

Southern Virginia Daylily Club Newsletter— February 2010



Catching Up—December and January Meetings

December—Christmas Social hosted by Judy Mathis

The Christmas Social was well attended and turned out to be quite a treat for all. Judy not only graciously hosted the Club's Annual Christmas Social, but provided a wonderful Christmas atmosphere with her colorful and very beautifully decorated home. Judy's decorations were her own creations and very artistic. I especially loved her many individualized and unique paintings of Santa Claus. Judy provided entertainment with prizes for game winners. We had a most enjoyable dinner with great food provided by all of the attendees and the joy of holiday fellowship was appreciated by each and every one.

January 2010— New Year's Kickoff Meeting at Butler Memorial Library.

The club held it's first business meeting of the new year on Jan 16th. Committee reports were provided. These included the new program calendar for the upcoming year, a membership report showing we now have 46 members. Belinda also presented the financial report and during the meeting the task of Club Treasurer was turned over to Don Merkle. Don had agreed to take the position last year, but delayed taking on the position until the beginning of the year due to scheduled surgery. We are happy to report that Don is now up and about and has recovered after some rather lengthy rehabilitation.

Congratulations to Don, our new treasurer!

Remembering:

SVDC Member Carol Ann Tholen Neill passed away Saturday, December 26th at her home in Clarksville, Virginia. Her parents were with her. She was 58 and was a nurse at Community Memorial Health Center in South Hill until her recent bout with cancer. She was a certified master gardener and a lover of nature.

Breed Apart

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Feb 2010

Inside this issue:

Christmas Social and January Meeting	1
2010 Membership Dues are due	2
Web Site Announcement	2

SVDC Events Calendar for 2010

January 2010: Club Meeting at Butler Memorial Library, Chase City VA. 2:00 PM. First Quarter Business Meeting

February 2010: Julie Covington of Roanoke, VA will speak on photographing flowers. Meeting on Saturday, Feb 20th, 2:00 PM—Butler Memorial Library

March 2010: Business Meeting/Speaker TBA

April 2010: David DeKort of the Raleigh Club will speak on spraying and fertilizing.

May 2010: Speaker Bob Jones Topic TBA

June 2010: Club Member Garden Tour and Summer Picnic (Details TBA)

July 2010: Tina Moore will speak on Flower Arranging

August 2010: TBA

September 2010: Business Meeting, Club Officer Elections (Speaker TBA)

October 2010: Speaker, Paukl Foster, Daylily hybridizer from North Carolina

November 2010: 4th Quarter Business Meeting (Program TBA)

December 2010: Annual Christmas Social

SVDC is Your Club— Be proud—Be Active!

Notices for Club Members

Membership dues are now due. Please note as stated in our club bylaws: *Names shall automatically be removed from the membership roll of the Club if dues are not paid by March 31 of that year.*

Membership Dues for 2010 are due as of January 1st. Dues are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for family memberships (includes husband and wife and up to 2 children). Dues can be paid to membership chair, David Keim at the December or January meeting or you can mail payment to David at 6171 Highway Ninety-Two, Chase City, VA 23924. Checks should be made payable to Southern Virginia Daylily Club or SVDC.

Our new Website is now active. You can visit SVDC on the web at:

<http://www.daylilyfans.com/svdc> for additional information.

Our website is provide at no cost to our club by Roma Radford of the Richmond daylily Society (RADS). Our access to the website is provide through the use od a special too that Roma has provided. It offers some limitations, so we cannot always provide content in any format desired. However, Roma is working to improve the tools usefulness and flexibility. David Keim is our acting webmaster and will update regularly.

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!

Winter 2010—Unusual Snow and Cold Has Come for a Long Stay

FEBRUARY IN THE SOUTHERN VIRGINIA GARDEN © Feb 2010

By: Elizabeth Keim
VCE Master Gardener

Activity in Southern Virginia gardens has come to a virtual standstill due to several inches of snow and subfreezing temperatures. Even though faithful gardeners cannot do too much maintenance at this time, there is still a lot going on beneath the ground.

Perennials for the garden: Try planting wild indigo or *Baptisia australis* in the perennial garden or flower bed. These plants will give you years of beautiful purple blooms on a 3-4' stalk. The new buttery yellow or *Baptisia* "Carolina Moonlight" is a classic perennial for the home garden. The seeds can be harvested and new plants started in the spring.

Edgeworthia and Winter Daphne should be in bud in the garden now. Also, hellebore plants should be starting to bud for early spring bloom. (Purple Gate Gardens has had hellebore in bloom since December.)

Blue Atlas Cedar will make a striking statement in fall and winter with its steel blue foliage.

Fertilizing: If the tops of narcissus, daffodils, alliums, hyacinths, or other spring blooming bulbs have appeared, give them a light sprinkling of bulb booster or fertilizer. The melting snow or rain will dissolve the fertilizer and take it to the roots of the bulbs to replace nutrients that will be used during the coming bloom season. Spider lilies (*lycoris*) leaves appeared in the fall after the bulbs had bloomed and need a little boost of fertilizer now before they go dormant for the spring and summer. Do not fertilize spring blooming shrubs (azaleas, camellias) now as they will tend to start new shoots rather than bloom.

Fruit and nut trees can be fertilized in early spring three or four weeks before active growth begins. Test the soil pH before fertilizing. Dig holes 6-12" deep and several feet apart around the drip line of the tree. Use a hole auger or bulb planter to dig the holes; a shovel may damage the feeder roots of the tree. "Because there are many soil types and varying levels of natural fertility, it is difficult to make one fertilizer recommendation that will apply well in all areas. A rule of thumb practiced in many commercial apple orchards is to apply about ¼ pound of a 16% nitrogen fertilizer, or its equivalent, for each year of the tree's age from planting. For peach orchards, the amount of fertilizer should be doubled." (Virginia Cooperative Extension Service) Pour the fertilizer into each hole and cover with soil. Nitrogen can be applied in a circle 8-10 inches from the trunk of newly planted fruit trees.

If tree growth was excessive last year, decrease the amount of fertilizer used. If growth was short, slightly increase the amount of fertilizer. Pear trees are highly susceptible to fire blight and excessive growth will speed the spread of this disease. Decrease the amount of fertilizer according to the growth of the pear tree during the last growing season (Continued on Page 4).

Membership News —Please Help Our Club Grow

Please welcome our newest club members:

Mary Lou Meeler of Altion, Va.

Ron Sheppard of Nelson, Va

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

dues.

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.

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WE HAVE FOUND A
PROVIDER: SVDC ON
THE WEB IS NOW LIVE
AT

www.daylilyfans.com/svdc

FEBRUARY IN THE SOUTHERN VIRGINIA GARDEN (cont'd)

Pruning fruit trees: In order to regulate growth, improve fruit quality, shape the tree, repair damage and control the size of the tree, some fruit tree pruning is necessary. Most pruning is done during the months the trees are dormant; pruning wounds heal faster and winter damage can be more readily recognized. Fruit trees should be pruned to establish a strong framework for supporting heavy crops and to keep the tree open to allow air movement, sunlight and sprays to reach all parts of the tree.

Dormant oil sprays can be applied when the temperature is above 40 degrees, but not within 24 hours of a hard freeze. Dormant oil sprays reduce insect and egg population that may have infested your orchard.

Pruning Grapes: Grape vines can be pruned until late February before the sap starts to flow to reduce 'bleeding' from cut ends.

Pruning shrubs: Shrubs or tree limbs broken by ice or heavy snow should be to prevent further damage. Some gardeners have pruned butterfly bushes (buddleia) thinking they had already started new growth. Buddleia: The new growth on the butterfly bushes in the Purple Gate Gardens are from last fall; these bushes will be pruned in late March or April when the actual new growth appears. Since this shrub is a hollow stem, it is susceptible to rain or snow water filling the stem and freezing, causing damage to the crown of the shrub. Prune buddleia back to 6-12", remove all dead growth and fertilize with a high phosphorus content fertilizer. Hibiscus can be pruned down to the ground in March or early April before new growth appears from the plant crown. Hibiscus is also a hollow stem perennial.

Pruning for flowers: When pruning blooming shrubs, the pruning must be done in accordance with the blooming schedule of the plant. Spring blooming shrubs should be pruned AFTER they bloom, except to remove winter damage, to encourage vigorous growth during the summer. Shrubs that bloom after June usually bloom from buds developed during the spring. Some examples are Butterfly bush, Althea (Rose of Sharon), Spirea, Chaste tree, Anthony Waterer Spirea. General maintenance: Keep dead limbs picked up in the yard and out of blooming shrubs as they can cause further damage as heavy snows press them into the bushes. They also may be a tripping hazard.

Think beyond pink flamingos and stone gnomes in your garden. Visit www.GardenFun.com for totally unique garden gifts for a friend (or yourself). Also, Mohican Wind harps has a beautiful selection of Aeolian harps (named after Aeolus, the Greek god of winds), outdoor metal harp sculptures. www.mohicanwindharps.com

Upcoming Spring events: Mid-Atlantic Home & Flower Show, February 5-7, VA Beach Convention Center, Virginia Beach, VA
Maymont Flower & Garden Show, Feb. 18-21, Greater Richmond Convention Center, Richmond, VA
Pine Knot Farms Hellebores Festival, Clarksville, VA, February 27, March 5 & 6 (10:00a.m.-4:00p.m.)
Capital Home & Garden Show, February 25-28, Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, VA.

Keep skin moisturized; wind and cold weather will chap tender skin the same as sunburn in the summer.