

Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society Newsletter October 2017

Riewerts' Ramblings

Fall is finally falling, or so it seems. Rain is FINALLY predicted this weekend for most of southeast Iowa. Yea! I'm just glad it isn't snow.

But going back to August and our CVIDS Plant Sale and "Club Plant" returns, we had a very successful event.

In spite of a few sprinkles, we had an outstanding turnout of members and the public spent big bucks! Hundreds of plants were readied for sale with attached info and pics to encourage buyers.

And while that was happening in the outdoor shelter, inside the Youth Center at the Jones County Fairgrounds, everyone pitched in to ready tables, chairs and a cornucopia of food for our potluck feast.

Diane Derganz, Sara Hankemeier, Heather Harroun and Pete and Pat Connolly collected and organized the returning Club Plants. The ones that were successfully bid on online were distributed and, after lunch, the remaining plants were auctioned. A very large thank you to all who bid and an even bigger thanks to the committee for their excellent organization and resulting successful day!

Dave and Sue Kramer were at their usual smiling duty stations, collecting money for plants and for dues. I haven't decided if I will return Dave's handsome jacket, which was left at the Center. It fits me very well and I look good in it....

There were many things for which to thank Nancy Carlisle too. She reserved the facility, insured that the AHS insurance waiver was sent, and forwarded me last year's info re. advertising for this event.

Diane Derganz created the long-needed Club Plant Evaluation form and with her diligence and persistence and with the help of several others, made it work. The results will serve us for years to come and help us to choose the best daylilies for our region. Thank you, Diane! Suggestions for changes are welcome.

And finally, I was so very pleased with the "One for all and all for one" spirit of camaraderie you all showed with the clean-up of the facility. Well done!

October 14 marks the date for our Hybridizers' Roundup at noon at the Coralville Library. Jonathan's message in this newsletter details this event. Many thanks to him for his hard work of organizing the Roundup. More and more of us are entering into the world of hybridizing with leaders like Gerald Hobbs, Barb Papenhausen, Jonathan Poulton and Nan Ripley. Gary Oster and Dave Appelquist registered daylilies for the very first time this summer. And I understand that Sue Kramer is not the only one in her family who is dabbing pollen.

Nancy Rash will have an update on the CVIDS Banquet at the Hybridizers' Roundup, as will Mary Jo Duffy and the Betty Davis Photo Contest. I will have an update on our guest speaker, Scott Elliott.

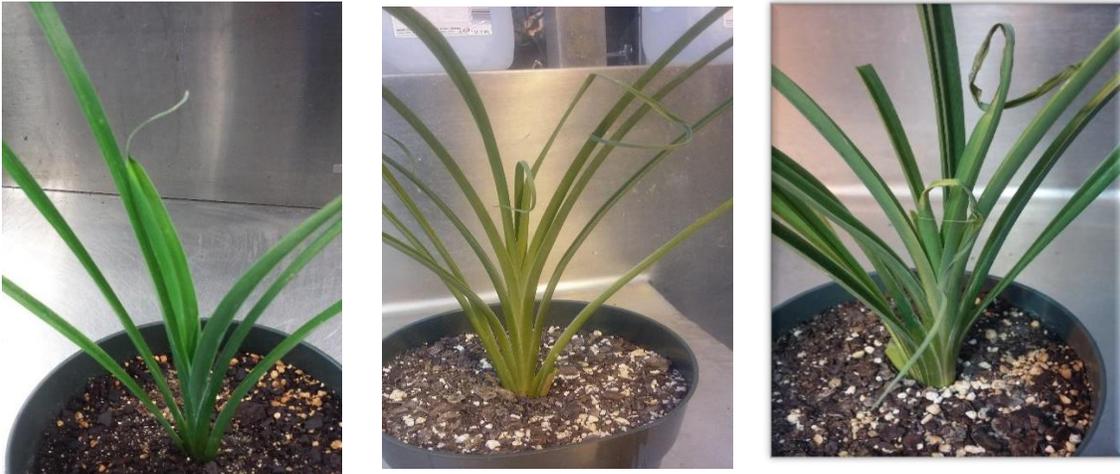
Looking forward to seeing you all.

Keith

Any idea what causes this phenomenon?

By Jonathan Poulton

Although I had said to myself and to Susie that I wouldn't undertake any crosses in 2016, I ended up raising a crop of about 600 seedlings in the University of Iowa greenhouse last winter! As is my custom, I began sowing out seeds on Black Friday. The seedlings initially grew well but, by early April, over 100 of them showed some unusual behavior that I'd never seen before. The first sign of trouble was when the youngest leaves began to pinch at their apices (see LH photo below). Subsequently, the leaves bent over, as if they'd lost their turgidity. If one squeezed the leaf tips at this stage, they were often brittle and would snap off. Because the malady affected only the youngest leaves, I was afraid that it might stall the overall growth of the diseased plants.



I was mystified as to what was causing this errant behavior. Initially, I thought that I had been over-watering the plants, so I reduced the frequency of watering. When that didn't solve the problem, I wondered if I was not providing enough fertilizer. (For many years now, I've used Ferti-lome's Blooming and Rooting Hormone Soluble Plant Food (9-58-8) as my fertilizer and have never seen any adverse effects). However, providing more fertilizer didn't seem to help either! Let's now fast-forward to October 2017. Sad to say, I still have seedlings that show this phenomenon. If you have any ideas what might be the cause, I'd be very grateful to hear from you.

“Getting to know you” Pete & Pat Connolly of Bellevue, Iowa



Pete and Pat could do an article for “our Iowa” magazine about Iowans returning to Iowa! Pete, an Iowa farm boy, met and married Pat while working in Chicago for the airlines. Nine years later they moved back to Iowa, near Delhi, where Pete’s roots are. At that time their Son was born, they built a house on a 200 acre “other place” farm and began a cow/calf operation. Raising pure and crossbred replacement cattle, commercial bulls and 4H fair show steers. They wonder now looking back and joke “we kept our town jobs to support our farming habit” through those tough economic times of the 80’s farm crisis. After 35 years in the Airline business, Pete retired and after the herd dispersal sale, moved out of state to warmer climates - landing in Meridian, Mississippi. No more driving 63 miles each way to and from the airport in all kinds of wintry weather and this is where their story leads to Daylilies.

More time on their hands and too young to really retire, they went to a plant sale and bought the first six daylily cultivars. Pete was intrigued by the genetics, as they had been with the cattle. Although he does not hybridize, he appreciates the work of those who do. They feel fortunate to have been mentored by some of the best Southern Daylily People and belonged to two clubs in Region 14. They have attended many regional events, Pete was Region 14 treasurer four years, went to two national conventions and maintained a display garden with over 550 cultivars. Going back to work now to support “Daylily habits” and help their son and wife with their first home in Maquoketa, Iowa. After fifteen years their son and his family convinced them to move

“back home to Iowa”. They selected 250 favorite cultivars and potted them up. They filled two moving trucks with daylilies, household furniture and headed north. Arriving late August, Pete would not let Pat unpack one household box until the flowers were in the ground, so the plants could take hold before the first frost. Most of the collection made the transfer with just a few casualties.

No longer having a display garden, they maintain about 300 cultivars and have a small iris and peony bed. They did all the landscaping themselves around their new home which overlooks the Mississippi River from high on a bluff. Pete and Pat are reminded daily how good it is to be back in the tall corn state while volunteering to deliver meals on wheels and drive people to and from appointments. They also volunteer with others to maintain the gardens along Bellevue’s riverside park. Next time you are in Bellevue look closely at those gardens to see some daylilies beginning to make a show!

Editor's' Note: Many Thanks to Barbara McCreight for coordination of this feature. I have really enjoyed getting to know Pete and Pat as members of CVIDS.

A Cause for Celebration Indeed

Congratulations to CVIDS club members Brian and Mary Thompson, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 9th.

Gerald Hobbs: Make sure you check out the wonderful article written about Gerald in the fall edition of AHS, Daylily Journal. It is well worth the price of the subscription. Congratulations ,Gerald, on your many contributions to the daylily hybrid world. H. *Bold Stripe*, Gerald Hobbs’ very first introduction from 1986, was in the Parson’s garden on our summer tour.

New Members: Please welcome three new members to our club. They are Rita and Jim Carney (Manchester, IA) and Kathy Ockenfels (Vinton, IA). At the August Sale, we were also delighted to meet with Donna Helgens (Monticello, IA), a charter member of CVIDS. We look forward to chatting with all of you at future meetings.

October 14th Meeting:

Our next club meeting will take place on Saturday, October 14th, at the Coralville Public Library. Directions are available at the CVIDS website under What’s New. On that day, we will be holding the 7th Annual Hybridizers' Roundup, at which several of our club hybridizers will show us their latest daylily creations. Jonathan Poulton is organizing the Roundup with the following seven speakers: Gerald Hobbs, Sue Kramer, Barb Papenhausen, Jonathan Poulton, Keith Riewerts, Brian Thompson, and Jackie Westhoff. Always a lovely show and tell event. Potluck starts at 12:00 noon.

Tentative October 14th Meeting Agenda:

Minutes, Treasurer's report

Thank you's

Health updates

Memorial Donna Denly \$25

Reports: Fall Sale, Silent Auction, Club Tour

Report club plants: Jackie Westhoff

Location of spring 2018 plant sale

Next year's calendar

Banquet report: Nancy Rash

Photo contest: Mary Jo Duffy

Banquet speaker report: Keith

Election report: Vice President

Website: Anyone interested in becoming webmaster in 2018?

Please note that the CVIDS Board will meet at 11:15 AM at the Coralville Public Library (Meeting Rooms A & B).

Put November 11th on your Calendar! Fall Banquet Time!

Please join us at the CVIDS Fall Banquet on November 11th at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, 1220 1st Ave Coralville, IA, Exit 242 off I-80.

Please send or call your reservations to Sherry Moffit at smoffit@netins.net or 319-664-3585 and leave a message. Reservations are due to Sherry by November 6th. We will have a sign-up table for the Fall Banquet at the October CVIDS meeting in Coralville. The Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society provides the meal for the members. Guests are welcome and encouraged at a cost of \$25 per person. Please email or call Sherry with any changes to your reservation after November 6, even if you need to cancel or find out that you can attend after the deadline. Please wear your club name tags.

11 AM: Social Time, Viewing and Voting on the Betty Miller Photo Contest Entries.

Noon: Luncheon Buffet

1 PM: Speaker Scott Elliot of Maneki Neko Gardens, Ellabell, Georgia

2 PM: Business Meeting followed by Plant Auction, Plant Raffle, Election of Officers and Announcement of Photo Contest Winners & Door Prizes

We have an informative and fun day planned. "Please join us on November 11th" say the CVIDS Fall Banquet Chairpersons Nancy Rash & Lyle Moen, and Sherry and Lynn Moffit.

Betty Miller Photo Contest

Mary Jo Duffy will be accepting entries into the photo contest. More info to come at the meeting.