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December 2020

Next Meeting: December 15th, 7:00 – 9:00 PM  
Zoom Meeting hosted by Ellen Muir, San Leandro

Dahlia Folk,

We hope that you are all being safe, wearing your masks, 6 foot distance etc. We know of a lot of people sick with Covid19 right now.

At this meeting you will need your Classification Book and a pen and paper.

At our meeting we want to choose the Flower of the Year for our show. If you are unsure of what dahlia will be good for the Flower of the year here are some hints. My advice is for you to choose your favorite form. Then your favorite color. Go to your Classification book and look at the blooms that fit your criteria. Make sure you choose something that we will have enough tubers to share. Choose one fully double bloom and one disc bloom. We will take all the choices and we will vote for our 2021 Flower of the Year for our (hopeful) show.

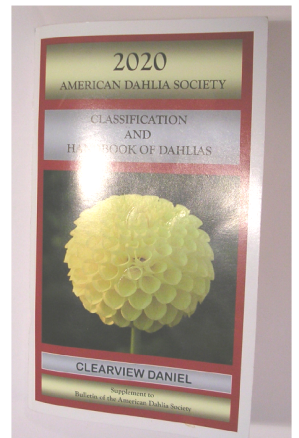
After this we will have a classification game. No hints but it will help for you to have your classification book handy.

We regret to announce that John Kitts is leaving the area for Reno, Nev. I don't believe there is a dahlia society there so he will have a lot of time to find a new hobby or start his own dahlia society. When we were able to meet together John was in charge of our treats at the meetings. We were always pleased by the goodies that came to our meetings. Good Luck on your new venture.

As with the rest of our lives, our Dahlia Society is in limbo. Odds are we will have the same kind of tuber sale as last year. We want to be safe and have our dahlia friends Covid19 free as well. So the 2021 Dahlia Show is up in the air as well. We will have plenty of time to plan for this show if we can meet in person in August/September.

We want to wish everyone happy holidays. Good growing, good sharing and the best in 2021.

John & JoAnna



**Another full circle of dahlia growing and another year of Dahlia friendships and gatherings of gardening kindred spirit.**



**Welcome new and returning member to 2021's growing season!**

(Dahlia blooms are from our show - <https://sldstuber-plants.sg-creations.com/> )

# San Leandro Dahlia Society Minutes

November 17<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 7pm on Zoom Hosted by Ellen Muir

Presiding --- John Morton, President

Present 16 members

Our November meeting opened on Zoom with 16 participants.

The minutes were quickly approved and we heard a Treasurer report from Dennis. The members who won in our virtual flower show will be paid in the coming month.

Diva lead our election of new officers of the new year ahead. With a strong yes, all were approved and will be a great team for our society in the upcoming year. Our President, John explained in detail what each position actually is held responsible to do. Much goes into each job, some reporting to many levels of command.

Chris Dix was given the vote to purchase \$400 of dahlia tubers. These tubers will be passed out amongst the members in future meetings.

Curtis Maxwell gave an update on Root Park here in San Leandro. Overall the garden did well this summer, and he will be digging up tubers and dividing in 2 weeks. Next year, Curtis will be growing his dahlias at the Lake Merritt Garden in Oakland.

Member discussed their garden status and lots of storing of tubers were discussed.

- -Roy Stier shared his wisdom of his success through all the years. Roy digs up his tubers, separating them and then storing them in an old set of drawers. He lines the drawers with peat moss, and adds a light layer of potting soil over the tubers. Very important to make sure the tubers don't touch each other as this could help them rot over the winter. Storing them in his shed, it is important to check on the tubers every couple weeks to make sure the soil isn't too dry or mildew has set in.

Methods of conditioning one's soil was discussed.

- Oakland Zoo's own compost, Zoo Poo is a local favorite. Free to all.
- -Roy Stier shared his favorite soil enhancer- chicken manure. Purchased at a local organic chicken farm, Glaum Egg Ranch, in Carlitos . Well seasoned, it has been a favorite source for about 10 years.
- Fall has always been a favorite time to enhance the soil by gardeners. If your compost is "hot" it has time to season before the tubers are planted in April.
- Bob spoke of planting cover crops. He is using mixed legumes, fava beans used by some all add natural nitrogen to our soils.

Andrew has some storage boxes he is gifting anyone who needs some. They are made from styrofoam and have lids.

Our next meeting in December will have a mini raffle and we will decide what is our Society's two flowers to grow by all this next season.

With gratitude in our hearts for our members and our gardens, the meeting ended at 8:30

Secretary ----Peggy Murphy



**SEASON CHEERS TO ALL** ~ *More dahlia pictures from our show*