



Vancouver Dahlia Society

Promoting Dahlia Growing Since 1955

March - April 2014

Bulletin 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This newsletter is all about tubers. More specifically, the tuber sale, which is our premier fund raiser for the year. Carole, Tina and Norm are in charge of the event. If you are considering selling tubers for the first time, you will need a seller number. Tina or Norm can help you with that. They will need lots of help setting up on the Saturday morning. See Carole if you can help. If you volunteer, you will be there for the 9:00 am opening for the sellers and will have access to the best tubers. Ten am to 12 noon is the time for club members to stock up. Please be there well before noon so we can close at precisely 12 to give the volunteers time for lunch and the "bean" counters a chance to catch up. At 1:00 pm we open to the public.

If you have extra tubers after the sale, consider donating them to the club so we can sell them at the Burnaby Rhododendron Sale later in the year. Carole will collect these and all proceeds go to the club.

The April General Meeting will be devoted to the annual tuber auction. Here is a chance to get some of the best and most recent introductions. Carole will round up donations for this sale.

As you bring your tubers out for inspection and possibly to sell, do not be too anxious to plant them. Dahlias need warm weather and warm soil to grow. Once these conditions are met, they grow rapidly. If they are planted too early, they will sit in the wet, cold ground and rot or become victims to pests. The general rule of thumb is to plant them when the lilacs bloom. You can give them a bit of a head start by planting them in pots indoors or in the greenhouse. You can also get them started by putting them in a bag with some moist soil in a warm place. This will encourage the roots and shoots to start developing and they will be off and running when you put them in the ground. This should take no more than 2 to 3 weeks.

Yes, I am chomping at the bit to get started. I do have to restrain myself though, so I fall in line with what the tubers need. I have learned through experience what works best.

Peter Krueger

Next Meetings: March 19 & April 16

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

March 22
BC Council of Garden Clubs
General Meeting

April 12 & 13th
Vancouver Dahlia Society
Tuber Sale

April 19th
Fraser Valley Dahlia Society
Tuber Sale

July 19
Federation Summer Workshop
Seattle , WA

July 26
Judges Training
Mt. Vernon Washington

August 23 & 24th
Vancouver Dahlia Society
Annual Dahlia Show

August 30th
ADS National Show
Tacoma, WA

September 20 & 21
Fraser Valley Dahlia Society
Annual Show

March 19th Meeting

Our March meeting will feature guest speaker Egan Davis on "Everything You Need To Know About Soil to Grow Better Dahlias."

The April 16th 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.



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

The FEDERATION SPRING WORKSHOP has been re-scheduled to March 22, 2014 at the Mount Vernon Senior Center

Your 2014 Membership Card will be available for pickup at the March Meeting. It can be used for discounts at some Nurseries and Garden Centres around town.

NAME TAGS

Do you need a name tag? See Wally Kurth.

DAHLIAS OF TODAY BOOKS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE MARCH MEETING AT A COST OF \$10.00 EACH. There is a limited supply.

Also if you are a Federation Member you can pick up your copy of the 2014 Show Schedule at the March Meeting.

Have you any gardening tips, ideas or experiments you would to share with our members.

Please send them to me at:

themcnabbs@telus.net

I'm always looking for interesting articles for the bulletin.

Tina McNabb

TUBER SALE - APRIL 12 & 13

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

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 12, 2014

7:00 - 9:00	Put up tables, place tubers
9:00 - 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 13, 2014

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 9th or 10th.

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 please bring these on the day of our sale.

CORRECT WAY TO LABEL TUBERS

	
 <p>Bonaventure #16</p> <p>AA – Giant Formal Dec. Bronze 5ft Tall</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$4.00</p> <p><small>Tina McNabb 604-572-8981</small></p>	<p>Bloomquist Dawn #16</p> <p>BB – Small Semi Cactus Dark Blend - Deep Pink/Yellow 5 ft Tall</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$4.00</p> <p><small>Tina McNabb 604-572-8981</small></p>

These are examples of labels with and without a photo. Whether you do them on the computer or they are handwritten this is the format we would like you to use.

1. The size should be around 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. Your seller number goes up in the right hand corner. Make sure it big and legible. This what we use to keep track of your sales.
4. The price goes down in the right bottom corner. The prices is determined on the 2014 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 2014 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.

Add these varieties to your 2014 Tuber Sales Shopping List

This year we have two VDS Challenge Flowers:
 Nicole C (In honour of Jeanette Stach) and Danjo Doc (In honour of Ken Pitre)
 VDS Jackpot Flower: Glenplace
 Federation Flower of the Year 2014: Verrone's Morning Star
 Flower of the Year 2015: Maks Royal Ruby (May not be available)

THINGS TO DO FOR MARCH AND APRIL

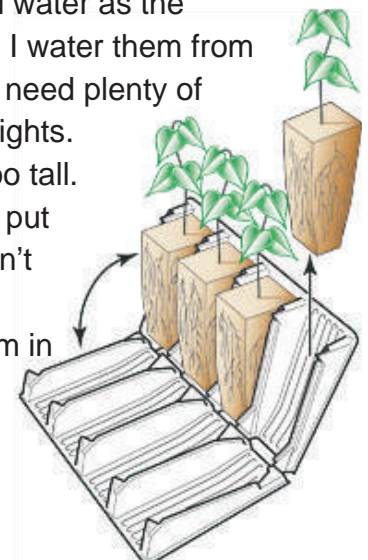
Now's the time to wake up our tubers. See what you are keeping and what you want to sell. Make a list of what varieties you would like to buy at our tuber sale.

Start preparing your garden beds by amending the soil with compost or manure. Our guest speaker this month will be able to fill us in on this topic.

Check your supply of garden stakes. Do you have enough?

Late April, after the tuber sales, is when I start my dahlia seeds. There are many different ways to start your seeds. Here's how I do it. I use the plastic containers used for cookies or cakes from the bakery. I line the bottom with paper towel and add just enough water to soak the towel. I sprinkle my seeds on top. I close the lid and then I put it on top of my hot water tank. This gives it bottom heat to help germinate the seeds. After about 48 to 36 hours I start to check them every day to see if they have sprouted. Not all the seeds will sprout. As they sprout I plant them into trays I purchased at Lee Valley Tools. They are called Roottrainers. They are reusable cells that open on a hinge so you can check to

see if they are rooting without disturbing them. They hold 36 plants. I fill these with a seed starter soil. I place these trays in another tray that can hold water as the Roottrainers have drainage holes. I water them from the bottom. These little seedlings need plenty of light so I place them under grow lights. This prevents the from growing too tall. When it becomes warm enough I put them out in the greenhouse. I don't transplant, I grow them in these trays until I am ready to plant them in



the garden. If they get a little too tall I will stake with a wood meat skewer.

Lee Valley Website: www.leevalley.com

Tina McNabb



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

President	Peter Krueger	604-241-4995	peterkrueger53@hotmail.com
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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 hear to listen.

REFRESHMENT REMINDER

March Meeting

Sandwiches: Donna Quinn and Betty Girard

Sweets: Carole Rollie

Fruit/Veggies: Sue Croft

April Meeting

Sandwiches: Vittorio Fontana

Sweets: Jack Duncan

Fruit/Veggies:

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