

DAHLIA DIGEST

DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO

Since 1930

VOL. 2008 ISSUE 6

OCTOBER, 2008



October 17 MEETING

7:30 p.m.

**Busch Community Room
7501 Ridge Road, Parma
Just south of Pleasant Valley Road**



OCTOBER PROGRAM



- **Ron Miner -
On Trial Gardens**
- **Storing dahlias for a
well-deserved rest over
winter. Various methods will
be discussed and shown! Bring a
clump for hands-on demo!**

President's Notes

Hi folks,

Well here we are already in October. My how the summer has rushed by us again! Hope everyone had a great growing season and had a chance to enjoy and share your beautiful dahlia blooms.

I want to thank all those members who participated in our three shows this year and extend congratulations to all "Court of Honor" winners. Seeing prize-winning blooms at shows is not only of interest to the serious grower but hopefully encourages and educates the casual grower as well.

Thanks to everyone who helped set up and tear down the shows. Most of all a big thanks to Dave Cap for again taking on the responsibilities for organizing these events. Well done and much appreciated by everyone.

As we all await the first frost and the end of our growing season, don't forget to attend our October 17th meeting. Bring your questions regarding the digging, storing and dividing of your tubers to the meeting. We will have our dahlia "gurus" there to help with any questions you may have. Until then enjoy your blooms. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the October meeting.

Mike



**VISIT OUR DSO WEBSITE
SHARON SWANEY, WEBMASTER
WWW.DAHLIASOCIETYOFOHIO.ORG**

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PROGRAMS for 2008

Refreshments for October: Barbara Hosta and MaryAnn Moreno

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

EXCELLENT PROGRAM ON SOIL SCIENCE
OCTOBER 26

There will be a Program on Soil Science, by Bill McKibben of Logan Labs, in the Davis Center at Fellows Riverside Gardens on October 26th starting at 1:00 PM. This program will be of a technical nature concerning soil.

There will be a \$10 fee and open to the first 25 people who respond. Some of us have heard Bill speak and found his information to be extremely interesting. You may save a seat by contacting Randy Foith (330-584-9002) or Jim Chuey(330-549-9204)

SO, YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO NAME A DAHLIA AND ARE NOT SURE OF THE PROCESS NEEDED TO DO THAT?

MEETING NOTICE

COME TO OUR OCTOBER MEETING AS RON MINER WHO HAS NAMED 15 OR SO DAHLIAS WILL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT ONE SUCH PROCEDURE USING THE TRIAL GARDEN. GUESS WHAT? WE ARE FORTUNATE THAT THE MAHONING VALLEY DAHLIA SOCIETY

ALPHA SANDWICK
passed away September 30 at the age of 89 in
Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She was a longtime
member and officer of the Dahlia Society of Ohio.

Alpha grew up in the Garretson SD community where she was Garretson HS valedictorian, editor of the school paper, homecoming attendant, participant in as many sports as was deemed healthy and natural for a girl in that era. The depression years prohibited her from accomplishing her dream of graduating from college, but she managed to complete two years as a chemistry major at Augustana College by working several jobs and by walking to and from college to her jobs thereby saving a nickel bus fair.

After WWII, she and her husband William moved to Cleveland where both were employed by the American Greeting Card Company. Bill headed the art department while Alpha was introduced to AMG's new monstrous computer, eventually becoming the computer program analyst for billing.

Those who knew Alpha remember her large hats, colorful clothing and jewelry, all of which reflected her self-confidence and outgoing personality. She had a passion for photography and growing flowers, the dahlia in particular. Her most frequent show winners were the miniatures. She was a proud homeowner winning several awards for having a beautiful manicured yard and garden. Her other joys were golfing, cooking, entertaining, playing bridge and attending the theatre and symphony.

She lived in Cleveland for over 50 years and then moved back to Sioux Falls in 2000 to be closer to family.



Dahlia Do's and Don'ts for Beginners

Installment 5: Fall care—Digging, Dividing, Storing

Based on material from Richard Parshall.

Do: Enjoy your flowers until the first frost kills back your plants (unless you can't wait to get to Florida and then you may already be done!) Then, cut off stalk to tree to four inches above the ground and leave in the ground for a week or two to allow eyes to set before digging. Very carefully dig completely around each tuber clump with a shovel or garden fork and lift gently to avoid breaking the tuber necks. After removing the clump from the ground, carefully hose the soil from the clump, clip off all feeder roots with garden scissors and then let the clump dry overnight.

Don't: Pull tuber clumps from the ground using the stalk as a handle. This may be tempting to do but tuber necks will break.

Do: Carefully divide clumps in half by splitting with pruning shears. Carefully cut off individual tubers using hand pruners, garden scissors, a sharp knife. Make sure that each tuber has or looks like it has an eye. The tuber eyes will only be located at the swell of the crown of the tuber clump near the stem.

Don't: Cut the tubers from the clump at the beginning of the neck as it will have no eyes. Eyes are only located near the stem crown.

Do: Put the individual tubers in a bleach and water solution (1-cup bleach to 3 gallons water) for 15 to 20 minutes to kill all bacteria. Don't leave tubers in the solution too long.

Do: Allow tubers to dry for two or three days before storing. Dry on newspapers in a cool, dark place. Label tubers before storing—use a permanent marker or ink pencil.

Don't: Dry tubers in the sun or a warm location. Don't dry on concrete as it draws the moisture out of the tuber.

Do: One way to store is in plastic bags with a few handfuls of vermiculite or wood shavings. Another is to roll tubers in long strips of plastic wrap. Come to our October meeting Friday to discuss these methods and others.



Do: Keep bagged or wrapped tubers in a dark cool storage area where they will not freeze. A crawl space, root cellar, old refrigerator are great.

Don't: Store in a warm place where temperatures will rise above 50 degrees for a long period. Tubers may rot or start sprouting too early.

Quiz: How many times was the word CAREFULLY used above? **Jerry**

To Sulfur or Not to Sulfur...

Two of the best dahlia growers in our area have raised an interesting question regarding preparing tubers for winter storage. Randy and Kathy Foith have very limited space, so they use the "Saran Wrap" method. After curing the tubers, they powder the tubers with garden sulfur to deter the growth of mold. Jim Chuey thinks that the sulfur may inhibit early root development while they are being started in pots. Jim has almost convinced Randy about this, however Randy feels it is important to keep the mold at bay.

Jim uses the old method of putting tubers and coarse vermiculite in one-gallon freezer bags followed by a water misting. He does not dry the tubers before packing nor does he use any garden Sulfur, Clorox, or any other substance to protect them from mold. His tuber loss is one to two percent. He has experimented with other methods of storage to reach his conclusion that treated tubers tend to start and set roots slower or not at all. Regarding mold, if tubers are stored in an environment that has a temperature of 40-50 degrees with some air movement, then most mold and rot problems do not occur. Whether he is right or wrong isn't clear, but it works for him and that's what counts. Both Jim and Randy agree that matching a storage program to an individual's storage conditions is very important. Find what works for you.

Original article: Mahoning Valley Dahlia Society newsletter, October 2008.

The JUDGE's Corner

Ron Miner baronminer@aol.com

The 2008 show season has come to a close and I am going to miss those opportunities to spend time with you all and our wonderful flowers! I hope you've taken some entries to each of the nearby shows and that you've enjoyed the process as much as I have. You are a wonderful bunch of people!

It is important that the judges among you review your judging experience against the requirements in order to be sure that you've met the requirements for advancing or maintaining your judging status. Those requirements have been distributed on numerous occasions and are available from me at any time (baronminer@aol.com). Recall that to maintain your judging status, you need to judge in 8 shows over a five year period, judge seedlings (officially or unofficially) regularly (about 2 per year but at least 10 over the five years), and attend a judge's seminar (or two of our shorter training sessions) every two years.

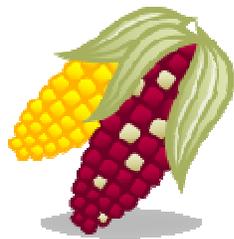
In particular, it is important that you let me know if you have met the judging experience requirements in order for you to advance to the next level of judging.



I will supply you with the appropriate test and we can get your possible status change in place before I need to report to the ADS Judging Chair.

Barbara and I had the pleasure of participating and judging in four local shows, the Midwest Show, and the National Show in Philadelphia this season. We tried to follow Glenn's philosophy of learning something in each judging experience and, with that wise counsel, had a good time everywhere we went. We also had the opportunity to discuss problems and compare strategies with growers near and far and we learned a lot about what is most effective. I encourage all of our DSO members to participate in these shows, whether they exhibit and/or judge, or not! They are a lot of fun and represent a good way to help solve problems we all encounter in our gardens. Besides, dahlia growers are nice people with whom to gather!

I was disappointed that the seeds I handed out at the last spring meeting of the DSO did not grow! I don't know how I screwed them up; mine didn't grow either. I had hoped to hold a seedling contest and judging seminar at Petitti's with those new seedlings. We will try that again next year. I'm gathering



seed from Norma Wills, Pooh, Alpen Cherub, and Marie Schnugg and plan on better success with germination next spring!

Dahlia Society of Ohio Court of Honor 2008		
Award for Best	Grower	Variety
Novice	Don Rochon	Ukraine Free
Single AA Small Grower	Tony Evangelista	Bryn Terfell
Single A Small Grower	Tony Evangelista	Aitara Majesty
Single B Small Grower	Tony Evangelista	Trengrove Millenium
Single BB Small Grower	Rick Kralovic	C G's Coral
Single AA Open to All	Randy and Kathy Foith	Inland Dynasty
Single A Open to All	Rudy Bredenbeck	Verda
Single B Open to All	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	Hamari Accord
Single BB Open to All	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	Embrace
Single Miniature	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	Badger Twinkle
Single Ball	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	Snoho Doris
Single Miniature Ball	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	Robann Royall
Single Pompon	Rudy Bredenbeck	Glenplace
Single Waterlily	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	Cameo
Single Other Type	Randy and Kathy Foith	Rival

Triple AA-A	Tony Evangelista	Verda
Triple B	Tony Evangelista	Woodland's Wildthing
Triple BB	Mike Weber	Taratahi Lilac
Triple Miniature	Rudy Bredenbeck	Weston Spanish Dancer
Triple Ball	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	Mary's Jomanda
Triple Pompon	Randy and Kathy Foith	Poppet
Triple Other Type	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	Norma Wills
Vase	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	Embrace
Basket	Randy and Kathy Foith	Rembrandt
ADS Seedling Achievement	Jim Chuey	Marcella Louise
Flower of the Year	Randy and Kathy Foith	Kenora Wildfire
Largest Blue Ribbon	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	Islander
Grand Champion	Rudy Bredenbeck	Verda
Reserve Champion	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	Embrace
Novice Sweeps	Don Rochon	
Small Grower Sweeps	Tony Evangelista	
Open to All Sweeps	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	

**Cuyahoga County Fair
Court of Honor 2008**

Novice	Therese Ball	Bill McKnight
Amateur AA-A	Joyce and David Habeger	Luther
Amateur B	Joyce and David Habeger	Blackberry Ripple
Open AA-A	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	Kenora Jubilee
Open B	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	Trengrove Millenium
Open BB	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	Embrace
Single Miniature	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	Badger Twinkle
Single Ball	Carol Sahley & Brent Giere	Brookside Snowball
Single Pompon	Randy and Kathy Foith	Lismore Moonlight
Three Bloom	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	Brookside J Cooley
Other Type	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	Cameo
Largest Bloom	Randy and Kathy Foith	Pennhill Dark Monarch
Grand Champion	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	Trengrove Millenium
Reserve Champion	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	Badger Twinkle

**Geauga County Fair
Court of Honor 2008**

Small Grower A	Larry Baker	Kenora Wildfire
Small Grower B	Jerry Moreno	Woodland's Wildthing
Other	Stan Vuletich	Pooh
Open AA-A	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	Vassio Meggos
Open B	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	Hamari Accord
Open BB	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	Embrace
Single Miniature	Rudy Bredenbeck	Weston Spanish Dancer
Single Ball	Rudy Bredenbeck	Cornel
Single Pompon	Randy and Kathy Foith	Real Gold
Other Type	Pat Lybarger	Stella Rosa
Three Bloom	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	Brookside J Cooley
Largest Bloom	Randy and Kathy Foith	Zorro
Best in Show	Rudy Bredenbeck	Cornel



**SPECIAL NOTICE FOR
MEMBERSHIPS
From John Bendokaitis**

**Please check the mailing label on this digest
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**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.**



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[] 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
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DAHLIA SOCIETY of OHIO
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