Friday, November 16 Meeting
7:30 p.m.
Busch Community Room
7501 Ridge Road, Parma
Just south of Pleasant Valley Road

Program

Cynthia Druckenbrod
On Pest Management

Annual Photography Contest
Hi Dahlia Lovers,

Isn’t the dahlia an amazing plant? Having languished through an absolutely miserable hot, dry summer, they really showed off when the rains of late August and September arrived! We are into November yet to have a killer frost at least in my yard and although the blooms are small, they are still blooming. Is this a sign of global warming? Unbelievable!

Thanks to all of you who helped in one way or another to provide dahlia outreach to the gardeners of northeast Ohio. That’s the mission of DSO and you all deserve a big pat on the back. A huge pat of course goes to Dave Cap without whose yeoman efforts our shows would be in serious doubt of existing. Thanks Dave from all of us for another terrific job.

It’s dues membership time. I urge all of us to make Jo-ann and John’s lives a little happier by getting our dues to them by January 1 at the very latest. Information regarding DSO as well as our national ADS may be found at the end of this Digest. Do consider joining ADS. Its quarterly Bulletin is filled with very interesting articles as well as providing information from many commercial growers.

DSO has two officer positions open. Please consider putting your name in nomination for one of them. The Second VP oversees the outreach activities we do. The First VP is primarily responsible for providing speakers for four DSO meetings and a picnic site. Our activities and meetings are in jeopardy if we cannot fill these positions. Thanks for considering.

See you November 16 for a terrific program on pest management by Cynthia Druckenbrod of the Cleveland Botanical. And don’t forget our annual photo contest. 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:
MaryAnn Moreno
Sharon Swaney
Marilyn Weber

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  Ron Miner on dahlia experiments and photos
from the National Show; Digging and storing
November 16  Photo contest; Cynthia Druckenbrod on pests
December 1  Holiday Celebration...Burntwood Tavern
ANNUAL DSO HOLIDAY CELEBRATION
Burntwood Tavern
504 E. Washington
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023
www.burntwoodtavern.com

Saturday, December 1  1:00-3:00
Order individually from the menu
See menu at website
Dinners from $15-$26
Salads and Sandwiches also available

So that we know how many favors to prepare, please let MaryAnn know by Monday NOVEMBER 26 of your intentions on attending. Thanks.
maryannjerry@windstream.net
November Meeting Program

Cynthia Druckenbrod is the Director of Horticulture at the Cleveland Botanical Gardens. She is responsible for the Botanical Garden’s ten acres of award-winning outdoor gardens and other plant collections including the 18,000 square-foot Eleanor Armstrong Smith Glasshouse. Cynthia earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Case Western Reserve University and later a Master of Science in Entomology from Auburn University.

Her presentation for us will review some of our most common garden and dahlia pests and will reveal methods of control both organic and conventional. She will focus on pests such as Japanese beetles, whitefly, cucumber beetles, aphids, and a few larger pests like slugs and the dreaded voles. Bring your “pet pest” questions to hopefully rid yourself of them once and for all!
The JUDGE’s Corner
Ron Miner - baronminer@aol.com

Perhaps some of you are still nursing a corner of your garden that has a few dahlias alive and well. I am a bit sad that mine are all cut, dug, divided and stored. It seems like the season literally flew by!

The show at Petitti’s has come to be a real highlight for me. I hope that many of you look at it that way too. The seedling challenges and the related judging seminar are the attractions for me. The fact that this year’s seminar was standing-room-only makes me think that it is becoming a favorite for some of you. (Those of you with great eyes will be able to see Aunt Dorothy (namesake for my new introduction), sitting behind Barbara.)

The highlight of the seminar this year was the discussion of the best entry among the 2009 open-centered seedlings. There were about six entries in that class (each of which was eligible for ADS Seedling Bench Evaluation (SBE) but none of which were entered there!). There were some good lessons to be garnered from the discussion of those entries particularly with regard to the determination and the evaluation of color. The picture below, taken Sunday afternoon doesn’t do the entry justice inasmuch as the ray florets were losing substance by then and the whole exhibit was suffering. Saturday afternoon it would have ranked among the highest of the entries for form. Let’s focus, however, on color. We concluded that it is a blend of red and yellow with yellow petaloids. I hope
that one of the key takeaways for all from that conversation was that classifying an entry as a blend brings with it some requirements that a solid color dahlia doesn’t have. Those requirements are the uniformity of distribution of the colors both among the florets and in the blooms in a multiple bloom display. Now take a look, for example, at the florets at 3 and 6 o'clock on that top bloom. They are significantly different, aren’t they—a substantial color fault!

The entry on the right has a similar issue, although we classified it as S RD/yl (red with a yellow eye zone), not a blend. It will compete with the reds, but the uniformity of the eye zone is still important. The uniformity is OK here but still not great.

I don’t remember whether or not we classified the red and white entry on the right. It is problematic in that the amount of white on the ray florets is hardly enough to call it a bicolor. Bicolor (CO BI RD/W/w) would probably be my choice anyway but I asked the ADS Classification Chairman and he disagreed (CO RD/w). (That is why it is called “judging,” folks!) This entry is another good example of the additional burden that comes with characterizing an entry as having ray florets with two colors—in this case, both uniformity and a sufficient area fraction of the second color.

An appreciation of these subtleties can only come from knowing the contents of the ADS judging materials. Read the Guide to Judging Dahlias again this winter!

There were fewer entries in the ST and AN seedling competitions. Please remember that the Boley ST seedlings started in 2010 will be eligible for SBE evaluation next year. I’ll probably call for triple entries on that one next year. Let’s get some of those triple ST entries in there for seedling bench evaluation (SBE)!

There were about six anemone seedlings entered at the show. The one on the right is one of them. It meets the basic criteria for an AN (quiz of the day; what are they?), but also exhibits some irregularities in the dome. (Most of the entries shared that problem.)
The entries were from seeds supplied either directly from Bill Johnson in Australia or from Bill through Loney Kennedy who had visited Bill a year and a half ago. Thanks, again, Bill and Loney for providing those seeds! I know of at least two AN seedlings that didn’t make it to the show. Hopefully, everyone was able to save several tubers from those plants and will be able to make a bigger class of entries at Petitti’s from those plants next fall.

There were lots of seedlings entered in the “open” class. Since we were running out of time, we only discussed those entries in the context of “to keep or not to keep; that was the question.” :-). There were lots of keepers among those seedlings!

Those of you who were able to attend the October DSO meeting saw examples of the source of the seeds for the 2013 seedling challenge. Kathy and Mike Iler operate Blossom Gulch Dahlias in Coos Bay, OR. Mutual friends made it possible for Barbara and me to tour their wonderful gardens. It was a memorable visit indeed! Mike’s gardens featured lots of beautiful fully double seedlings. He made 15 successful SBE seedling entries of 10 different seedlings this year alone. That is a highly remarkable accomplishment—and his gardens reflected that success! One of my favorites, Carnivale, won’t be introduced until 2014. It scored 91 at the National Show in Portland.

Barbara’s favorite part of Blossom Gulch was Kathy Iler’s garden. It was thoroughly isolated from Mike’s gardens and consisted of virtually 100% open-centered seedlings (and look at the size of the garden (right)!). We felt like we loved each new seedling more than the last one. There were, of course, occasional solid-colored S, AN, CO, and O. They were, however, greatly outnumbered by fascinating novelty open-centered combinations of those ordinary forms with colors that were usually variegated, bicolored, or blends. It was a sufficiently exciting experience to move Barbara from what has largely been an observer to an active dahlia gardener plan-
ning her NO garden (with Kathy’s help!). Here are a few of our favor-
ites. (You can see more on the DSO website!) All of that excitement
led us to ask Kathy if she would be willing to share some seed pods with
us—and the answer was yes! Our 2013 seedling challenge will, there-
fore, consist of seedlings grown from Kathy Iler’s (Blossom Gulch
Dahlias) wild and wonderful seedlings. I anticipate that it will be anoth-
er great learning experience for all of us! Thanks Kathy, thanks Mike!

I may also try to get another fully-double seedling challenge
underway for those of you who don’t want those open-centered cultivars
anywhere near your dahlia garden. Stay tuned as that idea evolves.

Enough of all that fun; I need to end on a serious note. Most of
you have seen the requirements for maintaining and growing your judg-
ing status. I’ve distributed it at a couple of our seminars. They are also
available both on our new and improved website and on the ADS web-
site. We got a bit of a breather when we changed the ADS Judging
Chairman and the judging test. It is now crunch time and I need to have
your completed tests as soon as possible. I will need to turn in our judg-
ing lists shortly after the first of the year and won’t be able to include the
current AC and SR judges at their current levels unless I get your com-
pleted tests before then. I do have the tests from a small number of you;
thanks. Let me know if you have questions on what is required.

There are also a large number of CN judges working on becoming
AC judges. If you’ve completed those requirements, send your AC
test to me as soon as you can!

Next month we’ll go back to judging topics!
Meeting Notes from Emily
Friday, October 19

General Announcements and Business

- Sharon informed us that DSO finances remain healthy with a savings account balance of $12k and checking $3.5k.
- Dave reported that ParmaTown Mall has officially changed ownership. If the mall configuration is changed that eliminates the open space, we may need to find a new show site.
- With how to divide tuber clumps a timely topic, Jerry showed some ADS slides regarding storing tubers.
- DSO thanked Linda and Stan Vuletich for hosting our summer picnic giving them a beautiful butterfly sun-catcher made by our own Sharon Swaney.
- Members were encouraged by Sharon to check out the redesigned DSO website. Let her know how it looks and if any changes should be made. Also, send her more photos.
- The Geauga County Fair dahlia show is in need of a judge for next year. Jerry has been in contact with them to see if they would be willing to have their show judged similarly to what we do at the Cuyahoga County Fair. Their format may not allow for that to happen.
- The Midwest and National shows are combined for 2013. They will be held in Michigan over the Labor Day weekend.
- The DSO holiday lunch will be held Saturday, December 1 at 1:00 at the Burntwood Tavern in Chagrin Falls.
- Joann reminded us that it is time for members to renew their DSO and ADS memberships. Please renew before January 1. The form will be printed in the next Digest.
- Several members brought in their flowers to display for the final “hurrah” of the season. Members were impressed by Doc’s seedling and by Bob’s beautiful bouquet of dahlias.
- The really nice 6 foot banner of dahlia information that we purchased from the Puget Sound Dahlia Society was
displayed. We used it at some of our shows this summer.

- Jerry reminded us of the annual photography contest to be held next month. Also, he needs members to step forward and volunteer to provide a speaker/program for November. Without a first vice president, programs need to be organized by the membership. Please help.

- Q&A — two questions were asked:
  
  Q1. Is it too late to harvest seeds from dahlias if the plants were already exposed to a hard frost?
  A1. It is most likely too late to gather seeds from these plants
  Q2. How do I rid my garden of voles?
  A2. Members suggest unwrapping Hubba Bubba bubble gum and dropping it the vole holes. Voles are unable to digest the gum.

- The business meeting concluded at 7:55. DSO thanked everyone who brought refreshments.

- Congrats to Don Sopko for being the big 50-50 raffle winner.

Program

Ron Miner gave two very interesting slide presentations. The first was on a dahlia experiment studying the effects of using Mycorrhizal fungi. His bottom line conclusion was that the Mycorrhizal fungi application is an insufficient treatment to get quality results when used on its own. Next, he shared his photos of his and Barbara’s fall journey to the Pacific Northwest dahlia shows and gardens. His photos included those of new seedlings that greatly impressed us.

Following Ron’s excellent presentations, there was a demo conducted by Stan Vuletich and Dave Cap on dividing tuber clumps. Members were able to practice cutting the tubers and were invited to take some home as well.
From the ADS Organic Corner

Steve Nowotarski wrote a very interesting article *Putting the Garden to Bed for Winter* in the September 2012 ADS Bulletin. Here are a couple points he made. Join ADS and you will be able to see the whole article!

- Now is the time to get your soil in shape for next year. Start by doing a good clean-up. Be sure to remove all dahlia debris and lingering weeds. Slugs and bugs over-winter in plant wastes and weeds. Crop disease organisms will also survive.

- Steve recommends that soil be covered over winter. In early September he seeds his beds with a winter cover. He prefers “hairy vetch.” It grows fast and as a bonus the plant captures nitrogen from the air and stores it in the roots. It will cover the ground after tubers are dug. When the plant dies the roots will release the stored nitrogen for use by next season’s dahlias.

- Steve has a great idea for treating a clay bed. It is also mentioned in the Puget Sound Dahlia Association 2012 *Dahlias of Today*.

- He covers his beds with 2-3” of ground-up leaves with coffee grounds and the paper filters from the grounds, crushed egg shells, and aerated compost tea to assist in the microbe breakdown of organic material. He then covers the beds with a weed barrier black cloth. Worms feast on the leaves and coffee including the filters.

- He strongly urges NOT to till the soil. Worms are the answer to a healthy soil. They till the soil and add a soil conditioner in the form of castings, all for FREE!
Annual Photography Contest

Entries are to be unframed and 5x7 in size (except for Artistic—any size allowed).

Maximum of 3 entries per category

Categories:

A. Single Dahlia Bloom—full view
B. Multiple Dahlia Blooms—full view
C. Dahlia(s) with other(s) - people, animals, insects, creatures
D. Make Me Laugh!
E. Artistic — close-ups as well as using software tricks

Note: Electronic manipulation is permitted only in categories D and E.

Cash prizes!
PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES
by JANUARY 1
to maintain your membership to DSO and receive the DIGEST.

Also, give yourself a holiday gift and join the national American Dahlia Society and receive the terrific ADS Bulletin published quarterly that is filled with interesting articles, commercial growers information who provide the new introductions, and other information on the dahlia.

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
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:

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