CLAUDIA BIGGS
2026 Inductee
Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers Hall of Fame

The Inland Empire Dahlia Society is honored to nominate Claudia Biggs for induction into the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers Hall of Fame.

For more than three decades, Claudia Biggs has exemplified the very best of what the Federation seeks to promote: excellence in exhibiting, judging, education, leadership, public outreach, and service to the dahlia community. Her influence extends far beyond her local society and can be seen in the lasting programs, gardens, and educational resources that continue to benefit growers throughout the Northwest and across the American Dahlia Society.

A member of the Inland Empire Dahlia Society since the 1990s and now a lifetime member of our society, Claudia has served in numerous leadership roles including Federation representative, show chair, and tuber sale chair. As Federation representative, she faithfully represented the Inland Empire Dahlia Society for many years and served as an important link between our society and the Federation. Her dedication, professionalism, and enthusiasm for the Federation were evident in every aspect of her service.

Claudia is a long-time American Dahlia Society Senior Judge with more than twenty years of judging experience. She has judged countless shows, evaluated trial garden entries year after year, and generously mentored newer judges and exhibitors. Her knowledge of dahlias, attention to detail, and commitment to maintaining judging standards have helped preserve the integrity and educational mission of competitive exhibiting throughout our region.

As an exhibitor, Claudia has long been recognized as one of Spokane's most accomplished and consistent competitors. Her many awards reflect decades of dedication to growing and exhibiting dahlias at the highest level. Yet perhaps her greatest contribution has been her willingness to share that knowledge with others. Generations of growers have benefited from her encouragement, mentorship, and example.

One of Claudia's most enduring legacies began in 1999 when she and her late husband, Dr. Dennis Biggs, established the dahlia display garden at the Spokane Mann-Grandstaff Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Twenty-seven years later, that garden continues to thrive and remains one of the Inland Empire Dahlia Society's most visible public outreach projects. Thousands of veterans, staff members, patients, and visitors have enjoyed the beauty of the garden over the years. The garden has become such a meaningful tribute that it has been recognized nationally as a Never Forget Garden, an official living memorial honoring America's veterans and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Few contributions better demonstrate the power of dahlias to enrich lives and strengthen communities.

Claudia's impact also extends to the national level through her many years of service as manager of the American Dahlia Society image library. During a transformative period in which the society moved from physical slide collections to digital archives and online access, Claudia played a pivotal role in preserving and organizing thousands of images of dahlia cultivars. Her efforts helped bring this invaluable educational resource into the digital age, making information and images accessible to growers, exhibitors, judges, and hybridizers across the country. The benefits of that work continue to be realized today by anyone who utilizes the ADS classification and identification resources.

Education and outreach have always been central to Claudia's service. For many years she opened her home to host the Inland Empire Dahlia Society's annual picnic, creating opportunities for fellowship, learning, and the exchange of knowledge among members. More recently, after moving into retirement living, she once again demonstrated her commitment to sharing dahlias by organizing and chairing the Rockwood Retirement Community Garden Club. In 2025, she established a new public display garden featuring fifty different dahlia cultivars to showcase the remarkable diversity of the genus. Through

presentations, garden tours, and personal interactions, she continues to introduce new audiences to the joy of growing dahlias.

Claudia Biggs has devoted her life to advancing the mission of the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers, the Inland Empire Dahlia Society, and the American Dahlia Society. Her contributions have been sustained, significant, and lasting. She has educated growers, mentored judges, strengthened organizations, expanded public appreciation for dahlias, preserved important historical resources, and created living gardens that continue to inspire long after their establishment.

In Spokane, she is affectionately known as “The Dahlia Lady.” To many throughout the Northwest dahlia community, she represents the very qualities that define a Hall of Fame member: dedication, leadership, service, and an unwavering commitment to promoting the beauty and enjoyment of dahlias.

The Inland Empire Dahlia Society respectfully and enthusiastically nominates Claudia Biggs for induction into the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers Hall of Fame.