



Editor: Sue Gregori

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June 2020

Next Meeting: June 16th, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Zoom Meeting, San Leandro

Dahlia folks,

We are starting to see a bit of color in the yard. We certainly have enough buds to make a green arrangement. Just some tips. If you see some issues with your dahlias, go out at night with a flashlight and check what is going on in the garden. You may find some critters that are unwanted. If you know what is disturbing your dahlias, you can determine what the best cure is.

We have had a lot of questions about watering. Best time to water is early morning. Water when the ground is dry. Take a shovel and dig by the plants and see if it is still moist under the dry soil. Dahlias need water but their need closely compares to your vegetable garden. Water well about 2 or three times a week is about right. Keep on top of the snails, slugs and earwigs.

Our Zoom meetings are still new to us but they keep us communicating and as we explore the different ways Zoom works we can probably have some pretty good meetings. We are going to try to play a DVD that I have on container planting. It tells how to plant, how to save money, how to make your container look great, and most of all, how to use dahlias as the focus of your container. This will be very good for those with small yards or with areas that you want to stand out in your yard.

As most of you know, the American Dahlia Society has shut down for the year. I believe all shows have been delayed and any ADS meetings have been put on hold.

If you have questions, please notify anyone of the members and we will try to get you answers.

Happy growing in this time of uncertainty as gardening is therapeutic. That includes picking blooms for your vases as well as mashing bugs!! (It just makes you feel better.)

John

June's Meeting Program

- General discussion on what's going this time of year in our dahlia garden.
- John's has a DVD on how to container grow dahlias.

Classifieds:

Diane Bond has purchased a 25lb bag of MSU RO/tap water formulation fertilizer to share/sell to our members. The cost is \$5.50/lb. Mix at 1/2 to 1 Teaspoon per gallon of water. N-P-K ratios: 13-3-15, plus 8% calcium and tons of trace minerals.

Contact Diane, to make the exchange. bonddiane9@gmail.com

Nitrate Nitrogen	12.5%
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	.7%
Phosphate (P ₂ O ₅)	3%
Potash (K ₂ O)	15%
Calcium (Ca)	8%
Magnesium (Mg)	2%
Iron (Fe)	.177%
Manganese (Mn)	.088%
Zinc (Zn)	.044%
Copper (Cu)	.044%
Boron (B)	.018%
Molybdenum (Mo)	.018%

Sue Gregori has both plastic and metal mini blinds for making labels for your dahlias. No Charge. Contact Sue to make the pick-up. gregorisue@gmail.com

San Leandro Dahlia Society Minutes

May 19th 2020 at 7 pm on Zoom Hosted by Ellen Muir

Presiding --- John Morton, President

Present ~15 members

John Morton began our meeting welcoming all of us to our second Zoom Meeting.

A special thank you goes to Diane Bond for chairing our recent Dahlia Tuber and Cutting sale. The list of available Dahlias was very detailed, easy to read and the entire purchasing process was smooth. Our society sale was held on Diane's driveway - The tables, tubers and dahlia starts all organized by her team on Friday. Chris, Curtis, John and Beverly all helped to make Saturday pick up a breeze. Our total profit was \$1144.

Sadly due to the Covid Pandemic there will be no National Dahlia Show this year that was going to be held in the state of Washington. Locally all of the societies have cancelled their shows. As we go through the summer weeks we may brainstorm on how we as a club can show some of our Dahlias casually to each other.

Our meeting continued with the present members giving an update on their gardens.

- Roy mentioned Casa Peralta is nearly 80% all planted and growing nicely. Tony who also grows at Peralta is always planting and his are doing well also.
- Kristi and Chris have many Dahlias at Lake Merritt beginning to grow for the season. Due to the closure of the Lake Merritt Gardens, maintaining a robust dahlia garden there is challenging.
- Kristi is starting to grow her Dahlias for the first year in Alameda at one of the local mortuaries.
- Other members described their gardens beginning to grow nicely. Beverly's problem with a gopher enjoying her garden was shared with a couple other members who have problems with gophers and voles.
- John mentioned he likes to use rebar for posts to support his Dahlias. Once riddled with voles, he has no more issues since he used rebar and labels from Venetian blinds. The mini chains holding the labels clang against the pole and he feels the voles are sensitive to the vibrations. Interesting thought.

Our society's own website has been touched up and has great reviews. There are some great videos that John has made himself with guided instructions on starting tubers early, taking starts, and growing Dahlias. Energizing and full of knowledge, everyone is encouraged to watch these videos.

The San Leandro Dahlia Society was to host the regional judging school this year, but due to the Pandemic it has been cancelled.

Next February our Society is the host of the one day Dahlia Conference like the one many of us attended this past February in Los Gatos. Currently everything is on hold, but things could change in the next couple of months.

Our meeting ending with all of us more energized to get out into our gardens and nurture those wonderful Dahlias. Meeting Adjourned

Secretary ----Peggy Murphy