

San Leandro

DAHLIA TIMES

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June 2019

Next Meeting: June 18th, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Karp Room, San Leandro Library

Dahlia folks,

See any color in your yard yet? We have been gone for 10 days and we had buds ready to go when we left. I am excited to get home and see what is going on. If you see bug damage and not sure what is going on, go out at night and you might catch the critter.

Thanks to Ellen for doing a check on what we want and our society worries. Things were brought up that I hadn't thought about.

Bring your questions to the meeting.
John

John the Pres.

Refreshments will be by provided:
Deva & Diane Bond

Next Month (June): Kristi & Roy & Bettie

San Leandro Dahlia Society Minutes

May 21, 2019, 7pm - San Leandro Library, Karp Room

Presiding --- John Morton, President

Present 16 members

President --- John Morton

Treasurer ---Dennis Stone ---Remain solvent. Dahlia sale yielded \$2009.00 plus John sold additional \$140.00 worth previous week for total \$2149.00.

Bill submitted by Beverly for \$70.00 related to dahlia sale flyers. Motion made and approved for payment.

Minutes --- Voted and approved with no changes for April minutes.

New Business

John --- Central Valley Dahlia Society has recently formed and has received supplies for their first show. .
A judging school seminar to be held prior to first show. Mark Oldenkamp from Pacific Northwest reported to him that Hollyhill Jitterbug is their flower of the year.

Member Reports

Kristi --- Taking orders for 25# bags of MSU fertilizer

Lakeside Park --- "All going well" with beds planted. Chris has his beds set up with show flowers'

Roy --- Casa Peralta 85% planted and Tony placed tennis balls on stakes.

JoAnna --- Five dollars for 6 raffle tickets. Raffle at end of meeting.

John ---- He and JoAnna spoke at local garden club. Noted how courteous and quiet members while they spoke.

John --- Introduced our member Ellen Muir

Ellen Muir---Lead discussion on what ways our meetings might be "improved'.

Using "post its" responses from members, the list included: More sharing, Welcoming of others, Growing tips for all seasons, Mentoring, Raffles, Training/learning, and Fun/food.

She then asked for our concerns or worries for the club. Responses included: Not being able to hear {suggestion for a mike or placing tables closer}, Not comfortable asking questions (perhaps felt as stupid question), Loss of members (John reminded us SLDS 2nd most active) location --- library determines available times, More structure to agenda and Posting of newsletter earlier with agenda included. Sue asked if members could send her more pictures of their gardens to post in the letter.

Raffle held with multi dahlia cuttings brought in by John, Roy and Kristi.

Following refreshments, meeting adjourned 8:45

Secretary ---Maren Giannini

Notes from the discussion of the members' High Dreams and Low Dreams for the club facilitated by member Ellen Muir.

During the April meeting the subject of how the meetings are going came up. Ellen volunteered to facilitate member conversations on what is working and what could be improved. The group wrote their ideas on post it notes, which were shared for 30 minutes and common themes were identified. The members agreed to revisit the topic at future meetings; to include the voices absent members and to brainstorm how to expand on what is working and address what is not working well.

HIGH DREAMS/BEST HOPES aka WHAT IS WORKING FOR THE CLUB

Sharing

Welcoming

Growing tips for all seasons

Mentoring

Learning and training

Fun

Food

LOW DREAMS or CONCERNS, FEARS, WORRIES aka WHAT IS NOT WORKING

Not being able to hear the discussions & some presentations to do low volume and cross talk or sidebar conversations going on while others are speaking)

Not a safe place to ask questions, be vulnerable

Name tags are not worn/used

Survival of the club as many Dahlia Societies have ceased to exist

Membership concerns/recruiting new members

Meeting location stability (& annual show location)

Newsletter is out late

Agenda/topics do not have allotted times

Several ideas were shared to address the concerns including;

Speakers use a microphone

Move the tables closer together to hear each other better

Improve/increase the structure of the meetings

Review the agenda prior to or at meeting start to give times for each item.

Resume small group breakouts for all who want to learn/relearn dahlia growing basics

Recruit new members via speaking engagements

Aim to for newsletter to arrive 1 week prior to the meeting

Order new & encourage use of name tags

Revisit the meeting times-it is difficult for some members to drive after dark

Write important info and/or agenda on an easel for group to follow

(Details from the post it notes collected)

Our High Dreams--What is Working

Co-op buying of fertilizer and other supplies

Tuber swapping

Sharing equipment tips (clippers, sprayers, etc.)

Sharing growing tips and techniques on better growing
We are a well-known Dahlia Club
Plenty of flowers at Casa Peralta (I take them to City Hall)
Sharing of information/dahlia knowledge
Shared projects- eg. Autumn lights @ Lake Merritt and tuber digging
Continual raffles
Good friends
Good gardening
Show help
Share/feel the love of dahlias
Camaraderie
Great Dahlia show for San Leandro
Cultural best practices

We Want More Of

Introducing new members at each meeting
Name tags to help us (remember each other/connect)
Expanded membership/more members/to grow our club
BBQ at Curtis's house each year 😊
Mentorship/supply networks
Meetings that start on time/all work gets done
Create fun group
More info on ADS and Judging
Seasonal topics-what to do based on season time

Our LOW DREAMS aka Fears, Worries & Concerns

Greatest Fear: attrition of old members, declining membership
Aging out of current membership without new members to continue the club growth
Society is closed down
Fear/Criticism or saying the wrong thing
Silo-ing of members-experts keep to experts, newbies don't feel welcome
People will stop coming to meetings, because the meetings are not worthwhile
Our best growers are not able to grow as many dahlias for sales anymore
Meeting getting cut short on some topics
Lack of participation during discussions
Arguments in the meeting
Not able to make the meetings due to work
Not able to hear the speaker- speaker must use loud voice or mike
The questions and answers should be repeated
Boring meeting
My dahlias won't be "good enough"
Not able to show blooms at show

SLDS Meeting Pictures



Tons of plants to be raffled on back wall and Joanna is holding the ticket jar



Ellen is leading a topic on SLDS's Dreams & concerns. Members each wrote their thoughts on post-its and Ellen read and flip charted them

Calendar (stole mostly from MBDS newsletter)

JULY

July 17th- 28th -Mid State Fair, Paso Robles. Come support the new Mid-State Dahlia Society, and see their first ADS dahlia show.

July 27th - Judging Seminar for All Bay Area dahlia societies. Simpkins Swim Center. Come learn to judge dahlias and meet other Bay Area !! growers 9am-3pm.

AUGUST

August 17th-18th -San Francisco Dahlia Show. Hall of Flowers, San Francisco

August 24th-25th- Monterey Bay Dahlia Show. Museum of Art and History, Santa Cruz

August 31st-September 1 -National Dahlia Show, Grand Rapids, MI

SEPTEMBER

September 6th -8th- San Leandro Dahlia Show, (Set up starting on the 6th.) San Leandro Library

September 10th -12th- Dahlia Show, Heirloom Festival, Santa Rosa