



Vancouver Dahlia Society

Promoting Dahlia Growing Since 1955

July 2015

Bulletin No. 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To pinch or not to pinch, that is the question. What do I mean by pinching? Removing the growing tip of the plant to encourage the growth of side shoots. This can be done at 4 leaves for giants and large, 6 leaves for mediums and smalls and at 8 leaves for miniatures and poms. Plants often have small or what I like to call semi-leaves at the very base of the plant. I do not count these.

Actually I do both. I don't pinch when I have a seedling where I want to assess the flower quickly. In most cases, I will then discard the plant so there is no point in encouraging side branches. (This is also the reason I plant seedlings very close together, 6-8 inches apart. As I discard the inferior plants, there is more room for the remaining plants.) If I keep the plant, however, there is some danger to leaving the top bud. If I cut the stem too far down after the bloom is spent, it can result in a hollow stem that can be filled with water, leading to rot. To avoid this, I have started to cut the blooms above the last joint. If this solves the problem remains to be seen as I have just started doing this.

So...if we are growing blooms for show and want the maximum number of blooms during show time, it is best to pinch. Remember to tie up your plants at quite an early stage (you may want to tie 2 or 3 times during the season). If most of the stems originate at the bottom of the plant and if the center of the stem is unstable (this is a problem with some more than others and often depends on how far down the plant is pinched), the plant could break apart.

What about those aphids? Are there more aphids this year or is it just me? I think the warm winter and early spring has brought them out in record numbers. What to do? Squish. Squish. Squish! If you use poison, you will also kill the lady bugs you want to attract which will ultimately control them. You can also wash them off with a jet of water. Once they are on the ground, they will not get back up the plant (unless the ants carry them up again, but that is a whole other issue).

Here is what we can look forward to in the next two general meetings. For July, Jennifer and Richard Zuk et al have agreed to do a demonstration of arrangements for the show. The August meeting will be given over to preparation for the show.

Enjoy your dahlias and take advantage of the many dahlia related activities that are taking place at this time of year.

Peter Krueger

Next Meetings: July 15 & August 19, 2015

The VDS meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, except November, December and January in the Floral Hall at VanDusen Botanical Gardens at 7:30 pm.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 18
Federation Summer Workshop
Mt. Vernon , WA

July 25
Judges Training
Mt. Vernon Washington

August 2
Trial Garden Judging Workshop
Pt. Defiance Park
Tacoma Washington

August 29 & 30
Victoria Dahlia Society
Annual Dahlia Show
Westshore Town Centre
Victoria, B.C.

September 5 & 6
Vancouver Dahlia Society
Annual Dahlia Show

September 12 & 13
Whatcom County Dahlia Society
Annual Dahlia Show

September 19 & 20
Fraser Valley Dahlia Society
Annual Show

MEETING AGENDAS

July 15
Jennifer and Richard Zuk will demonstrate the art of
Floral Arrangements

August 19
Preparation for our annual show. How to pick your
blooms, how to stage and transport to the show.
Filling out your tags and a lot more.

FEDERATION SUMMER WORKSHOP

The summer workshop is in Mt Vernon, Washington on July 18th.
IMPORTANT: This is the year that all Accredited and Senior Judges MUST take the ADS Judging test. It is an open book test so please bring your judging manual, your classification books (current and composite) and a pen or pencil to the workshop. We will all do the test together. If you do not attend a test will be mailed to you and it must be returned prior to the end of the show season.

**There will be a special edition of the
bulletin in August devoted to our
Annual Dahlia Show.**

FEDERATION JUDGING WORKSHOP

Have you thought about becoming a Dahlia Judge? Why not attend the Judge's Training Workshop in Mount Vernon, WA on July 25th. You can attend the beginner's class and see if this is something you might want to pursue. You won't feel out of place as the instructors are Wally Kurth and Norm Sharp from our Vancouver Club. For more information and directions contact one of the executive.

Another Reminder:

If you received an Invitation to Clerk or Judge from Art Wuerth please reply back to him as soon as you can so he can contact the various clubs on your availability.

If you have any questions about anything in this bulletin or questions in general about club matters don't hesitate to contact any of the club executive listed on the back page.



Vera Williamson, long time member of the Vancouver Dahlia Society, passed away on Sunday, May 31, 2015 at the age of 87 from complications with lung cancer. Vera's love of dahlias came from her mother who was a very avid gardener. She joined the dahlia society while she was still working as a Physical Education Teacher with Surrey School District 36. After her retirement she really got involved with all aspects of dahlias. She also belonged to the Fraser Valley Dahlia Society and the Whatcom Dahlia Society. She joined the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers and became a Senior Judge. She grew hundreds of dahlias every year and was a very competitive exhibitor. Whether it was in the horticultural section or baskets or floral art, she was always on head table. Her passion was "other types" with her mentor being Evie Gullikson. She headed up the VDS annual tuber sale for over 25 years and volunteered at Whatcom County's tuber sale. She was always one of the first ones there for set up and one of the last to leave after tear down. That's how she was, a dedicated volunteer, where ever she was needed she was there, selling blooms at our cut flower sale, demonstrating baskets or selling tubers at the Burnaby Rhodo Festival. If there was anything she loved as much as dahlias it was lawn bowling and curling which she did right up to the time of her stroke in September 2012. She stepped back from a lot of activities after that but not from growing dahlias. We will truly miss her enthusiasm and dedication. Her daughter Penny has planted her dahlias in her honour.

Tina McNabb

CORRECTIONS TO SHOW SCHEDULE

There were several errors in the 2015 Show schedule this year. A revised copy of the VDS Show Schedule will be handed out at the July and August meeting and will be in the August Show Bulletin. The one major change is the "Jackpot Challenge Flower". The entry fee of \$5.00 is to be given Richard Zuk on or before August 31, 2015

MEMBERSHIP LISTS

The 2015 VDS Membership list is available to anyone who would like a copy (either a hard copy or email). This is a list of all members who have agreed to have their information on the list are included. Please contact Betty at vdsmembership@telus.net or 604 431 8611, and please mention whether you would like a hard or electronic copy.

TWO INVITATIONS TO ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNICS

Again we have been invited to the Whatcom County Dahlia Society's Annual Picnic. It will be July 20 Monday at 6pm at Cory Wynne's place this year. Potluck as usual and bring your own utensils and silverware along with chairs. Club will provide beverages and turkey. Everyone is welcome to come.

Directions to Cory's

From the Peace Arch or Pacific Highway crossing.

Take the I5 to Exit 270 (Birch Bay/ Lynden Road). Turn left over the over pass. Proceed 6.6 km to the flashing 4 way stop. Turn right onto Enterprise Way and go 1.6 km. Turn left onto Willey Lake Ro, go 1.2 Km. 1395 is your right just past Melody Lane.

Directions from the Aldergrove Crossing

Follow Guide Meridian Road to Lynden, 7.5 km. Make a right (at Safeway & Dairy Queen) onto Birch Bay/Lynden Road, go 3.3 km. Turn right onto Rathbone Road, go 1.3 km. Rathbone becomes Willey Lake Road, go 2.2 more km. 1395 is on your left just past Torch Place.

Also the Fraser Valley Dahlia society is holding their annual Potluck dinner on July 26 at the garden of Grace Moore in Chilliwack who grows 3,000 dahlias. It starts at 2:00 pm and there will be some mini garden tours to see gardens of local growers. Dinner is at 5:00. Please bring a chair, cutlery, plate, cup and food item for potluck. Turkey and ham will be provided. Don't forget to bring your cameras.

Directions to Grace's

Take the freeway east toward Chilliwack. Take Exit 116 - Lickman Road, keep right and merge onto Lickman Road S. 6953 Lickman Road is on your right, 0.2 km past Adams Road.

For further information on either picnic contact Tina McNabb - 604-572-8981

AWARDS DONATIONS

By now you should have all received a request for Show Award Donations from Robin Blackmore either by mail or email. Donations help to offset the costs of putting on our annual show. Consider sponsoring a particular category, ie Best Orchid or Best Bowl ...

Robin will be at the July 15 and the August 19 General Meetings and will be happy to take your donations at that time. If you are unable to attend these meetings and would like to make a donation, please feel free to send her a cheque addressed to 8222 Joffre Ave., Burnaby, B.C. V5J 3L3. Please make your cheque payable to the Vancouver Dahlia Society.

DOOR PRIZES

Everyone looks forward to the door prizes that we award each month at the end of the general meeting. Door prizes do not have to be new, they can be just about anything - cuttings from your garden, extra produce, a "re-gift" or homemade treasures. Each month names are randomly picked from those who have signed in at the beginning of the meeting, and each person chooses their door prize in order of winning. Everyone appreciates contributions to the door prizes. Please bring in anything that you would like to share with the club.

THINGS TO DO IN JULY AND AUGUST

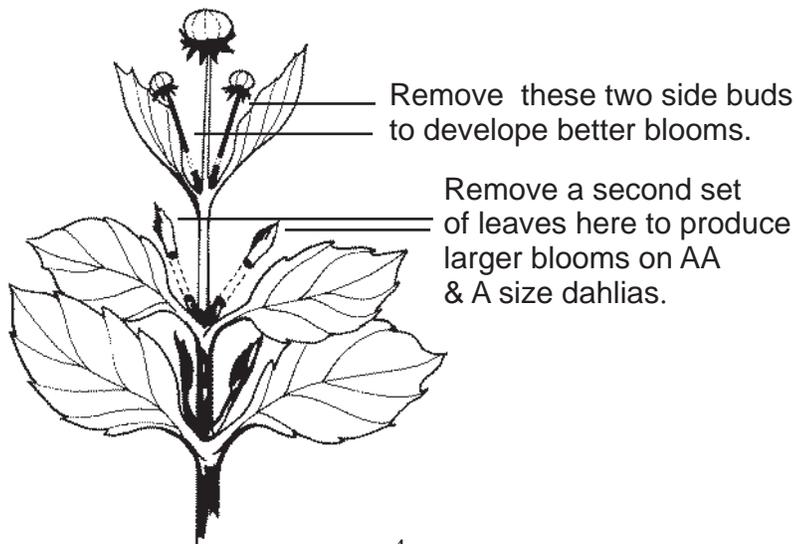
TIME FOR TYING

When your dahlia plants are about 1 foot high you can begin tying them to their stakes. You can use just about any kind of twine to tie them up. Remember not to tie too tight to the stake but leave room for the stem to grow bigger. As your plants grow taller you may have to tie them a couple more times. By tying them to the stake there is less chance of the wind blowing them over or falling down in a heavy rain. Some varieties can grow quite tall even up to 6 foot or more.

DISBUDDING

Disbudding is another method of achieving bigger blooms and longer stems. Even if you are not showing your dahlias disbudding will produce more attractive blooms in the garden and make them more desirable for cutting.

Dahlias send out three buds at the flowering terminal, there's a center bud and two side buds. By removing the two side buds when they are very small (size of a pea) the center bud will grow much stronger and larger. To promote an even larger bloom as in giants a second set of buds may be removed. Blooms must be disbudded to qualify in a show.



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WATERING

Water 1 - 2 times a week, soaking the soil deeply, preferably in the evening. Soaker hoses or a drip system are preferable as water on the petals in hot sunshine can deter from the quality of the bloom.

FERTILIZING

Around the first of August it's a good idea to apply some granulated potash around the plant roots, avoid getting it on the leaves as it will burn. A hand scattering of potash will increase colour in the bloom but is more effective in developing better and hardier tubers for winter storage.



The 50/50 DRAW

Tickets are still 1 for a Looney - 3 for a Tooney and 10 for \$5.00

REMINDER - Tickets will be on sale at each meeting only until 7:25 PM. Meeting starts at 7:30 PM. Please come early enough to purchase your tickets before the start of the meeting.

VANCOUVER DAHLIA SOCIETY CONTACTS

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If there's anything you would like see at a meeting, any ideas or comments you would like to put forth or something you would like to put in the bulletin, please don't hesitate to contact any one of the above listed people here. We are here to help.

REFRESHMENT REMINDER

We do like to have 2 members volunteer per item if possible.

July Meeting

Sandwiches: Marcelina Lim and Amy Lim

Sweets: Lana Lee

Fruit/Veggies: Volunteer

August Meeting

Sandwiches: Ken Brodie

Sweets: Rada Davy

Fruit/Veggies: Maria MacKenzie

Please bring your own mug to cut cost of purchasing foam cups and to be environmentally friendly.