

DAHLIA DIGEST

DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO

Since 1930

VOL. 2013 ISSUE 6
October 2013



Friday, October 18 Meeting
7:30 p.m.
Busch Community Room
7501 Ridge Road, Parma
Just south of Pleasant Valley Road

PROGRAM:

Ron Miner: Regarding Seedlings

To keep or not to keep

Classification

How to get it in the ADS book



Dave Cap:

**Demo on dividing tubers and
storing them for a well-
deserved winter nap**



President's Notes

Hey Dahlia Lovers,

I hope that you have had a very successful dahlia season whether at shows, sharing your dahlias with others, or just enjoying their beauty in your garden. Be sure to participate in our last hurrah at Petitti's Oakwood on October 5. In particular, bring whatever seedlings you have produced—the good, the bad, the ugly! See elsewhere in this Digest for information from Ron on the Petitti Judging Seminar.

Some exciting DSO news: Best wishes to Jim Thompson and Sarah Luikart who were married on September 21. I'm looking forward to see pictures of their wedding and the part that dahlias played in it! Also exciting was that there were at least five novices who entered blooms at our annual show. That bodes well for the future. Of note were Caroline Kermode in the Youth section and mom Alexandra in Novice. Both were on the Court! Of personal excitement was to meet John Menzel, president of the Dahlia Society of Australia, and wife Ann, who spent several weeks visiting dahlia shows in America, including the national one in Grand Rapids and our own in Parma. In addition they saw many of our dahlia gardens in northeast Ohio. John is quite a character and it was fun sharing notes on what is similar and what is different between our growing and theirs "down under." I was particularly thrilled when he declared one of my Alpen Bill blooms to be "brilliant!" Visit www.dahliasaustralia.org.au/ Specifically, look at their Show Results. What is clearly different between how blooms are staged there compared to ours?

Super thanks to Tom and Terri Haller who hosted our picnic at their absolutely beautiful home and gardens. We really appreciated their hospitality. See pictures at DSO website. Also, super thanks to Dave Cap who continues to dazzle us with the time he spends on organizing and presenting our sales and shows. Thanks, Dave. You are truly amazing! Best wishes for a complete recovery to Carol Sahley who suffered a very disabling fall from her horse. Bummer! And to Barbara Miner mending from a knee replacement.

See you at Petitti's and/or our October meeting. Jerry



VISIT YOUR DSO WEBSITE
SHARON SWANEY, WEBMASTER
WWW.DAHLIASOCIETYOFOHIO.ORG

OFFICERS-CHAIRS/PHONE NUMBERS

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REFRESHMENTS

Karen Colini, Emily Halderman, MaryAnn Moreno



MEETING

DATES for 2013

March 15	Kathleen Rocco, Vermicomposting; New Intros
April 19	Tuber auction
May 17	Plant auction
June 21	Growing Better Dahlias by Improving our Judging Skills, Ron Miner
July 19	Showing Dahloias to Their Very Best Tony and Jackie Evangelista
August 18	Picnic at Tom and Terri Haller's
October 18	Ron on seedlings; Dave on dividing
November 15	Photo contest; All about taking better pictures
December 7	Holiday get-together...Joann, MaryAnn, Sharon



SHOW Notes

Cuyahoga County Fair...See DSO website for Winners list

New member Jane Salaka was the Novice winner with Purplicious. The Grand Champions were Joyce and Dave Habeger, Hamari Accord. Reserve Champs were Harriet Chandler and Jim Chuey, Wildwood Marie.

Geauga County Fair...If you know who won in the Small Growers category, please send info to me. Thanks.

Open Category

Brant Giere, Hollyhill Big Pink, Best A.

Bill Takacs, Zorro, Largest bloom

Rudy Bredenbeck, Nita, Best B and **Best in Show**

Brant Giere, Senzoe Ursula, Best BB

Brant Giere, Martina, Best Miniature

Rudy Bredenbeck, Jessie G, Best Ball, **Reserve**

Champ

Brant Giere, Lambada II, Best Other

Rudy Bredenbeck, Hamilton Lillian, Best Three

Bloom

Shoppes at Parma DSO Show...(formerly ParmaTown Mall)

See DSO website for the complete list of winners.

King of the Show, AC Abby, Bud and Emily Edwards

Queen of the Show, Jessica, Dan Kelly

Duke of the Show, Badger Twinkle, Tony Evangelista

Duchess of the Show, Single Singling 2013,

Harriet Chandler and Jim Chuey

NATIONAL/Midwest Show in Grand Rapids, Michigan

There were several of DSO/MVDS members on the Honor Table. Check out the list at

www.midwestdahliaconference.org/

Petitti's Oakwood Show

Best OUTSTANDING Grower.....YOU!!!

The Petitti Judging Seminar

Following the show judging on Saturday, October 5, we will hold the last judging seminar of the year. We will focus on two key topics: the evaluation of the 1st year seedlings grown from the seeds Kathy Iler, Blossom Gulch Dahlias, supplied to us last winter and the Stellar seedlings grown from Steve and Sandy Boley, Birch Bay Dahlias, seeds in 2010. Please bring all your blooms from the former and be prepared to stage a triple entry of your best blooms from the latter. The 'plan' is as follows:

12:30 Lunch (for seminar participants only, please)

Note: Please contact Sharon if you can help provide food for the lunch. Thanks. 330-562-3296

sharonswaney@windstream.net

1:00 Classification of Iler Seedlings: Form and Color

1:40 Judging of Iler Seedlings

Best and Worst in each class

Best and Worst in show

2:40 Judging of any 2013 B Jeff seedlings

3:00 Judging of Boley Seedling Triples

3:30 Adjourn



The JUDGE's Corner

Ron Miner - baronminer@aol.com

It is remarkable, to me at least, that the 2013 Parma show is behind us! Didn't the dahlia season just get started? We all owe Dave Cap another round of applause for pulling it all together once again. It was also great to have so much help in setting up the show and tearing it down. Thank you all for your help! Mike Weber and Jim Thompson get special kudos for helping to haul all that gear around the county.

The good news is that the "Orchette" has been defined by the ADS Classification Committee and will be "official" in 2014. That means that Dave will need to add another class number to our show table and there are lots of other ramifications of the ADS decision.

However, the best news is that this new form fits right into our plan for the Judging Seminar at Petitti's. A number of the seed parents for the seeds Kathy Iler sent us were Novelty Open-Centered (Orchettes!), Orchids, and Collarettes. It is therefore very likely that a number of our seedlings will fall in the new Orchette classification.

In fact, if you've been to visit our DSO website, you have no doubt found that Sharon has put up a section to show off our Blossom Gulch seedlings as they appear. The very first one on the website page is from Bill Takacs' garden and is shown on the right, above. Wouldn't seeing that in your garden be a great way to start the day?! It is, of course, unfair to judge a cultivar on the basis of a single bloom



2013 Seedling from Blossom
Gulch Seed "N"

Orchette Dahlias. A bloom combines the involute characteristics of the orchid dahlia form and the petaloid characteristics of the collarette form. Ideally, eight ray florets uniformly surround the disc flowers in a flat, even plane. Ray florets should possess a corresponding petaloid at their base. Petaloids should be of a length which gives visual impact and not so small that they are not easily discernible at arm's length. Petaloids may lie flat within the base of the ray floret or slightly rise and/or cup upward toward the center of the bloom. Disc flowers with 0 to 3 rows of pollen are desirable.

(particularly its first bloom!); but let's talk a bit about it anyway.

My immediate impression of the color is very positive. Is yours? But wait, shouldn't we start with asking "what is the color?" It is tempting, of course, just to say that it is variegated and that the variegations are fine and fairly uniform. You can see three or four larger red streaks; but they are reasonably subtle. Ok, but back to the question for you judges: what is the color?!

The answer is that it can depend on your decision on its Form. Why? If it is a Collarette, where do you determine the color? How about on an Orchid? How about on an Orchette (the new abbreviation will be OT)? You can only know the answer to that last question if you've read the current ADS Bulletin. The answers are: the face of the ray floret, for the Collarette, and the reverse side of the ray floret for the Orchid and the Orchette.

You can see the color on the face of the ray florets, but can you tell the color on the reverse of those florets? Here's a close up of one of the tip of one of the florets. There is some variegation there; but you would really want to take a look at the back of the flower to answer the question, right? If we assume that the reverse of the ray florets is the same as the front of the floret and we assume that the best classification of the seedling is Orchette (OT), my assignment for you judges is to read Lou's article in the June Bulletin and write down the classification for this seedling. I get OT V(RD/W)/v/(rd/w)-v/(rd/w). (Do you agree??) Translation: Orchette that has red and white variegation



Fancy Pants, seedling's seed parent

on the reverse side of the ray florets, variegated red and white on the face of those ray florets, and variegated red and white petaloids.

I hope you are thinking: Wait! Is it really an OT?? That is a great question. (Good for you!) Take another look at Kathy's Fancy Pants, the seed parent for Bill's seedling. There are a number of big differences, aren't there! Probably the key one, after you re-read the Orchette definition on the pre-

vious page (and then go back to the Orchid definition in the current CHD to check on the “involute characteristics of the orchid dahlia form”) is the extent of the involution on the ray florets. The ray florets on the seedling are not sufficiently involute, right? Right!

Well, then, what is the best classification for the seedling? The petaloids are a very prominent feature of the seedling, so the alternative must be Collarette. Ok, here’s a Collarette that is another one of our Blossom Gulch seed parents: Cinder. How does it compare to our seedling? Big differences here, too. The shape of the ray florets on a Collarette should be “flat or slightly cupped” according to the current CHD. The shape of the ray florets on an Orchid should be “involute for two-thirds or more of their length and fully involute for at least one-third their length.”



Cinder

The ray florets on the seedling are involute for perhaps half or two-thirds of their length and fully involute for perhaps one-fourth their length. That is a long way from “flat or slightly cupped,” isn’t it. The petaloids pretty much exclude any other form class, including Orchid.



Do you agree that the involute character of the ray florets is in the spirit of the orchid/orchette ray floret requirements? In terms of the mountain range analogy, I hope we would agree that the seedling is not at the summit of our new Orchette mountain, but it is a lot closer to that summit than it is to “Mount Collarette.”

What else do you see on the seedling relating to Form? About the first thing Barbara said was that there are just seven ray florets. Note that the definition calls for “ideally eight.” Nevertheless, the seven ray florets and the petaloids are uniformly arranged around the center of the bloom.

Well, that adds up to a lot of critical comment on a beautiful new seedling. We can probably conclude that it isn’t likely to score 100% for form (that would be 28 points, right judges?) However, we won’t know its real potential until we see more blooms this year (and next!). It could still be the Gullikson Medal winner in 2016.

I’m very much looking forward to the Petitti show and the

judging seminar following the judging. I hope that many of you will have seedlings that you can bring to the show. Everyone is welcome to exhibit them and to stay for the judging seminar. That is the basic ulterior motive for me to get the seedling projects going, so please stay if you can! :-) The agenda for the seminar is included elsewhere in this Digest.

Please also remember that your seedlings from 2009 and 2010 are now eligible for official evaluation on the Seedling Bench. I know that there are a number of them that are worthy of that evaluation! Get them up on the SBE if you can!

We will include the seedlings as an integral part of the normal show schedule. Get one of our Senior Judges to help you classify it so that you get it in the right class for the show. When the judging is over, we will separate them out for discussion in the seminar. Remember that we will be picking both the best and (technically) the worst of those Iler seedlings, so bring anything blooming. (Steve Boley told me at the National Show that their worst seedling from 2009 was being introduced this year. :-))

The seminar process will start with classifying the entries, so please be prepared by reading the definitions (2013 CHD) of the open-centered cultivars before the show. The Orchette becomes official next summer, so we will be including that class among the set of possible classifications. That definition, from the Bulletin, is on the previous page. The specification of the color of the open-centered cultivars can be confusing (as you might have noted above); we'll talk a bit about that in the seminar. Here again, please read what the CHD has to say about that before the show.

If you were among the fortunate few that succeeded in getting some of the seeds that were distributed from Baron Jeff to germinate this year, please bring those to the show as well. We'll pick the best and worst of those, too.

I'm pleased to report that Sharon is the first among our current great crop of Candidate Judges to complete the requirements to become an Accredited Judge. She recently completed and sent me her AC test—and she did just great on it. Thanks and congratulations, Sharon! If you are interested in judging and you're not a CN judge, please let me know! I'll help you get started. (You'll love it.)

Ron



Tony's “umbrellas”

OFFICERS for Jan 2014—Dec 2015

**All leadership positions are open for YOU. Self-nominations are welcomed and encouraged!
Please contact me if you want to know what is involved in each position. Don't be bashful!!!**

A slate of nominees will be presented in the next Digest to be voted on at the November meeting.

Sincerest thanks for your consideration.

Jerry



Notes from Emily...July 19 Meeting

Q&A

- Q1: Some of my plant growth this year appears stunted. Could this be caused by the excessive rain fall of the season?
- A1: Full sun could cause dahlias to not grow as tall. Generally, plants in the shade grow taller as they “reach fo the sun.” Extra rain should not cause the plants to stunt their growth. Other members noticed that if a dahlia is planted really close to other plants, that their tubers may become crowded and may not thrive as they would if they had more space.
- Q2: My dahlia plant’s leaves are pale. Is this due ot a virus?
- A2: One member had luck with watering plants w3ith a solution of Epson salts of two tsps. Since Epson salt has magnesium.

Tony and Jackie Evangelista

Presentation:

Dahlia Staging for Shows

Tony and Jackie Evangelista gave a wonderful presentation to the DSO on “Staging Dahlias for Show” for the July meeting program. Off the record, they advised that when showing dahlias, it is the participant’s job to try to hide a bloom’s flaws from the judges and it’s the judge’s job to catch them! No dahlia is absolutely perfect. Tony’s declaration “I’m from Youngstown!”



- An ideal bloom is tilted at a 45 degree angle. When staging a flower that is “top facing” Tony recommends staging the bloom at an angle, tilting it toward the audience. Top facing blooms should not be staged tall.
- The ideal time to cut blooms is early morning or on the evening of a cloudy day.
- Tony prefers to cut his blooms the Friday morning before a Saturday show and wouldn't recommend cutting a bloom before Thursday of a Saturday show.
- Tony places his cut blooms in water that has stood for a day beforehand to reach room temperature to permit chlorine time to dissipate.
- When inserting wedges into a staging container, make certain the wedge is firmly in place. Tony prefers to use wooden wedges rather than foam ones.
- There is an art involved in staging a bloom. For example, a small bloom like a BB may look really nice with two sets of leaves. But if the second set is huge compared to the bloom so that it overwhelms the presentation, then no matter how nice those leaves may be, it is probably better to remove them.
- Leaves that have been lunch for some insect and have a bad ragged appearance can be improved by using scissors (plastic ones) to smooth them out a bit.
- Spraying a bloom and foliage with water is helpful to clean the leaves and possibly massage the petals in a preferable direction.
- It is recommended that toolkits be brought to a show. Tony's kit include the following: pinking shears, a spray bottle, needle nose pliers, measuring tape (some shows have height restrictions), toothbrush, cotton swabs to remove bugs or debris.
- Milk can be used to wipe off powdery mildew from leaves.

- When staging a bloom, manipulate the leaves to hide flaws and to bring attention to the bloom. Often, gently massaging the leaves downward forces the viewer to the bloom. Or in other cases, placing a leaf in an upward direction behind a curved stem may help to camouflage the stem flaw and give a nice backdrop to the bloom. It's all in presentation.
- To adjust leaves, use a pen or a finger to curl the leaves down.
- A crooked stem may be straightened by running hot water over it and then possibly massaging it.
- If a bloom has a small pig's ear that is a definite distraction from the bloom, you may want to remove it. Use a sharp knife or razor blade and then use sand paper to sand off any rough edges. The danger is that a scar remains and such is a fault in judging. There are times when a pig ear actually helps the presentation in the case of a very long stem with a relatively small bloom.
- If staging multiple blooms and the blooms differ in size, place them to try and disguise the different sizes. Often if there is one large and two of similar size but smaller, the large one is put in the back. In any case, the blooms should be close together, evenly spaced, but never touching
- If a bloom has bad foliage and the show has a multiple different bloom section, use it there.
- Tony prefers to use laundry baskets to shade his blooms in the garden rather than umbrellas.

August DSO Picnic

The DSO thanks Tom and Terri Haller for hosting this year's picnic. Everyone enjoyed their time and were impressed with the Haller's beautiful home and garden.

Brought, our newest member of the DSO society! The picnic also included a judging seminar by Ron Miner.

Thank You

DIVIDING CLUMPS

Not sure what to do?

Come to the October meeting and watch Dave Cap demo how to divide clumps, and what you need to know about dividing clumps and winter storage!

Bring your clumps to use in the demo!

There is a lot of information on the web. Check out:

<http://lobaughsdahlias.com/articles/dividing-dahlia-roots>



**CHECK YOUR NAME/ADDRESS ON THE OTHER SIDE
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**Mail to: John and Joann Bendokaitis
17182 Eastview Drive
Chagrin Falls OH 44023**

DATE _____

NAME _____

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**PLEASE PLACE X in ONLY ONE OF THE
FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS.**

- DSO MEMEBERSHIP**
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- 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:

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- DSO with ADS...FAMILY..... \$43.00**

WINTER SNOWBIRD ADDRESS:

DAHLIA SOCIETY of OHIO
MaryAnn Moreno
8232 Westhill Drive
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023

