



April is always a stressful month. It's too cold, so nothing grows. It's too hot, so everything starts growing too soon and we're going to get frost. Oh No! It's too wet; it's too dry. I can't get in to weed the beds, my Preen or Snapshot is going to be too late. And the daylilies are too soon or too late or there's spring sickness or my favorite plant isn't coming back.... And then there's that quack grass, Creeping Charlie, dandelions and chickweed. I can't print the words that I use for those guys.

But, the pink flowering dogwood, the bluebells, the redbuds, the yellow magnolia, the little white Iowa peach trees and the bleeding heart have all been absolutely magnificent this spring. So, April is also awesome. Oh, and Easter has been part of the blessing of April also.

Our April 8th CVIDS meeting at Marr Park was very successful with Nan Ripley's presentation about Daylilies and True Lilies. We accomplished a great deal and had such a good time. I called several of our "new" members to remind them of our meeting. Perhaps several of us can call members whom we haven't seen for a while. Be sure and read the minutes from both the regular meeting and the 2020 Regional Taskforce meeting on the website.

I am so looking forward to May, with our first combined plant sale at the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) in Muscatine on May 6. The action starts at 8 a.m. Bring your labeled, priced and pictured (if possible) plants to the ELC. Heather's idea of combining with the Muscatine Garden Club and the Muscatine Master Gardeners is a great one. It will be fun to meet new people and see what they bring to the sale too.

Then, on May 20, our Plant Distribution will happen at the Muscatine County Fairgrounds at West Liberty. **We will start a little earlier with refreshments at 8:30 a.m. and we'll try to start the auction at 9:30 a.m.**

For those of you helping with set up, we'll meet at the Fairgrounds at 9 a.m. on Friday, May 19. Thanks so very much to all who will be helping for both days!

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Region One President Zora Ronan asks for a special reminder for everyone to sign up ASAP for the Region One Regional in Minneapolis, MN. The theme is "Daylily Dreams in '17." For more information, go to the web site www.ahsregion1.org. Nikki Schmith reminds us that the National Meeting is less than 50 days away. Sign up at www.daylily.org

Jonathan and Susie Poulton have finalized the Club Garden Tour plans for our July 8 tour. Lunch will be served at the Coralville Public Library following visits to our morning gardens around Iowa City. There will be a \$5 member fee when you sign up with Jonathan on May 6 or May 20. A box lunch of your choosing and drinks will be provided for lunch, or you can choose to bring your own. Guests and Non-members will pay \$10 for lunch. Look for detailed information to be published soon on our web site at www.CVIDS.org.

Our friend and treasurer Sue Kramer has been hospitalized for pneumonia. She is back home, but their garden is getting ahead of them. A work day is being planned for Thursday, May 4, starting at 9 am at their home, 3592 Rogers Road NW, Cedar Rapids. Come if you are able.

See you this weekend,

President Keith Riewerts

May 6, 2017 8:00 am to 12 noon Muscatine Spring Public Plant sale:

Discovery Park Shelter #2, 3300 Cedar St, Muscatine, IA 52761 Different location, but same park as the Environmental Learning Center, just beyond that building. Combined effort of three groups, Muscatine Master Gardeners, Muscatine Gardening Club, and CVIDS! We are going to try this to see how many new daylily enthusiasts we can bring in with added exposure. We will need some tables, awnings brought. As usual, bring clean bare-root daylilies marked and reasonably priced. On the tags, please indicate the bloom color, hybridizer, year, ploidy, height, bloom size, etc. Other spring perennials are also welcome. If possible, please bring photos of your sale plants, as we know that these help greatly with sales. It should be a lot of fun to meet and work with some new friends. Our thanks go to Heather Harroun who has worked with Deb Bentley, CVIDS member and president of the Muscatine Garden Club, and with the president of the Muscatine Master Gardeners Club to bring about this exciting new event.

May 20, 2017 Club Plant Distribution of earned plants, and others to

buy. West Liberty, Iowa in the Floral Hall at the Muscatine County Fairgrounds. We will start at 8:30 am with food and a review of the plants. Actual distribution lottery starts at 9:30 am. If unable to attend, and you are eligible, a proxy must be obtained and given to the treasurer or another member in advance. A **powerpoint of the plants** is to be seen in advance at our website. www.cvids.org. (Check under Bulletin Board for quick access.) Plants earned will be returning their increase for Silent Auction Bidding in 2019. After the distribution concludes, there will be a live auction of remaining plants. Please note that **<all>** club members are eligible

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to bid in this auction. Zora Ronan has obtained these plants and iris on our behalf. Thank you, Zora, for all your hard work!

Date Set for 2017 CVIDS Summer Garden Tour

The 2017 Summer Garden Tour will take place on Saturday, July 8th. There will be four stops on the tour, all along the I-80 corridor and reasonably close to each other. We'll start the day at the residence of Mary Jo and Joe Duffy (between Iowa City and Solon). At this stop, there will not only be Mary Jo's beautiful garden to peruse but also Joe's vegetable garden and the daylily seedling garden of Jonathan & Susie Poulton. We will then travel to the garden of Jim Seamans Jr. in Iowa City, before going to the Coralville Public Library for lunch. HyVee will be providing box lunches (more details TBA later). Please sign up for your lunch preferences at our two events in May. Cost to members is \$5, and \$10 for guests. If unable to attend our events in May but you intend to participate in July, please contact Jonathan Poulton at jonathan-poulton@uiowa.edu or 319-354-1735 (answering machine available). After lunch, we'll take I-80 west to the residence of Joyce & Steve Parsons in Conroy, before finishing our tour at the Cottage-in-the-Meadow Gardens of Larry & Wilma Rettig in South Amana.

Looking for Korth Daylilies!

Jonathan Poulton received an e-mail from a daylily enthusiast who is searching for Korth daylilies. Her wish list is as follows: Ancient of Days, Arrakis Sunset, Arrayed in White, August Bride, August Groom, August Wedding, Blown Away, Cantaloupe Stampede, Cast Your Crown, Celestial Army, Celestial Radiance, Cooler by the Lake, Forever Rosemary, Gertrude's Melody, Grace Alone, Grace Like Rain, Heaven's Morning, Heir to the Throne, Legendary Romance, Natalie Grace, New Covenant, Northern Splendor, Northern Treasure, Orange Overload, Parable of the Net, Pearl of Great Price, Pinewood Easter Morning, Pinewood Gold Ore, Purify My Heart, Reagan Kate, Rivendell Twilight, Rolling Stone, Ruby Shadows, Sawtooth Predator, Shining Like the Son, Shot Gun Wedding, Snow Day, Tears for Gus, Upon This Rock, Where's Waldo, Wonderfully Made, Yellow Raincoat, and Zoe Josephine Symons. If you have one or more of these and are willing to part with a fan or two, please contact Jonathan and he'll put you in contact with the enthusiast. Thank you so much!

IRIS NEWS

Iris for Auction members will have a chance to purchase iris on May 20th at distribution.

American Iris Society meeting, Des Moines May 23-27

One of the features of the 2017 AIS Convention is a Saturday morning Symposium featuring three great speakers. Come to hear **Tony Hall** of the Royal Botanical Garden, Kew, on "The Juno Iris Species", **Dawn Boyer**, the immediate past RVP of Region 17, with "Artistic Iris Arrangements", and **Cathy Egerer**, the president of HIPS, on "Agnes Whiting and the Journey to Blue Rhythm". Visit the American Iris Society website (www.irises.org/) for more information.

Iris Show in Mount Pleasant on Saturday - May 13th

It is rumored that there will be an Iris Show in Mount Pleasant on Saturday, May 13th. More details are to follow. (Not able to google it tonight.)

Member Feature:

I thought a newsletter column called “getting to know you” would be a good idea. Unfortunately, I have only had one new member, Deb Bentley, respond to my invitation. Now I’m half way through the membership list alphabetically and no hits. So this month to fill my required space, I thought I would share my spring time Daylily experience.

With Rex’s shoulder injury late last summer and subsequent shoulder replacement in February, this created what I’m calling the “Daylily Rescue Project”. Rex’s 24 registered miniature daylilies were painstakingly planted at his “ranch” with a “weed barrier”. The “ranch” is a piece of property we own at the end of the street we live on. It has a 2-stall garage and shop, chicken condo, garden shed, large garden area that he shares with Gary Oster, apple trees, peach trees and the National Weather Bureau weather monitoring equipment for the city of Lowden. Rex daily reports the weather, temperatures, rain, wind, etc. to our very own weather guru, Steve Gottschalk, who then reports that information to the weather bureau. You can also read Steve’s weather folklore in “Our Iowa”.

Last fall, Rex sent his chickens to their retirement farm so that he would not have chicken chores to do this past winter and I don’t want to know the name of the chicken I’m eating. So there are no chickens at the ranch this summer. When I looked at the ranch collection of daylilies this spring, I could hardly find the daylilies amongst the grasses that had taken over them! So we looked over the gardens at our house and I saw potentially an “easy” solution to the problem. I suggested connecting two of the gardens (gaining more space) and expanding another one to the fence (giving us even more space). Since neither one of us can get on our hands and knees and dig up sod – we hired it done! So \$\$\$ later we have enough space for his collection and room for a few more! Goody, goody more daylilies!! Our neighbor said “pretty soon I wouldn’t have much to mow”, that is another plus!

Now we have to move them! Thankfully for our dear friend, Gary Oster, he willing steps in to help. I’ll tell you one thing this is not the first daylily he has popped out of the ground. Stand aside while Gary & his pitch fork go to work. We did use the new wire basket I acquired and it worked well. Not having to bend over to hose off the soil and separate the grass and weeds from the daylilies! The basket height is perfect, waist high.

So at this time, I will throw in a strong recommendation – get rid of those weeds and grasses in your daylily gardens and maintain it with a product that has Barricade in it! I would now much rather take care of a weed/grass free daylily bed, than mow a yard!

Submitted by Barbara McCreight

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Barricade infomercial:

Barbara McCreight and Ginger Pruess order 50# Bags of PRO-MATE BARRICADE 0.375% PLUS FERTILIZER (it is around \$50 a bag) from DomyownPestControl.com. They ship it direct to their door step with Free Shipping.

It is a pre-emergent so it should be applied no later than April before the weed & grass seeds germinate. This was a difficult year with it being so warm in March & April. Weed and grasses that are already growing HAVE TO BE REMOVED. This will NOT kill anything that is already present in the garden. Barbara also puts it on her gardens in early fall so that seeds don't germinate and lay under mulch and snow all winter.

After you have everything under control, it is a matter of digging up what little appears or hitting it with Round-up! Barbara also mulches her gardens. This can be broadcast right over the mulch.

Read the CAUTION protection while using.

Nan Ripley and Martha Stewart Living

Humbly, Nan briefly mentioned after her April presentation that she would be featured in the May 2017 issue of Martha Stewart Living, pages 90-95. I picked it up and WOW! Stunning pictures and a great article as well. WAY to GO, Nan!!!

Plant Stakes to be ordered

Stakes from Kinkaid Markers will be ordered after May 6th. Prices similar to previous years. A complimentary one is given to each club member along with their earned 2017 Club plant. We are also invited to order from Sam McCord and his Bio-Markers with a club discount. Contact Nancy Carlisle at 563-357-0526 or njcarlisle56@gmail.com if interested in ordering.

OTHER Events of Possible Interest:

Quad City Times has a section on plant sales. We were featured.

Pollinators Palooza at the Putnam Museum

Saturday, May 10, 10 am-5:00 pm and Sunday May 21 12-5:00 pm. Presented by the Scott County Extension Master Gardeners, Iowa State university Extension and Putnam Museum at 1717 West 12th Street, Davenport, IA. Film about Monarchs "The Flight of the Butterflies in 3D" at 11:15 am on Saturday, 12:30 pm on Sunday. Cost to the movie, all other events free. Plant sale, Hort clinic, Adult and Children's Education, Nahant March, QC Botanical Center. Visit Iowa State Extension Service or Putnam museum for more information.

English Valley History Center and the Iowa Forgotten Historical Society Facebook

Have you heard about the Forgotten Iowa Historical Society on Facebook? It's an Iowa-oriented site that was started almost three years ago, and the membership is now approaching 30,000, all with a genuine interest in Iowa history and Iowa life.

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The Forgotten Iowa Historical Society and the EV History Center are sponsoring an event on Saturday, June 24, at the EV History Center in North English. The day will involve a variety of speakers, some great entertainment, and even a picnic lunch. There is no charge for those attending, but we need a good idea of how many to prepare for. Also, if you want to purchase the picnic lunch, you can do that with the registration form. We need a lunch count to give to our picnic caterer. See attached flier. We hope to see you on Saturday, June 24 at 10 am-4 pm.

Photo by Nancy Carlisle- clematis "Guernsey Cream", first bloom April 30, 2017.

