Friday, October 19 Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Busch Community Room
7501 Ridge Road, Parma
Just south of Pleasant Valley Road

Also, Dave will demo how to divide and store your tubers. Bring a clump!

Macro Garden Photography
DANAE WOLFE
Hi Dahlia Lovers,

Another dahlia season will soon be over. How fast they go! I hope your blooms were more beautiful than ever. Regarding shows, congratulations to all Court of Honor winners. A very special shout-out goes to fairly new grower Debbie Findlay whose Brian R was as perfect a bloom as you will ever see. She was awarded Best in Show at the Geauga County Fair. How terrific to see a new grower rise to the top so quickly. Congrats, Debbie!

We are privileged to have Danae Wolfe as our speaker this month. Tony and I saw her present at the Cuyahoga County Master Gardeners conference last year. She is outstanding! So try your best to be at this meeting. Her passion is to show how photography can help foster positive relationships between people and insects/spiders.

Be sure to let us know if and when you give any dahlia talks. Dave and I presented to about 60 members of the Bay Garden Club a couple weeks ago. Almost all of their members attend their monthly meetings. Wouldn’t it be terrific if all of our 100+ attended ours?

Thanks to all, too many to name, who made our hosting of the Midwest Show truly spectacular and one to remember. We received many compliments on how well organized it was and how wonderful the Boutique was. Thanks to the Leadership Team Chairs including Sharon, Anna, Barbara, Tony, MaryAnn, Jackie, Mike, Marilyn, Ron, and Dave. What a terrific job you and your co-workers did!

I have thoroughly enjoyed being Editor or otherwise associated with the Dahlia Digest for over ten years. It is time for a new pen. I thank Jackie Evangelista who has agreed to be the new Editor. Please let her know what you would like to see presented and help write some articles for her as well. All the very best.

Jerry
OFFICERS and CHAIRS

Jerry Moreno, President................................................. 440-543-5658
Sharon Swaney, Treasurer and Membership.....330-562-3296
1st Vice President.................You?........................................
2nd Vice President.............You?.........................................
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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 for October

Anna Kandra
Constance Sealey

MEETING DATES for 2018

March 16  Edible Gardening; Rob Dzurec
           New Introductions
April 20   Tuber auction
May 18     Plant auction
June 15    The Secret Life of Soil, Phyllis Mihalik
August 18  Picnic at Aurora Nature Center; Judging
           seminar afterwards (optional)
October 19 Danae Wolfe; Dividing/storing-Dave
November 16 Photo contest; Tony Evangelista
December 1 Holiday party, Site TBD
Danae Wolfe

From her website, “I’m passionate about education, stewardship, and bugs (of course!). I’ve spent years exploring and perfecting my skills in bug and botanical portrait photography and I’m excited to share what I’ve learned.”

Danae is an educational technology specialist at the Ohio State University Extension. She has earned a Masters degree in Environment and Natural Resources from The OSU. Currently, her work exists at the intersection of ecology and horticulture. Inspired by work of scientists like Doug Tallamy, She recognized early in her career the importance of teaching sustainable gardening practices. Through photography, she showcases the beauty and importance of insects and spiders in the landscape. Through her educational programs and workshops, she teaches the importance of sustainable gardening practices.

Check out her updated bio at http://www.tedx columbus.com/portfolios/danae-wolfe/?pnt=8648

Also, she has been invited to present a TED talk soon: http://www.tedx columbus.com/2018/09/20/meett-the-speakers-danae-wolfe/

Thanks to member Anna Kandra for this month’s program. Very much appreciated.
Bits and Pieces

1. **The Midwest Dahlia Show**
   There were many visitors to the Holiday Inn Strongsville who oohed and aahed at over 1300+ blooms thanks to over 30 exhibitors. Some came because they saw Tony do a great job promoting the dahlia on New Day Cleveland. Take a look. His four minutes of fame is on our website.

   It was great to have 22 different people on the Court of Honor. Special congrats to Randy and Kathy for Bryn Terfel, King of the Show, Dick Westfall for My Beverly, Queen of the Show, a seedling by Tony for Duke of the Show, and Alpen Diamond by Harriet and Jim, for Duchess of the Show.

2. **National Show in Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA**
   Longwood Gardens is an awesome place. There is so much to see. Congratulations to DSO members who had blooms on the Court—Ron, Tony, and Todd Imhoff. Well done guys.

3. **Our Picnic**
   Thanks to Anna Kandra, Karen Jeric, and Debbi Findlay who organized our picnic last August, to Sharon and Rob for providing the site, and to all those who brought food. Following eats, we had a judging seminar on open centered dahlias and how to code them. Very interesting!

4. **Judges**
   Congratulations to Karen Colini and to Bob Wenning for moving up to become Candidate Judges. Good job! An added benefit to becoming a judge is that it informs you of what constitutes a good bloom so that you can improve your own blooms. So, consider following Karen and Bob’s footsteps!

5. **Digging, Dividing, and Storing**
   Bring a clump to the October meeting. After Danae’s talk on becoming friends with bugs, Dave will give us his usual excellent demo on dividing and storing tubers.

6. **LAST SHOW of the YEAR**
Virus Protection Reminder

I worked in industrial R&D jobs for my entire career. The corporate management thought it took us forever to do anything. I imagine that most ADS members have the same impression of the virus research we are doing at WSU.

Nevertheless, there are several very important practical results that have evolved from the work at WSU and we/you need to take advantage of that knowledge in your every day dahlia gardening. In particular as we cut blooms for shows and as we begin to think about closing up shop for the winter, please keep in mind that the research work at WSU has shown that:

1. It is virtually certain that some plants in your garden have virus and some may not show any symptoms of the virus.
2. You should remove and destroy any plants with severe symptoms like those published with the June 2016 Bulletin.
3. If you cut blooms for show or if you deadhead with clippers or if you divide clumps without sterilizing your cutting tools, you are likely to transfer the virus from one plant to other plants in your garden.
4. If you sterilize your tools in a 10% bleach solution between plants, you will avoid that transfer. A strong soap solution of Dawn dishwash detergent is second best and easier on your tools.

The bottom line is that everyone should be routinely sterilizing their dahlia cutting tools. In combination with the removal of plants with extreme chlorosis (yellowing) of the veins, you can be confident that you will be reducing the incidence of virus in your dahlia garden.

My approach is shown in the picture at the right. The Gatorade bottle holds a 10% solution of bleach. The bucket holds a hot, soapy solution of water and Dawn. After each plant, the clippers get a dip and shake in the bleach and a rinse and shake in the soapy water. Please make it a habit to have something like this on hand whenever you have some clippers in your hand in the dahlia garden!
Midwest Judging Experience

A number of us had the opportunity to judge in the Midwest Conference Show that the DSO sponsored (very successfully!) on the weekend of September 7th. Many thanks to the DSO folks who made the whole affair possible!

The good thing about the judging at a regional or national show is the opportunity to exchange ideas and perspectives on judging with judges from other clubs with different experiences and different training. Glenn Ruth’s counsel, from years ago, to listen to and to learn from the members of your judging team is most appropriate at these bigger shows! For the most part, there is excellent agreement among the judges even given the widely varying backgrounds. Of course, that should be the case—we are all working from the same judging manual!

One of the more interesting conversations on judging involved Clearview Lily, B SC DB DP10/YL15. Apparently, there is a tendency for the DP10 to sufficiently and consistently disappear in some plants that they could be treated as a sport of CV Lily. That is a separate topic unto itself that I won’t get into here. If you find yourself in that situation as an exhibitor, probably the best thing to do is to put the bloom on the Classification Table at the show and let the judges determine where the bloom should be exhibited.

The bloom on the right is a Clearview Lily. It was the second place winner and exhibits the two colors well. The first place winner, below right, is also a Clearview Lily and the second color of the blend is not as clear. It was more obvious on the bloom than it is in this picture.

The judging discussion that evolved from the tendency to sport was whether or not “trueness to color” should be a criteria on which to judge a bloom’s quality. My knee-jerk reaction to the question was “No.” There is a lot of discussion in the Guide to Judging Dahlias (GJD) on the quality of color; there is no reference to “trueness to col-
or.” Thus, if you are judging blend class and can detect a uniform distribution of the two colors I would not penalize the less obvious blend. Clearly, you also need to be concerned about other major color faults like fading, dullness, blotchiness, streaking, etc. in your evaluation.

The GJD (p.35) does say that color faults include blends “without adequate color contrast.” Thus, it would be appropriate to penalize a blend entry where the second color isn’t detectable at a distance of 3 ft.

**Stellar ??**

Another interesting conversation involved the judging of the stellar class at the show, the yellow Stellars in particular. The entries in the upper picture shows the usual winners, Clearview Del Sol. They are big, beautiful, bright, symmetrical blooms. The entry in the lower picture is the “also ran,” Baron Drew. The judging team had a conflict—and so did I as a Floater Judge. The next judge that arrived, a highly respected exhibitor from another club, immediately said something like: “As far as I’m concerned, there is only one Stellar in the class. Right?” His point was that the Stellar definition calls for “space between the ray florets in each of the rows.” (Classification and Handbook of Dahlias, p. 4.) The B Drew has that space; the CV Del Sol has such a high petal count that there is very little space between the florets. That is the first and maybe only time that Baron Drew beat Clearview Del Sol.

I did have to smile about that result, but the lesson in the discussion is that “Trueness to Form” is an important element in the evaluation of Form and thus in evaluating entries. Okay, the question becomes how important is it? The table on p. 40 in the GJD provides the answer. Check it out! You still don’t have enough information to second guess the judges’ decision, because you would need to be able to look at all the other attributes of the entries. They were all good judges; no doubt they made the right call.

**Petitti’s Seminar**

I hope that you all are planning on participating in the Petitti Show on October 6 and the judging seminar after lunch. I plan to do a short presentation on seedling judging and then get everyone involved in a
hands-on judging process. I think the format we used last year worked pretty well, so I anticipate doing something similar this year.

Be sure to bring some triples for the show and some Seedling Bench Evaluation entries if you can!

**The Best Part of the Midwest Show Weekend!**

I suppose some might disagree, but the best part of the whole Midwest Show weekend came after the banquet. Jerry Landerholm presented ADS Silver Medals to three of our finest DSO and Midwest members and leaders!

Harriet Chandler, President of the MVDS, Randy Foith, President of the Midwest Conference, and Jerry Moreno, President of the DSO, each received this honor on the basis of past and ongoing service to the ADS and for their role as “Dahlia Ambassadors.” Thanks and congratulations friends!!

Jerry capped the evening off with the shortest awards ceremony in Midwest history. All the Court winners were recognized very well and all the banquet participants were pleased and relieved! They then had lots of time to talk with each other.

*Ron*

(Ans to Trueness to Form question on previous page: 5 points!)
Hey DSO Dahlia Lovers,

Guess what time it is? Nope, not Howdy Doody but time to elect officers for 2019. If you are currently serving, please let me know asap if you wish to continue for another year. If you aren’t currently serving, please think very seriously about contributing to the health of your society. Any organization needs new faces in its leadership roles. New faces mean new ideas and new ideas mean the organization survives. I would hate to see DSO go the path of Toledo and East Liverpool.

So, please consider any of the following positions. In particular, look at the list of Presidents of the Dahlia Society of Ohio since its inception in 1930. Is your name on that list? If not, please add your name to it. I’ll be around to help you but it’s really time to make a change.

Even more importantly, it is past time to give Dave a “second in command.” One of these years (this one??) Dave will say that he needs to step down from being Show Chair. Where would that put us? A major purpose of the Dahlia Society of Ohio is to promote the dahlia. One way, but not the only way, is to do so through shows. Dave has been doing a marvelous job in organizing first-class shows at Cuyahoga, Summit Mall, and Petitti’s as well as organizing our tuber and plant sales at Petitti’s, Rockefeller Greenhouse, and Holden Arboretum. I know that there are several of you who help do the actual set-ups but we need someone to be at the leadership position with him—at least to do some of the paperwork of submissions to ADS, etc. Thanks.
There were three positions last year that were vacant: First Vice President, Second Vice President, and Recording Secretary.

The main responsibility of the First Vice President is to oversee meeting programs. Without a person in that position, I asked for members to be the facilitator for one of our meetings in March, June, October, and November in addition to planning the picnic and December holiday luncheon. Thanks to all of you who answered the call. It worked well although having a First VP to oversee the plan would have been even better. Let me know if you are willing to be the First VP or at least to take charge of a meeting. Karl Southerland has already put dibs on June. Thanks Karl!

Second VP is the leadership helper for Dave, Co-Show!

No minutes were taken last year as we did not have a Recording Secretary. I tried to put into various parts of the Dahlia Digest minutes-type information so to have a record of what DSO was about. But it would be nice to have a more formal accounting of what we do.

So, if you are currently an officer, please let me know if you would be so kind as to continue. If you are not currently in a leadership position, please give it serious consideration. A society cannot continue forever recycling its officers. Thank you for considering.

Another position that is not at the moment an official one in our By-Laws is Publicity. We really need to advertise ourselves more in the media and elsewhere. If that is your expertise, let me know. Tony’s spot on New Day Cleveland really helped let people know about us and about dahlias.
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Tip of the Week

Peaceful Valley Farm and Garden Supply gave us trial size packets of Osmocote Plus to put in the Hospitality Bags for the registrants of the Midwest Dahlia Conference show in September. It is an organic company. In thanks for their contribution, here is their website to check out:

www.groworganic.com

Their Tip of the Week is on Why and How to Plant a Fall Cover Crop. “Whether you are growing vegetables on a large scale or as a home gardener, planting cover crops is a good thing to do for your soil’s health. Cover crops not only increase microbial activity, but help prevent soil erosion, increase water infiltration, provide weed competition and if your mix includes legumes, it will add nitrogen to the soil. Cover crop seeds can be easily broadcasted, raked in and covered with a thin layer of compost or a mulch like straw. Cool-season seeds can be planted in the fall and allowed to grow over the winter and turned under in the spring. The seeds will need to be watered to establish before freezing temperatures arrive. Read the full article for more information on the benefits of planting a cover crop and how to plant in the fall.”

Join the American Dahlia Society (ADS)

As you begin to think about holiday presents, in addition to joining or maintaining your membership to DSO, if you are not a member of ADS then try it for 2019! You will receive four very informative Bulletins over the year filled with articles for the novice as well as the experienced grower. In the September issue, there is an interesting article for novice growers What Does a Novice Dahlia Grower do After Frost? One choice is to do nothing and treat dahlias as annuals. But more seriously, the article describes the digging and storing process. Bulletins also include ads from suppliers, articles from various societies, and articles on dahlia culture. Consider supporting our parent organization! Any questions about ADS, ask Tony, our ADS Rep.
Dahlias in the News
Even on the race track!!!!!

Jim Chuey never ceases to amaze me but this one has come really close! Support your local dahlia society indeed! Super Jim!

Yeah for Marcella Louise and Carl. Tied for First Place!
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 by checking the box before the offering:

Do not write in the gray boxes.

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

For ADS “Snowbird” service add $6.
Enter winter address here.

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☐ Check here if you want your Digest in printed format.

Please make checks payable to DSO.

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MaryAnn Moreno
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Chagrin Falls, OH 44023