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

PICNIC - JULY 12

JUNE PROGRAM
Container Gardening
and
Last chance for plants—Chinese Raffle
Hi Folks,

With the weather finally cooperating, I hope you all have had a chance to get your tubers in the ground. With any luck, in a couple of months we'll start seeing those beautiful blooms.

I've had a couple of calls regarding the availability of some tubers and/or plants. We've got about 15 plants left over from our sale in May that I'll make available at our June meeting. See details of the Chinese Auction elsewhere in this Digest. There are however only about 3 varieties in this mix. If anyone has extra plants, bring them to the meeting and we'll put them in the auction.

I want to thank those who made donations to DSO’s Perpetual Memorial Fund in memory of our good friend and mentor, Glenn Ruth. A special thank you to Tom Demaline of Willoway Nurseries Inc., who has donated the entire cost of our plant propagation to DSO in memory of Glenn.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our DSO picnic on Saturday, July 12 at the “Matusicky Gardens,” home of member Cindie Matusicky. See details on page 12 of this Digest. Not much more to say. Hope all is well and look forward to seeing you at the June 20th meeting.

Mike
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JERRY MORENO, ADS Representative………..440-543-5658

PROGRAMS for 2008

Refreshments for June:
Pat Lybarger (cake) and Barbara Hosta (ice cream)

Feb 15   DVD’s on New Introductions and more
March 21  A program on Soil Testing
April 18  DSO Annual Tuber Auction
May 16   DSO Annual Plant/Tuber Auction
June 20   Container Gardening with Dahlias
July 12   Picnic…Cindie Matusicky
August   Bus Trip … cancelled for 2008
October 17 Digging, Storing, Dividing
November 21 Photo Contest
December 5 Holiday Dinner Meeting………FIRST Friday
SHOW SCHEDULE for 2008

Cuyahoga County Fair           Aug 9
Mahoning Valley Show           Aug 23-24
Geauga County Fair*            Aug 29
DSO 78th Annual               Sept 6-7
Midwest Show Cincinnati/Columbus Sept 12-14
ADS National Show Philadelphia Sept 18-22
East Liverpool               Sept 27-28
Pettit’s Oakwood

LAST CHANCE DAHLIA AUCTION—JUNE 20

Last chance to find that special dahlia variety and the last chance to give those extra tubers a good home. Bring your extra dahlias and we will “Chinese Raffle” them. Please be sure that the dahlias are potted and marked with the variety name, size and type. Instead of the typical auction, we will use the “Chinese Auction.” According to Wikipedia – “In a Chinese auction, bidders are not prospective buyers (as in the conventional English auction). Instead, they buy tickets, which are chances to win items. Bidders may buy as many tickets as they like, and bid them on any item(s) they want by placing them in a basket or other container in front of the item(s) they are trying to win. At the conclusion of bidding, the winning ticket is drawn from the tickets bid on each item, and the item is given to the owner of that ticket.”
Your Dahlia TO DO Checklist:

• Keep in mind that the DSO Flower of the Year is KENORA WILDFIRE.

• Also, the Midwest Show in Cincinnati is offering a $200 prize for the best bloom of a Luther Havens introduction. In addition, $75 will go to the best Brookside J. Cooley.

• If you have never entered a competition before, make this year your first! There is a novice class just for you! If you are unsure how to cut your blooms to take to a competition, and how to transport them safely, contact any officer. We’ll be glad to help. It’s fun simply to enjoy dahlias in your garden, but it’s fun to compete also. Try it, you’ll like it!

• In case you missed him at the May meeting, you have another chance this month to introduce yourself to Ron Miner, our superb Judging Chairman, and let him know that you are really looking forward to becoming a dahlia judge! He’ll be thrilled, and so will you!
GLENN MARTIN RUTH

December 31, 1926 - May 15, 2008

Glenn was born in Elyria December 31, 1926 and passed away May 15, 2008. He and Janet were married 57 years. They had four children, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

He was a meat cutter by profession, a veteran of WWII in the U. S. Navy, and was active in baseball as player and coach, Boy Scouts, dirt track sprint car racing. He served on the South Amherst School Board and was a member of the South Amherst American Legion Post 118.

Glenn joined DSO in 1958, a year after he first saw dahlias at the Ohio State Fair. He was president of the society on three different occasions. But more importantly, Glenn was a friend to everyone, always patient and eager to answer questions about dahlias; he was truly an encyclopedia of dahlia culture. It seemed as though he knew every ADS dahlia by name, classification, and who introduced it. Glenn was a terrific mentor. He will be missed by us all very much. Heaven’s dahlia garden will be more beautiful than ever with Glenn in charge.

In a Plain Dealer feature article in 1992 about Glenn, he said, “Dahlias are God’s presents. There is no way that a human could make anything that beautiful. I consider myself tremendously blessed.” And so do all of us, Glenn, who were fortunate enough to know you.

Rest in peace, dearest dahlia friend and mentor.
DSO Perpetual Memorial

If you would like to make a contribution to the Dahlia Society of Ohio’s Perpetual Memorial Fund in Glenn Ruth’s name, please send make your check out to the Dahlia Society of Ohio, mention “in memory of Glenn Ruth” on the note line, and mail it to:

Joann Bendokaitis
DSO Treasurer
17182 Eastview Drive
Chagrin Falls OH 44023
The JUDGE’s Corner
Ron Miner  baronminer@aol.com

I need to start with a note of thanks for the leadership and the wise counsel of Glenn Ruth in growing, judging and enjoying dahlias. We will miss his wonderful friendship!

It is finally actually acting a little more like spring! You are all no doubt planted and waiting anxiously for a few of your favorites to show some enthusiastic growth in the garden. Now that you have a little more time on your hands, please take a few minutes to read the judging manual. There is nothing like being able to add a few facts to your opinions as you begin the judging process at the Cuyahoga Fair in a couple months.

Do you remember Miss Milk Toast and Mr. Big Shot when they made guest appearances in this column last summer? Rumor has it that they actually plan on coming to help judge the Fair this summer. You will want to be prepared to join in the fun and revisiting the manual will help you to do that!

Imagine that your garden is overflowing with wonderful blooms at the end of July and early August. (That could happen if you are off to a good start when you receive this Digest!) You have brought lots of BB’s, B’s, and A’s to the fair and actually got most of them staged before judging begins. That is the good news. Perhaps the bad news is that you consequently have been given the “opportunity” to judge the “Other Types.” Probably, however, you consider the worst news to be that you have been assigned to work with Miss Milk Toast and Mr. Big Shot to do that section. Nevertheless, you make the judging chairperson proud by managing to avoid grimacing when your assignment is announced and off you go to take a look at your section. Mr. BS is already at the table, complaining loudly about the organization of the section. He adds, “I don’t like mignon singles; why would anyone even bring one of those to the show? They are so little.
No one even notices them.” You wisely suggest that before getting caught up in a discussion of the relative merits of the various classes, you should determine the best in each. Miss MT adds that it is really important to set aside personal preferences in judging the entries. You think maybe this won’t be so bad after all. She also suggests that “All the forms and colors are mixed; perhaps we should separate the entries into classes to begin.” Mr. BS says that there are no entries in class 77, Anemones, but there are a number of Collarettes in class 78: several Alpen Cherub, three Christmas Carol, and six Pooh. You lead the group through a discussion of the facts that there is a clear choice for the best entry in each of two of the cultivars but that none of the Christmas Carols are competitive. Mr. BS observes that the best Pooh is really pretty; he likes that one for the ribbon. Miss MT points out that the spacing of the florets around the center of the bloom is much more uniform in the Alpen Cherub than in the Pooh and adds that the judging manual indicates that uniformity “is an important characteristic for form in the open-centered types.” You agree and also point out that “The colors on Pooh are very attractive, but the distribution of color on the ray florets is not very uniform on any of them.” Mr. BS recognizes that he is in the minority and agrees to move on to the next class with the ribbon going to Alpen Cherub.

Judging the rest of the section goes pretty well until you get near the end and discover a Goldie Gull (AN LB) near the end of the table. Mr. BS says, “Too bad we already judged that class, we’ll just have to disqualify this entry.” You knew this assignment was going to be a pain, but this is just too much. You take three deep breaths and …

To be continued!
Dahlia Do’s and Don’ts for Beginners

Installment 5: Fall care—Digging Your Dahlias
Based on material from Richard Parshall.

These articles have taken you from purchasing dahlia tubers to spring garden preparation, planting where, when and how, early season care before blooms, and summer care when your dahlias are in bloom.

Rather than continuing with the next segment on Fall care now so that you can forget everything you read, let’s take a summer break and enjoy using all the information we have learned so far. See you at the shows in August to October!

Notes from the American Dahlia Society

• Contributions to a fund to improve and maintain the ADS website have met the goal.
• Two new projects are on the agenda for this year. One is to produce a video or DVD on introducing growers to growing dahlias. The second involves a study on improving the vase life of cut dahlias.
• Dues will remain at $20 individual and $23 family which barely covers the cost of printed materials (bulletins, manuals, etc.)
• There will be an attempt to put more color in the Bulletin.
Cutting Dahlias for the Vase

Published material from growers often recommend the following:

• Cut flowers very early or late in the day to reduce the chance of wilting.
• Cut the stem on a diagonal.
• Immediately place the blooms in warm water (100+ degrees) for 30 minutes, then place in cold water. (I have never done this warm water thing—for those who have, does it work?)
• Add a preservative available at nurseries.
• Keep the cut flowers out of direct sunlight.
• Change the water in the vase daily. The dahlias will last up to a week.

Note that if you choose not to cut your blooms, be sure to remove the old ones. This will keep the plant strong and vigorous late into the season. Also removing old blooms encourages blooming and better bloom color throughout the season. Keep your garden clean and dispose of all plant debris in a compost pile and not in your garden area.
DSO PICNIC 2008
JULY 12     2:00 p.m.
Cindie Matusicky
204 Kempton Drive
Berea 44017

DSO member Cindie Matusicky has graciously opened her gardens to DSO for a unique experience. Her gardens include two ponds and trees carved with guardian faces watching over her house and back garden; decorated gardens with some unique and unusual lawn ornaments; several bird houses and of course dahlias and a variety of other flowers. Join us for the delectable dishes that make this picnic so tasty.

Bring a dish to share—
casseroles, salads, or desserts.

Plasticware and paper plates will be provided along with coffee and pop.

DIRECTIONS
Take I-71 to BAGLEY ROAD.
Travel WEST on Bagley to 237 South
(sign also reads Prospect, Mulberry, Henry)
Turn LEFT onto 237 South to WEST STREET.
Take WEST STREET to
FAIR STREET;
Turn LEFT onto FAIR.
Take FAIR ST. to KEMPTON;
Turn RIGHT onto KEMPTON.
Right side, half way down.
DSO MEMBERS
Here’s an interesting competition that our friends at Puget Sound Dahlia Association do. Are you interested in trying it next year?

SEEDLING CHALLENGE
Steve and Sandy Boley
Puget Sound Dahlia Association Bulletin

“Save some space in your garden plans this year for a few plants for the PSDA Seedling Challenge. To refresh you memory, the way it works is this: At our May meeting, seedlings will be on sale for $1 each. Grow them and bring their blooms to the September meeting. All of the money collected from their sale will be returned as prizes for both the best blooms and the most challenged. Frequently there is as much competition for the ugly duckling as for the best bloom. The seed parent for this year’s competition is Alpen Cherub, a white collarette. The pollen parents were Pooh, Sean C., Teasbrook Audrey, Betty’s White Collarette, Pale Tiger, and Bumble Rumble. Just to show it can be done, we put this cross together in our yard, not at the farm. Since we tested this cross last year on our own, we know there are some great seedlings just waiting to be discovered in this mix. Collarettes don’t take up much room, and they bloom early and often, so don’t hesitate to join this fun experiment!”
SPECIAL NOTICE FOR MEMBERSHIPS
From John Bendokaitis

Please check the mailing label on this digest for one of these statements:

DUES ARE DUE or DUES ARE PAID

Please let me know if there is an error in my records.

MAIL FORM on NEXT PAGE and PAYMENT TO:
DSO MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
JOHN R. BENDOKAITIS
17182 EASTVIEW DR
CHAGRIN FALLS, OHIO 44023

NOTE!!
If you are not a member of the American Dahlia Society, consider joining NOW. It is truly worth it!
Why? What are the benefits?

- You will get the CLASSIFICATION HANDBOOK
- You will get the colorful and informative ADS BULLETIN
- You will also receive the AMERICAN DAHLIA GUIDE TO GROWING AND CARING FOR DAHLIAS.
- You will be entitled to vote in election of ADS officers, and all other privileges of membership.
CHECK YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON THE OTHER SIDE
SUBMIT ANY CHANGES BELOW

TO MAKE RENEWAL EASIER, SIMPLY TEAR OFF
THIS PAGE, INITIAL AND MAIL WITH YOUR
CHECK TO JOHN BENDOKAITIS

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO
DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO

DATE______________________________

NAME___________________________________________________

CHANGES_______________________________________________

EMAIL__________________________________________________

PLEASE CHOOSE ONLY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS. Place an X in [ ].

[ ] DSO Membership (includes husband and wife) ..........$10.00

[ ] DSO with ADS MEMBERSHIP (for one person only)..$30.00

[ ] DSO with ADS FAMILY Membership......................$33.00

[ ] DSO with ADS STUDENT Membership....................$15.00
(18 YRS OLD OR YOUNGER)

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS:

[ ] ADS First Class Mailing for December   ADD $ 3.00 TO ABOVE

[ ] DSO with ADS SNOWBIRD OPTION—INDIVIDUAL $38.00##

[ ] DSO with ADS SNOWBIRD OPTION—FAMILY...... $41.00##

## INCLUDE WINTER ADDRESS FOR SNOW BIRD MAILING
__________________________________________________________________________
DAHLIA SOCIETY of OHIO
MaryAnn Moreno
8232 Westhill Drive
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023