

Pauline Fanning
2011 Inductee
Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers Hall of Fame

Pauline began growing dahlias in 1950 while a member of several garden clubs. In 1953 she exhibited in her first Washington State Dahlia Society (WSDS) show; 1954 brought membership in WSDS and also the American Dahlia Society. She was a charter member in 1984 of the newly formed Federation. Over the years Pauline held every office in WSDS except secretary (smart lady) and she was the show chairman for over 30 years.

Among other things, Pauline was the epitome of prolific exhibitors. She exhibited in all sections of horticulture. She would have entries from giants right down to the very small mignon singles. Her entries would include singles, triple, and even five-blooms. In addition, she would also enter many baskets, several which were her signature baskets that everyone recognized. But she was not completely entered in the show until she had also set up her arrangements, which often won best in show. She would be represented all over the head table from week to week at shows all over the Federation. I remember that when Art Weurth started his South Sound show, he was worried that there would not be enough exhibits. When he learned that Pauline planned to attend, he quipped, "If Pauline is exhibiting then I have a show."

Pauline often spoke at WSDS meetings and at Federation workshops about making baskets. She loved to share her knowledge of dahlias and spoke to all of the garden clubs in the area to promote dahlias. 2008 brought her the President's Award from the American Dahlia Society where she was named perhaps the longest living ADS member. During her 60 years of growing dahlias she was always heard to say that next season she was going to "cut back." At the age of 91 she grew 1000 plants and showed at almost all the Federation shows and also the Puyallup Fair.

Pauline's originations included Sean C, Pagoda, and Mars. There were many others. Pauline was always at Federation workshops and judging classes. She said that she always learned something new and found even more ways to promote dahlias.