

GPDS DAHLIA NEWS

Newsletter of the Greater Pittsburgh Dahlia Society

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- Local grower honored by ADS

Do you have 2020 vision for your garden?

So far, our winter in western Pennsylvania has been warmer and wetter than normal—so NOW is the time to plan your dahlia garden. Here are some tasks to do NOW while we wait for warmer weather.

1. Check your tubers in storage. Make sure you don't have mold or rot. Look for any eyes.
2. Measure your garden beds. Do you have room to add another row or extend the bed to accommodate more dahlias?
3. Test your soil, especially if you dug up a new bed, to see what fertilizer you'll need. Test kits are available at most garden stores and online at www.extension.psu.edu
4. Check your supply of stakes, cages, twine, name tags, starting pots, starting soil/medium, etc. and make a list of the items you need to buy.
5. If you have the room/light, start your tubers now so you can take cuttings in time for the April and May auctions.
6. Plan your garden beds and figure out where you will group your tubers (e.g., by size, form, color, etc.)

GPDS Around Town in 2020

Our members don't just sit around all summer, sip iced tea and watch our dahlia plants grow. We're busy snipping, de-budding, tying up stems, attacking pests and tending to our gardens. But did you know?? We are never too busy to talk about our favorite flowers? We enjoy talking about dahlias almost as much as we enjoy talking about our kids/grandkids/dogs! Here's some ways we'd love to come to your neighborhood this summer: visits to local garden clubs; demonstrations at garden centers; hosting booths at garden markets. If you have a suggestion for a group which would enjoy learning more about dahlias, let one of us know!



Recap of February Board Meeting

The Board met on February 15th in Penn Hills and discussed the following items:

- ◆ Plans are underway to participate in the Greensburg Garden Club event in May. Possible ideas include hosting a table, selling tubers and providing information about upcoming events.
- ◆ The March meeting will include an informational session on photography and how to compete in the new photography classes in September.
- ◆ There's no date yet for the October mini-show at the Pittsburgh Botanic Gardens.
- ◆ The 2020 Club Flower for the GPDS is Windhaven Firelight (BB-C-FL). Make sure you find a tuber and grow it in your garden this year.
- ◆ Reminder: the next meeting will be on March 14th at 1 PM at the Hebron Church (Barclay Building) in Penn Hills.

Congratulations to our President, Drew Graham!

At the February meeting of the Greater Pittsburgh Dahlia Society, Drew Graham was presented with the Lynn Dudley Award from the American Dahlia Society. The Lynn Dudley Award is given every year to the cultivar with the highest average seedling bench evaluation score in seven categories (AAA; BB; B; M; Ball/Miniature Ball/Pompon; St/Nx and Waterlily). Drew's seedling—Netherton Cindy (B-SC-W)—received the highest score for a B dahlia seedling in 2019. The highest three scores given among the ADS' 70 member society shows in the United States and Canada are used to determine the highest average. It's quite an honor but well-deserved by Drew's beautiful seedling.



Don't forget to regularly check us out online!

Find helpful information, tips, dates, addresses, tutorials, and lots of pretty photos on the Society's website: GreaterPittsburghDahliaSociety.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pghdahlia and on Instagram at [Pittsburgh.dahlia](https://www.instagram.com/Pittsburgh.dahlia) Let Ron Berman (RonBerman215@gmail.com) or Heather Ramsay (i.am.ericaceae@gmail.com) if you have anything to add to those sites