



Wisconsin Daylily Society, Inc. Newsletter

Issue 73 Spring, 2020 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 Mike Stafford

"May you live in interesting times." This historic quote was not on my mind when I surveyed the garden 10 days or so ago. The sun was out, it was 60 degrees and my thoughts had turned to hope....hope that the new cultivars made it through the winter, hope that the rabbits/rodents hadn't caused too much mayhem and hope the coming growing season would turn out well for our members and friends. Ten days later, those thoughts have turned to something quite different.....uncertainty. The advent of COVID-19 has introduced this uncertainty into everyone's physical, emotional, and fiscal lives. It's been quite an eye opener. Where it hasn't produced uncertainty is in our gardens. Ten days later is proof of certainty---lilac & tree peony buds are starting to swell, daffodil & other assorted bulbs pushing up through mulch, and in some semi-protected areas, our flower, the Hemerocallis faintly awoken from slumber. This is why we seed/plant/winnow in the fall, the unbridled optimism (certainty) that our efforts will be rewarded. Come on Spring !

Your New WDS Board

President: Mike Stafford, 2521 Moland St. Madison, WI 53704 608-204-3824, Mike.stafford@doa.state.wi.us
(Term ends '20)

Vice-President: Pat Sturdevant 1949 Sheridan St., Madison, WI 53704, 608-244-1551
patstur004@hotmail.com (Term ends '20)

Secretary: Bobbi Johnson 405 Robin St. Rockland, WI 54653, 608-377-3211 raaschbj@yahoo.com
(Term ends '21)

Treasurer: Sue Hill, 8495 County Rd G, Verona, WI 53593, 608-832-1579, bunnisoo@aol.com,
(Term ends '20)

Steven King, 4426 Hammersley Rd., Madison, WI 53711, 608-277-9789 acupleasur@aol.com (Term ends '21)

Monique Warnke, 6596 Chestnut Circle, Windsor, WI 53598, 608-846-5299 mwarnke@centurytel.net
(Term ends '20)

Rhonda Veroeven, 6674 Windsor Ridge Lane, Windsor, WI 53598, 608-345-0395 (Term ends '21)

Genni Kleckner, 2494 Bogus Valley Ln, Muscoda, WI 53573, 608-739-9160, f.g.kleckner@gmail.com (Term ends in '21)

Web Administrator: R. Vaughan James, 207 Alden Dr, Madison, WI 53705, 608-218-9384 rvjames@wisc.edu

Upcoming WDS Events

May 16-Kirsten Hatfield-Dorsets and Daylilies, Zanesville, OH SOMS, Noon.

June 13-National Guest Plants Auction, Stoner Prairie Elementary School, 5830 Devoro Road, Fitchburg, Noon.

July 10-12 -Off the Beaten Path Region 2 Summer Meeting, WDS will be offering bus transportation. You must register and book your own hotel room. See www.region2daylily.org/ for registration details. More information is coming soon.

July 19- Dazzling Daylily Show, Olbrich Botanical Gardens 10am

Aug 1-WDS Annual Adoption-Auction, SOMS, Noon (Please arrive early with your previously adopted plants to allow the set up team to be ready by noon)

Aug 15-16-WDS Plant Sale
Saturday 10-4, Sunday 11-3 Olbrich Park

Sept. 12-Scott Elliott-Scott Elliott Daylilies at Maneki Neko Gardens Ellabelle, GA Place to be announced, Noon.

October 17- WDS 30th Anniversary Annual Meeting- David Kirchhoff and Mort Morss Daylily World, Lawrenceburg, KY Noon, Place TBD

Mandala Painting Class Another Success

By: Sue Hill

Despite Mother Nature's attempt to throw a curve ball at us by way of a snowstorm, many brave WDS members ventured out on January 25th to eagerly learn about the ancient art form of Mandala Dot painting. For several people, this was the second class they attended, having found the one last year thoroughly enjoyable. The attendees used rocks as their canvas, most of which were gathered during hikes in the woods, along rivers and on the shores of various lakes.

The word, "Mandala" means "circle" in the Hindu language of Sanskrit. It has a spiritual and symbolism tie, and the belief that life is both never-ending and shares a connection between everything in the Universe. It is used as an artform to promote creativity and relaxation. As the artist starts working on their piece, the hope is to have a gradual feeling of relaxation by the release of inner tension, all the while allowing their creativity to blossom as the art takes on a form with whatever colors the artist is drawn to using.

Our very own "Dotty Lama" is Becky Robinson, a true guru in our eyes! She demonstrated her gift of dotting in circles with the most vibrant of colors transform a mere stone in to a one of a kind works of art. The dotting is done with various tools that, when dipped in paint, are used to layer symmetrical designs. It starts with the most basic placement of the dot paints and the design then flows outward from there. Becky brought several exquisite examples of her work for us to view, leaving us all with visions of bringing home something just as beautiful.

All would agree it was a tremendously fun morning exploring a beautiful craft and sharing lots of laughs (and food, as WDS members always have to graze during any meeting). One does not need to be artistically gifted to try Mandala dot painting. It only takes a desire to hold a simple tool, select paint colors that are appealing to the eye and touch the paint to the object to be transformed.

Does Becky find all her painted rocks to be works of art? Nope.

Those that really capture her heart when done find special spots in her award-winning gardens. Others meet the sanding block and lose their layers of paint, only to be painted on again. Still others end up in her pockets as she goes for hikes and get placed in a spot to be found by some passerby who most certainly feels an inner joy in taking home their dot painted treasure.



Becky Robinson giving instructions



A valiant effort by Rhonda Veroeven



A super fancy example



Mandala Painting is not just for rocks!!!



Wilma Bouwer-Herwig showing she is multi-talented



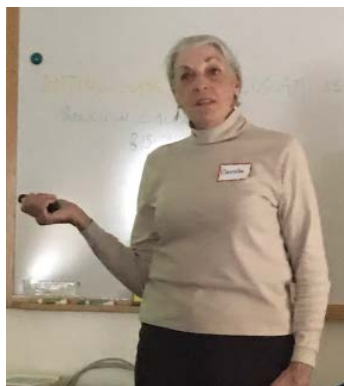
Marla Robinson shows her artistic talents



Sue Hill and Pat Sturdevant being creative

One Cold and Snowy Day

By: Rosemary Kleinheinz



Carole Hunter



Bobbi Johnson

One cold and snowy day in January the WDS board was faced with a difficult decision – to hold our scheduled meeting (Hybridizer Showcase Part 1) or to cancel it. Fortunately, they decided to go ahead, and pray for the best. And the best showed up, and two of our hybridizers (the ones who had to come the farthest) showed us the best of their hybridizing programs.

Carole Hunter from Prairie's Edge Garden in Rockford, IL, is eager to bring to market daylilies that will keep right on blooming – at least until frost sets in! Seriously, she has set her sights on “northern instant rebloom” and appears quite successful at it. I love ‘h. Luna’s Moonsterpiece’ and the

story behind its name. Be sure to ask her to tell you the story.

Bobbi Johnson from Rockland, WI, showed us some real beauties that she has introduced and others that will be coming. I especially liked ‘Chasing Daylight,’ a bright peach blossom with a pretty extended purple eye. I think Bobbi’s proudest “baby” is her daughter Gwyn who is following in her mother’s footsteps with her own introductions, including my favorite, ‘Brindle Claw’ out of ‘Almira Bone Jackson.’

Those of us who ventured out in the snow were truly rewarded and very glad we made the effort to be there.

In Memory of Sue Christoffersen

By: Rhonda Veroeven

The Wisconsin Daylily Society unexpectedly lost our dear friend and member, Sue Christoffersen at the young age of 75, on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019.

Outside of daylilies, Sue worked as a social worker which is completely appropriate as her primary focus in life was helping people, especially the children in her community. had a true passion for gardening and was the past President of Madison Area Master Gardeners Association, a member of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, and a very active member of the Wisconsin Day Lily Society. Sue is survived by her husband, Bruce; daughter, Julie; sons, Andy and Vinny; special grandson, Walter; brother, Leroy; several nieces, nephews, cousins and in-laws; and the many friends she made.

Sue was an incredibly kind and interesting friend. She and her husband, Bruce, were the incredible duo and attended as many daylily events and volunteered actively in any capacity that they could. I personally had the great honor of walking through many gardens together with her on many of our activities together. There is a huge hole in all of our hearts now in her absence.

The entire society are here in love and solidarity to support her amazing husband, Bruce; and are here to help him in any capacity that he may need.



Sue sitting on a big rock at
Bob Faulkner's garden



Sue taking a quick break at the
Wade-Gatton Garden

February 15 Meeting at West Ag Station

By: Ruth Horrall

Our new WDS president, Mike Stafford (mounted on crutches earned from a spill on ice outside a UW sporting event at the Kohl Center) began the February meeting precisely at noon. He remarked that the photo contest and hybridizers' pictures were the perfect antidote to the previous weeks' weather weirdnesses!

The first order of business was a potential change of our monthly meeting hour: noon or return to one o'clock? AHS national board members needed adequate time after the monthly meetings for their business discussions. We've met at noon for about one and one-half years to accommodate their needs. Discussion followed and a hand vote (21 to 18) decided we'll continue the noon hour assemblage.

Barry Rowe, chairman of our biennial Dazzling Daylily Show, informed us that it will be staged this year at Olbrich Botanical Gardens on Sunday, July 19. Exhibitors should arrive at around 8 am for preparation of entries and the show opens at 10 am. Awards will be presented at show's end. More detailed information will be forthcoming in a future newsletter.

Approximately 18 members stood for applause when Sue Hill, Garden Expo Chairman, expressed her appreciation for their dedicated work on a very snowy 2020 Expo weekend. Pat Sturtevant thanked Sue Hill for re-configuring our Expo booth and for enrolling so many booth workers. She announced 10 new members joined WDS at Expo!

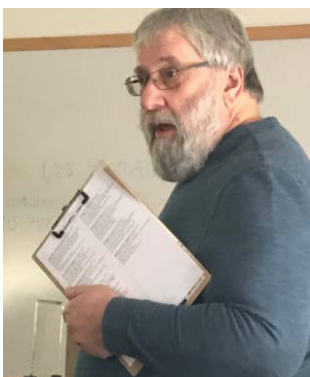
Attention was called to WDS aprons (@ \$15), free daylily seed packets left over from Expo, and thank-you notes from last year's recipients of our cash donations: All located near the door for our perusal.

Mike requested two or three volunteers who could come an hour prior to meetings to assist with setting up and for post meeting clean-up. The task has too often fallen on the same people.

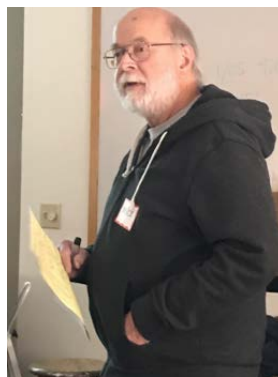
Nancy Deer mentioned she had missed both Sue Christoffersen's funeral and our weather re-scheduled January meeting due to lack of internet technology. Wilma Brower-Herwig will become her "media assistant."

When Mike asked if new members were present, Phil Timm stood for applause and informed us he lives in Rockford.

After a break during which most of the donated, tantalizing treats were demolished, Carole Hunter, president of the hybridizers' group, asked Francis Kleckner to show his wife Genni's creations. Genni recently won the Englerth award at our AHS National meeting. She has registered more than 70 cultivars. Her hybridizing goal is to create new patterns. We were impressed by many of Kleckner's vibrant slides, especially by her *Fire Engine Orange*. Francis said someone asked him how he liked living with his award-winning wife. His reply, "I put weights on her feet."



Francis Kleckner



Bruce Christoffersen



Jim Prochaska

February 15 Meeting at West Ag Station, Continued

By: Ruth Horrall

Our second presenter, Bruce Christoffersen, began his presentation with a heartfelt thank you to many members who had written him after Sue's funeral. That moment and so many others invoked the Gemütlich spirit of our club. We are more than just an organization, we're a family.

Bruce's hybridizing began in 2015, using free daylily seed from John Kulpa's crosses. Sadly, every seedling on a line of those seeds provided lunch for a greedy mole. (Is there any other kind?)

Very impressive were two of his seedlings from a recent cross. Each flower boasted great patterning in rust tones or in petal striation.

Bruce was not distracted by three member's young children, amusing West Ag's adorable house cat at his feet during his talk.

Our final presenter, Jim Prochaska, presented slides of his, Sharon's and son Doug's newest crosses. We've long coveted their tall northern-grown reds, bearing large blossoms and generous, often 5-way branching. Jim is naming two new cultivars for his grand children.

I didn't hear the parents responsible for the "sort of purple" face with an ORANGE throat. It was stunningly unusual! So different.

The d- - -d deer subject arose and partial solutions were offered for our too common problem: 1) Jim Prochaska said deck daylily stems with garlic tubes; 2) Carole Hunter suggested spreading Milorganite around them; 3) Skip Hake offered spraying Liquid Fence. Whatever the abolishing method for the problem was tried, there's total agreement that deer can and will munch our beloved plants with undeterred delight.

Carole Hunter thanked our large crowd in attendance for coming to this second hybridizer's slide show. Conrad Wrzesinski, our photo contest chairman, announced the winners of the photo contest that were determined during the meeting. Entries were so artistically shot that voting was difficult and ties resulted. Conrad urged next year's photographers to submit entries earlier to avoid last minute stress. The winners were:

Category 1 Single Flower Genni Kleckner and Scott Elliott

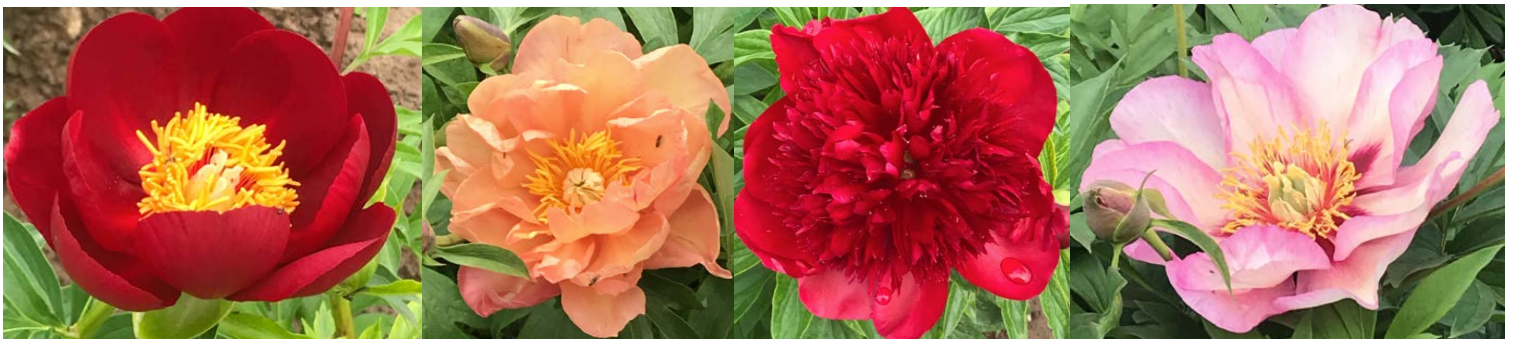
Category 2 Clumps Cynthia Wadsworth and Sharon Prochaska

Category 3 Landscapes Becky Robinson and Karen Watson-Newlin

Category 4 Artistic (and fun) Andrew Veroeven and Karen Ruen

I added "fun" to Category 4 because Andrew's shot caught a self-satisfied frog winking at us from a daylily.

Mike Stafford drew numbers from a bag held by our discerning prize purchaser, Sharon Lonergan. We all won some new garden gadget and drove home with memories of brand new daylily creations and a most pleasant afternoon.



Winners of the Fifteenth Annual WDS Photo Contest

By Conrad J. Wrzesinski



*Judy Schaefer's entry of
'Lovie'*



*Scott Elliott's entry of
'You, Me, and Bob'*



*Genni Kleckner's entry of
'Peacock Candy'*

To usher in the 15th annual WDS Photo Contest an exciting change took place. Previously Category Three featured a daylily clump with companion plants or multiple daylilies in a garden or landscape setting or a garden critter landing on or nestled in a daylily flower. From the variety of photos that have been submitted in more recent photo contests, it became apparent that the focus of Category Three was too broad and needed to be changed. The focus of Category Three was narrowed. A Category Four entitled, Creative Artistry, was added. These changes are reflected in the category descriptions and vote totals that follow.

This year had a total 130 entries. This sets a new record for the number of contest entries. The previous record of 91 entries was set in 2018. The WDS Photo Contest has come a long way since the first contest was held in 2006 in which there was one category and with 45 entries.

For the contest each WDS Member could submit a maximum of four entries. The four entries could all be submitted in one category or distributed among the four categories described below.

Category 1: Single Flower – Close up of a single bloom without companion plants or other daylilies prominent in the background. Category 1 proved the most popular with 38 entries.

Category 2: Clump – Group of two more daylily flowers without companion plants, or other daylilies prominent in the background. Category 2 had 34 entries.

Category 3: Daylilies in the Landscape – A daylily clump with companion plants or multiple daylilies in a garden or landscape setting. Category 3 had 36 entries.

Category 4: Creative Artistry – A daylily viewed from a different perspective or a garden critter landing on or nestled in a daylily flower. This new category had 22 entries.

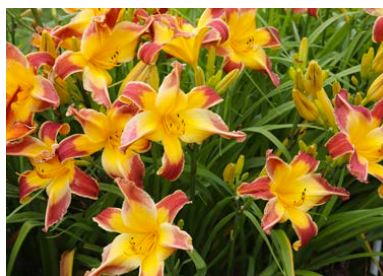
At the February WDS Meeting each member voted for their favorite photo in each category. Two winners were selected in each category, with the exception of Category 1 in which there was a three-way tie.

In Category 1 the winners were Scott Elliott's entry of 'You, Me and Bob,' Genni Kleckner's entry of 'Peacock Candy' and Judy Schaefer's entry of 'Lovie.'



Winners of the Fifteenth Annual WDS Photo Contest, Continued

By Conrad J. Wrzesinski



*Sharon Prochaska's entry of
'Highland Alien Eyes'*



*Cynthia Wadsworth's entry of
'Jackie Canner'*



*Karen Rueden's creative entry
featuring individual blooms*



*Karen Watson-Newlin's beautiful
landscape entry*

In Category 2 Cynthia Wadsworth's winning entry featured a striking photo of a clump of 'Jackie Canner' accented with an ornamental star in the background. Sharon Prochaska's winning entry featured a large clump of 'Highland Alien Eyes' with colorful flowers filling the entire photo.



*Winners of the photo contest
that were in attendance*

In Category 3 the two winners were Becky Robinson with a photo in a garden setting featuring daylilies, interspersed with perennials accented with tall true lilies providing a sentential over the garden and Karen Watson-Newlin with daylilies, companion plants, shrubs and evergreens drawing the eye into the bright colorful photo.

In Category 4 the two winners were and Karen Rueden featuring an arrangement of individual daylily blossoms forming a panoply of color, and Andrew Veroeven with a photo of a little critter with an almost smile like expression nestled in a daylily flower.

Each Contest winner will receive a certificate for a free plant of their choice at the WDS Daylily Sale in August and their choice of a mug or tile artistically imprinted with their winning photo by WDS Member, R. Vaughn James. The winning photos are featured on the WDS web site (www.wisdaylilysoc.org).

WDS Members are encouraged to photograph their favorite daylilies this summer for entry in the Sixteenth Annual WDS Photo Contest, which will be held in 2021.



*Andrew Veroeven's happy
frog creative entry*



*Becky Robinson's beautiful
landscape entry*



2020 Garden Expo Another Success

By Sue Hill



Beautiful daylily photo display



Members helping attendees



Informational materials

Our WDS Booth at Garden Expo was once again a fixture in getting the word out on our remarkable club, our love for daylilies, and how to care for the many varieties recognized by the AHS. The event attendee total was up by more than 1,100 for Friday alone, keeping our volunteers busy sharing their knowledge until the doors closed for the evening. Saturday was really hopping and it was not unusual to see everyone who was manning the booth, pointing out info on our display boards, answer the many questions people had, or getting new members signed up. We had several examples of publications for display and handouts on club info for joining our club. There were a few new faces who came to help out and joined forces with seasoned booth volunteers. One of the greatest joys I have always had is being able to stand back and seeing people helping others. The enthusiasm was palpable. Sometimes we meet some fun characters who keep us smiling well in to the end of the day. This was demonstrated over and over again from the set up time on Thurs to the break down time on a snowy Sunday afternoon. Even though the impending snow kept the attendee numbers down on the last day, it was still deemed an overall success by the hosts of the Garden Expo 2020. Here are figures provided by the Garden Expo organizers:

2020: Friday (4,601), Saturday (8,474), Sunday (2,563), Total (15,638)
2019: Friday (3,582), Saturday (8,319), Sunday (4,137), Total (16,038)
2018: Friday (3,612), Saturday (8,029), Sunday (4,303), Total (15,944)
2017: Friday (4,298), Saturday (9,402), Sunday (5,164), Total (18,864)
2016: Friday (4,232), Saturday (9,733), Sunday (4,105), Total (18,070)



After proving to be extremely popular last year, our hybridizers once again donated seeds from their gardens to be distributed to anyone wanting to try their hand at growing daylilies. A huge thank you to Diana Scribner for bringing this idea to the table! Since the booth is also an avenue to get the word out on our WDS sale, we handed out a new seed starting info sheet with each packet of seeds given out that also included information on our sale dates, times, and new location.

Daylilies were highlighted again this year in separate seminars by club members, Carole Hunter and Amanda Christenson, with both ladies having a solid audience. Thank you for the hard work both of you put in to your talks! It is greatly appreciated!

We continue to work on additions to the booth to increase public awareness of what our club does and how great an organization it is to be a part of. I am so pleased with how our group comes together to help out. It has become one of the most anticipated weekends of the year for gardeners and we are already planning for next year to be even better!



Our Expo Leader, Sue Hill and other members working hard

2020 Winter Symposium-Spring's Harbinger

By Wilma Brouwer-Herwig

Yup, you thought red breasted robins were the quintessential upper Midwest's truest sign that spring hovers just around one more dreary, drab wintry snowbank. Nope!! To many Region 2 folks it's the yearly Winter Symposium. Here's where we come to bolster our weary spirits that have been so long bereft of vibrant hues and verdant greens. It's where we listen raptly to enthusiastic speakers pouring us full of hope that life's regenerative cycle will still function as it should. It's where these gurus of green, these developers of daylilies, these cheerleaders of color revitalize us with their glimpses of summer's tantalizing promise. It's where fellow daylily enthusiasts gather to collectively confirm that we are not alone in our crazy love of the genus *Hemerocallis*. We've travelled for hours and parted with our hard-earned money just to be here. It's where old friends and new revel in their shared madness, oblivious that the bloom season is still lamentably months away. Yes – the surest sign of spring in America's midsection is the wonderful winter break of the Region 2 Winter Symposium!



*Barb Buikema and
Wilma Brouwer-Herwig*

The event began in the middle of Friday afternoon with a loose discussion of hybridizing and plant issues. That slid right into the Region 2 Business Meeting presided over by Sandy Holmes, Region 2 President. Salient points were reviewed. A plea went out for a person to report on this weekend gathering and somehow my mouth opened up and volunteered me, much to my surprise. The business meeting was then quickly adjourned before I came to my senses!

Next, Amberly Wilson, Symposium Chair, warmly greeted us, thanked her hard-working crew, and introduced, Bob Faulkner, our new AHS Board director. Bob's brief remarks touched on his best advice for how to be successful as a hybridizer and in life - learn to handle criticism because you are bound to get some. He gave the invocation and we were off to the big sandwich buffet. After this filling spread, the symposium launched into the major reasons we'd made the trip - the speakers, the inspiration, the alluring photos of new cultivars, the visual portrayal of Earth's annual renewal and rebirth.

PHIL KORTH, Pinewood Garden, Wisconsin www.pinewooddaylilies.com

This billing is a bit misleading as everyone knows that Phil hybridizes in tandem with his wife Luella, and they release creations under both their names. They work tirelessly in their tundra-ish zone 4 garden above Green Bay creating northern hardy cultivars with winsome southern faces. Not only is a constant battle being waged with the harsh elements and the short growing season, but deer, turkey, black bear, and hog nosed snakes (quite frightening to behold but quite harmless) have added additional obstacles. Several years ago a very substantial 8 foot high fence was installed and it works wonderfully well unless somebody (Phil) forgets to close the gate at night! The snakes still get in but they do no damage except to quicken the heart rate a tad.



Phil Korth

Phil wears the mantle of speaker. His theme was to build your hybridizing efforts on a strong foundation. He emphasized that these building block plants should have habits you want to promulgate and that are readily passed on to the offspring. They have used this principle throughout their varied programs which have included eyes and edges, pastels, reds, greens, and blues. In the early years, foundation plants were from other hybridizers but most since have come from their own lines. 2001 saw the release of their first intros and 197 lovely cold-hardy varieties have ensued. Goals are clean foliage, good branching and bud count, winter hardiness, and consistently pretty faces. Since 2015 they have been slowly but resolutely scaling back – beds have been returned to grass (horrors!!), growing plots downsized, and seed production cut back from 4000 to 1000. But stay calm, there are no plans to give up hybridizing altogether just yet.

2020 Winter Symposium-Spring's Harbinger-Continued

By Wilma Brouwer-Herwig



David Robinson

DAVID ROBINSON, Heavy Petal Daylilies, Illinois www.getmygarden.com/store/heavy-petal-daylilies His day job is as a credit risk manager for State Farm Bank, but at home he takes on the role of hybridizer. Very early mornings he is happily self-employed as a busy bee, spreading pollen and making crosses. Out of the 3000 or so seeds he collects, he keeps just 300-350 to raise himself. The rest are usually sold. To bring out the recessive traits in a daylily, he does line breeding and makes a lot of long crosses. Using plants from Jack Carpenter (particularly the Kaleidoscope series), Richard Norris, and Bob Faulkner has helped him to concentrate on the characteristics he prefers – the hibiscus form, patterns, color changers, and most compellingly, bearded. Seedling F12A is showing great promise in consistent bearding and has an excellent color to boot.

Dave likes big, flat faces with southern looks and warm colors. If it blooms with less than a 6 inch flower it is very often relegated to the compost heap. In three years, if it hasn't shown promise and steady improvement it is also so long, sayonara. There is no space for laggards as the beds are crammed full and the yard sports big trees and limited sun, making performance a must. 2019 was his seventh year hybridizing and is also when he introduced his first registered cultivar. There are more creations in the pipeline displaying his favorite traits so clearly this young man is doing something right.



Bob Scott, Sr.

BOB SCOTT, Topguns Daylily Garden, Oklahoma www.topgundaylilies.com This long-distance traveler came all the way from Oklahoma accompanied by Bob Scott, Jr, his son. Bob Sr. began his hybridizing efforts in 1987 after having joined his local daylily club a few years prior. He aimed to become well-known all across the country and adopted the prefix Topguns for name recognition. This was chosen long before the movie and because it meant 'the best' (think Hollywood shoot-em-ups where the most skilled gun slinger was labeled top gun). He also took to wearing western-style shirts with pearly snaps to be even more memorable. But what made him a noted hybridizer was his focus on the plants.

Bob wholeheartedly believes that creating daylilies is not rocket science – it's simple heredity. Observe the plant and use what it shows you. Employ the best parents and you'll have all you need to be good. But growing conditions in zone 9 are problematic no matter the parentage. It suffers from damaging hail, wind, sun, winters with 0-10 degrees on average, and very, very hot over 100 degree summers. Pollen dries up by 9 in the morning. To offset these factors, hybridizing is done in greenhouses, his 3000 seeds are started in 5 gallon pots in his wife's den, and he concentrates on dormancy. As if weather vagaries weren't trouble enough, he has fallen hard for doubles – a



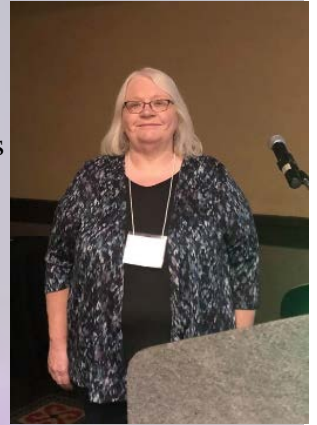
Mandy McMahon, Pat Sturdevant, Rhonda Veroeven, Barb Buikema, Wilma Brouwer-Herwig, Monique Warnke, and Char Hanson

vexation all its own as the reproductive parts are notoriously hard to locate or are absent. He's been very successful, though, and programs include eyes no edge, gold edges, teeth, color breakers, dark veining, chalky eyes, bi-colors, ufs, and more. Do not ask him what the crosses are as he adamantly will not disclose them. A tip he does share for consistent doubling, however, is to plant in a sunny spot and then leave them be. A favorite motto of his is that whatever you can conceive and believe, you can achieve. It's clear that his daylilies have been the end result of this mindset and has 254 under his western belt.

2020 Winter Symposium-Spring's Harbinger-Continued

By Wilma Brouwer-Herwig

NANCY WATSON, Cherry Hill Garden, Indiana www.cherryhillgarden.plantfan.com
The love of growing plants bit this enthusiastic speaker early and it bit often ... from tomatoes to garden perennials to roses to bromeliads to gingers to a host of tropicals, and finally daylilies. Fortunately her college boyfriend, Bob, also LOVED plants of all stripes (can you see where this is going??). These fanatics married, bought a small house and property, and went heavily down twin paths of roses and lush equatorial-type plants. These passions continued through a move in 2004 to a house with a sunny 1.7 acre plot and a greenhouse. However, getting fed up with problems inherent to roses, they decided the following year to shop around for an easier interest and discovered daylilies. At first it was buying one of each color, then only full forms, then smalls, then ufs, then then it was a story that has been oft repeated by oh so many of us -- full-on Hemerocallis fervor. A thousand cultivars later and they are still enthralled.



Nancy Watson

In 2008 the hybridizing bug burrowed into Nancy. Bob remained immune for an entire year but then succumbed. The first crop of seedlings bloomed in 2009 but there were no keepers. Undaunted, over 1500 seeds have been planted yearly and given 3 years to show promise. Nancy's goals include tets with full forms in intense colors, lates, toothies, bi-tones, bi-colors, small (3.5-4") blooms, reds with clear white edges, and more. 2018 saw the release of two intros with three more since. She believes in using your own stuff as quickly as you can. Bob adores orange and is diligently crossing fulva varieties with modern cultivars. Not to be left out, daughter Elissa has begun playing pollinator bee, too, and has her sights on making the next great purple.

CLAUDIA CONWAY, Running Fox Farm, New Hampshire
www.dayliliesatrunningfoxfarm.com

This New Hampshire resident has been flying way under my radar so it was surprising to learn she has released a myriad of intros since 2009. Her journey with daylilies began in earnest soon after she and her husband, Dave, moved to their beautiful rural property in 2007. In honor of his dad who had always loved daylilies and planted them wherever he resided, they put in about 75 of them. These glorious blooms fanned (get it!) her imagination and she rapidly embarked on a quest to get educated about their cultivation and propagation. Soon she had her own seedlings to eagerly watch over.



Claudia Conway

At first Claudia liked the round, ruffled forms. Now she often lets her plants dictate where they want her to go. Paths pursued include spiders, ufs, stipples, appliques, eyes and edges, teeth, blues, and patterns. She believes that variety is the spice of life and delights in discovering traits in her plants she was not breeding for. Regardless of what grabs her, she reiterates the Korth's principle that success needs a sturdy foundation. She's built on genetics from Kulpa, Marchant, Townsend, and Gaskins, among others, and has over 120 registrations. Claudia fervently believes that those who plant gardens plant happiness. She stressed that we all need to promote this ardor in our youth. We should encourage them in this worthy pastime (and potential career path).



The WDS basket donated to the regional silent auction



Members enjoying the hospitality and socialization aspect of the event



Beautiful metal sculpture that was the raffle prize

2020 Winter Symposium-Spring's Harbinger-Continued

By Wilma Brouwer-Herwig



Scott Elliott



Rhonda Veroeven and
Scott Elliott



Chris Wilhoite



The Silent Auction

SCOTT ELLIOTT, Maneki Neko Gardens, Georgia www.scottelliottdaylilies.com
Scott and his wife Dominique have their 11 acre country property on loan from their two Japanese Bobtail cats. These felines think that they are the true owners. The garden is named for one and MANY daylilies are named after the other – Bob (a girl). They rule the roost but have generously allowed the Elliotts to hybridize. Focus has been on doubles, ufs, spiders, extra-larges, smalls, and miniatures. Shrinking daylilies is difficult but Scott finally has a uf under 3 inches and a spider down to 3½ inches. He strives for height, widely spaced branches, big bud counts, distinction, and the ability to grow in a wide geographic area. Seedlings are not babied and must withstand below freezing temps, sandy soil, and no mulch. Because the acreage is in the woods near a river there is an abundance of deer and wild hogs. Diversionary tactics have ranged from Irish Spring soap, human hair, and Justin Bieber music (though I do believe he was kidding about that last one). The cats have been of no help but the 9 foot high fence sure has. Curiously, the 4 foot high gate has not been discovered or breeched by either nuisance (I'm referring to the hogs and the deer – not the cats!)

This retired genetics instructor admonished against using sub-par bridge plants. Use two good parents with traits you want; they exist already so find them and use them. His 160 introductions seem to prove the strength of this credo. Beds harbor about 200 cultivars from various hybridizers and the other 5000 plants are seedlings or intros of Mr. or Mrs. E's. These must thrive in their zone 7-8 garden and many are field tested in Wisconsin and Michigan. He LOVES to compete in daylily shows and has won an incredible amount of awards. When not competing, Scott crisscrosses the US giving presentations at daylily functions. He is also the author of beaucoup articles and books on hemerocallis, is Region 5's Director, and to top it off, is the current AHS President. His garden will be on tour for the National Convention this year.

CHRIS WILHOITE, Soules Garden, Indianapolis www.soulesgarden.com
Chris is always a cheery and happy camper who loves to talk about all things green and growing. To me, his knowledge is encyclopedic, and he never fails to fascinate with this or that obscure fact – he is simply brimming with a whole raft of them. In this presentation he honed in on unusual and underused shade plants. There's an abundance of information fairly bursting from him and he's the first one to admit with a chuckle that 'honed in' has a rather broad definition for him. He spoke of Amurensis, Corydalis solida, Double Bloodroot, Japanese Dogtooth violet, primula, horny goat weed (Epimedium), Trillium, hellebores, Jack-in-the-Pulpit (205 varieties world-wide), aralia, asarum, martagons, ferns, Polygonatum, toad lilies, and more. He crammed all this into the allotted time, but the real kicker was that he could have talked about just one of these plant families in the same time frame. That's wild!

Chris and his wife Cynthia purchased Soule's Garden about 23 years ago. They teach classes, import and sell rarities from all over the globe, provide their cultural requirements, and dispense advice on how not to fail growing them. Sales are only at the garden now as shipping became overwhelming for this retired Art/Design Director at the Saturday Evening Post. He certainly has developed his eye for the uncommon and is proud of his plant nerdiness. In his spare time he is president of the local daylily society and collects botanical prints.

2020 Winter Symposium-Spring's Harbinger-Continued

By Wilma Brouwer-Herwig

KIRSTEN HATFIELD, Dorsets N Daylilies, Ohio www.dorsetsndaylilies.com
Kirsten deftly rounded out the weekend's presentations. Raising animals and growing plants have been integral parts of her life for a very long time. Since 1980 she has bred Dorset sheep and in 1987 she worked at Sam Baker's Hemknoll Farm in New Jersey as 'chief weeder'. Sam was deceased by then but he had been a daylily hybridizer and created Stout Medal winner *H. Apricot Ruffles*. Kirsten still owns the eight cultivars she purchased there and has faithfully transplanted them at each new house she's moved to. In 1981 she relocated to Ohio with her dreams, Dorsets, dogs, daylilies, and a degree in Animal Science. Here she met and married her husband, Jason Hatfield, a direct descendant of "those Hatfields." They eventually purchased his grandparent's farm in 2009. They enjoy sharing this 245 acre property with their daughter, 50 Angus cross cows, 150 Dorset sheep, two cats, and two donkeys who are very adept at protecting the sheep! Fields of seed corn and alfalfa and soybeans, test plots of corn hybrids, over 800 registered daylilies, and thousands of seedlings also dot the land.

In 2012, apparently not having enough to occupy her time, she made her first crosses. She has used a lot of Mary Jane Westbourne's genetics (an "untapped pool") and now her own stuff. She dabbles in both dips and tets and plants roughly 3000 seeds yearly. Growing here is not for weaklings as watering is rarely done and she does not mulch. Doubles are of great interest and has a sculpted one that shows promise. In 2019 she registered her first six cultivars, one of which is named for her daughter. Several others have some pretty awesome patterning though she proclaimed to have a love-hate relationship with patterns. Kirsten could easily be a very successful professional photographer as her pictures, especially of the world that surrounds her, are absolutely breathtakingly stunning. She will be a tour garden at this summer's regional so we can see her beauties firsthand.

The Indianapolis crew, under Amberly's expert guidance, did a fantastic job and kept the whole thing moving smoothly. The information packet was wonderfully helpful, especially the pages on each speaker. Nancy, Bob, and Elissa Watson were efficient at handling the registration desk. Pat Titus put together a great selection of daylilies and other goodies for the large silent raffle. Mandy McMahon did an unparalleled excellent job of assembling a fine line of cultivars for the TWO night live auction!! The auctioneers, the bid recorders, and the money collectors performed their tasks with consummate professionalism. Jayne and Greg Lough played hosts to a lively and popular Hospitality Room. What more could we ask for? All-in-all, the weekend delivered big-time on eye candy, fun, and camaraderie. Most significantly, it bolstered our belief that if we hold on just a smidge longer, spring will arrive wearing her lovely cloak of green and obliterate winter's cruel grip entirely.



Kirsten Hatfield



Bobbi Johnson, Kirsten Hatfield, Amy Zahner, and Claudia Conway



Rhonda Veroeven trying her hand at being the auctioneer



Bobbi Johnson helping Gary Barth collect auction money



Region 2 Officers- Gary Barth, Treasurer, Sandy Homes,-Regional President, Barb Buikema-Publicity Director, Bruce Wickman-Secretary



The Byerleys decorated the tables



Scott Elliott and Bob Faulkner



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Rhonda Vereeven, Editor
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*If we had no
Winter, Spring
would not be so
pleasant.*