Friday, June 21 Meeting
7:30 p.m.
Busch Community Room
7501 Ridge Road, Parma
Just south of Pleasant Valley Road

PROGRAM:
Past President of the American Dahlia Society
RON MINER
Improve your Dahlias by
Improving your Judging Skills
Hey Dahlia Lovers,

Hope that you are all planted. I finished a week ago. With the wet spring we have had, the slugs could hardly wait for me to get done. Of course, by the end of July I’ll no doubt be complaining of no rain and spider mites! Such is life.

Our meeting promises to be an excellent one as Ron has forgotten more about growing dahlias than most of us know! Even if you do not plan on being a judge (but I hope you do however) hearing about judging dahlias really does help you produce better dahlias for garden and home use. Making the beautiful dahlia even prettier and enjoyable is the name of the game, isn’t it? See you at our June 21 meeting. And of course we will have time for lots of Q&A, a favorite part of the meeting especially for new growers in particular.

It was very interesting listening to Steve Meggos’ presentation at the Midwest Dahlia Conference meeting in Elkhart IN, June 1. Steve has introduced Vassio Meggos and ______ Meggos (fill in the blank with Louie, Harry, Maria K and no doubt many, many more to come)!

Keep in mind that the Midwest and National Show are combined this year and will be in fairly nearby Grand Rapids, Michigan. As you may recall from our putting on the national ten years ago, it is really a terrific sight. Find all details at: www.midwestdahliaconference.org and then click on the link to the Midwest and national shows.

Looking forward to seeing you on June 21.        Jerry
OFFICERS-CHAIRS/PHONE NUMBERS

Jerry Moreno, President................................. 440-543-5658
Mike Weber, Past President......................... 440-647-3162
Your Name, First Vice President.................... xxx-xxxx-xxxx
Your Name, Second Vice President.............. xxx-xxxx-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, Barb Hosta, Marilyn Weber

MEETING DATES for 2013

March 15  Kathleen Rocco, Vermicomposting;
           New Introductions
April 19   Tuber auction
May 17     Plant auction
June 21    Growing better dahlias by improving your
           judging skills, Ron Miner
July 19    Staging dahlias for shows and home...tba
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 May Meeting...Emily Halderman

- The DSO welcomed 3 new guests; 40 attended
- There will be a youth section and container gardens at the Parmatown show
- Current Digest mailings number 89
- DSO wishes John Bendokaitis a cheerful recovery from his recent surgery
- Members are encouraged to send any dahlia photos to Sharon Swaney to post to the DSO website
- See Barbara Hosta to borrow DVDs and CDs
- Submit program ideas to Jerry for this year’s fall meetings.
- Kathleen Rocco provided the DSO with an update on vermicomposting. Red-wiggler worms may be purchased locally from the Canalway Nature Center within the metroparks. They’ll put your order in with their next one and that could save a little bit with shipping.
- The Rockefeller and Holden Arboretum plant sales were very successful. All 475 plants for the sales were sold.
- Ron Minor reminded judges that they may need to re-take the judges exam this year.
- DSO approved $250 donation to the West Michigan DS, hosts of this year’s Midwest & National Dahlia shows
- In addition to the plant auction, many additional seedling plants were distributed to show at Petitti’s in October.

Q&A

Q1: My dahlia tuber was planted in a container inside, but after several weeks, it developed roots but no “eye.” Is this normal?
A1: Members suggested cutting off the end of the tuber with the roots and then planting the tuber upside down into the dirt, meaning, to bury the “crown” of the tuber, which normally would develop an eye. In the past, this method has been successful!
JUNE PROGRAM NOTES

At our June 21st meeting, Ron Miner will walk us through a few brief portions of the judging DVD we purchased last winter. The DVDs chronicle a judging seminar presented by Wayne and Eleanor Shantz. The DVDs will be available to be borrowed and will count as a judging seminar in meeting your judging qualification requirements. Wayne and Eleanor are shown here in Mike Iler’s BA and MBa seedling bed.

SHOWS for 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 10-11</td>
<td>Cuyahoga County Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 23-25</td>
<td>Mahoning Valley DS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 30 setup</td>
<td>Geauga County Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 29-Sept 2</td>
<td>Midwest and National</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 6-8</td>
<td>DSO ParmaTown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 13-15</td>
<td>Columbus DS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 14-15</td>
<td>Pittsburgh DS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 20-21</td>
<td>East Liverpool DS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 5-6</td>
<td>Petitti’s Oakwood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

JUDGING SEMINARS

August 18 picnic at Tom Haller’s
October 5 at Petitti’s Oakland

Please get your judging test submitted to Ron asap.

The Midwest Dahlia Conference Speaker—Steve Meggos

Many of us know of Vassio Meggos, to date Steve’s most famous introduction named for his daughter. The bloom is a sport of Spartacus. Steve showed pictures of many more seedlings at various stages of development. Part of his presentation did not reveal his soil’s “secret composition” but he did talk about his super aggressive fertilizer schedule that went something like the following. He starts with an expensive slow release 39-0-0 plus sulfur. At some point he sprays with Schultz’s 20-20-20 every Monday, later with 30-15-15, and later with 10-54-10 until buds appear. Then he uses 9-16-29 until frost. WOW! Fertilizing on steroids?????
The season is back! Isn’t it great to be able to be back in the garden. I tell Barbara I’m going out to play. :-) I had the good fortune of loving my job—but retirement sure beats working in my book.

I hope your Blossom Gulch seedlings are growing well! Those tiny seedlings that I took to the May meeting are starting to grow up (:-)) and I have a big patch that is doing well. (Thanks, again, to Kathy Iler at Blossom Gulch for a ton of seeds!) I have at least a few seedlings from each of the different seed parents Kathy sent. Last month I included pictures of the Single and several of the Collarette parents. The other two Collarette seed parents are Kathy’s introductions: OJ Hawkins and Cinder. The CHD doesn’t have a color for the OJ Hawkins petals, but it does for Cinder. The two would compete in the same class (which is what, judges?). There is an interesting difference in the relative size of the center disc, isn’t there! The ideal definition does not provide any guidance on that issue.

The other two parents for the seeds Kathy sent us were both...
Novelty Open cultivars. Fancy Pants is another of Kathy’s introduc-
tions. It is an orchette and is already in the book as a Novelty
Open. Note how nicely the petaloids lay in the ray florets.

When you figure it out, please also explain to me the mean-
ing of the color listing in the book (NO L LV5/lb/y17/lv5/y17). :-) I
conclude that the orchette form is going to need some further dis-
cussion when it comes to listing and interpreting the color of the
face of the florets and color of the petaloids. The current system
uses the lower case letters for the colors of the face of the orchid or
for the petaloids in a collarette. It does not readily cover the or-
chette situation where you need to describe both the color of the
face of the involute ray florets and the color of the petaloids on the
same bloom.

The last seed parent for our 2013 seedling project is anoth-
er collarette. It is not in the book and may never be. Note that the
ray florets are not uniformly invo-
lute. Do you see why Kathy is sav-
ing it as a seed parent? (I would do
the same thing, if I had the room to
do it!) Yes, of course, it is for the
color. Now, however, imagine de-
scribing the color of an orchette
when you add an eye zone to that
string of lower case letters.

The orchette will almost certainly be the next form that will
be moved out from the novelty class into a class of its own. As we
have seen in these examples, the Classification Committee will
need to invest some time in defining how we should correctly cap-
ture and interpret the complicated color combinations in orchettes.

I want to again express my appreciation to Kathy Iler and
Blossom Gulch Dahlias for their generosity with seeds this winter.
I’m sure that the seedlings will make for an interesting and exciting
contest in the fall. The colors and the forms of the seed parents in
their gardens (and now in our gardens!) are just wonderful. I fully
expect that we will find that a lot of our seedlings have similarly
spectacular forms and colors.

I think I can also virtually guarantee that at least a few of
us will have new ADS cultivars to name out of the cultivars we’ll

07 K53H “A,” code O
get from these seeds. My experience suggests that an originator can expect to get several keepers out of 100 seedlings. Some of those ‘keepers’ will fall by the wayside over the three additional years required before they can be entered for official scoring. Consider, now, that we got about 2800 seeds from Kathy, that the germination rate has been very high, and that the seed parents are highly unique in form and color. We will certainly have some ADS winners among our seedlings. In any case, they will add a great deal to the Petitti show and seminar.

The other issue we were dealing with last month was Form and Trueness to Form, in particular. The last fully double we talked about was the cultivar on the left. It is a big AA, probably now headed for the compost pile. It (let’s call it AA Pink) did not succeed in scoring at the National Show last fall. Do you remember one of the basic reasons it did not get above 85? It has mixed form. Take a look at the range of floret shapes around the bloom. Which ‘form mountain’ would you put it on? You find some florets that are ID, some that are FD, and some that are SC.

Some of the cultivars from last month exhibited ray floret shapes that were intermediate to a couple forms, coming from a ridge between those two mountains seems like a good analogy. Take another look at Tahoma Gold. We concluded that FD was the correct classification, but that it was on a ridge headed out toward mount ST.

How is a ‘ridge’ situation like this one different from “AA Pink?” It is clear, I hope, that the shape of the ray florets in Tahoma Gold is highly uniform but highly variable in the AA Pink. The bottom line is that those mixed florets pretty much force you to deduct the whole 5 points associated with Trueness to Form. That is not, however, the end of the story. The mixture of ray florets impact a couple other of the evaluation criteria for Form: Contour and Sym-
The contour of the bloom in the lower left part of the picture is thoroughly messed up by the mixture in ray floret shapes. The changes in shape lead also to gaps that detract from the symmetry of the bloom. The Tahoma Gold shows neither of those problems.

There are several bottom lines that I hope you will better understand from these examples. First, Trueness to Form is an important evaluation characteristic, comprising 5 of the 28 points associated with Form. Second, some cultivars very closely conform to the ideal definition, but there are also a lot of great cultivars that do very well in competition that deviate from the ideal definition. If they exhibit highly uniform ray floret shapes intermediate to a couple of the definitions, the penalty for that deviation should be small. Third, cultivars with a mixture of floret shapes should be more severely penalized for Trueness to Form. They are also likely to exhibit problems in other aspects of Form, particularly Contour and Symmetry.

I was remiss in not reminding you about the deadlines at our Trial Gardens. It is now too late to send your 2009 seedlings and 2010 seedlings to those gardens, even though they are now old enough (4th year) to be eligible. Our first two seedling contests at Petitti’s produced a number of excellent seedlings. You can get your seedling named and into the CHD either by entering them for Seedling Bench Evaluation at an ADS sanctioned show or getting two or more blue ribbons on the seedling in open competition. If I can help you and/or answer questions about the process, please ask!

Your sanctioned show options for 2013 are great. While they don’t include the Geauga County Fair (it isn’t sanctioned), they do include the ADS National Show in Grand Rapids that same weekend. That would be a great venue to show off your seedling - whether in SBE or just in the open show. Check the ADS website (dahlia.org) for details. Our DSO shows and the other ADS club shows in the area represent other opportunities to exhibit and score those ADS-eligible seedlings.

We’ll take a look at a couple segments of Wayne and Eleonor Shantz’s DVD at the DSO meeting on June 21. Come and enjoy! There will also be a judging discussion at the DSO picnic on August 18. The event-of-the-year (judging-wise :-) ) will be the seminar at Petitti’s.  Ron
Dahlia Culture Notes

TOPPING

Even if you do not compete in a show, topping your dahlia plant is advisable to produce flowers as they are intended to be as well as a bushier plant. When the plant gets four sets of true leaves (the very first set doesn’t count as it is not “true”), then pinch out the very tip of the plant. Note that if you also remove the bottom-most set of true leaves to help prevent powdery mildew, then count accordingly. Two lateral branches per leaf pair will then be energized at each leaf pair. Do in early morning or late evening.

DISBRANCHING

Again, to produce flowers as they are intended to be, it is advisable to keep only a certain number of lateral branches on the plant. Pinch off the others. For AA, A, and B size, keep 3-4 laterals. For BB, M, and Ball size, keep 6-8 laterals. The “Other” types usually need no disbranching. Do in early morning or late evening.

DISBUDDING

Three flower buds are produced at the end of each branch. Keep the central one and remove the two side buds.

SEE A LIVE DEMO AT THE JUNE MEETING.

CUYAHOGA and GEauga FAIRS

Pre-registration is not required to show dahlias at the Cuyahoga County Fair but it IS required for the Geauga County Fair. For registration form and details see: geaugafair.com. Form must be entered by August 7. No description required, just write DAHLIAS on the form.
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