



Wisconsin Daylily Society, Inc

Issue 33

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www.wisdaylilysoc.org

Rosemary Kleinheinz, Editor

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

ERIC DENHAM WILL BE OUR APRIL, 2010 SPEAKER

By John Sheehan

At 1:00 PM on Saturday, April 24th, 2010, Eric Denham will speak to the WDS at the West Madison Agricultural Research Station. Eric and his wife Janell hybridize daylilies and sell daylilies and irises at their property, Dowis Ranch, located in Marseilles, IL. The name Dowis Ranch may sound familiar to you—it should, Eric & Janell have a site in The Eureka Daylily Reference Guide in which they feature daylily cultivars from Chicagoland hybridizers. During the last 10 years Eric has registered more than 100 daylilies with the AHS.

On April 24th Eric will present a history of Dowis Ranch as well as describe his ongoing daylily hybridizing projects. Eric's daylily introductions are beautiful, dormant, mostly tetraploid, plants which will perform well in Wisconsin. The AHS Website (<http://www.daylilies.org>.) describes all of his daylily introductions.

See you on the 24th!



H. 'Carousel Ride' by E. Denham



“All through the long winter I dream of my garden. On the first day of spring, I dig my fingers deep into the soft earth. I can feel its energy, and my spirits soar.” Helen Hayes

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Calendar of Events 2010

April 24th, (Saturday) West Ag Research Station
1-4 pm. **Speaker: Eric Denham**

May 15th, (Saturday) Savanna Oaks Middle School,
1-4 pm, **Speaker: Bob Faulkner**

May 27-29, National Convention, Valdosta, GA

June 27th, (Sunday) 1:00 pm, **Garden Party** at
Jim & Kitty Fitzpatrick's home

July 15th-19th, **2010 Regional Summer Meeting**,
Wadsworth, Ohio,

July 24th (Saturday) Daylily Home Gardens Tour

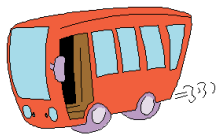
August 1st (Sunday), **Potluck/Adoption/Auction**
Savanna Oaks Middle School on Lacy Road.

August 14th-15th, **Daylily Plant Sale**, Olbrich

October 23rd, (Saturday), 12:45 pm **Annual Meeting**
Savanna Oaks Middle School on Lacy Road.
Speaker: George Doorakian.

Be sure to check our web site for updates.

**THE BUS IS GOING TO
THE 2010 AHS
SUMMER MEETING.
BE ON IT!!**



By John Sheehan

The WDS Board has approved a Club-sponsored Bus to travel to the Region 2 Summer Meeting being held in Wadsworth, OH from Friday, July 16, thru Sunday, July 18, 2010. The cost of the BUS TRANSPORTATION is \$20—the WDS Treasury is subsidizing the rest of the cost. At this point, THE TRIP IS AVAILABLE ONLY TO WDS MEMBERS. In the spring of 2010 the board will decide if we can offer the trip to non-club members at a price reflecting the actual per capita cost of the trip. WDS Members, if you wish to reserve your spot on this bus, send \$20 (Check or WDS Dollars) to our WDS Treasurer, Barry Rowe, 1850 Epworth Court, Madison, WI 53705. There will be a box lunch provided to riders both on the way to Ohio on Friday and on the way back on Sunday—the box lunches are included in your \$20 bus trip cost!! Additional details of the trip will be made available a little later.

The meeting schedule, registration information and hotel data is available at the Ohio Daylily Society website (www.ohiodaylilyociety.org/2010.html). Please remember that the \$20 cost discussed above for the bus is just for the bus transportation (and lunches). You must register for the Meeting and make hotel reservations and those payments on your own. Even though there are two hotels to choose from, most of the meetings and banquets, etc, will be held in the Ramada Limited Hotel and it costs less.

If you have questions, please contact trip coordinator, John Sheehan at johnsheehan@charter.net or at 608-274-4921.

“One need never be dull as long as one has friends to help, gardens to enjoy, and books in the long winter evenings.”

D.E. Stevenson



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**WINNERS OF OUR
FIFTH ANNUAL PHOTO
CONTEST**

By Conrad J. Wrzesinski, Contest Chair

During the February general meeting, members of the Wisconsin Daylily Society voted for their favorite daylily photos in the Fifth Annual WDS Photo Contest. Photos could be of an individual daylily bloom, a daylily clump or daylilies with companion plants in a garden setting. Each WDS member could submit a maximum of two photos. Photos must have been taken by the member submitting the photo, but did not need to be taken in the member's garden.

The six winning photos in alphabetical order by photographer were:

Karen Anderson – with a polymerous seedling photo displaying four sepals and four corresponding petals;

Tim Fehr – with a close up seedling photo;

Jim Fitzpatrick – with a garden photo of H. ‘Brocaded Gown’ clothed by a cloud formation backdrop;

Wendy Reichel – with a photo of clump of H. ‘Trahlyta’ in peak bloom;

Barry Rowe – with close up photo of H. ‘Linda Daniels’;

Rita Thomas – a very close up photo of H. ‘Watership Down’.

An enlarged print of each of the six photos will be on display in the Wisconsin Daylily Society booth during the February 2011 Garden Expo and later presented to each winning photographer. Each photo contest winner also received a certificate for a daylily of their choice at the annual Wisconsin Daylily Society Sale held on August 14th and 15th at Olbrich Botanical Gardens. The winning photos can be viewed on the WDS web site (www.wisdaylilyoc.org).

The popularity of the photo contest continues to grow. Photos from 39 WDS members were entered in this year's contest. Last year 27 WDS members submitted entries.

WDS Members are reminded to photograph their favorite daylilies this summer for entry in the Sixth Annual WDS Photo Contest, which will be held in February of 2011

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Members AHS / WDS / DSSEW

Membership News

Included in this mailing is our up-to-date membership roster. Please check your listing to make sure that no errors have crept in; if they have, please let me know! We want especially to know any additions or corrections for email addresses as they often change. Please call me (608-255-0858) or email (gl Dewey@wisc.edu).

Please note that the roster is to be used only for WDS communication by WDS members.

The Garden Expo always brings a large number of new members, and 2010 is no exception. These new members garden all around Wisconsin; we have a new member from Iowa as well. A big welcome to all of you:

From Abrams, Michael Olski; Beaver Dam, Cyndy Sandberg; Beloit, Shirley Bauer; Edgerton, Mary & Paul McCarthy; Elroy, Patti Zirk; Fitchburg, Susie Washebeck and Cindie & Wayne Winquist; Ft. Atkinson, Dale Talamantes; Janesville, Phyllis & Mike Gackstatter and Gordon Nelson; Juda, David Kostka; Lodi, Kenneth Downing; Madison, Veronica Delcourt & Ray Torkelson, Alice Heiman, Laura & Joe Heinecke, and Marg Iwen; Marshall, Nell Cummings; Mazomanie, Judy & Dan Peterson; Middleton, Kathy Stella; Monroe, Barb & Mike Boehme; Monticello, Pamela Zwick; Mt. Horeb, Barbara Borders; Nashkoro, A.E. Inc.; Onalaska, Aurora & Dave Myers; Plover, Carol Kulich; Sheboygan, Rhonda Barts; Spring Green, Corinne Cramer; Stoughton, Lisa Bua; Sun Prairie, Tom Fleming; Verona, Sue Hill and Kristin & Rob Jeffries; Viroqua, Laurie Simmonds; Waunakee, Vickie & Lenny Dunn and Jacqueline Huebner; Westby, Debra & Monte Tewart; Windsor, Monique Warnke; and from Maquoketa, Iowa, Barb Flatness.

We also welcome back to WDS three people who are returning to our group: Maryann Dubree, Tim Fehr, and Robert Griesbach.

Please note that the roster is to be used only for WDS communication by WDS members.

As of March 25th, we have 175 single memberships, 120 people through family memberships, and 10 business members. Hurrah for us! What a great club we have!

Gene Dewey, Keeper of the Mailing List

**MR. PICKLES
GROWS
BEAUTIFUL
FLOWERS
IN TENNESSEE!**

By Diane Goodman



Photo by Kathi Dwelle

At the March meeting of the WDS we had the grand fortune of having Lee Pickles of Chattanooga Daylilies share with us information regarding his hybridizing program.

In keeping with his philosophy, (KISS- Keep It Simple Stupid), he shared the beginnings of his love for daylilies, and his early days of hybridizing. Then, using slides, he gave glimpses of the evolution to his present program. Most recently, he is now growing all of his seedlings in water. This is being done to uniformly keep his plants hydrated.

Afterwards, he went on to show slides of some of his present and future introductions. His "reds" and "yellows" are stunning!

When asked about the best part of hybridizing, he quickly replied, that when his new plants were blossoming, "It's like having Christmas every day". Seems like another great philosophy!

Before the meeting came to a close we all had a chance to have some of Lee's plants in our gardens this summer - that is, if we won one of the bids on the 10 plants Lee offered for auction.

During his presentation Lee paid tribute to one of the great hybridizers we lost in 2009. Bob Carr was a very special friend to Lee and is sorely missed. Lee offered 3 double fans of Bob's introduction, *H. 'Wonder of It All'*



We wish our very best to Ruth Horrall and Phyllis Sanner as they recover from knee surgery. May those new knees make it much easier to dig and pull in the garden this summer!

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Members who visited last year strongly encourage us to drive down to see his plants.

BOB FAULKNER WILL SPEAK TO WDS*By John Sheehan*

On Saturday, 15-May-2010, Bob Faulkner from Natural Selection Daylilies of Dayton, Ohio will travel to Madison to speak to us. The Meeting will be held at Savanna Oaks Middle School located on 5890 Lacy Road in Fitchburg starting at 1:00 PM. Be sure to notice that this is a new meeting site for us—our usual venues were not available.

Since 1995 Bob has been hybridizing daylilies, both diploid and tetraploid, which will thrive in the north. Lately, he has been focusing on patterned flowers which are attracting a lot of interest by folks from the north and the south. His goal is to produce the most beautiful patterned daylilies anywhere. You can find pictures of his seedlings on www.daylilytrader.com. Take a look, and you won't want to miss this meeting

*One of Bob's seedlings!**VP Francis Kleckner chats with Bob Scott**Photo by Kathi Dwelli***BOB SCOTT ---- DOUBLES CHAMPION***By Wilma Brouwer-Herwig*

Saturday, February 20 found us christening our new meeting room at Savanna Oaks Middle School on Lacy Road with the down-home, no-nonsense likes of Bob Scott of TOPGUNS cultivars fame. The room was large and so was Bob's personality.....he filled the space up nicely with his stories and his "ya alls". This lent a colorful flair to his presentation, especially since it was delivered in his slight Oklahoma drawl.

Bob specializes in doubles of all shapes and sizes. He loves them, but they are a challenge because doubles are notoriously hard to work with. Less than 3% of seeds develop consistent doubling, plus it is difficult to find the flower's reproductive parts. As do all successful hybridizers, he focuses on branching, bud counts, healthy foliage, strong plants and scapes, pretty blossoms, but he also strives for DORMANCY. Yup, ya all, dormancy from a man who lives and works in zone 7! All eleven of his 2010 intros are dormant as are 85% of all his creations. Clearly, he practices what he preaches and that is that a dormant plant is highly desirable. It's vigor is not compromised during the winter as it does not try to grow every time the weather warms up and it does not over-winter daylily rust. For the northern gardener, this puts dormants head and shoulders above southern stock. His mantra, loosely paraphrased, is that 'since many dormants are now being introduced with higher bud counts, reliable re-bloom, instant re-bloom, or bud-building traits, all on a fancier face, why throw money at plants that are really not suitable for your area and that will most likely show signs of steady decline?'

As insistent as he is about acquiring cultivars that fit your climate, he is also adamant that the northern hybridizer is at a disadvantage (a shorter, cooler season) when trying to produce large enough batches of intros to have widespread national distribution and hence name recognition. He is tirelessly campaigning to have the AHS rules for winning an award modified so that the northern creator can compete on a more level playing field with hybridizers who, due to more favorable growing conditions, can get their stuff out there in bigger quantities and thus be seen by more garden judges. He dearly loves to share his ideas on this with others so please contact him should you feel the same way.

Bob's programs are as intense and as varied as his beliefs. He pursues all with gusto and heart. He described the following six main areas of interest: Picoteed Doubles – with or without eyes (see Topguns Aztec Medallion), Doubles with a Double Colored Edge – with or without eyes, UF Doubles in Solid Colors with a Picotee, Bi-colored Singles (see Topguns Widow Maker), Bi-colored Doubles, and Ruffled Dormant Doubles (see Topguns Ruffled Amazement). When that does not keep him busy enough, he also "dabbles" in some Singles (see Topguns Harlequin Ruffles for a big eye, midribs, a double colored edge, and tendrils). He's been creating these beauties since 1988 when he took up a dare from some fellow club members who told him to prove his theory that "anybody can become a great daylily hybridizer." With kudos under his belt for Topguns Lola Scott (HM 2004, Georgia's Double Appreciation Award 2005, and Ida Munson Award in 2006), Topguns Metha Scott (HM2006), and Topguns Double Winmeister (HM 2006), among others, I think he has proven his point! I urge you to visit his website at www.bobscottnursery.com for these and many more hardy beauties. All are priced reasonably, too, so how could you go wrong?

Rounding out Bob's presentation was a spirited auction of ten Topguns creations that he generously donated. Yes, I of course bid, and yes, I was the lucky winner once, if you must know! You missed a great opportunity and a great presentation if you did not attend. I almost didn't get there, but that was only because I, like a dough head (just call me Red), went to the West Madison Ag Research Station first. Oops! So, the moral is that you should always DOUBLE (get the irony here?) check where our meetings will be held before leaving home. Don't assume you know as it does change from time to time.

WDS HYBRIDIZERS' MEETING

By Rick Kaja

The March 27th's hybridizers' meeting was held at the WestAg Center with 19 in attendance. Half way through the introduction, one of the members stated that she felt like she was in an AA Meeting, but there was a dramatic difference, we were all there to egg each other on, to encourage deeper involvement in this obsession.

Once you start dabbing pollen on pistils, a process is set in motion. How to become effective and efficient in this process is the reason we gather. As each topic on the agenda was introduced, information was enthusiastically presented and questions were asked and answered.

Topics discussed were:

1) Methods for tagging and labelling seeds and seedlings through the growing process.

2) Record keeping for seedlings, including mapping seedling beds.

3) Utilizing the positive attributes of bridge plants.

4) There was considerable interest in touring some of the more advanced hybridizer's gardens this summer to observe seedlings and methods.

5) It was suggested that one of our hybridizers put on a presentation at the Garden Expo to help WDS.

6) Attendees were polled to see how many might be interested in becoming garden judges.

7) Getting the most from your camera in garden photography.

If you ever get the urge to try hybridizing, there is a wealth of information and support available to you in WDS.

Thank you to Tom Kleinheinz for his presentation on photography(read the manual) and Conrad for delivering the projector in the nick of time. As always those who brought treats were greatly appreciated.

GARDEN EXPO 2010

Garden Expo 2010 was as a breath of fresh air blowing through the winter doldrums - a preview of the days, weeks, and months to come when we will be planting, weeding, digging - and BUYING!!

In the WDS booth the enlargements of last year's Photo Contest winning photos drew many oohs and aahs. And the enthusiasm of our many volunteers was so infectious that 35 new members were prompted to join in the fun.

Our thanks go to Chris Zeltner who once again has organized a very successful Garden Expo.

Chris adds: "I would like to thank everyone who helped with Garden Expo. I could not do this with out your help. Everyone makes my job so much easier. I very much appreciate all of the help.



EVERYONE WINS!

This is the time of year when everyone can win a door prize (or two!) That is, they can if you will bring a plant or two to share with the rest of us.

Do you have an unusual perennial that needs to be divided this spring? Or do you have an abundance of summer bulbs just waiting to be planted, with no where to go? Bring them to the April, May and June meetings. Door prize drawings will be held. Who knows what treasure you will go home with!

A PARTY IN THE GARDEN.....

It's time to make plans to attend the 2010 WDS Garden Party on June 27th. It will be held at the gardens of Jim and Kitty Fitzpatrick in Sun Prairie.

Their back gardens include a beautiful stream and 2 waterfalls, all flowing to the fish-filled pond. They have collected over 400 different daylilies, along with many unusual specimen trees, conifers, and other perennials. It will be a real treat to spend an afternoon with Jim and Kitty. If we are lucky we may even be able to enjoy their bluebird family.

In the June newsletter you will find more details as well as a map and directions to the garden. Be sure to save the date.

2010 HOME GARDEN TOUR

By Wilma Brouwer-Herwig

This year we will return to the familiar format of touring our own WDS members' gardens. Every year or two I hope to mix it up with a day trip by bus to other daylily gardens out of our area.

Tour date this year is Saturday, July 24 from 9-4, rain or shine. Hosts tentatively on the schedule include: Conrad and Mary Wrzesinski, Ruth Horrall, Theresa Seeley, Lloyd and Judy Ravet, Jane Gahlman, and Jim and Kitty Fitzpatrick. More details will be published in a later newsletter. Plan on spending a day delighting in the hard work of fellow daylily enthusiasts.

Also plan on sharing the event with a friend who may not be a member of WDS yet. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me, Wilma Brouwer-Herwig, Tour Chair, at 608-764-2515 or at williebh96@yahoo.com.



Chris reports to the membership at the Feb. meeting.

Photo by Kathi Dwelle

THE DAYLILY DOUBLES

By Conrad Wrzesinski

Many members of the Wisconsin Daylily Society love double-flowered daylilies. Unfortunately members have also had the experience of planting a daylily that was pictured in a catalog or on the web as a beautiful double-flowered daylily, only to have many of the flowers and sometimes none of them double in this USDA Zone 4b/5a climate.

Knowing that members of the WDS have a wealth of collective knowledge, I conducted a poll to find daylilies that consistently double in member gardens. The results should be helpful to those who would like to add some double daylilies to their garden with some measure of confidence that they won't be disappointed.

Thirty members responded to the survey culminating with a list of 81 different double cultivars from 35 different hybridizers. Introductions from the Joiner family topped the list with 16 different cultivars, followed by David Kirchhoff with 11 cultivars.

The most popular double was 'Condilla', which was growing in 10 member gardens. The double yellow flowers of 'Condilla' have graced the Wrzesinski garden for the past 9 years. Tied for second place in popularity and growing in 5 member gardens were: 'Big Kiss', 'Francis Joiner', 'Peach Magnolia' and 'Siloam Double Classic'. Several members reported that 'Siloam Double Classic' may have several single flowers at first bloom, but then the flowers are double.

Below for your gardening interest is the list of 81 cultivars that, according WDS Members, consistently double in their gardens.

Cultivar	Hybridizer	Year	Cultivar	Hybridizer	Year
All About Eve	Kirchhoff	2000	Judy's Penthouse Double	Bob Schwarz	1998
All in All	Joiner	1994	King Alfred	Bro. C. Reckamp	1975
Amethyst Art	Kropf	1988	King Kahuna	Crochet	1994
Angelic Spring	Petit	1999	Ladybug Two Moons	Hansen	1984
Auspicious	Gates	1985	Land Of Cotton	Joiner	1991
Awesome Luck	Stamile	2005	Little Bit Extra	R. Webster	1983
Big Kiss	Joiner	1991	Little Wild Flower	Grace Stamile	1997
Boyd Edward Powell	Bill Powell	1995	Mandarin Corsage	Stamile	2005
Brookwood Vallie Sharp	Leo Sharp	1994	Mantra	Tankesley-Clarke	2000
Bubbly	J. Joiner	1991	Margaret Tucker	Kirchhoff	2000
Byron	Stamile	2000	Mary Lois Burgess	Kirchhoff	2000
Casey Jones	Melanie Mason	2006	Meringue Mirage	Darrel Apps	1999
Chain Reaction	John Benz	2004	Moses Fire	E. R. Joiner	1998
Clark Gable	Kirchhoff	2004	Night Embers	Stamile	1997
Condilla	Grooms	1977	Peace On Earth	Applegate	1994
Country Music Queen	J. Joiner	1997	Peach Magnolia	Joiner	1986
Dashing Double	Kirchhoff	1994	Peggy Jetcoat	J. Joiner	1995
Double Bold One	Miller	1981	Precious Beginnings	Pansing	1995
Double Breakthrough	Brown	1978	Raspberry Cupcake	T. Herrington	1998
Double Cutie	Brown	1972	Roswitha	Trimmer	1992
Double Date	Tisch-Englerth	1972	Ruth Whitten	J. Joiner	1997
Double Do	Miles	1978	Savannah Debutante	Joiner	1986
Double Dose	Nate Bremer	2007	Savannah Knockout	Joiner	1991
Double Dream	Brown	1978	Scatterbrain	Joiner	1988
Double Old Ivory	Miles	1978	Schmickle Fritz	Kirchhoff	1996
Double Pompom	Miles	1972	Signature Truffle	Kirchhoff	2004
Double River Wye	Kropf	1982	Siloam Double Classic	Pauline Henry	1985
Double Sunrise	Guidry	1982	Spacecoast Twice is Nice	T. Herrington	2005
Double Vanilla Supreme	Stamile	2003	Topguns Fireball	Bob Scott	1999
Dublin Elaine	Joiner	1987	Topguns Lola Scott	Bob Scott	1999
Dune Dumpling	Pauley	1972	Topguns Sara Burton	Bob Scott	1998
Dutch Yellow Truffle	Kirchhoff	2003	Tour de Force	Kirchhoff	1983
Fashion Bug	Joiner	1994	Triple Treat	S.G. Ward	1993
Forty Second Street	Kirchhoff	1991	Two To Tango	Grace Stamile	1996
Forty Years Later	Blash	1994	Uninhibited	Gates	1992
Frances Joiner	Joiner	1990	Vanilla Fluff	Joiner	1988
Greywoods Dottie Do Little	Darlyn Wilkinson	2004	Yoo Doo Dancer	Peat	2001
In Depth	Stamile	1990	Yellow Bouquet	R. Webster	1983
Jerry Pate Williams	Kirchhoff	1999	You Angel You	Grace Stamile	1993
			Zella Virginia	Kropf	1982

Special thanks to all those who made this list possible by their response to the poll.



H. 'Condilla'



H. 'Precious Beginnings'



H. 'Topguns Sara Burton'



H. 'Peace on Earth'

EPIPHANY IN WISCONSIN – BILL POWELL’S INSPIRED WORK

By Wilma Brouwer-Herwig

Kicking off the 2010 WDS Speakers Program on a co-operative winter’s Saturday in January (the 9th to be exact) was our very own hardy hybridizer Bill Powell. Bill is full of information and good humor, consequently his presentation was simultaneously lively and educational. He spoke to a full house and gave plenty of solid tips to the pollen dabblers in the crowd but most info was very useful for us garden variety gardeners, too. If you weren’t in attendance you missed some great practical advice.

Situated on a hilltop about nine miles east of Fort Atkinson you will find Bill’s house and gardens, seedling and growing fields, and the selling beds. He says that hybridizing is a whole lot more fun than the hot, tiring summer grind of selling. Realist that he is, he lamented rather pensively that he will never make much money selling but does it to further his ability to continue making his own creations. He got hooked doing just that starting way back in 1969. He made crosses, potted up the seeds, moved the pots around for optimal sun, kept track of their growth using a children’s height chart, and watered and fed them diligently. What he got for his efforts was a 2 bud, god-awful, ugly thing that was tan and that he likened to giving birth to an alligator. It was UG--LY but it was his; he had created a living thing that no one else had ever seen (we might all be thankful for that!) and he felt possessive. Conversely, he also became possessed. He immersed himself in reading the AHS Daylily Journal and bought the plants recommended by other readers. Well, he found out that most of those were not so good and with time he became much more discerning. He began ordering better plants and eventually started liking his own seedlings more than those he had been buying. Those much-improved seedlings of his are what he uses almost exclusively now and buys other cultivars only when he wants to introduce a new quality into his own stock.

“Have fun while working on your hybridizing program”, he proclaims. “ Make the crosses that appeal to you – cross using your head but also cross using your heart. Satisfy yourself by creating your own little living thing. Use them to further your own unique line.” He admits to holding on to seedlings from work done years ago that will never be introduced but that he still loves and will not get rid of. Most of the few thousand he does manage to compost every year he considers better than the majority of daylilies you can buy elsewhere. Others he retains for up to 6-7 years as they may take that long to fully mature here in the north. He reports that he continues to discover little changes in them that keep him fascinated and mesmerized. “They will change”, he says, “and this takes time.” From my own personal experience with several of Bill’s fabulous seedlings, I highly recommend that you buy some. I have several that I just adore and they really have improved here year after year! I have even submitted one that I call Garcon (ask me about the name sometime) to our WDS popularity poll as it is one of my very favorites, seedling or not.

Traits that have captured Bill’s interest include: a) No eye, clear color and a gradual darkening of that color as it approaches the petal edge; b) Webbing between the edge pleats or ruffles; c) Green edges and transparent edges (see Filled with Gusto, Boom Chuckalucka, and in 2011, Packer Backer); d) Chicken fat for the north; e) Long petals with short sepals; and f) Miscellaneous oddities that include angel wings, sculpting, pinched middles, stippling, speckling, thick substance, and narrow UFs with teeth. Introductions over the years have included Butterfly Blush (I love it and it reblooms for me), Dragonfly Waltz (I love, love, love it and it has a fabulous green throat), Frilly Jammies (a late), Still Small Voice (tons of buds), Vada Powell (similar to Indy Charmer but better because it’s made in Wisconsin!), Kissie Face (a late with teeth), Levitation (whew, an 80 inch tall late), along with a long list of others.

Bill recommends that whether you simply garden or you happen to be one of those crazy backyard dabblers, pay attention to your soil. Invest a little time and energy into it and this will deliver a big pay off in better foliage and brighter blossom colors. Get your soil tested, then add the macro- AND micro-nutrients that are missing. Also add organic matter to loosen the native dirt; this will let air travel to the roots and encourage earthworms to take up residence. When you work up your soil, bacteria are released. This is not only good for your plants, but has been found to be good for your own mood and health, too. Wow, who knew? Just Google ‘soil bacteria and depression’ for the scientific skinny. And I thought I just naturally preferred gardening to housework!!

Mister Bill has happily and thankfully progressed well beyond the early days of his alligator-ugly first baby. His programs are ongoing and productive and a blessing for the northern enthusiast. All of this dedication to the Hemerocallis occurs on Bill and his supportive and hard-working wife Mary’s place they have christened Epiphany Farm. Both have day jobs that take them away from their bit of heaven more than they like, but the rewards they do get to share there are most worthwhile. Whether it is the daylilies they sell, the creations Bill carefully nurtures, their peaceful location, the phenomenal and oft times peculiar purple or golden sunsets, or a visit from an appreciative customer, all is richly enjoyed. Plan to call on them this coming summer. While there, you may just have your own personal epiphany about the wisdom of buying locally and supporting our very own regional hybridizer.

[For more information about what’s for sale, hours of operation, or to arrange a look-see, contact Bill or Mary at 262-593-8010 or email at mbpowell@centurytell.net.]