Friday, May 17 Meeting
7:30 p.m.
Busch Community Room
7501 Ridge Road, Parma
Just south of Pleasant Valley Road

PLANT AUCTION
Hey Dahlia Lovers,

We had an excellent plant sale at Holden Arboretum May 3-5. Thanks to the following folks for their help: Mike Weber, Rob and Sharon Swaney, Karen Colini, Jim Thompson and Sarah Luikart, Hank Doll, Ron and Barbara Miner, Tom Broslawik, Donna Zmrazek all of whom helped to sell over $900 worth of dahlia plants as well as make new dahlia friends. One couple drove from Pittsburgh specifically for our plant sale!

Come prepared to fill in some holes in your dahlia list with plants at our auction Friday the 17th. Mike and others have done a great job in growing plants for our sales. The plants really look good.

If you have a couple hours to help out at our plant sale at Rockefeller Greenhouse May 16-18, please let Dave (Cap) know. By the way, if you have never been to Rockefeller, the greenhouse is really neat as is their iris garden. Also, there are all kinds of plants and vegetables available for sale. (Note that there is no food available there.)

If you are looking for something to do on Saturday June 1, consider driving to Elkhart Indiana and attend the Midwest business meeting and dahlia plant auction. The Midwest Conference consists of 18 societies. Check out www.midwestdahliaconference.org/ for information regarding the meeting, the Midwest show, and our sister societies.

See you at Rockefeller and/or our plant auction.

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
Nancy Riopelle, Marilyn Weber, Donna Zmrazek

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, speaker tbd
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
Taratahi Ruby
DSO Flower of the Year

SHOWS for 2013
Aug 10—11   Cuyahoga County Fair
Aug 23—25   Mahoning Valley DS
Aug 30 setup Geauga County Fair
Aug 29—Sept 2 Midwest and National
Sept 6-8     DSO ParmaTown
Sept 13-15   Columbus DS
Sept 14      Pittsburgh DS
Sept 21      East Liverpool DS
Oct 5-6      Petitti’s Oakwood

JUDGING SEMINARS
• June meeting
• August 18 picnic
• Petitti Show October 5

Midwest Dahlia Conference Annual Spring Meeting
Saturday June 1  High Dive Pavilion  500 E. Beardsley  Elkhart IN
Speaker: Steve Meggos  “Tips on Hybridizing the Dahlia”
Plant Auction after (great!) lunch
Benefits to the Michigan Dahlia Assoc., 2013  Midwest Show host.
Details at www.midwestdahliaconference.org/
**Misc Notes**

- Dahlias prefer slightly acidic soil (pH 6.5) with good drainage. Broadcast 5-10-10 or 10-10-10 over area two to three weeks before planting. Typical planting time—after May 22. Soil needs to be warm. Lightly fertilize monthly until blooms appear, then none.

- Dahlia plants should be planted 2-3 feet apart

- If planting tubers, plant tuber horizontally, eye-up, about 5” deep on a 2-3” bed of loose soil mixed with low nitrogen fertilizer, Put 2-3” loose soil on top. Water very little until growth is apparent. Fill more soil as plant grows. Note that tubers will rot if there is too much moisture. Plants like water but never standing in water.

- Pinch out carefully center growth to promote growth of laterals and create a bushier plant. Do so for AA, A when get 2-3 good sets of leaves; B, 3-4 sets of leaves; all others, 4-5 sets of leaves. Do not do this in the heat of the day.

- Buds form on laterals in groups of three. Pinch off carefully the two side buds and keep the center one for blooming.

- Pinching out the center growth (called topping) and the side buds (called disbudding) should be done by all growers of dahlias whether or not you are wanting to compete. For those of you who are showing your blooms in a competition, there are a couple other pinching activities to do. We will display them at our July meeting when we also demo how to stage blooms for the show table.
The JUDGE’s Corner

Ron Miner - baronminer@aol.com

The DSO purchased Wayne and Eleanor Shantz’s judging seminar DVD last winter and I have enjoyed watching it over the winter. We’ve been talking about Trueness to Form in the last couple columns and the Shantz’s comments on the topic are (like most of the rest of the material!) instructive and useful. Their basic point was that nature doesn’t pay much heed to our man-made “ideal” definitions and that there are lots of wonderful dahlias out there that don’t sit on the summits of those Form mountains.

One of the points that I’ve been trying to make is a similar one. Last month we saw a lot of great Formal Decorative dahlias that appeared quite different from one another. The examples we examined were largely big winners in the Trial Gardens or the champions at the National Show, so they were good cultivars. Perhaps the key lesson between Wayne and Eleanor’s comments and last month’s column is that the total “height” of those mountains is five (5!) points and the range of Trueness to Form values we talked about in those examples last month was less than three (3!) points.

You may recall that the last formal decorative example we discussed was Baron Keith, B FD DB. Your assignment was to figure out the location of this cultivar on Mount Formal Decorative. If you concluded that the Baron Keith florets have some Informal Decorative character, I agree with you. The way I look at it that this cultivar is definitely on that FD mountain, but it is out along that ridge that heads over to “Mount ID.” Perhaps the key feature that keeps it FD is the regular arrangement of the florets. OK, now what penalty do you assign to this bloom for that 5 point Trueness to Form category?! As usual, it isn’t really possible to answer that question by look-

Informal Decorative: Ray florets are twisted, curled, or wavy, and of uniform size in irregular arrangement. They may be partially involute or revolute, but no portions should be fully involute or revolute except at the tip of the ray floret. The ideal depth is three-quarters of the diameter of the bloom and should not be greater than its diameter.
ing at one picture of one bloom. However, if you make the assumption that all the blooms are the same and that this bloom is typical, I would say that you are a bit further down that mountain for this cultivar and that a penalty of 3 or 3.5 points are in order.

Bloomquist Goldilocks scored 85 as a BB ID YL in the Tacoma Trial Garden last summer. The shapes of its florets are definitely not flat and their arrangement on the bloom is a little less uniform than those on Baron Keith. However, I think you would agree that the form on the two cultivars is pretty similar! It is a good example of Wayne’s point there are lots of great dahlias that don’t sit on the peak of the mountain.

Some of you may remember that I showed pictures of one of my favorite Mike Iler (Blossom Gulch Dahlias(!)) seedlings at the October meeting. Carnivale is pictured at left. It scored 90.98(!) as a BB ID DB at the National Show in Portland. Where would you put this one on the ID mountain? (Yeah, me too. :-()

Let’s look at one more example from the National Show. It did not score. This cultivar has a problem we haven’t seen in the other examples we’ve examined. What is that problem? If you can ignore the huge gap at about 7PM, you will see that there are flat florets, twisted florets, and fully revolute florets; that is, it has mixed form. Mixed form can be a severe problem. This bloom doesn’t know which mountain it wants to join. We saw some beautiful blooms of this cultivar in the originator’s garden, but this particular entry just didn’t make it.
I’d like to head off in a slightly different direction now. We could spend a lot more time on Trueness to Form and mixed form, but I want to go back to our 2013 seedling project. Many of you were able to take some seeds at the March meeting. Hopefully, they are now in the process of making great little plants for your gardens or ours. Those of you who wanted seeds from Bill Takaacs’s Baron Jeffs pretty much know the appearance of the seed parent. The seeds from Kathy Iler, Blossom Gulch Dahlias, were, however gathered from a great variety of seed parents. If you retained the identity code on the envelope in which the seeds came, you will be able to identify the seed parent for your seeds among the pictures included here and on the website. We’ll start with the singles. The “G” seeds and the “L” seeds are from the red and white dark blend; the “E” seeds, from the red and yellow bicolor; the “K” seeds from the second red and white dark blend; the “F” seeds from the purple and red bicolor; the “C” seeds from the red and yellow single that is probably a blend; and “B” seeds from the red and yellow dark blend (flame?).

Now just imagine the possible combinations for the offspring of these great singles among themselves plus with the other forms available to serve as pollen parents in Kathy’s garden, below. Barbara and Kathy Iler, below are talking about Barbara’s garden of open-centered cultivars for 2013! (I think Barbara might actually like me to forget about her having her own separate garden to take care of this year, so you all might help me to remind her about it when you have the chance. :-))

The collarettes are similarly spectacular! I assume that parent “H” looks familiar to you, too! (It is very much like Baron Aund Dorothy.) How
do you like Kathy’s 53 ‘X’? (The “I” seed parent.) The color(s) sure grabs you, doesn’t it! Can you classify it? Yes, you’re right about the CO V part; how about the color?! You Senior Judges need to be able to do that! The ray florets come first, capitalized, V (YL/RD). The YL is first because it is the dominant color. The petaloids come next, in lower case. Interesting that they are a blend: lb(y/l/wh)! Putting it together: CO V (YL/RD)/lb(y/l/wh). Color charting those colors would be a challenge; we’ll pass on trying to do that on a picture. The seedlings from this one promise to be very interesting!

The colors on Kathy’s 02’Q’ are also a challenge. Should the ray florets be classified as a blend, a bicolor, or a solid color with an eye zone? I’ve asked for an opinion from Lou Paradise on that last option and will let you know his thought on it. I don’t know of any eye zones except on singles. Whatever the conclusion, it is a striking bloom, isn’t it! Those of you with seeds or seedlings labeled “M” should have some great colors.

The petaloids on 29’A’ are long and plentiful. Are they too long or too plentiful? The color is certainly great!

More “codes” later—hope your gardens are off to a wonderful start!

Ron
DSO Meeting Notes
Friday, April 19th

General Announcements
The meeting began at 7:30 by welcoming many members and guests. Mike Weber reported 90 new cuttings were taken at Willoway Greenhouse. Plans are to have over 500 plants available to sell at the Holden Arboretum and Rockefeller plant sales in May. Dave and Sharon reported sales of $386 from the Oakwood Petitti’s tuber sale in April. Ron Miner has additional dahlia seeds to distribute to members interested in growing and showing them at the October Oakwood Petitti flower show. The ParmaTown dahlia show is still scheduled, however, members are encouraged to look for additional venues to hold the show in future years in case ParmaTown becomes unavailable. John Learner brought in many potting containers to the meeting, to give to any gardener interested in taking them. The DSO picnic will be held at Tom Haller’s in August. Thanks were extended to Joann Bendokaitis, Emily Halderman, and Marilyn Weber for refreshments. Member John Learner is a great creator of gingerbread houses. Check him out at www.today.com/video/today/50236059#50236059

Meeting Program
The DSO held its annual tuber auction. Thanks to Mike Weber and Dave Cap for conducting the auction.

Q&A
Q1: When should dahlia plants that have been started from seeds indoors be planted outside?
A1: The seedling’s plant height should be around 6 inches tall and hardened properly before planting outdoors. Permitting the plants to mature inside until it meets this height threshold will help ensure they are strong enough to withstand the outside elements.
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