDC Secretary. More details and announcements and society news found throughout our spring PNW Dahlia Times.

Now is a fine time to consider recruitment opportunities. We may recall a friend, co-worker, neighbor etc. who really admired your dahlias last year. Why not reach out this spring with a tuber or two to help kindle that initial spark of dahlia addiction. Looking back on our own beginnings in the dahlia world, that story strikes a familiar chord.

Here's wishing you all cooperative weather for a bountiful growing season. May all our friendships flourish along with our blooms.

Mike Riordan, PNDC President

Directions to PNDC Meeting

10001 NE Sandy Blvd, Portland 97220

From South: Drive north on I-5, take exit 288 which merges onto I-205. Follow I-205 about 22 miles until exit 23A to Sandy Blvd/ Banfield Freeway. Drive .28 miles and merge onto NE Sandy Blvd and take the Sandy Blvd. ramp, (past the NE 97th Ave). Drive .08 miles and turn slight right onto NE Sandy Blvd/US-30, then go .06 miles. Elmers is on the left, just past NE 100th Ave.

From North: Driving south on I-5, take the I-205 exit, about a mile after the Clark County Fairgrounds. Take I-205 over the Columbia River and take the Sandy Blvd exit, going westbound. Follow the above driving directions to Elmers once you have gotten onto Sandy Boulevard.



Nanaimo Dahlia Society - by Kath Hewitt

Nanaimo, B.C.

First-Year Dahlia heartaches: As a first-year dahlia club member and grower, I was excited and apprehensive about checking my tubers this spring. Imagine my dismay when I found almost half of my carefully kept tubers were growing fungus. Then, we had a talk about earwigs and wireworms at our March meeting. The beauties do have their problems. But I'm in love with dahlias and will persevere with new tubers bought at our annual tuber sale. Where there's tuber life, there is dahlia hope.

The Nanaimo club dug out and divided about 600 plants, 168 varieties, last autumn, donated by a retiring local member and grower. The club will meet to bag-and-tag the tubers for the annual Spring Tuber Sale: Sat. April 30, 2016 at the Country Club Mall, Nanaimo BC, 9:30 am to 2:00 pm.

Our 2016 Gladiola and Dahlia Show will take place on **August 27- 28**, at the Country Club Mall, Nanaimo. This will also be the annual show for the Pacific Northwest Dahlia Club (PNDC) and the Western International Gladiola Show (WIGS). The dahlias for the year 2016 are:

Single: R Kris, introduced by Ralph Hellens, Victoria BC Dahlia Society

Triple: Pam Howden, introduced in 1995 by Davidson. The gladiolus for the year is Olympia, introduced in 2005 by Vaclavic.



R Kris B ID W

Victoria Dahlia Society - by Theresa Thom

Victoria, BC.

Spring has sprung, the clocks moved ahead, and now we look forward to more light and more time out in our gardens. The members have been busy waking up their dormant tubers, starting cuttings etc., in preparation for our upcoming tuber sale which takes place on April 9, again at the Know Presbyterian Church Hall. This year we have changed back to a one-day only sale. We will be trying out a new format. The Members Only Sale the first one and a half hours, then the doors will open to the public for the remainder of the time. Check our website: for more details.

Our membership is thriving, every meeting seems to bring forth some new members and the executive is busy planning and improving on informative, interesting programs. This summer the Victoria Dahlia Society will be hosting a judging workshop in July, date and details are in the making and will be available in the next newsletter.

Congratulations to our member, Connie Young-Davis on the article published in the current "Dahlias of Today", and to our new president Ryan Barry for his beautiful photo of "Parkland Rave", chosen for the cover of the ADS Classification Book.

As mentioned in the previous PNDC Dahlia Times, for this year our 70th Annual Victoria Dahlia Show will take place on **September 10th - 11th** at a new location, the Prospect Lake Community Hall (PLCH). This is located just North of Victoria on the Saanich Peninsula. Show info is on our website. Our members John Wrinch and Phil Newton are in the early stages of planning a Demonstration Garden at the PLCH.

The main revenue for the hall is mainly from wedding events, and a dahlia garden would tie in nicely for photos and for viewing by all while at the community hall. In the future our club members would use the garden to improve their judging skills, and novices could also come and learn the many aspects of dahlia culture.

In closing wishing you all a successful growing and showing season!



Pam Howden WL OR

Last Chance to Renew Membership!

The deadline to renew PNDC membership has passed. However, if you want to be listed in the 2016 PNDC Roster and haven't renewed - send your payment ASAP to Elva Sellens, 2651 Loma Vista, Roseburg, OR 97471-6175. PNDC dues are \$10 per person, or \$15 per family. Include your current address, phone number, e-mail and how you want the newsletter - by e-mail or by mail.

ADS Image Library

by Claudia Biggs

The ADS Image Library has been busy this past couple of months with requests for the 2016 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 2015 ADS Fabulous Fifty Dahlia program which will be posted soon on the ADS web site. You can order it from me for \$13.

Portland Show Changes Site and Date!

After over 20 years of having our show at the Clackamas Fairgrounds we have decided to move the Portland Show to Portland instead of Canby. We will be holding the our show at Oaks Park in the Dance Pavillion this year. The Dance Pavillion is over 100 years old and has been the site for many successful shows of all types over the years. And we are changing the date to one week earlier, to August 27-28th, the weekend before Labor Day week end. The change of date was done to avoid the busiest week-end of the year at the historic Oaks Park.

We want everyone to know that our new site is very easy to find and has good access for loading and unloading entries. The park is very busy in the late morning and all afternoon but we dahlia enthusiasts arrive at the show in the early morning(or even the night before). Parking that would be at a premium at the busy amusement park is easily obtained early in the morning. The show site has three doors for loading entries and one has a ramp. We will be "directing" traffic to the loading sites as vehicles are not normally allowed near the building. We will have access to several picnic tables at the park and will be providing a lunch for the judges. Oaks Park has been a very popular picnic venue for over 100 years and my first experience there was at the Scandinavian Picnic in about 1957. We will not be serving beer in kegs like they did in those days.

Our show will feature Myrtle's Folly as our challenge flower it was originated by our club members the late Bob Bloomfield and our own 100-year young Myrtle Bloomfield. It is a very nice lacinated flower in dark pink and orange. Our show catalog and more details are on the Portland Dahlia Society website: portlanddahlia.com



Myrtle's Folly, 2016 Show Flower

Let's encourage those new members!

By Larry Smith, Past President

As spring descends upon us we find ourselves furiously planning and prepping for this year's dahlia garden. While we are at it, let's reach out to our new recruits and plant the seed...er, tuber to get the next generation up and running.

A while back, the Portland club had a fairly high number of new members drop out after a year or two, so we decided to see if we could minimize that trend. It is a work in progress, but we are making headway.

New members are the life blood to the continued success of any organization. When a new person first attends a dahlia club meeting or event, initial impressions are important. In most cases, we have one or two occasions to suck them in. As existing members, why not reach out to them? Talk to them, answer their questions, ask them to sit with you, invite them to your club's next work party or social event, or arrange to tour each other's gardens.

Over the past few years, by offering encouragement, we have convinced several members to start showing dahlias. Some show a handful of entries at our local show, others are doing it on a larger scale. Some are participating in shows other than ours....and winning. Adrienne Hale and Linda Taylor, both of whom have been showing for three years, have claimed multiple Sweepstakes wins. Teresa Meisner had been a member and a dahlia grower for a number of years, but entered shows last year for the first time. All it took was a little encouragement from some of our members who are experienced on the show circuit and she was on her way. She entered three shows in 2015 with better results in each successive show.

At the Douglas County show, several of her exhibits graced the head table. Better yet, her young

granddaughters started showing in the junior division. Look out for the Meisner family in 2016! Allan Manuel, who once ran a commercial dahlia business, recently joined our club and has begun showing his seedlings with impressive results.

The key to member retention, whether they show or not, is finding something that stokes their interest. Some of us put together an impromptu tour of several member gardens and made it a social event. In talking with new members at club events, it is easy to find their areas of interest.

One of our newest members, Nathan Payne, expressed a strong interest in starting cuttings. All it took to get his fires stoked was to hook him up with our King of Cuttings, Mark Oldenkamp. Mark invited Nathan over several times during the winter for some hands on dividing practice and now is schooling him on the ins and outs of working with cuttings. Nathan has also shown a strong competitive drive and Adrienne Hale learned that he has an interest in showing his blooms. When I heard that, I offered to mentor him in and he immediately accepted the offer. We have been communicating on a regular basis over the winter and have become friends in the process (another key to retaining members, if they like us and feel they are getting value in their membership, they are more likely to keep coming back). With encouragement from Mark, myself, and other members, Nathan learning the fine details of what the judges will be looking for and researching which varieties will show well. We have already had to make room on the head table for entries from Adrienne, Teresa, and Linda, I am sure it won't be long until Nathan's blooms find their way there as well.



Wild Rivers Dahlia Society

Bob Chibante, Gold Beach, Oregon

Sure is a good thing that spring has "arrived". Last week we pushed over the 100-inch mark in rainfall. Should be fun since March usually has been the wettest month here.

The next chapter in the history of the Wild Rivers Dahlia Society has begun. On Feb 27th Bob Chibante presided over the first meeting of the Humboldt County chapter of WRDS. It was a well-attended for our very first meeting. 20 people showed up for this inaugural meeting. We had some people who have grown dahlias for a while and some newbies. After a brief discussion of our plans, we went into two presentations. First Bob gave a PowerPoint presentation on doing cuttings, followed by an ADS DVD on classifications. Bob gave away seeds and tubers for door prizes. Guy Chibante gave a bottle of cloning gel for the drawing.

Our goals are to operate jointly up to 3 years, then spin off into their own society belonging to the PNDC. Looks Like the show will be the second weekend of August right now. The Ferndale/Eureka area has great potential for a new society in an area underserved by the ADS. Doug Almand has been added to the WRDS board and along with his family are the primary contacts there.

As long as we do not have another major fire, the Gold Beach show will return to the fairgrounds. We will be on Labor Day weekend, September 3 - 4th. We'll use our led lighting with color correction for the seedling section and also have an outdoor location, weather permitting. This year members chose "Thanks Mom" as the Bloom of the Year. We will have a photography section for the photographers. All ADS and PNDC club members have an open invitation to attend our show. Per ADS rules anyone can bring seedlings to be evaluated. See ADS for details.

This year Mountain Valley Dahlias, in an effort to increase local members to attend other PNDC club shows, will be offering a "bounty" to our members. For any WRDS local Novice & Amateur members attending other PNDC shows and win one of the following awards; Best Bloom in Show, Best Triple Bloom in Show, Novice or Amateur sweepstakes, will earn \$25.00 for each category.

At WRDS we are trying other methods for fund raising. This year we will be selling plants at the local Master Gardner sale. We will also, have plants available at our show for sale to the public. Every year people are always asking to buy some, so we will offer them that opportunity.



Thanks Mom B IC W

Southern Oregon Dahlia Society

Donna Hymer Coos Bay, Oregon

Our officers for 2016 are as follows: President-Gary Swan; Vice President-Connie Gorsch; Secretary-Donna Hymer; and Treasurer-Paulette Woodward.

We are looking forward to the 2016 growing season. Unfortunately, two of our members, Dave and Connie Parmeter will not be doing very much with the goings on in Dahlia this year, as Dave is losing his fight with Cancer. I spoke to him about 1 1/2 weeks ago and he says that his time in this life is very limited. We here at SODS wish him and his family all the best as they try to make Dave's final days comfortable and bearable.

This year our Tuber Sale will be held on 4-9-16 at Pony Village Mall. It will run from 9 - 4. Our 2016 show will be held **September 10 - 11**, at Pony Village Mall. Saturday it opens from 9 - 4 and on Sunday, from 9 - 3, after which we will hold our Show Awards Ceremony. We hope that some of you will be able to attend our show and help us make it a success.

I would like to wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy growing season and year.

Douglas County Dahlia Society

Elva Sellens Roseburg, Oregon

Dahlia growers in the Douglas County Dahlia Society will be gearing up for 3 fundraisers beginning in April. We will sell our dahlia tubers the last two Saturdays in April: April 23 and April 30 at the Farmer's Market from 9 - 1 pm. We will also attend the Douglas Master Gardener's horticulture sale on May 7th at the Douglas County Fairgrounds.

Our 2016 Dahlia Show will be on **September 24 - 25**, also at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. Our 2016 show flower is the beautiful collarette, Kelsey Annie Joy.

Hope you will come on down and enjoy our warm weather and the last Dahlia Show of the 2016 Oregon dahlia show season!



Kelsey Annie Joy
* * * * *

PNDC Exhibitor Numbers to Change

Soon the 2016 PNDC Roster will be ready for distribution. You will notice there are new exhibitor numbers that have been assigned to replace the previous numbers. Elva Sellens intends to provide a complete list of exhibitor numbers to each dahlia society.



Lane County Dahlia Society

Michael Canning, Eugene, Oregon

It's great to see winter making way for the promise of spring again! We're hoping for a more moderate growing season in 2016. As always, we all will face challenges, be they the crawling & flying kind or atmospheric. But it sure would be nice to have a truly favorable weather pattern for growing flowers this summer.

At the Lane County Dahlia Society the membership is chomping at the bit. Our program season is off to a good start with our own Eugene Kenyon, of River's Dahlias, giving a rousing presentation about dahlia propagation including seeds, tubers, and taking cuttings. Our annual auction and sale is next on the schedule on April 7th in place of our regular meeting. That leads off the fund raising season. We follow with two more fund raisers in May. The first one is Saturday May 7th. We will collaborate with our local Garden Club for a "Garden Extravaganza" plant and tuber sale at a busy outside location. Last year was our first year in collaboration



Fancy Pants

with the Garden Club, and the results were successful for both organizations. The second tuber sale is on May 21st. These events provide a great way for our organization to reconnect after a long winter rest.

Jumping forward to the fall, the 53rd annual Lane County Dahlia Show will take place at the Lane Events Center in Eugene, **September 17- 18**. The 2016 show flower is the remarkable orchette "Fancy Pants", originated by LCDS

member Kathy Iler. It even turns out the U of O football team is not playing in Eugene on show weekend for the first time in years. It should be easier to find accommodations with the Ducks out of town. We would love to see you all at the show. Bring your best blooms, and welcome autumn with us!

Have a great growing season, and fun at the shows. Don't forget to visit us on line, just google Lane County Dahlia Society!

Dahlia Pot Tubers - How and Why

by Ted Kennedy

In the USA most people grow dahlias from plant divisions called tubers. Dahlia plants form tubers under the soil and a typical plant has 3 to 7 or more tubers that are about the size of an elongated chicken's egg. The ability to form larger and easily stored tubers is genetically driven and some excellent dahlia varieties do not make tubers that store well.

Dahlia enthusiasts have determined that in order to keep over such varieties, that they can take a cutting from the plant and root it and then grow it on in a small pot(2.5 to 6 inches in diameter) containing potting soil. The plant is left in this small pot the entire growing season and the plant will fill the pot with a very small tuber clump. This small clump for unknown reasons will store more easily than tubers. These small clumps are stored either in the pots or removed from the pots to store them over the Winter. In the Spring they are used to sprout more cutting material for plants that are either planted in the garden or are left in the pots to make more pot tubers to continue the cycle.

You can also plant the pot tubers in the garden just like you would plant a tuber. By the way, the pot tuber plants are not grown for their blooms although an occasional one will have a smaller bloom. The small potted plants for pot tubers can be grown on the surface of the ground or slightly buried in the ground, crowded very closely or grown above the ground on a bench or table. Pot tubers grown in the ground make bigger tuber clumps and need less watering. However, it takes much

more effort to harvest them as the feeder roots will grow into the soil below the pots.

Many growers, like to use pot tubers to grow sprouts for cuttings because pot tubers produce more sprouts than individual tubers. That is

because there are more eyes in the small pot tuber and each eye can generate sprouts. A tuber may produce up to about ten usable sprouts whereas a pot tuber may produce at least double that.

Pot tubers should not be confused with Dutch grown tuber clumps sold in stores and nurseries. They grow dahlias from cuttings and plant them in the ground and crowd them together so closely in the rows that the plants never grow very large but do form small tuber clumps. They mechanically harvest these small clumps and package and sell them all over the world. The Dutch clumps are small but are not constricted by a pot and are not the same as pot tubers.





Portland Fetes Bloomfield Century by Larry Smith

Our long-time PNDC member Myrtle Bloomfield, who turned 100 on March 5, was celebrated in style at Portland Dahlia Society's March meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, a surprised Myrtle was escorted to her "throne" of balloons and crowned with a silver tiara. After a tribute detailing her many contributions to the dahlia world, Myrtle was serenaded by an impromptu novelty marching band as Michael Riordan, pianist extraordinaire, led the membership in a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday." The party was organized by member Teresa Meisner. Myrtle's dear friend, Elva Sellens of Douglas County Dahlia society, came to Portland to take her to dinner and attend the party.

Myrtle is a life member of Portland Dahlia Society. She and her husband Bob joined the Society in 1956. The Bloomfield's were very active and well loved in the club and on the show circuit. They often arrived early at PNDC shows to help with set up and organization of show venues. Bob was a prolific hybridizer and developed a number of excellent show varieties, many of which he named after Myrtle. The Bloomfield catalog included Urchin, Noel, Tiffany, Myrtle's Brandy, Half Ass, MBB, and Myrtle's Folly (which has been voted by PDS membership as our 2016 Dahlia of the Year).



Photo by Adrienne Hale

Myrtle is happily surprised at her 100th birthday celebration.

2016 PNDC Dahlia Show Dates

Including Show Flowers

Nanaimo Dahlia Society

August 27-28
Country Club Mall, Nanaimo
R Kris, Pam Howden

Portland Dahlia Society

August 27-28
Dance Pavilion at Oaks Amusement Park, Portland
Myrtle's Folly

Wild River Dahlia Society

September 3-4
Event Center on the Beach, Gold Beach
Thanks Mom

Victoria Dahlia Society

September 10-11 (70th Annual Show)
Prospect Lake Community Hall
R Kris, Pam Howden

Southern Oregon Dahlia Society

September 10-11,
Pony Village Mall, North Bend
Any dahlia from "Tioga" series originated by Madelyn Geisert

Lane County Dahlia Society

September 17-18,
Wheeler Pavilion, Lane Events Center, Eugene
Fancy Pants

Douglas County Dahlia Society

September 24-25,
Douglas County Fairgrounds, Roseburg
Kelsie Annie Joy