



Wisconsin Daylily Society, Inc. Newsletter

Issue 66 Summer 2018 www.wisconsindaylilysociety.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

Happy bloom season everyone! Ahhh, the time of the year that we wait for! Every day I have been heading out to my beautiful lilies and anxiously await the blooms from the pod-filled scapes. One thing is certain, I need more early blooming lilies in my garden! I have already had a lily-packed summer with attending the AHS/ADS national convention. I have been adding new sections to my garden and making loads of changes. Our gardens are like a painter's canvas which is continually changing and growing. Just as our club is continually changing and growing. So many wonderful events and happenings coming up with our members not only this year, but into next year with our national! While at the national this year, I couldn't believe how many people approached me and said many complimentary things about our club! I am so proud to be considered your president!

Your WDS Board

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Upcoming WDS Events

July 14th-15th, 2018-WDS Summer Tour

See article in last issue of the WDS newsletter
for more information!

August 4, 2018 12:00 PM WDS Adoption Auction-

August 18-19, 2018 WDS Plant sale Olbrich Botanical Gardens

October 27, 2018 -11:00 am WDS Annual Meeting-Rex's Inn Keeper Waunakee Speaker TBA

Spotted at the
2018 National
Convention in
Charles and
Heidi Douglas'
gardens...onto
2019!!!



Rich Howard Makes an Explosion in Wisconsin!

By Rhonda Veroeven



Rich Howard

We were so blessed to have Rich Howard of CT Daylilies from Wallingford, CT as our speaker in April! Rich grows over 1700 daylilies as well as other perennials and some unusual annuals.

He been hybridizing for over 10 years and has many beautiful daylilies to show for his hard work! He grows his lilies mostly in pots.

He hybridizes mostly tetraploid daylilies, but he also dabbles with diploids as well. When he got into his program showing us the amazing introductions and upcoming seedlings, the audience was in awe of the wide variety of plants!

He had me at UFs! His *H. Convocation of Eagles* and *H. Crazy Plant Lady* had my name all over them.

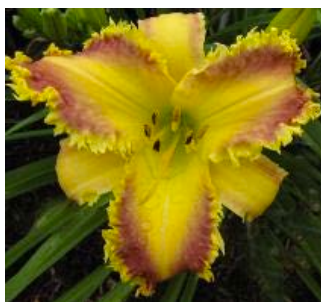


H. Crazy Plant Lady
Hybridizers Photo



H. Convocation of Eagles
Hybridizers Photo

He also works with toothy tets. I heard a lot of people "ooh-ing and ah-ing" when the photos came up! He really has the whole teeth thing figured out. While he had ME at UFs, his introduction of *H. You Had Me At Woof* and *H. My Ruffy* shows not only his love for teeth, but also his Canine companions.



H. My Ruffy
Hybridizers Photo



H. You Had Me At Woof
Hybridizers Photo

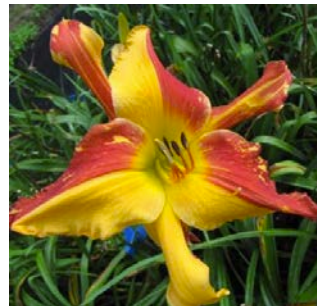
Of course, Richard is well-known for his more unusual daylilies including patterns such as *H. Space Cowboy*, stripes as found in *H. Yankee Pinstripes*, and most notably for his freak of nature, but very much beloved, *H. Explosion in the Paint Factory*.



H. Space Cowboy
Hybridizers Photo



H. Yankee Pinstripes
Hybridizers Photo



H. Explosion in the Paint Factory
Hybridizers Photo

After his presentation, we had an incredible question and answer period in which the members really were engaged...seems to be an indication of a high quality presentation to me!

After a quick break, we had a fantabulous 50-50 auction. Rich was extremely generous and even brought along the coveted *H. Explosion in the Paint Factory* which I (Andrew) bid, bid, and bid some more on, but alas, it wasn't meant to be. Conrad was the lucky winner! Couldn't happen to a nicer guy and I am sure he will give it the home it deserves! Now I just have to wait for it to come back in stock to purchase from Richard directly.



Members asking questions!

All in all, a great way to spend the day

Andrew Veroeven enjoying dinner with Richard and having incredible conversations about both hybridizing programs.



Statistical Analysis and Daylilies-Say What?

By Wilma Brouwer-Herwig



Ginny Pearce did some last-minute double duty and spoke at both the WDS's Saturday and the DSSEW's Sunday meetings. Both clubs got more than they expected as she shared with us her beautiful garden, her fantastic creations, and her unique methodology.

Her program is called "Hybridizing On A Shoestring And A Postage Stamp." A 'shoestring' because, in the beginning, money had been tight in her one-parent, two-child household. A 'postage stamp' because her lot on a cul-de-sac in Grand Rapids, Michigan, was (and still is!) quite compact. But she had been a gardener all her life, inspired and encouraged by her parent's and grandparent's examples, so she was determined not to abandon her love of growing plants. In 1994, once her house was built, she began filling up her oddly shaped blank slate. A small sunny front yard and a mostly shady back area set the stage quickly for concentrating on

daylilies and hosta. That they were both hardy and easy to care for was an added benefit.

When she discovered just how pricey the newest daylilies could be, she decided to try her hand at creating some of her own. In 1996 she eagerly planted her first seeds and could hardly wait for those maiden blooms. Her enthusiasm was rudely squashed when she was confronted with a bed full of some real bow-wows.....true dogs!! But she kept at it and introduced *H. Brickle Road* in 2011. After that success came others including *Sailor Sky*, *Flutterfest*, *Master Huntsman*, *Creamsicle Cool*, *Tuxedo Gent*, and the cheerfully pretty *My Wish Tonight*.

After the first ten years of hybridizing Ginny was not seeing any more big leaps in improvements. Consequently, she began critically analyzing the plants she was using as parents for clues. With a botany background and having been a math and science teacher who loved numbers, she devised a clever system of her very own. It is a bit difficult to describe here but it involves assigning scores to plant qualities she finds



*Ginny Pearce beginning her program at the May WDS meeting
- Photo by Rhonda Veroeven*

important, taking innumerable photos, tracking measurements, keeping detailed records on each of her babies, spreadsheets, and computer number crunching. Those that rated highest in her desired attributes were then used in her program. Her payoff for all this analyzing was the development of some very nice daylilies that include *Raven Lore*, *Gigglefest*, *Hollywood Premiere*, *Soul Whisper*, and *Silken Temptress* (her personal favorite). All have met or exceeded her hybridizing goals that include hardiness, high bud counts and branching, fabulous garden performance, and even northern rebloom. Due to space issues, she has continued concentrating on tets.

All Hybridizer's Photos



Brickle Road

Sailor Sky

Flutterfest,

*Master
Huntsman,*

*Creamsicle
Cool*

Tuxedo Gent

My Wish Tonight.

Statistical Analysis and Daylilies-Say What? Continued

By Wilma Brouwer-Herwig

Ginny loves red and that is her primary program although white, and also lavender, are right up there in her focus. She likes clear white edges, not yellow, and does not do eyes but rather works on the more subtle water marks. She harvests thousands of seeds but only plants about 400 every year in her raised beds in the sunniest corner behind the house. Her operation is small but very efficient and laggards are quickly tossed on the compost heap. Her crosses are short and she does not do the same one more than once. Since devising her parent rating

system she is once again content with the beauties she has been graced with creating.

If you missed her presentations, be sure to visit her garden via the internet at Garden Path Perennials. Take a good look at her 2018 Plum Thunderstruck to confirm that she is indeed on the right gardening path. Her lovelies are not to be confused with those of that other GP (Guy Pierce) out of Florida - Ginny's are bred for the much harsher conditions of the northern tier of states and we are all tremendously grateful for her efforts!! Members of



Char H. and Ginny Pearce enjoying dinner

the Madison group were able to take home some of her plants by being an auction bid winner and lucky folks in the Milwaukee group got to choose one when their name was picked during their Adoption Program cultivar distribution. Thank you Ms. Pearce!



Raven Lore

Gigglefest

Hollywood Premiere

Soul Whisper

Silken Temptress

*Plum
Thunderstruck*

All Hybridizer's Photos

CanAm Classic Impresses Again!

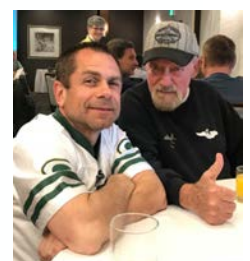
By Rhonda Veroeven



*Monique W. and Eric
Simpson having a blast*

This year marked the 2nd annual travel extravaganza from Madison to Toronto, ON Canada. Three intrepid souls decided to yet again make the long drive and adventure from WI to Canada. Francis and Genni Kleckner allowed me to ride along with them. We would meet up with our fourth trusty sidekick, Monique, when we arrived. The weather was not nearly as tumultuous as our maiden voyage. The travel was without incident.

We arrived on May 3rd, knowing the festivities didn't begin until Friday, but we didn't want to be exhausted for our first speakers. We were able to run a few errands and then decided that we wanted to go for ice cream. Did you know that A&W Rootbeer does NOT have actual ice cream? How is that even possible? We ended up finding some in the hotel gift shop and enjoyed the time chatting in the lobby.



*Paul Pratt discussing
hybridizing with Bob
Faulkner*

CanAm Classic Impresses Again! Continued

By Rhonda Verreven



Finally, on Friday, we went exploring and shopping then met up with some daylily friends for dinner next to the hotel at a great restaurant, Montana's. It was a night of hilarity of epic proportions. Bob Faulkner and Eric Simpson were on a roll which had me literally in tears! I needed a good belly laugh...it is one of my favorite things about attending these events...the fun!

Tom Polston

Region 2's own, Tom Polston, started the show off. He is located at Pleasant Valley Gardens in Dayton, OH. He lives on a 40 acre farm with fountains, statuary, loads of animals, and of course, amazing daylilies. He has many introductions and started with fancy, pretty-faced, ruffles. He is now more known for his super toothy introductions. He also has been working on diploids out of the *H. Rose F Kennedy* line.

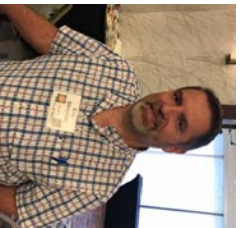
Next up was newcomer, Tim Hobbs, from Warkworth, ON Canada. He is striving for "Southern faces in Northern places." He has been hybridizing for 10 years and has just begun speaking...I may be wrong, but I believe this was his first speaking engagement.

He started by showing his gardens which were quite impressive. He has spiritual features, ponds with streams, amazing companion plants and loads of ornamental grasses, which he says he burns rather than cuts. He is working toward flowers with ruffles and edges that are fancy. He is also starting to play with colored teeth. A red toothed would be pretty impressive. He is even trying to add patterns to toothed ones. Some pretty cutting edge work!



Tim Hobbs

Next came a beautiful memorial for Dr. Betty Fretz. While I never had the opportunity to meet her, the people that spoke of her legacy made me feel like I had lost a friend that day. I admit to tearing up. I think that is the wonder of events such as this. There are real connections made to real people. They are lasting friendships with heart. It was really a beautiful moment.



Eric Simpson

I wasn't sure how Eric Simpson was going to be able to entertain a crowd after the lovely tribute, but he made the transition effortless and touching. As you know from the last newsletter, he is from Blue Ridge Daylilies in Alexander, NC. He focuses on vigorous northern grown plants with interesting color combinations. He has a very distinct look to his daylilies. Bold color choices, nice rounded forms...but he is really moving into patterns on tetraploids, more distinct eyes and edges, and even some diploids. He has a winner in a seedling called "*Papa Pattern*," which is throwing amazing babies! He shared a great line of seedlings out of David Jewell's *H. Spring Heather*. The patterns are really fantastic out of it! He also shared beautiful views of his amazing gardens and photos of many garden visitors. I hope to visit some day soon!

CanAm Classic Impresses Again! Continued

By Rhonda Veroeven

A tough act to follow for sure, but Claudia Conway from Running Fox Farm in Canterbury, New Hampshire gave it her best effort. She has many different focuses. She especially likes patterns and teeth. She started with lots of diversity before she decided the way she wanted to focus and she shared all of her different versions. She also uses what she calls microclimates on her property to have different vignettes. She has worked with round and ruffled bagels, tried a white program, eyes and edges, teeth, ufs, and even color changers. She likes to mentor others, and makes a point to reach out and share with others to help daylilies advance faster. She doesn't believe in working in isolation. I love the collaborative spirit!



Claudia Conway and our Regional President, Sandy Holmes



Jean Sebastian Poulin One of the most surprising of the speakers for me, and quite enjoyable to say the least, was Jean Sebastian Poulin from Levis, Quebec Canada. He studied Philosophy, French Literature, and Computer Science. One thing that was remarkable to me was that while he is a French speaker, he spoke in excellent English to a completely foreign crowd. He had humor (which is very hard to master as a native speaker), and very informational content. While he shared his new hybridizing program (which is a rather small, but well thought out, program), his focus was really on promoting the French Quebec hybridizers. He shared a bit about each of the local hybridizers and honored them beautifully. Also, he wanted to make sure that he taught people about daylilies through a wonderful facebook called Le Projet Hemerocallis. I have joined and it is a wonderful community. You will see much more of the Quebec hybridizers in the near future; of that, I am certain.



Bob Faulkner

Wrapping up the program was our WDS club speaker from last May, Bob Faulkner, from Dayton, Ohio. His garden is a magical place called Natural Selection Daylilies. Having been to his garden, I can really see how everything he does has a meaning both spiritually, and pragmatically. I still giggle when he talks about thinking he was crazy to spend \$50 on one plant...look what it started! He wanted us to remember that the beginning is the most important part of the work. Set up a good foundation and the rest will come. His patterned diploids are second to none. They really speak for themselves!

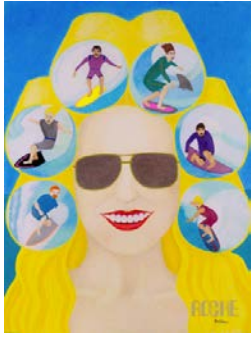
Overall, I am already planning my trip to Toronto next year. I know that there will be the same four of us next year...will you consider joining us? Who knows, you just may get a piece of red velvet unicorn cake if you do!



Two special unicorns with other unicorns (AKA David Jewell and your WDS President!)

WDS Member to Donate Profits from Art Opening

By Thomas Rocheleau and Rhonda Veroeven



*Kowabunga Dude
By Thomas
Rocheleau*

WDS Member, Thomas Rocheleau, is excited to announce that he will be featured in an art show. He has showed you many of his pieces at meetings in the past. He is offering all of the profits from any sales to WDS, so please consider checking out his show and encourage others to attend as well. Thank you, Tom, for your generosity and artistic talents!

Where? U-Frame It located on the corner of E. Johnson and N. Paterson across from Bernie's Rock Shop

When? July 14 to Aug 31.

What? It will be part of a show with another artist. He will have 12 awesome, brand new pieces there

Make sure to bring your sunglasses like the woman in Kowabunga Dude!

Hours: Mon. & Tues: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Wed. thru Sat: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday: Closed

Summer Bus Tour and Self-Driving Tours

By Sue Christoffersen

We are so happy to announce that we will be having our bus trip this summer to our own localish members' gardens. On July 14th, those that already registered will be in for quite a treat. Sorry, we are booked. You can always drive yourself, but your lunch will not be included.

First, we will see Diane & John Goodman's gardens (W14146 Selwood Dr in Prairie du Sac), then go to Barb & Rick Kaja's garden (N2194 Hwy 188 in Lodi) after that.

We will then have lunch at the Lake Wisconsin Country Club and then head west to Francis and Genni Kleckner's garden (32494 Bogus Valley Ln in Muscoda).

Water will be provided on the bus. We will be boarding the bus at the Dutch Mill Park & Ride at 7:45 AM, leaving at 8:00 AM, and returning at 4:30 PM.

On Sunday, July 15th three other gardens that are open for tours for the 2019 National Convention are open for us. Even if you did not attend the previous day, you can drive to visit these gardens. The gardens included are Conrad & Mary Wrzesinski's, garden (3010 Elm Ln just outside Middleton), Tom & Rosemary Kleinheintz's garden (104 West Lakeview on Madison's East side, and Wilma Brouwer-Herrwig & Jim Herwig's garden (117 S High St in Deerfield.)

Karen Watson-Newlin and Rob Newlin's garden, 7699 Almor Dr in Verona will also be on the 2019 National Convention Tour. Their gardens, due to a conflict, is not part of the WDS bus tour. However, they are having an Open Garden, Thursday, July 12, 4:00- 8:00 pm. You have received emails about this previously.



A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS

by Wilma Brouwer-Herwig



Barbara Nickel, Wilma, Duane Nickel, and Joseph Hill taking a break for a tasty lunch provided by Wilma.

Photo by Pat Sturdevant

Little does one know when the fickle finger of fate may decide to point in your direction. My turn came the day before my 21st wedding anniversary.

A day full of October sunshine and promise. Unfortunately, the promise that got delivered that day was not a happy one. I won't go into the many unpleasant details about a fall, winter, and spring filled with doctor visits, major surgery, and treatments. Instead, I would like to concentrate on all the wonderful people who called, visited, sent cards, sent emails, brought food, gave thoughtful gifts like the beautifully handcrafted hat for my very cold and denuded pate or the cheery handmade winter scarf to chase my chills away or the delicious traditional Dutch pastry treat brought directly from Amsterdam, sent flowers, and most importantly kept broadcasting healing thoughts and prayers out into the universe for me. Until you go through a serious struggle, you don't truly realize how even the most mundane of gestures is absolutely to be treasured and marveled at and appreciated to your core.

So why am I writing this in our daylily newsletter?? Because the kind acts did not end when I got through my last medical procedure. I had lost a combination of over 5 months work in my gardens since last year.....from most of last fall and then again through most of May. That's a lot of time away from a large and still expanding garden. This would not be so critical if it was only my husband and I who get to enjoy it, but the WDS signed on to host the 2019 AHS National

*I get by
with a little help
from my friends*

- John Lennon -

Convention...oh, dear, 600 attendees tromping through my piece of heaven!! The HOT weather and the RAIN brought an overabundance of weeds. Those two thorns on top of my diminished capacity stopped cold the revamping of some beds and some reconstruction projects. The woodchuck and the chippies both added to the mess by undermining a brick path and two block walls. What in the world was I to do?? My husband cannot help with the physical labor due to the "minor inconvenience" of being in a wheelchair for 35 years. Happily, he can cook and takes the pressure off on that score almost daily. But I was extremely overwhelmed regarding the outside work and sinking fast with the impossibility and the weight of it all.

And then who comes to my rescue with garden tools and sunscreen (and possibly bug spray) in hand but Pat Sturdevant, long-time WDS member and dearest of dear friends, with 10 other members in tow!! On one of the

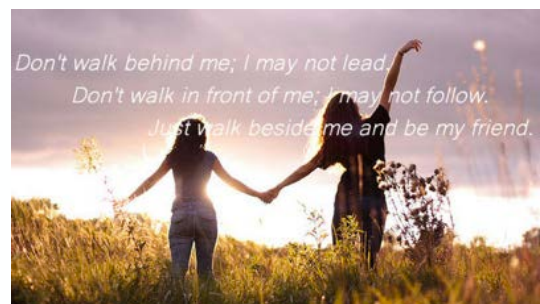
hottest and most humid Saturdays this month came - in ones and twos and threes - some of the finest people on earth!!! kept at it for four solid hours! It was one of the most humbling and touching acts of kindness I have ever been the

fortunate recipient of. It brought, and still brings me to tears. Dents in the chaos were made and my heart (and bleak outlook) was lightened. There are not enough superlatives in the world to convey my appreciation to all of these special folks: Pat first and foremost because of her rallying of these troopers, then June, Skip, Monique, Barb and Duane, Rhonda and Andrew, Sue and Joseph, plus my new "yard man" Carter, a blessing unto himself!



Wilma's new yard man, Carter, hauling a wheelbarrow filled with mulch.

Photo by Pat Sturdevant



A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS -Continued

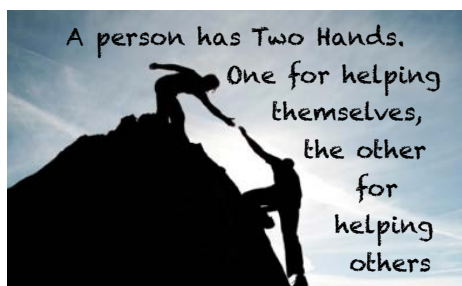
by Wilma Brouwer-Herwig

My team of volunteers went way above and beyond! Many of them will also be sharing their help and their precious time in another National Convention Tour Garden soon. The hosts here are also feeling the pressure due to both husband and wife contending with serious and ongoing health issues. A work day is scheduled for them, too, and they are equally as grateful as me for the assistance.

Both these gardens and their owners need help as they have encountered unforeseen and debilitating setbacks. We continue to plug away despite our travails, but I ask all of you to consider what can you do to help now. We will need your commitment when the Convention is imminent, but you can help out this year, too.



Dirty and tired, Rhonda Veroeven, Skip Hake, and Andrew Veroeven have a lunch break
Photo by
Pat Sturdevant



WDS voted in the majority to host the National Convention so I am asking you all, specifically, to lend a hand. This is a club with many active, enthusiastic members. Many hands make light work, but it cannot always be toil from the same people. So, help out when you can, where you can. Our

focus is on the gardens on tour for 2019, but don't forget the recent plea for longstanding WDS members, Jim and Kitty Fitzpatrick, either. Volunteer a few hours of your day to one of your fellow daylily buds. Contact Pat to make mutually agreeable arrangements.



Monique Warnke Laying down newspaper before the mulch is added to one of Wilma's beds.
Photo by
Pat Sturdevant

We want our 2019 shindig to be the absolute best and our gardens to shine as brightly, as uniquely as possible. Volunteering will make you proud that you helped make that possible.

The Theme Continues- Volunteers Needed!!!

by Marilyn Leccese

Looking for Volunteers -- Preparing for 2019 AHS Convention Garden Tours

Whether we have a small backyard garden or one that is quite large -- we want it to look the best it can. This is especially true for our WDS members whose gardens will be part of the AHS Garden Tour next July when we have visitors from all parts of the U.S. and Canada.

In preparation for next summer's tours, we are looking for volunteers who are willing to help start the process of getting the garden's ready. And, we know that by putting some time and effort in this summer, it will make the garden prep job next summer that much easier.

The garden hosts will identify the specific work to be done; we expect it will primarily be weeding and mulching. Good work crews will make the job go quickly and with a great group of people we will help the hosts feel really positive about sharing their garden with others.



If you are willing to help with this project, please contact Marilyn Leccese, mleccese1200@gmail.com or Katie Harriman, kharriman@uwalumni.com. (Marilyn and Katie are 2019 AHS Convention Volunteers co-chairs.) Please provide specific information of when you are available, i.e., weekdays/weekends/ morning/ afternoon.

Ready or Not, Next Year's National Attendees Will Come!

Myrtle Beach National Makes a Splash

By Rhonda Veroeven

As a teacher, the end of the school year is truly bittersweet. We have nurtured and given every bit of ourselves into this group of students---so much so that we feel like a family. Saying goodbye is never an easy thing to do (okay, almost never easy...there was that one year...). This year was especially difficult as I had to say goodbye two days before school ended. Honestly, it was reminiscent of when my father passed away suddenly without really getting to say goodbye. I did the best to put closure on the year...and then upon hearing from parents that there were lots of tears at my absence the last two days, my poor heart crumbled. You see, I had no choice. Monique and I were required to speak at the National Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC. I let my students and families know at the beginning of the year, but discussing things and having reality hit are two totally different scenarios.

Well, after frantically putting a close to a school year, which is stressful in regular years, I threw together my things and embarked upon the great trek to our friends in Myrtle Beach, SC for the AHS/ADS National Convention. The flight and Uber driver were flawless, and I was checked in without an ounce of problems. They really had the registration running like a well-oiled machine! Monique and I were able to go to the behind-the-scenes areas to get the whole picture. We took away a lot of great pointers and gleaned many ideas that will work for us. After registering, and getting the tour of the facilities, we scanned the raffle, boutique, and plant sale. Again, lots of good ideas gained...some things won't work for us, and there are things we would do differently due to our circumstances. Every national is different.



*Rhonda Veroeven, Jim Cruise,
Monique Warnke, and Jacob
Braun arriving at the beach*

When we came out of the boutique, Monique and I ran into Jacob Braun, E-News and Social Media Special Chair for AHS and Region 2, and his wonderful partner, Jim Cruise, Video and Photographic Awards Chair for AHS. We were “hangry” and needed to eat soon, and they were heading to the beach, so we went together. We enjoyed some amazing seafood, a requirement when you are on the coast, and a wonderful walk along the beach. During our time together, we were invited to join them for dinner. We quickly accepted the offer.

After cleaning up from the beach, it was time for dinner. I had no idea what I was exactly in for. We drove with Eric Simpson and Bob Selman of Blue Ridge Daylilies, and met the “crew” at Sole Italian Restaurant. The outside had me questioning my choice of accepting the invitation...and who goes out for Italian when on the beach. My opinion was quickly changed when I saw Jacob and his entourage meet us. I knew that regardless of the food a great time would be had. Our guestlist was Jacob and Jim, Lois Hart (Region 11 Director, CFO, and Publications Director) and her daughter Deb, Greg and Elizabeth Trotter (AHS Registrar), Nikki Schmith, (Past AHS President and current Region 2 Director) Scott Elliott (AHS Vice President, Region 5 Director and Judges Special Chair), Robert Selman, Eric Simpson, and Monique and me. At one point, I looked around the table and couldn't believe how I was sitting at the table with these people! Oh my goodness, any worries I had about the food was easily erased when the appetizers arrived. Fiocchi...Oh. Em. Gee! Delicious. And my main course of fresh seafood over pasta was amazing as well. The food was consumed, beverages sipped, and conversations lingered. It was truly an event. I would say it was an amazing way to kick off my summer! We arrived at the auction a bit later than we would have liked, and took loads of pictures of the setup, copious notes of how things went, and adjustments we would be making. Myrtle Beach's auction was very successful and the bids were high and people were happy with their newly acquired purchases!



Nikki Schmith's dinner selfie



Monique, Heidi Douglas, and Rhonda

Morning came quickly Friday, the first day of tours. There was a snafu with breakfast which was of no fault to the convention planning committee. We all survived! We loaded the bus, with our trusty bus captains of Robert Selman and Eric Simpson. Loading went smoothly and we were off! Our first stop of the day was to Browns Ferry Gardens of Charles and Heidi Douglas. They have a large commercial nursery and are an AHS display garden. They have beds loaded with over 10,000 of their seedlings and also those of Gene Tanner. The display beds of their



Just one of the many evaluation and display beds at Browns Ferry Gardens just loaded with wonderful clumps!

introductions are mesmerizing! My wish list was large! Probably my very favorite part of their garden was a large air-conditioned sales building that was filled with loads of treats! They were wonderful hosts. I was grateful to see it as it is rumored that their garden is about to be downsized.



One of the perfect touches they added to their garden

Our second stop was yet another AHS Display Garden, Canterbury Gardens home of Johnny and Odessa Bourne. This was an immaculate garden FILLED with a wide variety of daylilies. They have lush shady spots and amazing trees and vines growing that I had never seen before. Their sculptures and seating areas were wonderful places to take breaks in the very hot and humid day. This really felt like it was more of a public garden than a private one. It was so well maintained that not a branch was out of place! Truly a stunner! I took a break near a small koi pond and had a wonderful historical conversation about the garden with Johnny; such a kind hearted, southern gentleman.



Gardens upon gardens like this one filled their beautiful property

Lastly, we went to have lunch at Brookgreen Gardens, which is a large sculpture garden. I do think it would take several days to truly get through the whole garden. It was massive in scale! First we had a delicious build-your-own salad and sandwich lunch, then it was up to us how we spent the rest of the day.



Beautiful Sculpture

You see, the busses were heading back one at a time as they filled with the last one leaving at 4:30 pm. Monique and I joined forces with hybridizer, Mandy McMahon, from MI to tour the gardens. The huge sculptures were beautiful and meticulous. We went to gardens which included blooming lotus flowers---gah, they were stunning and very huge. There were hydrangeas of all colors, styles, and shapes. Magnolias unlike any I had seen before, and lots of wildlife. Signs warning of alligators were not kidding. We saw two while we were there! We ended our time on a boat tour in which we learned so much of the historical background of the rice plantations and the labor that built them. It is on the river that we saw two alligators. After our tour, we boarded the bus and at exactly 4:30pm we left.

When we got back to the hotel, people had freshened up and been back at the hotel for hours...not us, we packed it all in and were "hot messes." After quick showers, we were again presentable and enjoyed a nice plated meal. The evening presentation included a few words from the Region 15 president, Nancy Womack. Then we were entertained by the OD Shag club. Which was a specific type of dancing. They were terrific! Afterwards, Judie Branson, AHS President conducted the AHS Annual Meeting and individual awards were given out. One wonderful surprise was former WDS member, Ed Kraus, who recently moved to Ohio, was awarded the Region 2 Service Award! Congrats to Ed! This was a highly deserved award for all Ed has done for the region!.



Mandy McMahon, Monique and Rhonda getting ready to go see alligators...which do, in fact, exist there!



A Southern Charm Garden wouldn't be complete without a Southern Belle

Saturday's breakfast was better, and loading the buses was an experience as the circus was performing at our hotel and we had to walk past elephants to get on our bus...that was quite a sight! Our first garden of the day was Southern Charm Gardens, homes of Ann and Marlon Howell and Jeanette and Lloyd Howell. These gardens are actually adjoining properties and really flow beautifully into one another and you can't tell where one begins and the other ends. It was filled with quaint whimsy and fun! And the daylilies...oh my goodness, the clumps were massive and I added no less than 14 wishlist items based on this garden alone! My absolutely favorite part of the garden was a special display that they put together for upcoming nationals! It had directional signs, and even a Brett Favre jersey! How cool was that?!?



A part of the Special Upcoming Nationals Display!



ONE of the many sale beds at I Can't Believe It's Not a Dip

Our second garden of the day was the I Can't Believe It's a Dip garden of Duane Therrien and Ed Zahler. This is a large commercial garden with a home garden quality. The beds were PACKED with blooms and massive clumps. They had large pots filled with daylilies that you could purchase (I admit one came home with me). There were many times that I was looking at the diploids and really couldn't believe that they were dips. Incredible colors, ruffles, substance and plant habit! They also had wonderful quiet places to stroll through which included rock gardens, water features, a zen garden and loads of tropicals! I am not sure I caught all of the garden... but I did try a boiled peanut. They are ...different...not something I need to have again.



This may have been a commercial garden, but there were loads of personal touches



Mulching with dead headed blooms

Our tour wrapped up at the garden of Don Albers. Don lives on an old hog farm, and if you ever get the opportunity to ask him about the history, take that chance. It was fascinating. Don also used the deadhead buds to mulch with. I need to say that I thought that was a creative use for discarded beauty! He has mostly historic flowers with traditional looks...and his new hybridized lilies are some of the darkest, most rich in saturated colors that I had seen. We were there at the end of a very hot day, and there was no melting, weeping, or slick on any of his! They looked like velvet!



Super dark, rich, saturated colors on this Albers' seedling

We had an amazing southern barbeque at the Belin Methodist Church. While there I had very interesting conversations with new friends from all over the country. After lunch I took a lazy stroll in the zen garden paths outside of the church.

Upon arriving back at the hotel, I was ready for a shower and nap! That, however, wasn't in the cards. Eric Simpson and Robert Selman had asked if we would like to go to the beach for a while with them. It was an offer, I, again, was glad I didn't refuse. We had a wonderful time splashing around in the water and watching the "always serious" Eric and Bob play in the surf. Truly any stress that was there melted away with each crash of a wave!



Eric Simpson and Bob Selman taking a much needed rest in the waves

When we returned to the hotel, we had to attend a meeting for future conventions, and after that, I had to get the technology for our presentation set up and tested. By the time I finished, people were arriving all dressed up...I needed to shower and get ready as quickly as I could! We threw ourselves together and headed down to a wonderful dinner. Then we enjoyed Claude Carpenter sharing the AHS Awards Ceremony. After that the convention awards were given out (Heidi Douglas' *H. Breathing in Snowflakes* won the President's Cup for best overall daylily clump at the national).



One of Heidi Douglas' many clumps of H. Breathing in Snowflakes

Then Monique and I had to give our presentation. Eeek! No big deal, right? Only 600 of your closest daylily friends there if we messed it up. We infused information and humor and showed our welcome video. People seemed to really enjoy it, and there are a lot of people that are planning to come to our national based upon the feedback we received directly after our presentation. We did our best, and I sure hope we represented the WDS well! I was just glad I didn't fall on stage!



Ed Kraus with his Regional Volunteer Award

While I had to end my school year a bit early, I think this was a great way to bring in Summer! A huge thank you to the Georgetown Daylily Club for putting together such a phenomenal national! A special thank you to Kathy Tinius and Heidi Douglas, the co-chairs, for all of their impressive work, and being so open to sharing everything with us!

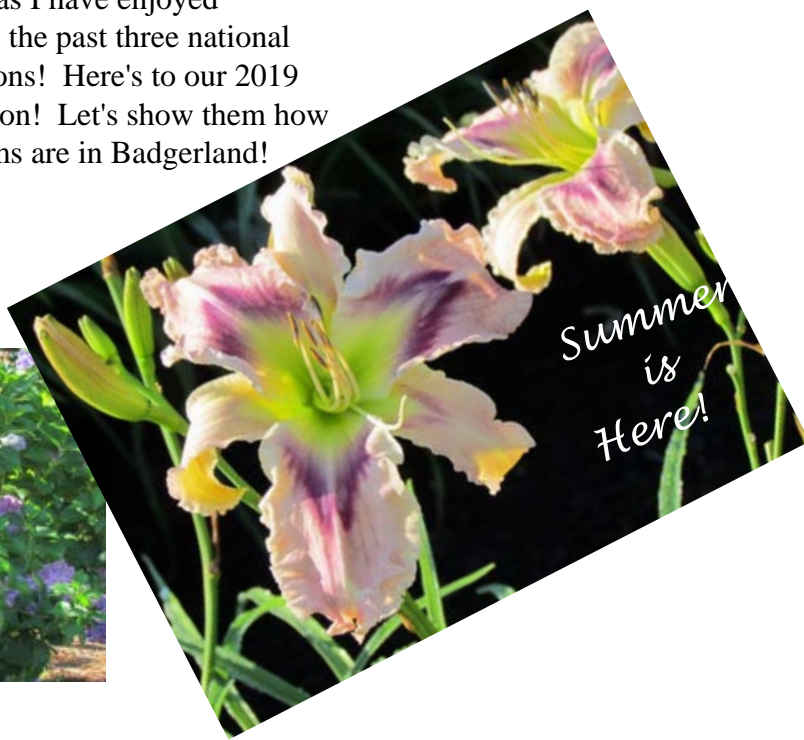


WDS donated a large basket filled with all WI items. We are holding some Mouse House Cheese House Cheese.

So we are up next. Our registration is open and many have already registered. So ready or not, here they come. I have complete faith in our club that we will put together one amazing national. It is my hope that our visitors will enjoy our national as much as I have enjoyed attending the past three national conventions! Here's to our 2019 Convention! Let's show them how the blooms are in Badgerland!



Monique and Rhonda beginning their presentation





Wisconsin Daylily Society Newsletter
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"The summer night is like a
perfection of thought."
-Wallace Stevens