Friday, June 15 Meeting
7:30 p.m.
Busch Community Room
7501 Ridge Road, Parma
Just south of Pleasant Valley Road

BEES
HONEY TASTING
Hi Gang,

Thanks to all who helped at our several tuber and plant sales and especially to Dave Cap. We are really fortunate to have someone as dedicated as Dave is to organize the sites for us. Super thanks, Dave! As many of you have mentioned to me, selling tubers and plants is fun but talking with the experienced and novice dahlia growers that we meet is even more so.

For those of you who would like to enter blooms in the Geauga County Fair competition, you must register by Wednesday, August 6. I'll bring entry blanks to the June meeting along with their Show Schedule.

The answers to last month’s quiz are: 9010 Hollyhill Spiderwoman NX DB; 8206 Rembrandt MS DR; 9707 Alpen Diamond CO LB; 6211 Alpen Fury AN R; 7613 Honka O Y; 9202 Real Gold P BR. Congrats to the winners!

Although I got stung by a bee the other day, I'm really looking forward to our beekeeping and honey tasting presentation by Nancy and Russ Riopelle. Hope you are too! By the way, please let us know of topics that you would like to hear about for future programs. We need lots of ideas as we are bone dry at the moment. Thanks.

Hope you are planted and watching them grow. I’m very far behind this year not yet having started to plant as of June 9. See you Friday the 15th!

Think Dahlias!

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:
    Kathy Foith
    Barb Miner
    Sharon Swaney

MEETING DATES for 2012

March 16  New Introductions; Test/Prep Your Soil
April 20   Tuber auction
May 18    Plant auction
June 15   Nancy and Russ Riopelle,
          Beekeeping &Tasting Various Honey Types
August 5  Picnic at Linda and Stan Vuletich’s
          Artistic Design demo; Judging Seminar
October 19 Digging and storing; Program tba.
November 16 Photo contest; Program tba.
December 1? Holiday get-together
The June Meeting Program

A – “Bee”

Ever wonder what goes on inside a honey bee hive?
Ever wonder how they make honey?
Ever wonder how we can help our honey bees?

DSO members Nancy & Buzz Riopelle will be here to answer all those questions and more. Buzz has been a beekeeper since the 1970’s and Nancy makes beeswax candles from the extracted wax. Come and learn how honey bees are important to our food chain, mainly in pollinations of our food crops and for making the seed crops for future years. Learn all about the hive hierarchy and the many jobs they perform in their lifetime. We will also have a honey tasting event. Honey is made from the nectar of the flowers, and every flower’s nectar tastes different and varies in color. We will be trying different local honeys from the Riopelle apiary and others from all over the USA. Since every flower “tastes” different, each honey is unique. Come and enjoy the harvest and learn how we can help keep our honey bees healthy into the future.
Not only was Ric a solid supporter of DSO, he was a popular and active member of the Aurora community having been its mayor from 1980-83. He was a member of the Aurora Kiwanis Club and initiated its annual pancake breakfast as well as the July 4 frog-jumping contest! He was a charter member of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. Ric served in the Army in World War II and was a member of the American Legion.

In addition to loving Donna (whom he married in 1949), Ric loved the dahlia and the bluebird. While working at an Ohio Bluebird Society booth at the Portage County Randolph Fair in 2002, he came across a book entitled “Ohio’s Bicentennial Barns.” He and Donna thereafter visited all 89 of them!

As with many, Ric saw the dahlia in a neighbor’s yard, asked what they were, and became hooked! He joined DSO in 1985. He will be missed as a hard worker at our shows, a participant in our activities, and a discerning judge.

Donna wasn’t sure what his favorite bloom was but she said that he definitely like the BIG ones.

Rest in peace, dear dahlia friend.
A number of you now have a couple anemone dahlia seedlings. I hope they are doing well! Remember that they need to be “hardened off” before you plant them in your garden. Basically, that means gradually introduce them to the full sun conditions in your garden. The germination rate for the anemone seeds was low, about 8%. My usual experience with seeds (that haven’t made that long trip from Australia!) is about 80%. As a consequence, I concluded we needed to supplement the anemone project with another group of open-centered seedlings from my garden. I still have some of those seedling packs available. Send me an email if you would like one or two. We can make arrangements to get them to you.

The big event at Petitti’s this year will, therefore, consist of four special classes. The first will be a triple entry for those open-centered seedlings we did for the Petitti’s seminar in 2009. They are ready for the show bench and trial gardens this year! (Did anybody else send one of those seedlings to the trial gardens? There were several that were worthy! The one at the right is an excellent example. :-))

The second special class will be a single entry of the stellar seedlings we grew from Steve Boley’s seeds in 2010. The third class will be for the new anemone and open-centered seedlings from this year. In this class, we will again pick the best and the worst of the entries. Remember that the determination of the worst entry will be based on the poorest adherence to the judging criteria, not the fact that there is a stem but no bloom, for example. In any case, bring as many of those new first-year seedlings to the show as you can. We will also have a fourth, open class for any seedling you would like to show.
Our discussion and our evaluation of these special classes after judging the regular show qualify as a judging seminar but you do not need to be a judge to join the fun! Just stay around for a simple lunch and enjoy the conversation about our favorite flower! October 6/

Did you take a look at the current definition of the anemone form yet? It is on page 5 of the 2012 Classification and Handbook of Dahlias. Keep in mind that the definition describes our current perception of the ideal anemone form, not the basic requirements to classify a new cultivar as an anemone. Until 2002, when the ADS published the new judging manual, “Guide to Judging Dahlias,” the earlier definitions described the general characteristics expected to be found in the various forms. The best analogy for the current definitions, as I see it, is to mountain tops. The definitions describe the pinnacle of the mountain of dahlias that comprise the anemone dahlia mountain, for example. There are lots of dahlias on that anemone mountain, but few or none are at the form summit! In that context, the elevation of a dahlia you are judging should go a long way to determining its score for form.

Let’s take another look at one of Bill Johnson’s AN seedlings (‘a’). It pretty clearly fulfills the expectation, in the first part of the definition, of displaying elongated and tubular disc florets surrounded by ray florets. The next part of the definition addresses the uniformity and the arrangement of the ray florets. It is hard to tell from this picture how uniform and how uniformly arranged the ray florets are. We can’t even see the ray florets at 9 o’clock and there appears to be an extra ray floret at 3 o’clock. The expectation to be able to see the ray florets “from the face of the bloom” follows from the problematic situation where the dome is so dominant that the ray florets are pushed out to the back of the bloom. That defect is illustrated in another of Bill’s seedlings, ‘b’ shown on the next page. Seedling ‘a’ does a comparatively good job of having visible ray florets from the front of the bloom. The last portion of the definition
addresses the extent to which the disc florets are uniform and tubular and exhibit a fringed tip. Those criteria are also very difficult to accurately assess from a picture. The yellow tips on the disc florets in ‘a’ suggest, however, that they are tubular and, perhaps, not entirely uniform in length.

*Bill J seedling “b”*

More on scoring these anemone cultivars next month!

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**DSO Meeting Notes for April and May, 2012**

**April 20, 2012**

**Call to Order/Welcome/Announcements**: Mike Weber chaired the DSO April meeting as Jerry was out of town. The DSO received a letter of thanks from the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland for our $500 donation to their scholarship program.

**Treasurer Report**: The DSO finances remain healthy.

**Membership Report**: The DSO mailed 73 Digests in April.

**Future Programs**: DSO members are encouraged to submit program ideas for the October and November scheduled meetings.

**Willoway Report**: 97 plants and 150 cuttings are doing well. Members who would like to volunteer to help at Willoway and learn the cutting process should contact Mike Weber.

**Anemone Seeds**: Bill Johnson, Australia, provided Ron Miner with anemone seeds. Ron will distribute seedlings from the seeds at the May meeting for members who would like to try to grow them and enter them at the Petitti’s show in October as part of the judging seminar.

**Tuber/Plant Sales** The DSO made $371 at the Petitti’s tuber sale on April 14. The next plant sales will be held at Holden Arboretum and the Rockefeller Greenhouse. Please volunteer to help.
New Business: A motion was made and passed without objection to donate $200 to the Michigan Dahlia Society, host for the Midwest Show this year. Also approved was a donation of 15-20 plants for the Midwest Conference auction whose proceeds go to the Michigan DS.

The Mahoning Dahlia Society brought their new display banner which shows the different forms of dahlias. The banner is available form the Puget Sound DS. A motion was made and approved to purchase a similar banner. Cost is $360. Dave Cap will make the purchase.

May 18, 2012
Call to Order and Welcome: Jerry Moreno opened the meeting. There were several new members and guests. They were welcomed with much enthusiasm!

Moment of Reflection: DSO members held a moment of silence to honor and remember the loss of John and Joann Bendokaitis’ son, Gary, and the passing of DSO member Ric Mattmuller.

Membership Report: There were 82 mailings in May. The Digest is being sent only to paid members. Jerry encouraged DSO members to join the ADS as well.

Treasurer’s Report: DSO finances are strong after the tuber auction raised $800 and the Petitti’s tuber sale brought in $360.

The Gardeners of Greater Cleveland forwarded thank you notes from the two scholarship recipients.

Current News from Ron Miner: Ron reminded members that a new judges’ test has been created which includes the new dahlia classifications. New judges or judges seeking re-certification are encouraged to take the test.

The ADS is sponsoring a contest for the “Largest Dahlia in the World.” Details and entry form are on the ADS website.

The Cleveland Botanical Garden would like the DSO to consider having its meetings or show at the Garden.

Respectfully submitted, Emily Halderman
Q&A at the May meeting
Q1: How deep should dahlias be planted?
A1: If the tuber is planted directly in the ground, it should be about 2 to 3 inches deep, horizontal, with the eye pointed up.

Q2: Some tubers started indoors have eyed up with little spikes but have stopped growing. Should these tubers be discarded as “duds,” or should we wait to determine if they will eventually grow again?
A2: Check the tubers to see if they are rotting. If they are rotting, it is suggested to cut off the rotten part and continue to try to grow, or discard the plant.

Q3: Some plants started indoors thrived but others had leaves that got singed by growing too close to the artificial light. Will the plants be okay?
A3: Depends on how bad the leaves are. Cut out the bad leaves and see if it continues to grow. It should.

Q4: If a tuber sends up multiple shoots, should all of the shoots be pruned with the exception of one?
A4: Yes, cut off the additional shoots. However, let the shoots grow a little to determine which shoot is the strongest and should remain. Keep in mind that the shoots pruned off the tuber can be made into cuttings to start additional plants.

Q5: When can we begin to plant?
A5: You can wait to plant as late as mid-June and some members do this so that their plants are at their peak for show season. However, the general consensus is that you can plant anytime after May 15th, but still be on the alert for frost.
Q6: Is it okay that when I start my tubers in pots that the top of the tuber sticks out above the soil?
A6: Yes, this is okay. It is perfectly fine for the top of the tubers to stick out above the soil. If a tuber is very long, then you can cut off the bottom part of the tuber so it more easily will fit inside the pot.

Q7: Is there any way to control the height of dahlia plants?
A7: Dahlias grow taller in the shade. One member reports that his dahlias can grow up to 7 feet tall because of the shade and other members report that their dahlias grow 3 to 5 feet in full sun.

Q8: When cutting dahlia flowers, how can you help dahlias thrive in a vase?
A8: You can place the dahlias in a cooler in the evening, or add aspirin, sugar or hydrogen peroxide to the water. Change the water daily. Another suggestion is to put the bottom of the dahlia stems in hot water but this is not proven.

Q9: Do members In the Northwest US ever dig up their dahlias?
A9: Sometimes they do.

New members should remember that they should pinch the plants back to help them thrive and send up more stems. Members usually “Top off” their plants after they grow between 3 and 5 sets of leaves. This helps further growth.

There is a Q&A session at every DSO meeting so don’t hesitate to bring your questions along and don’t be afraid to ask!
Dollars Well Spent

At a previous meeting, DSO approved a donation of $500 to the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland to help supplement their scholarship fund. While selling dahlia plants at the Rockefeller Park Greenhouse, several members of the Gardeners group stopped by and thanked us for the donation. They were really thrilled by it because it allowed them to increase their two $750 scholarships to $1000, a very respectable and nice-sounding figure!

Thanks to Barbara Hosta for attending the awards ceremony that honored two fine recipients of the scholarships. Barbara was very impressed with their manner and their enthusiasm to pursue degrees in horticulture.

Mike Pete Kalnasy IV graduated from Mayfield Heights High School and the Gates Mills Environmental Education Center (GMEEC). His horticulture instructor was Becky Gardner. Mike was an “uninterested” student until he entered GMEEC as a freshman. He became “A model student with innate leadership qualities” and “a leader in the class when it comes to employment skills” according to two of his educational references. Last summer he qualified for the National Junior Horticultural Association Competition in San Diego, California. He was one of only seven students from Ohio to participate. At Nationals his state team placed fourth, and individually he placed 15th in the nation.

A solid student academically, outside the classroom he volunteered at the Cleveland Food Bank. He is Vice President of the Gates Mills Chapter of the Future Farmers of America. Mike is continuing his education at the OSU Agricultural Technical Institute (ATI) at Wooster. He plans to major in Landscaping and Business.
The other person to receive a scholarship was Michael Wolf from Charles F. Brush High School and the GMEEC. Michael is the second member of his family to receive a scholarship from the club. His brother, Nicholas, won one in 2008. In addition to working part-time at Garden Antiquities, Ltd., Michael spent his non-academic hours playing baseball for Brush and both football and baseball with the CYO. He has been a member of the Ohio Landscape Association and the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association for the past two years. He is President of the Gates Mills Chapter of the Future Farmers of America.

Michael has done well in the National Junior Horticultural Association competitions over the past two years. He was on the first place team in the Cleveland competition last year and on the fourth place team in San Diego this year where he was awarded sixth place individual in the Honors Division. In the Future Farmers of America competition last year, he was on the fifth place team in Ohio and this year has been on the first place team at Districts.

Michael will attend the Easter Campus of Cuyahoga Community College where he will major in Landscape Architecture.

Congratulations to both of these fine young men. We wish them all the best in their future studies. We hope to be able to continue to support the Gardeners scholarship fund in the future.
TOPPING

To allow a plant to produce equal laterals and a more symmetric and bushy form, you should “top” the plant. After the plant has two to four sets of leaves, carefully break off the very top. For giant or large dahlias (AA or A) top after two sets of leaves. For medium, (B), top after three sets of leaves. For BB, top after four sets of leaves. For smaller flowered varieties, top after four or five sets of leaves. Some growers allow an extra set of leaves for security but they remove the extra two laterals typically at the bottom. Each set of leaves will generate two laterals, and each lateral will produce one bloom in the first round of flowers. After one cuts the first set of blooms, replacement laterals will start growing. The replacement laterals will produce later blooms.

Do not let the plants grow more than four sets of leaves before topping. When you wait too long to top, it increases the risk of leaving a hole with a hollow center. Water can enter the stalk where it is hollow and start rotting the main stalk and eventually the roots.
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 440-888-558 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](http://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**
Details provided in a future Digest.

**Sept 15-16**  **Columbus DS**
**Sept 22**  **East Liverpool DS**
**TBA**  **Pittsburgh DS**
**October 6**  **DSO Member Show**
**Petitti’s Oakwood**
DAHLIA SOCIETY of OHIO
MaryAnn Moreno
8232 Westhill Drive
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023