

## The JUDGE's Corner

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Wow, the season is over already! I was finally starting to get some blooms of decent quality. Oh well, next year will be upon us before we know it. It was a very busy season for the DSO since we hosted the Midwest Show. Thanks and congratulations to all of those involved in that show; it was great!

I have come to greatly enjoy our annual club show at Petitti's. This year was no exception. We had some very good quality entries, including some exciting seedlings from the Boley seeds! Our friends and neighbors from the MVDS brought a lot of wonderful blooms to the show; thank you all! The highlight of the show for me, however, were the open-centered seedlings from last year plus the first year seedlings from the seeds that Steve and Sandy Boley provided from their wonderful and award-winning Irish Pinwheel stellar.

Randy and Kathy Foith brought an excellent bright yellow colarette that came from those seeds I distributed in the spring of last year. The triple entry of that seedling was a very



strong candidate for the best triple entry in the show. It was truly an excellent entry and the cultivar promises to be one that they will be able to introduce and name!

The other seedling competition at Petitti's was based on the Boley seeds distributed this spring. Here again, there were some excellent entries. I was, frankly, disappointed at the number of exhibitors who were able to bring entries. As you probably recall, the only criterion for getting the seeds was a promise to bring blooms to the seedling competition at Petitti's. Only three exhibitors brought entries among the 25 or 30 who got the seeds. I hope to be able to repeat the competition at next year's show, so if you

have good results from those seeds that just weren't ready last weekend, please save them and grow several of them so that you will have an entry for next year!

I have discovered that by the end of next season I will have been the DSO Judging Chairman for 5 years. Time does fly when you are having fun, doesn't it! The fun is the good news. (I hope you agree!) The not-so-good news is that we need to go through the process of renewing our judging credentials every five years.



*A ST BI W/R Boley seedling entry*

The detailed rules are available from me as well as from [www.dahlia.org](http://www.dahlia.org). Basically, they require each judge to retake the judging test, judge in at least eight shows, score at least 10 seedlings, and attend 3 judging seminars



*Alloway Candy was the best ST in the show over the five year period.* A number of you have substantially exceeded the training and judging requirements already and a couple of you have recently taken the judging tests to advance your level. Most of us, however, will need to retake the tests and a few of you will need to invest some additional time and effort in judging to meet the requirements. Fortunately, we have a Trial Garden nearby that will make it easier to meet the seedling requirements.

Please be sure to review your judging and training experience over the recent past so that you know what is required for you next summer. (I can help you with that history on the shows I attended.) I will get the judges tests distributed to you for you to work on over the winter. I hope you have a great one!