Friday, March 20 Meeting
7:30 p.m.
Busch Community Room
7501 Ridge Road, Parma
Just south of Pleasant Valley Road

DVD New Introductions for 2015
Waking up Your Tubers
and getting them started indoors
Hi Folks,

Wishing you all a very belated New Year and hope all are surviving Mother Nature’s nasty arctic blasts. Think Spring!!

To get our dahlia season started on the right foot, our 1st meeting on March 20th will feature a 40 minute CD on the new dahlia introductions for this year. This should get the dahlia “juices” flowing and get us ready for hopefully another good growing season. Also, we’ll have some time to discuss awakening and getting our tubers started for the new season. Please bring any questions that you might have to the meeting and our “experts” will try to answer them. We’re starting our propagation program at Willoway Nursery this month so we can also address cuttings if the interest is there.

At our January officers meeting, we were able to establish the following:
1. The Summit Mall will again be the site of our 2015 show
2. Our summer picnic will again be hosted by Brant Giere and Carol Sahley with a judging seminar included. Date to be determined.
3. Our holiday party will also be back at the Wembley Club on 12/5/15. Further info to follow.
4. We are now on Facebook thanks to Jim Thompson with help from Emily Halderman. Check it out.
5. We also discussed the Dahlia Digest and how to make it available to all in the most cost effective manner. This will be a topic of discussion for our meeting so give it some thought and bring your ideas to the meeting.

Also, we are taking orders for *Dahlias of Today* which can be ordered at the meeting or let me know via e-mail. The cost is $10/copy (usually $17/individual purchase).

That’s it for now. See you March 20th.

Mike
Old Business
◊ Doc Hemminger spoke to Tom Demaline, owner of Willoway Nursery, to determine if we have his approval to continue our planting project this year using one of his greenhouses. Members will be encouraged to donate tubers of high-demand varieties (A, AA, and Waterlilies).

New Business
◊ Sharon advised that when the local schools are closed due to weather so will be the Busch Funeral Home.
◊ Emily Halderman has contacted the Wembley Club to determine if we can hold our holiday party there again this year.
◊ Jim and Emily will look into creating a DSO Facebook page.
◊ Mike stated that he would contact Brant Giere and Carol Sahley about possibly holding the summer picnic at their farm again this year.
◊ The board proposed a discussion be held at the March meeting about the possibility of having a “members only” roster (to include names, addresses and email addresses) and it would be distributed to paid members.
◊ Emily will contact Alexandra Kermode to see if she would be interested in giving a presentation at a member meeting in the fall.

Judging Seminars
◊ Ron Miner will organize.

A Call for Minerva Magic
The Columbus Dahlia Society is 50 years old this year. They would like to have a special class of Best Minerva Magic, Luther Havens introduction. If you have an extra tuber or two of this variety, please contact Bud Edwards at eedwards3@gmail.com. Thanks.
Oh to have been in Melbourne
February 28th!
Isn’t this interesting? - A “Dahlia Paddy Field”

2015 Shows a Little Closer to Home than Melbourne!

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 15-16</td>
<td>Cuyahoga County Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 15-16</td>
<td>Columbus Dahlia Society</td>
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<td>August 29-30</td>
<td>Mahoning Valley Dahlia Society</td>
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<td>September 5-6</td>
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<td>September 19</td>
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<td>October 3-4</td>
<td>DSO Member Show at Petitti’s</td>
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Dahlia Digest

Jerry Moreno was not able to attend the meeting but supplied Mike with information regarding the cost of the Digest for the board to consider. The cost to print/mail 6 issues of the Digest to one household throughout the year is $10.20 in color ($4.20 in black and white). Jerry asked the following questions in his email:
1. Is color needed? 2. Should we consider increasing the dues for those who want a hard copy of the Digest (vs an email copy that costs nothing)?

Dahlia Show Chair

Dave Cap reviewed dates for the 2015 shows and sales.
The board discussed tuber and plant sales and whether conflicting sales dates would pose a problem.
Dave advised that the DSO Sept show will be at Summit Mall again this year.
Doc Hemminger’s introduction Chandra Kay was chosen as “Flower of the Year.”
Sharon Swaney and Barbara Miner will work on this year’s artistic design themes. They hope to have a category in memory of Linda Vuletich.
Dave and Jim Thompson will work on a format for deciding the prize money and awards to be given at the Petitti’s Show.
The Board unanimously decided to continue having judging seminars.
Sharon and Barbara Miner will look into renting a bus for the National Show on Long Island.
The board decided that it would be best to tape a picture of the respective flower to a stick next to the tuber we are attempting to sell at the tuber sales. This would allow potential buyers to see what they are buying ahead of time.

Library and Archives

Barb Hosta agreed to continue maintaining the library materials.
Board Meeting Notes from Sarah

Date, Time and Location
◊ 7:15 pm—9:36 pm January 16, 2015 at the meeting room of Busch Funeral Home

Attendees
◊ Mike Weber, chair, Marilyn Weber, Rob Swaney, Sharon Swaney, Jim Thompson, Sarah Thompson, Emily Halderman, Nancy Riopelle, Dave Cap and Barb Hosta

President's Report
◊ President, Mike Weber, thanked the board members for their participation in DSO.

Treasurer's Report
◊ Treasurer, Sharon Swaney provided the board members with the 2014 DSO Financial Summary.
◊ The board members advised Sharon to proceed with paying the Botanical Garden annual sponsorship ($60).
◊ The board members advised Sharon to proceed with paying the Garden Club of Ohio Affiliate dues ($15).
◊ Sharon indicated that she would be paying the Midwest Conference dues ($35).
◊ Sharon will file the e-postcard for taxes.
◊ Dave will talk to the insurance agent regarding the possible need to complete forms for coverage during DSO events.
◊ The board agreed to postpone the vote for contribution to the scholarship fund until the next member meeting.

Membership
◊ Sharon will send an email prior to the next meeting reminding people to renew their memberships by paying their dues.
◊ Paid Members: 41 ADS; 77 DSO
◊ To cover the cost of printing and other expenses, the board proposed to raise the annual membership dues from $10 to $15 per household. March would be the last chance to renew at the $10

Larry Baker, 1925-2014

Lawrence J. Baker, age 89, of the Chardon area for over 55 years, passed away Sunday, December 21. He was born in St. Joseph, Missouri, on Aug. 6, 1925.

Larry was president of DSO a couple decades ago. He was a wonderful grower of dahlias, especially the big ones that he would take to the Geauga County Fair in particular and typically win in the Small Growers section (much to the chagrin of Jeff Campbell and yours truly). He was generous in sharing his blooms around Chardon.

Larry was a veteran of the US Army Air Forces, 784th Bombardment Squadron (A), during WW II. He was a "belly gunner" on "Sugar," a B-24, flying in 14 missions in Europe. On Nov. 11, 1944, he married Peggy E. Collister in Mountain Home, Idaho. They were married for 64 years until her death in August, 2009. Peggy was also a member of DSO but perhaps better known for her jellies and jams at Holden.

Larry worked at the Austin Company as a registered architect for 42 years until his retirement in 1995. He continued practicing architecture for family and friends well into his 80's.

He had 10 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, and 3 great-great grandchildren. One of his grandsons gave a beautiful eulogy for Larry at his Memorial Service. In conversation with his relatives, they all remarked to me on how generous Larry was with his tubers, distributed to them from coast to coast.

Larry was a very kind, humble, soft-spoken man and friend who is missed by all of us who knew him.

Jerry
In looking back at some of my columns from last year, I’ve come away a little concerned that I zeroed in on some mighty fine details that might have been a bit more detailed than appropriate. It is clear, I hope, that some of our excellent 3rd year seedlings from Blossom Gulch will require that level of detail. On the other hand, it is very important that we don’t lose sight of some of the basics on the judging scene!

Let’s take a giant step back from the numerical evaluation of seedling entries and think about the basics of judging in a show. Let’s assume, for the moment, that each class is exhibited by itself. In that situation, we are basically able just to compare the attributes of each of the entries to one another. We do not need to be concerned, for example, that the entries would have different ideal forms. In principle, that makes the judging easier than the judging where some classes are combined.

What would you do, for example, if the three flowers on the right comprised your class 2210 (B SCLB) in a show? Your first reaction might be that you will have a difficult time in picking a winner among three nice entries! Of course, that is a good problem to have. Your second reaction should be that you need to do a close examination of each of the entries to see if they have any shortcomings among the key attributes that we use in judging dahlias. Would you start with Bloom Position and work your way up to Form and Color? I hope you are all saying “no way” in answer to that one! You need to look at all of the attributes for each of the entries, but the highest priorities among those attributes are Form and Color. Remember that the other attributes are all together sometimes referred to as “the Other Half.” They are important, but not nearly as important as Form and Color.

If we assume that the pictures are sufficient to be able to

Getting to Know Us

Emily Halderman is our energetic First VP who brightens our every meeting! We knew DSO had someone special when a few years ago we were in need of a recording secretary and she volunteered without hesitation. Emily lives in Akron with husband Brad. Her hobbies continue to evolve over time and have included fitness, hiking, kayaking, roller derby, gourmet cooking, reading and gardening. She began growing dahlias after neighbor Don Witt brought a bouquet of dahlias to a party she was hosting. The next spring, Don brought her 5 dahlia plants and her new garden was created! She was hooked as she now grows 60 in a co-garden with a friend. Actually the number of dahlia plants in her garden fluctuates from year to year as she confesses she is not particularly careful in digging and storing but with Don’s help, her success rate of good tubers in the spring has increased!

Her favorite varieties also change from year to year. Currently Fuzzy Wuzzy is the new darling of her garden but she also enjoys the reliable classics, Pooh, Vassio Meggos, and any flower with the name “Baron” in it.

Emily has been a member of ADS for several years to the point of getting the last 20 years of back issues of the Bulletin as a Christmas present which she has happily shared with other new members. She is motivated to help ADS thrive because she appreciates the knowledge it brings.

She told me that DSO is meaningful to her because of all of the encouragement and support its members have provided to her and the community. DSO has helped answer her questions from the beginning of her dahlia journey to the present. As an aside, she also stated that DSO has served as a support network and master cheerleader for her as she recently completed her graduate course studies at Ohio University.

Editor: Every organization should have an Emily. Her boundless energy energizes our aging selves. Thanks Emily!
Getting Cuttings Started at Willoway
We will be able to use Willoway once again to grow plants for our sales. A couple weeks ago Mike and Doc filled 20 trays with potting mix to “warm them up” and then started to plant the tubers on March 10. If you have extra tubers to donate to the project, let Mike know or bring them to the March meeting. We will try to get them from you if you are not able to attend the meeting. As always, be sure they are clean and marked. Thanks. Also, if you have some time and have an interest in helping, let Mike know. Willoway is being remodeled including the greenhouse that we have used in the past but the one next door to it (same building) is available for us to use. Thanks again.

From our Membership Chair

1) Thanks to Jim Thompson and Emily Halderman, we now have a DSO Facebook page. Check it out at:

https://www.facebook.com/dahliasocietyofohio

Be sure to “like” us! The FB page is open to the public, so tell your gardening friends and dahlia admiring friends about our page. If you have any comments, corrections, ideas, please contact Jim at dozer1028@gmail.com

There is also a link on our website that will take you to the FB page. www.dahliasocietyofohio.org

2) If you have not been receiving the occasional email message from DSO, then we do not have your correct email. Please send a message to me to request a correction:

sharonswaney@windstream.net

Thanks,
Sharon

judge the class, what would you conclude? The only basic difference I see is in the distribution of the second color in the blend. The bloom on the lower right appears to have more yellow at 10 o’clock than at 4 o’clock. I don’t think I can figure out the first and second place entries; but I think it is pretty clear that the bloom on the lower right gets the third spot.

Let’s pretend that the two blooms on the right here represent the two best entries in your class 3001 (BB FD W). Assuming again (incorrectly) that you can draw conclusions on the basis of a picture, what comparisons would you draw and what conclusions would you reach? It is clear that there is one important Form attribute that is better in the upper bloom than the lower bloom. What is it? There are five key elements of Form: Symmetry, Contour, Development, True Form, and Depth (GJD, p. 40).

I agree with you if you said Symmetry differs between the two blooms. The lower bloom seems to be longer in the 2 o’clock to 8 o’clock direction than in the 11 o’clock to 5 o’clock direction. The center seems also to show that same asymmetry. We would conclude, therefore, that the upper bloom gets the first place ribbon and the lower bloom gets the second.

The two blooms below right could be the entries in your MB V class (the number for which is ???). The first thing I would want to do is look more carefully at the center of the bloom on the left. It looks a little ragged from here. Let’s say it is. The bloom on the right has some pretty clear color uniformity issues, doesn’t it! A substantial Form issue on the left vs. a substantial color issue on the right add up to a dilemma! Now is when you start searching for weaknesses and strengths in the “Other Half.” You need always to check all the
attributes. In this case it seems likely that differences in those attributes will drive the determination of the first and second for these two entries.

Perhaps you will be assigned to judge our newest class of dahlias, the Orchettes. Your class 9401 could include the four cultivars on the right. Which of the entries can you remove from the competition first? You might think that the third one has so much red on it that it can be set back first; but that is not the case. The classification is based on the color on the reverse of the ray florets and they all meet that criterion. The second cultivar down, on the other hand, is a seedling headed for the compost. Why? It is highly asymmetrical. Look at the ray florets at 2 and 8 o’clock. The one at 2 is not fully involute anywhere along its length. It should be fully involute for at least one-third of its length (GJD, p.5). The one (sort of) opposite, at 8, is more involute but is also displaced down from the center of the bloom. In fact, each of the ray florets is different and there are varying gaps between them. With that one set back, the competition gets tougher among the other three.

Are you ready to move to the “Other Half”? I don’t think so. The bloom at the top has gaps at 3, 5, and 8 o’clock and an “unruly” petaloid at 1:30. The 3rd bloom down has short petaloids. They should be 1/2 to 2/3 the length of the ray floret according to the GJD, p. 5. The ray florets also look longer toward 1 or 2 o’clock than toward 6 or 7 o’clock. The bloom at the bottom has relatively subtle gaps at 6 and 9 o’clock.

The color of the bottom bloom is pure white, plain and simple. The red on the face of the 3rd bloom is streaked. The ray florets at the center of the top bloom are yellow. If that center color were green, it would be a net negative. The yellow is not a problem as long as it is uniform.

As I see it, those observations add up to slightly favor the bloom at the bottom. Now you can take a look at the other attributes. If there are any serious problems with Substance, Stem, Foliage, or Bloom Position, they could swing the choice away from number 4 either to number 1 or 3 (but not 2). That bloom number 4 is actually Verrone’s Morning Star, the 2013 Stanley Johnson Award winner and the 9401 cultivar “to beat.”

The values of the various attributes in judging seedlings provide a sense of their priorities. They are as follows: Color, 22; Form, 28; Substance, 15; Stem, 10; Foliage, 10; Bloom Position, 5; and Distinction, 5. Remember to start with Form and Color but do not ignore the others. In close calls, your general impression from, say, 6’ or 8’ should help determine the winner.

OK, back to the big picture. In order to judge dahlias, you need to grow and to show them. You need to step back and refrain from any comments when your team is judging a class in which you have an entry. The best strategy is just to walk away from the table while the class is judged. You need to know the local rules for the show you’re judging and you need to pay attention to them and the instructions provided by the show and the judging chairpersons. You need to get a sense of the quality of the show by walking through it, including, in particular, the classes assigned to your team.

Once you are on a judging team, you need to listen to and respect your colleagues’ comments. At the same time, you need to volunteer your observations and comments, particularly if they run contrary to the general thinking and particularly if others on your team already have their minds made up. Of course, it is best if your observations and conclusions have a basis in the GJD. On the other hand, if you are that team leader, you need to solicit opinions and observations from less experienced judges on your team—and you need to avoid reaching conclusions without everyone’s inputs!

For the 2015 seedling challenge, we will go two directions: one based on Fully Double seed parents and one based on Open-Centered seed parents. You will have the opportunity to get the seeds at an upcoming meeting. More on that later!

Ron