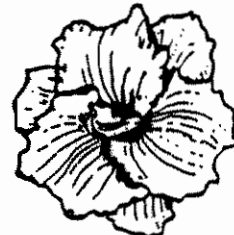




Cedar Valley Iris & Daylily Society



June, 1999

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy late spring to everyone! It looks like it's going to be a wonderful daylily season here in eastern Iowa. Scapes are popping up everywhere. Slug damage is somewhat decreased from last year, which certainly improves my humor.

We just returned from a three day trip to Atlanta to pick up my youngest son. No time for any daylily touring, but I did notice that the Georgia Tech campus has lots and lots of daylilies in their landscape. Not 'Stella' either. All of theirs were in full bloom and made quite an impact.

The Regional is only a little over a month away. I do hope everyone is planning to attend. Please invite some of your friends to attend as well. I even have a friend coming from Virginia. It's going to be a good time. We still need door prizes and bus plants. The list of auction plants is absolutely awesome. Thanks so much Lynn and Barry. We will also need some help with the auction. Does anyone have any sort of auction experience? If so, please let Lynn know. Do plan on bringing your checkbooks so the auction is a HUGE success.

As for the club auction, Lynn needs to know how many fans of each cultivar are going to be available this summer. Please let her know so that when the bids start rolling in, she'll have an easier time keeping track of the winners.

Jean Hecht

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

July 16-18: AHS Region One Convention and Tour, Iowa City. All members should try hard to take part in this fun-filled event!

August 28: Annual plant sale and potluck, Riverside Gardens, Monticello.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

I apologize to all of you for the delay in putting out our newsletters and other material in a timely fashion this year. My current job pressures make it impossible for me to spend as much time on this as I have in the past. Thus, I would greatly appreciate any offers of help with this newsletter. (Without Jean's having mailed out notices of club meetings a few times, some folks might be wondering if we still exist. Thank you, Jean!!) So, please consider what you could do to help with this newsletter. I have more material (including two nice articles from Gerald Hobbs and Mary Baker) that I haven't had time to edit and incorporate. I think that we've had some great newsletters in the past, and I'd like to continue that custom, but I cannot do this all myself at this time.

We're on the final countdown to the Region One Tour in July - hope you'll all be able to make it! We're really getting excited about it; we think it will be a grand tribute to Fred and everything he's done for the region over the years. The daylilies are looking especially good this year - they've loved all this rain lately, and I think the bloom will be *great* - and near peak for the convention. (My one and only positive memory of the summer of 1993 is that we had never before - or since - had such great daylily bloom. I think this summer may well be a repeat of that.) It will be a great finale for Fred's garden in its present form (we think of it as going from "heaven" to "a piece of heaven"). I'm really looking forward to Bob Carr's talk; he's a really interesting guy, and he's got some dynamite stuff coming in his hybridizing program. We've made careful plans for what we think will be a super auction - hopefully one that will put Region One in much better financial shape than it has been recently. We have a great selection of plants, and we'll be showing slides of the cultivars during the auction, so people will know what they're bidding on. We have very generous donations, including some 1999 intros, from Pat and Grace Stamile, Jeff and Elizabeth Salter, Guy Pierce, Dan Hansen, David Kirchoff, and Lee Pickles. Lee is planning to attend, and has already sent us two of his 1999 intros and the two 1999 Branch intros, as well as Smuggler's Gold and Susan Weber.

I think the bloom is going to be great; so far, the season seems to be later than 1998, but a lot earlier than 1997. With regard to winter losses, Fred McDowell, Jean Hecht, and I all had most winter losses and near-losses than in the last five years combined. We had temperatures in the 70's here well into December, and apparently nothing hardened off. Then the New Year's Day blizzard hit, followed by -26 degree temps. At the time, we consoled ourselves that at least we had a couple of feet of snow cover - but it was false reassurance, as it turned out. By the end of January, the snow cover was gone and temps were back into the 50's. Then we repeated the blizzard/extreme cold/back to warm cycle a couple more times. And somewhere in there, a lot of daylilies decided that they just didn't *like* living in Iowa! Complete losses were Rachael My Love, Patience Plus, Chevron Spider, Oakes Love, Inca Secret, Windmill Yellow, Gram Hansen, Witches Wink. Some of these losses didn't surprise me much, especially the Ra Hansen cultivars (although Gram Hansen is a dormant, and she had sent it as a guest plant for the Regional tour this summer). The one that really surprised me was Windmill Yellow. I had a huge clump of this that I had bought when she introduced it in 1993, and I had had no hint of a problem with it before, although I had heard it was tender. So this spring, this huge clump just didn't show up - not even a sliver. It is interesting, also, that Gerald, Jean, and I each lost our WITCHES WINK over the winter.

This again raises the issue of fall planting of daylilies from the South. I know, one isn't supposed to do it, period, and many of you more disciplined folks just simply don't. But I've done it many times without a problem - for one thing, if I plant them in the fall, then they bloom at their normal time the following spring - best for both hybridizing and garden display. If I wait and get them in the spring, then they bloom on Florida time - no fresh pollen for hybridizing, and no chance for garden visitors to see them on display. So I guess I haven't really learned my lesson on this one. Besides, most of the complete losses were well-established plants - and I planted about 100 new ones last fall, including some evergreens, and none of these other new ones died. So for now, I'll just continue to blame the worse-than-usual cycle of alternating extreme temperatures, with the lack of fall hardening-off.

Barry and I visited the Central Florida ("Mecca") gardens again this year (May 10-17). Although this was a week later than we had gone last year, when they were at peak bloom, this year their season was much later, and most of the gardens were only around 10-15% bloom. Still, there was *plenty* to see, and I got some terrific slides. We always start out at Stamiles' Floyd Cove Nursery - for one thing, it's only 5 min from the

motel, so we stopped there for awhile almost every morning. It was disappointing that most of the new and future introductions weren't in bloom yet, so I wasn't able to get too many pictures. (One that just opened its first flower the day we arrived was BIG SUR, which I loved -- thought it much prettier than the catalog picture.) But even so, there were many stunning seedlings. One spectacular *very* tall (over 5' red stood out at a great distance. Pat doesn't want to introduce it because he doesn't like the flower. But both David Kirchhoff and I were urging him to introduce it, just for the height and branching -- and really, I think the flower is quite attractive, even if it's not up to Pat's standards! Pat said he just keeps it to use when something needs a better scape. I think that could apply to a lot of our seedlings! He said he'd consider introducing it, but only as a novelty at about \$50. If introduced, it would be called "Skyscraper".

The most exciting thing I saw at Stamiles' was Pat's tet spider program. We ran into long-time spider fan Ned Roberts several times in various gardens, and he told us that Pat's tet spider program is four generations ahead of anyone else's. Looking at the seedlings, we could easily believe him. Pat says he particularly likes the ones that twist and curl (so do I!), and there were some fabulous examples of that. In addition to continuing to work with his red line (RUBY SPIDER, WESTWARD WIND, LONG STOCKING, etc.), he has a lot of interesting seedlings from TET CERULEAN STAR.

Pat also has a rapidly expanding tet double program. I find some of these very beautifully formed, while others just look "messy" to my eye. It will be interesting to see how they perform in the North. I have become very wary of Southern doubles, though I think they're very beautiful. (If I lived in the South, I would have a garden full of Kirchhoff doubles -- but they're not for Iowa. Although there are a few of the new ones that I might actually try if the price comes down a lot.)

Grace's dwarf/mini hybridizing program is also making great strides. I love her "Popcorn doubles" -- tiny doubles that are extremely floriferous, with great proportion -- and which seem to do very well in the North. YOU ANGEL YOU rebloomed here several times last year, as did LITTLE WILD FLOWER. And TROPICAL DELIGHT is just that -- delightful. These are all diploids. Her tet "Broadway" series have also proven themselves to be very reliable and vigorous performers here, with excellent branching and bud count, and good proportion. One I particularly like is BROADWAY ACCENT, a 16" dormant cream with a red eye.

One striking addition at Stamile's is a brand new state-of-the-art 36 x 96' greenhouse near the shade-covered section where the selected seedlings and future introductions are grown. "State-of-the-art" in greenhouses now is something that is completely automated and computer-controlled, to maintain a constant temperature of 60-70° -- just enough to bring daylilies out of dormancy, according to Grace. They have heaters for the winter, and a system of fans and evaporation pumps for summer. It also has an automatic shade cloth cover, automatic sprinkler control, and a hail-proof roof. It is filled with 4' raised boxes with 4' walkways, and will accommodate 7000 plants -- allowing them to make crosses, even with dormants, in April when it's cool enough to set seed easily. It's quite impressive; made us feel like barbarians, just planting daylilies out in the ground and pretty much leaving them to fend for themselves. (If I ever reach the point of introducing anything, you can be sure it will be *tough!*)

Daylily World had the most bloom of any of the gardens we visited, probably because David Kirchhoff works so much with early and extra-early cultivars (particularly the doubles). Perhaps the single most striking seedling I saw on the entire trip was one from Mort Morss (see enclosed slides). Pat Stamile had said that it was possible to get multiple edge patterns just like the multiple eyes that Elizabeth Salter is so well known for, although he hadn't seen it in any of his seedlings yet. However, Mort brought a bloom out of his refrigerator to show us one. One of the parents is FORTUNE'S DEAREST; I think the other was a seedling. The slide clearly shows 3 separate bands, plus the gold edge; but I could clearly count six (!) distinct bands of color on that edge. Just phenomenal! The other Morss seedling slide is another one that came out of the refrigerator to greet garden visitors that day.

Once again this year, Bob Carr had some of the most exciting seedlings I've seen anywhere. (Of course, when you're turning around 25,000-40,000 seedlings in nine months every year, you greatly increase the odds of getting something fabulous! I'm really looking forward to his presentation at the regional next month. Hope you'll all be able to attend. If you haven't seen any of his recent work, you're in for a real treat!

I was more impressed with Dan Trimmer's garden this year than I was last year. In particular, he had some beautiful doubles that I liked a lot. But I still wish he had stayed as an important Northern hybridizer, rather than moving to Florida along with everyone else. In Florida, five mailboxes down the road from Stamiles, he will inevitably always be in their shadow. But he seems quite happy with the arrangement. He and Jane are very close friends with Pat and Grace, visiting each other almost daily. And he maintains adamantly that his is strictly a *hobby* garden and a *hobby* hybridizing program – he has no interest in making it any larger, and he has no expectations of getting rich from it. And after his recent bout with throat cancer, I suspect he will be even more inclined to “take time to smell the roses.”

Two of our Florida garden visits were tinged with sadness. We visited Dan Hansen's new place out in the country, admired the layout – and felt so sorry that Ra was gone. Dan is “coping well” but still basically heartbroken. He's determined to carry on with Ladybug Gardens, but the energy for continuing to hybridize seemed at a very low level this year. Hope it'll come back next season! We also visited Guy Pierce's new operation in Florida, transplanted from Hawaii a year or so ago. Thoughtfully laid out, thousands of seedlings just starting to bloom –but alas, after a very painful divorce, he's decided to sell it all and move back to Hawaii (as a cab-driver, if necessary) so he can be near his 4-year-old daughter. (Grace told that more than anything else, Guy is a Daddy.)

Salter's garden after a devastating hailstorm/tornado earlier this year was a big disappointment (but not nearly so much for us as for them – their early season's hybridizing work was 90-95% wiped out!). Someone who visited there last week said that it's pretty much back to normal now, with a lot of rebloom. But unfortunately for their hybridizing, now it's much hotter and thus much harder to set pods (unlike most of the other Florida hybridizers, they have no shade cloth set up). We did spend 5 hours walking their sale garden, which had much less damage, and picked out a lot of *great* plants for the Region One auction next month. But we didn't have an opportunity to see any of the new and future introductions, all of which are kept at the house garden. The only thing we saw in bloom there was Macho Macho Man, and it was a poor imitation of the blooms I remember seeing on it last year.

1999 CVIDS MAIL AUCTION

For the last eight years, CVIDS has been using a portion of the club funds to buy some choice daylilies (and occasionally other perennials) for the club. It was originally agreed that these plants would be distributed among active members to grow for two years. At the end of the two years, the members would keep a plant equal to the size they had received, and all increases would be given to the club for auction or sale. It was hoped that this would be self-perpetuating, allowing club members to grow some choice new cultivars and providing income for additional club plant purchases and other club activities. This program has proved to be a great success. It has been virtually self-supporting, and has allowed members to grow many fine new daylilies. Based on its initial success and members' enthusiasm, this program has been greatly expanded in the last several years.

The plants listed below for our 1999 silent auction have been grown since 1997 by CVIDS members. The suggested minimum bid for daylilies is approximately half the average double-fan price listed in the 1999 edition of “Eureka Hemerocallis”. As in previous years, the procedure for the mail-in auction is as follows:

1. Please make your bids uneven amounts (e.g., \$19.42) to reduce the likelihood of ties.
2. Send this page to Lynn Stoll, 999 310th St., Atalissa, IA 52720, postmarked no later than July 6. Do not send payment at this time.
3. Lynn will notify winners, who will then be asked to send checks for their winning bids to the Treasurer.
4. Plants will be delivered at the Aug. 23 sale in Monticello. For those with winning bids who are not able to attend the sale, plants will be shipped for a small additional fee.
5. Bids postmarked after July 6 will be accepted only if no other bids have been received for the plants.
6. In case of ties, the earliest postmark will win. All plants will be distributed; any not bid on in the auction will be put in the public sale in Monticello.