

San Leandro

DAHLIA TIMES

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September 2014

Next Meeting: Sept.16, 7:00 PM

Karp Room, San Leandro Library

Dahlia folks,

As I send this out, only one show remains in CA. this show year. The John E. Stowell show will be held Sept. 13-14 at the Vallco Shopping Mall in Cupertino. This is always a fun show so if you can exhibit, or attend, you will have a great time.

The season snuck up on us and then went quickly. All three of the Northern shows had fewer blooms than usual. Everyone is complaining about mildew and the fact that it came about six weeks earlier than usual. JoAnna and I are still doing weekly spraying for red spider mites. We hear that there is a worm problem in some of the gardens in San Francisco and just slow growing plants all over. So, how did we have three beautiful shows? The Court of Honor of each show was spectacular. It was so tough to judge the sections because the quality over all was so good. Congratulations to all!!

It was good to have Will from Walnut Creek/San Francisco and Joann from Oakland with us at our last meeting. We thank them for their contributions to our meeting.

This is just an early warning, Barry and Marcia are leaving the continent again and your frazzled Pres. will be doing the newsletter next month. Be prepared for several revisions.

Garden stuff: In talking to other dahlia folks from the other societies, ants seem to be a big problem this year. Most feel that the lack of water has brought this pest into our gardens and into our homes. Some of our ants went inside the drain pipe up to the roof, traveled down the gutter to our wire that holds our hummingbird feeder and down to the feeder. The hummingbirds left. After a good spraying of Windex and a good cleaning of the feeder, the hummingbirds are back in control. Another note on hummingbirds, every once in a while a bee finds the feeder and will chase the hummingbirds away to get the sticky water. It is funny to see the hummingbirds trying to feed on one side of the feeder while the bee will fly around trying to keep them from feeding.

If you miss our meetings, you are missing raffle man, DJ. Good stuff keeps coming up and those that come to the meeting have a good chance of picking up some of these gems. Thanks to DJ for doing this as well as arranging the topics we cover in the meetings. If you have an idea or want to know dahlia stuff, just let DJ know as he always is searching for things that will interest the group.

John

Refreshments will be provided by the Mortons

San Leandro Dahlia Society

Minutes: August 19, 2014 **San Leandro Library - Karp Room**

John called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM with 15 members present and 2 guests, JoAnn & Will.

Everyone liked our show because everyone was helpful, friendly and there was food for all - all the time. Perhaps we can get better signage / notices out there so people will know the show is going on - on both Saturday and Sunday. We had a problem getting into the library by 10:00 AM Sunday again for the 4th year running. John was impressed with Tony's, Roy's and Chris's flowers.

Leslie did a superb job with the luncheon Saturday, right down to the strawberries and cream!

Another thing that came up was something we never had done before, bench judging blooms on Sunday. John contacted several people in the know and they said it was OK as long as the judges were there. Kristine Albrecht brought in 9 blooms that were judged Sunday.

We also need to assign someone to help Linda Paradise with the tallying the sheets. That would help getting the totals and winners posted earlier.

Beverly may have access to a poster machine and would like some help in designing a large poster. Let's check into having a poster of our own that would advertise our show.

The award ribbons were fabulous. All hail Deva - Queen of the Ribbons!

We should also have a half-sheet handout at the show with a map of how to walk to Root Park & Casa Peralta to see them in a garden setting.

If anyone has bills that need to be paid, now is the time. Dennis provided the Treasure's report: We are solvent. As people cash their award checks from the show our balance will drop a bit. The treasurer's report was accepted.

What can be done about powdery mildew? Spray with Rubicon. Baking Soda works well. Stylet Oil will also wash it right off. Canola Oil and dish soap mixed in water is another spray for it. Apple cider, vinegar and chili powder will help with diabrotica.

If you get plants from Costco, etc, unless you see the bloom on the plant be suspect of what you'll get when they do bloom. Plants are often mis-labeled.

This year we collected seeds, planted them out in our cold storage and they just didn't do well. Others started them on heat mats, transferred them into 2" pots, then into 3" and finally into 4" pots. Once planted out they really grew!.

Curtis forgot to pick up his winning card for his Spartacus at the San Francisco show this past weekend.

The minutes from the July meeting were accepted and we took a short break.

We presented Chris Dix with his spiffy ribbon for winning Novice Sweepstakes at the San Francisco Show.

We had a short slide show of some of the winners from the San Francisco show. One was Roy Stier's winning Best in Show with Hamari Accord. Roy won a copy of an old Central States Dahlia Club medal for it as well.

There were some items from Raffle man, a dozen eggs, some pots and we sang the birthday song to Leslie and Tony to wish them a very "Happy Birthday!"

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM. Respectfully Submitted, DJ

Program:

We will show the CD of the Ft Bragg Dahlia Garden as well as hosting the now annual seedling contest.

Bring them in both winners and losers as we have prize money for the Best and Worst in Show!