

DAHLIA DIGEST

DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO

Since 1930

VOL. 2011 ISSUE 3
May 2011



Friday, May 20 Meeting

7:30 p.m.

Busch Community Room

7501 Ridge Road, Parma

Just south of Pleasant Valley Road



**ANNUAL PLANT
AUCTION**

President's Notes

Hi Gang,

Doc Hemminger, Mike Weber, Dave Cap, and Rob Swaney have done a terrific job in producing really nice looking dahlia plants for our sales at Rockefeller Park Greenhouse, Holden Arboretum, the Midwest Dahlia Conference annual auction, and our own plant auction this Friday. Thanks guys for giving your time for DSO. Also, thanks to Sharon Swaney who compiled a picture book of most of the dahlias that the guys grew to sell. It really helped potential customers to see the color and form of the plants that they were buying. Great job, Sharon! To all of you guys and gal, your time and effort on behalf of DSO and the promotion of the dahlia are very much appreciated.

Linda and Stan Vuletich and I visited the shop that Sharon had suggested we purchase DSO shirts from. We found a dahlia that looks very nice as a logo. At our meeting, I'll have a shirt with it as an example. Sorry for the delay but I thought people might want to see an actual shirt before ordering. We'll choose for sure on Friday.

It won't be long now before we will be planting our favorite flower. Of course, we may have to row a boat to our gardens. I wonder if dahlias can be grown by hydro-planting?

Bring your list of favorites to the meeting Friday. If we don't have them, hopefully we will have suitable substitutes. The plants really look great.

Jerry



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

Compost Tea

Steve Nowotarski

The following is an excerpt. The full article may be found at:
www.dahlia.org/index.php?page=compost-tea

One of the most important components of a green program for your garden is aerated compost tea. This tea when produced properly will reintroduce necessary biology back into your garden. With repeated applications your soil will be alive again. Your garden will require less water and almost no fertilizer. Your plants will thrive and your blooms will have stronger color.

Compost tea is an aerobically brewed (not thermally brewed) liquid concentrate of soluble nutrients, organic compounds and elevated levels of microorganisms.

The recipe is basically:

- 1) De-chlorinated water,
- 2) high quality biologically active and diverse compost,
- 3) a food source for the microorganisms to feed on and reproduce.

Brew time is 12 hours with the 5 gallon KIS brewer. Use within four hours of brewing. Bacteria and fungi grow in the brewer at exponential rates because the water contains high levels of oxygen (it's aerated) and a food source (kelp, molasses, humates or hydrolyzed fish) has been provided. Compost Tea replicates only those organisms present in the compost at brewing time. It cannot create beneficial fungi if none are present in the compost.

Compost Tea may be applied to foliage or as a soil drench. It can be used on all ornamentals, vegetables, herbs, small fruits, turf, annuals, and perennials. Most vegetables and annuals require a bacterial dominant tea, turf requires an equal ratio tea, while most woody ornamentals need a fungal dominant brew. The different tea brews are determined by the makeup of the compost and the food source added to the water at brew time.

Steve applies the Tea in early spring before planting with a soil drench; mid-summer with a foliar spray to protect the dahlia foliage; and late fall on leaf cover to the beds with a soil drench.

DSO FLOWER OF THE YEAR 2011



MAGIC MOMENT

Annual Meeting of the Midwest Dahlia Conference June 4, 500 E. Beardsley Ave, Elkhart, Indiana

If you have never been to one of the Midwest meetings, you are really missing out as a dahlia grower. The day begins around 9:00 by looking over the great plants that have been donated for the auction. (Proceeds go to the host of the Midwest Show. We were very thankful last year for having been given around \$1500 from the Midwest auction.) A short meeting begins at 10:00 followed by always an interesting program. This year the speaker is Howard Russell, entomologist from Michigan State University who will speak on "The Beneficial Insects in the Dahlia Garden." A great Essenhaus lunch follows. Then the fun begins bidding on over 300 plants, often the large ones and often the new introductions. Off to home by 3:00. Let Jerry know if you are interested in going.

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:

Shannon Fee
Donna Mattmuller
Sharon Swaney
Marilyn Weber



MEETING DATES for 2011

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

The JUDGE's Corner

Ron Miner - baronminer@aol.com

Our welcome home to Cleveland wasn't exactly what I had anticipated. I don't think I'll be spending much time in the garden/swamp this month! The good news is that we spent a week in California taking care of our grandchildren there. You may recognize their names (Dalton, Bryce, and Paige). We took advantage of the opportunity to get their dahlias started for the Junior Section at the annual show near there in August. If you haven't been to a National Show, this one in San Francisco should be a great one to attend.



*Paige getting ready to plant
Princess Paige in her dad's
very dry garden*

I have had one judge's test back and understand that there are others that are in the works. Great, thanks. Please don't overly agonize about some of the questions. Jerry discovered a couple typos and a couple ambiguous questions and, of course, the new numbering system obviates some portions of the test. Please just do your best to complete the questions and get the test back to me at the upcoming meeting or by email, if possible. I think that it will be appropriate to hold a judges' session to discuss the test and the answers to the test before one of our meetings. Please let me know if you feel that would be useful for you.

You will find that the judging test will require you to glean detailed information from the *Guide to Judging Dahlias*, the *Classification and Handbook of Dahlias*, and the judging *Score Cards*. Inasmuch as you should review those documents each year, the judging test will help make sure that happens. Of course, "book learning" didn't do much to help you pass the driving portion of your driver's test, did it! In judging dahlias, the knowledge gathered from those resource materials must be supplemented by a lot of hands-on judging experience both in shows and in the trial gardens. My records show that we're in pretty good shape in that regard. The tests and judging seminars may be the key elements lacking in some of your lists of requirements.

One very important piece of the knowledge that comes with judging experience is a sense of the severity of a fault. Consider the singles below. It doesn't take much experience to be able to differentiate between these two entries in the color category. The wolf petal at 5 o'clock in the left bloom leaps out at you and the penalty would be most of the 22 color points. However, you would virtually never see a bloom like the one on the left in a show (except to make a point) or in a Trial garden. Now, take a closer look at the bloom on the right. Does it deserve a passing score? The answer is, of course, yes. The red is bright and clean and pretty uniform. The yellow eye zone is bright and an attractive contrast to the red. Is the color perfect? The answer is, of course, no! Look, for example, at the difference in the size



Above are the worst and the best of the open-centered seedlings at the Petitti Show two seasons ago. (Pretty easy to tell which is which, eh?) The worst went to the compost pile; the best went on to win the best S at the National Show last year.

of the eye zones in the ray florets at 12 and 6 o'clock. In addition, the eye zone in the floret at 5 o'clock is not very well centered around the center of the bloom. The floret at 2 o'clock seems to show a little fading out near the tip. If we had three blooms similar to the one on the right in an ADS Seedling Bench Evaluation, what would an appropriate penalty for color be? I would say that the eye zone problems and the slight variation in red near the tips add up to a couple incidents of a subtle (or very subtle!) defect. That would translate to a color score of the order of 90%, or -2. Of course, in order to be able to properly analyze the color, you would want to be able to examine three actual blooms, not just a picture of a single bloom.

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 2-4 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

Sept 16-17 East Liverpool Dahlia Society

Sept 16-17 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 April 15, 2011

● **Call to Order/Welcome**

Jerry Moreno called the meeting to order at 7:35 with approximately 35 members and 3 guests in attendance. The Society remembered Gene Woznicki who passed away in March and had been a member of DSO for over 50 years. The Second Vice President role is still open if someone cares to step up and fill that position. There is need for volunteers to make coffee. Magic Moment is the Flower of the Year; members are encouraged to show this flower at the Parmatown Mall DSO show in September. The meeting minutes for March were approved.

● **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Joann Bendokaitis reported that the Society's money market account continues to make gains. See Joann for details.

● **Membership Report**

Membership Chair John Bendokaitis reported that DSO membership is over 100 of which 50 are also members of the American Dahlia Society. Members of ADS benefit from receiving the quarterly ADS Bulletin that contains many beneficial articles and registration forms for the Midwest and National shows. See John to pay dues for either or both societies.

John also reminded us that he has the Judging Manual for \$4.00 for those who would like to become a judge. He also has other publications for sale such as the Puget Sound *Dahlias of Today*.

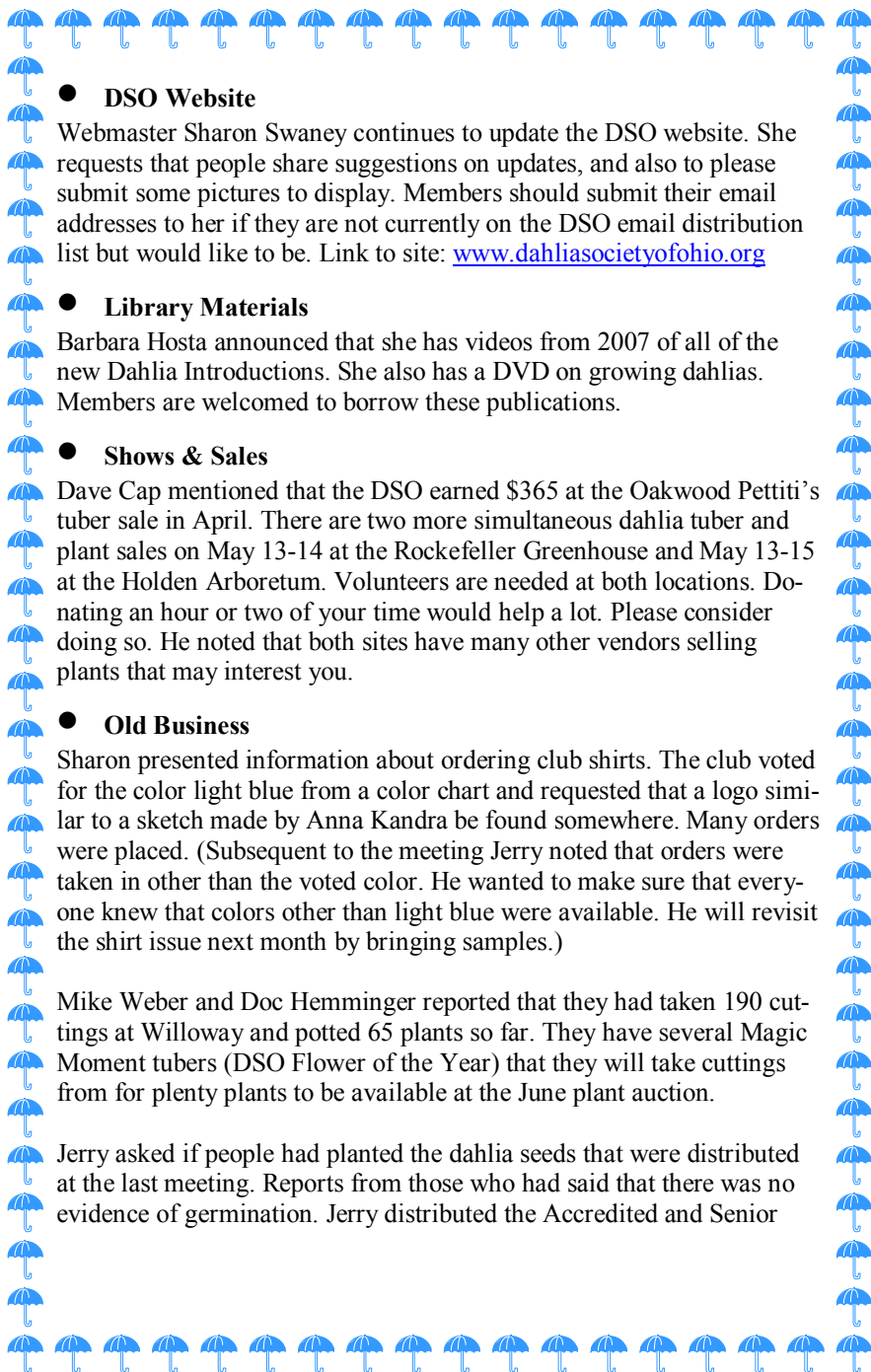
● **Corresponding Secretary**

MaryAnn Moreno reported that 112 DSO *Dahlia Digests* were mailed in April. Some of those are the last one as their dues have not be paid.

● **Cleveland Botanical Gardens Report**

Marge Janki reported that the Cleveland Botanical Gardens distributes emailed newsletters for those interested on signing up on their website's home page. The Cleveland Botanical Gardens will hold a Mother's Day Brunch on May 8th. Reservations must be made by calling 216-707-2863. Prices for the brunch and a list of all other events hosted by the Botanical Garden can be found at: www.cb garden.org/events/.





● **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: www.dahliasocietyofohio.org

● **Library Materials**

Barbara Hosta announced that she has videos from 2007 of all of the new Dahlia Introductions. She also has a DVD on growing dahlias. Members are welcomed to borrow these publications.

● **Shows & Sales**

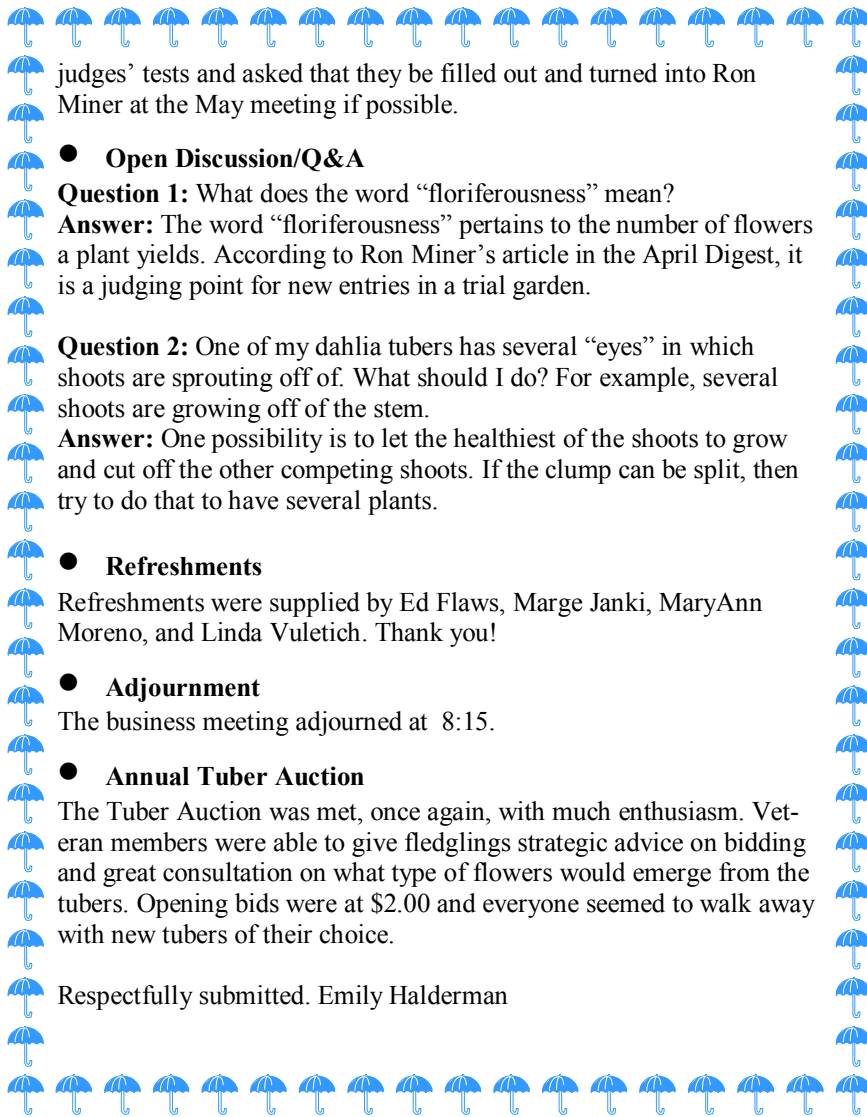
Dave Cap mentioned that the DSO earned \$365 at the Oakwood Pettiti's tuber sale in April. There are two more simultaneous dahlia tuber and plant sales on May 13-14 at the Rockefeller Greenhouse and May 13-15 at the Holden Arboretum. Volunteers are needed at both locations. Donating an hour or two of your time would help a lot. Please consider doing so. He noted that both sites have many other vendors selling plants that may interest you.

● **Old Business**

Sharon presented information about ordering club shirts. The club voted for the color light blue from a color chart and requested that a logo similar to a sketch made by Anna Kandra be found somewhere. Many orders were placed. (Subsequent to the meeting Jerry noted that orders were taken in other than the voted color. He wanted to make sure that everyone knew that colors other than light blue were available. He will revisit the shirt issue next month by bringing samples.)

Mike Weber and Doc Hemminger reported that they had taken 190 cuttings at Willoway and potted 65 plants so far. They have several Magic Moment tubers (DSO Flower of the Year) that they will take cuttings from for plenty plants to be available at the June plant auction.

Jerry asked if people had planted the dahlia seeds that were distributed at the last meeting. Reports from those who had said that there was no evidence of germination. Jerry distributed the Accredited and Senior



judges' tests and asked that they be filled out and turned into Ron Miner at the May meeting if possible.

● **Open Discussion/Q&A**

Question 1: What does the word "floriferousness" mean?

Answer: The word "floriferousness" pertains to the number of flowers a plant yields. According to Ron Miner's article in the April Digest, it is a judging point for new entries in a trial garden.

Question 2: One of my dahlia tubers has several "eyes" in which shoots are sprouting off of. What should I do? For example, several shoots are growing off of the stem.

Answer: One possibility is to let the healthiest of the shoots to grow and cut off the other competing shoots. If the clump can be split, then try to do that to have several plants.

● **Refreshments**

Refreshments were supplied by Ed Flaws, Marge Janki, MaryAnn Moreno, and Linda Vulecich. Thank you!

● **Adjournment**

The business meeting adjourned at 8:15.

● **Annual Tuber Auction**

The Tuber Auction was met, once again, with much enthusiasm. Veteran members were able to give fledglings strategic advice on bidding and great consultation on what type of flowers would emerge from the tubers. Opening bids were at \$2.00 and everyone seemed to walk away with new tubers of their choice.

Respectfully submitted. Emily Halderman

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What is the official city flower for Seattle, Washington that is to be propagated in all city parks as of 1913?

Through the Garden Gates

June 24 and June 25, 2011

10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Rain or shine.

The Gates Mills Garden Club is holding a self-guided tour through eight magnificent private gardens in Gates Mills plus: The Historical Society Gardens at the Southwick House build in 1834; the Village Arboretum established in 1935; and the Master Gardeners Plant-A-Row Gardens in the heart of the village. Garden tour tickets purchased in advance are \$20 per person (\$25 on the day). Make checks payable to The Gates Mills Garden Club and mail to The Gates Mills Garden Club Tour, PO Box 216, Gates Mills OH 44040. For more information and details contact: Lenore Finerman 440-423-0102.

Your Officers Need Your Input

- **Let Sharon know of any suggestions for our DSO picnic site.**
- **Let Jerry know of any articles you would like to see in the Digest.**
- **Let Sharon know of any suggestions for programs.**

We want to serve your best interests!

THANKS!

Plant Lighting for Dahlia Seedlings and Cuttings

Last month this space featured an article by Don McAllister of the Colorado Dahlia Society on starting dahlias inside under lights.



Not to be outdone, our own Dave Cap has provided us with the following pictures of his way to start dahlias in his three-tier lighting system. Thanks Dave!

Members of our sister society, the Mahoning Valley Dahlia Society, namely Jim Chuey and Randy and Kathy Foith have another suggestion that Dave also picked up on. This is Dave's version that he created in his detached garage—no more room in the basement! He built a box surrounded on the sides by insulated foam board. Two sets of lights are lowered to just above the plants in the box. Foam board is placed over the top of the lights. The device generates a very warm terrarium type environment in which plants thrive.





Dave's "DAHLIAMOBILE." Always thinking, Dave Cap had to put on his thinking "cap" (no pun intended, well maybe pun intended!) to decide how he was going to transport to Rockefeller and Holden more trays of dahlias than the bed of his van could possibly handle. You'll have to ask him exactly what he did, but an old bed frame and some 2x4's all found in his garage and some creativity produced the double-decker contraption shown—side-views and rear-view.



**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
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023

