



Daylily Tours

The annual WDS Daylily Garden Tour is set for the weekend of July 23 and 24. Like last year we will have several Madison area gardens available for tours on Saturday, and several Milwaukee area Gardens available for Sunday. As in the past, you drive to the gardens during the scheduled times to view them. The gardens will be open from 1:00 until 5:00 PM on their respective days.

Cameras and notebooks are recommended accessories to help you remember the names of the new plants you are going to want to buy in the future, or idea you may want to incorporate into your own garden. Insect repellent would be useful this year also. Remember not to pick the flowers, and be careful with large purses or camera bags that occasionally have a mind

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West Bend has proclaimed themselves as the "Daylily City". One of the plantings includes rocks and boulders native to the area within one of the daylily beds. Photo by Hiram Percy.

Wisconsin Daylily Society Activities for 1994

- July 17 - WDS Daylily Show
- July 23 - WDS Garden Tours - Madison Area
- July 24 - WDS Garden Tours - Milwaukee Area
- August 20, 21 - WDS Daylily Sale
- October - Annual Meeting

All activities are at the Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, unless listed otherwise.

The Daylily City

Linda Brazill

Maradel Sager is the first to acknowledge the 1980's are over and conspicuous consumption and power politics with them. She's pushing gardens as their replacement, proclaiming, "Instead of the power lunch, go out and take care of your flowers." Like many gardeners, she knows beauty is one luxury we can all afford.

Attractive public landscape

plantings are common sights in urban areas. They're bright notes that make a big city at once livable and sophisticated. Municipal buildings, corporate headquarters, shopping malls, highway entrances and median strips are sites that can become sources of beauty that every passer-by can enjoy.

The community of West Bend, Wisconsin, a city of just over 25,000 residents located in the western bend of the Milwaukee River, set out to prove that such beauty can come in small packages too. In 1990 about 50 citizens submitted suggestions for an official city flower to the West Bend Daily News. The list of submissions was narrowed down to five - daylily, purple coneflower, marigold, impatiens and black-eyed Susan - with the daylily coming in first.

After the West Bend Common Council officially adopted the daylily (*hemerocallis*), the newly created West Bend Beautification Committee Inc. (WBBC Inc.) dug into action. Under the leadership of president Maradel Sager, they

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chose the highly visible downtown as the location for a kickoff planting of the new city flower. As in many older communities, the major shopping thoroughfare had been turned into a pedestrian mall but it retained original store fronts and angled parking now updated with brick walks, old-style streetlights and contemporary banners that carry a motif of a stylized red daylily on a blue background.

The WBBC Inc. began its campaign to attract volunteers to incorporate the first plants into existing flower beds in the downtown and at the highway entrances to the community. Donations of cash and flowers got the group off the ground - or in the ground in this instance. The initial planting was done by about two dozen adults and fifteen young people who spent two days putting in 48 dozen perennials and several flats of annuals. In addition to daylilies the group planted echinacea purpurea, sedum, liatris and yarrow.

The first summer the plantings were maintained by the teen-age workers of the company that contracts with the city to clean-up after vandalism. One employee, Mike Stopar, then age 15, thought the planting efforts could have far reaching effects, "It makes the downtown look better and makes people stop to think about what's going on so they won't vandalize it."

From these humble beginnings



The renovated downtown West Bend with planting beds and signs. Photo by Hiram Percy.

the program has grown to encompass hundreds of volunteers who put in 23,000 plants in 1993 in locations ranging from park entrances to neighborhood intersections. West Bend High School industrial arts students built large planters that were placed in areas that needed beautification but lacked green space.

As most daylily growers know, the choice of hemerocallis as the backbone of the plantings has led to a high degree of success for these novice gardeners. Working on public property, following planting designs developed by volunteers and approved by the city's landscape architect, citizens have been able to see the results of their handiwork in a relatively short time.

The use of daylilies has allowed different sites to have plantings that focus on unique color combi-

nations because of the incredible variety of colors, flower shapes and flower sizes available. The plants have proven disease resistant as well as being able to withstand intensely cold Midwestern winters and blazing summers. They were holding up equally well during 1993's soggy summer when a group of Madison daylily enthusiasts toured West Bend.

As WBBC Inc. continues to evaluate its many garden plots, they're also continuing to improve planting designs and to take concepts one step further. Plantings now include a variety of prairie plants and grasses and widely cultivated favorites like hostas as com-



panions to the daylilies. To achieve four season interest, the latest goal of the group, they're adding spring flowering bulbs and leaving perennial seedheads and grasses to wave in the wind until the end of winter.

Today gardens throughout the city are planted and maintained under the "Adopt-a-Plot" program. - Sager's replacement for the power lunch. A large insurance company, the Kiwanis club, a day care center, families, neighbors and a group of developmentally disabled adults are among the many West Bend residents who have adopted plots.

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Wisconsin Daylily Society Officers

President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer
Paul Meske 608-837-7568	Gene Sawyer 608-838-3502	Vacant	Gene Dewey 608-255-0858



Wisconsin Daylily Society

5th Annual Garden Tours

July 23 and 24 - 1994

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Saturday, July 23 - Madison Area

Julie Burke grows about 130 daylilies, 400 iris, and many fine varieties of weeds. Her preference in daylilies is for the purple, lavender, and rose hues, all fertilized with the by-products of her horses. To get to Julie's take Hwy 51 South from the South Beltline to Schneider Dr. and go through McFarland, past Co. B, and take the first Rt. (west) turn after Co. B. Go West about 5 Mi. until you come to a 3-way stop (for the other directions, not yours) and go through that intersection (Sandhill Rd.). Julie's is the first place on the left past that intersection. Her fire # is 4543, a yellow farm house.

Jean Bawden grows a wide variety (600) of perennials, what one might expect from an employee of the Flower Factory. In addition to 150 different daylilies, she has iris, true lilies, hosta, penstemon, and many other plants. To get to Jean's, take the Rim Rock exit from the South Beltline near the colosseum and go South away from the coliseum. Travel three blocks and turn left on Morland, then another three blocks and turn right on Warner St. Jean is at 2806 Warner St. Park on the street.

Sunday, July 24 - Milwaukee Area

Tom Wojtech lives at 3908 N. 84th St. in Milwaukee and grows about 140 different daylilies along with hostas, peonies, and evergreens. Heading east on Interstate 94 from Madison turn North on Hwy 45 (left hand exit!), travel about 4 miles to Capital Dr.

(Hwy 190) and turn East on Capital Dr. Go about 2 Mi. to 84th street where there will be a stop light and turn Rt (South) onto 84th St. Tom's white house with large blue spruce is located a short way down the block on the East side next to a mint green house. Park in the street.

Nancy Boone's collection of 70 daylilies is primarily a collection from the hybridizers Muldovan, Harris/Benz, and Branch. She also has a collection of small flowered daylilies also. She selects her plants on the basis of garden quality, preferring dormant over semi-evergreen or evergreens, for reliability and hardiness. From Hwy 94 take the Holly Rd. (55th St.) exit to the north and go to Burleigh St. where you will turn to the right. Travel to 50th St. and turn left onto 50th. Nancy's address is 3363 N. 50th St. Milwaukee.

In the Village of Elm Grove, Anne Guis has about 100 different daylilies, nearly all are tetraploids. She grows them in six raised beds and hybridizes them also. From Hwy 94, take the Morland exit and go north, cross Blue Mound Rd. and take a quick right hand turn onto Watertown Plank Rd. Now heading east, take the 2nd right hand turn, this will be Wisconsin Ave., it angles off to the right. Anne's address is 14420 Wisconsin Ave., a gray one story house on the north side of the street. There are many children in the neighborhood so please drive extra carefully!. Park on the street.

The Wisconsin Daylily Society

Fourth Annual

1994 Daylily Sale

Saturday, Aug. 20 - 10 AM to 5 PM

Sunday, Aug. 21 - Noon to 5 PM

Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison
3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison

Open to the public

Contact Rick Ivik at 608-249-0641 for more information.
Please call if you have plants to donate or if you would like to assist with the sale.

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Join the American Hemerocallis Society

\$18 individual or \$22 family

Write to:

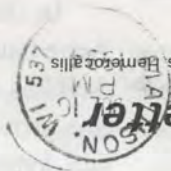
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A not-for-profit organization promoting the enjoyment, awareness, and propagation of the genus *Hemerocallis*.

The Wisconsin Daylily Society Newsletter



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Mixed planting along the West Bend's River Walk includes daylilies, perennials and shrubs. Photo by Hiram Pearcy.



The planting program, though done in concert with the city, costs the taxpayers nothing. Funds are raised through donations, membership in the WBBC, an annual Prairie Walk, and sales of daylily plants and t-shirts. The success of the program is due in large measure to Maradel Sager and her initial volunteers who, like all daylily lovers, want to spread the word and the flowers. They are an organized and enthusiastic group who could teach a lesson to most communities - large and small. For more information, contact: West Bend Beautification Committee, 1115 South Main Street, West Bend, Wisconsin 53095.

(Editor's note: The preceding article was published in the American Hemerocallis Society Region 2 Summer Newsletter this year.)

Wisconsin Daylily Society

Annual Dues
\$5.00 - Individual
\$7.50 Family
\$15.00 Commercial

January 1, to December 31
Send application to:

Paul Meske, Secretary
151 W. Goodland Street
Sun Prairie, WI 53590



The Wisconsin Daylily Society Newsletter is published three times a year at irregular intervals. Please address any letters to the editor, address changes, or contributions for consideration for publication to the current editor:

Paul Meske
151 W. Goodland St.
Sun Prairie, WI 53590