

DAHLIA DIGEST

DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO

Since 1930

VOL. 2011 ISSUE 2
April 2011



Friday, April 15 Meeting

7:30 p.m.

Busch Community Room

7501 Ridge Road, Parma

Just south of Pleasant Valley Road



**ANNUAL
TUBER
AUCTION**

President's Notes

Hi Gang,

I'm writing this on April Fool's Day looking at a fresh 4" of snow on the ground covering my tender crocus, daffodil, and hyacinth growths as they cry for mercy! I repeat from last month that I doubt if any of you would disagree with me that it's time for old man winter to take a hike!

Please bring to the April meeting donations of your clean, clearly marked extra tubers especially if you can see evidence of eyes on them. Also, bring a box of some sort to carry home your prize purchases.

With excitement, I'm happy to announce that member Emily Halderman is our new Recording Secretary, filling a vacancy that was open for quite awhile. Thank you Emily!

ATTN: ALL JUDGES! To maintain our judging status, we need to get our judging tests to Ron Miner asap. The tests are on the ADS website. The member username and password were in the December 2010 issue of ADS Bulltin p.65.

With sadness I report the passing of a long time dahlia provider, superb grower, and DSO member, Gene Woznicki. We will miss his amazing AA's, "colorful conversations," and mentorship to many over several decades.

Looking forward to seeing you April 15.

THINK SPRING!

Jerry



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



Eugene A. Woznicki
Born in Cleveland March 23, 1925
Died in Bedford March 19, 2011

Gene was a member of DSO for over 50 years. His interest in dahlias began when he worked at the Calvary Cemetery greenhouse in the late 1940's. He grew 300 plants, mostly AA/A's. He loved the big ones! A downstairs room in his house is filled with prizes including several huge grand champion Cleveland Press trophies. He served as DSO Show Chairman for several years. His business in selling dahlia tubers was very successful.

Gene taught chemistry at Collinwood High School for 41 years; he chaired the science department for several of them. In addition to DSO and ADS, he was a member of the Notre Dame Alumni, and the Collinwood Memories Club. He was a US Army Veteran WW II.

Donations can be made to the American Cancer Society Pan Ohio Hope Ride, 10501 Euclid Ave. Cleveland, Ohio 44106 (attn: participant Dr. Gary Woznicki pledge riding in memory of Eugene Woznicki, www.panohiohopeide.org).

DSO FLOWER OF THE YEAR 2011



MAGIC MOMENT

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
PLEASE HELP YOUR DSO
sell tubers and/or plants**

April 9	Pettiti's Oakwood (tubers)	9:00—4:00
May 13-14	Rockefeller Greenhouse (plants and tubers)	9:00—4:00
May 13-15	Holden Arboretum (plants and tubers)	13: Noon—4:00 14: 10:00—5:00 15 10:00—5:00

OFFICERS-CHAIRS/PHONE NUMBERS

Jerry Moreno, President.....440-543-5658
Mike Weber, Past President.....440-647-3162
Sharon Swaney, First Vice President, Webmaster.330-562-3296
Your Name, Second Vice President.....xxx-xxx-xxxx
Joann Bendokaitis, Treasurer.....440-543-4515
Emily Halderman.....xxx-xxx-xxxx
MaryAnn Moreno, Corresponding Secretary...440-543-5658
John Bendokaitis, Membership Chair.....440-543-4515
Barbara Hosta, Digest Co-Editor.....216-524-2635
Jerry Moreno Digest Co-Editor.....440-543-5658
maryannjerry@windstream.net or moreno@jcu.edu
Linda Vuletich, Sunshine Chair.....330-547-8025
Jerry Moreno, ADS Representative.....440-543-5658

Refreshments:

Ed Flaws
Marge Janki
MaryAnn Moreno
Linda Vuletich



MEETING DATES for 2011

March 18 New Introductions; 'Tufa revisited
April 15 Tuber auction
May 20 Plant auction
June 17 Container gardening? Artistic design?
July TBA Picnic
October 21
November 18 Photo contest ++
December TBA Holiday get-together

The JUDGE's Corner

Ron Miner - baronminer@aol.com

Happy Spring everyone! Even though there are days that seem a lot like winter, the days are getting longer and better weather is on the way.

I hope that many of you have good tubers from second and third year seedlings from our Petitti judging seminars projects. I always used to be most anxious about the box of tubers labeled "seedlings." If there were losses there, they couldn't be replaced at the auction. That is why I frequently had other growers grow and keep a couple of my favorite seedling plants. I would recommend that you do the same thing if a couple of the seedlings we've been growing and distributing over the last couple years are still looking like good ADS candidates. Share a couple tubers with your buddy or give them to me. I'll be glad to grow and store one or two spares for you. We will have a special section for those seedlings at Petitti's again this year.



My 2009 Seedling (S R/y, 9606) was best S at the 2010 National show

I finally quit procrastinating, got out the Senior Judges test, and started through it. I hope you've already done that! If not, now is the time to get going. I'm sure you will find the material to be very familiar and the process a lot easier than you've been anticipating! The judging requirements and the judging tests are all available on the ADS website, www.dahlia.org. I also emailed each of our judges a summary version of the requirements and the relevant test last fall. Please send me your test answers by email if possible (that way they won't get lost!) asap. If you want to be a judge, please let me know by email and I will get the information to you. You won't need to start out with a test, just a lot of dahlia fun! (I try hard to adhere to one of the key lessons our late mentor, Glenn Ruth, provided: judging dahlias should be a fun process!)

The judging process depends on knowledge gleaned from the Guide to Judging Dahlias, the Classification and Handbook of Dahlias, and the judging Score Cards. You should review those documents in

detail each year. Completing the judging test will provide a good reason to do that! Of course, that 'book learning' must be supplemented by a lot of hands-on judging experience both in shows and in the trial gardens. Some of the best lessons are learned in judging experiences away from 'home' at a National or Conference show where you will be teamed with judges with different, often broader, judging exposure.

Show judging is sometimes easier than seedling judging because it can be easier to draw comparisons between entries than to develop an absolute evaluation of an entry based on your understanding of the judging criteria.



Barbara, judging with Jerry Landerholm, Betty Burton and two other judges at the National Show in Chattanooga

Nevertheless, the judging of seedlings is the best way to develop an understanding of the relative values of the various attributes. It is where you must penalize and reward entries based on the familiar (I hope!) characteristics of Form (28%), Color (22%), (Note that is 50% already!), Substance (15%), Stem (10%), Foliage (10%), Bloom Position (5%), Uniformity (SBE) or Floriferousness (TG) (5%), and Distinction (5%). With that knowledge and experience well in hand, you are then able to compare the relative merits and faults of entries in the same class in a show on a very sound basis.

For example, if one of two entries has a subtle form fault and its competition has a subtle stem fault and excellent form, it should be clear that the form fault is a bigger problem than the stem fault. Of course, few comparisons are that simple and it is often necessary to consider strengths and weaknesses in most of the above attributes to come up with the best in class.

Please get those seedlings from '09 and '10 up and running to be included in the Petitti competition and seminar! We plan to add some new 1st seedlings, too!

Ron

Dahlia Shows in 2011

August 13-14 Cuyahoga County Fair

A wonderful opportunity to get involved in showing, especially for first-timers. Set-up Sat morn from 7:00 a.m. to 10 a.m.. Park in Flower Barn lot. Call Dave 440-888-5589 or Jerry for details.

August 18-22 National Show San Francisco

August 26-28 Mahoning Valley Dahlia Society

Set-up Fri 4:00-10:00 and Sat morn 6:00-9:30
Call Randy Foith for details. 330-584-9002

Sept 2 Geauga County Fair

Must pre-register. See www.geaugafair.com
Set-up Friday night 4:00—9:00

Sept 3-4 Columbus Dahlia Society

Sept 9-11 81st DSO Show Parmatown Mall

Set-up 9:00 p.m.-Sat 9:30 a.m. Details provided in a future Digest.

Sept 23-25 Midwest Chicago Botanical

TBA East Liverpool Dahlia Society

TBA Pittsburgh Dahlia Society

October 1-2 DSO Member Show

Pettiti's Oakwood

Set-up Sat morn 8:00-10:30 a.m.





DSO Business Meeting Notes March 18, 2011

● **Call to Order/Welcome/Announcements**

Jerry Moreno called the meeting to order at approx. 7:35 with 22 members and guests in attendance. Emily Halderman volunteered to fill the Recording Secretary position. There remains a need for a Second VP and for someone to set-up refreshments including starting the coffee pot. The Flower of the Year was announced as Magic Moment. Volunteers are needed to help Doc and Mike start cuttings at Willoway Nursery for our plants. Randy Foith, MVDS President took orders for Puget Sound's *Dahlias of Today* publication (\$10) and the new *ADS Composite Listing of Dahlias from 1976* but in the new four-digit classification number scheme (\$12). Sending in one order from both societies saves on postage. Jerry distributed seeds from Ron Miner for the seedling competition to be held with the judging seminar at the Pettiti Show in October. Details of the National Show to be held in California were in the March ADS Bulletin; details for the Midwest Show to be held in Chicago will be in the June ADS Bulletin.

● **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Joann Bendokaitis was unable to attend the meeting but she gave Jerry a report that indicated we remain in solid financial shape. See Jerry or Joann for details.

● **Membership Report**

Membership Chair John Bendokaitis was unable to attend the meeting. He gave a report to Jerry that indicated there are 60 DSO members, i.e., 2011 paid dues. He and Jerry encouraged those who have not paid their dues to do so asap so to maintain receiving the Digest. Postcards were mailed last month to past members whose dues were in arrears.

● **Sunshine Report**

Sunshine Chair Linda Vuletich reported that baby Elliot Stephen Kandra was born; pictures were shown. John Bendokaitis suffered a fall and broke some ribs that will require a surgical procedure. Jerry mentioned that Ron Miner's aunt passed away; she was 102.





● **Cleveland Botanical Garden Report**

DSO Affiliate Representative Marge Janki attended the recent orchid show at the Cleveland Botanical Gardens and commented that this year's show was much smaller than in past years perhaps due to the economy. Marge encouraged individuals to become a member of the Cleveland Botanical Garden. She mentioned that the Hershey Children's Garden opens on April 1; the Spring Floral Design Exhibit is Friday April 15-17 with a "Champagne Preview" Thursday the 14th, \$40 for non-members. The link to the Gardens is <http://www.cb garden.org/>

● **DSO Website**

Webmaster Sharon Swaney continues to update the DSO website. She requests that people share suggestions on updates, and also to please submit some pictures to display. Members should submit their email addresses to her if they are not currently on the DSO email distribution list but would like to be. Link to site: <http://www.dahliasocietyofohio.org>

● **Future Programs**

First VP Sharon Swaney reported on future programs: She is looking for someone from DSO or elsewhere to speak on artistic design for the June meeting; she is asking for suggestions or volunteer sites for our annual picnic, preferably on the west side of town this year; instead of a holiday party, she is thinking of going on a field trip instead, e.g., the poinsettia show at the Botanical Gardens could be a possibility-let Sharon know of your opinion of a field trip versus a party; finally, let Sharon know your thoughts on a garden bus tour (like we did several years ago when we hosted the national show)- we would need about 30 folks to make the trip viable.

● **Shows & Sales**

Dave Cap reminded us that there is a tuber sale at Pettiti's Oakwood on April 9th. Members can bring their tubers to sell. For the tubers that don't sell, we will include them in our DSO tuber auction on April 15th. Dave would be happy to pick up tubers from members if they would like to donate to the sale and are not able to make Pettiti's or the meeting. Dave is looking for volunteers for the Holden Arboretum (May 13-15) and Rockefeller Garden (May 13-12) plant and tuber sales. Please consider volunteering for at least two hours.





● **Old & New Business**

Ron Miner asked Jerry to remind DSO members that if they would like to judge Dahlia shows that they are required to complete the Dahlia judging test. Individuals may take their test as an “open book” by using the *Guide to Judging Dahlias* manual and the *ADS Classification Book* to complete it. The tests are available at the ADS website. DSO members are encouraged to join ADS. www.dahlia.org/index.php?page=dahlia-resourcestest.

As new business, Rob Swaney asked how many members might be interested in a DSO golf-type shirt for members to wear during tuber and plant sales and at different dahlia venues. Many societies have such. Those in attendance encouraged Rob to check out types of shirts and prices.



● **Open Discussion/Q&A**

Question 1: Can we grow dahlias in a pot in the house?

Answer: Yes, but you should place a fluorescent bulb or grow-light immediately above the plant or it will not thrive.

Question 2: If a dahlia plant did not bloom last year, should we try to grow its tubers again this year?

Answer: The general consensus of members was to try growing the plant again this year, but if it does not bloom two years in a row, they would consider not planting again.

Question 3: How many hours of fluorescent light would a tuber need if growing in advance of planting season and when should we begin growing?

Answer: A plant will need 14 hours of fluorescent light a day and should begin growing one month before planting, which would be around April 15th. Keep the soil a little moist. Consider using plastic to form a terrarium to keep moisture in.



● **Refreshments**

Refreshments were supplied by Marilyn Weber, Kathy Foith, and Joann Bendokaitis. Thank you! A new refreshment sign up list was circulated. See Sharon if you would like to sign up.



● **Adjournment**

The business meeting adjourned at 8:15.



● Program

Hypertufa Show and Tell—The Foiths and Swaney displayed their hypertufa containers and gave tips to other members on creating their own. See <http://www.the-artistic-garden.com/hypertufa.html>

DVD on 2011 Introductions—Sharon showed the ADS DVD of the new ADS Introductions for 2011.

Introduction Bingo—Members played bingo with sheets that listed names of new dahlias. Chuck Janki and Donna Mattmuller won garden angels to display in their gardens.

Dividing Clumps—Stan Vuletich brought some dahlia clumps and showed new members how to divide them. He also gave the divided tubers of Narrows Tricia to the members participating in the demonstration.

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Halderman



Plant Lighting for Dahlia Seedlings and Cuttings

Note: The following is based on an article by Don McAllister of the Colorado Dahlia Society. The original article may be found at dahlias.net/seabox/lightem.htm Don gave permission to copy his article.

“About this time each year many dahlia growers decide to give it a go at growing dahlia seedlings or multiplying their stock by doing cuttings. By May, many of them will be rather disappointed with the results. For a number of years I too struggled to grow good dahlia transplants from seed. They would come up, get reachy and flop over. I would pinch them back severely, they would struggle on and in May I would plant survivors that most people might consider discarding. Eventually, I promised myself that I would raise my own good seedlings and I began a study of the subject. The key to my eventual success was proper lighting and this also proved to be a key to my later success in propagating dahlias from cuttings.”

Don felt comfortable with his practices of using commercial seed starting mix, bottom heating for germination and clear plastic tray covers to maintain humidity. So he decided that the problem must have been lighting.

“I did most of my research on the web and this is what I think I learned about plant lighting in general and dahlia lighting in particular:

- 1) Plants need light from both ends of the spectrum and reflect the middle range (green).
- 2) The red and far-red end of the spectrum helps plants mature, flower, set seed and fruit.
- 3) The blue end of the spectrum helps suppress the reaching (elongation) tendency in seedlings for 8-10 weeks.
- 4) Cool White fluorescent tubes emit more blue than red and should be the lighting of choice for seed starting.
- 5) Light intensity is very important.” **2000 lumens per sq. ft.** is minimum.

Based on those findings, for less than \$100 he did the following:

“1) I purchased a 4-shelf, 4 ft x 1.5 ft. steel shelving unit at a flea market.

2) I attached TWO, 2-tube fluorescent light fixtures to the bottoms of EACH of the three upper shelves.

3) I purchased and installed 12 GE Residential fluorescent tubes, which have replaced the traditional low-priced Cool White shop lights. Advertised light output is 3150 lumens per tube x 4 = 12,600 lumens over each 6 sq. foot shelf or **2100 lumens per square foot.**

4) I started raising stout and sturdy seedlings.”



Note that Don is saying that you need at least 2000 lumens **per square foot**. For his type of shelving set-up, this requires tubes that are rated at 3000 lumens of output or more. He states that “For the record, most fluorescent shop lights, plant lights, and bulk tubes emit light only in the 1800-2200 lumen intensity range. You need 3000 lumens or more per tube for good dahlia growth.”

Lighting Duration (Day length)

In the article, Don talks about his experimenting with photoperiods ranging from 10 hours to 18 hours. Based on his findings along with reading articles from colleagues, he concludes “At this point I still don’t know that I know anything for sure about day length, but I think 14 hour photoperiods might be a good place to start, if you want to see how varying day length might work in your growing environment.” Basically, when he uses 14 hours, those cuttings and seedlings seem to produce by the time of digging them in the fall, good root clumps that are well organized with some actually able to be divided into separated tubers.

Replacing Fluorescent Tubes

“...contrary to conventional opinion, light intensity in the T-12 fluorescent tubes that most of us use remains very high (>90%) until the near end of life. So, I guess the solution to the replacement dilemma is to watch for flickering light or darkening tube ends and replace the expiring tubes at your convenience. You might also want to use a permanent marker to date each tube as you install it. Then on long living tubes you may want to just retire them as a group...”

**DUES ARE DUE. PLEASE RENEW ASAP to KEEP
YOUR DIGEST COMING. THANKS!**

Send this form and check made out to DSO

to: John Bendokaitis
17182 Eastview Drive
Chagrin Falls OH 44023



DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

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 \$ 4.00 TO ABOVE
- [] DSO with ADS SNOWBIRD OPTION—INDIVIDUAL \$40.00##
- [] DSO with ADS SNOWBIRD OPTION—FAMILY.....\$43.00##

INCLUDE WINTER ADDRESS FOR SNOWBIRD MAILING

DAHLIA SOCIETY of OHIO
MaryAnn Moreno
8232 Westhill Drive
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