

# Betty Burton

## December 5, 2015

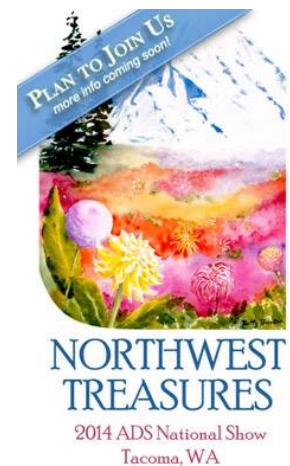


It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Betty Burton, longtime dahlia grower, judge, and mentor, on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. She and her husband David were leaders in the Puget Sound Dahlia Association (PSDA) and the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers. Betty was an artist as well as a dahlia enthusiast, having designed and painted the ADS National Show signature watercolor in 2014. She also designed the Federation's current medal and worked on their proposed new medal.

She was diagnosed with cancer and had surgery last December. The pathology after the surgery showed no spread of the cancer and we thought she was home free. Unfortunately at Easter of this year she became terribly sick and was admitted to the hospital. They found that the cancer had spread and immediately started chemotherapy. She had stage four metastatic cancer and there was nothing that could be done other than try to slow its progression.

Betty's mother passed away the week before Betty herself, so the family has much to do. According to Betty's wishes, there will be no formal services at this time. However, the family wishes to hold a celebration of her life along with a display of her art in the springtime.

Betty was 62 in April. She and David were married close to 25 years. She was a corporate CPA with an MBA in finance. She'd worked for Paccar for over 20 years starting with the lease management of their automotive division, moving on to a management position in the Paccar payroll department responsible for all of Paccar's US employees, about 10,000 of them, and finally she was given the task to integrate the implementation of a new \$10,000,000 payroll system for the entire company and support it going forward. This was the first time in her entire career that she wasn't managing employees and she loved it. She and David were planning to retire next year.



Betty and David joined PSDA in the early 90s when they purchased Harold Miller's (originator of Santa Claus and others) home in Sammamish. He invited them to their first meeting and paid for their first membership. They were in charge of the Country Store (they bought show and garden supplies in bulk and resold them to club members) for both PSDA and the Federation. David was PSDA Culture Chair for many years and Betty served a term as President. She was looked upon as a leader in the NW judging/teaching community and was frequently called upon as a workshop speaker. Perhaps her greatest strength was her ability to describe and teach dahlia types and form qualities; and, through her use of visual aids to make her presentations understandable to all. The Burtons originated numerous beautiful dahlias with the Stillwater prefix.

While they were teaching the Candidate Judging class, Bob Schroeder made a video of their class, which is on the ADS website, for use as a tool for judges' training. Betty was always smiling, always willing to meet and greet new members to our meetings, and help in any way. She was a ray of sunshine and she will be sorely missed by all who knew her.