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

PROGRAM:
Staging Dahlias for Show and home/outreach as well

Tony and Jackie Evangelista
Hey Dahlia Lovers,

Apart from battling the slugs who are having a grand time this year, I hope that your situation is “so far, so good” with a good mix of rain and sunshine.

Dahlias are beautiful flowers but sometimes it takes a little extra tender loving care to show them off, particularly at a show, but in a vase to take to shut-ins or the post office or wherever as well. DSO is fortunate to have several members who have the knowledge and take the time to bring out the absolute best in showing their dahlias. Tony and Jackie Evangelista are definitely in that group. The time of our July meeting may be a little early for blooms but it is important that we bring blooms so that Tony and Jackie have something to work with. If you can, cut them so that there is at least one set of leaves. Call me if you have a bloom and are not sure how to bring it to the meeting. (Day: 216-397-4681 preferred)

If you have any topic or speaker suggestions for our October and November meetings, please let me know asap. Tks.

Please start thinking of being a part of the leadership of DSO for next year. I have been president for two consecutive two-year terms and it’s time to get rid of me. Besides, our constitution says so—cannot serve three two-year terms in a row. Please consider being an officer or co-officer.

Find preliminary picnic information in this Digest. I’ll provide an August Digest with update information on the picnic as well as a reminder of the shows.

Hope to see you July 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
Jackie Evangelista, Alexandra Kermode, MaryAnn Moreno

MEETING DATES for 2013
March 15 Kathleen Rocco, Vermicomposting; New Intros
April 19 Tuber auction
May 17 Plant auction
June 21 Growing better dahlias by improving our judging skills, Ron Miner
July 19 Showing Dahlias to Their Very Best
       Tony and Jackie Evangelista
August 18 Picnic at Tom Haller’s
October 18 Topic tbd
November 15 Photo contest; All about taking better pictures
December 7 Holiday get-together...Joann, MaryAnn, Sharon
Notes from the June 21, 2013 Meeting:

- Jerry opened the meeting at 7:30; 26 members present
- Valerie Claire Kandra is 10 days old today
- Three members of MVDS are opening their gardens to visitors August 17, 10:00-4:00; For details, contact Randy Foith, President 330 584 9002, rfoith@embarqmail.com
- Joann reported 60 ADS memberships
- MaryAnn reported 85 Digest mailings were mailed; email her if you would prefer your Digest be sent by email.
- Sharon reported that the Western Michigan DS thanked us for our donation ($250) in support of their hosting the Midwest and National shows this year, Aug 29-Sept 2.
- Sharon reported DSO savings acct over $12700, checking over $5800. Tuber auction $542, plant auction $508, Rockefeller, Holden, and Petitti sales grossed around $1900. Need to pay Willoway Nursery for use of their greenhouse and supplies to grow approx. 500 plants.
- Barbara reported on her attending The Gardeners of Greater Cleveland scholarship presentations to Curtiss Perkins and Jacob Leitch two students pursuing education in landscaping. Curtiss is going to OSU Agricultural Technical Institute and Jacob, Eastern Campus of CCC. We had donated $500. The Gardeners have given 24 students a total of $16500 over the past 10 years.
- Dave reported on the Midwest Dahlia Conference meeting June 1 in Elkhart IN at which Steve Meggos gave an interesting talk on his new introductions and how he grows his (superb) dahlias.
- Doc mentioned a possible site for a future dahlia garden in the Lorain Co Park system Rt. 83 Millers Reservation.
- Under Q&A, advice on how to control slugs organically and chemically were given, e.g., pajama-clad with flashlight and salt shaker or vinegar soln in hand, visit the critters. Nancy Riopelle and Luba Kendall reported that they had 100% success in storing their tubers in the refrigerator meat trays.
- Ron Miner gave a presentation on Improving Dahlias by Improving Judging Skills based on slides by Wayne Shantz. His slide presentation is on our website. The original DVDs are available from Barbara Hosta.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 10—11</td>
<td>Cuyahoga County Fair</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sat staging 7:30 –10:30 a.m. Sun teardown 8:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 23—25</td>
<td>Mahoning Valley DS</td>
<td>Fellows Riverside Garden, Youngstown</td>
<td>Fri staging 4 – 9 p.m.; Sat 6:00-9:15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 30 setup</td>
<td>Geauga County Fair</td>
<td></td>
<td>4-9 p.m. Must pre-register geugafair.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 29—Sept 2</td>
<td>Midwest and National Show—Details at</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.midwestdahliaconference.org/WMDS/">www.midwestdahliaconference.org/WMDS/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 6-8</td>
<td>DSO 83rd Annual Show</td>
<td>Parmatown Mall</td>
<td>Fri set-up tables etc. 7:00 p.m. Staging after set-up—Sat 9:30 a.m. Teardown Sunday 6:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 14</td>
<td>Columbus DS and Pittsburgh DS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 21</td>
<td>East Liverpool DS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 5-6</td>
<td>Petitti’s Oakwood</td>
<td></td>
<td>Set-up 7:00 a.m. Staging after until 10:30 Judging seminar on seedlings 1:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONTAINER GARDEN COMPETITION**

**Parmatown Show**

Start thinking about entering a dahlia container garden at the Parmatown Show.

Rules: A container must have three or more plants, at least one of which is a dahlia. The container may be of any size but it must be able to be carried by one individual.

DVD available at the July meeting.
The JUDGE’s Corner
Ron Miner - baronminer@aol.com

Those of you who made it to the June DSO meeting had a chance to see a portion of Wayne and Eleanor Shantz’s judging seminar. We purchased the set of DVDs from the Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference last winter. The PNDC sponsored their two-day seminar and recorded it at the request of the ADS. It is a very informative presentation! You can now borrow it from the DSO and I highly recommend it. Sharon will, no doubt, have the slides from the presentation I made at the meeting up on the website by the time you get this (assuming I get the slides to her in a timely manner!). You will find the table of contents of the 5 DVDs among those slides. I don’t recommend any one of the DVDs any more than the others, but you might want to pick one that seems most interesting to you to start the series.

One of the most interesting items in the presentation, for me, was the discussion of stem (yes, stem! :-)). Take a look at the seedling on the right. How would you evaluate the length of the stem? If you didn’t get to the June DSO meeting and if you have heard any of my judging seminars over the last 10 years, you would probably start by saying something to the effect: ‘well, the stems appear to be about twice the diameter of the blooms, so they might be a little on the long side …’ If, on the other hand, you attended the meeting and if you have been carefully reading the judging manual, you would probably say something to the effect: ‘well, the foliage is pretty big and the spread of the foliage is probably as large or larger than the length of the stem, so they are probably a little on the short side …’

Yes, folks, Wayne’s comments in their seminar presentation made me go back to the Guide to Judging Dahlias and start reading
again! I hope that one of the things you learned in our judging seminars is that it is important to read the GJD. This stem issue is an excellent illustration of the reason why! I still have the old judging manual stuck in my head!

You will find on page 36 “The length of the stem must be in proportion to the diameter of the bloom and the size of the foliage.” That is, the bloom is not out of the picture entirely. That means you can keep that old 1.5 times bloom diameter in the back of your mind. Read on through page 54 and you will find this: “The center of the bloom, the stem length, and the spread of the foliage ideally will form a triangle with the stem length approximately one and one-half times the spread of the foliage.”

Frankly, I’m a little uncomfortable with this ‘discovery.’ Will we ever see a AA entry with foliage small enough that the stem length will be 50% bigger than the spread of the first pair of leaves? The “old” rule of thumb based on bloom diameter worked pretty well for those large blooms but pretty poorly for the small blooms. It seems that the “new” rule will work pretty well for the small blooms but not very well for the large blooms. We will probably end up in the mode of forgiving stems on big blooms that seem too short by the new rule just like we forgave stems on small blooms that were too long by the old rule. Again, from p. 54, “Ideally, the diameter of the bloom, the length of the stem, and the size of the foliage will reveal a pleasing balance and proportion.”

As I see it, friends and judges, we will need to have a little different perspective on stem length in future judging scenarios. We will need to consider the spread in foliage at least as strongly as bloom diameter when we are assessing stem length. The bottom line is that both the bloom diameter and the spread in leaves are guidelines to consider when evaluating stem length!

Let’s continue with the topic of stems. What are the other characteristics of stem that we need to keep in mind? The obvious one is straightness. I can’t resist including a picture of an old seedling. (It didn’t make it into the following year. :-) Note that the
stem is actually pretty straight. However, there is a big (!) bend at the first pair of leaves. The first pair of leaves marks the joint between the stem (above) and the stalk (below). An otherwise straight stem that bends at the first pair of leaves or at a spur leaf should be penalized.

Here is another seedling with a less severe stem problem. In fact, from the front, this stem would look just fine. However, from the side, it is apparent that the stem curves into the back of the bloom. This is a relatively common fault on the show table, although this is a pretty severe example. How severe is it? Great question. If you were in a situation where you had to quantify the fault, what would you deduct? How would you start to consider that question?

I suggest that you ask yourself if this stem is a “passing” stem. My conclusion would be that it is not, even if there were no other problems with the stem. Let’s assume that is the case. Since “passing” is 85% (right, judges?!), and Stem is worth 10 points (right, judges?!), our penalty is going to be at least 2 points (right, judges?! :-)). That might be a reasonable penalty if the stems on the other 2 blooms were better. However, if this stem is typical of the other stems, a penalty of 2 points would be generous. A score of 60 or 70% (-4 or -3) would probably be more appropriate.

On the right are a couple entries from our Seedling Seminar at Pettiti’s last October. It is not easy to tell how well the entry on the left conforms to the stem length guideline based on the spread in foliage, at least in part because there seems to be a substantial variation in the spread in foliage among those blooms. (That would be a Uniformity issue, not necessarily a stem length issue.) The stems in the entry on the
right are, however, probably about 2x the spread in the foliage. Thus, they are a little too long. The stems on the right entry are also crooked and appear to bend at the back of at least two of the blooms. (Why the heck did I bother to put that entry into the seminar?! :-))

Would you give either set of stems a passing score? I think the right answer is clear for the entry on the right; that is “no!” What is the right penalty for that one? I would say that —3 or —4 is probably appropriate. The entry on the left probably deserves a passing score if we give it a break on stem length. If we were able to determine that the stem lengths on that entry actually varied from say, 1 to 2 times the spread in the foliage, we would probably need to flunk it for Stem. Remember that a failing score for Stem is only —2; 85% corresponds to —1.5. In the picture, the stems appear to be largely straight and reasonably strong.

The Guide to Judging Dahlias cites several other stem quality issues. On the positive side, stems should be “round, smooth, and of adequate diameter from the bloom to the first pair of leaves and continues straight to the top of the … container.” Conversely, it should not “taper excessively” over its length. It should not be ridged, too large or too small in diameter, weak or rubbery.

The score sheet says that the stem should also enter directly below the center of the bloom. The judging manual, on the other hand, suggests that the position of the stem in the bloom is a symmetry issue. The bottom line is that if the stem does not enter the center of the bloom, the stem is either crooked or there is a symmetry problem with the bloom.

Before we wrap up the discussion on stem, it is appropriate to take a look at a great stem. We all know a stem expert; his picture is at the left with the largest entry at the Chicago National Show. Dick (Westfall) stakes his blooms and consistently shows stems that deserve 10 (or 11!).

Bring some entries to the Cuyahoga Fair on August 10. I’ll bet there will be a lot of Blossom Gulch seedlings in bloom by then.

Remember, too, to work on those judges tests. Now is the time to get them completed!

See you at the Cuyahoga Fair!  Ron
PICNIC—Sunday, August 18  1:00 –4:00

TOM HALLER
4108 Forestridge Dr
Richfield OH 44286
330-659-0012

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

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

OFFICERS FOR 2014
DSO NEEDS YOU!
Please consider supporting DSO by giving it your time and talent in some leadership role. Thanks!
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

WINTER SNOWBIRD ADDRESS:
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
DAHLIA SOCIETY of OHIO
MaryAnn Moreno
8232 Westhill Drive
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023