

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers of the Month: The Dahlia Garden Volunteers



Our Volunteers of the Month are our Paul Callahan Dahlia Garden Volunteers at Planting Fields. They meet weekly for about eight months out of the year and lovingly plant, grow, and care for the amazing dahlias we all get to enjoy. The process begins the third week of March when tubers are moved from the root cellar to the greenhouses. Tubers with identifying name tags are put in pots and trays with a Pro-Mix product, fertilized, and watered. This process continues weekly during April and May. Meanwhile, the fourteen or so beds are weeded and prepped for planting in the last week of May. This season, 500 dahlias were planted! During the growing season, the plants are mulched, tied, pruned, fertilized, and get a good watering from the new sprinkling system. Under most weather circumstances, the plants bloom late summer and are their best as weather gets a little cooler in September. In late October, the plants are cut down, dug up, washed, and moved into the root cellar to restart the process in the spring. For the volunteers, this is a labor of love, and we appreciate all their efforts for these gorgeous blooms.

Pictured left to right: Mike Shukofsky, Bill Barash, Bill Clifford, Marie Clifford, Lorraine Loughlin, Linda Sturges, Kathy Feher, Rosemary Signoriello, Pat Valente and Elliot Setton.

Absent: Gladys Hampson, Ricky Klein, Bob Kozlowski, Sheila Nandi, Dennis Ringel
Mike Shea, Seetha Thallur, Rich Loughlin.

Our Mission

Planting Fields Foundation strives to preserve and make relevant to all audiences the heritage of Planting Fields, an early 20th century 409-acre estate, designed as an integrated composition of the built and natural world.



PLANTING FIELDS



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**