PICNIC:
Noon August 20
Moebius Nature Center
Aurora

SHOWS:
Cuyahoga Fair: August 13
Mahoning Valley DS: Aug 27-28
Geauga Fair: September 2-3
DSO: September 10-11
East Liverpool DS: Sept 24
Petitti’s Oakwood: October 1
Hi Dahlia Lovers,

I hope your dahlia gardens are coping with lack of rain. Watering from a faucet just isn’t the same as from Mother Nature. But we do the best that we can. Right?

Regarding shows, Dave asked me to make special note that the first one is Cuyahoga County Fair with emphasis that it is a great one for anyone who has not shown before. It is very relaxed with emphasis on learning how to bring your dahlias, how to stage them, and how to judge them. Location is the Flower Barn at gate 3 off Eastland Rd. Berea, Ohio 44017. It opens Saturday August 13 at 7:30 am. For more information call Dave at 440-888-5589. See you there!

A gentle reminder of your summer homework. Please complete the ADS test that is required to maintain your judging status. Turn your completed test into Ron. Although I found parts of the test to be in need of revision, it was a good exercise to be confident in what I know, to refresh my memory on items I have forgotten, and even to learn some new things as well. Please help out Ron and get your test to him asap. Thanks.

Always remember to check our website for up-to-date information regarding DSO activities.

A contract has been signed for us to host the 2018 Midwest Show at the Holiday Inn Strongsville, September 7-9, 2018. Details forthcoming. Thank you Ron for helping confirm the site.

I’m looking forward to seeing all of you soon.

Jerry
OFFICERS and CHAIRS

Jerry Moreno, President.......................... 440-543-5658
Mike Weber, Past President......................... 440-647-3162
Sarah Thompson, 1st Vice President...............216-926-7419
Jim Thompson, 2nd Vice President...............216-926-7419
Sharon Swaney, Treasurer and Membership.....330-562-3296
Marilyn Weber, Recording Secretary............440-647-3162
Mary Ann 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.......440-729-9714
Nancy Riopelle, Sunshine Chair..................330-483-3360
Tony Evangelista, ADS Representative.........440-867-3711
Sharon Swaney, Webmaster.......................330-562-3296

MEETING DATES for 2016

March 18 New Introductions; Waking up tubers
April 15 Tuber auction
May 20 Plant auction
June 17 On carnivorous plants
August 20 Picnic
October 21 Photo contest, Composting and organics—Tony
November 18 Speaker from the Miller Nature Center
December 3 Holiday party, Burntwood Tavern, Solon
The JUDGE’s Corner
Ron Miner—baronminer@aol.com

One of the things growing in my yard and, I hope, in most of yours is a seedling patch. Perhaps the basic enjoyment of a seedling patch is the opportunity to see the first blooms of a new cultivar. A new creation, right in your own back yard, is something very special! It really doesn’t even matter whether or not that new cultivar would win first prize at a show. It is a thrill to see that very first bloom regardless.

On the other hand, if it looks like it could win first prize at a show, it can be a lot of fun to begin the process of creating your own, named and official, ADS dahlia! The procedure begins by saving the tubers of the seedlings that you think have a chance of producing winners and growing them the following year. Knowing the characteristics of winning dahlias as you have learned through judging plays a big part in making good seedling choices.

I’m convinced that I learned more about the judging manual by studying my seedlings than by anything else (with the possible exception of writing a column on judging! :)). My counsel, therefore, is to take a score-sheet, a clipboard, and the Guide to Judging Dahlias (GJD) with you to the seedling patch regularly this summer. Try it; you’ll keep better seedlings and (maybe) be better able to put good, but not great, seedlings on the compost pile at the end of the season.

A Battle of AN Seedlings

The seedling (A), below left, has good to excellent Form. The ray florets are nearly planar and therefore conform very well to the expectation in the ideal definition that they are “visible from the face of the bloom.” (Classification and Handbook of Dahlias, (CHD), p. 5) The dome is similarly very consistent with the ideal definition. It is well developed and consists of tubular florets that are “uniform in shape, size, and formation.” (CHD, p. 5). That, of course, is the good news.

What do you think about the color? The color on the outer portion of the ray florets looks a little like a faded version of the color on the base of the ray florets. Unfortunately
they have that appearance as soon as they appear, so growing in a shad-
ier part of the garden won’t help. Can we make it a Blend? That might save it! Remember, however, that blends can only come from different color classes. That is, RD11 combined with RD4, approximately the case here, does not constitute a Blend! The bottom line is that we have red ray florets that are simply not very uniform from base to tip. Uniform color in self-colored (single color) dahlias is a basic requirement (GJD), p. 11)

Consider now the colors on the ray florets in the second seedling (B), on the right. What is the color of these ray florets? The answer is a little more complicated than you might think. Is it a Bicolor or a Blend? “The ideal bicolor will have consistent, uniform tips…with little bleeding. If a variety doesn’t possess this distinctness, judges should classify it as a Blend.” Further, the length of the tip color should be 1/4 to 1/6 of the length of the ray floret. (GJD, p. 13) Blends only require “two or more evenly merging colors.” However, Flame Blends should have “a definite color break at greater than one-quarter of the length of the ray floret.” (GJD, p. 13) The choice basically boils down to the distinctness of the color break. I would go with a Bicolor in this case; but it could be argued either way.

The dilemma on this seedling is that while the color is very good either as a Bicolor or as a Blend, check out the Form. Do those outer disc florets look tubular to you? No, they clearly are not tubular. Further, the ray florets are less “…visible from the face of the bloom…,” (CHD, p. 5) compared to those in Seedling A. Now, how can I just put the color from B onto A or the Form from A onto B? Sounds like a good hand pollinating job, eh?! (Probably not!)

Which is the better seedling? In this case, I view the Color faults in seedling A to be of greater severity than the Form faults in seedling B. The former is headed to the compost pile at the end of the year. The matter regarding B may get another chance next year.

**Virus**

One way to tell that I’ve made some progress on the virus front is that I have had enough replacement plants this year! I will, no doubt,
lose a few more. It sure seems like I’ve had more than my share of rotted tubers this spring. I’ve also pulled a number of plants that seemed to have virus; but most of those were ones I purchased (bummer) over the winter. I’m very much looking forward to a larger crop of G1 tubers next spring!

See you at the shows!  Ron

PLEASE HELP JUDGE the DAHLIA SHOW at the GREAT GEAUGA COUNTY FAIR! SATURDAY 9 am, SEPTEMBER 3

We have been requested to judge the dahlia show at the Geauga Fair this year. This is the first year in several when there isn’t a competing Midwest Conference or National Dahlia Show on Labor Day weekend (although the Columbus DS Show is on that weekend).

But if you are not going to Columbus, please consider participating in the judging at the Geauga Fair on Saturday morning, September 3. Let me know by email at baronminer@aol.com. Space is very limited in the Flower Barn so that even having just two teams will be tight. I will confirm your participation as soon as I can.

Thanks for your consideration. It is great that those in charge of the Geauga Fair are asking us to do the dahlia judging rather than looking elsewhere. So please help.

Note that staging blooms at Geauga is done on Friday from around 4:00 to 9:00 pm. Registration must be done by August 10. See online form at geaugafair.com.

Thanks.  Ron
DSO PICNIC

WHEN: Noon, Saturday, August 20

WHERE: The MOEBIUS NATURE CENTER (MNC)
929 E Mennonite Road Aurora, OH 44202
Get directions at: www.mymnc.org

WHAT will be provided: Chicken, place settings, drinks

WHAT to bring: Your favorite covered dish or dessert for sharing (along with serving utensils)
Bring a chair for judging seminar later in the day.

SCHEDULE:
Noon—Eat and visit one another at MNC
2:00 Tour the Swaney’s (7 minutes from MNC)
3:00 Judging Seminar at the Miner’s (15 minutes from the Swaney’s)
After Judging, optional stop at Moreno’s garden.

DSO SHOW SUMMIT MALL - Don’t Forget to Enter:
ARTISTIC DESIGN and CONTAINER GARDEN

Details on SHOW SCHEDULE on DSO website.
Artistic Design theme this year is: Salute to America
June Meeting Notes from Marilyn

Date, Time and Location
⇒ 7:45 pm—10:00 pm June 17, 2016 at the meeting room of Busch Funeral Home.

President Report
⇒ In Jerry’s absence, Sarah opened the meeting.
⇒ She shared the sad news that Jerry’s mother, Mary, passed away recently. She was a month and two days shy of her 105th birthday. A card was circulated for signatures.
⇒ The Composite Index was distributed to those who had ordered.
⇒ Randy Foith, president of the Midwest Dahlia Conference, discussed the Midwest meeting on June 4th at Elkhart, IN. The auction there generated about $2400. There were approximately 23 of 300 plants that were discarded due to suspected virus.

Treasurer Report
⇒ Sharon reported that the Money Market has a balance of $12,735 and change earning 21 cents interest. Checking is $3990.83 which includes $1848 of the Memorial Fund.

Membership Report
⇒ Sharon announced that there are currently 110 DSO members. Almost all of last year’s ADS members have renewed.

Corresponding Secretary Report
⇒ 46 Digests were postal mailed.

First Vice President’s Report
⇒ Sarah shared the planned Program Schedule for 2016: October will be the annual photo contest and a presentation by Tony on organics and digging tubers. November speaker will be a staff member from the Miller Nature Center or another potential topic.
⇒ The annual DSO picnic is planned for August 20 at the Moebius Nature Center in Aurora. Sarah, Sharon, and Marilyn will pull together details and discussions will be held with Ron about the potential of a judging seminar and/or tours of members’ gardens who live nearby the Nature Center.
Second Vice President and Show Chairman Report
⇒ Dave Cap and Jim Thompson reviewed the show schedule. First show is August 13 Cuyahoga County Fair. Set up from 7:30-10 am with judging beginning immediately thereafter. Dave also reminded members that the flower of the year is to be from a Midwest Originator for the DSO show. The list of candidates was prepared by Kathy and Randy and is on the DSO website.

ADS Report
⇒ Tony reported that his submission for the June Bulletin was printed. He highlighted Rudy Bredenbeck’s passing and also the DSO initiative with G1 or VF (virus free) tubers and testing as Jerry had requested.

Cleveland Botanical Garden (CBG) Report
⇒ Barb Hosta reported that CBG has the Treehouse display again this year and that on Wednesday evenings there is an event called “gourmets in the garden.” Holden has Tuesday evening concerts and the lantern court area is available to organizations for a rental fee of $150 for two hours.

Sunshine Report
⇒ No report.

Library Archives Report
⇒ Barb reported that she has the DVDs to the 2016 and previous years Intros and a “How to Grow Dahlias” DVD available to borrow. She also has several books that members may sign out.

Old Business
⇒ Regarding the 2018 Midwest Show to be hosted by us, Jerry continues to work on finding a site.
⇒ As discussed at the May meeting, Sarah asked Busch if we could start our meetings earlier than 7:30. They agreed. Marilyn moved that starting with the October 21 meeting, the starting time will be 7:00. Tony seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The new contract with Busch to be signed in July will reflect the change in time.
New Business
⇒ Randy provided information about the Mahoning Valley Dahlia Society show for August 26-28 at the Carnation Mall. Friday set-up is 7 pm—1 am. Saturday set-up is 7:30 am-10 am. Judging at 10 am on Saturday. The Comfort Inn is attached to the Mall and has rooms available for $89 per night. Randy recommended booking these asap as the deadline for booking is July 26.
⇒ Barbarba Hosta offered passion flower plants to anyone interested.

Dahlia Q&A
⇒ Members discussed issues experienced with tubers not rooting and possible causes and remedies. Some members mentioned an excessive number of blind tubers.
⇒ A question was asked regarding how often to fertilize and with what. Sharon suggested referring to the ADS website with several articles on fertilizer and the use of nitrogen. Members also discussed testing the ph of soil.

Program
⇒ Refreshments were provided by Sarah, Kathy, and Marilyn. Rob Swaney provided beverages.
⇒ Jon Schnupp, owner of “Divide and Culture” presented a program on carnivorous plants. Jon with Jim Thompson provided numerous examples of species. All present received a packet of seeds from Jon and nine lucky members won a plant provided by Jim as an addition to the 50/50 raffle.
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:

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Snowbirds: Add $6 and enter winter address here:
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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
DAHLIA SOCIETY of OHIO
MaryAnn Moreno
8232 Westhill Drive
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023