The Judging Seminar after the Petitti’s Show followed the same format as last year’s. We briefly covered a couple timely judging issues and then broke up into teams to judge and discuss a few seedlings. The determination of color in blends was a key topic at the Classification Committee meeting in Philadelphia. That discussion was reviewed along with an overview of the seedling judging process.

My understanding of certain aspects of determining the classification of Flame blends was inaccurate so it was important to discuss that process again. My concerns precipitated Lou Paradise’s comments at the National Show Meeting, and it turned out that I was not the only one confused. Start by determining that the color is actually a blend by observing two colors on it from about three feet away and deciding it is not variegated or bicolored. Use the official ADS Color Chart to determine the best color chip for each of the colors. I was not clear on the next step. The ’17 CHD said that Flame Blends were “Blends of high brilliance …” That implied that judgement of the brilliance of the bloom could influence the decision between Flame and Dark blends. The ’18 CHD deleted the “high brilliance” characterization because in fact, any combination of the colors in the Flame Blend list constitute a Flame Blend. The bottom line is that if both colors are in the Flame Blend list in the CHD it is a Flame Blend and you are done. If the colors are not both in the FL list, decide which color is dominant. If that dominant color is in the Light Blend list, it is a Light Blend. If it is in the Dark Blend list, it is a Dark Blend.

The ADS Team Leader Responsibilities brochure was distributed and very briefly reviewed. The most important responsibilities for the judging team leader is to make sure that every entry is included and observed and that there is discussion that includes all the members of the team.

The fun part of the afternoon consisted of judging a set of triples as seedlings and then discussing the results of the judging process. Three teams scored and then discussed their evaluation of six different “seedling entries.” The scores achieved by the different

Editor’s Note: It’s appropriate that our first “Meet a Member” column features our outgoing Dahlia Digest editor and current president, Jerry Moreno. I hope you enjoy his story, which he kindly took the time to write. Future “Meet a Member” subjects may choose to be interviewed.

MaryAnn and I have been married for 54 years. We have two children: Michelle Spicuzza, who is a third grade teacher in the Kenston Local School District, and Michael, who is Senior Director of Internal Audit at IHS in Denver. IHS is the world’s leading source for research, analysis, and strategic guidance in the technology, media, and telecommunications industries. We have five grandchildren: Nathan is a junior at Ohio State, Madison is a freshman at Dayton, Paige is in eighth grade, Nick in seventh, and Kyle in sixth. The first three live in Bainbridge. Nick and Kyle are in Colorado, but we get to see them a couple times a year. They are all delightful, each in their own way. It’s been fun watching them grow up.

I have been a professor of statistics and mathematics at John Carroll University for 51 years (40 years full-time and the past 11, part-time). It continues to be a terrific career. I look forward to every day especially in the classroom, which I especially enjoy. Students never get old!! They really do make my every day an absolute joy. My job has given MaryAnn and me the opportunity to tour the world to give statistics talks at conferences including Singapore, South Africa, Brazil, Slovenia, and Portugal. I spent two years in England as a graduate student back in the mid-60’s. While there, MaryAnn caught the travel bug and planned trips for us to many European countries. Since then we have visited parts of Europe several times, traveled the Rio Negra and Amazon River, cruised the Inland

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teams were actually very consistent with each other. One team’s passing scores generally corresponded very closely with another’s passing scores.

One interesting area of controversy was how highly the evaluation should consider the “potential” for an entry to succeed in future shows. The potential for a cultivar is a more important consideration in a Trial Garden setting than it is in a Seedling Bench evaluation. In an SBE process, the judge should consider the blooms to be the best the exhibitor can provide. In the Trial Garden, the judge needs to forgive the shortcomings of the Trial Garden Director in protecting the blooms from insect damage or the sun, for example, and think about how the blooms might do in show competition.

Fortunately, the discussions were lively and the opportunities to learn were substantial. The participants agreed that this format was a good one and the same approach will likely be used next year.

**ADS NATIONAL SHOW**

**MAIN SHOW AREA:** More than 12,500 visitors flooded Longwood the day of our show. At times, the show areas were mobbed generating great publicity for our favorite flower. Three DSO members won awards: Bottom left: Tony Evangelista’s three Kenora Wildfires; Center: Ron Miner’s Baron Nikki; Right: Todd Imhoff’s AC Rooster.