



Wisconsin Daylily Society, Inc

Issue 41

April, 2012
www.wisdaylilysoc.org

Rosemary Kleinheinz, Editor

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

WDS MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE 7:00 PM **FRIDAY APRIL 13, 2012** MEETING SAVANNAH OAKS MIDDLE SCHOOL 5890 LACY ROAD, FITCHBURG

By John Sheehan

This weekend we are "sharing" our speaker with the Milwaukee Daylily Club. Tim Bell, from the Bells' Daylily Gardens in Sycamore, Georgia, will speak to our WDS Group on **FRIDAY, April 13th**, at 7:00 PM at the Savannah Oaks Middle School.

From the early 1980s Tim and his wife Linda have been growing and hybridizing daylily plants and have registered almost 200 of these beauties. I love the faces of the flowers Tim produces. Most are Tets with well-shaped bagel shapes which show lovely ruffled edges surrounding clean, clear, colored tepals.

I have a few of his plants in my garden and they have done well in Fitchburg. One is called GOD ALONE (7 inch flower on a 22" scape). It has a yellow-white face with pink highlights and huge yellow ruffles. Another is called COMING TO AMERICA, a 6" peach-melon self on a 28" scape; it too has beautiful ruffling.

If you go to the Bell Website at www.bellsdaylilygarden.com, you will be able to see how gorgeous the Bell Daylilies are.

I especially enjoyed looking at the images of LEMON ZEBRA (2012; 6 inch yellow flower with a purple patterned eye on a 30 inch scape). Also, you might check out a 2011 Introduction called BUTTERFLIES AND RAINBOWS (2011; 6" creamy golden yellow flower with a purple patterned eye on a 34 inch scape; big ruffles too!)

Other folks in Tomah, WI; Grand Rapids, WI and Millsboro, DE, all in the north, have good luck with his plants.



H. 'Lemon Zebra'



H. 'It is Written'

Web Site photos

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Calendar of Events 2012

April 13th (FRIDAY) 7:00 pm, Savannah Oaks Middle School, Speaker: **Tim Bell**, Bells Daylily Gardens, GA
May 19th, (Saturday) 1:00 pm, West Madison Ag Station, **WDS Hybridizers' Show**
June 24th (Sunday) 12:30 pm, **Garden Party** at Tower Hill Park Shelter
5610 Cheryl Drive, Fitchburg
July 11th - 14th, **National AHS Convention**, Columbus, Ohio
July **Annual Garden Tours**
July 29th, (Sunday), 1:00 pm, **Annual Potluck/Auction Adoption Program**, Uxcpcpj 'Qcmu
"O k f r g" Uej qqn
August 18th & 19th **Annual Daylily Plant Sale**, Olbrich Gardens
October 13th (Saturday) 1:00 **Annual Meeting**, Location TBA, Speakers: **David Kirchhoff & Mort Morss**, Daylily World, Kentucky
November 10th, (Saturday), 9-12 am, **WDS Hybridizers Group**, Olbrich Gardens
Be sure to check our website for updates.

A MIDWINTER RESPITE

Not only can we declare 2012's Garden Expo a smashing success, but all who volunteered reported lots of interest and enthusiasm (and love of daylilies) by all who stopped to chat. Lots of brochures, Sale bookmarks, and WDS pens were passed out.

Thirty-five new members joined our ranks this year, each receiving 5 WDS \$\$ to be used at the sale this summer. Such a deal! Who could resist??

As usual, the aroma of spring's growing plants and blooms appeased our winter doldrums. Who would have guessed that we would be seeing and smelling the same in our own gardens just a month later!! It will be most interesting to see what the rest of the growing season has in store for us!

Chris Zeltner extends her sincerest thanks to all the volunteers who so generously helped to make the WDS booth at Garden Expo a success.



Chris Zeltner, June Johnson
Sharon Lonergan



Mike Stafford, Sharon Lonergan
Paul Pratt

Photos by K. Dwelle

WE'RE GETTING WITH THE PROGRAM!

During budget considerations and after listening to you, our members, your Board has voted to begin sending this newsletter out by email. Conrad has sent a message to all who have an email address, notifying them of this change and requesting that they let him know if they would still prefer to receive a paper copy.

We do hope you will enjoy the color photos included in each issue, especially the daylilies. Club event photos lose so much detail when printed in black and white; seeing them in color should be much better.

If Conrad Wrzesinski doesn't have your email address and you would like to receive the newsletter in color - and other important notices and reminders, be sure to send him your address.

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WDS DOLLARS WAITING FOR YOU!!

Several years ago the WDS Board was interested in increasing the number of members who were willing to volunteer for various functions - and also to say "Thanks" to those who so generously give of their time. The WDS Dollars program was born. Our program has been so successful over the years that we have noticed other clubs instituting their own version of this program!

It dawned on us that many members have no idea how much they can benefit by stepping forward. Therefore the following information appears here.

Board members each receive 100 WDS \$\$ each year they serve. Committee Chairs receive 50 WDS \$\$ and Cochairs split the 50 WDS \$. Board Members do not receive additional WDS \$\$ for chairing a committee, but can for working at club functions and events. Tour garden hosts receive 25 WDS \$

Of course, you will receive one WDS \$ for each hour worked at various events, five WDS \$ for each hour spent weed-ing and digging adoption plants at Sanners' WDS bed; and five WDS \$ for each hour spent digging and planting daylilies for the WDS daylily plant sale. Genni Kleckner also hands out 5 WDS \$ for bringing treats to meetings. (Be sure to let her know what you are bringing so she can plan accordingly.)

WDS DAYLILY GARDEN TOUR

Now with that build-up, let me tell you of an opportunity you can dig into. After several years of chairing the WDS Daylily Garden Tour, Wilma Brouwer-Herwig has stepped down. She brought so much to that program and now we need someone to step forward and serve as tour chair. Here's a chance for you to earn 50 WDS \$ and bring your ideas to the program. Without someone to pull it together, we could be without a club tour. That would be so sad. Since the date hasn't been set, if our plants are going to bloom 2-4 weeks early, we can still plan accordingly.



**BE SURE TO NOTE THAT
THE APRIL MEETING IS ON
FRIDAY, APRIL 13TH**

Photo contest winners for 2011, your mounted photos will be available at this meeting.

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www.plumhillfarmdaylilies.com
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plumhill@wildblue.net
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7th ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS!!

*By Conrad J. Wrzesinski,
Contest Chair*

*l-r: Lloyd, Wendy, Pat and Paul
Photo by K. Dwelle*

During the February general meeting, members of the Wisconsin Daylily Society were challenged to select their four favorites from a panoply of creative daylily photos in the Seventh Annual WDS Photo Contest. Entries in the photo contest 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 four winning photos in alphabetical order by photographer were:

Wendy Benz- with a photo of a large colorful clump of 'FRANS HALS'.

Pat Ellingson – with a swallowtail butterfly perched on a bloom of 'INDY FIREWORKS'.

Paul Pratt - with a close up of an eye-catching bloom of a seedling.

Lloyd Ravet – with close up of the bloom of the double flowered 'LA CEIBAN SUNSET'.

An enlarged print of each of the four photos will be on display in the Wisconsin Daylily Society booth during the February 2013 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 to be held on August 18th and 19th at Olbrich Botanical Gardens. The four winning photos can be viewed on the WDS web site (www.wisdaylily.org).

The popularity of the photo contest continues to grow. A record 40 WDS members entered in the Seventh Annual WDS Photo Contest. Last year 30 WDS members submitted entries in the photo contest.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Even if WDS isn't able to charter a bus to the National AHS Convention in Columbus, Ohio this summer, we sure do hope our members are able to find another way to get there. Perhaps car-pooling?? As many of you know, it's an experience not to be missed. The best part, of course, is the eight gardens we will be touring, especially Jamie Gossard's. Visiting with old friends comes in a close second.

It was recently announced that 600 have registered (the maximum), but they have begun a "wait list" so it's not too late to try. You can find registration information in the latest Region 2 Newsletter, on Region 2's website, or through John Sheehan.

Habitat For Humanity of Dane County Plant Sale Announcement

Habitat for Humanity of Dane County will have its first plant sale of the year Thursday to Saturday, May 3 – 5 at the Habitat ReStore, 208 Cottage Grove Rd, Madison. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Featured this year are more than 30 different varieties of hybrid daylilies donated by the Wisconsin Daylily Society. In addition, there are a wide variety of other perennials including iris, hosta, rudbeckia and ferns. Various ground covers are also available. Plant prices are \$4 each or 3 for \$10, unless otherwise marked. All proceeds are used to help build homes for Habitat families in Dane County.

Donations of hardy perennials and plastic planting pots are welcome. To donate, please contact Ann Eaves at 442-8768 or e-mail at aeaves@charter.net.

A second sale is planned for June 14 – 16, 2012.

Membership News

Our enthusiastic volunteers at the WDS booth at Garden Expo spurred 35 people to join WDS: They are:

APPLETON, Clyde Schmidt; ARLINGTON, Lorraine Takasaki; DODGEVILLE, Paul Cummings; DOUSMAN, Robert Duller; FREDERIC, Kristie Henning; GRANTS-BURG, Linnea Seume; JANESVILLE, Phyllis & Mike Gackstatter and Pamela Millard; LYNDON STATION, Mary Symak; MADISON, Richard Becker, Cam French & Jim Dougherty, Anne Kunen, Margy May, Kyle Mook, Aleta Murray, Tami Radel, Sherri & Jeff Shokler, Barb Tarockoff, & Nancy Thompto; MOSINEE, Rick DeVries; MT. HOREB, Marjorie King; OCONTO, Cynthia Patterson; OREGON, Kenneth Brookbank, Terry Oostdyk, & Tim Waterworth; PORTAGE, Barb Dodd; SHAWANO, Kurt Schroeder; SPRING VALLEY, MN: Debbie Goettelman; SUN PRAIRIE, Julie Packard and Janine & Mike Simkins; WESTFIELD, Donna Halbach

Other members coming in other ways:

FORT ATKINSON: Dean Zentz became a member through a family membership renewal with his wife Denise; HIXTON: Michele Henrickson; and SUN PRAIRIE: Christine Haried.

Welcome back to Jeannette Golden, a former member in Madison.

All new members are listed in the WDS Membership Roster which is included with this newsletter. We will look forward to greeting you in person at future events.

Our membership now totals 349 daylily lovers!

Gene Dewey, WDS Membership Registrar

WDS HYBRIDIZER GROUP

By Pat Sturdevant

The fragrance of jasmine and hyacinth filled our senses with intoxicating perfume as we entered our small room upstairs at Olbrich Botanical Gardens on Saturday, March 24th. Sixteen energetic souls came together to talk about hybridizing daylilies. We started out with how to hybridize since we had several new people in attendance. You take one of six anthers and dab it's pollen on the stigma of another flower to complete the cross.

We talked about seed starting and it's potential problems. For dampening off, try fine chicken grit or coarse sand on top of your seed starter mix, an oscillating fan which dries the surface, or cinnamon, which is supposed to be an anti-fungal (some didn't have success with this, while others say it works). For fungus gnats it was suggested you try freezing the seed starter mix or using boiling water to dampen the mix before adding your seeds, to kill off the larvae within the mix.

Members in attendance noticed little if any 'Spring Sickness' on their daylilies this year. The jury is still out yet on 'Leaf Streak' and if we will see it this year. And, hopefully we won't have any 'Rust' this year. The spot I had it in two years ago seems to have fully recovered (last year it was set back or stunted from the infestation).

We attempted to ID which flowers had halos, watermarks, eyes, or bands in a series of pictures of seedlings supplied by Jean Bawden. And, Jill Reynolds helped us add to our wish lists by showing us pictures of newer named cultivars from her garden, along with some of her seedlings. I especially liked 'TULLY MARS', 'TEMPTATION EYES' and 'SOLARIS SYMMETRY'.

Jeff Hundt volunteered to work on setting up our first Hybridizer Garden tour this summer. We already have 7 names on the list. It's a good opportunity for us to see how fellow Hybridizers' programs are working and to collect pollen from our garden hosts.

When we looked up 3 hours had already flown by and then some. Bob Kietzman made an announcement about some conversions he had done & a program to share their pollen. It was suggested we continue the conversation at Elie's Family Restaurant where seven of us spent the next two hours talking about daylilies over breakfast & burgers. What a great day!

We will be given a unique opportunity to see for ourselves just what they've accomplished on **Saturday, May 19th at 1:00 at the West Madison Ag Station**. Several hybridizers will be showing us pictures of the babies coming out of their programs. Here's a sneak preview of what we have in store from just a few of our fine hybridizers.



B. Kietzman



J. Bawden



L. Ball



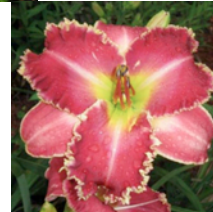
G. Kleckner



P. Sturdevant



J. Reynolds



Photos by Hybridizers

Epiphany Farm Daylilies

Hundreds of registered daylilies for sale
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2011 SUMMER SALE HOURS
9am-3pm July 7-8, 14-15 and 21-22
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BACHMAN and BLANTON BRAVE a BLIZZARD and BRING BEAUTY

By Wilma Brouwer-Herwig



*L-R: Jackie & Dan Bachman,
Donna and JR Blanton*

Photo by K. Dwelle

It almost didn't happen due to one of Mother Nature's unpredictable spells. After a season of low snow, a rather large blast of winter tore through the upper Midwest just as two Ohio neighbors and popular hybridizers left their homes with wives in tow. They were all bound for two Wisconsin speaking engagements, one with the WDS and the other with the Milwaukee area daylily club. Careful driving and an early start helped bring them safely to Savannah Oaks Middle School on March 3.

First to show off his stuff was the enthusiastic and effervescent Dan Bachman from Valley Of The Daylilies in Lebanon, Ohio. Dan has been working with our favorite plant since 1987. It was part-time at first, but in 2001 he put all his eggs in one basket when he sold his half of a restaurant called Chicken On The Run and built a house and nursery dedicated to all things *hemerocallis*. His place is a formal AHS display garden that also incorporates over 40 long rectangular beds for hybridizing and sales. His focus is mostly diploid spiders and unusual forms that are late, tall, and large-flowered. Small-flowered spiders on 3-4 foot tall scapes have recently caught his fancy. He has used a lot of our own Jean Bawden's stuff to further his work. Dan says you should keep good records as it is just as important to know what passes on the good genes as well as the bad, and also advocates doing reciprocal crosses. With over 130 registered daylilies and several award winning cultivars (including 'SUZY CREAM CHEESE', 'MASCARA SNAKE', and 'B.J. MCMILLEN') in his bailiwick, I'd say he's doing some fine bookkeeping. The best part of registering plants to him is finding a good name. He has mined the Far Side comic strip, blues tunes, and jazz artists for nuggets. Check out 'MUDDY WATERS', 'CHOO CHOO CH' BOOGIE', 'SHOUTIN THE BLUES', 'OKE-SHE-MOKE-SHE-POP', and my favorite two named 'WHEN CLOWNS GO BAD' and 'BOBBING FOR POODLES'.

Up next was J.R. Blanton, a tall and gentlemanly man who has been chasing his daylily dreams since 1993. His spread is called Tangled Vine Garden in Morrow, Ohio and is only two miles from Dan's place. Though he holds down a day job as an IT director he also works with hosta and iris when time permits. He comes to his love of plants through the men of the family who were all strong gardeners. With this long family history, he naturally assumed that it would be a cinch to create an orange daylily, a color he loves. Surely it had to be simple, so he bought two orange ones, crossed them, and thought that was the end of the process. The pale white thing that eventually showed up told him it might be a bit more complicated than that. He got it right when his 'RED SQUIRREL' was registered and has since received an Honorable Mention Award.

Important daylily attributes for him include: very small, very big, very short, very tall, very hot (colored), very soft (colored), self-cleaning, bud building, and reblooming. When asked what "self-cleaning" was and why he made it part of his focus, he explained that, especially in cultivars with high bud counts, it was desirable to have the spent blossoms fall completely off the scape before the next day's bloom appeared. This there-by saves the gardener the tedious and nerve wracking task of deadheading in between multiple, fragile buds (we all know the sickening snap of a misplaced hand hitting a burgeoning scape). J.R. has also been successful in creating daylilies with high bud counts. Some of these include 'BABY DRAGON'S TONGUE' (bc +30), 'CHARMED BY A SNAKE' (bc 25-30), 'BROKEN ARROW' (bc 35-40), and the previously noted 'RED SQUIRREL' (bc 35) which has the added bonus of being a bud builder.

Together Dan and J.R. generously contributed 18 of their registered daylilies for a WDS auction, which spiritedly rounded out their program. A respectable sum was raised (yes, I bid early and often, and yes, I did win once.....not that you were wondering) and said cultivars will be sent to us in the spring. These two kind-hearted men brought the promise of another growing season to our blustery late-winter day. Thanks a big bunch for the extra effort it took to keep the engagement. To repay the favor, visit the Blanton's website at tangledvinegarden.com where you will discover his wife, Donna's garden art for sale along with J.R.'s creations. The Bachman's will be found at thevalleyofthedaylilies.com where daylily themed clothing handmade by Jackie will entice you once

A PLANT TO SHARE

Since everyone loves a door prize, if you will bring one or two unusual perennials to the April or May meetings, we can all go home with a new plant to add to our gardens. In the past you have shared plants as diverse as Iris corms, hosta plants, summer blooming bulbs, a paper bark maple seedling, European wild ginger, and even an *Amorphophallus* (or stinky plant!)

With the warm weather and early appearance of perennials, this will be the perfect time to find that special plant to bring to the April and/or May meeting

OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU

Wilma Brouwer-Herwig and Jan Brouwer, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families as you mourn the passing of your father/father-in-law, Albert Brouwer.

Wilma describes her father as a man of simple wants and needs who was lucky enough to have had a long and healthy life.

A beautiful obituary describing the life of this fine gentleman can be found at <http://host.madison.com/news/local/obituaries/brouwer-albert>.

A TRIBUTE TO NINA BINKLEY

By Deb Kleppe



On Wednesday, March 21, 2012 Heaven was blessed with a fabulous person and wonderful gardener. Nina Binkley, a member from Monroe, was taken from us way too early. She was diagnosed with cancer a mere seven months earlier and fought a gallant and courageous battle. The Wisconsin Daylily Society's Annual Meeting was the last meeting she attended.

For those of you who didn't know Nina let me tell you some things about her. She was a wife to Lee and mother to Ericka and Matt. She taught elementary grades in the Monroe School District for 33 years. She loved her pets and rescued most of them. She was a great baker. This past Christmas she had her husband drive her around town to deliver plates of goodies to people. She loved to create masterpieces with fabric. She was an excellent quilter. Her main canvas was outside in her many gardens. Her biggest interest was daylilies. She once told me that it was so exciting getting up in the morning in the summer and walking the gardens to see which new daylilies had opened up that day. I can't agree with her more!

As I mourn her loss I treasure the time we had together. I not only lost a beautiful friend, but a great gardening mentor. Some people's lives are like ripples in a pond. Their actions, comments, just their way with things affects those around them. Nina has made ripples that will last way beyond her passing.

DISEASES IN THE GARDEN (Special Daylily Edition)

Have you ever seen a plant pathologist hold a large group's attention for almost four hours, just talking about plant diseases? At our January meeting Brian Huddleston from the Plant Pathology Department at UW did just that! After almost 2 hours we took a "food frenzy" break, and most of the group stayed to learn more about Leaf Streak, Daylily Rust, Crown & Root Rot, Southern Blight, Powdery Mildew, Tobacco Rattle, Hosta Virus X, Aster Yellows and Foliar Nematodes - all common diseases in gardens in this area.

Brian discussed the causes, hosts, environmental triggers, and controls for each disease and showed pictures of diseased plants. Sounds dry, but Brian had a way of making this discussion interesting and relevant in a humorous sort of way.

We are invited to bring diseased plants to his lab at 1630 Linden St. in Madison for diagnosis and suggested treatments. Tom & I have taken plants there several times and do appreciate the help he has given.

MAKE MORE TIME FOR SOCIALIZING

By Wilma Brouwer-Herwig

Just a reminder to those of you who like to chat it up with like-minded daylily lovers: You are welcome to come a bit earlier to our regular meetings as the doors are almost always open at 12:30. Not only do you get a chance to catch up with your buddies, you could also lend a hand in carrying stuff in or help our hostess-with-the-mostest, Genni Kleckner. If you are bringing a treat, please do your very best to get to the meeting well before it's 1:00 official starting time. We hate to have a line at the refreshment table while the Prez is trying to conduct the meeting. So, come earlier and make the fun last a little longer.

RITA'S HAVING A GARDEN PARTY AND YOU'RE INVITED!!



Dear Fellow WDS Members,

I would like to invite you all to the annual potluck picnic on Sunday, June 24, 2012. We will start out at the Tower Hill Park Shelter, 5610 Cheryl Dr where we will have lunch. After lunch come to 5586 Cheryl Dr (the second house east of the park) where we will have dessert, refreshments, and a leisurely visit in the garden.

If you are bringing a dessert, please drop it off at my house, 5586 Cheryl Dr, between 11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. All other dishes go to the park shelter after 11:30 A.M. Plan to eat around 12:30. The club will provide beverages and all plates and utensils for eating. In case of a hot day, the park has a large enough shelter so that we can eat in the shade. It also has rest rooms.

Directions: exit the Beltline on Fish Hatchery Rd. Go south approx. 2.5 mi. Turn right onto Cheryl Dr. My house is on the right in the second block, the park is in the 3rd block.

This is by far a favorite time in my garden and I'm so happy to be sharing it with our group in June. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Rita Thomas

Editor's Note: Last summer Rita's garden was on our Daylily Garden Tour. If you saw it in July, you must be as excited as I am to see it again in June! So much to see! You really don't want to miss it.

Remember to bring a dish to pass.



Brian Huddleston & Jeff Hundt



No audience can listen on an empty stomach!

Photos by K. Dwelle

AN UPDATE ON ONE OF OUR MEMBERS.

By Pat Sturdevant

Laurel Kohl is currently fighting a courageous battle with cancer. Her kind and giving heart needs to be acknowledged by those who have met her and call her friend. I hope I'm considered one of them.

She has given away most of her daylily plants, seedlings and seeds that she has crossed herself, plus seeds she purchased on the Lily Auction. I hope those who have received such gifts take the time to email her & thank her, tell her how the plants are doing, or if they have bloomed, so she knows how much we appreciate her generosity.

Below are the emails she recently sent to me.. With her permission they are being forwarded to you. Laurel's email is lkohl@mhtc.net. I'm sure she would love to hear from you! She will read them all. Hopefully, you understand she may not be able to respond back to everyone.

Laurel, we hope to see you back at our WDS & WDS Hybridizer meetings soon! Please, get well!

I have intended to update my status report but everything just got away from me. My cancer spread and I was placed on a different chemo. All indications were that it was working then a week go Friday I slipped and broke my hip. I have now had a hip replacement and I'm in rehab in Spring Green. The current estimate is that I will be there 2 to 3 weeks.

As for long term health I have been forming my own opinions about the prospects. The doctors seem to project an optimistic attitude but sometimes I sense that they are simply trying not to be too negative. As for me, a year ago I accepted whatever is meant to be and meanwhile I have far too much to do to spend time worrying about what might be.

As for the hip surgery there were higher than normal risks involved, however it would relieve a lot of pain, allow me to walk again and give me an unknown length of life. Without the surgery I would permanently be in a care facility, in pain, with failing health, and with a prognosis of 1 year to live. The surgery was the better choice.

I miss the gardening but I have accepted the possibility (or even the probability) that I won't be able to do it again. That doesn't mean I can't be interested in what others are doing. Right now I am much better than I have been for some time and even am likely to be able to return to meetings this year.

NU-ERA DAYLILIES

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250 newer cultivars,
many seedling clumps

BILL POWELL SUGGESTS A DIFFERENT WAY TO LOOK AT HYBRIDIZING

Photo by K. Dwelle



On February 4th Bill Powell, a daylily hybridizer, who has been a member of the WDS since its very beginning, gave a presentation on his own work and general thoughts about hybridizing. He talked about the need to please ourselves - to cross with things that "grab us"....not to just be swayed by pictures in catalogues in choosing what we use to make crosses. If we listen to our own intuitions about what we like, which cultivars "draw us to them", and feel our own emotions about what we find pretty and good we will end up with a hybridizing program that is truly ours and unique. Of course, he noted, branching and bud count and clear colors are important but so is uniqueness. Bill suggested that our own intuitive preferences are fairly consistent (and have their own internal logic) and if we also use our "gut" in addition to our head in making choices about "parents" we will more likely produce plants and flowers that are distinctive and ones we truly like.

Bill had a sense of humor and suggested that we have to be a little less than over-serious about all this. Sometimes we get "butt ugly" plants and sometime just odd things. But, they may have traits that can be useful when crossed with 'snazzier looking flowers'. He also suggested that we not be in such a rush to discard seedling.... ignore the idea that if the plant hasn't produced a prize winner by the second year of bloom that it should be composted. Using himself as an example, he said that some living things take a long time to mature. So, at some point, almost all our "babies" go to 'meet their maker' and are reborn in the next crop of seedlings. But, he said, sometimes we find seedlings that simply stop us in our tracks. If we follow our own intuitions and our hearts a little, we are more likely to find seedlings that emotionally "grab us."

A slide show was used to illustrate the things that can be found among seedlings: toothy edges, green edges, white edges, filigreed edges, odd but nice color patterns, and just plain "pretty stuff". Among the cultivars and seedlings he presented was "Florence Nightengale, a gold edged lavender that blooms late, which is displayed in a poster at the Nightengale museum in London. He used one of his seedlings, "HEY SUE'S CRISPEY" (yes, that is a play on words) to illustrate a point: a somewhat plain but vigorous cultivar, properly crossed with variously colored other seedlings, can produce really nice new plants. In this case, a dusting of darker color around an edge that is taken to a variety of other colored plants can produce a nice color pattern that is not usually seen.

Bill also touched upon epigenetics and suggested that things other than Mendelian genetics can be factors in the cultivars we produce. He also talked heresy: use all kinds of stuff to judiciously fertilize plants and provide them with micronutrients and plant hormones. Noting that the worst that could happen is that the plant dies and we become wiser, he observed that most cultivars are turned into compost anyway so inquisitiveness just speeds up the process. More tomfoolery and daylily talk followed and then he answered questions.