

DAHLIA DIGEST

DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO

Since 1930

VOL. 2007 ISSUE 2

MARCH MEETING, 2007



MARCH 2 MEETING

7:30

**Busch Community Room
7501 Ridge Road, Parma
Just south of Pleasant Valley Road**

**Program:
Getting Started -
Seedlings
and
Cuttings**

Thanks for tonight's refreshments
Marilyn Weber, Joann Ben-
dokaitis, and Barbara Hosta, and
ble set-up by Don Sopko.



by
ta-

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PROGRAMS/SHOWS FOR 2007

**Feb 2 DVD's on New Introductions; Feb 50; and
DSO 2006 In Review**

March 2 A program on Seedlings and Cuttings

April 6 Speaker tba

May 4 DSO Annual Tuber Auction

June 1 DSO Annual Tuber and Plant Auction

July 15 Picnic...Schoepfle Gardens

August 11 Cuyahoga County Fair Dahlia Show

**August Bus Trip to Local Dahlia Gardens and the
Mahoning Trial Garden**

August 24-26 Mahoning Valley Dahlia Show

Sept 1 Geauga County Fair Dahlia Show

Sept 6-9 National and Midwest Show St. Charles Illinois

Sept 14-16 77th DSO Show Parmatown

Sept 21-22 East Liverpool Dahlia Show

November 2 Photo Contest; Speaker tba

December 7 Holiday Dinner Meeting

Judging Corner

THE OTHER HALF



Judging Corner – Calling All Dahlia Growers!

I started this column last fall hoping that it might appeal to all DSO dahlia growers, hoping that it might even convince a few of you to become judges. I've listed a number of you as Candidate judges for the upcoming season. It really doesn't take much to achieve that status: be an ADS member and begin the process of participating in judging classes and seminars as well as studying the judging materials. In the process of becoming a judge, you'll learn a lot about our favorite flower, as well as why some entries end up on the head table and others do not.

In last month's Digest, I started to talk about the "Other Half," the attributes of substance, stem, foliage, bloom position, uniformity or floriferousness, and distinction. Labeling them the "other half" should help to reinforce the fact that form and color are the "first half" and are by far the most important characteristics on which to judge an entry. A serious form or color fault is far more important than even a major fault in the "other half" characteristics.

That is not to say that these characteristics are not important. In competition at year end, for example, defects in these seven characteristics will need to be balanced against defects in color and form and can make the difference between a grand champion and a bloom that stays in its color class. It is very important to keep the values of all of the characteristics in perspective. The numerical values of the various attributes will serve as a basis for determining that balance!

We will discuss bloom position and uniformity or floriferousness this month and distinction next month. Bloom position is perhaps the easiest of all the attributes to see and to characterize. It is, consequently, also a characteristic that can easily be weighed too heavily in deciding on a class winner. For example, I have been in judging situations where the first step a judge wanted to take was to set back all of the entries that had a poor bloom position, usually top facing blooms. Do not fall into that trap! Remember that top-facing blooms are entirely appropriate and acceptable for balls, miniature balls, poms, and waterlilies. Remember, too, that top-facing blooms are a relatively minor fault, worth perhaps 1 or 2 points of the total of 5 points for bloom position! A down-facing bloom is a serious fault, worth perhaps 4 of the 5 points. Think back, too, to our discussion of form and color, where a serious fault can be worth as much as 10 points, twice the total value of those available for bloom position. The point, of course, is that you need to take care to put bloom position faults in proper perspective. In close competition, they can be extremely important! In general, however, one must take care to avoid rating bloom position faults higher than other, higher value attribute faults.

Uniformity and floriferousness are evaluated in different scenarios. Uniformity is used in judging multiple entries in shows and, in particular, three bloom entries for seedling bench evaluation. Floriferousness, on the other hand, is only used in a trial garden setting where the tendency for an entry to provide a multitude of blooms is under consideration. This latter characteristic, for example, might indicate the extent to which a plant

would produce “showable” blooms or stand out in a garden setting. To achieve a high rating for floriferousness, it should be clear that the plant will yield a large number of blooms that can be shown.

Uniformity is an issue that affects both seedling and show bench evaluations. For a seedling entry, uniformity should be assessed for all of the basic attributes on the scorecard, including, in particular, form and color. The uniformity rating should reflect the extent to which the number of evaluation characteristics have or lack uniformity. Very high expectations should be placed on the uniformity of seedlings with open centers, including issues associated with the size and form of each ray floret, the distribution of color on the florets, etc. Some shows provide guidelines on the importance of uniformity in a multiple bloom entry class. If you have no such guidelines, (as I believe is the case in DSO shows) you should follow the guidelines associated with the seedling entries. That would place the importance of uniformity at 5% of the value, a value lower than the one we probably commonly use in judging DSO multiple entries!

In summary, bloom position and uniformity or floriferousness comprise 10% of the value of an entry. Even subtle faults in either of these characteristics can make the critical difference in winning entries. On the other hand, you must take great care not to rate these characteristics as highly as form and color.

Ron Miner

DSO Minutes for February 2, 2007

I. Call to Order: President Mike Weber called the meeting to order at 7:35 at the Busch South Community Room in Parma. There were 23 members in attendance.

II. Minutes of the November 4 meeting: These minutes were published in the Dahlia Digest Vol 2006 Issue 10. Without comments, additions or corrections, the minutes were accepted as published.

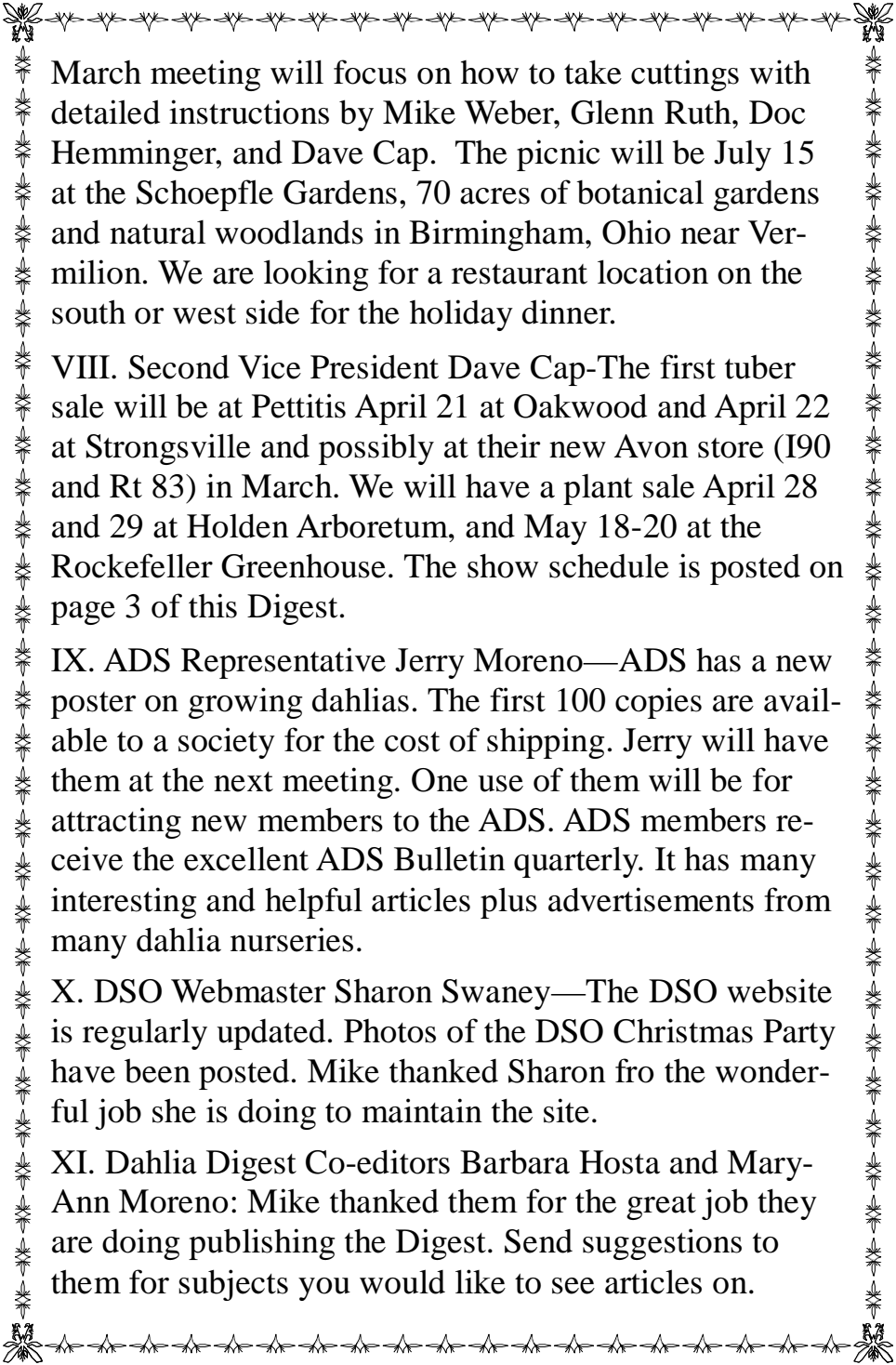
III. New Members and Guests: None were present.

IV. Treasurer's Report: Joann Bendokaitis reported January 31 balances: Charter One Bank checking \$1567.78; Charter One Money Market \$6595.32; Ohio Savings CD \$6163.10; Memorial Fund \$1669.83; Petty Cash \$45. The report was accepted subject to annual audit.

V. Membership Report: John Bendokaitis reminded us that dues for DSO and the American Dahlia Society (ADS) are due now. A registration form is included in the Digest (see last page). There are 148 paid DSO members and 79 paid ADS members. John is sending postcards to remind those members who have not paid.

VI. Cleveland Botanical Garden Report: We are in need of a DSO representative to the Botanical Garden. The duties are minimal; please consider volunteering. Contact Mike Weber or Barbara Hosta.

VII. First Vice President Barbara Hosta—Programs: Tonight's meeting is DVD night—the 2007 Introductions, the Fab 50, and John Bendokaitis' DSO 2006 In Review. Thanks to John for his wonderful efforts. The



March meeting will focus on how to take cuttings with detailed instructions by Mike Weber, Glenn Ruth, Doc Hemminger, and Dave Cap. The picnic will be July 15 at the Schoepfle Gardens, 70 acres of botanical gardens and natural woodlands in Birmingham, Ohio near Vermilion. We are looking for a restaurant location on the south or west side for the holiday dinner.

VIII. Second Vice President Dave Cap—The first tuber sale will be at Pettitis April 21 at Oakwood and April 22 at Strongsville and possibly at their new Avon store (I90 and Rt 83) in March. We will have a plant sale April 28 and 29 at Holden Arboretum, and May 18-20 at the Rockefeller Greenhouse. The show schedule is posted on page 3 of this Digest.

IX. ADS Representative Jerry Moreno—ADS has a new poster on growing dahlias. The first 100 copies are available to a society for the cost of shipping. Jerry will have them at the next meeting. One use of them will be for attracting new members to the ADS. ADS members receive the excellent ADS Bulletin quarterly. It has many interesting and helpful articles plus advertisements from many dahlia nurseries.

X. DSO Webmaster Sharon Swaney—The DSO website is regularly updated. Photos of the DSO Christmas Party have been posted. Mike thanked Sharon for the wonderful job she is doing to maintain the site.

XI. Dahlia Digest Co-editors Barbara Hosta and Mary-Ann Moreno: Mike thanked them for the great job they are doing publishing the Digest. Send suggestions to them for subjects you would like to see articles on.



XII Old Business: Mike Weber

Plant propagation—DSO is planning to propagate about 600 plants for the 2007 sale season. A variety of plants are needed; please donate clean, accurately marked tubers at the March meeting. Let Mike or Dave Cap know if you have time to help in propagating. The DSO Bloom of 2007 is MARY's JOMANDA. Be sure to get hold of a tuber from a nursery.

The "DSO Member of the Year Award" suggested at a previous meeting was discussed. After considerable discussion including the JC Moore Award, no decision was made. Mike asked for volunteers for a committee to research the idea and make a proposal to the membership. Nobody came forward. Hank Doll suggested that a vase or bowl with the annual winner's name engraved might be created. Contact Mike if you have an interest in being on the committee.

XIII. New Business—Mike Weber

As a point of information, Mike mentioned that the Toledo Dahlia Society may be folding. They are meeting later this month to decide what to do.

XIV. Q & A: Hank Doll had a plant that was seemingly doing well but lost its foliage. A few weeks later, new foliage appeared but the plant did not produce blooms. He asked what the problem might have been. There were several suggestions but none seem to apply.

XV. Adjournment at 8:35. Thanks to Joann Bendokaitis, Barbara Hosta, and Marilyn Weber for the delicious refreshments and as always, to Don Sopko for setting up the refreshment table and beverages.

Chuck Janki



**SPECIAL NOTICE FOR
MEMBERSHIPS
From John Bendokaitis**

**Please check the mailing label on this digest
for one of these statements:**

DUES ARE DUE or DUES ARE PAID

Please let me know if there is an error in my records.

MAIL FORM on NEXT PAGE and PAYMENT TO:

DSO MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

JOHN R. BENDOKAITIS

17182 EASTVIEW DR

CHAGRIN FALLS, OHIO 44023

NOTE!!

**If you are not a member of the American Dahlia Society,
consider joining NOW. It is truly worth it!
Why? What are the benefits?**

- **You will get the CLASSIFICATION HANDBOOK**
- **You will get the very colorful and informative
ADS BULLETIN**
- **You will also receive the AMERICAN DAHLIA GUIDE TO
GROWING AND CARING FOR DAHLIAS.**
- **You will be entitled to vote in election of ADS officers,
and all other privileges of membership.**

**CHECK YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON THE OTHER SIDE
SUBMIT ANY CHANGES BELOW**

**TO MAKE RENEWAL EASIER, SIMPLY TEAR OFF
THIS PAGE, INITIAL AND MAIL WITH YOUR
CHECK TO JOHN BENDOKAITIS**

**PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO
DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO**

DATE _____

NAME _____

CHANGES _____

EMAIL _____

**PLEASE CHOOSE ONLY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING
MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS. Place an X in [].**

- DSO Membership (includes husband and wife)\$10.00
- DSO with ADS MEMBERSHIP (for one person only)..\$30.00
- DSO with ADS FAMILY Membership.....\$33.00
- DSO with ADS STUDENT Membership.....\$15.00
(18 YRS OLD OR YOUNGER)

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS:

- ADS First Class Mailing for December ADD \$ 3.00 TO ABOVE
- DSO with ADS SNOWBIRD OPTION—INDIVIDUAL \$38.00##
- DSO with ADS SNOWBIRD OPTION—FAMILY..... \$41.00##

**## INCLUDE WINTER ADDRESS FOR SNOW BIRD
MAILING _____**

DAHLIA SOCIETY of OHIO
BILL SCHOLES
9080 Richards Drive
Mentor, OH 44060

