

DAHLIA DIGEST

DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO

Since 1930

VOL. 2007 ISSUE 4

MAY MEETING, 2007



MAY 4
MEETING

7:30

Busch Community Room
7501 Ridge Road, Parma
Just south of Pleasant Valley Road

ANNUAL

TUBER

AUCTION



President's Notes

Folks,

Looks like I jumped the gun in last month's article regarding a "Spring thaw." Mother Nature threw us a real curveball postponing thoughts of an early Spring. Looks more like a late Winter.

Nonetheless, tubers seem to be showing more sprouts and at least it looks like they're on schedule. Speaking of tubers, hope yours are responding as well. Please check to see if you will be able to donate some to our annual tuber auction. Share the "wealth!" with your fellow members and newcomers to growing dahlias. Thanks.

Speaking of tubers, we've done two more cuttings at Willoway the past couple of weeks and now have a total of 147 cuttings. None are really rooted yet but hopefully a positive change in the weather will get them going or in this case "growing!"

Not a lot more to say except "better days are ahead!" See you in May.

Mike



**VISIT OUR DSO WEBSITE
SHARON SWANEY, WEBMASTER
WWW.DAHLIASOCIETYOFOHIO.ORG**

**Refreshments:
Elaine Bebenroth
Barabara Miner
Linda Vuletich**



OFFICERS-CHAIRS/PHONE NUMBERS

MIKE WEBER, President.....440-647-3162
BARBARA HOSTA, First Vice President.....216-524-2635
DAVE CAP, Second Vice President.....440-888-5589
JOANN BENDOKAITIS, Treasurer.....440-543-4515
CHUCK JANKI, Recording Secretary.....440-729-9714
BILL SCHOLES, Corresponding Secretary....440-257-7788
JOHN BENDOKAITIS, Membership Chair....440-543-4515
BARBARA HOSTA, Digest Co-Editor.....216-524-2635
e-mail: bxh5@po.cwru.edu
MARYANN MORENO, Digest Co-Editor.....440-543-5658
e-mail: maryannjerry@alltel.net
KATIE JANDA, Sunshine Chair.....440-285-2385
JERRY MORENO, ADS Representative.....440-543-5658

PROGRAMS/SALES/SHOWS FOR 2007

Feb 2 DVD's on New Introductions and more
March 2 A program on Seedlings and Cuttings
March 3 Sunnybrook Nursery...Dahlia Information Table
April 6 Neil Evans on photography and more
April 21 Tuber Sale at Pettiti's Oakwood
April 22 Tuber Sale at Pettiti's Strongsville
April 28-29 Plant Sale at Holden Arboretum
May 4 DSO Annual Tuber Auction
May 18-20 Plant Sale Rockefeller Greenhouse
June 1 DSO Annual Tuber and Plant Auction
July 15 Picnic...Schoepfle Gardens
August 11,12 Cuyahoga County Fair Dahlia Show
August 18 Bus Trip to Local Dahlia Gardens and the
MVDS Trial Garden, Fellows Riverside Garden
August 24-26 Mahoning Valley Dahlia Show
Sept 1 Geauga County Fair Dahlia Show
Sept 6-9 National and Midwest Show St. Charles Illinois
Sept 14-16 77th DSO Show Parmatown; Pittsburgh DS Show
Sept 21-22 East Liverpool Dahlia Show
November 2 Photo Contest; Speaker tba
December 7 Holiday Dinner Meeting

Judging Corner



DEMEANOR

In the previous five issues of the Digest, we covered the score sheet from top to bottom! Color and Form comprise half the value of an entry and form and color faults generally outweigh other faults—including, for example, bloom position. The other half is comprised of Substance, Stem, Foliage, Bloom Position, Uniformity (scoring bench) or Floriferousness (trial garden), and Distinction. Major faults in any of these characteristics can have a substantial effect on the winner in the section.

If you judge in a broad range of situations and circumstances (as you should!), you will encounter a variety of approaches to the judging process. I have been involved in one or two judging scenarios where we were asked not to discuss our observations on the entries with our fellow judges. Each judge was asked simply to supply his or her choice in writing—similar to the way we determine the grand and reserve champions at the DSO shows—or by pointing to his or her choice when ready. Fortunately, the “silent” approach is not common except for best in show choices. Discussion with each other of the relative merits of the entries is one of the best ways to improve your judging skills, particularly when the other members of your team have different backgrounds and experiences from yours. The DSO generally follows this approach.

It is important that you follow several guidelines when you judge a show or evaluate in a trial garden. You need to begin by developing a general sense of the quality of the entries. Have the growing conditions been such that virtually all of the entries are outstanding? Do all show water damage? Wind damage? With that perspective in mind, you will be better able to know how to assess subtle levels of faults.

Once you are on a judging team, you should discuss how the team will work, whether you will be discussing each other's observations and the severity of faults, or not.

You must also set aside your prejudices for form, size, color, etc. and be prepared to discuss your observations and conclusions based on information you have gathered in reading the judging manual or in working with other judges.

Your demeanor in the judging process can help make the process effective and enjoyable. First, make sure that an inexperienced judge feels comfortable discussing their observations. Encourage them to ask questions and to participate. Be prepared to discuss the basis for your own observations and conclusions. Listen carefully to others' observations. Be courteous but be prepared to politely disagree based on your knowledge of the judging manual. If you end up in the minority on a decision, respect and adopt the majority view. Learn from the experience!

Ron Miner



TUBER SALES '07



Our third tuber sale of the season is at Holden Arboretum this Saturday and Sunday **April 28th** and **29th**, 10:00—4:00.

Also, please help at our plant sale at the Rockefeller Greenhouse, **May 18, 19, and 20.**

Contact Dave Cap at 440-888-5589 after 7:00 p.m. and volunteer to work a 2 or 4 hour block of time. We need everyone to help a little bit, not just a few. THANKS!

Dave



Looking for a gift for a dahlia nut?

Encyclopedia of DAHLIAS

by Bill McClaren

is an excellent publication of over 200 pages of everything you would ever want to know about dahlias, loaded with pictures and advice on every aspect of growing dahlias. There's also a very interesting chapter on the history of the dahlia.

See bookstores, amazon.com, or timberpress.com.

TUBER SEARCH... Last year, cuttings were taken from one of Ed Flaws' seedlings and passed out to DSO members to grow. If you have any tubers from the plant, please contact Ed at 440-564-5367.

DSO Minutes for April 6, 2007

I. Call to Order: President Mike Weber called the meeting to order at 7:40 in the south community room of the Busch Funeral Home. There were 31 members in attendance.

II. Minutes of the March 2nd meeting: Chuck Janki The March meeting minutes were published in the Dahlia Digest Vol. 2007 Issue 3. Without comments, additions or corrections, the minutes were accepted as published.

III Treasurer's Report: Joann Bendokaitis reported March 31 balances: Charter One checking \$2140.64; Charter One Money Market \$6612.15; Ohio Savings CD \$6000.00; Memorial Fund \$1669.83; Petty Cash \$45. The report was accepted subject to annual audit.

IV. Membership Report: John Bendokaitis There are 187 paid DSO members and 94 paid ADS members; 109 mailings. We have 14 new DSO members so far this year.

V. Sunshine Report—Joys and Concerns MaryAnn Moreno mentioned that she had talked with Lois MacDonald who reported that Ron fell as a result of his failing eyesight, and was hospitalized. Ron's address is 14191 Caves Road, Novelty 44072 if you would like to drop him a line of encouragement.

VI. Cleveland Botanical Garden Report: Marge Janki The Cleveland Botanical Garden Flower Show 2007, *Rhythm & Hues*, is May 24-28.

Volunteers are needed, 4 hour shifts, for a variety of jobs. For more information, visit www.cb garden.org, 216-721-1600

VII. First Vice President Barbara Hosta:

See the schedule on page 3 for programs. The bus trip will be August 18. We will visit two or three DSO members' gardens plus the ADS Trial Garden at Fellows Riverside Gardens in Youngstown, maintained by MVDS. Mark your calendars for this exciting all day event. Details will be in the June Digest.

Our annual DSO picnic will be July 15 at the beautiful Schoepfle Gardens which is part of the Lorain County Metro Parks. Details will be in the June Digest. Mark calendar.

VIII. Second Vice President Dave Cap: Dave encouraged all of us to contribute a couple hours to our upcoming sales. Help is needed especially for Holden Arboretum April 28 and 29 as well as the Rockefeller Greenhouse sale on May 18-20.

IX. ADS Representative Jerry Moreno: Jerry mentioned that we received the order of 200 ADS *Welcome to the Wonderful World of Dahlias* information poster that is part of our new members packet as well as a giveaway to those interested at our tuber sales. He thanked the membership for their support of ADS—94 ADS members is terrific and well worth it.

X. Old Business: Mike Weber

Dahlia Plant Program: 160 tubers have been potted with 38 cuttings to date. Doc Hemminger mentioned that Willoway set up a misting system for us, but there is no steam heat. The goal is to have 600 plants.

Toledo Society: Last month it was announced that the Toledo Society has folded due to lack of active local members. Mike called Don Hughes and invited any of the members of TDS to join us. Don thanked us for the offer.

Member of the year award: Doc Hemminger will continue to work on the concept and will present a proposal at a future meeting.

Memorial Fund Committee: Glenn Ruth handed out a proposed change in the by-laws regarding defining a memorial fund and its structure. John Bendokaitis had some additional ideas regarding the memorial fund. After a lot of discussion, Jerry Moreno said that he would try to combine the ideas and would present it at the next meeting.

XI. New Business: Mike Weber showed an article in yesterday's Plain Dealer on dahlias. He was interviewed by PD reporter Roxanne Washington who wrote an excellent article with beautiful color pictures of dahlias. Drop Roxanne a note of thanks. rwashington@plaind.com, 216-999-4427

XII. Adjournment: The business meeting was adjourned at 8:47. Mike thanked Kathy Foith and Sharon Swaney for refreshments and Don Sopko for setting up the beverages.

XIII. Raffle: Rob Swaney won the raffle. Several pictures were donated by Neil Evans to be given out. Joy and Doug Fuhrmeyer donated a plant. Thanks Neil, Joy and Doug.

XIV. Program: Barbara Hosta introduced our program presenter Neil Evans who showed us many of his superb photographs of dahlias and other flowers and scenes. He gave out a handout of tips to follow to take great pictures and also gave a brief primer on using computer software such as PhotoShop Elements.

Respectfully submitted, Jerry Moreno



Never grown dahlias before? Here is how to get started.



Preparing Dahlia Beds...

Dahlias prefer well-drained, sandy loam soil protected from the wind and located in a sunny area, but they will tolerate some shade. Lighten heavy soil with sand to improve drainage and peatmoss or compost to loosen clay soils. Work in a fertilizer (5-10-10 to 10-20-20) broadcasted over the bed, about two weeks before planting. As mentioned last month, dahlias grow best in soil with pH between 6.5 and 6.7. Your pH level can be measured by kits available at local nurseries. A thorough analysis of your soil including the micronutrients is done through a professional lab. Names of some labs with their phone numbers and addresses will be put on our DSO website shortly.

Starting Dahlia Tubers Inside...

Use potting soil or sand as the planting medium. Start about 6 weeks before you transplant out. Plant 2-3" deep with the eye exposed. Keep in a warm area above 60 deg. The soil should be slightly damp, not wet! (Dahlias can rot or develop poorly in too wet of conditions.) The tuber should send up several shoots. Each of them can be cut when a couple inches tall, dipped in a rooting hormone, and started in a rooting cube. There's a little more to it than that (see www.dahlias.net/dahwebpg/Propagation/Cuttings.htm for an excellent discussion along with pictures of the process.) If you aren't interested in growing several plants from the one tuber, then simply break off the shoots you don't want and keep the healthiest one on the tuber.

Planting Outside...

Be sure to harden your plants outside before planting. Plant after the danger of frost has past. The ground temperature should be approximately 60 degrees. Put a stake in the ground where you want to plant each dahlia. (I need stakes 7 or so feet long because my area is shady and my plants grow tall; typically in sunny areas, 5 feet above ground is enough).

Planting depth should be between 4" to 6" and spacing about 18" to 24" apart. Mix in a handful of bone meal in each hole. Place the transplant in the hole or the bare tuber horizontally with the eye (growth bud) facing upward. The eye of the tuber should be about 6" from the stake. Cover the tuber with soil. I put a teaspoon of a systemic insecticide around the plant to help avoid using too many insecticide sprays later.

Be careful with water at this point. Bare tubers can rot in overly wet soil. In fact, if spring weather is extremely wet, you may even want to delay planting until dryer conditions exist.

Then what...

That should get you started. Next month we'll talk about summer cultivation. Slugs are a problem as well as various leaf eating insects and aphids. We'll also talk about what to do if you want to grow blooms of show quality. But if you just want your dahlias to be prolific and brighten up your gardens with gorgeous color, then you can skip over the "pinching" and "disbudding" part. Good planting!

Jerry Moreno

Some Photography Tips from Neil Evans...
Given at the April meeting.

- Use a tripod if you can, and use the timer on your camera as it eliminates jiggling.
- If you use a black background, don't put it too close. You will pick up the lint on the velvet.
- I normally don't use the flash, but if I do, I don't get too close. You wash out the colors.
- Auto setting works fine most of the time. Otherwise, I like to use aperture priority, but that's just a personal preference.
- On my old camera (Nikon Coolpix 5700 5 megapixel digital) I used center-weighted metering. On my new camera (Nikon D50, 105 mm macro lens, 18-200 zoom) I am finding I am using spot metering.
- On the old camera I could get as close as an inch away. With the new camera the closest I can get is about a foot.
- Don't shoot outside when it's windy.
- If you are shooting a flower up against the bright sky, up the exposure setting.
- Some people like an overcast day for good color representation. I like any type of day. Lighting is important though. Some of my mall shots at Parmatown last year were not good because the lighting inside is very poor.
- Be creative. Look at the flower from all angles. Decide what you like and place your camera where your eyes are.
- People ask me what do I do to get a black background on my pictures. The answer is simple, put something

black behind the subject. I guess they were looking for some sort of camera trick. Nope.

- In many cases, the picture looks more interesting if you don't place the subject smack dab in the middle. Use the rule of thirds at times. But really anything goes. Please yourself. A good description of the rule of thirds may be found at <http://digital-photography-school.com/blog/rule-of-thirds/>
- If you are shooting in a garden, you might want to tidy up the background—rabbit-fencing, weeds, stones, etc. count as distractions.
- Read your camera manual over and over. It is amazing what new things I learn every time I pick up the manual.
- For macro or close-up shots, don't feel you have to get the whole flower in. Some amazing photos are created just focusing on a few petals.
- The more you learn about your camera, the more fun it is taking pictures.
- Join a club like the Cleveland Photographic Society, or join an internet forum like webaperature or shuttercity.

Have fun with your camera, Neil





**SPECIAL NOTICE FOR
MEMBERSHIPS
From John Bendokaitis**

**Please check the mailing label on this digest
for one of these statements:**

DUES ARE DUE or DUES ARE PAID

Please let me know if there is an error in my records.

**MAIL FORM on NEXT PAGE and PAYMENT TO:
DSO MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
JOHN R. BENDOKAITIS
17182 EASTVIEW DR
CHAGRIN FALLS, OHIO 44023**

NOTE!!

**If you are not a member of the American Dahlia Society,
consider joining NOW. It is truly worth it!
Why? What are the benefits?**

- **You will get the CLASSIFICATION HANDBOOK**
- **You will get the colorful and informative ADS BULLETIN**
- **You will also receive the AMERICAN DAHLIA GUIDE TO GROWING AND CARING FOR DAHLIAS.**
- **You will be entitled to vote in election of ADS officers,
and all other privileges of membership.**



**CHECK YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON THE OTHER SIDE
SUBMIT ANY CHANGES BELOW**

**TO MAKE RENEWAL EASIER, SIMPLY TEAR OFF
THIS PAGE, INITIAL AND MAIL WITH YOUR
CHECK TO JOHN BENDOKAITIS**

**PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO
DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO**

DATE _____

NAME _____

CHANGES _____

EMAIL _____

**PLEASE CHOOSE ONLY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING
MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS. Place an X in [].**

[] DSO Membership (includes husband and wife)\$10.00

[] DSO with ADS MEMBERSHIP (for one person only)..\$30.00

[] DSO with ADS FAMILY Membership.....\$33.00

[] DSO with ADS STUDENT Membership.....\$15.00
(18 YRS OLD OR YOUNGER)

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS:

[] ADS First Class Mailing for December ADD \$ 3.00 TO ABOVE

[] DSO with ADS SNOWBIRD OPTION—INDIVIDUAL \$38.00##

[] DSO with ADS SNOWBIRD OPTION—FAMILY..... \$41.00##

**## INCLUDE WINTER ADDRESS FOR SNOW BIRD
MAILING _____**

DAHLIA SOCIETY of OHIO
BILL SCHOLES
9080 Richards Drive
Mentor, OH 44060

