

July 13, 2015, Letter from President Nancy Carlisle to the Membership

Hi faithful gardeners of CVIDS:

What an eventful day was held in the Southeast Quadrant of Iowa on Saturday. I had to chuckle at the meteorologist on WOC this morning lamenting how wrong they had the weather report on Saturday. "Who would have guessed that the storm would have stalled over Fort Madison for over 4 hours, sending down torrential rain" and that they just plain had it wrong. And the Buffalo Wild Wing staff was sure that they should not make any food for us as "who would come out in weather like this to see gardens!" WE had 52 members attend, 6 guests that included some husbands that whipped out their pocketbook nicely for their wives purchases. It was truly a pleasure to see charter member gardens featured in honor of our 25th anniversary this year.

I know that the gardens were wonderful, well groomed and just a joy to see. I had never evaluated a flowers water repellent effect. You really could see some let the water just roll off, others wilted and ran their color, some stayed crisp and erect and yet others turned to mush. A new concept for this garden judge. Thank you to the families of Gerald Hobbs, and Colleen Hansen who dedicated more than 4 hours on Friday in both gardens stripping live blooms and deadheads. Gerald's garden was a stunning mass of blooms. The Hosta garden was a delight, I loved the switchbacks, and they loved us buying. A nice meal was slightly delayed in service at BWW, but we were dry and in good company. The Pond gardens were full of water, and the stained glass was exquisite. I heard such positive comments when we got to Walnut Hill garden in Atalissa, where the bonfire and grilled brats were a hit. Karmin commented "This brings me back to my Girl Scout days". I was not a girl scout, but I had several smores myself.

Upcoming Deadlines:

1. Our next event is the new one called Swap and Seek. Attached Flier for more information. It is also on the www.cvids.org website under "What's new?". Keith is requesting that you send names of cultivars that you are seeking or willing to swap to him by July 15th.
2. Silent Auction Chair Heather Harroun is needing to know how many fans of the 2013 or earlier Club Plants are available for returning so she can put together the flier for silent auction and live auction at the Monticello plant sale. Please send them to her by July 20th.
3. Be working on selecting plants that you are willing to divide for the Plant Sale in Monticello on August 22nd. I saw several in my garden as they are blooming, that just are getting to be too big of a clump.
4. Take pictures for the Betty Miller Photo Contest at the November banquet. I learned last year how to crop as I downloaded to really get ahead on the contest. I am excusing myself this year though as president, I have to be the tie breaker if needed.

I toured Joy Adams' garden on Sunday, I visited in Marilyn Little's garden on Wednesday. Gerald and Barry and Lynn Stoll's garden on Saturday. It was good to see 4 charter year members gardens in one week. I have also been in Sylvia Seymour's, Lynne Kirkman's, Lynn and Sherri Moffit's,

Kathy Kephart's and Jonathan Poulton's gardens this past week. I believe I will be able to renew my Garden judge credentials this year. You have to be in at least 25 gardens in 5 years. I know I will cover a lot more gardens as I travel to Region One Meeting in Marshalltown. I appreciate that we have very special gardens among us. Take the time and go and see, just call ahead for your visit. See you soon.

Nancy Carlisle
President 2015-2017