Friday, April 19 Meeting
7:30 p.m.
Busch Community Room
7501 Ridge Road, Parma
Just south of Pleasant Valley Road

PROGRAM:

TUBER AUCTION
Hey Dahlia Lovers,

It’s tuber sales time! Please let Dave know if you can help for an hour or two at our tuber sale at Petitti’s Oakwood on Saturday April 13, 9-4. Thanks. dfcmcc@aol.com

Our annual tuber auction is this month. Please donate some of your tubers but be sure that they are clean, have a visible eye, with name marked clearly and correctly. Also, bring a container to carry home your potential winners!

A sad note. Warren Knopp, 94, member of the East-Liverpool and Mahoning Valley dahlia societies passed away March 27. Although he lost his right hand in an industrial accident in 1978, he was a terrific gardener specializing in dahlias and roses.

Tom Haller has volunteered to have our picnic this summer at his farm. Mark your calendars for August 18. Details will follow in a future Digest. Thanks Tom. Very much appreciated.

We had a very well-attended March meeting featuring Kathleen Rocco who gave us tons of information on vermicomposting. Thank you Emily for organizing her program. Emily received a note from Kathleen that read “Your group seems very passionate and I enjoyed talking to them. I wanted you to know that I donated the stipend to the Ohio Association of Recycling and Litter Prevention Professionals for their C. R. Meyers Scholarship. Students in the environmental science field can apply for the $1000 and your donation will support the scholarship. Thank you very much.” www.oalprp.org

Also, thank you Sharon for showing us the 2013 New Introductions. Members may borrow the DVD if you want another look.

Hope to see you April 19. Jerry
OFFICERS-CHAIRS/PHONE NUMBERS

Jerry Moreno, President........................................440-543-5658
Mike Weber, Past President................................. 440-647-3162
Your Name, First Vice President........................... xxx-xxx-xxxx
Your Name, Second Vice President....................... xxx-xxx-xxxx
Sharon Swaney, Treasurer and Webmaster............ 330-562-3296
Emily Halderman, Recording Secretary............... 330-697-7368
MaryAnn Moreno, Corresponding Secretary........... 440-543-5658
John and Joann Bendokaitis, Membership Chair...... 440-543-4515
Dave Cap, Show Chair...........................................440-888-5589
Barbara Hosta, Archives and Librarian.................. 216-524-2635
Jerry Moreno Digest Editor................................. 440-543-5658
Linda Vuletich, Sunshine Chair......................... 330-547-8025
Jerry Moreno, ADS Representative...................... 440-543-5658

REFRESHMENTS
Joann Bendokaitis  Emily Halderman  Marilyn Weber

MEETING DATES for 2013
March 15  Kathleen Rocco, Vermicomposting;  New Introductions
April  19  Tuber auction
May  17  Plant auction
June  21  Organic gardening, Speaker tbd
July  19  Growing better dahlias by improving our judging skills, Ron Miner
August  18  Picnic at Tom Haller’s farm
October  18  Topic tbd
November 15  Photo contest; All about taking better pictures
December 7  Holiday get-together...Joann, MaryAnn, Sharon
Backyard Composting Seminars and Bin Sales
Register at www.cuyahogaswd.org

Thursday May 30 6:00
Mayfield Hts Community Center

Wednesday June 5 7:00
Westlake Recreation Center

Thursday July 11 7:00
North Royalton City Hall

Wednesday August 14 6:00
Middleburg Hts. Community Center

Thursday September 19 7:00
Bedford City Hall Council Chambers

Thursday October 3 6:30
University Hts. City Hall
PLEASE PAY DUES NOW. THANKS!

SHOWS for 2013

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SALES

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<td>May 16-18</td>
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JUDGING SEMINARS

Dates TBA.
One will be Oct 6 at Petitti’s Oakwood for sure.

SEED PACKETS STILL AVAILABLE AT APRIL MEETING
with the promise to show whatever you grow from them at the Petitti’s Oakwood show.
Last month we started to talk about identifying Formal Decorative cultivars and the range of forms on that form “mountain.” Do you remember the mountain analogy? Consider the ideal definition in the CHD to describe the very top point on the mountain, with perhaps an occasional bloom setting on that summit, but the great majority of cultivars lying somewhere on the hillside or ridges below the ideal summit.

We were looking at three of Les and Vivian Connel’s new cultivars that were in the Tacoma Trial Garden, each of which scored as a Formal Decorative. We concluded that Tahoma Morn, on the left comes pretty close to that mountain top. T. Banker, center, does too, when you remember that the florets you examine to determine Form are at the equator of the bloom. Do the florets match the definition exactly? No, the ideal definition calls for flat, smooth ray florets and both T Morn and T. Banker have slightly involute florets.

One of your assignments was to determine the point value corresponding to Trueness to Form. Did you find the table on page 40 in the Guide to Judging Dahlias? It tells you that, for fully double dahlias, True Form counts for 5 of the 28 points that comprise Form.

I would say that T. Morn and T. Banker are within 1 point

**Stellar:** Ray florets are long and narrow along their length with pointed tips preferred; like a star, they exhibit space between the ray florets in each of the rows and possess a uniform, regular arrangement. All the florets will have a partially involute form in an approximate “U” shape in cross-section for the majority of their length and will recurve toward the stem; the bloom depth should be greater than half the diameter and should not be greater than the diameter.
(80%) of that summit. T. Gold, on the right, is a little further down that mountain; right? I would say that it as down toward the “ridge” that heads over to “ST peak.” Why? Did you check the ST and FD definitions? The florets on Tahoma Gold are long and pointed (ST) but only very slightly involute and broad (FD). The key reason to choose FD, however, is the fact that ST calls for U shaped florets and those on T. Gold are only slightly involute. OK, what is the appropriate penalty for True Form for T. Gold, assuming (as usual!) that the single picture of the single bloom is thoroughly representative? Even though we have concluded that it best fits in the FD category, it is clear that it is not at the summit. On the other hand, the key discrepancy from ideal is the pointed floret. It probably deserves more than half of the points for that True Form criterion, or a penalty less than 2.5 points.

OK, let’s go across that ST ridge and look at another entry in the Tacoma Trial Garden. The bloom at the right is Paul Bloomquist’s Pumpkin. Clearly, it has the long, narrow, ray florets and the open and airy spacing between them that are called for in the ST definition. The ray florets are also U-shaped, but perhaps not as much as a cultivar setting at the summit of ST mountain. They are flattening out as they get out to the equator. Compare them to the florets on AC Rooster on the right. That bloom was the best Single Bloom entry for a Novice at the National Show. Do you see a characteristic of Rooster’s florets that is a little inconsistent with the ideal definition? They are slightly irregular in arrangement (but it is still a great bloom, particularly from a Novice!).

There is another very heavily populated “ridge” that connects to the FD mountain. I call it Barbarry Ridge in recognition of

**Ball (Miniature Ball, Pompon):** Blooms are ball shaped with uniform florets, involute for most of their length, and fully involute for more than half their length; the ray florets reflex to the stem. Ray floret tips in cross-section should be circular and exhibit little distortion, completely filling the floral head and are either round or blunt without notch or point.
the number of beautiful Barbarry introduc-
tions that run along it. It is, of course, the
ridge between “mount FD” and “mount
BA.” Stevan’s Teddy, right scored 85.8 as
a BB FD RD in the Tacoma TG. The ray
florets are more involute, but they are way
short of fully involute. I would character-
ize this cultivar as one of those cultivars
that are on the FD mountain, but down the
mountain a bit towards Barbarry Ridge.

The cultivar pictured at the right is
an undissemiinated seedling from Wayne
Lobaugh. He showed it at the National as
a M FD. The florets may be a bit tough to
see, but they are definitely involute. Out at
the equator of the bloom, they flatten out
enough that FD is a better call than MBa.
OK, how much would you deduct for
Trueness to Form on this beautiful bloom?
Remember you are only working with 5
points—and the only discrepancy from the
ideal definition for Formal Decorative may
be the shape of those florets. It isn’t an easy call; the penalty should
probably be of the order of 2.5 points. Does that help you to see why
some of the ‘tweeners’ out there along Barbarry Ridge do so well in
show competition?!

OK, let’s on across that
ridge to Mount Ball. There were
some wonderful balls in the Trial
Gardens this year. Dick and Dan-
nelle Parshall’s Clearview Daniel,
BA YL11, won the Derrill W. Hart
Award, averaging 89.6 in its best
three gardens. It is a real eye grab-
ner. The picture at the right is of
Dave and Leone Smith’s Clearview
Daniel entry in the Open Class at
the National Show. It won the best
ball award there. It was virtually
perfect. Now, go back a page and read the Ball definition again. What do you think? I think we’re looking at a great example of the summit of that Ball mountain!

A C White Rabbit, right, is another 2013 ball (in this case MBa) with wonderful form. I would rank it maybe only one step off the peak; the florets are slightly flattened at the equator.

Dick Williams did almost as well with his Skipley Lois Jean, a beautiful lavender Ball. In many years, his 88.8 would have won the Hart Medal easily. It couldn’t get past Clearview Daniel in 2012! It scored in six Trial Gardens! That Ball summit definitely got a little more crowded in 2012!

Here’s another great entry in the Tacoma Trial Garden. Do you recognize it?

It is Baron Keith. :-)

It scored 86.9 as an FD(!). It sure doesn’t look a whole lot like the other FDs we’ve been studying. What is the difference? The shape of the florets is a pretty good answer. They are, however, not only involute like some of the others were, but they are also a little “W-shaped” in cross-section. Look, for example, at the floret at about 4 o’clock with arrow on it. It has a “trough” along its length. OK, the question for the month is, if B Keith is FD mountain, what ridge is it on; what mountain connects to that ridge? What is the appropriate penalty for Trueness to Form for this bloom? Ron
DSO Meeting Notes Friday March 15  7:30

General Announcements:

- Sad to announce DSO member Norm Zaworski, 92, passed away last week. Held a moment of silence in his memory.
- Taratahi Ruby is our Dahlia of the Year. We hope to have plants available for sale at the May meeting for those in need.
- Those that saw John Learner on the Today Show gingerbread contest agreed that he was robbed of first place! Love ya, John.
- Orders for the Puget Sound Dahlias of Today 2013 were taken. No extra copies will be purchased.
- ParmaTown mall has officially changed ownership. Dave will keep us informed as to whether or not we will need to find a new show site.
- Please help sell tubers at Petitti’s Oakwood April 13, Holden Arboretum May 3-5, or Rockefeller Greenhouse May 16-18. Contact Dave Cap to let him know whenever you can help.
- Mike, Doc, Dave, Stan, and Jerry met at Willoway Nursery March 13 and started 257 tubers for the purpose of producing cuttings to sell at our Holden and Rockefeller sales and the DSO auction and Midwest auction.
- Ron Miner sent Jerry about 100 packets containing 20 seeds each donated by Kathy Iler. See Ron’s Judging Corner article in the March Digest to get details on where the seeds came from. About 70 of the packets were taken by members who promised to show whatever blooms they get at the Petitti Show and Judging Seminar in October. Hopes are that some of us will be able to name our very own dahlia! Jerry has more packets to distribute at the April meeting.
- The 50-50 was won by Willis Bowman.

New Business:

- Hank Doll made a presentation to once again donate $500 to the Garden Club of Cleveland Scholarship Fund. The request was approved without objection. www.gccleveland.org The Club gives two $1000 each year to applicants pursuing a degree in some area of horticulture.
Q&A: Q: My tuber sprouted a stem over this winter, how should I proceed in the care of this tuber?
A: Cut back the weak sprout. This will promote more eyes to form on the tuber and the next shoots will grow stronger.

Refreshments:
• Thanks to Anna Kandra, MaryAnn Moreno, and Marilyn Weber for refreshments.

Program:
• Vermicomposting
  DSO members welcomed Kathleen Rocco, an Education Specialist from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District, who gave a presentation on Vermicomposting, the process of composting food materials with worms. What a wonderfully organic way to provide nutrients to one’s flower beds!
  There are two basic categories of worms: composters (red wigglers) or earth workers (earthworms, nightcrawlers). The general worm we see in our yards is of the earth worker type. They burrow into the soil and are not suitable for worm composting. The composter worm eats organic waste. They are available from companies on-line or from friends who are currently worm composting!
  Worm boxes can be bought on-line (can be expensive) although Kathleen displayed her home-made one which was a large rubber made container with a lid that had holes drilled into it for ventilation. Google “video home-made worm box” to see how to make a typical stacked box of three bins or even three five-gallon buckets. Use moist shredded paper for the bedding. Ideal foods are apples, banana peels, carrots, celery, corn, oatmeal, watermelon (their favorite!), cucumbers, coffee grounds (not too much), peas, potatoes, crushed egg shells. No meat. Beware of foods that sprout such as squash seeds. Worms will wiggle away from “living” food. No grain or bread as they mold. Be mindful that fruit flies like to lay their eggs on tomatoes and peaches. So, freeze or microwave such scraps and then give to the worms at room temp. No bones, oily foods, cheese.
  It takes 2-3 months for materials to compost. Wear gloves to harvest the castings.
Troubleshooting: If worms appear on the top or sides of bins, this is a sign they may be unhappy. Remove excess food. Will learn how much to put in to keep pace with them. May need more air (holes in the bin). Or, may be too dry in which case a spray of water should be applied.

Some wormy facts: A pound of red wiggles contains about 1000 worms. Two pounds of worms can eat a pound of garbage in a day. They can double their population every 90 days.

Good resource: “Worms Eat my Garbage: How to Set Up and Maintain a Worm Composting System” Mary Appelhof.


- Sharon showed us the DVD on ADS New Introductions for 2013.

How to Start Dahlias From Seeds

Some of us decided to take a packet or two of seeds that Ron provided from Kathy Iler. And some of us don’t really have much of a clue as to what to do from there—in particular, yours truly. So, I asked member John Learner what he does. John has grown some excellent candidates for introduction as you know if you have gone to the Petitti Show and Judging Seminars in October.

- I sprinkle the seeds onto wet paper towels, and then sprinkle “Captan” over them (see left side of the picture on left), and then enclose them in a plastic box (right side of picture on left). The picture on the right shows the germinated seeds along with a couple boxes with lids.
I then take the germinated seed growth and put them in Oasis cubes and put them in a tray. The following picture shows the little green Oasis cubes, some are soaking in water, some are sliced and lined-up waiting to be loaded with a seedling (sandwiched between the halves), and some are loaded and stuffed into a tray. In the upper right are a couple of the plastic boxes with germinating seeds sitting on paper towels, and on the bottom right is an up-close plastic box with germinating seeds.

Currently I have 1300 seedlings loaded into trays. The seeds you gave me from Ron are sprouting quickly and a high percentage. They aren’t ready to load into Oasis cubes yet.
• Here’s a close-up of the germinating seeds.

• And of the Oasis cubes with seedlings sandwiched in them.

• And of them resting comfortably under lights growing into plants. More next month.
CHECK YOUR NAME/ADDRESS ON THE OTHER SIDE
SUBMIT ANY CHANGES BELOW

CHECK PAYABLE to DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO
Mail to: John and Joann Bendokaitis
17182 Eastview Drive
Chagrin Falls OH 44023

DATE______________________________
NAME______________________________________________________
ADDRESS___________________________________________________
EMAIL______________________________________________________
PHONE_______________________________

PLEASE PLACE X in ONLY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS.
[   ] DSO MEMBERSHIP
   includes husband and wife……………..$10.00
[   ] DSO with ADS MEMBERSHIP
   Individual……………………………………..$34.00
[   ] DSO with ADS MEMBERSHIP
   Family…………………………………………$37.00
[   ] DSO with ADS MEMBERSHIP
   For student 18 years or younger……..$15.00

SNOWBIRDS:
[   ] DSO with ADS...INDIVIDUAL……………….$40.00
[   ] DSO with ADS...FAMILY………………. $43.00

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MaryAnn Moreno
8232 Westhill Drive
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023