



Editor: Sue Gregori

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August 2020

Next Meeting: August 18th, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Zoom Meeting hosted by Ellen Muir, San Leandro

Dahlia Folk,

In a normal year we would be running around getting ready for the Dahlia Show at the Library. We would be worrying about tables, chairs, will the police department ticket our cars in the parking lot, will we have enough judges, clerks, will the lunch come on time and will they remember the special diets for those that need those. Well, this year is different. Please read the messages from Curtis and Sue about our virtual show.

We would really like to have a lot of pictures of blooms to show as we want the public to know that we are still around and that they ought to be growing dahlias while they are being safe at home with their masks and gloves. At our next meeting we will get a lesson on how to submit your pictures if you are having problems entering them or are unsure how to do so.

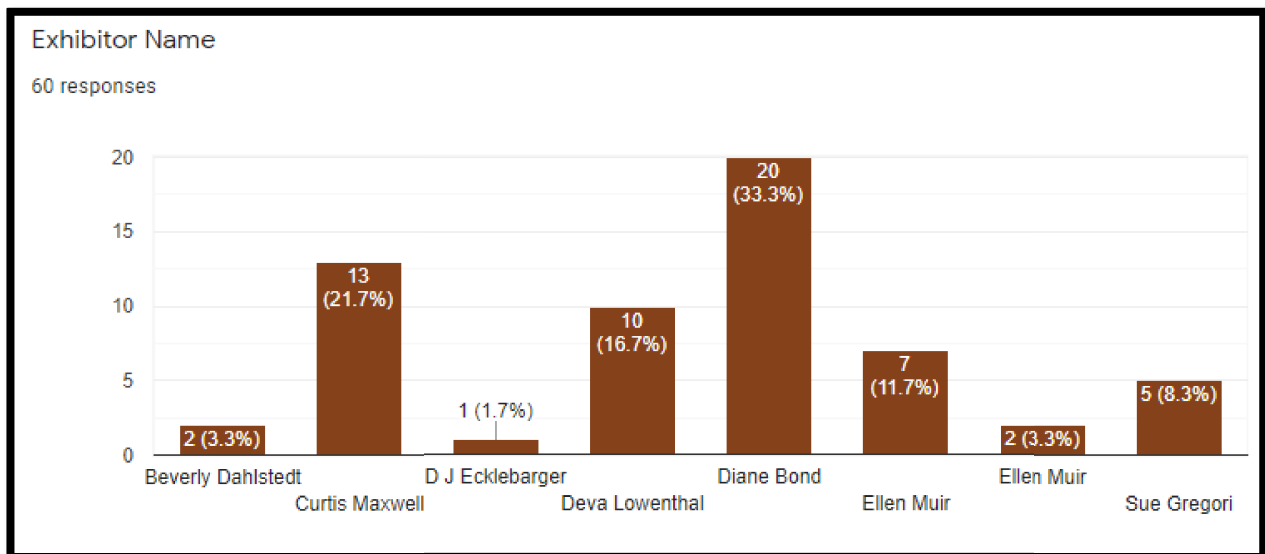
Kristi has a couple of ideas of the meeting topic. One is mid season dahlia care. Mildew, too many buds to pinch, plants falling down because they are too big etc. We may touch on some judging as well. Kristi also has some good news about her garden in Alameda that I want her to share. Good Stuff.

I will be brief this time so stay safe, wear your masks and gloves and wash your hands often.

John

A Message from the “show committee”

1. There are no limits as to the number of cultivars you may exhibit. (Only one photo of each cultivar however)
2. There is a \$10 dollar prize for the most favorite cultivar in each size category as listed in the current Classification and Handbook of Dahlias, page 12. A \$25 award will be given for the cultivar with the most votes overall.
3. Framing/taking your photos: No “rule” here, just take your photograph it as you like to see it and as you wish others to see it.
4. Sue has agreed to accept “replacement” photos of one you have already submitted but have one later that you really want to exhibit in lieu of the one already submitted. Don’t overdo this privilege; it is extra work for the technical support folks.
5. Please show!! We want as many photos as possible to put the best face on our public display. We need your participation



These are the entries we have as of Sat, 8/16. Have you’ve submitted any that are missing?

Some Photography Thoughts

1. Lighting: The best lighting is an overcast day (bright diffused light). Second best is early morning or early evening when the sun is not directly hitting the flower but the sky is still bright. Reds and orange may hold their color well in direct sunlight. Using a normal flash will create too much light and makes the flower look fake. And try not to create shadows on the bloom.
2. Angle: Try lots of different angles, dead center, slightly below, slightly right etc. Digital pictures are cheap, so take more than you need. It’s easier to sort out pictures indoors out of the bright light.
3. Steady your arm: If you don’t have a tripod, try to place your arm on something solid and in a tight spot, tuck your arms in and steady them to your chest or knees if squatting.
4. Framing your shot: What’s in the background? Is it distracting? Can the distraction be moved? If, not can the picture be taken at a angle, closer up or further back? Bring some string to tie back foliage that is blocking your bloom. And bring a small paint brush, to sweep away crawly things.
5. Distance: Your camera probably came with instructions on how close your lenses can be to the object. 18” – 36” seems to work well and if the bloom is small, use the camera’s telescoping or zoom. Too far and the picture will be grainy and too close and the camera’s autofocus may not work.

San Leandro Dahlia Society Minutes

July 21th 2020 at 7 pm on Zoom Hosted by Ellen Muir

Presiding --- John Morton, President

Present 23 members

The San Leandro Dahlia Society meeting opened at 7:00 with a great turnout of 23 members connected on Zoom. Energy was great, a few members were linked in on Zoom for the first time, and most of us were at home while we even were joined by Andrew who was enjoying a beautiful beach these days.

Ellen opened the meeting with a slide show of Dahlias from some of our members' gardens. This was an excellent show of blooms from 10 members. The photos gave us a wide variety of dahlias to enjoy and truly gave us some ideas to what to grow in our garden next year. A wide rainbow of colors, form, size and styles all sparked our love of this flower.

Max shared his frustration of having a gopher in his garden dining on his Dahlia plants. He has promised to keep us all posted on what the professional expert suggests to catch these nagging frustrating critters.

Roy's garden at the Casa Peralta is thriving. Sadly Roy used Miracle Grow's Compost Potting soil this spring and sadly he lost 50% of his plants at his home garden.

Curtis presented his idea of a proposed online Dahlia Show for our community.

The very talented Sue Gregori has created a format that we will use to display and vote for our favorite dahlia in each category. Sue showed us examples of the website format that she will use to display our submitted photos of our flowers. Our flower pictures can be submitted from August 1- Sept 1. A proposed limit of 10 entries per week by any person was made. The flowers must be grown in your own garden, but actual photo may be taken by anyone.

Our Society will be advertising this online flower show through social media, San Leandro Times, and by email to our 400 followers who have come to either our shows or tuber sales. The projected online show will take place second week of September. More information will follow in the weeks ahead.

Diane Bond has received her order of MSU fertilizer and has it available for us to purchase at \$5.50 for a one pound bag. This fertilizer was developed by Michigan State for orchids but really loved by any house plant and Dahlias live it also. Mixed 1 tsp. In a gallon of water can be sprayed in foliage or applied to the soil of our dahlias.

John Morton will be having knee surgery in the coming week, so we all wish him well and send lots of good healing energy. He is not having a knee replacement so he hopes the recovery will be shorter and he will be out in his Dahlia garden again very quickly.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Secretary ----Peggy Murphy