

Southern Virginia Daylily Club Newsletter

September Meeting — Plant Auction Fun

Chase City: The September 16th club meeting was a meeting of “Firsts”. The previous meetings focused on club organization and development. First time events in September set the tone for future meetings. Libby Keim was our first program speaker. Her topic, “Putting Them to Bed” provided members with information to help prepare flower gardens for the cold weather ahead. An appropriate topic as our first frost of the year for our area is forecast for tonight.



Canadian Border
Patrol

Our first plant auction was held at the September meeting as well. Browns Ferry Gardens generously contributed some very nice hybrids to help our fledgling club raise some operational funds. The auction was a great success and as the first plants were sold, members certainly got into the competitive spirit. As the last plants were put up for bid, competition heightened and the auction took on a festive air. A report on sales will be given in the October meeting.

A noteworthy first, the club reviewed the first draft of the new club bylaws skillfully put together by the bylaw committee. With minor revision, the bylaws were adopted!

October 21st Meeting 7:00 PM MMMG, Chase City

Our next meeting will be held on October 21st, at **7:00 PM** in the Hudgins House at MacCallum More Museum and Gardens in Chase City.

New Members Welcome and get a free daylily!

Scheduled: Robert Rietzke who lives on Finneywood Road North West of Chase city off highway 47 will be our guest speaker.

Robert is a very successful grower of large colorful chrysan-

themums with hundreds of blooms.

Robert will speak on his composting process that uses earthworms to accelerate the composting process.

Hope to see you there.



Breed Apart

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Special points of interest:

- Club Happenings
- Meeting October 21st
- Bylaws Adopted
- Membership
- Updated Contact Info
- Hybridizing, A First Look

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Club News and Upcoming Events

- **New Vice President:** Rachel Adams was elected as our first club Vice President at the September Meeting. Rachel resides in Wylliesburg with her husband Rex and is a hybridizer and grower of daylilies.
- **Treasurer:** The club elected Judy Mathis as the new club treasurer and chairman of the finance committee.
- **Finance Committee:** As a result of new officer elections and the ratification of our bylaws, we have also firmed up our finance committee. Judy Mathis as Treasurer will chair the committee. Other members include Rachel Adams who is a member as defined in the bylaws. David Keim has agreed to serve as the third member. This group will be responsible for managing our fiscal affairs and proposing the annual budget for our club.
- **Program Committee:** To expedite our need for a program committee to plan for meeting speakers and activities, Belinda Sheppard, Rachel Adams, Libby Keim and David Keim have agreed to work in this capacity while the club forms a formal program committee
- **South Central Fair (Oct 7-11)** Our Club gained public recognition for its participation in the South Central fair. Belinda did an excellent job of putting together posters and brochures to grab fair goers attention and promote the club. A number of club member volunteers helped to man the display during the week. .
- **NOVEMBER MEETING—Heads-UP!** Important reminder that Jim Murphy and Margo Reed of Woodhenge Gardens, in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia will be speaking at our November meeting which has been scheduled for Nov 15, a SATURDAY, to allow for speakers travel time. Members will be asked to bring snacks and finger food for the meeting. To take advantage of this great opportunity, we are also asking that members welcome friends and visitors to this special meeting.
- **Program Needs:** Members are requested to submit ideas that we can use to plan for future meetings. This is a members club. Your opinion and participation make the club more effective. **Please send your ideas to club contacts listed on page 4.**

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!

Member Plant Program to Be Announced

What is a member plant Program? (Repeated)

In order to allow a greater percentage of our members to experience growing newer cultivars and to allow gifts to the club to benefit the largest number of people, a club plant program will be established. Plants donated to the club with a value over \$50 will automatically become part of the program. Plants with a lower value may be used as club plants at the discretion of the

club officers and the club plant program coordinator, auctioned to members, or used/distributed in some other way.

Plants may be purchased by the club or in many cases can be donated by vendors as part of promotional advertising. Members grow the plants and return them to the club after a period of time to be separated and sold at auction.— Details coming soon.

Hybridizing Daylilies

This is the first of a series of articles regarding the hybridizing of daylilies. The focus of this series is multi-faceted and designed to accomplish the following key objectives:

1. Expand your general knowledge of daylilies.
2. Learn about the genetic differences in daylily species.
3. Teach members where all of the many cultivars come from.
4. Provide an opportunity for members to engage in and enjoy the delightful rewards of creating your own hybrids.
5. Explain how new cultivars are registered and acknowledged by the AHS.

INTRODUCTION

Hybridizing your own Daylilies can be the absolute most rewarding activity associated with Daylilies. The hardest part of Hybridizing is waiting to see results of your efforts. It requires nearly infinite patience. You will never forget seeing the result of your first effort at breeding your own Daylilies. It is very satisfying to know you have Cultivars totally unique in the world. When Daylilies are cross pollinated you will see that almost if not all resulting Cultivars are totally different in size, color, texture and substance from each other and the parents. You can produce hundreds of different looking plants from a single cross. If you are collecting daylilies simply to landscape your yard, selection is not as critical. Selecting cultivars which fit your color scheme and/or personal taste is pretty much the objective. However, when selecting cultivars for hybridizing, selection is much more critical. Before purchasing daylilies for the purpose of hybridizing, you should visit several display gardens to look at the plant, focusing on the actual traits of the Cultivar. Don't just select pretty faces -- pay close attention to the six cardinal rules of plant selection listed below.

We will start with looking at a couple of items this month.

New Club Members — Pick Up Your Plants!

Please welcome Charles and Loretta Stallard to our club. They joined our club at the last meeting.

WELCOME Charles and Loretta!

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

Last month Belinda brought plants to the

meeting but during the rush to set up and prepare for the meeting, they were left in her truck..

All members who have not yet received your free plants, please remind Belinda at our next meeting.

We really do want you to have them!

Notice to Members

Please feel free to invite friends and prospective new members. Our club is in its infancy and we should encourage others to join and make our club a resounding success.

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

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

Club Committees:

Two new committees formed during the September Meeting: The Finance Committee and Program Committees are now functional.

A Member Plant Program committee needs to be added to our list of standing committees. This group needs to be operational by no later than January with plant program rules completed before the March 2009 meeting.

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 :

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

Hybridizing Daylilies Cont'd:

1. Ploidity or PL, (Tetraploid vs. Diploid) - Genetic Differences
2. Foliage habit, Cold & Heat Tolerance
3. Scape Characteristics
4. Branching
5. Bud Count
6. Fertility

Ploidity:

There are basically two type of Daylilies. Tetraploids & Diploids. I have no intention to get into all the scientific Mumbo jumbo of their difference, Basically the difference is in the number of chromosomes each type possesses. Tetraploids contain 44 chromosomes and Diploids contain 22 chromosomes. Tetraploid Daylilies have been heralded by hybridizers as having significant advantages over Diploids. Tetraploids tend to exhibit larger blooms, more intense color, sturdier scapes and heavier substance in both the bloom and foliage. The leaf, stem and blooms exhibit greater vigor and vitality. It took 35 years of struggle in the face of skepticism for the promised potential superiority of the Tetraploid to emerge from it predecessor, The Diploid. Many of the Hybridizers who made today's hybrids possible did not live to see there vision vindicated.

The greater number of chromosomes contained in Tetraploids greatly increases the possibilities of future crosses today. Today there is a chemical process which one can actually convert Diploids into Tetraploids. Any former Diploids Cultivar names listed in our Daylily Database is preceded by the word "Tetra" i.e. "Tetra Becky Lynn" etc. Any siblings produced by these converted Cultivars will be Tetraploids. Tetraploids and Diploids are not normally compatible in terms of cross pollinating. I have crossed Tetraploids and Diploids successfully but is an exception to the rule and is rare

Foliage Habit & Cold & Heat Tolerance:

It is very important to select plant with the proper foliage for the climate in which they will be grown. Foliage habit does not always guarantee their tolerance cold or heat tolerance . You have 3 varieties to choose from. Dormant, Evergreen and Semi-green. The normal winter behavior of foliage is referred to as it's habit. There are differences in these characteristic among various Cultivars. Foliage habit is loosely defined for official registration purposes by the American Hemerocallis Society. These terms were described by the late Dr. Arlow B. Stout.

Cold hardiness is not determined by foliage habit. All three foliage types can range from extremely cold hardy to very tender. Some Daylilies require a period of cold exposure during dormancy to perform properly. Adaptability of Cultivars in you climate can only be determined by test growing. Many professional hybridizers have there introductions test grown in various climates to determine their hardiness. In many cases dormants may perform well in southern climates for a few years and then decline in later years due to the lack of a cold dormancy period. The risk of this happening can be reduced by purchasing Cultivars produced in your hardiness zone. I personally like Evergreen and semi-evergreen due to my southern location. However I do have a small percentage of Dormant varieties as well. But I have selected plant produced in climates similar to mine and those proven to perform well here.

(Next month we will start with discussing Scape Characteristics)