DAHLIA DIGEST
DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO
Since 1930

VOL. 2012 ISSUE 5
July 2012

PICNIC

Artistic Design Demo

Judging Seminar
Well Gang,

As you may recall, last year it rained most of the month of June; this year we had no rain the month of June; so, speaking with my statistician’s hat on, on average we’re doing fine!

Thanks to Nancy and Buzz Riopelle for a really neat presentation on bee-keeping as well as candle-making and honey-tasting. (Buzz assured us that his nickname was “Buzz” long before he became interested in bees!) See the June minutes for some notes on the program.

Mark your calendars for our picnic August 5. Details are on pages 4 and 5. Promises to be a really FUN and dahlia educational day! Show schedules for our Parmatown show will be available at the picnic. Email me if you want a copy and cannot make the picnic, moreno@jcu.edu

We are adding a new section to our DSO show at Parmatown—one for Youth growers under the age of 18. Encourage your daughters, sons, grand-daughters, grandsons, nieces, nephews, neighbor kids to try their hands at growing a dahlia or two and entering in our show.

If you are new at growing dahlias and would like someone with a little more experience to stop by your garden and show you how to top and disbranch, please let me know.

See you at the picnic.                Jerry
## OFFICERS-CHAIRS/PHONE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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## DSO FLOWER OF THE YEAR 2012

Barbara Miner

## MEETING DATES for 2012

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<td>June</td>
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<td>Nancy and Russ Riopelle, Beekeeping &amp; Tasting Various Honey Types</td>
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<td>August</td>
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<td>Picnic at Linda and Stan Vuletich’s Artistic Design demo; Judging Seminar</td>
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<td>October</td>
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<td>November</td>
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<td>Photo contest; Program tba.</td>
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<td>December</td>
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PICNIC  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 5  
STAN and LINDA VULETICH  
15914 Berlin Station Road  
Berlin Center OH  
330-547-8025

BRING:  
Dish to share (casserole, salad, dessert) with a serving utensil.  
ALSO, bring a lawn chair.  

DSO WILL PROVIDE:  
Paper and plastic-ware, beverages, fried chicken.

Before the picnic:  11:15-12:30  
Visit Randy and Kathy Foith’s garden.  
8646 State Route 224, Deerfield OH  
330-584-9002

1:00-4:00 At the Vuletich’s  
1:00-2:00 Artistic Design Demo by Sheila Bowman  
2:00-3:00 EAT!  
3:00-4:00 Judging Seminar by Ron Miner

Like to fish? Bring your rod and reel. Stan has a well-stocked pond.
From points west to Stan and Linda’s:
East on I-76
Take the OH-534 exit 54 toward Newton Falls/Lake Milton .3 mi
Turn RIGHT onto N Pricetown Rd/OH 534, 6.4 mi
Turn RIGHT onto Berlin Station Rd/CR 90, .2 mi
15914 Berlin Station Rd is on the right.

From points west to Randy and Kathy’s via I-76E:
East on I-76
Take the OH-14 exit 43 toward Alliance, .4mi
Turn RIGHT onto OH-14, 7.8 mi.
Enter next roundabout and take 1st exit onto
US-224/Waterloo Rd. 1.6 mi
8646 State Route 224.

From points west to Randy and Kathy’s via I-480E:
East on I-480.
Merge onto OH-14 E via EXIT 21 toward Youngstown. 34.5 mi
Enter next roundabout and take 1st exit onto
US-224/Waterloo Rd. 1.6 mi.
8646 State Route 224.

From Foith’s to Vuletich’s (11 minutes):
East on US 224/Waterloo Rd, 1.6 mi.
Enter next roundabout, take 2nd exit onto
US-224/Waterloo Rd.. 5.5 mi.
Turn RIGHT onto S Pricetown Rd/OH-534. 1.0 mi.
Turn RIGHT onto Berlin Station Rd/CR-90.
15914 Berlin Station Rd is on the Right.
I hope you are having some success in growing those few anemone seedlings that we did succeed in getting to germinate! The odds have sure been against them. I’ve had an unusually heavy loss of dahlia this year, I assume because I just can’t irrigate like mother nature. As of this writing, we’ve had less than 1.5” of rain since the middle of May. That plus ongoing temperatures in the 90’s makes for tough gardening. (Maybe, some day, we will have perfect weather; then what will I do to explain the problems?) I need also to report that two out of my three anemone seedlings look a lot like zinnias. I tried to blame one of our buddies who helped grow the seedlings for being a comedian—but they all claim innocence.

We’ve already talked a bit about the extent to which the anemone seedlings conform to the most recent definition in the CHD. Clearly that is an important part of our discussion with this year’s Petitti seedling contest and judging seminar. Do you remember how important “true form” is in the context of point scoring? Form counts for 28 points but I’m sure you are all thinking that isn’t all for true form—and you are right. Page 40 in the Guide to Judging Dahlias provides a start on the answer to the question. It says that of the 28 points assigned to Form, 5 are for “True Form.” Additional information on Form can be found on pages 17 and 18. The reason that it is important to read the description there is that it becomes clear that the table on page 40 is basically relevant to fully double blooms. We are left on our own to translate the distribution of points to the other types. More on that later.

While you have the book out, take a look at the other elements of Form on page 40. Symmetry counts for 5 points. Is the bloom round? How about the dome. Is it centered in the bloom and is it round? How about the ray florets? Are they uniform in size around the bloom? Is their spacing uniform?

Contour also counts for 5 points and, at lest for me, is far less intuitive than symmetry. In a fully double bloom, contour relates to the overall shape of the bloom and the arrangement of the florets around the involucre. Florets should spiral out from the center of the bloom and increase in size toward the back of the bloom. Faults are gaps or irregular distribution of the florets. Now, how does that translate to the anemone form? Perhaps best (or only?) in the dome. Are the dome florets regularly and uniformly arranged around the center of the bloom? If they appear ragged or vary in height or distribution, a penalty for contour should be assessed.

The next item in that list is Development and it counts for 5 points.
That basically asks you to assess the extent to which the blooms are at their peak of maturity. For an anemone, you want those disc florets to be tubular in shape and uniformly open at their tips. The ray florets should be flat and fresh in appearance.

True Form comes next on the list and you need now to closely examine those characteristics that make the entry an anemone (basically the dome and the ray florets) and make a determination of how well those characteristics conform to that ideal definition in the CHD. Those issues were in the last column and I won't repeat them here. Just remember that you are trying to determine the elevation of that new cultivar on the anemone mountain.

That last item on the Form table on page 40 is a problem, isn't it. “Size Proportion” refers to the depth of the bloom. We aren't much concerned about the height of the dome and can only conclude that this item is not relevant to fully double blooms. My suggestion is to consider those 8 points as though they were distributed over the other 4 characteristics of form. That would make a serious symmetry fault, for example, a little higher in value than it would have been if symmetry were only worth 5 points. Don’t worry if that is not crystal clear to you; it is a pretty subtle point!

Let’s walk through the evaluation of Form on a couple examples from Bill Johnson’s (Australian) garden. This yellow AN has great color doesn’t it, but it also has some Form problems. Symmetry may be the key issue. The bloom is not round and the ray florets are not uniformly distributed around the bloom. I suppose you could also take some issue with the contour of the dome—but that is a relatively subtle problem. If we were to base our 28 points on this picture alone, I would say that we should take the majority of those 5 (or 7) symmetry points as a penalty.

What do you
think of this second example? I think it is clear that the key Form problem here is True Form. I wonder about the ray florets. Are there any? Note that the CHD definition does not ask for those ray florets to be flat. Thus, one could argue that these fully involute (tubular!) florets at the back of the bloom constitute the ray florets. On the other hand, I would be sympathetic to the argument this seedling might better be classified as a fully double novelty, NX.

I’ve cropped out portions of Bill’s photo on the left; ignore the partial pictures in the corners. This bloom may be my favorite among all of Bill’s I’ve seen. What’s your reaction to it—and why? You just like it, right!? Those ray florets are spectacular and the white tubular dome provides a wonderful contrast. In my mind, that general impression means it has Distinction! (Long story there, maybe we’ll discuss that one this winter.)

Anyway, we’re talking about Form. I included this picture because it illustrates one of the issues discussed above—Development. Did you notice that those disc florets are not uniformly mature? Those tubular florets in the center of the bloom need a couple more days. I would suggest that fault is pretty minor, perhaps a point or two on this bloom. What other Form faults do you see? The biggest one for me is the non-uniformity of those gorgeous ray florets. Since the bloom manages to achieve a round appearance, the penalty here might best be taken from True Form because the definition asks for the ray florets to be uniform and regularly arranged. You could also argue that the ray florets on this cultivar have Contour and that arrangement fault belongs there!

Well, I hope that isn’t more than you wanted to know about judging the form on AN seedlings. The key here is to enjoy growing those new cultivars in your garden and (hopefully!) finding a couple that look like that bi-color above! You will come to be comfortable with discussing the details of the merits of those blooms with experience and with re-reading the judging manual (like I had to do about six times to write this column!).
Minutes for June 15, 2012 Meeting

Call to Order/Welcome: Jerry called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. and welcomed new members and guests.

Treasurer’s Report: Sharon reported finances are strong. Tuber and plant sales at DSO meetings amounted to $954; Petitti’s tuber sale, $332; Holden Arboretum plant sale, $499; Rockefeller plant sale, $573. for a total of $2358.

Corresponding Secretary: MaryAnn reported 91 DSO June Digests were mailed.

Midwest Conference Update: Ron Miner, Randy Foith and Dave Cap attended the Midwest Conference business meeting and plant auction June 2 in Elkhart, Indiana. The speaker was Bill McKibben, OSU graduate with specialty in soil science. Soil samples should be taken in plastic bags because metal and cardboard containers can contaminate the sample. Also, do not put notes on paper in the bag with the sample as this can also be a contaminant.

Future Judging Seminars: Ron will conduct a judging seminar at the DSO picnic August 5 at the Vuletich’s. There will also be a seminar at the Petitti show October 7. There will not be a seminar at the Mahoning Valley DS picnic July 22 as had been originally scheduled.

Shows: Registration forms for the Cuyahoga County Fair will be available shortly on the fair’s website. DSO reimburses participants the fee. Registration for the Geauga County Fair has an early August deadline. See their website.

New Business: It was moved, seconded, and passed without objection to pay Dave Cap $125 for mileage costs incurred regarding going to and from the various sites in preparing plants for sale (Willoway, Petitti’s, Rockefeller, Holden). We could not do these activities without Dave’s dedication. Thank you Dave.
Q&A at the June meeting

Q1: How frequent should dahlia plants be watered?
A1: Dahlias should be watered up to an inch a week for very mature plants but less often when they are first planted and are still young. Dahlia roots need water and air, and roots cannot obtain air if they are constantly wet.

Q2: Is it normal for some dahlia plants to grow more rapidly than others?
A2: Yup.

Q3: My dahlia roots come out of the bottom of the tuber and not all around the tuber. Is this normal?
A3: Yes, this is normal.

Q4: When should I tie my plants to the stakes?
A4: Stakes should be placed in the ground at the time of planting to avoid possible piercing of the tuber when done later in the season. However plants typically do not need to be tied to the stakes until they are around a foot tall.

Future Meetings: The next DSO meeting/outing is the August 5th picnic at Stan and Linda Vuletich’s.

Program: Nancy and Russell “Buzz” Riopelle presented a wonderful bee-keeping and honey-tasting program. They have kept bee-hives for many years, currently maintaining 45 of them, and brought photos, insects, candles, and honey to aid in the presentation. They manage their River Ridge Honey Farm in Valley City, Ohio and can be seen at many local festivals throughout the fall.

A few Honey Bee Facts:
- There aren’t many “wild” beehives left in the U.S. due to mite infestations. Many beekeepers provide medicine to their bees to ward off the mites.
- A beehive temperature in the winter can be 95 degrees.
- All worker bees are female. They are the ones that sting.
- Most queen bees in Ohio live to be 1.5 to 2 years of age. The best queens come from Hawaii.
- Support local beekeepers when you can. Honey sold in stores that say “Made in USA” may be only 51% USA.
- All beekeepers in Ohio need to be registered.
- Candles made from bees wax do not emit smoke, like paraffin candles.
- There are 1500 different types of stinging insects. The honey-bee is only one of them.
Dahlia Shows in 2012

August 11-12  Cuyahoga County Fair
A wonderful opportunity to get involved in showing, especially for first-timers. Set-up Sat morn 8—10:30 am.
Park in Flower Barn lot.
Call Dave 440-888-5589 or Jerry for details.

August 18-19  Mahoning Valley DS
Call Randy Foith for details. 330-584-9002

August 31 set-up Geauga County Fair
Must pre-register. See www.geaugafair.com

August 31-Sept 1  Midwest Show...Ann Arbor
August 31-Sept 2  National Show...Portland
Sept 7 set-up 9 pm  DSO  Parmatown Mall
Show schedule available at the picnic or email Jerry.

Sept 15-16  Columbus DS
Sept 22  East Liverpool DS
TBA  Pittsburgh DS
October 6  DSO Member Show  Petitti’s Oakwood

Join DSO for $10
Join DSO and ADS for $34 (single)
Join DSO and ADS for $37 (family)

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

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