

# Norm Anselmo

January 13, 2017



Norm Anselmo with "Nick Sr"  
in the 2013 Biggest Bloom Contest

Norm Anselmo of the Inland Empire Dahlia Society in Spokane, Washington, passed away on Friday, January 13, 2017. He had been a member of the US Coast Guard after high school, and worked as a dental technician. He did this job for 48 years, retiring at the age of 70. He is survived by his wife Dawn, and daughter Glee (Michael) and grandsons Aston (Gillian) and Matthew. Norm was well known throughout the dahlia world as the hybridizer of Inland Dynasty, a yellow giant semi-cactus dahlia, regarded by many to be one of the top ADS varieties.

He started growing dahlias quite by chance. In 1973, he was showing chickens at the Spokane County Fair and he happened to wander into the Floral building and the dahlia exhibits. He was immediately hooked, joining the Inland Empire Dahlia Society that very day. He started attending dahlia shows and discovered how much fun it was to grow and show this beautiful flower.

In 1976, Norm married his bride, Dawn, and dahlias became an important part of their life together. That year, they grew 12 plants, winning 11 Blues and 1 Red ribbon. In 1977, they grew 100 plants and 50 seedlings, starting the "Inland" line, including "Inland Night" in 1978. Norm attended judging classes in Spokane, becoming accredited in 1980, and a Senior Judge in 1982. The Inland Empire Dahlia Society was asked to host the 1980 ADS national Show in Spokane, introducing "Inland National" at that time. Norm and Dawn were chairs of the National Show Committee that year.

Over the years, Norm was a member of the Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference, the Inland Empire Dahlia Society (IEDS), the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers and he was a charter member of the North Idaho Dahlia Society. Norm met many people who became lifelong friends, through his participation in regional and national dahlia shows. Over the years, Norm served in many offices, including IEDS President (1984) and Vice-President (1982), and Trial Garden Director of the Inland Empire Trial Garden (1986). In 1992, he received the award for Best New Seedling at the National Show in Kalispell, Montana and in 1993, the Stanley Johnson Award for Inland Dynasty. In 2015, although Norm and Dawn had moved to an apartment, he continued to grow around 30 dahlias, always planning which ones he wanted for next year. Norm will be greatly missed by all who knew him.