

Southern Virginia Daylily Club Newsletter



Annual SVDC Christmas Holiday Social

Last month on the evening of Tuesday, December 16th, the Southern Virginia Daylily Club held its first holiday social. Local club member Pat Ryan hosted the seasonal get-together at the Ryan home on North Main Street in Chase City. The first social, (scheduled to be an annual club event) was well-attended by club members, spouses and guests who had a very warm and cheerful evening of fun.



Canadian Border
Patrol

The main event of the evening was a covered dish dinner. There was plenty of great food as a house-full enthusiastic guests readily satisfied their hunger while engaged in good fellowship.

Afterwards, we divided up into groups to play a playing card version of bingo. Several games were played and winners received prizes.

We really had a wonderful evening and look forward to next year's social. It was a special event where members were able to converse and become better acquainted.

Thinking ahead, we sincerely hope that our event next year will have even better attendance.

Saturday—January 24th Meeting 2:00 MMMG

Next meeting will be Saturday, January 24th. The meeting will start at 2:00 PM.

David DeKort of the Raleigh Daylily Club will be our guest speaker. In addition to being an active member and an Offi-

cer in the Raleigh Club, David is hybridizer specializing in daylilies with ruffled edges and wide petals. He will present a slide show of many of his creations. David is donating plants for a club auction.

There will be a short business meeting. We will need to address our plants for members plan.

As always, we welcome new members and prospective new members (visitors).

Breed Apart

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Special points of interest:

- 2009 Club Calendar
- Meeting January 24th.
- Membership
- Updated Contact Info
- David DeKort—Jan 24th
- Hybridizing, Part III

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SVDC Events Calendar for 2009

As we leave behind the founding year of our club and begin the first full calendar year for SVDC, we are presenting an event calendar. The purpose of such a calendar is to provide a planning tool for our program committee and, to help you, our club members, be aware of meeting activities. The activities are subject to modification as situations may dictate throughout the year.

January – 2009: Speaker David DeKort from the Raleigh Club. Selecting Plants for Members Committee.

February – 2009: Speaker program (TBD)

March – 2009: Quarterly BUSINESS Meeting, Receive the plants from Small World Gardens for our Plants for Members Program. Club President to speak about AHS Display Garden Requirements.

April – 2009: Speaker Michael Miller – Small World Gardens – AUCTION

May – 2009: Speaker Ray Quinn – Lillington NC grower (Raleigh Club)

June – 2009: Area garden visits and picnic lunch – Keim

July – 2009: Quarterly Business Meeting, Plant Swap

August – 2009: Speaker Program, Plant Swap

September – 2009: Speaker/Presentation, Annual Business Meeting

October – 2009: Speaker Program/Presentation

November – 2009: Speaker/Presentation, Quarterly Business Meeting

December -2009: Club Year-end Holiday

November Meeting Highlights

Guest Presentation by Jim Murphy and Margo Reed

The November meeting highlights another club first. Well known and highly respected, Jim and Margo of Woodhenge Gardens, gave the SVDC members an amazingly colorful and unusual look at their specialty hybrids.

Both Jim and Margo presented a slide show geared to their own areas of expertise and featuring their own hybrids. Each displayed and discussed their new releases for the upcoming year, 2009. The pictures of Jim's new spider, Pale Behemoth, with delicate cream colored petals and a subtle yellow-green throat, growing to 13 inches in diameter brought gasps from club members. Likewise, a large ruffle-edged broad-petal daylily with beautiful lavender and purple petals and a pale throat presented as Margo's big introduction for 2009 was a great crowd pleaser as well.

Jim and Margo donated plants from their 2008 introductions and the two new introductions for 2009 for club auction. Plants were auctioned and vouchers to pick up plants next some were presented to the high bidders.

The auction was quite a success, bolstering our bank account by \$223.00. Thank you, club members for your great participation. Auctions have been well-received by our membership and there appears to be a bit of competitive spirit each time we have one.

To learn more about their daylilies and activities, visit their website at WoodhengeGardens.com. If you would like to visit their gardens in North Garden Virginia, please email them at Murphy@cstone.net or phone ahead: (434) 979- 3999 or (434)

SCDC serves Southern Central Virginia including the counties of:

- Brunswick
- Charlotte
- Halifax
- Mecklenburg
- Nottoway
- And the surrounding areas.
- All in driving range of our meetings are welcome!

Hybridizing Daylilies—Part III

Pollination and Growing new plants, the actual process of breeding plants is the topic of this month's article.

Reminder to members: The objectives of these articles is to promote our club interest and knowledge of daylilies by expanding our general and technical knowledge of these enchanting and somewhat addictive glories of nature.

Pollen Collection and Cold Storage:

Since many varieties bloom at different times of the year, and even different times of day, collection and freezing of desirable pollen is required to make many crosses. Some Cultivar are early season bloomers, some mid to late season bloomers.

There are several methods of collecting and freezing Pollen. The most important element of storage is dry, uncontaminated pollen. The first step in all methods is to collect the Anthers and thoroughly dry the pollen and anther. Some scrape the pollen from the anther for storage reducing the source of moisture completely. This is a tedious time consuming process not worthy of my time. The harvested pollen can be stored in a variety of containers. Some use aluminum foil to store pollen. Some have tried this and found the pollen damp after a few days of storage. Gelatin capsules work fine for scrapped pollen but not for anther storage, due to moisture in the anther if not properly dried. The gelatin capsules will become soft and melt when moist, just like when taking medication. There is a high-tech method of pollen storage which utilizes 1.5 ml. micro centrifuge tubes, available at [The Daylily Store online](#). They are cheap and very easy to use for small quantities of pollen. Cotton is sometimes stuffed inside the tubes and the pollen is applied to the cotton and applied to the stigma by touching it to the cotton. However, as necessity is the mother of invention, you may developed a method of collecting and storing pollen, which works better than some of the methods mentioned above.

Continued on Page 4:

New Club Members and Membership Status

Please welcome Pete and Tina Felts from the area near Crewe, Virginia who attended our November meeting. Pete and Tina are also growers who maintain beautiful and immaculately manicured daylily gardens.

WELCOME Lori and Louise

FREE PLANTS: Our club offers a free daylily to each new member who signs up and pays dues.

Notice to Members

Please feel free to invite friends and prospective new members. Our club is growing and maturing. We should encourage others to join and make our club a resounding success.

Membership forms can be obtained from me at meetings or you can request them to be sent by email. Just email David Keim at : davekeim@mindspring.com

Or telephone your request to: (434) 372-5677

Club Committees:

Member Plant Program Committee will be added in January. We will be asking for persons to serve on this important project and work to develop and finalize our club rules for a local plant program. We will implementing our plant program in March of 2009 and need to be able to house plants at that time.

Rules from area clubs that can be used as guidelines will be presented at our January meeting.

Please tell your friends about our club.

Remember that club membership is open to all who have interest in daylilies and would like to join our club. In addition to club membership and benefits, we also engage in social activities during the year to share in fellowship.

Please spread the word and as folks to attend. As our club grows, the benefit to mem-

Upcoming Programs:

We are already working to provide interesting meeting programs with noteworthy speakers. If you know of some one who may have a presentation interesting to our daylily club please submit information to Libby Keim.

Southern Virginia Daylily Club Contact Information

Club President :

Southern Virginia Daylily Club
% Belinda Shepard
392 Hite Drive
Clarksville, VA 24580
Phone: (434) 374-4910
Email: belinda23955@yahoo.com

Vice President:

Rachel Adams
963 Quarter Horse Rd
Wylliesburg, VA 23976
Phone: (434) 735-8464
Email: Rachel8464@msn.com

Treasurer:

Judy Mathis
Phone: (434) 372-0129

Club Secretary:

Southern Virginia Daylily Club
% Libby Keim
6171 Highway Ninety Two
Chase City, VA 23924
Phone: (434) 372-5677
Email: ekeim@mindspring.com

Membership Chair:

Southern Virginia Daylily Club
% David Keim
6171 Highway Ninety Two
Chase City, VA 23924
Phone: (434) 372-5677
Email: dave-keim@mindspring.com

**COMING SOON:
VISIT SVDC
ON THE WEB**

Hybridizing—Part III Cont'd from page 3:

Collect, dry and store all pollen in 3"X3" folded Post-it Notes. Write the name and date of collection on the front of the Post-it note. Peel off the paper and turn it over and make a fold to the bottom of the glue edge on the back side, then fold remaining glued portion down and stick the folds together. This folding procedure forms an open ended tube of sorts. Fold 1/4" of one end toward the backside of the nametag side, you printed earlier before folding the Post-it note into thirds. Now, open the other end and drop the collected anthers into the open tube. Fold the open end closed and go to the next pollen collection point. Bring the collected pollen inside the Air Conditioned house and unfold the tubes and allow to dry for 4 hours before re-folding and placing in a marked and dated #1 paper coin envelope. (Available at Office Supply stores) Make sure the anthers broke cleanly from the filament of the stamen. Removed all excess tissue to eliminate excessive moisture content. then place the envelopes in alphabetical order inside a plastic sealed box in the freezer. Additionally, place several silica-jell desiccant pillows inside the container to absorb any moisture. Since the paper Post-it notes and envelopes are paper all the moisture from the anthers are removed in the drying process before cold storage.

The Actual Process:

The mechanics of hybridizing is no great mystery. It is simply a matter of placing fertile pollen from an Anther onto a fertile Stigma, which fertilizes the eggs in the Ovary at the base of the bloom. There are a wide variety of methods to accomplish fertilization of the Ovary. The Stamen of a bloom can be removed and used as a handle to apply the pollen to the Stigma as seen in the image to the left. This method greatly reduces the possibility of cross contamination of pollen. Stored frozen Anthers can be easily handled with tweezers or forceps to hold the Anther. **Note: Always clean tweezers between pollen changes, preventing contamination between different**

Q-tips can be coated with pollen and used to apply the pollen. The Q-tip can be frozen afterward for repeated use in the future. Pollen can be applied to small cotton balls and stored in sealed plastic film cans for later use, applied with tweezers or forceps. Pollen can be scrapped into small gelatin capsules (Available at most pharmacy's) and frozen for later use. When ready to make a cross, simply dip the Pistil into the fertile pollen inside the capsule. Many times, you may simply apply a small amount of fertile pollen directly to the tip of tweezers and coat the Stigma. You should only bring enough pollen back into the heat of the garden that will be used. Leave the remainder of your stored pollen in the freezer where to keep it safe. Repeated freezing and thawing of pollen will degrade it's potency quickly. Frozen pollen has been used successfully after 9 years of frozen storage. Also be careful to not return the used anther to the storage envelope. If usable quantities remain on the anther it should stored in a separated Post-it note tube in the original coin envelope. The success of pollination can be greatly reduce by rainfall and excessive heat. Successfully pollinating Diploids do not seem as difficult in the hot summer months as for Tetraploids. If successful, fertilization occurs within a few hours of pollinating the Pod parent. If successful, the ovary at the base of the bloom will begin to swell and produce a small green seed pod within a few days, unless it is aborted. Thirty Six hours after making a cross, clip the spent bloom off about 1" above the base of the bloom. Exercise caution when doing this, to prevent cutting into the tender seed pod.

Tagging and Recordkeeping:

When you start growing Daylilies, make name tags for all Cultivars. Created a simple spreadsheet containing there Name, ID #, Hybridizer, Year, Pl, Fertility and precise location in case tags were lost or removed by the kids. Each Cultivar is assigned a unique number. When making a cross, hang Parentage tags using a Maco, string merchandise tag at the base of the pollinated bloom. (Tags are available at most office supply stores). If and when a seed pod develops, number each string tag numerically on the reverse side. The cross record of both parents should be posted to a Hybridizing journal with this unique number as a duplicate reference.

NEXT MONTH: Part VI, Final Chapter of the Hybridizing Process