

DAHLIA DIGEST

DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO

Since 1930

VOL. 2010 ISSUE 3
May 2010



Friday, May 21 Meeting
7:30 p.m.

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

PROGRAM

***7:30—8:00 BUSINESS MEETING/
Q and A***

8:00—8:15 REFRESHMENTS

8:15—9:45 PLANT AUCTION

RECIPE BOOK for Midwest Show



WE NEED YOUR FAVORITE RECIPES OF ANY TYPE—

Desserts, Entrees, Salads, Hors d'oeuvres, Casseroles, etc., etc., etc.

- Please send to MaryAnn Moreno, 8232 Westhill Drive, Chagrin Falls 44023 or email **maryannjerry@windstream.net**

On behalf of all who enjoy eating great food

THANKS FOR YOUR ENTRIES!

DSO PLANT AUCTION—MAY 21

Here are a FEW of the fabulous varieties that will be available!

Bodacious (AA-ID-R)
Tyler James (A-ID-FL-R/Y)
Camano Sitka (B-IC-LB-BR/Y)
Normandy Wild Willie (B-LC-PR)
Woodlands Wild Thing (B-SC-OR)
Baron Jerry (BB-FD-Y/PK) Flower of the Year
Baron Katie (BB-ID-FL)
Gitts Attention (BB-ID-W)
Just Peachy (BB-SC-LB-PK/Y)
Taratahi Lilc (BB-IC-LB-L/W)
Puget Sparkle (M-FD-R)
Rebecca Lynn (M-FD-DPk)
Weston Spanish Dancer (M-C-FL-R/Y)
Crazy Legs (ST-OR)
Goldilocks (BB-ID-Y)

DSO Sales and Shows in 2010



Tuber Sales/Auctions

April 16	DSO Meeting
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 18-19	East Liverpool Dahlia Society
Sept 23-26	National in Chattanooga, Tennessee
Sept 24-26	Pittsburgh Dahlia Society
October 2-3	Pettiti's Oakwood

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
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Jerry Moreno, ADS Representative.....440-543-5658

MEETING DATES for 2010

Refreshments for May

Marilyn Weber
Maureen Nowak
Joann Bendokaitis



March 19	New Intros; Dave Cap on cuttings
April 16	Growing Dahlias DVD; Tuber Auction
May 21	Annual Plant Auction
June 18	Randy Foith on Soil; Videos
August 20	Tentative...Final Planning Midwest Show
August 22	DSO Picnic at Vuletich's; Garden tour
October 15	tba
November 19	Photo Contest; Demo on dividing/storing
December 4	Holiday Dinner Gathering

The JUDGE's Corner

Ron Miner - baronminer@aol.com

Winter seems to have turned to summer very quickly. No doubt we will have some more cold weather, but how nice it is to feel warm again. (I bet that sounds like I'm in Chagrin Falls; but as of this writing, we're still in FL and we had the coldest March on record here!)

I will be distributing seeds from Steve and Sandy Boley's Irish Pinwheel at the May meeting. Irish Pinwheel won the Hart Medal in the Trial Gardens in 2007. The Boleys have a large seedling garden with widely separated patches for poms, stellars, etc. so that the bees do a lot of pollinating within each patch and not much pollination between patches. Consequently, the seeds tend to produce seedlings that are true to the parent form. We owe the Boleys a big thanks for sharing their highly valued seeds with us! There will certainly be a few real winners among our seedlings. Wouldn't you like to name and introduce a dahlia that only you get to see the very first bloom?

I can assure you that it is a thrill and I will be glad to help you with the process! All you need to do to get a package of seeds is to promise that you will bring a few of your best seedlings to the show at Petitti's at the fall show October 2!



*Aerial view of the Boleys' garden,
Stellar patch circled.*

We had so much fun with the open-centered seedlings last year that we will repeat that competition, too. It provided an opportunity to classify a number of open-centered varieties and to learn a lot about their positives and negatives on the score sheets.

I think these two seedling events will make the show at Petitti's as enjoyable as our Midwest Show! Plan on joining in the fun of growing some seedlings with great potential! We'll see you in May.



If the possibility of introducing and naming a new variety excites you, then be sure to get a packet of seeds at the May meeting. Although typically seeds are started indoors in March for blooms in August, there is still time to start seeds indoors to have blooms by the time of the Petitti show and competition in October.

Two excellent websites that go through step by step how to raise dahlias from seed are:

www.dahlias.net/dahwebpg/Seedlings/seedlings.htm

or

dahlias.net/seabox/seedlings.htm

*Articles on these pages were based on the ADS publication
“Raising Beautiful Dahlias the Easy Way.”*

PLANTING DAHLIAS

So far, we’ve talked about taking cuttings, preparing soil, and learning about pH. Let’s discuss planting since the time of “frost free” nights nears. When is that you ask? Some say to watch for the bloom of lilac bushes; when they are in full bloom, it’s time to plant dahlias. I know we get anxious to get tubers in the ground but cold, wet soil will rot tubers, and besides who really likes to go out and cover plants! It is best to wait to plant until the ground has warmed and fear of frost has passed.

Many growers don’t want to be bothered with the fuss of starting their tubers inside in pots, so they choose to plant their tubers directly in the ground. Fine. First dig a hole about 4 inches deep and place the tuber into the hole on its side. Try to make sure that the eye is facing upwards. Then use damp soil to fill the hole. Put a five-foot stake in the ground next to the hole; tie a label to the stake identifying the tuber and its form, size, and color.

Unless the soil is bone dry, don’t water at this time as rotting may occur. Wait until the shoot appears and then light watering can begin. Water fully when the leaves appear. It is not necessary to put fertilizer into the hole or on top of the soil at this time. Since nitrogen passes through the soil quickly, it would be a better practice to dress the soil with fertilizer after the leafage has been well established.



WHO LOVES DAHLIAS ...besides us?

Unfortunately, we are not the only ones who love dahlias. So do cutworms, slugs, deer, voles, and groundhogs.

If you are in an area prone to cutworms, you will need to take precaution. The cutworm is a green-grey worm about an inch long that comes out at night. It locates a tender stalk, wraps its body around the base of the stalk, and chews away and the dead wilted plant is



the result. One way to protect against cutworms is to encircle the stem of the dahlia with a 1x1/2 inch slip of aluminum foil.

The ends of laterals and the tip of the plant are food for slugs and snails. There are several ways to control these pests such as surrounding each plant with a thin copper wire, small sharp rocks, or crushed eggshells. Shallow bowls filled half way with beer will attract slugs and snails to drink. They will be found the next morning in the bottom of the bowl—happy, but dead. Distributing old coffee ground around the plants will kill slugs, as they find caffeine to be toxic. Hand picking the critters or shaking salt on them will do them in but who



likes to spend their nights with flashlight and shaker in hand? There are two baits to use that are effective—metaldehyde and iron phosphate products. The former can be detrimental to dogs and cats in the neighborhood, so care must be given in its use. The iron phosphate product is naturally found in soil, so it tends to dissolve and enter back into the soil in a benign fashion. Pots of dahlias can be protected from slugs by a rim of petroleum jelly put around the outside surface of the pot.



Deer will eat dahlias as will rabbits and ground-hogs. Moles do not eat dahlias but voles will dine extensively on the tubers.

TO MULCH OR NOT TO MULCH

For dahlia growers, the topic of mulching often finds them in opposing camps. One view accepts mulching as an extremely beneficial practice while the other looks on the activity with disdain. For you, experiment and decide which side of this question works the best.

PRO

Organic matter, such as chopped leaves, pine needles, grass clippings, straw, among other materials offers you a number of options for covering your garden with two to four inches of mulch. The idea is that this covering will help you from having to weed; it also preserves moisture. Keep any mulch from touching the dahlia stalk as a prevention for possible fungal diseases.

CON

Mulch offers pests, such as slugs, snails, and earwigs, superb hiding places. If you choose to mulch, the possibility exists that you may have to resort to increased insecticide and snail bait usage to control the pests. The lack of mulch also allows you to observe accurately what is happening to the lower stalks of your dahlia plants. If you remove some of the lower leaves as the plants mature, you allow for better air circulation thereby combat powdery mildew problems. Unfortunately, mulch may increase the chances of mildew infestation.

Join DSO for \$10

Join DSO and ADS for \$30 (single)

Join DSO and ADS for \$33 (family)

**Send name, address, email address
and check made out to DSO to:**

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