

AMERICAN DAYLILY SOCIETY REGION 2 SUMMER/FALL 2023

# GREAT LAKES

ILLINOIS INDIANA MICHIGAN OHIO WISCONSIN

# Daylily



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**'Painted on Jeans'**  
(Rich, 2014)

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## American Hemerocallis Society

### Membership Rates

Individual (1 year)	\$25
Individual (3 Years)	\$70
Dual Membership (1 year) *	\$30
Dual Membership (3 years)*	\$83
Life Membership	\$500
Dual Life Membership	\$750
Youth - Individual (1 year)	\$10
Youth - Institutional (1 year)	\$25

12 month memberships begin on the first of the month after payment is received.

Make checks payable to the AHS.

Mail to: Chris Tyler  
3210 W. 109th St.  
Wakarusa, KS 66546-9556

\* Dual Membership means two persons living in the same household.

### Editorial Policy

The American Hemerocallis Society is a nonprofit organization. The *American Hemerocallis Society Region 2 / Great Lakes Newsletter* is published for the benefit of American Hemerocallis Society members residing in Region 2. As such, the editorial focus of the publication centers on:

- The genus *Hemerocallis*.
- AHS and Region 2 events.
- Region 2 members and hybridizers.

Submissions are encouraged. The editor reserves the right to edit for space, grammar, and content for the three criteria cited above.

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# Daylily

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Out-of-Region  
Subscriptions  
\$20 per year in USA  
\$30 per year overseas

Make checks payable to  
AHS Region 2 and send to  
AHS Region 2 Treasurer.

Advertising  
Rates for inside pages

Full Page..... \$200  
Half Page..... \$100  
Quarter Page .....\$50

Make checks payable to  
AHS Region 2 and send it with your  
request to the Editor.

### Content Deadline for

#### Winter Edition:

January 2, 2024

Region 2 Website: [www.adsregion2.org](http://www.adsregion2.org)

#### Important Notice:

The AHS is actively promoting the use of  
American Daylily Society in place of  
American Hemerocallis Society.

This should add clarity when sharing  
information with the general public.

You will see Region 2 follow their lead, using  
the names interchangeably going forward.

Top to bottom:

Summer Meeting 2023 Re-  
flections: Serenity Gardens

Photo Context Single Bloom  
Award Winner: ‘Beautiful  
Edgings,’ Mary Kwas image

Club Reports: SMDS Detroit  
Zoo Daylily Bed

On The Front Cover: ‘Painted on Jeans’ Photo by Amy McConnell

On The Back Cover: A Special Exhibition Show Photo by Nikki Schmith

# AHS Director Message

By Rhonda Veroeven, Region 2 Director



Oh my goodness, how are we at the end of our much awaited bloom season already? What a difficult, yet beautiful season it has been. So many beautiful blooms to enjoy, but the weather did not want to cooperate (at least for us

here in Wisconsin...the drought was almost unbearable-yet the weeds had a stellar year).

I was blessed to attend no less than five Regional Summer Meetings, a National Meeting and toured through two regions. I was a daylily fool this summer and loved every minute of it (okay, maybe not the cancelled flights), but the rest was simply remarkable. Representing our region really was a highlight.

There are some newsworthy items that came from the National Summer Board Meeting. First, we have cultivar registration data available immediately to view. This means that the full information for all registered cultivars is available immediately, rather than waiting until the checklist has been published the following spring. For those that need registration data to make nametags, this is fantastic. You will notice an asterisk next to the new cultivars that have not been published through the checklist. This does not change the fact that for exhibition shows, cultivars must have gone through the checklist process first or they will have to be shown as seedlings. Advanced search options show this for Classification Chairs at shows if there are ever questions.

Speaking of daylily shows, I absolutely love Daylily Exhibition Shows. There are only 24 Senior Exhibition Judges in our region. If you ever find that you need one, I love to judge if I am available! Reach out and I am more than happy to judge if I can. I judged in many different states this year, and none were in our region. With only 24 Senior Judges, I wouldn't be doing my part if I didn't encourage everyone to take the Exhibition Classes when they are offered at Regional Meetings or the National Convention.

I am so very excited to report that after months of not having the position filled, we have hired a new Digital Asset Manager. Belinda Cunningham is our new webmaster and has other duties as well. If you notice that there are issues with the website you will still contact Rich Crider, the Technology Chair at [technology@daylilies.org](mailto:technology@daylilies.org) to request changes. Rich will prioritize the issues and Belinda will get on them as soon as possible. I could not be happier!

As I reported at the Summer Meeting, there has been no movement on making changes to regions at this time, and I sincerely do not see there being any changes to our region in the near future. We are actually seeing an overall increase in memberships for two years in a row now, which is dramatically different than most plant societies. We are a vibrant group and are rejuvenating many things to make daylilies fun!!!

We are always looking at new ways to help fundraise and to assist with increasing our endowments. This year's 100 Giving \$100 Campaign has been largely successful, and the pins are almost sold out! Did you get yours? I absolutely love mine and wear my pins on my lanyard for as many daylily events as I can! To get your pin, you can reach out to our Endowments Chair, Greg Crane, at [endowments@daylilies.org](mailto:endowments@daylilies.org) or you can go to the ADS website and purchase a pin by going to the "Get Involved" tab, clicking on "Donations," and clicking "100 Giving \$100."

An exciting announcement was made by the head of the Nominating Committee, Rich Crider. The Board of Directors received nominations and voted and accepted the nomination of Rhonda Veroeven as your new President-Elect. My term will begin January 1, 2024. I will continue to be your voice at the national level. Taking on this new position will mean that I will no longer hold the position of Awards and Honors Chairperson, but it will not change the fact that I will represent this amazing region!!! This is an honor which I will not take lightly.

With the change of leadership, I ask for all of you to consider assisting and sharing your ideas to make the ADS even better. Either I will assist you or send

your ideas/concerns/celebrations to the appropriate chair(s) in charge of that area. Consider sitting on a committee to share your ideas or maybe even being a chair if there are openings. With my changing of positions, there will be a significant shift in jobs. I will know what I need later in October. Reach out if you are interested!

Will Region 2 be the host of an upcoming National Convention? There are MANY areas in our Region that would be amazing to host a National Convention. Please reach out to Jack Rigsby at [conventions@daylilies.org](mailto:conventions@daylilies.org) for more information. We do have several interested parties but nothing official yet for 2026 or 2027. We do have two amazing conventions lined up

for the next two years though and I certainly hope you consider attending them! I will be there!!!

Upcoming Nationals:

June 12-15, 2024 Oklahoma City, OK

July 9-12, 2025 Seattle, WA

Yours in Daylilies,

Rhonda Veroeven

Director, Region 2

Vice President, President-Elect,

Awards and Honors Chairperson



## Regional President Message

By Monique Warnke, Region 2 President

Hello Fellow Region 2 Members,

As I write this, the dog days of summer are upon us, and I am thoroughly enjoying every minute of it! The summer meeting in Lansing was fabulous. It was great to see all my fellow daylily folks. The gardens were gorgeous, as always. I appreciate all the hard work that went into each of them, because we all can attest to the effort it takes to maintain such gardens!

The plant sale was a huge success, I am very excited to see the new beauties that I have purchased bloom.

The auction was fabulous and exceeded expectations. Region 2 is in good financial standing, which will give the opportunity for exceptional speakers at our Winter meeting. This year's meeting will be held on March 1 – 3 in Lafayette, Indiana. Thanks to the Hoosier State!

As exciting as the auction was for the adults, the youth members attending the meeting loved the corn hole game and the plants they won!

Another wonderful event this year is the Shirley Farmer Hybridizer's meeting on October 28. For more informa-

tion, please follow this link: <http://www.midwesthybridizers.com>.

American Daylily Society is now stream-lining the Refresher Course for Garden Judges Workshop 2. This new workshop is called Garden Judges Workshop 3 Refresher Course. Garden Judges Workshop 2 and 3 will be accepted for recertification until the end of this year. After December 31, 2023, only the new Garden Judges Workshop Refresher course will be offered for recertification. If you have any questions about this new course please contact: [judgeseducation@daylilies.org](mailto:judgeseducation@daylilies.org) . Also, see page 58 of this newsletter for a few specific online workshops being offered at the end of October.

To keep yourself up to date on upcoming events, please check the Region 2 website: <https://adsregion2.org/> .

As always, keep your shovel in the dirt.

Monique



# Youth News

Pat Titus



It was such a great time seeing our Region 2 youth in action at the Summer Meeting. From helping with the live auction, searching for hidden prizes in a garden, and playing other games to earn free daylilies from so many generous members, they had a great time!

Thanks goes out to Carole Hunter from Prairie's Edge Garden in Rockford, Illinois, who patiently talked with our youth about hybridizing. They even got to go out into the gardens at Along the Fence Daylilies and try their hand at it themselves! The future looks bright for these youngsters in the daylily world. Be on the lookout, friends, for daylilies hybridized by these young people! They are sure to go far in their love of our favorite flower.



Above: Youth members waiting for their turn to deliver plants for the auction.



Editor's note: The Silent Auction raised over \$2000 to continue youth activities such as paying their registration to attend regional events. Thanks to Pat Titus for coordinating that and to everyone who donated or bid!



Above: Youth members increased their daylily collections playing corn hole for plant prizes. For every bid of \$100 or more at the Friday auction, youth members won corn hole tickets. Many thanks to everyone who bid high and who donated plants!!



Left, top to bottom: Carole Hunter talking with youth members about the "how to's of hybridizing and record-keeping. Youth members choosing plants and pollinating them. Their seed pods are still ripening at Along The Fence.



# Region 2 Financial Update

By Bobbi Johnson, Region 2 Treasurer

## Cash Balances as of September 25, 2023

General Fund	\$ 89,868.43
Youth Fund	1,735.00
Bob Faulkner Memorial Youth Scholarship	1,800.00
<b>Total Cash on Hand</b>	<b>\$ 93,403.43</b>



## Recent Donations To Region 2

Thank you to the following people and groups for their generous donations to Region 2.

In Honor Of	Donor	Amount
Genni, Monique & Becky	J. Ballard & J. Matzner for Youth Fund	\$150.00
	<b>Total Donations to Region 2</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>

## Public Gardens Grant Program

Applications are now being accepted for the Public Gardens Grant Program. You should have received an email from Chris Tyler, membership secretary, with specific information. A description of this program, with a downloadable application, is also available on our Region 2 Website: <https://adsregion2.org/public-garden-grant-program/>. The deadline to submit is November 30. If your local club supports a public daylily display (or has been wanting to), please check out this opportunity and apply.

## Attention Garden and Exhibition Judges!

There will be a series of trainings in October for judges who need to renew. Please contact ADS Judges Education Chair Debbie Smith at [exhibitionjudges@daylilies.org](mailto:exhibitionjudges@daylilies.org) or [judgeseducation@daylilies.org](mailto:judgeseducation@daylilies.org).

10/23 Monday - Garden Judges Workshop 1  
10/24 Tuesday - Exhibition Judges Clinic 1  
10/25 Wednesday - Garden Judges Workshop 3  
10/26 Thursday - Exhibition Judges Clinic 3  
All at 6:00 pm CENTRAL time.

# Region 2 Summer Business Meeting Minutes

Lori Doolin, Region 2 Secretary

The Region 2 Summer “Middle of the Mitten” meeting began on July 21, 2023, at the Wyndham Lansing Hotel and Conference Center in Lansing, Michigan. There were 150 registered attendees for this meeting which included six youth members. Region 2 officers and staff present at the meeting included: Monique Warnke, President; Rhonda Veroeven, Region 2 ADS Director; Barb Buikema, Publicity Director; Lori Doolin, Secretary; Bobbi Johnson, Treasurer; Pat Titus, Silent Auction Chair and Youth Liaison; Saundra Dunn, Newsletter Editor and Summer Meeting Host; Gail Braunstein, Awards and Honors; Sandy Holmes, Auditor; Gus Guzinski, ADS Scientific Studies Liaison; Laurel Richardson, Regional Exhibition Judge Co-Liaison; and Mike Anders and Ann Townsend, Regional Zoom Coordinators. In addition, seven local daylily club presidents attended.



Monique Warnke, Region 2 President, brought the business meeting to order promptly at 6:45 pm. She welcomed all those in attendance, then called on Bobbi Johnson to give the Treasurer’s report.



Bobbi Johnson, Region 2 Treasurer, reported that the Region has a \$50,000 CD, which has earned approximately \$700 in interest so far this year and is up for renewal December, 2023. The balance in the checking account is \$18,199.82 and the balance in the savings account is \$25,203.61. A break down of those reported funds were the Bob Faulkner Memorial Youth Fund at \$1,800, the Youth Fund at \$5,358 and the General Fund at \$86,245.43.



Rhonda Veroeven, Region 2 Director, spoke of some newsworthy items from the National Summer Board Meeting. These announcements are presented in paragraphs three through eight in her Director’s Report on page four of this newsletter so they will not be repeated here.

In her role as Awards and Honors Chair at the National level, Rhonda asked everyone to visit the ADS website to view all of the award winners. She was proud to announce at this meeting the Newsletter Awards won by Region 2 members. The winner for the Best Article From a Non Listed Topic was Vicky Goedde for her article “Belle of the Ball - An Interactive Fairy Tale.” The award for Best Article about A Daylily Personality was won by Saundra Dunn for her description of the Sutter’s farm. The award for The Best Newsletter in ADS went to Region 2 and its Editor, Saundra Dunn. Saundra received a standing ovation for this outstanding achievement and amid noisemakers and overwhelming applause, Saundra graciously accepted the award and said her mantra has always been “Great content makes for a great newsletter!”



Saundra took this moment to welcome everyone to the 2023 “Middle of the Mitten” Region 2 Summer Meeting! Saundra also asked for volunteers to write reflections on the gardens that would be visited tomorrow.



From the Pyramid of Awards, Rhonda announced that the late Bob Faulkner received an Honorable Mention for his cultivar A.J. Monin. Ray Rayberg and Joe Monin accepted this award in honor of the Late Bob Faulkner.

Prior to announcing the Regional Service Award, Rhonda let everyone know that nominations for the next Regional Service Award, Electronic Media Award, the Steve Moldovon Mentoring Award given by Region 2, the Bertrand Farr Excellence in Hybridizing Award and the Helen Field Fisher Award, the only gold medal given by ADS, for meritorious service at the National level, are all due by September 1, 2023, so they may be placed on the ballot.



With that being said, Rhonda proudly announced that the Regional Service Award winners were Bruce and Dianne Wickmann of Region 2. Bruce and Dianne humbly accepted this award as the room erupted in applause.



Lori Doolin then announced the Seedling Show results. Since this Regional Meeting was organized too late in the fall to allow for the establishment of an Englerth Bed, a Seedling Display and Friendly Competition was organized. There were 113 daylily seedling entries and 10 categories that could be won. Lori appreciated Mary Kwas and Bob Mainfort for all their help with the seedling display, noting that it couldn’t have been done alone.

The winners of the seedling show are as follows:

Seedling #3 entered by Ron and Patti Beverley won Best On-Scape Presentation

Seedling #93 entered by Ginny Pearce won Favorite Color Combination

Seedling #72 entered by Ginny Pearce won Most Interesting Eye or Pattern

Seedling #8 entered by Ginny Pearce won Favorite Soft or Pastel Colored Bloom

Seedling #11 entered by Jerry Marlatt won Favorite Small or Mini Bloom

Seedling #45 entered by Lisa Marlatt won Favorite Bagel Shaped Bloom

Seedling #105 entered by Greg Schindler won Favorite Bold Color Bloom

Seedling #75 entered by the Titus Family won Bloom With The Most Movement

Seedling #20 entered by Jerry Marlatt won Most Unique Look and the overall Personal Favorite Bloom



Photos by Barb Buikema and Sandra Dunn

Monique asked all the seedling show winners to come forward for pictures and let them know that they would receive a \$20 gift certificate to be used for purchases in tonight's live auction.



Monique then introduced Gail Braunstein, the Region 2 Awards and Honors Chair, to award the prestigious Howard Hite Award. Gail gave a bit of history on the prestigious Howard Hite Award that is sponsored by the Southern Michigan Daylily Society and named after the late Howard Hite who registered his last daylily at age 99. Since the inception of the award 34 years ago, 31 hybridizers have won the award. The award is given to a Region 2 ADS member who has contributed notable achievements in their daylily hybridizing program and in the daylily world, which takes many years. The nominations may also take years. This year's winner is no exception and was nominated in multiple years. Gail congratulated Steve Williams of O'Bannon Springs Daylilies, Lancaster, Ohio, for his unanimous nomination for the 2023 Howard Hite Award. Mike Anders graciously accepted the award in Steve's absence. Mike let those in attendance know that several of Steve's cultivars would be in this evening's auction. Gail also noted that O'Bannon Orchid will be in tonight's auction and is on the ballot for the Stout Medal.



Friday evening's meeting ended prior to the live auction, to be continued on Saturday, July 22.



On Saturday, Monique welcomed Nancy Secrist, Chair of the 2024 Region 2 Summer Meeting, to give some information on next year's event. Nancy announced that the 2024 Regional Summer "Es-Scape to Ohio" Meeting will be July 19-21, 2024, in Wooster, Ohio. Additional information may be viewed on the Region 2 website as it becomes available.

Monique announced that Region 2 is looking for a host for the 2027 Region 2 Summer Meeting and it is Illinois' turn to host. Any club willing to host, please get in touch with her. She also announced that the 2024 Winter Symposium will be March 1st through the 3rd in Lafayette, Indiana.



Monique asked Barb Buikema to come forward and to announce the winners of the Bob Faulkner Memorial Youth Scholarship Award. Bob's sisters, Barb and Marsha, together with Ray Rayberg and Joe Monin who continue Bob's daylily program, were present to give the award. Prior to announcing the winners, a PowerPoint presentation created by Mike Anders was shown, consisting of pictures of Bob and all of his introductions, including some of his seedlings. After trying to put those emotions aside, Barb announced the first winners of the Bob Faulkner Memorial Youth Scholarship Award, Ansley Harper Titus and Evelyn Grace Titus. Marsha and Barb presented Ansley with her award and Ray and Joe presented Evelyn with her award. The girls were overjoyed to be the first to receive this special award. The award allowed them to choose a daylily to improve their hybridizing program. Ansley chose 'Heavenly Patterned Princess' by Jamie Gossard and Evelyn chose '50 Ways to Leave Your Cat' by Bret Clement.



Monique recognized that our youth are our future and she is proud that Region 2 has strong youth programs. She invited everyone to donate to those programs to make them even stronger.

The garden owners were given an overwhelming Thank You from everyone present for allowing us to visit their beautiful gardens.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8pm to allow Sandra to introduce Wade Rouse (aka Viola Shipman), author of *The Heirloom Garden*, as the evening's speaker.



# Region 2 2023 Howard Hite Award for Hybridizing Excellence

by Gail Braunstein, Awards and Honors Chair

## Steve Williams, O'Bannon Springs Daylilies

Steve Williams is our 2023 Howard Hite Award Winner. The information provided in nomination forms for Steve this year was outstanding. High praise for Steve and his hybridizing program made for an easy and unanimous decision. Finding words to describe Steve Williams is not difficult. The nomination forms described Steve as “deliberate, soft spoken, generous, humble, an educator and honorable gentleman.” And he creates unique and gorgeous daylilies!



Steve Williams  
Photo by Debbie Colvin

Steve and his wife Nancy have been married for 46 years, and have two sons, Jim & Mark. Steve was quick to give Nancy the credit for the weeding, mowing, and maintenance. Steve has been a member of the ADS since 1998 and he belongs to two Region 2 clubs: Metropolitan Columbus Daylily Society and the Ohio Daylily Society.

Steve’s mother was a gardener, and her neighbor was Bernie Grebus. When Steve and Nancy built their country home in 1991, Bernie asked if they would like some daylilies. Another generous person, Bernie gave Steve 16 daylily plants. Steve’s interest was piqued; he started searching for daylily catalogs. He found Gilbert Wild and made his first purchase. Shortly after, Steve met Dottie Warrell. (Dottie was the 2005 Hite Award Winner). He would pass by her garden and see the “Daylilies for Sale Sign.” He approached Dottie about a particular cultivar, which Dottie had given the garden name of “Turkey Foot.” After several attempts Steve finally convinced Dottie to part with a fan or two. Later on Dottie would register the plant as an unusual form named “Joseph’s Coat” which won an Honorable Mention in 2007.

Steve shared, “After growing daylilies for a couple of years, I started saving seeds from bee pods, just as a way to get more plants because I didn’t know any place to purchase them. I soon started hybridizing and keeping track of both parents. One of my early crosses was a seedling I got from Bernie Grebus x ‘Double Bourbon.’ When that seedling bloomed, I put its pollen on ‘Mount Helena’ and got one seed pod with 12 seeds in it. From that one pod I registered ‘Bernie’s Fault’ in 2009 and later four other daylilies. That was the cross that really got me seriously interested in hybridizing.”

Those four others were ‘Double Discovery’ in 2012, ‘Pete Sakes’ in 2014, ‘Bernie’s Other Brother’ and ‘Spicy Mustard’ in 2020. Being deliberate, Steve doesn’t rush to registration, taking time to consider the attributes of each cultivar before introduction.

Not only is Steve the 2023 Region 2 Howard Hite Award Winner, he has been recognized at the national level as well. In the past eight years he has received the following awards:

### Honorable Mention Awards

- Whatchamacallit – 2015
- Bernie’s Fault – 2018
- Too Cute – 2020

- O’Bannon Orchid – 2017
- End of the Tunnel – 2018
- Adavier – 2022

### Award of Merit

- O’Bannon Orchid – 2020

### Donn Fisher Memorial Cup (Best Miniature)

- Too Cute – 2021



‘Bernie’s Fault’  
Photos by Steve Williams  
unless noted



‘Double Discovery’



‘Pete Sakes’  
Photo by Amy McConnell



‘Bernie’s Other Brother’



‘Spicy Mustard’

Hybridizers are often asked about which of their registered plants were their favorite, and Steve was no exception. He stated he had no favorite, but his best re-bloomer is 'Whatchamacallit' (Stella De Oro x Little Fat Dazzler). His focus is currently on smalls and minis and he has been working on near whites with branching and bud count for several years. Looking down the road, the new direction for Steve is reverse bi-colors.

When asked what words of encouragement he would give to new or youth hybridizers, Steve said the following, "Daylily hybridizing is rewarding. Work at the level you are comfortable and most importantly 'control yourself'."

When asked about his own hybridizing program, he said, "The best is yet to come."

Congrats Steve, your Hite Award is well deserved.



'Whatchamacallit'



'O'Bannon Orchid'



'End of the Tunnel'

*Photo by Susan Okrasinski (cropped)*



'Too Cute'

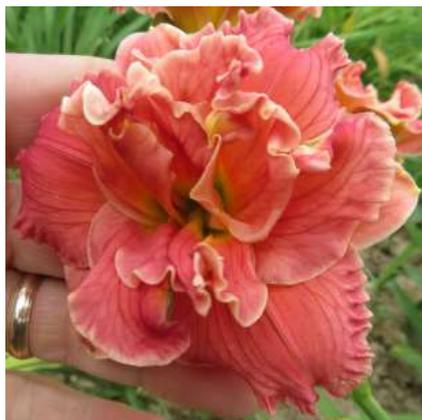


'Adavier'

*Photo by Greg Beavers*



Seedling 17-939



Seedling 17-521C



Seedling 17-756A



Seedling 18-92

## Region 2 Editor

Sandra Dunn



I nearly started these comments by saying what a challenge this particular issue has been to finalize. But apparently that is exactly what I said in this space for the 2022 Late Summer/Fall issue of the *Great Lakes Daylily*! Perhaps that is just the nature of this particular issue when there is still so much to do outside. That and 'real-life' throwing a couple of curveballs. But if you are reading this now, online or in print, all is well. There is so much to love about this edition!

Though it is not chronologically first in the pages ahead, let's start with the photo contest. There were so many amazing images!! We have shared a number of them here, beginning on page 37, and there will be more in the winter newsletter. Our member participation was down a bit from last year, but the quality was just as high. Once again, you all made it difficult on our judges! If any of you photographers or artists are interested in judging rather than participating for next year, please let me know.

The articles in this edition are wide-ranging, so there should be something for everyone. You will learn more about Steve Williams, our 2023 Howard Hite Award winner, on pages 10 and 11. I particularly enjoyed putting this layout together since I grow and love so many of Steve's plants.

Bob Mainfort used his archeologist sleuthing skills to uncover more about Al Goldner's hybridizing, which he shared in the second of a two-part series. Nikki Schmith turned a summer experience into a surprise article for this edition. The story is compelling and the photos are luscious. Don Albers and Gus Guzinski each sent brief stories of daylily observations and these paired nicely for an engaging read.

What a joy to receive each of these unsolicited article! As I repeatedly say, we all have a daylily story to tell. I hope that more and more of you will continue to share your stories with the rest of us.

I typically have the upcoming issue blocked out even as I am working on the current issue, since we are somewhat constrained to a page limit. So to make room for these lovely additions, I bumped my compilation of your favorite late bloomers to the winter edition. So if you did not

yet send me your nominations for favorite late-bloomers, there is still time! I had already chosen our cover photo to coordinate with that article and it was so pretty that I just left it. Thank you, Amy McConnell.

The timing of this issue allows for a preview of the Winter Symposium (page 15) as well as reflections about the Summer Meeting (beginning on page 21). I enjoyed reliving our weekend 'In The Middle Of The Mitten' as I put this section together. And if you weren't able to attend, I hope this section gives you a taste of the experience.

Our Club Reports have become mini-articles themselves, teaching us not just about club activities, but other topics such as plant choices for a pollinator garden. This has become one of my favorite sections of the newsletter and I hope you enjoy it as well. As always, there is also lots of information in our officer reports, especially since this issue contains minutes from our annual business meeting.

Once again, I really need to give a big shout-out to our amazing team of proofreaders. As I have said before, they do so much more than change our typos and punctuation misuses. They reword the slightly awkward sentences, notice and correct poor transitions of thought, and double-check each plant reference against the ADS online database. As just one example, while Sharon was reading the national journal, she noticed Donn Foster had two 'n's in his name. She had just proofread the Steve Williams article, remembered that 'Too Cute' had won that award, that I had spelled it with only one 'n' and she emailed to let me know. Each of our proofreaders has an amazing eye for detail. For this issue, our remarkable team was Barb Brevick, Charlie Harper, JoAnne Frederick, Lezlie Myers, Marietta Crabtree, Mary Kwas, Mary Ann Cleary, Monique Warnke, Nancy Cooper, Nancy Secrist, and Sharon Vander Wilp. I am so grateful to each of them. We were without Ginny Pearce due to the death of her father. Our thoughts are with her. If you would like to join our *GLD* team, please let me know. We could use the help. I like to have two people read each article, but I want at least half of the newsletter to be a surprise to each proofreader.

What you won't find in this issue is a "What's in a Name?" segment. Please contact me if you are willing to share the story of how you named one (or more!) of your daylilies.

Region 2 members continue to earn recognition at the National level for their service, their talents, and their daylily creations. These will be highlighted in the winter edition of this newsletter.

# Member Observations of Daylily Oddities

## Don Albers' Seedling

Transcribed from a conversation with Don Albers  
by Debbie Scheckel

Don Albers is a hybridizer who resides in both Region 2 and Region 15. You can find Don hybridizing in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina, during the spring and fall seasons. He returns to the Chicagoland area for summer and winter. Don originally hybridized iris, but changed over to daylilies when the damage from the iris borer became bad. He has been hybridizing daylilies for 40 years.



Photo 1  
Taken by Don Albers

Don started with seeds given to him from another hybridizer. His hybridizing program began with pretty on pretty, until he found that he liked reds and blacks. He has registered 40 daylilies, but no longer registers his new seedlings. Don's Murrells Inlet Garden was on tour at the 2018 AHS National Convention in Myrtle Beach.



Photo 2  
Taken by Don Albers

Don Albers called to tell me about a seedling of his exhibiting some unusual flowering traits. Don had given some of his seedlings to Diane Bevins who lives near Don in Myrtle Beach. She planted this particular seedling in her garden. The seedling did not bloom the first year. This year, the seedling bloomed and started to show some unusual blooms. Diane contacted Don to show him what was happening with the seedling. She brought him a scape from the seedling that had two different blooms on the same scape. See photos 1 and 2. In addition, Don observed that the yellow/gold bloom stayed open for the whole second day. See photo



Photo 3  
Taken by Don Albers

number 3. The scape was the last one when Don saw it. Don does not know if all the yellow/gold flowers in the clump stayed open for a second day.

Unfortunately, Don does not know what crosses were made to create this seedling. All the information that was with the seedling was discarded at the time the plant was rehomed. The seedling is a diploid. It appears to be a healthy clump, as seen in photos 4 and 5. Don plans to line out the clump this year, to see if the unusual flowering will happen again. Don is interested in hearing from hybridizers or anyone else who might know of any scientific reason for the seedling's unusual blooms. To contact Don, you may e-mail his daughter at [chattykathi7674@aol.com](mailto:chattykathi7674@aol.com).



Photo 4  
Taken by Diane Bevins



Photo 5  
Taken by Diane Bevins

## Gus Guzinski's New Type of Daylily

Insights and photos by Dr. James (Gus) Guzinski

When walking through my daylilies this summer I saw a type of flower that I had never seen before.

As you can see in this photo, it was almost perfectly circular with an unusual color pattern. The flower was very different and striking. I can call the flower unique since I had not seen anything like it.



Had I found a totally new type of daylily flower? Well, no. Turn the page for answers.

This second photo shows the same flower from the side.



Deer had eaten most of the bud during the night and what was left bloomed. The color pattern was just the throat and a small amount of petal and sepal tissue. My totally new daylily turned out to be the remains of a partially digested bud. For some reason a deer ate most of the bud, but left a partial bud which bloomed. The “smoking gun” for deer damage is the cut appearance to the flower edge in the first photo. The lack of stamen in the first photo is also a hint. In the second photo you can also

find a bud that was nipped down to the tepal tube. That bud won't produce even a partial flower.

What use is this? Well, you could do the same thing with pruners or pair of scissors. Suppose you have a perfectly fine cultivar that just doesn't thrill you anymore. Rather than replace it, get creative with a pair of scissors. Cutting off half a bud will give a different effect than cutting off two-thirds of a bud. Maybe cutting off just the end will give you something new. What if you cut it like you cut paper snowflakes as a child? Hybridizers spend a lot of effort trying to create a new daylily by producing and growing seed. Maybe you should create new daylilies faster and with less effort using just scissors.

I hope you enjoyed this little daylily novelty.

## Celebrating Region 2

By Charlie Harper, Past President



During my two years as Region 2 President, I felt blessed to be surrounded by many of ADS's best and brightest. All star hybridizers (most recently Steve Williams, winner of the Hite Hybridizers Award), excellent officers and wonderful volunteers made the journey so rewarding. My working relationship with one of them grew and flourished beyond my expectations. That was with our *Great Lakes Daylily* editor Sandra Dunn.

As I was transitioning into the job, Sandra had just agreed to be our new editor, replacing the seemingly irreplaceable Winnie Garabis. Winnie left some very large shoes to be filled. Sandra relied heavily on coaching from Claude Carpenter, the 'Dean' of ADS Regional Editors, to get her settled in. (Thanks again, Claude, for your unselfish assistance.) It didn't take very long for me to see that Sandra had an exceptional talent for collecting material, balancing content, and maintaining the highest quality standards. She took ownership of one of our crown jewels, constructing each issue with her personal style and touch. And she did so while remaining open-minded and receptive to

constructive criticism. Each issue got better and better and better.

Sandra's efforts were soon recognized throughout ADS. In just her second year, she received the ADS Editor of the Year Award. Wow! Could it be any better than that? Thanks, Sandra, for making it look so easy. And, of course, for making all of us look so good. You get my 'Team Member of My Term Award' too. It's the best I have to give.



Sandra receiving the Newsletter Award from Rhonda Veroeven, Awards and Honors Chair.  
Photo by Barb Buikema

**WHAT DO THESE HAVE IN COMMON?**



## **LAFAYETTE, INDIANA**

**HOME OF THE PURDUE BOILERMAKERS AND**

**OUT OF THIS WORLD DAYLILY FARMS**

**JOIN THE PARTY Friday-Sunday, March 1-3, 2024**

**at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel and Conference Center – Lafayette, IN**

**for the American Daylily Society Region 2**

### **MIDWINTER SYMPOSIUM**

**Details are still in the works, but there will be amazing speakers, enticing flowers, terrific food and some of the best friends anyone could wish for!**

**MARK YOUR CALENDERS FOR THIS WINTER PICKER-UPPER EVENT**

# Al Goldner and the Foundations of his Hybridizing Program, Part 2

by Bob Mainfort

Daylily cultivars have evolved rapidly over the century or so that hybridizing them has been popular. Understanding that history is aided by exploring the work of early hybridizers. In Michigan, one of the premier early hybridizers was Al Goldner, who began breeding daylilies around 1960. His cultivars, rather than falling into disfavor or disappearing altogether, are still grown and used in hybridizing today. For example, in Judy Davison's 2021 *Daylily Journal* article about her hybridizing career<sup>1</sup>, she credits Al Goldner as one of her three mentors. She co-registered several seedlings that Al had given to her and utilized them in her own program. The large size and bold colors of Goldner plants are remarkably contemporary, and they are still winning converts among daylily growers.



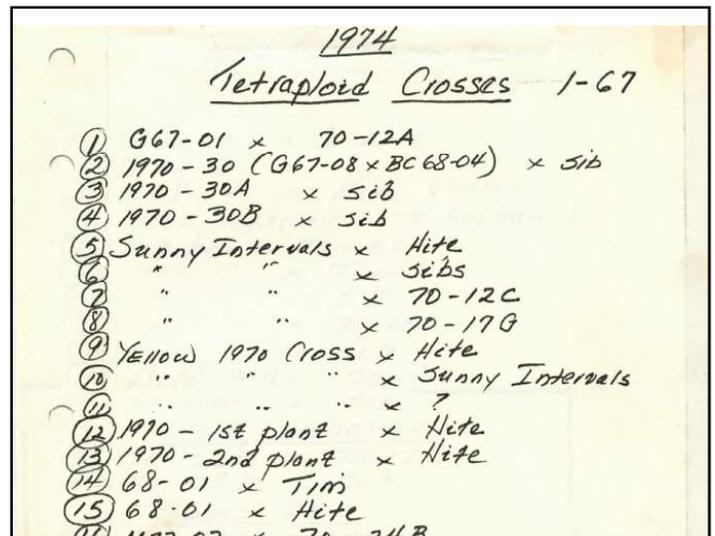
Al Goldner, summer 1988, during one of his 'daylily digs.'  
Photo courtesy of Ken Weikal

In Part One of this paper (published in the Spring 2023 Region 2 *Great Lakes Daylily*), Al Goldner's life and professional career was profiled. In this second part, Goldner's approach to hybridizing and his interaction with other early hybridizers will be discussed.

The material that follows draws primarily on three sources that have come to light in the last several years.

The first is Al Goldner's breeding records from 1973 through 1978; the records from 1976 are missing and the remainder are not complete for all years (sample page above, right). The second consists of a selection of documents from Al's personal files, including letters, lists of plants he was growing at various points in time (some of which include information on parentage and

<sup>1</sup> Davison, J. with Campbell, M. (2021). Judy's World: Judy Davison's hybridizing journey. *The Daylily Journal*, 76(3), 18-23.



seedling number), and his photo archive. The final major source is a videotaped interview with Al that was conducted at his home in July 1989 and aired on a local television station.

Goldner was a strong proponent of line breeding, telling Diana Grenfell, a renowned English gardener, that "[Line breeding] can get complicated and record-taking is a must. But this is the only way to breed."

It is likely that Al's introduction to line breeding came from David Hall, who he interviewed for *The Hemerocallis Journal* in 1964. In a 1992 letter to Robert Griesbach, however, he credited Charlie Weddle, one of the three founders of PanAmerican Seed Company and, like Al, an MSU graduate, with telling him how to do it correctly:

"As Charlie Weddle told me — cross only siblings. And if you do it properly you can sib cross many generations. The phenotype is important of course, but the genotype can be more important. But anyway, go forward, one generation after another. Do not go back to the original parents. And only when you reach the final phase 'uniformity,' do you begin a new line. One point that I should stress here. I never inbreed. Indeed, this can lead to many problems with Hems."

In a second letter to Griesbach, dated 30 January 2000, Al discussed his development of the plant that would later be named HAL RICE<sup>2</sup>:

“Enclosed are some photos of my new, un-introduced 12 inch Hem that I telephoned you about this past January 22nd. It is from my last group of seedlings—crosses that were made in 1994. It is a line-bred group of large size flowers and records were somewhat scanty. However, no outside genes were involved—procedure has been strictly line breeding for the past 12-14 years.

I have mastered the breeding lines so no in-breeding faults were allowed or retained. Lineage of all seedling lines had to improve each year. This is not too hard if your initial parents are good and your selections down through the years are done properly.”



HAL RICE (Goldner, 2000)  
*Photo by Mary Kwas*

The breeding records, though incomplete, document Al’s increasing commitment to line breeding. In 1973, 28/178 of his tet crosses and 7/68 dip crosses were sib or self crosses, but among the 216 crosses he made in 1978 (for which there is record), there are only three outcrosses (all with Marsh tet seedlings), the remainder being self or sib crosses, and some crosses between some of his own seedlings (mostly diploids).

Al often said that his original breeding stock came from the “Chicago group” of daylily hybridizers, specifical-

<sup>2</sup> Registered cultivars are shown in all caps; garden names in upper and lower case.

ly naming Orville Fay, Robert Griesbach, David Hall, Walter Jablonski, James Marsh, and Brother Charles Reckamp in his correspondence. The surviving records, however, show that he drew on a larger gene pool.

The main contributor to Goldner’s diploid breeding stock was Walter Jablonski, from whom Al obtained about a dozen seedlings (see below), four of which are identified by color in the surviving records. Al also used three plants registered by David Hall (BOLD RULER, EXALTED RULER, and ILLUSTRIOUS), and one registered plant each from Orville Fay (FRANCIS FAY), R. W. (Bill) Munson (JIMMIE KILPATRICK), Libis-Cheetham (RANDERS PRIDE), Edna Spalding (LUXURY LACE), W. B. Macmillan (ETHEL BAKER), Elliot W. Hathaway (SWAMP YANKEE), Gilbert Wild (BRAVE WORLD), as well as a miniature yellow seedling from Daniel Roberts.

A surviving example of an early Goldner diploid is Helen O’Connell (65-14), which he described as “tangerine, med, very early.” The parentage is unknown. Another early creation is Woman’s (or Lady’s) Pocketbook (65-16; BOLD RULER x RANDERS PRIDE). Al used both of these plants extensively in his early diploid program, and both were offered for sale at Goldner-Walsh Nursery in the mid-1980s. The records show that ASWAN (D73-30), one of Al’s earliest registrations, is descended from FRANCIS FAY and a Jablonski yellow seedling, and that AUGUST CHEER (D75-22) also carries some Jablonski genes. Perhaps the most startling revelation from the diploid records is that EMPRESS OF CHINA (D72-47), which Al registered as a tet, descends from a cross of BOLD RULER and LUXURY LACE. On a list of his plants dated 01 August 1992, EMPRESS OF CHINA is shown as a “dip/tet.” Perhaps an enterprising ADS member with cytometry skills will investigate the ploidy of this cultivar.



Helen O’Connell  
(Goldner, seedling 65-14)  
*Photo by Ken Weikal*



EMPRESS OF CHINA (D72-47)  
(Goldner, 1979)  
*Photo by Al Goldner 29 July 1978*

Goldner's later diploid program, which he called his "Missy Grand" series<sup>3</sup>, was developed from "10-15 unnamed hybrid seedlings" that he bought from Walter Jablonski. Below is Al's account of his "Missy Grands," which is spliced together from the 1989 video and a 1992 letter to Robert Griesbach:

"[Around 1980] we decided that we should have a new aim in the breeding of daylilies. [From Walter Jablonski I had purchased some seedlings] that are lily-flowered that should be improved to have exotic colors and shapes. My selections purchased from him were always unusual 'eyes' and colors. Weird ones, he called them, that intrigued me but not Walter at the time. What we've been doing is just helter-skelter crossing. We go from one plant to another. We don't keep any records. It's just one group, and we don't bring in any outside genes. No outcrossing at all. [From] the crosses we make this year [1989], we are going to select probably the 10 outstanding plants two years hence, when they are flowering, and start line breeding those 10 plants into a finished product. Very nice, large flowers, intense colors, and odd shape of the petals."

"However there is a major drawback connected with these lines. The bloom period is mid-late to late. They would never make the typical mid-July flower show dates. The solution will be some late summer Hem shows."

Although Al specifically mentioned only Daffodil (a.k.a., Five Year Wonder; D88-01) as one of his "Missy Grand" diploids, other likely examples include COWBOY SCARF, Cabbage Butterfly, D87-7, Iris, and Back To School. Daffodil is an excellent example of a horticultural oddity that caught Al's eye and interest. In 1985 one or more of his Missy Grand seedlings exhibited long pedicels, causing the small flowers to be carried more like a daffodil than a daylily. After four years of line breeding, he had the flower size up to five inches, and the pedicels were a bit longer. A few more years and the flowers of this line had richer color. Some folks wondered why Al would spend time on this and his other odd adventures in breeding. There was no money to be made in such pursuits, but for Al that was beside the point. He was interested in unusual traits, their genetics, and how they could be passed on.

<sup>3</sup> Al chose this name to honor Missy Musser, whose parents owned the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island.

Daffodil and Cabbage Butterfly provide good illustrations of one of the problems faced when trying to identify individual specimens of Al's line-bred plants with "garden names." There were no type specimens of these plants, only examples of plants in the breeding line at various points in time. In telling Robert Griesbach about Daffodil, Goldner specifically used the term "Daffodil line." The line was characterized by plants with long pedicels, but flower color and size changed over time. In the case of Cabbage Butterfly, a list of plants compiled by Al in January 1998 includes two entries under the name. One, which he may have regarded as an end point, is "Cabbage Butterfly Type; 10-12" dip/ Dip #1 Spectacular." The other is "Cabbage Butterfly; dip---10-12"/ Dip #2 (a new line)." There is no explanation of differences between the two.

By far the largest contributor to Al's documented tetraploid program was Robert Griesbach, from whom he acquired at least 19 seedlings in 1967, 1968, 1971, and 1972. The parents of one of Al's most important



One of Al's "Missy Grand" dips. This photo accompanied an article about Al in the *Detroit Free Press*, 21 May 1991, p. 39. Photo by Al Goldner



M.G. Spider Type. "M.G." is Al's abbreviation for "Missy Grand." Photo by Al Goldner, August 1989



Cabbage Butterfly, "9 in. across." Photo courtesy of Ken Weikal



Daffodil. Note the long pedicel. Photo courtesy of Ken Weikal

creations, SUNNY INTERVALS (70-03B), were a pair of Griesbach pink seedlings. Over the years, Al worked extensively with “S.I.” (as it is called in the breeding records), and although documentation is lacking, it is likely that CARRICK WILDON (T79-71) and ORANGE CLOWN are among its descendants. A Griesbach lemon yellow seedling is one parent of another key plant in Al’s tetraploid program, Citron (68-01), one descendant of which is TIM DICKSON (originally “Tim;” 70-05D). The parentage of Al’s first recorded tet (67-01; later, AMELIA MUSSER) is unknown.

In the previously cited 1992 letter to Robert Griesbach, Al said that he “also had seedlings from Jim Marsh and Br. Charles. But lavenders were never interesting, and Br. Charles stock was too stiff for my tastes.” These comments are puzzling on several counts. The breeding records show that Goldner had at least seven seedlings and one registered plant (CHICAGO TWO BITS) from James Marsh, including a “giant orange,” a red, as well as several lavenders. Goldner’s BLACK EYE (T75-46B) has Marsh lavender seedlings in its parentage, and an advertisement for BLACK EYE in a 1990 issue of The Daylily Journal states that the plant “may be used with James Marsh lavender varieties in a line breeding program.” As to Brother Charles, Al’s tetraploid breeding stock included seven seedlings from him. One parent each of both TIM DICKSON (70-05D) and Citron (68-01) are Reckamp seedlings that Al described as “melon.”

There are two hybridizers whose contributions to Al Goldner’s tetraploid program have been largely unrecognized. One is Howard Hite, from whom Al obtained at least four seedlings and one registered plant (CREEPY CRAWLER) for use in his hybridizing program. A Hite purple seedling is one of the parents of JAN ZOO (originally, Jeanette Zollinger). The other is Bill Barre, who provided Al with at least five seedlings, one of which is in the lineage of BLACK EYE.

Interestingly, the surviving records include only a single tet from Orville Fay. Here’s what Al had to say about it: “I should mention that Fay’s JOHNNY WARD, the red, was interesting to me. Used it to produce Red Army. End of this line. I had what I wanted.” Red Army, which Al described as “Red, red, red,” was among the Goldner daylilies sold at Ray Wiegand’s Nursery in the mid-1990s.

Red Army is but one example out of over 100 of Al’s “garden name” plants that have circulated among his friends and daylily enthusiasts. Al often gave garden



SUNNY INTERVALS (70-03B)  
Photo by Al Goldner



ORANGE CLOWN  
Photo by Sandra Dunn



CARRICK WILDON,  
“CDS Winner 1992”  
being held by Al’s grand-  
daughter. Photo by Al  
Goldner, July 1990



COWBOY SCARF  
Likely part of  
the ‘Missy Grand’ line  
Photo by Mary Kwas



Jean Goldner  
Photo by Mary Kwas



BLACK EYE  
Photo by Sandra Dunn



Citron (68-01)  
Photo by Ken Weikal



JAN ZOO  
Photo by Sandra Dunn

names to plants that he considered to be his best creations. Some of these, such as Cake Plate and Honolulu Fruit, are readily available today. Other examples, including Howell Pink and Philae, have essentially disappeared.



Cake Plate  
Photo by Mary Kwas

Would more of Al's plants be more widely available, or at least have survived, if he had registered them? Perhaps, but as discussed in part one of this paper, Al felt that registration and introduction were superfluous. He had more important things to do with his time. Moreover, several of Al's registered plants are rarely (if ever) seen today. In regard to ASWAN, he told Mary Milanowski in 1998: "I don't know if there are plants of this variety still in cultivation. Discards go onto the compost pile." Further, Al apparently never gave specimens of TWISTED THREADS to anyone because he wanted to continue working with it.

During his 40 or so years of hybridizing daylilies, Al Goldner's notion of what constituted a good plant remained consistent. Daylilies should be both durable and beautiful and bloom from early morning until the gloaming. And, as Al explained in the 1989 interview:

"I'm a retired landscape contractor, and in my planting jobs everything I do is texture or color. And my objective in daylily breeding is for color. I want a daylily that stands out. My varieties can be identified. If you're driving by the house at 40 miles per hour, you will point and say 'That's Goldner's 67-01,' and so forth. We don't breed for the show table."

Al was outspoken and opinionated about daylilies (and a variety of other topics!), but in a 1991 interview for the Detroit Free Press, he showed a sentimental streak: "After all, this is like writing a song. You're creating something that's brand new; nobody else has it. It's quite a thrill."

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to the following for contributions, encouragement, and assistance: Karen Bovio, Judy Davisson, Sandra Dunn, Mary Kwas, Bonnie Nichols, Jim Slezinski, and Ken Weikal.

#### NOTE

The link below provides access to a database of over 100 of Al Goldner's cultivars. The database is updated regularly, and I (and the staff of the W. J. Beal Botanical garden) welcome comments and suggestions. <https://bealbotanicalgarden.msu.edu/collections/thematic/goldner>

## Summer Meeting Reflections 2023

by Sandra Dunn

It is quite a different experience to be on the organizing side of a Region 2 Summer Meeting. I am so excited to 'Es-Scape to Ohio' next year without having to worry about whether the porta-potties got delivered!

I could fill pages in this newsletter thanking the many people I am so grateful for. This was truly a team effort. It all started last September with a group of my friends crazily saying, "Sure, we'll open our gardens to 100 people we don't know in July." None of them had even been to a Region 2 Meeting before! Think about that. Daylily bloom season was already over. There was no time to take stock of any changes to be made, or to take new photos for the promotional articles. But that's just how generous Nancy, Jane, Ron, Dan and Mike are. And I am so thankful to them. Mary Ann and the rest of the Along The Fence team did have a better idea of what we were getting into from prior bus tours, but I none of us fully understood all that would be required.



Support for this Regional came from so many people- sometimes expected, but often out of the blue. This meeting was not officially sponsored by a local club, though GVDS took on a lot of responsibilities. So a team of Regional officers and volunteers became the planning committee. Many thanks to:

- \* Laurel Richardson, for coordinating hotel arrangements, from meeting rooms to meals
- \* Patti Byerley, for being our registrar (and Ron Byerley for the behind the scenes help)
- \* Our Region 2 Officers: Monique Warnke, Bobbi Johnson, Barb Buikema, Gail Braunstien and Lori Doolin, who handled so many different details that I can't list them all
- \* Lori Doolin for chairing the seedling display (with help from Mary Kwas, Bob Mainfort, and GVDS at the show)
- \* Mike Anders, Greg Beavers, and Bobbi Johnson, for planning and facilitating the live auction
- \* Pat Titus, for planning youth activities and organizing the silent auction
- \* Bob Buikema, for coordinating our bus arrangements and contracts

We planned based on the expectation of 100 attendees. Imagine our delight as more and more of you registered! In the end, 150 people attended for the full weekend, and 32 local gardeners toured the gardens with us on Saturday thanks to John Kulpa's generous donation from Lily Auction sales (see SMDS Club Report, page 54). I am so thankful for each of you who joined us that weekend!

The unexpected gifts were wide-ranging:

- \* Kathy Rinke, for general moral support as well as donating SO many registration and gift plants. And, she made all of those lovely fabric notebook covers, even as we kept adding more and more attendees!
- \* John Kulpa, for many brainstorming ideas and his very generous plant donations for our auction and to fund the Saturday-only tour bus.
- \* The MANY people who donated plants for registration gifts, bus plants, our plant sales, the auction, and our cornhole prizes. As our registration numbers increased, so did your generosity. And a personal thank you to Lori Hankinson for donating so many new plants to our Michigan and Region 2 beds at Along The Fence.
- \* Wilma Brouwer-Herwig for hosting our hospitality suite at the hotel
- \* I wrote in the last journal about the series of events that led to us getting Wade Rouse (aka Viola Shipman) as our guest speaker. I am so grateful to Wade for sharing his (and Gary's) gardening and life journey with us.
- \* I am also still touched by the amazing *Heirloom Garden*-themed centerpieces Peggy Pike and Gloria Kearby created and donated. All of those flowers came from Peggy's gardens!
- \* On a personal note, I have to give a big shout-out to Katy, Mike, Jamie, Tyler, and Heather who took charge of refreshments here at Along The Fence and presented us with such a pretty and delicious English Tea themed breakfast. I had so many plates spinning that it was nice to not think a bit about that one.
- \* You cannot imagine my gratitude when Regina Stout stepped in as I was running out of time and energy and said, "Give me the lanyards and send me the registration list. I'll take care of the nametags."
- \* Mary Ann and our Along The Fence team worked more than overtime that week, not only to have the gardens ready, but with digging and cleaning registration and gift plants, taking charge of corn hole, and doing a wide variety of behind-the-scenes tasks like picking up and delivering the t-shirts. And then working on Sunday for anyone who wanted to stop by on their way home. They are the best!

I am sure I have forgotten to thank some of the many wonderful people who helped to make the Summer Meeting such a success. Truly, the whole thing is kind of a blur to me. As I have looked at photos for this newsletter, I realize there were people here that I didn't even have a conversation with. I will help our Ohio team in any way I can. But as I said above, I am truly looking forward to sitting back in that bus seat and enjoying the ride.

The pages that follow contain reflections from a variety of Summer Meeting guests.

# The Region 2 Summer Meeting: Impressions From A Neophyte

Article by Mary Kwas

In Greek “neophyte” means “new plant,” and that well describes what I was when I attended my first ADS Regional Meeting in the Greater Lansing area of Michigan this July. With the meeting hotel located only about 10 minutes from my house, I could hardly refuse to spread my roots and see what it was all about.

Things began on Friday morning with Open Gardens. Since we were so close to the hotel, my husband and I offered our suburban garden of hostas, perennials, roses, and about a hundred different daylilies. We didn’t know if anyone would visit such a small garden, so we were delighted with several garden visitors. While we knew that the Regional Meeting would have daylily people from the states of the Region, we were surprised to discover visitors from outlying states as well. One delightful couple was Jeff and Lisa Schmidt from Bismarck, North Dakota, who toured our garden, snapping photos as they went.

Around noon I arrived at the hotel registration table, where I received a name badge and the typical souvenirs of pens, chip clips, and keychains. But at no meeting I had ever attended did I receive a nice plastic bucket and a double-fan daylily to carry in it! I especially appreciated the small fabric-bound notebook, even before I found out that each cover was handmade by Kathy Rinke.

I had offered to help at the meeting and was assigned to work with Lori Doolin of Winchester, Illinois, who was coordinating the Seedling Display and Voting. Lori

came prepared with display boards, vases, and small bottles to hold every size of on-scape and off-scape seedling. Over a hundred seedlings were contributed by the hybridizers, mak-

ing a colorful display that lined one hallway. Among them were those of Ginny Pearce of Grand Rapids, Mich., who brought a large tray of very fragrant seedlings that perfumed the entire area, and some interesting striped seedlings, which caught everyone’s eye, contributed by Jerry and Lisa Marlatt of Blissfield, Michigan. Attendees could vote for their favorites in ten different categories, and the hardest part of the job was tallying up all the votes. In the end, it was a satisfying selection of winners.

Lori was great to work with. She was not only well-prepared and easy-going, but took time to explain to me how a competitive scape should be properly groomed. An extra bonus of the experience for me was having an excuse to talk to people I might not have approached otherwise.

We finished tallying the votes just in time to make the end of the buffet line for dinner, which was then followed by Region 2 business and award presentations. After that, Mike Anders (right) of Findlay, Ohio, took over as the witty auctioneer for the live auction of daylilies. This was very exciting when certain plants were in high demand



Ginny Pearce seedling, winner of ‘Favorite Color Combination’ category.  
*Photo by Lori Doolin, all others by Mary Kwas or Sandra Dunn*



Mary Kwas (left) and Lori Doolin tabulating votes



A sample of the seedlings displayed.



and the bidding was spirited. One beautiful flower even included naming rights.

Saturday morning began early as everyone boarded buses heading out to tour five regional gardens, including the Michigan State University Horticulture Garden. Being locals and having regularly visited some of the gardens, my husband and I decided to drive our own car and meet the buses at two of the gardens. We particularly liked Jane Hamelink's farmstead garden in Williamston. Wide planting beds surrounded her house and modern barn. They were filled with a creative mix of textures and colors that included hostas, perennials, hydrangeas, and evergreen and deciduous shrubs,



interplanted with many daylilies. Mature trees added shade to some areas, while beyond the groomed lawn and flower beds were fields of ripening corn. It was a beautiful pastoral setting.



The last garden on the tour was the Limberlost Garden, owned by Dan Greiner and Mike Crowley. Set on acreage surrounding a historic house, it was really a collection of multiple gardens that flowed one into another.



These included a hidden water feature, a fenced cut flower garden, gazebos, and swaths of plantings surrounding various yard art, including a large statue of a horse.

Back at the hotel, plant sales continued and competitions offered daylily prizes. Silent Auction tables were spread with daylily-themed and other items. There were interesting examples of yard art, baskets filled with delectable preserves and snacks, art supplies, jewelry, gardening tools, and more.

After dinner, we enjoyed guest speaker Wade Rouse, author of the Viola Shipman novels, including his recent *The Heirloom Garden*, about a daylily hybridizer in Michigan. What could have been more perfect?



Guest speaker Wade Rouse (left) and his husband Gary Edwards.

Finally, at the very end, the Silent Auction winners were announced. It was a long wait, but I was delighted to have the winning bid on a butterfly-themed basket that included a sun hat with monarchs all over it, which my husband claimed, and a wooden puzzle of butterflies in a landscape from my favorite puzzle company, Liberty Puzzles of Boulder, Colorado. I don't know who donated this basket of goodies, but my thanks goes out to them.



Sunday morning it was Open Gardens again, and we didn't expect the intrepid gardeners who turned out in a downpour to walk through our garden with ponchos and umbrellas. Thankfully the daylilies in our yard put on a good display for them.



I had a wonderful time at my first Daylily Meeting, and I enjoyed all the friendly people, beautiful daylilies, stunning gardens, and fun activities. And it's only 52 more weeks until the next one in Ohio!



One of Mary's favorite flowers from the tour: 'Forty Days and Forty Nights' (Emmerich, 2005).

# Serenity Gardens: Where To Look Next?

Reflections by Nancy Secrist



Serenity Gardens of Gregory, Michigan, showcases two lush acres nestled on the shores of Joslin Lake. Owner Nancy Cooper welcomed us as the first garden tour stop during the Region 2 Summer Meeting. As our group approached the front of the property, we admired the shade gardens dominated by 250 various hostas on the west and shaded north side of the



home. Crossing the deck on the south side of the home, the view opened up to a stunningly beautiful landscape of informal English-style gardens falling away from the house down to the shoreline. Nancy's garden is profusely adorned with a wide variety of unusual conifers, perennials--both those blooming and



those providing contrasting foliage--and ornamental grasses, as well as about 800 daylily cultivars. Our tour group enjoyed wandering the idyllic garden beds punctuated by garden art that provided focal points. It was difficult to decide which way to point a camera!

Nancy shared that she frequently opens her gardens for garden clubs and fundraising events. But she was "absolutely thrilled to have four buses of people visit who know and love daylilies like I do. I especially liked



L to R:  
Kit Walter  
Sandy Holmes  
John Kulpa  
Nancy Cooper  
Photos by  
Paula Kaye  
Nancy Secrist  
Saundra Dunn  
Jennifer Reed



Above, the daylily 'Nancy Cooper' (Kulpa, 2022)

having Sandy Holmes and John Kulpa visit, since I enjoy their plants so much. And I loved meeting people whose names I have heard, but hadn't met, like Charlie Harper. It really energized me having so many daylily-lovers here."



Nancy's garden is bordered on two sides by Joslin Lake and a canal off the lake. I was very impressed by the picturesque board dock and large rock hardscaping to define and manage the shoreline along the canal. Easy maintenance always



appeals to me. The design and combination of plants produced the effect of a giant flower arrangement with intriguing paths to follow. Overall,

Serenity Gardens invites the visitor with an attractive and balanced beauty from a distance that only becomes more beautiful as you look closer! I can only say that the bell rang far too soon to recall us for departure.



Right: Nancy's favorite Sandy Holmes seedling



# Along The Fence Daylilies: A Working Farm

Reflections by Charlie Harper

The second garden on the 2023 Summer Meeting tour was Along the Fence Daylilies. Now, imagine the effort required to prepare and maintain a garden for a Regional meeting tour. It's a lot of work! Now imagine that at the same time, you are editing the Regional newsletter. Oh, and include helping to manage the entire Regional Summer Meeting from start to finish. Impossible, you say? Not for Sandra Dunn!

When we piled off the bus, we were greeted with an attractive sign that mirrored the logo for the conference. Could it have been designed by the same skilled person who did the 'Middle of the Mitten' design? Hmmm.



There were several small island beds and a large production field. As we scattered about, most headed for the production field. This one acre area, with its 1650 different cultivars, had people's juices flowing. They were considering how to best use their discount coupons, provided in every registration package by, you guessed it, Sandra and the Along The Fence team. While there were no sales on tour day, the farm opened on Sunday and provided lunch for those returning for plants they had noticed.

The island beds had groups of plants from individual hybridizers, time periods, or other convenient themes such as plants with musical references or jewels in their names. Delightful.





Guests observing an older section of the Stout Medal bed.



Photos by Regina Stout, Jennifer Reed, Sandra Dunn, and Mary Ann Cleary

Above: Regina climbed on the barn roof for this shot. You see so much more color at ground level!



Stout Silver Medal winners, in chronological order, outlined the beds along the house.



While most of us wandered at will, the youth members spent their time at Along The Fence learning about hybridizing with Carole Hunter on a hill garden behind the house. And a collection of Sandy and Mike Holmes seedlings near the barn was used for evaluation by the garden judges taking a recertification course.



Above: 'Fear the Purple' (Kraus-E, 2013) Mary Ann Cleary with Ed Kraus, hybridizer.



The two horses, Beau and Sweetness, seemed only mildly interested in all of the activity on what had once been part of their pasture- along the fence.



Above: The Along the Fence team and our friends who provided amazing refreshments in an English Breakfast theme.

# Jane Hamelink and Ron Dlouhy's Three Crane Farm: Quite a Barn for a Backdrop

Reflections by Sandra Dunn

Seeing so many of my Region 2 friends enjoying my local friend Jane's garden was a true highlight of the Summer Meeting for me. I met Jane when she began buying daylilies at Along The Fence well over ten years ago. She and Mary Ann and I have since become friends. It is pure delight for me each time I see plants that Jane got from us growing as gorgeous, mature clumps in her picturesque landscape.

Jane and Ron's Three Crane Farm is part of the family farm that she grew up on. They just built their new home on this 80 acre property last year, having previously lived just a quarter mile down the road (also on the family farm). The two of them were actually still finishing up the interior of their new home when she agreed to be part of our Summer Meeting. And she had also just agreed to be on the Regional Iris Tour in June. Who has that much energy? Jane certainly does, as her wonderful, wandering beds attest.



ing labor themselves, including rebuilding the attached shed, pouring concrete and laying the brick porches, and, installing windows, doors and siding. The covered veranda at the back of the barn was the perfect spot for cooling off and sampling the delicious homemade muffins with iced tea or lemonade.



The gardens surround the barn and spread from there in wide free-form beds. There are also newer gardens around their house. Trees, shrubs, iris, and a variety of perennials are integrated with the hundreds of daylilies Jane grows. As she described, "My style is to pick things I like, then start with the anchor plants/shrubs/trees, and then fill in the flowers. And I iterate as I go. I put in some plants, look at things, and then decide what needs to be added or moved." She has already reworked some of the beds since we visited, dividing or removing overgrown plants, and adding new shrubs and daylilies. Her five-year plan is to become a display garden, but I don't think she needs five years!

I am so grateful to Jane and Ron for sharing their amazing gardens with us. It was even more fun to visit with a couple of busloads of friends.



A focal point of the gardens is the stunning barn, which most Region 2 guests assumed was their home. The barn was originally built in the 1920s. Jane and Ron began restoring it in 2008, working on it for three years. They had the main barn roof and broken purlins done by professionals, and did the remain-



## Three Crane Farm continued



Garden owners Ron Dhouly and Jane Hamelink.

*Photos by Sandra Dunn, Jennifer Reed, Paula Kaye and Mary Kwas.*

# MSU Horticulture and Children's Gardens: The Research Behind the Beauty

Reflections by Ann Townsend

On a gorgeous July afternoon, I walked the MSU Horticultural Garden in the company of Ed Kraus, hybridizer, master gardener, edifying guide and overall good company. Unlike the other daily-focused properties on that weekend's garden tour, all of which were astonishingly beautiful, the MSU Horticulture Garden's fundamental purpose is educational rather than ornamental. It is both a teaching and a research space, and the space and layout reflect that purpose. Ed and I admired the lush perennial gardens and the rose allée, but became especially engaged when we came upon MSU's extensive annual test plots.



Ed and Ann (at Limberlost Garden rather than MSU)

We're all accustomed to casually buying plants and seeds from local greenhouses and garden centers with-

out taking much time to consider the process by which new plants come to market. At MSU we saw evidence of the care by which potential commercial varieties are tested against each other. We particularly enjoyed the enormous range of ornamentals undergoing assessment— varieties from sedums to impatiens, cosmos to sunflowers, and so much more. Ed and I had fun deciding which new variety we most hoped might make the cut. We were so engrossed that we didn't come close to exploring all of the garden's fourteen acres before our time at MSU came to an end.



On our way back to the bus, we wandered happily through the cheerful, playful and thoughtfully designed children's garden, and wished we had more time to see it all. On my next visit, I'll be checking out MSU's mini arboretum as well as its clematis walk, which I'm guessing is just glorious in early summer.



Left and above: Scenes from the MSU Horticulture Gardens.  
 Below: Scenes from the Michigan 4H Children's Garden.  
*Photos by Jennifer Reed, Barb Buikema, Carole Hunter, Pat Titus, and Charlie Harper*



# Dan Greiner and Mike Crowley's Limberlost Garden: Bringing A Tropical Feel to Michigan

Reflections by Rhonda Veroeven

As the bus drove into the adjacent lot, we had no idea what was hiding behind the tall wooden fence which wrapped all around the gardens. Finally, we disembarked the bus and walked into an absolutely surprising tropical haven.

We were greeted by tropical bushes and banana trees throughout the gardens. Impeccable varieties of day-lilies were grown perfectly and paired with amazing unique species of companion plants. There were color variations that most never knew existed. I noticed the attendees taking copious notes on daylily cultivars and other species as well.



There were many different statuarys throughout the garden. A large black stallion was a highlight, but there were many others. I went on a search to find as many as I could, locating a camel, pig, butterflies, giraffe, and a pair of stags, to name a few. There was other art throughout the gardens, including different arches and arbors, many ponds filled with frogs, decorative rocks, and pots filled with a crazy variety of annuals.



Photos by Mike Crowley, Charlie Harper, Dan Greiner, Sandra Dunn, and Barb Buikema

I was intrigued by the large garden filled with cacti and other succulents. The blooms were outstanding and surprising. And I enjoyed taking in all of the flowers that would have made a perfect garden for cut flowers. I do also admit to enjoying the large vegetable garden, chickens, and a hidden greenhouse filled with many plants!



After enjoying so much in the garden, I retired to a refreshment tent where they made fresh chocolate mint mojitos. The mojito was the perfect pairing with the unique chimes that added the magical ambience to the garden. It was truly a treat for all of the senses!

The attendees were extremely fortunate for being able to spend an hour in such a unique and special paradise.





Garden owners Mike Crowley and Dan Greiner

## Other Weekend Highlights



L: Attendees were greeted by Patti & Ron Byerley (registrars) and Barb & Bob Buikema (bus coordinators).  
R: Barb and Monique Warnke crowning Wilma Brower-Herwig as 'Hospitality Queen.'



With no time to establish an Englieth Seedling Bed, we had a very colorful 'people's choice' seedling display instead, with 113 on- and off-scape entries. Thanks to Lori Doolin for organizing and to Mary Kwas and Bob Mainfort for helping.

L: Rich Surmont's amazing driftwood seedling display. Below, L to R: Diane Wickmann, Mary Ann Cleary, Bobbi Johnson, Barb Buikema, Sandy Holmes



Photos by Sandra Dunn and Barb Buikema



There were so many great daylilies available to purchase at the MCDS and GVDS plant sales. Thanks to both clubs!

# Summer Meeting highlights continued



There were so many Live Auction plants that Pat Titus couldn't display all of the Silent Auction items until the plant auction was over. Thanks to Pat Titus, Mike Anders, Greg Beavers, and Bobbi Johnson for organizing these two fundraisers. And a huge thank you to our donors and bidders!



Two stunning quilts were auctioned on Saturday night. The one on the left, held by Ann Townsend, was made by Lisa Marlatt. Bob Buikema is holding 'Garden Path' made by Jenny Grunberg.



So many fun things to take photos of!!



Corn Hole was a lot of fun and a great way to take home some new daylilies! Attendees could buy tickets to plant. And every plant that sold for \$100 or more on Friday earned tickets for our youth members. Thanks to Tommy, Ella, Bubbles, and Caroline (center photo) for running our Corn Hole games. And many thanks to our generous plant donors.

Sharon Rodgers and Kathy Mulvany (above) were among the 32 people who joined us only for the Saturday tours thanks to John Kulpa's generosity. He fet strongly about offering this option to local gardeners who likely wouldn't join us for the full weekend meeting. So he sold daylilies on the Lily Auction and donated the proceeds to fund the "local" bus. Thanks, John!



Thank you to the "In The Middle Of The Mitten" team! What an amazing weekend of memories!



Our keynote speaker author Wade Rouse (above, left) and his husband Gary Edwards were delightful additions to our weekend. We connected to Wade's stories of gardening (and baking) with his grandmother.

Above, L to R: Patti Byerley, Joe Monnin, and Ray Rayburg

# Es-Scape to Ohio

## Region 2 Summer Meeting July 19-21, 2024

The Ohio Daylily Society and Kingwood Center Gardens invite you to join them for a lovely 'Es-Scape to Ohio.' More detailed information will follow in the Winter *Great Lakes Daylily* and will be posted on the Region 2 website as it becomes available: [adsregion2.org](http://adsregion2.org)



Kingwood Center Gardens  
Mansfield, OH

An exquisite garden estate on 47 acres that was once the home of the innovative industrialist Charles Kelley King. Kingwood opened as a public garden in 1953 and is renowned for its distinctive floral displays, unique plant specimens, woodland trails, historic mansion, duck pond, and so much more.



Cynthia and Ken Blanchard Gardens  
Apple Creek, OH

The three acre garden in a lush rural setting is home to 400 daylilies in a mix of forms, 135 named hostas, and numerous perennials grown in semi-formal designed beds. The Blanchards hybridize and have many seedlings under evaluation.



Sara and David Martin Gardens  
Mansfield, OH

David and Sara Martin grow about 900 cultivars, of which 160 are historical varieties. The rural-themed garden features a few bovines overlooking nearby pastures. Terra cotta pots, wood lattice, stone and hardscape items add interest. There is a separate sales bed.



Sharon and Jim Brewer / Mohican Cottage Garden  
Perrysville, OH

The daylily collection includes over 400 registered cultivars and a scattering of unnamed ones. These are intermixed with various other perennials, including phlox, bee balm, coneflowers, hydrangea, and peonies, in a cottage-style garden. The property is surrounded by the scenic Mohican State Park.



Alice Sanz and Doug Conrad / Daffodil Hill Gardens  
Lakeville, OH

A country cottage-style garden with many annuals, perennials, ornamental shrubs in addition to the 300 named cultivars daylilies and 100 unidentified beauties. Pollinators and native plants flourish in our rural setting, which also includes many tree varieties and berry bushes.

# Great Expectations, Better Reality.

Article and photos by Nikki Schmith

The obsession I have with daylily exhibitions goes back almost 30 years now. My personal goal has been to accumulate TEN Best in Show wins and as of this year I'm only one away! I am proud to say that I helped "write the book" on the subject throughout the early 2000s. And I served on the Exhibitions Committee just before the turn of the century under David Kirchoff was the first official job I ever did for AHS. I've judged, taught classes, attended and hosted shows in many regions in my time and often my "jobs" around making shows happen take me away from my favorite part -- **competing**. Remember, unlike other plant societies, judges are forbidden from entering a show they are judging – no exceptions. (The informal "step back" from your own entered exhibits is no longer allowed for judges as it was prior to the late 90s.) So, in the last decade, I haven't had many opportunities to "just be an exhibitor." I didn't compete at all in the two years I served as AHS President, or in the two years we relocated our home and garden back to Illinois. BUT. The timing in 2023 made it just right to allow me to "just be an exhibitor" at the Central Missouri Daylily Society show in Columbia, Missouri (about 2.5 hours west of my garden). A long drive was involved, but YIPPEE!



'Carolina Cool Down' (Davisson-J., 2008)

Here is why I was super excited to participate in the show:

- I grow daylilies that show area locals might not. If you always exhibit at the same show with the same exhibitors, many of the cultivars might be the same. Exhibiting "somewhere else" takes that familiarity out of the equation and my collection might be in a different season than the local folks. Something that bloomed out for mid-Region 11 folks might just be coming into rebloom for me.
- I don't know many people out there, so less distractions and more concentration. I like the major social interactions shows bring, but something about being able to groom or enter on your own time while an entire show is not waiting for you to help it along administratively is a big deal. When you try to put on a show, help other exhibitors and enter in it yourself, the competing priorities often sacrifice excellence for both. Participating in this show eliminates those other distractions for me and allows me to just put on my game face!
- My skills are different than theirs. Just like "west Texas football." You learn differently, based on locale and regional traditions/mentorships. Every exhibitor has their own spin on selecting, grooming, and presenting an exhibit.

Because I am vocal about my love of shows, I might come with a certain reputation. I looked forward to putting my exhibits where my mouth often is and planned accordingly. I had the date on my calendar since early spring and kept a close eye on the garden all season, planning for what exhibits I could potentially transport west for this show. Luckily the 2023 bloom season was spectacular in nearly every way and I had lots of rebloom scapes and lots of lush FFOs in the later season bloomers. I talked about it for months. I strategized. I improved my transporting solution. I bought three cases of specifically colored wine bottles because the show requires exhibitors to bring their own specific vases. I arranged for a different vehicle to handle the new transport solution for the long drive. I counted down the days on the calendar and had two judges



'Green Spokes' (Merritt, 2014)



'Bernie's Fault' (Williams-S., 2009)



'Lemon Souffle' (Kamensky, 1999)



Buckets of Potential

over the week before the show to chew some fat about the potential exhibits. I kept an eye on the weather (20% chance of rain). I packed snacks, made a playlist, pressed a crease in my favorite gingham capris and set the alarm for 3:05am.

I was ready.

This is where the story takes an unfortunate turn. I woke up on time and slipped on the garden shoes. To save time, I had slept in the clothes I was going to wear to pick exhibits and headed right for the patio door. Just as I clicked the lock, a crack of thunder boomed. WHAT?!? And with the immediately following flash of lightning, the rain started to fall. Hard. A lot of it.

Aw, man.

I gambled on the 20% chance of thunderstorms and chose to NOT cut my exhibits the night before. Pause. Some of you are very successful at cutting the night before. I am not. To my eye the colors are more dull, the forms are less pronounced and the exhibits can be less stunning overall – so I never cut the night before. It's a personal preference. I judged a show this summer where every exhibit on the head table had been cut the night before due to predicted severe weather. It works if everyone does it, or you are good at it, but if some scapes are cut fresh and some are cut the night before, side by side, you can often spot the difference. Of course, that is my eye, my preference and my opinion only. If I was going to drive 2.5 hours, I wanted the scapes to be the best they could be, so I gambled. And I absolutely lost.

20% turned into 100% pouring rain within 10 minutes, but I continued to gather scapes. What if I could just gather "enough" to still go? How many was "enough" to make it worth the 2.5 hour trip? Looking around the garden in the dawn light, I could see many near-perfect blooms shredding in the rain. Oh, my heart. The night before I counted 55 potential exhibits. A few tears of disappointment were absorbed by the rain. After about 20 minutes of running in the rain with an umbrella, a headlamp, a Red Bull, a sailor's mouth, and a pair of snips, I shook my head, looked up into the rain and threw in the wet towel. I couldn't possibly win with the 18 wet exhibits I managed to get in the minutes before the deluge.

Sigh.

The rain stopped about an hour after I should have left for the long drive to Columbia and the sun started to dry up the morning's storm. My window of opportunity to go had sadly passed. Inside my dining room, were the buckets of cut potential. They started to stretch out. The colors were humid-vibrant, lush from the nitrogen in the storms. My pity party quickly dried up with the rain and these exhibits were GORGEOUS! I had deeply underestimated the resiliency and the tenacity of the daylily. And I underestimated myself by choosing to not go and take what I had. I immediately regretted the decision to stay home with the expectation I had of myself of showing up with 50 perfect exhibits and winning my tenth Best in Show. I should've gotten into the arena and competed anyway. But, as I really started to look at what was in the dining room, my disappointment faded.

I had a little show of my own, at home, instead of being disappointed in the weather and a game-time decision that might have been based on a bit of rainy self-doubt. Setting each exhibit in a bottle, I groomed like I would for the show with the new tools for the event. Then I judged each one without bias. One red, two blue and 13 purple. I snapped about 100 photos of the little show in my dining room (later taken outside to the patio). We smiled at the captive sights and smells throughout the day in our dry dining room. Looking at the cultivars cut for the trip, I was so pleased to see so many from current and former Region 2 hybridizers. Richard Norris, Steve Williams, Martin Kamensky (now Slovakia) Judy Davisson (now on the east coast), Bret Clement, Tom Polston, Rita Isgro, Dan Bachman



'Secret Arsenal' (Norris-R., 2015)



'Crookwood Mule' (Clement, 2014) and 'Carolina Cool Down' (Davisson-J., 2008)



My personal head table-  
in the dining room

*Author's Note: Thank you sage friend, who is surely reading this story, for the reminder quoted in the story. You've been telling me smart stuff for a long time and although it doesn't seem like I'm absorbing it at the time, I promise I am.*

and even one from my own breeding program were on their way to the show. In case you are curious, Judy Davisson's 'Carolina Cool Down' was the highest scoring scape in my personal show, scoring 99.5 using the official Scale of Points and show standards. In the garden, it was also a superstar, developing some of the cleanest foliage and best branched scapes in my collection.

Through Facebook, many people were also invested in my participation that day. After all, I had hyped it up for months. So, obviously there was advice and 'poo-poo's for my rained-out event. The most salient comment I received was perspective about winning in general. My friend wrote, "Shake it off. Winning can't help you much, anyway. What do you learn from winning that your ego didn't already know?"

The fierce competitor in me was of course underwhelmed, but the learning gardener in me wasn't. My ego wanted to show up and be in the arena. Showing up and showing out. BUT. As I have said before, I think all the life's lessons one needs, we can learn from the garden. I took a few deep breaths as the rains passed and allowed my expectations to have time and space. What else presented itself in the unexpected and seemingly unfortunate situation?

Here is what I got to enjoy because I could not participate in the show:

- The intricacies of several later blooming cultivars in the pristine lighting of my dining room. I would have never cut nearly 20 scapes to enjoy this way inside at my own house. What a treat!
- The photographs I was able to capture inside were unlike any others I took this year. The macros, the shadows, the ease of positioning for good lighting, the flexible composition opportunities!
- My boys were able to enjoy the daylilies and the judging process more than they ever have before. This is the first time they both picked up grooming tools and listened to me "talk through" judging a scape. So fun!

The social butterfly in me did miss the dramatic pomp and circumstance that often comes with shows. For example, an exhibitor running into the show location to make the deadline fall and spill an entire container of pristine exhibits. True story. Or, a show chair locking the door in the face of a habitually-late, approaching exhibitor as entry time expires. True story. And, no, I didn't get to witness two exhibitors who were arguing over classification grab each other by the shirt and wrestle to the floor during the mini show in my dining room. True story. Nor did I get the chance to potentially see a 90-year-old (or anyone) win a blue ribbon for the first time – at anything – in their life and weep with joy or see a teenager nearly sweep the head table. Also, all true stories. If you have ever been a competitor, or the parent of a competitor, you know we take the sweet with the sour, and the conditions on any given Sunday put the odds of winning in nearly anyone's favor.

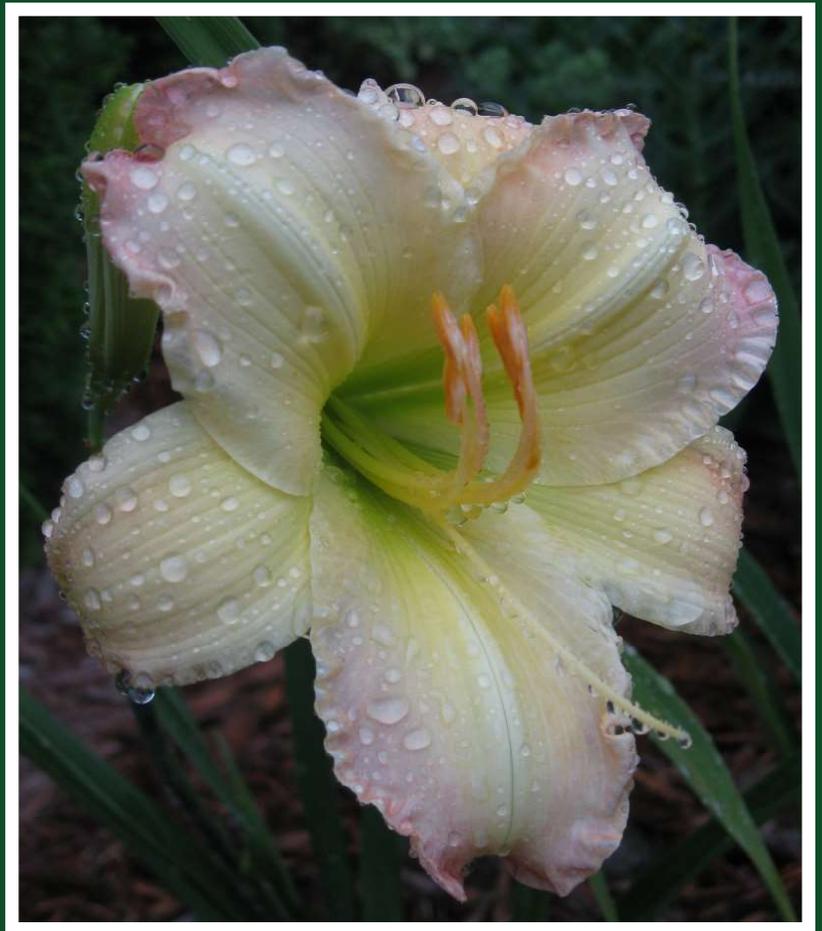
That's why I will continue to compete.

See you next year, Columbia.

# 2023 REGION 2 PHOTO CONTEST

## BEST SINGLE BLOOM PHOTO

**Winner: Mary Kwas**  
Lansing, MI  
'Beautiful Edgings'  
(Copenhaver, 1989)  
Prize: 'In the Trenches'  
(Marlatt-J., 2022)



**Runner-up: Patricia Jacko, Hinkley, OH**  
'Carpenter's Choice' (Kirby-Oakes, 1981)  
Prize: \$50 gift certificate to Along The Fence Daylilies

### ABOUT OUR JUDGES

Repeat judge Regina Stout is a much sought-after photographer for community activities, sporting events, and tree-frog-in-daylily sightings.

Mary Ann Cleary misses competing in this contest (since Sandra became editor), so she volunteered to judge this year instead.

Elaine Yanz is a life-long gardener and in her retirement from music teaching has begun floral and landscape painting again.

# BEST MULIT-BLOOM PHOTO



**Winner: Elizabeth Veldey, Lewis Center, OH**  
**'Height of Fashion' (Huben, 2012)**  
Prize: 'Rescued at Dave's Landing' (Marlatt-J., 2022)

Thank you, Lisa and Jerry Marlatt,  
for donating your intros  
for our first place prizes!



**Runner-up: Phil Korth, Suamico, WI**  
**Seedling 320-3 (Korth & Korth unregistered)**  
Prize: \$50 gift certificate to Along The Fence Daylilies

'In the Trenches'  
(2022)



'Rescued at Dave's Landing'  
(2022)



'Match Made in Heaven'  
(2022)



And thank you Along The Fence Daylilies  
for our second place prizes!

# BEST ARTISTIC/CREATIVE PHOTO



**Winner: JoAnne Frederick, Upper Sandusky, OH**

'Clever Chameleon' (Pierce-G, 2021)

Prize: 'Match Made in Heaven' (Marlatt-J., 2022)



**Runner-up tie:**

**Phil Korth, Suamico, WI**

Froggy in Seedling

Prize: \$50 gift certificate to Along The Fence Daylilies



**Runner-up tie:**

**Theresa Schwandt, Reeseville, WI**

Reflections at Serenity Gardens

Prize: \$50 gift certificate to Along The Fence Daylilies

# HONORABLE MENTION: SINGLE BLOOM



**Phil Korth**  
Suamico, WI  
'Garden Princess'  
(Korth-P.-Korth-L, 2016)



**Greg Beavers**  
Bloomington, IN  
'Party Pants'  
(Davisson-J., 2013)

**Vickie Goedde**  
Elberfeld, IN  
'Aqua Tech'  
(Hanson-C., 2009)



Thanks to each of these photographers for sharing their beautiful images with us! More will be published in future issues of *Great Lakes Daylily*.

- Amy McConnell, OH
- Ansley Titus, IL
- Barb Brevick, MI
- Barb Buikema, MI
- Paula Currie, MI
- Charlie Harper, OH
- Cheryl Jenkins, IN
- Christine Haynam, OH
- David Winter, OH
- Deb Scheckel, IL
- Elizabeth Veldey, OH
- Greg Beavers, IN
- Jennifer Seely, IL
- Jill Ann Ladrick, OH
- JoAnne Frederick, OH
- Karen Scott, OH
- Kelly Ashenback, WI
- Kelly Williams, OH
- Marietta Crabtree, MI
- Mary Kwas, MI
- Nancy Sniff, MI
- Pat Sturdevant, WI
- Pat Titus, IL
- Patricia Jacko, OH
- Phil Korth, WI
- Richard Stevens, OH
- Samantha Schwandt, WI
- Sandi Rockwell, OH
- Sandra Shull, IL
- Sharon Prochaska, WI
- Steve Williams,
- Theresa Schwandt, WI
- Vickie Goedde, IN



**Amy McConnell**  
Sherrodsville, OH  
'Long Legs Louise'  
(Hatfield-K., 2019)



**Barb Brevick**  
Dansville, MI  
'A Little Fire, Scarecrow'  
(Murphy-J.P., 2005)

## HONORABLE MENTION: SINGLE BLOOM



Patricia Jacko  
Hinckley, OH  
'Curls Gone Wild'  
(Selman, 2012)



Nancy Sniff  
Grand Rapids, MI  
'Blue Swallowtail'  
(Gossard, 2013)



Phil Korth  
Suamico, WI  
'Awaken the Dawn'  
(Korth-P.-Korth-L, 2017)

## HONORABLE MENTION: MULTI-BLOOM



Greg Beavers  
Bloomington, IN  
'Exotic Starfish'  
(Gossard, 2013)



Christine Haynam  
Cortland, OH  
'Dream Syndicate'  
(Hanson-C., 1994)



Nancy Sniff  
Grand Rapids, MI  
'Mount Helena'  
(Grooms, 1985)

# HONORABLE MENTION: MULTI-BLOOM



Theresa Schwandt  
Reeseville, WI  
'Asheville Skyline'  
(Selman, 2012)



Elizabeth Veldey  
Lewis Center, OH  
'Before My Eyes'  
(Grace-L., 2008)



Charlie Harper  
Bowling Green, OH  
'Kaley Hobgood'  
(Douglas-H., 2022)



Cheryl Jenkins  
Bloomington, IN  
'Lois Burns'  
(Temple, 1986)



Barb Brevick  
Dansville, MI  
'Tigerling'  
(Stamile, 1989)



Vickie Goedde  
Elberfeld, IN  
'Corryton Pink'  
(Kirby-Oakes, 1981)

# HONORABLE MENTION: ARTISTIC/CREATIVE



Debbie Scheckel  
New Lenox, IL  
'Roswitha'  
(Trimmer, 1992)



Mary Kwas  
Lansing, MI  
'Spiritual Corridor'  
(Hanson-C., 1992)



Marietta Crabtree  
Shelby Township, MI  
Beetle on H. Kwanso



Barb Buikema  
Grandville, MI  
Dragonfly on  
'Telltale Heart'  
(Doorakian, 2006)



Kerry Williams  
Lucas, OH  
It's Raining Again  
'Lycean'  
(Petit, 2008)

# HONORABLE MENTION: ARTISTIC/CREATIVE



Vickie Goedde  
Elberfeld, IN  
'Yada Yada Yella'  
(Davisson-J., 2015)



Richard Stevens  
Carrollton, OH  
Hens, Chicks, Daylilies OH MY

## AND SO MANY OTHER LOVELY PHOTOS (with more to follow in the winter newsletter)



Sandra Shull  
Middletown, IL  
'Time Stopper'  
(Gossard, 2006)



Ansley Titus  
Arcola, IL  
'Chorus Line'  
(Kirchhoff-D., 1981)



Marietta Crabtree  
Shelby Township, MI  
Surmont seedling



Samantha Schwandt  
Cortland, OH  
'Believe'  
(Best, 2016)



Pat Sturdevant  
Madison, WI  
Unnamed Daylily



Jill Ann Ladrack  
Pickerington, OH  
'Indian Ripple'  
(Dougherty-H., 1997)

# Region 2 Club Reports

## Grand Valley Daylily Society

by Claire Sheridan

In April, the Grand Valley Daylily Society enjoyed the presentation by Carole Hunter of Prairie's Edge Gardens in Illinois. Carole hybridizes for northern hardy daylilies that are drought tolerant and vigorous. She has been hybridizing since 2010 and has exciting introductions that can be viewed on her website at [prairiesedgegardens.com](http://prairiesedgegardens.com).



'Malala Strong'  
(Hunter, 2023)



'Meteor Shower'  
(Hunter, 2020)

The club held its annual spring auction in May. This auction focuses on plants being returned from our 'Fan Club' grow-and-divide program, along with other member donations.

Walters Gardens in Zeeland hosted the club for a visit to their display gardens in June. It was an opportunity to see many new plant introductions from Walters Gardens growing in beautifully landscaped garden areas.

The club hosted a daylily sale at the Region 2 Summer Meeting in July (along with MCDS). Those who attended this fantastic regional meeting enjoyed seeing some great gardens and socializing with old and new friends.



In July Jerri and Frank Schultz, in Perry, Michigan, opened their Flutterbye Garden to the club and generously provided a tasty lunch. Members very much enjoyed seeing the wide variety of plants in their

gardens including daylilies, hostas, roses and many other perennials.



### A Note from Sandra Dunn:

Our Grand Valley Club certainly helped to make the Region 2 Summer Meeting the success that it was! Twenty-one members/friends of GVDS attended in the greater Lansing area. And nearly every one of us had at least one special role at the meeting, not to mention our club co-hosting the plant sale!

It was truly a lovely weekend to be In The Middle Of The Mitten and GVDS members were such an important part of the experience!



Clockwise: Peggy Pike and Gloria Kearby created all of the gorgeous centerpieces from flowers in Peggy's garden. Our club and individual members donated to the silent auction. Bob and Barb Buikema coordinated all bus-related planning. Rich Surmont's driftwood seedling display was amazing.

# Black Swamp Hosta and Daylily Society

by Charlene Patz

Being a dual group for lovers of both daylilies and hostas, this was the year we showcased hostas!! What a great display of hosta leaves at the Black Swamp Hosta and Daylily Society's 15th biennial "Rivers of Leaves" show held at Toledo Botanical Garden on Sunday, June 10. Fourteen members exhibited in the show: Charlie Harper, Phil Hollenbaugh, Phil Parsons, Shelly Abramczyk, Frank Patz, Jim Flannery, Eileen Hoffman, Harold Hoffman, Linda Hoffman, Helen Hundsrucker, and first timers Kathy Shortridge, Diane Vogt, Barbara Thomas, and Linda Scheuerman. In addition to the

New this year was the People's Choice of their favorite hosta leaf from those selected to compete by the show exhibitors. Eileen's leaf of H. 'Lakeside Paisley Print' (right) was the winner by a landslide.



*Photo by Chris Petersen,  
Region 4 President*

What a great year this has been for daylily gardens!

With all the rain this spring and warmer than usual temperatures for a lot of the days this summer, the daylilies have been fabulous in Ohio! Speaking of rain, it had been pretty dry in July, except on Saturday, July 15. It was raining when we got up and it continued all day long. The gardens were still beautiful even with all of the rain that day!! A big "THANK YOU" to Lisa and Jerry Marlatt, Shelly and Randy Abramczyk, Vicki and John Dillon, and Mary Jo Wilhelms for volunteering to open up their gardens and put together the tour for us to enjoy this year!!! Thank goodness the girls had opted to reserve a shelter house at Olander Park for our brown bag lunch. The rain was coming down in buckets!! During the lunch break we enjoyed visiting with other Black Swamp members including two of our newest members-Sarah Tiefenbach and Connie Scheid-who joined at the Hosta Show this year.

Vice-President Charlie Harper has two fabulous programs lined up for us this fall. "Who's Your Mama (or Perhaps Your Papa?): A little bit of history and the 'genealogy' as known (or at least suspected) behind some of our favorite hostas" is the title of our September 16 program by Donna McMillen, President of the Midland Hosta Society, northeast Cleveland. Donna has been a member of Midland Hosta Society since 2008, and is a past and now current president. She has been a past board member and presenter for Great Lakes Hosta College. Donna has been a life-long gardening enthusiast and hostaholic. She also enjoys "playing" with cement and creating/sharing lots of garden art forms.

On Saturday, October 14, we will be having one of our favorite programs—the members roundtable! John



exhibitors, thanks go out to Linda and Rich Nagy who manned the welcome table, and placement by Jim Flannery, John Heinze, Arnie Vasquez and Betty Moore. Charlie made lots of beautiful displays using the numerous leaves that he brought from his garden-which our visitors all enjoyed. Thanks to Shelly and Phil for staging our show this year! A special thank you to Dianna and Arnie Vasquez, Linda and Rich Nagy who put together a great lunch for the exhibitors to enjoy.



Vice-President Charlie Harper  
with some of his hosta arrangements.

*Photos by Eileen Hoffman*

## Black Swamp Hosta and Daylily Society continued

Krukemyer, Agronomist at Mid-Wood Pro in Bowling Green, Ohio, will be returning as our knowledgeable moderator, and will try his best to answer our gardening questions.

We will wrap up our gardening year on Saturday, November 11, with our year-end potluck. No program-- just time to sit and visit with each other and talk about what a great year 2023 has been for our society!

Be sure to "friend" us on our Facebook site and to visit our website: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/blackswamphostaanddaylilysociety/?fref=ts>

Eileen Hoffman does a great job keeping the information current on Facebook for our society.

Membership is \$10 per garden per year expiring December 31. If you have any questions or are interested in joining the Black Swamp Hosta and Daylily Society, feel free to contact Charlene Patz, President, Telephone: 419-874-8964, Email <cfpatz@att.net> or Phil Parsons, Membership, Telephone: 419-256-7246, Email <mpparsons@centurylink.net> for a membership application.



Top: Shelly Abramczyk's hosta show entry.  
Bottom: H. 'Jimmy Blue Eyes' display by Phil Parsons.  
*Photos by Eileen Hoffman*

## Indiana Daylily-Iris Society

### Article and photos by Lezlie Myers

We began this year in early March as we were once again invited to have a booth at the Indiana Flower and Patio Show. This week-long event always draws a big crowd from all over the state as people are eager to think about gardening again. Our president, Rod Maust, does a great job of organizing the booth.



Greg Beavers and Bill Stevens  
at the Flower and Patio Show.

Many members take shifts greeting and educating the public as well as selling quite a few daylilies and irises. In addition, several members went to area Master Gardener events to educate, pass out literature about upcoming events, but sell a few plants too. These help draw people from surrounding counties not just Indianapolis.

We have had several excellent speakers this year. A favorite presentation of many was that of Lisa and Jerry Marlatt from Ogden Station Daylilies. They gave a terrific presentation, telling many stories of how they began, their conservation program, as well as discussing their hybridizing. They even brought several daylilies for us to auction.



'Sculpted Ruby'  
(Marlatt-J., 2020)  
*Photos by Lisa Marlatt*

*continued next page*



*'Nothing but the Tooth'*  
(Marlatt-J., 2022)



*'Sing Gently'*  
(Marlatt-J., 2020)

We had our daylily show in July at a new venue, Avon Gardens. The day began with dark clouds and a heavy downpour. However, we still had over 80 exhibits. We had new exhibitors also: Nancy and Alex Sutherland (upper right) from our club and Steven Franklin (lower right) from Kentucky. Steven was fortunate to get several to the head table along with our own Greg Beavers. Steven took the Best of Show with his own introduction 'We're Simply Meant to Be.'



The summer regional was next on the agenda. What a great time we had! It is still hard to believe that it was "thrown" together. Many of us came home with several daylilies thanks to corn hole! Mary Vinson, Greg Beavers and I rode together (photo, right). As if we did not already have enough daylilies, we made a few stops on the way home. First up was Along the Fence Daylilies where we took time to visit the many beds, make a few purchases, and enjoy lunch. Thank you, Sandra



and team! We then made the trek to Ogden Station. When we arrived, we were greeted by grandkids and umbrellas. Ugh! (to the need for umbrellas). However, we suffered through the rain and enjoyed a visit with the Marlatts. Of course, we made a few purchases, too. We could have spent a whole day in their garden!

Next up was our annual sale on August 12. The week before, member Shirley Toney donated several clumps. So a few people went to her house to dig, then more members met up to clean and tag. Finally, it was sale day. It began rainy and dreary, but fortunately it cleared up by the time we opened. We had many different varieties of daylilies and irises. It truly takes a crew to put on this event each year. I give a huge shout out to all the members who played a role in having a successful sale!

We have one event left for the year. It is our "pitch-in" and auction. Our club provides the meat and drinks with members pitching in to bring their favorite side dish or dessert. Covid had put a hold on getting together and eating, but this year we are having food again! Yippee!



Above, top to bottom:  
Club members prepping plants for the sale.  
Holly Bruner, a sale plant donator, in her garden.  
Laurel Richardson making purchases at the sale.  
Left: IDIS members Linda Sutter, Greg Beavers, Gregg Sutter, Mary Vinson, and Lezlie Myers at the Region 2 Summer Meeting in Lansing.

# Northeast Ohio Daylily Society

by Julie Gridley

Hey, fellow hem lovers of Region 2! Did any of you find the pause button for July? If so, we're calling first dibs on it next year. Peak bloom season just whizzes by too quickly without it. So please hand it over, and maybe we'll share with others in the future.

Wishful thinking, eh? It's more likely that all of us midwesterners are in the same boat – the four seasons of equal length boat. We probably wouldn't live here if we didn't appreciate the variety and beauty of all seasons. But, as gardeners, we likely lean toward summer as a favorite. So we try to drink it all in while we can, work outdoors till sunset, invite others to enjoy the color and tranquility of our flower beds, and make some lasting memories to tide us over till next summer.

Our club will certainly treasure some fond memories of summer 2023. Actually, let's back up a bit because we had a memorable spring event, our annual potluck banquet in April. The theme this year was "April Showers," and the evening included a variety of tasty foods, games, a business meeting, and a silent auction. It's always a great opportunity to celebrate the coming of spring and catch up with other club members after a long winter apart.

We scheduled our plant sale for early June, a time when people are in the mood to add to their flower beds. A local garden center allowed us to set up in their parking lot again, which brings in some customers who might not have known about the sale otherwise. We learned that the biggest way to reach potential new customers is via Facebook! A few repeat customers drove over an

hour to add plants to their collection and chat about their new addic-I mean hobby! The weather was cooperative, many volunteers came out to help, and the sale was a success.

All the sale plants came from a holding bed that one of our members hosts at their home. So, rather than digging at home alone, we make it a club event to dig and prep the plants a few days before the sale. Something about the camaraderie of working together while laughing and chatting acts as an analgesic for sore knees and backs! Well, at least until we drive home...

Bloom season was its usual whirlwind of activity, but when things were past peak for most of us in early August, we had the fun of going to Curt Hanson's Crintonic Gardens for our annual picnic. There are always plenty of late-blooming, amazing daylilies at his place, and he has reworked his daylily plot to be even more interesting and attractive. Once again, good food, good weather, and good conversation came together to create a memorable day. Until we get hold of the pause button, those kind of wonderful memories – and the friendships created or deepened during our time together last summer- will help us endure till the garden comes back to life.



Some of the NODS members who came out for the "Big Dig" to prep plants for our annual sale.

*Photo by Colleen Kochevar*



Summer picnic attendees at Curt Hanson's Crintonic Gardens.  
*Photo by Colleen Kochevar*

# Central Michigan Daylily Society

## Article and photos by Teresa Dillon

We kicked off our 2023 summer meetings in May, at the home and gardens of Phil and Ginger Lisik. The Lisiks have many beautiful acres of hosta, as well as a huge assortment of shade plants and daylilies, just to name a few. There is also a fantastic collection of assorted trees. All are beautiful specimens.

The Lisiks have greenhouses where they sell some of the same plants that you can see growing in their various gardens. Phil is also quite a rockhound, and the property is adorned with numerous rocks of all kinds, shapes, and sizes.



President Jerry Brown (standing) speaking to CMDS members at the Lisik gardens.

Our first summer social is always a fun event. Everyone is in such a good mood to be outdoors with fellow gardeners and amongst plants. Our annual tradition is to have a big auction of garden related items or plants donated by members of CMDS. We have a potluck meal, stroll the gardens, and go shopping in the greenhouses.



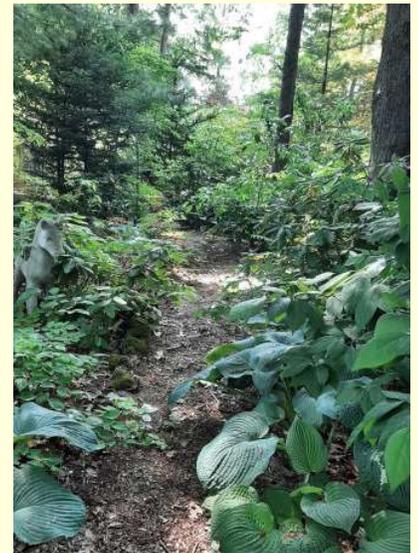
Table decor of daylilies in an antique toy truck, by Ric Adams.



During this meeting, our club president Jerry Brown called for a moment of silence to honor Bob Guiliani (left, in his CMDS shirt). Bob was vice-president and later co-president of CMDS for many years. He contributed so much to our club.

Bob was an excellent photographer. He and his wife Linda owned a photography studio in Clare. He was a Clare fireman. Because he was so passionate about photography, he was an excellent instructor on the subject. Bob was a person of amazing talents, endless enthusiasm, and tireless energy. Bob battled cancer for many years and yet he remained a positive and lighthearted individual. He is dearly missed and fondly remembered for sharing his love of life and laughter.

The setting of our June social was Pace Gardens in Clio, Michigan. We met at the home of Glen Pace, where he has been collecting and planting for many years. Many of his trees and plants are not considered hardy in zone 5 and yet they thrive at Pace Gardens. The woodland paths are a real treat and make you forget that there are houses located very close by.



Many martagons were in bloom on this date, as were dogwoods and a beautiful magnolia tree. Glen's Japanese maples are always a fascination. He has a great collection of yard art on display and various cement figures appear along the paths throughout the gardens.



Ric and Lynne Adams talking with Phil and Ginger Lisik at Pace Gardens

The weather was very windy and cool at our May meeting, but the June meeting temperatures were up to 86 degrees. Pace Gardens contain a lot of shade gardens and was a perfect location for our meeting on this hot and humid day.

CMDS did not meet in July. Instead, we encouraged members to attend the Region 2 Summer Meeting in Lansing, Michigan.



CMDS members gathered at the deck overlooking the waterfall at Jim Slezinski's.

For our August meeting, we had a group garden tour in Lake Orion, Michigan, at the home and gardens of Jim Slezinski. These gardens are an exotic tropical paradise, and the weather was perfect for this event. It was sunny and low seventies with a nice breeze. These gardens must be seen several times to catch all that exists here. Jim has huge banana trees, a Chinese Windmill Palm, a koi pond, and a waterfall. There is a large, covered deck with benches for relaxing and viewing the meandering waterfall and koi pond.



A menagerie of bird and animal statues are strategically placed throughout the gardens, adding to the tropical feel.



Another deck overlooks a huge portion of the gardens. Its railing is completely encased in various plants that Jim

refers to as the "Hummingbird Buffet." The elephant ears are massive and there are colossal cannas in a variety of colors. It is a pollinator's utopia. There are bees and butterflies galore. The entire three acres are surrounded by an eight foot deer-proof fence.

Jim has such an eye for detail. He shares his gardens by having open garden tours several times a year, at different seasons. He grows many plants and trees that are not considered hardy for Michigan. He goes to great extents to keep these warm and safe all winter. Banana trees are cut to the ground, topped with dry leaves, and covered with a tarp for winter.



CMDS members Evie and Larry Kohler (below) attended this garden tour on their sixty-third wedding anniversary. Larry is 90 years old and was all smiles walking the trails hand in hand with his bride. What a fantastic way to celebrate life together!



# Daylily Social

Article and photos by Nikki Schmith

It was a gorgeous last Sunday in June as Daylily Social hosted the only AHS-accredited show in the state of Illinois in the Village of Worden. Past national President Nikki Schmith hosted the event with the assistance of nearly all the local members of the group – including co-chair and judge Kathy Pinkas from the neighboring Greater St. Louis Daylily Society. Several exhibitors brought scapes and off-scape blooms to the Worden American Legion for judging and display. There are



several local clubs in this area, and all daylily growers were (and are) encouraged and invited to attend either to enjoy or exhibit in the show. Ninety-two beautiful scapes were judged by a panel of certified judges including Kathy Pinkas (IL) Jacob Braun (IL) and Jim Cruise (IL). Judge Jim Cruise brought a delightful summer buffet lunch for exhibitors and volunteers. Two of the amazing crystal trophy pieces were also donated. Linda Shields traveled from Wisconsin to serve as a clerk and get some great exposure to how accredited shows and



established protocol work in a practical environment. Many supporters of Daylily Social sent cash or in-kind donations to help pay for the venue, drinks, printing, ribbons, and miscellaneous party expenses. It truly is a group effort every year. Special thanks to national exhibitions chair Patty Franklin and exhibition judges chair Debbie Smith for their diligent work.



Lori Doolin (left) of Illinois took home both coveted awards: Best in Show and the Sweepstakes Awards.

Here are the section winners:

- Extra-large: LACY ALL OVER – exhibited by Jean Little
- Large: WINTER MIX – exhibited by Nikki Schmith
- Small: EXOTIC CANDY – exhibited by Lori Doolin
- Mini: TOO CUTE – exhibited by Lori Doolin
- Double: NEFARIOUS – exhibited by Lori Doolin
- Spider: ODELL – exhibited by Lori Doolin
- Unusual Form: PATRICK STARFISH – exhibited by Nikki Schmith
- Seedling section: A Lori Doolin-entered seedling

Daylily Social exists primarily to enable the staging of AHS-accredited shows in my local area and around the country. When I relocated “back home” to Illinois from Michigan in 2011, I was disappointed to learn there were no opportunities within two hours to exhibit daylilies and share that fun with the public. Nearly all the local clubs in and around St Louis no longer support or provide these events for their members or the public – for a myriad of valid reasons. As you might know, current rules require the host of an accredited show to be an AHS-member club and the rules also require some of the show personnel to be AHS members and require club membership to be at least 50% AHS members. To be honest, in these times that’s a lot for some clubs to bear on top of the financial angle of potentially paying for venues, paying AHS for official (and required) ribbons, optional prizes, optional expenses for judges’ travel and food, etc. Even if the club has willing members who want to exhibit and learn and participate, it



Nikki Schmith and her exhibition entries.

is A LOT. But that doesn't mean it's impossible. To put on a daylily show, we had to start a new club. So, we started a virtual daylily club and joined AHS as an entity. Problem solved! This year was our fifth year hosting the event, and we plan to continue it into the future.

If you've read this far, and if your local club wants to put on an accredited event, we can help you with all the props (including vases and tablecloths), training, paperwork coaching and navigation, publicity materials, and cheerleading necessary to have a successful event. The more people who are exposed to shows and have positive experiences through shows ensures the 80-year-old tradition will continue. To learn more about judging, exhibiting and staging a show of your own, visit here: <https://www.daylilynetwork.org/page/>

AccreditedShows. And please download the free "Daylily Exhibitions" handbook from the Members Portal.

We hope that you'll join us in late June 2024 for your own experience in daylily exhibitions. Come learn, come work, come laugh, come show!



Kathy Pinkas and the traditional end of show beautiful bouquet.

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## Fort Wayne Daylily Society

Article and photos by Lana Opal

The Fort Wayne Daylily Society held their annual show and sale at the Botanical Conservatory in Fort Wayne on July 8. The event was well attended. Club members felt it was a very successful day. Our next meeting will be September 24, with a lunch gathering at Dr. Paul Downie's home and speaker Gus Guzinski.



A few scenes from the Fort Wayne Daylily Society annual show and sale, including guests enjoying the display. Above, right: Ann Smits greeting visitors at the hospitality table.

# Southern Michigan Daylily Society

Article by Marietta Crabtree

Spring and summer of 2023 were filled with many activities including the first SMDS introduction to participating in a Zoom program, new speaker topics about increasing earth stewardship in the garden, and many garden visits with lots of daylilies. Thanks to the expertise and patience of Zoom presenter Sandra Dunn, SMDS members enjoyed participating in the May program, "Late Blooming Daylilies." Many of the favorite late-blooming daylilies nominated by SMDS members will be in a future article Sandra is writing for *GLD*.

June events started on the 3rd with club members relocating the SMDS daylily garden at the Detroit Zoo to a new zoo garden site. SMDS members dug out, transported and replanted daylily clumps into the new ninety feet long daylily garden in front of the camel display. The camels are a big attraction on the main concourse of the zoo. 35,000 to 50,000 people visit the zoo each week depending on weather and events. Thousands of zoo visitors enjoyed the beauty of the daylilies.



SMDS Daylily Garden at the Detroit Zoo.

*Photos by Marietta Crabtree unless otherwise noted*

The SMDS zoo daylily garden is a tribute to Michigan daylily hybridizers.

Daylilies hybridized by twenty different Michigan hybridizers are displayed in the garden for a total of sixty daylily varieties. The SMDS zoo daylily garden is a part of the zoo's adopt-a-garden program. A huge thank you to SMDS members who relocated and maintained the zoo daylily garden this year.

Marilyn Trent, president of Rochester Pollinators, presented a June 10 program about planning and implementing a pollinator garden. A pollinator garden includes native Michigan plants which provide host food and nectar for butterflies, hummingbirds and bees. By including pollinator gardens in your landscape, it is possible to provide more habitat to increase pollinator populations which are currently declining, such as the Monarch butterfly.

Visit the website: [www.rochesterpollinators.org](http://www.rochesterpollinators.org) for a down-loadable 20 page "Pollinator Garden Guide" which includes layout plans for pollinator gardens and a list of Michigan native plants for pollinators. Marilyn also presented the stratification process for over-wintering and germinating native Michigan plant seeds such as milkweed. The stratification process is also available on the website.



Marietta (left) and Marilyn Trent, with milkweed seedlings grown in a gallon jug and tray of potted milkweed plants.

July was a month of garden visits including the July 12 Troy Garden Walk, July 22 ADS Region 2 Summer Meeting gardens in the Lansing area, July 29 John Blair pollinator gardens and prairie restoration in Brooklyn, and Marlatt gardens in Blissfield.

The July 22 American Daylily Society Region 2 Summer Meeting included five outstanding gardens. SMDS member John Kulpa donated many of his registered daylilies to the Region 2 auction. The funds from those John sold in May on the Lily Auction enabled Summer Meeting organizers to add an extra bus for the Saturday garden tour. Members of local daylily clubs/societies who could only attend the Region 2 meeting on a Saturday had an opportunity to enjoy seeing the five gorgeous gardens by touring on the added bus. Thank you, John, for your generosity and for making it possible for SMDS and other daylily society members to join the added bus tour for visiting the gardens and having a wonderful day.



'Brian Greene' (Kulpa, 2017), one of the many plants John donated to the Summer Meeting auction.

*Photo by John Kulpa*

On July 29 we visited John Blair's gardens in Brooklyn, which is a nine-acre site consisting of three huge pollinator gardens that contain mainly Michigan native plants. These attract 53 species of butterflies. A five-acre portion is being restored to a prairie.



John Blair standing in front of a 5,500 pound sandstone monolith, surrounded by Michigan native pollinator plants of purple Coneflower, Beebalm, Phlox, Black-Eyed Susan and liatrus in the Butterfly Garden.

The prairie restoration is in its third year of development. The first two years involved kill-down of the hay field followed by the planting of 70 million native plant seeds into furrows by a seed drill. In this current third-year stage, a canopy of biennial Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*) plants in their second year are providing cover and protection for the 144 other kinds of native plants in an early stage of development growing underneath them. The Black-Eyed Susan plants will die back this fall and the young native plants growing below will grow and flower next year to give a spectacular view of a maturing prairie in its fourth year. The prairie will provide much needed habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. SMDS is looking forward to another visit in 2024.



Third year growth in John Blair's prairie restoration.  
*Photo by Carolyn Crabtree*

Lisa and Jerry Marlatt's gardens are located on a 35-acre centennial farm in Blissfield. They grow approximately 2,000 daylily varieties on 1.5 acres for their family-owned Ogden Station Daylilies nursery business. Lisa and Jerry have removed ten acres from agriculture and replaced it with native trees, shrubs and flowering plants to provide habitat for wildlife and pollinators including milkweed for Monarchs. Lisa and Jerry graciously hosted a picnic lunch for SMDS under old willow trees and overlooking the daylily fields. A big surprise was the gift of Jerry's daylily, 'Merry Manasa,' given to SMDS members at the picnic. Thank you, Lisa and Jerry for being such wonderful, generous hosts.



Native plants in the Marlatts' conservation area.  
*Photo by Lisa Marlatt*



Lisa and Jerry Marlatt holding blooms from Jerry's daylily registration 'Merry Manasa.'

Following the picnic, members visited the daylily field and had the opportunity to purchase their selected daylilies, dug on the spot, and ready to take home. Visit the Marlatts' website [www.ogdenstationdaylilies.com](http://www.ogdenstationdaylilies.com). It was a perfect fun-filled day.



SMDS club members relaxing and enjoying a picnic lunch overlooking the Marlatts' daylily field.  
*Photos by Denise Woods*

# Central Illinois Daylily Society

Article and photos by Lori Doolin



Central Illinois Daylily Society held an off scape daylily show Saturday, July 8, at the Springfield Botanical Garden. There were two categories of blooms: the general category and a “It’s Just Another Yellow Daylily” bloom category which was obviously for only yellow blooms. A whopping 249 blooms were entered into the show! All visitors were given a ballot to vote on their “It’s Just Another Yellow Daylily” favorite along with their 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place “People’s Choice” favorites. With that many blooms, voting was difficult. By the end of the show, 79 votes were cast. The winning entry in the “It’s Just Another Yellow Daylily” category, with 15 votes, was ‘Ruffled Frills’ (Pierce-G, 2021) brought by Jean Little.

The 3rd Place People’s Choice winner with 11 votes was ‘Teeth of Iron’ (Emmerich, 2015) brought by Gerry Delano. The 2nd Place People’s Choice winner with 12 votes was ‘Isabel Maraffi’ (Trimmer, 2001) brought by Deb Miller and Charlene Collins. The 1st Place People’s Choice winner with 16 votes was ‘My Friend Wayne’ (Stamile, 2009) brought by Charlene Collins. Other favorites in the show were ‘Bubba On Tour,’ ‘Halloween



Cat,’ ‘Squidward Tentacles,’ ‘Vanilla Fluff,’ ‘Blue Lightning,’ and ‘Little Tutu.’

As with many clubs, once bloom season is over it is time to prepare for the club’s annual daylily sale. A couple days prior to the August 5 sale, a few members divided, cleaned, tagged and bagged 52 different cultivars from the daylily beds at Washington Park. The sale was well attended and daylilies sold quickly. We all had a wonderful time visiting with each other and potential new members. Yes, we all took a few new daylilies home. If we don’t already have a place in the garden for them, a new garden will be definitely be started!



Our club’s next regular meeting will September 8 and this meeting will be our club’s 40th Anniversary! We plan to celebrate with cake, punch and and other goodies. Our founding member, Rich Ford of Petersburg, Illinois, will give some history on the club’s beginning. Afterwards we will have a general discussion about our favorite flower. There are always questions to be answered and something interesting to learn for new and experienced daylily gardeners.

# Metropolitan Columbus Daylily Society

Article and photos by Debby Colvin

Our daylily club has had a busy summer season, beginning with a very successful daylily show at the Upper Arlington Library in June. There was an amazing selection of on-scape blooms for judging, and three head-table awards were won by first-time exhibitor Getitia Brown. The off-scape section also had numerous entries, and the People's Choice winner received a \$25.00 gift certificate to use at a club daylily auction.



Getitia Brown with 'Humungousaur' (Gossard, 2013).

After our return, the club organized a daylily dig at the Franklin Park Conservatory to clean, tag, and label Moldovan cultivars for sale at the Region 2 Summer Meeting in Lansing, Michigan (see photos.) In addition to Moldovan cultivars from the 2000s, we were gifted with a number of recent introductions from Mike and Sandy Holmes, and Steve Williams. Steve also provided fans of his new 2023 introduction - H. 'Dances with Butterflies.' The sale was a big success for our club.



Left: 'The Ringmaster' designed by Jackie Lundberg. Right: 'Under The Big Top' designed by Karen Ciula.

The theme of the show and the design section was "Greatest Show on Earth." This section was not judged, but had two People's Choice winners who were provided with gift certificates.

At our August meeting, we began the day with a daylily sale of cultivars dug and tagged from member gardens (see photos,) and finished up with a pizza lunch before the start of our business meeting. Members also had an opportunity to receive additional daylilies from raffles held throughout the meeting.



Next came the National Daylily Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. Eight MCDS members attended.



National Conference attendees-  
Dianna Gossard, Jerry Colvin, Debby Colvin, Kirsten Hatfield, Amy Zahner, Bobbi Hoersdig, Jamie Gossard, and Sandi Rockwell.

Another significant event at the August meeting was the presentation of the Howard Hite Award to Steve Williams. The award was originally announced at the Region 2 Summer Meeting by Gail Braunstein, with Mike Anders accepting the award in Steve's absence. This is an award of lifetime achievement in daylily hybridizing. At the conclusion of the business meeting, we had a plant auction of guest plants that had been grown in member gardens for three years.



Mike Anders (left) presenting Steve Williams with the Howard Hite Award.

## Metropolitan Columbus Daylily Society continued

Our last business meeting of the year will be in September, which will include a talk by Lynette Overholser on the Heritage Garden at the Ohio Governor's Mansion. The purpose of the Heritage Garden is to provide visitors with an opportunity to view examples of the wide variety of different Ohio native plants and habitats in one location.

Then, in November, we will have a holiday luncheon at Der Dutchman in Plain City, an Amish restaurant which

is well-known in Central Ohio. At that meeting, we will hear a presentation by Sarah Hinkleman of the Newark Earthworks. To quote their website: "The Newark Earthworks are the largest set of geometric earthen enclosures in the world." Already a National Historic Landmark, in 2006, the State of Ohio designated the Newark Earthworks as 'the official prehistoric monument of the state.'" As well, UNESCO is considering designating the Earthworks as a World Heritage Location.



## Attention Exhibition and Garden Judges!

The following classes will be offered via Zoom:

Monday, October 23, 2023: Garden Judges Workshop 1

Tuesday, October 24, 2023: Exhibition Clinic 1

Wednesday, October 25, 2023: Garden Judges Workshop 3

Thursday, October 26, 2023: Exhibition Clinic 3

Classes times are 7:00pm EST/ 6:00pm Central. Please contact ADS Judges Education Chair Debbie Smith at [exhibitionjudges@daylilies.org](mailto:exhibitionjudges@daylilies.org) or [judgeseducation@daylilies.org](mailto:judgeseducation@daylilies.org). Or 251-4900-2273.

'Wannabees' are welcome. Region 2 is the largest ADS region and we need more judges and instructors. Even if you do not follow through to become an official judge, the classes are a wonderful learning opportunity.

## AHS Region 2 Local Organizations in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin



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**Thank you for keeping your club contacts current!**

Please notify Region 2 RPD Barb Buikema ([bbbuikeema@att.net](mailto:bbbuikeema@att.net)) and Editor Saundra Dunn ([greatlakesdaylily@gmail.com](mailto:greatlakesdaylily@gmail.com)) when club information changes. Our goal is to keep this information up to date so information can flow across the Region.

## 2024 REGION 2 WINTER MEETING

Where: Lafayette, IN  
When: March 1 - 3, 2024  
See information page 15 or the Region 2 Website as updates become available

## 2024 REGION 2 SUMMER MEETING

Where: Mansfield, OH  
When: July 19-21, 2024  
See information page 33. More information will be provided in the January *Great Lakes Daylily*.

Where: Oklahoma City, OK

When: June 12-15, 2024

<https://ads2024convention.org>

## 2024 ADS NATIONAL CONVENTION



American Hemerocallis Society  
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*Photo by Nikki Schmith*