

# DAHLIA DIGEST

## ***DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO***

Since 1930

**VOL. 2009 ISSUE 4**

**May, 2009**



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**Friday, May 15**  
**MEETING**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Busch Community**  
**Room**  
**7501 Ridge Road,**



### **ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION**

**We have LOTS of terrific dahlia plants available perfectly timed for your garden!**

## President's Notes

Hi Folks,

Not a lot to say, just a few “thank you’s” and reminders. First, thanks to all who donated tubers for our annual tuber sale at our April meeting and thanks to all who made purchases. Hope you have spectacular blooms this summer. Thanks also to those who donated their time at our sales at Pettiti’s and Holden. Much appreciated!

Don’t forget about our remaining sales at Rockefeller Gardens the weekend of May 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> and our own plant/tuber sale on the 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have any spare tubers, please bring them to those sales. We could still use some volunteer help at the Rockefeller Sale. It’s really interesting talking with people who stop by our DSO table and want to know various informational items about growing dahlias. Come join the fun and help DSO!

Update on our plant propagation at Willoway, as of 4/30/09. We have a total of 168 plants potted, 162 cuttings and 156 potted tubers that will also be for sale. Thanks to those who donated tubers for this project. We are done taking cuttings.

Hope is all is well in your garden preparation and looking forward to seeing you all at Rockefeller and our May meeting.

Thanks again to all those who have helped in these ventures to fulfill our mission of promoting the dahlia.

Mike



**VISIT OUR DSO WEBSITE  
SHARON SWANEY, WEBMASTER  
[WWW.DAHLIASOCIETYOFOHIO.ORG](http://WWW.DAHLIASOCIETYOFOHIO.ORG)**

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## PROGRAMS for 2009



Refreshments for May:

*Peggy Baker*

*Katie Janda*

*Maureen Nowak*

March 20	New Intros; Pest Management
April 17	DSO Annual Tuber Auction
May 15	DSO Annual Plant Auction
June 19	Demo on Container Gardening
July 17	Speaker tba
August	Combined tour/picnic
October 16	Speaker tba
November 20	Photo Contest; Speaker tba
December 5	Holiday Dinner Meeting



**MIDWEST CONFERENCE**

**Spring Meeting**

**JUNE 6**

**10:00 to end of auction, 3:00?**

**NEW SITE**

**Highdive Pavilion, Elkhart Park Service**

**500 E. Beardsley Elkhart, Indiana**

**Take exit 89 Turnpike. Head south on Cassopolis (SR 19). Turn left at dead end. Pavilion is on north side.**

**SPEAKER**

**Dr. Norm Lownds**

**The Garden—**

**The Kid Connection—**

**Creating the Magic**

**Dr. Lownds is an Associate Professor and Curator of the 4-H Children's Garden at Michigan State U. He is an internationally known expert on children and gardening.**

**Dahlia auction held after lunch. Proceeds go to host of Midwest Show, Grand Valley DS.**

**Send reservation, \$19, to Mac Boyer,  
16816 County Road 10  
Bristol IN 46507  
before May 28.**



**LAST CHANCE TO HELP YOUR  
SOCIETY PROMOTE THE  
DAHLIA**



**Exit I-90**

**At Martin Luther King Drive**

**South to 750 East 88th Street**

**Please let Dave Cap know when  
you will be able to spend a couple  
hours to help your DSO sell tu-  
bers. We need everyone to do-  
nate a little time. Thanks!**

## PLANTING DAHLIA TUBERS and PLANTS

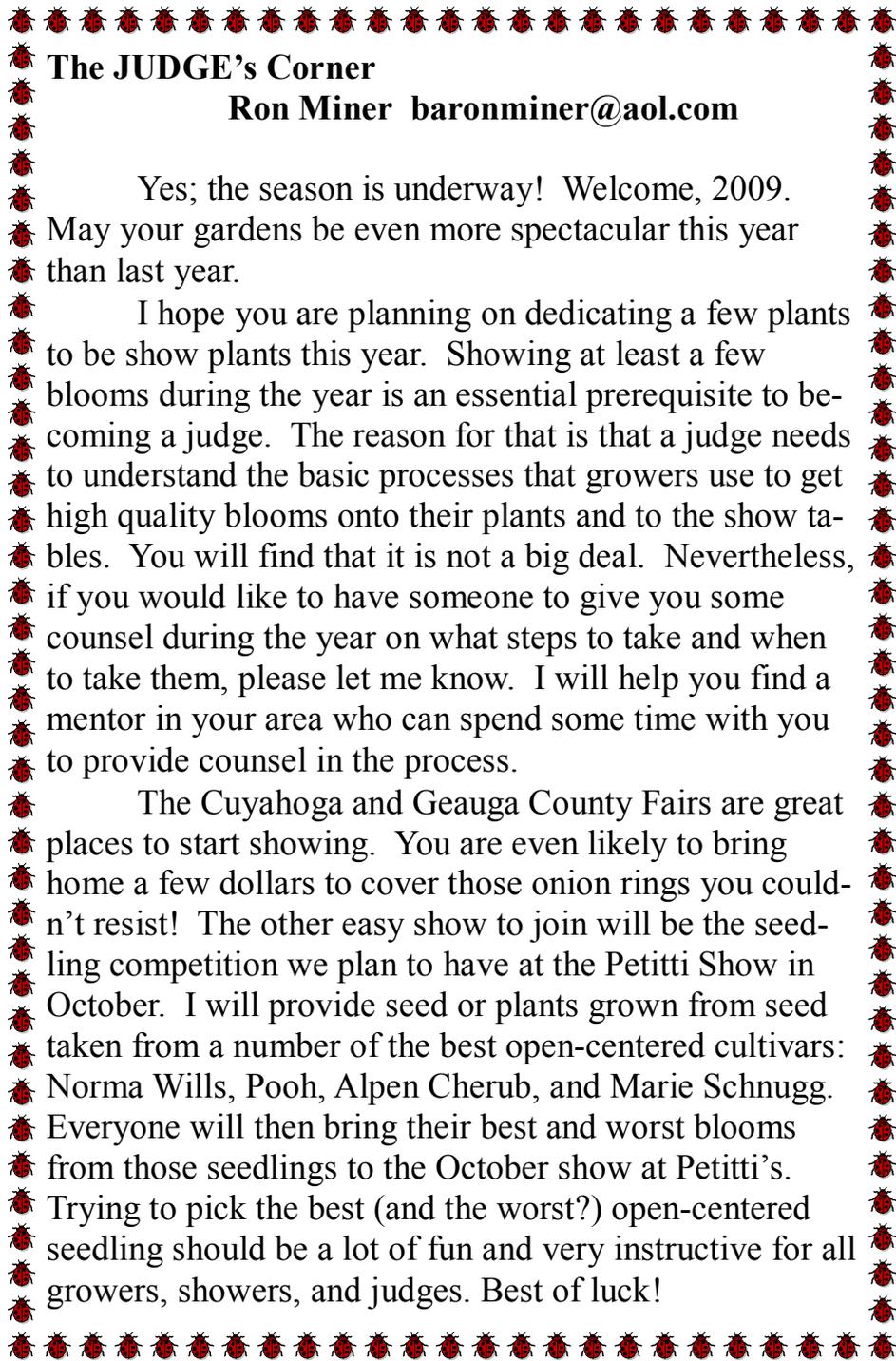
- If you plant before the end of May, be aware that there could be frost and you'll need to protect young, tender plants. Tubers have a tendency to rot in cold, wet soil. I know that at this time of year after a long winter, we get ants in our pants, but waiting a few more days is good advice. Plants aren't going to grow until the soil is nice and warm anyway, so be patient.
- As you till your soil the first couple weeks of May, mix in a balanced fertilizer, say 10-10-10 granular or 14-14-14 Osmocote timed release. Ideally, you should have a soil test done which will determine what fertilizer and other nutrients you need to make your soil most efficient for growing your dahlias. Typically, the soil should be rich and well-drained with a pH of about 6.5.
- If you are planting a tuber, dig a hole about a foot deep and fill it with the mixture of soil and fertilizer until the hole is about six inches deep. Place the tuber at the bottom of the hole flat (on its side) with the eye pointing upward. Place a sturdy stake (at least five feet in length) near the crown of the tuber. As the stem grows, secure it by a tie



to the stake. Cover the tuber with about two inches of soil, leaving four inches to be covered later as the sprout emerges. The soil should be barely moist. Tubers are definitely not fond of wet feet.

- If you have started plants indoors in a pot, when you remove the plant from the pot, the roots could be pot-bound. If so, loosen, break, or cut them slightly to force them to put out new roots into the surrounding soil. If this isn't done, it is possible that the roots will not spread out and this will retard the plant's growth.
- In putting the plant in the hole, add soil so that the soil in the pot is about one inch below the surface of soil in the bed. Place a stake in the hole as close as possible to the stem of the plant. Then fill the hole until the soil surrounding the stem is level with the soil of the bed.
- If the soil is not moist when planting, apply water to the soil surrounding the plant but out at least four inches from the stem. New plants need water but be careful in overwatering while they are getting established.





**The JUDGE's Corner**

**Ron Miner [baronminer@aol.com](mailto:baronminer@aol.com)**

Yes; the season is underway! Welcome, 2009. May your gardens be even more spectacular this year than last year.

I hope you are planning on dedicating a few plants to be show plants this year. Showing at least a few blooms during the year is an essential prerequisite to becoming a judge. The reason for that is that a judge needs to understand the basic processes that growers use to get high quality blooms onto their plants and to the show tables. You will find that it is not a big deal. Nevertheless, if you would like to have someone to give you some counsel during the year on what steps to take and when to take them, please let me know. I will help you find a mentor in your area who can spend some time with you to provide counsel in the process.

The Cuyahoga and Geauga County Fairs are great places to start showing. You are even likely to bring home a few dollars to cover those onion rings you couldn't resist! The other easy show to join will be the seedling competition we plan to have at the Petitti Show in October. I will provide seed or plants grown from seed taken from a number of the best open-centered cultivars: Norma Wills, Pooh, Alpen Cherub, and Marie Schnugg. Everyone will then bring their best and worst blooms from those seedlings to the October show at Petitti's. Trying to pick the best (and the worst?) open-centered seedling should be a lot of fun and very instructive for all growers, showers, and judges. Best of luck!

**Dahlia Society of Ohio (DSO) Minutes  
(Unapproved)  
April 17, 2009**



**Call to Order: President Mike Weber**

called the meeting to order at approximately 7:40 p.m. Location – Community Room at Busch Funeral Home, Parma, OH. Approximately 49 members and guests were in attendance. Mike recognized and DSO greeted new member, Debbie McKinney, and guests, Doris and Bud Anderson

**Recording Secretary's Report: Sharon Swaney**

The minutes from March were approved as published in the Digest and may also be found on our website.

**Treasurer's Report: Joann Bendokaitis**

Joann provided a full report on all our holdings. See Joann for details.

**Membership Report: John Bendokaitis**

DSO has seven additional members who paid during the last month and more paid at this meeting.

**First Vice President's Report: Barbara Hosta**

Barbara passed around a sheet for members to please sign up for refreshments. She reminded us that next month is the plant and tuber auction. June will be a presentation on container gardening. The presentation might be outside weather permitting.

**Second Vice President: Dave Cap**

Dave reviewed the schedule for tuber sales. Please sign up to help at the sales – sign-up sheet was circulated. Dave reminded us that the Rockefeller Gardens do not have concessions nor any close restaurants, so if you are working at this sale bring food/beverages as needed.

We need extra tubers for the sales. Take them directly to the sales or get them to Dave or another member going to the sales.

**Corresponding Secretary's Report: MaryAnn Moreno**

MaryAnn sent out 130 Bulletins. Digests will only be sent to paid members.

**Digest/ADS Report: Jerry Moreno**

Please submit articles for the Digest. Also, let Jerry know what you'd like to see in the Digest.

Jerry provided the ADS wall chart and the ADS booklet *Raising Beautiful Dahlias the Easy Way* to our new member and guests. He also contributed 2 calendars as raffle prizes.

**Sunshine Report: Elaine Bebenroth**

Let Elaine know of any of our members who are in need of a card to comfort them or wish them well.

**Web Site: Sharon Swaney**

Nothing new.

**Botanical Gardens Report: Marge Janki**

Marge reviewed upcoming events at the garden. Affiliates Day is April 30<sup>th</sup>. You have until April 23<sup>rd</sup> to sign-up. Agendas for the day were available.

Other upcoming events include Earth Day, Mothers Day, and Memorial Day Weekend (free admission). Jerry noted that our own Bob Rensel who is with us this evening is a horticulturist at the Botanical Garden.

**Old Business**

Mike Weber reported that our plants continue to grow at Willoway – approximately 200 tubers are in place, 105 cuttings have been taken, 60 are potted already.

**New Business**

DSO member John Learner will be at the Botanical Garden, Labor Day weekend, for the Octoberfest with his incredible gingerbread houses. He also plans to have a dahlia display with flowers and information.

Please help out with some flowers. More info will be provided closer to the event.

The Mahoning Valley Dahlia Society will have a tuber sale Sunday April 19, 10 am-4 pm (but come before noon!). They will have 1200 tubers. They will have their plant sale on May 17, 10 am-4 pm. Both events are at Fellows Riverside Gardens.

**Dahlia Questions?**

The group discussed recognizing tuber eyes and reviving dried out tubers.

Looking for a picture of a dahlia variety? Try [www.dahlia.org](http://www.dahlia.org) (ADS site), [www.dahlias.net](http://www.dahlias.net) (Colorado Society) or just "google" the variety name with the words dahlia and photo (or picture), for example "Kelvin Floodlight dahlia photo."

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned and refreshments were provided by MaryAnn Moreno, Shannon Fee, Kathy Foith and Linda Vuletich. Beverages by Don Sopko. Thanks folks!

**Raffle**

The 50-50 was won by our new member, Debbie McKinney. Two calendars were also raffled.

**Program**

Tuber sale. Mike Weber and Chuck Janki officiating, assisted by Barbara Hosta and Marilyn Weber.

**Next Meeting – May 15, 2009 – Tuber/Plant Auction**

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Swaney  
Recording Secretary

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