Friday, April 18 Meeting
7:30 p.m.
Busch Community Room
7501 Ridge Road, Parma
Just south of Pleasant Valley Road
Hi folks,

Just wanted to thank all who attended our March meeting. It was a great turnout for our first meeting of the year. A big “thank you” to Jim Thompson, Emily Halderman and Alexandra Kermode for putting together a very informative and diverse program.

For those who were unable to attend the March meeting, DSO is entering into an agreement with the Summit Mall to host our annual show in September. We’ll have more information regarding the show as we progress with the mall management.

Don’t forget our tuber sale at the Petitti Garden Center (Oakwood Village) on April 12th from 9 to 4. Bring any extra tubers you may have making sure that they are properly marked. If you could spend an hour or so helping out, that would be great. All help and donations are appreciated. Also, don’t forget about our own tuber auction at our April 18th meeting. Again, any extra tubers will be appreciated. These sales make up a big part of our annual income so please try to contribute in any way possible.

Looks like Mother Nature is finally easing her wintry grip so it’s “dahlia time!” Hope to see you all at our April meeting and hope that you will be able to purchase that very special tuber you have been looking for. By the way, in May we should have a good supply of Flower of the Year, Just Peachy, for sale.

Mike
OFFICERS and CHAIRS

Mike Weber, President............................................. 440-647-3162
Jerry Moreno, Past President................................. 440-543-5658
Emily Halderman, Co-1st Vice President.......... 330-697-7368
Alexandra Kermode, Co-1st Vice President...... 440-543-8104
Jim Thompson, 2nd Vice President................. 216-926-7419
Sharon Swaney, Treasurer and Membership...... 330-562-3296
Sarah Thompson, Recording Secretary............. 216-926-7419
MaryAnn Moreno, Corresponding Secretary...... 440-543-5658
Dave Cap, Show Chair.............................................. 440-888-5589
Barbara Hosta, Archives and Librarian.......... 216-524-2635
Jerry Moreno Digest Editor.............................. 440-543-5658
Marge Janki, Cleveland Botanical Rep............ 440-729-9714
Nancy Riopelle, Sunshine Chair......................... 330-483-3360
Jerry Moreno, ADS Representative................. 440-543-5658
Sharon Swaney, Webmaster................................. 330-562-3296

REFRESHMENTS
Kathy Foith, Barbara Hosta, Linda Vuletich

MEETING DATES for 2014

March 21 Ron Zayac  Living Soil and Organic Fertilizer
             Waking up tubers; Starting from Seeds
April 18 Tuber auction
May 16 Plant auction
June 20 2014 Dahlia Introductions
August 23?? Picnic at Brant and Carol’s
October 17 Topic tbd
November 21 Photo contest; Topic tbd
December 6 Holiday get-together...Alexandra, Emily
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<td>1</td>
<td>Embrace</td>
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<td>Parkland Rave</td>
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<td>Lakeview Glow</td>
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<td>Mary’s Jomanda</td>
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<td>Valley Porcupine</td>
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<td>Hamari Accord</td>
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<td>Verrone’s Morning Star</td>
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<td>Chimacum Troy</td>
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<td>Badger Twinkle</td>
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<td>Inland Dynasty</td>
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<td>Elvira</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Pam Howden</td>
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<td>Lulu Island Mom</td>
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<td>Camano Sitka</td>
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<td>AC Ben</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
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<td>Bloomquist Barbara</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Midnight Star</td>
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<td>Alloway Candy</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Inflammation</td>
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<td>Camano Pet</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Zorro</td>
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<td>Elsie Huston</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>AC Abby</td>
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<td>April Dawn</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Weston Spanish Dancer</td>
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<td>Brookside J Cooley</td>
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### SHOWS for 2014

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<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 9—10</td>
<td>Cuyahoga County Fair</td>
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<td>Aug 15-17</td>
<td>Greater Columbus DS</td>
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<td>Aug 29</td>
<td>Geauga County Fair</td>
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<td>Aug 28—Sept 1</td>
<td>National</td>
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<td>Sept 5-7</td>
<td>DSO Summit Mall</td>
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<td>Sept 5-7</td>
<td>Pittsburgh DS</td>
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<td>Sept 12-14</td>
<td>Mahoning Valley DS/Midwest</td>
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<td>Sept 19-20</td>
<td>East Liverpool DS</td>
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<td>Oct 4-5</td>
<td>Petitti’s Oakwood</td>
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### SALES

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<tr>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>Petitti’s Oakwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>DSO meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 16-18</td>
<td>Holden Arboretum</td>
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<td>May 15-17</td>
<td>Rockefeller Greenhouse</td>
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<td>May 16</td>
<td>DSO meeting</td>
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### JUDGING SEMINARS

- Picnic site August 23 (?)
- Petitti Show October 4
- Ron’s garden Sept 14 (?)
I have been thinking about our judging seminars for 2014 and I would like to continue to hold one at the summer picnic and one after completion of judging at the Petitti show. I hope that there will be a good opportunity for a third one in my seedling bed at home. It should be chock-full of second year Blossom Gulch seedlings. There should be lots of opportunities to evaluate open-centered seedlings using the ADS TG Scorecard. We have a lot more experience with numerical evaluation of the fully double cultivars than we do open-centered. We can use a little more practice before the BG seedlings start to hit the Seedling Bench! Please “pencil in” September 14 as the target date for that seedling bed judging project. I will confirm that date later in the season.

We will change our usual Petitti seminar a bit this year. I did not get any new seeds to share and to generate more 1st year seedlings for 2014, at least in part because I don’t have room for more seedlings! The plan for Petitti’s seminar will be to focus on the second year BG seedlings. Hopefully, everyone saved the best of their seedlings from last year. We should, then, be able to have a number of entries in each of the open-centered forms. If you didn’t grow those seedlings last year and/or you lost the ones you kept, we will have replacements available at the tuber sale. I saved a lot of tubers of BG plants that did not bloom in 2013. (Some originators claim that their best seedlings don’t bloom the first year. :-))

In last month’s column, we talked about one of the most important characteristics of our dahlias, both from the point of view of evaluation and from the point of view of public interest—color! Did you all get out your 2014 Classification and Handbook of Dahlias (CHD) and look at the new ADS procedure for classifying open-centered dahlias on pages 6 and 7? Following that procedure, I asked you to generate the classification of the seedling on the right. The bloom shows the characteristics of...
both an orchid and a collarette; i.e., it has both fully involute ray florets and petaloids. This year, that makes it an Orchette (OT), the newest of the ADS’ various forms. Until this year, the cultivar would have been classified as a novelty, NO, and the color class would have been problematic! Even as an OT, the color required a new system to classify the color, a procedure that Lou Paradise describes on pages 6 and 7 of the CHD. We start with the fact that the color class is determined on the basis of the reverse of the ray florets, as it does in orchids. I would like to be able to take a look at the back of the flower in the picture, but without being able to do that, what would you call the color class for this seedling? We can see both red and white, so the options are probably DB or BI. The transition between the colors is not sharp, so I would opt for DB W/R, suggesting that the majority of the ray floret we can see is white, not red. Next comes the color of the face of the ray florets (just like in an orchid), preceded by a “/” and in lower case letters; i.e., DB W/R / r. Finally, we need to capture the color(s) of the petaloids. Those color(s) are preceded by a dash (-): DB W/R/r-w. It is a complicated process that we will get more used to using as we work through our BG seedlings! I’ve already kidded Lou about how we are supposed to treat an eye zone at the base of the ray florets. I know that we do have BG seedlings with colors at least that complicated. At some point we will no doubt conclude that the added complications of capturing the colors can’t be justified on the basis of better characterization of the seedling.

This variegated collarette, for example, has a yellow eye zone. The current color nomenclature doesn’t let you add an eye zone on a collarette. How important is it for us to be able to do it? There will certainly be discussion within the ADS Classi-
That seedling makes a great segue to the other topic I wanted to include in this column. While its color puts it right at the top of my seedling “keeper” list, it has some characteristics that are pretty troubling. Take another look here; what do you think about Form? That ray floret at noon is a big problem; isn’t it! I hope that it is not typical of the other blooms to come from that cultivar next year; but let’s pretend they all look pretty much like that one. Let’s also pretend that you have three blooms like that sitting on the Seedling Bench for numerical evaluation. Color is a strong attribute that would also contribute to Distinction for the entry, but even the color has some substantial flaws. Check those streaks on the 7 o’clock and 2 o’clock ray florets. Nevertheless, I think you would agree that the color is passing, i.e., better than 85%.

OK, but what about Form? How much are you going to deduct for Form? (That is definitely not an easy question to answer!) The first question to ask is whether or not it has “Passing” Form. One way to relate it to our more frequently encountered fully double cultivars is to envision that non-uniformity at noon carried right through the middle of a formal decorative bloom. I hope that image helps make it even more clear that the answer is that it is not passing Form!

I remember Jerry asking me about whether or not it was appropriate to deduct enough points to flunk an entry just on the basis of one attribute, like Form or Color. In general, it is not appropriate because typically an originator will not enter a cultivar with attributes that are so severely faulted that it deserves to be flunked on the basis of a single attribute. This “pretend” entry we’re talking about, however, just might have bad enough Form to deserve that treatment.

The point to take away from this discussion is one that we have discussed before: in Open-Centered cultivar (that have no Depth), Symmetry, Contour, and Trueness to Form (and Development in SBE) become the basis on which to distribute 28 points. Said another way, you need to place very high expectations on Symmetry, Contour, and Trueness to Form in the judging of Open-Centered cultivars. Compare the Form of the seedling above to the one at the top of the next page. This yellow CO obviously has basically better form than the variegat-
ed seedling. This one is probably in the passing category, but if you compare the ray florets on the bottom of the bloom to those on the top, it is clear that the ones at the top are larger. You might well conclude that Form on this one is only marginally passing.

The Form on the seedling below is another step forward, isn’t it. Assuming that we can arrange the ray florets so that they overlap in the same direction, there are no major Form faults visible to me. This seedling also presents the judging team with the aforementioned challenge for determining color. You can’t include the prominent eye zone. What is the classification, judges?

Probably just CO BI RD/YL / y, right? Would you penalize this one if it were being judged against a bicolor Collarette where the base of the ray floret on the competing entry did not have an eye zone? I would answer that question with a resounding maybe (:-)), depending (1) on whether the eye zone struck me as pleasing or as a distraction and (2) on the uniformity of the eye zone. The former criterion is clearly in the ‘eye of the beholder.’ (I like it.) The latter is more objective. If you have the eye zone (or a blend or a bicolor), the uniformity of the feature needs to be considered in the judgment between it and a solid-colored entry.

Ron
About One of Us
PAT LYBARGER

With Just Peachy as our Flower of the Year, how appropriate it is to feature Pat Lybarger, our DSO “Just Peachy” gal. Pat lives in Bainbridge on a beautiful piece of property tucked back in the woods. In past years, she grew as many as 400 dahlias but now it’s more like 125. Typically her plants grow 7’ tall as they try to make the best of a scarce five hours of sun. Her favorite bloom is Just Peachy. She stores her dahlias in vermiculite in a basement that stays 45 degrees all winter. In the spring, she starts them in flats in an upstairs bedroom that has windows facing east. When they get to three inches tall, she moves them to her back porch and then to cold frames and finally at six inches or so to the garden.

Pat and her late husband (married 62 years) started Chagrin Valley Athletic Club at which their four children worked as they grew up. They sold the Club twenty-one years ago. Her kids are all nearby. Don Jr. works at Breezewood Garden Center. Tim, wife Linda and son Adam, live in Chesterland. Daughter Linda owns and runs Chagrin Valley Farms at which she puts on national hunter jumper shows. Daughter Susan (husband Bob Ford, daughter Tricia, son Eric) works with her sister at the Farms. You may see Eric pitching in the big leagues some day.

Pat got interested in dahlias in 1983 when she visited Butchart Gardens on Vancouver Island and admired some beautiful dahlias there. Once back home while shopping at Randall Park Mall lo and behold there was a dahlia show going on! While looking at the entries she met a gentleman by the name of Gene Woznicki who spent two hours talking with her about dahlias. “I got tubers from him in 1984 and he came each week the first
year to my garden. He showed me how to plant, pinch etc. He stopped by often over the next two years to make sure I was doing everything correctly!” Pat joined DSO in 1984.

Many shows over the past thirty years have displayed 100 or so of her blooms. These days she’s down to taking 20 or 30. Pat would often stay at a show site all night to set up her blooms but also to welcome growers who would come to the site after 11 pm. She would make coffee and bring snacks of all sorts for them. Then she would leave at 6 am when other club members would arrive to take over. Sleeping at home for three hours, she would return to the show to help clerk and talk to interested people about dahlias. “People who do not grow our favorite flower have many questions and it’s fun to talk with them and get new growers—and often they would join our club.”

Thank you, Pat, for continuing to be such a dedicated member of DSO and the dahlia.

About One of Us

DAVE CAP

Our DSO “showman” Dave Cap has worked as a machinist for over 40 years and now is semi-retired. He served in the Army from 1965-67. He and Mary have a son, two daughters, and three grandchildren. Son David (wife Heather and kids Elliot and Lilah) is a production director at Arizona State Theater. Daughter Celeste is a teacher in the Parma schools; she has a daughter, Sarah. And daughter Bernadette is a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Dave’s introduction to the dahlia was in 1992 at an Uncle Bill’s store. As you might guess, it was the brilliant yellow color of Kelvin Floodlight that caught his eye, and besides - yellow is Mary’s favorite color!
That August he saw a story in the newspaper about a dahlia show that was being held at Randall Park Mall. He promptly cut a Kelvin Floodlight, stripped it of all its leaves (what did he know at the time!) and marched it proudly to the Randall show! There he met Joe and Eleanor Welling who encouraged him to enter his pride and joy as a novice at which he got a blue ribbon — might have been the only entry he recalls! And that began what has become an addiction!

When asked for his favorite bloom, he responded “My favorite bloom has to be Kelvin Floodlight” and quickly added with a smile “yes dear, Jessica and Just Peachy too.”

He grows 70 plants. His storage method is currently plastic wrap stored in his 40 degree cellar. This year he brought them out March 15 into a warmer area but did not unwrap them. By now he has 150 tubers in pots under lights from which he will take cuttings. The first week of May he’ll move them to his garage where he has built a hot box under lights.

Dave is a member of ADS. In the winter he likes to do jigsaw puzzles to relax.

When asked about any offices he has held in DSO, he said quite modestly “only second VP.” Well, we all know that without Dave (who took over the show chores from Rudy some years past) we would be in a big hurt in satisfying our mission to promote the dahlia. Dave organizes all of our shows—Cuyahoga, September, Petitti. This involves a tremendous amount of work from negotiating the sites, storing the containers, to set-up including scoring sheets and teardown. His van is better labeled, “Dave’s dahliamobile.” We can’t thank you enough Dave for all that you do for DSO. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.
Minutes of March 21, 2014 Meeting by Sarah Thompson

- Mike Weber opened the meeting at 7:30. 41 were present.
- To honor the speaker’s schedule, Jim Thompson introduced Ron Zayac (owner/operator of Canterbury Creek Gardens, 26273 Detroit Rd, Westlake). Mr. Zayac provided visual tools and an informative talk on organic gardening, fertilizing and composting.
- Treasurer Sharon Swaney reported $2607.18 in the checking account including the Memorial Fund and $241 without the Fund. Dues have been paid to: Midwest Conference; Botanical; ADS. A scholarship donation was given to the Garden Club of Ohio (approved last month).
- First VP Alexandra Kermode discussed the 2014 holiday site. She suggested Don’s Lighthouse in Cleveland on December 6. It has not been decided whether to have a lunch or dinner. She read a note from the Busch Funeral Home to all organizations reminding everyone not to park in front of their offices and the area to the left of the building if looking from Ridge Road. She asked the membership to suggest a speaker for the June meeting.
- Co-First VP Emily Halderman discussed the meeting that she and Dave Cap had with the Akron Summit Mall marketing folks. Emily reviewed the details of the mall’s layout, the requested fee of $500, the mall’s cooperation with table set-up, and late/early hours. Our show has been held at the ParmaTown Mall but it is being remodeled and is not available.
- Corresponding Secretary MaryAnn Moreno mailed out 84 Digests last month. A membership list was passed around and the attendees were asked to verify their information.
- ADS rep Jerry Moreno encouraged members to join ADS. He also took orders for Dahlias of Today, a Puget Sound DS publication. To save on postage, a joint bulk order is being made with MVDS. Cost is $11 per copy. Jerry also asked for suggestions of articles to put in our Digest.
- Dahlia Show Chair Dave Cap reminded us of our tuber sale at Petitti Garden Center in Oakwood April 12. A sign-up sheet was circulated for volunteers to assist selling from 9 to 4. Both Dave and Mike asked members to do-
nate tubers for the upcoming sales. Be sure that they are clean and clearly marked with the correct name of variety.

- It was mentioned that Emerson Alexander passed away last month. Alex grew beautiful dahlias for many, many years. He especially liked the big ones.

- Mike announced that the board had agreed to purchase 100 of the ADS medium vases to replace some of our small white ones that have broken. It was moved and seconded to hold this year’s show at the Summit Mall with site fee of $500. Motion passed without objection.

- Webmaster Sharon Swaney mentioned that photos of Sarah and Jim Thompson’s wedding have been uploaded to the DSO website. Jim did a beautiful job in making dahlia bouquets and table settings for the wedding.

- Doc Hemminger updated the membership on a project that was discussed last year regarding creating a dahlia garden at the Miller Nature Preserve in Avon. The Preserve will be making a sign that shows DSO and Willoway are co-sponsoring the garden. Doc and Mike will be giving a dahlia presentation at Miller’s on May 24.

- Mike mentioned that John and Joann Bendokaitis were asked to pick the 2014 Flower of the Year in appreciation for their dedication to DSO over many years. They chose Just Peachy.

- A list for volunteers to provide refreshments for future meetings was circulated.

- Judging Chair Ron Miner announced the newest group of accredited judges: Rob and Sharon Swanery and Jim Thompson. Ron also announced that Sharon is doing a fantastic job in helping maintain the ADS website.

- Mike and others have started plant propagation at Willoway.

- John Learner provided an informative and entertaining presentation on starting dahlia seeds. Dave followed with information on waking up your tubers.
DSO/ADS Membership Application
(Memberships are calendar year.)

Please fill out completely (even for renewals).

Date: ___________________
Name(s): ______________________________________
Address: _______________________________________
_______________________________________
_______________________________________
Phone: ___________ Alt Phone: _______________
Email(s): _______________________________________

PLEASE choose one of the following membership offerings:

[ ] DSO (includes husband and wife) $10
[ ] DSO + ADS Individual Membership $34
[ ] DSO + ADS Family Membership $37

Snowbirds: Add $6 and enter winter address here:
_______________________________________
_______________________________________
_______________________________________

Would you like to receive your Digest in digital format only? (Be sure to include an email address above) Please circle:
Yes    No

Please make checks payable to DSO.

Mail to: Sharon Swaney
340 Aurora-Hudson Rd.
Aurora, OH 44202
DAHLIA SOCIETY of OHIO
MaryAnn Moreno
8232 Westhill Drive
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023