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

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

PROGRAM

• NEW INTRODUCTIONS DVD

• DVD on GROWING DAHLIAS—
from waking them up to storing them

• DAVE CAP — LIVE DEMO
  On Taking Cuttings
Hi Folks,

We begin this dahlia year with deep sadness on the passing of Lois MacDonald. Few people have touched all of our hearts in the same way that Lois did. She was a person who truly cared deeply for others and wanted them always to do their best. Donations to the DSO Perpetual Memorial in her name would be greatly appreciated.

Super thanks to Mike Weber for having done a great job in leading us the past four years and to Barbara Hosta for having provided interesting programs, picnics, and banquets. Thanks also to the amazing Dave Cap for organizing our shows, to Joann and John Bendokaitis for keeping our financial and membership records, to Sharon Swaney for being our recording secretary and now taking Barbara’s place as first vice president as well as continuing as webmaster, to Maryann Moreno for adding her magic touch to the Digest and mailing them, to Marge Janki for being DSO’s connection with the Cleveland Botanical Gardens, to Elaine Bebenroth for sending out appropriate cards on our behalf, and to Don Sopko for setting up refreshments at every meeting. Their willingness to take leadership positions is very much appreciated. Please let them know how thankful you are for their tireless work and that you would be willing to help them.

There is one definite way that you will be able to help DSO this year. We are the host society for the 18 society Midwest Dahlia Conference Show. The show is September 10-12 at the Holiday Inn, Independence. We will be needing everyone to pitch in and help. Please volunteer as responsibilities arise. Let’s have a terrific year together.

Jerry
Lois MacDonald
January 3, 1927 ~ January 17, 2010

Lois was a long-time dedicated member of DSO having served wonderfully as our president and leader of artistic design at our shows. She and Ron married over 60 years ago. She earned degrees in Home Economics from her beloved The Ohio State University and taught the subject for 26 years retiring from West Geauga Junior High in 1986. She was an excellent seamstress, gifted painter, accomplished violinist of the Lakeland Civic Orchestra, 4-H advisor in Geauga County, and as we know talented gardener with the dahlia her favorite flower. DSO misses your smile, Lois, that warmed our hearts, your presence among us that assured us of the good things in life, your caring for others that served as a model for all of us to follow.

Rest in peace, dearest dahlia friend.
DSO Sales and Shows in 2010

Tuber Sales/Auctions
   April 24       Pettiti’s Oakwood
   May 14-16     Holden Arboretum
   May 14-15     Rockefeller Garden
   May 21        DSO Meeting

Shows
   August 14-15 Cuyahoga County Fair
   August 27-29 Mahoning Valley Dahlia Society
   September 3  Geauga County Fair
   Sept 4-5      Columbus Dahlia Society
   SEPT 10-12    MIDWEST/DSO
   Sept 23-26    National in Chattanooga, Tennessee
   October 2-3   Pettiti’s Oakwood

Note: Flower of the Year for the Midwest/DSO Show is an introduction by Ron Miner: Baron Jerry. We plan on having several available at our DSO tuber or plant auction.

OFFICERS NEEDED
1. Recording Secretary
   DSO needs YOU to take notes so that members who can’t make the meetings know what is going on in their society. Please consider being Recording Secretary. Call Jerry. Thanks.

2. Second Vice President
   Basically, the DSO Second Vice President is in charge of making sure Dave Cap does his job in organizing the shows. Now, how hard can that be? There’s no-one around more efficient than Dave! Call Jerry to volunteer. Thanks.
OFFICERS-CHAIRS/PHONE NUMBERS

Jerry Moreno, President..........................440-543-5658
Mike Weber, Past President..........................440-647-3162
Sharon Swaney, First Vice President, Webmaster.330-562-3296
Your Name, Second Vice President..................xxx-xxx-xxxx
Joann Bendokaitis, Treasurer..........................440-543-4515
Your Name, Recording Secretary..................xxx-xxx-xxxx
MaryAnn Moreno, Corresponding Sec................440-543-5658
John Bendokaitis, Membership Chair................440-543-5658
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

MEETING DATES for 2010

Refreshments for March:
Kathy Foith
MaryAnn Moreno
Marilyn Weber

March 19 New Intros; Growing Dahlias;
Dave Cap on cuttings
April 16 DSO Annual Tuber Auction
May 21 DSO Annual Plant Auction
June 18 On dahlia culture….tba
July 16 tba
August 20 tentative Final Planning Midwest Show
October 15 tba
November 19 Photo Contest; Demo on dividing/storing
December 4 Holiday Dinner Gathering
Midwest Conference Show

The Midwest Dahlia Conference is comprised of 18 societies. We are hosting the Conference’s 77th annual dahlia show coupled with our 80th one. The organizing committee met in February to get the planning started. There is a lot to do and we need YOUR help to make this one of the best shows ever.

IMMEDIATE WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- We are giving a Recipe Book on Dinners (casseroles, one dish), Soups and sandwiches, Other to all registrants to the Midwest Show. Please help by sending your favorite recipes in these categories to MaryAnn Moreno, 8232 Westhill Drive, Chagrin Falls 44023 or email maryannjerry@windstream.net

- There will be about 60 categories on the Court of Honor. Prizes are $25 for each category. Think about donating $25 for one of the categories of your choice. Your name will be recognized as the contributor as well as in whose name you are remembering, if any.

- There are lots of committees to volunteer your time and talent. One of the ones we will need lots of help on is Publicity. Jobs include taking a flyer to a nursery or store for them to display on their bulletin board; asking a nursery or company to sponsor one of the Court awards, or to give a donation, e.g., seed packet (about 70 of them) for the “goody bag” each gets. Other jobs will appear in future Digests. Let Jerry know what you would like to do.

THE JOB IS SO MUCH EASIER WHEN EVERYONE DOES A LITTLE BIT! THANKS!
Dues are due. In case you aren’t sure if you have paid or not, please check with John Bendokaitis. This will be your last Digest issue if you aren’t on the credit side by end of March. Thank you for understanding.

Make check payable to DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO.  
MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO:  
JOHN BENDOKAITIS  
17182 EASTVIEW DRIVE  
CHAGRIN FALLS OH 44023

DATE______________________________
NAME___________________________________________________
ADDRESS________________________________________________
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_____________________________________________
NOTES FROM YOUR DSO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

• This is an exciting year for DSO as we are hosting the 77th annual Midwest Show and our own 80th annual show. We will need everyone to pitch in and do a little bit so please don’t be shy! The next Digest will give a list of jobs to do and those in charge. Thanks for helping.
• Although Sharon has ideas on what programs to provide, if you have anything in particular that you would like to see, please let her know. Similarly, Barbara and Jerry would like your opinion on the Digest—what you like, don’t like, etc.
• DSO is fiscally sound due largely to proceeds from having hosted the ADS national show in 2003. As a non-profit, we should be finding ways to spend some of our balance in the promotion of the dahlia and not just for annual operations. For various reasons, it is anticipated that the Midwest Show will do its part in lowering our balance but we are open to suggestions on other ways to promote the growing and dissemination of the dahlia.
• Regarding spending, we are not sure that the cost of postage and copying the Digest is the best use of our funds. An agenda topic this year will be to discuss “going green” (i.e., electronic) in 2011.
• Talk to us. Let us know your feelings about “what DSO can do for you, and what you can do for DSO.”
Success With Cuttings
By Bill McClaren

Note: There have been many excellent articles written detailing various procedures and methods of taking dahlia cuttings. This article is intended to help growers recognize and solve the most common problems encountered when taking cuttings.

Dahlias can be propagated from seeds, tubers, or cuttings. Seeds will produce varieties different from the parent plants, so propagation from seeds is used primarily to develop new cultivars. Propagation using tubers is the method most commonly used by, and familiar to, dahlia growers. Tubers will produce a clone, or a plant exactly like the plant of the “mother” tuber. 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. In addition, cuttings are clones of the mother tuber so they provide a quick and easy way to increase the stock from a single tuber. Cuttings transplanted to the garden produce healthy tubers that store well over the winter.

Success with cuttings depends largely upon the proper manipulation of 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 sur-
rounding 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 greater.

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.

What follows is a list of problems that might be encountered while taking dahlia cuttings.
1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **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 each day.

4. **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.

5. **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.

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**PLEASE HELP!**

**PLEASE check your tubers and donate a few that have visible eyes to DSO at our MARCH meeting. We need to grow PLANTS for our sales at Holden, Rockefeller, Elkhart Midwest Auction, and our own DSO Auction.**
DAHLIA SOCIETY of OHIO
MaryAnn Moreno
8232 Westhill Drive
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023