

Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society

Volume 3, Issue 4

April 2021

From the President

We had 24 members attend the second Zoom CVIDS presentation. Thank you for your participation. It was another great presentation with information we can all use to care for the trees in our yard. Bob said "YES" immediately when I asked if he would be our program. I appreciate his willing and eager attitude. Thank you to Bob! We were missing Dave as the other half! Dave Kramer suggested I invite Wanda Lunn to be our next speaker for CVIDS and Wanda answered "YES" immediately. Thank you to Wanda.

Lyle and I now have been given both doses of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine. We are still being cautious and are hopeful our membership has been given the opportunity for the vaccine as well.

Thank you to members contributing to our newsletter. I appreciate and need your contributions. Jonathan Poulton will be a guest newsletter contributor in April. Sherry and Lynn Moffit have given me some ideas for a couple more Zoom programs. In keeping with our "tree theme", thank you to Sherry for sharing the photos of the sad and unfortunate winter "deer damage". If you are interested, I will continue to set up Zoom presentations for the summer, even though we would not have "meetings" if we were able to meet face to face. It will keep us connected. I will continue to set up a time before the 7 PM start of the Zoom presentation for you to greet other members.

Nancy Rash, President



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

A Presidential Reminder:

DUES ARE DUE

**CVIDS Dues are \$10 per person
for a one-year membership.**

Make check to CVIDS: Please send your check to:

Shelly Lett, 1673 Garfield Avenue, West Branch,
IA 52358.

From the By-Laws:

"Membership dues are for a calendar year and will fall due on January 1. Dues are considered delinquent after April 1."

Retirement

Is it Bad

To Think Getting Up at 8 am is Late ?



A Special Presidential Thank You

I want to thank Gary Oster for providing the information and for the phone calls to supply additional details to complete the Special Feature story. I appreciate Gary making the contact with the college to provide the photo of the beautiful daylily display garden at Cornell College.

President, Nancy Rash

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SPECIAL FEATURE:



Gary at Open Gardens 2020;
Photo by Lyle Moen

Honoring Gary Oster

The Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society was scheduled to host the 2020 Region One Summer Meeting in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the decision was made to cancel the summer meeting and all the tour gardens and open gardens. One of the Open Gardens was at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa.

Cornell College was established in 1853 on a beautiful hilltop overlooking the city of Mount Vernon, Iowa. It is one of two colleges where students study only one course at a time. Along with many homes in the area, Cornell's entire campus is a National Historic District. As a graduate of Cornell in 1958, Gary Oster decided to donate a collection of daylilies from his garden. In 2015 the circular drive going up to the Commons was chosen, and now 250 registered daylilies are most visible as you drive by on the Old Lincoln Highway. (photo below) Other beds have also expanded over the campus. While looking at his own hybridized seedlings, Gary noticed a purple flower edged in white. He appropriately and proudly named it "Cornell Greater Be Thy Name" for Cornell's colors and Cornell's school song.

Gary's Unstoppable Gold

Gary Oster, from Lowden, Iowa is a 13- year member of the Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society. His passion for daylilies started long before joining CVIDS. In 1973 his mom came home from a garden tour and insisted he go see the daylily garden of Pearl Jacobson. He went to see her garden and was hooked on daylilies and became the best of friends with Pearl. In her 80's, Pearl was suddenly forced to move and offered daylilies to Gary if he would come by and help her dig daylilies from her garden to move with her. Pearl took 20 daylily plants with her and Gary took home 44 daylilies for his own garden.



Photo by John Bauer, Cornell College

SPECIAL FEATURE: Continued:

Pearl taught Gary how to hybridize daylilies and his first attempt is the only daylily registered by Gary. The daylily was named, "Gary's Unstoppable Gold", by fellow CVIDS member the late Jack Jones. The staff at Cornell College have multiplied enough of Gary's Unstoppable Gold to use it at the base of signage on campus. What a tribute to the beauty and pop of color from the daylily.

Gary tells how joining CVIDS in 2008 furthered his interest in daylilies and enhanced his life with many friends and knowledge. Gary's mom died in 2014 at the age of 101 and still enjoyed walking through the daylily garden. In the winter of 2015 Gary moved to his present home and waited until spring to move over 500 daylily plants including his seedlings. That spring, with the help of family and friends, all the daylilies were moved in one day. It took two days to plant them in their new locations.

Gary loves to share his daylilies with others and hosts an annual daylily open garden that is usually around the date of his birthday, July 12. On July 12, 2021, Gary will be 85 and shared that he thought 2020 was going to be his last open garden. Fortunately for all of us, Gary is planning an open house for July 2021. CVIDS members Ginger Pruess and Barb McCreight, also from Lowden, have hosted an open garden the same day for a daylily trifecta! My husband Lyle Moen and I travelled to Lowden July 12, 2020 to see all three gardens. Each garden is beautiful and unique. We were impressed with how Gary squeezed hundreds of daylilies into the available space. The daylilies were at the peak of bloom. It is important to note that Ginger was away taking care of her mom the week before the open garden and Gary was able to help prepare Ginger's garden for the visitors. That is a faithful friend. In talking with Gary, I found out the three are in daily contact throughout the year.

Submitted by
Nancy Rash,
President,
Cedar Valley Iris
and Daylily Society

**Gary's
Unstoppable Gold**
(Oster, 2017)
A striking display
made by Gary for
the 2012 Region
One Meeting.

The bloom is
described as a
bright gold with a
peach glow, lightly
ruffled.

Photo by
Lyle Moen



Unstoppable
Gold
Hybridizer
Gary
Oster

Tree Damage on the Moffit Acreage



This picture is juniper bushes that have been there forever, at least 30 years. The deer have never bothered them until this winter. Note: All photos of damage by Sherry Moffit.



This is our Sunburst Taylor. We normally just fence it to protect from deer antlers in the fall. I discovered one morning that they decided to try to eat it but were only biting the branches off and dropping them. At this point in winter all we could do was wrap some tarps around it to prevent further damage.



By the time we noticed the damage here it was too late for these arborvitae but we attempted to go higher by using rope and pvc pipe. I watched a doe standing by the fence just clear the ropes too. We had some lower damage on these a number of years ago when we thought we wouldn't have to bother with fencing. We left the branches and it did fill back in after a number of years.

Tree Damage on the Moffit Acreage



We normally just run snow fence around this clump. When we saw the damage the deer were doing to other evergreens we didn't know how we would continue to protect these. With the snow and frozen ground putting in taller posts and going higher was out. We were told deer don't like to jump distance so we bought more snow fence and used rope to support it and laid the snow fence out on the inside.



This blue spruce has never been bothered by deer. It was one of our favorite of the blue spruce as it had an unnatural way of cascading down and then sweeping across the ground. We're not sure it will ever recover from this.

ZOOM PROGRAM by BOB TOWLER

THE TREE PROGRAM BY BOB TOWLER

NOTES BY Lyle Moen

Without the Comedy Side of Dave Kramer due to a faulty computer, Bob Towler gave an extraordinary program on Trees. Bob took Forestry at the University of Minnesota and spent 10 plus years as Manager of Forests in the Black Hills, he is not a preserver, but a manager of trees.

The goal is a sustainable community; trees become very emotional to people and people don't manage trees properly. Trees and flowers can make a community look good.

The Derecho hit all parts of the Quad Cities, you can't stop total loss, but can reduce damage through proper management. Look at trees, if 2/3 of branches are green it is a healthy tree. If there is a dead branch with bark, there is fungi inside bark and the fungi migrates into the tree. Oak Wilt is a sweet fungi and that is why squirrels eat off little branches and then spread the disease. If branches angle at 60 degrees or more that is really bad, it creates a weak point and water gets into crotch and rots and then the branch breaks off. Each year a tree produces one ring and bark, if a branch breaks off, it tears the bark off the trunk.

Maple trees have opposite branching, both limbs take off and grow straight up, if one is dominant the other dies off. Cut off branch at angle to have one leader. People like to buy trees with all branches on, but they really need to be trimmed.

Lumps or little branches coming out of a tree means rot in the tree. Mowers and weed eaters kill a lot of trees. Try to figure out if there is rot in tree and cut branches. People hate to take out a tree, however if a car is parked under and branch falls off, the car is toast. If a tree is 100 years old, it probably has rot. Look for small branches and look at location if branches might fall and remove tree if there is danger.

Ash Borer: We like a certain tree, Ash has nice color and tons were planted, not really a good tree.

Planting a Tree: People like trees to be symmetrical. Need to plant diverse type of trees. If you replace an old oak, you could put a Sugar Maple there because diseases usually don't cross species. Oak Wilt will spread underground. Get rid of infected trees before they infect other trees. Red Oak is fast growing, and White Oak is hard to buy because they have a big root. Oaks have horizontal branching. Red Cedar is under-utilized, it is the only native conifer, has good branching, and is a strong tree.

If you like neat trees: Bald Cypress is orange in fall, no leaves, and needles fall off in the fall. European Larch do very well, loses needles, strong horizontal branching. Tamarac Tree is strong. Mulch protects tree trunk and mulch breaks down into fertilizer.

ZOOM PROGRAM by BOB TOWLER (Con't)



CVID Member Cari's house as she described the large Sycamore Tree in front of her house, where branch fell on roof

Placement of Trees: The height of your house can determine where you plant trees, small trees out front like sugar maple and serviceberry and a Larch in the back of the house which then cools down the house as it draws the heat from the house to the cooler shade of the Larch tree. Japanese Maple has to be protected so plant on south or east side of the house. Red Bud trees are good for color.

Favorites: Pin Oak grows fast and like acid soil, if leaves are whitish means a lack of iron, and you can have tree injected. Paper Birch has life of 20 years. Sweet Gum is beautiful and has good branching although it has prickly nuts which are not good to walk on barefoot.

Cottonwood, Silver Maple, are fast growing, Cottonwood is not good for urban area so large and expensive to remove. Sycamore is not good for urban, easily gets fungi in the spring and again later in the year and leaves fall off.

Important to maintain trees.

Planting: Depth of root ball is critical, it will die if you plant it too deep, plant it same level as in the pot you bought it in. Get strings away from tree and burlap, prune at time of planting, prune more rather than less. Mulching is key for holding moisture and protects tree trunk and mulch breaks down into fertilizer.

(From Editor's Editor): The morning after Bob Towler's tree program, on our morning walking route, both Nancy & I found ourselves looking at every tree along the route, noticing how many branches were at the 60 degree angle and how many trees have the horizontal branching. The program gave us a new perspective on trees, their branching, and health conditions..... Thanks, Bob !!!

CVIDS CALENDAR

April 22, 2021, 7 PM

“WEAVING PLANT COLLECTIONS INTO YOUR GARDENS”

Zoom Presentation by Wanda Lunn

May

Zoom program to be determined

**Diamond Dusted Daylilies in the South
2021 National Convention
Thursday, May 20 – Saturday, May 22, 2021**

The Hattiesburg Area Daylily Society (HADS) and the Mississippi Gulf Coast Daylily Society (MGCDS) invite you to the 2021 **ADS National Convention** in Hattiesburg, MS.

<https://ahs2021national.com/>



SEE YOU THERE !!!

June

Tentative program on hostas

July

Region One Summer Meeting in Marshalltown
Cancelled

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic and the derecho that severely damaged many Iowa gardens, the 2021 American Daylily Society (ADS) Region One Meeting has been canceled.

For the convenience of our Garden Judges and those who want to become new Garden Judges, ADS Region One will offer Garden Judges Workshop 2 (GJW2) at three different locations during daylily bloom season in July 2021. For more information see: <http://region1daylily.blogspot.com/>.

More Region One news at:

<http://www.ahsregion1.org/R1-events.shtml>.



MEMBER UPDATES

Please reach out to members that we have mentioned in past newsletters.



From the 2013 Archives



“I Ordered the Fish Dinner on an Oak Plank”

Photo by Lyle Moen, March 1, 2020, Keokuk, IA



“Once Again,
You will Soon Be Able to Show Off
Your Bloomers”