

# DAHLIA DIGEST

*DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO*

Since 1930

**VOL. 2011 ISSUE 6**  
**October 2011**



**Friday, October 21**  
**Meeting**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Busch Community**  
**Room**



## Program

**What's Wrong with**  
**My Foliage? Part I**

(Part II in November on Dahlia Viruses)

**Q&A and Demo:**  
**Digging and Storing**



## President's Notes

Hi Gang,

Well, another growing season is about to end. I hope that you and others enjoyed your dahlias. If you had a bad year as did I, there's always hope that next year will be better!

Although some of the shows were smaller than usual this year, nonetheless there were many gorgeous blooms. It was encouraging to have several new novices display their flowers and to have them interested in clerking/judging. Thanks to Ron Miner for holding several judging seminars over the summer; the one at Pettiti's on seedlings not only educated us on judging seedlings but encouraged us to start new varieties from seed. Also, evaluating blooms at the Trial Garden in Youngstown was a great experience.

Thanks to Sharon for organizing a fabulous picnic and to the Miners for hosting us. It's always fun to visit our top growers' gardens. After the picnic festivities Ron conducted yet another judging seminar on his own blooms! Courageous guy! What was really interesting was that some of us judged one of his new creations in the garden as a trial garden evaluation while another group judged the same blooms that had been cut for the DSO show in a bench-type evaluation. Although the pressure was really on under our mentor's eyes, the two groups' evaluations were fairly close. Whew!

Congratulations to all the Court of Honor winners. And thanks to all of us who participated in the shows in one way or another, shared our blooms with friends, work colleagues, shut-ins, post office, hospital, or library lobbies. And a huge annual thanks to Dave Cap who continues to organize our shows as "stellar" as ever. We would be in dire straits without you Dave.

Hope to see you at the October meeting. Sharon has put together very interesting presentations on foliage.

Jerry



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

Marilyn Weber Barbara Miner MaryAnn Moreno



### 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

## TIDBITS

- 1. Looking ahead to the December Meeting  
Lunch at L'Albatros on Bellflower, 11:30.  
Each person/couple will have own check but  
from limited menu since we are a group.  
After lunch, for those who are interested, visit  
the Botanical Garden at a discount rate  
(short walk if weather cooperates—or  
can drive of course).**
- 2. It's time to step forward and devote your time and  
talents to DSO by being an officer. Please think  
seriously about doing a little extra for your  
society. Information is on the next page.  
Thanks for considering!**
- 3. It's time to renew your dues for DSO as well as  
ADS, or to join ADS if you are not currently a  
member. The ADS Bulletin is an excellent quar-  
terly publication filled with articles on various  
dahlia topics, advertisements from commercial  
growers, reports from the ADS societies, minutes  
of the parent society. The dues structure for both  
DSO and ADS is given at the end of this Digest.  
Please renew NOW before you forget. John will be  
ecstatic in your doing so!**
- 4. Dahlias for Cut Flowers  
According to *Dahlias: A Monthly Guide*, dahlias  
that are especially suited as cut flowers include:  
Miniature: Barberry Standard, Shadow Cat, Rebecca  
Lynn, Mary Jo, Glenbank Twinkle, Nicole C.;  
BB: Chilson's Pride, Just Peachy, Skipley Spot,  
Santa Claus;  
B: Fidalgo Lisa, Kenora Sunset;  
Other type: Japanese Bishop, Alloway Candy.**

**OFFICERS FOR 2012  
PLEASE VOLUNTEER**

**Nominations for President, First Vice President, and Treasurer are being accepted through the November meeting. Contact Jerry.**

**1. Joann Bendokaitis is stepping down from having done an outstanding job of being DSO's Treasurer for many years. Let Jerry know if you are interested.**



**2. Sharon Swaney has completed her term as First Vice President. The main responsibilities are to find 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.**



**3. Jerry's tenure of two years as President terminates this year. Please let him know if you are interested in being DSO's next president.**



**4. We are still in need of a Second Vice President whose main responsibility is to oversee the shows. Dave Cap is the Show Chairman for all of our shows.**



## The JUDGE's Corner

**Ron Miner - baronminer@aol.com**

Last month we discussed some details in the evaluation of a seedling's form. The key elements in determining the quality of form are symmetry, contour, development, trueness to the ideal definition, and size proportion. In judging form, it is essential that we take each of those variables into consideration and not focus on just one of the aspects of form.

Unlike Form, Color is not broken down into a number of smaller elements. It can, therefore, be more difficult to come up with the appropriate numerical penalty when you are judging a seedling. How do you start to figure out whether an entry deserves a passing score for color? You need to start by determining the color of the blooms. In most cases, the blooms will be a solid, uniform color that comes pretty close to matching one of the chips in the ADS color chart. On the other hand, what if you were the lucky judge looking, for the first time, at Pooh as a seedling? Your first challenge would be to make the call on the color of the ray florets. Are they a blend or a bi-color? The manual says that the ideal bicolor will have uniform tips "with little bleeding" while the colors in blends "merge gradually." If this picture were the only information you had about Pooh, you might have trouble in deciding between blend and bi-color since there is some streaking of colors in the florets and some look more like a blend than a bicolor. Nevertheless, we would probably end up with BI (R/Y) with the appropriate chip numbers on each. Next, you would check the petaloids and reach the final classification as CO BI(R/Y)/y.



In the process of determining the classification, we've already discovered a couple faults in that the second color is not particularly uniform around the bloom and some of the florets exhibit quite a lot of bleeding or streaking of the yellow into the red. You will find the other types of possible color faults listed on the backs of the judging sheets. Are the color(s) faded, dull or gray? Blotchy, streaked, veined? Or, on the other hand, are they clear, bright, lustrous? In this bloom, we probably end up on the positive side for these characteristics.

Thus, for this bloom, there are several faults: bleeding, nonuniformity in the distribution of the colors, and the petaloids exhibit some

areas of white. Are the faults minor? Major? Severe? Certainly the white areas on the petaloids are very minor faults. The non-uniformity of the yellow color distribution should probably be considered a major fault. The bleeding or streaking is intermediate in severity to the other two faults.

Ok, how do we translate those observations of faults to a numerical penalty? The judging manual does not directly address this question. The following table provides an approach that I find useful in moving from the observation of faults to determining a penalty. In the context of our judge trying to come up with a score for Pooh, this table suggests that we should give this (single bloom) Pooh a failing score for color. Clearly, a lot hinges on your assessment of the severity of that color distribution problem. If, for example, the other two blooms in the 3 bloom entry on the seedling bench (or the other 8 blooms in the

| <b>Fault Observation</b>                  | <b>Rating</b> | <b>Score</b> |
|---|---------------|--------------|
| <b>No Faults</b>                          | Perfect       | 100%         |
| <b>A Minor Fault</b>                      | Excellent     | 90%          |
| <b>Minor Faults</b>                       | Passing       | 85%          |
| <b>A Major Fault or Many Minor Faults</b> | Failing       | 80%          |
| <b>One Severe or Sev-</b>                 | Very Poor     | 70%          |

trial garden) had better color distribution, we would call it a minor fault and achieve a passing score for color. In this case, however, the answer to the penalty question would be 20%, or about -4.5 points.

In closing, I'd like to welcome and thank the Candidate Judges who have joined our ranks in the DSO. I'm having fun working with them and I think they are enjoying the process, too. We hope to have a seedling contest at the Petitti Show next year based on AN seedlings (plus our ongoing open-centered and stellar seedlings). More on that later. We hope you'll join us!

For the AC and SR judges out there, if you have not yet sent me your judge's test, please do so as soon as possible. I will need to report our results soon!

As your DSO rep to ADS, I am reproducing a few pages of the September ADS Bulletin to encourage you to join ADS. The Bulletin is published four times a year and contains very interesting articles as well as advertisers from commercial growers. Also, check out the ADS website that contains dahlia resources and articles and a marketplace for books and DVDs. [www.dahlia.org](http://www.dahlia.org)

Jerry

**DAHLIA CULTURE**

| Condition of the terminal Bud For Fully Double Blooms  | Days to Maturity |
|--|------------------|
| Baby bud enlarged but still entirely covered by bracts | 17 to 19 days    |
| Small pea bud visible within bracts                    | 16 to 18 days    |
| Big pea bud partly covered by bract                    | 13 to 16 days    |
| Bracts upright but touching bud at sides               | 11 to 16 days    |
| Bracts beginning to open out flat or are flat          | 10 to 11 days    |
| Tinge of color or petals loosening at center           | 7 to 9 days      |
| Colored petals loosening at center                     | 6 to 7 days      |
| 1 to 5 petals lifting up straight                      | 6 days           |
| Several petals upright or at 45 degrees or some flat   | 5 days           |
| Petals upright or outer row of petals flat             | 4 days           |
| Fully open   | 1 days           |

*Thank you Tana Tuber Topics and Bill McClaren*

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## A NEW FERTILIZER PRODUCT

I have found a new water soluble fertilizer that I know is better than any of the leading fertilizers on the market. I have used it on dahlia seeds, dahlia plants, as well as tomato seeds and plants. I feel that this new fertilizer is over two times as effective as its competitors.

First, Paul Hale sent me an article on a Japanese dahlia grower using liquid fertilizer on seeds. He stated that soaking the seeds in a liquid fertilizer solution for four hours prior to planting will increase the size and quickness of the seed sprouting.

I have always used this method, and have always used a light 20-20-20 fertilizer solution to soak the seeds. This year I tried **Fred's 2-1-3**, and the results were outstanding.

Gilly Simmons and Kelly Dean both sent dahlia seed that came up after three days after soaking the seeds in this new fertilizer. Never have I seen seeds come up so fast.

I have also tried this method on tomato seeds as well, and the results were comparable: some seeds came up in less than two days, much faster compared to the other brands. I did a side by side experiment using Fred's 2-1-3 against the leading competitor, and the seedlings treated with the 2-1-3 were bigger and more robust, and much healthier.

The fertilizer was given to me by Fred Haegele of Fred's Fertilizer Company, a small business in North Carolina. **Fred's 2-1-3** is a dry fertilizer made of mostly guano, as well as water soluble amendments such as kelp, yucca extract, and raw salts. It is portioned in teabags, and you soak it in water for 15 minutes before application. The application is very easy to do.

**Fred's 2-1-3** is very reasonably priced and shipping is very inexpensive. The packaging is nice, too. The fertilizer can be ordered through the mail or internet, at [freds213.com](http://freds213.com). Fred can also be contacted via email, [info@freds213.com](mailto:info@freds213.com).

Everyone should try this for larger plants and blooms, and ease of use.

*Bob Keesling*

## MORE ON TOPPING DAHLIAS

Last summer this bulletin published an article about topping dahlias to obtain quality show bloom and to promote general good plant health. The article followed the conventional wisdom (which is at least forty years old) that to get quality show bloom you top AA and A size dahlias after they have produced two sets of leaves, which will result in four laterals. If the laterals are disbudded properly that will produce four blooms. B dahlias are topped after three sets leaves have formed to produce six blooms (I find with some B's you can successfully let them go to four sets of leaves and eight bloom) BB dahlias are topped after four sets of leaves have formed (and probably Ball dahlias as well). All others are allowed to produce the maximum number of sets of leaves before being topped. All dahlias should be topped to encourage the laterals to develop quickly and thus fill out the plant.

I do not disagree with this procedure, but I would like to suggest a modification of it. I like to let AA and A size dahlias produce three sets of leaves before I top them. Likewise I let Bs develop four sets of leaves and BBs five. There are two reasons for doing this.

First, we all know that some laterals never develop properly or are injured in some way early in their development. By allowing the additional laterals to grow, long before the buds set on you can choose which four laterals to let develop for AAs and As and likewise down the line.

There is, however, another reason I like to let additional leaves form. It is ordinarily (not always) true that laterals opposite each other will produce bloom at approximately the same time. (It should be noted that in some varieties the top laterals will produce bloom first, while in others it may be the bottom ones) If with the AAs and As you let three sets of laterals form you can choose to grow laterals at different levels which will likely produce bloom over a longer period of time. This will enable the grower to exhibit bloom in more shows or even just have bloom in the garden longer.



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**Cuyahoga County Fair  
Court of Honor 8/13/2011**



|                  |                     |                                   |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Novice           | Magic Moment        | Emily Haldeman                    |
| Amateur AA/A     | Alfred C            | Bob Wenning                       |
| Amateur B        | Zapf's Desert Storm | Mary Blatnik-Smith                |
| Open AA/A        | Wyn's Sundazzler    | Harriet Chandler and<br>Jim Chuey |
| Open B           | Hamari Sunshine     | Mike Weber                        |
| Open BB          | Barbara Miner       | Mike Weber                        |
| Ball             | Chimacum Troy       | Randy/Kathy Foith                 |
| Miniature        | Martina             | Harriet and Jim                   |
| Other            | Midnight Star       | Randy/Kathy Foith                 |
| 3 Bloom          | Verda               | Harriet and Jim                   |
| Largest          | Zorro               | Harriet and Jim                   |
| Grand Champion   | Wyn's Sundazzler    | Harriet and Jim                   |
| Reserve Champion | Martina             | Harriet and Jim                   |

**Pettiti Court of Honor 10/1/2011**

|                  |                    |                                   |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Novice           | Elsie Huston       | Jim Thompson                      |
| AA/A             | Kenora Jubilee     | Randy/Kathy Foith                 |
| B                | Skipley Bonanza    | Harriet Chandler and<br>Jim Chuey |
| BB               | Embrace            | Tony Evangelista                  |
| Miniature        | Badger Twinkle     | Harriet and Jim                   |
| Ball             | Chimacum Troy      | Randy/Kathy Foith                 |
| Pompon           | Poppet             | Tony Evalngelista                 |
| Other            | Rembrandt          | Ron Miner                         |
| 3 Bloom          | Brookside J Cooley | Harriet and Jim                   |
| Largest          | Kenora Wildfire    | Harriet and Jim                   |
| Seedling         |                    | John Lerner                       |
| Artistic Design  |                    | Sharon/Rob Swaney                 |
| Grand Champion   | Embrace            | Tony Evangelista                  |
| Reserve Champion | Rembrandt          | Ron Miner                         |



**DSO 81st Annual Court of Honor 2011**  
**ParmaTown Mall 9/10/2011**

|                   |                    |                 |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Novice AA         | Barbara B          | Emily Halderman |
| Novice B          | Alpen Bill         | Emily Halderman |
| Novice BB         | Aitara Diadem      | Paige Arnholt   |
| Novice Other      | Badger Twinkle     | Jim Thompson    |
| Novice OpenCenter | Bishop of Llandaff | Don Witt        |

|                 |                     |                   |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Small Grower AA | Zorro               | Tony Evangelista  |
| Small Grower A  | Vassio Meggos       | Rodney Toth       |
| Small Grower B  | Woodlands Wildthing | Lynn Campbell     |
| Small Grower BB | Parkland Rave       | Bud/Emily Edwards |

|                |                 |                       |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Open Grower AA | Zorro           | Randy and Kathy Foith |
| Open Grower A  | Kenora Wildfire | Mike Weber            |
| Open Grower B  | Clearview Tammy | Mike Weber            |
| Open Grower BB | Dana Iris       | Rudy Bredenbeck       |

|                      |                  |                          |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Miniature            | Badger Twinkle   | Tony Evangelista         |
| Ball                 | Jessie G         | Rudy Bredenbeck          |
| Miniatur Ball        | Chimacum Troy    | Randy and Kathy Foith    |
| PomPon               | Czar Willo       | Randy and Kathy Foith    |
| Stellar              | 10-SB-1.5        | Ron Miner                |
| Waterlily            | Taratahi Ruby    | Rudy Bredenbeck          |
| Novelty Fully Double | Valley Porcupine | Harriet and Jim          |
| Peony                | Elvira           | Randy and Kathy Foith    |
| Anemone              | Lambada II       | Carol Sahley Brant Giere |
| Collarette           | Clair de Lune    | Harriet and Jim          |
| Orchid               | Lupin Sheila     | Randy and Kathy Foith    |
| Single               | Marcella Louise  | Harriet and Jim          |
| Mignon Single        | Inflammation     | Randy and Kathy Foith    |

ParmaTown Court cont.

|                       |                        |                                |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Triple AA/A           | Verda                  | Rudy Bredenbeck                |
| Triple B              | Clearview Louise       | Mike Weber                     |
| Triple BB             | Lakeview Glow          | Dave Cap                       |
| Triple Miniature      | Brookside J Cooley     | Harriet and Jim                |
| Triple Ball           | Jessie G               | Rudy Bredenbeck                |
| Triple Miniature Ball | Sir Richard            | Harriet and Jim                |
| Triple Steller/NX     | 10-SB-1                | Ron Miner                      |
| Triple Open Center    | Rembrandt              | Ron Miner                      |
| Triple Multiple       |                        | Harriet and Jim                |
| Vase of 5 Blooms      | Just Peachy            | Jim and Nancy Shaffer          |
| Vase of 10 Blooms     | Inflammation           | Randy and Kathy Foith          |
| Basket                | Orchids                | Dave Cap                       |
| Flower of the Year    | Magic Moment           | Harriet and Jim                |
| Dinner Plate          | Inland Dynasty         | Harriet and Jim                |
| Largest               | Danum Meteor           | Randy/Kathy Foith              |
| <b>KING</b>           | <b>Kenora Wildfire</b> | <b>Mike Weber</b>              |
| <b>QUEEN</b>          | <b>Jessie G</b>        | <b>Rudy Bredenbeck</b>         |
| <b>DUKE</b>           | <b>Badger Twinkle</b>  | <b>Tony Evangelista</b>        |
| <b>DUCHESS</b>        | <b>Inflammation</b>    | <b>Randy &amp; Kathy Foith</b> |

*Thanks for a terrific show!*

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

**CHECK PAYABLE to DAHLIA SOCIETY OF OHIO**

**Mail to: John Bendokaitis  
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DAHLIA SOCIETY of OHIO  
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