DAHLIA DIGEST
DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO
Since 1930

VOL. 2009 ISSUE 1

February, 2009

NO FEBRUARY MEETING

First Meeting in 2009
MARCH 20
Hi Folks,

Hope that you and your tubers are surviving the winter blast. Keep sane by looking through dahlia catalogs to find new varieties to try this year. Hang in there, winter will be over someday! I hope.

Katie Janda informed me that she needs to step down as our Sunshine Chair. On behalf of DSO, I thank you Katie for your several years of sending cards to those who have been in need for one sort or another. We really have appreciated your dedication to that service. If anyone is looking for a way to help DSO as its Sunshine Chair whose main responsibility is to send out cards when the need arises, please let me know. If you have ever received a card when life has not treated you kindly, you realize how comforting it is to know that there are others who care for you in those times.

Wonderful thanks to Sharon Swaney who not only has been doing a great job as our webmaster, but has volunteered to be our recording secretary. Thanks Sharon for wearing two DSO hats!

At our Executive Committee meeting, we decided to experiment this year and not have a February meeting but to try a July one instead. Our past few February meetings have had very low attendance due in part to typical lousy weather.

Don’t forget that Valley Porcupine is our DSO Flower of the Year for 2009. If you have any extra of this variety, please bring them to the March meeting so that we can propagate them for plants. Thanks. Keep warm. See you MARCH 20.

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
SHARON SWANEY, Recording Secretary...330-562-3296
MARYANN MORENO, Corresponding Sec....440-543-5658
JOHN BENDOKAITIS, Membership Chair....440-543-4515
BARBARA HOSTA, Digest Co-Editor............216-524-2635
e-mail: bxh5@po.cwru.edu
JERRY MORENO, Digest Co-Editor.............440-543-5658
  maryannjerry@windstream.net or moreno@jcu.edu
YOUR NAME?, Sunshine Chair...................???-???-????
JERRY MORENO, ADS Representative........440-543-5658

PROGRAMS for 2009

Refreshments for March:
To be announced

March 20     New Intros; Taking cuttings; Soil
April 17     DSO Annual Tuber Auction
May 15       DSO Annual Plant Auction
June 19      Demo on Container Gardening
July 17      Speaker on pesticides...tentative
August       Combined tour/picnic
October 16   TBA
November 20  Photo Contest; Speaker TBA
December 5   Holiday Dinner Meeting
NOTES

• We broke even financially in 2008.

• DSO mailing list membership is 123; 58 ADS members

• The holiday banquet meeting at Cirino’s on a beautiful December Saturday was a big success. Will plan this year’s holiday fest again for a Saturday afternoon.

• Planning has begun to host the 2010 Midwest Conference Dahlia Show. Please help a bit when asked.

• Let Barbara Hosta know what topics you would like to hear/see about at our meetings. She needs to know what your interests are.

• Let Jerry know what articles you would like to read about in the Digest.

• Let Sharon know what you would like to see on our terrific website.

• Our DSO Flower of the Year for 2009 is VALLEY PORCUPINE. Please bring any extra tubers of this variety to the March meeting so that we can make cuttings available at our plant sale. Thanks.
DATES to KEEP IN MIND

TUBER SALES/AUCTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PETTITI’s OAKWOOD</td>
<td>APRIL 25</td>
<td>10:00 to 4:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PETTITI’s AVON</td>
<td>APRIL 26</td>
<td>10:00 to 4:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOLDEN</td>
<td>MAY 1, 2, 3</td>
<td>10:00 to 4:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROCKEFELLER</td>
<td>MAY 15, 16, 17</td>
<td>10:00 to 4:00</td>
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Please let Dave Cap know when you will be able to spend a couple hours to help your DSO sell tubers.

Thanks!
CAN YOU NAME THESE DAHLIAS?

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2. 

3. 

4. 

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6. 

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8.
SHOW DATES for 2009

1. Cuyahoga County Fair...August 15-16
2. Mahoning Valley DS...August 21-23
3. Midwest (Grand Rapids).August 28-30
4. Geauga County Fair...September 4-6
5. Columbus DS...September 5-6
6. DSO....September 11-13
7. Pittsburgh...September 18-20
8. East Liverpool...September 26-27
9. Pettiti’s Oakwood...October 3-4

Was your New Year’s Resolution to enter a show this year—even with just one bloom? Good for you! We are looking forward to see-
Success With Cuttings
By Bill McClaren

This is an extract from the complete article which may be found on the American Dahlia Society's website, www.dahlia.org.

Propagation of dahlias by taking cuttings is the best method to increase stock of a favorite plant or to over-winter varieties that have tubers that are difficult to store. Success with cuttings depends largely upon three environmental conditions: humidity, temperature and day length.

After the cuttings have been dipped in rooting hormone and placed in the rooting medium (either sterile soil or sterile rooting cubes) they should be placed in a humid environment until well rooted. The humidity should be high enough to keep the cuttings from wilting, but not so great as to add moisture to the rooting medium. The rooting medium should be kept damp, but not saturated. Light misting with a sprayer can help increase the humidity if it is necessary. The temperature of the air surrounding the cuttings and of the growing medium itself should be kept between 65 to 75 degrees.

Dahlias are photosensitive, and this fact is often overlooked in the process of taking cuttings. Most varieties of dahlias will develop tubers when the day length is 12 hours or less, and will develop feeder roots when the day length is longer than 12 hours. To assure that feeder roots develop, I recommend rooting cuttings with the day length artificially set to 14 hours or longer. The intensity of light necessary to initiate the chemical reaction, which tells the plant “how long the days are”, is not, the same intensity required for plant growth. It is only necessary to provide 10-20 foot-candles of light during this period. A fluorescent 40-watt bulb, or incandescent 100-watt bulb, 4 to 5 feet above the cutting bed is sufficient. If you are rooting cuttings indoors, and are already supplying a stronger intensity of light necessary for growth period, then just leave the source of light on for at least 14 hours a day. If you are taking cuttings in a greenhouse or outside, then supplement the natural daylight with additional light so that the total length
of light is 14 hours or more.

To summarize: Use a rooting hormone and a sterile rooting medium, keep the humidity high enough to prevent wilting and the temperature between 65-75 and provide daylights of 14 hours or greater. Most dahlia varieties should form roots within 10-14 days when the proper environmental conditions are provided.

Below is a list of some of the problems that might be encountered while taking dahlia cuttings.

- **Symptom:** Cuttings turn black and rot at the soil line.
  **Cause:** Damping off, caused by too high temperature or a rooting medium that is not sterile.
  **Solution:** Keep the temperature at 65-70 degrees. Use only sterile soil or sterile root cubes.

- **Symptom:** Cuttings root rapidly, but then wilt and die.
  **Cause:** Usually caused by waterlogged soil, which deprives the roots of oxygen.
  **Solution:** Keep the rooting medium damp, but not saturated.

- **Symptom:** Cuttings look good, but develop callused looking nodes instead of roots – even after a month in the rooting medium.
  **Cause:** Day length too short.
  **Solution:** Artificially provide at least 14 hours of light per day.

- **Symptom:** Rooted cuttings, planted in the field, develop club shaped tubers with few eyes.
  **Cause:** Tubers allowed to develop in small pots during short day lengths.
  **Solution:** Re-pot cuttings as the roots touch the sides of the pot. The cutting should be grown to 8-12 inches in short day lengths with the plant lying down in a 2-3” trench and all leaves covered except the top set uncovered in the trench. At each node well-formed tubers will develop.

- **Symptom:** Rooted cuttings, planted in the field, develop hair roots but few, if any, tubers.
  **Cause:** Cuttings were grown only in long day lengths.
  **Solution:** Short day lengths are necessary for tubers to develop properly.
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.
CHECK YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON THE OTHER SIDE
SUBMIT ANY CHANGES BELOW

MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO:
JOHN BENDOKAITIS
17182 EASTVIEW DRIVE
CHAGRIN FALLS OH 44023

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