



Long Island Dahlia Society
 WWW.LONGISLANDDAHLIA.COM LIDSNEWS@HOTMAIL.COM
 28 44th St. ISLIP, NY 11751 **NOVEMBER, 2006**

MEETING

NOVEMBER 16, 2006

WHERE:

HG Williams Community Center– Massapequa, NY

DIRECTIONS:

Southern State Pkwy to Route 110 South. At second traffic light (Taco Bell on the corner), turn right (west) on to Ritter Ave. The center is in a small park on the north (right) side of the road.

MAIN TOPIC:

The Curing Process and Storing of Tubers

DAHLIA 101 TOPIC:
 “Dahlia Basics”

REMINDER:

Meetings are held on the **3rd Thursday of every month**, and begin at 7:45, with coffee at 7:30. * “Dahlia 101” at 7:00 for newer members.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

LIDS Nov. Gen'l Meeting
 11/16/06
 7:30 pm HGWCC

DECEMBER

LIDS December Meeting and Holiday Party 12/21/06
 7:30 pm BCA Carriage House

THE MORE THE MERRIER!

The LIDS Arboretum Volunteer “Army” has completed the many tasks associated with putting the dahlia display garden to rest for the winter season. In record-breaking time, all 500+ dahlias were cut down, labeled, cleaned, cured for a week under tarps, and then boxed for storage at the Cornell University Research Center’s refrigerators in Riverhead. All pvc poles were also removed from the garden and stored in the arboretum shed reserved for the LIDS. This very efficient process was made possible by the many volunteers, both old-timers and newbies, who so generously donated their time each Saturday at the dahlia display garden. In addition, their willingness to share their enthusiasm and knowledge with the public has resulted in many new LIDS members being added to our ranks this year. A sincere “thank you” to all who participated in making this a successful year. In spite of the necessary work involved, volunteers speak fondly of their shared garden time. Many friendships are formed and nurtured while “tending the tubers.” The sunshine, fresh air, and healthy exercise are good for the body. Many useful gardening tips are exchanged among members. And, as always, much laughter accompanies the work– especially when Steve LaRosa is on the premises!



No, Bill’s not reading the newspaper, he’s using it to line trays where the cured tubers will be wrapped for storage. *Photo by Pat Murphy*



Volunteers Nahmen, Frieda, Steve, Judy & Maureen sorting and labeling tubers. *Photo by Mark Glatzer*

EXPANDING OUR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Another treat is in store for all attendees at the November meeting this Thursday, November 16th. Education chairman Joe Lysik will be discussing the process for curing and storing tubers for the winter. He will also be showing a power-point slide presentation made by club member Pat Murphy. Now that our dahlia blossoms are sadly missing from our gardens, what a perfect time to be reminded of their beauty once again through the power of modern media (and the creativity of Pat)! :))

A BIT OF DAHLIA HISTORY

By Pat Murphy

The high plains of Mexico are the birthplace of today's dahlias. Some species extend to Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Botanically the Genus Dahlia is a tuberous-rooted perennial plant that belongs to the family Compositae (Asteraceae) and the tribe Heliantheae. These plants have been growing Mexico and the surrounding areas for more than a thousand years.

The first reference to these plants was in a drawing that dated back to the time when the Toltecs dominated Mexico and gradually spread their dominance to the rest of Mesoamerica (900-1100 A.D.). The early drawings were symbolic and it is thought that these plants were used in religious ceremonies.



This drawing depicts dahlias as part of a headband that is worn by a woman as part of a matrimonial ceremony.

By the 1400's the Aztecs gained control of the region. It is reported that they cultivated these plants and they were exhibited in the gardens of Oaxaco and Mexico City. They referred to these dahlias as "acocotli" or the word "cocoxochitl" which meant hollow pipes or water tubes to describe these plants. The acocotli was used in a variety of ways. Some parts of dahlias were used as a medicine for the treatment of epilepsy and the tuber was used as a food source for animals. The hollow stems came in handy to help with irrigation problems.

Part II – The Spanish Conquest (to be continued)

DAHLIA 101

We'd like to encourage all new members (and anyone else who would like a "refresher") to attend the Dahlia 101 class, starting at 7:00 pm, just prior to the general meeting times. Taught by Joe Lysik, chairman of the Education Committee, these half-hour segments are a great way to learn the jargon and get a head start on becoming an experienced dahlia gardener. They also provide an easy way to get to know other club members a few at a time, rather than to be initially overwhelmed by the larger numbers at the general meetings. Hope to see you there!

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY!

As is customary at this time of the year, the LIDS December meeting (December 21st) will include a holiday party. Attendees will enjoy good food, friendship, and fun! If you'd like to be a part of the gift swap at this meeting, please bring a wrapped gift worth approximately \$10, and you will go home with a surprise gift of your own. If the gift you are bringing is gender-specific, please indicate "male" or "female" on the tag, but don't put your name as the giver (sshhh.. it's a secret!). All members are encouraged to party hearty with us!!

NEW LIDS MEMBERS

Once again, our membership roster has grown! A hearty welcome to our October additions- Ilaine Dickerman of Northport, and Len & Mary Ellen Nardiello of Seaford, We're very pleased to have you join us and look forward to sharing our love of dahlias with you. **A word of warning:** Our enthusiasm for our favorite flower is very contagious!! :)

VOTING ON A VERY LOCAL LEVEL!

The vote on the LIDS Constitutional By-Laws presented at the October meeting will take place at our November meeting. If ratified by the membership, the By-Laws will become effective immediately.

**This newsletter is published monthly by
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Loretta Glatzer, Editor

Patricia Murphy, & Mark Glatzer, photographers

Photos by Pat Murphy & Mark Glatzer

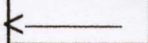
L to R: Judy Buitenkant, Don Koehler, Vince D'Emilia, Christine Ayasse, and Maureen Burford, clean the dahlia clumps before stacking them on trays to be stored.



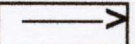
Easy does it. Ray Baranack gently taps the soil from the tuber clumps.



Joel Hull, and Joahna Baranack work together with unidentified member to fill a tray with tuber clumps.



John Canzoneri is in charge of transporting the tired old dahlia stems to their final resting place—the arboretum compost pile!



Frieda and Nahmen Redlefsen shovel from both sides, carefully digging out a dahlia clump without injury to the tender tubers.



L to R: Joe Laundrie, Mark Glatzer, Nahmen and Frieda Redlefsen, Don Koehler, and Steve LaRosa label and wrap tubers before storing them

