



Vancouver Dahlia Society

Promoting Dahlia Growing Since 1955

March - April 2013

Bulletin No. 2

President's Message

This is the tuber sale newsletter. In it you will find all the information you will need about the tuber sale. If, however, you still have questions after reading this newsletter, feel free to contact Carole, Tina or Norm.

If you have not sold tubers at previous tuber sales, let me encourage you to begin now. The advantages to being a seller are that you can make money from your tubers (50% goes to you and 50% to the club), you are there at the beginning of the sale so you get a choice of the best tubers and it is also a great social event. You will need a sellers # which is available from Norm.

The March general meeting promises to be exciting. As already mentioned in the previous newsletter, Louise Stewart, a longtime member of the club and a senior judge, will be giving a commentary on dahlia blooms. One DVD being considered is "The Fabulous 50". It is a compilation of the dahlias from the Canada/US show circuit which have won 50 awards or more. She will explain the various forms, what makes for good form and how to choose a winning dahlia bloom from your garden. She will also talk about colour and how to look for colour quality in your show entry. Richard and Jennifer will continue their presentation of "fun with cuttings".

The April meeting should be fun. This is when we have our tuber auction. Wally has again agreed to be our very entertaining auctioneer, backed up by his faithful sidekick, Norm. Carole may be contacting you to donate tubers for the auction so, when she does, please be generous as this is another fund raiser for the club. This will be an opportunity to bid on tubers that are generally rare, excellent show quality and often recent introductions. Carole will also be collecting donations of tubers for the Burnaby Rhododendron and Garden Club – BRAG's Rhododendron Festival sale on May 5.

For over a year now, I have been contemplating how I might encourage club members to get involved in growing dahlias from seed. I proposed this project to the executive and there was a lot of excitement. I have collected lots of seed from Amethyst Glow. I will start the seeds in packs of 6 and have them available for the May meeting. They will be available for sale at \$2.00 for each 6 pack. The money will go into a pot and will be awarded to the best Amethyst Glow seedling at the September potluck. Each person purchasing the seedlings must commit to growing all of them and then bringing at least one bloom from each plant to the September meeting. This way the membership can see the genetic diversity that comes from one cultivar, both in form and colour. This project will be separate from our usual seedling category at the parlor show.

We have lots to look forward to. Mark your calendars and plan to be there. Also, invite your neighbours, friends and family to join us.

Next Meetings: March 20 & April 17

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

April 13 & 14, 2013
Vancouver Dahlia Society
Tuber Sale

April 20, 2013
Fraser Valley Dahlia Society
Tuber Sale

July 20, 2013
Federation Summer Workshop
Mount Vernon, Washington

July 27, 2013
Judging Workshop
Mount Vernon, Washington

August 24th & 25th, 2013
Vancouver Dahlia Society
Annual Show

September 14th & 15th, 2013
Fraser Valley Dahlia Society
Annual Show

**The April 17th Meeting Will
Feature Our Tuber Auction**

You may be able to pick up
a new introduction or hard
to get variety.
If you have anything you would
like to donate, see Carole Rollie.



**Dahlias of Today books will be available
at the March Meeting for \$10.00 each.**

**Also if you are a Federation Member
you can pick up your copy of the
2013 Show Schedule at the March Meeting.**

Another Sad Day For The Vancouver Dahlia Society

On March 6, long time member Jeanette Stach lost her long and courageous battle with Scleroderma. She made her mark in dahlias with her prize winning baskets of Mary Jo. She was a co-founder of the Scleroderma Association of BC in 1984. She will be sadly missed by her family, friends and especially her husband Gordon who she had been married to for 54 years.

We are still in need of photos for the picture boards. If you have any you can email mail to Tina McNabb at themcnabbs@telus.net or load them on DVD or memory stick which will be returned.

Here are a just a few of the photos we need.

- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Aitara Majesty | Diamond Rebel | Hy Enid | Any of the R's (eg. R Kris) |
| Audrey Grace | Dorothy May | Islander | Rothesay Reveller |
| Belle of Barmera | Erin Ann | Leota Mace | Snoho Okra |
| Chimicum Pumpkin | Gay Triumph | Lula Pattie | Wheel of Fire |
| Creve Coeur | GW's Babe | Mrs. WG Murray | Wyn's Feisty Freda |

These only a few, there are too many to list, so send anything you might have.



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.

TUBER SALE - APRIL 13 & 14

Information for Sellers

The Tuber Price List is now available from Norm Sharp for all sellers. You may pick it up at the March General Meeting or call Norm at 604-589-0463 if you require it sooner. **The pricing stated on this "List" for tubers will be the only acceptable selling prices at our sale.** All sellers must have a seller number (get one from Norm). Your number remains the same from year to year.

Benefits of selling through the club sales:

- Recycle extra tubers you might otherwise throw out
- To earn money to buy new stock
- To help the society earn money (1/2 selling price goes to the club)
- To get your own tubers ready early
- Sellers will be able to purchase tubers at 9:30

After our sale, we will need tubers for subsequent sales. All proceeds will go to the VDS. These extra sales will (*we hope!*) pay for some of our rentals plus any other expenses directly pertaining to our tuber sales. After our sale on Sunday there will be boxes under the tables marked "Donation Tubers" for your unsold tubers.

For all Dahlia Club Members:

As a member of our club you may purchase tubers earlier than the public:

Saturday morning - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Members not on the volunteer list may not enter the hall until 10:00 a.m.

If you decide to shop at this time, you must wear a name tag or pick up a name tag from the front desk.

APRIL 13, 2013

7:00 - 9:30	Put up tables, place tubers
9:30 - 10:00	Sellers only Sale
10:00 - 11:30	Club members only may buy
12:00 - 12:30	Straighten out sales tables, complete member's sales
12:30 - 1:00	Lunch (Bring your own)
1:00 - 4:00	Public Sale
4:00 - 5:00	Clean up by all members

APRIL 14, 2013

12:30 - 1:00	Preparation for crowd
1:00 - 4:00	Public Sale
4:00 - 5:00	Clean up by all members

For Details:

Carole Rollie	at 778-571-2370
Tina McNabb	at 604-572-8981
Norm Sharp	at 604-589-0463

All member who are selling tubers, would you please give Tina a list of what you might be selling so she can set up the pictures boards ahead of time. Submission of lists can be given to her at the March meeting or you can email them or even phone her up until April 10th or 11th.

We are still in need of photos for the picture boards. If you have any you can email them to Tina McNabb at themcnabbs@telus.net or load them on DVD.

We are also looking for volunteers to work at our sales desks at our tuber sale. If you would like to help out let Tina, Norm or Carole know. We also need plastic bags and boxes for buyers to gather their purchases. Please bring these on the day of our sale.

Add these varieties to your 2013 Tuber Sales Shopping List

VDS Challenge Flower: Any Bloomquist Origination

VDS Jackpot Flower: Aitara Caress

Federation Flower of the Year: Lakeview Glow

Or you might consider entering some of the other Special Entries like:

The Floating Waterlily

3 Bloom entry of: Semi Cactus, Cactus and Incurved cactus

5 Blooms of Other types. NX, PE, AN, NO, CO, O, S, or MS

Also The Walt Wynne Memorial with any Wynne Origination.

Saying good bye to one of our best...

Dahlia growers from all of the Pacific Northwest showed up in great numbers to celebrate the life of Walt Wynne. Rightly so! He was much loved and respected.

The barn was packed with over 450 people: family, friends, past co-workers all sharing memories of Walt's generosity, caring and thoughtfulness. He gave freely not only his beautiful blooms, delicious blueberries and fresh vegetables but he also generously donated his time and labour. (Like if he wasn't busy enough already!)

I did not know Walt very well but I considered him a kindred spirit. Apart from being "a giant" in giant dahlias growing", he was an exceptional human being. Kind, funny, humble and giving. Young and old alike were drawn to him.

My cherished memory of him was his trademark "bemused smile" with a twinkle in his eyes while watching all the comings and goings at Whatcom dahlia show. Like he was reminding all of us to have fun, to pause and enjoy the beauty of blooms surrounding us.

I tended to call him "Wynne", and he graciously corrected me and shared yet another dahlia story. The most recent one was about his beautiful Sundazzler which was much admired by nurses during Cory's and mine independent hospital stays. Cory even emailed me a photo of one young nurse "wearing" a giant Sundazzler bloom on her head.

To say he will be greatly missed is an understatement. It will take a long time to "patch" the hole left by his early passing.

May all of us dahlia growers and lovers will continue spreading his joy and beauty by sharing his beautiful blooms.

Maria MacKenzie

In the fall bulletin, I asked people to consider which dahlia they would keep if they could save only one. I thought the question would spark some discussion and generate a list of dahlias to look for at the tuber sale. Little did I know when I asked the question that we would all be grieving the loss of Walt Wynne and the loss of future seedlings that he would have wanted us to enjoy. I think that this tragic event has made our dahlia world even more precious and made us all reflect on the dahlias we would want to save.

For me, the one dahlia I would save would be Wyn's Sleepyhead (A ID Y). I was drawn to it in 2009 when I first saw it in the Wynne's dahlia patch and when Walt generously shared a tuber with me in 2010. It is a fairly compact plant for such a large bloom, and the blooms are uniform in size and colour. In fact, Cory once staged a bloom grown in my garden with two blooms from theirs and you could barely tell the difference despite completely different growing conditions between Ferndale and Burnaby. That is uniformity for you!

Below are the results of my survey, with what blooms people would save if they could save only one, and why:

	I would save...	And this is why...
Wayne Holland	Hy Clown	My first introduction, the result of a cross between Jean M and Fernduff Fantasy (unfortunately both parents are no longer around)
Tina McNabb	Andrew David (A IC LB)	It is a prolific bloomer that makes perfect tubers and is always the first to bloom
Donna Quinn	That pretty bronzy one	Sorry, I can never remember the names of my favourites
Jack Duncan	Monet's Glory (WL LB)	My favourite purchase (among many) at the 2012 tuber sale
Sue Croft	Edna C (A ID Y)	The first dahlia that ever won a ribbon for me
Peter Krueger	Mary's Jomanda (Ba DP)	It has perfect form every time and on each bloom, consistent dark pink color. The perfect size for bouquets and my best seller at cut flower sales
Jennifer Zuk	Pam Howden (WL BR)	I would have picked Porcelain if it had consistent tubers, but Pam Howden is beautiful on the plant, as a cut flower, as an exhibition and in flower arrangements. And it produces decent tubers.

Consider looking for some of these excellent dahlias at the tuber sale. You won't be disappointed.

Betty Girard

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REFRESHMENT REMINDER**March Meeting**

Sandwiches: Dorothy Pitre

Sweets: Rada Davy

Fruit/Veggies: Lana Austin

April Meeting

Sandwiches: Ken Brodie

Sweets: Fay Newman

Fruit/Veggies:

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