

Southern Virginia Daylily Club Newsletter



January Meeting—Starting the Year with a Bang!

The SVDC met in the museum building of MMMG on Saturday, January 24th to kick off the new year. Our speaker David DeKort dazzled members with his ever-growing collection of highly ruffled and vibrantly colored daylilies. David (who lives in Durham, NC) discussed his hybridization process and demonstrated how genetic characteristics are passed down to progeny from parent plants.



Canadian Border
Patrol

David provided free plants as door prizes during his presentation and answered many questions from club members about his plants and hybridization methods.

The highlight of the event was an auction of plants David provided to the club at no cost to help us build our organization. 30 excellent and valuable cultivars were provided and SVDC members took advantage of the opportunity to buy rather expensive plants for a fraction of the cost normally paid when visiting a daylily farm. Even at these bargain basement prices, our auction netted the biggest purse ever as we collected over \$450.00.

We all express a huge “THANK YOU” to David for his generosity and sharing his professional expertise.

Saturday—February 17th Meeting 7:00 MMMG

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 17th. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM. We will meet in the Hudgins House.

Charles Stallard, a member of our club will speak on the sub-

ject of drip irrigation. He will demonstrate how easy, cost effectively, and flexible this irrigation process can be. Charles is an excellent speaker and will show various ways to scale for any implementation, large or

small. We will also discuss 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 February 17th.
- Membership
- Updated Contact Info
- David DeKort—Jan 24th
- Hybridizing, Part III

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SVDC Events Calendar for 2009

Once more we are presenting our 2009 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. All club members are asked to submit ideas, wishes and suggestions for speakers to the program planning committee.

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

February – 2009: Speaker program—Charles Stallard.

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 Social and Dinner

Your Club in Review

Our First Year and Where We Go from Here

Congratulations to our Club!

We started our club on a hope that people would come and join a small group whole hold a common interest in promoting and learning more about daylilies.

After only six months, our membership increased from a beginning of 12 persons to 27 great members who have contributed to our success and our growth. Club participation has helped build the club to become financially stable as we move to begin a new year.

Our members have reaped the outpourings from other club enthusiasts such as Margo Reed, Jim Murphy and David DeKort who gener-

ously gave their time and provided plants for member auctions.

With our Christmas Social we built personal bonds between members and have enjoyed fellowship with one another.

This year, our major goal is to build and strengthen our club even more. We are always in search of new members and new activities for the good of all. We will enjoy garden trips, picnics and new speakers who will bring new dimensions and spark new interest in our membership. We all deserve a pat on the back for our efforts and our successes.

Well Done!

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 IV

Last Month: We completed part III of this series by discussing tagging and record keeping. It cannot be stressed enough, that any hybridizer must tag plants accurately and keep extremely organized and accurate records if you want to be successful. This will be the area of greatest scrutiny if you ever attempt to register your own hybrids and introduce new cultivars with the American Hemocalis Society.

Pollinating: Go to the garden at sunrise and make a list of the Cultivars you plan to cross that morning, recording all planned crosses in a hybridizing journal. Accurate records are needed to prevent lost parentage names of crosses. Dab each pollen on all crosses for **that** pollen parent at the same time on all planned crosses. Then get the next anther and continue until all is completed. Make and hang a tag on the plant. Try to complete all pollinating by 8:00 am. Exercise caution when hanging tags on new crosses. The previous day crosses are very tender and easily broken off the scape, resulting in failure of that cross. The seed pod will shed the old bloom covering the seed pod in a few days. Resist the temptation to help the shedding process. You will surely break off the seed pod. The seed pod will rapidly grow from the size of a pea to the size of a golf ball depending on the parentage used. The seed pod will mature in 40 to 60 days.

Harvesting Seed Pods:

Seed pods are ready to harvest when they start to turn brown and crack between the lobes of the seed compartments. Failure to harvest seed will result in the loss of precious seed. The seed pod will open completely and spill seed on the ground. Check seed pods daily to minimize. Use a 24 compartment small part or fishing tackle case to collect seed pods in the garden. Place the seed pods and tags in a single compartment and close the lid to prevent spills. Bring seeds indoors and shell the seed pod into open baby food jars placing the original tag in the jar. Print the parentage, date of cross and ploidy of each parent & harvest date on a #1 coin envelopes for final storage of the seeds. **Cont'd Page 4**

New Club Members and Membership Status

Please spread the word. Help us bring in new members and expand our clubs capabilities. New members help to stabilize our club and every club member will benefit.

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.

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:

Finance Committee will schedule a budget meeting and present the budget recommendations to the members in March.

Plants for Members Program to start with its first plants provided by Small World Gardens at the March Meeting.

Upcoming Programs:

If you know of some one who may have a presentation interesting to our daylily club please submit information to Rachel Adams our program planning Chairperson.

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 ask folks to attend. As our club grows, the benefit to members increases as well.

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 Iv Cont'd from page 3:

Each cross is assigned a unique number. This is a combination of the year, parentage. If you crossed Ed Brown with Strawberry Candy in the year 2003, the number would be 03-185-555. Multiple crosses of the same parentage are assigned the same Id number. The envelope is place inside the open jar with seeds and tag. Seeds are air dried for 3 weeks before planting or storing in the refrigerator. I store all Dormant Cultivar seed at least 6 weeks in the refrigerator before planting. Dormants require a period of cold storage to provide their required dormancy period. Dormant seed not give a period of cold storage may not germinate. All jars are place in nursery flat in racks to prevent accidental spilling and mixing of crosses, until they are placed into the marked coin envelopes for storage.

Starting Seeds and Growing: Before starting your Daylily seeds it is important know the nutrient content of your soil. Perform a complete soil analysis to determine fertilization needs. Soil sample kits including sample bag and instructions can be obtained from your local county Agricultural extension service office free of charge. However, the fee for the actual soil analysis is usually about \$15.00.

Raised bed is the best method of growing healthy seedling. The soil should contain liberal amounts of well composted manure and/or rich compost. Use Horse manure and either mushroom compost or Cotton burr compost. Your soil should be well drained to prevent crown rot. Sand can be worked into the soil if your soil is heavy clay. Soil PH should be between 6.5 and 7.0 for best results.

Starting Daylily seeds is quite simple regardless of your gardening experience. Most growers prefer starting seed by directly sowing seeds in the growing beds. However if space is limited and you cannot afford space wasted by seeds that do not germinate; sow seeds in nursery growing flats. This method allows for transplanting my seedlings and utilizes all my available bed space. This method required transplanting when the seedling are large enough to be moved to the growing beds. You can use something like Sunshine #1 mix to start seedlings. Normally start planting seeds within a couple day of harvesting the seedpods. The fresher the seed, the better the germination rate.

Seeds should be planted about 1/4" below the soil line regardless of your method of sowing seeds. The seeds should be placed at least 8 inches apart. Spacing the seeds 12 to 18 inches apart will allow them to grow faster and bloom sooner. The soil or starting mix should be moist, not wet. Seedlings should emerge in 7 to 10 days. Soil should be kept moist preventing the forming of a hard crust on the surface. Seedlings should be fed regularly with fish emulsion or a weak 1/2 strength solution of a balanced fertilizer like 20-20-20 . Miracle-grow or Peters plant food works fine. It is extremely important to keep weeds out of your seedling bed. Small newly emerging seedling simply cannot compete with weeds for nutrients. When seedling are 6" high they should be mulched to reduce the growth of weeds. Leaves, pine needles or pine bark make great mulch. As the seedlings grow larger additional mulch can be used to control weeds.

Transplanting into Beds:

Seedlings started in pots or flats should be transplanted when 6 to 8 weeks old. By then they should be 6 inches tall with 4 leaves. Seedlings started in pots or flats must be hardened off gradually to full sun. Place the seedlings in full sun for only 2 hours the first day, and gradually increase the amount of time in full sun. Within a week they will be hard enough to survive in the garden.

Next month a follow-up on evaluating your seedlings and information on registering new cultivars with the AHS.