



# Wisconsin Daylily Society, Inc. Newsletter

Issue 63 September, 2017 [www.wisconsindaylilyociety.org](http://www.wisconsindaylilyociety.org)

Rhonda Veroeven, Editor

*A not for profit organization promoting the enjoyment, awareness,  
and propagation of the genus Hemerocallis*

## President's Minute

*by Rhonda Veroeven*

It is hard to believe that I am back in the classroom and all of our beautiful daylilies are about to go to sleep for their winter slumber! This summer was a fantastic year for blooms and I saw MANY! If I haven't said it before, I will say it now...we have an amazing club of go-getters! I am often overwhelmed by the sheer generosity and commitment to excellence exhibited by daylily people. There are things that are happening in this group that makes my head spin and my heart grow! As we now focus on Autumn and the beautiful harvest, I hope you find comfort in all of the beauty this season. Cool crisp evenings, bold changing colors, sweatshirts, and warm spiced ciders are about to become the norm. As we begin to put our beds to sleep, and reminisce on the amazing season we just had, I want to thank each and every one of you for everything YOU bring to make this such a vibrant group! It is my honor to represent you, thank you for being YOU!



## Your WDS Board

**President: Rhonda Veroeven**, 6674 Windsor Ridge Ln,  
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**Monique Warnke**, 6596 Chestnut Circle, Windsor, WI  
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(Term ends '20)

**Wilma Brouwer-Herwig**, 117 S High St., Deerfield,  
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(Term ends '19)

**Web Administrator: R.Vaughan James**, 207 Alden

## Upcoming WDS Events

### October 21, 2017 Noon- Annual Meeting

Crown Plaza 4402 E Washington Ave., Madison.

**Guest Speaker:** Mandy McMahon-Silver Creek  
Daylilies, Hamilton, MI

**October 28th** WDS will be hosting the AHS Fall  
Board meeting! The National Convention is  
getting closer than we think. Details will be shared  
at the annual meeting. This isn't an actual WDS  
event, it is just for your information.





# The National Convention Road Trip of Epic Proportions

By: Rhonda Veroeven

How do you test a friendship? Go on an extended road trip and put on 2400 miles together...that's how! Monique Warnke and I had just such an adventure!

Our AHS National Convention road trip was filled with many surprises along the way! It turned out to be more than I ever could have imagined!

We started by driving to a long-time friend of Monique's-Karen's house in OH. We had an amazing home grilled chicken meal and after much conversation, tucked in for the long drive to VA the next day.



*The trip is about to begin!*



*Breathtaking Views!*

The drive to Virginia was absolutely beautiful. The rolling mountain ranges and breath-taking vistas made the trek worth it. We stopped regularly for stretch breaks, and even made a u-turn (not sure if it was legal or not) for some fresh peaches being sold on the side of the road. YUM! We finished the drive by going over huge bridges and tunnels and arrived at the hotel. After registering and checking in, we went to dinner for some of the most amazing seafood ever! Super fresh!!!



*PEACHES*

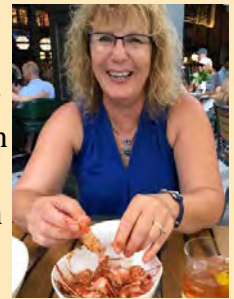
Thursday of the convention afforded attendees the ability to take classes, enjoy the boutique, and even go on an



*Williamsburg Garden*

optional Colonial Williamsburg tour. Monique and I decided to give the Williamsburg tour a go...it was filled with historical information of the time period. While I was not overly impressed with the gardens (which were the focus of our tour), I thoroughly enjoyed forging the bonds of new friendships with other attendees from all over the globe!

Our evening included yet another incredible seafood filled meal (and happy hour, of course). After dinner we checked out the auction to take in pointers. The plants were going for extremely inexpensive prices (which isn't great for a fundraiser)...and we took copious notes!!!



*Monique's fresh seafood*

Friday was the official beginning of the convention. We had four gardens to the West on our agenda for the day. We began at the immaculate and amazing garden of Linda and Bill Pinkham. They have a three-acre garden located on the James River. Let



*Beautiful lily display*

me start by saying that most botanical gardens that you pay an entrance fee for admittance would be meager in comparison! They had more than 1500 cultivars and more unusual and interesting species of other perennials than I

have ever seen in a personal garden. They had amazing vignettes, which included Asian, formal, tropical, shade, pond, bog, flower boarder, and rock gardens. Also interesting was the tour of Bill's ceramics studio. Their garden is loaded with amazing pieces of his art and it serves as a beautiful backdrop for his passion for sure! One of my favorite stops in their garden was the front porch...now most people are not excited by front porches...but when your front porch is a major koi pond with stepping stones to the front door...you better believe it is a highlight!



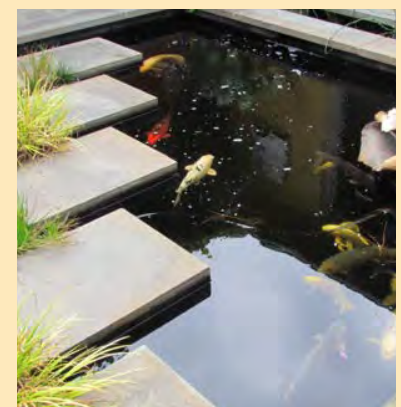
*H. Tidewater Elf*



*Rock garden vignette*



*Entryway Arbor*



*The Koi Pond front porch*



## The Epic Saga Continues

Next we headed to the wonderful twin gardens of Lissa Cash and Linda Patton's, "Two Friends Gardens." They are two neighbors that both share the love of gardening. Together, they shared more than 1,100 different cultivars of daylilies! The



*Glass Bottle Art*



*I will stay on trails...eek!* The property made me giggle and set the tone for a fun and functional garden! They both weaved perennials and daylilies together with a master's hand! Lilium, viburnum, hostas, and much more really set off the beauty. A nice touch was that there was an artist selling glass sculptures at the garden, so those were also nestled in appropriately! (I almost purchased one, but decided that I needed to save my funds for more daylilies as my list became long after seeing the amazing variety.

We then headed for a buffet lunch at a local church. The members of the church made great food and it was sure efficient. They did everything perfectly! After lunch we headed to "Our Neck of the Woods" garden owned by Ralph and Leslie Sweetland located in the northern part of the City of Chesapeake. While this was a smaller lot (2/3 of an acre), the garden was filled with 6 daylily beds and over 600 cultivars. Since Ralph is a hybridizer, we were able to check out the amazing seedlings he has as well. There were several that knocked my socks off! His love of large UFs was right up my alley! They also had vegetable gardens and LOADS of bird feeding stations. This garden was proof that gardens of all sizes are appropriate for a national convention!



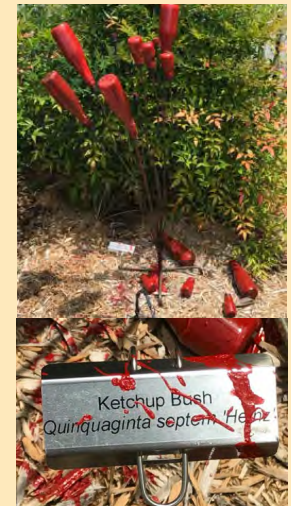
*Bus Captain Eric Simpson*



*Bus Captain Bob Faulkner*

Last up for our first day was the "Feistel's Folly Garden" of Greg and Dianna Feistel. Their huge 6-acre lot made an impressive, yet overwhelming tour. They had over 900 cultivars beautifully woven through their gardens, and one of the highlights for me was the regional garden beds which housed over 200 cultivars that were donated by the individual hybridizers of different regions. Most regions were represented. I need to say that Region 2 and Region 1 beds were my favorite, and were filled with many of my favorite hybridizers (including the Prochaskas from the Green Bay area!!!)

I almost fell over when I walked around a corner and saw some of the most amazing bottle trees. Little miniature spirit bottles with labels such as *H. Aryany Smith ~Prochaska* as "Planning a National Convention Tree." Also there was an homage to the owners' favorite condiment...ketchup...with a ketchup bottle tree!!! Such fun!



In the evening we enjoyed awards and an AHS business meeting. The dinner was not nearly as appealing as the previous evenings when we went out to enjoy fresh seafood...the fish was not appetizing, and we received LOADS of feedback that we SHOULD NOT have fish as an option for a meal...we agreed. After the business meeting, the auction was also not stimulating, so we left early. We did enjoy socializing with other daylily friends, but were reprimanded for making noise so we left (geesh, we sincerely were not even loud).

## The Epic Saga Continues

We arose early the next day for a fantastic day of tours on the East side. The bus ride to the first garden was interesting as we drove along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and tunnel system. I am not a fan of bridges or tunnels, so it was an anxiety-filled ride to say the least. I tried hard to enjoy the beauty of the scenery, but wow, the weather made it difficult. It started to downpour on the way. The great news was that by the time we arrived to the first garden, it was a super light drizzle which didn't dampen our spirits in the least, and even that stopped right away! Our first garden of the day was that of Rich and Rikki Sterrett's home. This is a 14-acre farm with about three acres dedicated to the gardens.



*Cottage Garden Heaven*

Two of their acres are an informal cottage style garden (my favorite) and about an acre of lined-out daylilies for sale. The gardens were filled with woody ornamentals,

perennials, annuals and bulbs. Clearly there were amazing numbers of everything, but especially the daylilies. There were over 1600 daylilies that graced their property!!!



*Sales Beds*

We went to yet another church for lunch and it was also efficient. While this wasn't a buffet style like the other, we were able to quickly and efficiently grab a boxed lunch and enjoy it. Next up was the quaint suburban garden of Eileen Walsh. Her garden is filled with quirky, funky, and fun art. This is truly a whimsical garden. Eileen planted incredible roses and hydrangeas. I was most impressed with her exceptionally blue hydrangeas. I have honestly never seen anything quite so blue before. She said her secret was going to the local coffee shop and they gave her the coffee grounds that were used. She mulched with



*Blue!!!*

that and the acidity created that amazing blue color! Her garden was peppered with our favorite flowers, but those were not the focal point...and that was fine by me!



*Whimsy*

Next up we went to the Norfolk Botanical Gardens. We were treated to the picturesque canals flowing throughout the gardens. There were rose gardens, sculpture gardens, and more than 200 different perennials including more than 500 different varieties of daylilies!!! They had the Dan Tau Region 3 Seedling Bed there as well. We were able to



*Mimosa Trees in bloom*

vote on our favorite seedling. This is very similar to the Englerth Bed for Region 2. We had 71 plants to choose from. It was a very hard choice! Monique and I jumped on a tram that took us through the botanical gardens so we could get an abbreviated look at what we wouldn't be able to see due to time constraints; it was perfect!



*Sculpture garden at Norfolk Botanical Gardens*

After a full day of gardens, we were glad to get back to the hotel to get cleaned up, purchase some raffle tickets (Monique won!!!), bid on silent auction items and purchase plants from the plant sale. We then were required to attend the Upcoming National breakout session...from which, to say we were enlightened is an understatement. We learned even more this year than last year...it was a lot to take in. Dinner was filled with a heartfelt message from Nikki Schmith, AHS President, announcing that she will not be running for another term as president as well as thanking so many members for service. Convention awards were given, and we were happy to see the very worthy recipients awarded for all of the time they volunteer to the organization! We ended the evening with an impromptu long meeting with the current chair of the Tidewater Daylily Society and learned a lot! We also had a fun time socializing with some of our new and old friends. National Conventions really are a place where friendships are forged!



*Brett Clement,  
Mike Grossmann,  
and Dave  
Mussar*



## The Epic Saga Continues

We were glad to be on the road again. This time the ride wouldn't be as long. We drove to Richmond, VA to spend time with Monique's amazing mother-in-law. She showed us her amazing new home, and treated us to a yummy lunch. She also agreed to go for a trip to Woodhenge Garden, which is literally in the middle of nowhere!!! Woodhenge Gardens is home to Margo Reed and Jim Murphy. Their hybridizing efforts and their introductions are among the best of



*Blue Focal Piece*



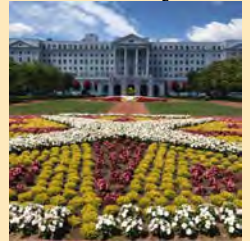
*Jim Murphy  
in seedlings!*

the best. Their beautiful gardens housed mostly their introductions, but also were sprinkled with newer introductions of other hybridizers as well. In the center of their display garden is a blue tree. This adds amazing color and interest to the variety of perennials throughout the yard. They have dogs and cats that act as greeters as

well. We ran into several other daylily friends in the garden. We were a bit surprised, as North Garden, VA is in the middle of nowhere, but to find such beauty was certainly reason enough to make the long trek! Jim and Margo both specialize in large spidery forms. They are also beginning to work with adding patterns on them as well. Their work is seriously exciting to see. Jim even took us back into their seedling beds to see the most cutting edge of their work. It was such an honor to learn and admire their work personally with them! Of course, I added even more daylilies to my wish list!!! After the incredible and impressive open garden trip, we had a wonderful evening of family, frivolity, and libations. It is an evening I will not soon forget.

We could have driven home the next day, but decided to extend our trip after having had conversations and invitations from a few of our Region 2 hybridizers. Deanna Gossard, Sandy Holmes, and Bob Faulkner all invited us to visit their gardens...why not...it was on the way home,

right? Well, maybe it wasn't a direct route, but it sure was worth the extra miles traveled. And when you have such great traveling partners, it was a no-brainer for us! We began our trip early the next morning after a nourishing breakfast and headed through West Virginia. We were hoping to run into more roadside peach stands, but were not lucky enough to find one. We decided to take a stretch break and to spoil our sensibilities in the Allegheny Mountains at the Greenbrier Resort. We wandered and enjoyed the grounds, which are immaculately kept. We treated ourselves to some AMAZING chocolates and were again on our way.



*The Greenbrier*

We drove next to Galloway, OH to the gardens of Deanna and Jamie Gossard, Heavenly Gardens. Their super cute red poodles and puppies greeted us. Their gardens and greenhouses are immense and overwhelming, but so much fun to go through. We knew that there would not be time to see every inch of it, but we made the best of the time that we had. They have spectacular display gardens, nice koi ponds, and fun art sprinkled throughout the display area. There are rows and rows of their seedlings and introductions. I was especially impressed going through Deanna's doubles bed. She had one double introduction,



*Diane, Monique, and  
Jamie*



*H. Double My Sunshine*

Double My Sunshine, that literally looked like a lotus bloom...I purchased it right away!!! While walking with Jamie through the greenhouses, I was so surprised and impressed by the sheer number of pods and crosses that he does annually. The entire greenhouse was filled with pod-laden plants. It was a sight to be seen for sure! I was able to see some varieties that I haven't been able to afford yet in real life, so I enjoyed seeing them "in the wild."



*Pod-laden plants line the  
greenhouse!*

## The Epic Saga Continues



*Sandy sharing new seedlings*

overwhelmed by the sheer size and number of daylilies is an incredible understatement.

Nothing can prepare you for the FIELDS of daylilies that are introductions and seedlings. I am a huge fan of their incredible flowers, but seeing the mass quantity together left me overwhelmed and at a loss for words. Since we were on a bit of a time crunch, Sandy decided to show us her “newest and strangest” seedlings.



*Lilies as far as the eye can see*

I would have hoped to if there was more time. She has such incredible “strange” things coming---to me, what she called strange, I called beautiful! I can’t wait to go back and give their garden the amount of time it deserves. Honestly, an entire day might not do it justice!



*One of the fields*

We were able to pass through seeing some of my favorite introductions of hers as well, but didn’t get to gawk at them as much as



*Mike Holmes on the tractor*

After being completely blown away and overwhelmed, we headed to Dayton, OH to see Bob Faulkner’s amazing Natural Selection Daylilies gardens. His surprised me most of all, I think, since it was so much different than I had pictured in my mind’s eye. I knew that he lived in the house in which he grew up, but I didn’t expect it to be so eclectic

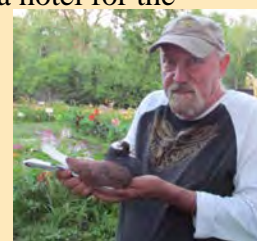
and full of fun. He gave us a tour inside his home where he houses many amazing treasures-super cool! We also took our time strolling through all of his introduction beds. He has so many really fun and interesting perennials and trees scattered throughout his property, and he has a story about each of them. Ask him about his “Duck Tree” for example.



*Bob with a new seedling*

Everything there has meaning to him and matters. His passion was incredibly obvious! Then came the part I was most looking forward to...his seedling beds...and we were not disappointed! I do not know of anyone that has fun patterned unusual daylilies like he does!!! Seeing them before anyone else was such an honor. As we were finishing looking at his HUGE pond project, it was dusk and time for dinner. He treated us to a great supper and we then found a hotel for the evening.

While there is a hotel horror story that could be shared, let me just share that not all hotels are created equally...eeekkkk!



*Bob and his pigeon*

In the morning we met up with Bob again and had breakfast together. We then got to see his new seedlings that opened up that morning. WOWZERS, he has some great things coming for sure! He presented Monique and me with fun garden art, which I have displayed in my front garden, and he gave each of us a few fun new seedlings to add to our gardens! Such a generous man!



*Checking for new seedlings*

Well, that was enough fun for us, and we were both really ready to get home and sleep in our own beds. We had an amazing time, saw more gardens than we thought possible, and trekked thousands of miles together...all in the name of the daylily!



*Art in Bob's garden*





*Grand Prize Winner  
H. The Heaven's Declare*

This year's Dazzling Daylily Show was held in the Exhibition Hall of Olbrich Botanical Gardens. The more spacious venue allowed ample room for flowers, people, tables and chairs. We easily accommodated the 377 blossoms viewed by over 300 visitors. That's a 25% increase in flowers over 2015, and a 400% increase in attendance!

The Olbrich location wasn't the only thing that was new. A Seedling category was added, and was wildly successful. Two tables were filled with daylilies developed by our very own members. The Seedling category was an experiment without Board approval, so no awards were given.

We also added a Science Nook, a place where hybridizers Carole Hunter and Pat Sturdevant discussed the finer points of hemerocallis with the general public. People were presented with a PowerPoint display, the "Daylily Exhibition" handbook, and lots

of full scapes from hybrid stock. The nook was a perfect addition, since our club's primary mission includes educating the public.

The Olbrich location also provided a unique synergy. Our show coincided with the last day of the Iris Society sale there.

Many daylily people ended up going home with new iris varieties. Conversely, many iris people browsed our blossoms and went home with big ideas about our sale.

The day of show dawned much more auspiciously than in 2015 (you may recall the hail storm in the wee hours on the day of show last time). People started arriving with their blossoms around 7:00 am. Blossoms were registered, labels were made, cotton and water and blossoms were placed in cups, and everything was navigated to the correct tables. This quickly became a mad dance, and continued right up to the 11:00 opening.

As they entered, visitors were again greeted by a beautiful daylily bouquet from the Ravets. Most people took ballots, many took WDS sale bookmarks, and a few took membership forms. Raffle tickets were handed out, and resulted in seventeen lucky winners of daylilies.



*A very well attended daylily show!*

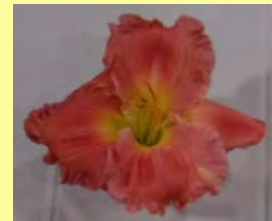
The show ended at 3:00, and hybridizers immediately exchanged pollen. When the ballots were tallied, the winners were:

## **SELF (SOLID) – 74 entries**

**1<sup>st</sup>** Michigan Magic – Jim Fitzpatrick,

**2<sup>nd</sup>** Groovin – Conrad Wrzesinski

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Night Wings – Barry Rowe



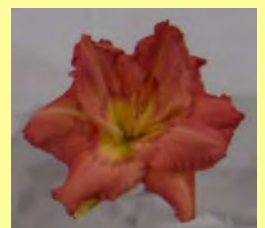
*H. Michigan Magic*

## **DOUBLE – 11 entries**

**1<sup>st</sup>** Summer Souffle – Rosemary Kleinheinz

**2<sup>nd</sup>** Topguns Linda Ferris – Bruce Christoffersen

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Prickly All Over – Genni Kleckner



*H. Summer Souffle*

## Dazzling Daylily Show Moves to Olbrich

By Barry Rowe

### EDGE, EYE, PATTERN – 153 entries

**1<sup>st</sup>** The Heavens Declare - Genni Kleckner (Picture on previous page)

**2<sup>nd</sup>** Singular Sensation - Bruce Christoffersen

**3<sup>rd</sup>** (tie) Italian Kaleidoscope - Conrad Wrzesinski  
Upgrade - Rosemary Kleinheinz  
Seedling 1710 - Genni Kleckner

### SMALL AND MINIATURE – 31 entries

**1<sup>st</sup>** Spacecoast Freaky Tiki – Cheryl Solaris

**2<sup>nd</sup>** (tie) Little Giggles – Mike Stafford  
Taste de Vin – Pat Sturdevant

Little Wild Flower – Dana Baiu

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Milk Chocolate – Nancy Deer



*H. Spacecoast Freaky Tiki*

### SPIDER AND UNUSUAL FORM – 76 entries

**1<sup>st</sup>** Rose F. Kennedy - Rosemary Kleinheinz

**2<sup>nd</sup>** Green Arrow - Rosemary Kleinheinz

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Ruby Spider – Monique Warnk



*H. Rose F. Kennedy*

### SEEDLING – 32 entries

**1<sup>ST</sup>** (tie) Seedling 1504 - Genni Kleckner  
Seedling 13 - Genni Kleckner  
Seedling 1659 - Genni Kleckner

**2<sup>nd</sup>** Seedling 1 - Bruce Christoffersen

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Seedling 1119 - Genni Kleckner



*Genni Kleckner Seedlings*

### BEST OF SHOW

**The Heavens Declare - Genni Kleckner**

Many thanks to those who participated:  
The Board, for funding the project again.  
Volunteers who worked ahead of the event.  
Volunteers who staff the event.  
Members who got up early and

plucked daylily blossoms.  
Members who donated plants for the raffle.

All who came to the show and voted for their favorite daylilies.  
Retailers who allowed us to post our promotional flyers.  
Olbrich Botanical Gardens, for providing the free hall, facilities, and friendly staff.

Special thanks to Vaughan James for setting up a great Web page again for the show. And special thanks to the Kleckner family. They delivered their first grandbaby that day, then delivered their daylily blossoms, then went back and

delivered the other twin!

There will be no Dazzling Daylily Show in 2019, since we will all be much too busy with the AHS

convention. That means the next show will be at Olbrich in July 2021. We hope to have awards for the new Seedling category then. We also plan to split the Edge, Eye and Pattern category – they accounted for 40% of all daylilies. Perhaps we will have one category for a plain eye, and another for edge and eye. Let Barry know your ideas for improvement!

## Membership News

By Gene Dewey

The Plant Sale encouraged a number of buyers from hither and yon to join WDS. The following people have joined our ranks: Oregon: Julie Burke, Madison: Brian Fox, Beloit: Wayne Bottger, DeKalb, IL: Amanda Christensen & Gordon & Denyse Kuykendal, Beaver Dam: Carole Taber, Reeseville: Theresa Schwandt, Sun Prairie: Priscilla Schmidt, Fitchburg: Cheryl

member, Gwyn Duray in Rockland, Renewals after a few years' lapse: Cynthia Bauer of Middleton and Marjon Ornstein of Madison. Bobbi Raasch's address has changed to 405 Robin St, Rockland Monique Warnke's email address is now [mwarnke77@gmail.com](mailto:mwarnke77@gmail.com) Welcome to all of you. We look forward to meeting these new members at upcoming meetings.



## Trip to Bountiful

by Mike Stafford

With the unfortunate demise of the WDS bus trip (thank you Wilma for your efforts), a kind invitation was issued Rhonda to join Monique Warnke and Char Hansen on their trip to Michigan. This was an easy yes and plans were thus laid. The intrepid travelers were scheduled to leave the Madison area around 8 am, but yours truly was given quick tours of the gardens at the Warnke, Veroeven, & Hansen residences, so departure was not until 9:15.

Illinois was a breeze, but Indiana was an entirely different story, and it was resolved to find an alternate route on the way back through Hoosierland. We arrived at the meeting hotel at 4:15 (oops---time change 5:15), which barely gave us time to check in, register, or have a bite to eat before the first big event-the plant auction fundraiser. This was a blast, as there were many newish plants from many hybridizers. Your writer was able to snag one of Genni Kleckner's creations, but was outbid three different times for Korth cultivars (the source of my affections). After the excitement of the auction, it was off to the hospitality courtyard for conversation/gossip, light snacks and then off to the well appointed hotel rooms for rest-----touring was in the a.m. !



*Small part of the  
Hosta garden*



*Beautiful Displays*

Day 2 dawned bright and sunny (though coolish) and after a buffet breakfast, the 140 guests boarded the buses for a day of touring. Our first stop of the day, was to Kay & Rich Anderson's Serendipity Gardens. With the judicious use of trucked in natural fertilizer, Kay has carved out a wonderful space amongst Michigan pine forest. Hundreds of hosta, daylily, lillium and other plants surround their home, providing an eclectic mix of colour, textures & whimsy. This was the

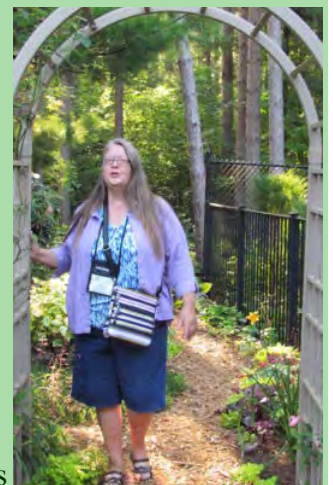
that the Anderson's had hosted such an event, and they provided a fine start to the day.

After that impressive display, what better than to stop at Garden Crossings Nursery to indulge the buying habit that so many daylily lovers seem to acquire. Though mostly an on-line retailer, Garden Crossings provided the opportunity for people to add companion plants to their gardens....and they did ! Our next stop was to Walter's



*Perfectly manicured display gardens*

display garden. Who's Walters you may ask, it is the home of the Proven Winners brand of plants, seen in many retail greenhouses around the country. There are at least a dozen display beds, just choc-full of annuals and perennials. Of course each bed was unique with it's own mix of colour and texture. This was, in my view, a highlight of the tours. These guys were pro's and showing off to boot and there were about 10 employees to answer questions about what we were looking at. A great stop.



*Wilma exiting the hosta area*

## Trip to Bountiful Continued

by Mike Stafford

After an excellent plated lunch at the Haworth Conference Center of Hope College in Holland, MI, it was on to the 2016 Englerth winner Mandy McMahon's Silver Creek Daylilies. Mandy has been a hybridizer for at least 15 years and there were 3-4 beds that were open for the attendees to wander through. Edges are important to her efforts, but the highlight was her obvious pride and enthusiasm she showed in her operation. Check out her web



*Mandy's seedling beds*



*Newsletter Award*

site for the Englerth winner, it's a beaut ! the last stop of the day was to the aptly named Flight Pattern farm of Bruce & Diane Wickmann. Bruce is a pilot and the first bed that greets visitors is filled with flight themed daylilies (ie Notify Ground Crew etc.). The Wickmann's was also home to the 2017 Englerth bed, which of course "forced" attendees to vote for a favorite—an impossible task. Did I mention that ice cream was also served at this spot and that their beds are only two years old ? Simply amazing what they have accomplished so far. After that, it was back on the bus to the hotel, dinner and guest speaker. The speaker was none other than Nan Ripley, who has spoken to WDS in the past. Her presentation was as personal, informative, and inspiring as ever---a good conclusion to a VERY active day.



*One of many huge clumps at the Wickmann's*

Sunday (day 3) was breakfast, awards, and business in that order. Breakfast was necessary, and the awards kind of drifted by until the announcement for best Newsletter---you guessed it, Rhonda Veroeven and WDS ! Our president was shocked, shocked I'll tell ya, but a Michigan Daylily Society member told me afterward that, everyone KNOWS you have the best newsletter (as if we didn't know) so Congratulations Rhonda ! The business meeting then ensued and it would appear that Region 2 is in good hands with Sandy Holmes as president. There are challenges of course, but the Region 2 directors realize that and are striving to address them. We had two more stops to make before heading home, visiting the open gardens of Ginny Pearce and Barb & Bob Buikema. Ginny also hybridizes and sells and packs a wallop in a mid sized, irregular city lot. Seedlings, intro's etc in a very efficient use of space. The Buikema's also have an excellent garden, which was hosting a garden judges clinic while we were there. You never would have known that they had a major arbor event the week before except for the new wooden fence. This is a great story in itself, but should be told by someone else.

Well that's it. The trip back was uneventful, missing traffic in Indiana helped (thank you GPS or whatever). I would like to thank the "Simply Michigan" committee, Barb & Bob Buikema, Mindy McMahon, and Diane & Bruce Wickmann and all the others for putting on a quality event—it was great fun. I also would like to encourage our WDS members to take part in one of these meetings in the future if possible, they are fun ! Oh, and I want to thank Monique for driving and Rhonda & Char for providing excellent conversation and entertainment. Thank you for the invitation, it was well worth it.



*The Buikema's*



*Ginny Pearce Seedlings*



*WDS Members taking Garden Judge's class*



## Another Successful Sale

by Rosemary Kleinheinz

Thanks to the 82 volunteers who worked more than 1,490 hours, and the 37 donors who gave us almost 5,000 plants, we had a very successful sale with gross receipts of over \$30,000!!!



Terri Conklin and Andrew Veroeven at plant dig

Our new publicity chair, Marilyn Leccese, stepped into June Johnson's boots and did a fantastic job of getting the word out far and wide to bring us customers who wanted to buy our daylilies. We do love those customers!! Thanks Marilyn.



It takes a village to prep at the digs!

I came away from the sale with two impressions. The first was that all you volunteers sure do make our job easier. You know just what needs to be done – and you do it!! Our sincerest thanks to everyone, especially Genni Kleckner and her crew for keeping us well fed, Vaughan James for an extensive database and 5,000 labels, Diane Goodman



Labeling bags

worked at least five hours will receive a certificate for \$10 off their Annual Meeting meal.



Adele Teaching the garden Judges class to eager students

To describe my second impression I borrow the words of Ruth Horrall in a note she sent to us. "The monetary end result was NOT our only goal. We experienced such joy working together to accomplish a truly gargantuan task. Every cultivar sold is the product of our very special alliance." I expect you would all agree



WI Hybridizer plants!



The line to get in!

Just some fun artistic shots!



## Blessed by Greatness

by Rhonda Veroeven

Sometimes, “serendipity” is the best word to explain how a series of events unfold. It all started when I got to the dinner late at the Region 2 Summer Meeting and had to sit up front. There were no people at the table yet (because who wants to sit right up front, right?), so I sat down and was engrossed in some conversation with Brenda Macy, from Kentucky. She is very much a character, and if you have been blessed to have conversations with her, she is such a joy.

Suddenly, the vivacious and amazing Nan Ripley joined us in the front table. She was our keynote speaker. I was so excited, as I have had quite a few encounters with her, and couldn’t find a nicer person with more passion for her love of daylilies and she is unabashedly vociferous regarding her love of God. It was an honor to be seated with her!

We had great conversations ranging from her dancing in the garden thanking the lord for exciting new seedlings with potential, German Shepherd Dogs, AHS policies, her showing me some pictures of seedlings and me showing her some of Andrew’s seedlings. The conversation instantly changed to her interest in sharing her passion to youth and new hybridizers. I shared with her that I would be picking Andrew up from a theater camp in Iowa, not terribly far from her and was basically gushing about how proud I was of him.

She then became animated and said that she would love it if Andrew came and spent time with her in the garden and asked if I would be interested in bringing him when I came to pick him up in Iowa. Seriously, I did not hesitate...it the amazing Nan Ripley invites you to Walk About Gardens and you are available...you jump at that opportunity.

The day came to pick up my young hybridizer,



*Nan Ripley giving the keynote speech in MI*

Andrew from his drama camp. This was about an hour and a half away from Walkabout Gardens. I shared the good news with Andrew, and while he was excited, he was also tired so he was a bit less enthusiastic than I think he would have been if he were well-rested. So he took a nap on the drive. When we pulled up to Walkabout Gardens, he pepped right up and was a bit nervous. I was excited.

My husband, who really doesn’t know much about daylilies, was intrigued.

As we walked up to the shady area where Nan was finishing up some last minute sales, she announced, “Oh good, my next class is here.” I looked around and realized she was talking about us. I had not planned on jumping in...rather I was excited to see her teaching Andrew, and seeing how he responded to her.



*Andrew doing his homework*

She started by introducing us to two other couples that were also “taking the class.”

She had us grab a plant box and sent us out to her beds to pick our favorite three blooms. My husband looked like a fish out of water...I told him to grab ones that you like. There is no right or wrong. Andrew had an easy time. He focuses on large plants with big eyes. I like large saturated UFs (there were plenty from which to choose). As we were walking back, I spied a HUGE squash-blossomed colored boom



*Tony doing his homework*

with a huge poly bloom with amazing sculpting and thick, thick substance. I had to not follow directions and chose an additional bloom. (I am such a rule breaker!)



## Blessed by Greatness-Continued

by Rhonda Veroeven



*Nan Ripley and Andrew*

We then sat together and shared our blooms one at a time and explained why we liked them best. No one had blooms that were even similar. She explained elements that made a good bloom (a great review for Andrew and me-and all new information for my husband). She explained substance, eyes, sculpting, edges, watermarks, saturation of colors, size, teeth, and form. She then explained the basics of daylily hybridizing procedures. While my son has a daylily ready to be introduced, he listened with rapt attention, completely allowing himself to be a sponge soaking in all of the knowledge and wisdom that he could.

Our next assignment after the instruction was to go back out into the field and choose a bloom that you would cross with each of the first choices we made. It was fun looking through with a completely different intention and having conversations with others regarding things they would like to cross and why they chose that. When we came back, Nan had a table filled with blooms from new seedlings and a few amazing new introduction that we could choose from as well. I know I wanted every one of them...but didn't break rules (this time). As we took turns it was fantastic to see my husband's transition from super beginner to intermediate knowledge in such a short time. I don't profess to know everything, so I tried to take in as much information as I could. I learned SO much. My son really took everything she had to say and spent a lot more time in the field this time before returning and was really thoughtful in how he chose his blooms. I was mesmerized watching



*Our trays of plants*

Nan teach with such ease and grace at everyone's ability level! Education is clearly in her blood!

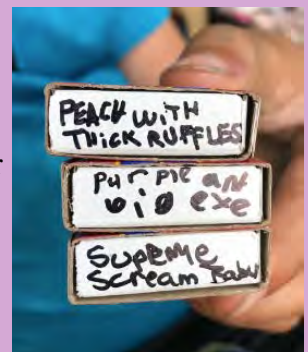
As we went around and discussed our crosses, I noticed how everyone took something different from the lessons that she had taught. There is not a right or a wrong, just simply the next right answer. I think that is the beauty of hybridizing. There might be ugly, muddy results that come out of a cross, but there could also be the next right answer staring you in the face.



*Andrew explaining his choices to Nan*

We wrapped up our session discussing different methods for collecting and saving pollen. Needless to say, our Dollar Store will have a shortage of matches in the near future as pollen collecting using the "Mrs. Ripley Method," as my son calls it, is the only way our family will collect and store pollen in the future.

I have said this before, and I will say it again... those that are truly great do not need to flaunt their greatness, rather, it will flow through them with elegant grace. Being humble, kind, and generous are the attributes that I have found to be



*The Mrs. Ripley Method*

common to ALL of the greats in my opinion. Mrs. Ripley, you certainly are at the top of my list! A simple thank you will never suffice for all that you gave my family on that day. My entire family feels that we not only were blessed by your kindness and generosity, but also by your greatness!

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## WDS Annual Meeting

*by The WDS Board of Directors*

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The WDS Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, October 21st 12:00 at the Crown Plaza 4402 E Washington Ave., Madison.

We are very excited to announce our guest speaker is Mandy McMahon of Silver Creek Daylilies in Hamilton, MI. We are so very excited to have Mandy. Our members of the club that attended the Summer Region 2 meeting were able to visit her spectacular garden, were able to play in her seedling beds, receive at least two gift plants from her (which are simply beautiful) and meet her amazing family! It is fantastic and exciting to have such a kind and knowledgeable member of our region join us in our Annual Meeting! Mandy has also graciously agreed to help in any way she can at our National Convention. Trust us, your help will be needed, Mandy!

The 2017 WDS Annual meeting will begin with lovely sit down meal. The menu was decided upon by the board at the August board meeting in which we all sampled a variety of meal options. Some were tossed out rather quickly, and a few were hard to decide between, but we feel we chose the best options. The chef came out and asked our opinions and things that we would like to change. He was very accommodating.

There is a cash bar available for anyone wishing to have a social drink. While enjoying your meal you can vote for your favorite top 10 daylilies.

Typically, the ballot is cast for new board of directors, but since the vote at our last Annual Meeting determined that there would be a hold on elections until 2019 due to the National Convention, there will not be an election this year.

Also, we generally have a vote regarding the recipient of the 5% gift from the 2017 plant sale. The board would like to bring it to the membership to forgo this tradition for the next two years, and take those funds and donate them to the Region 2 newsletter fund.

The board also is interested in how often our membership is using the WDS handbook. We are simply looking at our procedures and making sure that we are doing things that the membership is most interested in.

Any other business can also be discussed.

Sharon Longeran is providing a good selection of door prizes. There will not be any potted daylilies this year due to the lateness of the meeting.

To attend the Annual Meeting, please read, fill out and mail in the Annual Meeting reservation sheet located on the next page along with payment to Rhonda Veroeven 6674 Windsor Ridge Lane, Windsor, WI 53598 no later than October 10th.

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## National Convention Update

*by The National Convention Executive Committee*

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Business is really blooming in the Badgerland for sure! The Executive Committee has been hard at work planning and preparing for the Fall AHS Directors Board Meeting on October 28th. It is the tradition that the host club for the following convention cycle host the board for their fall board meeting. While that doesn't seem like such a big task, all of the minutia that goes into preparing for all 12 directors and special chairs committee members has actually taken up the majority of the leadership's time. The board will hold their board meeting (which has nothing to do with us), and then the EXCOM will be hosting them for dinner, sharing with them the Blooms in Badgerland promo video, and then having a short auction. Plants are currently being procured by Carole Hunter, WDS Hybridizer's Group Chair, and this will help offset the cost of hosting the meeting. Additionally, hybridizers from around the USA and Canada have been extremely generous in donating guest plants for the National. Genni Kleckner has been busy spreading them out and caring for them as they arrive. Diane Goodman has also been accepting and caring for Englerth bed plants for the National. It has been crazy busy, and we can't wait to wow our attendees in 2019





**MEAL RESERVATION FOR WDS 2017 ANNUAL MEETING,  
SATURDAY, October 21st 12:00 P.M. Crown plaza East, 4402 E Washington Ave.,  
Madison.**



**Registrations must be received by October 10th  
NO LATE REGISTRATIONS CAN BE ACCEPTED**

The board decided on three selections.

Each of the dishes start off with a salad with a choice of two dressings, a vinaigrette and ranch.  
There will be warm rolls and butter too.

Entrees:

Petite top sirloin (6 oz.) with roasted garlic butter, mashed potatoes , and seasonal vegetables.  
Chicken Parmesan-Lightly breaded breast with marinara and Italian cheeses served over pasta,  
and seasonal vegetables.

Vegetable Kabobs... Firm tofu, mushrooms, tomatoes, zucchini, and summer squash served over  
rice.

For dessert we requested Red velvet cake, but it is desert du jour.

**Choose one entree per attendee:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Petite Top Serloin ☐ Chicken Parmesan  
☐ Vegetable Kabobs

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Petite Top Serloin ☐ Chicken Parmesan  
☐ Vegetable Kabobs

# of Meals @ \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost of meals \_\_\_\_\_

Less \_\_\_\_\_Certificates of Appreciation

Enclosed Ck Amt \_\_\_\_\_ (NO WDS \$ are accepted as payment for the Annual Meeting)



**Mail this form & payment to Rhonda Veroeven 6674 Windsor Ridge Lane, Windsor, WI  
53598 Any Questions? Call Rhonda @ 1-608-345-0395 or email @ purpleirises1@yahoo.com**



Address Service Requested

Wisconsin Daylily Society Newsletter  
Rhonda Vereeven, Editor  
6674 Windsor Ridge Lane  
Windsor, WI 53598



**"Autumn...the year's  
last, loveliest smile."**

**~Indian Summer-  
William Cullen Bryant**