

FANFARE!

Volume 21 Issue 4

October 2017

CALENDAR

November 12, 2017 Noon
DSSEW Annual Meeting and Luncheon
Midway Hotel & Suites
1005 S. Moorland Road
Brookfield

Meetings held at 1PM in the Education Building of the Boerner Botanical Gardens

January 28, 2018
DSSEW's own Sandy Martin, Barbara Nickel, Lew Silva and Pat Sturdevant present their daylily hybridizing programs

March 18, 2018
Tom Horner presents "Yes, You Can Grow Rhododendrons and Azaleas in Wisconsin"

April 22, 2018
Edgar Anderson
Commercial Grower of
Lavender

May 20, 2018
Michigan Daylily Hybridizers Ginny Pierce of Grand Rapids and Sandy Veruink of Byron Center tell us of their programs



Looking Ahead to the Annual Meeting

Make certain that the date, **November 12th**, is marked on your calendar along with the time **Noon**. The DSSEW Annual Luncheon and Meeting will be held at Midway Hotel and Suites (AKA Premier Best Western), 1005 South Moorland Road in Brookfield, just south of I-94. It is not necessary to attend the luncheon. If one prefers to come for just the meeting and program, they will be a bit after 1 PM.



'Down on the Corner'
Kendig 2017

The program will be presented by Stuart Kendig of Kendig Daylilies in York, PA. Stuart has introduced 38 cultivars and has several separate lines he's working with. He has a special interest in developing almost

white cultivars, favoring those with ruffled edges. A samples of his work in this area are shown.



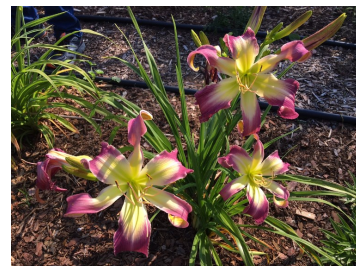
'Eskimo Dreams'
Kendig 2017

You have also received an email with detail concerning Luncheon reservations, menu and costs. Just remember that those unable to attend the luncheon are welcome to come to the Annual Meeting. Refer any questions to Barb Nickel at 262-547-1048.

Photo Contest Winners



FIRST PLACE SINGLE FLOWER
Conrad Wrzesinski



FIRST PLACE FLOWER CLUMP
Patricia Adrian

Oh Deer!!

I recently found a post on the AHS Round Robin which spoke of very successful control of deer damage. Since the number of white-tail deer does not appear to be diminishing in Wisconsin, we may all need a program of some sort as time goes by. Here is the post from Laura Hood, commercial daylily grower of Warrenton, MO. (naturesmelody.com) Thanks, Laura! Ed.

We live and garden in a very rural area where we are surrounded by dense woods and farmland. I believe we have come up with a foolproof process to keep the deer off our daylilies, and phlox, and other things they relish. It does involve a bit of work, but that is called "gardening"; right? So, here's the drill for us:

-When foliage just starts to emerge, put a handful of Milorganite® in each clump.

-When foliage has filled out and some scapes are forming, spray the entire clump with Plantskydd® (more on that in a moment).

-When scapes have formed buds and are nearing bloom, spray again, but you need only spray the buds.

-Spray about every month while blooms are present.

-If you hybridize, spray again when your pods are deliciously swelling.

-After that, it's up to you; I don't mind if the deer take all the foliage once bloom season is over and it's looking pitiful anyway.

We order Plantskydd on-line. It comes in a dry and a "Ready to Use" liquid. We use the liquid, but only about a cup or two in a one gallon sprayer. That is all that is needed. You do need to shake it well and then strain it through cheesecloth as you pour it into the sprayer. It will have lumps! I don't mess with the dry—it is very difficult to wet the powder and the lumps just make a giant mess. I keep a sprayer filled and handy during the season in case I see signs that the deer have been around. I find it becomes more "potent" the longer it sits in the sprayer. You will catch a whiff of it for a day or two after spraying, but it's effective for a much longer time that.

We grow close to 1000 varieties spread over two acres and without Plantskydd, we would have to grow cactus instead.

IN MEMORY OF

Jean Coshun

October 8, 2017

**Mother, Grandmother,
Waukesha Service Club member,
Daylily flower lover, DSSEW
President**

She will be missed by so many!

Recalling One of My Best Friends, Jean Coshun

By Barbara Nickel

I met then DSSEW President Don Coshun, before I met Jean, at one of the first daylily club meetings. We talked and found we both liked gardening and lived only a few miles from one another. Later, I received a telephone call from Don asking me to serve on the DSSEW Board. I often joked by blaming Don for getting me so

involved in club activities. Don would frequently call and invite me to come to see a particular daylily in flower. While Don and I were viewing his garden, Duane (my husband) and Jean would sit and enjoy a cup of coffee. Jean often remarked that Don was in his glory showing Barbara his flowers.

Don, Jean, Duane, and I would often go out for coffee or lunch in downtown Waukesha. This led to trips together to Ohio to attend Regional Summer and Winter meetings. With Don's passing, we continued activities with Jean leading to a special friendship. She came to many of our family gatherings and we considered her to be a family member.

When our club needed a spacious place to wash, sort and bag plants for DSSEW's annual sale, Don and Jean volunteered the grounds around their home. As the club Board moved towards a potluck supper and early sale to members, Don and Jean offered their home to hold these activities, also. Jean created all the labels needed for the daylily sale and offered space in their buildings to hold sale supplies and other inventory.

And, during this past year when no one volunteered to be club President,

Jean agreed to serve. She thought of it as a way to honor Don and his love of daylily flowers.

Jean will be missed by the many friends she made at the daylily club and I have lost one of my best friends. I have such an empty feeling in my heart.



Jean Coshun (left) and Barb Nickel pose in front of an exhibit at a Regional Summer Meeting in Ohio

Hybridizing Daylilies

By Sonja Kraft

Hybridizing daylilies is fun. One is allowed the opportunity to create something entirely new and different that nobody has ever seen before. There may be similar cultivars, but just like with people, no one has exactly the same combination of genes that the created flower does. Hybridizing is also a lot of work. Hard work. Tedious work. It's a lot of sweat and patience and selection and culling and mostly trashing all that hard work once those daylilies bloom. A hybridizer must be ruthless and consistent, persistent and bold. From small backyard hybridizer to large expansive hybridizer, the basics are the same. Anther to pistil, wait, hope, collect seed, plant seed, wait, hope, weed, water, wait, hope, bloom, select, hope what you selected to keep is the right one, hope what you selected to cull is correct and you didn't miss anything. And then cull, killing those seedlings you have nurtured since you took anther to pistil 2, 3, or 4 years ago.

In this article series, we will look at what happens in the year of a hybridizer and different techniques used by hybridizers both big and small to accomplish the same goal- that of creating a new, unique, improved version of the daylily for all to enjoy. Part 1, this article, will deal with maturing seed pods, collecting and storing. Part 2 will address starting seed, Part 3 will address planting techniques, and part 4 will address hybridizing and making seed and parent selection. Hybridizing daylilies is fun. One is allowed the opportunity to create something entirely new and different that nobody has ever seen before. There may be similar cultivars, but just like with people, no one has exactly the same combination of genes that the created flower does. Hybridizing is also a lot of work. Hard work. Tedious work. It's a lot of sweat and patience and selection and culling and mostly trashing all that hard work once those daylilies bloom. A hybridizer must be ruthless and consistent, persistent and bold. From small backyard hybridizer to large expansive hybridizer, the basics are the same. Anther to pistil, wait, hope, collect seed, plant seed, wait, hope, weed, water, wait, hope, bloom, select, hope what you selected to keep is the right one, hope what you selected to cull is correct and you didn't miss anything. And then cull, killing those seedlings you have nurtured since you took anther to pistil 2, 3, or 4 years ago.

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will address planting techniques, and part 4 will address hybridizing and making seed and parent selection.

Part 1: Maturing and Collecting Seed Pods.

Once the pollen reaches the pistil, it may or may not result in a seed pod. Generally, diploid parents, (cultivars having 22 chromosomes) are easier to work with than tetraploid (having 44 chromosomes) parents and generate pods easier and produce more seeds per pod. Though there are many tetraploid cultivars that are very fertile, for beginning hybridizers, working with diploids is the easiest and usually the most rewarding when getting started. I started out with 50 diploid parent plants in my program. My focus was polyporous daylilies (daylilies which have more than 3 petals and 3 sepals) and broken color daylilies (striped, stippled- which look kind of like a fine spray paint mist on the daylily flower- and spotted). It is difficult to be patient while the pod is maturing- lots of times for no apparent reason a developing pod will shrivel up and just fall off (called aborting). Seed is ready to collect when the pod starts to open. It may or may not be completely brown,



Pods maturing in buckets

Photo courtesy of Karol Emmerich

but it is rare to have a green pod open. Seeds are normally black and plump when first harvested. Once the seed pod starts to open, it is important to harvest the pod either that day or within the next day or two. If

harvesting doesn't occur, the pod will eventually open fully and spill the seeds on the ground. Most hybridizers I know allow the pod to mature and ripen naturally on the scape. Others, like Karol Emmerich of Minnesota and Nan Ripley of Iowa, cut the scapes from the plant and allow the pods to ripen when the pods are about the size of a grape.

There are many ways to collect and store seed pods. Some people use dixie cups, some use paper coin bags (see photo page 5) some collect into egg cartons. This year, fellow Hybridizer Becky Robinson of Machesney Park Illinois gave me the idea of using organza "wedding favor" 2x3 inch bags for pod collection. (Photo 3) I put my pods and wires/tags in the bags. I write the names of the pod (*cont'd next page*)

Hybridizing Daylilies (cont'd)



Seeds stored in paper coin envelopes
Photo courtesy of Bobbi Johnson



Seed pods are put into organza bags
until they are shelled



Gavin Kremer, son of the author, shelling seed pods
into a pill counting tray



A pill counting tray makes sorting,
clening and bagging easy

parent on a small ½ of a paper tag and then put all the organza bags in a large shallow cardboard box until I am ready to shell them.

The pods can have airflow and don't become moldy this way (See photo below).

When shelling pods, I find it helpful to shell onto a pill counting tray so I can discard any imperfect seeds or chaff and then easily dump the seeds into my bag (Next two photos). I used to use small 1x2 inch plastic bags, but this year I switched to 3x5 bags and put my plant markers right in the bag with my seeds. This way they are ready to plant. Since I am not planting my seeds right away, I store them in the refrigerator double bagged inside plastic bags, along with some silica gel beads in the refrigerator to help reduce moisture. Some hybridizers dry their seeds for a minimum time before bagging them; I have found no benefit to drying them before bagging. If the pod is mature and dry when it is taken from the scape, there should be very little mold, if any. I also have very inquisitive cats in my house that like to play with seed. Skipping the drying step results in much more seed collected this way! I hope this sheds some light on the process of seed harvesting. Up next issue: Seed Starting! Until then, Happy Gardening!

Jumping Worms

By Ted Haasch

There is a new pest in Wisconsin called the Jumping Worm *amynthas (spp.)*. It first appeared in the 1930s in California. Originally from Asia, they are now in most states in the USA. First seen in the Madison area in 2013, this invasive species now found in the southern 2/3rds of Wisconsin.

How to recognize them? See the photo below:



Jumping Worm—photo from dnr.wi.gov

Jumping Worms are 1½" to 8" long and a smooth glossy gray in color with a lighter color band that completely circles the body. When disturbed they can thrash wildly and even shed their tails. They do not need to mate to reproduce and you will never see just one! They stay on the soil surface and will change the soil texture to grainy particles with their waste which WILL NOT support forest plants. While they cannot survive our winters, their cocoons do.

WHAT TO DO? Look for soil that resembles coffee grounds.

WHAT NOT TO DO? Don't use compost from city waste dumps. Buy from a certified landscape dealer.

ARRIVE CLEAN; LEAVE CLEAN!! Clean soil and debris from vehicles, equipment and personal gear before moving to and from a work or recreation area

If you want to know more, contact me, Ted Haasch, at thaasch@wi.rr.com. I will inspect any site on request.

More information is at wi.dnr.gov (key word "jumping worm")

Winterizing New Daylilies

Winterizing is a very important step in the first year of planting

To get started with this project, remove foliage and scapes to prevent fungus such as leaf stripe from wintering over in the garden. Daylily leaves should probably should not be composted for reuse in your daylily garden since you may reinfect the plant with the fungus.

It is a good practice to weed at the same time to prevent annual weeds from spreading seeds as winter approaches to be ready to sprout in the spring.

Mulch with 2-4 inches of marsh hay, chopped leaves, straw or other mulch, especially if you do not ordinarily mulch during the growing season. Mulch moderates the soil temperatures so that freeze-thaw cycles don't disturb the newly grown roots. Bare root transplants should not be planted much after Labor Day.

Established plants will always appreciate mulching, but it is not needed if they have exhibited hardy behavior. Most dormant daylilies are almost always very hardy and the snow can provide great

protection.

Remove winter mulch in the spring - early April - since it is no longer needed. Remember, daylilies with evergreen foliage try to grow all winter and may succeed on occasion only to have the foliage frozen and turned into a green mess.

Hardiness is a genetic trait and not dependent on foliage growth traits. Plants will let you know that they need winter protection by skipping a year of bloom because of unusual weather such as a late cold Spring, a late (like May) freeze, or a significant midwinter freeze-thaw cycle. The flower buds which are formed in the crown in the fall may be damaged by exposure to a temperature lower than that particular plant can handle. In addition to no bloom at all, other indications of the need for special protection are excessive bud drop or flower distortion; even reduced bud count.

It is ideal to have daylilies thrive in all kinds of weather, but some of the ones you really like may need a bit of winter help.

Runner-up Photo Contest Winners



Single Flower
Zannah Crowe

Flower Clump
Robert Schuyler



FANFARE!

Daylily Society of SouthEast Wisconsin

c/o Harold Steen, Editor
13674 Windy Prairie Drive
Huntley, IL 60142

Fall Containers

By Zannah Crowe

The first hard frost doesn't have to mean the end of the season for your patio containers. Tender annual and tropical plants will be killed by frost but, with a little imagination and planning, you can continue to enjoy your planters year-round. Colorful fall blooming Mums are a traditional choice for Autumn containers, but I prefer ornamental Kale due to its longevity and tolerance of freezing weather. The colors of ornamental kale actually become richer and more pronounced with colder weather and Kale is so long lasting that it will still be looking good in your front porch containers when your Thanksgiving guests arrive!

Ornamental grasses - either annual or perennial - make good companion plants for Kale in fall containers. I also like to incorporate gourds and squash tucked in amongst the foliage plants. There are so many interesting gourds that offer a variety of textures, forms and colors while also reinforcing the theme of the harvest season.

When the temperatures drop in late fall it's time to remove any remaining plants from your seasonal containers and create your winter display. It is best to remove the soil from your decorative containers as freezing and thawing can cause damage and cracking. Choose an inexpensive plastic pot or insert to fill

with sand or soil and slip this inside your decorative container to act as a base for the construction of your winter arrangement.



Top left shows an Autumn Container



Bottom row: Fall Containers featuring Ornamental Kale