



Editor: Sue Gregori

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November 2020

Next Meeting: November 17th, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Zoom Meeting hosted by Ellen Muir, San Leandro

Dahlia Folks,

Got any blooms? Unless you live under a street light most likely your dahlia plants are done for the season. I know many of you have dug and separated your clumps already. Make sure you label your tubers. We all like to grow dahlias that are correctly named.

I know that you talked about places that we go to get our new dahlias. If you have a special dahlia that you know the name of but not where to get it, check dahliaddict.com You can put in the name of your dahlia and they will come up with the grower/s that have that cultivar. If there are multiple growers, you can compare prices as well as see what other cultivars they have that you can't live without. We also want to decide if we want Chris to pick up some of the new varieties for us to plant.

For our November meeting, we want to let the new members ask their questions first. Not that you won't have the opportunity to ask questions later but you get first dibs.

I believe we need to decide if we want to have a December meeting. That would be Dec. 15th.

A quick update on my new knee. All is well. They say 3 months to 6 months for full recovery. After 2 1/2 weeks the pain is mostly after the physical therapist leaves. The stairs have been no problem.

I guess we will be making a decision on how we will have a plant/tuber sale next year. I would be shocked if Covid19 is gone by the end of April but we will see.

I hope to see you on the November Zoom meeting,

John

San Leandro Dahlia Society Minutes

October 20th 2020 at 7 pm on Zoom Hosted by Ellen Muir

Presiding --- John Morton, President

Present 20 members

Our monthly dahlia meeting opened with 20 members present on zoom on time at 7 pm. Our President John Morton was not present due to a conflict in his schedule, but all wished him well as he is preparing for knee surgery later this month.

The September minutes were approved and the newsletter like past months will be posted on our Society website.

Diane, our membership chair reminded all of us to pay our dues if you haven't done so already. 16 members have paid to date, she is hopeful to have everyone up to date by end of November. She will be sending out an email to everyone for a reminder.

Diva presented our slate of officers for the 2021 year. They are as follows:

President- John Morton

Vice.President - Diane Bond

Secretary- Ginger Porrill

Treasurer - Dennis Stone

Committee Shows:

Show- John Morton

Program- Kristi Whitfield

Publicity- Beverly Dahlstedt

By-Laws- Curtis Maxwell

Membership- Diane Bond

Refreshments- John Kitts

Newsletter- Sue Gregori

Board of Directors will include: John Morton, Diane Bond, and Ginger Porrill.

At large will included the following: Curtis Maxwell, Kristi Whitfield, Sue Gregori and Deva Lowenthal.

We will take a vote on these Officers at our next meeting in November.

Our newest members Rob, Purmina and Josie were asked to tell us about their Dahlias in the garden this year. Great flowers, problems with staking the plants securely, flower tags getting mixed up, mildew, bugs, over watering were some of their observations. All very common problems that can vary from year to year.

Curtis opened a discussion on caring for the dahlias at end of their growing season, winter care and storage.

Curtis advised to cut the dahlia stalks down to 6" from the ground for about two weeks prior to digging the tubers up. Back off watering during this time to prevent the tubers from rotting as they begin to go into winter mode.

Curtis encouraged all to search out videos of How to store tubers on the internet. American Dahlia Society has great tutorials under their Dahlia University section. You Tube also offers many videos of tuber storage.

An open discussion was held about the how to's of storage.

Approaches are many, but Curtis advises rinsing the newly dug tubers with water, then soaking them in a solution of 1/10 of Clorox and water for up to 30 min to prevent viruses.

San Leandro Dahlia Society Minutes (cont)

Allow the tubers to dry before separating them from the mother tuber. Don't allow the tubers to rest on cement as this might dry them out too much, after separating, members offered their opinions on the best medium to store. Peat Moss or Vermiculite seemed to be the favorite of many.

Andrew offered his storage boxes to anyone who would love to use them. The boxes made of heavy styrofoam have given him many years of use and are in great shape.

Beverly told all of us about her visit by a herd of Boars who destroyed her garden. Amazing the damage these wild animals could do and who knew how tasty tubers could be.

This is the time of year many begin to browse the Dahlia websites to purchase tubers for next spring's garden. Some of the favorites are, Swan Island, JS Dahlias, Clearview Dahlias, Birch Bay Dahlias, and Connell's Dahlias. Many websites are open now for orders, others will open the end of November or December 1.

Our Society will vote next month on the idea of allowing Chris Dix to spend \$400 on tubers for our future raffles, and 2021 spring events.

It is a busy time of year for dahlia growers. Digging, storage, planning and getting ready for a new season in the Spring. Roy Stier shared his approach to get an early start for the next season. With our minds full of knowledge and energy we adjourned our meeting at 8:30 pm.

Secretary ----Peggy Murphy

