



# Alberta Dahlia & Gladiolus Society

## 2025 Flower Show Summary Meeting

**August 24, 2025 4:00 pm at the Olds Trial/Show Garden**

Present: Ken & Eileen, Herb, Mike, Shirley, Terri-Lynn, Ron, Wendy, John Henderson, Janice Martin (and Doreen, her Mom).

### Overall Reflections on a Successful Show

The 2025 Flower show was a resounding success—**new exhibitors, fresh volunteers, and enthusiastic visitors** all contributed to a vibrant and memorable event. The weather was ideal, with **no wind** to disrupt the displays. Herb had designed and built some wooden containers to hold the glad vases which really helped. Guests were full of praise for the **beauty of the trial garden**, asking thoughtful questions and expressing genuine admiration.



Terri-Lynn Dodd and Joleen setting up the quilts.

The **quilt display** once again stole the spotlight—true to tradition! With its **vibrant colors and intricate patterns**, the quilts harmonized beautifully with the floral arrangements, creating a feast for the eyes that left visitors genuinely impressed. Tackling the big job of putting up the quilts was Terri-Lynn, Shirley and her crew, LaRae Schmidt, Joleen, Penny, and Herb.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to the talented individuals who generously loaned their quilts for display:

- Wendy Bondar Kingsmith
- Shirley Black Cullum
- Terri-Lynn Ron Dodd
- Connie Fraser
- Monica Lois Utri Bishop
- Linda Ames
- Helen Carriere
- Melanie Cuffe
- Peggy Chabot

A standout feature of this year's show was the **photo display**, thoughtfully organized by **Wendy Bondar Kingsmith**. It quickly became a crowd favorite, offering visitors a chance to

engage with the event through **Viewer's Choice ballots**—a fun and interactive way to celebrate the beauty captured in each image. One particularly touching element was an entire easel dedicated to photos **in memory of Lorne McArthur**, honoring his contributions and presence within the club. Wendy's heartfelt curation added depth and meaning to the show, reminding us of all the lasting impact of those who've helped shape our community.

The **flower sales table** was a lively hub throughout the two-day event, with visitors eagerly picking out **single spikes or crafting custom bouquets** to take home. The vibrant selection and flexibility made it a hit—adding a fragrant, personal touch to the show experience.

A huge thank-you goes to the dedicated team who kept the flower sales running smoothly:

- Shirley Black Cullum
- Terri-Lynn Ron Dodd
- LaRae Schmidt
- Janice Martin



Promotion for the event was truly a **team effort**, with everyone pitching in to **email and post flyers** and get the word out. A special shout-out goes to **Penny**, who went above and beyond by **posting across countless Facebook groups and websites**—casting a wide net to reach potential visitors. It was widely agreed that her strategic focus on **horticulture, quilting, and garden pages** made a real impact, likely drawing in a larger and more engaged crowd. Her digital hustle helped turn curiosity into attendance, and the results spoke for themselves.



A huge shout-out to **Mike, Herb, Ron, Evan and Ken, and Ron's helpers—Chris** and James Dodd for their hard work in **setting up and taking down the tents and tables**. Their early efforts laid the foundation (literally!) for a smooth and welcoming show experience. The women weren't to be undone either, Shirley, Deb, Wendy and Terri-Lynn helped undo the frame parts and pieces and moved them out of the way and folded the covers.

While **everyone pitched in** to help take the tents down, it was no small feat. In the previous years we had lots of help and the job took just over an hour. This time we didn't have as much help and we spent almost three hours cleaning up. The job was heavy and

time-consuming, and we're seriously considering **hiring a crew next year to take down the tents and put them up.**

Special thanks to **Mike** and Ron who set up the tables, and Mike who went above and beyond by **finding and purchasing a new large tent for \$600**, giving the club a total of **two tents** to work with. That's a game-changer for future events!

Special thanks to Marilyn McArthur for donating gladiolus to the summer celebration, to Monica Bishop for donating a table to the club and Wilma at Olds College for agreeing to let us store some of the bigger items in the barn.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to **Reg Powys-Lybbe** for his generous mentorship in **gladiolus point-scoring**—a vital step in the journey toward becoming accredited glad



Reg point-scoring with Ron Dodd, Wendy in the background setting up the picture display.

judges. His guidance has been instrumental in helping club members understand the nuances of judging and the standards that define excellence in spikes.

Thanks to Reg's support, we're proud to share that **at least four or five members** of our club will be

stepping up as **spike judges** by the end of the season. This marks an exciting milestone for our community and reflects the growing expertise and dedication within our ranks.

We had a little extra time this year to **Colour Score** the dahlias in the trial garden—a key requirement for maintaining our official trial status. This process involves carefully evaluating and documenting the precise color of each bloom, which is essential for classification and judging standards. Having **a few members available** made a big difference. With so many subtle variations in hue and tone, it was incredibly helpful to have a team approach, ensuring accuracy and consistency.

One of the core purposes of the **Flower Show** was to give members a chance to proudly display their **finest gladiolus spikes** and have them **professionally judged**—a moment of celebration, learning, and friendly competition.

The energy kicked off early **Saturday morning**, with members bustling to **stage their blooms** in containers. It was a flurry of color and activity, and thanks to the guidance of club members and volunteers, **Janice (from Sherwood Park)** and **Kish (from Calgary)**, many participants got help with **entry labels** and tips on **proper staging techniques**. Their support was important and helpful.

Behind the scenes, **Deb and Mike** kept things running like clockwork, organizing the **judging teams**, preparing the **necessary forms**, and ensuring every detail was in place. Whether judging or clerking, **everyone played a role**, contributing to a well-run and meaningful experience. Everyone stepped up and contributed in some way, seeing what needed to be done and doing it.

There was a suggestion to have size 1 and size 2 gladiolus judged in separate classes next year. Currently, and in the past, they have been judged together as one class.

Deb believes that the judging process can be streamlined a bit, and she will work on it for next year. There were some dahlias that were not named correctly, maybe we could have a separate table and person to identify unknown dahlias before they are staged.

It was suggested that the Flower Show Day times could be changed from 9 am to 3 pm. (Currently 8 am to 4 pm).

It was good to have the two holiday trailers set up at the south end of the tents to break the wind and provide privacy. This provided a good space for coffee and snacks, maybe move the coffee table next year a bit to the east.

We should have a welcome tent/table (maybe a 10x10 canopy tent) with a donation box, membership forms, and a guest book and someone to answer questions.

Deb suggestion: there could be more people mingling to answer questions. There seemed to be a lot of visitors wandering around wanting someone to explain things to them.

Shirley thinks we should charge more for flower bouquets... from \$20 to maybe \$40.

There were lots of good comments from visitors that the trial/show garden was lovely and showed the hard work and love of many volunteers and many hours. Also, how lovely the show tents were arranged and staged. And, of course, how beautiful the flowers were.

Shirley wanted to thank all the volunteers including LaRae Schmidt, Penny de Nevers, Kish Patel, Jim Cuthill and Janice Martin, but ESPECIALLY to club members and volunteers who have gone far beyond expectations and have given 100% to the club.

Herb is and was available to help with anything and everything but is especially good at identifying things that need to be done and just doing them. His superpower is building things. He is also our gopher guy.

Debbie keeps everyone in line and provides all the paperwork needed and does all the computer stuff including the website and facebook. She oversees the glad and dahlia judging, the trial garden, and is liaison with the national organizations (NAGC and ADS). Her superpower is in organizing.

Terri-Lynn and Ron Dodd are always on hand to help wherever they are needed and seem to have limitless energy. They can grow dahlias and flowers like no one else! Ron is the backbone of the heavy labour needed for the club. Terri-Lynn's superpower is being kind and helpful. Ron is the muscle of the club and is the money-guy!

Mike Walliser is our go-to guy for anything that needs to be done. He comes up with good ideas for doing things in different ways that save time and money. He is the supervisor of the tents, the irrigation and the tuber sales. His superpower is in inventive thinking.

Shirley is the inspiration of the club! With boundless energy she motivates the rest of us. She is the idea person and has the leadership qualities to make things happen.

Ken Jensen and Eileen Grant, Reg Powys-Lybbe and Marilyn McArthur are all original founding members and contribute with their knowledge and experience.

Total quilts = 78

Total Dahlia blooms including in arrangements = 263

Total Glads including in arrangements = 117

Photos for display= 54

Article by Debbie Hatt and edited by Shirley Cullum Sept 12, 2025



Two glad arrangements/bouquets from Reg Powys-Lybbe