PAUL BLOOMQUIST
2026 Inductee
Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers Hall of Fame

For more than 30 years, Paul Bloomquist's passion for gardening and the dahlia community has made Bloomquist Dahlias a name recognized throughout the dahlia world. His enthusiasm for hybridization and the thrill of discovering new varieties have shaped a legacy defined by beauty, innovation, and a genuine love for the flower he champions. Paul's goal has always been simple and sincere: to create dahlias that spark excitement, capture the public's imagination, and bring joy to growers and admirers alike.
The American Dahlia Society currently lists 58 Bloomquist varieties in its classification book. Among them, Bloomquist Jean stands out as both a Federation Dahlia of the Year and an ADS Stanley Johnson Medal winner — an achievement that reflects Paul's exceptional skill and creativity.

Paul's contributions to the dahlia community extend far beyond hybridizing. He has been a steadfast supporter of the Federation, not only as a member but as the long-time auctioneer for the Jack Crawford Memorial Tuber Auction, helping raise essential funds year after year. With the help of his wife, Barbara, he also anchored refreshments for Federation workshops and meetings. Paul approached even the simple task of ordering donuts with care, ensuring that every hospitality table was welcoming, and left the venue spotless — gestures that strengthened the Federation's relationship with its venues and made members feel valued.

As part of the Federation judging program, Paul shared his expertise by judging countless shows during his active exhibiting years. His thoughtful presence and steady leadership enriched every event he touched.

Closer to home, Paul served as president of the Whatcom County Dahlia Society for 15 years, guiding both the annual dahlia sale and show. Under his leadership, the club more than doubled in size. His sincerity, creativity, and enthusiasm made each event memorable. During WCDS awards ceremonies, Paul made a point of personally shaking each winner's hand as he presented their prize envelope. For juniors and new exhibitors especially, this small but meaningful gesture elevated their experience and left them with a lasting sense of pride and encouragement. It is one of the many reasons the WCDS show is considered a standout in the season.

The town of Lynden and the greater Whatcom County community have benefited from Paul's generosity to donate dahlia tubers to support local fundraising efforts. His contributions have helped strengthen community programs and brought the beauty of dahlias to countless gardens.

Paul Bloomquist's decades of dedication, kindness, and passion have left an indelible mark on growers, clubs, and communities throughout the Pacific Northwest. His work has inspired new generations of dahlia enthusiasts and enriched the Federation positively and provided a legacy of good that will be remembered for years to come.