DAHLIA DIGEST
DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO
Since 1930

VOL. 2016 ISSUE 3
May 2016

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

STUPENDOUS PLANT AUCTION

$3, $4, $5
SOLD!!!
Hi Dahlia Lovers,

If you start your tubers inside, hopefully they are showing some growth by now. In talking with a couple of you, things are starting rather slowly, even in a greenhouse. But keep the faith, Mother Nature will come through!

I’m not sure this Digest will get to you in time to remind you of the plant sales at Rockefeller and Holden. Rockefeller Th, Fri, Sat from 10-4; Holden Fri 12-6 and Sat, Sun 10-4. Be sure Dave Cap knows if you are attending to work.

As you prepare to work the sales and attend our Plant Auction on May 20, be sure to make a list of those missing varieties that you want for this year. Hopefully they will be in the 500 cuttings that Mike and others have been busy growing for our sales.

DSO 2016 Flower of the Year is any BB introduction by a member of the Midwest Dahlia Conference. Thanks to Kathy and Randy for compiling what is as close an accurate list as can be determined. It is on our website. Thanks again Foith’s.

Thanks to Bob Wenning for informing us of a great article on dahlias in the March-April 2016 issue of the Ohio Gardener magazine. Check it out.

Does anyone know anything about mason bees? Nancy? My church has a faith garden and the pastor mentioned putting up mason bee houses. I recall one of our DSO speakers telling us that they don’t make honey, that males can’t sting, and that they are good pollinators. Do any of you have mason bees in your garden?

See you at Rockefeller or Holden or Busch!

Jerry

---

**Moreno’s Memo**

**VISIT YOUR DSO WEBSITE**

**SHARON SWANEY, WEBMASTER**

**WWW.DAHLIASOCIETYOF OHIO.ORG**

---

**DSO/ADS Membership Application**

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

Old Business
⇒ Willoway Propagation: Mike Weber updated the membership on the status of the propagation project at Willoway. He thanked members who have been helping and reported that tubers and plants are now with bottom heat and misting. About 130 cuttings have been taken so far.
⇒ Mike will provide Sharon with a listing of the names of the plants that will be available so that she can prepare table top signs so that customers can see what the flower will look like.
⇒ As cuttings become more prominent, volunteers will be welcome. Contact Mike if you would like to help.
⇒ Jerry brought up Flower of the Year for further review. Previously it was agreed to be any variety originated by a Midwest member. Considering that to be too hard to judge, the membership agreed to any BB origination by a Midwest member.
⇒ The 2018 Midwest Show will be hosted by DSO. Jerry is working with a firm who researches possible sites and is compensated by the chosen hotel/venue.
⇒ Barb Hosta suggested investigating the Cuyahoga Fairgrounds and Doc Hemminger suggested the hotel which was previously the Holiday Inn in Westlake.

New Business
⇒ Bob Wenning shared an article on dahlias published in the March/April 2016 Ohio Gardener magazine.

Dahlia Q&A
⇒ Dave Cap shared examples of tubers he had potted that were potted upside down and where cuttings had been taken.
⇒ A question was asked on what fertilizer to use when starting tubers. There was a variety of opinions from none to organic only to the use of fertilizer. The mix used at Willoway does have fertilizer in it.
⇒ Additional discussion was held on the use of rice hulls versus perlite and that Willoway uses rice hulls as mulch.

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
Barb Hosta
Karen Jeric
Maureen Nowak

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 TBD Miller Nature Center Rep?
December 3 Holiday party, Burntwood Tavern, Solon
DSO FLOWER of the YEAR
Any BB origination by a Midwest Conference member
Here is a list of eligible varieties.
Complete descriptions are on DSO website.

Badger Beauty 3009 FD Pr  Hamilton Amanda 3002  Prom Star 3203 SC Or
Barbara Miner 3011 FD Br  Hamilton Lillian 3003  Prom Star 3007 FD DR
Barbara Z 3503 LC Or  Hee Haugh 3203 SC Or  REJ Man’s Candy Corn 3010
Baron Andrew 3102 ID Y  Helen Z 3108 ID Lv  REJ Man’s Fantasy 3210
Baron Bryce 3110 ID LB  Irene Z 3113 ID DB  REJ Man’s Peach 3410
Baron Chris 3008 FD Lv  Jerry J 3003 FD Or  RJR 3001 FD W
Baron Dalton 3001 FD W  Jerry Lee 3106 ID R  Robann Bubblegum 3510
Baron Drew 3002 FD Y  Jessica 3415 C Bi  Robann Butterscotch 3110
Baron Jeff 3013 FD DB  Jessica’s Tears C Bi  Robann Creamsicle 3115
Baron Jerry 3010 FD DB  Josephine Z 3110 ID LB  Robann Ritz 3201 SC W
Baron Katie 3112 ID FI  Josh 3110 ID LB  Rock Run Elva 3201 SC W
Baron Keith 3013 FD DB  JS Addie 3001 FD W  Rock Run Jolene 3007 FD DR
Baron Norma 3005 FD DP  JS Dorothy Rose 3013  Rock Run Jot 3410 IC LB
Baron Ray 3010 FD LB  JS Lemon 3002 FD Y  Rock Run Mark 3008 FD Lv
Baron Todd 3003 FD Or  JS Prism 3006 FD R  Rock Run Matt 3210 SC LB
Brienne Z 3111 ID Br  Katie Z 3302 C Y  Rogue Jean Marie 3205 SC DP
Bristol Fleck 3014 FD V  Lavender J 3008 FD Lv  Scarlet Charm 3306 C R
Bristol Karma 3204 SC Pr  Little Bill 3215 SC Bi  Shari Berri 3005 FD DP
Bristol Pacer 3210 SC LB  Little Kelsey 3210 SC  Sissy Z 3110 ID LB
Bristol Snowflake 3301  Little Rosemary 3015  Stella R 3005 FD Pr
Brookside Benji 3311 C Br  Madison Moment 3009  Steve’s Pride 3007 FD DR
Brookside Bertina 3008  Manor Jubilee 3107  Steve’s Tiger 3114 ID V
Brookside Cheri 3305  Minerva Dreamer 3010  Valentine Lil 3010 FD LB
Brookside Royale 3005  Minerva Maiden 3310  Windhaven Firelight 3312
Brookside Snowball 3001  Minerva Misty 3201  Windhaven Flare 3512 LC Fl
Brookside Snowwhite 3101 ID W  Minerva Shadow 3405 IC DP
Brookside Trengrove 3001 FD W  Minerva Snowball 3201 SC W
Cam Kui Sea Mist 3305 C DP  Miss Heather 3108 ID Lv
Cathy Z 3206 SC Rd  Miss Jillian 3002 FD Y
Country Cutie 3103 ID Or  Nellie Z 3101 ID W
Country Hi-Lit 3110 ID LB  Nellie&Winnie 3214 SC V
Country Rose 3011 FD Br  Norma J 3010 FD LB
Country Sweetheart 3003 FD Or  O-MO-JO 3009 FD Pr
Diane Z 3113 ID DB  Patricia Iris 3104 ID Pk
Earl Miner 3009 FD Pr  Pink Champagne 3004 FD Pk
Ellis E. 3009 FD Pr  Pink Jessica 3210 SC LB
Ellis Red 3007 FD DR  Princess Paige 3014 FD V
Erich Mooney 3101 ID Y  Profusion 3010 FD LB

⇒ The Holiday Party is December 3 at Burntwood Tavern in Solon.
⇒ A sign-up list was passed around for volunteers to provide refreshments for our meetings.

Second Vice President Report
⇒ Dave Cap and Jim Thompson reviewed the Sales and Show Schedule for 2016 and discussed the need for assistance with plant sales at Rockefeller Greenhouse May 12-14 and Holden May 13-15. Friday at Holden is members only for the whole event. Contact Dave Cap for a free admission ticket to the whole Friday event.
⇒ Dave thanked the volunteers who worked at the Petitti’s tuber sale. Despite a cold and snowy day, sales were about $600.

ADS Report
⇒ Tony reported that his submission for the March ADS Bulletin did not get printed for some unknown reason. He’s looking into what happened. He encouraged members who are not ADS members to consider joining. He also encouraged members to use the ADS website that our own Sharon Swaney manages.
⇒ Randy Foith shared that rooms for the ADS National Show in Asheville NC are booking quickly and recommended making reservations immediately.

Cleveland Botanical Garden Report
⇒ Barb Hosta attended the CBG Affiliates Day and mentioned the possibility of obtaining a speaker from those who spoke at that event. The CBG monthly newsletter lists DSO shows and sales.
⇒ Barb explained an opportunity for DSO to participate in decorating a Christmas Tree at the CBG Glow event this holiday season. The decorating occurs on the Monday or Tuesday before Thanksgiving. The benefit to participating is that DSO members would be able to attend the preview event free of charge with few parking. As the preview is a weekday, there was not a lot of interest expressed by the membership. Members interested in possibly decorating a tree should contact Barb.

Sunshine Report
⇒ Ron MacDonald (Lois’ husband) resides in a long term care facility. Rudy Bredenbeck has been in poor health since before Christmas.
April Meeting Notes from Marilyn

Date, Time and Location
⇒ 7:30 pm—9:50 pm March 18, 2016 at the
 meeting room of Busch Funeral Home.
 There were 40 attendees.

President Report
⇒ Jerry opened the meeting at 7:30. xx
 members were present. Kelly Siemborski and her daughter
 from Gates Mills were welcomed by the membership.
⇒ Jerry announced that the 2016 Midwest Show in Minnesota has
 been cancelled. Mall of America bought the hotel site and is
 having it demolished. Another show site could not be found.
⇒ Dave is taking orders for the 1976-2016 Composite Index
 through the May meeting. Specify loose-leaf or bound. Cost for
 either is $12.
⇒ The Puget Sound publication Dahlias of Today 2016 will be
 available at the May meeting for those who ordered it, $12.

Treasurer Report
⇒ Sharon reported that the money market has a balance of
 $12,735. Checking is around $1000.

Membership Report
⇒ Sharon announced that there are currently 100 DSO members
 with 42 ADS members.

Corresponding Secretary Report
⇒ MaryAnn reported that 40 Digests were mailed by postal mail
 and 27 were emailed. Please consider getting your Digest by
 email to save printing and postage costs.

First Vice President Report
⇒ Jim Thompson shared input from Sarah on programs namely
 plant in May, speaker on Carnivorous Plants in June, photo
 contest and presentation on organics and digging tubers by To-
 ny in October, November speaker TBD.
⇒ The annual DSO picnic is planned for August. Details are un-

WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING?
May and June

May
• Drive stake (5’ or more) and plant tuber or plant when soil
 reaches 55°. A and AA 24”-36” apart, otherwise 18”-24”.
• Attach label to stake—name, size, form, color.
• If a tuber, dig hole 5-6” deep, place tuber horizontally eye up,
 cover with 2” of soil with time-release fertilizer, as plant grows
 fill hole, no water needed until see foliage growth.
• If a plant, water with a transplant solution. May break off one
 or two sets of lower leaves and plant a little deeper.
• SLUGS await to enjoy breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Find a fa-
 vorite way to eliminate them—physical removal, traps, barri-
 ers, baits. Ask Tony what he does.

June
• As the plant grows, keep it tied (not too tightly so as to cause
 damage) otherwise wind and rain will break off laterals. Using
 large tomato cages may minimize having to tie.
• To promote branching and blooming, pinch out the middle
 growing tip of the plant. For A and AA sizes, 2 or 3 leaf pairs
 should remain; B, 3 or 4; BB and Ball 4 or 5. Keep in mind
 that to avoid mildew later, you may want to remove leaf pairs
 then perhaps up to a foot of space from the ground for circula-
 tion. So take that into account in your initial removals.
• Each leaf pair will produce two laterals and two blooms. Re-
 move some laterals (disbranching) to maximize resulting
 blooms. For show quality, the number of laterals should be 3 or
 4 for A-AA; 5 or 6 for B; 7 or 8 for BB and Balls; and whatev-
 er keeps smaller varieties in control.
• When plants are around 5” tall, they need nitrogen. You can
 use a water-soluble fertilizer low in potassium and phosphorus.
 Wet the leaves and around the base of the plant.
The JUDGE’s Corner
Ron Miner - baronminer@aol.com

Controlling the Spread of Virus in Your Garden

If your garden is like most, there are some tubers or plants that you are getting ready to plant that have virus. That means that it is important that you invest some time and effort to avoid spreading the virus from the infected tubers and plants to the clean tubers and plants. Dr. Pappu’s advice is to clean your tools with a 10% bleach solution between each plant. The bleach solution kills any virus present in the juices you might be moving with the tool from your last cut and prevents infecting the next cut.

The good news is that, if your garden is like the other DSO gardens that Dr. Pappu tested for virus in September of last year, most of your tubers are not infected with virus. That fact, in combination with a strategy of rogueing out plants with foliage that exhibits yellowing of the veins and/or yellow spots on the leaves, will lead you to an increasing portion of healthy, virus free, dahlias in your garden.

Hopefully, a number of you will be able to acquire “G1” tubers at one or more of our Midwest auctions this spring. Those tubers came from plants that Dr. Pappu found to be free of virus. You can be confident that the first generation of tubers/plants (“G1”) from those virus free plants are also free of virus. We in the DSO have been in the lead role in implementing this G1 strategy. Dr. Pappu has stated that the best way to reduce virus in our gardens is to grow plants from tubers that are known to be free of virus.

All of the foregoing work has been made possible by the generous support of Jim Chuey and the Scheetz-Chuey Foundation. Jim has recently made another donation to WSU that will establish a testing service at WSU where anyone will be able to have their plants tested for virus. His donation makes it possible for the cost of the testing to be $10 per plant! A minimum set of 30 samples is required; but the samples can come from more than one garden—so that a ‘club project’ makes a lot of sense. That should also provide the opportunity for a lot of tests and a lot of “G1” tubers for the spring of 2017!

I want to again acknowledge Carl Chuey’s wisdom and knowledge of virus in dahlias and Jim Chuey’s ongoing support. They have made it possible to make great progress in the control of virus!

Judging Requirements, Tests

An important role of our American Dahlia Society is making sure that judges in northern Alberta or the DSO, for examples, are judging dahlias in the same way that other judges all across North America are judging them. A few years ago, I was involved in resolving a problem in that regard. At the time, it became clear that seedling scores varied significantly from one region to other regions. We implemented a number of changes in the judging requirements at that time, including, in particular, increasing the requirements for our judges to judge seedlings on the bench and in the Trial Gardens. That hands-on experience is the critical part of qualifying to be a judge, at least as I see it. Nevertheless, the application of judging knowledge fundamentally depends on a good knowledge of the material in the judging manual, the handbook, and the score sheets.

The written tests are therefore also important. Many of us completed the judging tests most recently in 2011. The national rules require us to complete the tests every 5 years. I will be working on my test soon; now is a good time to get started on yours, too. I already have a couple in hand (thanks Randy, Kathy)!

If you are a candidate judge and are ready to start on the Accredited test, let me know and I will help you get started!

Thanks for your cooperation.

Ron

JUDGING INFORMATION

See our DSO website for:
• Judging Status Maintenance Requirements
• Candidates Judging Requirements to become an Accredited Judge
• Accredited Judging Requirements to become a Senior Judge

See the ADS website to obtain the tests to complete:
Another potential source of the appearance of bearding is that the ray florets below the center of the bloom may be drooping as a result of losing Substance. It is instructive to again compare our challenge bloom to Mt. View Neeser B. The ray florets in the picture above appear to be thoroughly turgid all the way around the bloom, while those on the April Challenge bloom seem a little droopy at the bottom.

The April challenge bloom is another new 2016 introduction called Glencoe Fluff. It scored well in both of the Trial Gardens where it was entered, averaging 87.3, and is classified as B LC DB DP17/WH3.

Judging Challenge

For next month, take another look at the elements of Form summarized for fully double blooms on page 17 and 18 in the GJD and quantified on page 40 of the GJD. Which of those Form elements are relevant to open-centered cultivars? How would you divide up the 28 Form points for those open-centered entries??

Classification Challenge

The bloom on the right is an easy one to classify for Form but what are you going to do for color? Remember that determining the color on open-centered cultivars can be a little more complicated than it is for the fully double cultivars.

Do you see any obvious Form or Color faults?

April Challenge

Last month I combined the Classification and Judging Challenges into a single bloom, shown at the top of the next page. No doubt, as you thought about the classification, you recognized why I combined the two issues. The classification of this new cultivar was a bit of a challenge. The question becomes, as always, which form definition “mountain” the cultivar best matches. Each form definition is considered to be an “ideal” definition. It is simply an artificial way for us humans to group cultivars into similar appearing groups so that we can describe and judge them.

The mountain analogy is a useful one in that it makes it clear that individual blooms or cultivars can exist at a whole lot of elevations up that mountain and that most of them will not be at the peak of the mountain. We describe the elevation of the cultivar on that mountain when we give it a score for its Conformance to the Ideal. What is the numerical value for that characteristic on a fully double bloom? I hope you remember that that particular attribute has a total value of five points(!). It is, in my experience, one of the attributes that is most commonly over-rated. Keep in mind when you are judging in a show, in particular, that the total height of the mountain is only five points. Of course, five points can make a big difference in an entry’s success; but conformance to the ideal form needs to be considered in the context of all of the other attributes of the entry.

What is your next step in classifying this entry? Yes, of course, you need to get out your Classification and Handbook of Dahlias (CHD) and look at the 2016 definitions, including the Laciniate (LC) definition, in particular. (Q: Why do you need to look at the CHD and not the Guide to Judging Dahlias (GJD)? A: Because the definitions in the CHD are the current, updated definitions and those in the GJD are not only out of date but also do not include the newest forms.) It is clear that the tips of the ray florets in the April challenge bloom are split. Two of the key characteristics in the LC definition are split tips and achieving a fringed effect.
Do you remember Mt. View Neeser B from last month’s column? The splits are deeper on it than this April Challenge Bloom. While I ordinarily think that the deeper splits are important in achieving the “fringed appearance,” it seems that the April bloom exhibits as much of that fringed appearance as the Mt. View Neeser B.

Are there other forms we should consider? Did you notice the concern in the LC definition: “Ray florets with a shallow notch … and possessing little twisting to the extreme portion should not be classified as laciniate.” (2016 CHD, p. 4) If we think of the splits as a temporary condition associated with hot weather, for example, we might envision twisted and wavy ray florets and check out the Informal Decorative definition. Except for the split tip pits and the fringed appearance, the definition could fit reasonably well. The bottom line of the classification of the challenge bloom is, nevertheless, that the tips of the ray florets are twisted and it lies closest to the Laciniate mountain.

What do you think about the color? Like last month’s challenge bloom, it is clear that you can see two colors “at arm’s length.” The base of the florets are white and the tips are dark pink (DP). The Trial Gardens were divided between DP17 and PR (purple)25 for the tips and had WH2 and WH3 for the base of the florets. Look at the CHD again to determine whether the cultivar is a light (LB) or a dark blend (DB). All the purples are in the DB group; the DP are split between DB and LB, but DP17 is in the DB group. The bottom line for the classification of this cultivar, Glencoe Fluff, became B LC DB DP17/WH3.

The other assignment from last month was to identify any obvious faults in the bloom. We’ve already discussed one of those faults; that is that the form of the bloom is not at the peak of Laciniate moun-ain. Do you see other form faults? As usual, it is impossible to realistically evaluate a bloom from a picture. If we were trying to generate a numerical value for a triple entry of this cultivar, the question to raise at this point might be whether or not the Form should be considered to be a passing or a failing score. My sense would be that the entry should achieve a passing score for Form.

One of the positive Form attributes of the challenge cultivar is its contour. Compare, again, the forms of the two Laciniate cultivars we’ve been discussing. Contour is one of the five basic Form issues to be evaluated on a fully double cultivar. I do not usually find it to be an attribute that is easy to describe or evaluate. However, the comparison of these two blooms effectively illustrates a difference in contour. I have heard an extreme case of the contour of the bloom on the right described as an ‘ice cream cone’ effect. The center of the bloom looks like the bottom of an ice cream sugar cone with the ray florets toward the equator falling rapidly away from that cone in the center. In contrast, the ray florets on this month’s challenge bloom spiral gradually away from the center and fill the bloom uniformly from the center out to the equator. The contrast is, I think, a nice example of a difference in the Contour element of Form. The total value of Contour, like Conformance to the Ideal definition, is, again, five points.

Did you see other Form faults? There appear to be a small gaps at around 10 o’clock and 4 o’clock. The picture also suggests to me that the ray florets below the center could be longer than those above the bloom, a symmetry problem commonly called bearding.

We can also get a sense of Color and Substance faults from the picture. The sun striking the bloom from the upper right is probably the reason the white is more apparent in that quadrant, but it would be worth looking at the bloom more closely to make sure that is the reason for the appearance. You would also want to check the uniformity of the color at the center of the bloom. The dark pink seems to extend out toward 9 o’clock more than other directions around the center of the bloom. That would be a more substantial color fault if that is the case.