



Dear Fellow PNDC Members,...

Yet another dahlia growing and showing season is behind us. It was wonderful to see everyone at the shows, renewing old friendships and making new ones. It seems things never stay the same; e.g., new varieties, new forms, new ways of growing and new people coming into the fold of dahlia growers and showers.

How can we recruit and retain more new members? Our Portland Society offers coupons for first-time memberships at our tubers sales/auctions. This in effect makes the cost of dues for the first year zero. Sure, some of these folks are there only for the great deals on tubers. On the other hand, some want to know more about growing stunning dahlias. In this, we are happy to oblige.

Lane County Society (Eugene) uses a hospitality table at their show to recruit members from the attendees that have plenty of questions and want to know more. Come to think about it, every contact dahlia societies have with John Q. Public is an opportunity for bringing someone else into the fold. On a personal level, maybe we have some folks that have toured our gardens or seen one of our bouquets and expressed an interest about learning more about dahlia culture. My friends, this is a chance for conversion! Please don't be shy, tell them when the next meeting will be and where. Next, phone them the night before to remind them, or better yet, offer to car pool. The more the merrier.

The American Dahlia Society will be celebrating its Centennial this year. Our National Show and Convention will be held on Long Island, NY. Since it is the centennial show, the Long Island Society will be pulling out all the stops to make this a spectacular event. More specific information will be forthcoming in the American Dahlia Society Bulletins.

Our rotating Annual PNDC Show will be hosted this year by the Wild Rivers Dahlia Society in Gold Beach Oregon. Wild Rivers is the newest society to be formed within the Conference and 2015 will be their fourth dahlia show. Those who participated last year reported having a great time and really enjoyed Gold Beach hospitality. Looking forward to seeing many of our members in 2015 on August 22nd and 23rd at Gold Beach!

Best wishes to you all,
Mike Riordan, PNDC President

Renew 2015 PNDC Membership!

As 2015 approaches, please be sure you renew your PNDC membership. PNDC dues are \$10 per person, or \$15 per family. You may make payment to the Treasurer of your home society or send your dues to our Treasurer, Elva Sellens, 2651 Loma Vista, Roseburg, OR 97471-6175. It is important that we have your most current address, phone number and e-mail information so be sure to include that with your dues. Also, we would like to hear from each member how you would like to receive the PNDC Bulletins. Please indicate with your payment whether you prefer to receive the newsletter by e-mail or by post. Elva Sellens is collecting this information in order to be certain that all PNDC members will easily receive their PNDC information; however it is sent. elvasellens@charter.net



PNDC officers elected

The following slate of PNDC officers were elected at the fall meeting in Victoria, B.C, Saturday, August 16th. President – Mike Riordan, Vice President – Ted Kennedy, Treasurer – Elva Sellens, and Secretary/Newsletter Editor – Cheryl Hawkins.



ADS Image Library - by Claudia Biggs

This January four new programs will be for sale on the ADS web site: 2015 New Introductions, 2013 ADS Photo Contest Winners, the 2013 ADS Fabulous Fifty dahlias and a revised program, Delightful Dahlias - 20 forms which includes the latest form of Orchette. You can order online from the ADS web site or contact me directly: 509-326-1953 or dbiggs@mindspring.com The 2015 ADS New Introduction DVD will be ready and available for purchase with two versions available. The automated program costs \$13 and the deluxe version, includes a second disc of low resolution photos and is \$20. For more information, visit the ADS Store online at www.dahlia.org

It has been an unseasonably warm October in Victoria and throughout Canada's west coast. This has extended the growing season that has been accompanied by more rain than last year, yet the threat of frost seems further off. This has been a nice end to a terrific growing season – long stretches of sunny hot days pushing the dahlias to flower spectacularly. There was one heavy rain in the midst of the shows – but that was on the Labour Day weekend, after the blooms had been picked for the various local fairs and the National Show in Tacoma.

In August the Victoria Dahlia Society hosted Wayne Lobaugh who presented on various topics on judging dahlias, particularly some of the fine points concerning open-centres. Seedlings were judged and a workshop on judging basics inducted Susanne Daviau and Paton Hetherington as new Candidate Judges. The seminar was followed by the annual barbeque. On the third weekend of August we hosted the 68th Annual Victoria Dahlia Society Show which was a huge success featuring nearly a thousand blooms. Connie Young-Davis won Best Single and Best Triple Bloom entry overall with Edna C and Kenora Jubilee respectively.

In addition to being the 68th Annual Show, the Victoria Dahlia Society (VDS) also hosted the PNDC Annual show and General Meeting. It was a privilege to have Elva Sellens and Mike Riordan participate and judge the show. Elva won Best Mignon single and Novelty Open with Elva's Little Sweetie and Ebony, which travelled from southern Oregon the day before. Mike gave a moving speech that touched on the history of the earliest dahlia cultivars' travels by ship and the meaning of the gift that this flower is to so many people. Paul McKittrick, former President of the VDS, was awarded the PNDC Gold Medal for his tremendous contributions which include chairing the VDS show for several years, developing software for tabulating results, as well as introducing highly successful fully-double and open-centre cultivars including Mon Cher-e, Chi Ki Maddi, Chi Rae and Chi Man.

Over the Labour Day long weekend six members of the VDS travelled to Tacoma to attend the National Show. Connie Young-Davis had four entries judged Best in Show for their classes, and Ryan Barry & Paton



Victoria Dahlia Society member Paul McKittrick is congratulated for the Lifetime Achievement Award. Mike Riordan, PNDC President presented him with the PNDC Gold Medal.

Hetherington won two special classes (originations). This was a great experience for all, and personally was very exciting to see new cultivars, meet other dahlia enthusiasts and hybridizers, and to connect with friends.

Just before departing Tacoma the clouds cleared, and a brilliantly illuminated Mount Rainier was revealed.

Back at home, Jean Vantreight, who is a spry and vital ninety-one years old this year, won Best Dahlia and Best Bloom Overall at the 147th Annual Saanich Fair with R Nia. At the VDS Parlour Show in September Judith Powell won the Hank Iverson trophy for best bloom with Jomanda, and yours truly with Paton Hetherington won best seedling with a purple orchid whose seed parent was Midnight Star.

I always think of the winter as a welcome respite from all the busy work the rest of the year – we're fortunate the tubers go dormant! Here's hoping you've had a successful tuber harvest and are enjoying visiting family and friends over the holidays.



Douglas County Dahlia Society Roseburg, Oregon by Mark & Ember Nay, Clack's Dahlia Patch

Thank you to all who came to the Douglas County show! We had a great turnout with some who came to our show for the first time. Thank you for bringing your blooms and making the drive to Roseburg. We had two gardens open for tours and both were well attended. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

For us the end of October means the end of our beautiful blooms and the digging begins. We will be breaking for the holidays and then meeting back up again early next year. Ginger Clack will be doing a presentation in Klamath Falls for their garden society on November 18th. Our meetings take place at the Douglas County courthouse at 7:00pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

Nanaimo Dahlia Society - by Judy Stephens

Nanaimo, British Columbia

WOW! It's only the first week in July and we have dahlias blooming! Looks like 2014 is going to be a good flower season. Only one wedding booked so far for Dahlia Acres.

Looks like the load of enriched soil that was mixed into the garden before planting is making the flowers explode with blooms. We are busy disbudding and making sure that all of the tubers planted are coming through the soil and are free of pests wanting to make them dinner.

People are calling anxious to have bouquets of this amazing flower on their tables. They don't like being put off for a few more weeks! The weather has been unbelievable for this early in the summer. Long hot days and warm nights are proving to be the best medicine for a full colourful garden of dahlias.

The phone is ringing off the hook for bookings of dahlias needed for this wedding day and that wedding day! We haven't put out the sign "Dahlias for sale" yet!

People both walking by the garden and those driving by are being drawn in by the mass of colour and size of the dahlias. What kind of flower is this? DAHLIAS we reply!

We're getting close to the end of July and the blooms just keep coming, the plants are getting taller and the demand for dahlias is growing. Now we are booked for five weddings wanting Dahlias as their flower of choice.

August was incredible for the mass of colour waving in the breezes in our garden. I guess some people can't help themselves when they see the perfection of the flower and the variety of colours. A motion camera was

placed in an inconspicuous place to see who might be wanting to have some dahlias by night! Never did catch a glimpse of the dahlia lover of the night! I guess we'll have to put the camera up at the same time as planting next year.

The shows came and went with winners from all over the island. People are still amazed with the sizes of the dahlias that are produced. We managed to encourage some of our newer members to enter their blooms into our show in August. Much to their surprise they came away with BLUE ribbons. The doubt has been lifted! "I didn't think my flowers were good enough to win" was the comment! How easily we forget that we were once with the same thoughts ourselves. Congrats to our new growers that have jumped that hurdle! Onward and upward to the ROSETTES AND THE HEAD TABLE and possibly BEST IN SHOW.

September and October came and went but not without the onslaught of white fly. A cloud of white and green engulfed anyone that was trying to cut a bouquet of Dahlias.

The milder weather is arriving and it's time to start preparing our flowers for cutting down. Trying to explain that this is not the best time to want dahlias was fruitless.

Away they went with what was a very carefully cut bouquet of dahlias.

Now the work has begun! The freezing weather for a week has made short work of our dahlias. Black slimy stalks and what used to be blooms hanging their heads.

Their beauty was no match for Mother Nature. Alas, the process will start again in the spring!



Lane County Dahlia Society - Michael Canning

Eugene, Oregon

The Lane County Dahlia Society ended another successful season of programs with our traditional hands-on tuber dividing and storage demonstration in early November. It is amazing to see how much excitement is still generated annually by this program. It's a great way to get our hands dirty together and talk about how to complete one life cycle of the Dahlia and start another. Fun!

The LCDS looks forward to 2015 with a lot of momentum. Our membership was actively involved in all aspects of LCDS activities this year. From fund raising events, to a community Dahlia garden, presentations and exhibits, mounting another successful show, a garden tour, or just making sure there were tasty goodies and coffee at all the meetings. Good work by good folks.

There will be unique challenges for the coming year. We need to take a lead role in developing a new teaching model for more formal Dahlia learning. We have been spoiled for many years by having the benefit of the best teaching team of all time, our own Wayne and Eleanor Shantz. Now that they are moving on, we must fill the void in order to give members the opportunity to grow in that important way.

The LCDS executive board meets on December 4th to discuss these issues and more. As we plan for the coming year we are mindful of the past and eager to break new ground and move forward. We wish you and yours the most peaceful holiday season, and the all-time best growing season ahead.



Southern Oregon Dahlia Society - Paulette Woodward North Bend, Oregon

This year I thought it would be more interesting to present our show report by highlighting the Horticultural Special Awards, Special Categories, and Basket and Artistic Arrangements. Given that the horticultural awards will be reported in the ADS Bulletin and Dahlias of Today, this will give you another perspective of our dahlia show held, Sept 6-7. I hope all of you found a challenge this year and enjoyed it. Enjoy plotting next year's course and include the Southern Oregon Dahlia Society's dahlia show as your destination!

SPECIAL HORT ENTRIES

Largest blue ribbon: David Parmeter – Ivory Palaces
Smallest Blue Ribbon Pom: Ray Sturman – Crossfield Ebony
Best "A" Cactus: Ray Sturman – Bird Nest
Best single Laciniated, Amateur: David Parmeter - White Lace
Best single Laciniated, Advanced: Ray Sturman - Tioga Snowbird
Best Triple any other form: Eleanor Shantz - Fancy Pants

SPECIAL CATEGORIES

I find these awards intriguing and fun! There is more to dahlias than size, form, and color. Who hybridized what dahlia, where a dahlia was originated, the age of a variety, staging of multiple blooms, and lately the addition of vases and floats are also award categories. Exhibitors use their knowledge, skills, and extra time to enter these.

Dahlia of the Year: Ray Sturman – Hotcakes
PNDC Origination: Zorro - Paulette Woodward
West Coast Origination: Ron Clack – Emily C
Foreign Introduction: Shinkyoku – Ember Nay
5 Blooms of one variety: Embrace – Connie Parmeter
Best Collection – Little Willo, Pop Willo, Stoneleigh Joyce - Cheryle Hawkins
Old-fashion bouquet – Cora Vandervelden
Single floater: Pam Howden – Ray Sturman
Triple float: Pam Howden, Carmen Bunky, Figurine

- Elva Sellens
Golden Age: Kidd's Climax - Cheryle Hawkins
People's Choice: Tartan -Ray Sturman

HORTICULTURAL BASKETS

Other than artistic arrangements, this division requires an eye for horticultural quality of blooms as well as the arrangement of the blooms and foliage - not to mention the basket. Of course there is the fact that you will need a lot of blooms!

Best Basket: Christy Parks -Normandy Orange Fluff
"BB" Basket: Christy Parks -Camano Stroll
Miniature Basket: Ginger Clack -Kallista's Angel
Laciniated Basket: Christy Parks - Normandy Orange Fluff
Grand Slam: Eleanor Shantz -Fancy Pants, Elvira, and Chemicum Davi

ARTISTIC ARRANGEMENTS

This category has to be the ultimate in the use of any bloom – putting together Horticulture with Art. From buckets of blooms, greens, and boxes of accessories, it is always amazing how well the exhibitors execute a theme into a vision!

Best Arrangement: Cora Vandervelden – Theme, "Lazy Days"
Joy Gill Memorial: Ginger Clack – Theme, "Garden Daze"

Wild Rivers Dahlia Society ... by Bob Chibante

Gold Beach, Oregon

The Wild Rivers Dahlia Society would like to once again thank all of our sponsors. Currently we have been making plans for next year's show. We are proud to be hosting the 2015 PNDC Show. Already, we have held two meetings with some great ideas coming forward. We can use your help with the show. Currently we are looking for information to help our design section. We want to have a design representing each of our member societies. Please e-mail me any information on your local society's history to create design classes. Please include some information that would best represent your

hometown.

We plan to continue the photography section which was very popular this year. Also, on the table will be a non-judged section. Strictly for blooms, only to be viewed for the public or not show able because of leaves or perfectly good blooms. You can set up vases of up to 7 blooms per vase. This will add color and volume to the show. Next thing on the horizon for us will be monthly staging, entry, judging and clerk training. Mums and silk flowers will be on the table (LOL!). There are rumors that there are other types of flowers - hope I can handle it.

National Show Recap, from a Portland perspective

by Larry Smith, President,
Portland Dahlia Society

Portland was lucky enough to host the 2012 ADS National Show, for which I served as one of the three main Chairpersons. Although my dahlias did not advance far in the competition, it was great fun for all and the show came off beautifully. Imagine my excitement in learning that the National would be returning to the Northwest in 2014. Since attending my first National in northern Washington in 2009, the idea of seeing one of my blooms on the National head table had been near the top of my bucket list. This would be my third attempt and nothing was going to get in the way this time.

On April 1 of this year, I retired. I made plans to take this National by storm, plotting to gather the perfect show varieties in what was to be my best dahlia garden ever with all this extra time I would have. As the saying goes, the best laid plans.....the April fool turned out to be me. Shortly after retirement, my second career as a fitness instructor took on new life. Instructors who teach daytime classes and their managers found out that I am available and I became very popular. In one stretch, I taught 26 classes in a 17 day period. When August rolled around and my garden began to show lack of care, I decided that what I needed to exercise most was my option to say NO. I may have developed thighs of steel, but it was time for the dahlias to come first as the plants needed grooming, primping, and deadheading.

Just as I was getting caught up, I found a new title: "King of Flat Tires." Before the summer was over, I suffered through several flats on my bicycle and two auto flats. It is kind of tough to take care of the garden when stranded on the road or sitting in the tire repair shop, but I soldiered on. Then, just as things were coming together, I learned that my 81 year old father was admitted to the ICU and fighting for his life. It is kind of hard to maintain focus when something like that pops up. After three weeks of 1 1/2 hour round trips to the hospital, he was sent to a rehab center and on the recovery trail....just in time to keep my National Show reservation.

Unfortunately, the dahlias were showing the results of my lack of focus. Powdery mildew had crept in and I was seeing the first signs of spider mite damage. I sent out a desperate email to my Portland Dahlia Society fellow members to ask for advice on how to deal with this double whammy. I got a lot of great tips and one knight in shining armor, Mike Riordan, even gave me a supply of FungiFighter.

The week of the National, hot weather set upon the Portland area, not the best conditions for show dahlias. Many varieties were stripped of their brilliant colors. Oh, well, every show needs blooms, so I decided to take what I could anyway. I ended up with 33 passable entries staged and ready to go. At the last minute, I also snatched a handful of "almost good enough" blooms, not staged, but ready to step in if one of the staged entries broke on the way or blew a center. Among those was "Fancy Pants," a very nice newer orchette type



originated by and sent to me by Kathy Iler. Somehow, I got into Kathy's good graces and she often sends me some of her newest introductions, asking me to try them out. Fancy Pants was already a proven hit, having hit the top of the head table for Tiffany Boatwright as "best disc bloom" in the 2012 National in Portland.

Fancy Pants had one flaw; I discovered....It doesn't like hot weather. When daytime highs go above 80 degrees F, the petals will not show the proper degree of involution. Thursday night before the show, I decided to try to carefully "help" the petals manually. As I harvested blooms the morning before the show, Fancy Pants still wasn't ready. Just before dark, I looked again....alas, no change. But what the heck, it doesn't cost anything to pick a bloom, so I plucked it anyway. Since I didn't think it was quite National competition worthy, it was placed into a glass jar with the handful of other "almost" blooms, ready to make the three hour trip north.

The journey to Tacoma proved harrowing. A 5 a.m. start time would have been scary enough, but adrenaline really kicked in when not a mile away from home, I witnessed a very scary rollover car crash when the car just ahead of me ran a red light and bashed into a van.

I decided that I had better stop and make sure everyone was okay and give my contact information to the victim before proclaiming, "I can't wait around for the police, I have to get to the National Show by 9!" Thankfully, I didn't have to brake suddenly and not a petal was amiss on my show dahlia babies. Whew! Later, going through a rainstorm in Olympia, we hydroplaned all over the roads. Couldn't slow to 30 mph, would be late to get entries in! Thankfully, I made it to the show on time, but there were steep hills to go up leading to the venue. I heard a CLUNK when climbing the final hill. Alas, one of my containers had slipped out of place and damaged a bloom.

Oh, well, can't cry over broken stems, so I rushed to get my entries placed amid a sea of otherworldly beautiful blooms.

The Puget Sound area is dahlia heaven, how could my piddly hot



A garden tour at Clearview Dahlias.

National Show Recap... continued

weather blooms compete? At the last minute, I discarded the travel-damaged bloom and, in its place, staged Fancy Pants. It must have gotten scared on the drive up because its petals had involuted as they were supposed to. I still didn't know if it would win a blue ribbon, but, if not, it could hold its head high in defeat. After judging ended, I went looking for my exhibits. Things were looking good; most of them won a ribbon. But where was Fancy Pants?

Over the years, I have learned if you can't find a bloom, either it was moved during judging....or...has advanced further in the competition. Luckily, the latter was the case; it was named Best Orchette in Show! I had my bucket list wish, a bloom on the head table at National! One better, my Miss Muffet was named Best Peony in Show, so two of my babies were up there. I was shocked!

I was so busy celebrating this with my Portland DS friends and with hybridizer extraordinaire Kathy Iler that I missed one important development. Fancy Pants had been moved once again...to the top of the head table as Best Disc Bloom in Show! The rosette attached was three feet long, made of dazzling blue and gold ribbon and accented with golden spangles. A month after the show, I finally stopped taking it to bed with me.

Just as rewarding was celebrating the results of other members of our Portland Society. Max Ollieu won Best Fully Double Bloom in show/Best BB with Trengrove Millenium, Best Miniature Ball with Chimicum Davi, and had wins in some of the five bloom classes. Wayne and RaeAnnLobaugh won Best Triple Disc Bloom for none other than Fancy Pants (which had earlier been crowned Best Triple Orchette). The Lobaugh's also won for Best Garden Photo, Best Single with one of their seedlings, Best Anemone with Alpen Fury, Best Double Novelty with Clearview Magic, Best Triple Mignon Single with Inflammation, and Best Triple Orchid with Midnight Star.

Mark and Laura Oldenkamp exhibited Best Mignon Single in Show with Lo-PT and Best Open Novelty with U2 Ania. Margaret Kennedy created the Best Design in Show, Gordon Jackman won several top design awards, and Victoria Castro won the Best Novice Design award.

At the award ceremony, the announcer joked that next time they may reconsider inviting the Portland Society to their show.

All in all, we had a great time at the show, on the tours, and visiting the local attractions. We got some great publicity from our wins, with articles appearing in the Vancouver Columbian and Oregonian newspapers.

Thanks to the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Society for putting on an amazing event. Thanks also to the Portland Society members who are always there to support one another and stepped up to save me from dahlia disaster; I share my success with them. No thanks go to whoever decided to saddle me with my new nickname, "Mr. Fancy Pants," which continues to follow me to this day.

A Glimpse at the Portland Show

Photo by Ted Kennedy

\$350,000 Donation Supports Dahlia Virus Research

By Kate Wilhite, Washington State University

A \$350,000 donation from an avid dahlia grower will support Washington State University research into viruses that afflict the ornamental flower crop. "My brother clearly recognized that the knowledge in place at WSU made it the only practical place to solve the virus problem," said James Chuey, who made the gift from the Scheetz Chuey Charitable Foundation in honor of his late brother, Carl Chuey.

Hanu Pappu leads WSU's dahlia virus research program where scientists characterize viruses that infect dahlias, create virus detection tools and materials, develop virus management strategies and prepare educational materials about virus diagnosis and control. Chuey's gift will accelerate the research, said Pappu, the Sam Smith distinguished professor of plant virology at WSU.

Native to Mexico, dahlias are prized for their beautiful flowers and are an important ornamental crop grown around the world. The state of Washington has more than a dozen dahlia societies. Carl Chuey, a professor of biology for 47 years at Youngstown State University, and his brother, hybridized a number of dahlias, including one named for their mother, Marcella Louise Scheetz Chuey. Carl Chuey became concerned about the effects of dahlia viruses, which not only diminish the appearance and health of the plant but pose a serious quarantine issue that negatively impacts sale and trade. With his expertise in biology, he recognized the need for expanding dahlia research conducted at WSU.

This gift will have a far-reaching impact for dahlia growers worldwide and will target our most pressing problems in dahlia viruses," said Ron Miner, past president and trustee of the American Dahlia Society. To learn more about dahlia research at WSU, visit <http://dahlia.wsu.edu> Follow information about dahlia virus at the ADS website: <http://www.dahlia.org/index.php?page=virus-research-w-wsu> A video of the presentation by Hanu Pappu at the 2014 National Show, Tacoma, can be viewed at <http://www.dahlia.org/index.php?page=virus-video>



Best Triple in Show
Zepher,
by Mike & Kathy Iler

Marketing Cut Flowers ... by Ted Kennedy

At the ADS National Show in Tacoma, I attended the seminar on dahlia cut flowers. They had selected a smaller room for this presentation and they were wrong as there was standing room only.

This goes to show that the interest in dahlias as cut flowers is at an all time high.

In 1990 when we first started to grow dahlias we were looking for cut flowers and quickly determined that dahlias were the ultimate cut flower. We had tried numerous other candidates from Ageratum to Zinnias and dahlias were the best. We attended the tuber sale at the Portland Dahlia Society and found that many of the varieties were excellent cut flowers. We sold cut flowers from our little stand in front of our house for over 15 years. Of course, our interest in dahlias blossomed into show flowers and breeding dahlias but we will always appreciate good dahlias for cut flowers.

In 1990 selling dahlia cut flowers was not really that profitable. There were just a few regular customers and the local farmers markets had not yet started. In 2014, it is whole different world. There are farmers markets in just about every locality. If you want to sell at farmers markets here in the Portland area you can do so on many days of the week by traveling to the many different markets on the different days of the week. And when you multiply the number of such markets across the USA, there are many thousands of people who at least casually sell dahlia cut flowers.

Swan Island Dahlias has not ignored the cut flower demand. On their 45 acres of dahlias, they employ nine flower pickers who start at dawn and on busy days work until 3PM. At the height of the season they pick as many as 15,000 flowers in a day. And mind you, they do not just pick the flowers, they sell them all. And they do not have enough flowers to meet the demand and are exploring leasing an additional 5 acres to add to the cut flower production. Their major market is the wholesale florist who in turn supply dahlias to florists all over the USA. They are adding a new flower processing building and have already moved the Ponderosa lemons out of the old green house near the trial garden and will build there.

Mark Harvey of Old House Dahlias in Portland is a full time dahlia person now. He specializes in organically grown dahlias that he markets through contracts with the Portland organic grocery stores. He currently grows about 4 acres of dahlias.

Dan Pearson of Dan's Dahlias has been selling dahlia cut flowers since he was 11 years old and is in his early 40s now. He sells primarily at the Olympia, Washington market that is the second largest farmers market in Washington. He has added several other farmers markets to his schedule. And recently, Dan



A Bucketful at Blossom Gulch
photo by Cheryl Hawkins

along with some other flower growers, has established a wholesale flower market for florists in Seattle. Dan expanded his dahlia fields to 5 acres and has room to add at least another acre.

So these are some of the larger operations but at the ADS National show seminar, there were several other people who represent what can be done in a smaller operation. Noni Morrison grows dahlias on Vashon Island, a short ferry ride from the Tacoma trial garden. She specializes in growing all her own greens and filler flowers for her dahlia bouquets and sells at a Saturday market and also provides flowers to business customers on a weekly basis. Since the bouquets are artistically arranged, she can sell them for much more than just a bundle of ten dahlia stems. And that is where I am going with is short article. You do not have to have acres of dahlias to be able to make a tidy profit from dahlia

flowers sales. People will pay more money for a better product.

The last example of how to market dahlias is Don Dramstad who sells in the Washington DC area. Instead of selling through the farmers markets where competition is fierce, he specializes in higher end dahlias flowers that he markets to wedding florists. These florists are willing to pay \$2.00 per stem for the larger and more exotic(read show flowers here) flowers. He is always looking for new show flowers to add to his garden and knows he can sell them.



Best in Show
Trengrove Millennium,
by Max Olieu

A Glimpse at the Portland Show

Photo by Ted Kennedy