



Southtown Dahlia Club

March 22, 2026

Board Member Reports

- John - Treasurer (Financials, Insurance)
- John - Membership (SDC & ADS)
- Jenny - Social Media
- Sue – Website & Dahlia Outreach



SDC Treasury Reconciliation

Balance as of:	2/1/2026		Beginning Mohtly Balance		\$ 7,173.66
		Date	Entry	Amt	
			Member. Pmt Total	\$ 480.00	
		2/23/2026	Split The Pot proceeds	\$ 35.00	
			Deposits		\$ 515.00
		2/13/2026	Insurance (reimburse J. Kwak cred. card pmt.)	\$ (95.00)	
		2/17/2026	GoDaddy (website)	\$ (21.99)	
			Expenses		\$ (116.99)
		2/28/2026	Interest	\$ 0.02	
			Interest		\$ 0.02
Balance as of:	2/28/2026		Current Blance		\$ 7,571.69
Commentary			Increase Due To ...		\$ 398
			Primarily Due To 17 memberships paid & Feb's Split the Pot		\$ 515
			Partially offset by Insurance & Feb website charge		\$ (117)
			(\$350/yr. \$22/mo.)		\$ 398
Membership			SDC	52	
			Pay at show, traveling etc.	10	
			1 less than last year	62	
			ADS	19	
			4 more than last year		



Today's Topics

- ADS Judges Update - Marian Landerholm
- ADS Suggested Dahlias for New Growers
- Uncovering Surprises
- Propagating
- Flower Photo Tips - John Kwak



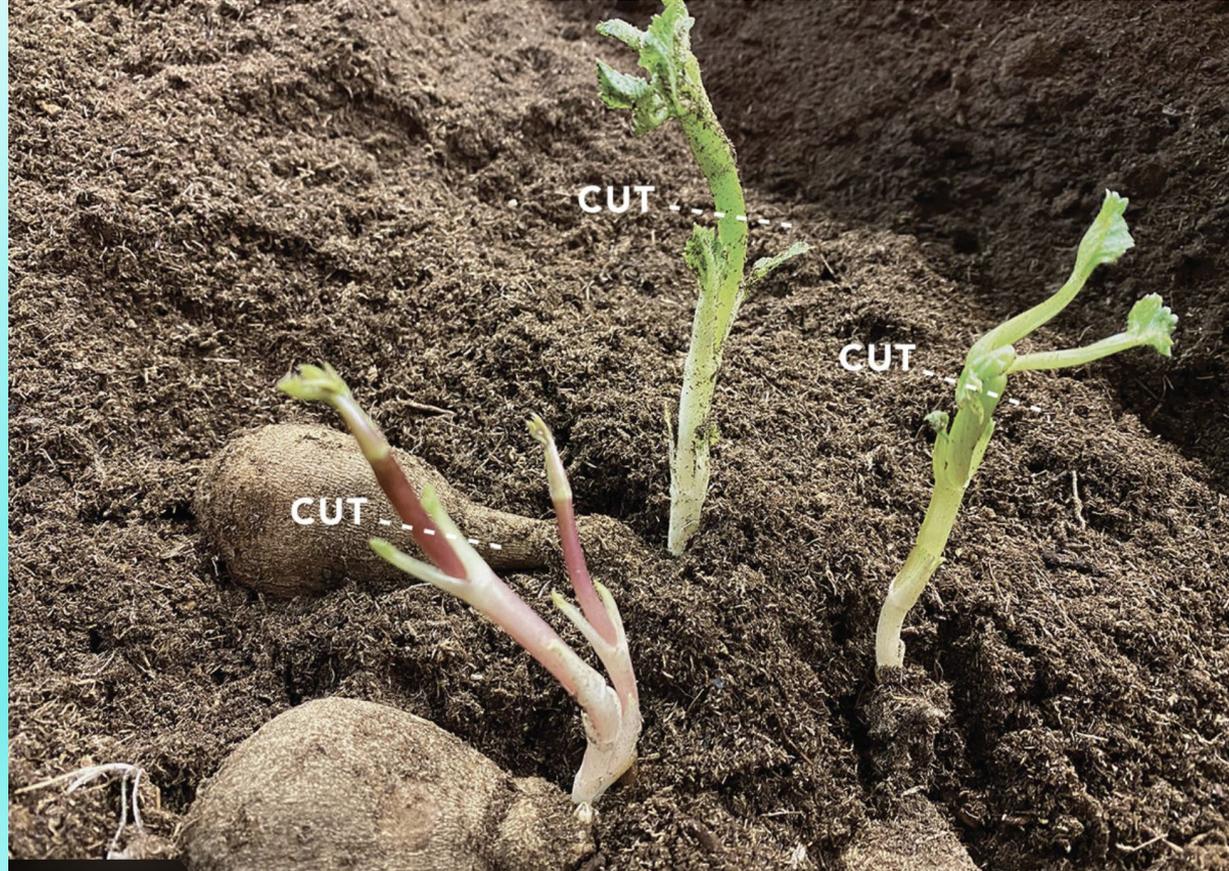
Today's Topic -

ADS Suggested Dahlias for New Growers

<p>AA's</p> <p>Zorro ~ <i>ID Dark Red</i></p> <p>A C Ben ~ <i>SC Orange/Yellow</i></p>	<p>Pompon</p> <p>Lismore Moonlight ~ <i>Yellow</i></p> <p>Irish Glow ~ <i>Red</i></p> <p>Pop Willo ~ <i>Bronze/Yellow</i></p>
<p>A's</p> <p>A C Casper ~ <i>White</i></p> <p>Vassio Meggos ~ <i>ID Lavender</i></p> <p>Islander ~ <i>ID Dark Pink</i></p>	<p>Lacinated</p> <p>Northwest Heritage ~ <i>Yellow</i></p> <p>Hannah Baker ~ <i>Dark Pink/Yellow</i></p> <p>Just Married ~ <i>Pink/Yellow</i></p>
<p>B's</p> <p>Hamari Accord ~ <i>SC Yellow</i></p> <p>Hollyhill Chloe ~ <i>SC Dark Pink/Orange</i></p> <p>Edna C ~ <i>FD Yellow</i></p>	<p>Waterlily</p> <p>Pam Howden ~ <i>Orange/Yellow</i></p> <p>Cameo ~ <i>Yellow</i></p>
<p>BB's</p> <p>Parkland Rave ~ <i>FD Lavender</i></p> <p>Hollyhill Black Beauty ~ <i>ID Dark Red</i></p> <p>Hollyhill Jitterbug ~ <i>SC Orange</i></p>	<p>Orchid Flowering</p> <p>Midnight Star ~ <i>Dark Red</i></p> <p>Destiny's Teachers ~ <i>White/Purple</i></p>
<p>Miniature</p> <p>Rose Toscano ~ <i>FD Orange</i></p> <p>Brookside J Cooley ~ <i>ID Yellow</i></p> <p>Weston Spanish Dancer ~ <i>C Flame</i></p>	<p>Orchette</p> <p>Verrone's Morning Star ~ <i>White</i></p> <p>Fancy Pants ~ <i>Lavender</i></p>
<p>Miniature Ball</p> <p>Sir Richard ~ <i>Dark Pink</i></p> <p>Chimacum Troy ~ <i>Purple</i></p>	<p>Stellar</p> <p>Alloway Candy ~ <i>Pink</i></p> <p>Irish Blackhart ~ <i>Dark Red/White</i></p>
<p>Ball</p> <p>Clearview Daniel ~ <i>Yellow</i></p> <p>Cornell ~ <i>Dark Red</i></p> <p>Mary's Jomanda ~ <i>Dark Pink</i></p>	

Today's Topic - Uncovering Surprises

Long White Sprouts



Today's Topic - Uncovering Surprises

Crown Gall



Today's Topic - Uncovering Surprises

Tuber Rot



Today's Topic - Propagating Dahlias

1. Developing a Cutting Bed

- Add water to high quality potting “soil” so it clumps up
 - Fill plastic tub with 6” of soil
- Temperature target 70 degrees
 - May need heating pad
- Grow lights 14 hours/day
 - 8-10” above tubers
 - Inexpensive shop lights
 - Pro - Kelvin 6500 (daylight color), Lumens 1800 (bright sunlight)



Today's Topic - Propagating Dahlias

2. Placing Tubers in the bed

- Selecting High Potential Tubers
 - Thick & firm neck
 - Visible eyes in crown
 - Make Plant Tags - name & date
- Planting
 - 45 degree, covering body & neck
 - 1-½" apart
- Watering
 - Initially water-in
 - Mist soil just enough to moisten
 - Sprouts - water every other day



Today's Topic - Propagating Dahlias

3. Cuttings

- Wait for 2-3 leaf pairs to appear
 - Knife vs Pull
 - Remove bottom/+ set of leaves
- Select your medium to grow
 - Potting soil, Oasis, "Root Riot"
- Rooting gel/powder
- Clear cups show root growth
- Cover with dome & hold temp



Today's Topic - Propagating Dahlias

4. Transplant

- Roots in 10-14 days
- Remove from vessel
- Coat soil with mycorrhizal
- 4" pot with potting soil
- No need to cover w/dome



Today's Topic - Flower Photo Tips





Chicago Area Camera Clubs Association
Interclub Competition Color DPI
Class B

John Kwak
In Recognition of
"The Flame"



**HONORABLE
MENTION**



March 2025
Competition Date

Jack Ingold
Competition Chair

2025 People's Choice Photo Contest Winner

Congratulations John Kwak, photographer



Ketchup & Mustard ... More Mustard!

YOU CAN DO IT TOO!

- On a digital camera or DSLR (digital single lens reflex)
- A point and shoot camera
- Or your trusty camera phone
- With an ax pick and stone tablet (ala the FLINTSTONES if you're REALLY talented!!!)

Tips

- **PHOTOGRAPHY** originates from the Greek words for “DRAWING WITH LIGHT”
- **AVOID THE HARSH SUN**
 - Shoot in the golden hours – when the sun is rising or setting for a golden hue
 - Use shade from trees or buildings
 - Use something to shade the flower, like an umbrella, paper or a diffuser
 - Be careful with using a flash on your camera or phone
 - Go out on a cloudy overcast day







More Tips

- Holding a camera and shooting is OK but ...
- Get a Tripod and shutter release to reduce shake from holding the camera. A remote shutter release will reduce vibrations from pressing the shutter button.
- Use a timer for 2,3,5 or 10 second intervals on the camera so you don't have to push any button.
- Set up the grid (tic-tac-toe) in your viewfinder on your camera or camera phone ... sets you up for the "rule of thirds" to guide the viewers eyes
 - Position the top horizon line for a sky and bottom for the foreground and the subject in the middle.
 - Center is ok but common. Instead try placing points of interest (eyes in portraits, a flower, a tree) on one of the four intersecting points.

Do a background check ...

- Try to achieve “bokeh” ... meaning a hazy / blurry background
 - Position your subject close to the camera and the background far away
 - On a digital camera adjust the aperture to the lower f-number your lens allows (f/1.8, f/2.8, etc.) to create a shallow depth of field.
 - On a digital camera use the Aperture Priority (Av) mode
 - Using a high f-number (like f/13 or f/22) keeps too much in focus unless that is the desired result
- Remove clutter, distracting or bright colored items in the background
 - They will detract from your main subject



... and the Tips keep on coming

- Focus on the most detailed part of the flower, typically the center to create a strong focal point
- Spray water on the flower to replicate dew
- Get low to the flowers level
- CROP! ... Get close and fill the frame
- Shoot at various angles, vertical, horizontal, experiment
- Drape a sheet over the back ground to create a clean background – black or white can create a stark contrast, drama

Post Processing ... after the shot is taken

- All kinds of software ... Photoshop, Lightroom, Luminar, Apple, etc.
- Enhance don't overwhelm, don't over do adjustments
 - Changes include, exposure, brilliance, highlights, shadows, contrast, brightness, black point, saturation, vibrance, sharpness, definition, noise reduction, vignettes, filters, cropping, clean up (erase), etc.







Participating in a Dahlia Photo Contest/Show

- American Dahlia Society
 - Annual contest digital submissions via email due Dec. 15th
 - 4 winners selected by judges in 10 categories & The People's Choice Award
 - Undisseminated, Portrait, Multiple Blooms, Gardens, Shows, Bouquet, Kids, Critters, Macro (closeups) & "Digital Darkroom" (heavy post processing)
 - You do not need to be an ADS member to enter but only members may vote for the People's Choice.

Participating in a Dahlia Photo Contest/Show

- Central States Dahlia Society
 - Annual show on Sept 19-20, 2026
 - You must be member but can join the day of the show
- 2 winners selected by judges in 7 categories
 - Single Bloom, Multiple Blooms, Close-Up Views, Black & White, In The Garden, In The Show and Artistic/Creative Expression
 - All entries must be mounted on an 11"x14" mat provided by you, photo may be any size
 - Visit a Holly Hobby, Michaels or photo printer stores to obtain mats (approx. \$10)
 - Go to Professional photo printer for quality printing on quality paper (approx. \$6)
 - Two entries allowed per category

Today's Topic - Flower Photo Tips



Today's Topic - Happy March Birthdays





Southtown Dahlia Club

February 26, 2026