

DAHLIA DIGEST

DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO

Since 1930

VOL. 2011 ISSUE 7
November 2011



Friday, November 18
Meeting
7:30 p.m.
Busch Community Room
7501 Ridge Road, Parma



Program
Part II: What's Wrong
with My Foliage?

Viruses

Annual PHOTO
Contest



President's Notes

Hi Gang,

Tony Evangelista mentioned to me that frost had not hit his dahlias as of the first of November, so Jackie was still cutting blooms to enjoy. Amazing. But most of us have no doubt cut our stalks even if roots are yet to be dug.

I received a call from Elaine Walton who is the sister of long-time DSO member, Norm Zaworski. At 91, Norm still managed to plant 300 dahlias last spring but his health turned south over the summer and he is no longer able to care for his amazing yard plantings of all kinds. She asked if DSO would be interested in digging his dahlia plants. Thanks to those who volunteered about five hours Saturday Nov. 1 to help dig and wash: Mike and Marilyn Weber, Sharon and Rob Swaney, Dave Cap, Hank Doll. Barbara Hosta and Ed Flaws stopped by as well. Marilyn brought some delicious chili and Anna Kandra sent along some great muffins that were enjoyed by all as a welcomed break. Thanks to you all for time devoted well above the call of duty.

Update on Officers for 2012: I will run for a second two-year term as president. Sharon is not running again for First VP but is interested in the Treasurer position being vacated by Joann. Joann and John Bendokaitis are interested in being Co-Membership Chairs. **So, folks, we are in need of filling the First Vice President position.** It could be filled with Co-Chairs, but if not filled at all, then there is a possibility of having no programs or picnic or holiday get-together next year. Please let me know that you are interested in keeping your DSO viable. Thanks for your thoughtful consideration.

Looking forward to seeing your contest photo entries.

Jerry



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

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, Recording Secretary..... 330-697-7368
 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
 Linda Vuletich, Sunshine Chair..... 330-547-8025
 Jerry Moreno, ADS Representative..... 440-543-5658

REFRESHMENTS

Joann Bendokaitis MaryAnn Moreno Sharon Swaney



MEETING DATES for 2011

March 18 **New Introductions; ‘Tufa’ revisited**
April 15 **Tuber auction**
May 20 **Plant auction**
June 17 **Container gardening**
September 18 **Picnic Ron and Barbara Miner**
October 21 **On dahlia foliage; digging & storing**
November 18 **Photo contest; On dahlia viruses.**
December 3 **Holiday get-together**

**OFFICERS FOR 2012
HELP!
DSO NEEDS YOU!**

- **Nominations for President:
Jerry Moreno**



- **Nominations for First Vice President:
Please consider. DSO needs you.**



The main responsibilities are to find four programs for March June, October, November; find a picnic site and December holiday site. Please let Jerry know if you are interested. Thanks to Sharon for an outstanding two years.

- **Nominations for Treasurer:
Sharon Swaney**



- **Nominations for Membership Co-Chairs:
John and Joann Bendokaitis**

- **Nominations for Second Vice President
Please consider. DSO needs you.**

The main responsibility is to oversee the shows, in essence to be of assistance to Dave Cap who is the Show Chairman for all of our shows.

Note: Emily and MaryAnn are midway in their two-year term as Recording and Corresponding Secretaries.

**Annual DSO Holiday Party
Saturday, December 3 11:30 a.m.**

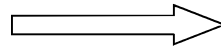
**L'Albatros Brasserie
11401 Bellflower Road
Cleveland, OH 44106
216-791-7880
www.albatrosbrasserie.com**

1. The restaurant doesn't open until 11:30.
2. We will have our own room and will order off a limited menu on the day of the luncheon. Each person/couple/group will have their own check. To facilitate individual checks, you will be asked to order dessert (if desired) when you order your lunch.
3. A 20% gratuity will be added to each check (but they aren't charging for the room).
4. There is a charge for parking.
5. After lunch, those interested will visit the Botanical Garden. DSO will pay the admission charge. The Garden is within walking distance of L'Albatros but if you prefer to drive, there is a parking fee for on-site parking at the Garden (\$5 for 2.5 hours) so we'll try to car-pool.

**Please let Sharon know at or before our
November 18 meeting if you plan to attend the
party.**

**Sharon Swaney 330-562-3296
sharonswaney@windstream.net**

Menu is on next page



Our Menu Choices

| | |
|---|----|
| Mixed Greens salad (side salad size) with balsamic vinaigrette | 6 |
| Soupe Du Jour | 6 |
| Chicken confit crispy leg and thigh with spätzle, paprika and roasted garlic jus | 12 |
| Roasted Cod with toasted garlic spätzle, sauerkraut, crème fraîche and cornichon aioli | 16 |
| Entrée Salad | |
| With chicken | 14 |
| With salmon | 15 |
| Warm Chocolate Brownie with crème anglaise and vanilla bean ice cream | 7 |
| Crème fraîche cheesecake | 7 |

Cocktails, wine, and other beverages will be available.





November Meeting (November 18)

Annual Photography Contest

Categories:

- Single Dahlia Blooms
- Dahlias with Others
(others being
people, animals,
insects, gardens...)
- Make Me Laugh!

No electronic manipulation in the first two categories except for cropping. In the Make Me Laugh category electronic manipulation is encouraged.

Cash prizes!

Part II – What’s Wrong with My Foliage? – Viruses

This will be a mostly pictorial review of dahlia viruses.



**Looking for a \$10—\$20 Holiday Season Gift?
How about a New Introduction tuber?
Here are a few commercial nurseries to check out.
There are many more...see *ADS Bulletin* or
Puget Sound Dahlia Association's *Dahlias of Today***

JS Dahlias
www.jsdahlias.com

**J. T. Dahlias...Penhill Camilla Dyzel, Roque Phil Day, Roque Royal,
414-327-1759 Roque Dad's Delight, Badger Higgo, Maizee Daz**

Hollyhill Dahlias
Hollyhilldahlias.com

Verrone's
www.wadahlias.com

Ferncliff Gardens
Email: info@ferncliffgardens.com

Accent Dahlias
www.dahliasuppliers.com/accent/

Les and Vivian Connell
www.dahliasbylesandviv.com

Birch Bay Dahlias
Email: sbgseattle@aol.com

Lobaugh's Dahlias
Lobaughsdahlias.com

Clearview Dahlias
www.clearviewdahlias.com

The JUDGE's Corner

Ron Miner - baronminer@aol.com

Determination of a seedling's color can be a complicated subject even for fully double cultivars. This seedling is a case in point. It is one of Steve and Sandy Boley's. Steve and I have discussed it via email on a couple occasions. The basic question is whether or not our current color system can capture the colors in this seedling. What do you think about that question? What colors do you see? White tips may be your first observation. The bases of the florets are also clearly purple. Don't miss, however, the red flecks in the purple. The complication in the determination of the color is that, at least in some cases, the red variegation extends into the white tips. Let's consider, for a moment, the results in the case if the white tips were as thoroughly variegated as the bases of the florets.

You can see some examples of that situation around 11 o'clock near the center of the bloom. What would you conclude? My conclusion would be that the cultivar is variegated. That part was easy, eh? What, now are the two colors involved in the variegation? I hope you would say that the first color is a Bicolor of purple with white tips. The second color is red or dark red. Thus, if the variegation persisted right to the tips of the florets, we would determine the color to be V Bi(P/W)/DR.



Irish Mystic

My impression, however, is that the best characterization of the variegation is that it ends with the purple. Look at the more mature florets around the equator. Those florets are pretty much pure white. That leaves us with an entirely different situation, right? Our florets have a variegated base and white tips. So, how do we characterize the color - BI, V, DB, ... ? In my view, bicolor is the description that best captures the whole floret. What is the next question? What are the two colors that comprise the bicolor? They are (1) variegated and (2) white. The two colors in the variegation are purple and red. I think, therefore, that the cultivar is Bi V(P/DR)/W and that our current system is able to determine and to classify the color of the cultivar.

Are you ready now to give the cultivar a score for color? Remember that we can only really be expected to be able to do that if we had three plants in a Trial Garden or three blooms on the Seedling Bench! Nevertheless, it is a very interesting cultivar and we can talk about some of the considerations that would go into the determination of a score. You would probably want to start with the issue we already discussed regarding the extent of the variegation in the florets. There is some non-uniformity in the extent of that variegation and that would be considered a fault. How severe is that fault? I would start by suggesting that the florets around 11 or 12 o'clock near the center aren't as important as those at the equator. That is, I would recommend that you focus on the florets at or near the equator to evaluate the uniformity of the variegation. In that context, there are florets at 3 o'clock, just short of 6 o'clock, and at 9 o'clock that have larger areas of red than the others. Inasmuch as the extent (number of instances) of that fault and the degree (the amount of red present or white missing) of the fault are both small, I would argue that the nonuniformity fault is minor.

What other color faults do you see? While there are no wolf petals, the red in a couple of the florets at 2 and 3 o'clock and the one at 9 o'clock is greater than most of the other florets. Here again, the extent and the degree of that fault is small, so I would call it another minor fault. Do you remember the bottom line for "minor faults" from last month's column? It was 85%. I would suggest, therefore, that the color penalty (based solely and inappropriately on one picture!) would be of the order of 3 points.



Daffy 10

In closing, I want to let you know Steve's perspective on his seedling. While he largely agrees with the foregoing analysis, he argues that it would be better to create a new color class for multi-colored dahlias. He and I agree 100% that it is very important to encourage the development and commercialization of this kind of cultivar. It is

clear, I think, that our typical John Q. Public would be a lot more thrilled with this cultivar than he would be with even a perfect Hamari Accord. When we discussed this column, Steve volunteered more examples that would help fill up the class. Your assignment for next month (smile!) is to come up with the best characterization of these additional examples. Have fun!



F Daffy (2nd year)



Be-a-Sport

After you've figured out the best color classification, go ahead and determine the form of Be-a-Sport. After you've done that, take a look in the Classification Handbook of Dahlias (CHD) and see what it says about form and color. Do you agree with the CHD? Neither Steve, nor I, do. Perhaps it will be up for reclassification next year.



I can't resist the opportunity to add Neil Evan's picture of (my) Rembrandt at the Petitti Show. It is very unusual for a MS to win out over fully double candidates for Reserve Champion. It was, however, the best Rembrandt I've ever noticed in my garden and it probably deserved the award. The point is that it is a perfect example of how easy it can be to grow and enter show flowers. That plant and that bloom got zero attention from the time it was planted until I noticed it and brought it to the show. If you have an interest in judging, here is a very easy way to meet that part of our judging requirements! Speaking of judging requirements, if you are a SR or an AC judge, you

need to complete the appropriate judge's test and get it to me as soon as possible. Thanks!



gardens at night and spraying slugs with vinegar. The presentation also explored nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium deficiencies. Ron Miner encouraged members to read Mac Boyer's article on the ADS website regarding this subject matter. The DSO members discussed that phosphorous does not ever go away and that anyone who fertilizes will not have a phosphorous deficiency. Potassium deficiency will stunt a plant's growth and make them short. The importance of testing one's soil was emphasized during this presentation.

Dividing and Storing Dahlias

Dave Cap shared his technique with dividing and storing dahlias.

Dave began removing his dahlia tubers from the ground in the middle of October, however, one could also wait until the first killer frost.

When first cutting the dahlia plant down, leave part of the stock and tubers in the ground for a week before digging up the tubers, to give them a chance for the eyes to form. You can cover the hollow stock with painters tape to prevent water from collecting in the stem base and causing the tubers to rot.

Dave Cap does not compost the green stems of dahlia plants due to possible viruses.

When tubers are pulled from the ground, Dave will dip the tubers in a very mild bleach/water solution.

Dave warns NOT to allow the tubers to sit in the sun to dry or they will shrivel.

Once the tubers are pulled from the ground, Dave will hollow-out the bottom of the stem with a knife and twist a hole out of the center so moisture cannot collect or remain in the top of the stock.

Dave cuts the spindly roots off of the tubers, which is also referred to as the "rat's tail."

After Dave removes a plant's mass of tubers from the ground, Dave washes off the soil. Next, he wraps them in newspaper for two or three weeks until the tubers dry out.

When Dave divides the tubers, he always keeps a piece of the stem on each tuber.

Dave's preference is to use cutting shears, and not a knife when separating his tubers.

Dave will not keep smaller tubers and will discard the tubers with broken necks.

Ron Miner uses a Kevlar glove to protect his hand while dividing his tubers.

Next, Dave will write a number on each of his tubers and correlate them to a register that includes the associated number to the name of the plant. He emphasizes the importance of keeping three copies of the registration in case some were to be lost.

Dave will then store his clean, dry tubers (which are marked with numbers) in Saran Wrap. Other members report that they have also stored their tubers in plastic sandwich bags and vermiculite.



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

CHECK PAYABLE to DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO

**Mail to: John Bendokaitis
17182 Eastview
Chagrin Falls OH 44023**

DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

**PLEASE PLACE X in ONLY ONE OF THE
FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS.**

- DSO MEMEBERSHIP**
includes husband and wife.....\$10.00
- DSO with ADS MEMBERSHIP**
Individual.....\$34.00
- DSO with ADS MEMBERSHIP**
Family.....\$37.00
- DSO with ADS MEMBERSHIP**
For student 18 years or younger.....\$15.00

SNOWBIRDS:

- DSO with ADS...INDIVIDUAL.....\$40.00**
- DSO with ADS...FAMILY..... \$43.00**

WINTER SNOWBIRD ADDRESS:

DAHLIA SOCIETY of OHIO
MaryAnn Moreno
8232 Westhill Drive
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023

