

The Dahlia World Loses a Giant



Walt Wynne perished in a fire at his home on Saturday, February 16th, 2013. The house, which burned to the ground, was home to Walt, his wife Cory and Wynne's Dahlias for many years. All of the Wynne's dahlia tubers and dahlia customer information was lost in the fire as well.

Walt and Cory were founding members of the Whatcom County Dahlia Club and their home club was the Vancouver, British Columbia Dahlia Club. Wynne's Dahlias specializes in the "Big Ones". Jean Heeringa, friend and fellow dahlia society member, recalls that she was often the recipient of varieties that were too small for Walt's standards. Many of the "Wyn" giant/large varieties were featured in varied garden catalogues, with the 2013 ADS Classification and Handbook of Dahlias listing 25 of Walt and Cory's originations. In 2012, Walt and Cory grew over 7000 dahlia plants in their Whatcom County garden. Their cultivars were known worldwide, and shipped to all parts of the United States and Canada, plus many foreign countries including South Africa, Europe and New Zealand.

Walt was most generous in sharing his expertise. He was a valuable member on panels in Whatcom County and Vancouver dahlia society workshops, where he was always happy to share tips on his planting and fertilizing methods. He was also a great vegetable gardener, who shared the product of his garden, especially the giant beets he grew, with friends and neighbors or anyone else who happened to stop by.

The Wynne family is making every attempt to try to refund money paid by customers who ordered for 2013, but it might take a while. It would be very helpful if anyone who ordered can e-mail their information to the Wynne Family at waltdahlias@yahoo.com. A memorial service is being planned for Saturday, March 2, at "Topper's Barn," located right across the street from the Wynne home, 1395 Willey's Lake Road, Ferndale, Washington 98248, at 3:00 pm. The family invites people to bring photos that they might have of Walt, Walt and Cory, or pictures with Walt and/or Wyn's varieties, to add to a board at the memorial. Photos can also be e-mailed to the address above.

Walt will be greatly missed by all in the dahlia community but especially by his wife Cory and his children David and his wife Kim and their 2 children and Natalie and her husband and their child. The family wishes to express their gratitude for all the kind messages and posts they have received.

For more information:

<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2013/02/19/2886073/wynnes-dahlias-owner-killed-in.html>