Hi Folks,

Just wanted to take a moment and touch base on a few of our upcoming events for August. First though, I just hope that all is well in your dahlia gardens. Rough start with all the rain but hopefully the “survivors” will bring abundant blooms for all to appreciate.

Don’t forget our picnic on the 22nd of this month hosted by Brant Giere and Carol Sahley at their Maple Crest farm on Miller Rd. in Brecksville. The picnic starts at 12 noon and will include a judging seminar for those interested. DSO will provided an entrée and drinks. Please bring a covered dish and/or dessert to share. Also bring a chair. We had a great turnout last year and are looking for the same this year.

Regarding shows, the first one is at the Cuyahoga County Fair the weekend of August 15-16. If you have never shown before, the Fair is a great way to start. It’s a fun venue and there will be plenty of folks to help you stage your blooms. Be sure that your cut blooms have at least one full set of leaves with a stem at least a foot long if possible. As a bonus, prize money is awarded to those winning ribbons. Your registration fee (paid at the Fair on the day) is reimbursed by the society. Come and enjoy the atmosphere!

That’s it for now. Hope to see you at the upcoming events this month and next. Good growing to all.

Mike
OFFICERS and CHAIRS

Mike Weber, President…………………………… 440-647-3162
Jerry Moreno, Past President………………….. 440-543-5658
Emily Halderman, 1st Vice President……..…….. 330-697-7368
Jim Thompson, 2nd Vice President…………… 216-926-7419
Sharon Swaney, Treasurer and Membership…….330-562-3296
Sarah Thompson, Recording Secretary………216-926-7419
MaryAnn Moreno, Corresponding Secretary…..440-543-5658
Dave Cap, Show Chair………………………….440-888-5589
Barbara Hosta, Archives and Librarian……… 216-524-2635
Jerry Moreno Digest Editor……………………440-543-5658
Barbara Hosta, Cleveland Botanical Rep………..216-524-2635
Nancy Riopelle, Sunshine Chair……………….330-483-3360
Tony Evangelista, ADS Representative……….440-867-3711
Sharon Swaney, Webmaster……………………330-562-3296

MEETING DATES for 2015

March 20 New Introductions; Waking up tubers
April 17 Tuber auction
May 15 Plant auction
June 19 Ron Miner and Tony Evangelista...on virus
        Don Dramstad...on preserving cut flowers
August 22 Picnic at Brant and Carol’s
October 16 Photo contest, speaker pending
November 20 Speaker pending
December 5 Holiday get-together...Wembley Club

PLEASE SEND SUGGESTIONS FOR
PROGRAM TOPICS and SPEAKERS
TO EMILY. THANKS.

Meeting Notes from Sarah

- June 19, 2015  7:35—10.01 p.m.
- Mike Weber introduced new attendees and our guest speaker, Don Dramstad, current ADS President.
- Mike asked for corrections or additions to last month’s minutes. Hearing none, they were approved as written in the Digest.
- Mike also mentioned that the annual DSO picnic will be held on August 22 at noon at the Maple Crest Farm in Brecksville, home of members Carol Sahley and Brant Giere.
- Treasurer Sharon Swaney reported the bank account balance is $4148 including the Memorial Fund, $1847 without the Fund.
- Second VP Jim Thompson requested that members consider attending the show at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds the weekend of August 15-16. With several of the experienced growers contemplating attending the Columbus show (50th anniversary) that same weekend, the Cuyahoga Show will be an even greater opportunity for novice or less experienced growers to show their blooms and seek a position on the Court of Honor.
- Jim thanked those who volunteered at the plant sales in May.
- Jim announced that members Jim Chuey, Randy and Kathy Foith, and Doc Hemminger will all be putting up monetary awards for the best bloom presented for their respective, introduced dahlias at the DSO Show in September.
- Corresponding Secretary MaryAnn Moreno reported that 44 Digests were postal mailed and 35 were emailed.
Membership Chair Sharon Swaney said that there are 124 DSO members, 53 of whom also belong to the ADS.

Mike introduced Tony Evangelista as the new DSO representative to the ADS.

Get Well cards were sent to Roger Metzger, Harriet Chandler, and Nancy Riopelle’s brother, Paul.

Sharon encouraged members to submit their dahlia and garden pictures to her to be uploaded to the website. She recently posted photos from Jim and Sarah Thomspson’s trip to Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA.

Mike and Doc unveiled the new engraved plaque that will be displayed in front of the DSO Dahlia Garden at the Miller Nature Preserve in Avon. The membership responded positively to the plaque and thanked Mike and Doc for their work. They gave an update on the status of the garden in which they have planted 25 dahlias.

Ron Miner donated Blossum Gulch seedlings to anyone interested in participating in this year’s judging seminar at our last show in October at Petitti’s Oakwood.

Regarding Q&A, a brief discussion was made on how to protect dahlias in the event of heavy rains.

After refreshments, guest speaker and ADS President Don Dramstad gave a presentation on preserving cut flowers for the purpose of having them last longer. He provided answers to the group’s many questions.

Ron Miner and Tony Evangelista led a presentation on the current results that have emerged from the virus research being conducted at the University of Washington.

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**Memo from DSO Show Chair Dave Cap**

**Cuyahoga Fair**

This is the first show of the year, **Saturday August 15**. Setup is from 7:30-10:30 a.m. I encourage ALL members to bring a bloom or more to the Fair. The Fair is an opportunity for members who have not shown before to learn how to stage. Be sure your blooms have at least one set of leaves and the stem is as long as possible. The Fair registration fee ($12) can be paid there on the day. It allows you to have entry to the Fair plus you are showing the public the DAHLIA! To park, go to Eastland Rd. gate 3. Judging starts at 10:30. If any questions please call me at 440-888-5589 or e-mail dfcmnc@aol.com

**Our DSO’s 85th Annual Show**

This is our big show of the year. Set-up begins on **Friday, September 11 at 9 p.m.** at the Summit Mall 3265 W. Market, Fairlawn Ohio 44333. Staging ends Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. This is the largest show with Novice, Youth, Small and Large Grower sections and 57 Court of Honor awards. Lots of folks will be there to help showing you what to do to stage your blooms. The Show Schedule and maps will be available at the picnic as well as online. Call or email Dave with any questions.

**Our Member Show at Petitti’s Oakwood**

We finish our shows at Petitti’s Oakwood with set-up on Saturday, October 3, from 8 to 11 a.m. Judging begins at 11. After lunch, Ron will conduct a Judging Seminar. Bring a chair. Your seedlings will be featured with the hope that eventually you will be able to have them classified as an ADS introduction. Wouldn’t that be exciting! See details in Ron’s Judging Corner later in this Digest.
DSO PICNIC
Saturday August 22, Noon—3:30

- Site
  Brant and Carol’s Maple Crest Farm
  6620 Miller Road, Brecksville 44141
  (immediate west side of Rt. 77)

- Directions
  Driving Rt 77 South, take Exit 147, red barn
  west side of 77 easily visible.
  If driving Rt 77 North, consult GPS as there is
  no Miller Rd exit from the south.

- What to Bring
  Lawn Chair
  Covered dish, salad, or dessert
  Please do not bring chips or similar
  snacks as they overexcite the goats.

- DSO Will Provide
  Main dish
  Beverages
  Plasticware plates and utensils

- Judging Seminar
  After eating, visiting, enjoying viewing the dahlias in the gardens, for those interested Ron will
  conduct a hands-on judging seminar in a “trial garden” framework

- Enjoy Carol’s photographic creativity at
  www.krop.com/goatpixel
  www.flickr.com/maplecrest

DSO Artistic Design Theme for DSO Show September
12-13, 2015 Summit Mall

Salute to Disney

Dahlias must always be prominent. Extra credit is given for really bringing out the theme.

1) Beauty and the Beast — Stretch design, which means 2 containers connected somehow (with ribbon, vines, metal strip, plant material, etc.). See https://www.pinterest.com/daphne523/stretch-designs/ for examples. Stretch your abilities and enter this category.

2) Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs — 7 white flowers to be included to represent the Dwarfs.

3) Frozen — Since the theme song is Let it Go – let it go! Wild, crazy, over the top, arrangements are desired. Use of unusual materials encouraged. Be sure to make us think “frozen.”

4) It’s a Small, Small World — if you’ve ever visited Disney World or Disneyland, this song probably echoes in your mind. Let it echo in your design. Arrangement must be less than 8” high.

A Blue ribbon is given in each category. One arrangement, overall, is chosen best for the Court.

The Court award will be named in honor/remembrance of Linda Vuletich. Let’s really honor Linda with lots of arrangements and competition.
DSO Artistic Design Theme Petitti’s Show
October 3-4 Petitti’s Oakwood

Fall Fun

Dahlias must always be prominent. Additional credit is given for really bringing out the theme.

1) **Harvest Moon** - formal, conventional arrangement highlighting fall beauty and bounty.

2) **Homecoming** - think hay rides, bonfires, football games. Informal arrangement, use of unusual materials is encouraged.

3) **Spooky** - let your imagination go wild!

4) **In the Pumpkin/Gourd Patch** - arrangement incorporating pumpkin(s) and/or gourd(s).

**Dahlias in Containers**

There will be a prize for the best container garden featuring dahlias at our DSO show in September. Basic rules are that the container must have three or more plants, at least one of which is a dahlia. The container may be of any size but it must be portable by one individual.

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**The JUDGE’s Corner**

Ron Miner - baronminer@aol.com

I’m going to try a little different format for this Digest. Give me some feedback on which you like better—and what you would like to see included here in the future!

**Make 2015 the Year You Start to Show Dahlias**

It will be show season by the time you get this Digest! Yeah! One of my favorite places to exhibit flowers is the Geauga County Fair. The fair is open to the public during staging; I think it might even be the free day for Senior Citizens. In any case, the public is always present in and around the staging area. They complicate the process of moving blooms into the show; but they are also always fascinated by the blooms! “Oh my gosh; look at that one!” “Are they real? No, they can’t be!” “Did you really grow that?!” “Wow, I’ve never seen a flower that big!” “I think my grandmother used to grow those! I haven’t seen one for years!” It would be easy to spend Friday night talking to people instead of staging. It is, in short, a lot of fun to have so many people admire our handiwork and be so interested in our favorite hobby. Be aware that you do need to pre-register for the Geauga Fair. Do it online by August 12 at geaugafair.com.

**Special Invitation**

There are many DSO growers who don’t exhibit. Exhibiting is an important first step in becoming a judge. Here is a special invitation to each of you – Bring a few blooms to the Geauga County Fair 2011.
the Cuyahoga Fair. Many of our usual exhibitors will be at the 50th Anniversary Show in Columbus. We will need blooms to fill up the show tables! I’m confident you will have a good time and you are pretty likely to come away with a few ribbons and a few dollars in prize money to cover that funnel cake.

Setup and staging start Saturday morning, August 15, at 7:30AM. You don’t need to pre-register and you don’t have to pay to get into the fair! The fair doesn’t open until noon. Come to the West entrance, Gate 3, next to the flower barn for easy access. (There is a registration fee that can be paid there; it is reimbursed by DSO.) You would also be welcome to serve as a Candidate Judge and/or a Clerk in the judging process. More on that later! Come, enjoy!

Judging and a Picnic—A Great Combination

One of the highlights of the summer will be the picnic at Brant and Carol’s Maple Crest Farm on August 22nd. The real fun in growing dahlias is having the opportunity to enjoy each others’ company in a situation like this one! You will find good friends, good food, lots of beautiful dahlias, the opportunity to compare strategies on getting the most out of our space and our soil and our plants, and (maybe best of all, :-)) a discussion of what makes good dahlias great.

Overview of the show and a judging team at the 2014 Fair

One of the more difficult requirements of becoming a judge and then retaining your status as a judge is the judging of seedlings. The rules require judges to evaluate at least 10 seedlings over a 5 year period in order to maintain their judging status.

The plan after lunch at the picnic will be to treat a few of the sets of plants in Brant and Carol’s garden as seedlings. We will then divide up into teams and judge them as seedlings. It will be a hands-on workshop and everyone is welcome to participate! The judging rules specifically allow this approach to count towards the 2 per year requirement guideline because most clubs are not within a distance that provides easy access to a Trial Garden. The other way to judge seedlings is at a show with cut blooms. Let me know if you are having trouble reaching that 10 seedling target; we can find ways to make it happen.

Virus Update

Tony Evangelista and I made a presentation on virus at the June DSO meeting. The slides are on the DSO website. ADS members in the DSO received a brochure on the topic in the June Bulletin. The bottom line is “If in doubt, throw it out.” That strategy is becoming more painful for me than I anticipated. I started out by not planting any that had any indication of virus appearance in the foliage. Nevertheless, I’ve now pulled about 60 plants (~10%) with questionable foliage, including my last Wendy Miner and most of my Baron Katies. Bummer! It seems
that the stress of 10” of rain is bringing out virus in even more plants. I had to pull even more when we got back from vacation! One lesson, for sure, is to grow more spares in pots for replacements next year!!

I am also watching a number of plants with foliage that is a little unusual, but not yet similar to any of the pictures Prof. Pappu has provided. They have dark veins and relatively lighter green leaves than usual (See “Kept” foliage in picture on left). I hope that this appearance is a result of the use of no chemical fertilizer and a lot of rain (well over 10” by June 27). I am still convinced that we will all benefit from adherence to the “If in doubt, …” strategy! I encourage you all to stick with it!

**Classification Challenge**

One key starting point for the evaluation of a seedling is classifying it. I will solve the first one with you. You can work on the second one and get the answer next month. Both cultivars are relatively new introductions. This guy is about 5.5” in diameter so it is a BB. The challenge is the extent to which the ray florets are revolute, right? That would be best determined by being able to look closely at them. With just the picture to work with, however, the tips of some of the florets aren’t closed, suggesting that they would not be likely to be fully revolute for more than half their length. Thus, your conclusion would be SC, right? The color is relatively straightforward since we can clearly see the yellow at the center of the bloom. Therefore it is a blend. The color chips turned out to be PK14 and YL19. You now need to look at the Blend colors in the CHD to find that when the PK14 is the dominant color, the blend is light. The classification is, therefore, BB SC LB and the cultivar is Ted and Margaret Kennedy’s Hollyhill Angela.

OK, here is your opportunity to excel. Let’s say the bloom on the left averages 10” in diameter and the subtle color on the ray florets can be considered to be a blush. What is its classification?

**Judging Challenge**

In the context of judging a new seedling, what is Substance? What are some of the positive and some of the negative indicators of substance that you should consider when evaluating substance? This one is easy to find in your Guide to Judging Dahlias.

**Judging Seminars**

We will have two major judging seminars in 2015; the first at the picnic at Brant and Carol’s and the second after judging at the Petitti Show. The first will focus on Trial Garden judging; the second, at Petitti’s, on new seedlings and Seedling Bench Evaluation (SBE). The new seedling portion of the Petitti seminar will focus on the second round of Blossom Gulch seeds and seedlings I distributed in May. We will pick the best and the worst (based on our judging criteria!) of those new seedlings. The SBE portion of the seminar will be an evaluation of those Blossom Gulch seedlings that are now three years old. They will be eligible for formal TG and SBE evaluation next summer. Please enter the best of your Blossom Gulch seedlings as a triple entry in the appropriate class. We will pick several to evaluate in the seminar after the show judging is complete. Everyone is welcome to join that afternoon discussion.

We will also have a special judging seminar for Candidate Judges after the completion of judging at the Cuyahoga Fair. While everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend, the questions and the perspectives of the active and potential Candidate Judges will be the focus of the discussion. I am confident that the discussion will be interesting to all judging levels. First time showers are particularly welcome to come join the seminar. Come help understand why the show results were as they were!

Ron
DSO/ADS Membership Application
(Memberships are calendar year.)

Please fill out completely (even for renewals).

Date: ____________________
Name(s): ______________________________________
Address: _______________________________________
_______________________________________
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