SHOWING DAHLIAS DEMO
Sharing Ideas

Mike, Dave, et al
Even if you’ve never exhibited your dahlias, learning about how to show them will help you prepare your own dahlia cut flower arrangements at home or for giving them away.

Friday, July 17 Meeting
7:30 p.m.

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

First off, I want to thank Barb Hosta for stepping in and overseeing our June meeting in my absence. I also understand the “container gardening” demonstration was excellent. Great job, Barb!

I was just in the dahlia beds trying to catch up after 11 days of vacation and realized it’s only a month until our first show at the Cuyahoga County Fair (August 15th to be exact). With that in mind, at our upcoming meeting in July we’re going to have an informal presentation on some of the factors involved in showing dahlias. From preparing the blooms, transporting them and finally staging are areas that will be addressed. Hopefully this information will encourage folks who haven’t ever shown blooms to do so. If not, I think the information will be helpful to all who grow “the dahlia.” It will be the last chance to get your questions answered until our October meeting. Hope to see you there.

With that said, I better get back to the dahlias while the weather still allows it. Hope you all had a great 4th of July and are experiencing a good start to the dahlia season. See you at the July meeting.

Mike
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PROGRAMS for 2009

Refreshments for July:

Kathy Foith
Sharon Swaney
Marilyn Weber

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 1 Lorain Co. Tropical Greenhouse
October 16 Speaker tba
November 20 Photo Contest; Speaker tba
December 5 Holiday Dinner Meeting
Dahlias produce lots of leaves and branches (laterals). At the bottom of the plant, these leaves and laterals provide hiding places for insects and moisture for bacterial and fungus organisms to multiply. Removing some of these leaves and laterals helps control those insects and organisms.

However, at the same time the leaves provide shade -- protecting the soil and roots of the plant from the heat of the sun. They help hold in available moisture increasing the humidity. Dahlias prefer high humidity. Removing the leaves takes away some of those benefits.

So, the degree to which leaves and branches should be removed from the bottom of dahlia plants depends on the particular environmental conditions in which the plant is grown and the personal inclinations of the grower.

The picture on the next page shows a plant stripped of leaves and laterals from the soil up to about 8 inches. The open space allows for good air circulation.
When removing leaves, be sure to rub off the very small beginnings of laterals as they will grow rapidly to fill in.

Note that powdery mildew (a common plant disease which has been around since 300 B.C.) is less likely to form when plants have good air circulation. If it occurs, one remedy is to spray both sides of leaves once a week with a solution of baking soda which increases the surface pH of the leaf making it unsuitable for growth of the spores.

Here's a recipe to make your own spray: Before treating your plants, test the spray on a few leaves to make sure they are not too sensitive.

1 teaspoon baking soda
1 quart water
A few drops of liquid soap
The JUDGE’s Corner
Ron Miner  baronminer@aol.com

I hope you are planning on participating in the special seedling section at the Petitti show this year. It should be a highlight of the show and it should provide an excellent basis for the judging seminar. I anticipate that the great majority of entries there will be open-centered. The judging of open-centered cultivars is pretty much the same as judging fully-double cultivars. The same basic set of attributes is considered and the relative values of those attributes are the same. Color is valued at 22%; form, at 28%; substance, at 15%; stem and foliage, at 10% each; and bloom position, floriferousness/uniformity, and distinction, at 5% each. There are, however, some differences in judging the open-centered cultivars that can be significant.

Form is the primary issue. For fully-double cultivars, the Guide to Judging Dahlias (Guide) informs us that form’s 28 points should be divided among symmetry (5), contour (5), development (5), true to form (5), and size proportion (8). However, it provides no guidance on the distribution of points for the open-centered varieties. While symmetry, maturity (development), and trueness to form make good sense for open-centered types, depth (size proportion) clearly does not. In the two dimensional open-centered types, contour probably relates most closely to symmetry.

The “bottom line” is that symmetry, maturity, and trueness to form reach even greater significance in evaluating open-centered entries. Are the individual ray florets identical in
shape and length? Is their distribution around the center of
the bloom symmetrical? Is the spacing between florets iden-
tical around the bloom? Are the mature disc florets symmet-
rical? The Guide indicates that the peak of maturity exists for
the open-centered cultivars between the time pollen begins to
show and the occurrence of two rows of pollen on the bloom.
Note, however, that the pollen needs to be uniformly distrib-
uted around the center of the bloom.

The third form characteristic relevant to open-centered culti-
vars is trueness to form. When I judge this characteristic, I
need to have the “Classification and Handbook of Dahl-
lias” (CHD) in my pocket. (Of course, that is always a good
idea for any judge in any judging situation.) For some culti-
vars, the definition is no more than two rows of disc florets
with pollen; for others, it’s up to three rows. I need to have
the CHD ready at hand to remember which is which. It is
also not intuitive for me, for example, that the petaloids on a
collarette should be one-half to two-thirds the length of the
ray florets or that the disc florets in an anemone should be
tubular with a fringed tip. Nevertheless, with your CHD in
your hand for ready reference, you can successfully assess
which of the entries most closely matches the ideal definition.

Color can also present some different challenges in the open-
centered cultivars. In addition to blends and bicolors, they
can have “eye zones.” This is a contrasting color comprising
less than half the length of the ray floret and adjacent to the
disc florets. I think of an eye zone as analogous to the second
color in a fully double floret that you know is there but you
really can’t see unless you are holding the bloom very close
to your eyes. While it is usually ignored in determining the
color of the fully double bloom, it is obvious in the open-centered bloom and needs to be considered. I wish I could say that it is obvious how to differentiate between an eye zone, a blend, and a bicolor in an open-centered dahlia. It is not. In classifying a new cultivar, the choice is significant. A single with an eye zone (S R/y) competes in the class with the majority color on the floret. On the other hand, if you classify it as a blend (S DB(R/Y)) or a bicolor (S BI(R/Y)), it will compete in the blend or bicolor class. In that context, the eye zone is analogous to a blush on a fully double cultivar.

Although the ‘official’ Guide allows an eye zone to extend to half the length of the ray floret, it is my opinion that an eye zone that large should be considered a bicolor or a blend, depending on the sharpness of the separation between the colors. Where should the break between eye zone and blend/bicolor be? If I were rewriting the Guide today, I would say at one fourth the length of the floret; but bear in mind the book says one half!

Help me make my objective of six new and/or promoted judges this year! Bring a bloom or two to any of the shows. If you need help with any “how to’s,” let me know at baronminer@aol.com. I’ll do the best I can to help! See you at the shows!

Ron
Dahlia Society of Ohio (DSO)
June 19, 2009 Minutes
(To be approved at July meeting)

Call to Order: First Vice President Barbara Hosta called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Location – Community Room at Busch Funeral Home, Parma, OH. Approximately 22 members were in attendance. No guests.

Recording Secretary’s Report: Sharon Swaney The minutes from May were approved with two typos to be corrected.

Treasurer’s Report: Joann Bendokaitis Joann provided a full report on all our holdings. See her for details.

Membership Report: John Bendokaitis John reported 79 members paid and 45 not paid. We will stop sending the Digests to the unpaid (now former) members. We will send reminder postcards to any long standing members who have not paid.

First Vice President’s Report: Barbara Hosta The picnic will be at the Lorain County Tropical Greenhouse in Lorain. After a short discussion, we chose August 1st for the date. The time will probably be 1:00 p.m. Other details and confirmation of the time will follow. The July meeting will be instruction on staging dahlias for show.

Second Vice President: Dave Cap The shows are only two months away! Dave reviewed the show dates. He also reviewed our earnings for the tuber sales at Pettit’s, Holden, and Rockefeller Greenhouse. The sales were successful. We will do the sales again next year; however, we will conduct a sale at Pettiti’s Oakwood for two days rather than do a sale at Pettit’s Avon location. Dave hopes that additional members will help staff the sales next year!
Sunshine Report: Elaine Bebenroth
Elaine has broken her arm. We wish her a fast recovery.

Web Site: Sharon Swaney
Check out the photo gallery section as Carol Sahley has contributed some new pictures. Sharon reminded members to share their gardens with others by sending her pictures for the web site.

Old Business
Ron Miner provided seedlings to interested parties. These were from open centered dahlias and any interesting results are to be shown at the Pettiti’s show in October. The judges will be looking for the best and the worst!

Barb Miner reported that the Boutique Committee has begun preparing for our Midwest 2010 show. They are looking for additional helpers. Call Barb if interested in giving a little time or providing neat ideas.

Dahlia Questions?
Randy Foith pointed out that using sulfur on dahlias during storage may be inhibiting root growth. A short discussion followed.

Doc wondered if grass treatment chemicals would remain in grass clippings. The consensus was yes, with some folks thinking the chemicals might remain for a year.

Sharon wanted to know how to deal with hungry chipmunks. Several products were recommended such as Molemax, Critter Ridder, moth balls.

Rudy Bredebeck hypothesized that tuber storage success is greatly influenced by whether the tubers are wet or dry when dug. Digging them when dry seems to work best.

Barb Hosta described a panty-hose-on-the-blooms experiment. Not successful, but funny.
Adjournment
Meeting was adjourned at 8:10. Don Sopko provided beverages. We enjoyed a birthday cake in his honor. Happy Birthday, Don!

Raffle
The 50-50 was won by Kathy Foith.

Program
Deborah Davis provided a very informative and fun presentation on container gardening.

Next Meeting—July 17, 2009 on Staging Dahlias

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Swaney, Recording Secretary

EXHIBITOR’S ENTRY FEES

1) CUYAHOGA COUNTY FAIR
   PO Box 135
   Berea OH 44017
   $10 before July 20
   $12 July 21-30; or, at the show

2) GREAT GEAUGA COUNTY FAIR
   PO Box 402
   Burton OH 44021
   $25 for entry + 5 gate admissions
   $15 for entry + 3 gate admissions
   NOTE: No entries after AUGUST 12 will be accepted for the Geauga County Fair.
       Official entry form will be available at the July meeting.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 1—1:00 p.m.

The Lorain County Tropical Greenhouse
9459 Gifford Road
Amherst 44001

DSO member, Dr. Ibrahim Eren, has established greenhouses filled with tropical plants. The picnic will be held under his gazebo with a tour of his greenhouses creating a unique experience.

Bring a dish to share (casseroles, salads, dips or desserts). Whatever your specialty dish is, please bring it and enjoy an afternoon of great food and friends.

Plasticware and paper plates will be provided along with beverages (coffee and pop).
Ohio Turnpike to the Baumhart Road exit, Exit 135, toward Vermilion-0.7 mi

Turn RIGHT onto Baumhart Road/County Road 51—1.3 mi

Turn RIGHT onto Telegraph Road/Ohio 113—0.7 mi

Turn RIGHT onto Gifford Road/Township Highway 46 (portions are unpaved) - 0.7 mi
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!
CHECK YOUR NAME/ADDRESS ON THE OTHER SIDE
SUBMIT ANY CHANGES BELOW

Make your check payable to the
DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO
and mail to
JOHN BENDOKAITIS
17182 Eastview Drive
Chagrin Falls OH 44023

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:
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[ ] DSO with ADS SNOWBIRD OPTION—FAMILY....... $41.00##

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