Dahlia Times

San Leandro Dahlia Society

November 2024

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

Fall is officially here, and winter is not far behind. As I write this, it is a balmy 73 degrees outside, perfect for digging and dividing tubers if fall digging is in your garden game plan.

As you set aside the tubers to store, please remember to label them for yourself and the spring tuber and small plant sale. It is important to label them for the tuber sale as we cannot sell unlabeled tubers at our sale, our main SLDS fundraiser.

Our October meeting had a great hands on dividing experience with Chris Dix and Kristi Whitfield demonstrating their dividing techniquesChris divides his with a sharp cutting tool and Kristi breaks up her large clumps with an electric oscillating multitool before using hand tools.

Lana Starr shared a slide show about two new interesting dahlia varieties; the Petalloid dahlia from Australia and the Daffodahlia from Washington State. Neither is currently available but will likely fall into the Novelty category of dahlias. Nature is full of surprises as these two beauties show.

Letter from the President (continued)

Our November meeting will feature member Jeff Bennett who works for the East Bay Regional Park District at the Hayward Garin/Dry Creek Garden. He will be sharing his experiences building a fabulous flower garden that features some rare and special Iris cultivars that he has collected over the years.

Please join us November 16th at 1 p.m. at Evergreen Nursery 325 San Leandro Blvd, as the San Leandro the San Leandro Dahlia Society presents "DAHLIAS 101: Winter Care & Spring Planning". It is free to the community. Evergreen Nursery has been a great partner of our dahlia society through the years, supporting our shows and promoting our events. See sign-up details in the newsletter.

Thank you to all who signed up to serve on our many committees and to serve as officers at the last meeting. We need your energy, enthusiasm and organizational skills to keep the San Leandro Dahlia Society moving forward as a vibrant society.

Best,

Ellen

SLDS Meeting Minutes, October 15, 2024, 7-9pm

Members in Attendance: John Morton, Jon Kawaguchi, Frances Kawaguchi, Cristina Estrada, Leslie Servin, Craig Callihan, Diane Bond, Jeff Bennett, Chris Dix, Erin Wurgley, Quamrun Eldridge, Nancy Clancy, Lana Starr, Ellen Muir, Sabrina Almazan, Evelyn Fitzsimmons, Linda Bailey, Kristi Whitfield

7:05 meeting called to order Ellen Muir

Old Business

No September minutes to approve, September meeting was a Potluck, Treasurer Report accepted.

Annual Show Report: Marilyn Fong, Patricia Millar, Olivia Colt report $1,092 flower sales, 6 new members, sold T-shirts, 26 T-shirts left, $127 cash donations. Kristi Whitfield will send out the Show Report. Good volunteerism, no triples or fives in open to all the first time since the 1980s, great cleanup, early finish. Suggested improvements: Add a section for dahlia plants in pots, more info re: A & B sizes in placing flowers, test a “suggested donation” amount to increase contributions.

SLDS Meeting Minutes, October 15, 2024, 7-9pm (continued)

New Business

Linda Bailey: Open Nomination of Officers and Board Members, Secret Ballot Officers Election at the November 19 meeting. Final nominations due to Grantsky1@icloud.com by November 12. Absentee voting to Grantsky1@icloud.com

Nominated Officers

President: Ellen Whyte

Vice President: Chris Dix

Secretary: _____

Treasurer: Frances Kawaguchi

Board Member 1: John Morton

Board Member 2: Cristina Estrada

Board Member 3: Quamrun Eldridge

SLDS Meeting Minutes, October 15, 2024, 7-9pm (continued)

Committee Volunteers

Youth Outreach: Sabrina Almazan

Membership: _____

Newsletter: _____

Publicity, Garden Club Outreach: Leslie Servin

Hospitality: _____

Social Media/Instagram/Facebook: Kristi Whitfield (Facebook),

Frances Kawaguchi (Facebook, Instagram)

Mentorship, Judge Education: Chris Dix

Meeting Program: Chris Dix

Annual Dahlia Show: Linda Bailey

Show Results reporter & ADS Bulletin reporter: Kristi Whitfield

Tuber and Plant Sale: _____

Community Outreach (Fairs, Cherry Festival etc.): Frances Kawaguchi

Flower Sales: _____

Club historian/archivist: Jon Kawaguchi

Technical support: _____

Other: Photography: Jeff Bennett

SLDS Meeting Minutes, October 15, 2024, 7-9pm (continued)

The club has been asked by Evergreen Nursery in San Leandro on Saturday November 16th 1-2:30, to teach a dahlia workshop and demonstrate dividing and storing tubers. Chris Dix has done similar Mt. Diablo Iris Society and Berkeley Garden Club, both with large attendance, tuber sale notifications. Ellen will coordinate with Evergreen and member volunteers.

Autumn Lights Festival at Lake Merritt Gardens-Dazzling Dahlias. Chris Dix asked for volunteers for table Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, Fri, Sat nights, 6 free passes available per night, suggest use of QR code sign to post in the garden to link to the SLDS website and Instagram page. Volunteers stepped up.

SLDS Meeting Minutes, October 15, 2024, 7-9pm (continued)

Open Discussion

Kristy Whitfield is interested in renting cold storage for tubers for the community garden and interested members. Resulting in more viable tubers to sell, would club subsidize, 40-45 degrees.

Cover crops discussed: Mustard seed, Fava beans, Soilmax legume mix: oats, bell beans, vetch, peas.

Holiday Party-January 21,2025- Potluck and White Elephant Gift Exchange

Feb 22: Pacific SW Dahlia Conference, San Luis Obispo

Presentation by Lara Starr of New Dahlias in the World: Daffodahlia and Petalloid from Bec McConnell, Australia. Feedback of interest and viability of US marketplace

Breakout into two groups led by Chris Dix and Kristi Whitfield demonstrating how to dig, divide, store tubers for the winter.

9:00 meeting adjourned, submitted by Linda Bailey, Link to audio recording

November 2024 Meeting Agenda

Tuesday November 19, 6:45PM

Church of Christ
601 MacArthur Blvd
San Leandro CA 94577

- Opening remarks — Ellen
- Introduction of visitors and new members — Ellen
- Approval of minutes and treasurers report — Ellen
- Officer and Board Member Election — All
- Program- Dry Creek Garden — Jeff Bennett
- Garden Q&A — All
- Announcements — Ellen
- Closing — Ellen
- Next Meeting January 21, 2025
    - Potluck and White Elephant Gift Exchange

Summary of Lana’s presentation at the October meeting.

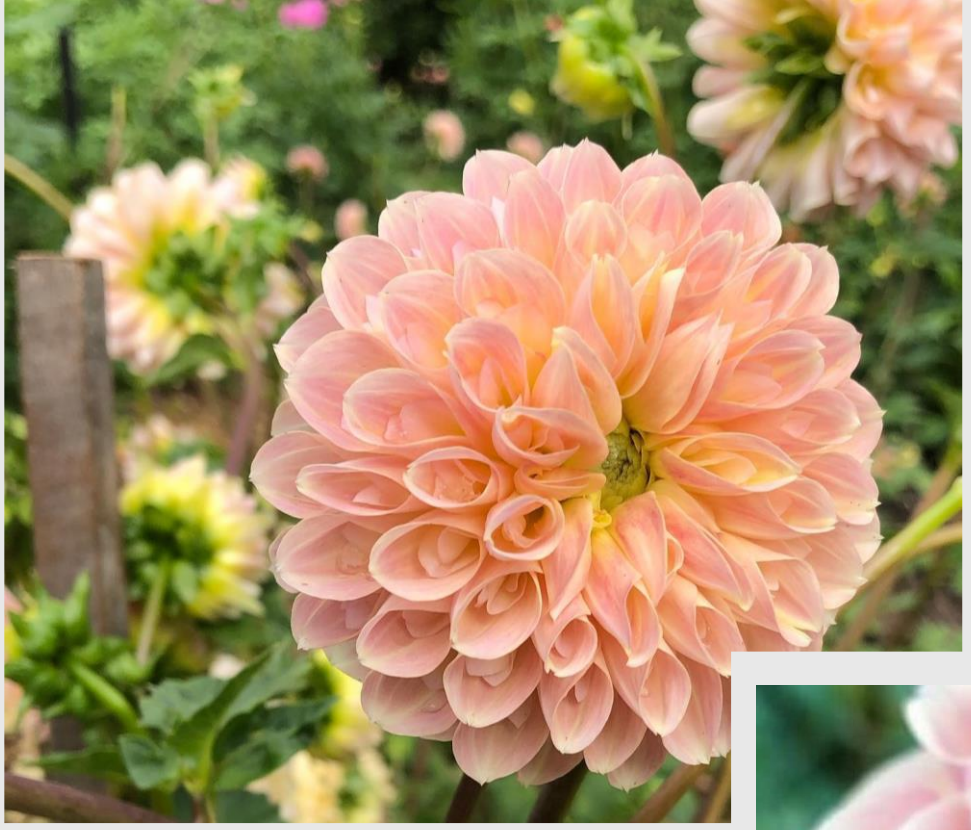
"News in the World of Dahlias: Introducing Daffodahlia and Petalloid!“

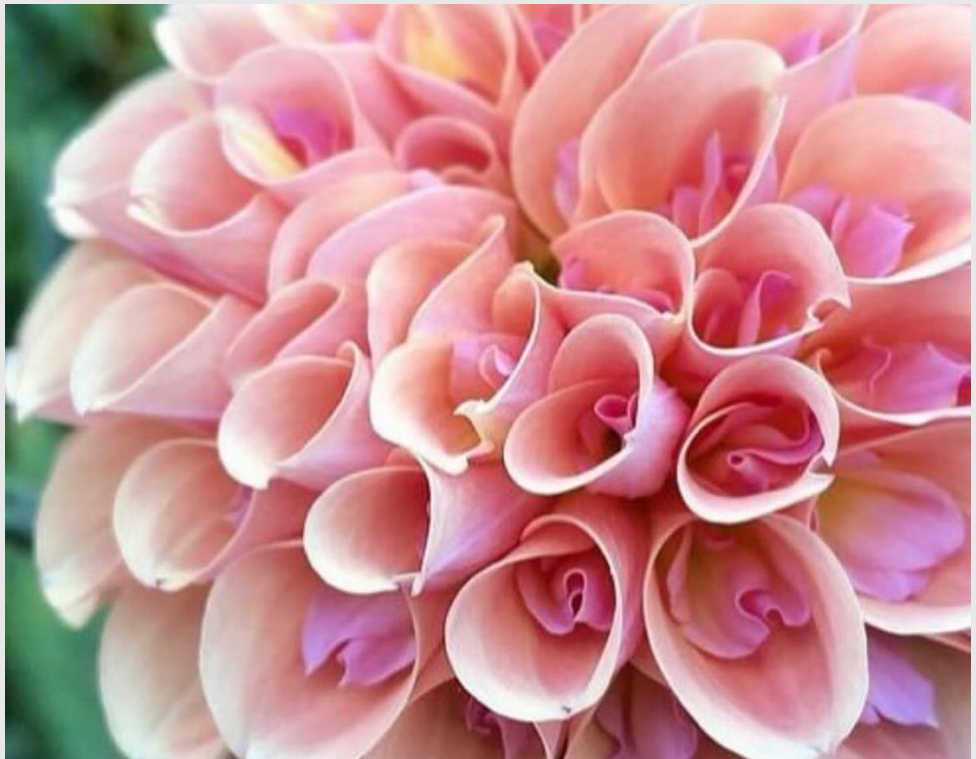
Breaking News in the World of Dahlias: Introducing Daffodahlia and Petalloid!

Exciting developments are blooming in the dahlia world with the introduction of two new varieties—*Daffodahlia* and *Petalloid*. These rare and unique flowers have caught the attention of both enthusiasts and breeders across the globe.

Petalloid Dahlias: An Australian Wonder Bec McConnell from Tamborine Mountain, Australia, unveiled the first *Petalloid* on December 4, 2021. These blooms feature single petals adorned with smaller petaloids, creating a truly fascinating form. With the seed parent being Breannon dahlia, the pollen parent remains a mystery due to open pollination. This novel form adds curiosity and beauty to the already rich tapestry of dahlias.

You can check out her creations on Instagram: Serenade Dahlias.





Daffodahlia: A Revolutionary Mutation

In Enumclaw, Washington, Kelsey Hall, owner of Cattle & Cut Flowers, has introduced *Daffodahlia*, a mutation of the ball form dahlia. The petals fuse together in a circular pattern, resembling a daffodil—hence its name. Although it's still in the early stages, with only six out of thirty-five plants showing this trait, Hall plans to stabilize the mutation and offer tubers for sale in the future.

Daffodahlia is currently undergoing testing at Washington State University and shows no signs of disease, making it a promising new addition to the dahlia world. For more updates, follow Cattle & Cut Flowers.

November Speaker

Jeff Bennett of Dry Creek Garden

Jeff has been working for East Bay Regional Park District for 17 years. 6 years as a Park Ranger and 11 years as a Gardener. He is the gardener at Dry Creek Garden in Union City, California. Dry Creek is approximately 4.5 acre public garden that is open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10am-4pm (Currently closed due to 2022 flood damage).The gardens at Dry Creek were developed in the 1930's by the Meyers sisters. They donated the garden and the 1.200 acre Pioneer Ranch to East Bay Regional Park for all to enjoy. The garden consists of a cottage, a meandering creek through stands of 300 year old sycamore trees, a chicken coop, fruit trees and many miscellaneous plantings. There is a picnic area to sit and have your bagged lunch. Entry is free and so is the parking. In 2019, the garden was a tour spot for the American Iris Society's annual convention. It now boasts almost 2,300 varieties of bearded and non- bearded irises.

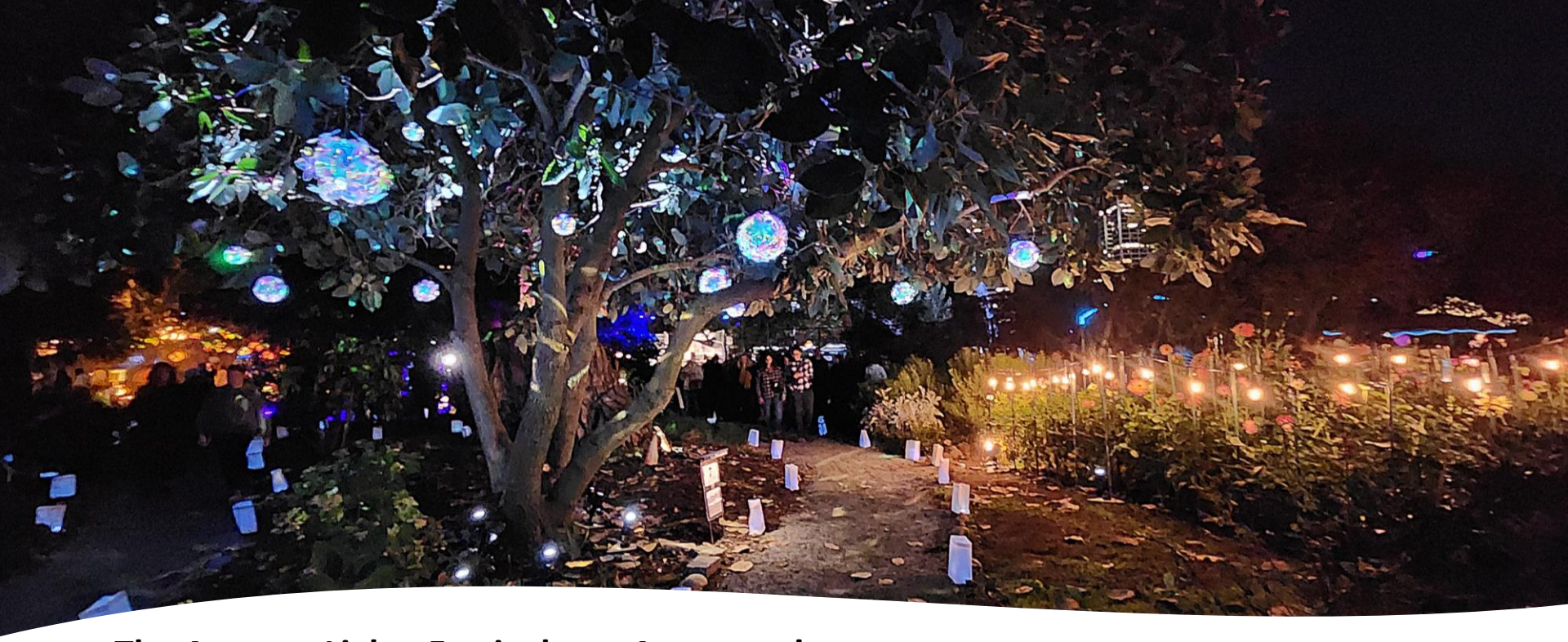
Are Dahlia Tubers Edible?

Lupita Treviño, President of the Mexican Dahlia Association was a featured speaker at the 2024 American Dahlia Society Show in Wenatchee, Washington. She has spearheaded efforts to increase the tradition of dahlia cultivation through hundreds of workshops on the topic.

Lupita talked about the nutritious benefits of eating dahlia tubers for lowering blood sugar, due to their fiber content and contain about 60 calories per medium tuber. It is recommended that only organically grown tubers and flowers eaten as food.

There is a lot of information on the internet about dahlia tubers as food, eaten raw like jicama or cooked like a mashed potato. They can be cooked and made into bread, like a pumpkin bread. The flavor of dahlia tubers changes over time. When they're first harvested, they're crisp and bland, but as the inulin converts to fructose, they become sweeter.

The petals can be eaten as well. The internet is full of recipes. Please let us know if you want to take the Dahlia as Food Challenge and share your results at the next meeting or better yet, bring one of your dishes to share!



The Autumn Lights Festival was Awesome!

A big thank you to all who volunteered at the Autumn Lights Festival October 17-19. It was an incredible event, almost too hard to describe. The lighted installations were amazing. This year was our first staffed table, next to Chris's lighted dahlias and across from Curtis's bed. Many of the attendees stopped by to comment on how much they loved visiting the dahlia gardens and told stories about their mothers, grandparents and fathers who grew dahlias at their childhood homes. We generated interest in our annual show and tuber sale as well as gained a few new members. Thank you to Chris Dix, Patricia Niven, Craig Callihan, Kristi Whitfield, Linda Bailey, Erin Wurgley, Sabrina Almazan, Evie and Tom Fitzsimmons and Troy and Frances Kawaguchi

Autumn Lights

Board Meeting-all are welcome to attend

San Leandro Dahlia Society Board Meeting

November 14, 2024, at 7 p.m. on ZOOM **https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89150045939?pwd=21uMJcPJ8LH5U3CCLp05Antci8N6qy.1**

Meeting ID: 891 5004 5939

Passcode: 736430

Get out the Vote!

November 12 – Last day to send nominations of Officers and Board Members to Linda Bailey, Grantsky1@icloud.com

November 19 – General Meeting Officers Election. If not able to attend the meeting in person, please submit your Absentee Vote by email from the list below on or before November 19, midnight, to Linda Bailey, Grantsky1@icloud.com. If there are any changes to the current slate, the club will be notified by November 13. PLEASE VOTE ONLY ONCE

Current Nominations

President: Ellen Muir

Vice President: Chris Dix

Secretary: (Still Accepting Nominations)

Treasurer: Frances Kawaguchi

Board Member 1: John Morton

Board Member 2: Cristina Estrada

Board Member 3: Quamrun Eldridge

Volunteer for 2025 Many hands make light work and enjoyable for all. Add your name to anything of interest, not a binding commitment or necessarily a leadership role. Lending a helping hand. Thank you to those that have already stepped up

Youth Outreach	Membership	Newsletter	Publicity
Garden Club Outreach	Hospitality	Social Media/Insta/FB	Mentorship
Annual Dahlia Show	Show Results & ADS Bulletin	Tuber & Plant Sale	Community Outreach
Flower Sales	Club Historian/Archivist	Technical Support	Other

Skills Inventory Do you have any technical skills, soft skills, specialized knowledge, certifications, educational qualifications, and work experience that you are willing to share with the club? Volunteering is a great way to also gain new skills. Mathematician, astronomer, truck driver, chief bottle washer, legal, accounting, regulatory, grant writer, etc. . Shoot a note to Linda, Grantsky1@icloud.com to be added to the growing group.

Flower of the Year

At our annual shows we have a special competition for an open centered and formal decorative flower selected by our club each year. In 2024, we featured Bloomquist Jean and Sandia Summertime. What tubers do you have enough of to share with the club or donate for cuttings? We need to choose at our November meeting so we can make purchases as vendors open starting in December. Please come to the November meeting with suggestions or send them to our email at sldahliasociety@gmail.com

DAHLIAS 101:

Winter Care & Spring Planning

With The San Leandro Dahlia Society

FREE WORKSHOP!

Evergreen Nursery, San Leandro

Saturday, Nov 16, 1:00-2:30pm

Register On Eventbrite

Our Next Meeting:
January Potluck

We will be having a potluck at our next meeting, January 21, 2025.
More details as things are settled.