

San Leandro

DAHLIA TIMES

Editor: Sue Gregori
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May 2019

Next Meeting: May 21th, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Karp Room, San Leandro Library

Dahlia folk,

Thanks to all that came to the tuber/plant sale and helped out. I am sure that the newer growers were surprised how many questions they could answer. We had another successful sale and look forward to giving back some of this money to the winners in our show.

I bet that your dahlias are loving the rain and the tubers are sending up little dahlias in search of the sun. This time of the year is so filled with hope for beautiful gardens and is a couple of months we will see the results of all our hard work.

For those of you that have holes in the garden, Mark Oldenkamp dropped off some cuttings for me to bring to the meeting. Most of these are new from the Pacific Northwest, new to the US from the UK, or winners in general. Mark is a member of our society but sadly has to live in Oregon. If the schedule holds, he will be the next ADS President. Thank you Mark for your contribution to our society. To receive these plants, we will have a raffle. \$5.00 for six tickets. I am sure that you will find some winners in your garden from these new plants. I still have some tubers of Kelsey Annie Joy, one of the special dahlias in our upcoming show.

We have set aside a few minutes in the meeting to see what the membership wants to have as topics and how we should discuss them. We have several new members that want to know the ABC's of dahlia growing and the rest of us that have heard the tricks before. We need the experienced growers mentoring the newer growers. With all the plants that we have coming into the meeting, I would like to share how to pinch the plants to make a shorter, bushier plant and why I do this. I would like the other experienced growers to give their reasons for pinching vs not pinching.

Come to the meeting with your questions, stories of your garden, and answers to member's questions.

John the Pres.

**Refreshments will be by provided:
Ellen Muir & Beverly**

Next Month (June): Deva & Diane Bond

San Leandro Dahlia Society Minutes

April 16, 2019, 7pm - San Leandro Library, Karp Room

Presiding --- John Morton, President

Present 16 members

President John called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM. Since our treasurer, Dennis, was not in attendance, there was no Treasurer's report. Minutes were attached to the newsletter.

Old Business: Tuber sale, April 27. Sign-up sheet was passed around to sign up for various jobs. There is a cyclone fence between the parking lot and the sale site which may cause some problems. Not much we can do about it.

Publicity has been handled, and Sue will send out the flyer as an attachment to all members so members can send to local friends.

Sue made stakes with dahlia society info to give to people who purchase tubers/cuttings at the sale. Thank you, Sue!

Other old business: Dan's Dahlias participated in the Home and Garden Show in Sacramento. Even though it's too hot for dahlias, Dan sold most of his tubers - John helped.

Our dahlia show ... we don't have a date yet. If you have a favorite dahlia and would like to sponsor it, please do so. Talk to John for details. It's always fun to have extra prizes!

Kelsey Annie Joy will be the open centered bloom of the year. John has lots of tubers. We had agreed to any sport of Spartacus as the fully double flower of the year. There is a rule that you must enter the flower of the year in that category before showing the same bloom in the novice/amature/open to all categories. Some discussion on how the sport would work in that rule.

New Business: JoAnna reported that the Livermore Garden Club had invited John and her to speak about dahlias. JoAnna was impressed with the organization of the meeting as well as the respect shown to the speakers.

Ellen Muir agreed to make a presentation at our May meeting to share ways of attending a meeting so that all attendees may participate and benefit from the central discussion.

Program: Chris showed how his stored tubers are doing. He had punched holes in the plastic bag and used new peat moss. He also demonstrated the best ways of planting a tuber.

Preparation of the soil is the most important first step. He shared some of his methods: chicken manure, organic compost, green sand and Sul-po-mag (sulphur, potassium and magnesium) The latter needs to be deep in the soil as the roots will use it to help longevity. Then a top-dress of 10-10-10 fertilizer. Some people also use calcium nitrate.

In the hot climates, we should plant the tubers deeper to keep roots cool.

Chris concluded the presentation with a raffle of tubers and cuttings for the members who were present. Thanks, Chris!!

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Dahlstedt

SLDS
Tuber & Cutting Sale
at Root Park
April 27th



