Let’s Discuss Dahlias!

+ Annual PHOTO Contest

Friday, November 18
Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Busch Community Room
7501 Ridge Road, Parma
Just south of Pleasant Valley Road
Moreno’s Memo

Hi Dahlia Lovers,

Hard to believe that another dahlia season has come and gone. Time really does fly when you’re having fun!

With the weather being so nice so late this year, although my plants have been maintaining blooms, I decided to take advantage of the warm days and started to cut down my plants even before frost. I also finally got serious about creating compost (Tony will be so proud of me) and formed two fairly large piles of layered chopped up green (dahlia plants) and brown (or almost brown) leaves. Will let you know how successful I’ve been next spring or so. I haven’t dug clumps yet allowing eyes to form. Hope I’ll get to them before the snows come. Have been known to dig in the snow in years past!

In searching the web for interesting information regarding dahlias check out http://www.motherearthnews.com/real-food/dahlia-bulbs-zmaz09aszraw. It’s an article by William Woys Weaver who claims that dahlias have quite a range of flavors! Let me know if you agree with Mr. Weaver.

As I look at catalogs of dahlias for 2017, tuber prices seem to be averaging around $7! This is all the more reason as you store your dahlias to set aside those that you have plenty of to donate to DSO’s propagation project next spring. Keep them separated so to have easy access as we request them around the beginning of March. Thanks. Very much appreciated.

Hope to see you at the November meeting and the December 3rd holiday get-together.

Jerry
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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 for November
Emily Halderman,
MaryAnn Moreno
Joyce Southerland

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  On organics-Tony; Dividing/storing-
Dave
November 18  Photo contest. Let’s Discuss Dahlias!
December 3  Holiday party, Burntwood Tavern,
Solon
PHOTO CONTEST RULES
Sarah

A. Dahlia Portrait of a Single Bloom
   Florets need to be within picture edges.

B. Multiple blooms—only dahlias.

C. Dahlias and life forms.

Prizes for First, Second, and Third places in each category.
NOVEMBER PROGRAM

- PHOTO Contest
- For various reasons, finding a speaker for this month has fallen short. So we have decided to have an open discussion on whatever topics and questions you have regarding dahlias and gardening. Make a list from “What are your favorite dahlias?” to “How do I keep my tubers from turning to mush or drying up over winter?” Any question is fair game. We have lots of experts in DSO who are more than willing to share their thoughts. So let’s really challenge them! Bring clumps too if you like.

DUES for 2017
Please renew your membership for 2017 and do so well before the end of this year. Thanks.

Update on Virus
On behalf of DSO, Tony used the $300 the society approved and sent 30 plants to get tested for virus. We hope that all 30 are virus-free so that we will use them in our propagation efforts next spring. The resulting plants will be labeled and sold as virus-free. Just as was done this year, those who purchase the virus-free plants will be asked to report on them next fall. Thank you Tony for your efforts in this regard.
The ADS Genome Sequencing Project

ADS is raising funds to establish the genome sequence of the dahlia. One benefit of the project is to be helpful in informing the current virus project.

Biology 101:
- A genome is all of the genetic material of living things such as voles, corn, cold viruses, bananas, ants, whales, humans, maple trees, E.coli, dahlias, etc.
- The genome is divided into chromosomes, chromosomes contain genes, and genes are made of DNA.
- Knowing the genome of a species helps scientists understand all of the characteristics and functioning of the species, e.g., how various forms came to be, what genes are connected with virus, growth habit, drought and insect resistance, etc.

Funds required for the first stage of this project known as “low pass” genome sequencing is $30,000. To date, $9,500 has been contributed. According to the September ADS Bulletin, the low pass genome is extremely useful but a future project might include the more costly high quality genome sequence involving chromosomes.

With the important part that DSO has been playing in promoting the virus project, we should be supportive of the genome sequencing project as well. Discussion at the November meeting.

Officers for 2017

Please let us know if you are willing to help lead this wonderful DSO society. DSO NEEDS YOU! Let a current office know of your possible interest. Thanks.
LOOKING for a HOLIDAY GIFT?
Join the American Dahlia Society!

It’s easy to do. Simply include dues for ADS with your DSO dues.

DSO Holiday Party

DATE: Saturday December 3, 2016
TIME: 12noon-2:30pm
LOCATION: Burntwood Tavern
33675 Solon Road, Solon, OH 44139
We will have a private room and will order off a limited menu & pay individually on day of party.
MINUTES by Marilyn

- **President’s Report**
  - The October 21, 2016 meeting was called to order by Jerry at 7:00 in the meeting room of the Busch Funeral Home.
  - Bob and Becky Schmidt from MVDS were welcomed.
  - Jerry congratulated Randy and Kathy Foith for having the Grand Champion bloom at the National Show this year. Congrats also to Ohio reps who were on the Court there: Tony Evangelista, Ron and Barbara Miner, Harriet Chandler and Jim Chuey, Todd Imhoff, and Ken Redd. Ohio was very well recognized. Congrats to all.
  - Marilyn reported that a motion was made and passed at the DSO picnic in August “to allow the officers to approve an amended Articles of Incorporation.” This action is related to the upcoming filing of our IRS 501C3 application.

- **First Vice President’s Report**
  - Sarah noted that the annual photo contest will be in November. She is in need of suggestions for a speaker as her planned speaker had to cancel.
  - She also reminded us of the holiday party on December 3 at Burntwood Tavern in Solon.

- **Treasurer’s Report**
  - Sharon reported that the Money Market has a balance of $12,736.96. The checking has a balance of $480 which equates to a (-$1,368) as it includes $1,848 of the Memorial Fund. There will be a need to move funds from the Money Market to the checking for the 501C3 application.
  - Tuber sales this year netted $3,121; cost of the shows was $2,415.
  - Items were made available at the meeting to sell for the 2018 Midwest Show that we are hosting. Members asked if the
items could be sold at our tuber/plant sales next year. Concerns raised included the percentage paid to Holden and Rockefeller and if Petitti’s would permit. Dave will check on these. Barb Miner and Marilyn expressed concern about being able to make sufficient supply.

- **Second Vice President and Show Chair Report**
  - Members thanked Dave Cap for his ongoing work and dedication to making the shows a success.
  - Dave reported that Summit Mall is reserved for 2017 and it is the week before the National Show. In March we will be looking for tubers for propagation and sales.

- **Membership Report**
  - Sharon reported that she is accepting dues tonight and at the November meeting. Dues are to be paid prior to year’s end

- **Corresponding Secretary Report**
  - MaryAnn reported that 46 Digest were mailed and 42 sent online. The 46 mailed were returned from the Chagrin Falls post office for an additional 21 cents per Digest due to having to hand stamp them. This is the first time that this has ever happened. Jerry and she are looking into the matter.

- **ADS Representative Report**
  - Tony reported on the Genome Project. This is a project that ADS is taking on to know what the genetics of the dahlia are. Information is available at the ADS website. Jerry will write a short article for the next Digest.
  - Tony sent 30 plants on behalf of DSO for virus testing. DSO previously approved the fee of $300.
  - Randy Foith asked/reminded all growers about being diligent concerning protecting stock from virus. Discussion was held on keeping tools clean and keeping as little organic matter as possible in the bleach solution.
  - Ron Miner asked about input from growers who purchased the G1 (virus free) tubers. Sharon will put the re-
• **Botanical Representative Report**  
  ◦ Barbara Hosta could not make the meeting but sent a written report that Jerry shared. The official name of the merged Cleveland Botanical Gardens and the Holden Arboretum is Holden Forest and Gardens.  
  ◦ 12/6/16 is Affiliate Day at the University Circle site.  

• **New Business**  
  ◦ Ron Miner announced that Tony has been promoted to Senior Judge and presented him with the official pen. Congratulations Tony.  

• **Dahlia Q&A**  
  ◦ Randy Foith shared an example of a species dahlia.  
  ◦ A question was asked as to whether we have to wait for a killer frost before we cut down our plants. Some members mentioned that they have already cut/dug and even have stored their tubers.  
  ◦ Another question concerned whether a tuber that was not planted this year could be planted next year. The basic response was that if it has kept good shape then keep it. Trim off any long stringy growth that might have occurred.  

• **50-50 Raffle**  
  ◦ The 50-50 raffle was held. Also Jerry provided some ink pencils that were given away in addition to the raffle.  

• **Programs**  
  ◦ Thanks to Jackie Evangelista, Kathy Foith, Nancy Riopelle, and Marilyn Weber for refreshments and to Rob Swaney for providing beverages. Thanks also to Bob Wenning for maintenance.  
  ◦ Tony Evangelista gave a program on growing dahlias organically.  
  ◦ Dave Cap gave a hands-on demonstration on dividing clumps and storing.
Digging and Dividing

I’ve completed the process of digging and dividing in my garden; I imagine many of our DSO members are still working on that project. Please remember that it is a critical time for controlling the spread of virus. 1) Sterilize your cutting tools with a 10% bleach solution as you cut down the plants. 2) Take care to minimize cutting into the tubers when you dig. If you cut into a tuber when you dig, be sure to cut the wound again, with sterilized tools, as soon as you can. 3) When you trim your clumps and divide them into tubers, sterilize those tools between each clump. 4) Before you even start cutting plants, make sure that you’re not investing time and effort into a plant that shows clear signs of virus. Pull it and put it somewhere that it won’t end up back in your garden.

Judging Status

I’d like to recognize the official promotion of Tony Evangelista from an Accredited Judge to a Senior Judge. Tony was a Senior Judge a number of years ago and took several years off while his kids were involved in athletics and academics. Since they became empty nesters, Tony and Jackie have gotten back into growing and judging dahlias in a big way. He has functioned as a Senior Judge for most of that period. When it came time to do his judging test, he did the Senior test rather than the Accredited test and, of course, he passed with flying colors. The other criteria were easily met. Thanks and congratulations, Tony! I encourage all of our AC judges to review the SR judging requirements and consider following Tony’s example. I also encourage our CN judges to work on the AC tests over the winter. Let me know what I can do to help you meet the AC requirements.

Petitti’s Seminar

I hope you all enjoyed the Petitti’s Show and the afternoon seminar as much as I did. Dave and Jim deserve our thanks and appreciation for another great job on the show. Sharon, Marilyn, Sara, Barbara, Bill, … deserve our thanks for providing lunch; it makes it practical to have the seminar after judging the show. I also want to
thank the exhibitors who brought Blossom Gulch (BG) seedlings to the show. That brings to mind the only thing that Kathy Iler asked of us when she gave us the wonderful gift of thousands of seeds in the spring of 2013. She said please just send me tubers of the introductions that come from the seeds. I will certainly do that next spring. I will be happy to include your tubers in the same package, if you would like me to do that.

I was disappointed to have to withdraw Kathy’s Favorite from the TG and SBE evaluation for 2017 introduction. I had a lot of trouble with it in my own garden so it didn’t make sense to plan to introduce it next year. Its future is still uncertain.

In the Judging Seminar, three teams of three judges each scored two BG entries, then discussed their scores with the other judging teams. The AC judges took the lead in the evaluations.

Several of the entries are shown in the pictures on the right and below. There was a great mix of open-centered forms and colors represented. In fact there were more entries than we could evaluate in the time available, so we ended up not picking a best in show among the BG triple entries.

Perhaps the most interesting discussion
during the afternoon was on the subject of petaloids. We were talking about Form penalties on one of the collarettes. The discussion inspired me to take some pictures of ray florets and their petaloids.

Baron Aunt Dorothy is at the right. If you were to enlarge and print the petaloid inset, you would find that the petaloids are 48% of the length of the ray florets. (They look smaller, particularly on the bloom, don’t they?) What is ideal according to the definition of a Collarette? “… approximately one-half to two-thirds the length of the ray florets.” (CHD, p. 5) I would argue that 48% fits that definition.

The bicolor on the right has relatively longer petaloids. If you were to follow a similar procedure to measure its petaloids, you would find that they are 80% of the length of the ray florets. I would argue here, too, that 80% fits the definition.

There are a couple more examples of ray florets and petaloids from collarettes on the right. The variegated one on the far right may be the one that we were discussing in the seminar. It measures out at 48%, too.

I’ve had “collarette” seedlings with petaloids so tiny that it was questionable how to classify it. In that case, a “True Form” penalty of a couple points would probably be appropriate. Nevertheless, the bottom line is that it is pretty unlikely that we would find that severe a case on the bench or in a show. Most petaloids will fall within the range of “approximately 1/2 to 3/4” the length of the ray florets.
A more difficult question might be determining the penalties that should follow from other petaloid issues, like a lack of uniformity in the shape or the color of the petaloids. We are talking about an area where there is not a lot of guidance from the Guide to Judging Dahlias (GJD). In the petaloid definition on p. 62, the GJD says that petaloids are sometimes misshapen or twisted but it does not comment on whether those characteristics are faults. In addition, it does not tell us the value of the various elements of Form for an open-centered cultivar. (See p. 40 for fully double cultivars.)

The Form issue that is most likely to cause a Collarette to succeed or to fail is Symmetry. In the bloom above, the petaloids probably meet the length requirement; but they are less disciplined than those in the previous examples. Compare the ray florets and petaloids near noon and 3 o’clock, for example. The petaloids appear to be different in length; that is probably a result of the fact that those at noon are sticking out of the plane of the bloom more than those at 3 o’clock. In either case, the petaloids are not uniform around the bloom. This lack of symmetry is a more serious fault than the petaloid length issue we have been discussing. Does it have ‘passing’ form? Maybe.

**October Quiz**

Last month I asked you about the color of the seedling on the right. What is the problem? I didn’t keep the seedling because it was more clearly gray than any other cultivar I’ve seen. The presence of gray in the color of a dahlia is a significant fault and decreases its value.

**November Quiz**

You may think you know the name of the cultivar on the right—but that is not likely since it is new this year. What is its classification??

Ron
Please fill out completely (even for renewals).

Date: ____________________

Name(s): ______________________________________

Address: _______________________________________

Phone: ______________  Alt Phone: _______________

Email(s): _______________________________________

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