

DAHLIA DIGEST

DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO

Since 1930

VOL. 2009 ISSUE 5

JUNE, 2009



Friday, June 19 Meeting 7:30 p.m.



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

**CONTAINER GARDENING
DEMONSTRATION**

DEBORAH DAVIS

**Weather permitting, the demo may
be outside. Bring a lawn chair or
blanket to sit on.**

President's Notes

Hi Folks,

Looks like we're finally into some decent weather, if you don't mind dodging some rain drops. Hope you all have had a chance to get some of those tubers in the ground. Before you know it, those tubers will be producing some gorgeous blooms, I hope!

A big thanks to Ron Miner for supplying seeds to those who attended our last meeting. Don't forget to get them started so we can see what they turn out to be at our last show of the year at Pettiti's in October. Should be a fun project and a good learning experience regarding the judging of the "best" and "ugliest." Thanks for the great idea, Ron.

Thanks again to all who made our plant auction a success. Hope your purchases all turn out to be "winners." Also, thanks to those who volunteered their time and tubers for our recent sale at Rockefeller Gardens. It too was a success due to your contributions.

Don't forget the June meeting on container gardening. Sounds like it will be a great hands-on experience. Also, I'll have a few plants of Valley Porcupine, the flower of the year, available to those who were not able to get any at the May meeting. Bring any extra plants you may have, and we'll auction them off.

That's it for now. Good planting and hope to see you at the June meeting

Mike



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

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
ELAINE BEBENROTH, Sunshine Chair.....440-237-7164
JERRY MORENO, ADS Representative.....440-543-5658

PROGRAMS for 2009

Refreshments for June:



Pat Lybarger
Barbara Hosta

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 tba
October 16	Speaker tba
November 20	Photo Contest; Speaker tba
December 5	Holiday Dinner Meeting

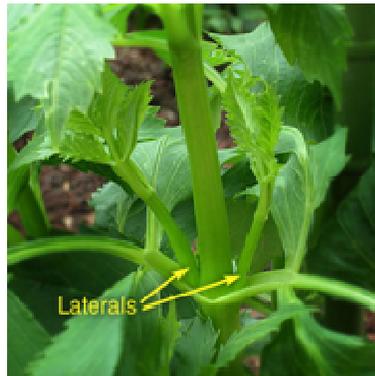
TOPPING and SIDE LATERALS/BLOOMS

Note: Dahlia gardeners not interested in showing their blooms at a show should still top and remove dead dahlia blooms to extend their growing season with a rewarding garden of many blooms. Properly maintained plants will produce more satisfying blooms as well as blooms more true to their natural size. The plants will also appear healthier.

TOPPING a plant means to pinch off the central growing tip of the plant after a predetermined number of leaf pairs exist on the plant. The number of leaf pairs to save depends on the size of the bloom. For A and AA, two or three leaf pairs should remain; B, 3 or 4; BB, 4 or 5; Miniature, 4 to 6; Ball, 4 or 5; all others, 5. Each leaf pair produces two laterals/branches.



The **LATERALS/BRANCHES** terminate with flower buds. Dahlia flowers typically come in sets of five: one at the tip of every branch/side lateral; two at the sides of the tip flower; two more on shorter laterals at the next leaf node. For show flowers, one must pinch out all side flowers and side branches down a few leaf nodes from the end of each branch. The best flower will be the one from the tip of the branch. Call a DSO officer if interested in more information regarding this topic of what is called “disbranching.”



A tip on dahlia culture: As the season progresses, removing the lower leaves of a plant, especially the dead ones, is important to improve air circulation around the plants to minimize the potential for mildew and other diseases.

The JUDGE's Corner

Ron Miner baronminer@aol.com

The season is underway; my grandsons, Drew and Evan, planted their dahlia garden this afternoon! It is a joint project. They planted several each of the cultivars named after them plus a few others. I hope you are enjoying the start of your season, too.

My judging objective this year is to sign up and/or promote six candidate judges. To that end, I distributed seed at the last DSO meeting. I have heard from several of you that your seeds are growing. I planted a lot and have a lot more plants than I anticipated. If you didn't get seeds at the last meeting; let me know (baronminer@aol.com). I'll provide plants at our next meeting. The logic here is pretty straightforward. Showing dahlias is a basic prerequisite to becoming a judge. The plan for the seedlings is to have a special section for them at the Petitti show in October. When you bring some of those seedlings to the show, you will discover that the process of showing at a dahlia show is thoroughly enjoyable. Thus, I'm confident that you will want to enter more! And, of course, the best way to do well at a show is to become a judge. That way, you will know what distinguishes a winning entry from a beautiful entry. Further, since we follow Glenn Ruth's wise counsel—to have fun while learning—you will thoroughly enjoy the process of judging.

What should you be looking for in those new cultivars you're growing this summer? One answer is "hairy stems." As some of you know, I have a seedling that showed some

interesting insect resistance that may be associated with hairy stems. The seeds/seedlings I supplied should have been exposed to the pollen from both the seedling and the source of the hairy stems, the species dahlia *D. sorensenii*.

However, in the context of judging, there are better answers. The seedlings should possess good characteristics of color, form, substance, stem, foliage, bloom position, floriferousness/uniformity, and distinction! In a nutshell, that means that the color should be bright and clean. Each bloom should have eight ray florets that are identical, arranged in a plane, and exhibit a highly symmetrical pattern around the center of the disc florets. The blooms should retain their form and the florets should not droop even after they are cut for the show. The stems should be stiff and straight.

The foliage should frame the bloom and be in proportion to the bloom size. The blooms should sit on the stem at 45°. The plant should exhibit large numbers of nearly identical blooms. And, finally, the plant



and its blooms should grab your attention both in the garden and on the show table. (Wow, I hope I get a couple like that!) Actually, it is easier than you might anticipate because these seeds were taken from cultivars that exhibit most of those characteristics.

I look forward to the special seedling show and the associated judging seminar at Petitti's and certainly hope that everyone will bring a few blooms for that event!

SHOW DATES for 2009

- 1. Cuyahoga County Fair...August 15-16**
- 2. Mahoning Valley DS...August 21-23**
- 3. National (Everett WA)...August 22-23**
- 4. Midwest (Grand Rapids).August 28-30**
- 5. Geauga County Fair...September 4-6**
- 6. Columbus DS...September 5-6**
- 7. DSO...September 11-13**
- 8. Pittsburgh...September 18-20**
- 9. East Liverpool...September 26-27**
- 10. Pettiti's Oakwood...October 3-4**



Recall your New Year's Resolution to enter a show this year—even with just one bloom? Don't break it! We are looking forward to seeing some new faces at the shows. Guaranteed you will enjoy!

Dahlia Society of Ohio (DSO) Minutes

(To be approved)

May 15, 2009



Call to Order: President Mike Weber

called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
Location – Community Room at Busch
Funeral Home, Parma, OH. Approximately 45 members
and guests were in attendance.

Recording Secretary's Report: Sharon Swaney

The minutes from April 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 her
for details. Joann reported that the Petitti's Oakwood and
Holden tuber/plant sales were profitable. Mike indicated
that the Petitti's Avon sales were not very successful.
Some discussion followed with the conclusion that perhaps
the society should look for a different location next year.

Membership Report: John Bendokaitis

John reported 130+ DSO members.

First Vice President's Report: Barbara Hosta

June's program will be on container gardening. In July we
will learn about staging dahlias for showing—in time to be
ready to show at the Cuyahoga County Fair in August.

Second Vice President: Dave Cap

Dave thanked all who provided tubers and/or volunteered
at our sales.

The Rockefeller Center sale will continue tomorrow and
Sunday, May 16-17. Barbara Hosta indicated that Rocke-
feller has lost of interesting items for sale—irises, tropical
plants, tomatoes and more.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: MaryAnn Moreno

No new information to report.

Digest/ADS Report: Jerry Moreno

No ADS information to report. Jerry distributed Digests to our visitors and the very informative ADS Wall Charts to those who did not have one.

Sunshine Report: Elaine Bebenroth

Pat Lybarger has hurt her back. Elaine will send a card from the group. Best wishes for a fast recovery to Pat.

Web Site: Sharon Swaney

As webmaster, Sharon received a request asking if anyone knew how to obtain a Fred Springer dahlia. No one at the meeting had any particular information regarding the variety. Sharon will post the request on our website and contact the requestor.

Please send pictures of your dahlias, gardens, etc. to Sharon for our site.

We decided to wait awhile before starting to advertise our 2010 Midwest Show.

Botanical Gardens Report: Marge Janki

No report.

Old Business

The results of the Willoway plantings were obvious by the beautiful plants that were presented for the auction tonight. Mike thanked Dave Cap and Doc Hemminger for all their hard work and help at Willoway. Please save 4" pots for next year's plants. Please give clean pots to Dave.

New Business

Doc will check with Willoway regarding what we owe them for the use of their facilities.

Joann read a letter received from the Grand Valley Society thanking us for our contribution of \$150 to the 2009 Midwest Show.

Ron Miner provided seeds for growing seedlings to be shown at the DSO Member's show at Petitti's Oakwood in the fall. The seeds come from crossing one of the species dahlias, *D. Sorensenii*, with open center varieties. Ron hopes that these seeds will produce new varieties with the unique characteristic of the species parent—hairy stems! Ron advised to plant the seeds like a tomato seed, harden the plants off before starting them in the garden, and protect the small plants from slugs.

Dahlia Questions?

A member asked, "If tubers that have been started have long stems, how should they be planted?" It was suggested to lay the long stem horizontally on the ground as many folks do with tomato plants. You have to be careful in bending the dahlia stem up, as it is more fragile than the tomato stem.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned and refreshments were provided by Peggy Baker, Katie Janda, and Maureen Nowak. Beverages by Don Sopko. Thanks folks!

Raffle

The 50-50 was won by a guest.

Program

Plant sale. Doc Hemminger, Mike Weber, and Chuck Janki officiated assisted by Barbara Hosta and Marilyn Weber.

Next Meeting – June 19, 2009 – Program on Container Gardening

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Swaney
Recording Secretary

DAHLIA SOCIETY of OHIO
MaryAnn Moreno
8232 Westhill Drive
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023

