

San Leandro

DAHLIA TIMES

Editor: Barry Hart

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Feb. 2016

Next Meeting: Feb. 16, 7:00 PM, Karp Room, San Leandro Library

Dahlia folks,

February 13th is the annual dahlia conference that we hold with the other five dahlia societies in California. At one time I believe there were 14 dahlia societies in California but as urban sprawl came in, yards became smaller, living spaces taller, and now water is more expensive. The way it looks, the society in Southern California will die in the next two years if some kind of renewal does not occur. Here in San Leandro we are lucky. We have two gardens that are open to the public day and night. The city has designated the dahlia as the official flower of San Leandro. The San Leandro Library gives us space to have our show with the only cost being the wages of the guard for the hours that we are in the library when he would not normally be on duty. Yes, we are very lucky.

We will supply the information that is given out at the conference Tuesday night at our meeting. This will include the winners of the shows in California. The information will give new dahlia growers an idea of what grows well in our area and what they might want to plant. We have such a diverse growing climate that new growers can see where these winners are grown and decide which ones NOT to grow in their yards. They will also find some that will do well anywhere. Enough said. We will give you the results and you can decide what will do well in your yards.

Curtis asked if we might consider having Saturday meetings as a completely different group might come to the meetings. We will discuss this option at our next meeting. Be prepared to do battle!

Our weather conditions have made our yards difficult to read. It is raining one day, breaking records for high degrees the next. What should we do? We are lucky here in the bay area. The ups are not that high and the lows are really not that low. I think most of us will still plant from April 15th to May 15 and will be ready for our shows in August. I know that Andrew always has PERFECT blooms the week before our show. I would bet if he planted one week later he would still have PERFECT blooms the week before the show. I have seen his blooms and they are great no matter when he plants. I also know, that when he brings them in early, they are fantastic. It may be his storing conditions in the top of his garage. They are growing early because the heat rises in his garage and warms the boxes he keeps his tubers so his plants decide when to start growing and when they are at their best. This is not to pick on Andrew but to say that even though we live for the most part in a 20 mile range around San Leandro, our growing conditions are completely different and we have to figure out when to plant, when to water, when to fertilize and when to pick our blooms for the best results. Isn't this fun??

If you have any questions that you feel the group might be able to answer, or something you want the society to talk about, please see Marcia Hart, our VP, and she can decide if we want to do a meeting on your subject. Chris did a great job talking about cuttings at the last meeting. I believe he will have some other information on cuttings at our next meeting.

See you at the meeting, February 16th at 7:00 at the San Leandro Library.

Pres. John

Refreshments will be provided by:

Dawn Watts and Beverly

Next month: Chris Dix, Paige and DJ

SUGGESTION TO CHANGE MEETING DAY TO SATURDAY

At last meeting there was a proposal and short discussion about changing the monthly it easier for some of our membership to attend. Please consider YOUR preference and be prepared to vote in the event it becomes a motion. For those who cannot attend this meeting, please email John, Barry, or Curtis indicating your preference.

San Leandro Dahlia Society

Minutes: Jan. 19, 2016

San Leandro Library - Karp Room

Present number 19

Presiding --- John Morton

Introduction of all members presents, including new member Sue Gregory.

Treasury's report----Dennis Stone---"solvent"

Previous minutes--- approved and passed

Curtis Maxwell---Use of cedar shavings this year appeared to have made no real difference in storage of roots. Comments by other members regarding their various techniques to prevent moisture problems.

Request to check ---per Beverly--- membership list and make any corrections

Mark Oldenkamp --- 2nd VP A.D.S. committee--- comments relating to dahlia history

Curtis Maxwell --- Proposal to discuss at future meeting the possible change from a Tuesday evening to a Saturday afternoon time. Will wait til more members present.

Marcia Hart ---program chair---introduced Chris Dix. He did a demonstration on cuttings. The actual cutting, dipping in water and placement in an oasis cube setting to establish roots. The actual growth achieved will be noted at next month's meeting. He also showed use of a heating pad to assist in maintaining even temperature during growth.

Adjourned following refreshments---

Minutes submitted --- Maren Giannini

Program:

How to go from seeds to plants!

Curtis will show us the process...
starting from seed pods to the final results.