DAHLIA DIGEST
DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO
Since 1930

VOL. 2015 ISSUE 6
November 2015

Pollinator Problems
and
What You Can Do to Help
FRAN BLANK

Election—NEED NOMINEES!

On Storing
Tubers/clumps

FRIDAY November 20
7:30
Busch Community Room
7501 Ridge Road Parma
Just south of Pleasant Valley Road
Hi Folks,

Hope you have all been able to enjoy Mother Nature’s second shot of summer. Perfect timing for getting our tubers out of the ground and ready for their winter storage.

Along those lines, thanks to all those folks who donated several hours of their time to help fellow member Roger Metzger dig his dahlias. Special thanks to Emily Halderman for organizing the event. Over 400 clumps were dug and stored to aid Roger as he recoups from several health issues. Well done!

This month’s meeting will be the last regular meeting of the year. We will be electing a new slate of officers for the next two years, so please come and cast your vote. Also don’t forget to make your reservations for our Holiday Party on December 5th at the Wembley Club. Further information on the party is addressed in this month’s Digest.

Our presentation for this month’s meeting is how the loss of pollinators impact our own gardens. Come and enjoy the night. Hope to see you there.

Mike

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**Memo from Mike**

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

Please fill out completely (even for renewals).

Date: _____________________
Name(s): ______________________________________
Address: _______________________________________
                                                  _______________________________________
                                                  _______________________________________
Phone: _________  Alt Phone: __________
Email(s): _______________________________________

PLEASE choose one of the following membership offerings:

[ ] DSO Individual  $15
[ ] DSO Family  $20
[ ] DSO Individual + ADS Individual  $39
[ ] DSO Family + ADS Individual  $44
[ ] DSO Family + ADS Family  $47

Snowbirds: Add $6 and enter winter address here:
                                                  _______________________________________

Would you like to receive your Digest in digital format only?  (Be sure to include an email address above) Please circle:

Yes    No

Please make checks payable to DSO.

Mail to: Sharon Swaney
         340 Aurora-Hudson Rd.
         Aurora, OH  44202
and the cultivar is Hollyhill Jeanette, BB C OR.

Your Challenge for next time is to classify the bloom on the right. It is about 3.5" in diameter.

Judging Challenge

Did you find the reference in the Guide to Judging Dahlias (GJD) regarding what portion of Form’s 28 points should be based on Depth? That was last month’s challenge and it is a tough one. Page 40 in the GJD tells you that the answer is 8 points.

One of the benefits of doing the judging tests is that you are pretty much forced to read through the GJD in some detail to find the answers. We will be starting that testing process again in 2016; a number of us completed the requirements last in 2011 and the requirements need to be fulfilled every five years.

For next month, please make a (short!) list of the form faults you see in the two triples on a previous page. I plan to walk through the SBE process on several of those seedling entries at Petitti’s for my next column. The two shown on the previous page exhibit relatively few, subtle form defects.

Ron

OFFICERS and CHAIRS

Mike Weber, President................................. 440-647-3162
Jerry Moreno, Past President......................... 440-543-5658
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Sharon Swaney, Treasurer and Membership......330-562-3296
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Dave Cap, Show Chair.................................440-888-5589
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Nancy Riopelle, Sunshine Chair....................330-483-3360
Tony Evangelista, ADS Representative...........440-867-3711
Sharon Swaney, Webmaster..........................330-562-3296

REFRESHMENTS

Emily Halderman, Marilyn Weber

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
PROGRAM

Fran Blank will discuss how the loss of pollinators and beneficial insects is impacting our gardens. Discussion will include slides of pollinators and beneficial insects and plants that will support their life cycles. She will share pictures of the “Insect Habitat” that she and her husband have built for their gardens.

Fran has taught gardening classes since 1985. She spent five years at The Ohio State University Extension in Lorain County as a program assistant where she answered thousands of home-owners’ questions and coordinated the Master Gardener program. She continues to speak to community groups about gardening and teaches gardening and food preservation classes for Don Mould’s Plantation—both stores, for Farm and Home Hardware in Wellington, for Bendix employees in Elyria, and for the residents of Pioneer Ridge in North Ridgeville. Fran’s latest adventure has been to appear on channel 8’s New Day Cleveland where she gave short gardening segments.

Good, Bad, or Both?

Before you read further, please take a few seconds to classify each of the two entries.

The Form for the cultivar in the top picture is pretty straightforward but what about its color? Classifying it as a S LB is an option; you can certainly see two colors there. That striking color combination may be the cultivar’s greatest strength. I think, however, that the best classification is to call the color LV (not sure about that, could also be P or PK) with a white eye zone. That final conclusion will need to wait until it is in the TGs and on SBE evaluation next year; but I would anticipate S LV/w.

If you managed to notice the petaloids on the cultivar at the bottom, you should have called it an orchette, OT. The color is a little tricky on this one, too, inasmuch as there is some subtle red on the reverse of the ray florets. If you conclude that color is a blend of white with red, it becomes OT DB W/RD/w-w since both the face of the ray florets and the petaloids are white. My expectation on this one, however, is that the red on the reverse will be considered a blush and the classification will be W/w-w.

The seedling at the top won the award as the best seedling in the judging seminar and went to the head table. I’m not going to further identify the entries because you will certainly be seeing them on the SBE next year. It is pretty much unavoidable that some judges will know the origin of a cultivar. If you find yourself in the situation where you are called on to do an SBE or TG evaluation of an entry that you recognize, keep in mind the fact that the best strategy is to do your evaluation with complete objectivity. You are not doing the originator a favor by evaluating the entry any other way. It is in their best interests for the cultivar to simply get the score it deserves!

Classification Challenge

Your assignment for this month was to classify the bloom on the next page, upper left. I told you it is about 5” in diameter; that makes it a BB. The ray florets are fully revolute over most of their length; that makes it a cactus. However, is it a C or an IC? The conclusion was that it was not sufficiently incurved to be an IC. The color is a bright orange.
This process can take different forms in different shows, depending on the views of the Show and Judging Chairpersons. At one extreme, each of the three judges assigned to evaluate an entry works entirely independently from the others. The individual scores may not even be compared or discussed. My preference and the one most generally used across the country is to cooperate in the determination of the classification, i.e., form and the color, of the entry; then to discuss the faults observed by each team member. Usually that process is repeated for each of the eight attributes contributing to the score. After the discussion of faults and their severity, each judge generates his own personal assessment of the severity of the fault and assigns a numerical value to each attribute in turn. The scores are then added up and the bottom lines compared among the three judges. If the scores end up within 2 or 3 points of each other, the process can be complete. If the differences are bigger than 2 or 3 points or if the judges prefer, the results on individual attributes can be compared in order to best understand the reasons for the differences in results. If a judge concludes that he or she was too generous or too harsh in their evaluation, the value for the relevant attribute can be adjusted, presumably but not necessarily to achieve a more consistent set of scores. In a formal SBE evaluation, the three scores are averaged and the final result reported on the entry tag. If the score achieved is above 85, the result is also reported to the ADS; the new cultivar is named and becomes a permanent part of the ADS list of dahlia cultivars.

The two highest scoring entries in the seminar are pictured on the right. We did not go through the process of formally averaging the various scores among the participants in the seminar, but each of these two entries scored very high, of the order of 90.

MINUTES ...October 16, 2015

- Mike opened the meeting at 7:45. Closed at 9:37. He thanked Tony for a wonderful ADS article. A card is to be sent to Dave Habeger for best wishes on surgery.
- Sharon spoke with an accountant regarding our changing to a 501C3 status. She renewed the website domain (with GoDaddy.com) for another two years. Our Money Market balance is $12,734. Checking is $982.65 with the Memorial Fund, -$2348 without the Memorial Fund.
- Sharon reminded us that she is collecting dues for 2016. The form is at the end of this Digest.
- Emily announced that the Holiday party will be held at the Wembley Club in Chagrin Falls on Saturday, December 5 from 1-3 pm. Cost is $20 per person. She gave a list of entrees. RSVP your choice to her.
- Emily mentioned that member Roger Metzger would appreciate assistance in digging tubers this year. A group is scheduled to help on Saturday October 24 at his home in Burbank. Roger will donate tubers to DSO in appreciation for our help.
- Dave announced the show schedule for 2016:
  - August 13-14 Cuyahoga Co Fair
  - September 2 Geauga Co Fair
  - September 10-11 DSO Show Summit Mall
  - September 15-19 Natl Show Asheville NC
- Barb reported on the merger between the Cleveland Botanical Gardens and Holden Arboretum. She attended the last Botanical meeting at which three plant/garden
organizations discussed their respective organization.

- Mike received a letter from the Garden Club of Ohio requesting a donation to their scholarship program. The decision was put on hold as it was not clear that we have contributed to that fund previously. We typically donate to the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland (formerly the Men’s Garden Club of Cleveland).

- The annual photo contest was held that allowed members to display their dahlia photos in various categories. The meeting attendees then voted on their favorites. See the website for the winners.

- Ron presented a slide show featuring the highlights of the ADS National Show in New York.

DSO NEEDS YOU!!!

At the time of this printing there are no confirmed nominees for DSO President and First Vice President. Please consider keeping DSO alive by volunteering your time. Organizations lack vitality when officers have to be recycled. Please consider helping! Call Mike. THANK YOU!

As usual, Dave managed the process of setting up and taking down the show. Thanks, again, Dave for all you do that lets us have a dahlia show!!

Oh and thanks for the wonderful cake we had for dessert after judging and lunch. For some strange reason, the rumor that Barbara is retiring as a judge has been spreading. I thought I had better quash that impression quickly. We all know that we couldn't get along without her in that role, right?! It was a great cake, though!

The Petitti Judging Seminar

The weather precluded investing any time on judging topics other than the main one, that being a preview of next year’s “coming of age” of our first generation of Blossom Gulch seedlings from 2013. In the summer of 2016, those seedlings will be fourth year seedlings and will become eligible for submission to the Trial Gardens and to be entered in the Seedling Bench (SBE) evaluation at our shows. There were 8 nice seedlings entered for the dress rehearsal. We divided into four teams and walked through the process of formally and quantitatively scoring each of the seedlings as a team.

Judges observing during the seminar. Jack Wharton, right, is our newest (and youngest) judge.
The Petitti Show and Judging Seminar

The weather for the Petitti Show was great for the flowers but was certainly a challenge for the exhibitors! A high in the 50’s combined with wind and rain kept us moving and rubbing our hands all day!

Other than the winter coats, hats, and, yes, even gloves, the show was pretty much as usual. Lots of nice blooms, lots of special friends, and a little commiserating about the lousy day! With enough judges to get four teams and with excellent cooperation among the teams, we zipped through the judging at a great pace. “Thank you” to all the judges who joined the process.

Our friends from MVDS, Jim Chuey and Harriet Chandler brought a lot of wonderful blooms and did a well deserved job of dominating the head table. Their entry of Cleaview Lily was a great Grand Champion. Great form, great color, great substance, … in short, tough to beat!

Sharon’s “Homecoming” in the Artistic Design section, pictured lower right, won that section. I also enjoyed Dave Cap’s happy pumpkin entry, pictured on the left.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY
December 5th
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

at the Wembley Club
8345 Woodberry Blvd.
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023
www.wembleyclub.com (for directions)

Cost: $20.00 per person
(includes tax and gratuity)
Entree choices include salad option and two sides

Please make check payable to DSO and submit to Emily Halderman or Mike Weber
OR mail to: DSO, PO Box 12, Wellington, OH 44090

INDICATE ENTRÉE CHOICE FOR EACH PERSON

8oz grilled sirloin_______________________
7oz grilled salmon______________________
Chicken Parmesan_______________________
Eggplant Parmesan_____________________
Vegetarian Lasagna_____________________

THE DAHLIA PARADE

Most everyone knows of the Rose Parade in Pasadena that precedes the Rose Bowl college football game annually. But did you know that on the first Sunday of September every year since 1936 the village of Zundert, Netherlands, birthplace of Vincent Van Gogh, has put on a flower parade of 19 floats that use dahlias exclusively? This year the theme for all of the floats was to commemorate the 125th anniversary of Van Gogh’s death. 50,000 people attended the parade. The region is a world supplier of dahlias. Here are pictures of a couple of the floats. See the following site for the rest. They are spectacular!

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3229900

DIVIDING DAHLIAS

If you are uncertain on how to divide your tuber clump, bring it to the November meeting for advice on what to do. Some clumps are so tightly amassed that it might be better just to drill a hole through the core to let excess water drain and store the entire clump or perhaps split it in half.

The JUDGE’s Corner
Ron Miner - baronminer@aol.com

Putting Those Tubers Away

I am always a little shocked about how quickly the season is over! It seems like it is only just in full swing when it’s time to start cutting down the plants. (I think it may have a little something to do with the number of years I’ve been doing it.) In any case, we are now back in the mode of putting the gardens to bed instead of waking them up like we did a few months (weeks?) ago.

I encourage you to follow Dr. Pappu’s advice as you work in the garden digging plants and on your bench dividing tubers. His counsel is not to dig those plants with foliage exhibiting virus symptoms. Just leave them in the ground—or better yet, wait until you are done digging, then dig the plants with virus and throw them in an isolated pile separate from your compost pile. His other critical piece of advice is to clean your cutting tools between each clump (10% solution of bleach works well). As many of you know, that is a strategy that I did not rigorously follow in previous years and I now regret it! I pulled out a lot of my stock this past season.

The ADS website (managed with great skill by our own Sharon Swaney) reproduces an article first published in the Quarterly Bulletin of the Michigan Dahlia Association that describes the “Saran Wrap” procedure for storing tubers. That is basically the approach I have adopted and I have excellent success with it. I lose almost no tubers to rot. Try a few stored that way; you might like it. One key, I believe, is to keep the temperature of the tubers as cool and as uniform as you can manage over the winter. Of course the tubers should not be allowed to freeze; a temperature of about 45 degrees works well for me.

The bottom line for storing tubers is that there are lots of alternative approaches; use the one that works well for you!

Plants with yellowed veins like this should not be saved