

AMERICAN DAYLILY SOCIETY REGION 2 WINTER 2026

# GREAT LAKES

# Daylily

ILLINOIS INDIANA MICHIGAN OHIO WISCONSIN

- |                                  |                             |
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| 14   Winter Symposium Speakers   | 18   Ellison Daylilies      |
| 22   Memories of Mission Gardens | 24   AI Uses in Hybridizing |
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**'Alyse Marie Rogers' (Rogers, Mi., 2025)**  
Michelle is one of our seven amazing  
Winter Symposium speakers.  
See page 14.

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## American Hemerocallis Society

### Membership Rates

Individual (1 year)	\$30
Individual (3 Years)	\$84
Dual Membership (1 year) *	\$36
Dual Membership (3 years)*	\$99
Life Membership	\$600
Dual Life Membership	\$900
Youth - Individual (1 year)	\$12

Twelve month memberships become effective on the date that they are input into the system.

Make checks payable to the AHS.

Mail to: Mary Gunter  
PO Box 65  
St. Matthews, SC 29135

\* 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.

# GREAT LAKES

ILLINOIS INDIANA MICHIGAN OHIO WISCONSIN

# Daylily

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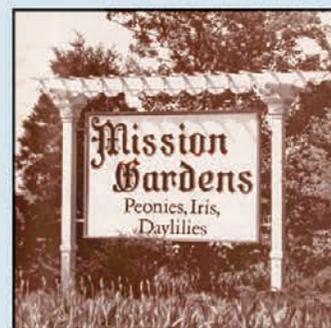
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Out-of-Region  
Subscriptions  
\$20 per year in USA  
\$30 per year overseas

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  
Spring Edition:**  
April 15, 2026

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:

Rad Drew image (Rad will  
be a speaker at our Winter  
Symposium)

Digging Up Daylily History:  
Entrance sign at Mission  
Gardens, Techny, Illinois

AI-generated blue daylily:  
Exploring AI uses in daylily  
breeding

On The Front Cover: ‘Alyse Marie Rogers’ Photo by Michelle Rogers  
On The Back Cover: ‘The Canary’s Broken Heart’ and ‘Princess Madison Ann’ Photos by Steven Franklin

## Region 2 Director Message

Rhonda Veroeven, Outgoing Region 2 Director, Outgoing President American Hemerocallis Society



I start my final Director's message with a happy heart. It has been an amazing honor to be your voice at the National table.

Some newsworthy items from the ADS Fall Board of Directors' Meeting are as follows:

First, your Board of Directors, staff, special chairs and visitors of the meeting all worked very hard to develop a strategic plan. To think that a society as dynamic as ours has never had a strategic plan is mind boggling. This plan will serve as a template for many of the committees to advance their policies. I am so proud of the amazing effort and mental energy that went into creating such an important document. After ratification, this strategic plan will be added to our Policies and Procedures and available for the membership to see. I expect ratification before the end of the year!

As if that huge task wasn't enough, we also reworked your American Hemerocallis Society's Mission Statement. The new mission statement has been ratified and will be uploaded into the new website as soon as it is available to do so. The new mission statement included notable items that we legally needed to keep our 501(c)(3) status as well as simple wordsmithing. Anytime you are working with specific language it can be tedious, but this group of individuals excelled! Our new mission statement is much less wordy, and we believe meshes with the new strategic plan and goals of the society beautifully! The new mission statement is:

*"The American Hemerocallis Society fosters the appreciation, cultivation, education, and scientific understanding of the genus Hemerocallis, the beloved perennial flower known as the daylily."*

To just show off, the group also made several vision statements, and a work group was formed to take that feedback and create a new vision statement. This will most likely be ratified at the 2026 Summer Board Meeting.

All of that was the evening BEFORE the board meeting! As previously mentioned, the attendees worked so hard for YOU! Thank you is not a strong enough sen-

timent for everyone in attendance. Please go out of your way to thank everyone who volunteers for you.

At the board meeting, we worked the entire next day. We learned about the progress of the new website, and anticipated timeline for bringing it live. I have had the opportunity to get a look at it. It really is a wonderful, clean new site. Be on the lookout for our first Monthly Educational Program series which will detail the ins and outs of the new website. The following month will go over registration of new cultivars and the exciting new updates to the database to make things easier for our hybridizers and our Registrar!

The Financial Gifts Policy was ratified. We also ratified the 2026 Operating Budget. All the committee reports were shared and discussed! Your Board of Directors then voted for all the personal awards and the Lenington All-American Award. Congratulations to our own Sandy Holmes for her 'Tidewater Elf' winning this year's Lenington Award.

Congratulations also go out to all the Cultivar Winners. The 2025 Stout Silver Medal went to Richard Howard for his 'Explosion in the Paint Factory.' Congratulations also to all Awards of Merit, Honorable Mentions, Junior Citations, and Specialty Awards that were announced! Our Society is as vibrant and as successful as it is due, in part, to all the amazing daylilies created by our hybridizers. Our Region was well represented!

- Darrel Apps: Award of Merit for 'Peanut Butter Frenzy.'
- Jamie Gossard: Honorable Mention for 'Space coast White Wolf'
- Steve Todd: Honorable Mention for 'Clown Pants'
- Steve Williams: Honorable Mentions for 'Kerfuffle' and 'Double Magnolia'
- Bret Clement: Honorable Mention for 'Jean Clement'
- Dianna Gossard: Ida Munson Award (Best Double) for 'Double My Sunshine'
- Jamie Gossard: Don C. Stevens Award (Best Eyed Daylily) for 'Stop the Car'

*(Editor's note: We will feature photos of these award-winners in our spring newsletter)*

We will again be offering online judges trainings this winter. We hope that you would consider taking Garden Judges Workshop 1 or 3, and/or Exhibition Judges Workshop 1 or 3. These are amazing opportunities for our members. Completing these courses online prepares you to participate in Garden or Exhibition Workshop 2 (in-person) at a Regional or National meeting. Be on the lookout for dates.

AHS has all positions filled, but only temporarily. We have a few retirements and people choosing to move on from their volunteer positions, so there will be some openings after the new year. If you are interested in helping in any capacity, please reach out to our incoming President Rich Crider ([technology@daylilies.org](mailto:technology@daylilies.org)), who begins his position January 1, 2026. He will be filling all positions and altering Directors' responsibilities to coordinate with different skill sets of the current and incoming Directors.

We are always looking at new ways to help fundraise and to assist with increasing our endowments. 2025's 100 Giving \$100 campaign has been largely successful, and the pins are selling fast! Did you get yours? I absolutely love mine and wear my pins on my lan-

yard for as many daylily events as I can! To get your pin, you can reach out to our Endowments Chair Joe Goudeau 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 then clicking "100 Giving \$100." Please remember that we are working with a matching gift up to \$200,000. Any financial gift not earmarked for a specific purpose can be counted toward this matching donation. What a wonderful way to double your impact! See the many emails about the details of this opportunity.

Will you be the host of an upcoming National Convention? Please reach out to Caroline Zebroski at [conventions@daylilies.org](mailto:conventions@daylilies.org) for more information. We do have two amazing conventions lined up and I certainly hope you consider attending them. I will be there! Registration is open for the Valdosta Convention, and it is filling up VERY fast!!! Do not delay in registering.

Upcoming National Conventions:

May 20-23, 2026: Valdosta, Georgia

June, 10-13, 2027: Tidewater, Virginia

I hope to see you in the gardens this coming year!

## Welcome to our new Region 2 Director

Greg Lough, Incoming Region 2 Director



Hello! I am excited to introduce myself as your new Region 2 Director of the American Daylily Society. I have been a dedicated member of the Hoosier Daylily Society for over 20 years and truly value the people who make this community so special. What began as a favorite hobby has grown into a

passion for learning more about daylilies and sharing that knowledge with others.

I favor daylilies because each one is unique, and spending time in the garden is both relaxing and rewarding for me. I especially enjoy creating new hybrids and watching them develop over time. One of my favorite parts of being involved in the club is meeting interesting new people and connecting with fellow enthusiasts while sharing my love of daylilies.

Thanks, Greg



*Editor's Note: Greg and his wife Jayne generously opened their Sugar Creek Daylily Garden as a tour stop for the 2025 Region 2 Summer Meeting*

## Region 2 President Message

Monique Warnke, Region 2 President



As the days begin to lengthen and plant catalogs arrive daily, I am filled with anticipation for the upcoming season. I am especially looking forward to visiting with my Region 2 friends at the Winter Symposium, held from February 27 to March 1, 2026, in Indianapolis, Indiana. We have an incredible speaker lineup ready to share the

latest trends and upcoming introductions, so please register today through the Region 2 website to ensure you don't miss out. You can check out the details starting on page 14 of this newsletter.

I am also incredibly excited for this summer's Regional Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, scheduled for July 17 through 19, 2026. My own garden, hosting the Englerth Bed, will be featured on the tour alongside the lovely gardens of Rhonda Veroeven, Char Hanson, and Geni Kleckner. We will enjoy lunch at the West Madison Agricultural Research Station, where you can explore the Wisconsin Daylily Society's display beds during the break. Our guest speakers, Mike Grossmann and Kath-

leen Nordstrom, are a dynamic hybridizing team you won't want to miss. Please keep in mind that space is limited to 144 attendees, so I encourage you to register as soon as the portal opens to secure your spot. Or you can use the printed registration form on page 51.

On the national stage, the 80th ADS National Convention will be held in Valdosta, Georgia, in May. There is still time to register, and I am personally thrilled to finally cross the legendary Bell Garden off my bucket list.

Finally, I want to address our judging programs. Region 2 has seen a significant and heartening increase in the number of Garden Judges and active voters. While we have made great strides, there is still a need for more judges within our region. If you are interested in joining either the garden or exhibition judging platforms, please reach out to our coordinators: Sandy Holmes or Sandra Dunn for garden judging and Nikki Schmith or Laurel Richardson for exhibition judging. Their contact information is on page 2 of this newsletter.

As always, keep your shovel in the dirt.

## Help Us Continue To Be a Newsletter Worth Reading!

Sandra Dunn, *Great Lakes Daylily* Editor

I am often congratulated for our award-winning newsletter, and I greatly appreciate all of that positive energy. But while I spend a lot of time pulling this newsletter together, it is truly a group effort. There are a number of ways that you can contribute:

- Write an article about a topic of interest to you. Two of the features in this issue were unsolicited by me—the very best kind of email to receive!
- Suggest a topic that you would like to see covered in a future issue.
- Share some highlights of your ADS Display Garden with us. And if writing is not necessarily your thing, contact me. We can have a conversation and I can write up something for you.
- Contribute to our “What’s In A Name?” series by sharing the stories of daylily names.
- If your club hasn't given us an update in a while, volunteer to write one. Choose a club activity you especially enjoy and tell us about it.

- Give us ideas for topics for our “Hybridizer ‘How-To’ Hints and Tips” series.
- Send me a daylily photo that you think is just too good not to share. I'll try to work it in somewhere.
- Enter the Region 2 photo contest. We print images from the contest in every issue.
- Become a proofreader. No issue is complete without an expression of my true gratitude to the team who reads and “betters up” every article. Thank you Barb Brevick, Barb Bischoff, Charlie Harper, Ginny Pearce, JoAnne Frederick, Lezlie Myers, Mary Kwas, Nancy Cooper, Nancy Secrist, Rich Rabeler, Sarah Newell, Sharon Vanderwilp, and Trinity Love. I also appreciate each author re-reading their contributions once a layout is done. A special shout-out to Ginny who actually read this issue cover-to-cover and provided her usual insightful feedback!

# Region 2 Howard Hite Award 2026

by Gail Braunstein, Awards and Honors Chair

## 2026 Howard Hite Award for Hybridizing Excellence Nomination Form

During the 1989 Region 2 Summer Meeting, the Southern Michigan Daylily Society announced their sponsorship of the Howard Hite Award for Hybridizing Excellence. The award is a free-form, sand-etched glass plate with an engraved image of Howard Hite's H. 'Indonesia'. **THE AWARD IS NOT BASED ON THE QUANTITY OF NOMINATIONS FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL, BUT IS BASED ON THE QUALITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S YEARS OF HYBRIDIZING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE DAYLILY CULTIVARS. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO DESCRIBE WHAT THE INDIVIDUAL HAS ACCOMPLISHED. CONSIDER LISTING THE # OF REGISTRATIONS, NEW DIRECTIONS OR PROCEDURES ATTRIBUTED TO THE NOMINEE; AHS/REGION 2 HYBRIDIZING HONORS AND NOTABLE SERVICE CONTRIBUTIONS TO HYBRIDIZING.**

The criteria for selection of a recipient are as follows:

1. **The award is to honor a Region 2 AHS member who has contributed notable achievements in the field of hybridizing. These achievements have been the results of years of a dedicated hybridizing program, and have greatly influenced the world of daylilies.**
2. The award may be given each year only if a recipient is selected.
3. A person may receive the award only one time.
4. Deceased hybridizers may be considered for the award.
5. Any AHS Region 2 Member (including committee members) **may submit names of possible recipients** to the Awards and Honors Chair before May 1st, of each year. **The final selection will be determined by the Hite Award Committee** composed of four members and the Regional President representing the five states in the Region.
6. Names of past nominees may be considered as possible candidates for future years.

### Previous Howard Hite Recipients

1990 Dr. Charles Branch	2003 Charles Applegate	2015 Bret Clement
1992 No Award	2004 Dan Bachman	2016 Phil & Luella Korth
1993 Bryant Millikan	2005 Dottie Warrell	2017 Bob Faulkner
1994 Steve Moldovan	2006 Don Jerabck	2018 John Kulpa
1995 Howard Hite	2007 Richard Norris	2019 Mandy McMahon
1996 Dr. Robert Griesbach	2008 Roy Klehm	2020 No Award
1997 Dennis Anderson	2009 Jamie Gossard	2021 No Award
1998 Curt Hanson	2010 Robert Ellison	2022 Gerda Brooker
1999 Margie Soules	2011 Joel Thomas Polston	2023 Steve Williams
2000 John Benz	2012 James Marsh	2024 Mike Holmes
2001 Leo Sharp	2013 Martin Kamensky	2025 Jerry Marlatt
2002 Walter Jablonski	2014 Sandy Holmes	2026

### Howard Hite Award for Hybridizing Excellence Nomination Form

Nominations for the Hite Award are made by Region 2 Members. Use this form and attach any additional documentation, to support your nomination if desired. **YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO GIVE DETAILED REASONS FOR YOUR NOMINATION.** This form may be photocopied, and you may send attachments.

I wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_

For the following reasons \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please Print Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Are You an AHS Member Yes No

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete this form by May 1, 2026, and mail or scan / email to:**

Gail Braunstein, Region 2 Awards and Honors Chair  
3010 McIntire Road  
Morrow, Ohio 45152  
gailbraunstein@hotmail.com



# Region 2 2025 Year-End Summary

Bobbi Johnson, Region 2 Treasurer

## AMERICAN HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY - REGION 2 2025 Income Statement January 1 through December 31 12/31/2025

Revenue	2024 Actuals	2025 Actuals
Summer Regional Meeting Registrations		22,046.44
Summer Regional Meeting Auction	10,256.45	20,094.72
Summer Regional Meeting Misc. Revenues		
Online Auction	8,982.00	6,243.00
Youth Fund Donations	1,000.00	300.00
Contributions	900.00	3,612.00
Scholarship - Bob Faulkner & Youth Fund Combined	-	-
Newsletter Advertising	85.00	250.00
Newsletter Sales	-	-
Newsletter Postage Reimbursement	1,078.35	-
Interest	2,335.35	2,650.60
Winter Symposium Registrations	8,875.00	6,898.00
Winter Symposium Auction	10,908.00	15,647.36
Winter Symposium-Next Year	2,831.00	
Miscellaneous		
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 47,251.15</b>	<b>\$ 77,742.12</b>
Expenditures	2024 Actuals	2025 Actuals
Summer Meeting Support		
Newsletter Printing	27,804.62	15,864.70
Newsletter Postage	2,009.06	1,900.35
Newsletter Editor Expense	2,438.39	3,278.39
Winter Symposium-Current Year	14,436.28	16,459.27
Winter Symposium-Auction/Raffle		
Winter Symposium-Next Year	1,586.28	
Summer Meeting Expense - Current Year	4,388.72	29,614.47
Summer Meeting Expense - Prior Year	2,156.25	
Summer Meeting Expense - Next Year	300.00	
Summer Meeting Auction Expense		
Online Auction Expense	826.74	887.90
Merchant Processing Fees	555.82	1,345.61
Office Supplies	364.68	295.99
Printing & Postage	68.00	146.00
Regional Director Expense	2,269.38	2,522.69
Officer Meeting Reimbursement	3,930.49	3,436.71
AHS Liability Insurance		429.20
Contributions		
Software/Website	17.99	215.64
Faulkner Scholarship Awards	400.00	400.00
Public Garden Grant	3,400.00	1,500.00
Youth Fund Expenses	1,276.84	1,272.00
Miscellaneous	404.88	419.65
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 68,634.42</b>	<b>\$ 79,988.57</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(LOSS)</b>	<b>\$ (21,383.27)</b>	<b>\$ (2,246.45)</b>

**Notes:**

1. The Region reports financials using cash basis accounting. Under cash basis accounting, revenue is reported on the income statement only when cash is received. Expenses are recorded only when cash is paid out.
2. Registration fees for regional events that are club-hosted (e.g., Summer Meeting 2024) are retained by the host club.

# Region 2 2025 Cash and Fund Balance Report 12/31/2025

Bobbi Johnson, Region 2 Treasurer

<b>Cash on Hand</b>	<b>2024 Actuals</b>	<b>2025 Actuals</b>
Checking Account	\$ 5,751.55	9,236.57
PayPal	---	---
Money Market Account	15,750.85	10,001.85
Certificate of Deposit (Renews July 18, 2026)	52,634.82	52,652.35
<b>Total Cash on Hand</b>	<b>\$ 74,137.22</b>	<b>\$ 71,890.77</b>

<b>Fund Balances</b>	<b>2024 Actuals</b>	<b>2025 Actuals</b>
General Fund	\$ 62,484.22	61,909.77
Restricted Funds		
Youth Fund	10,253.00	8,981.00
Bob Faulkner Youth Scholarship	1,400.00	1,000.00
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 74,137.22</b>	<b>71,890.77</b>

<b>Recent Memorial Donations To Region 2</b>		
<b>In Memory Of</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Total Memorial Contributions</b>		<b>\$ ---</b>

<b>Recent Donations to Region 2</b>		
<b>Donor</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Metropolitan Columbus Daylily Society	General	\$ 250.00
Greater Cincinnati Daylily-Hosta Society	Club Dissolution	2,147.01
Central Michigan Daylily Society	General	100.00
Central Illinois Daylily Society	Youth Fund	300.00
Central Illinois Daylily Society	General	200.00
<b>Total Donations to Region 2</b>		<b>\$ 2,997.01</b>

## Region 2 Youth Update

By Pat Titus, Regional Youth Chair



Although most of us are putting away our Christmas decorations, this time of year allows all of us to slow down and envision what our garden will look like this spring. Just the other day I received six (yes, SIX!) various gardening catalogs. They come from a variety of places—sellers of garden seeds, companies tempting us with photos of beautiful rose bushes, and purveyors of all things gardening.

Most of the time, they wind up in my trash. And many of them I have not purchased from! I believe my name must be splattered all over the lists of “this lady likes to buy plants and garden stuff!”

It got me to thinking...what if we recycled those to our youth? Rather than pitch them, why don't we SHARE them? Looking at those catalogs is a fun way to pass the winter days.

If you've attended the Summer Regional you have met my “tinies,” Ansley and Evelyn. This year one more Titus will be tagging along. Philip has been my sidekick since I retired in 2020. He is now old enough to join the ranks of attendees to the Summer Regional.

He has spent many a winter with me looking over the latest garden seed catalogs. We order our favorites and also take a look at some of the new seed intros. And like many kids his age, he loves the tools—trowels, clippers, and Don Shull's Daylily Divider.

I haven't told him I have a new gardening tool arriving soon—the Root Slayer! Do any of you have one? I know of several daylily friends who do and they really like it. We're going to give it a try!

And when we talk of sharing, check with your local schools or youth organizations about sharing some daylilies with them this spring. They don't need to be “the latest and greatest.” Just offer to share with them and you may wind up with a new youth member!

**Note to our youth:** ADS Youth Chair, Kathy D'Alessandro has retired from her position. If you would like to send her a note of thanks for all of her years helping, her address is: 2076 Silo Lane, East Greenville, PA 18041



## Region 2 2026 Photography Contest Guidelines

Sandra Dunn

Having too much content for one newsletter is a wonderful problem to have. That was the case for this issue. So I deferred the Photography Contest Guidelines to the spring newsletter. We can't really take daylily photos in Region 2 before then anyway, but the guidelines are available on our Region 2 website if you want to look them over:

[adsregion2.org/awards/photo-contest-awards/](https://adsregion2.org/awards/photo-contest-awards/)

Many thanks to Joe Hudson of Madcat Daylilies for providing our polymerous prize plants this year! He has generously donated 'Remember Bob Catherwood' (shown), 'Remembering Chris Linker,' and 'Bert Thomas.'



# Region 2 Editor Notes

Sandra Dunn



## Sharing Our Daylily Stories

From revisiting daylily history to exploring the potential future of AI to support daylily hybridizing, this issue of *Great Lakes Daylily* should have something for everyone. Two of the articles in this issue came in response to my repeated mantra that we all have a daylily story to tell. “Do you want to hear my daylily

story?” is a wonderful email to open. I hope that this issue will inspire you to share your own daylily story with other Region 2 readers.

## Pretty as a Picture

Visually, this issue is one of the most engaging I have put together. There are three pages of stunning images from our Region 2 photography contest that hadn’t yet been published. We also get a preview of the five fabulous tour gardens for the Summer Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. Thanks to Shannon Meyer for those layouts. We’ve included a registration form that you will want to fill out right away since there is a cap of 144 people.

There are six gorgeous pages of recent introductions or promising seedlings contributed by Region 2 hybridizers (and a few good friends of our Region). If you are a hybridizer who didn’t send an image for this issue, there’s still time. Please email a photo to [greatlakesdaylily@gmail.com](mailto:greatlakesdaylily@gmail.com). I already have a few more images to include in the spring newsletter.

## Winter Meeting Preview

Our Region 2 Winter Symposium is coming right up. After reading about our seven amazing speakers, I hope that you head right to our Region 2 website and register: <https://adsregion2.square.site/>. In this issue, one of those speakers, Michelle Rogers, shares the influence Robert Ellison has had on her daylily journey.

## Hybridizer ‘How-To’s

One of the things I love about putting each issue together is when an article or two unexpectedly come together. In this issue, our hybridizer tips series focuses on seedling selection. Carole Hunter and Karol Emmerich each share their process and considerations. Karol’s comments came from the Discovering Daylilies Facebook page that she administers. Somehow I was not aware of this tremendous resource. I asked Karol if anyone had ever written an article about Discovering Daylilies. She was not aware of an article and graciously wrote one for us.

As always, if you have a topic you would like us to address in this series, please email me at [greatlakesdaylily@gmail.com](mailto:greatlakesdaylily@gmail.com) and I will ask a few hybridizers to comment.

## What a Resource

I was struck as I pulled this issue together how important the ADS archives are as a resource. Check out pages 20 to 24 for three different examples and a request from our ADS archivist and historian Melodye Campbell. David Winter wrote a lovely reflection on childhood visits to Mission Gardens, hybridizing home of Brother Charles Reckamp. We utilized Melodye’s expertise and the ADS archives for photos.

If you have never done so, I highly encourage you to go to the Members Portal on the ADS website, choose the ADS Files tab, and click on the Regional Newsletters Archive. It is so fun to get lost in the news of a 1995 newsletter!

## AI in the Daylily Garden

This article about Artificial Intelligence uses in the daylily world had its origins nearly two years ago in a conversation I had with Jamie Gossard at a Shirley Farmer meeting. Jamie has been at the forefront of thinking about AI applications. While Jamie and I had intended to explore these ideas in an article for this newsletter, it never came to fruition.

Fast forward a year to another Shirley Farmer meeting in which I was talking with Trinity Love, who has been doing some sophisticated data analysis utilizing the ADS database. I shared that I still hoped to pull together an article about AI for the newsletter. By the end of lunch, he asked me if I would like to read a draft! He used the AI assistant Claude Sonnet 4.5 to write and then later revise the article you will find on page 26. Always a learner, Trinity asked if he could also do the layout for the article in a program he had been wanting to try (Affinity). So if that article looks and sounds to you like nothing we’ve done before in *Great Lakes Daylily*, you would be correct in that observation.

I do want to acknowledge that, especially as gardeners, most of us are likely concerned about the environmental impact of the data centers that power these AI projects. That is a legitimate concern. But I hope that you will approach this article with an open mind and learn a bit about the capabilities of AI as well as the caveats.

## All The Regular Good Stuff

This issue includes the regular updates from our Regional officers and several clubs. A special thank you to Rhonda Veroeven for her service as she transitions from two roles—ADS President and our Region 2 Director. Welcome to Greg Lough as our new Director. And a special shout-out to our Treasurer Bobbi Johnson for pulling together our year-end financial summary in time to get it printed in this issue. Region 2 is such a lovely daylily community.

# Region 2 Garden Judge Updates

## A Request for Gardeners by Barb Bischoff on behalf of current Garden Judges

So many daylilies to pick from!! How in the world do you find ones that grow well in Region 2? One suggestion has been to start with the list of AHS Award Winners, but that approach has its limitations due to the variable numbers of Garden Judges from the regions.

The AHS recognizes outstanding cultivars annually through a variety of national awards. Many of those awards are voted on by Garden Judges. In recent years, only seven percent of Region 2 members were accredited Garden Judges (just over 50 judges in a Region with just shy of 800 members). So Region 2 cultivars didn't have as much opportunity to be recognized and evaluated as did cultivars from other parts of the country that had more Garden Judges.

To try to increase the awareness, and hopefully national recognition, of outstanding cultivars that grow well in Region 2, our regional leadership launched a successful effort to recruit more Region 2 daylily lovers to become Garden Judges. That effort, which is ongoing, has been successful. We added 14 new garden judges in 2025, bringing us to 67!

### Finding Cultivars to Evaluate

One of the problems Garden Judges face is knowing where to see plants on the AHS Awards Ballot that are growing in gardens within our region—which is a requirement to evaluate them. This is where you can help if you are willing to open your gardens to Region 2 Garden Judges.

The annual ballot is typically released in late April. Garden Judges must submit their ballots by September 1. The Garden Judges vote on the following overall awards: Junior Citation, Honorable Mention, Award of Merit, and the Stout Silver Medal. Garden Judges also vote on specialty cultivar awards: Donn Fischer Memorial Cup, Annie T. Giles Award, Ida Munson Award, Don C. Stevens Award, Eugene S. Foster Award, Harris Olson Spider Award, Lambert/Webster Award, R. W. Munson, Jr. Award, Early Season Bloom Award, and Extra Large Diameter Award. You can learn more about each award and see photos of past winners on the AHS website: <https://daylilies.org/daylilies/awards/>.

If you agree to let Region 2 Garden Judges visit your garden this summer, we will:

1. Send you a version of the ballot where you can indicate which plants you grow,
2. Supply flags for you to flag nominated plants if you are willing,

3. Provide your contact information only to Region 2 Garden Judges to arrange a time to visit your garden.

We will compile a spreadsheet for Garden Judges that will allow them to connect with gardeners near them who grow cultivars on the ballot or plan a road trip to assess others. Thank you for considering this request. If you are willing to participate or have questions about this project, please contact Sandra Dunn, Region 2 Garden Judges Co-Liaison, at [alongthefencedaylilies@gmail.com](mailto:alongthefencedaylilies@gmail.com) or 517-449-7368.



## Join the Conversation by Sandra Dunn

Sandy Holmes and I have so enjoyed working with new and veteran Garden Judges this summer. We taught four GJ 1, two GJ 2, and two GJ 3 classes! We had a very large GJ 1 class in June and wanted to support those folks through voting their first ballot. So we began meeting monthly on Zoom. The conversations have been delightful, so we are continuing them!

The idea of compiling a spreadsheet of cultivars on the ballot that Barb wrote about above grew out of those conversations. New judges shared the difficulty of knowing where to even view many of the cultivars on the ballot. We have also asked the tour garden owners for the Summer Meeting if they would be willing to flag nominated plants that they grow to make it easier for judges to notice and evaluate them. If we want our northern-grown plants to be represented for awards at the national level, our Garden Judges need to be able to evaluate them in garden settings.

Whether you are an experienced Garden Judge or are considering starting the process, we would welcome you to join in our monthly Zoom conversations. Our January meeting will have passed by the time you receive this newsletter, but please email me if you want to join us in February ([alongthefencedaylilies@gmail.com](mailto:alongthefencedaylilies@gmail.com)). We would love that.

## Request For Live and Silent Auction Donations

Mike Anders and Greg Beavers have begun soliciting daylilies for the Live Auctions at our upcoming 2026 Winter Symposium and Summer Meeting, in Indianapolis, Indiana and Madison, Wisconsin respectively. Rusty Neal and Jane Herr will be coordinating the Silent Auction for the Winter Symposium. Contact information for each of them is listed below. Information about the Silent Auction for the Summer Meeting will be included in the spring newsletter.

The generous bidding from the Live and Silent Auctions last year helped to fund several Region 2 projects, including the Public Garden Grant Program, covering youth registration fees, and producing our award-winning Region 2 newsletter.

Hybridizers and collectors, plants from all years of introduction will be accepted and appreciated. Silent Auction items are so wide-ranging that it is hard to list them all here, but have included older daylilies, garden sculptures, floral-themed jewelry, garden prints and photographs, food and beverage items, bird baths, and so many other creative donations.

Please contact any of the organizers below to make donations. Thank you!

Mike Anders, 419-889-8827, anders@findlay.edu

Greg Beavers, 812-345-2299, bluebirdbox@gmail.com

Rusty Neal, 812-327-0593, rustyneal49@aol.com

Jane Herr, 812-320-2340, jane@rjherr.com

## Daylilies and Iris Ogden Station Daylilies

7120 Hodges Hwy. Blissfield, MI 49228

Check [www.odgenstationdaylilies.com](http://www.odgenstationdaylilies.com) for directions, open dates, information, and photos.

A short drive to the country to see the amazing selection of 2000+ varieties.



Jerry and Lisa Marlatt

[lissamarlatt@yahoo.com](mailto:lissamarlatt@yahoo.com) 517-443-5530

Open May for iris blooms. June-August for daylily blooms.

Email or call to schedule a time for a farm visit.

You may pre-order or select varieties and we will freshly dig them.



## Attention hybridizers!

We would love to feature photos of your new introductions and promising seedlings in a slide show to run during breaks at the Winter Sympo-

### DANCING ON THE PIAZZA

H. DOUGLAS 2026

DIP, 6.75", SEV, M-Re, 31", 22 buds,  
5-way branching

((H19-172(H15-114 WYATT'S  
CAMEO X COOL AS A  
CANTALOUPE) X VULCANUS) X  
(H19-28 CAROLINE GRACE  
MCGHEE X VANISHING ACT))



Charlie Harper is coordinating this project. Please send him your photos, along with basic statistics about each plant. His email address is [charlesaharper@aol.com](mailto:charlesaharper@aol.com).

# Region 2 Winter Symposium Speakers

## February 27 - March 1, 2026 in Indianapolis, Indiana



### **Bobbi Johnson, Johnson Daylilies and Apiaries, Rockland, Wisconsin** **“Daylilies & Honeybees”**

I started hybridizing in 2011 with my mom, Sandy Raasch. At first it was an experiment to see if we could get seeds, then to see if the seeds would sprout. From the first sprouted seedling to 20 registered daylilies to date, my program has changed several times. At first, my focus was pretty flowers. Then it was patterns and eyes on round ruffled blooms with wide edges. Now, my goal has morphed into creating northern

hardy patterns, stripes, and stipples that are well branched with good bud count and rich color. I have sprinkled in old and new genetics to retain desired plant traits, build bud count, and bring out genes that are known to produce stripes, stipples, edges, eyes, and glittering diamond dusting. Over the last few years, I have used my own seedlings to begin more extensive line breeding to retain desired traits such as tall scapes, low foliage and big blooms.

When I’m not in the garden, I work as the controller for a local automotive repair company that has seven locations with gross sales over \$12 million dollars. I also work with my husband in our three honeybee apiaries to produce raw local unfiltered honey that we distribute to two local stores. What is neat about our apiaries is the locations—a vegetable farm, a native wildflower seed farm, and wine vineyard/deer food plot farm. While you’ll most likely see me in the garden on days off or after work from my day job, you may also see my daughter, husband, and mom helping me weed, hybridize, and evaluate seedlings. It’s definably a family affair at Johnson Daylilies & Apiaries.



‘Fancy Flavored Coffee’  
(2024)



### **Michelle Rogers, Ellison Daylilies, Chana, Illinois** **“My Daylily Journey”**

I began my daylily journey when I graduated from high school, while working for the late Robert Ellison of Rockford, Illinois. I learned the ins and outs of daylily hybridizing while working for Bob as I completed college. After college I married the love of my life, Anthony, and began my family and career as a high school science teacher at Stillman Valley High School. Stillman Valley is a small rural town in northern Illinois in zone 5b. I have taught there for 23 years now. I live on a small 10-acre farm surrounded by cornfields. I have two wonderful children Braden and Alyse. We raise and ride Quarter Horses and the kids raise dairy goats that they show in 4-H and FFA.

I began actively hybridizing daylilies in 2020 with my first introductions in 2024. I continue to work with Bob’s wonderful ruffled diploids and hope to get some great patterns and edges on them. I also enjoy working with the tets with those wonderful edges. My garden is a memorial garden named for Bob Ellison and I work under the name “Ellison Daylilies by Michelle Rogers.” I am very thankful for Bob and all that he taught me even though he passed away before he could see it all come together. I am just a small-scale hybridizer and I love it. It truly brings me peace during the summer when school is out and lets me reconnect with nature. I am excited to share more of this journey with you in my presentation.



A future introduction



## **John Kinnebrew, Spacecoast Daylilies, Scottsmoor, Florida** **“Southern Fried Daylilies”**

My parents started Spacecoast Daylily Garden over fifty years ago, registering their first daylily in 1979. My presentation will include information about how we grow daylilies in Central Florida and have done so for all of those years. I will talk about our care of daylilies, including fertilizing, weed control, and pest control. I will address our volume of seedlings each year and our selection process. Much has changed since I was here as a Winter Meeting speaker in 2008. I will share some of these transitions and how they have affected Spacecoast Daylilies.

The remaining part of the presentation will focus on pictures of our recent introductions and future intros from our Spacecoast Daylily Garden.



‘Spacecoast All Seeing Eye’ (2025)



## **Kirsten Hatfield, Dorsets N Daylilies, Zanesville, Ohio** **“Double The Fun”**

Our farm name—Dorsets N Daylilies—reflects two of my passions: breeding livestock and breeding flowers. My extensive sheep and cattle breeding background correlates into the selection process for daylilies. Each generation improves upon the last. While I have a lifetime of livestock experience, I made my first daylily crosses in 2012. My first introductions came in 2019, including ‘It Makes Me Smile’ which pretty much sums up how I feel when greeted with a promising seedling for the first time.

I have introduced daylilies in a number of forms, but my focus is doubles. I work with both diploids and tetraploids. My goal is to create daylilies that are distinctive and perform well as garden plants. In this presentation, I will talk more about my breeding and selection process. I will also share photos of my most recent introductions and promising seedlings.



‘Bloomin’ Pretty’ (2025)



## **Mike Holmes, Riverbend Daylilies, Xenia, Ohio** **“Sharing my Northwest Hybridizing Program with the Midwest”**

Hybridizing daylilies is like nature’s magic trick for gardeners. Selectively crossbreeding plants can create new, beautiful variations. You get to pick and mix their best traits. Imagining the unique, distinctive blooms you can create is a botanical dream. My 30 year journey began with a fascination for edged daylilies. This evolved into a focus on variegated daylilies. My current passion is white stripes on purple sepals. Join me at the winter meeting as I share my daylily journey.

Mike is a winner of the Region 2 Howard Hite Award for excellence in hybridizing and the ADS Electronic Media award for outstanding development within an electronic media in support of daylilies.



A favorite seedling from summer 2025



## Rad Drew, Rad Drew Photography, Indianapolis, Indiana

### “How I Did It!”™ Getting the Most and Best from Your iPhone Camera ”

Nearly everyone has an iPhone camera today, but not everyone knows how to take advantage of its full power and potential. Join professional photographer Rad A. Drew as he shows how to get the most from your iPhone’s camera! Rad will demonstrate how you can make beautiful photos of flowers, portraits of people and pets, stunning panoramas, compelling long exposures of waterfalls and streams, and more. Whether you’ve been using a “big” camera for years, or are completely new to photography, you’ll learn surprising ways to create with the camera that’s always with you — your iPhone! Android photographers, Rad will be demonstrating the use of the iPhone’s native camera using the latest iPhone. Many iPhone features can be found on Android phones, but not all.

Teacher, photographer, speaker, and tour leader Rad A. Drew creates with the iPhone, mirrorless, and infrared cameras, and is especially recognized for his knowledge of iPhone photography built over 15 years since his first iPhone – an iPhone 4 – in 2010. He is a frequent contributor to Photographic Society of America’s *Journal*, and was listed in PSA’s *Who’s Who in Photography 2018*. His creative images have been recognized internationally and exhibited in galleries around the world. He’s a frequent presenter at photography conferences and camera clubs around the world.

Rad’s Website: <https://www.raddrewphotography.com/>

Rad’s LinkTree: <https://linktr.ee/RadDrew>

Rad’s YouTube Channel: <https://bit.ly/2mDc6AL>

Subscribe to Rad’s Newsletter: [https://bit.ly/2QMmCYa\\_RAD\\_News](https://bit.ly/2QMmCYa_RAD_News)



Rad Drew image



## Steven Franklin, Merry and Bright Daylilies, Shelbyville, Kentucky

### “Do We Really Need a Title?”

I have been growing and hybridizing daylilies for more than ten years in my AHS Display Garden in Shelbyville, Kentucky. Having a collector’s brain, my inventory quickly grew from 50 to 1800 registered cultivars in only a few years! My garden also consists of thousands of seedlings under evaluation for future introduction or the compost pile!

My primary focus is diploids, with my heart belonging to the miniatures and smalls. (‘Mayor of Munchkinland’ is to blame for that). I dabble in unusual forms and tetraploids for fun as I do love a good toothy daylily! My first daylily introduction was in 2020 and I have registered 63 daylilies to date. My goal in hybridizing is to not only create good garden and show plants, but to create daylilies that bring happiness, joy, and a smile with every bloom!



‘The Goosefather’  
(2025)

**Registration Information:** There is still space available for you to join us at the Winter Symposium. But the meeting is coming right up, so register now. All the information you need is available on the Region 2 website: [www.adsregion2.org/winter-meeting](http://www.adsregion2.org/winter-meeting). We’ll be looking for you there!

# Daylilies: Oh My Stars!

## 2026 Region 2 Winter Symposium Agenda

Indianapolis, Indiana

February 27 - March 1, 2026

### Friday, February 27, 2026

Noon	Registration begins
3:00 - 4:00 pm	Hybridizers' Forum – Mike Holmes, Moderator
4:00 pm	Silent Auction opens – for the benefit of Region 2
4:00 - 4:30 pm	State of the Region – Region 2 President Monique Warnke
4:30 - 5:00 pm	Region 2 Awards – Gail Braunstein, Chair
4:50 - 5:00 pm	Invocation
5:00 - 6:30 pm	Dinner – Ballroom
5:30 pm	Cash beverages available at lobby bar
6:30 - 6:45 pm	Welcoming statements
6:45 - 7:45 pm	Bobbi Johnson – "Daylilies & Honeybees"
8:00 - 9:30 pm	Mike Anders/Greg Beavers – Live Auction to benefit Region 2
9:30 - 11:00 pm	Hospitality Room open – Suite #709

### Saturday, February 28, 2026

7:30 - 8:30 am	Breakfast – included with your room if staying at Embassy Suites
8:30 - 8:45 am	Welcoming statements
8:30 - TBA	Silent Auction continues – closing time to be posted before 6 p.m.
8:45 - 9:45 am	Kirsten Hatfield – "Double the Fun"
9:45 - 10:45 am	Mike Holmes – "Sharing My Northwest Hybridizing Program with the Midwest"
11:00 am - Noon	Steven Franklin – "Do We Really Need a Title?"
Noon - 1:30 pm	Lunch on your own – light food in hospitality room
1:30 - 2:30 pm	John Kinnebrew – "Southern Fried Daylilies"
2:30 - 3:30 pm	Michelle Rogers – "Ellison Daylilies"
3:45 - 4:45 pm	Rad Drew – "How I Did It! Getting the Most and Best from Your iPhone Camera"
5:30 pm	Cash beverages available at lobby bar
5:50 - 6:00 pm	Invocation
6:00 - 7:30 pm	Dinner – Ballroom
7:15 pm - End	Mike Anders/Greg Beavers – Live Auction to benefit Region 2 continues
End to 11:30 pm	Hospitality Room open – Suite #709

### Sunday, March 1, 2026

7:30 - 8:30 am	Breakfast – included with your room if staying at Embassy Suites Safe travels home!
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# Ellison Daylilies

by Michelle Rogers



Bob Ellison

Looking back, my daylily journey began when I was 18 years old. Little did I know it would lead me to where I am today. The summer I graduated from high school, I began working for Robert Ellison (left) who was a daylily hybridizer and garden center owner in Rockford, Illinois. Bob owned Ellison Perennials which sold wholesale perennials. Bob also managed a variety of landscape projects in addition to his hybridizing of daylilies. At that time, I had no idea what a daylily was or anything about hybridizing them.

I learned a lot from Bob about the ins and outs of daylily hybridizing. I remember how exciting it was to look at the catalogs of new introductions from Stamile, SALTER, and Grace that would come to the greenhouse in the mail. This was way before the internet and digital photography. Back then everyone had to search the Eureka Daylily Reference Guide for the daylilies they were after.



'The Final Curtain Call'  
(Ellison-R, 2010)

When we cataloged seedlings and other flower photos, we had to walk around with a clipboard to note what number the picture was. After we got the photos back from being developed we had to label each one with the correct information. I can recall countless hours of collecting seeds and labeling crosses which would be planted in the greenhouse. The next spring those seedlings would be planted outside and the wait was on until they hopefully bloomed the next year. Bob is probably most noted for his ruffled diploid flowers. His most famous are likely 'My Eternal Hope' or 'The Final Curtain Call.' His success with them helped him win the Howard Hite Award for Hybridizing Excellence from Region 2 in 2010.



'Michelle Fager'  
(Ellison-R, 1997)

Bob taught me all about flower characteristics from ruffling to 'chicken fat edges' as he called them. He even named a daylily after me, which I thought was one of the coolest things ever (photo left). I continued to work for Bob throughout my college years until I began my full-time career as a high school science teacher. I would still help out sometimes on the weekends or if he had a large tour coming in. As I began my career and my family, I fell out of touch with the daylily world. I would visit Bob and his wife Pat off and on and he would keep me updated on his newest introductions and the highlights of the newest daylilies.

Bob suffered many health issues in his life and they took a large toll on him. He had to sell his greenhouse business and move his most prized daylilies to his home garden. His wife helped him as much as she could, but eventually it became too much for him to continue. During a visit with him near the end of his life he told me to take as many of his lilies as I could because after he passed his house would be sold and he wanted them to go to someone who would appreciate them. I filled up garbage bag after garbage bag and hauled home as many as I could. Unfortunately, in doing that there were no labels and the parentage of seedlings was lost. Bob ended up passing away shortly after in 2018 and his home was sold. I am so glad I was able to save some of his work that he was so proud of.



Michelle at the original  
Bob Ellison Memorial Garden

At the time Bob gave me his lilies I did not have a large enough space to plant them all at my home. I was working during the summer at a local garden center and approached them about creating a memorial garden in Bob's name. In the fall of

2018, I created the Bob Ellison Memorial Garden in his honor. In 2024, I moved the garden from its original location to my home near Stillman Valley, Illinois. I live on a small farm with my husband and two wonderful children. My son is currently a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin Platteville and my daughter is in eighth grade. I teach earth science and geology at Stillman Valley High School and am also the advisor for the National Honor Society, Environmental Club and the Senior Class. My husband and I raise quarter horses and the kids raise dairy goats to show for 4-H and FFA. Despite all of the things that keep me busy, I truly enjoy working in my gardens as a way to slow down and refocus.



Michelle and Dakota

I began actively hybridizing in 2020 and registered my first introductions in 2024. I am excited to continue on with Bob's work in the diploid arena. I think he would be proud of my progress and I am honored to keep his legacy alive. I have registered the daylily 'Robert Ellison Memorial' in his honor. Bob always loved a good red.



'Robert Ellison Memorial'  
(Rogers-Mi, 2024)

I remember saying that I would never pay for a daylily and 'wow' how things have changed. I have purchased some wonderful varieties to introduce new characteristics into my breeding lines. I continue to breed for northern hardiness and full formed ruffled diploids. I am hoping to get some of those amazing newer patterns into my diploid lines. I am also looking for those great plant habit qualities of branching and bud count. As for the tetraploids, I love a good purple flower and who can resist those teeth and edges?

I continue to hybridize and sell daylilies in northern Illinois under the name "Ellison Daylilies by Michelle Rogers." I have registered another set of great flowers in 2025 and had some really awesome seedlings bloom this year. I am excited for where this journey is going to take me. I have met so many wonderful people who share the same passion for daylilies as I do. I have been lucky enough to share my passion with some local daylily clubs and will be presenting at the upcoming Region 2 Winter Meeting. Thank you to all who have welcomed me into this community and have offered your friendship and wisdom. Here's to many more years of creating beautiful flowers!



'Gail Anne' (Rogers-Mi, 2025)

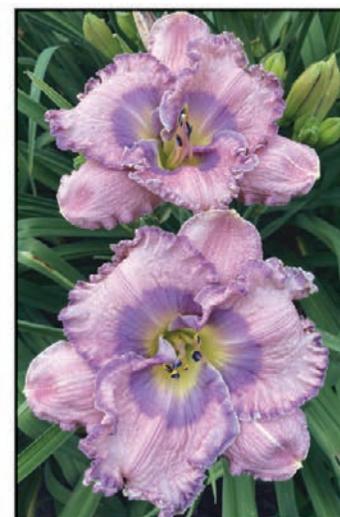
*Editor's Note: To learn more about Michelle's daylily journey, join us at the Region 2 Winter Meeting where Michelle will be one of our featured speakers.*



'Addie Lu'  
(Rogers-Mi., 2024)



Ellison Daylilies by Michelle Rogers



'Alyse Marie Rogers'  
(Rogers-Mi, 2024)

# From the Region 2 Archives

AHSRegion2/GreatLakesNewsletter

## Meet our Region 2 Summer Meeting 2000 Keynote Speaker: Bob Ellison

by Bill Severson



Robert Ellison

Bob grew up on a farm in Caledonia, a few miles northeast of Rockford, Illinois, and he with his wife, Patricia, have lived in Rockford for the last 21 years. His greenhouse and garden are on almost an acre of land in southwestern Rockford.

He grew up working with plants, and he continues to enjoy it to this day. His hobbies include fishing and col-

lecting toy tractors.

He began hybridizing "for fun" in 1990 and turned more serious with the introduction\* of ANGELA RENAE (93), a red tetraploid. To date, he has registered/introduced some 50 diploids and tetraploids. He grows about 2000 seedlings each year, and he believes that he doesn't have to grow excessive numbers of seedlings in order to get good results if he selects the

right parents. Many of his daylily names start with the word "Prairie" because of his love of the Midwest and, primarily, for north central Illinois prairies.

Bob's goals in hybridizing include developing cultivars that can adapt to all climactic conditions with emphasis on northern hardiness. He also looks for heavy substance, good bud count, and lots of ruffles. He believes that his best introduction to date is MICHELLE FAGER (97), named after his assistant in hybridizing and in the greenhouse.

Bob's best tetraploid to date is RED LINE FEVER (98), a 30" M 5 3/4" dor very ruffled, bright, fire engine red with a green throat that has 4-way branching with a bud count of 25.

Two of his Year 2000 registrations, SALMON PIECRUST, a diploid with a ruffled edge that is piled high like the crust of a pie, and AIM FOR HEAVEN, a pink tetraploid with a rose-red eye and a double rose-red and gold edge, have already sold out.

Bob's well-known *Bloomfest* (see Ellison's advertisement on page 15 for details) runs from the second through the fourth weeks of July each summer.

Editor's Note: As Michelle and I were finalizing the text and layout for her article, she received a note from her friend Mary Beth Giacalone that included the article above, which was originally published in our Spring-Summer 2000 Region 2 newsletter, on page 33. Michelle was touched that Bob had mentioned the daylily named for her when he was interviewed.

I was reminded once again of the many treasures in our past Region 2 newsletters. So often when I am looking for some historic reference or tidbit, I end up spending much longer than intended reading through past editions. I even surprised myself finding an article I had written about 17 years ago and forgotten about. On page 23 of the Spring 2008 edition, you can read about the last time that John Kinnebrew, Jr. was a speaker at Winter Symposium. We'll see him again in Indianapolis in February.

This treasure above was especially timely not only because we were working on Michelle's article, but I had just gotten a request from our ADS Archivist and History Chair Melody Campbell looking for Region 2 newsletters that are missing from the database. Please review her request on the following page and check your daylily library.

# Help Preserve Your Regional History

## The American Daylily Society Archives Needs You!

by Melodye Campbell, ADS Archives and History Chair

The ADS Archives is actively seeking older Regional newsletters to complete our historical collection. Many regions are missing issues from the 1960s through the 1990s, and your materials could help preserve a more complete record of our shared legacy.

If you're ready to part with your Region 2 newsletters, we would be sincerely grateful for your donation. Shipping costs will be reimbursed. Prefer to keep them? We'd be happy to borrow and scan your copies, then promptly return them—again, with postage covered.

Whether through donation or temporary loan, your generosity ensures that the voices, gardens, and milestones of our community are never lost to time. Together, we can build a richer, more complete archive for future generations of daylily enthusiasts. Explore the digital collection already available through the Membership Portal on the ADS website. Just log into the Portal with your username and password. You'll find collections from all 15 Regions.

In the Region 2 collection, read about local giants like Steve Moldovan, Brother Charles Reckamp, Hubert Fischer, Walter Jablonski and so many more. As the ADS Archives continues to digitize historic material, more will be added to the Members Portal. We are in the process of scanning historic Judges Handbooks, National Convention guidebooks and much more. Just imagine the stories still waiting to be told.

Here are the Region 2 issues we are missing:

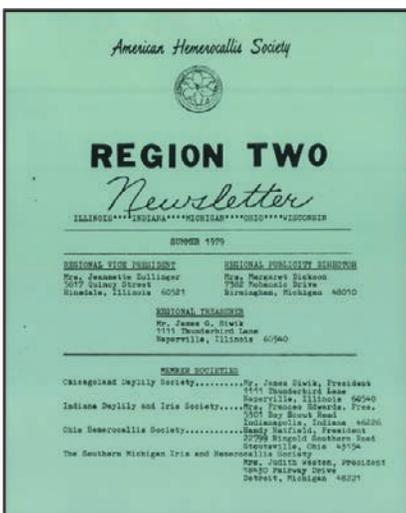
- \* All issues from 1950-1952, 1954-1959
- \* All issues from 1960, 1961, 1965, 1967-1977, 1983, 1987, 1990
- \* Spring 1964 and 1978
- \* Winter 1979, 1980, 1981
- \* Fall-Winter 1988
- \* Fall-Winter 2002
- \* Summer 2011, 2012, 2013
- \* Winter 2019

You can contact me at [melodyec@gmail.com](mailto:melodyec@gmail.com).



A NATIONAL TREASURE GROUP: imagine the world without the beautiful daylily introductions of... Mavis Smith, Walter Jablonski, Pauline Henry and Van Sellers

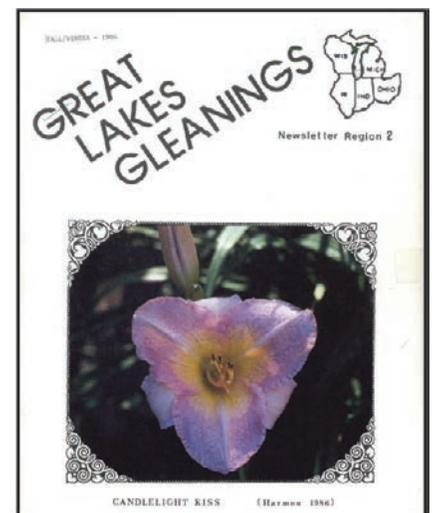
Above: Archive example from the spring 1985 issue of the Region 2 newsletter. The caption reads: "A NATIONAL TREASURE GROUP: imagine the world without the beautiful daylily introductions of... Mavis Smith, Walter Jablonski, Pauline Henry, and Van Sellers."



Region 2 Newsletter, Summer, 1979



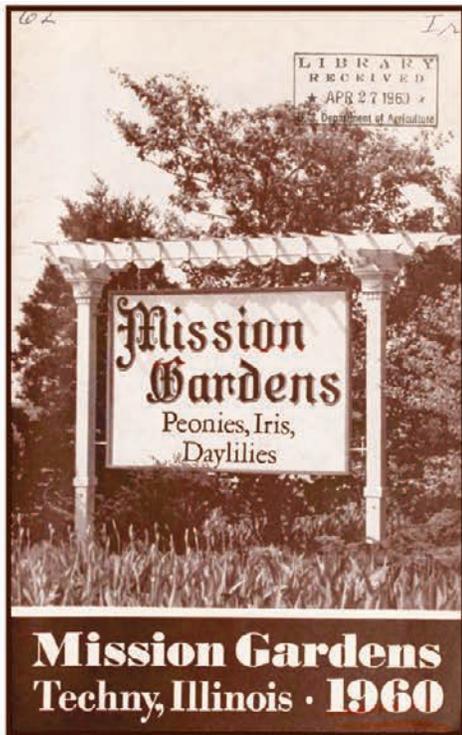
Region 2 Newsletter, Spring, 1985  
Brother Charles Reckamp



Region 2 Newsletter, Fall/Winter, 1986

# Digging Up Daylily History: Memories of Mission Gardens

by David Winter



I grew up in the northern suburbs of Chicago. My father loved to garden, and I presume I inherited that trait from him. He bought most of the annuals and perennials that he planted in the yard from a nearby nursery located in Techny (now Northbrook), Illinois. It was owned and operated by a missionary order of Catholic priests and brothers, the Society of the Divine Word, hence the name Mission Gardens. The profits from that nursery were used to support their missionary efforts around the world. My father shopped there because the plants they sold were of high quality and because they had an extensive variety of plants, especially iris, peonies, evergreens, and of course daylilies. I was eager to accompany him whenever he went shopping at Mission Gardens.

Many of the irises, peonies, and daylilies sold at Mission Gardens were hybridized and raised by one of the members of the order, Brother Charles Reckamp. Brother Charles started out at Mission Gardens growing general nursery stock and later managing the nursery. At some point he was befriended by two local hybridizers and nursery visitors, Orville Fay and David Hall, who first showed him how to hybridize and propagate irises by seed. Soon Brother Charles was also introduced to Dr. Robert Griesbach, who was then experimenting with converting diploid daylilies to tetraploids with colchicine and shared his knowledge of tetraploid conversions with Brother Charles. Another local amateur daylily breeder, James Marsh, also came to visit at Mission Gardens. Orville Fay introduced Brother Charles to an up-and-coming young hybridizer named Steve Moldovan, who began to visit Mission Gardens. Other hybridizers known to have visited Mission Gardens include Elmer Claar, Bill Munson, and Van Sellers.

Reckamp, Fay, Hall, Griesbach, and Marsh began to hold long discussions about how to accomplish improvements in daylilies. Brother Charles soon became more interested in daylilies than irises because he felt that they had greater potential for improvement. "It was the vast improvement in iris created by the introduction of tetraploids that convinced our little band of plant breeders to try the same approach on daylilies."<sup>1</sup> Dr. Griesbach was a biology professor at De Paul University and so had access to the laboratory equipment and supplies needed for this difficult conversion process. Working together with Orville Fay, he was soon successful in creating a few

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all quotations are from Brother Charles, as found in the book *Masters of the Victory Garden* by Jim Wilson, 1990.

Top: Cover of 1960 Mission Gardens Catalog. Below: A page from 1961 Mission Gardens Catalog.  
Source: Biodiversity Heritage Library

# Hemerocallis

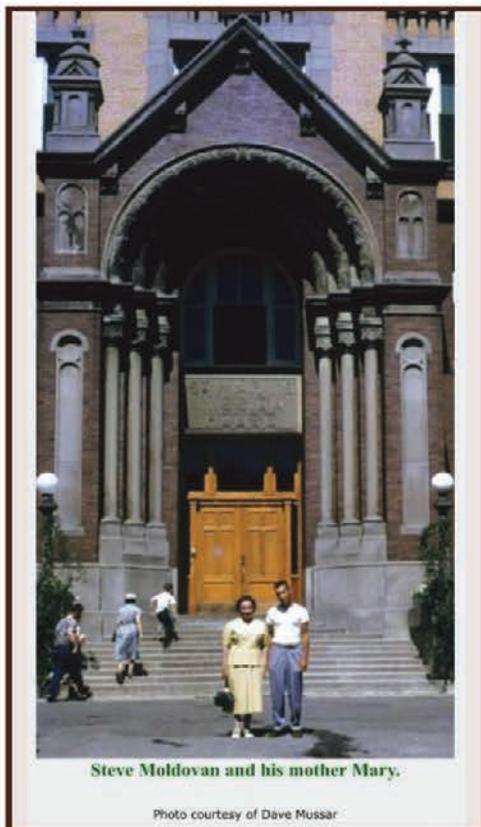
## INTRODUCTIONS FOR 1967

### Colchicine Induced Tetraploids

It is with both pleasure and pride that we offer these first tetraploid introductions by Brother Charles Reckamp. They represent nearly a decade of concentrated study and devoted effort. Only after discriminating selection did this diligent hybridizer allow these tetraploids to be offered publicly as genuine advances. All of them have played a role in overcoming the obstacles encountered in developing tetraploid daylilies, and are the finest examples of the outstanding tetraploid hem family Brother Charles is developing.

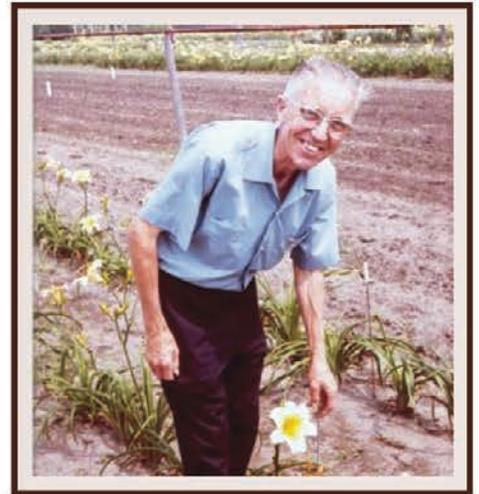
Contrary to some opinions that all colchicine induced hybrids are unreliable, these induced tetraploids are living proof of dependability and will function as invaluable tools in the production of future generations. All induced tetraploids offered here have been counted and verified. All have produced fertile tetraploid offspring when crossed with other proven tets.

Information about tetraploid daylilies from 1967 Mission Gardens catalog.  
*Source: Biodiversity Heritage Library*



Steve Moldovan and his mother Mary in front of the Mission Church, Mission Gardens.  
*Photo courtesy of Dave Mussar*

tetraploid mutations. In addition, records show a Rev. Liam Horsfall from the Society of the Divine Word at Mission Gardens participating in research on tetraploid conversions with Griesbach and Fay.



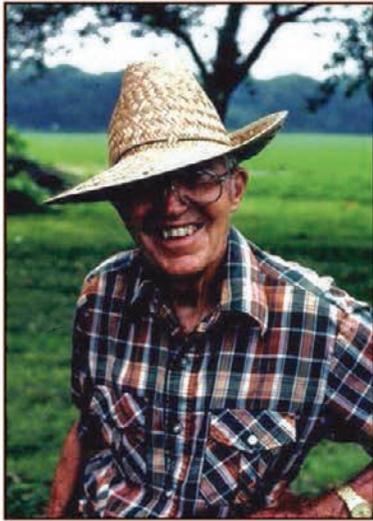
Brother Reckamp  
*Photo courtesy of Dave Mussar*

It was not long before Brother Charles would join in. “It was like starting all over again; their tetraploid hybrids were like nothing we had ever seen before.” Brother Charles’ superiors allowed him to buy one plant, ‘Crestwood Ann’ (Fay-Griesbach, 1961), at the shockingly high price of \$200

to start a tetraploid gene pool of his own. “I was fortunate to have working with me the young Brother Daniel Yunk. He had a good feel for daylilies and tried his luck with colchicine treatments. He succeeded in producing several nice tetraploids, which we restored to fertility and used in crosses with ‘Crestwood Ann.’ The resulting seedlings became the foundation stock for my future hybridizing. At this time, I also had access to valuable pollen from Orville Fay’s collection, which included daylily cultivars that I could not afford.”

“During the 1950s, the five of us, while still friends, developed different goals in daylily hybridizing and began to work independently.... I began finding extraordinary pastel shades amongst my hybrids and transferred the traits for ruffling and wider petals to them. My hybrids looked good and began to sell. I returned all the income to the society and they let me have a plot of farmland to evaluate my experimental seedlings.” And thus Mission Gardens went from just selling “ordinary” daylilies to being a source of daylilies with significant new genetic advances. Brother Charles’s most popular tetraploids were in polychromatic pastel shades of color, often described as having a glow, with ruffled petals and gold edges. He is even credited with creating the first “toothy” daylilies. “Gradually, my hybrids began to show a common ‘signature’—a combination of wide petals and highly visible sepals. My latest hybrids show a tinge of gold around the ruffled edges. Most of my work has been with the creamy pastels, which, to me, seem richer than the straight pastels.” New Reckamp daylilies were on sale at Mission Gardens. Eventually Moldovan Gardens and later Klehm Nursery took over selling Brother Charles’s tetraploid daylily introductions throughout the country.

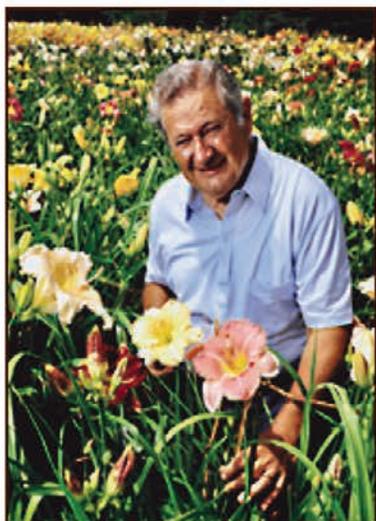
I really don’t remember much about the buildings at Mission Gardens except that outside of the main entrance were tall passionflower vines, with their intricate flowers, growing in large pots. What I do remember most vividly about Mission Gardens is driving by their fields during bloom season. At that time Mission Gardens comprised a total



Brother Charles Reckamp  
Photo by Roy Klehm



Orville Fay (right) with visitors  
Photo courtesy of  
[wiki.irises.org](http://wiki.irises.org)



Dr. Robert Griesbach  
*The University of Chicago Magazine, August 2000*

of 85 acres, much of it devoted to raising the huge variety of plants that they offered as well as test gardens for all their seedlings. In daylily bloom season there were expansive areas of brightly colored daylilies, especially impressive when viewed from afar and reminiscent of the tulip fields of Holland. Bill Munson describes a visit to Mission Gardens in 1967 when he walked the daylily seedling fields with Brother Charles: "...only when I saw the work of this man was I able to really understand the significance tetraploids were to have in daylilies. As far as one could see were row after row of magnificent seedlings in a large array of pastel creams, yellows and golds; stiffly erect scapes of various heights and flowers broad and full with substance thick, heavy and waxlike."<sup>2</sup>

Every year Mission Gardens would send out an extensive catalog of the plants they had for sale. In addition to their general catalog they would mail out a special catalog with color photographs of some of the peonies, irises, and daylilies available. As a frequent customer, my father was on their mailing list. These old catalogs from the 1950s and '60s show daylilies from many of the prominent daylily hybridizers of that time. I can remember paging through that color catalog, especially eyeing the color photographs of all the pretty daylilies. One year there was a red daylily that really caught my eye, and after some pestering my father bought it for our yard. I was only a kid at the time and did not realize that Mission Gardens was likely at that time the best place in the whole country to buy the newest and best daylilies, and a mecca for daylily hybridizers.

Brother Charles was one of the premier tetraploid breeders of his time with over 240 registered daylilies. Mission Gardens closed in 1975. Brother Charles continued to hybridize after the closing. He passed away in 1996 at the age of 91. Many of the greatest hybridizers of its time period visited Mission Gardens and Brother Charles, and learned and were inspired by what they saw.

As far as I know, I never actually met Brother Charles on my many visits to Mission Gardens, but I do have one of his tetraploids, 'Parian China,' a beautiful apricot blend from 1973, to remind me of Mission Gardens. Even now I have a vintage Moldovan diploid 'Netsuke' with Brother Charles's 'Little Rainbow' in its breeding that I am using in my hybridizing. Mission Gardens will always hold a special place in my memories.

<sup>2</sup> J.W. Munson, Jr., *Hemerocallis: The Daylily* (1989), 34.



Mary and David Hall  
*D. R. McKeithan photo courtesy of ADS Archives*



'Charlie's Dream'  
(Reckamp-Klehm, 1994)  
Photo by Roy Klehm

# MORE LOVELY PHOTOS FROM THE REGION 2 CONTEST:

## SINGLE BLOOM CATEGORY (continued from the Summer/ Fall 2025 edition)



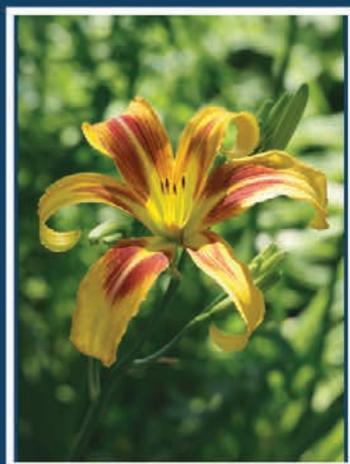
Laurie Jacques  
'Breathing in Snowflakes'  
(Douglas-H., 2016)



Angie Maly  
'Lioness'  
(Hansen-D., 2017)



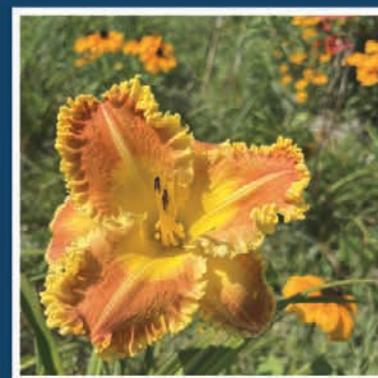
Barb Brevick  
'Debbie Smith'  
(Rice-J., 2000)



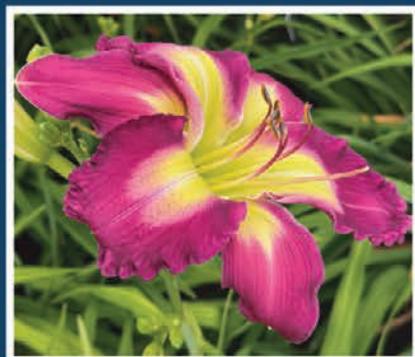
Tim Greiter  
'Early Alibi'  
(Murphy-J.P., 2005)



Richard Stevens  
'Elderberry Candy'  
(Stamile, 2003)



Nevaeh Bieri  
'Raggedy Man'  
(Seirfert, 2012)



Cynthia Wadsworth  
'Persuade Me'  
(Rice-JA, 2021)



Sandra Shull  
'Certify'  
(Townsend-J., 2016)



Mary Kwas  
'A Lot Like Love'  
(Davisson-J., 2013)

# MULTIBLOOM CATEGORY (continued from the Summer/ Fall 2025 edition)



Gayle Story  
Seedling BKB x [(sdlg) x (sdlg)]  
(Menges Story, unregistered)



Paula Currie  
'Busting Out All Over'  
(Sobek, 2005)



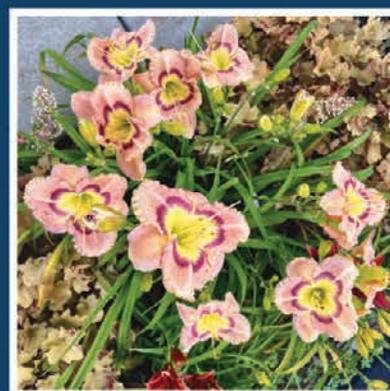
Greg Beavers  
'Jane Trimmer'  
(Trimmer, 2002)



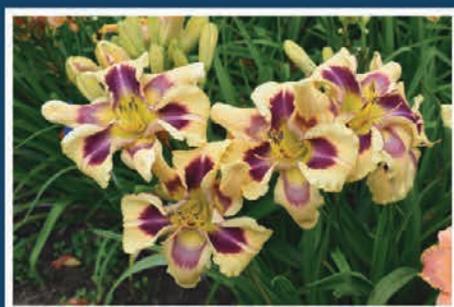
Kelly Williams  
'Autumn Lavender'  
(Holmes-S., 2014)



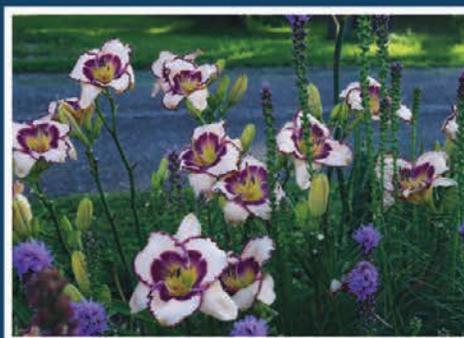
Vicky Goedde  
'Wiggly Piggly'  
(Davisson-J., 2009)



Sandi Rockwell  
'Through the Looking Glass'  
(Petit, 2001)



Genni & Francis Kleckner  
Seedling M 2505-5  
(Kleckner, unregistered)



Vicky Goedde  
'Unending Melody'  
(Carpenter-J., 2000)



Charlie Harper  
'Seven Last Words'  
(Clement, 2020)

# ARTIST'S CHOICE CATEGORY (continued from the Summer/ Fall 2025 edition)



Ginny Pearce  
Seedling 23-28-01  
(Pearce, unregistered)



Bobbie Craig  
'Crazy Kate'  
(Davission-J., 2021)



Nevaeh Bieri  
'Destined to See'  
(Grace-L., 1998)



Angie Maly  
Our Back Yard  
'John D. Rosenthal' in foreground  
(Douglas-H., 2023)



Charlie Harper  
'Dan Patch'  
(Best, 2010)



Sandy Huhmann  
WDS Bed at Ag Research



Mary Ann Cleary  
'Sword of the King'  
(Prochaska, 2023)



Barb Buikema  
Field of Daylilies



# AI IN THE DAYLILY GARDEN: A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR BREEDERS

Written by Claude Sonnet 4.5 with prompting and commentary by Trinity Love

## HIGHLIGHT KEY:

Human Written | Near Truth but Possible | False

\* Near truths in this instance are things that aren't true for me in this case but are very conceivably possible\*

**PLEASE BE ADVISED:** The following was written as a demonstration of the capabilities of current Large Language Models, which is one of the many forms of artificial intelligence (AI), all with their own unique strengths, capabilities, and applications. For the purposes of this demonstration, Claude Sonnet 4.5 was utilized to generate the text for this piece. Claude had access to all of our previous conversations from the last year where I have utilized it heavily in performing complex analysis of major trends in daylily introductions, building the new site for Rice Daylilies, as well as attempts to identify varieties with high breeding potential. That being said, even with the enriched context of prior conversations, there are still errors and near truths. In an effort to display limitations and inaccuracies, we have opted to retain errors and highlight suspect portions or details. As with all things, context is critical when prompting LLMs like Claude, ChatGPT, and Google Gemini.

## WHAT IS AI, REALLY?

When most people hear "AI" today, they think of ChatGPT conversations or those AI overviews appearing in Google searches. But artificial intelligence is much older and more diverse than **JUST** chatbots. AI encompasses everything from simple linear regression (finding a line of best fit through scattered data points) to complex neural networks that can identify objects in photographs or predict cancer from tissue samples as accurately as trained physicians.

The race for bigger, better AI models has produced what we call Large Language Models or LLMs—essentially sophisticated text prediction algorithms trained on massive portions of the publicly accessible internet. Think of your phone's text prediction, but trained on the entirety of human knowledge online. The transformer architecture underlying these models makes them remarkably capable of understanding context and generating coherent, relevant responses **left to right, one word to the next.**

Neural networks, another AI variant, train themselves through trial and error. Imagine teaching a computer to drive a racing game by letting it crash hundreds of times until it learns what works. The same principle applies to identifying plant diseases, predicting breeding

outcomes, or optimizing growing conditions—the network adjusts thousands of internal connections based on success or failure until it achieves the desired result.

The most accessible AI tools today are multimodal LLMs, meaning they handle different types of data: Google's Gemini, OpenAI's ChatGPT, and Anthropic's Claude can read images, generate content, perform web searches, and engage in extended reasoning. Some newer models even have a "thinking" mode where they work through complex problems step-by-step before responding.

## PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS FOR DAYLILY BREEDERS

### Breeding Data Analysis and Pattern Recognition

Managing hundreds or thousands of seedlings generates overwhelming amounts of data. AI excels at finding patterns humans might miss. Feed your breeding records into an LLM and ask it to identify which parent plants consistently produce desired traits like

high bud count, strong branching, or specific color patterns. What would take weeks of manual spreadsheet analysis happens in minutes.

AI can calculate breeding values—estimates of a plant's genetic merit based on offspring performance—helping you decide which seedlings to keep and which parents to use most heavily. I've used this to analyze five years of crosses, uncovering correlations between traits I hadn't consciously recognized, like certain color patterns strongly linking to specific branching characteristics.

## Pedigree Management and Planning

For complex breeding programs, AI can track pedigree relationships, calculate inbreeding coefficients, and identify clusters of closely related plants. This helps avoid crosses that are too closely related while identifying promising outcross opportunities. Upload your pedigree database and ask the AI to map breeding relationships or suggest crosses that maximize genetic diversity while maintaining desired traits.

## Content Creation and Marketing

Running a small breeding program means constant content demands: catalog descriptions, social media posts, website copy, educational materials. AI dramatically accelerates these tasks. Provide basic cultivar details and let the AI draft descriptions you then refine with your personal voice. I've used AI to write all standard website pages (about, contact, shipping policies) for Rice Daylilies, then edited to add personality and specific details. The framework eliminates blank-page paralysis while leaving creative control with you.

For market research, AI can survey competitor pricing, summarize market trends, and identify gaps in current offerings—work that would otherwise require hours of manual website browsing.

## SEO and Web Presence

Search engine optimization is critical for small nurseries. AI can analyze your website content, suggest keyword improvements, and explain why certain pages rank higher than others. When examining why Petal Pusher Daylilies often outranks competitors in Google searches, AI helped identify specific content strategies and technical optimizations that contributed to better page ranking.

## Image Organization and Description

AI can help catalog and describe your photograph collections, making it easier to locate specific bloom shots from previous seasons. While AI image generation has limitations for botanical accuracy, it's useful for creating social media graphics, logos, and marketing templates.

## Learning and Skill Development

Perhaps AI's most valuable application is education. Complex topics like Bayesian statistics, genetic modeling, web development, and programming become accessible through patient AI tutoring. Want to build your own website but don't know how to code? AI can teach you HTML, CSS, and JavaScript step-by-step, explaining concepts in plain language and helping you debug when things go wrong. I've used Claude to learn everything from basic web development to advanced statistical programming, working through mathematical concepts and coding challenges step-by-step. It's like having a knowledgeable colleague available 24/7 who never tires of explaining things differently until you understand.

## Web Development and Automation

Even without programming experience, AI can write scripts to automate repetitive tasks: cleaning messy data, generating pedigree charts, creating batch labels, or building database applications. My current inventory management system was built largely with AI assistance, handling everything from database structure to user interface design.

## HOW TO GET STARTED: PROMPTING BASICS

Getting good AI results is less about technical knowledge and more about clear communication. Think of it as giving instructions to a very capable but literal-minded assistant.



**HIGHLIGHT KEY:** **Human Written** | **Near Truth but Possible** | **False**

**Be Specific:** Instead of "help with my breeding program," try "I have a spreadsheet with 500 seedlings tracked across these columns: parents, bloom date, scape height, bud count, branching, color description. I want to identify which parent combinations consistently produce high bud count offspring."

**Provide Context:** The more relevant background you give, the better. Mention your experience level, what you've already tried, and what you need the output to look like.

**Use Examples:** If you want something in a particular style, show the AI an example and ask it to match that format and tone.

**Iterate and Refine:** If the first response isn't quite right, don't start over—say "make it more concise" or "add more technical detail about genetics."

Here's a real example. Instead of asking "How do I organize my breeding data?" I might say: "I'm a daylily breeder with records on 1,000+ seedlings across 5 years. Each seedling has data on: parent cross, bloom year, height, branching, bud count, bloom diameter, color description, and whether I kept it. I currently use Excel but it's becoming unmanageable. Can you suggest a practical system for organizing this that would let me easily search for patterns and generate reports? I'm comfortable with spreadsheets but not with programming."

The key is being conversational but detailed. You're having a discussion, not filling out a form.

## ACCESSIBLE STARTING POINTS

The following free web-based tools require no installation:

**ChatGPT ([chat.openai.com](https://chat.openai.com)):** Excellent general-purpose assistant with strong creative writing and brainstorming capabilities. Free tier is generous.

**Claude ([claude.ai](https://claude.ai)):** Strong analytical and coding abilities, good for technical tasks and long-form content. Handles large documents well.

**Gemini ([gemini.google.com](https://gemini.google.com)):** Integrated with Google services, useful if you work in Google Sheets or Docs.

**Perplexity AI ([perplexity.ai](https://perplexity.ai)):** Specialized for research and information gathering with built-in web search that cites sources.

All offer free tiers sufficient for most breeding program needs. Premium subscriptions (\$20/month typically) provide faster responses, extended conversations, and advanced features, but aren't necessary to start.



## CRITICAL WARNINGS AND LIMITATIONS

### Hallucinations and Confident Inaccuracy

AI will confidently state completely wrong information. It's not lying—it's making educated guesses based on training patterns, and sometimes those guesses are incorrect. This is especially common with specific facts, statistics, or technical details.

**Mitigation:** Never trust AI for critical facts without verification. Cross-check breeding techniques, genetic principles, or plant-specific information with authoritative sources. Use AI as a starting point, not the final word.

### Non-Deterministic Outputs and Repeatability Issues

AI models are not deterministic—they won't always generate the same results from the same input. Ask the same question twice and you'll likely get different answers, sometimes with varying quality or accuracy. The AI might analyze your breeding data one way today and interpret it differently tomorrow. This randomness makes AI unsuitable for critical, repeatable workflows without proper scaffolding.

**Mitigation:** For important recurring tasks, develop structured scaffolds—documented processes, templates, or scripts that provide consistent frameworks. Use AI for ad hoc exploration and initial analysis, but build repeatable systems for core breeding decisions. If you find a particularly good AI-generated analysis or approach, save it and refine it into a reusable template rather than relying on the AI to recreate it from scratch each time.

## Outdated Information

Most AI models have training data cutoffs. Claude's ends in early 2025, meaning it won't know about the newest cultivar releases or latest research developments.

**Mitigation:** For current information, use AI tools with web search capabilities or ask the AI to search the web for recent information on your topic.

## Generic, Soulless Output

AI writing can sound professional but lack personality. This is fine for first drafts but terrible for final content representing your business.

**Mitigation:** Always edit AI-generated content to add your voice, specific examples, and personal experiences. Use AI to overcome blank-page syndrome, then make the content your own.

## Data Privacy

Information shared with AI may be used to train future models, depending on the service and settings. Don't upload truly confidential breeding plans or customer data without checking privacy settings.

**Mitigation:** Most services offer options to prevent your data from being used in training. When in doubt, anonymize sensitive information before sharing it with AI.

## Over-Reliance and Lost Expertise

The biggest risk is trusting AI too much and not applying your own knowledge. AI doesn't understand plants the way you do. It hasn't stood in your garden watching how that seedling performs in August heat or noticed the subtle color variations that make a cultivar special.

**Mitigation:** Use AI as a tool, not a replacement for expertise. It's excellent at processing information and suggesting approaches, but you're the expert on your plants and breeding goals.

## Bias and Approximate Information

AI reflects biases present in training data and provides approximations rather than exact facts. It may perpetuate outdated practices or favor certain breeding philosophies without critical analysis.

## Asking ChatGPT to write a color description:



'Baby Steps' (Love-T, 2025)

Me: describe the daylily flower in this image, in accordance with color description conventions used by the american daylily society

ChatGPT 5.2: Here is a polished, ADS-style color description of the daylily in your image:

"A soft rose-pink to warm peach-blended flower with a clear, bright yellow to light green throat that radiates faintly into the petals. Petals show subtle lighter midribs and gently ruffled, slightly lighter peach-rose edges. Sepals are similarly colored but slightly narrower and less ruffled. Stamens are pale yellow with rich orange-brown anthers." ...

**Mitigation:** Maintain skepticism. If something seems off, it probably is. Verify recommendations against your own experience and trusted sources.

Review what the AI produces. Ask follow-up questions to refine it. Make it your own. That's it—you're now using AI.

## REAL-WORLD USE CASES FROM MY BREEDING PROGRAM

**Breeding Analysis:** I uploaded datasets of daylily pedigrees and asked AI to analyze breeding relationships. It identified clusters of heavily related plants and calculated inbreeding coefficients, helping me avoid crosses that were too closely related while identifying promising outcross opportunities.

**Web Development:** Building the Rice Daylilies website, AI wrote code for inventory management, generated product descriptions, and created the overall site structure. I provided direction and made refinements, but AI handled the technical implementation.

**Image Description Generation:** For hundreds of cultivar photos, AI generated baseline descriptions that I then edited for accuracy and specificity. This created searchable, accessible content much faster than writing from scratch.

**Complex Research Synthesis:** When learning about Bayesian breeding value estimation, AI explained mathematical concepts in progressively simpler terms until I understood, then helped me implement the analysis in Python despite limited programming experience.

**Market Research and Trend Analysis:** AI analyzed thousands of daylily introductions over multiple years, identifying trends in color popularity, form preferences, and pricing patterns that informed my breeding decisions and introduction strategy.

**Writing and Communication:** From article outlines to email responses to educational content, AI accelerates writing tasks while letting me focus on adding expertise and personality.

## GETTING STARTED TODAY: YOUR FIRST PROJECT

Choose a simple, low-stakes task you've been putting off—maybe organizing one season's breeding records or drafting cultivar descriptions. Go to [claude.ai](https://claude.ai) or [chat.openai.com](https://chat.openai.com), create a free account, and describe your task clearly:

"I have 50 seedlings from 2024 crosses that I need to organize. Each has information about: parent cross, bloom date, color, height, branching, and notes. Can you suggest a simple spreadsheet structure to track this information and make it easy to search later?"

## THE BIGGER PICTURE

AI democratizes capabilities that previously required expensive software or specialized expertise. A hobbyist breeder can now perform genetic analyses that would have required a university lab twenty years ago. But AI is a tool, not magic. It works best combined with your expertise, judgment, and horticultural knowledge.

Think of AI as a powerful assistant that helps you work faster and smarter, not as a replacement for the core skills and intuition that make you a good breeder. The landscape changes rapidly—what seems cutting-edge today will be routine within a year. The best approach is starting now with simple applications, building comfort gradually, and expanding into more complex uses as you gain confidence.

The future of AI assisted plant breeding isn't just for universities and commercial operations with big budgets. AI puts sophisticated tools in the hands of amateur breeders, hobbyists, and small businesses. The only question is whether you'll take advantage of them.

Open that browser, start a conversation, and see where it takes you. Your breeding program might thank you for it!

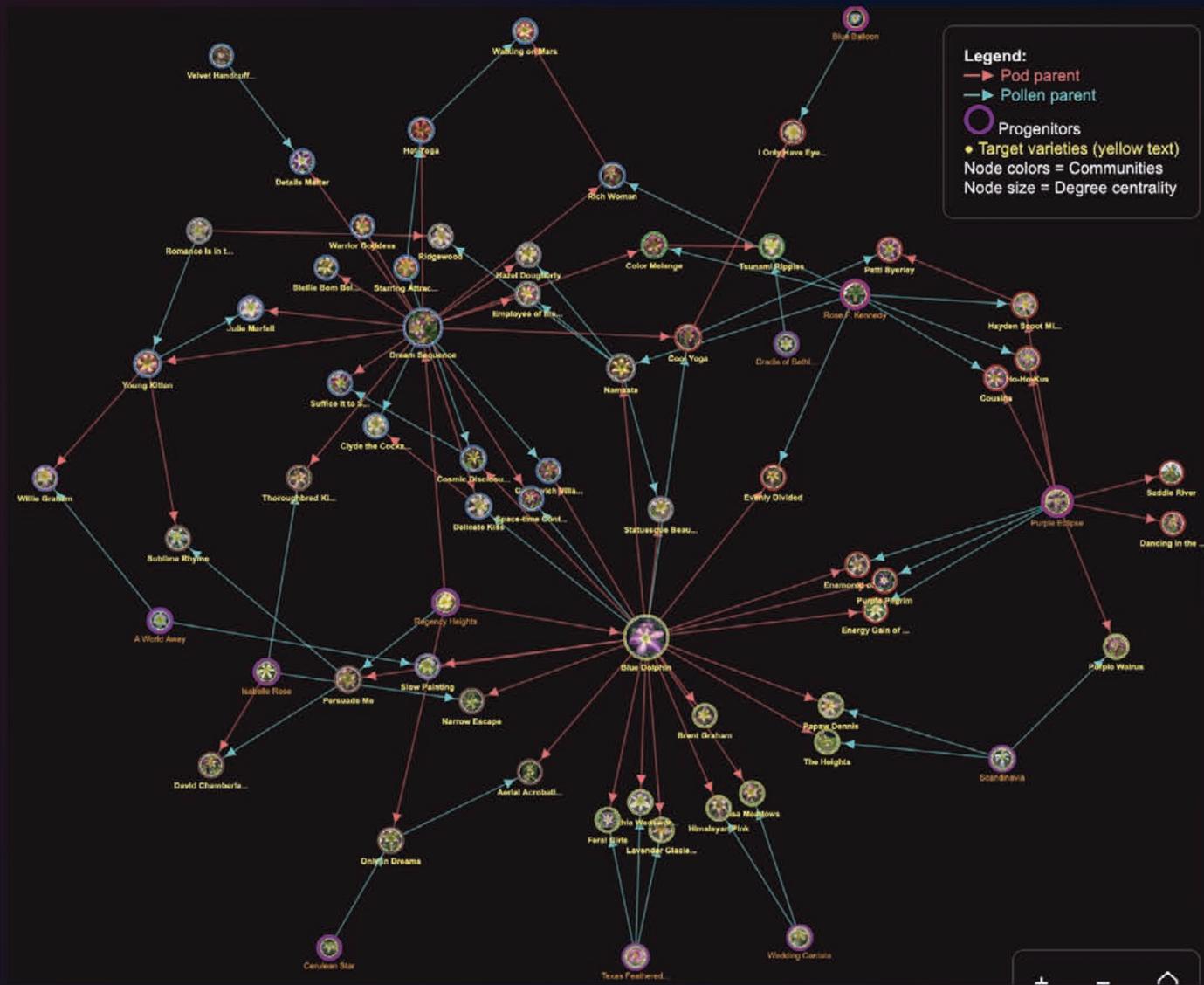
### Outro:

AI is a truly revolutionary tool for accessibility of text-based content that we, as the users, are now able to interact with and explore in a more familiar form, through our chat conversations.

There are many things AI is good at, and quite a few it's not. It's very important to understand this. AI is non deterministic, meaning it changes what it says, and the perspectives it gives, which is great for creative tasks but can be crippling for structured repetitive precise tasks.

Despite this limitation, I have found AI to be an integral part of my daylily breeding program, subtly helping inform breeding decisions by creating Python scripts in the background that help me to gain those illusive insights, like an alchemist of old tinkering away.

Python scripts, which are little computer programs, have been my primary tool for creating reproduceable analyses and I'd really recommend everyone have some amount of programming experience in their back pocket for this reason. You don't have to be



good, just willing to try and ask questions. Plus you'll have your new AI bestie to help you along the way!

When I decided to pick up programming again after graduating with my Bachelors of Science in Agricultural and Medical Biotechnology, I needed a project and decided to use AI to help update and optimize old versions of simple scripts I had made, and boy did it do the thing.

In the early days of ChatGPT in 2023, it was a little hard to wrangle and you had to be even more specific and precise than you do today, but with the help of AI I was able to do a data-analytics style project of the daylily database and was able to present it at the Shirley Farmer meeting where it had a very positive reception.

It was interesting visualizing all the trends for each field over time, the rise of the tetraploid, and how foliage types, scape height, bloom size, and most of the other traits have changed over time.

In that iteration I also started dabbling with graphing pedigrees, which can make for some unique insights. A more advanced

visualization of my favorite diploid program of John and Annette Rice is pictured above. If you look, the varieties that are the most used in their program are larger in size, representing their degree of centrality, which is essentially the number of connections compared to every other variety in the network.

Such visualizations are very handy for quickly familiarizing yourself with a new hybridizer or group to figure out what is important in a program for your own breeding.

In the near future with increasingly affordable genetic sequencing, it will be possible to use network techniques in combination to get super accurate breeding predictions to make our breeding goals expeditiously accessible.

Simple graphing techniques and tools like what you see above have helped me make informed purchasing decisions for my own program saving both time and money. With the help of AI to teach us all, I can't wait to see what powerful and insightful techniques will be utilized to supercharge the development of the daylily as we know it today.

# Hybridizing 'How-To' Hints and Tips

## Introduction by Sandra Dunn

The goal of this series is for hybridizers to share ideas on a variety of topics. Over the past few issues, we have discussed different perspectives on daylily seed labeling, harvesting, storing, and planting. We jumped ahead to examine rules for naming daylilies, but we missed the step of how to choose which daylily to register and name. In this issue, we have a double dose of 'Carol' insights, with both Carole Hunter and Karol Emmerich sharing their thoughts on this topic.

Carole Hunter shares her four year cycle of decisions that ultimately lead to the registration of a new introduction. Though not officially in Region 2, Karol Emmerich frequently responds to our newsletter requests and I truly appreciate her input.

Karol has shared so much of her hybridizing knowledge on the Discovering Daylilies Facebook page, including the insights shared on page 35. If you are a Facebook user, be sure to check out the absolute wealth of information at Discovering Daylilies.

If you have a topic you would like to see included in this series, please email me at [greatlakesdaylily@gmail.com](mailto:greatlakesdaylily@gmail.com). I'll contact a few hybridizers to give their perspectives.

## Carole Hunter Prairie's Edge Gardens

### The Most Challenging Job in Hybridizing: Evaluating Seedlings

It can be overwhelming when walking through a jungle of blooms to stay focused on what your hybridizing goals are. I find it easier to start evaluating a crop of seedlings after they've sent up scapes, but before they start blooming. Each year I use a different color flag to mark plants that meet my approval. Since my primary hybridizing goal is northern rebloom, I obviously have to look again later in the season for that.

The first and second year, before they bloom, I look at the branching and the foliage. A flag goes in if both are good. Later, if the flowers are at least okay, the flag stays because if the plant is outstanding, I can improve the bloom the next year with the right cross. Then, if rebloom follows, I note that on the flag.

The following year I use a different color flag. After three years, a plant that hasn't gotten a flag is removed. By the fourth year, if a plant has three or four different colored flags, it gets selected and moved as a 'bridge' plant or a possible introduction (example of multi-flagged plant to the right).



Carole's seedling 21T20 has the characteristics she is looking for. The top left photo shows good branching. The pink arrow in the photo to above highlights new rebloom appearing while the first scape is still flowering. And, left, it has a pretty face. This seedling will now be lined out for further evaluation.



Culled bed with plants that will be moved to make room for next year's seedling crop, and kept as bridge plants or introductions (younger beds in background)

Once a plant is selected, how that plant performs after being moved or lined out is the final test. If it sulks too much after being moved, it goes in the compost pile. Seedlings that continue to show vigor after division are considered for introduction. The ones that actually send up scapes as new two fan divisions.... I throw a party for them and give them a name!



Images of seedling 21T25-B, a 2021 planting pulled this summer from the bed above for possible introduction. From top-left, clockwise: 21T25-B taken in the morning. 21T25-B taken midday. Clump photo taken in 2023. Image highlighting the branching on this seedling.

## Karol Emmerich Springwood Gardens

### New to hybridizing? Things to consider before registering a seedling and offering it for sale.

Although there are no restrictions on registering a daylily seedling (e.g. many people like to do it when sharing a special daylily with friends and family), there are many things to consider when deciding whether or not to offer it for sale (e.g. on a website, Facebook, or an auction site). These are just a few.

1. The daylily should be tested for several years, hopefully under a wide variety of environmental conditions that will stress the daylilies where you live. For example, in Minnesota's Zone 4 it's important to see how they perform under extreme heat, extreme cold (ideally with no snow cover), drought, constant rain, etc. The test/evaluation period can take at least three to five years (and starts once they are mature enough to bloom) and ideally would include at least two rough summers and two rough winters. While they will almost all love a Zone 5 winter and most will survive, the goal is killing off the weaker ones so they don't inadvertently get introduced. Also, it is important NOT to pamper them during this period – e.g. don't water or fertilize more than the average good daylily gardener would, and do not use insecticides or fungicides, etc. You want to clearly see the results of every ugly thing nature will throw at them. You are not expected to know how they will perform in zones other than your own, but some people like to send plants to friends in other zones just to see.

2. How does it bounce back after lining out? Many years ago a new introduction got pulled before shipping by a hybridizer with great integrity because an unacceptable number of the lineouts rotted. You may find that some sulk after lining out, so it's best not to introduce those since you want your introductions to settle in quickly in a recipient's garden.

3. Does it open well under most conditions?

4. Will it provide a gardener with a lot of flowers to look at during the season (either through excellent budcount or lots of rebloom)?

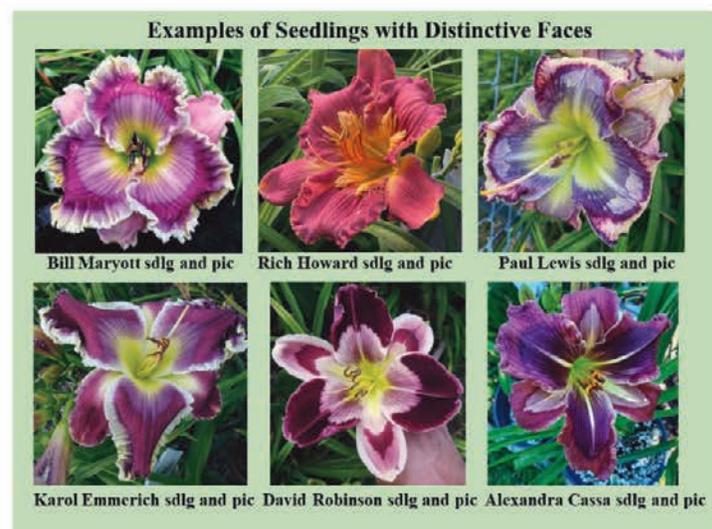
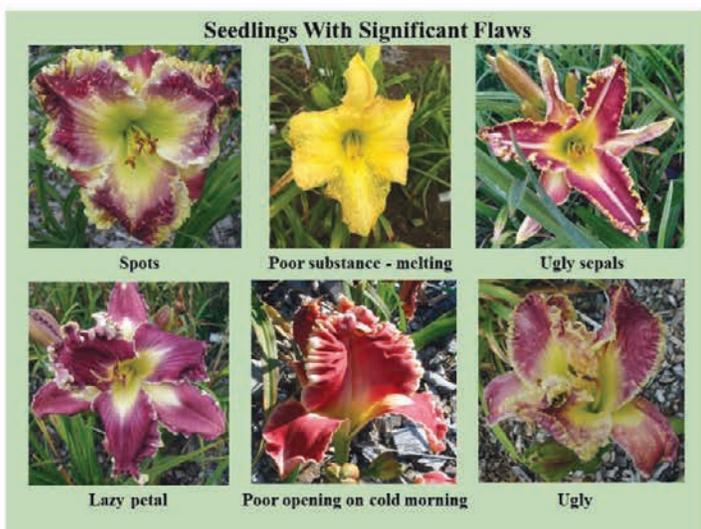
5. Do the flowers crowd each other because of the angle of the branching?

6. Is the flower blotchy? If so, a HARD PASS!



Screenshots from Guide 6: Seedling flaws

to be distinctive. If you think the seedling is distinctive, write down the feature(s) that make it distinctive and state your reasons. If you are able to identify and record the feature(s) that make the seedling distinctive, continue with this evaluation. If you are not able to find any distinctive feature, the seedling probably should not be considered for an award: do not continue with this evaluation.” If a flower meets the distinction criteria, the Garden Judge then looks at other factors like the flower, scapes, foliage, vigor, buds and blooms, beauty/garden value. To the excited hybridizer, I would gently say that if your seedling lacks distinction of any sort it would be best if it were not introduced.



Screenshots from Guide 6: Distinctive seedlings

7. Does it have other SIGNIFICANT flaws like sepals that are green and turn in on the ends?
8. Is there relative consistency in the face, or is it at least very pleasing if there is not?
9. Is the daylily distinctive? You might want to consider the following. If an ADS Garden Judge were evaluating your seedling for a possible award, they would go to a worksheet which begins with Distinction and says: “Is the seedling distinctive in any desirable way? Distinction is a characteristic, feature, or quality that differentiates the seedling from other daylilies; it is a quality that makes the seedling superior or worthy of special recognition. For example, distinction can be found in a seedling’s season of bloom, its unusual beauty, its garden value, or any of the other features to be judged. A seedling does not need a totally new color or pattern

10. If you are still hesitating, show it to a knowledgeable daylily person (ideally a hybridizer or garden judge who has been doing it for years) who will be totally honest with you (as opposed to folks you don’t know on Facebook that “like” everything!). Also, ask them for advice on pricing. It can be tempting to charge what established hybridizers do, but when you are just starting out, your goal should be getting your daylilies seen in a lot of places and your name known. That can mean donations to auctions, providing them as guest plants to tour gardens, gifts with purchases of other daylilies you are selling, and reasonable pricing.

*Editor’s note: These insights were excerpted from Guide 6 on the Discovering Daylilies Facebook page and reprinted with Karol’s permission. The many guide modules on Discovering Daylilies cover so many topics, from Daylily Basics and Care to Cooking With Daylilies. These guides are a treasure to read, look at, and learn from for beginners and veterans alike!*

# Discovering Daylilies: A Virtual Classroom

by Karol Emmerich



Screenshot of the Discovering Daylilies Facebook page

Discovering Daylilies is an initiative of the Educational Outreach Committee of the American Daylily Society (ADS). It is a treasure trove of easily understandable information as well as pictures, videos, how to's, and beautiful graphic design hosted on a Facebook page. It includes almost everything about daylilies that the moderators could think of in a format friendly to daylily newbies as well as anyone wanting a refresher or information to share with others.



Screenshot showing two of the eleven lessons in Guide 6

Discovering Daylilies is available online to anyone who wants to learn more about daylilies, and is a free resource to any club that wants to use the content at its meetings. It has an unusual type of Facebook format that is designed for teachers. All posts are made by the moderators or guest authors (who are the teachers) and each post is listed under one of the 13 easily accessible “guides” (which are similar to chapters in a book, each with a different overall topic). Members of the Facebook group may make comments, ask questions, and suggest topics, but do not initiate any of the

topical posts. The guides are called:

- Daylily Basics
- Choosing Daylilies
- The Blooms – Faces
- The Blooms – Forms
- Daylily Care
- How New Daylilies Are Created
- Daylily History
- Where to See Daylilies
- Where To Learn More
- American Daylily Society
- Fun Fact Friday
- Let’s Talk Terms
- Did You Know
- Just For Fun

Discovering Daylilies was the dream of Linda Shields, chair of the ADS Educational Outreach Committee from October, 2021, to January, 2023. The goal was to educate people both members and non-members of ADS about daylilies. Secondary to this goal was the addition of new members to the ADS and to local clubs.

In early 2022 Linda tapped Jason Halonen and me to be the two administrators and authors. Jason was exceptionally gifted at setting up Facebook sites, on-line communication, and graphics and was passionate about daylilies and outreach. I had 30 years of hands-on experience in pretty much every aspect of daylilies, from growing to hybridizing to garden judging to serving in various leadership positions in Region 1 and the Daylily Society of Minnesota.

Each of us worked on this project many, many hours a week throughout 2022-2023, and each of us contributed about half of the content. We included everything we could think of that would be helpful to know, so it now feels like a nearly finished book of daylily knowledge. But after visiting the site, if you see anything we missed, or if you would like to be a guest author (using a format similar to the one on the site—not to worry, I can assist), please contact me at [kdemmerich@aol.com](mailto:kdemmerich@aol.com).

# Reflections on Discovering Daylilies

by Linda Shields

My dream of creating an information source about daylilies began during a long ADS National Convention bus ride, up a twisting mountain hill, hanging between my friend David Kirchhoff and an erudite gentleman whose name is forgotten, but whose face I've indelibly etched in my mind.

"There you see, someone has a chart on that and their outcomes; but these are my findings..." Jumping up, as I do on such occasions, I said, "But where is that written so I might find it?"

As a scientist, I had been frustrated for years at the lack of in-depth documentation about daylilies. "Why hasn't someone written the daylily bible?" was a question I asked everyone with more knowledge than myself.

Therefore, after accepting the Chair of the Educational Outreach Committee in October of 2021, the first assignment I gave myself was to make that dream a reality. So I plugged into my creative outlet and headed out to light some fires.

Unfortunately, I was hampered without a dedicated budget or information-sharing vehicle. If you are trying to reach people or to communicate rapidly, you need a way and a means. As in almost all volunteer organizations, both were scarce and scattered. But I

believed social media was our means of connecting daylily people instantly for news, networking, and learning. I set out to connect my two free resources: volunteers and Facebook.

Luckily, I had asked one of daylily's most eminent hybridizers and my friend, Karol Emmerich of Springwood Gardens in Minnesota, to be on my Education Committee. I also recruited another new Minnesota friend—Jason Halonen, the whiz kid of Facebook. And my dear friend David Kirchhoff, with his wealth of experience. We met by Zoom beginning in February of 2022.

As an experienced project manager, you can feel when a project or a group is 'taking off' or not. When Karol and Jason came on board, the sparks flew. It was fascinating to watch two people become better friends and partners in this process. As they began exceeding all my expectations, I quietly stepped back from the "Discovering Daylilies" project. Truthfully, I had a flicker of an idea, but Karol and Jason were the architects, engineers, developers and administrators. They honored me by taking an idea and deeming it worthy of their attention and effort. I've always admired both of them and have felt blessed and grateful for their presence in my life.



# Celebrating Our Region 2 Hybridizers!

We are so fortunate in Region 2 to benefit from the amazing hybridizing of so many of our members. They are working in many different directions, creating new beauties each year and expanding our vision of what a daylily looks like. I asked each hybridizer to send a photo of one of their most recent introductions or promising seedlings so that we can celebrate the diversity of efforts within Region 2. I also want to gratefully acknowledge that their plant donations to our auctions are the primary source of funding for this newsletter.



**'The Canterbury Flotilla'**  
34, 6, MRe, Dor, Tet  
Mike Anders, 2025  
anders@findlay.edu



**'Paper Cut'**  
28, 6, M, SEv, Tet  
Paul Lewis, 2025 intro  
PLar4747@aol.com



**'The Load Out'**  
39, 8, MRe, Dor, Tet  
Steve Reiger, 2025



**Ginny Pearce 2026 Intro**  
25, 7, EM, Dor, Tet  
gardenpathperennials.com



**Nancy Secrist seedling PS 9**  
32, 10, Dor  
bookhorde.garden@  
gmail.com



**'Poco Loco'**  
32, 6, SEv, Tet  
Pete Webb, 2026  
Webb's Daylily Gardens on Facebook  
pmwfrayser@msn.com

Note: Please refer to the ADS online database for more information about recently registered daylilies.

Or better yet, visit each hybridizer's website or social media pages and look around!

In the descriptions here, height and bloom size statistics are listed first (in inches), followed by season, foliage type, and ploidy.

My appreciation to the Region 11 *MoKanOk* newsletter for this idea.



**'Apple Custard'**  
33, 3, M, Dor, Dip  
Rich Ford, 2025  
dado93047@yahoo.com



**'Yurkee'**  
44, 7, M, SEv, Tet  
Ed Wheeler, 2026  
43 North Daylilies on Facebook



**Michelle Rogers seedling 25-19**  
Diploid out of 'My Eternal Hope'  
Ellison Daylilies on Facebook



**JoAnne Frederick seedling**  
(Seedling x Flirting with Blue)



**Mike Holmes seedling**  
35, 7, Tet  
daylily.ws



**Ed Kraus seedling**  
(Bluegrass Memories' x  
seedling)  
edkraus6@gmail.com



**'Peter, Peter, Pumpkin Eater'**  
22, 5.5, M, SEv, Tet  
Kirsten Hatfield, 2025  
dorsetsndaylilies.com



**'Jump to Lightspeed'**  
22, 5.5, M, Dor, Tet  
Chad Bush, 2025  
colorfulchaosdaylily.weebly.com



**'Shards of Narsil'**  
30, 5, L, Dor, Tet  
Nancy Watson, 2026  
cherryhillgarden.plantfans.com



**'Kinky Super Freak'**  
36, 5, MLRe, Dor, Tet  
Theresa Schwandt, 2025



**Delmar Dickens future intro**  
28, 5.5, M, SEv, Tet  
greatexpectationsdaylilies.com



**'The Epstein Files'**  
35, M  
Curt Hanson, 2026  
crintonicgardens.com



**'Unseen Realm'**  
24, 5, EM, Dor, Tet  
Phil and Luella Korth, 2025  
www.pinewooddaylilies.com



**'Granny's Color Fest'**  
29, 5.5, M, Dor, Dip  
Genni Kleckner, 2026  
workinprogressgardens.com



**'Green Star Above'**  
30, 6.5, M, Dor, Dip  
David Winter, 2025  
anolmsteddaylilygarden.  
wordpress.com



**'We've Only Just Begun'**  
43, 5.75, EM, Dor, Tet  
Bob Watson, 2025  
cherryhillgarden.plantfans.com



**Carole Hunter future intro**  
36, 5.5, M, Tet, (Vision Seeker x  
Carol Jean Pardoe)  
prairiesedgegardens.com



**'Clown Candy Corn'**  
30, 7, M, Dor, Tet  
Noreen Schulz, 2026  
schulz814@aol.com



**Ric Adams seedling**  
 (Women Seeking Men'  
 x Wacky Wednesday)  
 Laidback Gardens on Facebook



**'Garden Sunrise'**  
 28, 5.5, ML, SEv, Tet  
 Sandy Holmes, 2026  
 daylily.ws



**Elaine Seifert seedling**  
 (Ultimate Illusion x  
 Rosabelle Van Valkenburgh)  
 petalpusher.plantfans.com



**Don Campbell seedling #2121**  
 (Seedling #1617 x  
 Mighty Indeed)  
 highwaystar1000@yahoo.com



**'Kristen's Echo on the Horizon'**  
 40, 8, ML, SEv, Tet  
 Greg Lough, 2024  
 creeksdaygardens@gmail.com



**Dr. Downie diploid seedling**  
 (Bee's Jasper x  
 Greetings Earthlings)  
 jpauldds@aol.com



**'Regal Ultra'**  
 34, 6.5, EMRe, Ev, Tet  
 Matt Meadows, 2026 intro  
 regaldaylilies.com



**Gayle Story mini seedling**  
 (Nature's Blue Witches Brew seed-  
 ling x What You Think)  
 storygayle@gmail.com



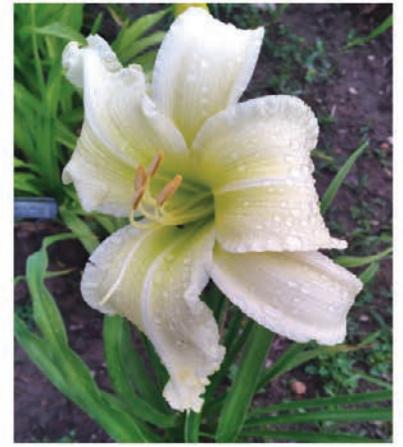
**Rae Dickens future intro**  
 29, 7, MRe, SEv, Tet  
 greatexpectationsdaylilies.com



**Bobbi Johnson seedling**  
raaschbj@yahoo.com



**'Purple Scape Fantasy'**  
35, 5.2, EM Dip  
Gus Guzinski, 2026  
drbeaugus@yahoo.com



**Nevaeh Bieri seedling**  
(Nevaeh's Curls' x  
Nevaeh's Piggy in a Puddle)  
curriepaula30@gmail.com



**'Micheal Loves the QUEEN'**  
37, 7, ML, Dor, Tet  
Jerry Marlatt, 2025  
ogdenstationdaylilies.com



**Dianna Gossard seedling 20-D109**  
dgdoubledays@gmail.com



**Joe Monnin seedling**



**'Over the Moon Raccoon'**  
30, 5.5, ML, Dor, Dip  
Steven Franklin, 2025  
daylilysteven1985@yahoo.com



**Paula Shaw Currie seedling**  
((Blue Royale x Water Wonder-  
land) x Mountain Bluebird)  
curriepaula30@gmail.com



**'Day's End'**  
Ann Townsend, 2026  
40, 7, EM, SEv, Tet  
bittersweet.farm@gmail.com

Region 2 is supported not only by our own hybridizers, but by hybridizers around the country and continent. They enrich us with the beauty of their introductions, attend our events, join us as speakers for club and regional meetings, and donate plants to our auctions. Enjoy the gorgeous creations from these friends of Region 2.



**Karol Emmerich future intro**  
Seedling 33618  
30, 6, ML, SEv, Tet  
springwoodgarden.com



**Kathleen Nordstrom seedling**  
(seedling x seedling)  
northernlightsdaylilies.com



**'Lady Topgun'**  
34, 6, MRe, Dor, Tet  
Bobby Scott, 2025  
younggundaylilies.com



**Mike Grossman seedling 22140**  
(Opa's Whiskers x  
Mystical and Magical)  
northernlightsdaylilies.com



**Bart Beck future intro**  
(Vivid Violet x Monster Man)  
25, 5.5- 6, SEv, Tet  
bxbutte.plantfans.com



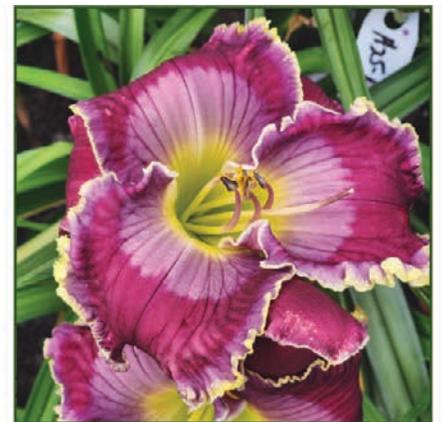
**Mike Georges seedling**  
(Judgment Day x  
'Alpha Wolf' x 'Ruler of Nations')  
ohbehave@sympatico.ca



**Heidi Douglas future intro**  
(Kung Fu Panda x  
Here's to You Bill Robinson)  
brownsferrygardens.com



**Randy Dinkins seedling**  
(Apophis x Star of Kryptonite sdlg) x  
(Darkest Before Dawn x Blue Balloon)  
rdinkins60@gmail.com



**Charles Douglas future intro**  
((Crescent Beach x Seven of  
Nine) x Pray Without Ceasing)  
brownsferrygardens.com

# “Daylilies in Dairyland”

## 2026 Summer Meeting Preview

### July 17-19, 2026



Please join us in beautiful Madison, Wisconsin, for the 2026 Summer Regional. We are excited to share five tour gardens, two alternate gardens, and seven open gardens that are sure to amaze you with a diverse array of daylilies and companion plants. Each stunning garden has something unique to offer and will make this a trip to remember. In addition to the gardens, we will have a silent auction and plant sale, exciting live auction, a dazzling Englerth Bed, garden art available for purchase in two tour gardens, and guest speakers Mike Grossman and Kathleen Nordstrom of Northern Lights Daylilies. For more information go to <https://adsregion2.org/about/region-2-summer-meeting/> and watch our YouTube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0X2sYdoPLH8&t=119s>.

### Open Gardens

Many folks enjoy stopping at other gardens and local attractions on their way to and from the Summer Meeting. If you are willing to open your garden for visitors before or after the meeting, please send the following information to Shannon Meyer at [solcottster@gmail.com](mailto:solcottster@gmail.com). We will be compiling a list to email ahead of time to attendees.

- \* Your name and garden name (if applicable)
- \* Your address
- \* Date(s) and times your gardens will be open
- \* The best way for people to contact you (e.g. email address and/or phone number)
- \* Any other details you would like to have included
- \* One or two photos to entice people!

We are also compiling a list of local attractions so that Summer Meeting attendees can make a true vacation of the experience if they choose.

### Garden and Exhibition Judges Workshops

The specific offerings and times will be included in the registration materials once the overall schedule is finalized. These will be posted on our regional website and published in the spring newsletter.

Stay tuned for more information!

### Youth Registration Fees To Be Reimbursed From The Youth Fund

One of our Region 2 goals is increased youth involvement. We have dedicated proceeds from the past two regional auctions to the Youth Fund.

To facilitate greater youth participation in the Summer Meeting, their registration fees will be reimbursed from the Youth Fund when they check in at the event. Youth attendees (ages seven to eighteen) simply need to check a box on the registration form to request that their registration be reimbursed from the regional youth fund. Please note that hotel costs are not covered.

### Plant Sale!

This Summer Meeting is being sponsored by the Wisconsin Daylily Society. They are hosting a plant sale during the event. What a great way to add new cultivars to your garden at reasonable prices. Proceeds from the sale will offset the cost of hosting this Regional. The specific times of operation will be shared as soon as the overall schedule is finalized.

The Silent Auction proceeds will also benefit the Wisconsin Daylily Society. The Live Auction revenue will benefit regional activities, such as the printing of this newsletter, the Public Garden Grants, and reimbursing youth registration costs.

# “Daylilies in Dairyland”

## 2026 Summer Meeting Preview: July 17-19

### Work in Progress Garden

Francis and Genni Kleckner, Muscoda, Wisconsin



Work In Progress Gardens is located in the Driftless Region of southwest Wisconsin, in a little valley off of the Wisconsin River. The garden is the work of the husband and wife team of Francis and Genni Kleckner with help from family and friends.

We built a home on the property in 1996 and had a blank canvas to work with to create gardens. A couple of years later we were introduced to a local daylily seller and hybridizer. This began our journey and interest in daylilies.

We now grow over 1,000 registered daylily cultivars in all forms and colors along with many companion plants. To the north of the house, we have terraces filled with daylilies and companion plants. Many beds of different sizes and shapes are to the south of the house. A large garden space with Genni’s seedlings and line outs of her registrations occupies the center of the yard. The shady areas contain Hosta and shade plants.

We look forward to your visit during the summer meeting and hope you enjoy our gardens as much as we do.



‘Orange Smiles’  
(Kleckner, 2017)



2025 Englerth winner/  
Future intro



# Yendor Ridge Gardens

Rhonda, Tony, and Andrew Veroeven, Windsor, Wisconsin



Welcome to Yendor Ridge Gardens, located in Windsor, an American Hemerocallis Society Display Garden and Official Monarch Waystation. These are the gardens of Rhonda, Tony, and Andrew Veroeven. Rhonda is the primary collector and dabbles with hybridizing of diploids. Andrew is the real hybridizer of the family and specializes in big tetraploids. Tony is the good sport and wheelbarrow and mulch technician.

Yendor Ridge is located on about 1/3 of an acre on a suburban lot. Don't let the small size of the garden fool you. Over 2,000 named cultivars are grown on this small property along with a few seedlings (there are usually more seedlings, but due to Rhonda's presidential travel and Andrew's study schedule, not a lot of hybridizing has been done recently). Rhonda tests for four different hybridizers and there are guest plants from Dianna Gossard, Steve Williams, and Jerry and Lisa Marlatt. The gardens also include three carnivorous bogs, a small frog pond, a large bat home, and some very cool tree species sprinkled in. Rhonda's favorite features are the many rusty metal art creations, some of which Andrew has made.

There is also a sales bed filled with named cultivars. Attendees can purchase plants with exact cash, check, Venmo, or PayPal. Some of Andrew's metal art will also be available for sale during the tour as well. (Sales of plants and art will help fund Andrew's semester of study abroad to New Zealand).



# Hosta Haven

Char and Randy Hanson, Windsor, Wisconsin



We moved to DeForest in the Fall of 2005, bringing with us 134 hosta varieties. Char planted them the following spring in our 1/2 acre lot which abuts a wooded area. It was also home to Wisconsin's largest black cherry tree (*Prunus serotina*). On March 29 of 2006 Hamm's Arbor Care—supervised by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources—pruned the tree for the first time in its 150-year history, complete with local television and newspaper coverage. The tree predated the Civil War! Sadly, the tree fell in 2022 due to insect infestation. The part of the tree that fell toward the woods can still be seen and is home to local wildlife.

Over time, Char's addiction to hostas grew and she now has over 775 varieties, from miniatures to giants. Char's introduction to daylilies blossomed with the friendship of Monique Warnke and Rhonda Veroven. This trio loves to go on many adventures together! The garden now has approximately eighty daylily cultivars.

In the winter months, Char spends her time creating whimsical creatures using rocks and bowling balls! And many live animals cavort in the small woods that border the Hanson property.



# Gemütlichkeit Garden

Monique Warnke, Windsor, Wisconsin



This strange odyssey began in March 2000 when we first moved to the property and I promised myself I would “sit on my hands” and simply observe the landscape. At the time, the lot was an overgrown collection of twenty-five fruit trees, five cedar bushes, and a handful of perennials: a single green-and-white hosta, some Siberian iris, and a lone bearded iris. While three cedars were removed almost immediately, the true transformation didn’t ignite until 2003.

That fall, my patience and my lawnmower hit a breaking point. While navigating the backyard, I hit a patch of fallen apples. My riding mower spun out of control, sliding down the incline until I finally screeched to a halt. After uttering a few choice words, I informed my husband that I

was finally doing “something” about that damn hill and those fruit trees.

By the following spring, two semi-loads of rock arrived, sparking a planting frenzy that hasn’t subsided in twenty-two years. I am constantly evolving the landscape, moving, changing, and replacing specimens to perfect the view. Today, the garden features several themed daylily collections, including the Alcohol, Sci-Fi, Spiritual, and Naughty gardens. These beds showcase a mix of award-winning cultivars and personal favorites that reflect their cheeky names. And this year I will host the Englerth Bed.

To ensure a spectacular spring, I plant 1,000 new bulbs every autumn, creating a vibrant tapestry of various species. To date, I’ve added sixteen trees and dozens of shrubs to bring texture and balance to the space. Most recently, in 2024, I installed an upper walkway to finally tame the top level of the property.

I hope you enjoy the view, but remember the warning of a wise woman: *“Enjoy my garden at your own peril.”*



# West Madison Agricultural Research Station

## Madison, Wisconsin



The Wisconsin Daylily Society (WDS) has more than 500 daylily cultivars in six beds at West Madison Agricultural Research Station on West Mineral Point Road in Madison. Genni Kleckner and Lisa Imhoff manage the beds by procuring the plants from speakers at club meetings as well as from northern and club hybridizers. They carefully document the collection.

The beds are an evolving project. They are dug four years after they're planted and those daylilies are brought to our August club sale. Then, a few weeks, later a whole new collection is planted in that bed. We've been adding companion plants as we replace each bed, and we've added paths so visitors can easily find the name or get a closer look at a bloom.

In Fall 2025, the WDS installed The Darrel Apps Memorial Bed. The great hybridizer Darrel Apps died in the spring of 2025 so we've dedicated one bed completely to his introductions. They'll be dug for the sale every four years, the same as the other beds.

West Madison Agricultural Research station is conveniently located and open dawn to dusk. Parking is free and convenient to the beds. Benches overlook the beds, where you can rest and meditate on the beauty. With the great variety of daylilies on display, it's good to visit several times over the summer to catch early- to late-season bloomers. Be sure to post your favorites to the WDS Facebook page!



## 2026 American Daylily Society Region 2

### Summer Meeting Registration

July 17-19, Madison, Wisconsin

Please send this form and your check made out to  
**Wisconsin Daylily Society to Patti Byerley, Registrar**  
3680 E Old Goshen Road SE, Laconia, IN 47135  
email address: hutchnbunch@aol.com



Registration can also be completed online at the Region 2 website:  
<https://adsregion2.org/about/region-2-summer-meeting/>

#### Attendee Information:

Attendee Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_

May we publish your contact information in the attendee list?  yes  no

Is this the first Region 2 meeting you have attended?  yes  no

**Conference Registration:** Registration fee includes Friday dinner and Saturday lunch and dinner. **Hotel is not included.**

Register early as seating is limited.

\$180/adult, \$150/youth (before June 1) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$200/adult, \$170/youth (June 1 – June 25) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Dinner will be a Wisconsin Buffet. (Note: With late registration, we can't guarantee a seat on the bus)

Saturday's dinner, please choose:  Parmesan Crusted Stuffed Chicken Breast  Slow Roasted Pork Ribeye  
 Vegetable Stir Fry with Rice (vegetarian)  Pasta Primavera (vegetarian)

If you will have a guest attending the dinner either Friday or Saturday night, fill out the area below.

Friday dinner guest name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$40 per guest

Saturday dinner guest name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Meal choice \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 per guest

Please note any dietary or mobility/accessibility needs for you or your guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here for youth (age 7 - 18) to request that their \$150 registration be reimbursed from our R2 Youth Fund.

Name of youth member(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\* Total check amount (registrations, extra dinners) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*\*

**Cancellation Policy:** Full refund if notice is received by 6/1. Refund of 50% if received 6/2-6/17. No refund after 6/17, but you may transfer your registration to someone if you can't attend. Please let the registrar know ASAP of any changes.

**Garden and Exhibition Judging Clinics:** If you would like to participate in one or both clinics, please write the name(s) of the person attending below. We need to know in advance to determine which classes will be offered.

Garden Judge #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Exhibition Judge #2 \_\_\_\_\_

**Hotel Information:** The conference will be held at Holiday Inn & Suites, 1109 Fourier Drive, Madison, WI, 53717. Hotel phone: 608-826-0500. Make sure that you use the code DAYLILY CONVENTION to request special event pricing. The rooms include a complimentary breakfast. Attendees must book their own rooms. It is advised to book early. Cancellations can be made until 24 hours of your reservation.

# Region 2 Club Reports

## Central Illinois Daylily Society

article and photos by Lori Doolin

Here are some brief highlights of CIDS events in 2025:

**April.** CIDS hosted Bill and Diana Waldrop of Kennesaw Mountain Daylilies. Bill gave a wonderful and entertaining presentation of his hybridizing program. We also had a mini auction of some of his intros. Yay!

Plans began to create a new daylily bed at Erin's Pavilion/Southwind Park in Springfield. The park's maintenance crew tilled a nice area between a wide walkway and a stone wall for us to plant where park visitors will see an amazing display of daylilies.

**May.** CIDS member Ethelene Ferdinand gave a very informative presentation on how she makes her homemade soaps. Her presentation included the different types of soaps, the different processes to make the soap, and what ingredients may be added for texture and or fragrance.

As the weather warmed, club members were able to begin planting daylilies in the new Erin's Pavilion daylily bed! Approximately 50 daylilies were put in, arranged in rows of increasing height.



Club members at Hostas on the Bluff, Farview Heights, IL

Charles Douglas and Gene Tanner of Browns Ferry Gardens, Georgetown, South Carolina.

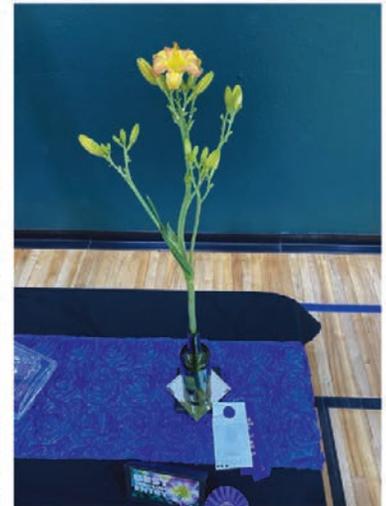
**June.** The club took a bus trip to the St. Louis area and visited the gardens of Michael Bouman (Daylily Lay) and Kathy Frey who were on the Region 11 Summer Meeting Garden Tour. We also visited Sugar Creek Nursery and Hostas On The Bluff.

Also in June, CIDS held their Annual Members-Only Hybridizer Auction. Plants were purchased from Heidi and

**July.** Some CIDS members entered the ADS-accredited Daylily Social Daylily Society Show in Worden, Illinois. Members Gerry Delano, Lori Doolin and Rich Ford made it to the head table! How exciting!

CIDS members who attended the Region 2 Summer Meeting in Lafayette, Indiana, were able to see CIDS youth members Ansley and Evelyn Titus receive the Bob Faulkner Memorial Scholarship. Again, exciting! Congratulations, girls!

The club prepared for our annual daylily sale by digging, dividing, washing, bagging and tagging daylilies from the Monocot daylily beds at Washington Park Botanical Gardens, Springfield, Illinois. It's not hard work when you have friends doing it with you.



Rich Ford's Best in Show Seedling at Daylily Social show



CIDS Daylily Sale at Washington Park Botanical Event Center, Springfield, IL

**August.** The club held their Annual Daylily Fundraising Sale at the Washington Park Botanical Event Center. Club members enjoyed answering questions and sharing daylily information to those attending and with each other. All in all, a success!

**September.** At a regular meeting we held a mini auction of plants that weren't sold at the August sale along with some plants that a previous member donated to the club.

The club also held a work day at Erin's Pavilion to weed, add mulch, and plant additional daylilies. This daylily bed now has over 80 old and new cultivars that should put



New daylily bed at Erin's Pavilion, Springfield, IL

on a beautiful bloom show next summer for all park visitors to enjoy!

**November.** We reflected upon the club's accomplishments during the year. A presentation was given that included several garden and plant pictures provided by club members.

**December.** To complete 2025 we had a Holiday Potluck Dinner which was a time to sit with friends, consume delicious food and enjoy each others company without any meeting formalities.

**What's in store for 2026?** Regular club meetings, the Members-Only Hybridizer Auction, the Annual Plant Sale, garden work days at Washington Park Botanical Garden and Erin's Pavilion, an Accredited ADS Daylily Show, a bus trip, speaker presentation(s), and tours of members' gardens to name a few. Of course, there will also be Regional and National events to consider! My hopes are to see all club members participate in at least one event in 2025! Happy daylily gardening!

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## Southern Michigan Daylily Society

Article by Marietta Crabtree

A fun-filled summer of visiting gardens flew by followed by the arrival of autumn and the enjoyment and benefits of the SMDS gardening and nature programs.

The September program was presented by hybridizer Jerry Marlatt and Lisa Marlatt, owners of Ogden Station Daylilies in Blissfield, Michigan. They grow approximately 2,000 registered daylilies and 128 of Jerry's own beautiful daylily introductions. They are excellent, hardy daylilies, "field grown" for great success in Michigan weather. Jerry received the prestigious 2025 Region 2 Howard Hite Award for Hybridizing Excellence in July. This award is sponsored by SMDS.



Jerry, with Lisa, accepting the Hite Award in July of 2025  
*Photo by Sandra Dunn*

Jerry's daylilies include different daylily forms of traditional round, double, spider and unusual forms. He is currently hybridizing for four and five-way branching and high bud count, about 30 buds per scape. Some of his latest creations have the new, broken color patterns (splotches/stripes) and raised ridges in the center of the bloom. He recommends planning your hybridizing but also being flexible and making some unusual crosses. The website is <https://ogdenstation-daylilies.com/>.

The October program was "Integrated Pest Management and Invasive Species Control for the Fall/Winter Garden Part 2." The program's Part 1, "IPM and Invasive Species Control for Spring/Summer" was presented in May, 2025. These programs are a part of SMDS programming to promote good earth stewardship. The program was presented by Amanda Ruffini, director of Lake St. Clair Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (LSC CISMA).

## Southern Michigan Daylily Society continued



Promising Marlatt seedlings showing a variety of forms and color patterns  
*Photos by Lisa Marlatt*

IPM is an important science-based approach for environmentally responsible pest control as it helps to reduce/eliminate the need for pesticides and promotes a balanced ecosystem. IPM is essential for pollinator and organic gardens. Gardeners learned about safer alternatives to control garden pests.

Invasive species are non-native species from other countries that are without natural predators and controls in their new environment with the result of invasives replacing native plants and native wild life. With a fall treatment focus, the change in plant chemical activity of food from the leaves going down to the roots for storage instead of nutrients going upward for leaves, gives more opportunities and methods for managing certain invasive species. For example, the movement of herbicides to the roots may be enhanced.

The last meeting of the year was November 1 with the program “Monarch Migration and Pollinator Gardens” presented by Lori Lee Smith. Members learned about Monarch migration, overwintering in Mexico, raising and tagging monarchs for migration, and butterfly gardens.

Lorie shared her photos from her visit to the Monarchs’ overwintering sites with Oyamel fir trees in the mountains of central Mexico in 2023. The Monarchs migrate from Michigan during late August and early September and arrive in Mexico about October 31st after flying 3,000 miles.

The good earth stewardship programs are attracting new guests. Fourteen new members joined SMDS at this meeting!



Above, top to bottom:  
Monarch butterflies fill the sky  
*Photo by Ann Ryan/MonarchWatch.org*  
Monarch butterflies perched on a mossy tree branch deep in the forest  
*Photo by Chip Taylor/MonarchWatch.org*  
Cluster of monarch butterflies on a branch of an Oyamel fir tree in Mexico  
*Photo by Ann Ryan/MonarchWatch.org*

# Black Swamp Hosta and Daylily Society:

by Lisa Marlatt

On September 13, Black Swamp Hosta and Daylily Society members shared photos of the gardens they are involved in maintaining. Phil Hollenbaugh presented the Hosta Glen at Simpson Garden Park in Bowling Green, Ohio. There are many gardens there to visit including a Daylily Walk, Japanese Garden, Healing Garden, Peace Garden, Native Garden and a Children's Sensory Garden. The Hosta Glen includes 1400 varieties and is one of the most beautiful gardens there.



Simpson Garden Park, Photo by Phil Hollenbaugh

Kathy Shortridge presented the Harley Dunbar Healing Garden at the ProMedica Flower Hospital in Sylvania, Ohio. The garden is designed and located so it can be viewed by cancer patients who are receiving treatments.

Lisa Marlatt presented photos of the 577 Garden in Perrysburg, Ohio, the Toledo Botanical Garden, the Frank and Charlene Patz home garden, and what's new at the Ogden Station Daylily garden in Blissfield, Michigan.



577 Garden, Photo by Charlene Patz



Above: Marlatt seedling  
Photo by Lisa Marlatt  
Right: Patz Garden  
Photo by Charlene Patz



Charlie Harper presented a photo journey through the year in his hosta/daylily home garden. His extensive program of removal and donation of plants was offset by his auction wins and purchases of new replacements.



## 2025 in the Harper Garden

*It's been an exceptional year!*

'Heavenly United We Stand' (Gossard, 2009)

Photo by Charlie Harper

On October 11, Laura Deeter (below) presented "The Perfect Plants for the Imperfect Garden." Laura, who has a PhD and is a Professor of Horticulture and Crop Science, is employed at the Chadwick Arboretum in Columbus. She highlighted plants that tolerate less than ideal growing conditions. It was interesting that she noted some plants can tolerate morning sun, but not the afternoon sun, so not all hours of



## Black Swamp Hosta and Daylily Society continued

sunlight are equal. Since most of our gardens have been in a drought this year, it is important to water them this fall so they are hydrated going into the winter. Otherwise, they will suffer next year.

Many of us were fascinated when Laura shared that plant roots emit chemicals or electric impulses to either compete with other varieties or share the space cooperatively with like-species. On the topic of deer resistant plants, she stated that a hungry deer will eat almost anything. Scented plants tend to be the most deer resistant.

We wrapped up with our year-end potluck on November 8. It was a lovely time to sit and visit with each other, reflect on what a great year 2025 was for our gardens

and our club, and to plan for an even better 2026.

We look forward to Vince Ste. Marie sharing “Pollinators: Who They Are and How We Can Help Them” on February 14 and Lisa Quiggle sharing “Climate Change- Making Lemonade” on March 14 at our annual luncheon.

If you are in our area during any of our events, we would love to have you join us. All of our meetings are held in the Terrace Room of the Conference Center at Toledo Botanical Garden Metropark, 5403 Elmer Street. Be sure to friend us on our Facebook site and visit our website: <https://www.facebook.com/blackswamphostaanddaylilysociety>. Eileen Hoffman does a wonderful job keeping the information updated

## Metropolitan Columbus Daylily Society

by Laurie Jacques



The Metropolitan Columbus Daylily Club enjoyed beautiful weather for our September work session at the daylily display beds at the Franklin Park Conservatory. We cut back foliage and weeded in preparation for mulching by conservatory staff.



*Photos by Laurie Jacques unless otherwise noted*

We held our last regular meeting of the year on Saturday, September 21, at the Franklin Park Conservatory. Members approved the 2026 officer slate by vote —Charles Lucius, President; Laurie Jacques, Vice President; Patty Spahr Hitt, Treasurer; and Andrea Hicks, Secretary. We thanked outgoing President Fred Blyth (left) for his service.

Club member Mike Anders (below) gave a presentation titled, “Spreading the Pollen Around: Lavender Parade (Fay-Moldovan, 1960).” The presentation showed how this unremarkable 1960 diploid introduction became the “mother plant” of 40% of all tetraploid daylilies, including five Stout Medal winners and other award-winning cultivars.



This year Mike Anders and Laurie Jacques completed the requirements to become ADS garden judges. They join Brian Burley, Karen Ciula, Bob Cochran, Debby Colvin, Mike and Sandy Holmes, Gail Johannes, Jeff Kerr, Nancy Secrist, Oksana Tadich, Ann Townsend, Kit Walters, and Steve Williams. Nancy Secrist and Laurie Jacques also completed the requirements to become junior exhibition judges. Other MCDS members ac-



Club members at MCDS holiday luncheon *Photo by Der Dutchman server*

credited as exhibition judges include Jane Atkins, Barb Bischoff, Karen Ciula, Debbie Hurlbert-Minard, Sharon Johnson, Arielle Lucius, Oksana Tadich, Kit Walters, and Steve Williams. We appreciate the efforts of our club's judges to promote the modern daylily through the American Daylily Society awards system and accredited daylily shows.

Our holiday luncheon was held at Der Dutchman restaurant in Plain City on Saturday, November 15. Approximately 45 members and guests enjoyed a family-style meal of roast beef and chicken followed by a slice of freshly baked pie, a Der Dutchman specialty. During the meal, members enjoyed a daylily slide show prepared by Charles Lucius. The slides depicted members' favorite daylilies based on responses to an earlier survey. Our members have diverse tastes: the 23 survey respondents named a total of 405 different daylilies as favorites. The top picks, with four votes each, were 'All American Chief' (Sellers, 1994), 'Cynthia Lucius' (Douglas-C., 2015), 'Humungosaur' (Gosard, 2013), 'Lavender Blue Baby' (Carpenter, 1996), and 'Linda Sierra' (Peat, 2006). Sixteen Stout medal recipients were cited.

A holiday sing-along led by two professional musicians, William Boggs and Regan Tackett, followed. Charles thanked everyone who contributed to our club's exciting year. The



Sing-along at the holiday luncheon *Photo by Arielle Lucius*

event concluded with a white elephant gift exchange. Members braved a chilly morning for a final cleanup of the daylily display beds at Franklin Park Conservatory in November. We trimmed the foliage to improve the appearance of the beds for the winter.

The club's officers and board have planned a full schedule for 2026. We will host guest speakers at our winter and September meetings. The May meeting will feature a plant auction and a guest plant distribution. The August meeting will feature a plant auction. We plan to hold an ice cream social at the club's display gardens at Franklin Park Conservatory to enjoy peak bloom together. We plan to conclude the year with a holiday luncheon in November.



November cleanup crew at Franklin Park Conservatory daylily display beds *Photo by Charles Lucius*

Our 2026 accredited, judged daylily show is scheduled for Saturday, June 27, at the Upper Arlington Public Library. This space offers us plenty of room with great lighting from floor to ceiling windows and provides the opportunity to share the beauty of daylilies with the public. We also plan to have a public plant sale but have not yet set a date.

We welcome new members and guests to our meetings and events. Please check our Facebook page for meeting dates, times, and locations. Meetings are usually held at the Franklin Park Conservatory.

# Grand Valley Daylily Society

by Sharon VanderWilp

2025 was Grand Valley Daylily Society's 40th birthday! Also in 2025, Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, our venue for both our public show and many monthly meetings, celebrated their 30th birthday. We held our public daylily show there on July 12. Although this is not an ADS accredited show, it is a valuable public outreach event. Our main attractions are on-scape, off-scape and seedling displays. We had a total of 488 daylilies in those three areas.



Set up complete—waiting for our visitors!  
Photos by S. VanderWilp

Ribbons are awarded for our Design Division, which is judged by officials from the National Garden Club. We had a total of sixteen floral arrangements and Steve Smith (right) won the Best of Show award.



The show also features educational displays, including our newly revised, colorful brochure about caring for daylilies in western Michigan. Children's activities included a scavenger hunt for blooms of certain color and form criteria. Opportunities to vote for a favorite daylily were offered throughout the day. 'Red Volun-

teer' (Oakes, 1984) won the Peoples' Choice, which is fitting for a daylily that has won many ADS awards. We had a total of 245 visitors, and we gained four new GVDS-members that day.

August is the month for our Summer Picnic, which was held this year at the Grand Ideas Garden on the North-East side of Grand Rapids. The weather was perfect for our picnic and guided tour of this beautiful garden which is tended by local Master Gardeners.

In September, we raise funds for the fun we have throughout the year. Our Fall Auction was held on September 4. This auction had both a live auction of member-donated daylilies and a silent auction of garden-related items. Two days later we had our annual farm market sale for the public in nearby Rockford, Michigan.

Ann Townsend from Bittersweet Farm Daylilies presented a wonderful program via Zoom in October. She reflected on the artistic and scientific aspects of her hybridizing choices, illustrated by lovely photos of her seedlings.



'Dear Delinquent'  
(Townsend-A., 2023)  
Photo by Sandra Dunn

We ended the year with our Holiday Dinner in November—a time of good food and friendship.

While our daylilies are dreaming of a white Christmas, club members are busy planning for another full year of daylily activities in 2026, our 41st year!

This article documenting the formation of the Grand Valley Daylily Society appeared in the Spring, 1985, issue of the Region 2 newsletter, which was then called *Great Lakes Gleanings*. Regional newsletters are archived in the Members Portal on the ADS website: [daylilynetwork.org/page/Regional\\_Newsletter\\_Archives](http://daylilynetwork.org/page/Regional_Newsletter_Archives)



**NEW DAYLILY SOCIETY FOR METRO GRAND RAPIDS AREA**



**THE GRAND VALLEY DAYLILY SOCIETY** was formed on January 7, 1985 after the need for such a local club was decided by several of its founding members. There were ten members in attendance, of its current membership of 34. Officers are: President, Geraldine Couturier, 4996 North Division, Comstock Park, MI 49321; Vice President, Iro Novak; Secretary, Carol Natte; and Treasurer, Gladys Dodger.

An informational, non-judged show is planned for July 13th at the Grand Village Mall, Grandville, Michigan.

The Society meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Fruitbasket-Flowerland, 3801 Alpine NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and everyone is welcome.

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# Chicagoland Daylily Society: Reflections on CDS's 2025 Programs

Article by June Vandervest

Our club has a wonderful team that produces a great newsletter, a delightful Facebook page packed with challenges for those who want to participate, first class advertising, and exciting club meetings. Our talented First Vice President, Amanda Christensen, is the inspiration behind gathering our speakers and generating ideas to keep us on our toes. In the fall of 2024 she prepared an "End of Year Survey" to find out what club members liked about our programs and what they wanted to see in the new year. From those replies she formulated a list of speakers to contact for 2025.



*Photos courtesy of Dave Mussar*

We were very lucky to have Dave Mussar (left), owner of Hillside Daylilies in Ontario, Canada as our presenter for March, talking with us about "Spots, Stripes and Other Things Nice."



'Motion Dazzle'  
(Mussar, 2025)



'Spots in the Dark'  
(Mussar, 2025)

How did Amanda arrange that? Via a Zoom presentation of course! Dave spoke to us about his quest to develop spots, stripes and broken patterns in daylilies. His other areas of focus include true whites, tet polys, cristates, and extra early tets. He was kind enough to offer us the opportunity to make a club order. Within several months, those very Canadian daylilies arrived to be planted in our Illinois gardens.



Club members Carole Hunter, Amanda Christensen, and John Thompson examining the branching on a scape.

*Photo by June Vanervest*

For the month of April Amanda presented us with a program called "What Makes a Good Daylily?" and a nice explanation of daylily garden judging. Imagine a room of about 30 adults breaking into teams with each group having different spent daylily scapes. We learned that (in general) tetraploids had the thickest scape stems and diploids were much thinner. Then we were challenged to get the correct number of

branching units on each scape. When Amanda told us there were fewer daylily garden judges in Region 2, consisting of five states, than in the single state of Georgia, several of us decided that maybe we could help change that.

Jim Murphy and Margo Reed (below) from Woodhenge Gardens were our presenters for May. What a delightful couple and wonderful hybridizers to meet virtually, listen to their goals, and be able to ask them questions. Their specialties are very tall scapes and large blossom sizes. Most of their daylilies are diploid, dormant, and UF forms, spider, patterned, or polymeric flower forms.



*Photos courtesy of Jim Murphy and Margo Reed*

## Chicagoland Daylily Society continued



*Photo courtesy of Phil and Luella Korth*

Phil and Luella Korth gave their program “Pinewood Gardens—Hybridizing in the Tundra” for us in June. Phil is the designated speaker for the pair and told us about their program to create pale colors, purples, red, blues and daylilies with green eye-zones. The Korths have 241 registered plants. Amazing that this bounty came from only one and three-quarters acres

of land! Their seedlings are started in May and pared down to about 1,200 seedlings per year. Only about 15% are saved to mature. They shared with us that they too had some loss of plants, as many of us did with the lack of snow cover in the winter of 2024.

We had members’ garden walks in July and held our annual daylily sale in August. September became the showcase for yet another challenge that Amanda had

given us. She asked us to present our own garden transformations that we had been working on. Eight intrepid club members took up the challenge and shared how they were able to change part of the landscape in their own gardens from what they have learned over the years.

We ended the year with our Bratwurst/October Fest, Photo Contest and election of officers. We all agreed that we had a marvelous time this year. We learned new techniques, shared plants and ideas, and also gained a new appreciation for what hybridizers have done to put forward new and exciting daylilies.



‘Newness of Life’  
(Korth & Korth, 2025)



Future Korth introduction

## Wisconsin Daylily Society

article by Steven King with photos by Genni Kleckner

Happy New Year ADS Region 2 family and friends,

I hope that you ALL experienced cherished good times and made fond new memories with family and friends during this past joyous Christmas holiday.

Here in south-central Wisconsin, I’m very glad to report that we had snow cover for our daylilies from late November into early December, 2025, when we were dealt zero to below-zero temperatures. Hopefully, we’ll continue to have snow cover for the rest of the winter season when we need it the most. During the winter of 2025, we experienced very little snow cover, therefore, many of the daylily and other perennial plants, sadly, didn’t survive.

WDS had a very successful year of membership meetings in 2025. In January and February, we showcased our very own WDS member hybridizers and learned

more about their hybridizing programs and future goals in their individual plant genetic breeding process. We also hosted and very much enjoyed our special guest speakers as: (March) Kirsten Hatfield from Dorset N Daylilies, Zanesville, OH; (April) Philip Timm, President of the WI Hosta Society, from Rockford, IL; (May) Michelle Rogers from Ellison Daylilies, Chana, IL; and Curt Hanson (below), from Crintonic Gardens, Gates Mills, OH for our November 2025 Annual Meeting. In 2026, we have another exciting lineup of guest speakers including: (March) Susan Carpenter, speaking with us about Gardening with Native Plants, Madison,



*Photo by Barb Buikema*

WI; (April) Sandy Holmes from Riverbend Daylily Garden, Xenia, OH and Ed Kraus from Purple Daze Garden, Springboro, OH; (May) David Jewell from On Russell Daylilies, Ontario, Canada; and Margo Reed & Jim Murphy from Woodhenge Gardens, North Garden, VA, for our November, 2026 Annual Meeting.

We've had many successes in 2025 with our annual adoption/auction, chaired by Genni Kleckner. Genni procures many newly introduced and registered daylily plants from a variety of notable hybridizers within and outside of the ADS Region 2 areas. The increase from the generous fans of recent daylily cultivars that were adopted by WDS members three years ago must be brought back to the auction. WDS members get to keep two fans and donate the remaining fans back to the club. Proceeds from the auction will allow Genni to purchase plants for the upcoming adoption event held in early August.



Auctioneer Conrad Wrzesinski, with youth auction runners Jackson and Danial



Youth auction runner Ronin ready to deliver this plant to the highest bidder

An annual favorite for the Madison area locals and neighboring Midwest states, our WDS DAYLILY SALE (ALWAYS held the 3rd WEEKEND in AUGUST) is the "Largest Daylily Plant Sale in the contiguous United States." Located at Olbrich Park, on the banks of the beautiful Lake Monona in Madison, this major revenue raiser for WDS is chaired by our own ADS Region 2 President and WDS member, Monique Warnke. Mo-

nique keeps this circus tent running like the well-oiled machine that it is. She is supported in this venture by her own dedicated and hardworking team of WDS member volunteers. We could NOT accomplish this feat without our amazing member volunteers, who dig the plants, divide, clean, bag, print/provide photos and identification information labels, monitor the sales tent, help customers find what they're selectively looking for, and finally ringing up the purchases. It's quite an operation that you are welcome to witness, volunteer for, or just attend to purchase some very reasonably priced daylilies. We have WDS members who reside in WI, IL, MI, GA, OH and ND, who travel and lovingly volunteer their efforts and time to assist us. We are so thankful to ALL of our WDS members and patrons.

Year 2026 is going to be a very exciting one for our WDS Club... culminating with OUR club hosting the ADS Region 2 Summer Meeting on July 17 through the 19. The WDS Board (Steven King, Genni Kleckner, Wilma Brouwer-Herwig, Rita Stubbe, Ann Miller-Holman, Shannon Meyer, Rick Kaja, Mike Stafford, plus committee members at large Francis Kleckner and Diane Goodman) and various committee members from the ADS Region 2 (Monique Warnke, Barb Buikema, Timothy Fehr, Patti Byerly, Bobbi Johnson, Laurel Richardson, Becky Robinson, Lisa Imhoff, and Linda Shields) have been working very hard and diligently to iron out all of the endless details so that we may present you with a wonderful experience here in the Madison area. We welcome you and hope that you will consider attending this highlighted summer event where the July weather and daylily gardens will be pretty exceptional. Please read the promotional host gardens material for the 2026 ADS Region 2 Summer Meeting on pages 45 to 50 of this issue of Great Lakes Daylily. Registration details follow those descriptions.

Thank you! We look forward to seeing you in July, 2026.

Until then, please BE kind, BE well!

Excited door prize winner Steve Fauster



# Hoosier Daylily Society

by Holly Brunner

Hoosier Daylily Society (HOODS) held its first meeting of the '25-'26 season with its traditional pitch-in dinner at Woodland Springs Clubhouse in Carmel, Indiana. Club members were excited to see a presentation from our guests Terry and Ashton Lopp, the father/son duo of Windswept Farm and Garden in Spencer, Oklahoma. The Lopps have a large and varied hybridizing program, with Terry mainly focused on diploids and Ashton favoring tetraploids.



Above: Ashton Lopp

Below: Terry Lopp

Photos by Nancy Watson



'The Canary's Broken Heart'  
(Franklin, 2022)

Photo by Holly Brunner



Promising seedling  
(Franklin, unregistered)

Some of the outstanding (and hard to get!) cultivars the Lopps have registered include the diploids 'After You' (Lopp-T 2019), 'Put My Picture On The Cover' (Lopp-T 2021), and 'Sissy Rissy' (Lopp-T 2024). Tetraploids include 'Radar Indicated' (Lopp 2024) and 'Yvonne Lopp' (Lopp 2019). Several of these (among other cultivars) were offered for auction to some very lucky buyers.



'Radar Indicated'  
(Lopp, 2024)  
Hybridizer photo



'Windswept Blackout'  
(Lopp-T, 2024)  
Hybridizer photo

The HOODS' November meeting was held at the Hussey-Mayfield Memorial Public Library in Zionsville, Indiana. Steven Franklin of Merry and Bright Daylilies in Shelbyville, Kentucky, was the featured speaker. Steven has introduced a number of diploids and tetraploids in the last several years, but his true loves are mini and small diploids. He has many outstanding introductions, and his presentation featured a lot of exciting seedlings currently in the pipeline.

Steven loves to give his daylilies fun (and sometimes 'magical') names, including 'The Canary's Broken Heart' (2022), 'Munchkinland Sunrise' (2025), 'Beetle-goose Beetlegoose' (2025), 'Hocus Pocus Voodoo' (2024), 'Cyclone To Oz' (2022) and 'Amuck Amuck Amuck!' (2022). A few select Franklin intros were offered for auction and were very well received. We will be hearing much more from Steven in future years, including as a presenter at our 2026 Region 2 Winter Meeting.

The next HOODS meeting is scheduled for late January and will feature one of the main club fundraisers – an auction of donated plants from our own members' gardens.

Our March meeting will feature Carole Hunter of Prairie's Edge Garden in Rockford, Illinois. Our final speaker, Don Wolff of Wolff Daylilies in Louisville, Kentucky, will join us for our April meeting.

HOODS' May meeting is our annual Club Plant distribution and auction event, held at Greg and Jayne Lough's Sugar Creek Daylilies in Darlington, Indiana. After that we will all be ready for planting and bloom season! In July we will celebrate bloom season with our annual Club picnic (location TBA).

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## 2026 REGION 2 WINTER MEETING

Where: Indianapolis, Indiana  
When: February 27 - March 1, 2026  
See pages 14 - 17 of this newsletter  
or the Region 2 Website for more information.

## 2026 REGION 2 SUMMER MEETING

Where: Madison, Wisconsin  
When: July 17 - 19, 2026  
See pages 45 - 51 of this newsletter  
Additional information will be added to  
Region 2 Website as it becomes available.

## Thank you for keeping your club contacts current!

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

## 2026 ADS NATIONAL CONVENTION

Where: Valdosta, Georgia  
When: May 20 - 23, 2026  
<https://ads2026national.org>



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'The Canary's Broken Heart'  
(Franklin-S.A., 2022)



'Princess Madison Ann'  
(Franklin-S.A., 2022)

Steven Franklin is one of seven amazing speakers at our Region 2 Winter Meeting (see page 14).

*Photos by Steven Franklin*