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

Alexander Lackey
Cleveland Botanical Garden Green Corps
Urban Farming in Changing Neighborhoods,
Changing Schools, and Changing the Community

Alexandra Kermode
Straw Bale Gardening
Hi Folks,

Well, it looks as though Mother Nature has brought an end to the dahlia growing season. Hopefully with the seasonal temperatures, you’ve all had an opportunity to start the fun (?) process of digging and storing your prized tubers. Good luck to all and hope your efforts will lead to a successful retrieval rate in the Spring.

Thanks to all who participated in our photo contest at our October meeting. It was one of our largest regarding participation and congratulations to all the winners.

We’ve had a change regarding our upcoming holiday gathering. Originally we were going to have our luncheon at John Carroll University but that has now been changed to The Wembley Club in Bainbridge. This is where we had our luncheon last year. Cost will remain the same - $20/person. More details in the digest and at our November meeting. Please attend this month’s meeting and make your reservations to join us at this very enjoyable event.

On a sad note, I want to send our condolences to the Stan Vuletich family in the unexpected passing of Stan’s wife Linda. Both Stan and Linda have been long time contributing members in our society. Linda’s talent in arrangements of dahlias at our shows was unparalleled. She will be deeply missed but not forgotten.

Don’t forget to pay your dues this month. That can be done at this month’s meeting or through the mail. Also, for those still not receiving the digest electronically, please give some thought in signing up for this service. It is a cost saving measure for the society for you to print the Digest and will help keep both printing and mailing costs down for all of us in the long run.

See you all at our November 21st meeting.

Mike
OFFICERS and CHAIRS

Mike Weber, President........................................... 440-647-3162
Jerry Moreno, Past President................................. 440-543-5658
Emily Halderman, Co-1st Vice President........... 330-697-7368
Alexandra Kermode, Co-1st Vice President....... 440-543-8104
Jim Thompson, 2nd Vice President................. 216-926-7419
Sharon Swaney, Treasurer and Membership...... 330-562-3296
Sarah Thompson, Recording Secretary.............. 216-926-7419
MaryAnn Moreno, Corresponding Secretary..... 440-543-5658
Dave Cap, Show Chair....................................... 440-888-5589
Barbara Hosta, Archives and Librarian............ 216-524-2635
Jerry Moreno Digest Editor............................... 440-543-5658
Marge Janki, Cleveland Botanical Rep............ 440-729-9714
Nancy Riopelle, Sunshine Chair....................... 330-483-3360
Jerry Moreno, ADS Representative............... 440-543-5658
Sharon Swaney, Webmaster.............................. 330-562-3296

REFRESHMENTS
Alexandra Kermode, Marilyn Weber

MEETING DATES for 2014
March 21  Ron Zayac Living Soil and Organic Fertilizer
         Waking up tubers; Starting from Seeds
April 18  Tuber auction
May 16   Plant auction
June 20   Fran Blank—Companion Plants for Dahlias;
          DVD on 2014 Dahlia Introductions
August 23 Picnic at Brant and Carol’s
October 17 Paul Chupek on Photography...Photo Contest
November 21 Alexander Lackey, Green Corps
            Alexandra Kermode, Straw Bale Gardening
December 6 Holiday get-together...Alexandra, Emily
DSO member Alexandra Ker-mode will present her experiences with gardening with straw bales. It promises to be a very interesting alternative or addition to our more traditional ways of growing flowers and crops.

From Emily and Alexandra….

**Alexander Lackey** is the Program Manager of the Cleveland Botanical Garden Green Corps program and has earned an Urban Planning degree from Cleveland State University. Alexander’s presentation will discuss Cleveland’s Green Corps program and how urban farming is changing the local community. Green Corps’ mission is to build life, work and leadership skills by employing and educating high school youth through the practice of sustainable agriculture, place-based learning and community engagement. Each year, Green Corps employs and educates an average of 70 to 75 teenagers that live within the city to work at one of six urban learning farms. Green Corps’ youth sell their organic produce at Green Corps Learning Farm Stands and area farmers markets.
Linda Vuletich
1948 –2014

Linda was called “friend” by so very many people as witnessed by a steady line nearly a hundred people long for over four hours at her wake. She graduated from Kent State University with a masters in dietetics and nutrition and a bachelors in teaching home economics. She worked as a home economics teacher at Austintown Fitch for over 35 years. From one of her colleagues, “When she retired the world lost a loving, dedicated educator who loved her students, and her job. She was an example of what education and teachers should be.” And from many of her students, “She was an awesome home ed teacher. We loved her so much.” In addition, she was a member of the Berlin Center United Methodist Church, secretary of the United Methodist Women's group, president of the Mahoning County Retired Teachers, member of Austintown Retired Teachers and Alumni Association, the Miriam Chapter of Eastern Star, the KSU Alumni Association, the Ikebana group, Nature Lovers Garden Club, and Master Gardener of the Fellows Riverside Garden.

Of course, we in DSO as well as the Mahoning, Pittsburgh, and East Liverpool dahlia societies knew Linda as an officer and dedicated dahlia grower. Her forte was in creating marvelous arrangements which has sparked the interest of many members to enter the artistic design class in our shows. May we continue to do so in her honor and memory.

Stan and Linda married in 1983. We extend our very deepest condolences to you and yours, Stan, but thankful that we were able to know such a marvelous person for the time she was given to be with us. Rest in peace, Linda, dearest friend.
The Smokey the Bear campaign to reduce virus in dahlias may be better served by a more relevant logo. I’m going to call the logo at the right “Hanu says!” I hope you did throw out those virused plants at the end of the season. As you probably know, the Directors of the Midwest Dahlia Conference, under the leadership of our own Randy Foith, agreed to take up the cause to promote the destruction of tubers from virused plants. I’m convinced that with Dr. Pappu’s guidance, we can begin the process of ‘rooting virus out’ of our gardens. Wouldn’t it be great to be confident that those special and costly tubers we buy at our auctions will not come up with virus!? Not all dahlias have virus but we need to get rid of those that are suspect. I want to thank Randy and the Midwest Directors for their adoption of the strategy!

We are in the process of finalizing the classification of the new dahlias to be introduced in 2015. In principle, that would seem to be a pretty straightforward process. Simply take the classification determined in the Trial Garden or on the Seedling Bench Evaluation (SBE) and send it to Lou Paradise to put in the Classification and Handbook of Dahlias. Right?

The example at the right is an excellent example of how easy the process can be. The originator of the cultivar is Kristine Albrecht. It is her first one and it is named KA’s Cloud. It was entered in all of our official Trial Gardens and was put up for SBE at least four
times. In those eleven evaluations, it was classified as Informal Decorative every time! Easy! For size, it was classified as an AA four times, as an A six times, and as a B once. Fairly easy again. It will be an A. It was classified as White seven times and as a Light Blend four times. It has a lavender blush. The bottom line was A ID WH2. The whites actually ranged from WH1 to WH9, but there was a plurality of WH2. Watch for this cultivar; it promises to be a real winner!

At the other end of the scale, there are some new cultivars that have a combination of scores and classifications that are not so easily resolved. This Collarette is NTAC Debbie. It scored in five Trial Gardens plus twice on the Seedling Bench, including at the National Show in Tacoma. The good news is that it was identified as CO each time. The bad news was that no two teams reached the same conclusion on color. Two classified the color as BR, two as OR, and three as LB. Only three of the TGs included the petaloid color, two as a light blend and one as a dark blend.

I hope that each of our DSO judges is now prepared to capture the color of this entry in writing! We went through the process at the last judging seminar and I discussed it extensively in last month’s column. You begin with the colors on the ray florets. Let’s just pretend that we can do it with a picture. The dominant ray floret color comes first. Roger Walker, who manages the compilation of the SBE results and I (TG results) had to pick among OR, YL, and BR for that dominant color. There were 4 OR, 2 BR, and 1 YL, so we ended up with OR13 as the dominant color on the
face of the ray florets. You could now go to the CHD and discover that if the dominant color is OR13, the blend is going to be a dark blend, DB. The secondary color on the face of the ray florets is a little hard to see. The enlargement at the right might help. You can see that the bases of the ray florets are yellow. We chose YL19 from among the colors provided by the Trial Gardens. Ok, so far we have CO DB OR13/YL19. I’m sure you know that the color of the petaloids is next! The picture fails us here. We can see at least a couple colors, but identifying them without the actual flower just can’t be done. The TGs reported or, yl, and lv; we ended up with CO DB OR13/YL19 / lb or10/yl18 based on the TG inputs, feedback from the originator, and close examination of the pictures we had available.

Quite frankly, Roger and I were disappointed that some of the reports did not include petaloid colors. That fact will lead to some modification of the score sheets for next year. We hope to make it more clear that, for example, face color should be reported on Orchids and petaloid colors should be reported on Collarettes. That is one problem I don’t think our DSO judges would have!

In that context, I hope that you will go to the DSO website and take another look at the ‘Open-Centered Classification Quiz’ Sharon will have posted there. Here are two examples. The one
on the left is relatively easy once you reach the conclusion that you have both involute ray florets like an Orchid and petaloids like a Collarette. Those are the basic characteristics of our newest open-centered form, the Orchette (OT). All of the colors are simply white, so the classification of that seedling would be OT W/w-w.

I’ll help you out with the one on the right. It would be easy to miss, in the picture, the fact that the disc florets are tubular! Since it isn’t very obvious, you may just have to trust me on that. Tubular disc florets are characteristic of which group of open-centered cultivars? Yup, Anemones. This guy doesn’t look much like an AN, does he? That is partly due to the fact that the dome is not very well developed, at least not yet. There is another bigger problem with calling it an Anemone, isn’t there! How many AN do you know that have petaloids like a Collarette? Yeah, me too – none. In my opinion, it makes this seedling a Novelty Open, NO. Lou Paradise and his Classification Committee have not generated a way to describe the secondary colors of an NO, at least in part because there are no ‘standard’ elements of an NO. If we were to translate the OT approach to this particular NO, we could come up with NO V DP/DR/yl - v dp/dr where the color of the petaloids comes last, after the hyphen. There is no standard approach for the colors in NO cultivars and this guy would probably be just NO V DP/DR. Enjoy the quiz!

Feedback gathered at the last DSO meeting leads me to conclude that we should carry on with the seedling challenges / judging seminars at the Petitti’s show. My thinking at the moment is to roll the original Blossom Gulch challenge over into the regular show for 2015, but then to bring it back into the judging seminar in 2016 when we should have a lot of seedlings ready to be put up on the Seedling Bench (and also into the Trial Gardens)!

For the 2015 seedling challenge we will go two directions: one based on Fully Double seed parents and one based on Open-Centered seed parents. I gathered a ton of seeds from Baron Aunt Dorothy, Baron Kathy, and the Blossom Gulch seedlings for the latter contest. I also have quite a few seeds from fully double seed parents that were isolated from the Open-Centered cultivars. Stay tuned!  

Ron
DSO HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6
1:00—3:00

THE WEMBLEY CLUB
8345 Woodberry Blvd.
Chagrin Falls

Note the change in location. It was previously announced that we would meet at John Carroll University. Recall that The Wembley Club is where we met last year.

Cost is $20 per person. Please send check made out to DSO and mail it with entrée selection to:

Emily Halderman
2059 Rolling Meadows Lane
Akron OH 44312

Email: emily.halderman@gmail.com
Meal includes:
Side salad, vegetables, roasted potatoes
dessert, coffee, and tea

Choose ONE entrée:
• Marinated Hangar Steak
• Vegetarian Lasagna
• Chicken Piccata
• Grilled Wild Salmon
• Pork Tenderloin

Mail entrée selection with check to
Emily Halderman.

Getting to know us… Rob and Sharon Swaney
Both Rob and Sharon were born and bred locally. Sharon grew up following her dad around his gardens in west Akron; Rob’s house was in Mentor, his mom was the gardener-in-chief.

Rob and Sharon met and married several years after college (Rob, BS Business from Miami U; Sharon, BS mathematics from U of Akron). They bought a house in Aurora and started to garden. A co-worker offered Sharon dahlia tubers and remembering the beautiful flowers her dad grew in the late 1950s, she gladly accepted. They planted the tubers in their clay soil and sure enough they began to come up. Rob kept saying that “those ugly plants better do something” and they did! Beautiful dahlias bloomed and both Rob and Sharon were hooked. Nearly 39 years later they are still growing dahlias.
They continued to live in Aurora but moved to a home with 2.5 acres so that they could then have two dahlia gardens—a “show” garden of about 75 plants where they are still learning to disbud and disbranch properly, and a cutting garden that used to have vegetables growing in it! Both gardens contribute to the main reason they grow dahlias...so that Rob’s mom and others have nice bouquets. Rob and Sharon show a little and are accredited judges. Sharon particularly likes to do arrangements.

When asked what their favorite blooms are, Sharon said “choosing a favorite dahlia is like choosing a favorite child” but she likes big, colorful, and informal blooms while Rob is really liking water lily types. Actually his favorite is usually the one that he is admiring at the time!

Rob also grows lots of daylilies (about 100 varieties), has a rain garden, a fern garden, and lots of plants and trees. He says that he is a “multi-culturalist, not a mono-culturalist as are many winning dahlia exhibitors.” (This is his excuse for not winning.) Rob and Sharon are both grateful for the many dahlia mentors they have in DSO and MVDS.

Of course they had to support his hobby somehow. Rob was a sales manager for Johnson Rubber/Duramax and Sharon was a computer consultant for BFGoodrich, Hewlett-Packard, and Agilysys. They both were able to retire early hence giving more time to grow dahlias and be involved in the societies. Sharon is our Treasurer, Membership Chair and maintains our website. She recently took over the technical work on the ADS website and does other websites and computer consulting on a volunteer basis. She likes to do crafts with children, volunteers at the Moebius Nature Center (MNC) in Aurora, and sings in the Parkside Church choir. When you can get Rob out of the yard and gardens, he likes sports, volunteers at MNC and Audubon, and is Vice Chair of the Aurora Tree Commission. He is also an avid “birder.”

Editor: It is wonderful to have such two dedicated people in DSO. Thanks Sharon and Rob for keeping DSO a vibrant society.
October Meeting Notes from Emily

- Sharon is accepting 2015 membership dues.
- The Memorial Fund section of DSO by-laws was reviewed. No changes were needed.
- DSO members asked if it would be possible to find a venue for next year’s September show that would permit earlier Friday night set-up than the 9:00 time required at Summit Mall. After the meeting, Emily sent Summit Mall an inquiry and is waiting a response.
- The site for the DSO Holiday party was announced as John Carroll University. After the meeting, the site has been changed to the Wembley Club. Details will be in the November Digest.
- There were 65 DSO Digests mailed in October with 16 Digests distributed through email. Members were encouraged to receive their Digest by email and print them themselves in order to save increasing printing and mailing costs to the organization.
- Offering a free DSO membership and tuber/plant donation to the Cleveland Botanical gardens was discussed in response to a donation inquiry from the Botanical.
- DSO members agreed that they found great benefit from Ron’s seedling seminar after the October Petitti’s show and would like to continue the seminar next year.
- Dahlia viruses have been a hot topic this year. Ron Miner encouraged all of us to dispose of plants that we feel have virus as we dig this year. The Midwest Conference is encouraging such a practice so that we can help to eliminate virus from our dahlias.
- Ron Miner shared some of his extra tubers with members.
• Doc Hemminger provided an update of the dahlia patch at the Miller nature Preserve. He requested additional volunteers for next year.
• The annual DSO photo contest had a larger participation than in previous years. Names of the winners are on the DSO website.
• Dahlia Q&A:
  Q1: Should I wait until frost to cut my dahlias down?
  A1: Most members recommend cutting down the dahlias after the frost but leaving the tubers in the ground for another week or two to promote development of eyes. When first cutting the dahlias, leave part of the stalk attached to the tuber clump. When digging be sure to dig well around and under the clump so as not to damage the tubers. Wash the tubers and let them dry. When dividing tubers for storage (as well as cutting down), it is recommended that the cutting tool be sterilized between every cut so as not to spread possible virus. Members use a diluted bleach solution. Remember that some dahlias could carry a virus but be asymptomatic.

  Q2: Why don’t dahlia viruses seem to affect the bloom and only the foliage?
  A2: Dahlia viruses probably do affect the bloom but it may not be as obvious as the tell-tale signs on the leaves. For instance, virus could cause the bloom to grow smaller.

Paul Chupek gave a wonderful presentation on Digital gardening Photography. Paul shared many of his photographic techniques and photos. One major piece of advice he gave was that the camera should be held steady by a tripod if possible. If a tripod is not available holding the camera firmly pressed to the face could help get a clear image. A better solution is to set the camera on a chair propped up with a small bean bag and then setting an automatic timer. His “trick” photographic images were absolutely incredible!!
DSO/ADS Membership Application  
(Memberships are calendar year.)

Please fill out completely (even for renewals).

Date: ________________
Name(s): ______________________________________
Address: _______________________________________
                                              _______________________________________
                                              _______________________________________
Phone: ___________  Alt Phone: _______________
Email(s): _______________________________________

PLEASE choose one of the following membership offerings:

[ ] DSO (includes husband and wife)  $10
[ ] DSO + ADS Individual Membership  $34
[ ] DSO + ADS Family Membership  $37

Snowbirds: Add $6 and enter winter address here:

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Would you like to receive your Digest in digital format only? (Be sure to include an email address above)  Please circle:

Yes  No

Please make checks payable to DSO.

Mail to: Sharon Swaney
340 Aurora-Hudson Rd.
Aurora, OH 44202
DAHLIA SOCIETY of OHIO
MaryAnn Moreno
8232 Westhill Drive
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023