DAHLIA DIGEST
DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO
Since 1930

VOL. 2014 ISSUE 5
October 2014

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

Paul Chupak
Digital Photography Tips for Gardens

Photo Contest
Digging and Storing
Hi Folks,

Hard to believe the summer is officially over. It sure went pretty fast. Hope all had a good growing season and a chance to appreciate those beautiful blooms.

As per my regular October letter, I want to congratulate all the winners of our shows-Cuyahoga County Fair, our own show at Summit Mall, Geauga County and Petittis at Oakwood Village. The results of these shows can be found on our website thanks to Sharon Swaney, our webmaster. I would also like to thank all who participated in these shows—you made them spectacular and helped fulfill our overall goal of promoting the dahlia to the general public.

I also want to extend a personal thank you to Dave Cap and Emily Halderman for a great job securing and organizing our show at Summit Mall. With short notice, they put together a wonderful show, so much so that the Mall would like to have us back next year. Thanks also to Jim Thompson for his role in helping Dave set-up the particulars of the show. Great job to all!

Thanks to Ron Miner for providing us the opportunity for 3 judging seminars and Brant Giere and Carol Sahley for providing us with a wonderful venue for our annual picnic. You all made this a great year for everyone!

Don’t forget our meeting on the 17th of this month. We’ve moved up our photo contest to this month, so check out your photos and bring them to the meeting. Categories for participation are detailed in this month’s digest. Also, Paul Chupek, 2013 ADS Photo winner, will present some photography tips to get the most out of your photo ops. Sounds like a “picture perfect” meeting.

Hope to see you all on the 17th!

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
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Nancy Riopelle, Sunshine Chair.................. 330-483-3360
Jerry Moreno, ADS Representative.............. 440-543-5658
Sharon Swaney, Webmaster........................ 330-562-3296

REFRESHMENTS

Joann Bendokaitis, Jackie Evangelista,
MaryAnn Moreno

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  Topic tbd
December 6   Holiday get-together...Alexandra, Emily
DAHLIA SHOW: Gorgeous dahlias will be on view during the Dahlia Society of Ohio flower show, held in conjunction with Petitti Garden Center's Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 4 and Sunday, Oct. 5, at the Oakwood Village location. Several hundred blooms of various sizes, colors and forms will be on display, and given away to the public after the show closes. Dahlias will not be offered for sale. Admission to the show is free.

From Emily and Alexandra….

At this meeting, Ohio's very own Paul Chupek will present some of his show-stopper photographs, while discussing various photography recommendations and techniques. Paul is a corporate pilot by trade and enjoys photography on and off duty as he crisscrosses the country. Paul's interest in photography started with an introduction to cameras from his father. With limited high school photography classes and some seminars, Paul was self-taught. He uses his garage as a temporary photo studio and the current version of Photo Shop as a digital darkroom. Currently, Paul is using a Nikon D800 camera and Nikon lenses. Paul Chupek launched himself into stardom when his photograph of Baron Jerry won first place in the 2013 American Dahlia Society Dahlia photo contest. We all celebrate Paul's success and look forward to his presentation.
Those of us who were fortunate enough to know Louie remember a friendly guy who grew absolutely gorgeous dahlias. Louie passed away Sept. 13. He was 86. He was a veteran of the US Army and served in the Korean War. He worked for Doehler-Jarvis Corporation for 47 years, retired in 1990.

Louie started growing dahlias in 1957 and was a member of the ADS, the Toledo Dahlia Society (where he was show chairman since 1976), the Michigan Dahlia Society, the Elkhart Dahlia Society, and our Dahlia Society of Ohio. The dahlia community will miss this wonderful grower and delightful person.

**Louis LaPlante 1928-2014**

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**Growing the Fascinating Dahlia**

On Sept. 18, Ron and Jerry gave a talk to 70+ members of the Hudson Garden Club. It was a wonderful evening with an audience who were incredibly excited about the dahlia! We took a few buckets of dahlias that enabled us to show almost every form as we displayed them on power point. We earned a few extra points by giving the blooms away! The Hudson Garden Club donated $100 to DSO in our names.

If you have given a presentation somewhere, let me know so others can read of your experience. Thanks.
Remember the Smokey the Bear ads? “Only you can prevent forest fires!” That is what came to mind as I thought about my walk through the Midwest Show with Dr. Hanu Pappu, Sam Smith Distinguished Professor of Plant Virology at Washington State University (WSU) and the leading dahlia virus expert in the world. While I wouldn’t say that “only you can prevent dahlia virus,” I would say that “only you can take giant steps to minimize dahlia virus in your garden.” It is also clear that our giant steps can have a big impact on the dahlia virus problem in North America.

I’m sure most of you know that Jim Chuey recently donated $350,000 from the Scheetz Chuey Charitable Foundation to establish the Carl Chuey Virus Research Fund at WSU. I had the privilege of helping Jim work out the details of the donation and to make sure that the ADS took best advantage of the investment. It let me make some small contribution in honoring Carl’s ongoing legacy to the betterment of our dahlia.

It was in the context of that contribution that I had the opportunity to walk through the Midwest Show with Dr. Pappu. I asked him to show me any examples of virus he saw as we walked through the show. It did not take long to find a couple examples. The one at the right was on the head table! O doubt, many of you would have said that you noticed those lowing veins and the yellowing...
veins and the stiffening or brittle nature of the foliage. You might also have wondered how to distinguish virus from a nutritional problem. The other example we found is shown in the picture on the right. The yellowing of the leaves is even more obvious here. The picture below, right, is of a plant with similar leaves that was in my garden until the day after the show.

If you are wondering by now, what all of this virus talk has to do with judging, here is the answer. Check out p.28 of the Guide to Judging Dahlias. I quote: “Obvious signs of disease … should eliminate the exhibit from competition. Judges must exercise careful judgment since nutrient deficiencies may … resemble disease.” Before my little walk with Dr. Pappu, I used to use the second sentence in the above quotation to argue that it was best to stay away from judgments of “signs of disease” since one could not be certain of the cause of the appearance.

I have changed my mind! Please erase/forget my previous guidance on staying away from judgments on the presence of virus and, henceforth, substantially penalize an entry that exhibits leaves of the sort seen in the foregoing pictures. It was clear to Dr. Pappu that those yellowing veins and/or yellow, blotchy appearance, and/or a"mosaic - a mixture of dark and light green patches/islands” are a clear and virtually certain indication of the presence of virus. Dr. Pappu also said that “On a bright and sunny day, they may go unnoticed. But they can be more easily seen under shade.”

There is additional information on Dr. Pappu’s views on the appearance of virus on the ADS website, dahlia.org, as well as on the WSU website that is linked to the ADS website. One of the bits of counsel in his comments is that you should not keep the tubers from plants that
exhibit leaves with the virus and, further, that those plants should be removed as soon as the condition is recognized in order to prevent insects from spreading the virus to other plants in the garden.

What do you do with the tubers from plants that made it to the head table? What do you do with tubers from plants that win Blue ribbons? Chances are that you do not throw them out, even if you weren’t real comfortable with the appearance of the foliage. That, my friends, is the key link between our responsibility as judges and helping our “Dahlia Nation” get rid of virus. Let’s not encourage exhibitors to keep virused plants!

I apologize for giving you lousy counsel on judging virused foliage in the past. My new (enlightened! : -)) advice is to use the following procedure when you encounter diseased foliage in an entry:

1) point out the problem to your judging team,
2) argue that it is a very serious fault (depending on the severity of discolorations), and
3) adopt the conclusion of the judging team.

You may get some unhappy exhibitors asking about the team’s decision. In that instance, refer them to the first sentence on p. 28 in the GJD and do not throw any of your team members under the bus. Remember that you adopt the team’s decision.

I had a great time at our judging seminar on September 21. The widely predicted rain never happened and we had warm and sunny weather (after we had moved pretty much everything inside). Probably the most challenging of the tasks assigned to the teams was the classification and evaluation of a group of 27 open-centered “seedlings.” Most of them were real Blossom Gulch seedlings but there were a few “ringers” that were from known cultivars. The assignment at this seedling table consisted of the determination of form, color,
and an undisseminated seedling score. We do not much use this last item in the Midwest, but it is a routine part of most shows on the West Coast. Check it out on p. 42 of the GJD; we’ll talk more about it in the future.

In general, the challenge in classifying the seedlings was to sort out to which “form mountain” it was closest. The example on the right has pointed and largely involute ray florets and it is trying to be an orchid. I asked Lou Paradise, a friend and ADS Classification Chairman, how far away from a “form mountain” an open-centered cultivar needs to be in order to be a Novelty Open. He said we shouldn’t be “trying to put blooms into the disc novelty class ... that are just bad representations of existing forms. Novel means exactly that, not just bad examples of form.” In this example 5/8 of the bloom’s florets are lousy orchid florets and 3/8 are lousy single florets, so I would probably call it a lousy orchid. When you look at page 42, figure out what score this guy would get!

Attention to detail is, of course, also critical. It was pretty easy to miss the fact that the disc florets on this striped bloom were tubular. Thus, even though the dome is not very well developed, this one is an Anemone. The ray florets are very visible from the front of the bloom. That positive counterbalances the lack of a well developed dome, at least to some extent.

The other challenge was in correctly capturing the color in written format. That is something that AC and SR judges should be able to do. (Of course, it is a good idea to have the CHD in your hand when you do it!) The color of the collarette on the right is a bit complicated. The ray florets are probably best described as a
bicolor of dark red with dark pink tips. The petaloids are variegated white with dark red flecks. Ok, having determined the color scheme, how do you write it down? The face color is first, in capital letters; the petaloid colors come next, in lower case letters; thus CO BI DR/DP / v w/dr is the classification.

The collarette on the right is a little more difficult because the face color is more complicated. Clearly, it is variegated with flecks of dark red; but what is the base color of the ray florets? The answer is that it is a blend of yellow at the base of the florets and (probably) dark pink at the outer half of the florets; call it a dark blend of yellow and dark pink. I chose dark blend because the dark pink is dominant and most dark pinks belong to the dark blend group. The bottom line is CO V DB(DP/Y)/ DR / v y/dr.

Capturing the colors of the new orchettes is the most complicated since you need to capture the colors of the reverse of the florets as the basic color class plus the two other features of the class: the face of the ray florets and the petaloids. The example on the right is an easy one inasmuch as each of those features are white. The colors are captured in the following format: OT RAY FLORET REVERSE COLOR (U.C.)/ ray floret face color—petaloid color (l.c.). In this case; W/w-w. Now just picture the color description if the colors on the OT were as complex as those on the collarette above—and you need to include the chip numbers. :-)

Ron
$350,000 donation supports dahlia virus research
by Kate Wilhite, College of Agricultural, Human &
Natural Resource Sciences   September 24, 2014

PULLMAN, Wash. – A $350,000 donation from an avid dahlia
grower will support Washington State University research into virus-
es that afflict the ornamental flower crop. “My brother clearly recog-
nized that the knowledge in place at WSU made it the only practical
place to solve the virus problem,” said James Chuey, who made the
gift from the Scheetz Chuey Charitable Foundation in honor of his
late brother, Carl Chuey.

Hanu Pappu leads WSU’s dahlia virus research program
where scientists characterize viruses that infect dahlias, create virus
detection tools and materials, develop virus management strategies
and prepare educational materials about virus diagnosis and control.
Chuey’s gift will accelerate the research, said Pappu, the Sam Smith
distinguished professor of plant virology at WSU.

Native to Mexico, dahlias are prized for their beautiful flow-
ers and are an important ornamental crop grown around the world.
Washington state has more than a dozen dahlia societies.
Carl Chuey, a professor of biology for 47 years at Youngstown State
University, and his brother hybridized a number of dahlias, including
one named for their mother, Marcella Louise Scheetz Chuey. Carl
Chuey became concerned about the effects of dahlia viruses, which
not only diminish the appearance and health of the plant but pose a
serious quarantine issue that negatively impacts sale and trade. With
his expertise in biology, he recognized the need for expanding dahlia
research conducted at WSU.

“This gift will have a far-reaching impact for dahlia growers
worldwide and will target our most pressing problems in dahlia vi-
ruses,” said Ron Miner, past president and trustee of the American
Dahlia Society. To learn more about dahlia research at WSU,
visit  http://dahlia.wsu.edu.

Thank you Carl. May you rest
assured that your generosity will
go far in helping to solve the
dahlia virus problem.
Getting to Know Us

Randy and Kathy Foith were born and raised in Alliance, Ohio. Both graduated from A.H.S. in the 60's. Randy began his Apprenticeship to become a machinist in 1964. They met in 1966 while Kathy was a senior in high school. After a one year engagement they were married in April of 1968. Randy received his journeyman papers from his foreman at the reception.

Kathy became a stay at home mom after their children were born. Jamie and husband George live in Akron. Jason and wife Joanne live in Alliance with their two girls, Emma and Lia.

In 1993 after twenty years of city life the Foith's moved to an 1840 farm house on 16 acres in Deerfield. There they spent a few years on remodeling and landscaping. The following year Randy bought Kathy two clumps of dahlias at the hardware store for "Mother's Day." Those two clumps grew very well at the side of our house and were full of beautiful white blooms. On a visit from Randy's cousin Peggy Baker with husband Larry, a DSO member and Past President, Larry identified the blooms as "Sterling Silver." Larry asked Randy if he would like to try some other varieties and became our mentor and encouraged us to show them. "Robin Hood" was our first Blue ribbon winner and made it to the Court of Honor as best Novice.

That was the start to growing more dahlias and to membership in the DSO in 1998. A beginning passion that has turned into an obsession now with about 400 plants, but only 270 are groomed for the show circuit.

In 2003 Randy and Kathy joined a new society in Youngstown, the Mahoning Valley Dahlia Soc. Randy became the VP in 2004 and President from 2008 to the present. Randy is a senior judge and Kathy is an accredited judge. Randy served the DSO as a Midwest Conference trustee until becoming its President this year.

When asked, What is your favorite dahlia, the answer has changed many times over the years. Randy's are Inland Dynasty, Hamari Accord, Kenora Wildfire, and Embrace. Kathy's are Lupin Tori, all Poms, and anything lavender.
Kathy's interests include sewing, cooking, working in the flower beds and especially the family. Randy played softball for 20 years, fished and hunted until dahlias consumed their lives.

Editor: To two of the nicest people around and also absolutely first class dahlia growers, thanks, Randy and Kathy, for keeping us smiling and giving us gorgeous blooms to admire and strive to match.

PHOTO CONTEST—OCTOBER MEETING

Note that this year our photo contest is in October and not November.

- Maximum size is 5x7. No frames.
- Up to 3 entries may be submitted per category.
- Themes:
  A. Dahlia Portrait of a Single Bloom
     Florets need to be within picture edges.
  B. Dahlias—More than one bloom; only dahlias.
  C. Dahlia(s) with Company (people, animals, insects, anything living)
  D. Dahlias—Macro view but NO computer enhancements—close-up of part of a dahlia bloom or plant; may include insects.
June 20 Meeting Notes from Sarah

- Mike opened the meeting at 7:30.
- Emily and Alexandra have set the location of our holiday meeting at John Carroll University for Saturday December 6, 1:00—3:00. Details in the November Digest.
- Sharon reported $1943 in checking; $2848 in the Memorial Fund.
- Dave announced total flower sales profit amount to $2971.50. He thanked those who helped during the plant and tuber sales. The DSO Show is still planned to be held at the Summit Mall in Fairlawn. He reminded everyone that the Cuyahoga County Fair dahlia show is August 9-10 and that clerks are needed.
- Sharon announced that there are currently 132 paid members 55 of whom are also members of ADS. MaryAnn reported that 66 Digests were mailed and only 16 members have requested the Digest by email.
- The Toths and Morenos celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries in June 2014. Jerry’s mom turns 103 years old next week.
- Emily dropped off plants to the Botanical Garden/Green Corps as a donation and received a ‘thank you’ note for the donation.
- Doc updated the members on the dahlia garden project at the Miller Nature Preserve in Avon. One plant was lost during storms and has since been replaced. A sign with DSO on it is scheduled to be displayed soon.
- Sharon and Jim announced the artistic design categories for the DSO and Petitti’s shows. Handouts were provided to those interested with descriptions of the categories.
- The annual summer picnic is August 23 at Brant and Carol’s.
- Mike, Dave and any other interested parties are to meet regarding a possible display at the Home Depot in Cuyahoga Falls.
- Emily introduced our speaker Fran Blank who led a discussion on companion plants for dahlias.
- Emily presented a slide show of New Dahlia Introductions. Time prevented its completion; may finish at a later meeting.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:01.
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.

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