

DAHLIA DIGEST

DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO

Since 1930

VOL. 2009 ISSUE 3

April, 2009



**APRIL 19
MEETING**

7:30 p.m.

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

ANNUAL TUBER AUCTION



**Please bring your extra tubers,
clean and correctly marked. Thanks!**

President's Notes

Hi Folks,

A reminder: For those of you unable to attend the March meeting and have not yet paid your membership dues, this month is your last opportunity to do so and continue to receive your "Digest." We want to continue to provide this to all, so please send your dues to John Bendokaitis, our Membership Chairman, ASAP. Thanks.

Don't forget to bring your extra tubers for this April auction. Make sure they're properly identified (i.e., correct name and classification). Hopefully, "eyes" are showing, too.

Regarding plant propagation at Willoway Nursery, we've taken our first cuttings - a total of 50. Cross fingers that they'll all take root and be the 1st of many potential plants!

Thanks to Elaine Bebenroth for volunteering to take over the duties for our Sunshine Committee.

Don't forget to give some thought to volunteering an hour or so for our upcoming sales. Sign up sheets will be available at the April meeting. We need everyone's help.

DSO member Vladimir Petrow passed away February 9 at the age of 82. He loved the dahlia and would show on occasion. DSO condolences to his wife, Mary, and family.

That's it for now. Check your tubers, make sure your dues are paid. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the meeting on the 17th. It will be fun buying tubers!

Mike



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

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
SHARON SWANEY, Recording Secretary...330-562-3296
MARYANN MORENO, Corresponding Sec...440-543-5658
JOHN BENDOKAITIS, Membership Chair....440-543-4515
BARBARA HOSTA, Digest Co-Editor.....216-524-2635
e-mail: bxh5@po.cwru.edu
JERRY MORENO, Digest Co-Editor.....440-543-5658
maryannjerry@windstream.net or moreno@jcu.edu
ELAINE BEBENROTH, Sunshine Chair.....440-237-7164
JERRY MORENO, ADS Representative.....440-543-5658

PROGRAMS for 2009

Refreshments for April:
Shannon Fee,
Kathy Foith, MaryAnn Moreno



March 20	New Intros; Pest Management
April 17	DSO Annual Tuber Auction
May 15	DSO Annual Plant Auction
June 19	Demo on Container Gardening
July 17	Speaker tba
August	Combined tour/picnic
October 16	Speaker tba
November 20	Photo Contest; Speaker tba
December 5	Holiday Dinner Meeting



NOTES from your ADS Rep

- ADS has a new kid on the block, the Utah Dahlia Society. They held their first meeting last November with 21 members. DSO wishes them great growing!
- The cover of the ADS March 2009 Bulletin features the beautiful *Princess Paige*, BB FD V W/PR, 2008 Garden Dahlia of the Year, introduced by our beloved very own Ron Miner! Well done, Ron, and thanks for yet another of your gorgeous varieties.
- The Snohomish County Dahlia Society is celebrating its 100 years of existence by hosting the ADS 43rd National Show August 20-24 at Forest Park, Everett, Washington. Registration form and show information is at www.scdahlias.org.
- The best quote in the ADS March issue: "It's better to be over the hill than under the hill."
- Congratulations to our Lynn Campbell who took third place in the Personalities category of the 2008 ADS Photo Contest.

**DATES to KEEP IN MIND
TUBER SALES/AUCTIONS**



PETTITI's OAKWOOD	APRIL 25	10:00 to 4:00
PETTITI's AVON	APRIL 26	10:00 to 4:00
HOLDEN	MAY 1, 2, 3	10:00 to 4:00
ROCKEFELLER	MAY 15, 16, 17	10:00 to 4:00

Please let Dave Cap know when you will be able to spend a couple hours to help your DSO sell tubers. We need everyone to donate a little time.

Thanks!



2008 Border/Container Dahlia of the Year
by Steve Nowotarski. Photo by Tinnee Lee.



Originator: Ron Miner, Dahlia Society of Ohio

The votes are in and the winner is PRINCESS PAIGE BB FD V W/Pr. I first saw this low growing beauty in the Eastern Trial Garden in 2006. At first glance (in mid July) it just appeared as a low growing variegated BB size dahlia with few outstanding qualities. As the season went on it just kept blooming and blooming. By mid to late August the 3 plants were covered with eye catching bright blooms. The blooms were held at a good angle and nice and strong. Into September there were so many blooms one could hardly see the foliage. While it did not score high as an exhibition dahlia it jumped on my list as a possible border dahlia for evaluation by our group of 12. After reviewing it a season in my garden I was sure it fulfilled the requirements to be evaluated as a top Border/Container type dahlia. I

grew it in my garden border without any support and in a container garden. It performed well in both settings. Here are comments from some of the evaluators:

"I had 2 plants of the Princess Paige and both had profuse blooms all season. The quality of the blooms was excellent."

Phil Clark Endless Summer Flower Farm

"Princess Paige grew well into a 2 foot bushy plant, tolerated dry spells well, bloomed starting in July and now blooming a lot" (September 28)

Peggy Riccio

ED Note: Peggy is a freelance garden writer in the Washington, DC area.

"Princess Paige - started blooming early and kept on blooming." *Claudia Biggs*

"Princess Paige grew very well to a final height of 24". It started blooming about July 20th and has kept blooming well since that time. The form and color of the blooms are very nice and the plant seems healthy and disease free. The blooms are small BB to large miniature in size. Every bloom is evenly variegated and I haven't seen any solid color petals which variegated types frequently have, especially late in the season."

Sandy Bolye

"This was the easiest year of all so far for the evaluation. The Princess Paige dahlia is clearly the best for me of these three I am evaluating. It was more vigorous, had a lot more blooms and even some that I saw exhibited."

Mark Oldenkamp

The JUDGE's Corner

Ron Miner baronminer@aol.com

Many members of the DSO don't show their blooms at our shows. Since I would very much like to increase the number of DSO judges - and you have to show blooms in order to become a judge - I would like to encourage you all to give our shows a try! Now is a good time to give some thought to taking a few blooms to a show this season. My recommendation would be to start with the Cuyahoga County Fair on August 15. It is a small and very friendly show; you don't need to register in advance; there are numerous classes for Novice entries; you can join in the judging process as a candidate judge; and you get in the Fair for free. What a deal! Obviously, you can bring your current favorite flower if you wish. Elsewhere in this *Digest*, Jerry has printed a list of the biggest show winners around the country. The *ADS Classification and Handbook of Dahlias* lists the biggest show winners in the Mid-West. There is still time to get those cultivars at our tuber sales. Give it a try; I'm sure you will enjoy showing our wonderful flowers and the Fair is a great place to start! Now that you've started showing dahlias, you can start to judge them, too! Welcome!

There are some basics that need to be emphasized for all judges. Perhaps the key one is knowledge of growing, showing, and judging dahlias. The first two items basically require some experience and the kind of mentoring that takes place during the staging of virtually every show I've ever attended. The third item, knowledge of judging, really only comes from one source, *The Guide to Judging Dahlias*. I hope you read and enjoy these columns and I hope that you listen well whenever you are judging with another judge or participating in a judging seminar - and that you learn something in each of those activities. However, there is no substitute for actually reading the manual. Every judge should do so every year. Another basic is avoiding prejudice. Barbara thinks I like yellow dahlias best because I keep lots of yellow seedlings. She may well be right. It is essential, however, that when I join a judging team,

I make sure that prejudice is ‘turned off.’ When you read the manual, you will find that all colors start out equal. The characteristics of the color will lead to changes in its merit, but at the outset a variegated dahlia is as good as solid color dahlias, etc. The same comments apply, of course, to different dahlia types. Until Form and Color and Substance and all the rest of the attributes are evaluated, a mignon single is as good as a waterlily or a huge formal decorative. The most effective judging often takes place in a team format and another basic is, therefore, being able to function well in that team environment. That ability generally breaks down into two pieces, listening well to the rest of the team and having the confidence to contribute to the group. A corollary to that latter point is making a point of encouraging less experienced judges to contribute comments and questions.

One of the key lessons for new (as well as highly experienced!) judges is to keep their observations in perspective. You might ask what provides that perspective. If you’ve been reading these judging columns, I hope you immediately thought that the Seedling Evaluation Scorecard provides that perspective! Is that what came into your mind? It is that scorecard that leads us to consider form and color as being of much greater importance than bloom position, for example. Recall that the scorecard rates Form at 28, Color at 22, Substance at 15, Stem and Foliage at 10 each, Bloom Position and Floriferousness or Uniformity at 5 each, and Distinction at 5. It follows, therefore, that it is much more important that an entry has good form and color than it has a good position of the bloom on the stem – even though that position on the stem is often much easier to see than subtle form or color problems.

By the way, if you missed any of the past Judging Corner articles, Sharon has them on our DSO website. Enjoy! I hope you all have a great start to the season!

**Dahlia Society of Ohio (DSO) Minutes
(Unapproved)
March 20, 2009**



Call to Order: President Mike Weber

Meeting was called to order at approximately 7:35. Location – Community Room at Busch Funeral Home, Parma, OH. 27 members were in attendance. Mike welcomed everyone back for the new year. We have one new member, Tom McClements. Welcome Tom.

Recording Secretary's Report: Sharon Swaney

Sharon Swaney will be the Recording Secretary.

Treasurer's Report: Joann Bendokaitis

Joann provided a full report on all our holdings. See Joann for details.

Membership Report: John Bendokaitis

81 DSO Members; 33 ADS. We're sending out 104 Digests. The next Digest will be the last sent to those who haven't paid their dues.

First Vice President's Report: Barbara Hosta

Tonight's program will be the New Introductions and a presentation on pesticides from Sue Cindric of Eagle Creek. April's meeting will be the tuber auction and May the tuber/plant auction. Barb hopes to have a speaker on container gardening for June. August will be a picnic or bus trip. Barb should have more info soon. Other meetings are still in the planning stage.

Second Vice President: Dave Cap

Dave provided a schedule of the shows and sales on the back of tonight's agenda. The last show, at Pettiti's (Oakwood) is missing. It will be October 3. Bring tubers to the April meeting for the auction and the sales following. Please signup to help at the sales. You don't have to commit to all day. Don't forget – we will be doing the Midwest Show in 2010, September 10-12!

Sunshine Report : Mike Weber

Katie Janda will not be able to continue in this position. She has done a very nice job. Thanks Katie. Elaine Benroth volunteered to take this role. Thanks Elaine.

Web Site: Sharon Swaney

If you didn't get an e-mail from Sharon around March 7th, you are not on the DSO Emergency e-mail list. See Sharon or go to the news section of the website to signup. Sharon received a request for a Suppliers List. Rather than put one on our site we will redirect folks to www.dahlia.net. Randy shared that the Elkhart site has some how-to videos. Their site is: www.midwestdahliaconference.org/EDS/

Old Business

Jerry announced the site for the 2010 Midwest Show – Holiday Inn in Independence. It should be a terrific venue. The layout will be very accommodating. We will need lots of workers.

Jerry and Dave did a presentation for the Conneaut Garden Club and received \$50 from them which they donated to our fund for the 2010 Midwest Show.

New Business

The Cleveland Botanical Garden would like us to do a show sometime. It would not have to be a formal show – just some flowers and info. Mike and Dave will pursue.

Marge Janki gave an update on the Botanical Garden. An orchid show is now in progress and Marge says it is quite something. Affiliates day will be April 30th (Thursday). Last year's event included speakers, a lunch and a scavenger hunt. It is a fun day to learn and meet people. Consider attending.

Joann Bendokaitis announced the Garden Club of Ohio's District Meeting on Thursday, May 7th at St. Michael's Woodside. Deadline for registering is May 4th.

Plant propagation is in progress at Willowick by Mike and Doc. 200 tubers have been started with some cuttings already taken. We need some more A and AA tubers. Get them to Doc Hemminger or Dave Cap within the next two weeks. We're getting some good results on Valley Porcupine - the Flower of the Year.

Motion passed to donate \$150 to Grand Valley for the 2009 Midwest Show. Also, we will hopefully have some plants to donate to the Midwest Dahlia Conference auction in Goshen, Indiana June 6.

John Learner will have a gingerbread house exhibit at the Cuyahoga County Fair. They have asked him to also do a Dahlia display. More info next month.

Dahlia Questions?

Dave demonstrated cutting apart tubers to some attendees.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned and refreshments were provided by Marilyn Weber and Linda Vuletich. Beverages by Don Sopko. Thanks folks!

Raffle

50-50 was won by Rob Swaney. Many other prizes were provided by Eagle Creek and members. Lots of winners! Thanks to those who donated prizes.

Program

Sue Cindric from Eagle Creek provided an informative presentation on Integrated Pest Management. Also, we saw the New Introductions DVD.

Next Meeting – April 17, 2009 – Tuber Auction

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Swaney
Recording Secretary



**MIDWEST CONFERENCE Spring Meeting
June 6 from 10:00 to end of auction 3:00?**

NEW SITE

Highdive Pavilion, Elkhart Park Service

500 E. Beardsley Elkhart, Indiana

**Take exit 89 Turnpike. Head south on Cassopolis
(SR 19). Turn left at dead end. Pavilion is on
north side.**

Dr. Norm Lownds

The Garden—

The Kid Connection—

Creating the Magic

**Dr. Lownds is an Associate Professor and Curator
of the 4-H Children's Garden at Michigan State
U. He is an internationally known expert on chil-
dren and gardening.**

**Dahlia auction held after lunch. Proceeds go to
host of Midwest Show, Grand Valley DS.**

**Send reservation, \$19, to Mac Boyer, 16816
County Road 10, Bristol IN 46507
before May 28.**



CREAM of the CROP for 2008

These cultivars received the highest number of blue and higher awards per category across all ADS US and Canada shows last year.

AA FD	Clyde's Choice	Pompon	Glenplace
AA ID	Zorro	Stellar	Camano Pet
AA SC	Inland Dynasty	Waterlily	Pam Howden
AA C	Clara Huston	Peony	Elvira
AA Lac	Barbarry Hardisty Kantor	Anemone	Comet
A FD	Kidd's Climax	Collarette	Pooh
A ID	Vassio Meggos	Single	Delta Red
A SC	Kenora Jubilee	Mignon	Single
A C	Camano Messenger		Inflammation
A Lac	Show 'N Tell	Orchid	Honka
B FD	Edna C	Novelty	Open
B ID	April Dawn		Lorona Dawn
B SC	Hamari Accord	Novelty	Double
B C	Camano Sitka		Valley Porcupine
B Lac	Nenekazi		
BB FD	Jomanda		
BB ID	Santa Claus		
BB SC	Embrace		
BB C	Jessica		
BB Lac	My Beverly		
M FD	Ryecroft Jan		
M ID	Brookside J Cooley		
M SC	Mary Jo		
M C	Weston Spanish Dancer		
M Lac	Mingus Lucio		
Ball	Mary's Jomanda		



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- 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
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- ADS First Class Mailing for December ADD \$ 3.00 TO ABOVE
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- DSO with ADS SNOWBIRD OPTION—FAMILY..... \$41.00##

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DAHLIA SOCIETY of OHIO
MaryAnn Moreno
8232 Westhill Drive
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023

