

# Dahlia Times June 2024

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San Leandro Dahlia  
Society



Clearview Jonas

# Letter from the President

As I write this, the temperatures are hitting the mid-80s in the East Bay. Many of us are still planting tubers, which will start sprouting with the warm weather. June is not too late to plant. That is, if you have more spaces to fill. Keep your plants watered and give them a light shower on these hot days to keep them cool.

At our May meeting, Sabrina and her daughter Evie, shared two Junior Grower projects. Two planter boxes at Roosevelt School facing Dutton will be their first project. They will pull the weeds out, plant native plants and wildflowers, and care for it for a Girl Scout Bronze Award project. Their project will help pollinators and boost

biodiversity in our neighborhoods by starting native pollinator and wildflower gardens. They plan to help interested neighbors turn their unused parking strips into pollinator havens. In the Roosevelt School Garden, the growers were given a raised bed space for Junior Growers (some of whom signed up at the Cherry Festival) will be able to grow and tend dahlias. All of the dahlia plants and amendments are being donated by the dahlia society and our members.

Our first San Leandro Dahlia Society Cherry Festival booth was a great success. Many members came (very) early to arrange over 150 plants, set up the tables, signage and photos. Our booth was gorgeous! We made many sales as well as exposed lots of the festival goers to dahlia culture and the benefits of joining our Society. It was a fun day as we all had the opportunity to socialize with each other as well. A big thank you to Peggy Murphy for heading up this adventure. Let's return next year!

See you on June 22<sup>nd</sup>,  
Ellen



# Welcome New Members

Through our Tuber/Plant Sale and Cherry Festival presence seventeen new members joined the San Leandro Dahlia Society. We are living the first objective in our Constitution and By-Laws; *Find ways to stimulate interest in and promote the culture of the Dahlia.*

## What can you expect as a member?

You are welcomed into a community of dahlia growers who are willing to share their range of knowledge and experience growing dahlias. At monthly meetings, according to the season, we cover these topics.

- Soil preparation
- Planting
- Fertilizing
- Irrigation
- Disease and pest control
- Grooming of cuttings for display
- Digging, dividing, and storing
- Use of the Classification and Handbook of Dahlias

(the CHD)

We all mentor and support each other in our dahlia growing efforts. We have three senior mentors; John Morton, Curtis Maxwell and Chris Dix who will offer extra support as requested.



Mel's Orange Marmalade

# Welcome New Members (continued)

We hold a Tuber/Plant Sale in the Spring with tuber divisions and plant cuttings donated by our members that raise funds to support our Annual Dahlia Show in August/September.

Our Annual Dahlia Show is a big event, where with the three other Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference societies, we display and competed for the best dahlias in multiple categories. It is a free public event, where we “wow” the community with how varied and beautiful dahlia blooms can be. How can you participate? Come to our monthly meetings. Volunteer to help in the sales, community speaking engagements and table events and our annual show. We need your energy, ideas, talents, enthusiasm and time to make all these a success. Each event will expand your depth, breadth and knowledge of dahlias.





# June 2024 Meeting

- **NOTE DIFFERENT DAY, TIME, LOCATION**
- Saturday, June 22, 10AM – 12PM
- CASA PERALTA  
384 W Estudillo Ave  
San Leandro, CA 94577

This is an opportunity to see the Casa Peralta Dahlia Garden in progress. There will be no Zoom option.

We will cover practical topics like disbudding, topping, pest management and in general how to keep our plants happy and healthy. There will be time for Q & A as well as to share what is going on in your garden.



# San Leandro Dahlia Society

## Meeting agenda & event calendar

2024

*Celebrating 90 years!*

Date	Tentative Agenda
June 22nd	This meeting will be at the Casa Peralta garden-Casa Peralta, 384 W Estudillo Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577-Garden Tour, Q & A
July 16th	Review the Show Schedule, Mini/Practice Show
August 20th	Show Preparation
August 31 & Sept 1	SLDS Annual Show-90th Anniversary -set up August 30th. Location pending
September 17th (Potluck at Diane's)	Debrief all Shows
October 15th	Digging, dividing and storing
November 19th	Speaker -TBD
December	NO MEETING



*Celebrating 90 years!*

# San Leandro Dahlia Society

2024

## Upcoming Events of Dahlia Societies

Society	Show Dates	Judging School	Website
Central Coast DS	July 27, 2024	Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference Judging Seminar Marina Community Center 15301 Wicks Boulevard San Leandro, CA 94579 9am to 4 pm	RSVP to Heather Jamieson by 7/22/24: dahliagrowers@yahoo.com 805-801-3917
Central Coast DS	August 9-11		<a href="http://www.centralcoastdahlias.org/">http://www.centralcoastdahlias.org/</a>
Dahlia Society of California	August 16-18 County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park		<a href="https://www.dahliadell.org/">https://www.dahliadell.org/</a>
Monterey Bay DS	August 23-25 Capitola Mall, 41 <sup>st</sup> Avenue, Capitola		<a href="http://www.mbdahlias.org/">http://www.mbdahlias.org/</a>
San Leandro DS	August 30-September 1		<a href="http://www.sanleandrodahliasociety.org/">http://www.sanleandrodahliasociety.org/</a>
ADS Show	September 5 – 9 Wenatchee, WA		<a href="http://www.dahlia.org/">http://www.dahlia.org/</a>

# Mark Your Calendars for the July 27 th Judging Seminar

Marina Community Center  
15301 Wicks Blve  
San Leandro CA 93579  
9AM – 4PM

What is the Judging Seminar? Should I attend if I am not a Judge or interested in becoming a Judge?

Yes! The Judging Seminar is a deep dive into the ideal cultivars that Judges look for in accordance with the American Dahlia Society standards. It is an opportunity to increase one's knowledge and, if so desired, start the qualification path to become a Candidate, Accredited or Senior Judge.

You can order the ADS Guide to Judging Dahlias for \$9.00 from the American Dahlia Society at <https://www.dahlia.org/shop/guide-to-judging-dahlias/> . It will be referred to at the seminar.

It is a relaxed event to also get to know the members of the Central Coast, Monterey Bay and Dahlia Society of California. This year the event will be at the San Leandro Marina Community Center and is sponsored by the Central Coast Dahlia Society. To sign up for the July 27 th Judging Seminar, see the flyer on the next page.



PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DAHLIA CONFERENCE  
2024 JUDGING SEMINAR



WHEN: SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2024

WHERE: MARINA COMMUNITY CENTER  
15301 WICKS BOULEVARD  
SAN LEANDRO, CA 93579

TIME: 9 AM TO 4PM

Please join us to learn and refresh on the various aspects of judging dahlias by knowledgeable members. Bring your current Classification and Handbook of Dahlias, your ADS Guide to Judging Dahlias book, paper, pen, and your questions!

A light breakfast and lunch will be provided to all of those attending.

For planning purposes we kindly ask that you RSVP to Heather Jamieson by 7/22/24: [dahliagrowers@yahoo.com](mailto:dahliagrowers@yahoo.com) 805-801-3917

RSVP to Heather Jamieson by  
July 22, 2024  
[dahliagrowers@yahoo.com](mailto:dahliagrowers@yahoo.com)  
805-801-3917

# HELP PROMOTE DAHLIAS AND THE SLDS AT THE COUNTY FAIR! ALAMEDA COUNTY

Our organization has been given opportunities to promote the SLDS at the upcoming Alameda County Fair (June 14 through July 7) and the Santa Clara County Fair (July 25-28, August 1-4). There are no fees for the tables, but plenty of opportunity to let others know about the SLDS. Additionally, if interested, both fairs will hold floral competitions.

***NOTE: This is new for us, so suggestions will be welcome. Please contact Frances Kawaguchi at [frkawaguchi@gmail.com](mailto:frkawaguchi@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating.***

## **Alameda County Fair (June 14 - July 7)**

Location: Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton

Info: [www.annual.alamedacountyfair.com](http://www.annual.alamedacountyfair.com) ([Home - Alameda County Fair](#))

Our table will be located in the Q Building, near the Wine Pavillion. We will need volunteers to man the table from 2PM to 6PM on the first three Saturdays of the fair. Volunteers will share information about our society and dahlia information and possibly sign up new members. Our table will have giveaways such as stickers, bookmarks, and coloring kits for the kids, as well as the remaining tubers and plants from the Cherry Festival. There will be passes for up to 4 people for each Saturday, as well as 4 parking permits.

Volunteer opportunities:

June 15: 4 people (2 hour shifts, tbd)

June 22: 4 people (2 hour shifts, tbd)

June 29: 4 people (2 hour shifts, tbd)

The dahlia competition (as well as other floral categories, both adult and youth) will be held weekly. See link for instructions on how to enter. [2024-Adult-Gardening-Entry-Guide Final.pdf](#)

For those who are interested, the Floriculture competition will be held on July 24th. See link for rules and details.

[2024-Competitive-exhibits-Rules-Book-Final.pdf](#)

# HELP PROMOTE DAHLIAS AND THE SLDS AT THE COUNTY FAIR! SANTA CLARA COUNTY

***NOTE: This is new for us, so suggestions will be welcome. Please contact Frances Kawaguchi at [frkawaguchi@gmail.com](mailto:frkawaguchi@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating.***

**Santa Clara County Fair (July 25-28, August 1-4)**

Location: 344 Tully Road, San Jose

Info: [www.thefair.org](http://www.thefair.org) ([The Fair – 2024](#))

We will be given a feature booth, which is basically an unmanned booth with information about the society. We will display similar information and giveaways as in the Alameda County Fair. We will have a table and an 8'X4' U-shaped structure with 6-foot-tall walls where we can hang various items. The walls are sturdy, and can hold a lot of weight. ***We need volunteers to help decorate the booth. The setup time is between July 13th through July 23rd (time to be determined).***

Volunteer opportunities:

July 13-23: Set up and decorate the booth, as mentioned above.

July 25-28: Refresh and restock, Q&A (tbd)

August 1: Refresh and restock, Q&A (tbd)

August 4: Tear down.



# Digital Clerking with Kristi Whitfield

For the past couple years Kristi has been working on getting our show judging transferred to an electronic system. On the following pages you will see an article that she has submitted to the ADS Bulletin. Read on for a special preview of her work.



# **A Digital Bloom: The Future of Clerking at Dahlia Shows in California**

**By Kristi Whitfield (with help from Deborah Dietz)**

The dahlia shows in sunny California are getting a tech makeover. Remember the old days when your local library ditched the card catalogs in favor of computer databases? It felt like stepping into a complicated future, didn't it? Well, a similar tech evolution is about to bloom at dahlia shows across California! Get ready, because 2024 might be the first year we say goodbye to paper and pencil and hello to digital entry for show results.

## **From Paper Trails to Digital Tales**

Let's take a stroll down memory lane. For ages, we've been cozying up with pencils and paper, jotting down the judges' picks. Judges would mark their floral favorites, and clerks, armed with a rainbow of colored stickers, would scribble down the winners and their exhibitor numbers. Clerks lugged around hefty 3-ring binders, bursting with papers, through rows of radiant dahlias. Then ensued the late-night tallies, the endless counting, and the reports that took forever to compile. Oh, the nostalgia!

# **A Digital Bloom: The Future of Clerking at Dahlia Shows in California (continued)**

**By Kristi Whitfield (with help from Deborah Dietz)**

## **2024: A Digital Dawn**

This year, our binders are being shelved, and in their place, clerks will wield their smartphones as they accompany the judges. The master tally file will be updated on-the-go, with every tap bringing us closer to instantaneous results. Welcome to the digital age of dahlia shows!

## **How Does It Work?**

At the heart of this transformation is an Excel workbook, a digital garden of spreadsheets for data entry, lists of classified dahlias and exhibitors, and automated summaries. It's all saved on a cloud server at Microsoft, where multiple clerks can log in and work together in harmony. The game-changer here is Excel's "card view" feature on the mobile app, which simplifies data entry by displaying one spreadsheet line per card—clear, concise, and incredibly user-friendly. Here's the magic in action: each clerk enters results into the master tally file via their mobile phones. A clerk manager oversees the entire operation from a central laptop, ensuring everything runs smoothly. Once the judging and data entry are complete, reports are generated with just a click. Voila! Instant results.

# A Digital Bloom: The Future of Clerking at Dahlia Shows in California (continued)

By Kristi Whitfield (with help from Deborah Dietz)

## Why Go Digital?

The benefits of this digital system are numerous and significant:

1. **Real-Time Collaboration:** With data saved on a server-based file, multiple clerks can work on it simultaneously, eliminating the need for post-show compilation.
2. **Error Reduction:** Real-time error checking means fewer mistakes. If a classification number is incorrect, the system flags it immediately, allowing clerks and judges to correct it on the spot.
3. **Streamlined Process:** Judges and clerks no longer need to lug around binders. The Excel app on their phones is all they need.
  - **User-Friendly:** Clerks use their own phones, loaded with the Excel app, making the transition smoother and more intuitive.
  - **Legibility and Accuracy:** Digital entry means no more deciphering messy handwriting or misplaced entries.
4. **Automated Reporting:** Instant summaries and detailed reports are generated as soon as the judging is finished.
  - **Show Reports:** From sweepstakes points ranking to an itemized list of cash prizes and winning entries, everything is at your fingertips.
  - **Regional and National Reports:** The system generates all necessary reports for local, regional, and ADS requirements effortlessly.

# **A Digital Bloom: The Future of Clerking at Dahlia Shows in California (continued)**

**By Kristi Whitfield (with help from Deborah Dietz)**

## **What's Needed?**

Transitioning to this digital system requires a few essentials:

- An Excel workbook set up with all necessary spreadsheets and hosted on a server (we use Microsoft).
- A Microsoft Office 365 Family account for clerks to log in.
- A manager laptop to oversee operations during the show.
- Phones or Android phones with the latest Microsoft Excel app installed for each clerk.
- Reliable cellular or Wi-Fi connection at the show site.
- Sufficient phone battery or chargers and a power strip for recharging.
- A clerk manager to monitor the tally file and troubleshoot any issues.
- A comprehensive training session via Zoom to equip clerks with the knowledge and tools for success.

## **Training for Success**

A week before the show, clerks participate in a 60–90-minute Zoom training session to:



- Learn about entry forms and judging details.
- Set up their phones for digital tally.
- Download the Excel app, log in, and navigate to 'card view' for data entry.
- Troubleshoot common issues, such as blooms from the drop-down list.



# A Digital Bloom: The Future of Clerking at Dahlia Shows in California (continued)

By Kristi Whitfield (with help from Deborah Dietz)

## Embrace the Change

The dahlia shows of California are blossoming into the digital era, and we're all invited to witness this evolution. The days of pencil and paper may be waning, but the future promises to be bright, efficient, and wonderfully instantaneous. So, let's raise our phones to the new digital age of dahlia shows, where beauty and technology bloom side by side. Presto! →  

(Kristi email: [pswclerk01@gmail.com](mailto:pswclerk01@gmail.com))

# A Digital Bloom: The Future of Clerking at Dahlia Shows in California (continued)

By Kristi Whitfield (with help from Deborah Dietz)



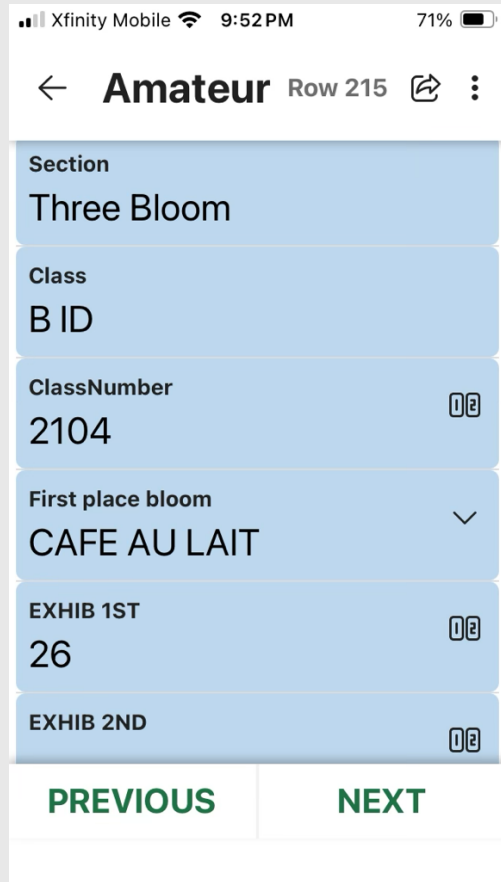
Judging team with binders



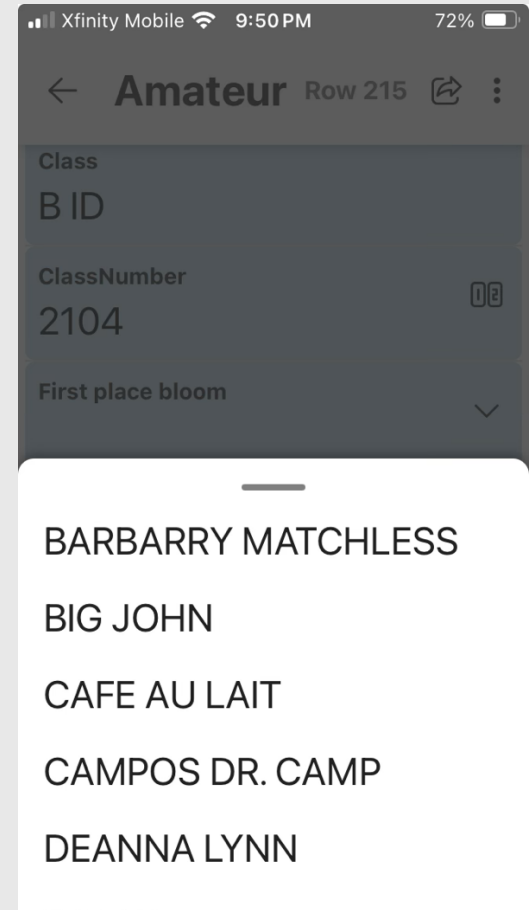
Show table ready for judging

# A Digital Bloom: The Future of Clerking at Dahlia Shows in California (continued)

By Kristi Whitfield (with help from Deborah Dietz)



“Card view” on phone for clerk data entry:



Card view with drop down menu:

# A Digital Bloom: The Future of Clerking at Dahlia Shows in California (continued)

By Kristi Whitfield (with help from Deborah Dietz)



Clerk manager overseeing the process on the laptop



Clerk entering data on her phone

# May 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes

MEETING STARTED AT 7:10PM

MARILYN FONG	EVELYN (JR MEMBER)	SABRINA ALMAZAN
WHIT MAGOR	JANINA KONOPKA	GINGER PORRILL
DEVA LOWENTHAL	ELLEN MUIR	JOHN MORTON
BROOKE ROBBINS	VICKY HINCKLEY	DANICE FRIEND
GEORGE MASSEY	HENSEL LISE	JOHN KAWAGUCHI
FRANCES KAWAGUCHI	DIANE BOND	QUAMRUN ELDRIGE
NANCY CLANCY	CHRISTINA WALKER	EVELYN FITZSIMMONS
BEVERLY DAHLSTEDT	JEFF BENETT	CRAIG CALLIHAN
JOLENE LA	LUKE LA	KRISTI WHITFIELD

MEMBERSHIP INTRODUCTION

MINUTES APPROVAL - APPROVED

TREASURES REPORT- APPROVED

TUBER SALE UPDATES

FRIDAY WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY. THEN THERE WAS SATURDAY (RAIN & POWER OUTAGE) WE DID MAKE THE MOST WE HAVE EVER MADE. PLUSES AND MINUSES FROM THE SALE WERE DISCUSSED.

# May 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes (continued)

CHERRY FESTIVAL

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS, SIGN UP SHEET IS GOING AROUND, MAP WAS GIVEN.

SABRINA AND EVELYN DISCUSSED THE JR. PROGRAM AND GROWING MEMBERSHIP.  
DISCUSSED ASSISTING IN REDO THE PLANTER BOXES.

KRISTI OFFERED FLOWER OF THE YEAR CUTTINGS (SANDIA SUMMERTIME). SHOW BASICS  
DISCUSSED WITH NEW MEMBERS

JUNE 22ND - DAHLIA MEETING AT CASA PERALTA - NO TIME SET YET

ALAMEDA FAIRGRUNDS IS OFFERING US A TABLE 1-5PM ON SATURDAY. ALSO SAN MATEO  
COULD BE OFFERING US THE SAME.

GENERAL QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

MEETING ENDED.



**Junior Dahlia Growers at  
Roosevelt Elementary School**

# San Leandro Cherry Festival 2024





# Want Ads and Notices

## **Instagram Support Needed**

Louise Henriksen was managing our Instagram site, but she has moved to Idaho. We would love to keep a presence on Instagram and need a fun, energetic person to step up and manage our site.

**Please contact Ellen if you can help with this ([emuir54@gmail.com](mailto:emuir54@gmail.com))**



# Want Ads and Notices

This is a page that we can all share with each other.

- If you have some dahlia related material to share, send a note and we will get it in the want ads.
- If you want something. A specific tuber, some fertilizer, some help with a growing problem, send a note and we will get it in the want ads.
- If you have a gardening/plant related notice (like a show or sale for another society), send a note and we will get it in the want ads.

Send a note to :

- [bonddiane9@gmail.com](mailto:bonddiane9@gmail.com) if you want to put something in the want ads.