

## March 2022

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### 2022 Dates to Remember

- **March 17, 6:30 PM**  
General Meeting  
Crystal Grange
- **April 7, 7:00 PM**  
Board Meeting via Zoom  
*Note: If you have an item for the agenda, contact Paul Kusche on the Tuesday prior to the meeting*



Dorothy R.  
Photo by E Goodstein



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[www.kitsapdahlias.org](http://www.kitsapdahlias.org)

From the President

#### **Covid – Time to say Goodbye**

With Omicron infections on the decline, indoor mask requirements lifted except for public transportation and medical facilities and masks being thrown in the trash in hopes of never having to wear them again, life at KCDS is becoming more normal. A year ago we were talking about trying to get to Phase 3 and meeting indoors was just not an option. Let's hope that we can finally put COVID in any form behind us.

#### **Do you need 12" x 96" MDF shelving?**

With no interest in the white display shelving, we will move to the next step and get them transported to Habitat for Humanity or some other charitable organization.

#### **March Meeting – 3/17/22 – 6:30pm – 9:00pm – In-person – FBC (Crystal Grange) – No Zoom. (Snacks are taken care of for this meeting – we have birthdays to celebrate)**

Subject 1: Nutrition Deficiencies presentation. This is the results of a masters degree project at North Carolina State and is the best reference that I could find to help understand what happens in the nutrient world to dahlias.

Subject 2: ADS Photo Presentation from Debra Pavich. This in a compilation of the many photos that were received for the ADS Photo Contest.

#### **April Meeting – 4/21/22 (Need Snack Volunteers)**

5:00pm – 7:00pm – Member Tuber Order Self Pick (No Self Pick during the Meeting)

5:00pm – 7:00pm – Member Tuber Swap – If you have extra Tubers (That did not go to the Tuber Sale-shame on you) and want to trade with other members you can bring them at this time

7:00 pm – 8:30pm Meeting, Premium Tuber Raffle, Announcements.

#### **May Meeting – 5/19/22 (Snack will be arranged by your hosts)**

Location – Papa Paul's Dahlias – Deck – 5:00pm – 8:30pm

Member Tuber Swap and extra tuber giveaway before the auction.

Plant and Tuber Auction: Bring your plants/tubers/seedlings, etc. to auction off and lots of cash

Seedling Challenge – Plant distribution. The 2022 Parents are: Ivanetti 6009 BA PR, and Badger Twinkle 4213 M SC DB PR/WH.

## March 2022

### KCDS CONTACTS

#### President

Paul Kusche  
208-290-1798

#### Vice President (programs)

Steve Lamb  
805-450-8597

#### Treasurer

Sandy Livermore  
360-271-7404

#### Recording Secretary (minutes)

Linda Rickaby  
360-509-3751

#### Co-Corresponding Secretaries (newsletter)

Emily Goodstein  
253-225-1285  
kcdsnewsletter@comcast.net

#### Co-Corresponding Secretary (Webmaster/email)

Michael Lanning  
509-264-3427  
ml883@yahoo.com

#### Trustees

Pat Paulsen  
360-698-0123  
Penny Armstrong  
360-731-6654  
David Tonnessen  
360-697-2782

#### ADS Representative

Eric Anderson

#### Federation Representative

Steve Lamb

#### Sunshine Representative

Bobbi Merrick  
360-908-3939

### Board Investments:

-100 more of our favorite snips. \$2,000 – New Sale Price will be \$20.00 – Should last us 2 to 3 years. Online Price -if you can find them– is \$24-\$29 + shipping!. **The remaining 9-10 pairs of snips from our last order are on sale @ \$15.**

-12 Dahlias of Today 2022 - Sell Price \$13.00 – Regular online price \$15.00 + Shipping.

-Tuber Pencils – Pat is working on a new source.

-Plant Stakes - \$220: Bob has cut stakes for the Tuber Sale & Club Purchase

6” #1 Grade – 230 @ \$3.00 and 6’ #2 Grade – 50 @ \$1.50 (Have knots)

5’ #1 Grade – 5 @ \$2.00 and 3 1/2’ – 4’ #1 Grade 19 @ \$1.00

### KCDS – Turns 100 in 2023

Steve is pulling together a steering committee to plan our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at our 2023 Dahlia Show. Please step up and volunteer to be part of the planning. Look for more details on page 4 of this newsletter.

### Tuber Sale Critical Dates

Now for the fun stuff. Below are the critical dates for you to put on your personal calendars.

Date	Activity
March 1	Garden Orders Received, Adjust Inventory and create Preliminary, Upload Preliminary, Open up site for updated viewing – Send Garden Lists to David Tonnessen (dtonness@wavecable.com)
April 4	Donation List & Quantities due to David Tonnessen (dtonness@wavecable.com)
April 16	Bag & Tag 9:00 – Until Completed – All Members Needed
	Members bring donations, Gardens Pull Tubers, Final Inventory
	Upload Inventory to the Website
April 17 - Easter	Midnight - Open Sales for Members with Worker Bee Credit & Coupons ONLY
April 19	6:00pm – Sale Closes for Members with Worker Bee Credit
	Print Orders with a date range from 18th-19th - 7:00pm
	9:00 pm - Open Order to All Members once 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> are printed
April 20	3:30pm Setup in the Sanctuary
	5:00 – 7:00pm Members with Worker Bee Orders – Self Pick Orders
April 20	6:00 am - Sale Open for All Members (Additional Orders & Worker Bees accepted)
April 21	12:00 pm - Sales Close for All Members
	Remove Worker Bee items from Inventory
	1:00 pm - Print additional Member Orders – Bring to Society Meeting
April 21	5:00 – 7:00pm - Members Self Pick Orders before the Society Meeting
	No Purchasing – Just Order Pick – We will have copies of your online orders available
April 21	Pre Meeting: Tuber Trade – Extras that did not make the Sales Inventory – Bring for trading before the meeting.
	7:00pm - KCDS – Society Meeting
	Premium Tuber Raffle
	Announce May Meeting Plans
April 22	Midnight - Sales Open to the Public – (No Worker Bee Credits Available)
April 23-27	Online - Public Sale
April 27	6:00 pm – Online - Public Sale Closes
April 28	Anytime - Print Public Orders
April 29	10:00am until Done - Pick and Pack Public Orders – All Members need to help
April 30	9:00 am – 6:00pm - Public Pickup at the Church – Drive by and pick up orders at their convenience. No scheduled appointments.
April 30 – May 7	Pack and Ship Public Orders with Shipping

## KCDS MARCH BOARD NOTES

- Discussed clean up effort of KCDS supplies as the church prepares for building renovations.
- Lists of tubers needed for club gardens are being prepared.
- Discussed potential 100th Anniversary activities, approved the creation of a steering committee.



## DAHLIA NEWS FROM

Eric Anderson

Spring Ahead everyone! Masks are slowly disappearing as the “new norm” is taking shape. We are only one week away from the Spring Solstice and, hopefully after this last atmospheric river, seasonal temperatures will return. I just set up my cold frame to move geranium plants out of the greenhouse to harden off. Now I have room for potting up the new cuttings that I have been taking the last few weeks!

March is garden preparation time. Dahlias require 6 to 7 hours of direct sunlight for optimal results but will do fairly well with a minimum 3 to 4 hours. However, blooms and plant health may be affected with lower amounts of light. Plant in an area where plants will have good circulation of air for healthy growth and to prevent mildew. Avoid plants near trees and shrubs that could rob your dahlias of necessary moisture and nutrients. I have one spot in my garden where a tree loves sending roots to my well-watered and fertilized dahlias.

How did your dahlias grow last season? Were the plants healthy with lots of beautiful blooms, or stunted, with unhealthy leaves and few blooms. It's all about the soil! In the Pacific Northwest the soil tends to become more acidic after a winter of lots of rain. Dahlias grow best when the soil pH has a neutral reading of 7.0. Soil pH between 6.5 and 7.0 ensures that your dahlias will efficiently absorb the nutrients needed for healthy plants and beautiful blooms.

If your garden was disappointing, you may consider getting your soil tested. You can purchase inexpensive soil test kits from Lowes, Home Depot, Amazon or local garden centers. For more extensive testing you can try Twiss Analytical Laboratories in Poulsbo (360-779-5141 or <https://www.spectra-lab.com/>). The cost of the test is \$48. You get test results, but Twiss makes no soil recommendations. Another test site is Northwest Agricultural Consultants ([www.nwag.com/lab-services](http://www.nwag.com/lab-services)). Soil tests start at \$ 35. You can also try this link that has a wealth of information and recommendations: <https://puyallup.wsu.edu/soils/soils/>. Contact your Master Gardeners for soil testing centers in your locale.

Good draining soil is essential for growing dahlias. I am blessed with good draining sandy loam soil that I amend with organic material each year. The tuber does not like to sit in wet throughout the growing season. Clay-type soils tend to retain moisture longer but can be improved by adding organic materials to break up the clay. Some growers will construct raised beds to avoid this problem and bring in some good garden soil to raise prize winning dahlias!

For those of you who have planted a cover crop last fall, now is the time to chop down and spade or rototill it. Add fertilizer at this time to help feed the soil organisms that break down the nutrient rich organic material. If you did not grow a cover crop now is the time to add organic material such as leaf mold, compost, or manure. Check the soils pH and add lime if needed. You want to make sure that if you add lime now that is a quick release lime to get full benefit of improving the acidity. All materials should be incorporated at least one month before planting to give time to decompose.

Many of the dahlia clubs will be hosting their annual tubers sales online this year. If you haven't had a chance to complete your wish list, you will have a chance to get some of the most popular and newest varieties of dahlias at attractive prices. The KCDS Annual tuber sale will again be online for members April 17-21 and online for the public April 23-27. Check out our newsletter or go to [www.kitsapdahlias.org](http://www.kitsapdahlias.org) for more information. You can also check out the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers web page, [www.nwdahlia.org/club/](http://www.nwdahlia.org/club/) and click on the club links for information on dates of their dahlia tuber sales.

Excitement is growing. Come check out this months KCDS club meeting and learn about growing dahlias March 17, 2020.

## Help Us Celebrate 100 Years!



In 2023, our club will celebrate it's 100th Anniversary! We are creating a committee to plan a special 100th Anniversary Celebration. We need volunteers like YOU!

### **Why should I volunteer to be on 100th Anniversary Celebration Committee?**

We want to make sure our 100th Anniversary is a special event. This is a great opportunity to celebrate the long history of our club and have a lot of fun! Preparing for a special 100th Anniversary Celebration will take planning and effort, but together we can make light work of the task!

### **What sort of tasks will I need to do if I volunteer?**

- Help plan special 100th anniversary club items (i.e. aprons, hats, shirts, banners, etc)
- Bring your ideas and planning skills to help make our 2023 KCDS dahlia show unique and emphasize the 100 years our club has been in operation! This could include coming up with special show items (ribbons, medals, awards), special classes and demonstrations for the public, a celebration dinner, etc.
- Think of ways to get the community involved.

### **I want to help make our 100th Anniversary special—how do I get started?**

Contact Steve Lamb at [gr8time53@yahoo.com](mailto:gr8time53@yahoo.com) and let him know that you want to volunteer to be on the 100th Anniversary Celebration Committee!