



## Daylily Show

For the third year in a row it rained the night before the WDS Annual daylily show. This makes it very difficult to have a good selection of scapes from with to cut, as well as tough to judge those scapes entered. Never the less, eight people entered 50 scapes. There were thirteen blue ribbons, nineteen red, and eighteen yellow ribbons. Judges are to take into account local growing conditions when awarding points and ribbons. Evelyn Thompson entered two arrangements in the artistic division for which she earned blue ribbons.

The purpose of the Daylily Show is several. Primarily we use it as an educational tool to introduce the public to the fact that daylilies are not just those "orange things in the ditch", but that they are available in a wide variety of colors and shapes. By having the show at the Olbrich Gardens we are able to present our flowers to people who are predisposed to growing plants. In return, Olbrich Gardens has another no-cost activity for the guests that come each weekend.

The competitive aspect of the show is not to develop a cut-throat competition, a win-at-all-costs attitude. It is an activity

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## Wisconsin Daylily Society Activities for 1995

August 19, 20 - WDS Daylily Sale

September 15 - Orders for AHS 50th Anniversary Book due

October 15 - Annual Meeting

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

## Meeting Brother Charles

By Jane Pearcy, Verona

Being the wife of the Region 2 RVP doesn't make me an expert on daylilies, but I recognize charm when I see it. And see I did, when I accompanied Joanne Larson and Hiram to present the 1993 Howard Hite Achievement Award For Hybridizing Excellence to Brother Charles Reckamp at Techny, Illinois.

Our goal was to deliver the delicate award and express appreciation for the contributions of this distinguished hybridizer. From the first broad smile and obvious delight upon seeing the award, Brother Charles regaled us with stories and anecdotes.

A conversation pertaining to the Mission Gardens, which he directed, provided the story about the Techny Arbor Vitae.

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## Growing Evergreen Daylilies

by: Paul Meske

At one time I had made up my mind that I would only grow dormant daylilies because a person just "could not trust those fussy evergreens" to survive and do well. Over the past seven years of growing daylilies and observing many gardens locally as well as at AHS Regional Meeting, and at several National AHS conventions, I no longer fear evergreens. It's my limited experience that most evergreens will do well for us, and that it is a minority of them that are not hardy for us.

I suspect that people are confusing two different concepts. The important thing for us in Wisconsin that not whether a daylily is dormant or evergreen, but if it is *hardy*. It is possible to have dormant plants which are not hardy, and evergreen plants which are hardy. Lets discuss the difference.

Most of the species of daylilies (the wild daylily) are dormant. This means that there is

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## Wisconsin Daylily Society Officers

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As the staff walked through the nursery, they remarked that one variety was especially green. The second year, they again noted the same so they decided to propagate it. They had no way to promote the plant, but did share it with friends. This eventually led to promotion by Evergreens of Sturgeon Bay.

When the highway which separates the rectory from the nursery became too busy to permit easy access, the brothers decided to quit the nursery business. Roy Klehm asked Brother Charles to continue his work with daylilies. The soil near the residence was clay. Klehm drained the area and provided the niche in which to grow and hybridize the delightful cultivars for which Brother Charles is famous. The process of transforming this useless area into rich beds was interesting and exiting to Brother Charles and the takes great delight in relating it.

Even a newcomer to the daylily world has favorites. When I heard this guru express his likes and dislikes, I cringed a bit because I like the eyed ones. Brother Charles doesn't. He quoted Nathan Rudolph who described them as "ring around the tub." We may disagree on this point, but anyone who is familiar with Brother Charles' introductions must forgive him if he has his own preferences. It's hard to argue with success.

The award we delivered to Brother Charles Reckamp was dated 1993. In the months since the presentation, my reflections

have been of laughter and enjoyment. Perhaps I should return this year with my own award to Brother Charles - Mister Congeniality.

Author's Footnote:

Judy Ferreri, WDS member whose garden will be one of those featured on the Garden Tour for the 1996 Region Two Meeting, has begun a collection of cultivars introduced by Brother Charles Reckamp. We look forward to visiting this exciting collection which will include the famous "ANGEL'S SMILE."



Catherine Farwell died peacefully, Saturday, February 4, 1995 at age 85. Catherine had been growing daylilies since she "was a blushing bride". Her large collection and daylily garden had been on the WDS Annual Tour several years in a row. A kind and generous lady, she helped at many WDS functions and was a wealth of experience and information which she shared freely. She will be greatly missed.



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some genetic trait they have which causes the plant to slow down and sort of hibernate during times of stress, such as winter, or at times during a drought. Evergreen daylilies have lost this mechanism for shutting down their metabolism or at least have had it greatly watered down as in a semievergreen. As long as it's warm enough to permit plants to grow, they will stay green and try to grow. Of course when it gets cold enough they will stop growing.

The important question is if they will survive our sever winters. Because they try to grow whenever it gets warm enough, mild winters, or midwinter thaws can enable evergreens to start growing only to get smacked down by cold again. Mulching is not so much to protect them from the cold as it is to *keep* them cold until it warms up for good in the spring.

There certainly are evergreen daylilies which should not be grown in Wisconsin with out extra care. This is because many of the major hybridizers are located in Florida, and they do not have sever cold weather to test their plants. There is too much economic and hybridizing pressure to introduce plants as quickly as possible to permit them to adequately test them in all climate zones. This is done in a very informal and haphazard fashion after the plants are registered and introduced. As people buy and grow them further and further north they build up a record of hardiness or

tenderness.

I do not advocate that you run out and willy-nilly buy every evergreen you read about in the AHS Daylily Journal. By visiting other people's gardens it's possible to learn which plants are hardy and reliable in our area. Another way to help insure success is to purchase plants from suppliers in Wisconsin and other states with sever winters. This means that they have been grown in conditions similar to what you will give them and have survived.

Some evergreens that have not done well for me are CAB-BAGE FLOWER, a Stout Medal Winner yellow double. It seems greatly set back each spring and after three years has increased very poorly.

MIDNIGHT MAGIC on the other hand has grown and increased very well, but has failed to bloom several springs. My experience has matched that of others I've met at the AHS Region 2 meetings. It's thought that it's embryonic flower buds are nipped by frost when it starts to grow too early in the spring.

By starting to grow too early, evergreens can look really raggy but they often spring back later in the season. This frozen tissue can sometimes result in rot in the early spring, working its way into

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the ground leaving little holes in the ground where fans used to be.

It is a good practice to make sure newly planted evergreens have had time to acclimate to your environment. This means that if you purchase plants from Southern growers, order them in the spring, and trim the roots somewhat to encourage new roots better acclimated to your location.

Mulching the first winter should be looked at as protecting your investment while allowing it time to get accustomed to your garden. There is a real temptation to pull back the mulch on our flower beds in the spring to clean up the garden and make it look good. It feels so good to be outside and we are so hungry for flowers and the rebirth of spring that we try to rush things along.

Growing evergreen and semi evergreen daylilies is not something to be avoided, not does it require a rocket scientist to do it successfully. Following a few guidelines can help insure success.



Guidelines for Evergreen  
Success

- Grow proven cultivars.
- Go to gardens, and talk to others to find out which plants do well.
- Purchase from Northern growers and hybridizers.
- Plant southern grown plants only in the spring.
- Trim the roots when you plant in the spring.
- Mulch the first winter to protect your investment.
- Leave mulch on longer in the spring to retard growth too early in the spring.

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for our members to participate in, and it encourages people to grow their plants just as well as they can. One of the best things about the way scapes are judged is that a thirty year old cultivar has just as good of chance of winning a blue ribbon or best in show as does a new, expensive cultivar. This is because the flowers are judged against their registration, not against each other. In other words, if the scape and flower exhibits all the good qualities that a daylily should have, and it matches the way it is officially registered when it was named, it is a winner! This is well illustrated by the fact that Fred and Marge Liss's entry of MARY TODD (Fay '67) won the best in the show this year, while the one entry of BARBARA MITCHELL (Pierce '84) could only scrape together enough points to come up with a yellow ribbon.

The Badger Award for the best red went to an entry of STUDY IN SCARLET (Kirchoff '86) by Paul Meske.

A not-for-profit organization promoting the enjoyment, awareness, and propagation of the genus *Hemerocallis*  
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## *The Wisconsin Daylily Society Newsletter*

### **American Hemerocallis Society Golden Anniversary**

The American Hemerocallis Society (AHS) is turning 50 years old in 1996. To commemorate that event the AHS has developed a special publication. It will be sold through local daylily clubs for \$24.95 in lots of ten. The hard cover books will be shipped on December 1, 1995.

The book will chronicle the beginning and development of the AHS, and important people in the Society. Francis Gatlin, the Editor of the Daylily Journal is the editor of this book. It is illustrated with color photographs and drawings and is a *must-have* for anyone who wants to understand the growth of interest in the daylily in America.

The Wisconsin Daylily

Society will accept your order for this special 50th anniversary commemorative book. See the order form below. Our Treasurer, Gene Dewey will collect the orders and send them in. Orders must be in to Gene no later than August 28, 1995.

The books will be sent to the Wisconsin Daylily Society and

we will mail them to whomever ordered and paid for copies. Make Checks payable to the Wisconsin Daylily Society.

*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

### **American Hemerocallis Society 50th Anniversary Book**

For each copy send \$24.95 plus \$2 for handling to: Gene Dewey, 2125  
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