

TUBER TALK

For March 2022

By Harry Risetto

Winter weather was slow in coming in our area of Northern Virginia. When it finally hit in January, snow and freezing weather was abundant.

I recently attended a Zoom meeting of the Rochester (NY) Dahlia Society. It was well attended and organized. Zoom and hybrid meetings (zoom and in person) work very well in between the active dahlia seasons. More members and potential members can participate and stay connected with the club and the dahlia. In the National Capital Dahlia Society most all our members have access to a computer, and we have good luck with remote meetings. We even do dahlia demonstrations that are useful to our newer members. It is healthy to avoid hibernation for five months.

The National Capital Dahlia Society is preparing to host the 2022 ADS National Dahlia Show. Once we found a site for the show -- The Sheraton Reston Hotel, near Dulles Airport in Virginia -- the remaining preparations are straightforward. Basically, they include a show, meals, meetings and a tour. There are any number of Societies in North America with the resources to host an ADS show. We have hosts for the next year or two, but volunteers for the future are needed. The annual ADS show is a unique opportunity to connect with dahlia lovers from North America and often elsewhere. Even with technology, face to face interaction is unique.
www.NationalCapitalDahliaSociety.org

If the non-availability of dahlia tubers is any indication of interest, the dahlia is going off the charts. 2022 will be a banner year. Many local Societies will have sales in person or on-line. Check the Society websites on www.dahlia.org.



I recently acquired a Dahliadel Nurseries catalog from 1931. The inside cover featured a beautiful image of *Thomas A Edison* (B-ID Pr). This cultivar from 1929 is still available from dahlia sellers. In honesty, the form of this category has improved over the last 70+ years. The informal decorative *Jane Cowl* (B ID Br) is another from the same era. I wonder whether these very old cultivars are genetically identical to the originals. But that is not an important question. They honor our past.

The ADS Judging Committee is currently finishing a revision of the Judging Manual to go along with the new Seedling Bench and Trial Garden Scorecards. The changes to the scorecards are not dramatic, but the new manual will be helpful in improving the consistency of judging. The revised manual will be of great assistance in judging entries on the show bench. Kudos to the Committee.