

Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society

Volume 3, Issue 2

February 2021

From the President

Thank you for the many kind messages after the loss of my father, Joe Rash. You are a very caring group and I appreciated hearing from you.

The plan is to have some ZOOM presentations for you this year to serve as programs to keep us learning, connected and engaged. Please let me know if you would like to present. Also let me know if you have a suggested speaker. There are many garden related topics that we can explore. We will continue to monitor the state and CDC recommendations and regulations concerning group events. I hope you are able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in a timely manner. In the meantime, please follow safe practices to stay healthy.

Pete Connolly stepped up and suggested our February 18 speaker, Harvey Buchite. Diann Pavelka is acquainted with Harvey too and made the initial contact to secure our speaker. Thank you for your help.

Please join me in thanking Sue Kramer for the story this month about their Derecho Christmas Tree. We saw first hand the damage from the derecho at their home and they made an opportunity to have a fun and positive memory from the situation. In addition to the Christmas tree photos, Sue shared derecho and hoar frost photos.

Nancy Rash, President



Nancy Rash, Newsletter Co-Editor (Serious)
Lyle Moen, Newsletter Co-Editor (Fun Stuff)

A Presidential Reminder:

DUES ARE DUE

**COVIDS Dues are \$10 per person
for a one-year membership.**

Please send your check to:

Shelly Lett, 1673 Garfield Avenue, West Branch,
IA 52358.

From the By-Laws:

“Membership dues are for a calendar year and will fall due on January 1. Dues are considered delinquent after April 1.”

MEMBER UPDATES

Members Judy Jansen and Todd Castro had COVID last fall. We wish them continued recovery and good health.

Remember Ginger Pruess as she recovers from back surgery. Cards may be sent to: Ginger Pruess, 2326 Old Lincoln Hwy, Lowden, IA 52255. Text messages and phone calls at 563-357-0537.

Keith is well into recovery and continues to improve from his back surgery last fall.

We send heartfelt condolences to Myrna Hass and family at the passing of member Loren Hass. Cards and emails may be sent to Myrna and her family at: Myrna Hass
2677 190th Street, Delmar, IA 52037
lhass@gmtel.net

Please keep Myrna in your thoughts and prayers.

Inside This Issue

P 1: From the President; Dues; Members

P2: Zoom Program; Zoom Instructions

P3: Derecho Christmas Story, Sue Kramer

CALENDAR

February 18, 2021, 7 PM

ZOOM Presentation, The Gardeners Guide to Peonies by Harvey Buchite

Hidden Springs Flower Farm
On Facebook or on the web at HiddenSpringsFlower-Farm.com

This complete visual peony guide (PowerPoint presentation) will introduce you to the growing needs of the different types of peonies from garden peonies, modern hybrids, the new Itoh Peonies to tree peonies and even the wild botanical species with a generous, colorful selection of each type. The program includes information on planting, successful growing, seed propagation, disease identification and control and moving or dividing a peony. Enjoy a colorful garden presentation on peonies that fits the casual to pro gardener's needs.

Harvey has been growing peonies for over 40 years and his firsthand knowledge of the botanical species and breeding new peony hybrids allows him to speak from first-hand experience. As a published author of many articles on peonies his research helps to bring you a wealth of new peony information in a practical, easy to understand and colorful format.

As past President of the American Peony Society he is an advocate for growing these wonderful perennials. He and his wife Brigitte grow over 20,000 peony plants representing 600 varieties at their farm and nursery in Spring Grove, Minnesota. As a speaker he has traveled to Europe, Canada and from Portland, Maine to Portland, Oregon sharing his enthusiasm for growing peonies, daylilies and alpine/rock garden plants.



Photo by Sue Kramer

Zoom Meeting February 18, 2021

Details for ZOOM:

If you are new to ZOOM, you need to load the Zoom app. Ask your library, friend, neighbor or your grandkids to help you.

The link to join the presentation will be sent directly by email to you on February 16th. Add to your calendar to watch for the email from me. On the 18th, it might be good to join at 6:50 or 6:55. Here are some reminders and Zoom etiquette for attendees:

[Mute your microphone](#) to keep background noise to a minimum when you are not speaking.

✦ Be mindful of background noise. Find a quiet spot away from other household activities and non-participants.

✦ Position your camera properly: be sure it is in a stable position and focused at eye level.

✦ Limit distractions. Turn off notifications, mute your cell phone.

✦ Avoid multi-tasking

Prepare questions in advance. We will be collecting questions during the presentation via the chat feature and Harvey will answer at the end of the program.

Because I do not know the number of participants, I am preparing for a "large" audience and provided the above information to make for a smooth and enjoyable time with our speaker. One feature of zoom we will employ is to mute the video to improve internet service and avoid internet interruptions. I know we want to see each other but not being able to hear and have interrupted service is not fun.

This will count as an activity that gives you credit toward a club plant.

FUTURE ZOOM PROGRAMS

Keith is working with Rex Kephart for a program about **Bee Keeping**.



Photo by Sue Kramer

A DERECHO CHRISTMAS TREE By Sue Kramer

Dave and I have been members of the Conifer Society for quite a bit longer than CVIDS. Thank goodness we have not collected conifers anywhere near to what we have collected in daylilies. You never know for sure what dwarf means – is it really going to stay small or is it just going to grow very slowly into a BIG TREE.

We had planted a Dwarf Alberta Spruce next to an arbor a nephew had built for our daughters' weddings. So, it had to have been there for at least 16 years. It never got over 6 feet tall. About 5 or 6 years ago it sported – the growth changed at the very top and grew more like a regular spruce. We really wondered what that tree would end up looking like. This past summer the sport on top was as tall as the Dwarf Alberta Spruce. And then along came the Derecho. Besides taking out I don't know how many trees when you include the pasture and the rest of the acres, it tipped the Dwarf Alberta Spruce over. The roots were still in the ground, so Dave pulled it back up-right, staked and really mulched it.



The Derecho Christmas Tree at the Kramer's

By the end of November, the top part looked great but the Dwarf Alberta Spruce part was almost naked. We decided to use the top sport for our Christmas tree. We always put our tree up on our library table and it cannot be more than 5' tall. A week before Christmas our 3- and 6-year-old grandsons came over to help cut down the tree. The 6-year-old was determined to cut the tree by himself. He did a great job of cutting the top part off. All by himself!

When we stood it up, it really looked like it was going to be too big to fit. But it was just exactly the right size. It was 5 feet tall and 6.5 feet wide. From the front it looked gorgeous. From the side it looked pregnant! When it was all decorated with silver and gold balls and icicles and colored lights it really was the prettiest



Carpet covered in green pine needles



Tree Climber > Not Dave!
Taking Down Trees

Christmas tree we have ever had. We didn't want to take it down. Every evening we just sat and looked at it. By 4 weeks it was really getting dry. We took the decorations off and almost all of the needles ended up on the carpet, turning the floor green. We put it outside and the Dwarf Alberta Spruce and the sport were both naked – no needles.

Dave's Truck

He said it started right up after removing the trees.... Must be a Ford!

