

Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society

Volume 3, Issue 1

February 2010

February 20, 2010, Meeting

Coralville Public Library, 1401 5th Street, Coralville

Directions from East or West: Get off I-80 at Exit 242 (1st Avenue Coralville Exit), and go south on 1st Avenue for two-thirds of a mile. At the traffic lights by the Iowa River and Power Company Restaurant, turn right onto 5th Street. Continue for about a mile to the Library (1401 5th Street). The library is on the right (north) side of that road.

Directions from South (HWY 218): Exit HWY 218 at Exit 91 (HWY 1 Exit). Go north on HWY 1 for about 100 yards, until you reach the first traffic lights. Turn left onto Mormon Trek Blvd. Continue north, eventually passing Finkbine Golf Course on your right, until you reach the intersection with the Coralville Strip (HWY 6/2nd Street). Cross the intersection, heading north on 1st Avenue, until you reach the traffic lights by the Iowa River and Power Company Restaurant. Then turn left onto 5th Street, and continue for about a mile to the Library (1401 5th Street). The library is on the right (north) side of that road.

Directions from North (HWY 1 from Solon): Drive south on HWY 1 until you reach Interstate 80. Go west on I-80 until you reach Exit 242 (1st Avenue Coralville Exit). Then follow the instructions described above for "Directions from East or West".

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President Mike:

Well, we have almost one month of this New Year under our belt, and it was a big one with lots of snow, rain, ice and fog. Hopefully everyone is safe and sound without any accidents or slipping and falling. I can hardly wait until that first warm, sunny spring day when I can get back outside.

After the last meeting I was a little jealous from having members telling me their seedlings were already a foot tall, while my seeds were still in the fridge. I did get a chance to play in the dirt a little bit this last week. I planted all the seeds I'd gathered last fall and potted them all up and have taken over a large part of the basement with grow lights and shelves. I'm anxiously waiting to see tiny little sprouts by the end of next week (if all goes well). Hopefully this little bit of gardening will tide me over until I can actually move everything outdoors.

Last month's meeting in Hiawatha was well attended. I really appreciate that. Thanks to everyone for their contributions of photos, food, and information. I was pleasantly surprised to see how many signed the sheets that were passed around. Thanks also to those who have signed up to volunteer this year; it really does take a lot of people to have successful sales, meetings, etc. I will ask for help with the Summer Garden Tour at the next meeting. Please consider having your garden on the tour if you live in or near the Iowa City area.

Weather permitting: I look forward to seeing everyone at our February meeting in Coralville.

Mike Carstensen

February 20, 2010 Meeting at Coralville Public Library

Program: "Creation of Blue Daylilies by Genetic Engineering"

Speaker: Jonathan Poulton

For the past 15 years, it has been my pleasure to serve as Director of the Biology Honors Program at The University of Iowa, a position that I will sadly relinquish upon retirement in June. I have greatly enjoyed interacting with the excellent students in this Program, the majority of whom enter medical, vet, or graduate school after graduation. One of the responsibilities of the directorship is to teach the *Honors Seminar in Biology*, a course taken by a dozen students that focuses on some "hot" area of biological study. Over the years, I have had immense fun teaching this seminar, not only because I have free rein to choose the topic of study but also because the students are extremely capable, challenging, and committed to task. So, while making crosses in my daylily bed last summer, I mulled over in my mind which facet of biology I should choose for the Fall Semester. Eventually, I selected "Meeting Mankind's Needs in the 21st Century through Genetic Engineering" as the overarching theme for the semester, recognizing that the global population is expected to reach 9 billion by 2050. Through lectures, student presentations, and critical review of assigned scientific papers, students would prepare themselves to write a concise essay on this subject by semester's end.

They would also be required to write an initial term paper that was due by mid-semester, but what would be the focus of that essay? It escapes me now exactly how I reached my final decision. It may well have been the crosses that I was attempting with my club plant Mississippi Blues, but, whatever it was, I decided upon "Creation of Blue Daylilies by Genetic Engineering". Now, I can well imagine that you're shaking your head and thinking that blue daylilies are certainly not among mankind's most pressing needs in the 21st century! Yes, I fully agree, but this choice would challenge my students to locate pertinent papers

in the scientific literature by computer-assisted searches, learn how genes may be isolated from one organism and successfully transferred into another, and submit a convincing paper that described how they would set about engineering blue daylilies.

As you are no doubt aware, the 65,000 named daylily cultivars currently listed in the American Hemerocallis Society database exhibit a dazzling range of colors, including violet, yellow, orange, purple, and red, but no true blue daylily has yet been recorded. This suggests that these lines lack the inherent capacity to form significant quantities of blue pigments. Furthermore, it raises the question whether true blue daylilies could ever be obtained by conventional hybridization. Genetic engineering offers an alternative approach to reaching what some refer to as the "Holy Grail" of daylilies. So, during Fall Semester, my twelve Honors students and I undertook a literature search to investigate whether true blue daylilies might be generated by genetic engineering using methods that have in recent years proven remarkably successful for producing violet-hued carnations (Fukui et al., 2003) and blue roses (Katsumoto et al., 2007). For example, the photo below shows the parental rose cultivar Lavande (left) and two genetically engineered lines derived from Lavande (center, right) (Katsumoto et al., *Plant & Cell Physiology* (2007) 48: 1589-1600).



In my presentation, I will identify the pigments that accumulate in blue-flowered species such as delphiniums, irises, and gentians, and outline the biochemical pathway by which these compounds are made. To generate blue daylilies by genetic engineering, genes catalyzing key pathway steps must be isolated from delphiniums and other blue-

flowered species and introduced into daylilies in such a way that they remain fully functional. We were excited to find that our literature review shows that most, if not all, of the individual steps of this process have already been carried out. It now remains for someone to undertake the complete succession of experiments and determine whether theory is borne out in practice!

January 2010 Meeting Minutes

President Mike Carstensen welcomed 34 members to the January meeting held at the Hiawatha Public Library. The meeting began at 1:05 PM. Motion for approval of the minutes published in the December newsletter was M/S/C by Clay Dawson and Dave Appelquist. Bob Moore reported that 75% of the spring plants have been paid for. Balance on hand is \$8,138.28. He announced that he was taking 2010 dues payments at the meeting. Eureka Catalogs have arrived and are available at the meeting. The company has changed their procedure for ordering as they will print only as many as ordered in the first printing. We will need to take orders earlier, starting at the Society tour in July and at the Fall Sale, with delivery sometime in November. On February 13th, CVIDS will have a booth at the Kirkwood Winter Gardening event. Jackie Westhoff and Sharon Murken have volunteered and will have our membership fliers and information about the plant sale dates.

President Mike distributed volunteer sign-up sheets for six events; Plant Distribution, Fall Banquet, Spring Sale, Monticello Sale, Club Tour, and Secretary position. Members signed up faithfully. If you are interested in being on the Club Tour this year, please contact President Mike. The Executive Board made a recommendation that the Webmaster position become part of the Board of Directors. Robert Papenhausen and Roger Knipper M/S/Carried by membership. Discussion was held about food at meetings. The majority of those present desired to go back to our previous method of everyone bringing something if they wanted to and bring your own beverage. The Executive Board member responsible for the meeting will be in charge of providing paper products.

Following a suggestion by Gary Oster, Jonathan Poulton and Zora Ronan are going to work on a manual of operations booklet that could be used to welcome and orient new members. This information will also be added to the website.

Robert Towler inquired if there was a list of previous plants that have been purchased and who bought that

plant or received it as a plant for future Silent Auctions. Other members expressed a great interest. Our website had originally offered a space that was not utilized, so it had been removed. Bob Moore and Bob Papenhausen had worked on a list that could be made available to members. Jonathan and Nancy would work on getting a database going.

Bob Moore received confirmation of our donation to AHS In honor of Frederick McDowell. Money was added to the William E. Monroe Trust Fund. The 2012 Region One Committee met and wants input on developing the "theme". CVIDS members may submit ideas for the Regional event name. The winner will receive \$5 off their registration fee.

The Executive Board made a recommendation that a memorial be sent to a society member when a family member passes: \$25 for a spouse or child, \$10 for parent. Motion was amended by Clay Dawson and seconded by Barb Papenhausen for \$25 given to the member for any bereavement memorial. Kathy Dawson volunteered to be a contact person to help inform the membership. Bob Moore distributed checks to Jan Null, Sherri Baldonado, and Kim Schoeberl.

Jonathan reviewed the needed renewal of a contract with GoDaddy.com for our website that would provide server space and retain our domain name for two additional years at a total cost of \$107. M/S/C Keith Riewerts and Jackie Westhoff. Suggestions were made to create a list of chairpersons and update at least twice a year. The membership again voiced concern that they did not want their phone numbers and e-mail addresses on the website. The secretary will continue to update and send a copy of membership at least twice a year. Benefits of joining the AHS were mentioned by Barb Papenhausen, with a potential of having a lottery of a gift membership. Member Gerald Hobbs was in the hospital but doing well. Roger Knipper won a photograph series that was created and donated by Jonathan Poulton. M/S/C Bob Papenhausen and Nancy Carlisle to adjourn.

Zora Ronan gave an entertaining PowerPoint presentation about the National AHS meeting held in Florida May 21-25. Five days of rain made the gardens very soggy, but still some very stunning displays, and flowers were abundant. Ask Zora about the alligator. Her pictures were from Salters, Le Petit Jardin, Ledgewood Garden, Watermill Gardens, Frank Smith Daylilies, Ludlow Lambertson, Dan Hansen Ladybug Gardens, Kinnebrew Daylilies, and Reilly Gardens.

Papenhausens then showed many of the pictures of the purchased plants for 2010. Tim Bell's were not pictured as they have not yet been confirmed.

CVIDS.ORG Website Update - Jonathan Poulton

Many additions were made to our website in January. In addition to information about the January (Hiawatha) and February (Coralville) meetings, the CVIDS calendar for the entire year was posted. An updated membership list was uploaded on January 13; if you have any concerns or questions about it, please contact our Treasurer Bob Moore. Much progress was made this month with respect to the Club Plants web pages. I encourage you to visit:

<http://www.cvids.org/pageunderconstruction.html>
There, you will be able to look back into the past and peek into the future! By searching lists kindly provided by Barb and Bob Papenhausen, Bob Moore, Sylvia Seymour, and Nancy Carlisle, you can now determine the recipients of specific club plants in 2003-2009. You have the option of searching through several annual lists or a 7-year master list. Nancy informs me that we may have access to lists prior to 2003. To allow us to look ahead, the Papenhausens also provided photos of 2010 Club Plants. That gallery will continue to grow as confirmations are received from nurseries, so please keep checking back to see the wonderful variety of cultivars that Barb has ordered on our behalf. Finally, I'd like to draw your attention to some excellent photographs taken at the Fall 2009 Banquet by Keith Riewerts ([http://www.cvids.org/Banquet\(Riewerts\)2009.html](http://www.cvids.org/Banquet(Riewerts)2009.html)) as well as photos snapped in the yards of Jill Gardner and the Poultons.

Allow me to conclude this update with my usual exhortation. If you have anything for the website (e.g. photos of seedlings, yards, or favorite cultivars; meeting reports; advice on hybridizing, propagation, judging, etc.), please send it to me by mail or e-mail or bring it to the February meeting on a CD or flash drive. With snow still flying outside, I have plenty of time to upload your contributions!

AHS Region One Summer Mtg

June 25-27, 2010, in St Louis, Missouri is hosted by the Greater Saint Louis Daylily Society.

Winter Gardening Fair

Saturday, February 13th, 2010, at Kirkwood Community College, 7725 Kirkwood Blvd SW. Snow date will be February 27th.

CVIDS will host an information table.

Volunteers are needed. Please contact Jackie Westhoff (319-521-1607) or Sharon Murken (319-848-4929), if you are able to help.

Or just attend the fair. Choose from two different track sessions. Tuition is \$49 for all day and includes a boxed lunch. Register for classes by calling 800-332-2055 or, for more information, go to: www.extension.iastate.edu/linn

March 26-27, 2010 Pollen Dabbers

We have been invited to attend the Central Iowa Daylily Society 2010 Pollen Dabbers meeting, featuring speakers Richard Norris of Ashwood Daylilies (www.ashwooddaylilies.com) and Paul Owen of Slightly Different Nursery (www.slightlydifferentnursery.com).

Friday evening features the slides of CIDS hybridizers. Saturday morning is hybridizers' slides, and afternoon is the featured speakers. The Auction begins at 4 PM. Rooms have been reserved at the Super 8 in Marshalltown. For more information contact Don Lovell, dmlovell@aol.com

2010 Region One Summer Tour July 30, 31 & August 1, 2010

The Central North Dakota Daylily Society is ready to knock your socks off as you visit some wonderful gardens and listen to Karol Emmerich of Springwood Gardens as the evening banquet speaker.

Garden Judges Level One and Level Two Workshops will be held. A Juried Daylily Art Exhibit will be held by the Bismarck Arts and Gallery Association.

All for the nominal cost of \$100.00 sent by July 1st.

FEBRUARY 20, CVIDS MEETING

PLACE: CORALVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

TIME: 1 PM

Jonathan Poulton, "Creation of Blue Daylilies by Genetic Engineering"

MARCH 13, CVIDS MEETING

PLACE: WEST LIBERTY FAIRGROUNDS

TIME: 1 PM

To be announced

MARCH 26-27, CVIDS POLLEN DABBERS

PLACE: MARSHALLTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

TIME: FRIDAY, 5:30-8 PM; SATURDAY, ALL DAY

Speakers: Richard Norris of Ashwood Daylilies and Paul Owen of Slightly Different Nursery

APRIL 10, CVIDS MEETING

PLACE: MORNING SUN COMMUNITY CENTER

TIME: 1 PM

History of Morning Sun artist

MAY 8, North Liberty Plant Sale**MAY 22, CVIDS PLANT DISTRIBUTION**

PLACE: WEST LIBERTY FAIRGROUNDS FLORAL HALL

TIME: MORNING. FOLLOWED BY PLANT AUCTION FOR ALL MEMBERS

AHS 2010 NATIONAL CONVENTION

PLACE: VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

DATE: MAY 27-29

AHS Region Eleven Summer Meeting

PLACE: ST LOUIS, MISSOURI

DATE: June 25-27

AHS REGION ONE 2010 SUMMER MEETING

PLACE: BISMARCK/MANDAN, NORTH DAKOTA

DATE: JULY 30, 31 & AUGUST 1

2010 MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE

Contact Bob Moore for paying your 2010 membership fee.

Be an active member for qualifying for club plant distribution.

PRESIDENT: Mike Carstensen

keycom@netins.net

Vice President: Zora Ronan

zronan@aol.com

Treasurer: Bob Moore

rdcsmoore@louisacomm.net

Secretary: Nancy Carlisle

njcarlisle56@gmail.com

Webmaster: Jonathan Poulton

jonathan-poulton@uiowa.edu

The American Hemerocallis Society

Membership in the American Hemerocallis Society (AHS) gives you a way to meet local daylily enthusiasts across the US and internationally. AHS is a non-profit organization for education and scientific purposes to promote the development and improvement of the genus Hemerocallis.

This organization maintains a registry of new daylily hybrids. Awards for flowers are presented annually like the Stout award.

AHS is divided into 15 Regions. You will receive a newsletter from your Region. (Ours is Region One Daylily Pioneer from the states of Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and the province of Manitoba)

Additional benefits are a Round Robin department for members to share common interests in different types of daylilies. You have opportunity to attend regional and national conventions that offer garden tours, lectures, judges' clinics. You may exhibit at AHS-accredited flower shows. You may visit display gardens around the country. (Several CVIDS members are AHS display gardens-Dawsons, Stolls, Hobbs, Ronan)

The calendar year of membership includes four issues of the Daylily Journal published March, June, September, and December.

Membership is a small cost of \$25 per year. You may join as an individual or a family. New members will receive a voucher from AHS that many growers honor. This voucher gives you a substantial discount on an order placed with participating vendors. You are only eligible for this the first time you join or if you upgrade your membership to a 3-year renewal.

There is a wealth of information about AHS at <http://www.daylily.org>