



Vancouver Dahlia Society

Promoting Dahlia Growing Since 1955

March 2017

Bulletin No. 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You may have noticed that this newsletter is a little later than previous years. That's because we have cancelled the February general meeting and will be starting the dahlia year in March. The reasoning behind this is that the weather is often unpredictable in February, the February meeting is often sparsely attended and we really only need one meeting to prepare for the tuber sale in April. We will also be changing the location of the July general meeting. It will not be at Vandussen but will be a potluck/meeting at a member's home.

If you have not already been contemplating which dahlias to plant this season, it is high time you do so. Here are some things to consider. Our tuber sale and the Fraser Valley Societies' tuber sale a week later are the best places to buy show quality dahlias at a reasonable price. Local nurseries do not carry show quality dahlias and commercial growers often charge twice as much or more for their tubers plus shipping charges.

At this point you may want to consider why you want to grow dahlias. If you simply want to grow them because they are pretty, your task is simple. Just look at the pictures and if they appeal to you, buy them. What you may want to consider is the floriferousness (yes, a real term used by the ADS) of the variety. This means that the plant has lots of blooms. Some varieties have very few blooms and do not make quite such a splash of colour in the garden as the floriferous ones do. The only way to find out about this is to ask someone who has grown the variety you are interested in, as there is not indication on the label for floriferousness. You may also want to take into consideration whether the plant is early, mid season or late blooming. Again, the only way to know this is to talk to someone who has grown them.

If you are interested in showing dahlias, another approach is needed. To find the blooms that will do well at the show, ask someone who does well at the shows. As well, go to the VDS website to see which varieties are consistently on the head table. One caution here, however. Many blooms that make it to the head table are entered by US exhibitors and are not available here. These tubers sometimes make it across the border but not until a few years after they have been introduced.

Look for the varieties that have the best form. There are currently 20 described forms. They can be found in the Classification and Handbook of Dahlias put out by the American Dahlia Society or on the internet. Varieties that do not consistently grow blooms with good form will not get to the head table, no matter how well you grow them.

A special note of appreciation goes out to Susie Sziklai, who is currently working on a facebook and Instagram account for the society. Stay tuned for further information.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the March general meeting and at the tuber sale. The dahlia season is starting, although the weather may give us pause...

Peter Krueger

Next Meetings: March 15 and April 19

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 18
Federation Spring Workshop
Seattle, WA

April 8 (One Day Only)
Vancouver Dahlia Society
Tuber Sale

April 15
Fraser Valley Dahlia Society
Tuber Sale

July 22
Federation Summer Workshop
Mt. Vernon , WA

July 29
Judges Training
Mt. Vernon Washington

September 2 & 3
Vancouver Dahlia Society
Annual Dahlia Show

September 9 & 10
Whatcom County Dahlia Society
Annual Dahlia Show

September 16 & 17
Fraser Valley Dahlia Society
Annual Show

Welcome New Member

Katie LaRone

UPCOMING TUBER SALE

The 2017 Tuber Price List will be ready for the March Meeting, you can also have it emailed to you upon request, contact Norm Sharp.

If you have never sold tubers at our sale and would like to, see Norm Sharp or Tina McNabb to get your seller's number.

We are still looking for photos for the picture boards at our sale. If you have any please email them to Tina McNabb at themcnabbs@telus.net or put them on a DVD. They can be submitted up until a week before the sale.

DAHLIAS OF TODAY BOOKS

Tina McNabb will be taking orders for the 2017 Dahlias of Today. They are approx. \$14.00 this year depending on exchange on the dollar. They are \$10.00 american. Tina will be taking orders at the March meeting and she will pick them in Seattle at the Spring Workshop on March 18th.

2017 SHOW SCHEDULES

The 2017 Show Schedule should be available at the March Meeting for those of you who are Federation members.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congrats to Carole Rollie on becoming a Senior Judge and to Gary Rollie for becoming an Accredited. Well done!

VANCOUVER DAHLIA SOCIETY NOW HAS A SOCIAL PRESENCE!

The Facebook and Instagram accounts have been set up. The Facebook account is quite bare but I will add more to it over the next while - providing a link to the VDS website, adding bulletins, membership details, meeting information and tuber sale etc. I would like to add pictures to the Instagram account every few days. If anyone has good Dahlia photos with names please forward them to me. Hopefully we can start attracting some followers to each of the accounts. Both the Facebook and Instagram accounts can be found under VancouverDahliaSociety

Susie Sziklai



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Susie Sziklai

2017 TUBER SALE WILL BE A ONE DAY SALE! Saturday April 8th

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 9:00 am

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 Sat. 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 - 9:00 am to 10:00 am

Members not on the volunteer list may not enter the hall until 9:00 am

7:00 - 9:00 - Put up tables and place tubers

9:00 - 10:00 - MEMBERS ONLY SALE

10:00 - 4:00 - Public Sale

4:00 - 5:00 - Clean up by all members

For Details Call:

Carole Rollie 778-571-2370

Tina McNabb 604-572-8981

Norm Sharp 604-589-0463

Add these varieties to your 2017 Tuber Sales Shopping List

VDS Challenge Flower: Any Gordon Stach origination

VDS Jackpot Flowers: Clearview Daniel

Federation Flower of the Year 2017: Chimacum Troy

Flower of the Year 2018: Clearview Daniel

Add a Waterlily to your list for the Floating Dahlia Exhibit.

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 6 or 7th.

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 for buyers to gather their purchases. Please bring these on the day of our sale.

CORRECT WAY TO LABEL TUBERS



This is an example of a label with a photo and the new barcode. If you are handwriting your labels, the barcode can be printed on avery labels and stuck to either your label or to the bag.

1. The size should be a minimum of 4" x 2"
2. Try and put some kind of identifying colour or symbol (I use the coloured squares at the top) on the label, this makes it easy for pickup at the end of the day. You do not have to use the colour you were assigned in the past if you are using computer generated labels.
3. You no longer need to put your seller number on the label, it is in the bar code. However you still need to put the price on the label for the public to see.
4. The price goes down in the right bottom corner. The prices is determined on the 2017 Price List.
5. On left side can go either a photo and description or just the description. First dahlia name, size, the form, the colour and the height it grows. Again all this information is on the 2017 Price List.
6. In the left hand bottom corner your name and phone number. This is so a buyer can contact you if they have any concerns about the tuber they purchased.
7. Lastly, please attach your label to the **OUTSIDE** of the bag. This makes it easier to view the tuber inside the bag.

If you need a particular photo for your tag, I have a very extensive dahlia photo library and can send you what you need if I have it.

Important: Please make sure there is an eye on your tuber before you bring it to the sale.

Tina McNabb

B.C. Council of Garden Clubs

Fall Meeting, October 15, 2016

Thank you for allowing me to be the voting delegate for our club at the B.C. Council of Garden Clubs. It is a privilege to represent the VDS.

Numbers were down for this meeting, particularly due to the nasty weather. None of the Vancouver Island groups who usually attend were able to make it over as the ferries were cancelled.

Latest numbers tell the story. The council has 173 clubs, representing over 17,000 members. Memberships of community and allotment gardens continue to climb, while memberships in general and specialty clubs are on the decline.

There are a couple of motions being presented for voting in the spring. It is my job to bring these issues forward for your attention. Firstly there will be a number of changes to the constitution to bring the Scholarship Committee into alignment with the council. As you may know, the principal (approx. \$250,000.00) is held in perpetuity by the Vancity Community Foundation with annual disbursements of dividends being guided by 3 elected trustees. These changes are needed to bring the language into line with the current practice.

Another motion is regarding quorum. With the numbers of allotments and out of town garden clubs on the incline, it has been difficult to maintain a quorum at the AGM. The executive is suggesting that quorum be reduced to 15% from 20%.

The Food Foresters of Canada led an informative presentation about their work. They have a philosophy of social change being supported by working hard to have nut and fruit bearing trees, food and medicinal plantings as well as drought resistant plantings become part of our public spaces. It is harkening back to food growing 1000 years ago, where everyone participated in cultivation, not just large scale agriculture entities. Food for thought!

Secondly, the new communications co-ordinator, Amanda Smith presented on increasing club presence. In a nutshell: We need a Facebook Page! If you are interested in leading this initiative for the club, please contact a member of the executive.

Egan Davis was the keynote speaker, who we all know well from the presentations he has done for us at various meetings over the years. Once again, he held the room captivated with stories from the UBC Botanical Gardens.

Betty Girard

SAD GOODBYE TO SKAGIT DAHLIA SOCIETY

I am sorry to report that the Skagit Valley Dahlia Society will no longer exist after December 31, 2016. They have voted to close our club because of declining membership. They are no longer able to grow the amount of club tubers that are needed to sell at their tuber sale and to finance their club. The money that remains in our treasury will be given as horticulture scholarships to our their schools.

Sad to say but this what can happen to other societies. The decline in now members can take a toll on clubs. Do you have any ideas on how to attract more members. The executive would love to hear from you.

**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.