Hi Dahlia Lovers,

Well, all sales are over by the time you get this Digest. Hopefully you have your plants and/or tubers in the ground anxiously waiting for that first bloom typically in July. Totally dedicated to wanting a virus-free garden, my usual 65 plants are now about ten fewer. Unfortunately I think I may still have some that have a virus.

Thanks to all who helped propagate the plants we sold. Mike Weber and Doc Hemminger headed the project. When you see them give them a thankful pat on the back for a job very well done. It takes a lot of time and tlc to produce 500 or so plants and we truly appreciate their effort. And what would we ever do without Dave Cap organizing the sales and shows. Give Dave a big pat on the back as well, actually make it a huge hug!!!! You are one of a kind Dave. Super thanks for all that you do for DSO.

I’m mentioning this to remind myself that I need to see if I am on track for fulfilling my judging requirements (found on our DSO website) as well as filling out and submitting my judging test. The appropriate tests are at www.dahlia.org/index.php?page=judging-info. The username and password are on page 5 of a recent ADS Bulletin. Let’s all get that done as a summer project completed before the judging season starts this year. That will make Ron very happy indeed.

After this month’s meeting on a really interesting topic of carnivorous plants, our next meeting will be the photo contest in October. So keep that in mind and take some fantastic pictures this year and hopefully win a few bucks!

Have a wonderful growing season!

Jerry

Moreno’s Memo
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
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........... 440-729-9714
Nancy Riopelle, Sunshine Chair.................... 330-483-3360
Tony Evangelista, ADS Representative........ 440-867-3711
Sharon Swaney, Webmaster.............................. 330-562-3296

REFRESHMENTS

Kathy Foith
Sarah Thompson
Marilyn Weber

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 xx Garden Tour
October 21 Photo contest, Composting and organics—Tony
November 18 Speaker from the Miller Nature Center
December 3 Holiday party, Burntwood Tavern, Solon

RUDY BREDENBECK

In Rudy, we lost a long-time member of DSO and a terrific grower of dahlias, especially Hamari Accord. Rudy joined DSO in 1967 and has served as its president as well as several years of being Show Chair. He was Dave’s predecessor. He was also president of the Men’s Garden Club of Greater Cleveland.

His house is filled with shelves and shelves and shelves of dahlia trophies he won (with help from wife Shirley of 59 years. They have two sons, a daughter, and two granddaughters.) He also was a great grower of roses and orchids.

Rudy graduated Valedictorian from Brooklyn High in 1949 and was inducted into their Hall of Fame in 1993 for his play in football, track and field. He earned a degree in mechanical engineering from the U of Cincinnati in 1954.

He served in the US Army from ‘54-’56 and then for 35 years at Teledyne Efficient Industries serving as its president and chairman for 18 years. He was also president of the National Tooling and Machining Association.

Rudy was inducted into the inaugural class of the Ohio Senior Olympics Hall of Fame in 2007 as well as the Over the Hill Track Club Hall of Fame in 2008. He competed in Masters Track and Field in shot put, discuss, javelin, and weight throws.
On Carnivorous Plants

Our speaker this month is Jon Schnupp of Divide and Culture. Jon promises a gift of carnivorous plant seeds with care instructions for all in attendance. And Jim Thompson said that he will have carnivorous plants for raffle prizes!

Jon jokes that after 15 years of growing plants and coral, he was “trapped” 7 years ago having acquired his first carnivorous plant! Being short on space and favorable growing conditions, he started to grow indoors in terrariums. He is a firm believer in treating those how you want to be treated. Working in a small family owned business for most of his life, he can attest to just how important that is in retail. He hopes to not only be able to provide the best quality product but also the best service he can in his work with Divide and Culture.

Overview of Program

- Definition of a carnivorous plant.
  Features: The attraction—lure of prey
  The capture—trapping of prey
  The benefit—how digest prey

- Geographic location, habitat, variations within the species.

- Threats that these and other plants face.

Lots of pictures.
Free seeds to all who attend.
Win a carnivorous plant.

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

Hooray; the season is underway! I hope you and your gardens are off to a good start. It seems like it is forever between getting our tubers started in pots and being able to get them in the ground. Then it seems to take about two months before the season is ending. Oh well, we have a lot of fun in between, don’t we!

Keep some extra plants in pots so that you can remove any plants that start to show virus symptoms. I ended up with a lot of holes in my garden last summer. Removing unhealthy plants helps to protect your healthy plants.

Big Picture

It is important not to lose sight of the basics of judging dahlias. Thorough knowledge of the judging manual and practical experience of judging with a team in a show or at a Trial Garden are the yin and the yang of judging. While you are judging with a team in a show, “…… the judge has the opportunity to garner insights that will significantly augment book knowledge.” (Guide to Judging Dahlias (GJD), p. 4) Neither that “book knowledge” nor extensive practical experience are sufficient by themselves. Both are required.

You will find that the process of completing the judges’ tests is a good way to improve your knowledge of the GJD. (Writing a column on judging is a pretty good tool, too. :-)) I have found that writing out the answers to that test requires a pretty thorough review of all our judging materials; not only the GJD, but also the Classification and Handbook of Dahlias (CHD) and the Score sheets. That “book knowledge” is largely accomplished on your own. Judging with a team requires effective interaction with your teammates.

Have you ever participated in a team building exercise? One of the important lessons from that experience is that the conclusions or the outcome of the team exercise is
almost always better than any of the individual results even if some on
the team are much more expert than some of the others. That bottom
line does depend on one thing; that is effective communication within
the team. Effective communication means that you, as a participant, are
prepared not only to contribute to the discussion but also to listen to
what your colleagues have to say. That interaction within the team is
the basis for the learning experience described in the GJD. Corollaries
to listening and respecting the inputs of your team members are 1) en-
couraging the inputs of those more shy and retiring members of your
team and 2) questioning the “pronouncements” of the overbearing
members of the team. Base your questions and comments on your un-
derstanding of the GJD. Everyone will benefit from your inputs. Once
a decision is reached, remember that it is a team decision; you need to
adopt it and be able to explain it in the context of judging criteria, not an
individual’s perspective.

One more big picture item needs to be addressed; our prejudice.
We all have favorite colors or forms or ….; you need to recognize those
prejudices and make sure they don’t influence your decisions on judg-
ing. Judging seedlings requires a very detailed assessment of a whole
series of specific criteria. One of the reasons that adherence to that regi-
men is so important is that it helps guide us around our prejudices. I
remember judging with a long since retired DSO Senior Judge who led
our team to pick an entry for a first because she “liked it best,” even
though she wasn’t sure why. Today, I think I would have the courage
to ask her to try to figure out why she liked it best. It was probably the
best entry; but she should have been prepared to tell the team why that
was her choice. You should be prepared to tell the team why you prefer
one entry over the others. Your “like” needs to be based on specific
judging criteria. The logical extension of this principle is that you
should never judge a class that includes one of your entries and/or one
of your introductions. Chances are you will “like” it best!

Some of you might wonder where to find “6 qualifications of a
good judge.” The basis for answering that question and the context for
most of the foregoing discussion can be found on and around page 6 in
the Guide to Judging Dahlias.

Classification

The classification of a cultivar is an important consideration in
virtually all judging scenarios. The extent to which an entry conforms
to the ideal definition of the form class in which it is entered is one of the considerations in evaluating
the entry against its competitors. What is the level
of importance of that consideration in judging a
fully double class? I hope that your answer to that
question is based on our score sheet and the distri-
bution of Form considerations on p. 40 of the GJD.
It says there that 5 of the 28 points for Form are
assigned to “True Form.” That is, the ‘level of
importance’ answer is 5%.

If an exhibitor brings an unknown cultivar
to a show or if you are going to be judging
seedlings, the first step in the process is
classifying the entry. “The arrangement
and the shape of individual florets … be-
come the focal point when Senior Judges
determine the classification for all unclas-
sified dahlias shown in ADS
shows.” (GJD, p. 16)

The figure at the upper right is
scanned from p. 19 of the GJD. It shows
the shape and the arrangement of the ray
florets in a Formal Decorative dahlia. In
this case, the definitions in the GJD and
CHD are the same. The ray florets are
generally broad, flat and smooth. Their
arrangement is uniform and regular. Do
the sketches look a little different than you
ordinarily think of as formal decorative?
How would you classify the cultivars on
the right? The ray florets on the blooms
are increasingly involute from the top
bloom to the bottom bloom, particularly
near the center, right? What location on
the bloom should you examine in order to
determine the shape of the ray florets?
The answer is important in the cases of the
blooms on the right. I hope you said ‘the
equator.’ (GJD, p. 25) (Also check the
paragraph at the bottom of p. 25. It specifically addresses the involu-
te ray florets in discussion here.) Each of the blooms on the right is classified as Formal Decorative. They are Ova Jo, JS Neon Purple, and Clearview Butterscotch, top to bottom. In my view, Ova Jo comes closest to the top of that FD “Form Mountain” from the point of view of the shape of the ray florets, but they all are good FD dahlias.

Judging Challenge

Last month, I asked you to take a look at the elements of Form summarized for fully double blooms on page 17 and 18 in the GJD. Can you cite those five elements off the top of your head? Inasmuch as Form is such an important aspect in judging, you should be able to do that. Of course, you could also have a sticky note on that page in the GJD which will be in your apron while you are judging! They are Symmetry, Contour, Development, and True Form. (Aside: Didn’t I just say five elements? Yes, I did. I had forgotten that Depth was not included in the listing on pages 17 and 18. The best places to find Depth/Size are on pages 36 and 40 in the GJD and on the Fully Double score sheet. I don’t remember why we didn’t include Depth on p. 18. In hindsight, I think it should be there. Up until about the time the new GJD was issued, Size Proportion was a separate item on the score sheet. That could be the reason it was left off p. 18.) The fifth element of Form is Depth or Size Proportion. Thus, when you are looking at a set of entries in a fully double class on the show table, you should walk through a check list in the back of your mind: Is there any asymmetry in the bloom? Is the build or contour of the bloom uniform and regular? Is the bloom at its peak of development? How high up that Form Mountain does this entry stand? Is the depth of the bloom sufficient for its classification? Color and the other attributes should follow, but Form should be the starting point.

The other part of the question from last month was which of the Form elements are relevant to open-centered cultivars? Frankly, there isn’t a lot of guidance on this question in the GJD. Depth is obviously irrelevant. Contour is probably best considered in the context of Symmetry since “build” implies three dimensions. We are left with Symmetry, Development, and True Form; and, if you are judging in a Trial Garden, Development drops out of the list. Perhaps the key “take away” from this part of the discussion is that when you are judging a class of open-centered cultivars, symmetry and the elevation of the entries on their Form Mountain are very important parts of the evaluation of Form.

Classification Challenge

The Classification Challenge for this month was Rae Ann Logaugh’s Evie Gul-likson Medal winner, Destiny’s Teachers. You all, no doubt, said that it was a variegated orchid. The challenge, however, was in actually capturing the classification in writing. I recommend going back to the CHD and reading the instructions on the open-centered cultivars because it will not be intuitive for us (at least me) for a while. At the bottom of p. 6, Lou tells us that the classification for orchids is based on the color of the reverse of the ray florets. In this case, they are variegated with white as the dominant color. The color thus begins with V WH/PR. Next comes the color on the face of the ray florets; they are also variegated dominated by white. The classification, including the color chips, is O V WH1/PR28 / v wwh1/pr28.

Did you identify any Form or Color faults? In the context of our foregoing discussion on the importance of Symmetry, look at the distribution of the ray florets around the center of the bloom. Seven of the gaps are pretty much the same. Do you agree? The gap to the right of the 6 o’clock floret, however, is
bigger. The overlap on the involute ray florets is pretty uniform, although the lack of a difference in color between the reverse and the front of the ray florets masks any difference. There is some difference in the shapes of the tips of the ray florets. The ones at 7 o’clock and noon are less sharp than the others. Do you give it a passing score for symmetry? I would. Since this bloom is in the Trial Garden, the only other Form issue is True Form. The ideal definition calls for “ray florets involute for two-thirds or more of their length and fully involute for at least one-third of their length.” The bloom meets the definition very well. The bottom line for form would probably be between 85 and 90%. That would correspond to a penalty of 3.5 or 4 points for Form on the score sheet.

Variegated dahlias should have a sharply contrasting second color that is uniformly distributed over the bloom. (GJD, p. 14) The only obvious color fault I see is on the ray floret at 9 o’clock. It shows a purple streak that is much larger than any of the other variegations on the bloom. The problem at the tip of the ray floret at 7 o’clock is probably a bruise that would not mean much in the Trial Garden setting. In that case, the color rating would be very good, perhaps 90% with a penalty of 2 points.

I will give you a ‘pass’ on assignments until fall. :-)

Judging Experience
Exhibit and judge in as many shows as you can this summer. I would particularly recommend participating in the National Show in Asheville, NC, on Sept. 15 to 18. It promises to be a great show with lots of opportunities to meet the best dahlia growers and exhibitors and judges in the world. They are nice people who are happy to share their knowledge with you!

Ron
First Vice President’s Report
⇒ Sarah shared the planned Program Schedule for 2016 which includes a speaker in June who will be providing a program on Carnivorous Plants. October will be the annual photo contest and a presentation by Tony Evangelista on organics and digging tubers. November speaker will be a staff member form the Miller Nature Center.
⇒ The annual DSO picnic is planned for the month of August and discussions are still being held regarding the details. Mike Weber will be following up with Sarah and Jerry on a potential option.

Second Vice President and Show Chairman Report
⇒ Dave Cap and Jim Thompson summarized the sales of plants and some tubers at Rockefeller Greenhouse May 12-14 and Holden May 13-15. They thanked all members for working and braving the inclement weather. Despite the poor weather sales were good. Rockefeller $1370 and Holden $1125.

ADS Report
⇒ Tony reported that his submission for the June Bulletin will be printed. Jerry requested that the DSO initiative with G-1 or VF (virus free) tubers and testing be mentioned in one of his next submissions. DSO is taking the lead on the virus-free initiative.

Cleveland Botanical Garden Report
⇒ Barb Hosta reported that there was no new information from CBG. Jerry said that he had received acknowledgement from Botanical that our dues were received and they thanked us for our continued support of the CBG.

Sunshine Report
⇒ Nancy will be advised of Rudy’s death and asked to send a card to Shirley and family.

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
⇒ Ron Miner has a list of those judges who are due for testing in 2016. Members can contact him for information.
⇒ 2018 Midwest Show hosted by DSO. Jerry is working with an individual who researches possible sites and is compensated by the hotel/venue. Doc Hemminger gave him another “site-hunter” who may be able to help as well. Plans are to have the site under contract by the end of summer.

New Business
⇒ Ron Miner shared information about the testing procedure at Washington State under Dr. Hanu Pappu. Thanks to financial support from Jim Chuey and brother Carl (d.2015), the cost of testing has been greatly reduced. Ron made a motion for DSO to spend up to $300 to send plants for testing with the intent of then being able to further develop tubers/plants for sales that are virus free. How to choose what plants to send is to be determined. The motion was seconded by Tony Evangelista and passed unanimously.
⇒ Ron, Jim Chuey and others were complimented for their efforts in promoting this project and helping DSO be a leader in the identification of virus in dahlias.
⇒ Sarah Thompson asked about having an earlier start time for DSO meetings since most of the regular attendees are no longer working full-time and many travel 45-60 minutes to attend. The group overall agreed and commented, “you set the time we’ll be here.” Sarah will inquire with Busch on the time availability of the room.

Dahlia Q&A
⇒ Members inquired about the number of Dahlia viruses. There are 5 identified at this time. If you have anything that looks like it is virus, it is best to throw it out.
⇒ A discussion on virus prevention discussed best preventatives are keeping tools clean by using a 10% bleach solution and getting rid of potential virus plants/tubers.

Program
⇒ Refreshments were provided by Barb Hosta, Karen Jeric, and Maureen Nowak. Rob Swaney provided beverages.
⇒ Plant auction by Mike and Doc. A separate selection of “virus-free” plants were auctioned.
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