

## The JUDGE's Corner

**Ron Miner - baronminer@aol.com**

Winter seems to have turned to summer very quickly. No doubt we will have some more cold weather, but how nice it is to feel warm again. (I bet that sounds like I'm in Chagrin Falls; but as of this writing, we're still in FL and we had the coldest March on record here!)

I will be distributing seeds from Steve and Sandy Boley's Irish Pinwheel at the May meeting. Irish Pinwheel won the Hart Medal in the Trial Gardens in 2007. The Boleys have a large seedling garden with widely separated patches for poms, stellars, etc. so that the bees do a lot of pollinating within each patch and not much pollination between patches. Consequently, the seeds tend to produce seedlings that are true to the parent form. We owe the Boleys a big thanks for sharing their highly valued seeds with us! There will certainly be a few real winners among our seedlings. Wouldn't you like to name and introduce a dahlia that only you get to see the very first bloom?

I can assure you that it is a thrill and I will be glad to help you with the process! All you need to do to get a package of seeds is to promise that you will bring a few of your best seedlings to the show at Petitti's at the fall show October 2!



*Aerial view of the Boleys' garden,  
Stellar patch circled.*

We had so much fun with the open-centered seedlings last year that we will repeat that competition, too. It provided an opportunity to classify a number of open-centered varieties and to learn a lot about their positives and negatives on the score sheets.

I think these two seedling events will make the show at Petitti's as enjoyable as our Midwest Show! Plan on joining in the fun of growing some seedlings with great potential! We'll see you in May.



If the possibility of introducing and naming a new variety excites you, then be sure to get a packet of seeds at the May meeting. Although typically seeds are started indoors in March for blooms in August, there is still time to start seeds indoors to have blooms by the time of the Petitti show and competition in October.

Two excellent websites that go through step by step how to raise dahlias from seed are:

**[www.dahlias.net/dahwebpg/Seedlings/seedlings.htm](http://www.dahlias.net/dahwebpg/Seedlings/seedlings.htm)**

**or**

**[dahlias.net/seabox/seedlings.htm](http://dahlias.net/seabox/seedlings.htm)**