

# WISCONSIN DAYLILY SOCIETY

[www.wisconsindaylilyociety.org](http://www.wisconsindaylilyociety.org)

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



## President's Minute

*by Steven King*

Happy Holidays ~ WDS Elves and Merriment Makers!

Winter weather is fast approaching. The bountiful and colorful Midwest growing season is over and our individual garden planning process for the upcoming Spring, Summer and Fall of the New Year is taking shape, both in our minds and on paper (... so we will remember when the time comes).

Hopefully, you ALL had a wonderful Thanksgiving, joyfully celebrating and eating sweet and savory foods with family and friends. We have so much to be thankful for... both individually and collectively as a vibrant club! We've had a very active, incredible and successful 2023 with our WDS Club General Meetings featuring excellent ADS speakers and their plant auctions, Regional and National trips, Picnic, Plant Adoption/Auction, Annual Daylily Sale, Annual meeting events... just to name a few. Year 2024 will prove to be equally eventful, rewarding and memorable. WDS is looking great for 2024. We're in good financial shape, we have a WDS member picnic planned for July 27th at UW West Ag, (8502 Mineral Point Rd), and a couple of potential bus trips planned (Riverside International Friendship Gardens in La Crosse, WI AND the Region 2 Summer Meeting in OH), IF there is enough member interest and bus ridership participation.

# President's Minute continued

The WDS Board recently had our annual budget meeting, where we discussed our anticipated expenditures for the coming year and also elected our slate of officers for 2024. I'm proud to announce your WDS officers:

President: Steven King

Vice President: Genni Kleckner

Treasurer: Ann Miller-Holman

Secretary: Wilma Brouwer-Herwig

These officers and any of the following WDS Board member ~Tom Marling, Shannon Meyer, Ann Neviaser and Steve Harsy ~ are here to guide our club to continued future growth and success. If you have ANY questions, concerns and/or positive feedback, you are encouraged to contact any of these fine people. WE are here for YOU as financial stewards and directors of your WDS club. We also want to THANK with much gratitude for their service, those WDS Board members who are now leaving their board positions: Sue Hill, Bobbi Johnson and Rhonda Veroeven.

We have been working hard to create a 2024 WDS Calendar filled with ALL of our scheduled events and locations for the year (see the WDS inclusive event schedule ~ included in this issue). Special THANKS to Genni Kleckner and Lisa Imhoff for continuing to create and produce this beautiful high quality work featuring colorful pages of Daylilies produced by those Hybridizers among us in addition to member pictures of their prized and favorite Daylily cultivars. If you ordered a WDS Calendar, you have all the pertinent club event/date information you need for the year at your fingertips.

For 2024, we have some excellent speakers planned for your listening and daylily viewing pleasure, including the following:

March 23rd: Rod Lysne of Northern Grown Perennials at [www.hostalink.com](http://www.hostalink.com)

April 20th: Stuart Kendig of Kendig Daylilies/Perfect Perennials at [www.kendigdaylilies.com](http://www.kendigdaylilies.com)

May 18th: Bart Beck of Bx Butte Daylilies at [www.bxbutte.plantfans.com](http://www.bxbutte.plantfans.com)

November 2nd: Bobby Scott of Top Gun Daylilies, at: [www.topgundaylilies.com](http://www.topgundaylilies.com)

I encourage you to be thinking about attending the 2024 American Daylily Society (ADS), Region 2 Winter Symposium being held March 1st ~ 3rd, in Lafayette, IN. The registration fee is \$125 and for a hotel room with 2 queen beds, the fee is \$119 plus tax per night, with a complimentary breakfast included. The scheduled speakers will be: Bart Beck ~ Bx Butte Daylilies, Bret Clement ~ Clement Daylily Garden, Jim Murphy ~ Woodhenge Gardens, Ann Townsend ~ Bittersweet Farm and Chris Wilhoite ~ Soules Garden. That's quite a lineup! Further information may be found at the Region 2 website: [adsregion2.org](http://adsregion2.org).

As we embrace and celebrate the season of Winter, remember to take the time to enjoy and appreciate your garden/form landscapes, family and friends, the longer daylight hours and the fact that our Daylilies will grow green again soon.

BE kind, BE well,  
Steven

# UPCOMING WDS EVENTS

**January 27th** - Hybridizers' Showcase at UW West Ag (8502 Mineral Point Rd, Verona)

**February 24th** - Photo Contest /Hybridizers's Showcase at UW West Ag (8502 Mineral Point Rd, Verona)

**March 1st – 3rd** -The ADS Region 2 Winter Symposium will be in Lafayette, Indiana at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel and Conference Center. More details to come!

Are you going to the Winter Symposium? We would love to hear all about it! If you are attending and would be willing to write a short article about it or even just submit some pictures, let Shannon know.

**March 23rd** - General Meeting, at UW West Ag (8502 Mineral Point Rd, Verona). We will host Rod Lysne of Northern Grown Perennials at: [www.hostalink.com](http://www.hostalink.com)

**April 20th** -General Meeting, at UW Extension ( 5201 Fen Oak Dr, Madison). We will host Stuart Kendig of Kendig Daylilies/Perfect Perennials at: [www.kendigdaylilies.com](http://www.kendigdaylilies.com)

**May 18th** - General Meeting, at UW Extension (5201 Fen Oak Dr, Madison). We will host Bart Beck of Bx Butte Daylilies at: [www.bxbutte.plantfans.com](http://www.bxbutte.plantfans.com)

**June 12th – 15th** – Daylilies Galore In 2024 – The 78th ADS National Convention will be in Oklahoma City, OK. To register and get more information, go to: [www.ads2024convention.org](http://www.ads2024convention.org)

**July 27th** - Picnic at UW West Ag (8502 Mineral Point Rd, Verona)

**August 3rd** - Adoption-Auction, Glacier Creek Middle School, Cross Plains, WI

**November 2nd** - Annual Meeting, DoubleTree East (4402 E. Washington Ave., Madison), we will host Bobby Scott of Top Gun Daylilies, at: [www.topgundaylilies.com](http://www.topgundaylilies.com)

If you have news or events you would like to share, please email Shannon Meyer at [solcottster@gmail.com](mailto:solcottster@gmail.com)

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Favorite Daylily?

Let everyone know about your favorite daylily by sharing it in the newsletter! Email a photo, description and what makes it special to you to Shannon at [solcottster@gmail.com](mailto:solcottster@gmail.com). Your favorites will be shared in future newsletters for all to enjoy and add to their wishlists. For the hybridizers, shameless self-promotion is encouraged!

### Articles for Upcoming Newsletters

Do you have ideas for articles you would like to see in an upcoming newsletter? Would you be willing to write an article? If you can answer yes to either of these questions, please email Shannon Meyer at [solcottster@gmail.com](mailto:solcottster@gmail.com)

### Photos with Animals

Do you have a photo of a daylily that includes an animal? We'd like to include it in the spring newsletter to give everyone a reminder of the beauty of our summer flora and fauna. Any animals are welcome! Email your photos to Shannon.

### In Search Of...

Are you on an endless quest for a hard-to-find daylily? Let us help you! Email Shannon to have it listed in the Newsletter.

## BOARD MEMBERS:

### President: Steven King

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# THINGS WERE DIFFERENT IN 2023

*by Jean Bawden*

The year 2023 was a difficult year. Not only did I start writing some notes early in the daylily bloom season, but I also kept meticulous stats on when things started and ended bloom, but also how many blooms each plant had, and how many days each bloomed. I have whittled my collection to around 150 cultivars and many are my own, both registered and not registered. I watered my plants off and on, but with 5 acres of plants and no sprinkler system, it certainly was sporadic. The following are some of my observations.

The droughty conditions started well before the daylily bloom season.....the rainfall was spotty, so if Madison got rain, Oregon might not. I had approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$ " of rain from May 1 to June 30. Some of my general observations were that daylilies had fewer buds, and they were congested at the top of the scape, which leads to flowers opening into each other or being contorted. I had a lot of bud drop, even early in the season. Plants that normally are well-branched had little branching. Scapes were shorter than usual and 12 plants did not bloom at all, even though they were established clumps. Twenty additional plants had 10 or fewer blooms, so 15% of my plants had little bloom.



'Brilliant Explosion'  
Bawden, 2015

In 2022, the 3 most prolific bloomers were Yellow Skyscraper (Sheehan seedling) with 266 bloom on a single plant, Aliens in the Garden (Gossard) with 240 blooms on a single plant, and Brilliant Explosion (Bawden) with 218. In 2023, those same plants were Yellow Skyscraper 126, Aliens 122, and Brilliant Explosion 126. That is a profound difference, which I take to mean that sprinkling or hand-watering is no substitute for rain. In 2022, I had 31 plants with over 100 blooms, and in 2023, I had 13 plants with over 100 blooms. That is another profound difference.



'Yellow Skyscraper'  
Sheehan seedling

The most bizarre occurrence happened on July 15. My garden had 343 blooms on July 14, which was also a bad air quality day (in the 200 range, I think). The day after the bad air day, the bloom count was 127. On July 15, the air quality improved, and on 7/16 the bloom count returned to 365. Since the bloom count usually increases gradually to peak and then gradually recedes, this was a total anomaly, and I can only attribute the incredible drop to air quality.



# Different continued

When compared to 2022, plants in 2023 should have had more blooms because the clumps would have grown more fans. Instead, there were 99 plants that had less bloom, 59 that had more bloom, and 12 established plants that didn't bloom at all. The most affected plants were those that had bloomed heavily in 2022. In total, I had 20,655 blooms in 2022, and 8104 in 2023. Some of the plants that increased bloom in 2023 were plants that had been moved in the fall of 2021, and needed a year to recover.

Number of days in bloom was more consistent. Eighty-two plants bloomed on fewer days in 2023, and 67 bloomed more days, and 10 bloomed on the same number of days. I would assume that plants would bloom more days in 2023, because the clumps would be bigger so there would be more scapes. However, most plants varied from last year by 1-3 days, rather than the vast change in number of blooms.



'Aliens in the Garden'  
Gossard, 2011

I think the extreme drop-off in bloom, even with hand-watering, and the probable effect of the bad air day were the most surprising things this year.

## IN SEARCH OF...

If you have either of these plants and are willing to sell or share, please let Shannon know by emailing [solcottster@gmail.com](mailto:solcottster@gmail.com).



'Atomic Orange'  
Polston, 2016



'Spoons for Escargot'  
Peat, 1999

Are you on an endless quest for a hard-to-find daylily? Let us help you! Email Shannon at the address above to have it listed in the Newsletter.

# WDS Annual Meeting 2023: Redemption

*by Shannon Meyer*

On October 28th, the Wisconsin Daylily Society gathered at Madison's east side Doubletree for this year's fun and memorable Annual Dinner. From the fantastic planning of the event by Ann Miller Holman down to details like unique and beautiful table décor provided by Sharon Lonergan, this year's event was a triumphant success.



The WDS members started the day catching up with each other and scoping out the raffle prize table. Members new and old chatted and admired the tastefully decorated space before finding a table and getting settled in for the afternoon. The meeting commenced and we soon got down to the business of approving changes to the bylaws and electing new board members. As always, discussion was respectful, informative and productive. WDS is always moving forward and making positive changes for the club, and to do so in such a civilized and non-contentious way is a big achievement for such a large and opinionated group!

New Board Members Ann Neviaser and Steve Harsy were elected and Wilma Brouwer-Herwig was appointed to fill the vacancies for the coming term. Thank you Board Members new and old!

If you have never been on the board, consider running for the next term. Being a part of the behind the scenes planning and decision making is interesting and actually more fun than I had expected. And as I had been told by someone who shall remain anonymous: "It's really not THAT bad", and they were right!



After all the serious business was completed, we were treated to a surprise Wisconsin themed snack bar. There were cheese curds and pretzel bites with dipping sauce as well as freshly made root beer floats. Everything was delicious, especially the cheese curds, and it was just the revitalizing sugar rush we needed before the second half of the meeting commenced.





## Annual Meeting continued

Tom Smoulder of Smoulder's Daylily Garden took the stage but was adamant to share the credit with his hybridizing partner and wife of over 30 years, Elaine, who was in the audience. The Smoulders hail from Warren in Northwestern Pennsylvania in a climate similar to ours, though a bit warmer. Every inch of the garden is utilized with an intricate pattern of raised beds packed full of daylilies. Like many of us, the Smoulders' garden is continually evolving and Tom spoke about rearranging and moving plants and rebuilding beds. The garden is an oasis where Tom and Elaine can enjoy not only daylilies but a wide variety of birds and wildlife that frequently stop by. When not attending the recent weddings of three children in 14 months (!), Tom and Elaine are busy creating beautiful flowers that they were happy to show the WDS crowd. The Smoulders flowers are big, boldly colored and often have unique traits such as teeth, extended eyes, and patterns. They work with both dips and tets and have some exciting intros that elicited lots of approval from the group.



Smoulders intro





## Annual Meeting continued

After the presentation, several lucky members were able to obtain their very own Smoulder daylily in the auction. There was heavy competition for plants like Chief Cornplanter, but only one can walk away with the prize. If you are still mourning the loss, or were just late on getting in on the action, fear not, WDS is offering a club order! Check them out at:

Smoulder's Daylily Garden

[smouldersdaylilygarden.com](http://smouldersdaylilygarden.com)

and select and pay for what you want. WDS will take care of the shipping and plants should arrive for our May meeting.



'Chief Cornplanter' Smoulder-T., 2016

'Once the auction concluded, it was raffle time. As always, there was an array of so many wonderful things to choose from, it was hard to decide what to pick. Also adding to the dilemma was the choice of the artful centerpieces added to the mix. It seemed like everyone walked away happy and feeling like a winner, even if they were the last number called.

Is it too early to be looking forward to next year's Annual Meeting? I say no. Next year's speaker is Bobby Scott of Top Gun Daylilies, which is sure to be great. It really feels like more of a celebration of our club than a typical "meeting" to me. And we should celebrate, because we deserve it and have so much to be thankful for. Thanks to all WDS members for making our club so successful and special, and I can't wait to see you at all the great events and meetings in 2024!

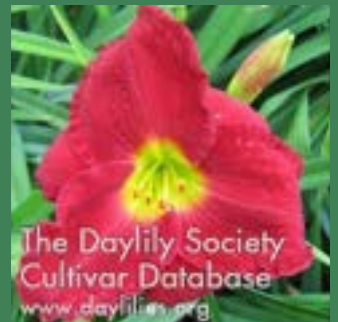


Country Estate Christmas  
(McDaniel-J.C., 2023)

Submitted by Matthew Stafford

## MY FAVORITE DAYLILY *Holiday Edition*

Get into the spirit of the  
season with these festively  
named Favorites!



Here Comes Santa Claus  
(Apps, 1999)

Submitted by Darrel Apps



Snow White Isn't Quite  
(Apps 2022)

Submitted by Darrel Apps



Cajun Christmas  
(Abajian, 2002)

Submitted by Shannon Meyer



Once Again Rudolph' Nose  
(Apps, 2019)

Submitted by Darrel Apps

# ART IN THE GARDEN

*by Linda Shields*

There are a number of themes which one might say separate the design elements of one garden from another. One garden's main focus could be their water element: a lovely waterfall and attached pond central to their daylily gardens. Another location could then be known because all of their garden plant names come from the Star Trek legend. Some gardeners choose a color to carry you visually from the front gate to back door: blue benches, blue planters, blue flowers, blue paint. When you leave some gardens, you realize you were awed by the sheer size; others by the brilliant plant selection...then others by the exquisite architectural design. And then there are those gardens where we find ourselves taking lots of photos because a part of the hardscape - the sculptures, garden art and signage - set this place apart from all the others.

Is garden art important in a daylily garden or any garden? How much is enough or too much? What kinds of art works best and why? Is there 'good' art and 'bad' art? Where does one find affordable garden art? Let's will look at these questions one by one.

Here are five ways in which putting your art outside is something you might want to consider:

In all honesty, if you stand back a distance, most gardens will look basically the same in color because Mother Nature is consistent and moderate in her greenness and hues. Extreme contrasts in color will

pop. But one way of adding personality to your garden is through the artwork you select to sit in it.

As with all art, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. There is no 'right' or 'wrong' no 'good' or 'bad' garden art. It's all a matter of personal preference. Both a 15 foot tall marble copy of Rodin's 'The Lovers' and a rusty Conestoga wagon wheel can be considered valuable pieces. People select their artwork for many reasons. A piece might reflect a single artist you love or a momentous event in your life, a friend's housewarming gift or a child's birth, maybe an animal's life. It might have been selected because it was whimsical, spiritual, mystical or draconian. You may have selected one strong theme for yourself such as that seen in Oriental Gardens with their red bridges, Buddha statues and Tea Houses.



Or an eclectic theme with artwork from many artists, of many styles and using various techniques and materials. Because in your yard, you are the artist and the garden your palette.

## Art continued

Most plants in the garden are 36 inches or less. You might want to use the back of a long low garden to change up and vary height by displaying a series of medium and tall art pieces. When plants die leaving large open areas, an easy way to fill in this volume is by placing your items of art in front of these empty spaces. This visual rebalancing is a key component of good design and professional landscaping.

There are certain colors which are more rare and unique in flowers: any blue, an absolute black, a fire engine red or a true white. A new zest is added to garden spaces whenever these colors are added. Take a look at the vivid blue hand blown Chihuly glass columns at the Dallas arboretum.



It was the headline spacer of the article, “Garden Art Is Cool Again” by Leslie F Halleck. Although few of her clients can afford Chihuly glass, Ms. Halleck does say these colors can be inexpensively included by asking your grandchildren to paint colorful stones, by selecting artsy pots, by placing decorative pillows...all in repetitive spaces throughout your gardens.

Garden art is made of cement, metal, wood, fabric, paper or glass. These reflect, absorb and transmit light differently than a daylily. This causes its chiaroscuro (the effect of light and shadow) to become more complex depending on the light source and material... for instance metal. This might account for the popularity of Gazing Balls in many gardens.



In a recent tour of an Asheville National 2022 daylily garden I saw mirrors set up strategically to reflect a transformed split image daylily garden as you went through an arch; when actually the path moved right at the mirror and over to the pool. It was beautifully designed, lighted and planted; also unusual and delightful. This mixing of materials, the living and the man made, juxtaposed creatively, turning marginal elements into magical elements as the viewer’s imagination was tricked by the mirrors.



## Art continued

Many gardeners plant with thoughts for how their gardens will appear during the upcoming winter months...possibly with a concern for feeding the birds over these months short on food and water. Garden arches and decorative bird baths along with colorful tall garden markers stand out starkly in our Midwestern neighborhoods.



Groups of birdhouses give a cozy look as Spring approaches and the sound of new baby tweets fill the crisp, clean air.



The Cambridge dictionary states “ a garden is a plot of land, usually near a home, where flowers are grown.” Some people have taken exception to intentionally placing artwork in gardens.

They dislike gardeners who, in their enthusiasm, either place too many items, select incongruent items or just over buy and get stuck with too much visual chaos in their yard space. This is a pitfall with garden art...you might have heard the phrase, “Less is more.” If people start dropping items off at your driveway, it’s time to rethink how many objects you are placing in your back yard and gardens.

Every current article I found said there was a growing trend of people wanting more personal and exclusive artwork for their home garden. I do not buy from Amazon, Etsy or Home Depot for a variety of reasons. But I have bought interesting larger pieces on Wayfair. I love finding my art in Nature or some corner of the universe where someone else has left their ‘clutter’. We were visiting Asheville, South Carolina with a few hours to shop one afternoon when I happened to google a few junk shops...one was called ‘The Screen Door’. I saw my ‘find’ the minute my feet hit the gravel in the large parking lot. It was a very tall Oriental obelisk (picture #6)standing back with the old bikes and motorcycle parts.



## Art continued

I had to climb past chicken coops and old pots, ringer washing machines and Indian dishes, but I made a zig zag bee line straight to my object. I had long looked in catalogs for one like this but they were so far above what my pocketbook could actually afford I just had always quickly turned the page with a sigh. I tried to hold back my excitement when the owner said I could have it for \$328. I wanted to do a happy dance but I contained my wiggles until we were out of the parking lot...I was sure the owner would suddenly change his mind because if you believed most trade magazines I should have had to pay three to four times as much. It was a logistical nightmare getting it home in the SUV due to its size and weight but my husband is nothing if not heroic. My Oriental column is absolutely mythical and mysterious. I often wonder how many winters have come and gone since my obelisk was made and who owned it last, where did it stand guard and whose eyes have lingered like mine on it....art is like that.



A harmonious garden integrates its art with elements central to its landscape design. Yet Art can fill spaces, open up new spaces or give the illusion of more space. It can add color, add new complementary colors or be a temporary solution to a difficult problem. Art can make us stop and think beyond ourselves, it can make our spirits soar and lift our hearts, it can make us reflect and open our minds. It can change the atmosphere of your garden, the way you feel about your garden and the attention it brings. Just like the daylily, art can be beautiful as well as serve a purpose in the garden.



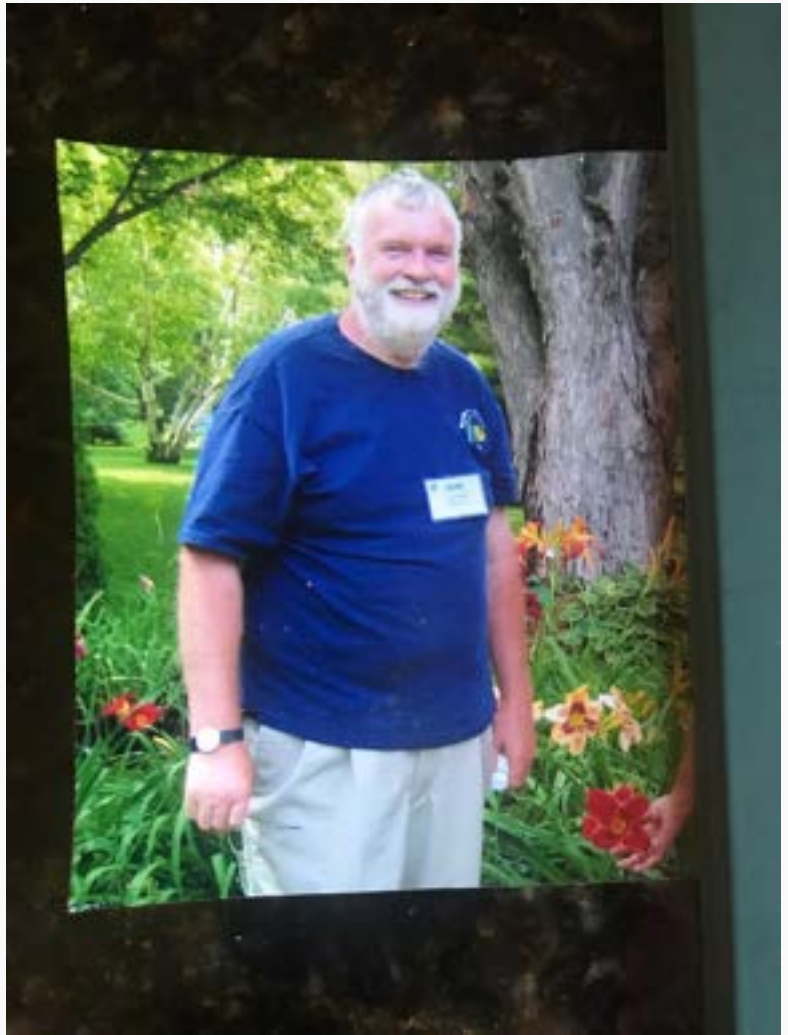


# MEMORIES OF JOHN SHEEHAN

*by Jean Bawden*

The first time I saw John Sheehan was many years ago while working at sale prep.....he came in as an absolute greenhorn, who was willing to do anything asked of him, and full of enthusiasm, and that was in the days when there were no WDS dollars to entice people. He was so excited to be part of this group and so enthusiastic about daylilies. He bought things at the sale, and found out about buying daylilies online. He went to Regional meetings, and met hybridizers, asked a thousand questions, and started forming relationships with hybridizers from all over. John continued to volunteer for our society and transformed our group from a local society with purchases of older cultivars to a society which invited top-tier hybridizers to speak. He began to search the internet for

good deals on recent introductions. John single-handedly changed the group by introducing us to the latest and greatest. He began hybridizing for round, ruffled, “feminine” (his words) flowers, and thought that if he bought the newest plants, he would quickly accomplish his dream. To his chagrin, he found that it isn’t possible to get plants to your liking that easily, but he produced some delightful plants, many of which he gave to family and friends. I got to see his seedlings because most were planted at my place. There were things I liked that he didn’t and vice-versa, and we had many discussions about what we each were looking for. John was generous with time and money, and the Daylily Society was the recipient of much of that generosity. I have lost a friend, and the Daylily Society has lost a contributor who always tried to do what he thought was best for the society.



John Sheehan



Wisconsin Daylily Society Newsletter  
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**Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream."**

**Barbara Winkler**