

# The Daylily Journal



**Daylilies in Ukraine**  
Svitlana Pikalova in her garden.  
— Aleksandr Pikalov photo





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'DNotes Global'



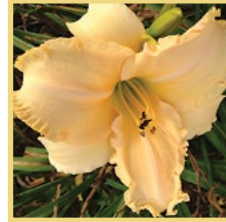
'Easter Basket'



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'Hamlet'



'Nile Flower'



'May May'

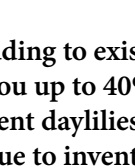


'Jedi Dot Pierce'

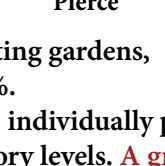


'Parade Queen'

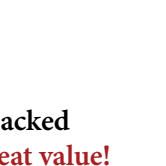
'May May'



'May May'



'Jedi Dot Pierce'



'Parade Queen'



'Pandora's Box'



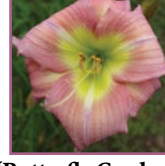
'Hamlet'



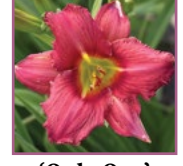
'Nile Flower'



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'Only One'

Whether you have just started gardening or are adding to existing gardens, our collections are a fantastic value while saving you up to 40%.

Each collection contains 2 plants each of six different daylilies, individually packed and labeled. Collections can change at any time due to inventory levels. **A great value!**

## SMOKEY'S GARDENS Specialty Lots



### ASSORTED

**Assorted lots** are a selection of Smokey's Gardens most popular daylilies. Our assorted fields are constantly being upgraded to ensure you will receive a wide selection of colors and sizes. Assorted fans are not individually labeled. Great for that WOW factor, priced as low as \$1.00 per plant!

'Stella de Oro' is by far America's most popular daylily and almost always used in all landscape projects. It's highly valued as a compact most reliable rebloomer with preference for full sun yet excellent tolerance for shade, and dry conditions, making it a hardy plant that requires little maintenance. 'Stella de Oro' is our best seller and Smokey's Gardens is one of the largest growers with **over three million plants** in inventory allowing us to offer our customers the best prices around for small or very large orders.

**Priced as low as .81 cents per plant!**



### STELLA

'Black Eyed Stella' is available for your landscaping and we believe you will agree the pricing is remarkable. The hallmark of this winner in the landscape category is its near-continuous blooming. Selected as an All-American Daylily and created from 'Stella De Oro', the most successful daylily in history, it has been rated excellent for growth in eight zones across the USA and Canada. This means it will winter well in Minnesota but also maintain bloom and foliage beauty throughout the summer months, even in southern Florida where it received some of its highest scores. With this improved heat tolerance over the parent plant, 'Black Eyed Stella' is good news for southern gardeners as well as those in the northern states. This is a smaller, more petite daylily like 'Stella de Oro' with the flare of the red eye.

**Priced as low as .81 cents per plant!**



### BLACK EYED STELLA

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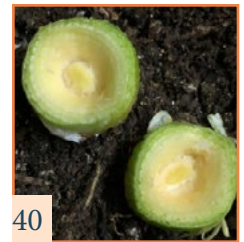
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# contents

- 12 **Suburban Daylilies and the man behind them: Earl Watts's hybridizing** by Henry Little
- 18 **Let's Celebrate our Daylily Ambassadors** by Melodye Campbell
- 22 **Daylilies in Ukraine: A World of Color** by Svitlana Pikalova
- 30 **Dave Hansen's Daylily Haven** by Linda Ferguson
- 36 **Newsletter Award Winner: Editorial Special Award 2018 "Showing Daylilies --What Judges Are Looking For"** by Joann Stewart
- 40 **Newsletter Award Winner: Best Scientific Article 2018 "Forging Your Program- Experimenting with Tetraploid Conversions"** by Cameron Stern



## AHS Information

- AHS Publications on Amazon.com 7
- AHS Club Recognition Program 8
- AHS Voucher Program 10
- AHS Trial Membership information 39
- In Their Words! 39
- AHS 100 Giving \$100 Club 45

## departments

- President Judie Branson's message 6
- Editor's Message 8
- Advertisers' Index 9
- Meet Your: Webmaster, Jacob Braun 10
- Memorials and Gifts 44
- 2019 AHS Leadership 46
- Bobbin' on the Robin 48

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 It's only \$25 per year. Join online at <https://daylilies.org/membership>



Join our gardening family

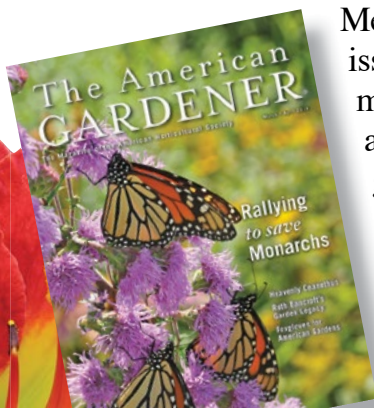
# AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



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To learn more or join,  
visit [www.ahsgardening.org/join](http://www.ahsgardening.org/join).





'Jig Affair' (Larsen, 2018)  
- courtesy of the hybridizer

## Judie Branson

### President's Message

## Growing Like Weeds!

The daylilies are growing like weeds with all the rain we've been getting – and speaking of weeds, they are about as hard to get rid of as those spam emails! However, Nikki Schmith, our Technology Chair, reports "There is absolutely nothing you can do to stop them. They are a product of using generic email addresses and the long list of people who are uneducated enough to answer or forward them makes it worse." And, just like weeds, we all get them, but we can delete them, just like we kill the weeds. But, guess what? The weeds come back and so does the spam emails! What's a Mother to do?

And speaking of 'growing like weeds', I'm proud to report that our membership has been doing just that! The March Membership Madness Campaign was initiated by Jacob Braun targeting the subscribers of The Daylily Dispatch. I am proud to report that 63 new memberships were obtained during March as a result of this campaign.

My last President's Report indicated we were searching for a new Pop Poll Chair as a result of John Martin's resignation from the position. Thanks to Rebecca Board for 'stepping up to the plate' and volunteering to chair the committee. She has already been in contact with the Regional tabulators obtaining their Pop Poll ballots.

In April, at the advice of Marcia Zech, I attended the Coalition of American Plant Societies Meeting at Masee Lane Gardens in Fort Valley, GA. Those attending were from The American Rose Society, the American Herb Society, the American Camellia Society, the American Dahlia Society, the National Chrysanthemum Society, the American Conifer Society and the American Daffodil Society. We discussed opportunities for and challenges to plant societies, volunteers in the digital age, and preparing for the future.

Doing simple things, we can get rid of weeds by spraying or pulling them and we can get rid of spam emails by 1) noticing the address the email is from, 2) not opening or forwarding the email, and 3) never sending money without checking to make sure it is legit. Perhaps a more secure solution can be implemented in the future stemming from more educated Directors, Staff and Chairs.

Judie

Judie Branson  
AHS President

*"Life's a dance you learn as you go!"*



Judie Branson

Join the

# 2019

New year, new club, new pin



## AHS "100 Giving \$100 Club"

For more information, see page 45



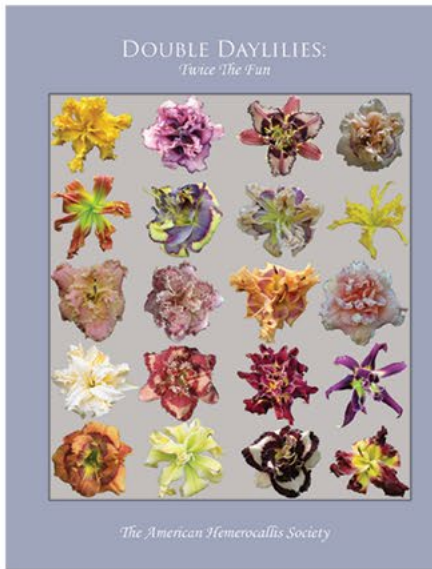
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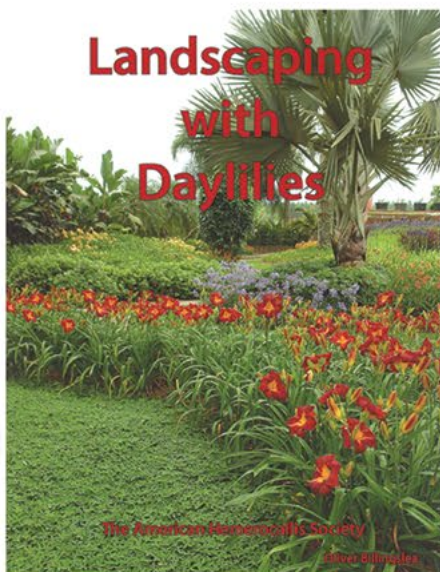
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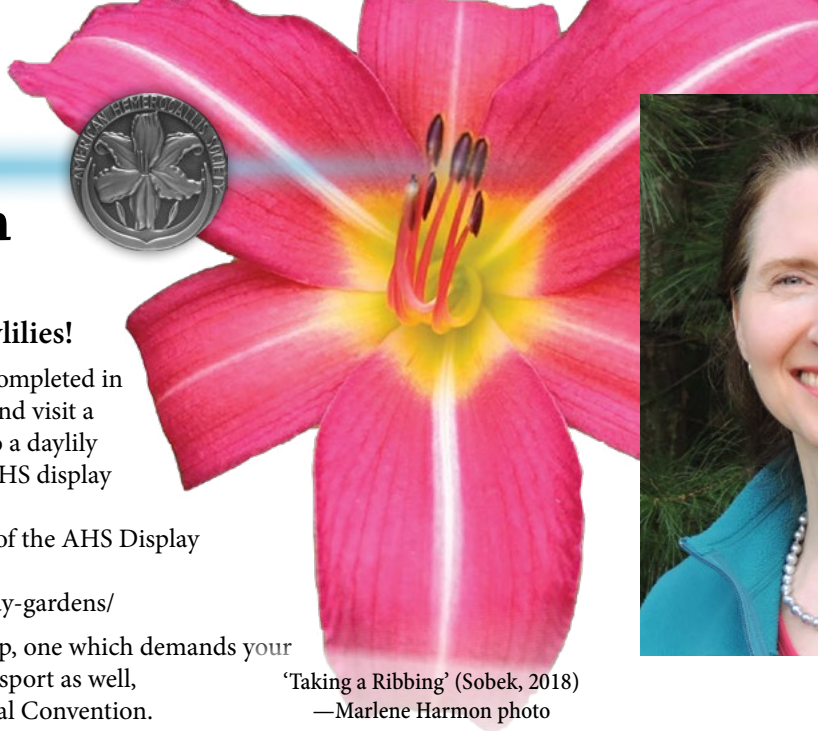
Also available on Amazon: **Daylilies: The Fifty Year Affair**, by Frances Gatlin, hardcover, \$20 + shipping

If you want to order 10 copies or more, go to the [AHS Portal Store](#)



# Editor's desk

## Adele Keohan



### Take a trip and see some daylilies!

Your trip can be a short one, completed in a day or a few hours. Venture out and visit a friend who grows daylilies, drive to a daylily sales garden or arrange to see an AHS display garden.

You can download a list of all of the AHS Display Gardens by visiting this link:  
<https://daylilies.org/daylilies/display-gardens/>

If you want to take a longer trip, one which demands your taking a suitcase and perhaps a passport as well, consider attending an AHS National Convention.

'Taking a Ribbing' (Sobek, 2018)  
—Marlene Harmon photo

This year's convention will be held in Madison Wisconsin, July 10-13. For information, visit <https://ahs2019national.com/>

If taking a flight to your destination sounds attractive, arrange to visit a daylily garden or display garden in another state or country, perhaps Canada, or somewhere further away. I have never been to Ukraine, but if there are daylily gardens there, and daylily gardeners, odds are that we will be able to share our joy of daylilies--even if we need Google Translate to do it.

Respectfully,  
Adele Keohan  
Executive Editor, *The Daylily Journal*

### Here's how ■ ■ ■

- 1 Help your club members become AHS members! Take your laptop to the next meeting and help them join online, on-the-spot!  
*You can do it!*
- 2 When you have a minimum of 50% of your club as AHS members, send your club's roster to [membership@daylilies.org](mailto:membership@daylilies.org) and [membershipchair@daylilies.org](mailto:membershipchair@daylilies.org)  
*And pat yourselves on the back!*
- 3 AHS has five recognition levels for clubs with at least 20 members! If your club gets more AHS members (after you already sent your roster), send the updated roster again!  
*And give yourselves a big hug!*
- 4 As soon as you achieve 50% or better AHS membership, your club will be recognized in *The Daylily Journal* and on the AHS website!  
*Woohooooo!*
- 5 If your club succeeds in attaining 90% (or better) AHS membership, then you will be entered automatically into a drawing for a \$500 gift certificate at an AHS Voucher Program participating daylily nursery! (The drawing is held at the AHS Fall Board Meeting.)  
*And go dig in your new plants!*

**AHS honors clubs which have a high level of AHS membership.**

**Be part of something big!**

# It's easy!

**And your club could win \$500 in daylilies!**

2019 is a new year! Help make AHS strong while helping your club achieve a high level of AHS membership. Renew your membership today! An application is on the mailing insert that came with your *Daylily Journal*.

For more information about joining AHS, go to:  
[www.daylilies.org/MembershipIncentives.html](http://www.daylilies.org/MembershipIncentives.html)




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# Advertisers' Index

AAA Quality Engravers Garden Markers 16  
 Amador Flower Farm & Nursery 34  
 American Horticultural Society 5  
 Bell's Daylily Garden 35  
 Bradford's Daylily Plantation 34  
 Brian Mahieu 11  
 By-You Engraving 29  
 Cottage Gardens 28  
 CT Daylily Garden 20  
 Darrel Apps 17  
 Deb's Daylilies 35  
 Favorite Things Daylily Garden 50  
 Gold City Flower Gardens 34  
 Grace Gardens 49  
 Graziano Gardens, LLC 17  
 Guidry's Daylily Garden, LLC 29  
 Harmon Hill Farm 29  
 Jammin's Daylily Garden 20

Jardin de la Doucefolie 21  
 Kathy's Daylilies 28  
 Kennesaw Mountain Daylily Gardens 19  
 Kincaid Plant Markers 49  
 Knoll Cottage Daylilies 48  
 Lasting Dreams Daylilies 48  
 Lilli O'Dae Gardens 50  
 Mahieu Hybridizing Program Liquidation 11  
 Manatawny Creek Farm 51  
 Maneki Neko Gardens 9  
 MCG BioMarkers 39  
 Oakes Daylilies 34  
 Oak Hill Daylilies 39  
 Paw Paw Everlast Label Company 35  
 Schreiner's Iris 19  
 Scott Elliott Daylilies 9  
 Simonton Bridge Daylilies 21  
 Slate Hill Farm 51  
 Smokey's Gardens 2-3

Sterrett Gardens 28  
 Tina's Daylilies 35  
 Woodhenge Gardens 35

## AHS Information

AHS Books available on Amazon 7  
 AHS Club Recognition 8  
 AHS \$25 Voucher info 10  
 Public Relations Volunteer needed 10  
 AHS Discovering Daylilies Brochure 20  
 AHS Become an Exhibition Judge 35  
 AHS Become a Garden Judge 28  
 AHS Trial Membership 39  
 AHS Get a Voice 39  
 AHS 100 Giving \$100 Club 45  
 In Their Own Words 39



# Meet Your: Webmaster *Jacob Braun* Region 2, Illinois



Jacob Braun  
takes a selfie  
at Sterrett Gardens  
in Virginia

The last thing I was expecting when starting my first at-home landscaping project was to become fully obsessed with daylilies, let alone gardening. But after learning that daylilies were then “flower that looks like a mound of grass with yellow flowers that stick up out of the middle”, and then finding the double daylily ‘Piccadilly Circus’, I was hooked.

We started off with just twelve different daylilies in the first year. Winter came, and my partner Jim was newly retired, so he set out to learn more about daylilies (and doubles specifically) online. He quickly found hundreds and hundreds for sale on eBay, and soon there were promises of new plants in the spring. Our simple landscape with twelve was quickly increased to over 200 the next spring.

Our first “membership” in gardening and daylilies was with the American Hemerocallis Society (AHS), and our first Region 2 Newsletter was where we first learned about local clubs. The nearest club was Central Illinois Daylily Society in Springfield, IL, which is a bit more than an hour from us, but we joined eagerly

and remain members today. We have since joined the Greater St. Louis Daylily Society, which is more than 3 hours away, and have started the Heart of Illinois Daylily Society closer to home.

I’m sure I’m not alone in saying Nikki Schmith’s enthusiasm and passion - and her ask for help - got me involved in volunteering in the Society. Nikki is an incredible person and a great example of jumping in to serve. I specifically became involved in working with the new website when she asked if I had any experience that could help her pick a company to design and build the new website. I did, and then because I had experience managing websites that were built using the same technology as the new American Daylily Society (ADS) site, it was just a good fit. I began working as the Webmaster officially in October 2018.

My excitement for daylilies hasn’t lessened in the 9 years that I’ve been enjoying them. Interacting with other daylily lovers - in-person and through my work for the Society - continues to feed my excitement and passion for our favorite flower. ☺

## Volunteer needed with experience in Public Relations

for the American Hemerocallis Society

Seeking a daylily enthusiast with expertise in public relations involving local, regional and national consumer print and television message placement.

Volunteer to work with the Marketing Committee of the American Hemerocallis Society on 2019 media-related initiatives.

Please contact Russ Allen, AHS Region 4  
Director at: [RussAllen2@aol.com](mailto:RussAllen2@aol.com)

# Take our \$25 shopping

When you join AHS, or upgrade your AHS membership, we'll give you a \$25 voucher, good at any of our participating daylily nurseries!



Go to: [www.daylilies.org/AHSmemb.html](http://www.daylilies.org/AHSmemb.html)



# Mahieu Hybridizing Program Liquidation Now Taking Offers



'Apophis' Mahieu-Burris 2007



'Scandinavia' Mahieu 2003

**All remaining plants from Brian Mahieu's breeding program are being sold. Lot includes over 200,000 daylilies on an acre of land in north-central Missouri. You dig, you transport. Must be removed by October 15, 2019.**

Representing twelve years of research and development, you will get:

- Over 5,703 fans of named Mahieu introductions, including 'Scandinavia' HM 2016
- 184,390 Mahieu seedlings, most from 2003 and 2004 crops
- Over 10,000 colchicine/embryo conversion seedlings (ploidy unknown)
- Includes many potential introductions and invaluable breeding stock for hybridizers

The seedlings are the last remnant of my breeding program—thought lost. Most represent the 2003 and 2004 seedling crops. Due to a business break-up, I never got to see these plants bloom or hybridize with them. These seedlings are many generations past dramatic creations of mine like 'Apophis', 'Purple Eclipse', and 'Scandinavia' (HM 2016.) Those plants only represented the tip of the iceberg of my gene pool. My breeding program was focused on creating Unusual Forms and Spider daylilies with dormant, disease-free foliage on well-branched scapes and vigorous root systems. These plants were developed and grown in USDA Hardiness Zone 5. A particular focus was the addition of rare and unused daylily species into my breeding program.

I am looking for a commercial buyer, or consortium of buyers, to dig and transport these plants. These are being sold as a lot. All daylilies must be removed from the property by October 15, 2019. After that date all remaining plants will be destroyed. At this time I am taking offers from interested parties.

Please email me and I will send you a packet with complete inventory details, program information, and a link to a Dropbox folder with images of the site, clumps and bloom at inventory. I live in Washington state and have a local representative who will show prospective buyers the plants, and be present while they are being dug.

In 2004/05 I lost 2.5 acres of my seedlings and my breeding program—ultimately abandoning my hybridizing career. I want my years of hard work and research to benefit the daylily genus, and the daylily world. I want to see these remaining plants get into the hands of gardeners who can grow and enjoy these rare cultivars, and especially, hybridizers who can use the genetics to further their programs.

I look forward to hearing from you.

BRIAN MAHIEU

email: [brianmahieu@whidbey.com](mailto:brianmahieu@whidbey.com) | cell/text: 360-544-2623 (Pacific Daylight Time)



Brian Mahieu  
Seedling Selection 2005



# Suburban Daylilies

*and the man behind them*

## Earl Watts's hybridizing



'Suburban Grand Canyon'  
(Watts, 2015)  
— Oliver Billingslea photo

by **Henry Little**  
Region 14, Mississippi

When my wife, Lisa, and I first started to grow and work with daylilies, we lacked knowledge and direction. We knew that joining an active, vibrant club, like the Hattiesburg Area Daylily Society in Mississippi, would help us to learn and grow. This was where we met Barbara and Earl Watts for the first time. Mr. Earl, as I call him, gave us help and encouragement in everything we did. He reminded me so much of my father whom I had recently lost. I owe everything in my daylily world to Earl.

Earl Watts joined the American Hemerocallis Society (AHS), which is now also referred to as the American Daylily Society (ADS), in 1980 when he lived in Florida. He and his wife Barbara, after retiring from teaching in 1995, decided to move back home to Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Earl brought 500 named daylilies and 1600 seedlings in 2" by 2" plastic cups with them. "The first winter back in Mississippi, the 5°[F] weather killed all 1,600 seedlings," Earl said. Having been a life member of AHS since 1991, he decided to keep promoting daylilies and they joined the Hattiesburg Area Daylily Society (HADS) where they are still members today.

Earl started his hybridizing program in the 80s. "After touring so many Florida gardens and working with Ed Brown for six months, I wanted to try some myself. But I killed the first 150 daylilies I owned." When asked how that happened, he explained "The man I got them from said to fertilize a lot and water, water! So I put

a couple handfuls of triple 13 [13-13-13] fertilizer in each hole and I put each daylily right on top of the fertilizer. I didn't stop with just fertilizer. I added a lot of ammonium nitrate as well. Then I pulled the dirt around the daylilies and I began to water. Needless to say, the more I watered them the worse they looked. All 150 died."

Earl's interest in hybridizing developed when he watched Jeff and Elizabeth Salter at work in their garden. "They would carry a flower around with them while they were hybridizing to see what flower they wanted to cross with it," Earl recalled. "They believed in fresh pollen. This motivated me. When I started hybridizing, I wasn't going for anything in particular... I tried a little of everything just to see what I would get. I introduced my first four daylilies in 1997, Hemerocallis 'Suburban Barbara Huff' [HM, 2000], H. 'Suburban Dixie Love', 'Suburban Nan Erle' and 'Suburban Peach Parfait'. They were all large flowers."

In 1998, Earl introduced 'Suburban Golden Eagle', named for the University of Southern Mississippi's football team, Golden Eagles. 'Suburban Golden Eagle' was awarded a Junior Citation later that year, and in 2001 it received an Honorable Mention award.

After Earl and Barbara joined the Hattiesburg club, they persuaded HADS to start having daylily shows. HADS held the first one in 1996 and many of the club members participated. Earl told me, "Most of the members brought flowers. We had over 400 flowers in the show." After that show, the club voted to make the HADS Daylily Exhibition an annual event. It was during the time of that first show that Lisa and I joined the club and met Earl and Barbara



'Suburban Babara Huff' (Watts, 1997)  
—Nancy Chain photo



'Suburban Daddy John' (Watts, 2004)  
—Kenny Hatten photo

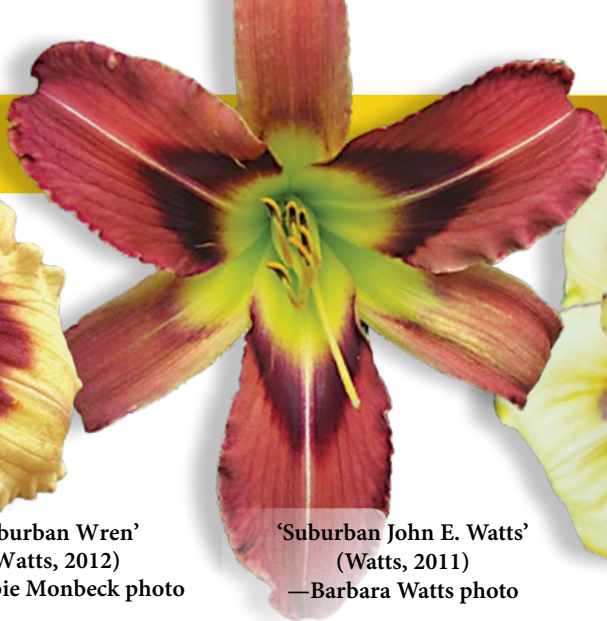


'Suburban Golden Eagle' (Watts, 1998)  
—Debbie Monbeck photo





'Suburban Wren'  
(Watts, 2012)  
— Debbie Monbeck photo



'Suburban John E. Watts'  
(Watts, 2011)  
— Barbara Watts photo



Earl Watts seedling  
— Lisa Little photo

for the first time.

I took the opportunity to visit Mr. Earl and Ms. Barbara and watched Earl hybridizing - I had many questions and he had many answers. I wanted to know how the colors and characteristics can be passed along from one flower to another. Earl explained "There are several things you should try. For example, if I like the red color of a particular flower and want to see it on another flower, I take the pollen from the red flower and put it on the other flower to hopefully pass the red color through to the seeds.... I want to have scapes with good height. I want to be able to change colors or put edges on a flower. I need to have good branching and bud count to have a good seedling... I watch them to make sure they are strong growers and not rust magnets. This is important to me. This is what I look for in my seedlings before I register any daylilies. ...I hybridize because it's exciting to see my new seedlings; it's really worth getting up for"

I found Earl to be very generous and helpful in anything that I wanted to know and I'm sure other people have felt the same way. He

was the reason that we started hybridizing.

When Earl started showing his seedlings at the HADS shows he began winning awards such as best in show. This in itself shows where his hybridizing program has taken him. It has earned him four achievement medals: 'Suburban Daddy John' (2004), 'Suburban Clainey' (2004), 'Suburban Calvin' (2005), and 'Suburban Alice Es-sary' (2006). Earl has such variety of flowers from his program that he has introduced daylilies in seven different form types and classifications. He introduced his first small flower 'Suburban Tassy' in 1999, first double 'Suburban Tutu' in 2001, first spider 'Suburban Fickle Fingers' in 2002, first unusual form 'Suburban Clainey' in 2004, first miniature flowers 'Suburban Cherry Bit' and 'Suburban Newell Howell' in 2008, and first extra large flower 'Suburban John E. Watts' in 2011. I noticed that Earl had only registered one spider. When I asked him how that came to be, he explained "I find it is easier to register unusual form flowers than it is to register spiders. When registering a spider, you have to measure the longest petal

See Watts, page 14



'Suburban Golden Eagle' (Watts, 1998) in the garden of Earl and Barbara Watts. — Oliver Billingslea photo



'Suburban Dixie Darling' (Watts, 2006)  
— Mary Netherton photo





'Suburban Alice Essary' (Watts, 2006)  
—Barbara Watts photo



'Suburban Calvin' (Watts, 2005)  
—Marlene Harmon photo



'Suburban Tassy' (Watts, 1999)  
—Marlene Harmon photo

Watts, continued from page 13

to make sure it meets the criteria of a spider; the petals must be at least four times as long as their widest part [4:1 ratio]. When registering an unusual form, it is obvious through visual sight that it meets the criteria of three petals or three sepals showing curling, twisting, pinching, or other characteristic of an unusual form flower. Doubles can be determined by visual sight as well, but you must determine the percentage that the flower doubles."

When I asked him what he was focusing on and what his goals in hybridizing were, he said "I want to work more on miniatures. I don't mean I will not work with any other sizes but my focus is miniatures. I want to achieve a very small deep red miniature. I would like to see it blood red with a green throat and possibly ruffles... It has to be round. I like red flowers." I asked what his breakthrough flower was in his hybridizing program, and he answered "Suburban Wren' because it is very hardy, well branched and it makes good seedlings. I think it is my best miniature."

When asked if he used frozen pollen he said "Sometimes, but I prefer fresh pollen. I start about 8:30 in the morning when the sap on the pistil is still sticky. I've often picked a flower and refrigerated it or put the pollen in a match box to assure I would have fresh pol-

len of my choice to work with the next day." I asked if using fresh pollen restricted his hybridizing program. He replied "It can if the flower you want the pollen from is not open that day so you would not be able to make that cross you planned. You should always add new strains to your hybridizing program to create healthy stronger seedlings. My advice to a new hybridizer would be to focus and select one particular type of daylily to work with; hybridizing will be a lot easier if you can do this, but I have not been able. I like them all." I wanted to know what he looked for when selecting seedlings for introduction. "I want good foliage, branching, bud count, and height," he continued "The scape is very important to me. I want to be proud of my flower when I see it in your garden. I watch a seedling for four years before I make up my mind to keep it and register it. I like to have at least 12 to 15 fans of it before I introduce it." Earl told me that Barbara helps him choose his introductions.

We talked about how he names his daylilies. "I try to have the name of the daylily relate to the way the flower looks. My flower 'Suburban Wren' reminds me of the little bird. 'Suburban Grand Canyon' reminds me of the Grand Canyon with its golds and purple. Some of my friends while visiting my garden would find a



'Suburban Nancy Gayle' (Watts, 2004)  
—Russ Allen photo



'Suburban Cherry Bit' (Watts, 2008)  
—Janice Woods photo





**'Suburban Ribbon of Hope' (Watts, 2008)**  
— Oliver Billingslea photo

flower that they liked and ask me to name it after them. I name some flowers after family members as well."

In 2007, one of Earl's seedlings was selected for a very special purpose by "Waiting For A Cure", a foundation in Mississippi that helps local breast cancer patients who lack insurance coverage. The director of the foundation had approached Earl and asked him to create a daylily that would honor breast cancer survivors. The seedling, a purple and lavender bitone with hints of pink — the Foundation's colors — was named 'Suburban Ribbon Of Hope' and introduced in 2008 with all proceeds from the sales of this daylily going to the Waiting for a Cure Foundation. Earl and Barbara Watts received a special plaque from Susan King, secretary for the Waiting for a Cure Foundation, [photo, top right] in recognition and thanks for their generosity.

Earl has earned a number of achievements in the daylily world: he won the AHS region 14 Sally Lake hybridizer's award several times; the AHS region 14 popularity poll with several different flowers; 11 Junior Citations, 5 Honorable Mentions; 4 Achievement Medal Awards; and The Ophelia Taylor Horticultural Award. His 'Suburban Nancy Gayle' (2004) won a Mississippi Medallion in 2015 - the first daylily and first plant hybridized in Mississippi to be added to the MS Medallion plant list. The Mississippi Medallion program was created in 1996 by the Mississippi Nursery and Landscape Association to increase awareness and promote sales of ornamental plants

See Watts, page 16



**Earl and Barbara Watts are presented with a plaque by Susan King of the Waiting for a Cure Foundation.** — Oliver Billingslea photo



**Earl Watts and Henry Little evaluate a seedling.** — Lisa Little photo



**'Suburban Kenny Hatten'**  
(Watts, 2017)  
—Kenny Hatten photo



**Earl Watts seedling**  
—Lisa Little photo



**'Suburban Grace Ruth'**  
(Watts, 2012)  
—Oliver Billingslea photo



Watts, continued from page 15

that grow well in Mississippi.

In 2015, Earl and Barbara Watts received the Helen Field Fischer Gold Medal. This award, given annually to one person, or in this case two, is the highest award in the AHS, given for outstanding service to the AHS on a National level. I asked how they felt when they won this prestigious award. They said "It was a real honor, but we felt that there were others who were more qualified. We were really shocked."

His last bit of advice was "Try hybridizing to see what you can do. I don't call myself a hybridizer, I'm just a pollen dabber."

I think of Earl Watts as a mentor but most of all a good and true friend. He has inspired me in many ways. Both Lisa and I are exhibition judge instructors and garden judge instructors. I was the Exhibition Liaison for Region 14 for 13 years and now I am the president of Region 14. This would never have happened without the encouragement he gave. Earl Watts means quite a bit to me. I can only hope to accomplish half of what he has in the daylily world - a big pair of shoes to wear! ~



Barbara and Earl Watts in 2015, holding their Helen Field Fischer Gold Medal —Oliver Billingslea photo

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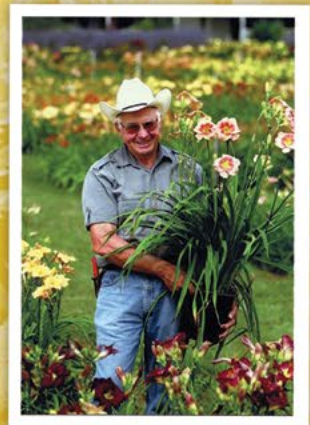
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# Let's Celebrate our 2019 AHS Daylily Ambassadors!

by Melodye Campbell  
Region 4, New York

Once again in 2019 we celebrate two events that continue outstanding work as AHS Daylily Ambassadors: the Flag City Daylily Tour and the Chattahoochee Valley Daylily Festival.

July 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> are the dates for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Flag City Daylily Tour in Findlay, Ohio. This year, the self-driven tour will feature seven gardens, each with a unique personality. On Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup>, the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Chattahoochee Valley Daylily Festival takes place at the Columbus Botanical Garden in Columbus, GA. This event was the result of an awesome collaboration between the Chattahoochee Valley Daylily Society, the University of GA Master Gardeners and the Columbus Botanical Garden. Traditionally the festival has a marketplace with daylilies and arts and crafts for sale, an accredited exhibition show, workshops, demonstrations, speakers and much, much more.

The mission of the AHS Daylily Ambassador Program is to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of those individuals, clubs, organizations, communities or groups of individuals - AHS or non-AHS - that make an extraordinary effort of promoting the daylily to the general public. If you know groups or organizations that go the extra mile to promote our favorite flower to the general public, please consider nominating them to be a Daylily Ambassador. Information and nomination forms (PDF and online forms) can be found at <https://daylilies.org/get-involved/ambassadors/>. Or you can contact Melodye Campbell for more information, [displaygardens@daylilies.org](mailto:displaygardens@daylilies.org).

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**A. Sharon & Ron DeCooman** – Rural farm featuring 1200 registered cultivars, many for sale. Emphasis on tall, large flowered daylilies. Many newer varieties by Reed, Davison, Gossard, Murphy, Holmes, and Bachman. Extensive hybridizing program has produced thousands of seedlings on display in open fields. AHS member.

**D. Linda & David Spahr** – Classic country garden surrounding a white farm house at a bend in the road. 800+ daylilies (old and new) mixed with hostas, perennials, and annuals. Many double cultivars, as well as numerous tall and late bloomers. AHS member.

**B. Mike & Denise Anders** – Nearly 2000 registered cultivars and seedlings on a half-acre city lot. Mostly large-flowering classic forms. Substantial collection of cultivars by Moldovan, Woodhall, and Valente. Also features numerous hostas and a wide collection of garden art. AHS member.

**F. McClelland's Daylilies (Keith & Becky McClelland)** – Over 500 cultivars, older and newer, planted in raised beds creating the visual impact of a sea of color across a one-acre garden that includes about 150 hostas. Emphasis on extra large spiders and doubles, very early through very late bloomers, many for sale. AHS member. Public restroom.

**C. Perennial Plant Peddler (Ann & George Bricker)** – Over 1300 registered cultivars and seedlings in AHS Display Garden, 900 for sale. All sizes, shapes, and forms. Numerous newly registered daylilies. Extensive display gardens also include 200+ hostas, 200+ irises, and well over 1000 other perennials. AHS member. Public restroom.

**E. Richard & Robin Hopkins** – Over 200 registered daylilies in several beds as a "beginner collection" located in a historic south-end neighborhood. An assortment of hostas as well as various perennials and annuals surround the Victorian house and original carriage house which were built in 1874. Water features, garden art, and a small chicken coop blend with the numerous plants. AHS member.

**G. Rick & Barb Kidwell** – Over 650 registered daylilies in numerous beds display a profusion of colors and shapes. Several beds of evolution plants from amateur hybridizing provide additional character. Landscaping also includes fountains, garden art, and several unique trees. AHS member.

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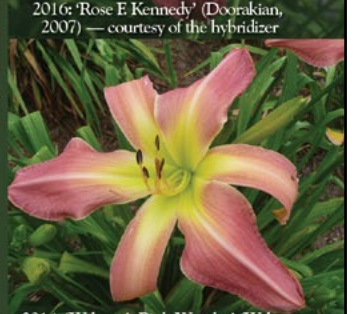
2017: 'Heavenly United We Stand' (Gossard, 2009) — Julie Covington photo



2016: 'Rose E Kennedy' (Doorakian, 2007) — courtesy of the hybridizer



2015: 'Dorothy and Toto' (Herrington-K, 2003) — courtesy of the hybridizer



2014: 'Webster's Pink Wonder' (Webster-Cobb, 2003) — Debbie Monbeck photo



2013: 'Heavenly Angel Ice' (Gossard, 2004) — Chris Petersen photo



2012: 'Carnival in Mexico' (Santa Lucia, 2000) — Rebecca Board photo



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# Daylilies in Ukraine: *a world of color*

by Svitlana Pikalova

Kherson, Ukraine

The daylily is my hobby, my job, my love, life and faith.

As if to compensate for the transience granted to the daylily at birth, Mother Nature has made it one of a kind, unique in its profuse variety of shapes and colors. Its size variations, ranging from dwarf miniatures to gigantic tall varieties, and its very versatile palette with eye-catching combinations of hues and colors, make it an all-purpose garden perennial, satisfying the taste of gardeners all over the world. The daylily has a surprising magnetic effect drawing the eye of garden visitors. It can be tender and delicate, graceful and romantic; it can imitate a nobleman in its refined modesty and reserve; or suggest a Latin dance in its brightness, intense emotion, cheek and flashiness. Its glamour and flamboyance will not leave anyone's heart indifferent. The daylily has gained popularity worldwide as one of the most ideal, universal flower crops to be used in different climatic zone landscapes. And today it is winning over the hearts of Ukrainian gardeners.

This amazing flower has forever changed my life. My first encounter with the daylily happened 20 years ago when I acquired 'Autumn Red' (Elizabeth Nesmith, 1941), a historic cultivar that started our collection ball rolling. Further on down the road, our infatuation with the plant, an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and creative drive propelled us to start the amateur cross-breeding of daylily tetraploids. Unfortunately, back then the daylily was little known in Ukraine; and it was only due to the help of American hybridizers, my friends and colleagues, as well as the American Hem-



Svitlana Pikalova with a future introduction, Seedling 14 333 21 SR [{Shores of Time (Stamile, 2002) × Gilded By Grace (Gaskins, 2004)} × Rapture Dawning (Pikalova, 2011)].

—Alexsandr Pikalov photo



'Black Sea Enigma' (Pikalova, 2017)



'The Dnieper Waves' (Pikalova, 2018)



erocallis Society (AHS) Seed Bank that that I've been able to make a significant breakthrough in my hybridization work. I'll be celebrating my 10th anniversary of AHS membership in the near future.

My hybridization program involves presumptive forecasting and analysis of hereditary genetics, an intuitive creative approach based on associative guesses and imagination, and the experience which I gain on my way from the amateur and scientific sources of knowledge. I keep accurate and systematic maintenance of breeding records and diaries of observations. I study the possibility of the evergreen daylily hybrid's acclimatization in Ukrainian climate, the ability of the daylily to withstand the extreme temperature variations, presence or absence of snow during the long-term temperature drop to  $-28^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-18.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) or the extreme summer draught, the impact of Ukraine's climate and crop management conditions on the daylily's growth, flowering and propagation, on its metric parameters and outward appearance, as well as other changes.

In my hybridization activity, I pursue the objectives of breeding the new varieties able to withstand Ukraine's farming and climate conditions, of promoting the daylily plant and the advanced knowledge and international achievements in daylily crop breeding, of engaging the interested flower growers in hybridization, collection and advancement of the daylily culture in Ukraine, as well as of registering the Ukrainian cultivars in the AHS international registry.

The first stepping stone for a successful new cultivar is laid even before the first crossing. Apart from basic theoretical knowledge, hybridizers should use their intuition and imagination to be



'Black Sea Singing Wind' (Pikalova, 2018)

able to forecast the end result. Breeding and genetics manuals can provide all kinds of theoretical knowledge, such as breeding principles, techniques and methods. However, when it comes to the hybridization of daylilies, it is somewhat difficult to apply these in practice – at times the actual field experience with daylily hybridization proves to be different from theoretical knowledge, with tetraploid crosses being the most unpredictable ones.

An occasional novice can use three or five cultivars and a dozen of random crosses to come up with a promising hybrid by way of random natural pollination. However, this can be attributed to God's providence aimed at winning over yet another soul to the path of light and constructive effort. When it comes to breeding, it takes up all of the hybridizer's time, both at work and off work, spent on searching for and selecting cultivars suitable for crossing, examining the breeding records down to the 8th-12th generation, analyzing the inherited characteristics on the basis of which the cross breeding schemes are being built. We sow from 5,000 to 7,000 seeds annually – calculated for the amount of hybridization work that I'm capable of dealing with on my own. Eighty-five percent of nursery-raised seedlings start blooming in our garden the next year after their planting. All the while, we explore and improve, with each passing year, horticultural techniques aimed at minimizing the time between seedlings' growth, maturation and stabilization of their morphological and physiological characteristics, to speed up the breeding process. All in all, according to the most optimistic estimates, it can take from five to seven years to grow a new cultivar in the south of Ukraine.

In the climate conditions of Ukraine, daylilies bloom over near-

See Pikalova, page 24



'Black Sea Frogling' (Pikalova, 2016)



'Hetman Khmelnitsky' (Pikalova, 2018)



## Pikalova, continued from page 23

ly the entire summer season from the beginning of June until the middle of August. We start harvesting seeds in August. After harvesting, the seeds are stored in the refrigerator until planting time. At the end of January, when frost is outside the windows, the seeds are planted in a heated facility in containers to germinate, and there under the conditions of artificial nutrition and lighting, seedlings grow until they are four months old.

As soon as the temperature of the environment rises to +18 °C [64.4 °F], which happens at the beginning of May here in the south of Ukraine, we prepare for the planting of the seedlings. After an adaptation period to the conditions of the open ground, seedlings are planted in flower beds, where they grow, bloom and are evaluated for further selection. Our growing method can require a lot of time and effort, but it always justifies our expectations.

Comparing results from different methods of cultivating daylily seedlings in our garden allows us to make a certain analysis. Having compared the results of growing seedlings from the seeds planted in the open ground and seedlings grown in greenhouses, we came to the conclusion that the way of growing seedlings in greenhouse conditions with subsequent planting of the grown seedlings in the open ground is the most effective. We have been using this way for the past thirteen years, and every year we improve our methods of growing daylily seedlings for selection.

With direct planting of daylily seeds in open ground in the climatic conditions of Ukraine, the first blooming of the seedlings occurs only when they are 3–4 years old. Our method of growing



'Black Sea Palmira' (Pikalova, 2017)

seedlings significantly reduces the time between the planting of the seeds and the seedlings' first blooming, which is extremely valuable for our work in hybridization.

Under standard conditions of agricultural engineering and adhering to techniques of growing seedlings, the first mass blooming of our seedlings occurs at the age of 16–17 months and reaches 90–95%. The rate of germination of daylily seeds under cover is significantly higher than that of seeds planted in the open ground. Artificially regulated germination of seeds allows for massive germination. Planting four-month old seedlings in open ground allows us to distribute them evenly and efficiently across the territory of the selection beds while maintaining the accuracy of the marking of seedlings.

Based on my view of life, I consider myself a romantic, partly an idealist, with a sprinkling of fantasy thinking and daydreaming. Once I read a quote saying that workaholics' dreams always come true. Today, I can say with confidence that my dream is coming true – year after year, I can see how it consistently takes shape, the ideas of the dream translates into actual images, those of a real flower.

What does a hybridizer feel as he, like an artist, carries pollen from one flower to another? The delight and joy as he waits for his own crop. Anticipation of new miraculous hybrids with flowers of unimaginable colors. Or the tranquility resulting from the chance to partake in Nature's mystery by playing a bee's or wind's role. Having become a tiny cog in a gigantic mechanism of the Higher Reason that leads us, through the ages, towards never-ending love and beauty, observing the development of a newly-sprouted life, our mind is immersed in a fantasy world eagerly anticipating a miracle – blooming of the first flower.

Just like an artist, a hybridizer is striving to express his inner world, to convey a concept, emotion and energy through a flower's color palette, to reflect the most delicate array of hues and feelings. Of course, love has always been the driving force behind any kind of creative effort. In the hybridizer's case, this driving force is his infinite love for his flower. Working on producing a new hybrid is a joint balanced process performed in tandem with Nature. To forecast and foretell a new image, to add petal curls and to enhance the contrast, or to create an intricately patterned multicolored eye of a



'Gutsulka Ksenia' (Pikalova, 2015)





Tags mark daylily crosses



Daylily seeds ready to plant in a greenhouse



Daylily seedlings grown in greenhouse for planting in open ground



Alexsandr Pikalov prepares greenhouse seedlings for planting in open ground.



Seedlings planted in open ground will remain there until first bloom and selection.



Above, the same seedlings one year later



Seedlings at age two



First bloom



Seedlings are marked for primary selection



Selected daylily seedlings at two years old, the first bloom



Selected seedlings at three years old



Selected seedlings at three, four and five years old



Pikalova, continued from page 25

daylily flower. It is intuition that leads us by the hand into the world featuring the variety of the flower's beautiful shapes and colors.

We are a family of enthusiastic amateurs, and daylily breeding brings us immense delight, joy, and satisfaction. It is only natural for a human being to be happy and fulfilled, and this is our life philosophy. The daylily is our world of colors, shapes, feelings, and emotions; it's the source of our inspiration and creativity. I'm an artist, and I paint my landscapes not only in oil paint or watercolors; my palette is the daylily in the garden.

The daylily is an ideal plant for Ukrainian gardens. The generosity and abundance of the daylily's flowering and its stunning vitality make us forget for a moment that each flower lives but one day. Every morning the daylily provides us with new, magnificent,

fresh blooms. Every morning we witness the birthing of a new life, new beauty, and a new miracle. Within the last ten years, due to the active promotion of the daylily plant in our country, Ukrainian flower growers have changed their preferences from *Hemerocallis* genus species to the newly-bred American cultivars.

Thanks to the wealth of genetic potential accumulated over the years and the shared experience of American colleagues in the U.S., the art of daylily breeding in Ukraine thrives and is making good headway featuring great up-to-date cultivars on par with world-class accomplishments in daylily hybridization.

Breeding daylily hybrids from American cultivars in our climate, the years-long process of selection by phenotypic, physiologic and decorative features is the main link in forming the adaptive



Svitlana recording her observations on the foliage of seedlings in the autumn.

—Alexsandr Pikalov photo



A collection of registered cultivars, used primarily in hybridization work. New, registered cultivars are added each year.



Seedling 17 239



qualities through several generations. The successful introduction of a daylily cultivar is one of the most valuable of assessment criteria. Breeding daylily cultivars from Ukrainian selection allows us to contribute to the flower crops' breeding in Ukraine and allows the gardeners to enjoy the blooming of resilient, highly ornamental daylily varieties and hybrids.

For over ten years, I've been actively promoting the daylily culture in Ukraine and I always tell the gardeners at their first encounter with this marvelous flower, "Come to love the daylily and it will give you its heart." ~

— photos by Svitlana Pikalova unless otherwise noted



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Freaky Pattern (Harry-P., 2017)	Inner Compass (Trimmer, 2017)	It's a Keeper (Harry-P., 2017)
		
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# Dave Hansen's Daylily Haven

by Linda Ferguson  
Region 1, Nebraska

All photos courtesy of the hybridizer

Dave Hansen's hobby of hybridizing began over twenty years ago when he played around with pollen on hybrid iris. When the iris borer materialized in droves, he turned his attention to the daylilies already in his garden. They had been purchased from "the Wilds of Missouri" [Gilbert H. Wild and Son, LLC, Reeds, Missouri].

"Having started spreading pollen on daylilies well before I retired from Union Pacific in 1998, I didn't take very long after retiring to find quite a few new plants to purchase for my hobby. I used pollen generously on so many daylilies that I had more seeds than I had ever thought about having. At this point I was not really doing any planning of crosses. I was having fun spreading pollen. Our home at the time sat on a normal size lot that held our vegetable garden, two fishponds, four fruit trees and lots of grass. Things had to change so I could find room for all those new daylily seedlings when spring came. Before I retired, I had wondered what I was going to do with all my time that would no longer be spent driving and working in downtown Omaha. Now

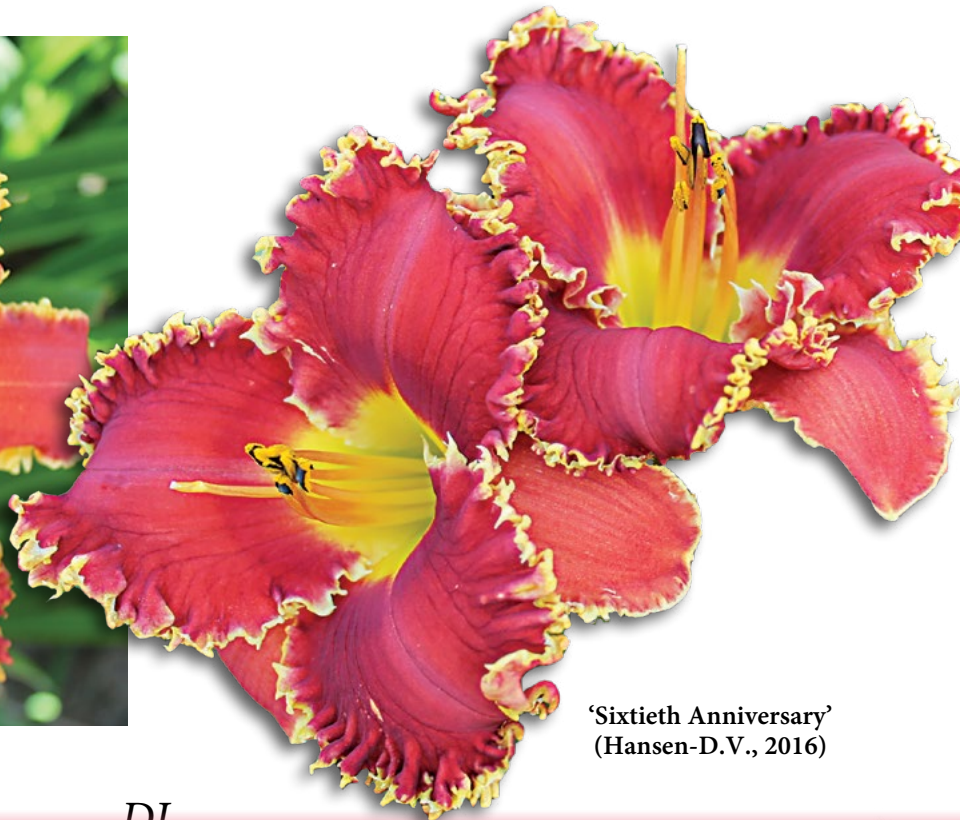
I had the answer to that question."

As Dave spent more time hybridizing, he discovered the American Hemerocallis Society. When he and wife Val Jean attended a Region One meeting, they joined the AHS. It wasn't long before they were urged to join the Nebraska Daylily Society by their friend, Joan Farley. It was at this point that Dave got serious about hybridizing. Exposure to many hybridizers through the club membership brought his attention to the wide variety of colors and forms of the daylily.

Dave and Val Jean attended the 1998 Region One meeting and heard Bob Carr and Lee Pickles speak. The beautiful red daylilies shown by these hybridizers really appealed to Dave; the bright red daylilies in gardens always seemed to be the ones that drew his attention. Parent plants used in Dave's initial crosses for reds included 'Poinsettia Love' (Houston, 1996), 'Pele's Fire' (Pierce-G, 1996) and 'Romeo is Bleeding' (Petit-1996). At this point, he began in earnest to focus on reds, and then proceeded to include toothy reds inspired by new introductions like 'Iwan-

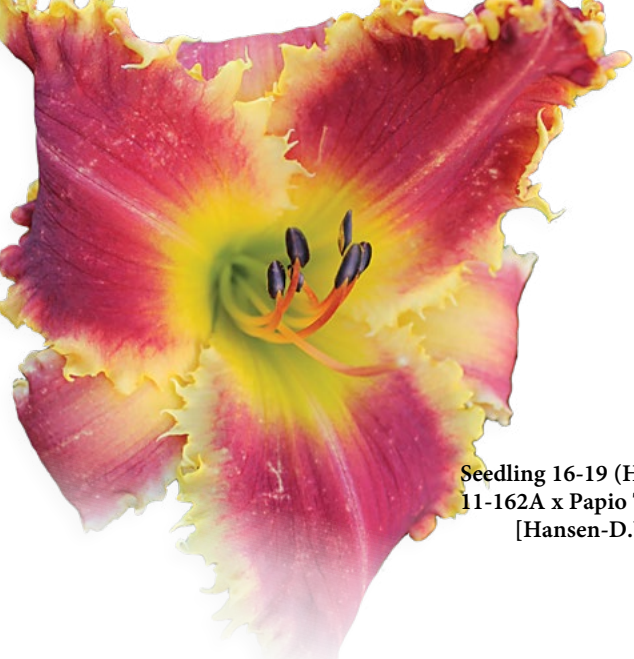


'In Val's Honor' (Hansen-D.V., 2016)



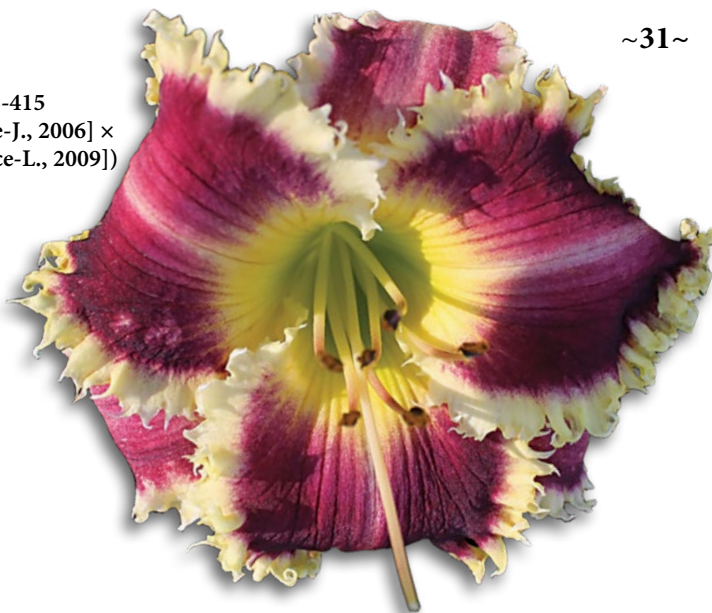
'Sixtieth Anniversary'  
(Hansen-D.V., 2016)





Seedling 13-415  
('Mary Lena' [Rice-J., 2006] ×  
'Briar Patch' [Grace-L., 2009])

Seedling 16-19 (Hansen seedling  
11-162A x Papio Trevor Thomas  
[Hansen-D.V., 2016])



na Piranha' (Kinnebrew-J., 2006). Dave claims Lee Pickles as his mentor because of the many long talks they shared throughout the years.

Dave and Val Jean attended the 2002 Mid-Winter Symposium, begun with the help of Lee Pickles. Hearing many hybridizers speak of their programs and goals inspired Dave to refine his hybridizing goals to focus more on reds, teeth and tetraploids. His smaller-sized city lot forced him to choose between diploids and tetraploids, since he did not have room to work with both.

Daylily shipments that arrived in the spring were heavy with beautiful reds. The hybridizers of these plants included Lee Pickles, David Kirchhoff, and John Kinnebrew. Always on the lookout for reds with teeth, Dave would occasionally buy from other hybridizers whose plants caught his eye as being a good fit with his program of hardy, dormant, tall, red, toothy flowers. Karol Emmerich's plants figured into Dave's hybridizing efforts, including her 'Thistles and Thorns' (2011) and 'All Things to All Men' (2012) because of their form and hardiness. Now he tends to use

his own lines for hybridizing.

Dave said, "Daylilies brought a big change to my days. There was much learning and working with the plants and seeds we had acquired. It took a lot of time to do what I thought, at the time, was the right way. As time progressed, doing things the right way took up more time, but that was ok because I had the time to spend. After seeds are picked, they go right into the refrigerator, until February 1<sup>st</sup>. At that time, they are soaked in a mixture of water, hydrogen peroxide and a vitamin solution. The seeds are planted in flats, under lights in the basement, and are generally moved outside by mid-April, depending on the weather. I had to spend time in the yard making places for those new seedlings. New beds began to appear with a great deal of my labor. Some of the beds are raised but mostly they are just at ground level."

"In 2004, after we moved to Papillion, an Omaha suburb, the hybridizing and making of gardens began again. I bought new daylilies to cross with the seedlings that had shown good qualities for hardiness, height, good pure colors, and (of course) teeth.

See Hansen, page 32



Above, a riot of colorful blooms at Hansen's Daylily Haven, an AHS Display Garden





'Colleen Rene'  
(Hansen-D.V., 2016)



'Papio Trevor Thomas'  
(Hansen-D.V., 2016)



'Papio Maleah Diane'  
(Hansen-D.V., 2016)

Hansen,  
continued from page 31

Then I bought as many registered daylilies as the budget would allow. Nebraska winters are killers, many times without much snow, so the seedlings live or die their first winter. The survivors were allowed a few more years of our winters to prove their hardiness. By this time, we were getting some very good reds. The race was on to be able to have some better seedlings by the time I reached 86, which is only 4 years away for me. I hope to still have the energy then to continue planting the 500 seeds I grow out each year now but that may reduce to 200. My knees and back make it harder each year to do the necessary Spring clean-up."

Dave selects seedlings each year by the beauty of the first bloom, clarity and saturation of color, and then he returns to look at his selects on another day, making sure they meet his criteria for height (at least 28 inches), good bud count and hardiness in

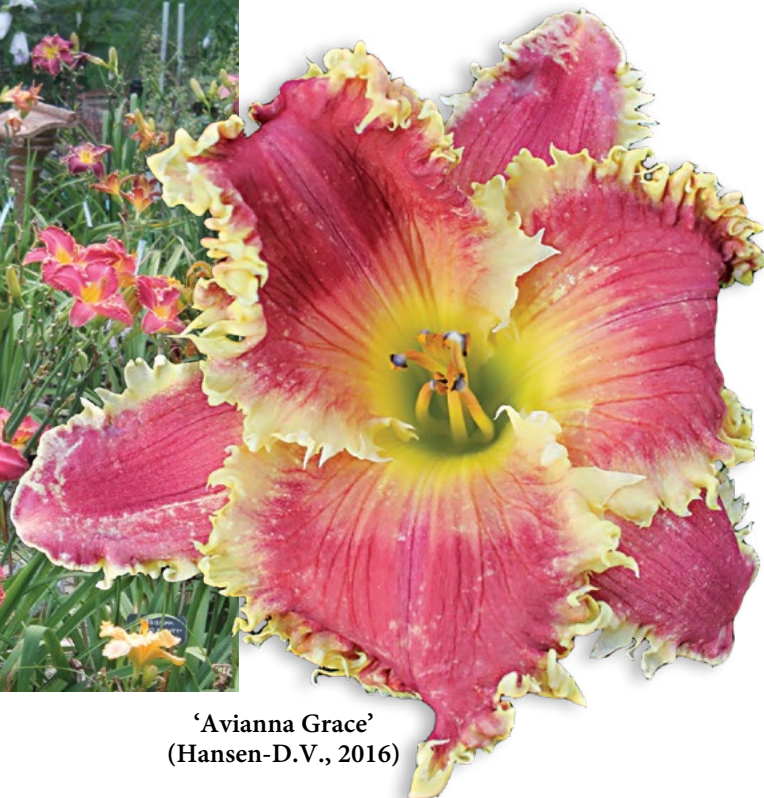
Nebraska's climate.

A number of Dave's daylilies have been named after loved ones. Dave and Val Jean have 9 grandchildren and 4 great-granddaughters. Dave's first daylily registration was named for his oldest granddaughter, 'Caitlyn McKenzie' (2006) ('Sherry Lane Carr' [Carr, 1993] x 'Touched by Grace' [Grace-L., 2000]). When they ran out of names of family members, they began registrations with the name "Papio" for Papillion which is the name of the city they live in near the Papio Creek in eastern Nebraska.

Dave's favorite registration is a beautiful green-throated toothy rose red daylily named 'In Val's Honor' (2016) ('Happy Holidays to You' [Holmes-M., 2008] x 'Papio Shelli Mae' [Hansen-D.V., 2013]) for his wife of 61 years. The beautiful 'Kurt Remembered' (2013) (('Red Loveliness' [Carpenter-J., 2000] x 'Red



'Kurt Remembered'  
(Hansen-D.V., 2013)



'Avianna Grace'  
(Hansen-D.V., 2016)





'Papio Leah Serenity'  
(Hansen-D.V., 2016)



Seedling 15-159  
( 'Heartbeat of Heaven' [Emmerich, 2004] x 'Happy  
Holidays to You' [Holmes-M., 2008])

Fang' [Stamile, 2001]) × 'Iwana Piranha' [Kinnebrew-J., 2006]) is a rose red named for Dave's late brother. Another toothy introduction from Dave is 'Avianna Grace' (2016) ('Horny Devil' [Pickles, 2007] × 'Red Friday' [Agin, 2007]), a rose pink with light pink eye and white teeth.

Dave and Val Jean's garden, "Hansen's Daylily Haven", is an AHS Display Garden where over two hundred registered daylily cultivars, including Dave's introductions, may be admired.

Dave has served in many capacities for The Nebraska Daylily Society. He has been club president for several terms, a board member, chair of Region 1 meetings hosted by the Nebraska Daylily Society, and yearbook writer and editor. His enthusiasm for hybridizing has made him a mentor to many new, incoming members. His garden was a regional tour garden in 2002. For

their outstanding service to the American Hemerocallis Society at the regional level, Dave and Val Jean were given the AHS Regional Service Award in 2015.

Another honor came when Lee Pickles asked if he could name one of his reds after Dave. "It blew me away. I thought 'Why Me?' When I saw the first bloom on 'David L. Hansen' in our garden, I knew why. Lee was adding on to my attachment to the red daylilies. Thanks again, Lee — and I hope you are creating more red daylilies up there in heaven."

Dave said, "The best part of my time growing daylilies has been the wonderful friends that we enjoy spending time with year after year. What a life Val Jean and I have now with daylilies and daylily friends." ☺



Seedling 15-26  
( Hansen Seedling 11-17A  
x 'Larry's Twilight Bite' [Gossard, 2012])



Seedling 14-47A  
( 'Papio Leah Serenity' [Hansen-D.V., 2016]  
x 'Thistles and Thorns' [ Emmerich, 2011])



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## Showing daylilies – What Judges Are Looking For

by Joann Stewart

**What do judges do when they go to a show?**

**They select the 'best example' of each name class and award it points toward ribbons.**

**To have the '*best*'**

**you need to think ahead and prepare- and that means REALLY thinking ahead.**

**September-October of the year before:** Weed, apply fertilizer and pre-emergent. (Why weed? Weeds rob nutrients and water from your daylilies.) Each fall, use a high '**first number**' NPK fertilizer to promote growth and increase the following year (i.e. use anything recommended for grass). Mulch if your soil tends to 'throw up' dirt during heavy rains.

**February-March:** Apply Fertilizer and pre-emergent. In the spring, apply higher **second and third number** (NPK) fertilizers to promote root and plant/bloom growth.

**Early season preventions:** when scapes first appear, begin spraying for thrips. (Leaf miners don't necessarily detract at shows because few leaves show on exhibits.) **Avid** is a well-known systemic, but **Neem Oil** works well too. Do use a slug repellent if slugs love your garden, and keep your pets, kids, deer, armadillo, Round Up (don't spray too close to clumps), runaway lawn mowers, sports teams and/or pickup trucks out of your garden.

**May** – assess scape condition – and start training scapes where necessary.

**(How do you train a scape?** Spread peanut butter on your gloves and watch the scape lean toward it.) To train (seriously): GENTLY prop branches apart with something which won't scar the scape: cotton balls, plastic peanuts, make-up sponges, etc. You can't change the spacing between branches, but you can improve the appearance of the branches themselves with training.

**Tip:** if you use a granular fertilizer, stop applying once buds develop to avoid the risk of fertilizer lodging in the buds. Never

risk burning plants by heavy applications of fertilizer.

**1-2 Weeks before the show:** walk the garden and make a list of potential show scapes. Some exhibitors make a 'daily check' spread sheet with names of cultivars and their locations. When assessing potential show scapes, check buds, and when training scapes, re-check scapes.

Start **PRACTICING** so by show time you can figure out how soon buds will open. (With practice, you can get very, very good at this.) If you're having cool nights, having cut the scapes the day before and keeping them in a garage or outbuilding (with the lights on) may mean the difference between a bloom opening or not.

Make sure all your **grooming equipment** is in tip top shape (sharp scissors are a must, Exacto knife blades should be sharp), tweezers should be needlepointed or slanted. You'll need Q-tips, and maybe Vaseline too, as well as a soft bristled brush. Make sure to have thick tape or several band aids on hand for your dominant hand thumb, as the most effective way to cut while grooming is TOWARD your thumb. Wrap before you cut! (After one cut, you'll be so glad you wrapped that digit in tape, because blood is hard to get off a scape!) **If you're new to shows, use scapes you won't need for show day to practice grooming. The more you do it, the easier you'll find it. And do practice!**

**Two days before the show:** Irrigate.

**Day before the show:** Recheck scapes in the morning and make your final decision about what to cut. If you're entering deep purple

or reds, cut those, and take indoors (or out of the range of irrigation), then IRRIGATE. (If the parts of a plant (like bracts) are wet, they're easier to groom and the entire scape can more easily be cleaned).

About 3-5 pm, cut the rest of the scapes for the show and start grooming. Save your back... be sure to use a surface at a comfortable height. I prefer grooming indoors on my kitchen counter, but any place you can easily work with your scapes, and have enough room to lay them flat, is fine.

**GROOM your best scapes first!** This is the best advice you'll ever get, and it's free. If you have scapes which you think may be contenders for purples, **DO THEM FIRST** while you're fresh and can pay attention to detail. Leave bud scar freshening till the day of the show, OR be

sure to scrape those bud scars lightly again on show day to re-freshen them.

*There is a video on the portal under Exhibitions showing how to groom for shows.*

**How to groom the day before:** Trim your scape to conform to show schedule rules. If it grew shorter than it should, there are ways to compensate (and they're legal!).

Remove any open blooms so you're only dealing with the scape. Look for anything you can wash off: (pollen, stains, dirt, leaf debris) and use Q-tips or a wet sponge to clean. Remove aphids, spiders and webs. Ants and jumping spiders will hopefully move onto someone else's exhibit before judging begins.

Trim back bracts IF they're brown at the tips or entirely brown (much easier if the scape was



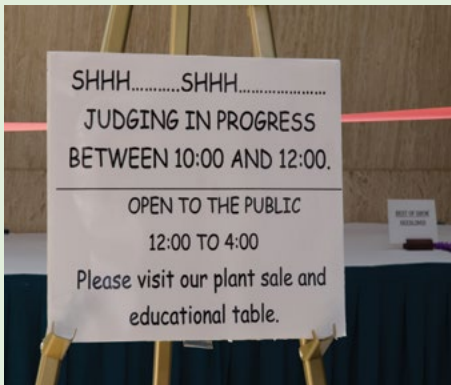
irrigated first). If trimming bracts and leaves, try to angle the cut so the tip is pointed. Look down into/behind a bract if you think you should remove it. Sometimes the area behind contains foreign matter (remove with tweezers), or is brown and unsightly. If the place where the bract joins the scape is brown, LIGHTLY scrape it with your fingernail. **Never cut bud 'stubs' back to the scape.** Leaving them on allows judges to know exact bud counts, and that might make the difference between two otherwise 'exactly the same' exhibits when judges are trying to assess 'best' in a name class.

Please DO NOT SCALP the scape: judges will count off points if you go below the green surface on a scape, leaving a visible white scar. (Don't be tempted to color the white with a marker: your entry will be disqualified if you use artificial color.)

**Know when you can improve, and when it's better to leave well enough alone.** It's tempting to 'scrape a scape' when you see brown scab-like damage caused by slugs, but you rarely can improve slug damage. It's better to NOT try to groom it at all and take the penalty points for condition than to make it worse by scraping at it. Light pollen sprinkles caused by motion during handling are fine. SMEARS of pollen where two scapes rubbed together should be cleaned up. Use the brush for pollen clean up, because Q-tips leave white cotton fibers.

Trim any brown-tipped leaf to a sharp point by cutting diagonally across the leaf (from both sides, doing a little at a time) with scissors. (You want the trimmed leaf to appear natural, so don't cut it straight across – leave a point.) Trim bud scars with an Exacto knife – or scrape lightly with any knife (or your fingernail). After grooming, hold up the scape and assess it. If it has proliferations, and those don't detract from the entry, leave them on.

**CHECK FOR COMPLETE BODY PARTS.** If you're missing a pistil, if the pistil is split, anthers are missing or some are distorted, you should know this before you decide to enter it in a show. Most of these are small deductions, but always think ahead.



When you're done grooming, you might (or might not) touch anything up you groomed with Vaseline (fully within the rules because it contains no color) so that it won't appear dry the next day. You may still need to lightly scrape bud scars the next morning (if they need it), but mostly this 'does it'. Vaseline is not colored, so it's not against the rules. Why use it? If you groom the night before, some people think that Vaseline will help 'seal' cut bits and keep them from drying out (and showing as 'white'). I've personally found that the Vaseline soaks in, and there's no residue, and I use it where necessary. **IF** there is a Vaseline residue which is visible, judges will count off for it – so if you use it, don't 'glob' it on. If you notice it the morning of the show, judges will too. Wipe it off during your final inspection in the grooming area at the show.

If the weather has been cold, scapes may be shorter than usual. Use a wedge-shaped makeup sponge to prop the scape into the container so the scape sits at the best height for bloom size or show schedule height (you may need to stuff it into the container with a pen.) Plastic peanuts or even small cut pieces from other scapes also will work for propping. (Your exhibit will not be judged below the container, so go for it.) Make sure your exhibit sits in the container nicely and is displayed to its best advantage. Judges will count off for scapes which lean unattractively, no matter how pretty the bloom.

**WHY groom the day before?** If you groom the day before, you spend **FAR** less time at it, and there will be no damage to an open bloom. It also gives you the chance to assess the entire scape without the distraction of trying **not** to damage an open bloom. If you aren't sure about the 'ripeness' of a bud, cut **TWO** scapes, groom both, then on the morning of the show select the one you prefer to enter.

**Rule of thumb:** if your scape requires a LOT of grooming, don't even take it to the show. The best appearing scape, all other things being equal, is one with its first bud opened, with no visible blemishes – before grooming. If you had to work like a dog to make the scape presentable, it's probably not going to win you any ribbons.

If your show has an off-scape section, any scape which is more than half bloomed out might have the bloom cut and exhibited in that section. (You can get a blue ribbon in that show category, just not a purple.) If you have a NEW cultivar which you don't want to cut – this may be the place to exhibit it.

**Day of the show:** take your scapes to the show, using the method which works best to prevent damage to scapes and blooms. Buckets with criss-crossed tape, foam pipe insulation, cut to fit a bucket, PCV pipes



secured to the outer rim of a bucket, etc. There's no one 'best way'. You might try special scapes using Atlanta's "own" method" – laid flat in an oversize box, nestled in dry cleaning bags scrunched up to cushion the blooms. *The portal has a video on shows, and of how some people choose to transport exhibits.*

Take your exhibits to the grooming area and re-check for bloom and scape condition, correct name, and correct tag information, including show section. (BE SURE to remove any foreign objects, like the 'whatever' you used to train your scape.) Re-scrape any bud scars again to make them fresh and green.

Again, **DO NOT OVERGROOM.** Point deduction-wise, if there's a fault which can't easily be corrected, trying to cut it out, scrape it off, etc. will make things much worse for you. A condition fault may be ½-2 points. Overgrooming may cost you 3-5 (or more) points.

Multiple blooms: **judges will point score the worst bloom.** If your entry has 2 or more blooms open, and they're not ALL A+ quality, it may be better for you to remove 1 or more blooms. That's one of the hardest things for exhibitors to do, but it will result in a higher scoring exhibit.

**Buds:** if they DISTORT the bloom, remove them. Simply 'touching' is okay – but let there be no doubt in your mind that the bloom form isn't changed. It's better to remove a doubtful bud and leave the obvious bud scar than to take a chance that the judges will see 'interference' and count off points.

Hand entry into classification.

Go get a drink (alcohol optional).

**Show time:** your entry will be judged by a panel of three trained judges. At least two will be senior judges with experience. One may or may not be a junior judge, with no, one or several shows under their belts (if they've no experience judging, a junior judge is typically FAR harder on exhibits than more experienced judges). Either way, all judges have been trained to look critically at exhibits to ascertain the 'best' exhibit in each class and a panel of three tends to 'even out' individual extremes in point scoring.



# Showing daylilies (continued)

By Joann Stewart

When the panel of judges get to your exhibit, they first do a visual check on the name class, which may have 1-2-3-4-5-6-7 entries. (Or 1 entry). They will select the most likely 'top' entry (best size and height typical for that cultivar, best color, best 'something'. They'll be looking for the exhibit which most closely approaches 'grown to perfection'.

They will (probably vocally to each other – and within hearing of the clerks) critically assess and point score grooming, looking for things which COULD HAVE BEEN CORRECTED 'right then': light scape grooming, bract removal, freshening of bud scars, etc.. They will also look for resident insects (not transitory ones), pollen smears (not light dusting, which is okay), leaves groomed to a point if ends are brown. Scape will be affected by the weather (especially drought or storms with hail), but will also be affected greatly by the 'way you grow'. That's where plenty of water and judicious amounts of fertilizer the year before and/or EARLY in the season may give you the edge over competitors.

## Penalty points in grooming and condition:

- MOST point penalties are things which could have been corrected: bracts not removed; bud scars not freshened; uncleaned stains from spent blooms, spray residue not removed, seed pods or ends of blooms left on, resident insects. Beware spider webs! Beware the little black 'bathroom bits' from insects which may have visited and left! Overgrooming of scape (white marks left by attempt to remove slug damage or other evidence of excessive grooming will have heavy penalties). Judges will then examine the scape/exhibit for the other portions of the point scoring scale, some of which will have been affected by your cultivation before the show. BY FAR, condition and grooming occupies the most time, and counts for the most points in judging.

## How to display your scape:

You'll be using a club display of some kind for your exhibit: bottle or vase, you want it to appear to its best advantage. If your show schedule asks you to present scapes at about 24" (or 30, or 34) – try to ensure your exhibit isn't taller than that maximum, and isn't so short that it barely peeps over the rim of the container. You can use cut pieces of scape to wedge in the vase (judges can't judge anything below the rim of the container, so you can use plastic peanuts, cotton balls – even toilet tissue – it doesn't matter). Use your head: if the exhibit is a mini which grows at 16", don't try to make it appear to grow at

34" - it will just look silly. On the other hand, if the bloom is extra large at 8 ½", you don't want the scape to appear to grow at 12".

## Shooting fish in a barrel – in addition to excellent growing and grooming, what might give you the edge in shows:

- A. Let the air out of the tires of your closest competitors.
- B. **The newest:** You must grow an exhibit for at least 6 months before exhibiting it, and a cultivar must be on the AHS database to be in the show. The solution is to obtain in the autumn- newer things on the market which already appear in the AHS database (typically something from a spring or better -fall- collection of the year before) and grows them, then cut and prepare the scape for exhibit. If you're not prepared to cut your scape, consider taking off an open bloom and showing that in the off-scape section of a show.
- C. **The most ancient:** Show something so old that most growers no longer even have it in their gardens. Many a show has been won with a cultivar introduced before some of the younger competitors are born.
- D. **The most obscure** (can be cultivar or hybridizer): Show something obscure which you've gotten from an 'out of region garden' (i.e. no one else around here grows it)- or from a hybridizer who is so unknown in your region that it's unlikely that anyone else grows it. Judges must assume the scape they see is correct for its name class, and if you're the only one exhibiting it, and it's in prime condition, you're likely to receive a purple for it.

**Above all, HAVE FUN! That way you win with ribbons or without.**

—photos by Claude Carpenter



## DJ Editor's Note:

Thank you to author Joann Stewart and to the award-winning Newsletter Editor of *The Georgia Daylily*, Claude Carpenter, for giving permission to reprint this article.



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For a contribution of any size to AHS, donors may submit a kind (and short) message to any AHS member, which will run in this Daylily Journal feature. Your donation and message may be sent to the American Hemerocallis Society, c/o Kathleen Schloeder, 2501 St. John Place, Alexandria, VA 22311

**John Smethurst, N.C.** — Congratulations on becoming a U.S. citizen.

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~AHS Display Garden ~

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'Entwined in the Vine'  
(Emmerich, 2007)  
2018 Stout Medal winner  
— Oliver Billingslea photo



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# Forging Your Program: Experimenting with Tetraploid Conversions

by **Cameron Stern**

Region 4, New Hampshire

Whether you're a collector or breeder, novice or seasoned professional, it's likely we all got into daylilies for our own unique reasons. My obsession with collecting and breeding daylilies began close to 12 years ago as a project in middle school. A family member showed me just how easy it was to cross and breed my own daylilies, and I've been hooked ever since. Whatever your reason, I'm sure you can name at least one, if not many, attributes that keep you falling in love with daylilies each and every summer.

We all have our own unique vision of what makes for the perfect daylily, and therein lies the challenge. How do we find and create a daylily that fits our ideal? How do we pursue our own personal goals? For me, the answer has been conversions. Ever since my start as a hybridizer, I can't tell you how many times I've wished I could cross one of my favorite dips into my tet program and vice versa. I always found this crossing barrier to be more than frustrating, but I knew there was something that could be done to overcome that. My options were to scour the internet looking for a conversion of the plant I wanted – hoping that someone else found it worthy enough to convert – or I could convert the plant myself. More often than not, the work still had to be done. When I could find a fertile conversion on the market, the ability to add it to my program was often cost prohibitive, leaving me to wait years for the price to come down. Other times, I could find an introduction from the conversion I was looking for, but

it wasn't always taken in the direction I was hoping to go. Now, I've spent more money on conversions and subsequent introductions than I care to admit. These plants can add tremendous value to a breeding program, and with the amount of work that goes into creating them, as well as their rarity, their price can be justified. However, having done some conversions myself, I also know the power and freedom you have to forge your own unique program when you take the time to convert your own plants.

I won't lie to you and tell you that it's a quick and easy thing to do, but if you have some patience and are persistent, converting plants can do wonders for your breeding program – bringing the traits from your favorite diploid into your tetraploid lines. I hope to inspire you to experiment, to risk a few of your plants, and to really take your breeding program in the direction you want without necessarily relying on or waiting for advancements from other programs. In my own searches for how to convert plants, I read about so many people looking to try the process for themselves. The greatest limitation is access to colchicine – one of the most common chemicals used by daylily enthusiasts to convert plants. It acts to inhibit microtubule production and disrupt mitosis – the process of cell division. It is considered an extremely hazardous chemical and its sale is primarily restricted to research facilities. Luckily, there is an alternative – oryzalin.

Oryzalin is one of the main ingredients in the herbicide Surflan®, and can also be used to produce polyploids. It has been used to convert plants in numerous other species (e.g. lily, rhododendron, etc.) and unlike colchicine,



Photos, Left to right: My conversion of Rose F. Kennedy (left) compared to its dip counterpart (right); Daylily fans cut and submerged in colchicine solution.



## Forging Your Program: Experimenting with Tetraploid Conversions

can easily be purchased on the web. The problem we face with daylilies is that we have yet to work out a successful concentration to use. One of the best places to start is to look at the concentration used in other species and see if it works with daylilies, and then move the concentration higher or lower from there. I recently purchased Surflan® from [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com) and tried using it in the most recent round of conversions I was attempting. I have yet to find a good working concentration, but I have definitely found that using oryzalin can produce similar post-treatment symptoms, including the rot often associated with traditional colchicine treatments. This is where I think a willingness to experiment can really advance the daylily and bring even more diversity to tetraploid breeding programs. It allows anyone and everyone willing to spend the time, to have access to the process and the conversions they want, instead of limiting it to those capable of purchasing colchicine – though you will still have to sacrifice some plants. Diversity is key to any good breeding program, as it allows you to preserve and integrate key traits into your breeding lines as you move forward and encounter new problems, new environments, and new interests. It allows you the capacity to create the program you want at any given moment.

I have found Bill Waldrop's article, "Dips to tets: a how-to guide" (The Daylily Journal, Vol. 70 No. 1 Spring 2015), as well his blog, "Bill's Daylily Corner," to be very good resources on how to perform conversions. There are also a number of people who post about their efforts on Facebook, myself included. I do also want to stress, despite a lower toxicity than colchicine, Surflan® should still be handled with care, and proper safety precautions should be used when handling the herbicide (remember your personal protective equipment).

Don't be afraid to experiment. It may take an expert to decipher what your experiments mean, the conclusions you can draw, and how to design a better, more meaningful experiment, but it doesn't take an expert to take that initial step – to test ideas, make observations, and ask "what if?" Working together, asking questions, and sharing what we know will help us all to create our very own program that accentuates all of those traits that got us into daylilies to begin with.

[Photos by Cameron Stern]

***I also want to note, care was used when taking these photos. Gloves don't mean much if you handle these chemicals using gloves, then you handle everyday objects (like your phone) or touch your skin/clothes. It is also good practice to thoroughly wash your hands after you're done handling chemicals (even if you wore gloves).***



*At Left: The herbicide Surflan® contains Oryzalin, a safer alternative to colchicine.*



*Above: Plants prior to treatment. Two weeks under lights without watering.*



*Above: Some materials and safety equipment... 400mL bottle, dust mask, safety glasses, nitrile gloves, forceps, X-Acto knife, and transfer pipette.*



# Forging Your Program: Experimenting with Tetraploid Conversions



Tried to make mixing colchicine a little bit safer. This is why... Colchicine [above] is VERY DANGEROUS... LD50 is 5.886mg/kg.



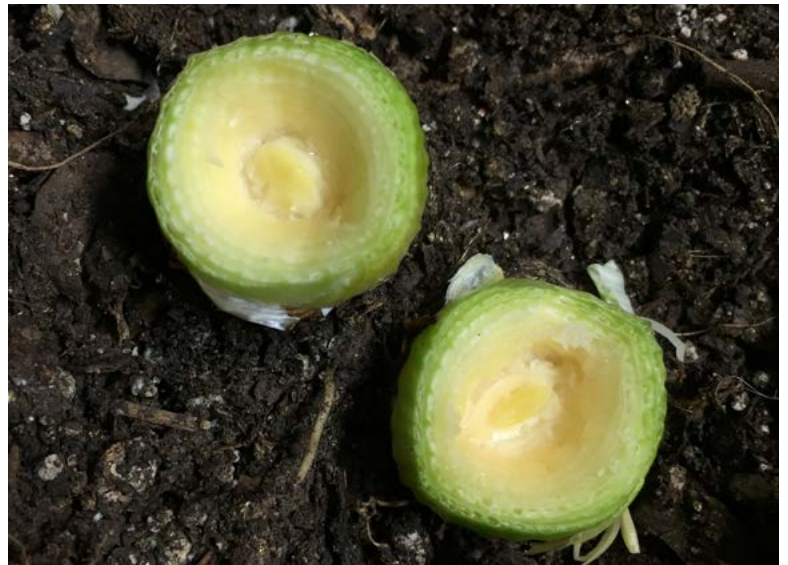
Above: The setup for mixing colchicine. I used a plastic garbage bag to protect the work surface in case of a spill. Below: Tools for trimming and carving the plants. I use the hand sanitizer to clean the tools.

Above: DMSO (used with colchicine in tetraploid conversions) is a strong solvent... also use caution when handling. It was recommended to me by members of the UVM risk management and safety department to double glove -- especially when used in solution with colchicine. DMSO is capable of penetrating nitrile gloves, so if you get some on your gloves you are capable of removing one layer before it can reach your skin.

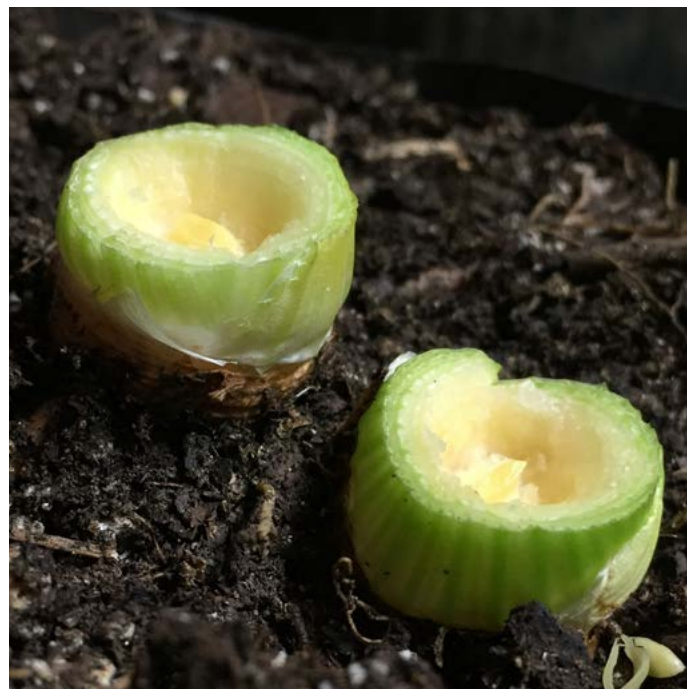




## Forging Your Program: Experimenting with Tetraploid Conversions



*Clockwise: Above, a daylily ready to be trimmed to ~1/4inch; Cut and ready to be carved to allow coverage of the meristem by the colchicine solution; Carved to create a "well" to hold the solution around the meristem; A different angle, showing the height of carved plants; Plants after 4 days of treatment with colchicine.*







'The Great Goolsby'  
(Trimmer, 2006)  
-Mary Netherton photo

## MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

On behalf of the AHS Board of Directors, we appreciate each individual or club for their generous donation to one of the eight\* funds. We are saddened to learn of the loss of valuable AHS members. Your donation is a celebration of that AHS member's life, and for that, we thank you. We also encourage donations to honor an AHS member's service to a club, region, or our Society.

Contributions may be sent to American Hemerocallis Society,

c/o Kathleen Schloeder, 2501 St. John Place, Alexandria, VA 22311. **Make all checks payable to the American Hemerocallis Society.** Checks written to specific funds cannot be accepted. For memorial donations, please list the name and address of the survivor who is to receive an acknowledgment letter. All donations are tax deductible. For more information, see below. The following contributions were received prior to May 1, 2019.

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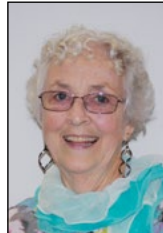




'Suburban Wren'  
(Watts, 2012)  
— Kenny Hatten photo

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# Bobbin' on the Robin

Membership in the Daylily E-Mail Robin is open to all duly registered members of the American Hemerocallis Society. Go to: <http://www.daylilies.org/Guidelines/> to learn how you can join the conversation.

## OLDIES BUT GOODIES



'Quinn Buck' (Peck, 1976)  
—Marlene Harmon photo



'Age of Aquarius' (Moldovan, 2001)  
—Marlene Harmon photo

It occurred to me that many of the daylilies I am eliminating from the garden this spring are older and have been with me a long time. My favorite "oldie" is 'Quinn Buck' (Peck, 1976). It has a 7 inch bloom and is a rebloomer here. I'll probably keep it another year at least. 'Hot Pink Fury' (Hansen-D., 1999) and 'Age of Aquarius' (Moldovan, 2001) are close seconds. What is

your favorite "oldie" that is at least 10 or 12 year old? It would be interesting to hear what daylilies have survived over the years in your gardens.

—Verna Habermel, *Floyds Knob, Ind.*  
Email Robin

My favorite, off the top of my head, is 'American Revolution' (Wild, 1972).

—Betsy Thompson, *East Greenbush, N. Y.*  
Email Robin

'Dewey Roquemore' (Warner, 1972) is a beautiful intense red tetraploid with lots of substance, and is a standout across the garden.

—Stephanie Abraham, *Scotland, Conn.*  
Email Robin

By Verna's criteria for an "oldie," at least 10-12 years old, many of Karol Emmerich's could be called oldies! Two of hers that are absolute favorites of mine are 'Woman at the Well' (2005), and 'Man of Sorrows' (2007). I can't imagine not having those two to admire every summer!

—Linda Kofstad, *Hartland, Minn.*  
Email Robin



Bill Jarvis

I'm giving a presentation on some of my favorite daylilies over the years. Many of these are older award-winning cultivars. One of the questions I'm bound to be asked is 'where can I find some of these older cultivars.'

—Bill Jarvis, *Houston, Texas*  
Email Robin



David Bishop

They might find sellers by typing the name into an internet search engine with "daylily" after the name.

—David Bishop, *Cassville, Ga.*  
Email Robin



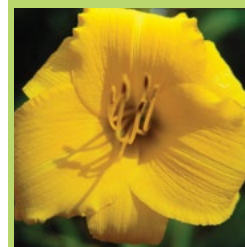
'Scarlet Orbit' (Gates-L., 1984)



'Vino Di Notte' (Kirchhoff-D., 1988)



'Bucking Bronco Two' (Glidden, 1979)



'Touched By Midas' (Winniford, 1979)  
—Bill Jarvis photos

Once again, the great robins come through! I checked a number of the suggested sources for older cultivars and was surprised to find about half of the daylilies in my presentation are still available, including 'Scarlet Orbit' (Gates-L., 1984), 'Night Wings' (Williams-J., 1985), 'Vino Di Notte' (Kirchhoff-D., 1988), and 'English Witch' (Salter-E.H., 1991). A couple that I was hoping to find but didn't were 'Touched By Midas' (Winniford, 1979) and 'Bucking Bronco Two' (Glidden, 1979). Does anyone still grow either of these? 'Touched by Midas' once caused a passerby to stop the car and ask "what is that? It's fantastic!" It had

a brilliant gold color. 'Bucking Bronco Two' was an incredibly strong grower. It had huge fans and produced proliferations that would scape and bloom.

—Bill Jarvis - *Houston, Texas*  
Email Robin

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Carol & Anthony Haj





'All American Chief'  
(Sellers, 1994)  
— Kathy Krattli photo

If 1994 is considered old, 'All American Chief' (Sellers, 1994) is one outstanding fire-engine red daylily and it reblooms! But 1994 doesn't seem "old" to me! I can remember

that year like it was very recent! I discovered a 1984 Kirchhoff oldie in a friend's garden a couple years ago. 'Desdemona' (1984) is a beautiful magenta-orchid double with a yellow to green throat. I begged a start, and it now also grows in my garden. I'll have seedlings from it that will bloom this year, crossed with 'Janice Brown' (Brown-E.C., 1986), another fantastic oldie! I can visualize beautiful doubles on a many-branched plant!

—Kathy Krattli, O'Fallon, Mo.  
Email Robin



'Parfait' (Childs, 1951)  
— Vickie Goedde photo

When the subject of oldies comes up, my thoughts immediately go to the oldest registered daylily in my garden, 'Parfait' (Childs, 1951).

Its height and soft coloring has brought me many days of joy over the years. About two years ago, I divided the clump and spread it over an area about 4 feet by 3 feet. Last year it was nice, but I know that this year it will be spectacular!

—Vickie Goedde, Elberfeld, Ind.  
Email Robin

I'm enjoying this discussion about "Oldies but Goodies." I have all the daylilies that are Stout award winners in my garden,



'Ed Murray' (Grovvatt, 1971)  
—Marlene Harmon photo

and the older ones such as 'Ruffled Apricot' (Baker-S.H., 1972) and 'Ed Murray' (Grovvatt, 1971) grow better than most of my newer varieties. My husband's name is Richard Peck (sound familiar)? And about 15

or more years ago we were given a collection of the Pecks' daylilies- mostly Virginia Peck's - and the plants love New Mexico. 'Scarlock' (Peck, 1974), a hardy red, is a favorite, and 'Golden Prize' (Peck, 1968) can't be beat by any newer gold variety. Maybe I'm a bit prejudiced!!!

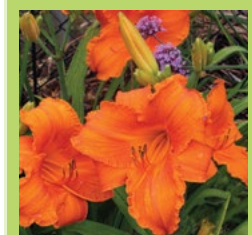
—Donna Peck, Plasitas, N. M.  
Email Robin



'Lady Fingers' (Peck, 1967)  
—Marlene Harmon photo

One of my favorite older daylilies is 'Lady Fingers' (Peck, 1967). It's cool and classy.

—Kathy Larson, Marshalltown, Iowa  
Email Robin



'Krakatoa Lava'  
(Stu Morton, 1989)  
—Julie Covington photo

The response to this question is almost a no brainer here, as I've cut back so many. Three stand out by virtue of their registration date and their overall worthiness as great garden plants.

These are:  
1) 'Krakatoa Lava' (Stu Morton, 1989) It's fiery orange, blooms



'Mary's Gold'  
(McDonnell-H., 1984)

after peak season, and has abundant blooms. It should be hardy in the north, but as a dormant, might not be happy in the deep south.



'Dancing Summerbird'  
(King, 1997)

— Julie Covington photos

2) 'Mary's Gold' by Harold McDonnell, 1984) I seem to recall his mention that this was his only registration. What a winner! Many have spoken of it in this forum. It's a dormant, mid-season, large

(6.5") flower with 34" scapes, and what a statement it makes.

3) 'Dancing Summerbird' by Lamone King, 1997, It's much more recent than the previous two, but still over 20 years old. I absolutely adore the beautiful spatulate form of this one. It blooms a bit before mid-season here, although it's registered as mid-season. I believe the scapes grow a bit taller than the registration data here. It is registered as 26" scapes and 5" blooms, but that doesn't sound right. It has lovely blooms!

—Julie Covington, Roanoke, Va.  
Email Robin

### FLOWER SHOW QUESTION

I received a message from the Berkshire Botanical Garden, asking me what material is used in the vases to secure a daylily stem at an exhibition show. They sent me a photo of a table at a show (don't know where) that showed a beige-colored material used near the top of the vase. Can someone help identify what it may be, or tell me what is used in shows you know to secure a daylily stem?

—Betsy Thompson, East Greenbush, N. Y.  
Email Robin

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Betsy, what you see are probably makeup sponges. People also use clippings from scapes, dense foam rubber, cardboard, or chicken bones. Okay, maybe I made up some of those. Off- scape displays usually had floral picks, but other things are probably used.

—David Bishop, Cassville, Ga.  
Email Robin



Eddie Rae Andrews

Our club uses a small cut piece of foam that is used to cover pipes.

—Eddie Raye Andrews  
Waller, Texas  
Email Robin



Laura Teague

We use cotton balls. They are easy to use, cheap, readily available, and work fine. I even take some out to my garden to help secure my newly cut blooms in their holder, so they won't move on the way to the show.

—Laura Teague, Madisonville, Ky.  
Email Robin

### BLOOM SEASON

I have an interesting experiment in mind. And please feel free to tell me if anything like it has been attempted before. I've wondered about the subjectivity of the bloom season in registering daylilies. So I was thinking, it might be interesting to track the first bloom of a very widespread hybrid (or 2 or 3 or more). Ideally, it would be interesting to see a variety from each



Geoff Turk

season category. I would need to know what hybrid might be growing in most USDA plant hardiness zones and most ADS regions.

Specific location would be ideal for handling micro climates. Then the

grower would just need to report the date of first bloom. I would record the data in a spreadsheet and create an online map to track. Obviously there are lots of variables, like watering and fertilizing, but I would start simple. What do you think?

—Geoff Turk, Suwanee Ga.  
Email Robin

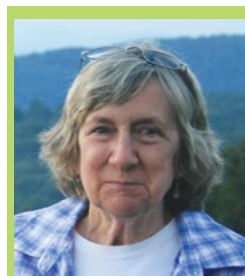


Mike Anders

For 7-8 years I kept very detailed notes on the first bloom of the roughly 1800 registered cultivars in my garden in northwest Ohio. Of course, over that time some cultivars came into

the garden, while others left on their own accord or by my choice. For me, I will never cease to be amazed at the number of cultivars whose first bloom was exactly on the same date over 2-3-4 years, even with varying temperatures and rainfall! Of course, I cannot remember specific examples off the top of my head, but it surprisingly was not just 2-3 cultivars. This process was an interesting exercise for a while, but it was quite time consuming, so last year I dropped the exercise in favor of spending more time actually gardening!

—Mike Anders, Findlay, Ohio  
Email Robin



Margo Reed

When I was gardening in Maryland many decades ago, Steve Webber, who published the Daylily Encyclopedia in 1988, was a great proponent of extended bloom season, and recording the sequence of bloom through

various cultivars. His method included a spreadsheet recording FFO (first flower open) for each cultivar each year, and (LFO) last flower open, which meant that you knew the time frame of that plant from beginning to finish each year. He published a list of his daylilies in the order that they bloomed every year. And he found that it was remarkably consistent. You could plan when you would have bloom. I tried this for years myself, and it was interesting. It also helped define "early," "mid," and "late" (and all in-between). The interesting change is that more recently, when only recording a few, like future introductions, I was suddenly not seeing the same consistency. This might be due to breeding, and a lot of crossing earlys with lates, rebloom, etc. Or it might be due to the more extreme weather patterns we have been experiencing. Some years our bloom season has been "condensed" with earlys, mids, and lates blooming almost at the same time, or lates starting at mid-season. I have a few daylilies that seem pretty consistent still, starting on almost the same day every year, but many are no longer as predictable as I remember.

—Margo Reed, North Garden, Va.  
Email Robin

I like to keep track of first bloom as well as last bloom, and rebloom, so I know which bloom over the longest period. I just looked at first bloom dates for 'All American Chief'

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Kathy Krattli

(Sellers, 1994). In 2015 it was June 14, in 2016 it was June 11, for 2017 it was again June 11 and last year it was June 13. So it prettymuch blooms within a 4-day time frame.

—Kathy Krattli,  
O'Fallon, Mo.  
Email Robin



Kathleen Nordstrom

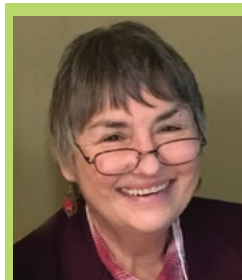
Geoff, I recommend that you look at the list of Lenington All-American Award winners. "The Lenington All-American Award is given annually since 1970 to "the daylily voted the best performer over a wide geographic area."

—Kathleen Nordstrom  
Dodge Center, Minn.  
Email Robin

**HYBRIDIZING ADVICE**

What is the best daylily hybridizing advice you have ever received or figured out on your own?

—David Bishop, Cassville, Ga.  
Email Robin



Sandy Holmes

David, for me, that is an easy one. Steve Moldovan said, "If you are trying for something new, you probably won't get it first try. Take the first try seed-

lings and cross the best flower back on its sibling with the best plant."

—Sandy Holmes, Bellbrook, Ohio  
Email Robin

You need a plan for how to handle those seedlings. They can be composted, fed to the donkeys, or given to friends. Keeping too many is a big pitfall; you will run out of space immediately. I know too many people who have started, and bogged down because they couldn't make selections and discard the rest.

Hybridizing is unlikely to make you rich, so you'd better be having fun.

—Margo Reed, not rich,  
in North Garden, Va.  
Email Robin



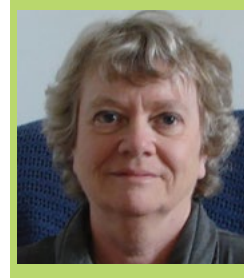
Bobbie Brooks

When Phil Reilly visited early on, he asked to see the best plant for buds and branching. He said it was easier to put a pretty face on nice plant habit than fix the plant habit on a pretty face! I have

learned that in the north, dormant plant habit in the spring is much better than looking at ratty foliage all winter. My advice is not to do what everyone else is doing! Also, do some odd crosses, not look-alikes on look-alikes.

—Bobbie Brooks  
Gloucester, Mass.  
Email Robin

As a professional horticulturist who used daylilies in landscaping at a semi-private golf club, my pet peeve is cultivars that get ratty foliage after flowering. I don't hybridize, but I get the impression that many hybridizers focus more on the spring



Sue Bergeron

appearance than the appearance of the plant after flowering. When you have a still nice looking mixed planting later in the season, where everything else is still flowering and looking fresh,

a browning clump of daylily leaves in the middle of it is not a pretty sight. Cutting them back helps once regrowth occurs but not much in the interim. Interestingly, I was asked very few questions by the club members about daylilies, but one that did come up was what to do about ratty foliage after flowering. There are daylilies that do keep reasonably good foliage until frost, so it can be done. The other issue is self-cleaning of spent flowers. Without enough time or staff, which there never seems to be, daylilies in the landscape do not always (or even ever) get dead-headed, resulting in soggy dripping blobs hanging off the scapes and on the newly opened blooms. If one is going for a landscaping daylily, which I suspect not many are, then this ought to be a priority. I don't care about bud count. In fact, bud count can be too high, resulting in crowding, and even more of the aforementioned soggy blobs to hang on even more fresh blooms if not self-cleaning. Nicely spaced and presented flowers and a long flowering period are more important to me. Of course, selection for plant health is important, but for landscaping rapid increase is not. The latter is something that pleases sellers but landscapers (at least this one) not so much. The more quickly a plant increases, the more work it entails keeping it to its allotted space.

—Sue Bergeron  
Eastern Ontario, Canada  
Email Robin

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## In this issue

Daylily Ambassadors **18**

Newsletter Award Winners **36, 40**



Earl Watts's hybridizing **12**



Svetlana Pikalova's hybridizing **22**



Dave Hansen's hybridizing **30**