

Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society

Volume 3, Issue 1

January 2026

CVIDS NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026 FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear CVIDS members,

When you read this, Christmas celebrations will be over and another year will have begun with renewed hopes for a happy, healthy year to come.

But, for me writing this message, the holidays are a week away and there's still many things I have to get done. I'll try to briefly touch on our plans for this year.

We have entered into our 36th year as a club and our goal remains to educate and enjoy the world of day-lilies and iris. A few of our members have been with us this entire time and many are going on at least 20 years. Luckily we've had several new folks join us and they'll bring new talents, strengths and ideas which will help us in all our endeavors.

Our first meeting will be Jan. 10th in the Hiawatha Public Library at our usual times starting with a pot-luck at noon, followed by a presentation by Lisa and Jeff Schmidt on their North Dakota clubs work at the International Peace Garden. The International Peace Garden is the largest public garden in North Dakota and encompasses 2,400 acres. We'll be going over the proposed budget for 2026 which was prepared by the board at their November 30th meeting.

A preliminary calendar of events has been set up with several locations confirmed. We also will be asking each member to volunteer to serve on one of our many committees. There are various jobs to do throughout the year and we need everyone to pitch in. A signup sheet will be circulated at this first meeting so be thinking about what you'd like to do.

One of the most important aspects of this year will be the continuing work on the 2027 Region One Convention & Summer Meeting which our club will be hosting. A contract has been signed with the Holiday Inn & Kinnick Conference Center, Coralville, IA, for the July 9th thru July 11th, 2027 event.

(continued from previous column):

Be watching for my emails which will contain our budget proposals, minutes of our November meeting and committees to volunteer for. I know with everyone's help we can accomplish all our goals while having a fun and friendly time amongst friends!

Best wishes,
Diane Derganz

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our officers for the 2026 CVIDS program year!

President: Diane Derganz

Vice President: Jackie Callahan

Secretary: Peggy Rash-Daniels

Treasurer: Sherry Moffit

It's a new year and as Diane said in her column, we need everyone to help with the responsibilities of the Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society. Please click on the link below and see how you can participate this year! NJR

Responsibilities of Club Officers and Committee Chairman:

<https://cvids.org/OfficersResponsibilities.pdf>.

Inside This Issue

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"Happiness Is A Choice"



Nancy Rash, Newsletter Co-Editor (Serious)
Lyle Moen, Newsletter Co-Editor (Fun Stuff)

CVIDS CALENDAR FOR 2026

January 10, Hiawatha Public Library, Hiawatha, IA.

February 14, Johnson County Extension Bldg., Iowa City

March 14th, Coralville Public Library, Coralville

April 11th, Wilton Community Room, Wilton,
CLUB PLANT POWER POINT

May 9th Spring Plant sale, Muscatine Discovery Park, awaiting info from Master Gardeners & Garden Club

May 16th, Club Plant distribution, Floral Hall, Muscatine Co. Fairgrounds, West Liberty

Aug. 22nd, Monticello Fairgrounds, Youth Development Center - waiting for return confirmation

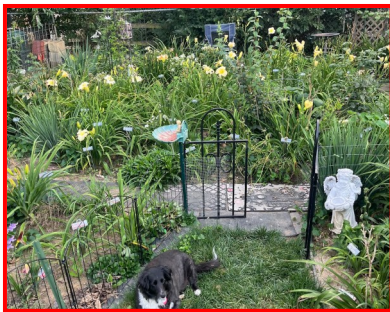
Public Plant sale - Goettsch Shelter

Oct. 10th, Hybridizers roundup - will inquire in April at the Marion Public Library. No reservations over 180 days in advance.

November Banquet - date to be determined

Teasers To The Member Stories on Following Pages

Katie



Sylvia



ADS REGION ONE MEETING JULY 9-11, 2027

CVIDS is hosting the 5 state Region One meeting in Iowa City, July 9-11, 2027. Home base location is the Holiday Inn facilities which are the ones that we use for our fall banquet meeting.

Mark it on your calendar, get involved with the planning. CVIDS members are so good at helping each other.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their gardens for the tours.

Bus tour will occur on Saturday, July 10, 2027 and will feature the following gardens;

Lyn-Hoversten Hafner-Iowa City

Lynn and Sherry Moffit-North English

Dave and Sue Kramer-Cedar Rapids

Katie Book-Mount Vernon

The following have volunteered to host Open Gardens with dates and times to be chosen later:

Joe and Mary Jo Duffy-Iowa City, Virginia Houser and William Blair-Iowa City

Gina Snyder-Riverside, Becky LaRoche-Riverside, Jackie Westhoff-Shellsburg,

Darren and Shelly Lett-West Branch, John and Colleen Hansen-Wilton

This will give people traveling in from any direction delightful gardens to visit.

Here are a few of the opportunities to get involved in the planning and work that comes before the actual event.

Registration: receives the registrations, makes lists of attendees, helps at check in

Plant Chairperson: helps select the plants, makes lists of plants coming, helps line up the auction

Silent Auction: receives donated items, promotes and sets up the event

Publicity: brochure development, garden information, promotion

Decorations: for banquet meals

Transportation: for speaker, set up for bus tour

I am planning on a brief meeting in January to help answer questions and get started on committee work. Plan on coming together at 11:00 at the Hiawatha library.

Nancy Carlisle, Chairperson 2027

MEET THE MEMBER KATIE BOOK

My love of flowers and gardening has been my entire life growing up on a farm. I first started growing daylilies about 40 years ago, often moving them as life led me to different places. My last job was a physician's assistant for 27 years with Regional Medical Center in Manchester, IA and in the Hopkinton satellite office, primary care. I had given 6 months notice to retire in September 2019. Then 2 months later, mid November 2019, I



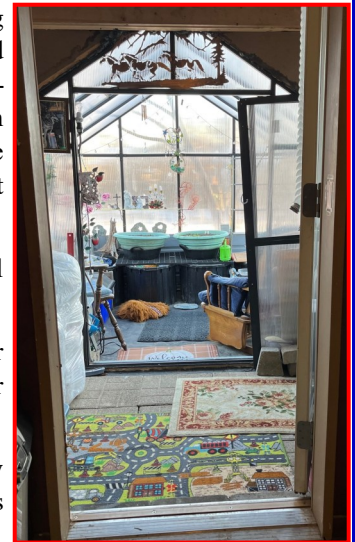
was bringing my only grandchild back home to his parents in Mt. Vernon. His mother is my only child. I had taken care of my 6-year-old grandson every weekend of his life in Hopkinton. As I was pulling out of their driveway in Mt. Vernon, the house next door was putting up FOR SALE signs. Needless to say, I bought it early December 2019. Then I actually retired in April 2020. It was a small ranch house, but a huge backyard with 4 big mostly dying ash trees and at least 7 huge decaying stumps and weeds in the south backyard. So, my Amish friends came and cleared these trees and stumps and I got to work! I moved over a hundred daylilies down from my previous 1.5 acres an hour away. I fenced in the backyard to keep my puppy in and rabbits out of the backyard.

I wanted a small greenhouse on the south backyard. After drawing up permits from the city, I and my 6 ½ year old grandson measured out and dug in a cinder block foundation for the 8 x 8-foot, greenhouse (a kit from Home Depot). He and I built this greenhouse fall of 2020, and friends helped with the roof. Then Amish friends came down and built a breezeway with doors on each side of the breezeway. They removed my bedroom window replacing it with a door so I could walk right out into the greenhouse or into the backyard.

I learned about CVIDS from Lyn Hafner when I went to her place on Iowa City garden tours several years ago, and joined CVIDS that fall.

I keep increasing my daylilies with now over 330 different ones. I had moved about 20 white/near white daylilies from my old place and now have 50 white/near white daylilies as well as a few other white perennials, bulbs and biennials in a large corner of the backyard – my Moon Garden.

Two years ago, fall of 2023, I started another large theme garden in my front yard with primarily daylilies – my American Flag Garden. I keep revising and improving it just for fun. Neighbors LOVE it.



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This summer the city took down a huge dying ash tree in my front yard that was in city right of way, leaving the 3-foot-wide stump. So, I removed the shade plants which were there and replaced them with gold and near black daylilies for a Hawkeye Garden. I am planning on enlarging and improving it also. Things always changing here!

I'm currently in the planning stages for a red and gold daylily garden to be my Iowa State University Garden.

Yes, I do also enjoy regular gardening as well, and grow most of my own food except for meat, eggs, dairy, etc. I also have 2 dwarf apple trees which my grandson insisted that I plant because he loves my homemade applesauce. I have a peach tree, blueberries, honey berries, elderberries, currants, strawberries, red raspberries, cranberries and aronia berries. And also, a large lawn to run and play in.

My daughter calls all this my "smoking money" since I don't smoke or waste money on much else. I call it healthy eating, exercise and FUN!

~~~ Katie Book ~~~



## SYLVIA SEYMOUR BAUGUESS, 30 YEAR CVIDS MEMBER



December, I celebrated my 87th birthday and as I reflected on my life, I have realized that I faced some hard times; becoming a widow 3 times, raising 5 girls through the farm crisis of the 70's, losing our family farm, and changing locations multiple times. But one thing that shines through is the love of gardening and creating a beautiful oasis. During farming and girl raising, a large vegetable garden was a necessity, starting a CSA strawberry farm in 1972 before it was popular, was to help my husband re-establish an income. In later years gardening was for the joy of seeing and growing beautiful flowers. I became a Master Gardener and established enduring friendships through the shared love of gardening.

I learned about Walnut Hill Gardens, a national AHS display garden in 1995 when I saw an ad in the Daylily Journal. My husband Glenn and I took a Sunday drive with another church couple to visit the garden and met Lynn and Barry Stoll. My mother had worked with Professor Fred McDowell and of course Lynn and Barry had been in his Iowa City garden many times. A friendship formed that is still shared today.



I was working full time and on Saturdays. Barry would call the night before a meeting and would invite me for the next day. Of course, it was a Saturday and I had no advance notice to request the day off so it took a while to get to a meeting. My actual first meeting with the group was July 27, 1996. CVIDS was hosting their summer garden tours and had as the banquet speaker, Sarah Sikes. Another couple and I carpooled and went to the 4 gardens of Barry and Lynns' Walnut Hill Acres, McDowell's, Hadvara's, Joy and Jim Adams, then we went back to the Iowa Memorial for the banquet speaker. I was not expecting to be gone all day and night, but what a meeting it was. Sarah Sikes had just returned from the national AHS meeting where she had received the Bertrand Farr Silver medal. She had won the Stout award the previous year with 'Neal Berrey' (See the October 1996 CVIDS newsletter for an article by Mary Baker describing the garden tour.) CVIDS was planning the American Iris Society Region 21 meeting to be held May 24, 1997 at Barry and Lynn Stoll's garden. I love iris and wanted to be involved. May 1997 was the coldest spring in 60 years and only 1 Siberian and 12 bearded iris were in bloom on tour day. Stolls had over 900 different species of iris cultivars in their garden at that time. In the fall of 1997, Steve Moldovan was the banquet speaker. I took my youngest daughter Kathy with me.

In the spring of 1998, I earned my first club plant and chose Steve Moldovan's 'Queen's Quest'. We went on the garden tour in 1998 to gardens in Kahoka MO, Ken Messer's garden in Keokuk, Gerald Hobbs garden in Fort Madison, and a garden in Kalona. I went traveling with Jean Hecht and Jan Null to tour Betty Miller's garden. She was so interested in photography. That intrigued me as my dad was a great photographer and my grandmother had made her living as a photo colorist. Betty submitted photos to the Daylily Journal and to the bible of daylilies "The Eureka". The Eureka helped price and describe daylilies. We established our CVIDS daylily photo contest in her honor. I served as the chairperson of the photo contest for over a decade after Verne Moore started it in 2006.

I attended my first Region One meeting when CVIDS hosted it in Fort Madison in 1998. It was a fun experience working together in the kitchen to serve the meal after a fire had occurred earlier in the day in the hotel. I was able to go to 3 national conventions so far and 5 region one meetings. I met many of the excellent hybridizers by attending these meetings.

My largest floral garden was in northwest Davenport. I had a small pond with goldfish until one day a blue heron stood in it and had lunch. I had a true cottage style garden, with something in bloom at almost every season starting with the squill and daffodils through the peonies, iris, daisies and into the daylily season. Some of my plants were heritage ones from my mother, but I accumulated plants wherever I went, just like most of you have. Jack Jones would stop in on his travels between Davenport and Olin, helping me to get rid of Canadian thistles. My husband would look out and ask, "Who is that man in your garden?"

I have entered flowers into the Muscatine County and Mississippi Valley Fairs for several years, now competing with my daughters, Nancy and Lynne. We had a family event several years ago creating floral buckets that are displayed throughout the fairgrounds.

I shared my garden with CVIDS on tour in 2013 and with the Master Gardeners. I have hosted the club plant distribution, ordered club plants, chaired the plant sale at Vander Veer Park. My garden is much smaller as I have downsized, moving twice in the past 10 years. But I still have irises, daylilies and daisies, now just fewer of them.

Get involved, be part of the committees, laugh together as you work on projects, cry together when dear friends pass away, offer rides and advice. You will always treasure the memories that you make meeting in the gardens, sharing advice and taking time to smell the flowers.

