



THE PNDC DAHLIA TIMES

WINTER 2017

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference

www.pnccdahlia.com

PNDC Winter Message by Mike Riordan

Dear Fellow PNDC Members,

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 irrigating, a different way of tying? Some keeper varieties to grow more of, new varieties to try for the first time?

The American Dahlia Society has posted on its website the seedling bench evaluation scores and the complete report for the nation-wide trial garden system. So you can see the medal winners as well as the cultivars which received a passing score. Most of the trial garden scores will give you a photo. All you need to do is click on the score and the photo appears. Slick! The highest scoring varieties in the classes that I grow are of particular interest. The source information for 2018 is also available.

Our PNDC spring meeting will be held Saturday, April 14th 2018 in Portland at the Old Spaghetti Factory,

0715 SW Bancroft, Portland 97239. Our delegates will begin their session at 11:30 am in the meeting/ banquet room and lunch will follow. 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.

During our spring meeting the executive committee will consider nominations for the 2018 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 Phillis Schafer of the Lane County 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 2018.

Spring PNDC meeting:
Saturday, April 14, 2018

The PNDC Spring meeting will be held Saturday, April 14th at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Portland, Oregon. Meeting information will be announced closer to the date. Directions to the Spaghetti Factory are online at www.osf.com

Minutes of PNDC 2017 Fall meeting

The Minutes of the 2017 PNDC Fall Meeting were taken by Larry Smith and are included with this newsletter as a separate attachment (in pdf format). Thank you Larry for volunteering to be the Secretary - Recorder for this annual meeting!

Last Chance to Renew

The deadline to renew your PNDC membership has passed. However, if you want to be listed in the 2018 PNDC Roster and haven't renewed, send your payment ASAP to Elva Sellens, 2651 Loma Vista, Roseburg, OR 97471. PNDC dues are \$10 per person or \$15 per family. Include your contact information: current mailing address, phone number, e-mail, and how you want the newsletter delivered to you: by e-mail or postal service.

Mark Your Calendar !

PNDC Spring Meeting
APRIL 14, 2018
Old Spagetti Factory
Portland, OR

Lane County Dahlia Society - Eugene, OR

by Deb Gilmer

The 2017 LCDS Dahlia Show "Carnival of Dahlias" held September 16th and 17th was a rousing success, thanks to our many volunteers, judges and clerks from around the state. We are thankful for Lexa Cookson assumed the role of Judging Chair which Michael Canning had served in. Thanks to the many show supporters who donated \$1500 for our Show Awards in honor of Michael Canning and others near and dear to our hearts. The public turnout and number of exhibitors was outstanding and 11 new members joined LCDS. The redesigned "Dahlia Patch" (our dahlia garden outside the Wheeler Pavilion) was a wonderful addition to all the beautiful entries. Gretchen Randle and myself are enjoying having a sunny space to grow dahlias at the fairgrounds.

In early December the LCDS Executive Board met to take care of business for 2018. Our 2018 Show

flower, is "Lexa", a beautiful Mike and Kathy Iler origination. Our 2018 show will be held September 15th & 16th. The Board has nominated the following list of Officers for 2018: Co-Presidents: Cheryle Hawkins and Camille Noel; Vice President/Membership Chair/Program Chair: Deb Gilmer; Co-Corresponding and Recording Secretaries: Pat Chasse and Julie Huynh; Treasurer and ADS Representative: Phyllis Shafer; and Show Judges Chair: Lexa Cookson. Wayne announced that Lexa has been appointed to the ADS Classification Committee.

Next year our programs will include familiar subjects such as growing, grooming, and maintaining your dahlias. We hope to add new topics such as pests in the dahlia garden, improving your soil with amendments, creating mulch for organic gardening, and encouraging bees to visit your garden.

Michael Canning: February 22, 1951 – May 14, 2017

A bright light went out in Eugene on May 14, 2017 when our beloved Michael Canning passed away unexpectedly from complications of pneumonia. Sadly, he succumbed to the pneumonia just hours after he had been diagnosed.

Michael was born in Portland, Oregon and grew up in Eugene, graduating from Sheldon High School in 1969. He joined the Navy and trained as a Radioman, serving 4 years touring the Mediterranean Sea on a naval destroyer. Discharged in 1973, he returned to Eugene and enrolled in the radio broadcasting program at Lane Community College. Soon after, he became a music volunteer for many years at the college public radio station, KLCC. In 1984 he was hired fulltime as the Music Director. For 35 years Michael was best known as an on-air music host and also as the music director at KLCC Public Radio. He mentored and befriended hundreds of radio hosts, station volunteers and musicians of all kinds. His love for music spanned all genres.

Michael and his wife, Cheryle Hawkins, were married in 1980 and throughout their nearly 40 years together were involved with groups that evolved into lifetime friendships. From the KLCC softball team "The Killerwatts", to "Tour Oregon", a loosely formed group of golf-nuts, and the Fantasy Baseball League "The Pounders," Michael made long-lasting friendships wherever he went.

Michael and Cheryle had a shared passion for raising dahlias. Inspired by the beautiful dahlia gardens



of Michael's father Dick, they continued this tradition and enjoyed growing dahlias, becoming dahlia judges, and staying active with their dahlia society. They showed their prize-winning blooms at dahlia shows throughout Oregon. Michael's leadership roles in the Lane County Dahlia Society allowed him to exchange ideas, swap tubers with friends, and educate growers whose thirst for

knowledge equaled his.

Retiring in 2016, Michael looked forward to "having all the time in the world" to enjoy his many interests and wide circle of friends.

He was the embodiment of compassion and kindness and was a gentle soul, a welcoming spirit, and thoughtful teacher. His smiling face and warm, resonant voice will always be remembered.

He is survived by his wife Cheryle Hawkins, his mom, Shirley Canning, brother Doug and his wife, Kathy, their daughters, Nicole and Emily, his sister Chris and husband Alan, her son, Jeremy Dice, his wife Ashley, and their children, Mckenley, Korbyn, and Alese. He is predeceased by his father Dick Canning and brother Don Canning.

A Celebration of Michael's life was held July 1st at the McDonald Theater in downtown Eugene. The theater was packed – 325 attended! If you would like to reach out to Cheryle and his family, send an email to icehawk@q.com

Portland Dahlia Society News

My Journey Along the Dahlia Paths (from then to now)

by Gary Murphy

As I make plans for my 41st year of growing our favorite flower, I find myself remembering how I got started in this highly addictive pursuit. It all began in the late summer of 1976 when my wife Dory and I decided to take a drive up to Timberline Lodge on the SW flank of Mt Hood. Along with us that day was our 4-month old daughter, Heather. On our way we passed a large garden that fronted the road and it was awash in a sea of color. We agree to stop by on our way home to find out just what type of flower made such a profusion of color. On our return we pulled into Doris' Dahlias and were warmly greeted by the owner, Doris Johnson. A lovely lady, Doris took us on a tour of her commercial dahlia garden and, at one point, asked if she could hold Heather (to which Heather made no objection). I believe that this is the beginning point of my addiction to dahlias. I promptly ordered about 2-different dahlias for the next Spring's planting.

I picked up my tuber order and found that Doris had included a number of free tubers as part of my order. With some instructions on proper cultivation and planting techniques from Doris, I headed off into my first attempt at growing dahlias. I've kept a list of the dahlias that I planted in 1977: Myfanwy B SC FL, Purple Globe BA PR, Margaret Campbell MB FL, Stanza BB FD BR (*this dahlia is listed in the 2015 classification handbook and was originated in 1960), Skagit Night N FD Dk R, Prof. Van Slogteren B LC PK, Sure Thing B C R, and Golden Leader BB FD Y.

For the most part, I struggled the first few years I

grew dahlias. In the early 80's I made contact with the Portland Dahlia Society and found it to be a source of information and more importantly, mentoring, which vastly improved my understanding of dahlia cultivation and identification. A natural progression led me to take a judging course taught by Wayne Shantz which moved me into the dahlia judging arena.

I continue to show (though not as vigorously as in earlier years) and I have been a Senior judge for many years. I am also involved in the maintenance and judging of the Canby Trial Garden located at Swan Island Dahlias. As a side note: around the age of 13, Heather became the youngest candidate judge in the country (perhaps Doris had something to do with that). When I joined the Portland DS I was the youngest member and today I am one of the older members. A few years ago I was honored to be voted a Life Member of the PDS. In looking back it has been a memorable journey down the dahlia path(s) and what stands out the more are the people I've met along the way. It is my association with other dahlia enthusiasts, past and present, that has made my walk along the dahlia paths such a meaningful and all encompassing experience.

I trust that your journey along your dahlia path(s) will be as memorable as mine. I hope that your life will be enriched as a result of your association with the dahlia and those that admire and cultivate it. Best wishes to all for a bountiful and fun-filled 2018 growing season.

One Liners for Dividing Dahlia Tubers

by Ted J. Kennedy

A tuber without an eye is garbage.

A tuber growing on another tuber has no eye and may/should be cut off.

A tuber with a broken neck will not grow into a plant and is garbage.

A partially broken neck can be mended with super glue.

Two tubers can share one eye.

Two small tubers left together equal one large tuber.

Small fat tubers store well while small skinny tubers do not.

Tubers must be at least the diameter of a pencil to store and grow next year.

Long tubers can be cut in half and they will store just fine.

The tail on a tuber should be cut off as it will shrivel and rot anyway.

Overly large tubers tend to rot or at best give you a poor plant.

Pot tubers can sometimes be divided into two or three pieces.

Tubers should be dry when entered into storage.

Whole tuber clumps do not store as well as divided tubers.

Cinnamon powder is better than sulphur for treating wounded tubers.

Tuber size has little to do with the size of the plant. When washing tubers do not aim the spray on the bottom of the clump while you have your face close to the clump.

Tuber clumps grown from cuttings can be tightly packed but should be divided into at least two pieces.

Rot can begin in the dahlia stalk and work its way to the tuber so all rotting stalk should be removed.

Portland Show Flowers of the Year

by Eric Toedtli

It is helpful when societies Choose their Flower of the Year two years in advance in order that growers can stock up on that variety. Our Flower of the Year:

2018: Hollyhill Black Beauty; 2019: Hollyhill Jitterbug

A Stroll Through a Dahlia Show in Lovely Harrogate, Yorkshire

by Anne Kenny, Nanaimo B.C.

September 2017 I flew to England with a plan of attending two of the main dahlia shows to be held that month: The National Dahlia show was held at the RHS garden at Wisley, Surrey, England (45 minutes south of London) September 5 to 8 and The National Dahlia Society show at Harrogate, England.

I met up with a dahlia friend from New Zealand- Elaine Fenton and together we attended both shows. At Wisley, the organizers made arrangements for us to be stewards (clerks) for the judging – The club members were very friendly and welcoming. It was very interesting to listen to the judging comments and see the different varieties. The dahlias were superb and the knowledge and experience of the judges amazing. I was in a group with David Hall (Halls of Heddon).

2017 Glad & Dahlia Show Report

by Anne Kenny

Despite the weather challenges, the Nanaimo Glad and Dahlia Society had a record number of entries into our annual show held on August 26. What a thrill to have so many entries providing good competition! Two of our novice growers ended up with flowers on the head table!

As we look forward to 2018, our first meeting will be on February 6th, and our annual Nanaimo Glad and Dahlia society show will be held on August 24-25th at Country Club Mall in Nanaimo.

On Vancouver Island Nanaimo and Victoria clubs take turns selecting flowers of the year -The flowers of the year have been picked this year by the Victoria Dahlia Society. 2018 flowers of the year are: Parkland Rave (single) and Pooh (triple)

Victoria Greetings!

from Phil and Teresa

Dahlias are put to bed waiting for spring. We had a wonderful summer here in Victoria with lots of sun and little rain. Even though we live in a rain forest the biggest percentage of rain falls after Dahlia season. Arguably the best place in the world to live.

We have just had our club elections with Cathy Featherby elected to president. As a senior judge, past best in show winner and an extremely detailed "go getter" we will be in good hands. Ryan Berry, our past president, left big shoes to fill as the club had our best tuber sales ever as well as two great flower shows in our new location at the Prospect Lake Hall. Many thanks go to Ryan, as well as the other retiring executives for their exceptional commitment to the club.

We are keeping our membership around 80 with hopes that our new display garden (run by John Wrinch) at Prospect Lake will encourage new members. We

Sept 15-17 was the National Dahlia Society show, held at Harrogate, Yorkshire. Again I met up with Elaine Fenton -at this show we were assigned to be with judging groups as foreign observers. My group consisted of Barry Davis (Barbarry Dahlias) and two other very knowledgeable judges. Their assignment included judging the dahlia club entries. Entries in this category were from different clubs throughout Britain (entries from England, Ireland, Wales and Scotland) Each entry consisted of 9 different dahlias grown by various members of each club.-the winner of this category was from Ireland. The Harrogate show was attended by Dahlia enthusiasts from all over the world, with entries from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Canada!



Above left to right: Dave Reid, England; Anne Menzel, Australia; Elaine Fenton, New Zealand; John Menzel, Australia attending the National Dahlia Show, in Harrogate, England, September 15, 2017. (Dave Reid is from National Dahlia Society, Anne & John Menzel of "Winkie Dahlias", and Elaine Fenton is the hybridizer of "Cyril Higgs")

plan to grow some of the club member's seedlings as well as some new introductions from our friend south of the border. This will help us get "newbie's" interested in judging and developing dahlias and make it easier for our judges to complete their judging requirements.

Special mention has to go to Barry and Mary Willoughby as they go in to their 40th year with VDS. Barry is going to lead our judging clinic this year, time and location to be determined.

Our show will be held at the Prospect Lake Hall again this year on Aug 17, 18, and 19. We hold an awards dinner after the show and buy dinner for any off island visitors. For our American friends this is a great time to take advantage of the low Canadian dollar. Contact Teresa and Phil at for more information re lodging and possible garden tours. The ferries run hourly in the summer and the sailings are interesting and beautiful.

Wild Rivers Dahlia Society

By Bob Chibante

One would have never thought after last winter, a community would have been praying for rain. Well then came the Checto Bar Fire. By the time our show was to be held, the fire was around 170,000 acres and zero containment. Still there was a chance. Daily wind pattern watches gave glimpses of hope. Then the fairgrounds were turned into the fire command center. While in Portland things got worse, evacuations were up to the ridge line over Brookings and within 8 miles of Gold Beach. The show was postponed. Then the winds flipped coming off the ocean. Gold Beach air quality was good and the smoke that was past Florence on my return trip had left the area. We began planning to hold the show at the end of September. The fire had other plans. The winds turned to offshore smoke filled the air and the Red Cross turned our venue into an evacuation center. Once again we got a hint of hope. After meeting with Red Cross the week prior, they were talking about clearing out a few days before the new date. WooHoo, show was on, yeah right. Two days later I felt it was a good idea to drop a heavy can on my foot and break two toes. Well that was enough signs to pull the plug. In either case, on both weekends, the smoke was so thick it was difficult to breathe just standing. The winds blew the smoke back again. It was decided it was better to have people miss having a show one year then to put on a subpar event.

At least have plenty of time to plan for 2018. One thing we are changing is our show book. The book moving forward we be able to flow from year to year. This will help in costs and time. When there are changes due to the ADS or PNDC, we will update then. Since show themes are more for design and artistic applications, there will be a separate book for those classes. Another change will be in the "Design" section. After some research, we confirmed the differences in floral design, arrangements and displays. Often more entries in the arrangements featured at our shows are displays. An arrangement

is a design is where all elements are contained in one vessel and can be transported without the need to be reassembled. Displays usually are a collection of floral elements and may include props. Most of the time in displays, props are a more prominent feature and can over power the dahlias. Starting in 2018, we will have a separate section for arrangements and displays. We still ask for prior notice of how many of each you plan to bring so we can assure proper space. We will find the room even for those last-minute participants. Next, we will have new entry forms for these sections. They include a place for artist interpretation. When it comes to art, people see things differently. We will still be using the score and comment card and have copies for the exhibitor. We will be encouraging members to attend other societies' shows. Good for experience and helps other societies survive. Look forward to next season and hope to see you all.



Driving south through smoke on 101

DOUGLAS COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY

Elva Sellens

When the rains started the week of our show, we did not think people would have a lot of blooms to bring to our show, but we were pleasantly surprise to see everyone brought lots of blooms. I was dreading receiving phone calls from exhibitor saying that they were not coming because they did not have any blooms left after the rains. I would like to thank everyone who came to our show, especially the Portland bunch. I know that it is a long way to drive. We enjoyed everyone's company and we hope you come next year to the PNDC show in Roseburg. Our flower of the year will be Lakeview Glow. Our show date will be 9/22/18-9/23/18. I would also like to thank our DSDC crew for all their hard work in putting on the show and luncheon. With everyone's help, we had a successful show. We are looking forward to next year. Below are the Major Awards and their winners at our 2017 show:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Best 1 bloom in show, MIn | Brian's Dream | Ray Sturman |
| Best 3 blooms in show, 3PP | Valda | Ginger Clack |
| Best 1 Disc in Show, AN | EV Purple Puff | Sonia Hall |
| Best 3 Discs in Show. | Cobequid Celestial Star | Larry Smith |
| Best Basket in Show | Grand Slam | Christy Parks |
| Best ARR in Show | Theme 2 | Margaret Kennedy |

Completing my third season as Accreditation Chair, there have been many questions posed to me regarding what is required to achieve and/or maintain ADS judging accreditation as well as what are the requirements to be promoted. Some members appear to believe that I have complete authority regarding these matters. Au contraire! I am charged to follow the requirements as set forth by the ADS and have little discretion of my own on how to administer them. All of the applicable requirements are listed on the ADS Website, Members Only section, under "Judging Info," as well as in the back section of the "PNDC Roster of Members and Judges" that you receive each year.

If you are wondering how to maintain your accreditation or achieve promotion, I am listing the ADS requirements below. Please note that if you are a Candidate or Accredited judge, you cannot be promoted without meeting the minimum requirements listed. If you are an Accredited or Senior judge, if you do not meet the minimum requirements, you will be in jeopardy of demotion down to the next judging level.

Decisions made regarding promotions/demotions are based on the information I have on hand, gleaned from your Judge's Report, your evaluation forms (for Accredited and Candidate judges only), and attendance lists from judging workshops. If you feel that I have missed something, please bring it to my attention. You may contact me at thebodysmith@hotmail.com if you have questions. Most importantly, if you fail to send in your annual Judge's Report, which asks for your judging and educational requirements completed for the year, you will not get credit for the good work you have done.

Candidate Requirements

1. Must be a member of the American Dahlia Society before they are recognized as entering the Judging Program.
2. The individual is considered to be a Candidate after completing the first judging class and satisfactorily passing a judging test.
3. Once the individual has met requirements for Candidate, they will be included in the club/conference report for the annual Judging Roster, provided that they have paid membership dues for their club, conference, and ADS.

Accredited Judge Requirements

1. Must be a member in good standing of the ADS during the candidate training period for at least two consecutive years including the year of fulfilling the judging requirements.
2. Must have grown, exhibited dahlias in ADS sanctioned shows for at least five years or have grown and exhibited in at least eight ADS shows for three years.
3. Must pass a written examination on judging dahlias based on the ADS Guide to Judging Dahlias,

the ADS Classification List, and the ADS Seedling Score Card, both fully double and open center dahlias during training period (available on the ADS website).

4. Attend two judging/training sessions during training period.
5. Serve as an candidate judge on a team with ADS Accredited and or Senior Judges in at least five (5) dahlia shows in a period not to exceed five years or serve as an candidate judge in seven (7) shows in a three year period.

Judge seedlings at a Trial Garden or on the Seedling Bench to the satisfaction of the Judging Chair. The recommended number of seedlings is three per year but not less than 15 in five years. Trial Garden experience in judging six seedlings to the satisfaction of a Senior Judge may be counted in lieu of one show.

Candidate judges who have fulfilled all of their judging requirements in three years may be advanced provided that they have paid membership dues for their club, conference, and ADS.

Senior Judge Requirements

Senior Judges are those who are qualified to judge seedlings and to work with candidate judges. An Accredited Judge may become a Senior Judge by meeting the following additional requirements provided that they have paid membership dues for their club, conference, and ADS:

1. Be a member of good standing of the ADS continuously.
 2. Continue to grow and exhibit in ADS sanctioned shows virtually every year (minimum 4 of 5 years).
 3. Serve at least four (4) year apprenticeship as an Accredited Judge and judge on a team with Senior Judges in at least eight ADS sanctioned shows.
 4. Judge several seedling entries either at a Trial Garden or on the Seedling Bench to the satisfaction of the Judging Chair. The recommended number of seedlings is five per year but not less than 25 in five years.
 5. Demonstrate to the satisfaction of the team with Senior Judges, when judging seedlings, their ability to use the double and open center score cards properly in judging seedlings.
 6. Be able to classify, by the current classification description, properly a seedling variety under consideration as to size, type, color.
 7. Be able to name the current competition a seedling will compete against, either from memory or from the Classification Book.
 8. Attend three judging seminar/training sessions during training period.
 9. Satisfactorily take the Senior Judges test during training period (available on the ADS website).
- Accredited Judges who judge 15-20 seedlings in a Trial Garden, Seedling Bench, or someone's back yard each year for three consecutive years may be advanced as long as all other requirements have been met.

Requirements for Honorary Senior Judges

1. The title of Honorary Judge is changed to Honorary Senior Judge.

2. Who may be moved to the Honorary status. To be considered for Honorary Senior Judge the individual must maintain continuous membership in a local dahlia society and the American Dahlia Society. This position should be used only for a Senior Judge who has served many years but, for reasons as determined by the Club/Conference Evaluation Chair, is no longer fully able to fulfill the requirements for maintaining their judging status.

3. What may the Honorary Senior Judge participate in. They may continue to serve by judging occasionally at local dahlia shows or contributing other valuable assistance, but may not participate in the judging of seedlings at a trial garden or the seedling bench. They should not be used as team leaders except when a Senior or Accredited Judge is not available. Judges for the Head Table or Court of Honor should be the most knowledgeable and up to date on current information released through annual judges training and judging at local shows.

Maintain Judging Status - Accredited or Senior Must be a continuous member of good standing of the ADS and fulfill the following requirements:

1. Continue to grow and exhibit in ADS sanctioned shows virtually every year (minimum 4 of 5 years).

2. Judge in at least eight ADS sanctioned shows in five years.

3. Judge seedling entries either at a Trial Garden or on the Seedling Bench. The recommended number is two per year but not less than 10 in five years.

4. Attend a judging seminar once every other year and satisfactorily take judges test once each five years.

5. Senior Judges are required to judge every and all classes if asked by the Judging/Show chair unless they have an entry in that class.

Demotions:

Judges that do not fulfill all of the listed requirements to advance or maintain their judges status will be reduced to the next lower level of accreditation until they have demonstrated that they have completed approved training or experience to remedy the reason for demotion and retaken the judges test for the next level of accreditation.

Myrtle Bloomfield: 1916 - 2017

A rare centenarian at 101, Myrtle Bloomfield passed away Saturday, October 21. She and her husband Bob first met in grade school and dated in high school. They were married in 1950, joined the Portland Dahlia Society in the early 1950's, and became active members in growing and showing dahlias. While Bob served as President, Myrtle was a great communicator at their meetings and knew how to involve and engage with new members. She was a very accepting person and was admired as a great teacher. Wayne & Eleanor attended the Portland Show for the first time in 1974 and were impressed by the baskets that Bob entered. He enjoyed hybridizing dahlias, naming several after Myrtle (Myrtle's Brandy, Myrtle's Folly, Myrtle's Lace) as well as others - Noel, Half Ass, Tiffany, and Urchin. Their avid hobby earned them the prestigious PNDC Gold Medal award. Bob passed away in 2010. In her honor, a 'Remembrance for Myrtle' was held at the PDS November 14th meeting.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST DAHLIA CONFERENCE TREASURER REPORT

Submitted by Elva Sellens, Treasurer

8/26/17

Beginning balance as of 4/22/17	\$13,653.98
Income:	
Tuber Auction	\$747.00
Dues	\$ 20.00
Interest 5/2017-8/2017	\$.41
Total Income	+ 767.41

Expenses:

1309 4/22 ADS- Geneo Project	\$500.00
1312 4/22 PDS-show exp	\$250.00
1313 4/22 Parkers-Spring mtg; snacks	\$ 67.40
1314 5/22 Cheryle Hawkins-bulletin	\$ 15.72
Total Expenses	\$833.12
Ending balance as of 8/26/17	\$13,588.27

Hide & Seek Virus Testing

by Linda Taylor

Recently, in a conversation with a dahlia friend, she characterized the virus testing as “hide & seek”, which in my opinion, is spot on. The amount of virus varies in different parts of the plant, and changes over time and in response to growing conditions, not to mention that there are differences between cultivars. The trick is to catch the right parts of the plant at the right time to get a sample containing a high enough concentration of the virus for the tests to be able to detect the virus. The tests are sensitive, but not perfect.



The population of virus in a plant and its parts are directly connected to the metabolism of the tissues the virus is in. Viruses cannot replicate by themselves. They use the machinery of the cell they are in to replicate. It is often said that the virus “hijacks” the cell’s natural processes to multiply. It would be more correct to say that the virus “borrows” them. A virus that completely uses up the resources of its cell, or its host, is a short-lived virus. For the virus to succeed in the long run, the host plant must be allowed enough resources and metabolism to survive. The tissues in different parts of the host plant are growing and metabolizing at different speeds - emerging shoots, expanding leaves, fully grown leaves at maximum photosynthetic capacity, aging deteriorating leaves, plus all the stem & stalk tissues connecting them. So the population of virus in each of these tissues is likely to vary accordingly, with the higher metabolism enabling more growth of the virus. At the end of the growing season, when the dahlia plant is moving all its resources from the above-ground parts into the tubers, the virus population in the leaves & stems drops. When the tubers are dormant, they are not growing, metabolizing or circulating much, so the virus is pretty much dormant too.

The movement of virus through the host plant is also connected to the natural movement of nutrients and other molecules through the plant. Most viruses have some mechanism for movement from one cell to another. But this is slow, and for the infection to spread to the whole plant, viruses generally make use of the phloem system (food-transporting channels, somewhat like arteries in animals). Again, the more vigorously the host plant is growing, the faster the virus can spread within the plant. The same conditions

that favor the growth of the plant favor the spread of the virus.

So, on the one hand, the more vigorously the host plant is growing, the more virus replication and movement it is able to support. But the plant has defenses against the viral infection, and the more strongly it is growing, the more effectively it can fight back against the virus. A plant

or cultivar with a strong immune response can sometimes diminish the population of a virus to a level where it is no longer detectable by the usual tests. However the plant still carries the virus, and it can still be spread to other plants. In some cases, the plant defense is strong enough to keep the virus from taking hold in the first place. But of course it is hard to tell which is the case, and the situation with a particular plant may not be characteristic of the cultivar as a whole.

A cultivar (or species) which generally can carry the virus without showing symptoms is said to be “tolerant” of that virus. One which is routinely able to avoid infection is said to be “resistant”, or in extreme cases, “immune”.

In natural circumstances, the viruses and the host plant have evolved together over millennia, so that both can survive and fill their ecological niche. The problems generally arise when the host species and viruses are removed from their natural situations, and especially when the hosts are grown intensively, and bred for (in the case of dahlias) qualities like flower color and form, without regard to virus tolerance.

So our “hide & seek” game is to find the virus, when & where it is present in the host plant, in sufficient quantity to be detectable by the tests currently available. The tests that have been developed are very specific to the molecular properties of each individual virus. Only the exact virus being tested for will trigger a positive response, so there are almost no false positive results. But there are many circumstances that can lead to false negative results. One of the goals of our research is to figure out how and when to collect and process samples, so that we can more accurately identify which plants are infected.

Note - I want to confirm that I agree with Linda's comments and that the data currently available is a small portion of what we hope/expect to have soon. The additional data will almost certainly include important trends and, no doubt, more surprises. – Ron Miner



American Dahlia Society News

By Mark Oldenkamp, ADS 2nd Vice

The 2017 dahlia season has drawn to a close. Hopefully most everyone has their tuber crop dug and stored away safely. I know most growers are looking at catalogues and online offerings and are placing orders for new stock. You should be receiving the December Bulletin and 2018 Classification Handbook soon where you will see the trial garden and seedling bench results as well as advertisements from commercial growers.

Your American Dahlia Society is making a few organizational changes. After about three years of discussions, the concept of an organizational structure update was guided through a Bylaws review and update that was presented and passed at the annual meeting in Chicago. The largest change creates an Executive Committee of the full Board that can operate to deal with ADS needs without a full meeting of the board. This Executive Committee will report to the full Board. The next challenge is getting the Executive Committee to operate within the approved structure. The ADS elected Vice Presidents now have some coordination responsibility with the assigned committee chairs which will take some time to develop working relationships. This will be discussed at the Executive Committee level to seek ways to make this more effective on the part of the VP's work as well as committee chairs. Future volunteer leaders for ADS committee chairs is an important area where the Executive Committee should work together to recruit and discuss as a group nominations for the various committees. This job and responsibility should not fall solely on the President.

Annually, the ADS leadership meets for an annual planning meeting. This next year the meeting will be hosed in Northern California an April 20-22. There is a desire to have an update on the genome research project during this meeting. All board members are encouraged to attend and to participate. The various committee chairs report on the activities of their area of responsibility and to bring ideas to the board for discussion.

There is a fairly significant change coming in the committee chairs. Alan Fisher, membership chair for over 25 years is handing the reigns to someone new. Elva Sellens, from Douglas County, volunteered for this very important ADS job at the meeting in Chicago. Efforts are underway to educate her to the job requirements and to transfer the ADS assets to her including software and database programs.

Huge news from the ADS annual meeting in Chicago! ADS facilitated another large financial contribution to Washington State University which will establish an

Endowed Chair of Dahlia Research. The Chuey Foundation made this additional contribution which was celebrated appropriately in Chicago. I know that a collection of species dahlias in Mexico has been happening since the annual meeting which is an important part of the genome project moving forward.

2018 will be an election year for ADS officers. A nomination committee has been formed to develop a slate of nominees for this election. We have committee leadership positions open and are looking for some good candidates to help in certain areas. Are you interested in learning more??

This is the time of year when leadership changes might occur for the societies. Please note that ADS needs and want to know the names and contact information for every society president and for the designated ADS Rep. The new ADS Bylaws specify that the ADS Rep needs to use email for communication.

Please forward this information to me as I am the VP that is in charge of communications with the societies.

I am hoping to convene a meeting of the PNDC leadership to talk about the future of our conference. For me the big topic is to evaluate what we have done for a long time and to discuss if doing "some" things differently would be good for the future. Any organization needs to adapt to changing times and it may be time for us to self-evaluate.

I look forward to 2018 and the opportunity to be amongst dahlias growers. I can already see in my head the sprouts coming from the new tubers and pot roots I intend to put on the bench this spring. Hoping our paths cross and you will let me know if there is something I might be able to help you with.



ADS 2018 New Introductions DVD

The 2018 ADS New Introductions are ready to be mailed out. There are two choices. The automated program only is \$13. The automated program with a second disc of low resolution photos is available for \$20. You can order these on line from the ADS website. Just look for the 'store' and you can purchase them using PayPal. Or you can contact me and I will send the program to you. Please give me a few days notice to send them.

Claudia Biggs, ADS Image Library, 509-326-1953