All Dahlia'd Up

Hower Farm

August 2017

NEWSLETTER MAGAZINE



The Good,
The Bad,
THE FLOWERS

Wedding Bouquet Bliss



AllDahliadUp.com



### "Flowers are always a good idea"

Please send your comments, successes, challenges & questions to <u>mistyvanderweele@gmail.com</u>

> or Misty VanderWeele PO Box 4124 Palmer, AK 99645

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I saw my first yellow leaf fall as I sat down to write this note from the editor aka, farmer florist.

The Alaska State Fair is fast approaching and 70 degrees isn't in the 10 day weather forecast. *I am putting in my order for an Indian summer though.*;)

This means our Alaska summer is on the downhill. Which always leaves me feeling a bit melancholy and nostalgic; I never want flower season to end. My body does but not my heart.

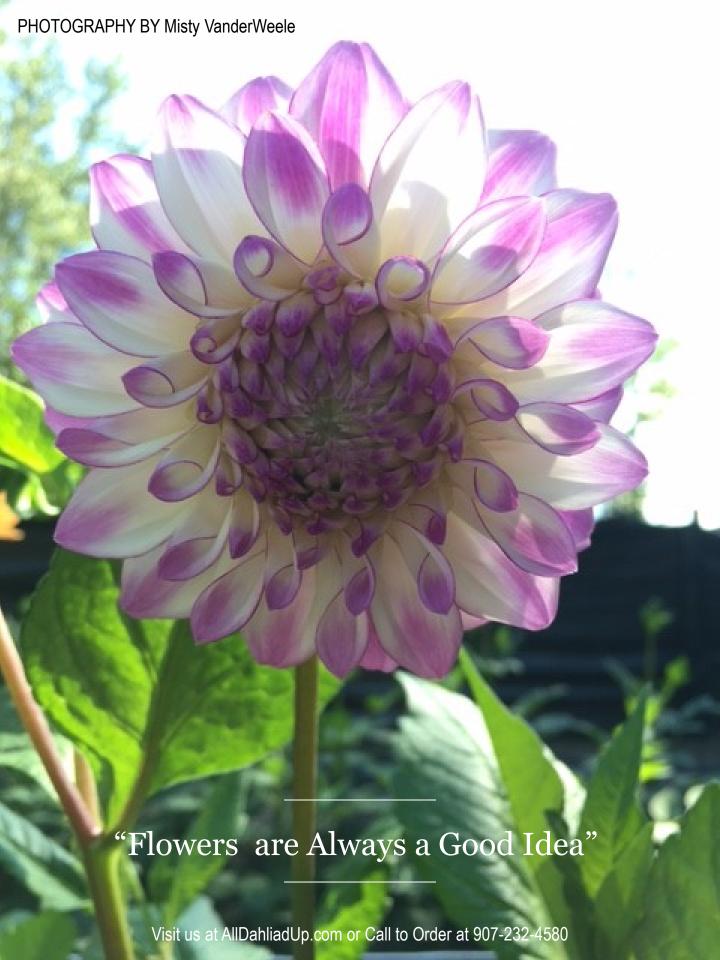
However I got to thinking for a flower farmer it's always flower season as flowers are never far from our minds. It's either fall flower clean up, winter flower planning, spring flower seeding or summer flower fun and work.

If you are reading this and I hope you are than you and I both know flowers are always a good idea no matter the season.

Here's to the last push before frost!



Misty VanderWeele Farmer Florist



#### **Upcoming Events**

#### Season 2017

- Taking Deliveries Now
- South Anchorage Farmers
   Market Sat. 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>
- Alaska State Fair Aug. 24

\*Cover Photo By Misty VanderWeele, ©2017

Be Mine Dahlia

#### **Customers Also Liked**



#### **Around the Farm**

#### **Latest Facebook Photos**





## The Good, The Bad, The Howers....

Glen and I have been referring to this summer as our clean up summer. He's been cleaning up our side yard to prep for where some hoop houses are going to go and plenty of area for parking and rental tents for our wedding venue. With farming this pretty much means we have worked all season long including weekends since spring.

We are finally seeing progress..yay us!

This spring after reading the *The Lean Farm* by Ben Hartman I went through every farm task to look for ways to improve efficiency by lessening the steps to accomplish all jobs. Let me tell you, I wish I had read this book 4 years ago!

Two of my favorite lean methods is I now sport around in a fancy farmer florist tool belt. No more running around trying to find my clippers, scissors, box cutter or phone!

And two I keep all my jars and vases within reach under our flower preptent.

I had been walking back and forth to the garden shed every day for 3 flower seasons! What was I thinking!

Now for the bad it really hasn't been that great of a dahlia growing year. We had an early spring and late summer. Then when summer did hit it was warm cold, warm cold but mostly more cold than warm. The dahlias still haven't gotten their full mojo on and I'm really not sure they will at all this year.

It's been extremely frustrating to have over 850 plants and still not be in full bloom!

However the majority of all the other 22 flower varieties we grew this year although were behind have done very well, especially our sweet peas, stock and snapdragons. The sunflowers have just begun to bloom very nicely along with our very small planting of Iceland poppies. I have learned a ton!

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Continued on the next page



You will be able to find us at the South Anchorage Farmer Market This Saturday August 19<sup>th</sup> 10am-2pm Another wonderful thing that has happened this season within the last month is we've had 4 different incredible photographers photograph our flowers in some way.

Relic Photographic captured one of your dahlia sweet pea bridal bouquets.

Posey Perfect Photography captured me in action with my fancy tool belt

**Donna Marie Photography** captured my Customer Experience talk and flower presentation at our Rising Tide Society, Tuesdays Together monthly meeting.

Paula Clausen Photography captured both our Flower Farm Tours again this year. All the photos can be seen further within except Paula Clausen Photography will be in featured in our September issue when all the editing is finished from both our Flower Farm Tours.

I am feeling really good about our Flower Farm tours this year. Both had sold out. Both had great food, both created amazing flower arrangements. Both had wonderful photography. One had pretty good weather and Barbara Hunt resident painter and the other had lots of rain and a food truck/trailer Spruce Tip Cafe.

My goal of having a little bit of a different tour every year completely fulfilled. Our tours include Alaska Grown Food, Photographer, Flowers and great people. We will announce our next year tours later on in the fall or early next year so stay tuned.









Misty VanderWeele's flower garden is very close to heaven.

It is pure beauty for the eyes and aromatics for the nose. Through these basic senses one's soul is recharged with appreciation and joy. The setting of her Alaska farm is in the heartland of the Matanuska Susitna Valley, where the soil is deep and rich. These flowers are nature's gifts, which after much work,

Misty processes and shares with the rest of the world. Misty has a thriving business, All Dahliad Up, which provides masterful bouquets and flowers for any occasion. She is an inspirational woman, in her own right, and shares thoughtful oral presentations along with authoring several uplifting books. Barbara Hunt writes and paints with her business, Wordpaintsnap. She does content creation for clients along with commissioned paintings, illustrations and writing for various publications and social media.

This painting is done in 'Plein Aire' style at one of Misty's Flower Farm tours. It is a pleasure to be the residence painter at fun events. One must paint fast in oil and it is delightfully challenging to try to capture the mystical wonders and joy of Misty's garden.

~Barbra Hunt











# Wedding Bouquet Bliss,

Photography by Relic...Flower Design by All Dahlia'd Up

Something about a man holding flowers for his lady...



#### **Our Farm Offers:**

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#### Farm Newsletter Magazine



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