

DAHLIA DIGEST

Dahlia Society of Ohio

Since 1930

2019 * ISSUE 5 * NOVEMBER 2019

Next Meeting:

Friday, Nov 15, 7 PM

Busch Community Room
7501 Ridge Road, Parma

Program:

Greg Cada, Master Gardener,
on creating aquatic container gardens

INSIDE: Meet a Member—Dave Cap;
Ron Miner on judging dahlia centers;
Nancy Riopelle on the October program



MORENO'S MEMO

Greetings Dahlia Lovers,

It's cutting down, digging, storing time once again. Seems as though I was planting a day ago—summer really flies by, doesn't it? Keep in mind that to help curb the spread of virus as you cut down your plants and dig, be sure to disinfect whatever tools you are using. Between cuttings swish your tools in a 10% solution of Clorox followed by a swish in a Dawn soap solution to keep the Clorox solution from ruining your tools.

We enjoyed an excellent program on bees last month. Thanks Sarah and Jim Thompson for facilitating this month's program. Please bring your photos for the annual photography contest. Mark your calendars for our DSO holiday luncheon to be held Saturday, Dec. 7, noon at the Holiday Inn, Independence.

Our By-laws need to be updated. They were last reviewed about 20 years ago! Please let me know if you have an interest in this important task. I will email a copy to you. A few issues that need to be reviewed are identification of officer positions (e.g., we have not had a First VP and Second VP for a few years), length of term for officers, dues, structure of committees.

One more time: According to our By-laws, a president may serve at most two consecutive two-year terms. This is my fourth year so we need to elect someone else for 2020-21. There are clearly several very capable DSO members who can easily handle the duties of being president. It is not a difficult job. The hardest of DSO positions is that of Show Chair, which Dave Cap has carried out remarkably. But he should have someone to help him so please consider that position as well. Let me know of your interest in serving DSO in a leadership role. Also, we have four meetings a year for which we typically have a speaker. Are you willing to facilitate one of those meetings? Thank you Karl Southerland for having agreed to do one of them for next year. We need three more. Thanks.

Jerry

COMING UP

Nov. 15 Program and Photo Contest

Greg Cada, a master gardener from The Ohio State University Extension Service's Master Gardener Program in Cuyahoga County, will share his knowledge about creating aquatic container gardens at our Friday, Nov. 15th, meeting. Greg is an attorney and registered professional engineer and has presented to the DSO previously.



He will focus on the needs of growing waterlilies, lotus and other aquatic plants. His techniques and instructions are also applicable to

maintaining aquatic plants in ponds.

Members who wish to enter this year's photo contest should choose their favorites and get them printed in time for the meeting. They should be unframed photos no larger than 5 X 7 that have not been digitally enhanced. You may submit three in each of these four categories: 1. Dahlia portrait of a single bloom, 2. Multiple blooms of only dahlias, 3. Dahlias and forms, and 4. Artistic design. Member votes determine the winners. Barbara Hosta chairs this annual event.



Holiday Luncheon

Saturday, Dec. 7, 11:30 a.m.

Holiday Inn Independence

**Three meal choices: bourbon glazed salmon,
chicken marsala, and New York Strip Steak.**

**Send coupon on page 9 with check for \$20
made out to the DSO to arrive by November 26.**

MEET A MEMBER: DAVE CAP

We could say that Dave Cap is the DSO's MVP because he has taken on what are probably the most time-consuming tasks available, namely, setting up our three shows—Cuyahoga County Fair, DSO show at the Summit Mall, and Pettiti's Show at the Oakwood location. The work is involved and time-consuming so it is an appropriate time to send a huge "thank you" Dave's way since we just finished the 2019 show season.



Dave setting up dahlias, at the Pettiti's Show. Note the many yellow ones.

Dave says, "I really enjoy doing the job." Glenn Ruth and Rudy Bredenbeck, who long-time members will recall, both encouraged Dave to take over their jobs setting up certain of these shows when they were ready to retire. The work involves

renting the tables needed, making judging sheets, bringing in all the containers, category poles and classification cards as well as the Oasis, vases and water plus the court of honor supplies including the award cards and then leading the tear-down. Whew, that's quite a list!

Dave says he got in involved in growing dahlias in 1992, when he bought a pack of Kelvin's Floodlight dahlias at Uncle Bill's. It is an AA yellow dahlia—his wife, Mary's, favorite color. For her, in fact, Dave plants one garden that features only yellow dahlias. He said Glenn Ruth helped him a lot as a novice. Many other members were similarly fortunate. He favors both formal and informal decoratives. Over the years Dave has done well on the show table with Woodland's Wildthing among others, having found a root that has not declined in quality like many have. It's a stunner!

When asked what he most enjoys about dahlias, Dave answered “propagating cuttings.” He uses a three-shelf stand with grow lights built in, shown top right, and transports them to our meetings in his van, shown below right. He usually donates about 200 cuttings a year to the society’s May sale. He also donates tubers for the April sale obtained in an unusual way. He gives roots and cuttings away to friends with the proviso that he can come dig and take their roots in the fall. Then he stores and divides them and brings them to the April root sale and, of course, resupplies his friends. Not surprisingly, Dave also helps conduct these sales, which replenish DSO’s coffers.



What does he do to occupy himself in the winter? Not sure members would ever guess this one: he puts together puzzles — 1,000 piece being the smallest he will do. These take him about a week to complete. Maybe this hobby is not surprising given that Dave was a machinist for 40 years for Kol-Cap Tool and Die. While retired, he still goes in for certain jobs and can choose those he would like to do.



Born in Cleveland, Dave grew up on West 59th Street. He was in the middle of six boys. He graduated from St. Edward’s High School in 1962 and served in the Army from 1965-67 in Germany. He and his wife, Mary, a nurse, married in 1968 and had a son and two daughters who gave them three grandchildren, one boy and two girls. One of the girls is in Zambia training to serve a two-year stint in the Peace Corps in South Africa.

JUDGES CORNER: MICROS et al

by Ron Miner, baronminer@aol.com

It is remarkable that the season has come and gone since I last prepared a judging column! Time flies when you are having fun and, I'm afraid, as you get older!

The National Show

It was a great season for those of you who exhibit and judge. The ADS National Show was in Grand Rapids, Michigan, a relatively short drive for most DSO members. The Grand Ballroom of the Frederik Meijer Gardens served as a great spot for both the show and the banquet. It is a beautiful place, and it promises to be spectacular when all the construction is complete. While the construction didn't interfere with the show, it was certainly clear that the garden would be a greatly enhanced place soon. Jo Jepsen and Rick Peters did a great job pulling all the necessary elements of the show together.

Most of the team working on preparations for the 2021 DSO National show went to Grand Rapids to help us get ready! My thought is that one of the team did exceptionally well in that regard. Congratulations, Todd, on capturing the King of the Show! His Wyn's Neon Dream was certainly a 'dream' bloom.

At the other extreme, I managed to capture the best entry in the new Micro class at the Show. U2 Ania (shown below) was a new cultivar for me, even though I had been trying to grow it for several years! (Long story!). The good news on that cultivar is that I have a pot root of it for Mike and his team to propagate for us next spring. If all goes as well as usual, Mike should have some great (clean!) U2 Ania stock for us at the spring auctions. I encourage you to grow some of the new Micros and their cousins, Mignon Singles. They are easy to grow and to prepare for exhibition. That winning bloom was never staked or tied. It



was only disbudded when it was cut for the show. It is safe to say that it took a lot less effort to bring that winner than it was to get Todd's "Dream" ready to go to the show. I have to admit that I do have an ulterior motive here. Once you start on the exhibiting track, it will be an easy transition to becoming a dahlia judge!! You will find a lot more enjoyment of our favorite flower as you go through that enjoyable learning process.

One of our key objectives for the 2021 show is to make it more affordable than recent National Shows have become. Help us to do that by volunteering to help when Jerry provides opportunities to do that!

Petitti's Judging Seminar

The judging seminar at this year's Petitti's Show included the evaluation of the Micro "seedling," Cobequid Celestial Star, which has been introduced. Sharon Swaney, Nancy Riopelle and Jim Chuey are shown judging. The bottom line for that evaluation is that they are analyzed on the same criteria as other formations.



Diminutiveness is the primary characteristic to define the class. For the duration of the 5-year experiment, our guidance from Classification Chair Lou Paradise is to be lenient in the determination of size. That basically means that we should include new cultivars in the

Micro class if they come close to meeting the 2" maximum diameter. I translate "close" to mean 2 1/4". The primary reason for that flexibility is to avoid causing a hybridizer to throw out a great cultivar because it is just a little bit larger than the current Micro definition. Lou wants to err on the inclusive side, at least over the next few years. The question of what to do with a smaller-than-normal Waterlily, for example, is a little different question. Lou would say, I believe, to again err on the side of inclusion. Include it as a MWL if it is close to 2" in diameter. HAVE A GREAT WINTER!

OCTOBER PROGRAM: BEEKEEPING

by Nancy Riopelle

Our October program featured beekeeper Gene McCune Jr., who has been in the honey bee business for about 30 years and currently manages 75-100 hives. He began by explaining that there are three major players in a beehive—the queen bee, the drones, and the worker bees. The queen has only one job, and that is to lay eggs. The drones (males) have only one job, and that is to mate with the queen. The worker bees (all female) have numerous jobs throughout their short lifetime starting with being a nurse bee taking care of the queen and her larvae, a house bee

cleaning out all the debris, a guard bee keeping intruders away from the entrance, and finally a forager who goes out to collect nectar and pollen.



Honey bees produce honey,

collect pollen to make beebread which they feed to their young, make beeswax for the honeycomb and propolis to glue their hive together, which is made from tree resin. They also pollinate our crops including the seed crops that we plant in our own gardens.

Gene explained the problems beekeepers face that are hurting honey bees. First is getting quality queens. Queen producers can't produce them fast enough, and the beekeeper can't tell if it is a mated queen when it arrives. Secondly, lack of food because housing developments have swallowed up precious bee pasture of wildflowers, roadsides are being sprayed and mowed, and homeowners have eradicated clover and dandelions from their yards. He asked, "Where's the food???" Lastly, the dreaded varroa mite has plagued the bees for the last 30 years or so. It's

hard to kill a bug on a bug, so controlling the mite has become a major issue. The mite sucks the lifeblood out of the developing larvae and also lives on the body of the adult honey bee. This makes them weak and susceptible to virus due to a weakened immune system.

What can we do to help? Plant native wildflowers. Don't mow that clover. Don't use pesticides and herbicides. And for all you dahlia lovers, putting your spent open dahlia blooms on the ground will be a special pollen treat for the honey bees. They love them!



BEEKEEPER Gene McCune Jr., shown at left, displayed the various sizes of honey he sells. Read more at his Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/McCune-Family-Apiaries-726753337407632/>.

Holiday Luncheon Registration

Name _____ Meal Choice _____
Name _____ Meal Choice _____

- A. **New York strip steak**
 - B. **Chicken Marsala** sautéed in Marsala wine wt/mushrooms
 - C. **Bourbon Glazed Salmon** pan seared with citrus/bourbon marinade served with a Bourbon Glaze.
- All include mixed green salad, garlic mashed potatoes, green bean medley, rolls, and cheesecake with strawberry topping.

Mail coupon with check for \$20 made out to the DSO to:
Joyce Southerland, 8352 Chagrin Rd., Chagrin Falls 44023. Questions? Call her at 440-364-2928.



NOVEMBER REFRESHMENTS

Pat Sadataki, Chair

Nancy Riopelle and Pat will bring a refreshment. They could use a couple more. Please call Pat first at 219-314-3880 to see if she still needs more.

2019 OFFICERS, CHAIRS & FACILITATORS

President	Jerry Moreno	440-543-5658
Treasurer	Anna Kandra	440-724-2944
Membership Chair	Nancy Riopelle.	330-483-3360
Recording Secretary	Open—Need a Volunteer
Corresponding Secretary	MaryAnn Moreno.	440-543-5658
Webmaster	Sharon Swaney	330-562-3296
Digest Editor & Publicity	Jackie Evangelista	440-352-8378
Refreshments Chair	Pat Sadataki.	219-314-3880
Sunshine Chair	Joann Bendokaitis	440-221-6447
Shows Chair	Dave Cap	440-888-5589
Judging Chair	Ron Miner	440-543-1516
Propagation Chair	Mike Weber	440-647-3162
Archives & Librarian	Barbara Hosta	216-729-9714
Cleveland Botanical Rep	Barbara Hosta	216-729-9714
ADS Representative	Tony Evangelista	440-867-3711
Meeting Program Facilitators:	Barbara Hosta, March; Nancy Riopelle, June; Karen Jeric and Debbie Findlay, August Picnic; Karl Southerland, October; Sarah and Jim Thompson, November; and Joyce Southerland and Joann Bendokaitis, December holiday luncheon.	

VOLUNTEER TO TAKE AN OPEN POST NEXT YEAR!

DSO/ADS Membership Application

(Memberships are calendar year.)

Please fill out completely (even for renewals).

For Year: 20 __ Today's Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone(s) (land line): _____ Cell Phone(s): _____

Email(s): _____

Choose one of the following membership offerings by checking the box before the offering.

Do not write in the gray boxes.

<input type="checkbox"/>	DSO Individual	\$15			
<input type="checkbox"/>	DSO Family	\$20			
<input type="checkbox"/>	DSO Individual + ADS Individual	\$39			
<input type="checkbox"/>	DSO Family + ADS Individual	\$44			
<input type="checkbox"/>	DSO Family + ADS Family	\$47			

For ADS "Snowbird" service add \$6.

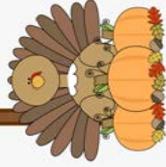
Enter winter address here:

Check here if you want your Digest digital format only.

Please make checks payable to DSO.

**Mail to: Nancy Riopelle
701 W. River Rd
Valley City, OH 44280**

We are
Thankful for
YOU!



DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO

**MaryAnn Moreno
8232 Westhill Drive
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023**

- 2020 dues may be paid anytime now using the form on page 11.
- Visit the DSO website at: www.dahliasocietyofohio.org. Show winners are posted.
- Follow the DSO Facebook Page at: <https://www.facebook.com/>