

# Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society

Volume 3, Issue 3

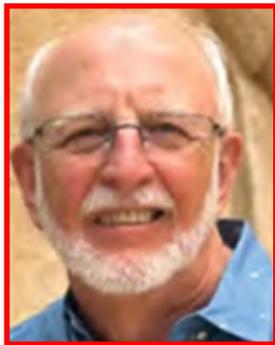
March 2026

## CVIDS NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear CVIDS members,

I'm happy to tell everyone of the many things happening this month in the world of daylilies. It's especially exciting with spring just around the corner, longer days gets our planting juices flowing.



We've got two very special events, the first is the visit of Scott Keller, the American Daylily Society Region One Director from Lincoln, Nebraska. He'll be giving a presentation at our March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting in the Coralville Public Library. We're so happy that

Scott is coming to talk to our membership. He recently traveled to New Orleans to meet with other members of the ADS and he's currently the chairman of the long-range planning and marketing committee. One of the topics of his presentation at our meeting is the ADS and how to encourage new members.

Diane Derganz

Scott's Pick A Daylily Garden is a state-licensed and inspected daylily nursery and ADS Display Garden. His garden contains over 100 registered tetraploid cultivars and over 350 blooming-size seedlings grown in the ground to prove their northern hardiness. Scott's been hybridizing tetraploids only for 15 years and has focused on doubles and unusual forms.

**INDESCRIBABLE**  
(right)

Is his first double registration and it also has cristation.



(continued from previous column)

Scott's presentation will include his garden and hybridizing efforts as well as a seed give away. I'm curious as to what that give away may entail and I'm hoping that every member who's able can attend this very interesting and informative meeting. It's not every day that we have a guest who has asked to come and talk to us on the regional and national level. So, let's please show him that we value his knowledge and experience by coming to Coralville on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

The second event which our members are invited to is the annual Pollen Dabbers program presented by the Central Iowa Daylily Society coming up on March 27<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> in Marshalltown. Many of you have attended this in the past. The informational article by Phil Pfas is contained in this newsletter.

Thanks again to everyone who attended our February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting in Iowa City. I think many of us learned from each other on various aspects of growing daylilies and we heard about Seed Savers from Dianne Harms. The potluck meal was good as usual and there was an abundance of books and magazines to take home as well as some very nice door prizes.

Please watch for my email with the agenda and February minutes a few days before the March meeting.

Hope to see you all on the 14<sup>th</sup>,

Diane Derganz

### Inside This Issue

P1 President's Message; Scott Keller presentation  
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P 7 Karmin Mullins Caster Plant Submittal

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

## Thank you to our panel at the February 14, 2026 meeting. Summary by Nancy Rash

**From Diane Derganz:** Written information from Gerald Hobbs was distributed for reference. Diane uses Milorganite and Spray - N- Grow. Spray-N-Grow is a non-toxic liquid micronutrient complex, not a fertilizer, containing a proprietary blend of 17 naturally occurring minerals designed to enhance plant growth. Its primary active ingredients are Iron and Zinc, derived from iron sulfate and zinc chloride, acting as a biocatalyst to stimulate growth and improve blooms.

**From Heather:** The dates for her Spring daylily dig & divide: April 25, 29 and May 2, 6 at 1 PM each time. This is an opportunity for folks to get a start of a daylily for themselves and have daylilies to bring to the plant sale. More on Dividing daylilies can be learned from Heather and practiced when members come to participate. Heather uses manure mixed with soil in her daylily beds. Top dress daylilies with 10-10-10 granular in early spring. Heather uses lots of mulch and pulls weeds by hand as needed.

**Barb Papenhausen:** Uses Milorganite and broadcasts ahead of a spring rain. Reapply summer and fall. Miracle Grow also may be used in the summer. Snapshot is used but also pulls weeds by hand.

**Tom Jones:** His "recipe" for soil mix: 30 bags Top Soil, 10 bags Composted Manure, 1 Bale Peat Moss – mix and use in holes when planting. Thank you for sharing how to use your hand-made dibble for making holes for the fertilizer. He uses 10-10-10 granular fertilizer in the spring.

**FROM Pat Connolly:** We learned so much from Mr. Earl Watts, our mentor from Hattiesburg, MS about growing, amending soil, fertilizers, "water-water-water" (once per week in dry summer here in Iowa), he used to say: "daylilies LOVE to be watered but also need good drainage", his readiness for bloom shows, etc. and just networking with all the guest speakers and other clubs members, growers in gardens nearby that you visit and ask them questions can really help. Learning is an ever-present tool always! Pat Connolly

**Update On Pete:** Pete is back home and starts outpatient rehab soon. He reports progress is slow but knows he is getting better. He is looking forward to Spring! [daydreaminpete@yahoo.com](mailto:daydreaminpete@yahoo.com); 563-221-2949.

## Daylily Best Practices by Pete Connolly

**Pete Connolly** is recovering from back surgery so I asked Pete to give us some notes about his best practices:

My best advice would be selecting a GOOD place to grow your daylilies. In Mississippi our beds were too near large trees that sapped water and nutrients. They never grew like they have in the middle of our yard here in Iowa. If one must grow near trees, those tap roots should grow straight down-not along surface.

Next, if possible, observe the cultivar's growth - plant habits/ bloom patterns - in another garden in YOUR plant zone. Hybridizers will always show you their prettiest blooms and some alter their photos (watch for dark background). Select a cultivar with strong focus on the plant rather than just a bloom. Choose a variety of several sellers and many times you will not be disappointed, ex: I ordered from lady in Kentucky and she always sent at least a triple fan. Some will include Bonus plants & some you learn who to avoid quickly! Buy at least Double Fans is our motto or not at all.

For the newer members, you are growing a plant that offer further benefits. Join the local clubs, go to meetings and become involved. The American Hemerocallis Society, AHS, membership offers several publications per year, a National Convention, online wealth of information and networking with growers and hybridizers all over the country and internationally. We started out with SIX cultivars in 2001 in Meridian, Ms. We belonged to two Mississippi clubs, Meridian and Hattiesburg. We became very involved with both clubs, locally and regionally (Region 14 - one of largest in the country) I held offices in both - region 14 treasurer for four years. These clubs brought in guest speakers such as Kevin Walak, former National AHS Pres. His saying was: "The Flowers bring us and the PEOPLE keep us." Having a 'National Display Garden' back then we had to meet certain criteria but seems that up here that is not always the case. Our garden grew to over 600 cultivars with hard scaping, Regional Rep had to authorize your garden annually, bathroom facilities were necessary, at least five cultivars newer than 5yrs of age, weed free as possible, etc. The AHS has all this info and offers garden judging and bloom show judging courses. Moving back to Iowa in 2014 we no longer keep a display garden and are now at age where we have had to downsize quite a bit but we still enjoy and keep up with our garden, what's happening in others and have met such lovely people that have become lifelong friends these past 25 years. Pete Connolly

## **CVIDS CALENDAR**

March 14th, Coralville Public Library, Coralville.

Speaker: Scott Keller

April 11th, Wilton Community Room, Wilton,

**CLUB PLANT POWER POINT**

May 9<sup>th</sup> Spring Plant sale, Muscatine Discovery Park

May 16th, Club Plant Distribution, Floral Hall,

Muscatine Co. Fairgrounds, West Liberty

Aug. 22nd, Monticello Fairgrounds,

Youth Development Center

Oct. 10th, Hybridizers roundup TBA

November 14, CVIDS Fall Banquet

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**PLANNING AHEAD:** Our March 14 speaker will be Region One Director Scott Keller of Pick A Daylily Garden, <https://www.pickadaylily.com/about-us>. Please plan to attend and learn about Scotts hybridizing program and his role with the American Daylily Society.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

Hospitality Chair Nancy Rash announced upcoming dates and speakers for upcoming CVIDS Fall Banquets.

November 14, 2026:

Speakers Bill and Diana Waldrop, Marietta, GA;

<https://kennesawmountaindaylilygardens.com/index.html>

November 13, 2027:

Speaker Bobby Scott, Yukon, OK;

<https://younggundaylilies.com/Welcome.html>

## **SPRING – DIG AND DIVIDE**

Our own Heather Harroun has once again offered a hands-on Dig and Divide experience to CVIDS members. CVIDS members will keep a piece of what you divide. The dates for the Spring daylily dig & divide: April 25, 29 and May 2, 6 at 1 PM each time. This is an opportunity for folks to get a start of a daylily for themselves and have daylilies to bring to the plant sale. More on dividing daylilies can be learned and practiced when members come to participate. Her address is: 11723 238th St W Illinois City, IL.

## **ADS REGION ONE MEETING JULY 9-11, 2027**

### **DO YOU HAVE MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN DAYLILY SOCIETY?**

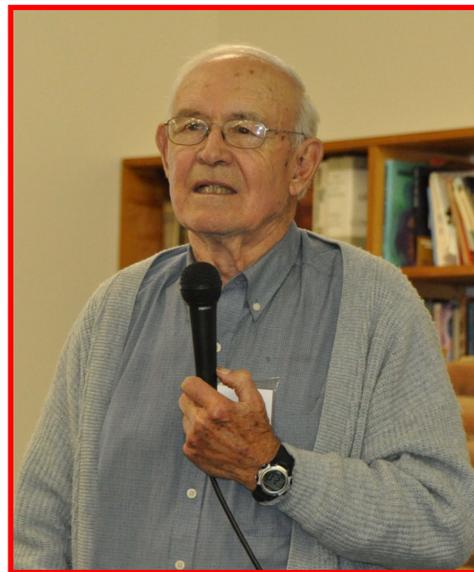
As our ADS Region One Director, Scott Keller will ask how ADS can better serve its membership. Are you a member of ADS?

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### **POLLEN DABBERS**

Registration and Hotel information about Pollen Dabber was sent as an attachment with the newsletter. Here's a quick summary by Nancy Rash of the event: Starts 5 pm Friday, March 27, 2026 and start again March 28 with sign in on Saturday at 8.

Jason Delaney is the Friday keynote speaker. Jason Delaney is a highly prominent and respected figure in the international daffodil community, known as a horticulturist, hybridizer, and expert in the curation of both historic and novel narcissus varieties. Saturday Keynote speakers are Michael Grossman and Kathleen Nordstrom of Northern Lights Daylilies, Minnesota. Kathleen is writing a new chapter in patterned diploids, and Michael is producing some of the most deeply saturate toother cultivars on the market. For more information contact Phil Fass at: [pf1371113@gmail.com](mailto:pf1371113@gmail.com).



Remembering the late hybridizer Gerald Hobbs  
Former CVIDS Member

## CVIDS MEMBER: JILL WILLIAMS

Hi, I'm Jill Williams ...new CVIDS member, daylily grower, and cut flower farmer.

A little about Salty Dog Flower Farm — a small, sustainable flower farm run by me, an educator, former college volleyball coach and lifelong gardener who believes in the joy of fresh, locally grown blooms. Located in North English, Iowa - specializes in *seasonal flower bouquets* available at area farmers' markets from spring through fall.

At Salty Dog, flowers are grown with care, free from harmful chemicals, and picked at their peak to ensure long-lasting beauty. From vibrant zinnias and cheerful sunflowers to delicate snapdragons and showstopping dahlias, our bouquets reflect the best of what each season offers.

The name *Salty Dog* pays homage to a sweet personality and my two spirited doxies and watchful German Shepherd who keep me company in the garden. With a coach's discipline and a teacher's heart, I've built a flower farm that's all about color, creativity, and bringing joy to others.

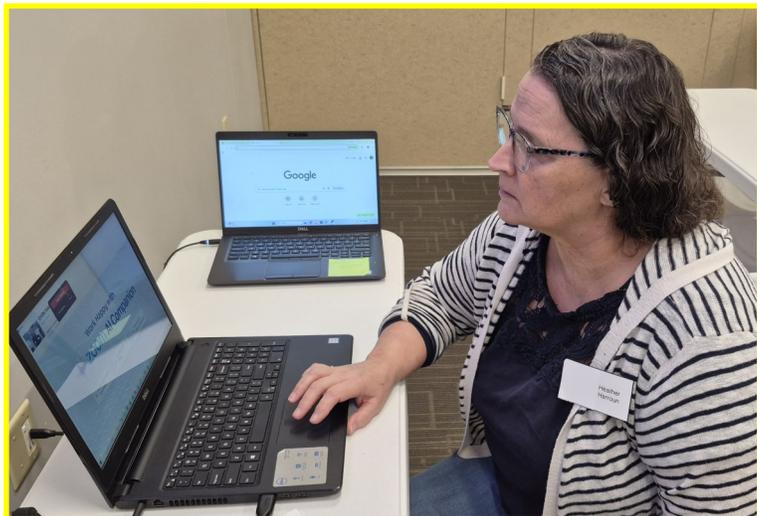
Growing daylilies has been a hobby of mine long before the cut flower farm was even a thought! A hobby that started after visiting my mom's cousins, Robert (Suzanne) Moffit and Lynn (Sherry) Moffit, and their beautiful daylily gardens each summer. I've always enjoyed the rainbow of colors that the daylilies provide for my flower gardens.

Joining CVIDS has been an interest of mine to learn more about growing, the hybridizing process, dividing, and then selling some of my daylilies.

## SALTY DOG FLOWER FARM



**COVIDS FEBRUARY 14, 2026 VALENTINE'S DAY MEETING**



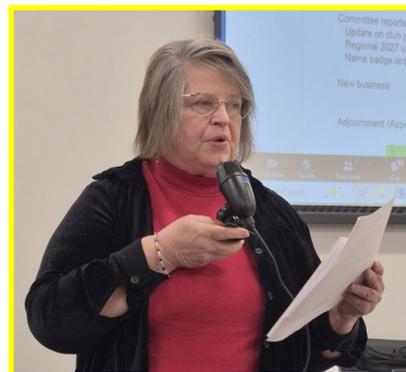
Heather prepares her laptop for use during the meeting



Nancy and Nancy test zoom technicalities prior to meeting



COVIDS Treasurer Sherry provides financial report



Above Right:

Nancy Carlise gives update on 2027 Regional meeting planning

Left:

Jackie gives a report on The Eureka Reference Daylily Guide



Right:

Dianne gives an interesting program on Seed Savers



**CVIDS FEBRUARY 14, 2026 VALENTINE'S DAY MEETING**



CVIDS members, Diane, Heather, Barb, and Tom serve as panelists to impart their knowledge on the many positive aspects of Daylily planting, care, and maintenance



CVIDS audience members pose questions to the panelists



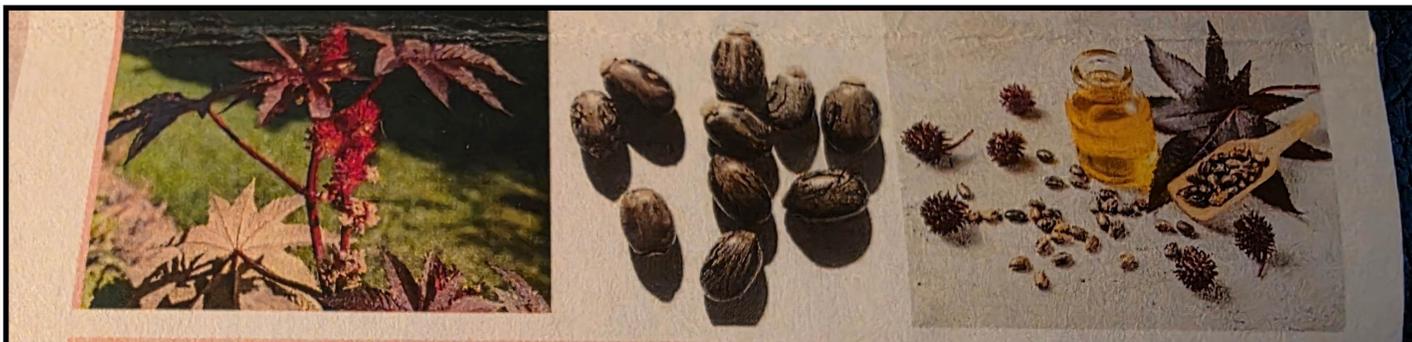
Left:  
Tom demonstrates his  
homemade Dibbler,  
made from a broken  
shovel handle:  
Operates by:  
Stomp  
Water  
Fertilize  
Stomp  
Water  
Fertilize  
REPEAT

## A CVIDS CONTRIBUTION by member Karmin Mullins

Submitted by Karmin Mullins:

The Castor Plant *Ricinus Communis*.....After several conversations with other gardeners regarding the toxicity of this plant, I did some 'digging' for information. Soon we will be outside playing in the soil and planting so I wanted to share my research with you. **Dramatic Beauty with Dangerous Power:** Few plants make a statement or demand attention in the garden quite like the castor bean plant. With its bold, tropical-looking leaves and striking seed pods, it creates instant height and drama in flower beds and landscape borders and as a focal point in large containers. But behind its ornamental appeal lies one of the most powerful natural toxins known. Their large, star-shaped leaves can span over a foot across and come in shades of deep green, burgundy or bronze depending on the variety. The spiky red or green seed pods add visual interest late into the season. **The Hidden Danger:** Ricin, a highly toxic protein compound concentrated primarily in its seeds. Even small amounts can be extremely dangerous if swallowed or chewed. Educate family members about not touching or ingesting plant parts. Remove and dispose of seed pods before they mature if safety is a concern. Wash your hands thoroughly after handling. Gloves are recommended when pruning or collecting seeds. The seeds are the most toxic part of the plant. Never grow castor bean where curious children or pets/animals have unsupervised access. Handled responsibly, castor bean can be breathtaking in your garden but demands respect. In gardening, as in nature, beauty and danger sometimes grow side by side. Please be cautious.

See Photos



Reference: The Gardeners Handbook.

Researched and submitted by: Karmin Mullins