



Dear Fellow PNDC Members,...

Mike Riordan, PNDC President

Another show season is behind us, and yet another coming season is still in the planning stages. What worked well this past season...a new way of planting, a different way of tying? Some keeper varieties to grow more of, new varieties to try for the first time?

Did you have a soil test and what did the new fertilizer regimen produce? How did this year's crop of first and second year seedlings perform? What kind of mulch did you try this season? Do you plan to use the same material next year? What did you learn from other growers this season? How will this impact how you pursue your hobby next year? Much to contemplate as we strive for an even better year to come.

Our PNDC spring meeting will be held Saturday, April 2nd at a different venue: the Elmer's Restaurant in Portland. Elmer's address is 10001 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland, OR 97220. It is just slightly down the road from our one time meeting place at Steamers.

Our delegates will begin their session at 11:00 am in the meeting/ banquet room.

At noon we will be able to order items from the lunch menu. After lunch we will have our general meeting.

Subsequently, we will have our tuber and plant auction. Every year our growers and breeders bring some of the newest and best introductions for auction.

The bidding is always spirited and entertaining! I am writing now about this distant meeting so as to help eliminate potential conflicts with specific society tuber sales events.

In fairness to all, the PNDC membership agreed to alternate a meeting spot to make it easier for members to attend. We had previously met in Portland for a number of years when the alternate location idea was first floated. Since then, we met in Castle Rock for two years. Some members have asked that this year we schedule the meeting at a more central location for the bulk of the membership.

I look forward to continuing the idea of alternate meeting locations and scheduling again in Castle Rock in the future.

During our spring meeting the executive committee will consider nominations for the 2016 PNDC Gold Medal for Lifetime Achievement. This honor is reserved for individuals who have made a significant contribution to the world of dahlias. Last year's honoree is Paulette Woodward of the Southern Oregon Dahlia Society. Letters of nomination are usually submitted by an individual outside the nominee's home society.

Best wishes to all for a joyous holiday and a bountiful new growing season for 2016.

Spring meeting 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 will meet at 11 am; lunch will be at noon. Stay tuned for more details to be included with the March PNDC Dahlia Times.

2016 PNDC officers elected

The following slate of PNDC officers were elected at the fall meeting in Gold Beach, Oregon, Saturday, August 29th. President – Mike Riordan, Vice President – Ted Kennedy, Treasurer – Elva Sellens, and Newsletter Editor – Cheryle Hawkins. The office of Secretary is currently vacant and we are interested in finding a person who would be interested in this role. Contact Mike Riordan if you would like more information: riordanmd1@gmail.com

Renew 2016 PNDC Membership!

As 2016 approaches, please be sure you renew your PNDC membership. PNDC dues are \$10 per person, or \$15 per family. You may make payment to the Treasurer of your home society or send your dues to our Treasurer, Elva Sellens, 2651 Loma Vista, Roseburg, OR 97471-6175. It is important that we have your most current address, phone number and e-mail information so be sure to include that with your dues. Also, we would like to hear from each member how you would like to receive the PNDC Bulletins. Please indicate with your payment whether you prefer to receive the newsletter by e-mail or by post. Elva Sellens is collecting this information in order to be certain that all PNDC members will easily receive their PNDC information; however it is sent. elvasellens@charter.net

2015 PNDC Dahlia Show Highlights

The frost and rains have come to Gold Beach and preparations for next year have begun. Before that, here's a short look back to our 2015 show. It was an honor to be the host of the 2015 Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference Show. This year we were ready to go, plans laid out, and 3 years of experience to help things go smoothly. Then with just over a week before our show we lost our venue. FANTASTIC! Curry County southern mountains were engulfed in flames. The state fire crews rolled in and took over the fairgrounds as their main staging area. It took almost a month just to gain some control with no reported life losses. Those crews do amazing work. Some quick work and our members, Ron and Carol, managed to get Gold Beach High School to let us use their multipurpose room.

One of the benefits of living in a small town is somebody knows someone who can get it done. It actually worked out very nicely and was a very well-lit venue.

Since this was a conference show, our theme was the "Jewels of the Northwest". Each of our design classes were to represent each PNDC society and what the "jewel" of their region is: Beach Finds, Rose City, String of Pearls, Duck Country, The Butchart Gardens, Wine Country, Hub Tub and Pub, and the Redwoods. The top awards went to Best Bloom in show, Thanks Mom from Clay Dalrymple, Best 3 Blooms, Taratahi Lilac from Wayne Shantz, Best Open center, Fancy Pants from Christy Parks, and Best 3 Open center, Lo Blush from Camille Noel. The Best Basket in show was Christy Parks' Lakeview Peachfuzz and for the Best Design in show was Guy Chibante's design representing the Butchart Gardens. The full list will be posted in the ADS bulletin. Since it was a long day the show was set to break down at 2pm.

Afterwards, we hosted the dinner at the small meeting room at the fairgrounds. The Friends of the Fair prepared a nice meal for us. Awards were handed out after the general meeting. This was when Paulette Woodward was presented the PNDC Gold Medal. This honor was in recognition of her years of service to the PNDC and the Southern Oregon Dahlia Society. Congratulations, Paulette. We continued our tradition by handing out door prizes to those who stayed till the end. Over \$700.00 in value, with Fiskar cutters, leather gloves, dividing tools, hand held laser temperature sensors and other items were given out by drawings. River Kenyon, would argue he was the big winner with the bug zapper he won. Thanks to Guy Chibante and Mountain Valley Dahlias for all of the raffle prizes.

As we look to 2016, there are some changes in show dates. Wild Rivers Dahlia Society show will move to **Labor Day weekend, September 3rd and 4th**, while Portland moves to the week prior (in August). This allows everyone a travel day after the show with a chance to enjoy an afternoon on the beach or a nice meal, without worrying about returning to work the very next day. We are putting the show schedule together now and have decided on "Thanks Mom" as our 2016 Bloom of the Year.



Paulette Woodward was presented the PNDC Gold Medal in recognition of the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award.



Nanaimo Dahlia Society - by Judy Stephens

Nanaimo, B.C.

Are you folks getting the rain the same as what we are experiencing? I'm starting to grow webs between my toes!

Vern and our dahlia membership have been very busy digging, splitting and storing the dahlia tubers that were donated by Bob and Linda Sampson, as well as Ray Lauziers' garden.

Bob is unable to continue growing dahlias as his health is not co-operating with having balance, bending over and most of all, digging up of the tubers. Ray Lauzier, we lost in September, so his wife donated all that relates to the growing of dahlias to our club.

It has been very busy doing those gardens and we have only just started to dig our garden up. We look for a spot when the rain isn't falling so we can get more dug and into the shop to dry for splitting and storing. I'm sure there is light at the end of the dahlia tunnel. LOL

In the middle of the summer, we held a judges school for the islanders and had a good turnout. I have enclosed some pictures of the judging and the presentations by some of our experienced dahlia growers.....Jim Gilchrist, Vern Stephens and the queen of dahlias herself, Connie Young Davis. It was held at the Paine Horticultural Centre which is a satellite area of Vancouver Island University here in Nanaimo. We also have the good fortune to not have to pay for the facility even though we have our monthly meetings there too.

We are having a huge tuber sale April 28th 2016 at Country Club Centre. This is our only fund raiser for the year! Our annual show is held at the same location as the tuber sale. August 27/28 are the dates to remember! The mall is a great supporter of our non-profit society and allows us the freedom to stage even through the night for those guests from out of town. We only pay half of the cost of table rental.

Compared to most malls, which charge a fee for holding a show.

Our society is holding an information booth at the annual Vancouver Island Exhibition to encourage new members. The VIEEX is usually on the same weekend as our annual show but we have changed our date to accommodate this plan. Our show was a great success due to the beautiful weather we experienced since the end of April this year through to the end of September. The SINGLE flower of the year for 2015 was Show N Tell, and the TRIPLE flower of the year 2015 was Sarah B which was an introduction of Jim Gilchris. The Aggregate Open winner for our show was: Connie Young Davis, the Amateur Aggregate winner was Ryan Barry and Paton Heatherington and last but not least our very own Donna Greenwood was the Novice Aggregate winner. We have an overall Aggregate for someone that grows and shows both DAHLIA AND GLADIOLI, and that winner was Vern and Judy Stephens.

Our single flower of the year for 2016 is: R KRIS

The Triple flower for 2016 is: PAM HOWDEN. We would like to extend an invitation for anyone from south of the border to come and visit at our show in August. We'd love to see you. Nanaimo and Vancouver Island are beautiful and if you've never been here, you don't know what you're missing. We have the best banquet dinner with a door prize for almost everyone in attendance. If you don't come, you can't get a prize! If there is a group of you that would like to venture to Nanaimo, let me know and I will see what I can do for accommodations.

Our society has closed for the winter till February 2016, on the first Tuesday evening of the month. Our executive board has remained the same for yet another year.

Victoria Dahlia Society - by Ryan Berry

Victoria, BC.

As I write this, in late November, arctic air moving south has effectively suspended the tuber harvest on Vancouver Island and the surrounding coast. I might dig more out next week, if it warms up again. According to some, 2015 was the hottest year ever recorded, climate-wise. It was a terrific dahlia season, as we know the plant loves the heat. Yet it was not without its stresses: disease in some plants, and a very hot, prolonged drought.

I'm very pleased to announce the 70th Annual Victoria Dahlia show will be held September 10th and 11th, 2016 at the Prospect Lake Community hall (PLCH), located just North of Victoria on the Saanich

Peninsula. This is a new location for our show, and we're excited to partner with the PLCH. As we transition to hosting the show at the new location we've had to move our show dates from late August to mid-September, just for 2016. Our Flowers of the Year are a single entry of R Kris and a triple entry of Pam Howden. Details including a show catalogue will be posted in the Spring, on our website, or can be obtained by emailing .

Our 2016 tuber sale will be held April 9 at the Knox Presbyterian Church Hall. Please visit, or contact us at the above for more information.

Best wishes to you for another great season!

Southern Oregon Dahlia Society Paulette Woodward, North Bend, Oregon

Our 2015 Dahlia Show awards were dominated by Ray Sturman in Horticulture, Christy Parks in Baskets, and Cora Vandervelden in Arrangements. For the first time in years we had ADS Seedling entries: 4 from Allen Manuel, as well as 8 first-year and 4 second-year seedlings. Individual awards and winners are reported in the ADS Bulletin Show Reports and the Dahlias of Today.

Every November we have a photo contest of four categories – congratulations to the grand winner with the best photo, Emily Gorsch. The categories and winners were: Event/personality, “Basket of Bowen” – Emily Gorsch; Dahlia Garden, “Shore Acres” – Emily Gorsch; Dahlia Blooms, “Mary” – Emily Gorsch; Artistic, “Tioga Autumn” – Connie Gorsch.

Our 2016 Show date is September 10-11, and Dahlia of the Year is a Tioga Series by Madlyn Geisert of North Bend. We have collected 6 -7 Tioga varieties of the 10 varieties listed in the 2011 Composite Classification Book. We are still looking for these varieties: Tioga Spice, Tioga Sweetheart, Tioga Firestorm, and Tioga Seahawk. If you know of a source where these are available, please let me know.

Our 2016 Officers are: President, Gary Swan; Vice President, Connie Gorsch; Secretary, Donna Hymer; Treasurer, M. Paulette Woodward; Tuber Sale Director, Gary Swan; Show Chair, M. Paulette Woodward.

In Appreciation of this Honor

It is a pleasure to receive the Gold Medal, so many very well-deserving dahlia growers have been recipients before. I'm in exceptional company.

Two gardeners have been more than mentors to me. Rose – is a gardener to her very soul. After a day at work, her husband would come out with flashlight to help her finish but mostly remind her that it was dark. At 93, she still brought bouquets to all of her stops when she went into town (Floral Delivery R Us).

Joy Gill, some of you will remember, was an organizer with a plus, not only setting up and running a show, but also exhibiting her dahlias. From mapping to planting, she would meticulously record where her dahlias would grow ultimately for blooms and tuber production. Both of these ladies were willing to let a green novice like me intrude on their sanctuary and allow me to learn at my pace. Thanks go to Rose and Joy.

In appreciation of this honor.

M. Paulette Woodward

Prayer & Best Wishes for our friend Dave Parmeter

As some of you are already aware, Southern Oregon Dahlia Society's past President, Dave Parmeter has been gravely ill for quite some time now. Many of you aren't aware that he has been battling Cancer and is currently losing that war. He was in Portland for about 1 – 2 months undergoing an experimental treatment that at first seemed to help him. But as the treatments progressed, he became physically ill from them and the cancer won out over the treatments. Dave is now undergoing Chemotherapy and spends much of his time at home and in bed. Connie is at her wits end in trying to take care of Dave, their two dogs, their home and a job. I can only imagine how much stress she is under right now.

The doctors gave Dave a time frame of how much longer he has to be with us, but Dave believes that time frame to be an exaggeration. Dave told me he feels as though he will not make it through the next growing season and that his bad days far outnumber his good days. I expressed concerns for both him and Connie and told him that our Thoughts and Prayers are with them both. I also told him that if there is anything any of us can do for them, please do not hesitate to contact us.

I asked him if he would like some of us to come out to his place and help him and Connie with their plants, cutting back, digging, and storing for the winter. He thanked me for the offer, but told me that his son will be coming out to help them take care of their plants. He thinks they'll keep a few of their dahlias and donate the rest to the society for our sale. This illness is the reason why neither Dave nor Connie were able to attend any of this past season shows.

I am asking for everyone to Please pull together in Praying and sending all of the positive energy that you possibly can out to Both Dave and his wife Connie - hey are good people and they really need our prayers. I believe that with everyone pulling together, we have a chance of helping Dave beat this killer that has been ravaging his body.

Thank you all for your help with this delicate matter.
Donna Hymer, SODS Secretary
JCHymer56@yahoo.com

Minutes of PNDC 2015 Spring meeting

The Minutes of the 2015 Spring PNDC meeting held April 18, 2015 were distributed to those who attended the banquet and PNDC meeting presented by the Wild Rivers Dahlia Society, August 22. The minutes of the Spring meeting are attached with this newsletter.

This report was written from conversations I had with Ember, Ginger, Richard and Christy Parks....Cheryle Hawkins



A judging team examines from all the angles.

2015 was a season of calamity and change for the Douglas County Dahlia Society. Residents suffered not only a severe drought, they were also affected by major forest fires within their dahlia-growing region. The huge Stokes Fire, located 2 ridges over from Parks Dahlias, consumed 26,000 plus acres of forestland. The size of the fire kept skies smoky and it burned for a month. The Cable Crossing Fire east of Glide and north of Roseburg, burned nearly 2,000 acres. The heat and dryness seemed to hunker down in southern Oregon and affected everyone trying to grow quality dahlias.

Ron and Ginger Clack, Ember and Mark Nay, and their families have been dealing with a horrible family emergency that occurred in July. Their middle daughter, Donnell, was severely attacked and was hospitalized with a life threatening brain injury for several weeks. She was on 22 medications and is now down to 2. She works daily on her reading and math skills and is making improvement every week. Some things she will probably never remember which may be a blessing. Her spouse, who assaulted her, is in jail and awaits his trial in February. We wish Donnell the best and for her faith to shine as her beacon.

A shining light in all of this is that Ginger and Ron are back to growing dahlias with Mark and Ember. In November Ginger went to Glide and gave a demonstration on separating tubers and also how to make a dahlia bouquet. The tireless organizer, Elva Sellens, put together a fantastic dahlia show with the help of many volunteers. Several exhibitors from Portland Dahlia Society attended, bolstering the quantity of dahlia blooms to admire. Thank you to everyone that pitched in for another successful show. The Douglas Dahlia Show is at the county fairgrounds and will be the weekend of September 24-25. The show flower is Kelsey Annie Joy, a collarette. Put this show on your calendar and plan to attend!

Lane County Dahlia Society

As we look back on the 2015 Dahlia growing season in the southern Willamette Valley we will remember a summer of too much heat, too early. Temperatures in June were record breaking with many daytime high temps in excess of 100, just as our plants were getting up for their first taste of life above ground. The plants struggled for some time. The season really only got rolling for many of us in September. It seems there are challenges year in and year out for the intrepid grower, it's just easier to say goodbye to some years than others.

When we review the past year from an organizational perspective, the Lane County Dahlia Society has many things to feel good about. We had another year of fun, informative, well attended meetings and programs. A successful fund raising season featured a new partnership with the Eugene Garden Club. We also presented a judges school in August with massive help from Mark Oldenkamp and Wayne & Eleanor Shantz. We put on another great show in September, and finished with a tour of gardens in October. One highlight of our show was, for the first time in several years, we welcomed a budding dahlia grower in the Junior section: River Kenyon. His bloom entries and excitement as an exhibitor were a welcome breath of fresh air! The energy and enthusiasm of our membership continues to encourage the growth of LCDS. In many cases these folks are not keen Dahlia

Michael Canning, Eugene, Oregon

exhibitors, but they do take an interest in LCDS activities and give freely of their time to make them successful. This helps create a culture of support for the Society. Thanks LCDS members for another great year!

In December, the LCDS executive board met to plan the 2016 season of events. Our 2016 show will be September 17-18 and the show flower of the year is Fancy Pants, a Kathy Iler original. We will continue to try to grow our membership in spirit and in numbers, and spread the good word about our flower. The weather? Que Sera, Sera...



Dahlia scholars, Deb and Brian consult with Mark



Portland Dahlia Society

Portland Dahlia Society had another great show this year, our last at the Canby Fairgrounds. The big winner was Ray Sturman who walked off with best fully double in show, open sweepstakes, and many, many head table wins. Eric Toedtli won best triple fully double in show, Larry Smith won best disc bloom in show and Tiffany Boatwright won best triple disc in show. Richard and Debbie Zimmerman won amateur sweepstakes, novice sweepstakes was won by Amy Toedtli, and junior sweepstakes was won by Kylee Thornton. We hope to see more of Kylee at our future shows, she's off to a great start! Our new photo contest was a great success with many beautiful enteries, top photo winner was Larry Sawyer. Margaret Kennedy won best arrangement in show, best basket was won by Eleanor Shantz, ADS seedling winner was Les Connell, people's choice winner was Gary Murphy and challenge flower was won by Amy Toedtli. Congratulations to all our winners, exhibitors and members who helped make our show a great success.

Tiffany Boatwright Portland, Oregon

As many of you know, PDS will be moving our show venue in 2016 to the **Dance Pavillion at Oaks Amusement Park** in Portland. Our show date will move to the weekend before Labor Day, August 27-28, to give everyone a chance to enjoy the holiday weekend.

It's almost the end of the year already and that means our next meeting in December will be our annual holiday potluck. We welcome everyone to come, please bring a dish that you'd like to share and serving utensils. The date is December 8th at Rose City United Methodist Church. This is a very well attended and fun event, we hope you can enjoy it with us.

In January we will have our annual board meeting in lieu of a regular club meeting. All members are invited to join in. We will be discussing future meeting programs, the upcoming show and other agenda items. This meeting begins with a potluck lunch so come early and enjoy the food and chance to mingle.

2015 Team Portland Show Season in Retrospect

by Larry Smith

As you may have noted, we had challenging conditions for the recently concluded growing season. I learned that early hot soil conditions can cook the emerging rootlets, which resulted in very late setting blooms in my garden. That left me with meager expectations for what would be available to take to shows. Much to my surprise, oh, what a show season it turned out to be for me and other "Team Portland" members.

I prepped for the ADS shows, as usual, by taking blooms to the local county fairs and Oregon State Fair, winning Best Bloom in Show at each fair except Clark County. At that fair, Adrienne Hale, who joined our club three years ago with the expressed purpose of beating me at that fair was awarded Best in Show in the first show with Sir Richard. She also garnered the People's Choice rosette with Pam Howden. Second show Best in Show went to Max Ollieu with Pam Howden.

It was on to ADS competition, starting with the Portland show. At that point, only about 60% of my garden was in bloom, but I still won Best Disc Bloom in Show with NTAC Solar Flare and got four others on head table. Max O., as usual, claimed several head table awards and other Portland members got their share up there, as well. It was no surprise that Margaret Kennedy and Gordon Jackman dominated the Design class. Best yet, after two years as runner-up, Amy Toedtli garnered her the Novice Sweepstakes trophy. I later provided her a sparkly tiara in recognition of her achievement, which she proudly donned.

The next week, new exhibitor Teresa Meisner drove us to Olympia for the South Sound show. When we got

to the show site and I saw all of the superstar exhibitors and their superior blooms, I was almost ready to turn around and go home. Oh, well, I was already there, and if I was lucky maybe some of the superstars would accept me as a groupie. As usual, I underestimated the quality of my blooms, which has become a habit for me. I was shocked to win Best Disc Bloom with Elva's Little Sweetie (hybridized by our own Elva Sellens) and got three more on head table in that tough competition. It's a good thing I don't judge my own blooms! Teresa, in only her second show, really started to get the hang of this exhibiting thing and scored several Section Champions. Max O. was well represented on head table and Ted and Margaret Kennedy had the top scoring entry on the Bench.

Due to a previous commitment, I learned that I would be unable to travel to the Lane County show, but volunteered to devote that Friday night to help out one of our Novice exhibitors, Linda Taylor, get her blooms ready for the show. She had doubled her amount of plants this year and has been working to learn ways to efficiently get more blooms staged and to the shows in a timely manner. We worked shoulder to shoulder for hours, finally loading the last of the staged entries into her car at 1:30 a.m. As an added bonus, Linda agreed to take several entries for me, including a few blooms I had cut only for the purpose of demonstrating staging techniques, but that she insisted were too good not to go. The competition in Eugene is fierce, great exhibitors from all over the state participate. The previous year there, my blooms got skunked, 50 or so entries and not even a Section Champion in the bunch. But what the



2015 Team Portland Show Season in Retrospect (continued)

heck, it doesn't cost anything to enter (you might remember the "Roll the Dice" article I wrote for the July PNDC Bulletin), so I ended up sending 17 entries with Linda. After judging was completed, Linda emailed me a detailed list of results. With entries in 10 sections, I had gained 6 Section Champs and 5 on head table....at a show I hadn't even planned on entering and with some of the blooms that were entered only on to Linda's insistence! After that surprising news, I just had to go take a look at the show, so teamed up with Linda, who was going back to retrieve our entries and let me ride along. On the way, Linda remarked that she would never win a Sweepstakes because she didn't enter enough blooms. WRONG! She was surprised to be awarded Novice Sweepstakes and also was awarded Best Disc Bloom in Show with Mt. View Imogene. I was equally surprised to win Best Triple Disc with U2 Ania. It was a fun ride back to Portland after finding those results. Not to be forgotten is Portland club's Eric Toedtli and Max O dominating the head table and Mike Riordan's Lakeview Glow collecting Best Triple Fully Double Blooms in Show honors. Eric managed to take 87 entries and was awarded Open Sweepstakes with over 230 points. He should get an award just for getting that many entries into his van and not damaging a single petal.

Next week, it was on to the Douglas County show....on no sleep. I had just finished staging blooms when, at 4 a.m., Adrienne Hale arrived to share the ride down to Roseburg. Thankfully, we kept each other awake with stimulating conversation and it made the 3+ hour drive go by quickly. Eight members of the Portland club attended and added blooms or designs to the show. I was made Team Leader for judging the baskets section....eek, I have never created a dahlia basket! Fortunately, I had the keen eyes of Cheryle Hawkins and June Manfull on my team, both made astute observations and we were able to comfortably complete our assignment. When finished with that, I had the privilege of judging Novice entries and seedlings with the Dean of PNDC judges, Wayne Shantz. We all enjoyed a wonderful lunch put on by the Douglas County Society.

I then was lucky enough to be assigned to head table judging, but had to sit out some classes as I was lucky

enough to have several entries up there. My Pam Howden narrowly missed getting Best Fully Double Bloom in Show, getting whipped by Ray Sturman's flawless entry of Bloomquist Barbara. I had better luck on the other side of the table as my Fancy Pants was voted Best Triple Disc Entry in Show. The biggest shock was finding that I won Open/Advanced Amateur Sweepstakes with 233 points, my first out of town Sweepstakes and beating my previous point total in my 20 years of Open competition by at least 60 points. The Portland club swept the Sweepstakes awards, with Adrienne Hale winning her first Amateur Sweepstakes and Linda Taylor taking the

Novice Sweepstakes. Our Team Teresa (Bergman and Meisner) also had a number of entries on head table. Douglas County show is always a treat to attend, the hospitality is unmatched and we get to see dahlia friends from all over the state. On Sunday, we were treated to a breakfast/garden tour at the home (actually more museum, considering the unique collections she has amassed) of the Queen of Hospitality, Elva Sellens, and later, a tour of the otherworldly Parks gardens.



Larry rolled the dice and it paid off at Lane County Dahlia Show!

It was quite a season for the Team Portland. Mark Oldenkamp carried blooms on the plane to the 100th ADS Anniversary Show in New York....and got some on head table. Gordon Jackman won Best Design at the National. I was surprised to have received a Best in Show at all four shows in which I participated. We had some great wins, but most important was the TEAMWORK that formed within the Portland club this year. We supported each other in so many ways and, through that, friendships formed and deepened, making the experience life enriching. Something tells me that 2016 will be even better. We are changing our show venue to Oaks Park in Portland, which is a much more public location and will bring in many more people to ooh and aah over the blooms. Our Novice class is beefing up, led by a resolute Teresa Meisner, but with other new exhibitors showing interest, there will be hot competition. In fact, one of our newest members, Nathan Payne, not only plans to get his feet wet as an exhibitor but has vowed to beat Teresa's 2015 results. Something tells me that we'll all be hearing a lot more from those two.

American Dahlia Society National Show 100 Years of Flowers or How Oregon Invaded New York

by Ted J. Kennedy

Kenora Wildfire - Best Fully Double Bloom

I am not much of a traveler since I retired several years ago. In my prior existence as a working person, I would have to occasionally travel for meetings, conferences, and training sessions both as a student and as an instructor. I had visited most areas of the USA including California, Chicago, Milwaukee, Dallas, and one trip to Las Vegas but had never been to the East Coast.

The American Dahlia Society has been around for quite a long time and when the big 100 number was coming up decided that they should celebrate their 100th show in the Big Apple. I have been to a lot of dahlia shows and fair number of National shows but have limited my travels to the West Coast. But this show was going to be in New York and that meant an opportunity to kill those proverbial “two birds at one time”: Attend a really big dahlia show and after all these years take in the sights of New York.

Step one was to find someone who wanted to share expenses as my dear wife will not fly in an airplane or rocket ship for that matter. Gordon Jackman has been attending most of the National shows for nearly two decades and when I proposed that we could attend the show and take in New York, he was immediately ready to go. The only prerequisite was that he had to be able to bring some flowers and some vases and such for the arrangement classes. As we said in the 1960s: No Problemo.

The show site was actually not in the Madison Square Garden or the Rockefeller center or the Carnegie Hall. As it turns out, there is this very nice university out on Long Island called Hofstra and they were willing to allow several hundred flower crazy exhibitors take over their student center. And it was a very nice site and it worked out quite well.

All National shows schedule extra curricular activities to encourage attendance. We decided to skip the local tours in favor of a trip to Manhattan. We took a “red eye special” flight leaving Portland about 10PM on Thursday and arriving in JFK at 5AM on Friday. Gordon brought his little box of flowers (a shoe box with no lid) and carried it with him onto the plane. Suffice to say, Gordon explained to at least a dozen people that: “These were dahlias and he was going to the National Dahlia



Kenora Wildfire - Best Fully Double Bloom

Show.” The box was nestled between his feet under the seat in front of him. Each flower had its own little plastic “orchid tube” that contained some water and they were cushioned by paper towels. The flight was very bumpy and now I know why they say “red eye special” as it is difficult to sleep.

We made it to the Marriott Hotel at about 7 AM and the concierge kindly stowed away Gordon's little box of flowers. We took the train to Manhattan and went to the Empire State Building, arriving well before the tourist rush and wandered throughout the big city. Enough of the tourist stuff: back to flowers.

Most people who show flowers on the West Coast have no idea how they do it on the East Coast. Friday night at the shows is staging blooms at the show site. The show containers are provided by the show and they do not use crushed floral foam. At the staging area there were stacks and stacks of show containers. Several 50 gallon barrels

contained Oasis foam bricks floating in water. There were tables set up in numerous areas for people to stage their blooms that they brought to the show in buckets. All the areas were quite messy after they had been used for a few hours with pieces of Oasis, leaves from flowers and spilled water. By the way, this was not a big social occasion where old friends set up next to each other to catch up on the latest gossip. This was an intense scramble to get those flowers into the containers and over to the show tables. Another difference here is that they like lots of leaves on their entries. Three sets was not unusual. To the West Coast eye, in some cases, they looked like Christmas trees with a flower on top.

As it turned out, Gordon was not the only person from Oregon that brought some show flowers. Mark and Laura Oldenkamp brought several entries and I assisted him for a few minutes before being distracted by all of the frenzied exhibitors.

Dahlia shows despite all of the competition are really social events. We all share an interest in dahlias and it is easy to talk to anyone there about our favorite flower and I did lots of that. At the staging melee, I finally got to meet John Spangenburg, a dahlia enthusiast who has tested many of our new introductions. We carried on a 30 minute conversation as he staged his entries.

American Dahlia Society National Show 100 Years of Flowers or How Oregon Invaded New York continued

arrangements. He has been taking Ikebana classes and he chose to enter one of those very simple designs with just two flowers and one tree branch in a plain vase. We went to the show early and checked out our judging assignments. I had expected to judge some huge class like BB dahlias but was surprised that I was assigned to the head table team to select the best entries in the show. There is another difference in East Coast shows as they name the best entries in the several categories after royalty. We were supposed to determine a King and a Queen and I believe a Prince too. Yes, that was a bit confusing but it all worked out with the help of my team of judges who were both ex-American Dahlia Society Presidents.

Picking the best single flower in the show can be a very difficult proposition. At this show, the selection process seemed only to take about 30 seconds as we all had seen one particular entry that was nearly perfect in every way. We gave the other entrants a quick review and selected the Kenora Wildfire that had impressed all three of us as being the best entry by far of all those in the show.

We went on to select all of the other royal selections and that did take some time as so many entries were so close in quality. Finally, we finished, and I was able to get out my camera take a few pictures of a very nice show. At this time, I found out that our Oregon entrants had done very well. Gordon had won best arrangement in show with his Ikebana type entry and the Oldenkamps had won best Pom in show(it may have been one of those "royal" awards, perhaps a baronet).

Saturday night was celebration time and we had a cocktail hour mixer and had live entertainment from a genuine New York "Doo Whop" quintuplet. Another big difference between the East Coast and West Coast is that whenever there is any kind of a social occasion they drag out the suits and ties and evening dresses. You could easily spot the people from the West Coast who were you might say "a bit less formal". In fact, one of the major awards was given to a West Coaster who accepted his award in khaki pants and a t-shirt.

The next day we got to visit the Trial Garden despite the fact that it looked like it had suffered through a nuclear bombing (a combination of exceptionally hot weather, lots of spider mites and powdery mildew and finally a bit too much shade as those trees nearby had gotten much taller). We enjoyed the visit and I got to sit very near Dr. Keith Hammett on the bus and peppered him with my stupid questions.

At the end of the day we took a taxi to the JFK Airport. The cabbie was a New York classic. He told us that UFOs and aliens are regular visitors to our planet. He was not much interested in dahlias.



Portland winners walk away with awards

Gordon Jackman is presented an ADS award for the Best Arrangement in Show.



Laura and Mark Oldenkamp are honored at ADS Show for winning the Best Pom in Show.

Photos by Ted Kennedy

Treasurer Report by Elva Sellens

Beginning Balance 4/18/2015

\$12,331.12

Income:

Dues - members	\$115.00	☀
Dues - societies	\$25.00	
Tuber Auction	\$349.00	☀
Total Income	\$489.38	

Expenses:

Newsletter #1282	\$100.52	☀
PNDC Show #1283	\$250.00	☀
Spring PNDC Meeting #1284	\$88.68	☀
Postage-PNDC Rosters #1285	\$8.81	☀
Total Expenses:	\$448.01	

Bank Balance as of 8/22/15

\$12,372.49

Winter Responsibility & Relaxation

By Wayne Shantz

At the end of autumn, the weather turns with rain and cold in the offing. The pace of garden work slows, ebbing like the tide. The tubers are stored and the garden prepared for winter. One has raked the ground, ridding it of refuse and dahlia foliage and then covering it with shredded leaves or another organic covering, such as corn gluten. Another possibility exists. One can grow a green cover crop. Of course, the weather has to cooperate for such an activity.

Several times during the winter, LCDS growers will check their tubers, making sure that the tubers are not too moist, especially if they have stored them in Saran Wrap. If they have stored them in another medium, such as cedar shavings or vermiculite, they will check to see if they are shriveling or rotting. If the tubers have begun to shrivel, they need to provide some moisture, possibly misting some water on the medium. Adding moisture will help preserve some of the tubers. In any event, the grower desires to have firm and full tubers for planting in the spring.

One of the refreshing and restful activities is to read. It is a time where one can find a good book or article on dahlias and begin to refine approaches to growing dahlias successfully. Like pursuits in any hobby, dahlia growers are never through experimenting and learning. Invariably, they will stumble across an idea that needs trying. Many LCDS members will also pour over commercial dahlia catalogs (mostly listed online), searching for varieties they want to purchase. It is time to let the imagination run amok, which eventually may cost a few bucks for ordering new tubers begins in late December or early January. To see new varieties and ideas implemented in the garden has its own therapy and value. Reading and reflection can recharge a person and establish new directions. Finally, it is time to enjoy friends, family, and life in winter's warmth.

As spring approaches, the more energetic will turn to cuttings, attempting to increase their stock with less cost. Thus they will take tubers from storage, eye them up, and eventually take some cuttings. Preparing the greenhouse or working area and making sure that containers are clean and washed with detergent will allow for a successful start. Growers may also start dahlia seed in hopes of gaining a prize new dahlia formation and color. Note: For serious gardeners who desire to grow either seedlings or cuttings, they should refer to the section on propagation.

In many respects dahlia seasons cycle, having no beginning or end. It is much like determining east from west. Where does east begin and where does west end? During winter's dormancy period, however, dahlia tubers renew their vigor and await spring's planting while dahlia aficionados anticipate summer's brilliant spectacle of dahlias armed in their glory.



ADS Representative Report Fall 2015

The American Dahlia Society continues to maintain its membership, a feat few floral groups are accomplishing. It has closely assessed both its strengths and weaknesses. The spring two-day meeting provides a specific time to discuss business, prioritize, assign tasks to accomplish, and even dream a little.

The search for a permanent Bulletin of the ADS Editor continues.

The donation of \$350,000.00 for Virus Research from the Chuey-Sheetz Foundation will greatly enhance the ADS virus research project. If members have

a question, they should contact Hanu Pappu. Google dahlia virus Washington State University Research Fund.

The ADS Centennial National Show, hosted in New York, will happen in just a few weeks. Although many members cannot attend, they should try to buy a copy of a prepared booklet, which will discuss the significant developments over the last fifty years. I expect it to be a first-class publication. Edna C was chosen as the most influential dahlia in the last 50 years.

If possible, do judge in a trial garden this year. The PNDC offers one at Swan Island Dahlias near Canby.

Online ADS Bulletins are available to the membership.

I repeat/ The Portland Dahlia Society held a well-received National Show. I would suggest that the PNDC apply for the 2019 open date. What do you think Portland, Eugene, or Victoria and Nanaimo? Give it some thought before discarding as undoable.

Respectfully Submitted
Wayne Shantz
PNDC ADS Representative

PNDC retains Wayne as ADS Regional VP

At the PNDC meeting in Gold Beach, Mike Riordan announced the resignation of the PNDC Judges Chair from our longtime friend, Wayne Shantz, due to uncertain health issues. Wayne has served in this position for many years, a valuable role for all of the PNDC Dahlia Shows. He administered the Judges Evaluations, and gathered input for the ADS Classification process. When Wayne announced he was stepping down, Larry Smith stepped up to volunteer for this important job. We appreciate Larry's willingness to assume this role and that Wayne will mentor Larry along the way.

Wayne continues to serve as the ADS Regional VP for PNDC, and as a communicator and teacher, his role is key for all of the PNDC dahlia societies. He has established friendships with many dahlia aficionados across the United States and across oceans too. Wayne serves as a valuable conduit between PNDC, ADS, and all dahlia communities in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. Thanks for all that you give to us Wayne!

✻ C. Hawkins