November 21 MEETING

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

NOVEMBER PROGRAM
PHOTO CONTEST

• Storing dahlias for a well-deserved rest over winter. Various methods will be discussed and shown! Bring a clump for hands-on demo!
Hi Folks,

Just got done digging some more dahlias. With the temperatures in the 50's and 60's, it makes this year's process a lot more pleasure. Hope you're experiencing the same success with this unseasonably warm stretch.

Don't forget any questions regarding storing, dividing or any other tuber related problem can be addressed at our November meeting.

Just a few notes for those of you who were unable to attend the October meeting. Thanks to a lot of footwork and research by Sharon Swaney, DSO now has a "state of the art" computer projector. In fact, we broke it in at the meeting for Ron's very interesting presentation on trial gardens. Thanks Sharon! Also, at the meeting DSO agreed to host the 2010 Midwest Show. We want to make this a positive experience for not only those attending the show but also for DSO. Now would be a good time to start thinking about how all of us can help to make this a show to be proud of. We'll keep you posted as we start our planning.

Our Christmas party is going to be at Carrie Cerino's on Saturday afternoon. December 6th. See details elsewhere in this Digest.

Don't forget your photos for the "Photo Contest" at this months meeting. Details are elsewhere in this Digest. See you on the 21st.

Mike
OFFICERS-CHAIRS/PHONE NUMBERS

MIKE WEBER, President........................................440-647-3162
BARBARA HOSTA, First Vice President..............216-524-2635
DAVE CAP, Second Vice President..................440-888-5589
JOANN BENDOKAITIS, Treasurer.......................440-543-4515
YOUR NAME?, Recording Secretary...............??-??-???
MARYANN MORENO, Corresponding Secretary....440-543-5658

JOHN BENDOKAITIS, Membership Chair..........440-543-4515
BARBARA HOSTA, Digest Co-Editor...............216-524-2635
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e-mail: maryannjerry@alltel.net or moreno@jcu.edu
KATIE JANDA, Sunshine Chair.....................440-285-2385
JERRY MORENO, ADS Representative.........440-543-5658

PROGRAMS for 2008

Refreshments for November:
Barbara Hosta

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 6 Holiday Dinner Meeting.
SATURDAY AFTERNOON
Hey Gang, What Time is it?

Nope, not Howdy Doody, but DUES Time! Please renew your DSO and ADS memberships for 2009, as soon as you can.

If you aren’t a member of ADS, please consider joining. The ADS monthly Bulletin is filled with very interesting and informative articles. In addition, there are advertisements for all of the new dahlia varieties as well as the standards.

Dues information is at the end of this Digest. Thanks for your support of DSO and ADS.

DAHLIA PHOTO CONTEST RULES

CATEGORIES:
• SINGLE DAHLIA: Includes close-ups.
• MULTIPLE DAHLIAS: Includes gardens, baskets, vases.
• PEOPLE & DAHLIAS: Need to have at least one dahlia and at least one person
• ENHANCED - Photos created using tricks from computer software – must include at least one dahlia

Photos cannot be larger than 8 X 10; unframed photos are preferred.

MEETING NOTICE
DSO HOLIDAY GATHERING
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2008 -
12 NOON to 4PM

CARRIE CERINO’S RISTORANTE
8922 RIDGE ROAD

COST $25.00 per person

MENU (BUFFET)
Chicken Marsala
Boston Scrod
Green Beans with Almonds
Oven Browned Duchess Potatoes
Salad, Rolls, Fresh Fruit
Penne Pasta w/ Meat Sauce
Home-made Miniature Pastries
Coffee, Tea or Milk

PLEASE RSVP by DECEMBER 2, 2008 to
BARBARA HOSTA at bxh5@cwru.edu,
216-795-3132 or 216-524-2635. Make
Checks out to the DSO –reference holi-
day party- Mail to: Barbara Hosta, 473
Hillside Road, Seven Hills, OH 44131 or
bring the day of the party.

DIRECTIONS:
Carrie Cerino’s is 1.2 miles south of the Busch
Community Room on Ridge Road. If you are
traveling south from the Busch Community
Room, Carrie Cerino’s will be on the right side
(west.)
CAN YOU NAME THESE DAHLIAS?
EBONY STAR
The first “truly black” dahlia.
Ginger Clack
Mrytle Creek, Oregon

"The really good news is that it has to have sun," she said. "It gets even darker when it grows in the sun, which is very unusual. And we can take the black gene and get the big dahlias and the doubles. I'm just so happy about it. Of course, if I came up with a blue one that would really be something. There's no blue gene in the dahlia world. I haven't even tried for it. But this black dahlia is special."
The JUDGE’s Corner  
Ron Miner  baronminer@aol.com

Judge’s Corner

Perhaps some of you saw the recent article I wrote for the ADS Bulletin. It was on the subject of Point Scoring of Seedlings. Many of you who are judges have struggled with the concept of translating observations of faults on a dahlia to a point score. To me, this is the most difficult part of the process of scoring a seedling.

It is relatively easy to teach and to learn what kinds of physical characteristics comprise a fault. Observations of an irregular center or lack of symmetry or the presence of fading or a wolf petal or the presence of a spur leaf or a crooked stem or almost any of the things we consider imperfections in a dahlia involve skills that are pretty easily acquired by an interested judge. On the other hand, translating the observation to a point deduction has been, at least for me, a more difficult concept to capture.

One could infer from the Bulletin article that the guidelines on the score sheet are not particularly helpful. I will be more frank here; the guidelines on the score sheet (at least as I see it) aren’t helpful, period! The basic reason for that is that the separation of faults into “Serious” and “Minor” is basically incorrect. Each fault is either minor or serious depending on its severity. Thus, for example, while gaps are listed as a “Serious” form fault on the sheet, they can actually be very minor if there are few of them and they are subtle or they can be very serious if there are many of them and they are substantial!

Therefore, let’s consider a wholly different perspective. On page 53 of the Guide to Judging Dahlias, we are told that it may be useful for the judge to consider each characteristic on the scorecard as if it were 100 points and that we should consider 85% as a passing score for each specific characteristic. We then need a sense of what level of faults comprises a successful (85%) characteristic. My conclusion in that regard is that a score
of 85 should reflect a characteristic with no more than a few minor faults. If you observe a major color fault, for example, or many minor color faults, the entry should probably not achieve a passing score for color. (Obviously, you still need to determine whether your observations are of a major or a minor fault, so “judgment” and, especially, experience are still thoroughly involved!)

The following tables help make these conclusions meaningful in practice. First, the judge should determine (for each characteristic) the presence or the absence of faults and their severity. With that observation in hand, he or she then checks this first table to determine the approximate value for the percentage score for that attribute.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Observation</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Faults</td>
<td>Perfect</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Minor Fault</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>90+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor Faults</td>
<td>Passing</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Major or Many Minor Faults</td>
<td>Failing</td>
<td>80-%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Severe or Several Major Faults</td>
<td>Very Poor</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The second table then provides a useful guideline for the deduction that would be appropriate for that level of rating the characteristic. For example, if you were to observe several relatively subtle form defects in the entry, you would be guided in the above table to provide a passing score for form and, in the following table, you would see that a deduction of the order of 4 points, or less, would correspond to a passing score for form. Similarly, if your observations showed that the only problem with the foliage was that the leaves were close, but not exactly, opposite one another, you might conclude that it is almost perfect. The foregoing
table would suggest a rating of 90% or more and the following table would suggest a deduction of a maximum of 1 point for foliage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>28</th>
<th>22</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perfect</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>-2.8</td>
<td>-2.2</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>-0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passing</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>-4.2</td>
<td>-3.3</td>
<td>-2.25</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
<td>-0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failing</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>-5.6</td>
<td>-4.4</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Poor</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>-8.4</td>
<td>-6.6</td>
<td>-4.5</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This logic works well for each seedling characteristic except Distinction. You are going to treat the candidate cultivar pretty severely when you follow the instructions for distinction, so you may want to be a little forgiving where it is possible to do so on the rest of the scorecard. It may be appropriate, in the future, to make changes to the treatment of distinction in order to be able to avoid the need for that “adjustment.”

In summary, when you are part of a team that is point scoring seedlings, keep in mind that you want to assess each characteristic in the context of pass or fail criteria. Point penalties that correspond to “passing” values vary significantly among the seedling characteristics. The tables in this article are designed to help you to keep those pass/fail penalties in mind and to make point scoring a little easier! Let me know if these tables help you.
BOOKS:
Dahlias for Every Garden by Marian C. Walker
Burke’s Help your self Series No. 35: Gardening Dahlias, by Edward Hyams
Modern Dahlia Culture by T. H. Waite ON LOAN
Growing Dahlias by Gayner W. Parker
The Encyclopedia of Dahlias by Bill McLaren

VIDEOS:
Dahlia Culture, Gardens and Shows (no author)
Dahlias! A Video Growing Guide - ADS - 4 copies
Anyone Can Grow Dazzling Dahlias, Margaret Rieson
The Staging of Dahlia Blooms, Holger Peterson
Dahlia Cultivation, Holger Peterson

Videos may be taken out with a returnable $10.00 deposit.

DVDs:
2007 Introductions
2008 Introductions
Container Gardening ON LOAN to Neil Evans
Hybridizing ON LOAN to Rodney Toth

DSO INVENTORY SALE
A limited number of the following publications will be sold for $2 each at the November meeting:

• 2008 Dahlias of Today, excellent publication from the Puget Sound Dahlia Society, reg. $5.
• Official ADS Guide to Growing Dahlias, reg. $4
• Guide to Growing and Caring for Dahlias, reg. $1
• 1976-2007 Composite Listing of Dahlias, reg. $6.50
MIDWEST SHOW 2009

Rick “Doc” Peters, President of the Midwest Dahlia Conference, sent the following information regarding the 76th Annual Midwest Conference show. Sponsored by the Grand Valley Dahlia Society, the show will be held August 28-30, 2009, at the Frederik Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The Flower of the Year is MINERVA SUNRISE, 273, B C Dark Blend. The best bloom from Novice, Small Grower, Middle Grower, and Large Grower will compete for the Honor table. Also, John Thiermann of JT Dahlias is sponsoring an engraved crystal goblet for the best PENHILL DARK MONARCH in the show.

Registration information will be in the March and June ADS Bulletins.

MIDWEST SHOW 2010

At DSO’s October meeting, a motion for DSO to host the 2010 Midwest Show was approved without objection. Ron Miner agreed to chair the event. Please be willing to give a few hours of your time to help make the Midwest Show of 2010 one of the best ever! The first step is to confirm a site. The preference is for the show and lodging to be at the same location or very near. Specs include about 7500 square feet for the show plus banquet space for 200 people. Send suggestions to Jerry, Dave, or Mike. Thanks! Lots of details to come.
DSO 2009

Will it die? Will it flourish? Will it change? Will it remain the same?

We need your input!

Please give President Mike your suggestions on what current activities DSO does that you like and what new activities you would like to see DSO pursue.

Please give Vice President Barbara your suggestions on topics and speakers for our meeting programs.

Please give Digest Co-Editor Jerry your suggestions on what you have liked in the Digests and what new articles/topics you would like to see.

DSO is YOUR society. It will be whatever YOU would like it to be.

SUPER THANKS for your suggestions.
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