

Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society

Volume 1, Issue 5

May 2019

From the Editor

UP & COMING

May 11: Public Spring Plant Sale , Environmental Learning Center, Muscatine , 8 AM

May 18: CVIDS Club Plant Distribution & Auction. Muscatine County Fairgrounds, West Liberty. Pot-luck breakfast items. 9:30 Start

July 5-7: AHS Region One Summer Meeting, Omaha, NE

July 10-13: American Daylily (Hemerocallis) Society Convention, Madison, WI

Welcome New Member:

Betty Fyffe, Muscatine



Nancy's Daffodils 4/18/2019

Inside This Issue

P1 Meeting April 13

P2 President's Comments & Meeting Notes

P3 April 13 Meeting Notes

Nancy Rash, Newsletter Editor

Meeting April 13, 2019 at Washington Library

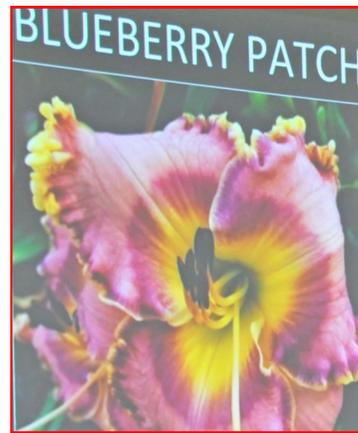


GREYWOODS FLOWING WATER

Above: Diann gives program on Iris selected for 2019



Dynamic Duo of Sirius Keith & Diane give programs on Club Plant Care & Club Plant Evaluation, respectively. See Diane for Club Plant Evaluation Forms.



Barb Papenhausen gives update on Club Plants ordered

FROM THE PRESIDENT

April 13 was a beautiful day and 52 members attended the CVIDS meeting in Washington. Our programs were super informative and members shared some tips and gave recommendations that work for their gardens. Read the April 13 report to learn more about what happened at the meeting.

I want to thank members for setting up the room and re-setting and cleaning the room after the meeting. It goes faster with everyone sharing the work. We had fun, fabulous door prizes: spring pansies, fern peonies, daylilies, gift baskets, CVIDS aprons, plant floats, bags of BioMarkers plant labels and a tote bag. Everyone was excited and I hope I didn't miss any of the gifts.

Thanks for your participation.

Nancy Rash, President

Meeting April 13, 2019: Continued:



Social Time with Visiting, and some wonderful Door Prizes
THANKS



April 13, 2019 Meeting Report:

Our club made a commitment to add more attention and commitment to iris and we are fortunate to have Diann Pavelka and LeAnn Pisarik use their enthusiasm for iris for this mission. View the Iris presentation via the CVIDS website to see what options you have in May and August to add iris to your garden. The selection is varied and beautiful too.

Barb (and I suspect Bob was helping) Papenhausen put the extra effort into the daylily club plant selection process this year to be sure we are receiving plants that will thrive in our Iowa weather. Even if you do not get an "early" number in the lottery, you will still be able to select a "winning" daylily. Not all members are able to attend the Club Plant Distribution on May 18 so please read the following from the Member's Handbook to ensure you can still receive your club plant if eligible. Per the directions note the club treasurer is Shelly Lett. Please see me at the May 11 Plant Sale if you have questions.

"Selection by Proxy:

If an eligible member is unable to attend the plant distribution, he/she may assign another member as proxy to select a plant for him/her during the drawing. However, the member must inform the club treasurer about the designated proxy prior to the plant distribution. If no proxy is designated, no plant will be chosen for him/her. "

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SPRING FEVER

"Four high school boys afflicted with spring fever skipped morning classes. After lunch they reported to the teacher that they had a flat tire.

Much to their relief she smiled and said, "Well, you missed a test today so take seats apart from one another and take out a piece of paper."

Still smiling, she waited for them to sit down. Then she said: "First Question: Which tire was flat?"

April 13, 2019 Meeting Report: Continued

Also from the Members Handbook: “Members are asked to help evaluate the characteristics and hardiness of their chosen club plant in our CVIDS region. It is expected that they will nurture their club plant carefully yet let the plant experience the same growing conditions that make eastern Iowa a unique environment.” More details can be found on the website under the heading of “Members Handbook”. Keith Riewerts and Diane Derganz were charged with presenting everything we need to know about caring for our Club Plant. The presentation was perfect, from taking home our plant to bringing it back two years later (in great condition). Keith showed us how to trim and pot/plant our new daylily. The evaluation process has been elevated by Diane Derganz as she has provided a system to report the growth habits of the plant. She gave very timely advice on labeling plants (use those door prize markers) and keeping a record or “map” of your daylilies. For more information see Keith and Diane.

The programs generated more discussion and tips from members. Fertilization was discussed and I asked Pete Connolly to summarize his thoughts on fertilizing daylilies.

“I can't promise excellent results for everyone and their gardens. There are other factors besides fertilizer such as shade, soil types, and watering in dry weather. Over the years I have tried several fertilizers. As daylilies are in the grass family they like nitrogen. So in the three numbers (nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium) the first number needs to be the highest. The middle number the lowest and the last number a little higher. The fertilizer that I used is a special daylily product produced by Graco in Cairo Ga. and is only sold in two other locations, Hattiesburg MS and Lakeland, FL. It is slow release, 16-4-10 and is \$50.00 for a 50 pound bag. I have also used granulated chicken manure and milorganite and they are also slow release. Be sure to use a slow release. One year I used something called Super Rainbow and killed some plants as it was too hot. Be sure to fertilize in the spring for best results.

(continued next column)

Also when planting new plants use alfalfa pellets. This is also available in farm and fleet stores at a reasonable price. Alfalfa is supposed to be a natural growth hormone.” Pete Connolly

I was interested in Barb's comments about bleach for daylilies. Here's what Barb Papenhausen shared.

“I have no exact formula for dipping in bleach water but I use a half cup of bleach in a large bucket of water totally submerged, for about a minute, then take it out. Normally you do this if you think they may have rust. Paul Owens does this on his plants before shipping.”

Barb Papenhausen

Another discussion topic at the April meeting was worm castings. There were several suggestions on how to obtain. At the club tour last year, Sara showed us her process for making a supply of worm castings. Sadly, I don't have a suitable location. We also have another member with expertise on using worm castings. I reached out to Sam McCord for a recommendation.

“You can add worm castings any time, but typically in spring and whenever planting by adding a handful or two to the new plantings. Members can find it on the “Organic Fertilizer” tab on the menu bar on our web site: “

(<https://www.mcgbiomarkers.com/cioforder.php>).

Sam McCord

Many thanks to members for sharing. I appreciate knowing what works for you. We all need to evaluate information available and don't be afraid to ask others for help.

Nancy Rash



**“SPRING is here,
I'm so excited I wet my Plants”**