**Whatcom County Dahlia Society April 2017 Newsletter**

**Whatcom County Tuber Sale: April 1, 2017**

We need everyone and their extra helpers at Bloedel Donovan at 7 AM.

We will have a sign-in sheet at the door at 7 AM. If you want to purchase tubers at the pre-sale before the doors open at 10:00, you need to be at Bloedel Donovan at 7 AM to help with setting up. Paul will let everyone know when they can start shopping. Please return at 3:00 to help us clean-up after the sale.

Potluck at noon

Bags - Bags – Bags Please save and bring all your plastic grocery bags to the tuber sale.

March is the month when you should have your soil tested for your dahlia garden. WSU extension office has a list of places you can have your soil tested locally.

Here are several good references to be reading as you prepare your dahlia beds for the coming season:

* + - [WSU Extension Publishing website](http://pubs.wsu.edu/) (Note: Publications beginning with MISC, EB, EM and PNW can be found at this website and many can be downloaded for free)
  + [EM063E](http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/EM063E/EM063E.pdf) A Home Gardener's Guide to Soils and Fertilizers
  + EB1090 [Watering Home Gardens and Landscape Plants](http://pubs.wsu.edu/ItemDetail.aspx?ProductID=13454&SeriesCode=&CategoryID=&Keyword=EB1090)
* **Websites** [Soils](http://nmsp.cals.cornell.edu/guidelines/factsheets.html) Factsheets from Cornell University on soils and composting

**The Pacific Northwest has many microclimates that affect when one should plant their dahlia tubers. Tubers do not like to get their feet wet! If you are anxious about planting your new dahlia tubers consider taking cuttings.**

***Propagation by*** ***Cuttings: Two Perspectives.***

*"If you have one tuber of a particular dahlia and you want to grow several plants of that dahlia without buying more tubers, propagation by taking either sprout cuttings or leaf cuttings may be for you. If you're one of those people who've come to believe that dahlia plants grown from cuttings produce better blossoms, taking cuttings may also be for you. If you are just curious about starting a plant by cutting off a sprig or a leaf and part of the stem and persuading it to grow, propagation by taking cuttings is certainly for you. I take cuttings because I am curious about the process and the results even though I do not really need the additional plants"...Ben Lawrence*

*"As spring approaches, it is time to start thinking about taking dahlia cuttings. Taking cuttings is not very hard to do and it is fun to try. It seems that everyone has their own system for taking cuttings. My first step is to figure out what dahlias I want to take cuttings from and how many different dahlias I want to get started. After making my choices, I bring the tubers out of storage. Always choose healthy, firm tubers. I place the tubers in an open plastic bag in our home for about two weeks. This lets the tuber warm and start to grow. If they are started directly in the medium, it takes them longer to start growing. I bring them out of storage at the end of January or beginning of February"...Calvin Cook*

**Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers**

Steve Boley reported at the Federation Meeting Whatcom County Dahlia Society about our tuber sale April 1 and our show September 9 & 10. The Challenge Flower is Irish Glow. This is Paul’s last year as President and Show Chair. Steve Boley is in training to take over those roles.

SPRING FEDERATION WORKSHOP was March 18, 2017

They had the Jack Crawford Memorial Tuber Auction. This is an auction of all the new 2017 Introductions. All money raised supports the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers.

TUBERS IN THE JACK CRAWFORD MEMORIAL TUBER AUCTION: AC Tara BA-Y; Apopa Ghost S-W; Bloomquist Blush ST-LB; PK/YL Bloomquist; Carol S B-SC-OR; Bloomquist Frank S O-PR; Bloomquist Globe BB-FD-Y; Bloomquist Rose BB-FD-FL RD/YL; Bloomquist Starburst B-C-DP; Bloomquist Tangerine B-LC-FL OR/YL; Clearview Cameron B-C-LB; Clearview Del Sol ST-Y; Clearview Jonas A-SC-LB PK/YL; Clearview Mick S B-ID-PR; Clearview Motley B-SC-V WH/PR; Fancy Pants OT-L; Lakeview Tony A-SC-DR; Lo-Delight MS-L; MAKS Red Devil B-IC-R; Mt. View Imogene O-DP; Mt. View Milinda S BB-C-BI YL/RD; Mt. View Neeser B B-LC-LB DP/YL; Narrows Jason BB-C-L; Narrows Ryder BB-FD-W; Sandia Flirt WL-L; Sandia Pouffe AN-DP; Sandia Susan WL OR;Tahoma Amble M-FD-BR; Tahoma Bulls Eye S-DP; Tahoma Contrast CO-FL YL/RD; Tahoma Curve BB-C-BR; Tahoma Dark Delight M-FD-DR; Tahoma Early Dawn BB-ID-W; Tahoma Gold Finch OT-Y

If you missed the Federation auction, WCDS has an auction following our tuber sale at our monthly meeting on 4/3/2017.

Federation Flower of the Year 2018 is Clearview Daniel.

2020 National Show is in Wenatchee.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

March 18 - Spring Federation Workshop - 9 AM to 3 PM, Faith Lutheran Church - Seattle

July 22 - Summer Federation Workshop - 9 AM to 3 PM, Burlington Community Center, Burlington

July 29 - Judge’s Workshop - 9 AM to 3 PM, Burlington Community Center, Burlington

August 5 & 6 - KCDS Show, Sun Pavilion - Kitsap County Fairgrounds, Silverdale, WA

August 6 - Trial Garden Judging Workshop, 12 Noon, Trial Garden at Pt. Defiance Park, Tacoma, WA

August 12 & 13 - GHDS Show, Grays Harbor Fairgrounds, Elma, WA

August 19 & 20 - SCDS Show, Floral Hall, Everett, WA

August 19 & 20 - VictDS Show, Prospect Lake Community Hall, Victoria, BC

August 26 & 27 - PSDA Show, Sky Nursery, Shoreline, WA

September 2 & 3 - VDS Show, VanDusen Gardens, Vancouver, B.C.

September 7 to 11 - ADS National Show - Hosted by Central States Dahlia Society, Chicago Botanic Garden and North Shore Renaissance Hotel, Glencoe and Northbrook, IL

September 9 & 10 - WCDS Show, Bloedel-Donovan Park, Bellingham, WA

September 16 & 17 - FVDS Show, George Preston Recreation Centre, Langley, B.C.

September 23 & 24 - NCWDS Show, Pybus Public Market, Wenatchee, WA

October 14 - Annual Meeting - Legion Hall, Everett (date tbd)

Whatcom County Dahlia Society meetings are the first Monday of each month with the exception of July, December & January. July’s meeting is a Picnic usually the third Monday of the July. Membership forms are on our website and Facebook.