

May Day 2016

As a child, I picked violets and whatever was blooming for May Day baskets. We would ring our grandmothers' door and run and hide. This year, it was my yellow dwarf iris that was put in a bag along with candy for the grandgirls. I am glad some traditions go on.

This Saturday is our Spring plant sale. Many thanks to Diann, Jonathan, Nancy Rash, and Nancy Carlisle for helping with the advertising of the sale. Listen for it on the radio on multiple stations, and see it in the North Scott Press, Buzzy Bee, Muscatine Journal, Muskie Trading Post, Wilton-Durant Advocate News, Lisbon Sun times, the QC Times plant sale listing, Country Connections, Washington Community Calendar, and others. If you see it in your local paper, will you bring a clipping, please? We hope to ask participants where they heard about the sale, so we can know which advertising was the most effective.

May 7th, 2016 sale at Discovery Park Gazebo, 3300 Cedar Street, Muscatine, IA. Set up starting at 8 am. Sale from 9-11:30 am with clean-up to follow. Please bring your daylilies clean, bare root. Mark with variety, color, and hybridizer if known. Attach a picture as it really helps with the "I must have that in my garden" factor. The AHS plant database website (www.daylilies.org) is quite useful in finding more information; many have a picture that can be printed. I find a small Ziploc bag and a twist tie adequate to keep the picture from getting wet. A few foldable tables would be helpful, along with plastic bags for sale items. Many hands make this event an enjoyable experience.

Club Plant Distribution is Saturday, May 21, at the Floral Hall, Muscatine County Fairgrounds in West Liberty, IA. Zora Ronan has ordered just an extraordinary lot of plants for our earned selections, and later a bidding sale of unchosen fine specimens. She has also ordered for fall delivery a colorful array of iris that will also be bid on by society members. Be sure to check out our website for a final listing of plants. It is often updated even up to that Saturday, depending on what surprises that the growers send along as bonus plants. Bring along your own printed copy for your use. Review the rules that can be found in the Members' Handbook on our website. If you are qualified to receive a plant but are unable to attend, be sure to have a designated person who can make your selection. If you don't, when your number is drawn, your turn is forfeited.

If you are available on Friday, May 20th, a crew will start at 9 am doing the set-up at the Floral Hall. This crew has worked together for numerous years and has the process down to a science. I came from work last year and was just amazed at how quickly the plants are put in order, alphabetized, auction numbers in a row. The plants are even given a final mist and covered with plastic sheeting just before we close the doors until Saturday morning.

The doors open at 9 am Saturday for the first viewing of the plants. One year, I just chose a plant for its pretty picture in the slideshow, and of course a food name "Raspberry Goosebumps", without looking at it. But I was pretty dismayed about the puny size and very small root it had. I did pot it up, tenderly loved on it, and was able to bring it back the third year. Sometimes we need an extra year of tender care for some of the divisions to be successful. It is a very beautiful plant in my garden now.

A bountiful breakfast will be available. Feel free to bring some treats to share. Coffee is set on a timer Friday to be ready for us early on Saturday.

If you have not had your picture taken for the upcoming 3rd edition of our Meet the Members photo gallery, smile pretty at the plant sale or club plant distribution. You may also send a picture to Jonathan Poulton. The deadline for inclusion in this edition is June 1st.

Congrats go out to our CVIDS illustrious webmaster, Jonathan Poulton. He has been named as the AHS Region One webmaster. He is working on some updates to the website now and will make other changes after the busy upcoming gardening season.

I look forward to seeing you at the next several Saturday events.

Nancy Carlisle
President