

# DAHLIA DIGEST

## *DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO*

Since 1930

**VOL. 2011 ISSUE 1**  
**March 2011**



**Friday, March 18 Meeting**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Busch Community Room**

**7501 Ridge Road, Parma**

**Just south of Pleasant Valley Road**



### **PROGRAM**

**Hypertufa Show and Tell**

**2011 ADS INTRODUCTIONS**

**Introduction BINGO!**

## President's Notes

Hi Gang,

I doubt if any of you would disagree with me that it's time for old man winter to take a hike! It sure has been a tough one, hasn't it? It's time to start thinking about getting our favorite tubers out as well as to try out some new varieties.

If you have any extra tubers especially of the AA, A, or B sizes that you would like to donate to DSO for us to begin taking cuttings from, please bring them to the March meeting. Mike, Doc, Dave and I started tubers at Tom Demaline's Willoway Nursery a couple weeks ago in an effort to get lots of healthy plants ready for our plant sales at Holden Arboretum and Rockefeller Garden and of course for our own plant sale, all in May, as well as the Midwest Business Meeting auction in June.

Please let Sharon know what you would like to see as programs. She's starting March with an interesting addition to our traditional video showing of the new ADS introductions for 2011. Bring your extra tuber donations to the April tuber auction. We should have nice plants to buy in May as well as a seedling or two to try out.

**Please send in DSO dues to keep getting the Digest. Also think about joining the American Dahlia Society if you are not a member; its Bulletin is outstanding!**

THINK SPRING!

Jerry



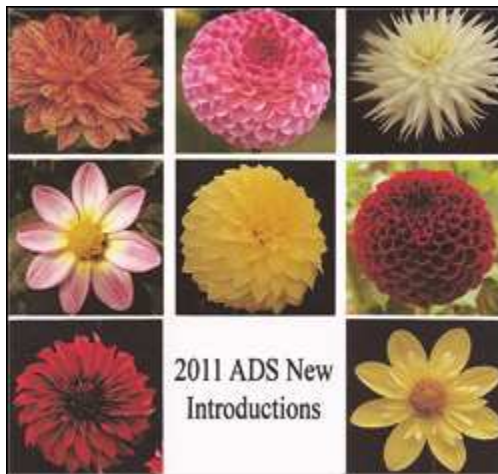
**VISIT YOUR DSO WEBSITE  
SHARON SWANEY, WEBMASTER  
[WWW.DAHLIASOCIETYOFOHIO.ORG](http://WWW.DAHLIASOCIETYOFOHIO.ORG)**

# MARCH PROGRAM

## Hypertufa Show and Tell

Do you recall member Karen Colini's really interesting presentation last October on creating hypertufa garden pots? Now is the time to show off your creation! Bring your 'tufa experiments, successful or otherwise to show your fellow members. We'll be interested in what you learned and any tips or warnings you may have for us.

## ADS New Introductions Video



## INTRODUCTION BINGO

Come and get some seeds to try and develop your own origination.

## **DSO FLOWER OF THE YEAR 2011**



## **MAGIC MOMENT**

## **TAKING ORDERS**



To save postage, the Mahoning Valley Dahlia Society and we are sending in a joint order for these publications. Let Jerry know at or by our meeting time March 18 if you are interested.

Puget Sound's DAHLIAS OF TODAY.....\$10

ADS COMPOSITE LISTING OF DAHLIAS 4-digit format.....\$12

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**Help DSO sell tubers and plants**

**April 9 Pettiti's Oakwood**

**May 13-14 Rockefeller Garden**

**May 13-15 Holden Arboretum**

## 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  
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Jerry Moreno, ADS Representative.....440-543-5658

**Refreshments:**  
**Marilyn Weber**  
**Kathy Foith**  
**Joann Bendokaitis**



### 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 party

## **The JUDGE's Corner**

**Ron Miner - [baronminer@aol.com](mailto:baronminer@aol.com)**

Have you all taken a look at the new Classification and Handbook of Dahlias (CHD)? Remember how 301 used to be a formal decorative white? That is one class that I used to be able to remember, because it included Baron Dalton. Now if you look in the current book, you will find that B Dalton is in class 3001. Your American Dahlia Society officially switched to a four-digit classification system this year. The DSO will be using it in our shows this year.

Don't be intimidated by the new numbers. They are logical and provide some benefits that weren't available in the 3-digit system. Take a look at page 12 in the CHD for a quick summary. Perhaps the only substantive change (besides needing to get used to a new numbering system!) is that incurved cactuses will now be in a class separate from straight cactuses. That is a good example of the flexibility that is the key benefit of going to four digits. You can expect additional changes like that in the future, now that the numbering system no longer limits the separation of classes.

Plans for judging seminars and workshops for our 2011 season are just in the formative stages at the moment. If you have ideas or suggestions, please let me know. We are planning on starting some more seedlings for you to grow this summer and I plan to incorporate seedling judging into the Petitti Show again this year. That project is an easy and fun way to move from grower to exhibitor and judge—and maybe have the opportunity to name a new cultivar for your spouse! Plan to join us!

I hope the DSO judges out there have made better progress than I have on getting to work on the judges' tests! Sometimes I think I have procrastination down to a real art form. Nevertheless, now is the time to get out that Guide to Judging Dahlias and get started on the judge's test I sent to you by email last fall. If you've lost it or if you have questions on the accreditation process, please let me know as soon as possible. It is important that you spend some time working on the test before we get into growing season! In the spring, we will all have more fun things to do!

Have a great spring!!

## 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 8:00 am. 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**

Call Randy Foith for details. 330-584-9002

### **Sept 2 Geauga County Fair**

Must pre-register. See [www.geaugafair.com](http://www.geaugafair.com)

### **Sept 3-4 Columbus Dahlia Society**

### **Sept 9-11 DSO Parmatown Mall**

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**



## **Online Dahlia News and Information Sharing Groups**

**Don McAllister [donmc00@yahoo.com](mailto:donmc00@yahoo.com)**

The following dahlia oriented email exchange groups are hosted on Yahoo! Groups, and are open to anyone with an interest in growing, showing, breeding or just plain enjoying dahlias. Spectator or participant, the choice is yours and each group email you receive contains instructions on how to unsubscribe.

Just click on any of the group names below to obtain more information about that group. Or, join 'em all, try 'em out and unsubscribe from any group(s) you don't like. And, if you don't know whether you are already a member of any of these groups, try joining anyway. Yahoo has checks that prevent duplicate memberships.

### **Dahlia-Alert**

Is an email NEWS service for dahlia enthusiasts. Show and sale dates, supplier information, seasonal articles on dahlia culture, and an occasional horticultural news item of interest to dahlia growers are included in the news you will receive. Dahlia-Alert is NOT a discussion group. Traffic is less than 36 emails per year and very focused on providing dahlia information you can use at the time you can use it. To join, send a blank email to: [dahlia-alert-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:dahlia-alert-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

### **Dahlia-Net**

Is a text only email discussion group focused on growing, showing and judging dahlias. Attachments and pictures are blocked from this exchange group. To join, send a blank email to: [dahlia-net-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:dahlia-net-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

### **Dahlias**

Is a fully featured dahlia email exchange group which allows and encourages the exchange of pictures and attachments in addition to standard all text emails. To join, send a blank email to:  
[dahlias-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:dahlias-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

### **Dahliacreating**

Is a specialist group which concentrates on the subject of hybridizing dahlias. To join, send a blank email to:  
[dahliacreating-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:dahliacreating-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

**Note:** Whenever you join a group using one of the email addresses listed, Yahoo will send you a somewhat confusing email requesting that you confirm your desire to join. You must **REPLY** to this email before your membership will become active, and the easiest way is to simply click on your **REPLY** button and then on the **SEND** button.

If you experience a problem attempting to join any of these Yahoo email groups, just send Don an email containing your email address followed by your name and the name(s) of the group(s) you are wanting to join and he will direct add you. However, he is limited to a maximum of ten direct adds per day so please try to get yourself added before you turn the problem over to Don. Thanks.



## **New to Growing Dahlias?**

**See Ron Miner's article at [www.dahlia.org](http://www.dahlia.org) on  
*Fundamentals of Growing Dahlias***

**Here's an excerpt to whet your appetite to read the whole article!**

### **When to plant**

Your tubers can go directly into the ground in the spring when the ground has warmed and there is little chance of frost. One good guideline is to plant in the same time frame as you would a tomato. If you want blooms as early as possible, you can start the tubers indoors in good light about a month before planting time. You will then have a small plant ready at planting time. Dahlias can be planted as late as mid-June in most parts of the country.

### **Where to plant**

Dahlias require a site with good drainage and partial to full sun. Pots are an increasingly popular way to grow dahlias. See other articles on this site for information on growing dahlias in pots.

### **How to plant**

Most dahlias need to be staked and you may want to plant a sturdy stake before you plant the dahlia. If you put the stake into the ground after the plant is growing, take care to avoid damaging the tuber or the root system. Tomato cages can also be a simple approach to staking.



Put the tuber in a hole several inches deep with the "eye" on the tuber facing up. The eye is the point on the shoulder, or crown, of the tuber from which the plant grows. Separate a number of plantings by two feet to give each plant room to grow.

**DUES ARE DUE. PLEASE RENEW ASAP to KEEP THE 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**

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